



The Golant Pill

taken every two months...

Issue 103 (01/24) February/March

Seasonal Village Festivities



Convivial companionship at the December Meet & Greet



A hopeful little visitor arriving at Santa's grotto



Moored boats aglow with lights in the pill at Christmas



A keen group of wet wassailers on New Year's Day!



Two keen recruits being shown the big church tower bells



Some newbies trying to master handbell ringing!

FROM THE EDITOR

ACRONYM - "An abbreviation formed from the initial letters of other words, usually pronounced as a word". For example, **GIF** is '**G**raphics **I**nterchange **F**ormal', and was created by an American computer scientist in 1987. Or, could it be '**Golant Is Fantastic**'?!

In case you are wondering why this is my opening paragraph, I'll explain! Recently, we have personally both had a somewhat difficult time health wise, and a good friend and neighbour advised us to **KBO**... Just Google this to find the answer, and you'll note that this wise advice came out of the mouth of the much esteemed Winston Churchill during WWII; he apparently ended almost every phone-call with this acronym!

Going back to **GIF** standing for *Golant Is Fantastic*, that is most certainly true. Mike and I have had the most wonderful support and offers of help, (you all know who you are), with one very generous friend in particular who has helped me so often – the cryptic clue is 'Whitenut'...! And to again be cryptic, we do both **KBO**...!!

This issue is filled with the imaginative & lively seasonal events which so many Golantians have produced, working their socks off. Just absorb the cover for a start...

As always, however, we cover the sad news, so often of deaths; this time including that of another villager who did so much in our community, Alastair Barr (*page 15*). There will be more in our next issue, after his memorial service in St Sampson's, which comes just too late for this one.

This last year has been momentous for our little village publication, with the heart-warming celebration in August of our 100th issue, which so many of you supported. And now, with this copy, we are just beginning our 18th year!

The Pill team wish all of our readers a very Happy and Healthy 2024.

Gillie Harris (Editor)

Spring Equinox Ceremony

Sunday 17th March 2024, 2.30pm

by the Human Sundial on the Village Green

This will be our fourth 'Golant Spring Equinox' ceremony to celebrate together the coming of Spring, new life, new beginnings, hopes for brighter days. We gather around the human sundial on the Green to perform a simple, uniquely Golantian, ceremony with an accumulative spoken chorus for all and a little bit of fun and drama. There are a number of associated characters including the Green Man, Mother Earth and of course Robin Goodfellow (or Puck the mischievous sprite!).

In addition to the ceremony there will be a seedling/seed/plant share stall, and refreshments.

Kirsty Angwin has kindly (been!) volunteered to supervise the plant table. Please bring any plants or seedlings you can spare to the Green before the start of the ceremony. If you can't be there on the day, Jackie Smith has offered a space at the front of *3 Golant Farm* as a donation point during the week before.

Karen and Carol will once again provide tea and coffee (thank you!) and it would be wonderful if we could have some donations for the cake table too! (Golant is so good at this).

There is no charge, but any money donations will this year go to the NGS (National Gardens Scheme) which supports a number of charities including gardeners' charities such as Par Community Garden.

In previous years we have made the village look particularly glorious by dressing our doorsteps and windows in the traditional colours of Ostara (**bright green, yellow and purple**) specifically for the occasion. I'm sure we could do that again!

Spring Equinox marks the astronomical first day of Spring, when the Northern Hemisphere begins to tilt more towards the sun. Day and night in perfect equilibrium; it is a day of perfect balance on the journey through the wheel of the year. With the long dark winter finally past, things start growing again and days start to lengthen slowly toward summer.

The actual Spring Equinox this year is Wednesday 20th March at 03.07 hours should anyone wish to witness it!

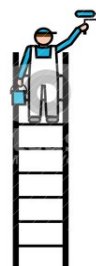
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Golant Heritage Group

Backalong, Alison Vincent made contact to give us a wonderful compilation of cine footage from the 1960s, taken on family holidays in Golant when staying with relatives. This is uploaded to our website- <https://golant.omeka.net> Why not take a look to see if you recognise anyone.

She told us: "My Grandmother's sister and her husband lived at Sunnyside for many years. Their daughter, my 'Auntie' Doreen, married William (Bill) Lean who built a bungalow with kennels, half way down Church Hill (now rebuilt as Lantyan House). They named the place Doriam- Dor for Doreen and iam for William. Incidentally, they had a boat named Willreen; transpose the other half of the names!"

We hope to meet up with Ali sometime in the spring to capture some more of her memories.

As a hardy throng of wassailers braved the rather wet elements on New Year's Day, (see p. 16) it seems an appropriate time to publish Sue's findings on the name of a well-known Golant heritage apple tree.

Penny Parsons GHG Chairman

'Captain John Broad'

Many of us in the village were involved with the Jubilee Fruit Tree planting project of 2022 championed by Dave Johns. Among the apple varieties was one called 'Captain John Broad', which originated here in Golant. Dave recently asked me to discover more about the man.

John Broad's father had come from St Cleer in 1798 to marry a Golant woman, Ann Blake, and together they raised their family of five children here; John was their third child born in 1801.

The 1841 census tells us that John worked as a copper miner; he had married Jenefer Rouse in 1826 and they had a family of four. This was when the mining boom in Cornwall was beginning to slow; it's likely that he walked to work each day to Fowey Consuls Mines, over the hill beyond Tywardreath. At the age of 40 he may well have reached the position of 'Captain'. These were experienced miners who supervised the work of their team. In the absence of there being any mention of him being either a sea captain or being in the army, this is the most likely explanation of his title Captain. Times were hard and wages low, which may account for why they were living in Golant's poor house which stood on the site on today's *Blowey's* on Downs Hill.

By the next census in 1851 he and his family had moved down to the *Pound House* in lower Water Lane. This was a name given to a place where cider was produced. It didn't become known as *Orchard Cottage*, as it is today, until 1870. To underline how significant cider production was here at the time, there was another *Pound House* in the village opposite the pub, which is now called the *Old Cider House*.

John had stopped work in the mine, and his occupation was given as a labourer, which usually meant picking up work where he could locally. There was a good-sized orchard at the front of his house, which is most likely to be the 'birthplace' of the 'Captain John Broad' apple variety. John continued in the cottage until he died in 1867.

Sue Reardon

Cornish House Names in Golant

Alison Vincent's interesting explanation in Penny's Heritage Group article above, about the origin of the house name *Doriam*, has prompted me to add this extract from John Jenkin's booklet '*A Short Guide to the History of Golant*', in which he lists some of the houses in our village which have Cornish names, with the translations, as follows:

<i>Penquite</i>	(house and farm)	End of the wood
<i>Hendra</i>	(Fore Street)	Permanent farmplace
<i>Colquite</i>	(Fore Street)	Neck of the wood(s)
<i>Altarnun</i>	(Fore Street)	Named after the village of that name, meaning the Altar of St Nonna
<i>Drinnicks</i>	(Water Lane)	Thorny or thorn brake
<i>Menethryn</i>	(Water Lane)	Hilly slope
<i>Cosel</i>	(Water Lane)	Calm
<i>Peneglos</i>	(Church Hill)	(By the) End of the church
<i>Chy an Drea</i>	(School Hill)	This is a mis-spelling, If it means Hill House it should be <i>Chy an Vre</i>
<i>Ky Tyak</i>	(pronounced <i>Kee Teeäk</i>)	This is a curious one. It means Farmer's Dog and appears to be a mis-spelling of <i>Chy Tyak</i> , or Farmer's House, but is understood that the original owner intended it to be named after his dog.

Gillie Harris

NEWS FROM ST SAMPSON'S CHURCH

Vicar's Ponderings!

We were blessed with excellent congregations throughout the Christmas period, despite various illnesses and several villagers being away for the holiday. *A Cornish Christmas* attracted over 90 people, and featured three groups of handbell ringers, several congregational carols, and an intriguing short story adapted from P G Wodehouse's *Another Christmas Carol*.

Christmas Eve saw an even larger congregation, including many families, and although the choir had been almost halved through sickness and absence, those remaining sang impressively. Especially memorable were the Appalachian carol *Jesus, Jesus, rest your head*, and the lively rendition of *The Holly and the Ivy*. Thanks also to the readers, who were uniformly clear and confident.

Christmas Day was very well attended, with the choir singing *Mary's Boy Child* and our vicar generously giving out gold coins – of the edible variety!

So to 2024, and Ringing in the New Year; both the big bells and the handbells were kept busy with those trying their hand at these pastimes, and with wine and food available it was a most convivial occasion. The new handrail to the bell-fry ensured that these steep steps were safely negotiated!

All this activity demands much work behind the scenes, and thanks go to Greg and Penny, David Jenkinson and Robin Anderson, as between them the Christmas Tree was erected (with a little help from John Varco's chainsaw!), decorated, candles put on window-sills and on the hanging candelabra, and the church transformed by all this activity. Thanks also to Sheila for endless organ playing and conducting.

Fortunately, after the first choir practice of 2024, many stayed behind and the Christmas Tree was stripped, taken down and put in Chris's van for hasty dispatch; it was a genuine case of many hands make light work.

Thanks also, of course, to our vicar, who took many different types of service in both her parishes with her most welcome blend of sincerity and good humour.

The last months have seen farewell services for Clarence Paull and John Jenkin, and on Saturday 10th February, at 2.00pm, there will be the memorial service for Alastair Barr.

Now we look forward to Easter. March will be a busy month, with Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Day all being celebrated, and in between there will be a concert by the St Mewan Sinfonia on Sunday 17th March, starting at 6.30pm. Tickets will be £10, to include a glass of wine, and further details will follow.

Simon Funnell

So far this year I have had the opportunity to try my hand at ringing the hand bells and also the big bells in church. The hand bell ringing I can understand, and even, to some degree, join in with in such a way that I contribute to the playing of a tune that is recognisable. The same cannot be said of the big bells in church. I remain in awe of those who are able to ring without completely letting go of the rope so that it goes swinging wildly as though it is a demented snake. The alternative is forgetting to let go of the rope sufficiently, so that it is then me that is almost in danger of swinging wildly up to the rafters!

There are teams of ringers at both Golant & Tywardreath churches, and it is lovely to hear the bells ringing to welcome people to services. The teams practise regularly and are always keen to welcome new ringers (or old ones looking to return!) so if you hear the bells on a practice night, do come along and carefully make your way into the tower – the ringers will be concentrating and may not see you come in, so make sure you wait in a safe space until they have paused the ringing.

Ringing the bells requires teamwork and looking to one another to ensure that everything sounds ordered and pleasant to hear. With handbells there is music to be followed so that the tune is clear for everyone and recognisable. With the big bells there is someone to call the changes so that everyone knows who they are following. The more that people practise the easier it becomes. Practice does not take away the need to focus, but it does mean things become more natural over time and more complicated arrangements can be learned.

It is the same with everything in life – the more we practise something, the more we are able to do, and the more comfortably we find ourselves able to do it. Our spiritual life is no different. When we gather with other Christians for worship or prayer we are able to learn from their experience and perhaps follow as someone else leads and shows the way. When we watch how others do things we can learn how to do things for ourselves and find a method which allows us to grow and develop. To learn to play the bells or handbells we have to start at the beginning and be willing to try and then try again. God allows us to start at the beginning as we explore faith in him, and he invites us to keep trying as we seek to find a way that allows our faith to grow and develop.

With every blessing
Shona

Revd Shona Hoad
07476 900623
shona@tandgchurches.uk
www.tywardreathandgolantchurches.uk

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Priest in Charge

The Revd Shona Hoad (07476 900623)

Churchwardens

Greg White (01726 832315)
Simon Funnell (01726 833343)

Church Cleaning Rota

4th & 11th February	Ruth & Gill P.
18th & 25th February	Jacky & Sheila
3rd & 10th March	Glynis
17th March	Mary
24th March	Linda
31st March & 7th April	Penny

A Dartmoor Log Poem

Oak logs will warm you well
That are old and dry;
Logs of Pine will sweetly smell,
But the sparks will fly.

Birch logs will burn too fast,
Chestnut scarce at all;
Hawthorn logs are good to last;
Cut them in the fall.

Holly logs will burn like wax,
You may burn them green;
Elm logs like smouldering flax,
No flame to be seen.

Beech logs for winter time,
Yew logs as well;
Green elder logs it is a crime
For any man to sell.

Pear logs and apple logs,
They will scent your room;
Cherry logs across the dogs
Smell like flowers of broom.

Ash logs, smooth and grey,
Burn them green or gold;
Buy up all that come your way,
Worth their weight in gold.

Taken from 'Legendary Dartmoor'

*We have just had an excellent Tree Surgeon here at our property, who successfully felled a number of dead **Ash**, so the final verse of this Log Poem suggests a golden load of logs for our fire!! And a load of **Pine** we have had to buy this season to top us up, have indeed been spitting sparks!*

Gillie Harris

Pill Paparazzi in this issue

RA	Robin Anderson
LB	Liz Barclay
CL	Claire Lower
GP	Gill Paull
MR	Michelle Robins
KW-W	Karen Wells-West

The Golant Pill Committee

Editor	Gillie Harris	833897
Chairman	Simon Funnell	833343
Treasurer	Tony Strachan	833259
Secretary	Debbie Pugh-Jones	07984630662
Typesetting	Gillie Harris	833897
Advertising	Sharon Holloway	07803207673
Distribution	Jacky Fletcher	832615
Parish Diary	Penny Parsons	832727
Production	Simon Funnell	833343
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Golant Website	Debbie Pugh-Jones	07984630662

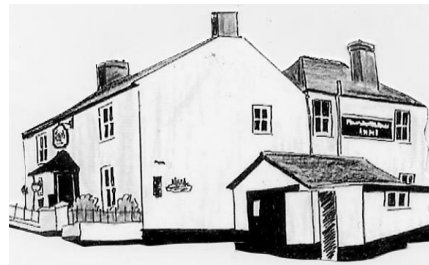
The committee meets regularly under the terms of the constitution which was adopted when the newsletter was first issued in 2007.

The Editorial Team reserves the right to reject material or comments considered to be inappropriate or offensive.

Views & opinions expressed in *The Golant Pill* may not be necessarily those of the Editorial Team.

Licensee *Nick Budd* warmly welcomes you to:

From an original drawing by Karen Wells-West



The Fisherman's Arms, Golant

A charming character Inn dating back to 1826 with spacious outside terraces boasting stunning views over the River Fowey. Choice of Traditional Cask Ales, Hot and Cold Meals and Snacks served daily. Sunday Lunches served from 12-3pm. All produce locally sourced.

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THE NEXT COPY DATE

Please note that the **Copy Date** for the April/May Issue is

Wednesday, 27th March

Articles, letters & news can be sent by email to:

thegolantpill@gmail.com

Golant Boatlights & Christmas Fayre 2023

In early December the boatlights were all a-twinkling, and there was a definite feel of Christmas magic starting in the village.

This year's event spilled over into two days, with over 20 market stalls selling their wares from *The Fisherman's* marquee, Gazebos and The Village Hall.

The entertainment was terrific. Thanks to Giles for arranging it all. *Kitsch In Sync*, a real fun a-cappella group all the way from The Big City, sang at regular intervals throughout the Saturday bringing so many smiles and cheer! Apparently they would like to come next year! Yay!!!

Santa sat in one of the best grottos I've ever seen; (Annie, you are amazing). He sat in his throne listening to children's wishes, adding to their excitement of the approaching special day. Despite it being quite quiet on the Sunday, Charlie Clough, a truly talented local pianist from Fowey, kept giving us wonderful familiar tunes and kept us smiling!

The St Sampson Handbell Ringers were competing with the torrents of rain hammering the marquee roof; no easy challenge, but the audience were transfixed and their uniqueness rang through, as always.

Penny's Carols on the Green must be highly commended as they continued to persevere through appalling weather conditions, and still even paraded along the front. That's commitment for you!

The Fayre was a lot quieter than last year, and we have already exchanged our thoughts and ideas and made plans and changes for next year, to hopefully get more visitors coming, but having said that, the monies raised for charity almost tripled last year's event!

The Parish Council kindly donated a generous sum of £100- much appreciated.

With great thanks to all those who helped on The Charity Stalls and at the event in general, we managed to raise over £1000 (including the hamper), a wonderful amount for *Little Harbour*, The Children's Hospice South West, who were incredibly grateful. The staff also really enjoyed their hamper!

Brian and Jeremy were complete Pros in running the Charity-raising Games at the pub, superb! Both The Woofer Stall and the Toy Stall raised a terrific sum, especially the Hamper donated from Sophie & Matt....excellent! Many stallholders did very well and would like to return next year. It's always nice to see neighbouring villagers involved and widens the community feel!

The stalls in the Village Hall were quieter than at the pub, but many stallholders did well and loved being part of it. We couldn't have held this event without the participation of all at *The Fisherman's Arms*, who always turn up trumps with their spectacular lights and hospitality. It was just great to see so many boatlights a-twinkling in the Pill, and lovely to see The Rowing Club lit up too! Thank you to all for the efforts made.

The Best Boatlights this year were awarded to: First Prize- Brian & Ali. Second Prize - *The Fisherman's*.

Thank you to all the villagers who contributed to the hampers...wonderful, and to Kathy and Cynthia for making them look so attractive! The best part of the Fayre for me was a visiting couple and their dog Toby who purchased a Santa's dog outfit (*right*). Toby then got to choose his dog biscuits from The Woofer Stall (homemade by me) and he liked them!! He made the best photo of the event, and the couple gave a very generous donation...!

Here's to next year, which we've decided will be just one day and will run into the evening to make the most of The Boatlights!!

Michelle Robins



All photos by Michelle Robins

Christmas 2023 Annual **INBLOOM** Challenge



Claire & Karen Lower joined me in our annual search for flowers blooming in Golant at Christmas time. They found 25 different varieties at *Rose Cottage*, beautifully recorded by Claire in her photo above, and identified by them as follows:

Top row

Butterbur, Camellia, Campanula, Red Campion, Choisya, Clematis, Daffodil, Daisy, Erigeron (Cornish Daisy), Gaura, Heather, Knautia, Mahonia & Nemesia

Bottom Row

Osteospermum, Oxeye Daisy, Penstemon, Primrose, Rose, Salvia Nemerosa, Solanum, Teucrium, Viburnum Tinus, Viburnum Davidii & Vinca

Meanwhile, I had found 19 different varieties (6 being the same as Claire & Karen's), so my 13 extras are as follows:

Azalea (bud), Corokia Virgata (the wire-netting bush), Dandelion, Daphne (bud), Forget-me-not, Jonquil Daffodil, Kaffir Lily, Primula, Primula Auricula, Rosemary, Sisyrinchium (yellow-eyed grass), Violet & Winter Honeysuckle

At St Sampson's Church, the hedge bordering the entrance path was full of yellow Winter Jasmine, and I also spied two Crocus buds on the bank of the upper graveyard by the path to the church. So, adding the three venues together, we recorded **40 different varieties of blooms**.

It has been very noticeable that despite the frosty days just before Christmas, which did again decimate some blooms (especially the Fuchsias), our Primroses, which had been flowering for a long time beforehand, were stoically resistant to the cold. Another observation was that there was MUCH more Camellia blossom out than usual, so more prolific as well as being early. Another rather strange weather year...

Gillie Harris

Saturday 10 February 2024, Fowey Town Hall

The Rashleigh family: Charles and the creation of Charles' Town

A Talk by Andy Trudgian

2023 marks 200 years since Charles Rashleigh's death. In this talk, the heritage of the Rashleigh Family in Cornwall is explored along with the ups and downs of Charles Rashleigh's life, ending by discussing the history and legacy of his greatest achievement, the port that drove the industrialisation of mid Cornwall.

Andy is the chairman of the Charlestown History Group.

Saturday 9 March 2024, via Zoom

The RNLI, 200 years of saving lives at sea

A Talk by Helen Doe

Helen will give an insight into some of the incidents and the challenges faced by this vital service, formed in a London Tavern in March 1824.

Helen, a well known maritime historian, has been commissioned by the RNLI to write its bi-centennial history, due for publication in March 2024.

Bookings can be made via Ticket Tailor

<https://buytickets.at/foweyharbourheritagesociety>

Fowey Harbour
HERITAGE SOCIETY



The two thefts that occurred from boats in the Pill last year stimulated us to consider whether it was possible to extend the current CCTV coverage around the slipway, and also to include cameras covering the Pill. This has proved possible, with support from Quay Users, and the cameras are now operational.

The CCTV coverage gives us the ability to look at recorded images in the event of a theft or other inappropriate act, but the Information Commissioner's licence conditions prevent us from providing public access to live CCTV coverage. On a number of occasions, we have been asked if it would be possible to provide web access to a live camera showing conditions on the river. With assistance from the Parish Council, a Webcam has been obtained and this will be installed on the Rowing Club. It should be operational in February. The Webcam images are streamed through the internet but are not recorded. The camera is the same type as the one installed at the Royal Fowey Yacht Club, providing a live scanning view up and down the river.

If you haven't seen the Yacht Club images, you can do so at their website: www.rfyc-fowey.org.uk/ The webcam view is at the bottom of the home page. The intention for the Golant webcam is to make the view available from all relevant websites – the Village, Parish Council, Rowing and Canoe Clubs and possibly others depending on the view we find we have once the camera is in place.

Encouraged by Michelle, we had another excellent showing of Boatlights in December. The lights on the boats, together with the enthusiastic lighting round the village gave a really magical feel. Thanks to all who participated.



RA

Now, a Membership Reminder: The Boatwatch year started in January, and most members have already renewed. Please could anyone yet to pay their membership fees do so soon. To renew your membership, please pay

by direct transfer to sort code: 20-74-20 a/c 43341380 using your surname as a reference. Alternatively, send a cheque for £15 (made out to Golant Boat Owners Association) or cash, to Richard Gabb at *Briar Cottage*, Downs Hill Golant PL23 1LJ. If you would like to join as a new member, email richard.gabb24@btinternet.com for an application form.

Our boats have all been sitting around in the rainy dampness for a few months now. It's certainly not the weather for painting yet, but once it is warm enough for our fingers to move it will be worth thinking about mechanical maintenance, and checking that the damp has not affected electrical systems. Last year I found some strange things growing inside the cuddy, and I expect they may have returned.

The Boatwatch Spring Get-Together will be a barbecue again, and will be held around the Boatwatch Hut on Saturday 30th March. Shelter will be available, if required, courtesy of Jason Cross. There will be a free barbecue and initial drink, and further drinks will be available at a small charge. We will hold the raffle draw for the David Parry painting of St Winnow for which ticket sales started at the AGM in November. There will, of course, be a further opportunity to purchase tickets at the barbecue. We will contact all members with timings closer to the date. I hope that the weather may have warmed up a bit by then.

David Bonsall, Chairman, Golant Boatwatch

Golant Quay Users Association

Happy New Year to all.

It's a quiet time of year on the estuary and in the Pill, albeit many users are looking forward to some warm, dry weather and to this year's waterborne activities.

Golant Quay Users are planning to renew some of the mooring chains for the boats, and will hopefully have the first of these in place in the next few weeks, with some further improvements in the future.

Peter Edwards & Ian Barker

If anyone spots a problem on the river, please contact one of the following:

Harbourmaster's Office 01726 832471
(out of office hours transferred to Duty Officer)

David Bonsall (Boatwatch) 01726 834458

Village Hall

Golant Village Hall (formerly the Reading Room) has had a face-lift!

As you may have seen, the outside of the Village Hall has been repainted, and also has some new outside lights to brighten up the entrance. She looks magnificent inside and out as she continues to provide service to parishioners.

Do not forget our tea and coffee mornings, where you can hire from a collection of books and jigsaws for those cold days and evenings.

The hall is a great place to meet for many activities, including the sewing group, the reading group and the table tennis club.

The Village Hall AGM will be held on Thursday 21st March (in the hall), commencing at 7pm. All parishioners are most welcome to attend.

Should you wish to know more, please contact Fayre Hardy at fairyhardy@btinternet.com

Fayre Hardy

CFylm

The year ended with a showing of the box office blockbuster *Barbie*.

This year will include celebrating the thriving Cornish film industry, which apparently is winning awards internationally, but less followed in Kernow. It is also an opportunity to commemorate the part the Fowey River played in Operation Neptune and the D-Day landings on June 6th 1944, so we will be delving into the archives to find a suitable film.

La Soupe Populaire

The season comes to an end for the year on 13th March. It's another opportunity to meet with others and have a catch up or meet new villagers. Thanks to a large soup book I was given, there is plenty of scope for a variety of seasonal ingredients to tickle Golantians' taste buds.

Carol Gabb

Advertising Rates

There are three sizes of advertisement available to you in either vertical or horizontal form.

Please note: The size may vary to fit the space available, but will be the same square area as far as possible.

A	65mm x 60mm @ £40 for six issues
A+B	130mm x 60mm @ £80 for six issues
A+B+C	195mm x 60mm @ £120 for six issues

Additional £15 for colour for all sizes.

Preferably, Artwork/Copy should be emailed to thegolantpill@gmail.com

Maurie Mail Facts

Maurie Mails sent during 2023: - 389, everything from lost hub caps to sad news about some of our residents.

Circulation - each message is sent to 212 e-mail addresses (current total). Sent in 3 tranches so as not to block my ISP.

Effectiveness - a request for something was responded to before I had even sent the third set of e-mails.

If you know of any new residents, or holiday home owners, who would like to join, please pass my e-mail address to them.

Maurie Parsons

Maurie Mail

Maurie Mail is a wonderful resource for Golantians and beyond, and as Maurie has said, covers varied problems & news. Ed.

Cornish dialect words for Birds

Cliff Hawke	Kestrel
Dishwasher	Wagtail
Lubberlock	Turkey
Maggety Pie	Magpie
Mor, mur	Guillemot
Wranny	Wren

Taken from 'A Cornish Hotchpotch'
by Kathleen Hawke,
published by Turan

**Pasture
fed beef**



You are welcome
to visit the farm.
Please call us.

Leyonne Farm Produce

We are offering our home-grown produce from the farm, which is processed locally - the lowest carbon footprint you'll find!

**Beef, Pork, Sausages, Burgers,
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Please visit our freezers by the farmhouse - room to the right of our back door. **Or phone ahead for help.**
Prices are posted and pay through the honesty box.

**Boxes of fresh meat
available—please call**

On the right as you go down to Golant

Tel. Bridget on **07854 735205** or Martin on **07877 798180**

We Met and "Gret" (sic)

On Sunday 10th December 2023, the Village Hall hosted one of the mainstays of Golant village life – Meet and Greet – a totally *informal* annual gathering of villagers to welcome newcomers and family friends to the village (well, that was the excuse).

Numbers were down a bit on previous years, no doubt due to the 'village lurgy' that was going around pre-Christmas. Nevertheless, over 50 of us brought a 'bottle or two' plus some excellent and delicious bakes/tapas/canapes/cakes/... you name it.

We raised a glass to Mary-Jean for her help founding and continuing to help with this occasion, and then some hardy, and unsteady, souls retired at 2.30pm for more glass raising in *The Fishermans Arms*.

Many thanks to all who helped, and to the Village Hall for hosting it.

Jeremy Lloyd-Evans



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TimedOut
"Better than
the BAFTA's"
the Pill
"Red carpet
event of the
year"
Vague

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I note that The Pill is quoted as saying, "Better than the BAFTAS"!! Ed.

Golant Gleanings

For the Funeral Service for **John Jenkin**, held on Tuesday 12th December at St Sampson's Church, he had written his own eulogy in advance. He begins: *"It is usual to read out a report of the deceased's life during a funeral service. As I have no close relatives I have to write my own although I doubt that many people will be interested. I have written in the 3rd person and tried to be completely factual. As it is far too long whoever reads it must edit it where appropriate."* That task fell to Shona!

One lovely touch was the inclusion of a recording of John giving the Blessing in Cornish at the end of the service.

Greg & Penny White have written a précis of the eulogy below, covering the very full life of a proud Cornishman.

John Jenkin – Bard Carrek an Jawl 1928-2023

John Cecil Jenkin was born in Newlyn in May 1928. Both sides of his family lived in far West Cornwall for centuries. His mother's, the Chirgwins, had a well-documented history as far back as 1742 and possibly back to Tudor times in Mousehole. The Jenkin side had no recorded history but undoubtedly were Cornish through and through.

At school he enjoyed French, but never understood Algebra, and disliked organised sport. John's ambition was to go to sea; he was fascinated by ships and boats and learned morse telegraphy as a Sea Cadet, with the aim of joining the Royal Navy. His sight was not up to standard but after the war in 1945, conscription was still in force, and he joined the Royal Navy - this time the glasses did not matter!

He spent years at sea as a Radio Officer on tramp ships and picked up the gaps in his education through reading the many books in the ship's library. He said that although he went to many places, he saw little of them but a great deal of salt water in between.

In 1956 he married Dorrine Jelbert from Penzance. They were married for 45 years until her death in 2009. Apart from a son who sadly died at birth, there were no children.

As radio technology improved, John could see that his skills would become redundant, and he was persuaded by his uncle to apply for Teacher Training at Culham College, Abingdon. He said that he must be the only student ever to get his college acceptance by morse code in a salvage tug off Dakar, in an unofficial message from Land's End Radio, which had been phoned by his wife. He worked in various schools and retired in 1987 as head teacher of St Petroc's C of E Junior School in Bodmin.

He and Dorinne moved to Golant in 1987. Life in the village was very happy and they took active parts in all the activities, especially in the pantomimes where he acted, and his wife made the costumes. Both were Parish Clerks in turn, and John was Chairman of the Quay Users' Association and enjoyed messing about in boats. Love of the sea never left him, and he served as a Watchkeeper with the National Coastwatch Institution at Polruan for 11 years.

He had a long connection with St. Sampson's Church, sang in the choir for over 20 years and was Churchwarden for a time.

He became a Bard of the Cornish Gorsedd in 1960 but had the added distinction of having a longer connection with the Gorsedd than anybody, alive or dead, for he had been received into the Gorsedd as a Disciple in 1939 aged 11. He had a good knowledge of the Cornish language and was Gorsedd Secretary for 9 years.

Greg & Penny White

Barry Campbell-Taylor, RIP

Barry, who died unexpectedly towards the end of December, had lived in Golant with his late wife, Judith, for a number of years before they moved away.

Readers of *The Pill* may recall that he was the first of our contributors to write fascinating nature articles, which he entitled 'Wildlife in Golant'. His first piece, on Terns, was in the April/May issue in 2008, and he continued for five years, with his last article in the August/September issue of 2013. His legacy was then handed down to David Johns, who wrote his Tales of the Riverbank, and now Karen, with her Nature Notes.

Barry kept in touch with Golant news during those years away, and many villagers will remember him & Judith well.

His funeral took place on 19th January at St Mary the Virgin Church, Hambledon, Henley on Thames.



We have posted out membership renewals together with our exciting 2024 Events card, so if you have not received yours, please let me know.

Our next event is the 'Love your Beach Clean' at Polkerris on Saturday 10th February from 10.00 – 12.00pm, then we have the rearranged Nest Box building workshop in Golant Village Hall on Saturday 24th February from 10.00 – 12.00pm. Booking is essential to make sure we have enough kit via Claire 07894 228226. This is followed by a talk from 1.00 – 3.00pm on Recording Birds in your Garden by BTO's Simon Taylor.

Despite the cold, frosty evening it was a fantastic turnout for our first talk of 2024 which was focussed on the Seagrass Beds in St. Austell Bay.

Katie Bellman from *Cornwall Wildlife Trust* gave an animated and photo-filled talk about the 'Blue Carbon' habitats in the bay. The seagrass meadows and maerl beds (a calcified red seaweed) are rare habitats in the UK, and their living structures not only provide homes to organisms, but also absorb and store carbon, acting as a nature-based solution to climate change. Recent surveys undertaken using funding from the G7 Legacy Project have shown extensive areas of both these important habitats in St. Austell Bay and we were treated to videos of octopus, anemones and the illusive sea-horse which had been sighted during the surveys. *(See photos below, both from Cornwall Wildlife Trust)*

Katie explained that CWT wants to enlist the help of local volunteers to understand more about the inshore extent of the seagrass, by using snorkelling surveys and how the bay is being used by carrying out water-user surveys from the clifftops. If you're interested in getting involved, check out our website www.friendsofthefowey.org.uk for further details. The added bonus is that all training is being offered FREE to FoFE members and people living in the Fowey Estuary, Par and St. Austell Bay areas!

Oscar Miller, also from the *Cornwall Wildlife Trust*, then followed on with a quick update on the Cornwall Good Seafood Guide. This is an online resource which aims to better inform people about sustainable fish and seafood - what's in season and sustainable fishing methods. They are working with partners in the fishing and restaurant industries to raise the profile of sustainable seafood, and we as consumers should also be supporting the project too by asking for and buying sustainable seafood. www.cornwallgoodseafoodguide.org.uk

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A Seagrass Meadow



A Maerl Bed

Nature Notes

Here we are at the beginning of another new year - where does the time go? We have definitely noticed the daylight hours lengthening; I have had to pack up my tools and come indoors by 4pm before Christmas, and now it's just about 5pm on a bright day. We have also had some cold which is good for the pests and bugs, after almost biblical amounts of rain!

Our annual New Year's Day village Wassailing (*below*) saw us needing snorkels rather than carrying pots and pans to bang! Penny did email all the hosts and ask if they wanted to cancel, but Golantians are a hardy lot! Although the turnout was much reduced from our 'mega crowd' last year, we had a very respectable and soaking crew of wassailers tramping about the village. We ended up at *The Sanctuary*, (well, technically the pub..) and although we have planted (yet more) fruit trees we chose 'Farmer's Glory' to take the honours this year as it was as near to flat ground as we could get!

In a mild spell in December we planted another 30 fruit trees - pears, medlars, gages, plums, quince and a few varieties of apples that David had read about, and by all accounts are 'interesting' in his words... We are also trying mazzards - a cross between a wild and cultivated cherry that is supposed to do well in the West Country. David is about to go on some orchard courses, and is hoping that our new orchard will become a 'Mother Orchard' - providing plant material for grafting and propagation.

We have spotted Fieldfares raiding the last of our berries, quite a few Green Woodpeckers hunting for insects in the grass, a single Kestrel hunting, a few Bullfinches and loads of cute Long-tailed Tits in the birch trees. In the summer I downloaded the *Merlin app* - designed by the *Cornell Lab* to help with bird ID. I particularly like the option to identify by sound - I had heard the mellifluous sound of the Blackcap, but not realised what it was. When in doubt, I use it to record - it will identify every bird in the area. One bird I don't need an app to identify is the beautiful Song Thrush that has been singing its heart out from about 20th December - much earlier than usual.

We have also seen bluebells and celandines poking their heads up - I hope the predicted cold spell won't ruin their chances of flowering...

Our volunteer band of 'woodies' have done a fantastic job this winter, helping with chopping and hauling trees from our ash die back removals; we are extremely grateful for their good humoured help!

We are planning to have an informal session(s) on Sat 3rd Feb for anyone who had a Jubilee Tree and would like to know how to prune it. We are thinking of a morning and an afternoon session. Details will probably arrive via Maurie Mail - or just get in touch direct. Everyone is welcome to have a walk around, even if you are not interested in pruning!

Karen Wells-West



Soaking wet, but undeterred, wassailers



These apples were growing at Christmas!!

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ST SAMPSON PARISH COUNCIL

Meetings:

As highlighted in the previous issue of the Pill, we do not ordinarily hold a meeting in December. And so it was, with no urgent business and no planning applications to consider. However, the scheduled meeting for January (meetings are normally held on the 4th Tuesday of the month) will be a week later than usual, on Tuesday 30th January, starting at 7.15pm sharp.

Playground Progress:

Siobhan (the project leader for this important scheme) is away at the moment, but I am sure she would want me to confirm that we are gearing up the various arrangements for getting this project underway. Monies have virtually all been collected locally and we are in the process of agreeing the timescale and arrangements for the additional funding from Cornwall Council. The tricky bit is ensuring that we can get back the VAT burden quickly enough to avoid a cashflow issue. Groundworks will inevitably create some disruption, but I will let you know of the more detailed plans nearer the time.

Village Toilet:

As many of you will know, we were 'gifted' the toilet block in the devolvement process and have made good progress in establishing a kayak store in the two redundant parts of the building. We always maintained a working unisex toilet in the meantime, which was looked after by Corserv, a part of Cornwall Council. However, they have recently proposed raising their prices to a figure more than 3 times the current contract agreement and no less than one and a half times our whole precept for the forthcoming year! You will understand therefore, that we have had no option but to terminate our agreement with them from the end of March. Meanwhile, we are examining the market, and are in talks with alternative providers to see if we can secure a cleaning service at a more affordable contract price.

Christmas Tree:

I know this may seem a little 'after the event', but some of you will know that we very nearly didn't have a Christmas Tree this year. But to avoid a PR disaster and to ensure some continuity, a few of the village organisations 'clubbed together' to generate the appropriate funding to buy the village Christmas tree. However...we need to find a 'champion' for 2024 and beyond; someone who will organise the purchase and find funding for the tree each year. The Village Hall already have the Christmas Tree lights and the Parish Council can be approached for a modest 'donation?' So, if anyone can take this on, then the village will be forever grateful.

David Jenkinson
Chairman St Sampson Parish Council

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A Further Early Reminder for your New Diary!

Madness in the Pill	Sunday 4th August 2024 Starts around 3.00pm
Sports & Carnival	Saturday 10th August 2024 Children's Sports and Teas start at 2.00pm Carnival assembles at 6.15pm

To keep up with events, and when you are planning an event, you can check out the new '**What's On' Page** on the village website at golant.net

If you want to have an event listed on the page, email debbiepughjones@aol.com

Alastair Barr, RIP

As many of you know, Alastair Barr died peacefully in *Treliske Hospital* on 19th December, following an extended period of poor health.

Viviane, Julian, Sarah and the wider family thank everyone for their very kind thoughts and words. We are fortunate to be part of such a wonderful, supportive community.

We had a small family cremation at *Glynn Valley* at the beginning of the month, and on Saturday 10th February at 2pm, there will be a memorial service at St Sampson's Church, followed by afternoon tea and a celebration of Alastair's life at *Trenython Manor*. (If you plan to attend, and would like further details, we'd be grateful if you could email Sarah on barrmemorial@gmail.com, as we're trying to get an idea of numbers for *Trenython*.)

Alastair was a great doer and thoroughly community-minded. Although he had cut back on things over the last few years he had, at various times, been treasurer of St. Sampson's, chairman of the Parish Council, founder member and chairman of Castle Dore Rowing Club, treasurer of the Carnival Committee, member of the Flower and Produce Show committee, treasurer and keen participant of GRADS, and proud supporter of the *Fisherman's Arms* since 1961.

As Penny Parsons said only quite recently, "Whatever the event, you can always count on Alastair and Viviane being there to support it in whatever way they can!"

If memorials and such like are not your thing, on the evening of 10th February we plan to be in the *Fisherman's Arms* raising a few glasses. Come and join us - Alastair would have approved!

Sarah O'Donovan



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Click on **Golant Pill**, where you will find copies going back to the April/May Issue for 2017.

Wassail 2024

Some climb Mount Everest, some sail around the world, some of us go Wassailing on New Year's Day. For those of you who don't know about this pagan tradition, here is a small explanation.

- Ingredients: a Green Man, cider, cake, slices of bread, pots, pans and any type of kitchen utensil, cheerful people.
- Extra ingredient for today: foul weather gear.
- First: walk to an orchard.
- Second: drink cider and eat cake.
- Third: sing a Wassail song.
- Fourth: Green Man 'christens' a fruit tree with cider and sticks a piece of bread on a branch for the birds.
- Fifth: a small pagan prayer.
- Sixth: bang on pots and pans.
- Seventh: a toast.

Then on to the next orchard, with a repeat of the above procedure. We conquer hills, wind, rain, and endure more cider, more cake, more cider, more cake. When we finally roll into the pub, mud and all, Nick awaits us with pork rolls. And... we drink more cider.

Liz Barclay



Chris Taylor, aka our Green Man, enjoying a break!



Wet, but still cheerful, enjoying one of the wassailing venues

A Political One Liner

"We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office."
~Aesop~

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A Cornish Maid's Recipe Corner



This hearty soup makes a good winter lunch or supper dish.

Moroccan-style chick pea soup

- 2 tbsp Olive Oil
- 1 Red Onion, chopped
- 2 tsp fresh Root Ginger, grated
- 1 level tsp Ground Coriander
- 1 level tsp Ground Cumin
- ½ level tsp Ground Cinnamon
- 250g/ 9oz Sweet Potato (peeled weight), cut into small cubes
- 150g/ 6oz Carrots, cubed
- 400g/ 14oz can Chopped Tomatoes
- 700ml/ 25 fl oz Vegetable Stock
- 400g/ 14oz can Chick Peas, drained & rinsed
- 4 Pitta Breads, toasted

1. Heat the oil in a large pan & cook the onion until soft.
2. Add the ginger & spices & cook for another 1-2 minutes.
3. Add the sweet potato, carrots, tomatoes & stock.
4. Heat until simmering. Cover & simmer for 20 mins.
5. Remove a third of the vegetables with half of the cooking liquid & purée using a stick blender or food processor.
6. Return to the pan with the chick peas.
7. Heat through & serve with the pitta bread.

Optional extra

Add some spinach along with the chick peas and reheat gently until spinach is wilted.

Add a dollop of crème fraîche to serve.

Gill Paull



GP



An Extract from *Uncle John's Gardening Year*

“Candlemas, which falls on February 2nd, comes halfway between the shortest day, December 22nd, and the Spring Equinox, around March 21st.

The saying goes:

If Candlemas be fine and clear,
There will be two winters in one year.
But if Candlemas brings cloud and rain,
Winter's gone and won't come again.”

This seasonal snippet of information, written by the late John Kift, is fascinating. Let's watch out on February 2nd and see if country folklore has more than an element of truth, or is our weather too topsy-turvy these days with climate change?! Ed.

Uncle John's Gardening Year *& Auntie Paddy's Recipe Book*

These *Golant Pill* publications are available in the Church, or from Mike & Gillie (833897).

£6 each or two for £10 (Mix or Match)

G.R.A.D.S. 
Revue

Fri 16th/Sat 17th February

7.30pm (doors 7pm)

Tickets £7

including ice cream

email: sue.reardon2@btinternet.com

CALENDAR OF VILLAGE EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Friday 2 nd	10.30am	Coffee/tea, cakes, books, chat	Village Hall
Sunday 4 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Tuesday 6 th	8.00pm	Quiz Night	Fisherman's Arms
Friday 9 th		National Pizza Day (special menu)	Fisherman's Arms
Saturday 10 th	2.00pm	Alastair Barr's Memorial Service	St Sampson's
Sunday 11 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Tuesday 13 th	8.00pm	Pancake Day (special menu) & Euchre	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 14 th	6.00pm-8.30pm	Valentine's Day Dinner	Fisherman's Arms
Fri/Sat 16 th /17 th	7.30pm	GRADS Revue (<i>Booking essential</i>)	Village Hall
Sunday 18 th	6.00pm	Evensong	St Sampson's
Tuesday 20 th	8.00pm	Quiz Night	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 21 st		La Soupe Populaire (<i>Booking essential</i>)	Village Hall
Friday 23 rd	7.30pm	Cfym Club – (<i>Booking required</i>) - <i>The Tape, a Cornish film</i>	Village Hall
Saturday 24 th	10.00am-12noon	FoFE Nest Box Making Workshop (<i>Booking essential</i>)	Village Hall
Saturday 24 th	1.00pm-3.00pm	FoFE Talk: (<i>Booking essential</i>) - <i>Recording Birds in Your Garden</i>	Village Hall
Sunday 25 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Tuesday 27 th	7.15pm	Parish Council	Village Hall
Tuesday 27 th	8.00pm	Euchre	Fisherman's Arms

MARCH

Friday 1 st	10.30am	Coffee/tea, cakes, books, chat	Village Hall
Sunday 3 rd	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Tuesday 5 th		St Piran's Evening (events TBC)	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 6 th - Sunday 10 th		British Pie Week (<i>Special pie menu all week</i>)	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 10 th	9.30am	Mothering Sunday Service	St Sampson's
Tuesday 12 th	8.00pm	Euchre	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 13 th	12.15pm	La Soupe Populaire (<i>Booking essential</i>)	Village Hall
Sunday 17 th		St Patrick's Day (Roast by the River)	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 17 th	2.30pm	Spring Equinox Ceremony & Gathering	Village Green
Sunday 17 th	6.30pm	St Mewan Sinfonia Concert (No service)	St Sampson's
Tuesday 19 th	7.00pm	FoFE AGM and Talk (<i>Booking Essential</i>)	Village Hall
Tuesday 19 th	8.00pm	Quiz Night (last of the season?)	Fisherman's Arms
Thursday 21 st	7.00pm	Village Hall AGM – open to all villagers	Village Hall
Friday 22 nd	7.15pm	Cfym Club (<i>Booking required</i>)	Village Hall
Sunday 24 th	9.30am	Palm Sunday Service	St Sampson's
Tuesday 26 th	7.15pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Tuesday 26 th	8.00pm	Euchre	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 27th	Copy Date	<i>The Golant Pill</i>	thegolantpill@gmail.com
Thursday 28 th	6.00pm	Maundy Thursday Service	St Sampson's
Friday 29 th	2.00-4.00pm	Golant Easter Egg Trail	Village Green
Friday 29 th		Good Friday Fish and Chip menu (<i>Lunch and dinner</i>)	Fisherman's Arms
Saturday 30 th	TBA	Boatwatch Spring Get-Together	Boatwatch Hut
Sunday 31 st	9.30am	Easter Day Service	St Sampson's
Sunday 31 st		Easter Fun Day	Fisherman's Arms

N.B. Sundays throughout February and March at the Fisherman's Arms:
'Roast by the River' - 12.00pm - 12:30pm / 2.00pm - 2:30pm / 6.00pm - 8.00pm

*If you have any item you wish to be entered into this Calendar of Village Events, please contact **Penny Parsons**, the Parish Diary Member of our team, (tel: 832727) by the Copy Date shown on this page of the newsletter, and we will try to include it.*