

A Green Man & Golden Gnomes





It all happened on a very colourful March weekend in our Vibrant Village...

Spring Equinox Ceremony

What a welcome sight after so many gloomy wet days! The sun did indeed peep through to brighten our afternoon as we gathered around the human sundial on the village green to celebrate the beginning of astronomical Spring.

It was another 'Golantesque' fun occasion, with a song from our wonderfully enthusiastic Green Man, AKA Chris Taylor, accompanied by David Johns and Peter Edwards, a simple circle dance around the sundial led by Mother Earth (me!), and a short, now familiar, call and response ceremony culminating in a pleasantly convivial partaking of refreshments, chatter and plant share.

Thank you to *The Sanctuary* (AKA Karen and Carol) who once again provided tea and coffee, and to Kirsty Angwin for overseeing the plant share and liaising with John from *Par Bay Community Garden*, our nominated charity this year. We raised an impressive £78.45 in donations.

In John's thank you to us (see the continuation on page 2), he has written about the seasonal work going on in this interesting Community Garden.

Penny Parsons

The Gnome Awards

...and the winner is...

It was raining yet again on the evening of Saturday 16th March, but nothing dampened the sense of anticipation inside the Village Hall. The ladies were glamorous and glitzy – positively sparkling in several cases – and the men sported black tie, bow ties, cravats, & even tartan trousers, seemingly held up by a wooden spoon (must be Welsh!).

The well dressed clientele, skilfully assembled by Neil & Jackie Smith, were treated to Prosecco on arrival, and wine and cheese aplenty were on each table. Once Giles Harrison had set the scene, our hosts for the evening were Martyn Hardy and Bridget Whell, and, as befits such ceremonies, the list of nominees in each category was read out by various distinguished members of the audience.

Neil had assembled some excellent photographs of each contender to accompany the announcements, and, with brief breaks for more cheese & wine, the evening rolled smoothly on. The judging, apart from the best fundraising event, had already taken place, and thanks go to Sophie Hearnden & Chris Taylor for making some unenviable decisions, under the watchful eye of their Chairman, Neil.

Continued on page 2

FROM THE EDITOR

A CRONYMS once again...
Having begun my editorial for the February issue with a delve into Acronyms, I am now highlighting a new one – an imaginative Award that has popped up for the first time in our extraordinary and inventive village!

Golant's Notable Occasions & Memorable Efforts: GNOME

As one of the proud recipients, I make no apologies for beginning my editorial with this, and one of our two cover stories of Golantian celebration reveals it all...!

Meanwhile, I have many thanks to make, not only on an editorial level- to Simon for his tribute to us (below) - but also on a personal level, to all those wonderful friends who gave such kind help, prayed, phoned, sent cards, flowers, chocolates and even home-made soup to me in my latest recent medical 'do'. You are all very special...

Gillie Harris (Editor)

Chairman's Report

The Gnome Awards are reported on in this newsletter, and there were many worthy recipients. The highlight for me, however, was in seeing our Editor's expertise being recognised. Gillie, assisted by Mike, shoulders the burden of producing *The Pill* every two months, and to do so she has to juggle space so that the village activities are each represented, cajole the contributors to produce their reports on time – often no easy task - and then produce a village magazine that is attractive, informative and comprehensive.

The Gnome Awards were a light-hearted look at village life, but Gillie's recognition was seriously well deserved; thank you, Gillie.

Simon Funnell

Spring Equinox Ceremony, continued from the cover

John writes: Par Bay Community Garden is getting a spring spruce-up. We've installed new signs produced by Parc Signs, and we are in the process of replacing a raised bed where the wooden sides have started to deteriorate. Spring sowing and planting is well under way, with broad beans, shallots and Jerusalem artichokes already planted, and our overwintered garlic, onions and radicchio are growing well.

We are very grateful to the *National Garden Scheme* for their amazing support, and in particular the generous donation of proceeds from the recent plant and cake sale in Golant.

If you have any plants you'd like to donate, or you can spare some time to help us maintain the Garden, please come along and say hello any Sunday morning from 10 am to 12 noon.

Alternatively, contact John at:parbaycommunitygarden@gmail.com



One Green Man, one Mother Earth and two musicians!

The Gnome Awards, continued from the cover

There were too many nominees to mention here (but, of course, that ensured a good audience!), but the winners were Caroline Davidson for her Christmas grotto, Sue Reardon for her Carnival fancy dress, Gillie Harris for best journalism with *The Pill*, the Coronation Picnic for the best outside event, and Carnival Sports as the best sporting event. Nick Budd won both best 'soap' for his quiz nights, and also best director for the summer fete, while his mother, Annie, won best supporting role for her tireless work on the fete (*below, left*). Maurie Parsons won the lifetime achievement award, while the GRADS panto won the best production.



Those present voted on the best Fundraising Event, which was the summer fete for the Playground Appeal. This marked the official end of the evening, and huge thanks go to Neil and Jackie for much hard work behind the scenes.

The Gnome Awards raised well over £400 for the Village Hall, and also provided some great entertainment. It was clearly a celebrity event, as the table behind me was occupied by *Girls Aloud* (very loud!). Not every worthy village group had been nominated (not even our outstanding church choir), but, even so, the range of activities was exhausting to listen to, and there is no doubt that the real winner is ... our village of Golant.

Simon Funnell



Golant Heritage Group



Following up on our achieving the CAN QS mark last Autumn, Tamsin Mallet offered us a morning's guided tour of the wonderful *Kresen Kernow* premises (*left*). Tamsin was very much involved in the whole process of this magnificent and imaginative, state of the art conversion of the historic *Redruth Brewery* buildings. As well as 14 miles of shelving to store over 1.5 million of Cornwall's treasured archives, the centre is home to the *Cornish Studies* library and has research and exhibition spaces, learning rooms, preservation and digitisation studios. Plus a cafe with a most tantalising menu! It is well worth a visit. You can take a peek at what is on offer on their website: https://kresenkernow.org

Another exciting snippet is that we are in the early stages of planning a fresh look at Golant's Apple Heritage. Next year it will be ten years since our wonderful October Apple Day and thoughts are that we would like to stage a similar event in October 2025. Added to which, our slopes are once again blessed with young, expanding orchards, including at *The Sanctuary*, and Richard Gabb's adjacent slopes. Golant was once renowned for its spectacular blossom time, and few British sights are as uplifting or evocative as fruit tree boughs heavy with spring blossom.

There is a new annual celebration called Orchard Blossom Day launched by *The Orchard Network*. Centred around the last week of April, though this may be a bit too late for our Cornish slopes, sites across the country are hosting events with activities like tours, produce fairs, picnics and practical crafts. It will be good to watch what happens this year to maybe generate ideas for our own Orchard Blossom Day next spring.

Our very own Sue Strachan already has an inkling of a great and inclusive community craft idea, which could feature some, if not all, fruit tree varieties growing in Golant. When we held our previous apple day with experts Mary Martin and James Evans in attendance, several of you had your apple varieties identified. If you did, could you let us know what they are, please?

Watch this space to find out how you might become involved!

Penny Parsons, chairman



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NEWS FROM ST SAMPSON'S CHURCH

On Saturday 10th February a very large congregation came to celebrate the life of Alastair Barr. Representatives from the Rowing Club, the Lions, and, of course, many from the village came to mark a long life well lived. His contribution to the village, and to rowing in particular, is a lasting legacy. (See page 11 for his eulogy)

Mothering Sunday, on Sunday 10th March, was the next notable point in the church calendar, and as well as music on the handbells while candles were being lit, the choir sang Margaret Rizza's *Song of Mary*, and *A Celtic Benediction* most movingly.

The following Sunday saw another musical treat, with the *St Mewan Sinfonia* playing in St. Sampson's, which is reported on elsewhere. (*Page 7*)

On Palm Sunday we were delighted to welcome back the Reverend Derek Carrivick, and the choir marked the occasion with *Proclaim the Story*, set to music by Charpentier. The Maundy Thursday service is always a reflective occasion, and another piece by Margaret Rizza, *The Real Presence*, was sung, and the service ended with the choir also performing *God So Loved the World*, from Sir John Stainer's *Crucifixion*. By the end of this service the altar is left bare, and there is silence; it is a memorable moment.

Easter Sunday, the high point of the church year, saw an excellent congregation ready to celebrate the resurrection. As well as the usual rousing hymns, and a handbell introit, the choir sang *The Lord is Risen* which is attributed to Mozart – although almost certainly written by some-one else! It was a most uplifting service, and a great way to begin the Easter festivities.

The memorial garden which surrounds the War Memorial has looked stunning this spring, and the church was also superbly decorated for Easter Day. So thanks to all those who arrange flowers, who clean our church each week, and to those many who ring bells both great and small, and who sing in our choir. Also, heartfelt thanks to the dozen or so who unlock and lock the church, enabling it to be open for 365 (or 366 this year) days each year. If you would like to join any of these teams of people, and help to maintain Golant's only Grade I listed building, then please do get in touch. We are here for everyone, and any help will be greatly appreciated.

Simon Funnell

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Priest in Charge

The Revd Shona Hoad (07476 900623)

Churchwardens

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

Vicar's Ponderings!

I regularly travel by train to Paddington to visit my father in Surrey. It is a wonderful journey through beautiful countryside and, of course, a marvellous section that runs along the coast through Dawlish. When the service is running smoothly it is a great way to travel - relatively stress-free and affording plenty of time to do something alongside simply enjoying the view.

Recently, I was taking advantage of the travel time to listen to podcasts discussing the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew's Gospel early on in Jesus's ministry. Although the train left on schedule we began to lose time, so that by Plymouth we were 35 minutes behind – almost a whole extra podcast to listen to! It transpired that there had been signal problems earlier further down the track in Cornwall and this was having an impact on the whole network. As we waited, an announcement stated that we would be further delayed as there was a crew change at Plymouth and the replacement driver had not yet arrived as he/she was on a train coming from Truro which was running late because of the delays! Thankfully, another driver who knew the route was eventually located, and we were happily able to continue on our way, arriving only 50 minutes late.

With the extra time to reflect, I pondered the importance of having the right person in the right place to enable a journey to continue. Sometimes, as in this case, it might be having someone with knowledge of the route to drive or act as navigator. It could equally be having people behind the scenes monitoring signals, checking for obstructions in the way so that they can be avoided to enable the journey to continue.

After Jesus's resurrection there were many people who saw the risen Jesus; he was the right person in the right place for those people to continue their journey of faith. The women at the empty tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, are met by Jesus who tells them not to be afraid. On the road to Emmaus two people are talking about what has happened to Jesus in Jerusalem, when he appears with them, and they realise he is not dead after all but alive again. Jesus eats with his disciples on the beach and in an upstairs room. The disciples are witness to Jesus's ascension to heaven. It is their words of testimony that enable us to be signposted to explore our own faith journey. For each of us there will be people who have been the right person in the right place to help us on our way through life. May we also be that person for someone else.

With every blessing *Shona*

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

Church Cleaning Rota

7th April Penny
14th & 21st April Ruth & Gill P.
28th April & 5th May Jacky & Sheila
12th & 19th May Glynis
26th May Mary
2nd June Linda

BACKALONG Newspaper Article

I featured this former Golantian character in an earlier edition. A long article from the **Western Morning News**, published **100 years** ago, on **May 7th 1924**, records the death and gives details of William Mugfur's life in fascinating detail- extracts below. His grave is in the middle churchyard at St Sampson's. Ed.

DEATH AT 106

PASSING OF CORNWALL'S "GRAND OLD MAN"

'The Cornish centenarian Mr William Mugfur, more familiarly and affectionately known throughout the district as "Granfer" Mugfur, who last Boxing Day attained the remarkable age of 106, died yesterday at Penquite, Golant, near Fowey. Although the fact was not established, it was claimed that he was about the oldest man in the country.

Up at Penquite he seemed almost part and parcel of the surroundings— the old-fashioned farmhouse, the ancient church, with its weather-beaten tower, within a stone's throw of his old-fashioned bedroom, and the veteran farmer had all but weathered the storms of a century. He would recall to the visitor days of the stagecoach, public hangings, ploughing oxen and the horseback rides to market.

He came from a long-lived family, and although he never went to school, he mastered reading and writing. He never offered any special recipe for his longevity, but his grandmother lived to the ripe age of 101.'

The Golant Pill Committee

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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.

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THE NEXT COPY DATE

Please note that the **Copy Date**for
the <u>June/July Issue</u> is

Tuesday, 28th May

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

thegolantpill@gmail.com

Golant Summer Produce & Craft Show- Saturday July 27th 2024

Below, you will find the schedule for this year's Show, which the Committee hope will inspire you to enter some of the classes available. If you are new to the Village then please try and participate. There is even a cup for the person who has never entered before, and who gets the most points!

You will find the full programme with entry forms on the village website-golant.net plus these will be delivered to each house in the village in early July.

Publishing the Schedule of Classes now will give everyone a chance to start early preparations.

Janet Gore (Chair)

Schedule of Classes

Please note- * denotes a max of 1 Entry per person per Class, otherwise Classes limited to 2 Entries per person per Class.

1) Vegetable Classes

- 1 5 Cherry Tomatoes
- 2 3 Other Tomatoes
- 3 2 Cucumbers
- 4 6 Runner Beans
- 5 6 French Beans
- 6 Longest Runner Bean
- 7 3 Courgettes
- 8 4 Potatoes
- 9 3 Carrots trimmed
- 10 Longest Carrot
- 11 3 Onions
- 12 3 Beetroot trimmed
- 13 5 Radish trimmed
- 14 3 Shallots
- 15 1 Garlic bulb
- 16 1 plate mixed vegetables, 4 items one of each
- 17 3 Stalks of different herbs in a jar
- 18 *Heaviest Marrow
- 19 Any other vegetable

2) Flower Classes

- 20 6 Sweet Pea stems
- 21 3 Dahlia stems
- 22 3 Gladioli stems
- 23 3 Stems of Fuchsia in a vase
- 24 1 Rose bloom
- 25 1 Hydrangea head
- 26 Any other 3 stems or blooms of same variety
- 27 Pot Plant 8" or 20cms pot max

3) Floral Art Classes

- 28 *Petite arrangement in a Teacup
- 29 *Foliage arrangement (no flowers) 30cms x30cms max
- 30 *Vase of mixed flowers 30cms x 30cms max
- 31 *Floating arrangement of flower heads 20cms x 20cms max

4) Cookery Classes

- 32 *3 Flapjacks
- 33 *****3 Muffins
- 34 *Victoria Sponge
- 35 *****3 Scones

5) Home-made Jams and Preserves Classes

- 36 Jam
- 37 Ielly
- 38 Fruit Curd
- 39 Marmalade
- 40 Chutney

6) Drinks Classes

- 41 Home-made flavoured Spirit
- 42 Home-made Cordial

7) Craft Classes

- 43 *A Handcrafted Wooden or Metal item
- 44 *An item of Embroidery or Cross Stitch
- 45 *A Knitted or Crocheted item
- 46 *Any other craft not otherwise included in the Craft Classes

8) Artwork Classes

- 47 A picture of a Boat, any medium including collage A4 max, no photos
- 48 A home-made Bookmark
- 49 A Photo, 'Sky' unmounted, 7x5 inches max
- 50 A Photo, 'Village Life' unmounted, 7x5 inches max
- 51 2025 Schedule Cover Design A5

9) Children's Classes - under 12

- 52 Make your favourite homemade Sandwich
- 53 Make and decorate a 'Cress Head' (grow seeds in a decorated empty egg shell/s)
- 54 Make a picture of a garden- A4 max
- Make and decorate a pebble monster

10) Limerick

Complete the following Limerick:

"I planted two seeds side by side...."

Please submit Entries on the day of the Show, not before.

CONCERT AT ST SAMPSON'S

Given the Golantian's taste for cultural experiences of all kinds, it was unsurprising that the church was nearly full for the *St Mewan Sinfonia's* concert on March 17th.

And what a treat it was to sit back with a glass of chilled sauvignon and be transported by the glorious sounds of the strings whilst soaking up the very special atmosphere of St Sampson's. The acoustics of the church suited the orchestra perfectly.



Under the able baton of their musical director, the gifted musicians provided a balanced and entertaining programme. We kicked off with the vibrant and well known Holberg Suite by Greig, which was followed by two lesser known short pieces by Samuel Coleridge Taylor. No-one who attended will ever forget the modern Entr'acte by Caroline Shaw with its groundbreaking instrumental techniques of scratching, plucking and twanging! For first time listeners, it was hard to enthuse, but although it was a challenge, I think we all enjoyed the experience. This piece was followed by the romantic and elegiac harmonies of Finzi which felt reassuring and familiar after the shock of the new. The programme was rounded off with a lovely rendition of Danny Boy in honour of St Patrick's Day.

Thank you to all concerned for a convivial and entertaining evening. There's something about a shared experience of live music that lifts the spirits, especially on dull days.

Glynis Kelly





St Piran's night, 5th March, at *The Fisherman's Arms*; our cheery publican Nick, amongst others, bedecked in Cornish tartan!

Saturday 13 April 2024, Fowey Town Hall AGM followed by Captain Lars Berg and the timber trade between Norway and Cornwall A talk by Julie Tomlinson

The chance finding of an 1859 newspaper report of the inquest into the suicide of a Norwegian ship's captain, Lars Berg, at Restronguet near Mylor, sparked the interest of the speaker. A fascinating maritime tale unfolded that demonstrated the significance of the Norwegian timber and ice trades with Britain during the 19th century.

Julie lives in Cornwall where she works as an NHS Consultant Nurse and an independent historical researcher.

'Physical' talks commence at 2pm

):

'Zoom' events commence at 2pm

Physical talks (including tea and coffee): Members £5 Non-members £8

Members £3 Non-members £6 (per screen)

Bookings can be made via Ticket Tailor https://buytickets.at/foweyharbourheritagesociety





With Easter being early this year, the Boatwatch Spring Get-Together was held on Easter Saturday, 30th March. As I am writing this a few days before the event, I don't yet know how the weather will treat us, but we will have the shelter of Jason and Amanda Cross's boat shelter if needed. The event will again be a barbecue, and around 50 people have said that they will attend, so it should be an excellent start to the season.

We will be holding the raffle draw for the David Parry painting of St Winnow, shown here. David is hoping to be able to come down for the event. Those of you who attended will now know who won it. More on the event and the raffle in the next *Pill*.



The constant wet weather has made it very difficult to get on with the tasks needed before getting boats back in the river. Painting and anti-fouling has really just not been possible, and the forecast over the next couple of weeks doesn't look much better. So, my plans for a proper painting upgrade have been dropped.

We have seen a good number of small boats on the frapes and in the Pill, either water-filled or submerged, and have posted information on Facebook when we have seen that. I expect that we will produce one more video showing the condition of boats in the River, on the Frapes and in the Pill at the end of April, before these stop until the autumn.

Our highlight of the last couple of months is getting the Golant Webcam up and running. The installation was supported financially by the Parish Council, with the camera operation being maintained by Boatwatch.

The Rowing Club kindly agreed to have the camera mounted near their balcony, so that the camera can give a set of views up and down the river, and round to show the Pill. There will be some fine tuning of the views, so if anyone has comments, please let us know.

I have already had feedback from the Rowing Club that they would like the stop time at each view reduced from the current 15 seconds, so you can get more quickly to the view you want to see. The webcam can be viewed on the Parish Council website: stsampsonparishcouncil.org.uk and Golant village website: golant.net

So, if you haven't already done so, do have a look. Choose a sunny day – the views are wonderful!

A note for your diaries – we will hold flotillas this year in June and August, the first being Afternoon Tea on the River on $4^{\rm th}$ June. The second flotilla will be in the evening of $20^{\rm th}$ August. Details to follow later in the year.

David Bonsall, Chairman, Golant Boatwatch

Golant Quay Users Association

After what seems like months of rain we are finally looking forward to some drier weather!

Hopefully we will be seeing members preparing their boats for the coming season, which will include washing off the green slime, servicing engines, anti-fouling, varnishing and painting to name a few of the jobs on the owner's list.

Once we have boats out on the estuary we will continue with renewing the mooring chain along the Green

Ian Barker

A Further Early Reminder for the Summer

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

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

La Soupe Populaire

A short recap on activities; after recommencing in October, the monthly offerings of soups in the village hall or home delivery continued. The Christmas soup offering was only marred by an outbreak of a virus which struck a large number of villagers. February's soup, 'Moroccan-style chick pea', was from A Cornish Maid's Recipe Corner, which was published in the *Golant Pill*, and highly recommended. We will recommence La Soupe Populaire in October 2024, and we very much look forward to seeing you.

CFylm

Monthly films continue to be available in the village hall; firm favourites are those based on true life, and a number of films shown are villagers' choices. We were able to join in the promotion of Cornish made films with a showing of *The Tape* in February, which had a good musical score, lovely scenery and a take on life in Cornwall. As part of CFylm membership, we are going to be provided with a collection of short Cornish films for free. The next film, on Friday 26th April, is *The Good Liar*', with an excellent cast and thrilling story. Please ensure you book.

Carol Gabb

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Golant Village Hall's Treasurer Report on the 2023 financial year

The Village Hall Management Committee's Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 21st March 2024. As there was one member of the public there and no requests to be nominated, the Committee was re-elected as it stood. I reported on the accounts, which showed an excess of income over expenditure of £1,316.

We had undertaken a lot of work to reduce utility bills, as their costs were rapidly increasing and, once again the Parish Council gave us support with the internet costs in the Hall. The Committee continued to spend money on refurbishment, replacing both exterior doors, painting the exterior and purchasing new outside lights.

Annually, we rely on the solar panel income (£2,180) to cover overheads, along with the investment income (£1,500).

We also rely on the continued support from Parishioners to attend functions and book the hall for events. Thank you to those who did that during 2023 - Quay Users Association; Golant Heritage Group; Friends of the Fowey Estuary; Boat Watch Association; St Sampson Parish Council; the Christmas Fayre and private parties; table tennis; murder mystery; the reading group; sewing group; and *The Pill* for their celebration. GRADS use the hall for storing their amazing costumes and also for their pantomime and revue performance, the Flower and Produce committee also use the hall for their event, as does the big coffee morning in aid of Macmillan. In total, that is approximately 150 days of activity.

The Committee supported and organised the monthly bookshelf, film night, winter soup, fylm on the green, fresher's afternoon, wreath making, coronation picnic, meet and greet, Easter fun day, the Good Friday egg hunt, and I hope I have not forgotten anything!

The total hours volunteers worked, not all of whom are on the Committee, amounted to well over 720. I thank each of you for your contributions of time, and those with muscles and trailers. The tables went on the green, off the green, up the hill and down the hill on numerous occasions!

2024 notification of events for your diary

D Day Afternoon Tea in the Village Hall on Friday 7th June and

D Day Picnic Celebrations on the Green, on Sunday afternoon 9th of June.

Fayre Hardy

Some Cornish Mining Terms

Balscat- Abandoned mine

Dag- Miner's small axe

Huel; wheal- A mine

Learys- Old mine workings
Piran Day- Tinners' holy day
Spaliard- Working tinner

Spaliard- Working tinner
Troil- A tinner's feast

Taken from 'A Cornish Hotchpotch' by Kathleen Hawke,



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GRADS Triumph

Yet again, those of us lucky enough to get tickets to this year's GRADS review, who are not of a theatrical persuasion, were completely bowled over by the amazing number of Golantians that are, and of course some that perhaps aren't but give it a go!

It really is quite something that a small village like Golant can produce 16 acts across such a wide range. Without naming everyone who graced the stage- there were I think in excess of 45 willing participants- it would be remiss not to mention the youngest (Hugh Taylor), the gamest (our own Vicar), the most toe-curling (Grads Geezers), the most surprising (Grads Gals), the most original (PJams Cattle Grid Boogie) and the Boatwatch Singers for re-imagining Gilbert and Sullivan.

Musically, we were treated to an original song about our own cattle grid, a brilliant rendition of Rossini for Cats, some talented musicians delivered the Time Warp, the brilliant Handbell Ringers added some class and the Boatwatch crew performed with gusto.

We had solo performers, duets and multiple casts performing well known comedy sketches as well as original sketches. All were delivered perfectly, and this year everyone seemed to know their lines and also when to say them; at least that was the impression we in the audience got!

Ice creams at half time and refreshments throughout, it was another Golant triumph.

Mention must also be made of the tireless back stage team, the sound and lighting engineers and all those who contributed to making the review of 2024 such a success.

Jason Cross



Just a few of the amazingly entertaining sixteen acts, performed with gusto by GRADS (Golant's Really Amateur Dramatic Society)







All photos by Robin Anderson

EULOGY - Alastair George Flett Barr

Alastair, Dad, was born in 1938. He had a proud Scots heritage, and we have many photos of a young Alastair in his kilt. He identified as a Celt, and his heart was in Cornwall. But... and this was not immediately apparent – he was born within the sound of Bow Bells and so was, strictly speaking, a Cockney.

During the war, his parents very sensibly continued to move in a South-Westerly direction, ending up in Newquay. His father was a doctor, and treated the war-injured at the *Headland Hotel*, which had been requisitioned as a hospital. Dad remembered roller-skating through its wards as a boy.

Sadly, his father suffered poor health after the first world war, and died when Dad was about 13. He was sent to boarding school, or rather a series of schools, as he was a serial runner-awayer. My kids relished hearing this story, but truth be told, he ran away because he wanted to do Latin, which his school didn't do, and he needed the subject to get into *Blundells School*. So, he ran away until his Mum got the message and sent him to *St Petroc's School* in Bude, where he could indeed learn Latin.

He then did go to *Blundells School* in Tiverton, as did I. A common feature of our schooling was that, despite the years, we had the same German teacher. Dad excelled at German and read modern languages at Cambridge. He also spent almost a year schooling in Germany, which gave him a life-long European perspective and a love of travel.

Growing up in Newquay fostered his love of the sea. He rowed gigs in Newquay (sorry sliding seat rowers!). He also told me that had he been 10 years younger, he probably would have been a surfer. It was then at Cambridge that his love of rowing really took off, and he rowed bow in the Selwyn college boat. Judging from a recently-found note from his tutor, it was possibly at the expense of his studies. However, we still have his Selwyn oar displayed in the dining room.

Prior to university, Dad had to do National Service. He joined the *Devon & Cornwall Light Infantry*, and was posted to *Walker Lines* in Bodmin, and also did officer training at *Eaton Hall* in Cheshire. He travelled to Cheshire in his bright red, open-top two-seater car, descriptively known as the Blood Bath.

In Newquay, Mum and Dad both attended a dance, at which Dad insisted Mum did not notice him. She did however notice him when he returned from a university ski trip, smartly dressed in a Norwegian sweater and a nice tan!

And so, in 1961, Mum and Dad got married in St Columb and bought a house in Golant called *Greywott*. They renamed this house *Trethellan*, after the farm in Newquay where Mum spent so much time riding horses when she was younger. The house had been advertised in the Times – they sent their mothers to view it, and the rest is history. *Trethellan* is still the family home.

One of their wedding presents was a little clinker-built sailing boat. And so, a life on the river ensued. Mainly rowing, but also sailing, including trips across the channel with David Skerrett and John Beale.

Dad only ever worked for one company – he joined the sales and marketing department of *ECLP* - which became *English China Clays* - directly after university. Dad really enjoyed his work. His role, particularly in marketing china clay to European paper mills, meant lots of travel and lots of entertaining visitors to Cornwall. I vividly remember the excitement of seeing his taxi coming up the road bringing him home from a trip to Finland, Spain, Hungary, or somewhere – usually bearing presents for us, including dolls from around the world for Sarah. His many foreign colleagues were a generous bunch, and every Christmas we were showered with exotic gifts such as Turkish delight, reindeer meat, and very delicious pickled fish!

In 1993 Dad retired, age 55, when *Imerys* took over *ECC*. It marked the next phase of his life, one largely centred on volunteering and helping others. This is what many of you will know him for – his work with *Castle Dore Rowing Club*, the *West of England Amateur Rowing Association*, the *Fowey River Lions Club*, *Fowey Harbour Commission*, and many, many Golant village activities. After retirement, they say 'everyone needs a hobby' and Dad more than exemplified that – his life was fuller than ever once he retired. Still being young, he threw himself into these things. And he got so much out of them.

From their arrival in Golant in 1961, Mum and Dad fully embraced village life. They surprised the village by entering their first carnival as a caveman and cavewomen, splendid in loin cloth and fur blanket. Dad made so many brilliant carnival entries, fairly often in drag, and most famously as the Queen Mother. The dressing-up and drag theme was consistent in his GRADS and revue show performances too. But he wasn't only a performer – he dedicated a lot of time to organising and admin for village events (quite often involving meetings at *The Fisherman's*), including for the carnival, the flower and produce show, as well as serving as Chairman of St Sampson's Parish Council for many years.

Dad was involved with Castle Dore Rowing Club from the very beginning – from first seeing Alan Griffith's four on the river, over-wintering the boat in John Reid's cow shed and early Stithians regattas; to organising Boxing Day rows and laying on large quantities of extra-strength mulled wine; to moving into John Fuge's old shed as the first boat house, then securing lottery funding for the wonderful current club house, and then funding from Project Oarsome for training and equipment; to his coaching work with local schools and very many juniors at the club, his boat repairs & boat towing, and his role in running the club.

Dad was a Lion in the Fowey River Lions Club for over 25 years, involved in raising money for Lions' charities. His most notable role was as the Lions' Father Christmas, going door-to-door in a sleigh round neighbouring villages and across Fowey harbour in all weathers, dressed in red and ho-ho-ho-ing enthusiastically!

We knew him as a great Dad, a fun grandfather, and a loving husband. To me, he was a role model – successful at a job he loved, bringing up a family in supportive environment and a beautiful location, and a life full of interests and friends.

This view chimes with the many wonderful things others have said in the many letters and emails we have received. People found him kind and a true gentleman who was generous with his time. They said he was a stalwart of village life and central to many fun times! He was British Rowing 'volunteer of the year' in 2011, and many have written to say that he changed their life by introducing them to rowing.

He has been laid to rest between his great mates John Kift and David Skerrett. They had weekly get-togethers in the pub, known as 'Chapel', so he will be in St Sampson's churchyard, overlooking the river he loved, but for those in the know, forever in Chapel! Alastair - a full life, lived well!



In February we were able to hold our much-postponed Nest Box building workshop, where we had 20 budding box builders who were all clearly delighted with their achievements. The birds in our area will be pleased to find these new nest boxes which were crafted in Golant Village Hall under the guidance of Simon Taylor of *BTO Cornwall*. Otto (aged 9) who made a box, went straight home and put it up on his family's farm where he can keep an eye on it from his bedroom window.

Following on in the afternoon we heard more from Simon about the *BTO* Garden Birdwatch and Nesting Neighbours schemes. It's the perfect time to put up a box, top up feeders and start recording birds using your garden! Thanks to Simon for his wealth of experience and knowledge and to everyone who took part and made this great event happen.

We hosted a triple event on 19th March in Golant Village Hall when we held our AGM, followed by a talk on otters by Ian McCarthy, followed by our 25th year Anniversary celebrations. The Accounts were adopted and the committee reelected together with our new Treasurer, Jeremy Edwards.

Ian McCarthy's talk was so inspiring, and was accompanied by his superb photos of otters in Shetland and trail camera footage from the Fowey Estuary. He explained that he has assisted the *National Trust* in building an artificial holt and got film of otters in the vicinity. Ian is doing a series of talks to raise money for the *UK Wild Otter Trust*, of which he is a patron. Back in August 2023, he rescued a baby otter that had got separated from her mother and was spotted at the *Royal Fowey Yacht Club*. The young cub, which was later named 'Brooke', is being rehabilitated by the Trust, and is one of about 20 otters currently in their care. It costs in the region of £3000 to rehabilitate each otter to hopefully be well enough to be released back into the wild. This wonderful talk was followed by members raising a glass in celebration of our 25th year.

We have Rockpool Ramble at Readymoney Beach on Friday 12th April between 1.00pm and 3.00pm, then a guided walk at *The Sanctuary* in Golant, at 2.00pm on Sunday 12th May, where Karen & Dave will explain their plans and accomplishments, including the planting of their orchard on their off-grid retreat.

Then on Wednesday 22nd May at 7.30pm in *Lerryn Memorial Hall* we have a talk on water quality monitoring by the *West Country Rivers Trust*, followed by a demonstration in the nearby river.

Claire Hoddinott & Peter Edwards



Taking the Pill



Lizzy and Simon Smart remembered to take a copy of the *Golant Pill* when they travelled the Silk Road in Lizbekistan

A very colourfully dressed Lizzy poses here on the stunning rooftops of Samarkand!

Where do you take YOUR Pill? Ed.

Nature Notes

And just like that, we are in Spring! We had a lovely ceremony on the green, devised by Penny Parsons to welcome the season, although weather wise it is as vague as usual - wet, sun, wet, wet, windy, wet, a bit of sun, wet etc..... everywhere the ground is so wet and muddy it is not doing the soil any good by walking on it. We keen gardeners are desperate to get sowing and planting, but hoping that somewhere along the line a bit of warm and dry will help us catch up, and it will all turn out okay in the end.

Spring in Cornwall was officially announced on 16th Feb this year (it was 27th last year), although this mainly seems to be the magnolias flowering along with camellias - everything else looks much slower and later, judging by some of the lovely Cornish gardens we have visited so far. There is less blossom than this time last year, although our crab apple 'Everest' has blossom - the first of our apple trees! We have a very stubborn oak that simply refuses to drop its leaves; it's as if it doesn't trust the rumour that spring is arriving, and is hanging onto them 'just in case'. It does this every year without fail - the new leaves start to arrive before the old ones drop! The blackthorn blossom is magnificent, but are there any pollinators about? A few maybe - we leave dandelions to flower as they are such a useful source of nectar (at least that's my excuse for not weeding!)



We have now finished our wood group for the year, and would like to thank all the lads and lasses that turned up each week to help chop, saw & sort. It is such a huge help to get everything tucked away and drying out for this winter. We hope to be firing up the charcoal kiln at some point, so if anyone would like to come and help they would be very welcome. We are hoping that we will have a limited amount to sell - talk about 'charcoal miles' - not even travelling to the village, let alone from one side of the world to us! So much charcoal for sale is plantation grown especially for the purpose, often clearing indigenous forest. We have so much woodland in this country - we are using all the dead ash at the moment - it makes wonderful charcoal!

We went to another wonderful talk by Ian McCarthy in the village hall about his research and tracking of Otters in the Fowey. Absolutely fascinating and how wonderful to think that wildlife is all around us, even if we can't see them - here the otters are nocturnal. I saw a post this week about someone else filming Otters just off the Camel Trail in the daylight....



Although we did see Redshanks, Curlews and Greenshanks when we went kayaking the other day it won't be long until the river is silent from their calls. They go off to the moors to breed, and then return just at the end of June/beginning of July - that for us is the true start of Summer!

I'm also keeping a look out for Swallows - it won't be long, although I don't think I would want to leave warmth & light and arrive here soggy & wet!

Here's to lengthening days, hopefully some warmth, and an abundance of blossom and wildlife in the next few months!

Karen Wells-West





The saying Lovely weather for ducks' certainly comes to mind this spring! Karen captured this image.

ST SAMPSON PARISH COUNCIL

Planning:

The following applications have been considered and supported:

PA23/07850

PA24/00674

PA24/00150

PA24/01162 was not supported and an objection was raised to the planning authorities outlining the reasons for our decision.

PA24/00465 was ostensibly an application to create an opening in a basement in a previously agreed and approved (by Cornwall Council) application, but the Councillors have been made aware of a number of concerns including lack of party wall agreements, insufficient consultation and potential excavation beyond the original footprint. The application was therefore neither supported nor rejected.

Toilet Block:

As you know, we were faced with an alarming increase in charges from Corserv (part of Cornwall Council) to clean the one only available and working toilet. As a result, we have allowed the contract to terminate on the anniversary and have appointed an alternative firm. They commence on April 1st.

Chain link barrier to the Village Green Carpark:

I don't know how, but some while ago the metal pole that was one end of the chain link barrier was broken. I am pleased to report that Andrew has replaced it with a substantial new pole, so that the chain barrier can be put back into action when necessary, during the busy season.

Playground:

Most of you will have seen the ongoing development of the upgraded play area for the village. I must pay tribute to the supplier and Andrew, who between them continued to work through the most atrocious weather to keep the project moving along. We are not fully finished yet, but hopefully, as the new turf settles and the additional items are installed, we will look forward to declaring the playground open in due course.

Village Webcam:

I do hope that everyone has taken the opportunity to look at the new village webcam. It is situated on the extreme part of the Rowing Club building to take full advantage of the river views and the Pill. Access is found on the village web site: golant.net or the Parish Council web site: stsampsonparishcouncil.org.uk

Meetings:

Don't forget, meetings are held in the Village Hall every fourth Tuesday in the month (except for August and December) and members of the public are very welcome. The initial 15 minutes of every meeting is made available for anyone to address the Councillors before the meeting proper starts at 7:30 pm.

David Jenkinson Chairman St Sampson Parish Council

St Austell Choral Society's next Concert

Saturday 11th May at 7.30pm at St Augustine's Church, St Austell

St Austell Choral Society sings-

Schubert Mass in G with works by Dvořák & Bach

To keep up with events, and when you are planning an event, you can check out the new 'W hat'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

Golant Playground Update

As many of you will see, the new playground equipment is installed. This was a herculean task which started in a day of such rain that many were thinking the ship structure might be needed by Noah! Huge thanks go to the installation team from Fawns and Andrew VdB for making progress despite the elements.

The full installation has however been hampered by the weather. The safety matting could not be installed due to the ground conditions and the site has now been turfed to help move the process along.

Unfortunately, the earliest *Fawns* can get back to us for the final stage of installation is the end of April, so the playground will have to remain closed until then. Thank you to you all for respecting this and keeping inquisitive children (of all ages!) off the equipment.

Our next stages also include the sourcing a gazebo style shelter to provide shelter from the sun (when it finally appears) and rain, the refurbishment of the tyre stepping equipment that was in the old playground and renewal of some or all the perimeter fencing.

The latter action will be dependent on funds available. So, thank you for your patience and we look forward to the opening of our fabulous new facility.

Siobhan Harper



Golant Walking Group

February saw a welcome return to walking after a winter break. On a grey day, we climbed out of Portscatho making our way inland towards the Rosteague estate and onwards towards Towan Beach. (*Below*) The skies were leaden but the air dry and fresh. After a stroll along the beach, easy walking gave way to something a little more challenging, and rewarding views of the coast, when we returned via the coastal path.



Our circular route on the Roseland coast culminated in a welcome drink and lunch at the Plume of Feathers, enjoyed al fresco!

In March we returned to an old favourite: the Hall Walk, on a day so warm that coats were soon divested under the sun. From the Bodinnick Ferry we paused on our climb out of the village to view the delightful chapel of St John, and were soon enjoying splendid views of Fowey. Rounding the top of Pont Pill we called in to the magnificent church of St Wyllow at Lanteglos before descending into Polruan, where we could enjoy welcome drinks on the Quay. Returning to the car park through Fowey afforded window shopping opportunities and pasties!

Our April walk will take us to Mylor. If you would like to join us please email anne.bonsall@btinternet.com.

Anne Bonsall



Finding The Golant Pill Online

If you prefer not to have a hard copy of our newsletter, or would like to catch up with previous PDF copies online, just go to our village website at:

golant.net

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



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Places in Cornwall

Two Burrows

Threemilestone

Fourlanesend

Five | anes

Six Turnings

Seven Stones

Nine Maidens

Twelveheads

Gurnard's Head

Barras Nose

Hell's Mouth

Sibley Back

Skinner's Bottom

Herod's Foot

Taken from

'A Cornish Scrapbook'

A treasure trove of bits and pieces

Published by Tor Mark



A Political One Liner

Politicians are people who, when they see light at the end of the tunnel, go out and buy some more tunnels.

~John Quinton~

Ray Peacock

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YOUR LAWYERS FOR LIFE

A Cornish Maid's Recipe Corner

A creamy, juicy dish full of flavour. Cooking time approx. 30 mins. Serves 6.



Marry Me Chicken

3 large Chicken Breasts — boneless & skinless, sliced in half lengthways into thin cutlets

½ teaspoon Salt

1/4 teaspoon ground Black Pepper

50g/2oz Plain Flour

1 tablespoon/15ml Olive Oil

25g/10z Unsalted Butter

3 banana Shallots or 1 large Red Onion – peeled, quartered & sliced

3 Garlic Cloves- minced

225ml/8fl oz Chicken Stock

225ml/8fl oz Double Cream

50g/20z Parmesan Cheese – grated

1 teaspoon Chilli Flakes

1/4 teaspoon dried Oregano

1/4 dried Thyme

8 Sundried Tomatoes in oil – drained & chopped

- 1. Place flour on tray or plate, season with salt & pepper. Toss the chicken cutlets in the flour, shaking off any excess.
- 2. In a large skillet/frying pan, heat the oil and melt the butter together over a medium heat.
- 3. Add the chicken; best done in batches so not to overcrowd the pan, and cook for 4-5mins on each side until golden brown & cooked through. Transfer onto a plate and set aside.
- Add the shallots/onion & cook gently for few minutes to soften. Add the garlic & cook for couple of minutes.
 Add a little sundried tomato oil, if you like, for more flayour.
- 5. Add the chicken stock & deglaze the pan, scraping any bits stuck on the bottom with a wooden spoon.
- 6. Reduce heat to medium/low, add the double cream & parmesan cheese to the pan. Let the sauce simmer for a couple of minutes, then add the chilli flakes, oregano & thyme....and stir.
- 7. Check seasoning is to your taste. Add the sundried tomatoes then return the chicken to the pan. Let the sauce simmer and thicken for a few more minutes.
- 8. Serve with rice, pasta or spuds along with veg of your choice.



Note:

For gluten free option use gluten free flour and check the stock is gluten free too.

Gill Paull



An Extract from Uncle John's Gardening Year

"As for the saying 'April showers,' very often this month can be one of the drier times. So 'tis all a bit hit and miss, and I know that officially the first day of Spring is March 20th, but that means nort. You will hear the farmers and old gardeners trot out the saying, "Tidn't time to drill corn yet if you can't sit on worked overground with a bare backside, and not feel uncomfortable." Bearing (excuse the pun) this in mind, 'tis as well to be a bit cautious and carry on sowing your more tender plant seeds in trays in the greenhouse."

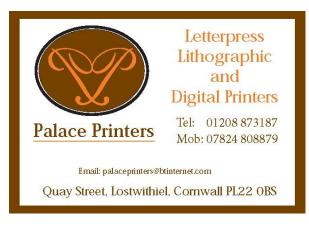
This seasonal amusing snippet of information, written by the late John Kift, is typical of his west-country knowledge and humour.

 E_d

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)





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CALENDAR OF VILLAGE EVENTS

A	P	R	\mathbf{I}	L

Friday 5 th	10.30am	Coffee/tea, cakes, books, chatter	Village Hall		
Sunday 7 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's		
Sunday 7 th	12-12.30/22.30/6-8pm	Roast by the River	Fisherman's Arms		
Sunday 14 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's		
Sunday 14 th	12-12.30/ 2-2.30/6-8pm	Roast by the River	Fisherman's Arms		
Sunday 21st	12-12.30/ 2-2.30/6-8pm	Roast by the River	Fisherman's Arms		
Sunday 21st	6.00pm	Evensong	St Sampson's		
Sunday 21	6.40pm	The Annual Parish Church Meeting - All welco			
Tuesday 23 rd	12-12.30/ 2-2.30/6-8pm	St George's Day – Best of British menu	Fisherman's Arms		
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Parish Council meeting			
Tuesday 23rd	7.15pm	0	Village Hall		
Friday 26 th	7.30pm	CFylm 'The Good Liar' (Booking required)	Village Hall		
Sunday 28th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's		
Sunday 28th	12-12.30/ 2-2.30/6-8pm	Roast by the River	Fisherman's Arms		
Tuesday 30th	7.30pm	Quay Users' Association AGM	Village Hall		
MAY					
Friday 3 rd	10.30am	Coffee/tea, cakes, books, chatter	Village Hall		
Sunday 5 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's		
Sunday 5 th		1st Fisherman's Arms Summer Buffet Lunch			
•	12- 3pm 9.30am	Holy Communion			
Sunday 12 th		•	St Sampson's		
Sunday 12 th	12 - 3pm	Fisherman's Arms Summer Buffet Lunch	Fisherman's Arms		
Tuesday 14th	2.00pm	GHG meeting	Village Hall		
Saturday 18 th	7.30pm	Carn to Cove: Scary Little Girls Production	Village Hall		
0 1 401	10.0	'Common Ground/Greenham on Film'	TO: 1		
Sunday 19th	12- 3pm	Fisherman's Arms Summer Buffet Lunch	Fisherman's Arms		
Sunday 19th	6.00pm	Evensong	St Sampson's		
Monday 20th – Sat	urday 25 th	British Sandwich Week	Fisherman's Arms		
Special Sandwich Lunchtime Menu					
Friday 24th – Moi	·	Beer Festival	Fisherman's Arms		
Friday 24 th	6.00pm	Barbecue 8.30pm Lost in Space	Fisherman's Arms		
Saturday 25 th	6.00pm	Barbecue 8.30pm Two Beats	Fisherman's Arms		
Sunday 26th	12 - 3pm	Buffet 3.00pm Lankelly Shout	Fisherman's Arms		
Sunday 26th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's		
Monday 27th	12 – 3pm	Buffet 3.00pm Will Powell playing	Fisherman's Arms		
Tuesday 28th	7.15pm	Parish Council meeting	Village Hall		
Tuesday 28th	Copy Date	The Golant Pill thegolantpi	ll@gmail.com		
Friday 31st	7.30pm	C Fylm (Booking required)	Village Hall		
<u>JUNE</u>					
C 1 2nd	0.20	11.1.6	C. C		
Sunday 2nd	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's		
Sunday 2 nd	12 – 3pm	Summer Buffet lunch	Fisherman's Arms		
Tuesday 4 th	TBC	Boatwatch Flotilla	From the quay		
Thursday 6 th		D Day Fish & Chip Day	Fisherman's Arms		
		£,1 for every menu dish donated to Royal British Legion			
Friday 7 th	3.00pm	D Day Tea/coffee, cakes, books, chatter	Village Hall		
Sunday 9th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's		
Sunday 9th	12 – 3pm	D Day Anniversary Summer Buffet	Fisherman's Arm		
£,1 for every buffet sold donated to Royal British Legion (takeaway available – linked to Village Green event)					
Sunday 9th	Afternoon	D Day picnic celebrations	Village Green		
Tuesday 11 th	2.00pm	GHG meeting	Village Hall		

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 <u>Copy Date</u> shown on this page of the newsletter, and we will try to include it.