



Wow, what a Special Show!



On Saturday 26th July the Village Hall hosted Golant's annual Produce and Craft Show.

Despite the Cornish mist during the morning's staging window, 43 people entered one or more of the 62 classes available, resulting in a total of 275 entries! That was significantly up on last year (when there were 42 entrants with 209 entries). Given the challenging growing conditions this year, it has been suggested that the increased participation could be down to the additional Friday evening staging that was a welcome introduction this year, and resulted in a much more relaxed atmosphere.

This year the Show was fortunate to have some excellent judges from outside of the Village, including - Mike Blake (Tywardreath) – Vegetables, & Flowers, Amanda Cox – Floral Art, Cookery, Preserves & Drinks (Upton Cross) and Hayley Toms (LilyBoo, Lostwithiel), and then of course Jeremy Lloyd-Evans eventually turned up to do an outstanding job judging the Limericks. We thank them all.

Following a brief lunch break, the doors were opened to the 'public' at 2 o'clock, and after a slow start Cris Dodridge and Anne Bonsall were soon hard-pressed looking after the catering, and in particular keeping pace with Richard Gabb's cake consumption.

As Chair of the Show committee, I had the honour of presenting the awards to the winners:

*The Best New Entrant award and the Best Children's Exhibit was won by Charlie Owen (aged 4 and 364 days!) with his brilliantly designed "*Vegetable Beast*". Unfortunately, Charlie 'was unable to be with us' to collect his well-deserved awards, and with no video link available we had to make do with his Nannie (Anne Marie Phillis) collecting them on his behalf. (*See page 2 for her report.*)

*Viviane Barr won the highly contested Limerick class with her excellent entry....

"Two apples sat high in a tree
So tempting to Eve (and to me)
She fell for the bait
And that sealed her fate
But I had a baked apple for tea."

Continued on page 2

FROM THE EDITOR

Variety is the spice of life... so it is said!

As usual, we have a wonderful eclectic mix of village events from the past two months reported within our newsletter, and it is really special that we are receiving articles from a growing number of new village contributors. With different styles of writing, it helps to give variety for our readers.

It doesn't often happen that there is an event just before a copy date, but for this issue, the Produce & Craft Show neatly fell into the 'hot off the press category'! I'm very grateful to the committee, who agreed to send a quick report on this lovely annual village event for our cover article.

Within the issue, on page 10, there is a fascinating local heritage story sent in by Chris Taylor, about a long-standing puzzle regarding his Grandfather's war years. To deal with this, there was a great link between today and the past, as it was young Hugh who asked for help from teachers in his school to try and solve the puzzle, and they sure did! Do read it...

Gillie Harris (Editor)

A YOUNG CUP WINNER!

Charlie is our youngest Grandson and he loves painting and colouring, so it was an ideal activity, during the start of the school holidays, for him to create a monster made out of vegetables.

After raiding his Mum's fridge and mine for ideal veggies, with the assistance of his Pappy Steve watching over him as he pushed veggies onto the wire, he started on his creation. He was very insistent that all veg must be used and exactly where it was to go. He named him Mr Onion head. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend the Produce Show on Saturday to collect his trophies, so we had a little ceremony in the garden on Sunday. He dressed for the occasion, as it was also his 5th birthday, in his brand new Ronaldo kit. As you can see by the photo he was one very happy little boy!

Anne Marie Phillis



Continued from page 1

*This year, the Best Arts & Crafts Exhibit was awarded to April Stead for her beautiful painting of an orchard scene, entered in the artwork class 'Picture inspired by 'Orchard'.'

*The Best Cookery Exhibit was awarded to Claire Lower for her outstanding Tiramisu entry in the hotly contested 'Any other Cake' class, which was deemed so good, it narrowly missed out winning the Best in Show.

*The new Floral Art Trophy, introduced this year for the first time, was awarded to Jackie Smith for her 'Floral Arrangement incorporating Driftwood'.

*Penny Parsons won membership to the Cornwall Dahlia Society for her entry in their sponsored class for '3 Dahlia Stems', subsequently awarded the Best Flower Exhibit.



*The John Kift Trophy for the Best Vegetable Exhibit went to Neil Smith for his '2 Cucumbers'.

*The award for the Highest Number of Points across all the classes in the Show was awarded to Sophie Hearnden, again (Matt really needs to up his game!).

*After much deliberation, the judges agreed unanimously that the Alastair Barr Memorial Trophy for Best in Show be awarded to April Stead for her wonderful painting.



After the raffle was drawn, Martyn and Fayre Hardy ran the highly entertaining auction of unclaimed entries, and remarkably managed to shift a surfeit of marrows that nobody wanted.

So thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a success- the rest of the committee –Kirsty Angwin, Sophie & Matt Hearnden and Jackie & Neil Smith, the Catering team – Crisy and Anne, the Auctioneers – Martyn & Fayre, and the Judges. But most of all thank you to all who took the trouble to enter such a wide range of excellent exhibits, without which we wouldn't have a Show, and of course to everyone who came and enjoyed the afternoon with us.

*Debby Marshall-Reeve –
Chair, Golant Produce & Craft Show committee*



As part of our new apple survey, we hope to create a single database of all the apple trees in Golant. To take part we will be asking you to fill in a simple form for each tree giving some details, including name (where known), type of tree etc. To locate the tree accurately we hope people will use the free phone app What3Words. Just go to the tree and get the app to give you the magic words. This is accurate to 3 metres, so will enable us to create a very good mapping of our village apple trees. Dave Johns at the Sanctuary is already doing this for all their fruit trees. More details will be available soon, so we will keep you posted.

Ian Laughton

Apple Day: Sunday 19th October 2025, 10am-4pm

It seems to be a bumper year for apples and pears this year. A successful wassail and conducive weather probably played their parts! We are now planning the content of our forthcoming Apple Day, which we would really like to be a whole village community event, just as it was 10 years ago. *(All the photos below were taken at this 2015 event, and includes the unveiling of the Apple Banner!)* Whilst most activities will be based in the village hall, there is scope to have other things happening around the village. If you have any ideas or suggestions please do let us know.

Plans so far include: a repeat of David Johns' very successful tasting and identification of apple varieties display last October, Fowey Valley Cider stand selling their products, apple bobbing, refreshments (including apple cake and apple juice!). Does anyone fancy organising a preserve stall?

- There will be some APPLE THEMED activities for you too, so get your thinking caps on!
- Poetry Corner and/or 100 word micro story (piece of prose) competition.
- Create an apple character challenge, using apples and orchard fruits. (I can still remember Paul Meredith's wonderful Apple Man in 2015!)
- Exhibition of photographs depicting Golant's apple blossom and orchards. Please do send us your photos. If you have both blossom and fruit-laden photos of the same tree even better.

Penny Parsons, Chairman



NEWS FROM ST SAMPSON'S CHURCH

In June, despite the weather forecast, the evening remained fine for our Safari Supper. This is reported on elsewhere in detail, (*page 7*) but the evening was, I believe, greatly enjoyed and also raised much needed funds for our Grade I listed church. The total was £2,385, before Gift Aid is applied, and this will help towards the re-painting of the inside of this lovely building. The redecorating will start in August, so some services will be accompanied by the clavinova rather than the organ, as it is important to keep the organ pipes clear of dust and debris.

My thanks to all those who bravely and generously acted as hosts and hostesses, and also to those many villagers who supported the evening so willingly and cheerfully.

On Sunday 13th July we held our Sea Sunday service at *The Fisherman's Arms*, and many thanks to Nick and his splendid team for the use of the marquee. This was very well attended, with readings, hymns, choir and handbells, and, again, a separate report appears in this issue. (*Page 7*) Many thanks to the choir, handbell ringers and readers for making this such a special service. Over £80 was collected for *The Mission to Seafarers*.

The last Sunday in July was a celebration of our Patron Saint, St Sampson. An excellent congregation and a full choir sang such rousing hymns as *God who for the world's new framing* and *For all the Saints*, which included a verse in Cornish. The highlight was the choir singing Howard Goodall's *The Lord is my Shepherd*, accompanied by my brother James on the organ, and with Tauniua as soloist: the music and the service was greatly appreciated by all.

August not only sees the church being re-painted, but also provides a holiday for the choir, big bell and handbell ringers. It is also a good time to thank all those who contribute so much to the running of the church: the cleaners, sacristans, readers, coffee makers, coffee and biscuit providers, and those who ensure the altar cloths are the right colour! Please note that on the last Sunday of August (the fifth Sunday), there is no morning service at St Sampson's, but all are most welcome at the service at St Andrew's, Tywardreath.

The next major festival will be Harvest Festival, on Sunday 12th October, and then it is soon Remembrance Sunday and into the preparations for Christmas services.

Simon Funnell

Church Cleaning

There will be no cleaning required in August, as the church is being re-decorated.

It is proposed that in September there will be a Maurie Mail asking for as many people as possible to help with a general 'spring clean' of the church, once the re-decoration has been completed. After that it is proposed that the church will be cleaned once a month by a professional cleaning company, who will also come in for any special occasions that require an additional clean.

I would like to say an enormous thank you to all the volunteers who have done such a wonderful job of keeping the church looking beautiful over the years. All your efforts are much appreciated, by locals and visitor alike. We couldn't have done it without you!

Valerie Russell

Vicar's Ponderings!

Following the news recently, and hearing about all the hot weather with the heat warnings that have been in place for much of the country if you venture across the Tamar, it seems that here we have had a remarkably normal summer experience to date. As I write, there is a gentle rain falling which should be sufficient to revive the grass that is ever so slightly yellowing in patches. All being well it will also be enough for the fruit crops to fulfil the promise that they are already showing – it looks a good year for apples, pears and plums in my garden and there are even some early blackberries for tasting. However, I know that on farms up and down the land there are real risks for crop failure this year, and that has a serious impact on all of us, not just the farmers who depend on good harvests for their livelihoods.

It is good to remember an almost throw away line in the book of Genesis that says '*As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.*' We have become increasingly focussed on how the earth might endure and what steps need to be taken to reduce the global temperature so that all life can thrive. Often it feels as though we cannot make a difference at an individual level by whatever small changes we might make, but at least if we all do something, then collectively, it can begin to change things.

So much is being done in schools today to encourage our children to think about the future and how the things they do have consequences for everyone. As children also learn by example, we all of us have a role in modelling what a sustainable world might look like for the generations to come. A schoolteacher friend of mine recently took a group of 11-year-olds on a week-long trip to a centre in Wales. There were signs up reminding everyone to be aware of what was being wasted at meal times, and a set of scales to weigh the food that was being discarded after the group meals. The target was set on the first day to reduce the amount of food that was not being eaten, and the children enthusiastically set about minimising what was being put into the bin for weighing after each meal. It is surprising how quickly portion controls can be effectively worked out when such a challenge is set! It might not seem much of a difference to be made in global terms, but why not make it a challenge to yourselves over the summer to weigh your household food waste and see if you too can reduce the level.

With every blessing,
Shona

Revd Shona Hoad
07476 900623
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www.tywardreathandgolantchurches.uk

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Churchwardens

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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.

Advertising Rates

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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:

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From an original drawing by Karen Wells-West



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Pill Paparazzi in this issue

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GH	Gillie Harris
LJ	Louise Jordan
MP	Maurie Parsons
PM	Paul Meredith
GP	Gill Paull
JS	Jacky Smith
KW-W	Karen Wells-West

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THE NEXT COPY DATE

Please note that the **Copy Date** for the
October/November Issue is

Friday 26th September

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

thegolantpill@gmail.com

Golant Gleanings

Vilma Margaret Dunley (nee Holmes)
4th May 1939 – 5th May 2025

Vilma was born near Dover just prior to the start of the Second World War where, as far as I am aware, she lived with her mother in a public house until the age of fifteen when she went with the family to Goch in Germany. Her stepfather was in the services and she got a job in the NAAFI shop. A year or so later they relocated to Cologne, where she took part in amateur dramatics along with her sister, Hazel.

On their return to the UK she was employed by the British Automobile Racing Club in Park Lane, London. This is where she eventually met Gwenda Towell who was, at the time, personal assistant to the Secretary of the club. She went to a number of motor racing meetings with the club and, of course, Gwenda who used to take along a friend, one Dorothy Rickwood. The three became close and lifelong friends. Vilma called the group 'A Unit'. She was always a strong character and, I am sure, was a leader of the pack.

She moved to a property in Porchester Square where there were many parties. She also began to do PR work for a company called Simba Car Alarms which was run by Robert Dunley. They moved to premises in Stockwell where they became well known for their hospitality.

After Gwenda and Dorothy moved to Golant together with their spouses, Basil and Stan, Vilma and Robert became regular visitors.

They married on 15th July 1977 in Lewisham, and continued their visits to the village which they fell in love with, and in the late 80s they purchased *Altarnun* at auction. After refurbishment the cottage became a centre of hospitality whenever they were down. Then in late 90s they purchased *Rose Cottage* which needed a lot of updating.

When they moved to the village permanently they continued with their kindness and hospitality, hosting many functions at the house. Vilma also became closely involved in village events, taking part in the annual Carnival and other festivities. She teamed up with Paddy Shelley and ran a monthly 'Soup Kitchen' in the Village Hall. It really did start with soup and a roll, but Vilma could not leave it like that and, over time, it evolved into a three course meal which was always enjoyed by a large crowd of villagers.

They moved back from *Rose Cottage* to *Altarnun* and unfortunately, because of ill health, they moved into a care home, where she spent the last few months of her life.

Maurie Parsons

BACKALONG Newspaper Articles

This article was in the *Western Morning News and Mercury* newspaper 100 years ago on 11th August 1925, in the FOR SALE column:

CORNWALL.— FREEHOLD HOUSE at Golant, semi-detached, 10 rooms, modern; vacant possession Michaelmas; £650.—Hony, 7, Queenstreet, Lostwithiel.

Does any reader know which house this was? Ed.

This was placed in the *Cornish Guardian* newspaper 100 years ago on 11th September 1925:

GOLANT.

On Sunday afternoon St Austell Town Band paid a visit to Penquite, the residence of Mr. F. Parkin (Band President) and rendered some choice selections on the lawn. A short service was held, the Vicar gave an address and the band led the singing of the hymns "Jesu Lover of my Soul" and "O God our Help in ages past". Refreshments were served to the large number of people present.

WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to the new owners of *Lantor*— Sophie & Daniel Furse, with daughters Skyla (6) and Cedar (2).

Some Cornish Dialect

Names for Animals

Chet	Kitten
Fitcher	Ferret
Mur	Mouse
Screw	Fieldmouse
Sneg	Snail (small)
Tibby Lamb	Lamb (young)

Taken from '*A Cornish Hotchpotch*'
 by Kathleen Hawke,

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The Safari Supper – Saturday 14th June

How time flies; astonishing to think that the last Safari Supper was 2 years ago, where did the time go? This much anticipated bi-annual gathering is one of the highlights of the village social calendar; however, due to the very nature of the event the Cornish weather can play a somewhat critical part in the overall success of the evening.

Organisers and hosts alike had been nervously checking weather forecasts in the weeks and days leading up to Saturday the 14th. Having enjoyed record breaking sunshine for weeks on end it seemed inevitable that it would rain on our parade, but no, our prayers were answered and the drinks reception kicked off at 5.50pm on the dot in glorious evening sunshine. A record attendance of 58 villagers gathered in the beautiful garden at *Orchard View*, thank you to Simon and Sheila, for a glass or two of suitable refreshment and some animated conversation.



As is customary, the names of our hosts were shrouded in great secrecy, and it was with eager anticipation that envelopes were opened to reveal our starter destinations. Many thanks in our case to Paul and Chris for a delicious starter after a short walk down the hill to your very cute dining hut, a delightful setting.

Next stop for us was *Penquite Vineyard*, which of course meant a considerable hike back up the hill, with appetite and thirst building with every step we were not to be disappointed. Thank you to Jebbs and Kay for a splendid main course. I hope we didn't make too big a dent in your wine cellar.

Last stop on the trail was kindly hosted by Joe and Gillian, where we all gathered for the grand finale of puddings and postprandials. I am sure I speak for everyone who attended to thank you both very much, and to wish you a fond farewell as you plan your move North; hope to see you back in Golant before too long.

What an amazing village we live in; we shouldn't underestimate the considerable effort involved, so congratulations and well done to all who attended, and a big thank you to the hosts and organisers- your fine efforts were much appreciated. The evening was a great success not just socially but also financially. I am pleased to announce that we raised a record sum of £2,385 (before Gift Aid) in aid of St. Sampson's Parish Church, which I am sure the Churchwardens will spend wisely.

The whole Safari Supper concept is great fun, and dare I say it, nobody does it better than Golant. Here's looking forward to the 2027 edition; I for one can't wait.

Simon Hubner

Sea Sunday Service

After walking in the warm sunshine that we have been blessed with this summer down to the village Sea Sunday service on Sunday 13th July, held at the aptly named *Fisherman's Arms* - courtesy of Nick, our ever obliging landlord, we sat under the shade in the marquee and were rewarded with a thoroughly enjoyable and thought provoking forty minutes.

The many gathered there greatly appreciated the playing of the hand-bells, and the singing of our wonderful church choir, who sang *Jubilate* as a very lively introit, and later *Let the Lower Lights Be Burning*, which was most effective, sung unaccompanied and in four parts.

There were many and varied readings, from traditional literary giants, such as Alfred, Lord Tennyson, to living Cornish poets, via Stevie Smith, Robert Frost and others! There were also moments of high drama (who will forget the opening of *Break, break, break?*), and some challenging poetry was beautifully delivered by the ten talented villagers who read. It was a delight to hear such different voices and readings.

These occasions certainly enhance our sense of community; we love our village. Our priest in charge, Shona Hoad, is warm and welcoming to all, and tolerant of the occasional chattering from the afternoon patrons of our splendid local. Her prayers were a solemn reminder that, for those whose living depends on it, the sea is not always as warm and welcoming as our village service. It is very pleasing that over £80 was collected for Mission for Seafarers.

The pub marquee was full, and the hymns were sung with enthusiasm, especially the final one, *Will your anchor hold?*, with its lively hand-bell accompaniment. After that closing hymn, the hand-bell players brought proceedings to an end with spirited renditions of *Rule, Britannia* and *The Sailor's Hornpipe* - even if, in the latter piece, the tempo of the clapping did not always match the speed of the handbells!

Fiona Stevenson & Simon Funnell





Boatwatch Flotillas

A very successful first 2025 Flotilla was held on 10th June. A run down to Fowey was followed by rafting in Pen Pol by 17 boats and around 60 very happy boaters.



We will hold our second Flotilla of the year on Tuesday 19th August. Tide times mean that this will be an After-noon Tea event on Tuesday 19th August. High Water is at 1500 hrs and is 4.5 Metres, so we will need to start out early in the afternoon. We hope for a sunny place to raft up for Tea, and maybe swimming.

Boatwatch members have had details of the event e-mailed to them. All are welcome. If you wish to, please join in with this event - seats in the fleet will be available by prior request for those who do not have their own boats. Robin Anderson will be managing the flotilla register. Please contact him at andersonrobertleslie@hotmail.com or call/text to mobile, 07968 063 524

2026 Boatwatch Calendar

Many thanks to all who submitted photos for possible inclusion in the Boatwatch 2026 Calendar. Apologies to those of you whose photos have not been included, but the calendar has been designed, and is now with Palace Printers for final proofing and printing.

The calendars will be on sale for £7.00 each. All profits from sale of the calendars will be donated to the Fowey RNLI.

We have set an initial print run and will be able to have repeat runs, if needed. If you want to ensure you get your copies as early as possible, do e-mail David Jenkinson to pre-order: david.jenkinson01@gmail.com.

Don't get your calendars anywhere else. The Boatwatch ones will soon be with you!

Fowey Lifeboat Week 28 July-3 August

Lifeboat Week in Fowey again coincides with the Pill publication date; it is too late to encourage people to attend, but you may have seen the events publicised on our Facebook page.

Lifeboat week coincides with the sad departure of the Fowey All-weather Lifeboat Maurice and Joyce Hardy, and its replacement by an Atlantic 85. A flotilla of lifeboats, harbour boats, working and trip boats, ex-lifeboats, safety boats, gigs and private vessels has been planned to accompany her from her pontoon and out of the harbour as she sets off on passage to the RNLI in Poole. Boatwatch is taking part in this flotilla, with appropriate flag waving and noise making. There will be pictures on our Facebook page.

David Bonsall, Chairman, Golant Boatwatch

Golant Quay Users Association

All the membership renewal letters have been sent out and payment is due by the end of July, so, if you have not paid by then, there is a penalty of £25 to add to your renewal fee.

Allocations of berths will be made during August, and the stickers letters, informing you of your berth(s), will be sent out in September.

Quay Users would like to thank some 18 volunteers who helped at this year's Pill clean up, especially given the heavy rain that you endured. Your support is what makes this event happen and keeps the Pill, the track and the Quay looking its best.

We would also like to thank Nick and the crew at *The Fisherman's Arms* for hosting the pre clean up bacon butties.



Peter Edwards & Ian Barker



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Golant Sports and Carnival plus Madness in the Pill

Madness in the Pill Saturday 9th August

Our water-based competition starts around **5.30 – 6.00pm** depending on the tide (high tide is a 5.2m at 18.40) but teams need to be there early to register.

The Great Golant Raft race concludes the event, where crews who have made their own rafts and hopefully created fascinating fancy dress costumes race to the end of the Pill and back. There are certificates to be won for the top team, best dressed crew, and the Great Golant Raft Race winner.

If not actually participating, this is a spectacular spectator event where you can have a pint watching from *The Fishermans* terraces and avoid getting wet.

Sports and Carnival Saturday 16th August

Sports will start at **2.00pm** where there will be a variety of children's races for 5–14-year-olds, and all can join in.

The marquee will be hosting teas and cakes; cakes donated by our local cake bakers are very welcome; please contact Anne-Marie on 07535 454659 if you can help.

Sports will include the Great Golant Tug-of-war, with the residents of Golant versus the rest of the world.

Donations for raffle prizes would also be very gratefully accepted by Estelle (01726 833707) or at the pub.

Carnival starts assembling at **6.15pm** with the Lostwithiel Town Band playing. The procession around the village will set off at 7.00pm followed by the traditional Flora Dance. *The Fishermans Arms* will host a **BBQ** and have booked the *The Stone River* band for you to dance the night away.

Peter Edwards

Village Hall Activities

Our coffee mornings are well attended, but please do come along and meet new residents and make new friends.

We had a great time at the Wimbledon event which gained many complimentary comments; we had a lovely afternoon and held a quiz. (*See page 11*)

On Friday the 15th August we are holding VJ commemorations. Quite a lot of hard work and thought goes into these events, so please do support us. Details to be announced nearer the time.

Please, please attend the Macmillan Coffee morning on 26th September, which is a very worthwhile cause. and is the only event in our calendar that supports another charity. Donations from thousands of Coffee Mornings, big and small, help raise vital funds to support the almost 3.5 million people in the UK living with cancer, from the moment they are diagnosed, throughout treatment and beyond. Posters will be going up nearer the day along with a Maurie Mail to remind you to bring yourself, a friend, and some form of cake. We are holding a raffle as well. Any excess cake will be available at CFylm night for a small donation.

September will see the start of the excavations to enable easier access for us all. Please don't forget to use the already positioned mirror on the wall opposite the steps when alighting into the road, to ensure that no cars are going to run you over! (*Hire fees on p.14*)

Fayre Hardy

CFylm

CFylm venues have the opportunity to take part in 'Too much: Melodrama on Film', which will be supported by the British Film Industries UK wide season of cinematic melodrama, running from October to December 2025.

CFylm are applying for grant funding to cover film licences and some marketing support. If successful, we will be offered a hand-picked menu of melodramas to screen for £30 per title. Four are set and filmed in Cornwall -

'Jamaica Inn' (1939), 'Ladies in Lavender' (2004), 'Love Story' (1944) and 'Summer in February'. (2013)

Carol Gabb



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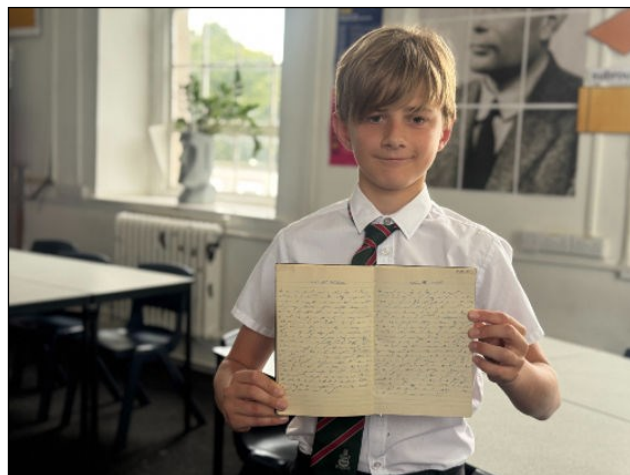
On the right as you go down to Golant

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

A Voice from the Past - Hugh's Heritage

Some of you will have known that my maternal Grandfather was the Major, who lived at *Torfrey*. What many of you won't have known is that he was a Prisoner of War in Europe for most of the war. He kept many diaries of his time interned, but we have never been able to read them, due to their having to be written in shorthand— that is until now, thanks to Hugh and his school, *Devonport High School for Boys*. The following was in the Headmaster's blog for the end of term.

Earlier this month, Year 8 student Hugh Taylor reached out to the staff at DHSB to ask for help in decoding the diary entries of his great-grandfather, who was held in a Prisoner of War camp towards the end of WWII. The entries are recorded using Gregg Shorthand, a form of stenography developed by John Robert Gregg. Gregg Shorthand is phonetic, meaning it is written based on the sounds of words rather than their spelling.



A large team of DHSB staff utilised generative AI to translate the pages and combine them into a side-by-side document to tell the story of Captain Roberts some 80 years after writing his diary.

The entry for July 18th - 81 years ago today – reads: "Woken early by a commotion outside the barracks. A German guard had tripped over a loose board near the perimeter fence and raised the alarm. Roll-call was delayed while the fence was checked for damage. Breakfast of bread and ersatz coffee as usual. The men are restless. Several whispered conversations about 'Hedgeford 3' and 'Corvette' took place in the yard, though I didn't catch details. Around midday, two senior NCOs were called to the Kommandantur. When they returned, they looked grim, but said nothing. At 4.15pm, a few of the escape committee members slipped into Hut 5 for what must have been another planning session. The evening passed quietly, though tension is growing among the men. Spirits lifted briefly when someone began singing 'Will be your sweetheart' in a low voice. Lights out 10.15pm."

Reading what they found was remarkable, and quite emotional, as I could clearly hear him in the entries. My mother was thrilled and also very emotional, as it's been 34 years since he died. History echoing across time...

Chris Taylor



This photograph of the Major with his family was taken just after the Korean War.

From L-R:

My Uncle Hugh, my Grandfather the Major, my Grandmother Janie and my mum Pobo.

Three Little Birds

“The parents of these three decided that our porch was a good place to build a nest, so we have been using our side door for the last five weeks, and watching with interest. Mum must have laid a third egg after I took the picture, so we got a surprise when we saw three in the nest.”

Siobhan Harper sent me this little nature story on 14th June, confirming that they were blackbirds.



Some Bird Adjectives

Dove	Columbine
Eagle	Aquiline
Nightingale	Philomelian
Peacock	Pavonine
Swan	Cygnean
Thrush	Turdine



Wimbledon Afternoon Tea

On Friday 4th July, right in the middle of the Wimbledon fortnight, 20 people gathered in the Village Hall to enjoy a ‘Wimbledon Afternoon Tea’.

An enthusiastic team, led by Carol Gabb, of Fayre & Martyn and Jackie & Neil, had set out the hall with the beautifully decorated tables. *Talking Tables* had donated the very pretty paper plates.

There were some lovely Cucumber sandwiches - (cucumbers grown by Neil and enhanced by the edition of Carol’s home grown mint) followed by Strawberries and Cream.

Volunteers- namely Carol, Neil and Jackie, (who needed little persuasion), went to a ‘Pick your Own’ facility for the strawberries!! Cream was kindly donated by *Trenwithen Dairies*. There were glasses of Pimms or Elderflower cordial to accompany the tea.

Martyn Hardy had prepared a Wimbledon ‘Multiple Choice’ Quiz, which each table perused during the afternoon. Did you know that Boris Becker was the youngest player ever to play there - he was 17 years old, and that the Ladies Singles Trophy awarded is ‘The Venus Rosewater Dish’. The answer to the question everyone knew was the Postcode of Wimbledon- namely SW 19. The table of 6 led by Jackie and Neil won by a small margin.

In the background the huge screen showed early Wimbledon highlights and then the current play.

The team should be congratulated on their creativity, and it was a truly lovely afternoon.

Janet Gore



Nature Notes

“We’re having a heatwave”...as the song goes...more like a ‘dry wave’ but it doesn’t scan so well!

Despite small amounts of rain everything is looking parched and weary. There has been no real significant rainfall since March - a few welcome days of rain here and there; enough to put some rainwater in the water butts, but it is soon used up. We are incredibly careful - only using watering cans as much as possible, so we are very aware of how useful mulches are - but only when we’ve had enough rain! Much of my soil is covered in cardboard and straw or wool in the winter and early spring, and those beds have coped very well, with moisture still underneath. The soil that wasn’t covered for various reasons has dried and cracked. I also use old plastic bottles, upside down with the bottoms cut off, and pushed in the soil next to plants - the water goes down to the roots and doesn’t evaporate from the surface. But last summer was cool and wet, so it’s not as if we can plan ahead, other than for unpredictable conditions!

We have made sure there is water for insects, birds and large animals; David dug several more ponds during the winter so that he can water young trees (downhill, rather than carry water uphill!) and these also act as drinking holes for the wildlife. We’ve also put out dishes of pebbles and water for insects, and dog bowls or shallow bowls for birds.

The birds, Blackbirds in particular, have had very thirsty work ‘helping’ me pick soft fruit! It has been a bumper year (is last year’s cool, wet weather to thank?) and I have added up a total of about 80kg from red & blackcurrants, gooseberries, tayberries and jostaberries (a huge hybrid plant of blackcurrant & gooseberry), as well as our wild cherries. The cherry harvest was modest, but last year there was nothing as they hadn’t been pollinated in the cold spring. I have only had a kilo or so of gooseberries in the past and a handful of jostaberries, so this year was a shock! Plenty for me and the Blackbirds - sometimes as many as 8 would fly out of the patch as I approached! Even they have not managed to work their way through everything! It has taken me weeks to pick everything and then weeks turning it into jams, compotes, cordials etc... I started using 500g yoghurt pots, but soon moved to 4kg buckets! Our guests have loved it - fresh fruit and jam for breakfast. If we get a poor year next year, it will have to stretch for two seasons...



We have also enjoyed some early apples - Beauty of Bath, Irish Peach and George Cave. David thinks they are also possibly a few weeks earlier than usual, and the birds have already started to peck quite a few, so it might be time for the little bags to go on! Hopefully there will still be some for Golant’s Apple Day in October!

Mind you, it’s not all great - despite growing loads of cucumber plants and giving all but 4 away, all of mine died! Carrots have mainly failed and I can’t give the squash plants enough water, so they are hanging on, but I don’t think they will be much this year - hey, ho, that’s what happens. They should change the saying to ‘never work with animals, children or nature’!

Karen Wells-West

Interestingly, our carrots have also struggled— unlike last year, when we had a bumper crop.

Ed.



FoFE/Encounter Cornwall Joint Estuary clean-up

FoFE had planned a kayak trip this year as part of our events list, and then Clair from Encounter Cornwall contacted us to say that Paddle UK were organising a 'big paddle clean up' across many waterways and were providing bags and kits to help with these clean-ups, and thought it would be good to join forces with FoFE volunteers.

What a great fun day on the water it turned out to be. Volunteers from the Friends of Fowey Estuary joined with some of the amazing Encounter Cornwall Club to tackle the gorgeous upper Fowey Estuary.

There were plenty of laughs, some sneaky bits of rubbish rescued, and then Clair had organised with Nick a deal on his summer buffet, so off for a well-earned drink and the great buffet at *The Fisherman's*.

This was the first, and therefore pilot event, and Clair promised to repeat it again next year with a wider publication.

Walk to the source of the Fowey

We recently organised a walk to the source of the River Fowey, led by Jane, our ex-Chair. 10 of us set out from near Bowthick and very quickly the botanists amongst us started taking note of the amazing variety of plant life including the sundew. These carnivorous plants have sticky 'dew' covered tendrils that tempt unsuspecting insects as prey. We had sheep, cows and horses for company, all roaming free, and as Brown Willy came into view, we identified the 'puddle' that is the source of the Fowey, although there was some debate as to which small spring was the actual source. After a satisfying lunch sat around on rocks we started back, and came across the old dam that fed water for the tin streaming activity. Jane enlightened us that Henry VIII was the first environmentalist in preventing the river silting up because he wanted to keep Lostwithiel as his main port for exporting tin. Spotting a leech in a small pool was considered by some to be the spot of the day when we pulled in for a drink at *The Rising Sun* on the way home.

Peter Edwards 01726 833141 peterj.e.golant@gmail.com

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Coffee Morning
in
Golant Village Hall

Friday 26th September

from
10.30am until 12.30pm

Do please come & support us.



BACKALONG

The following extract is taken from the late John Jenkin's book 'A Short History of St Sampson's School, Golant', published in 2002.

War came in September 1939 and all schools were closed for a week. Golant opened again on 11th September with only 23 on roll, a number soon to be swelled by some 22 evacuees from London. These caused a sensation, for they were quite different from the local children, and were wild and undisciplined in many cases. Several Golant residents who were at the school at this time have commented on their shock and disbelief at the attitudes towards teachers from some evacuees.

2025 Golant Table Tennis 'doubles' Open Gardens Tournament

Various gardens around the village in the sunshine.

Sunday August 17th— 2.00pm until 6.30pm
With semis & finals in *The Fisherman's* marquee
at 6.00pm ish, with BBQ to complete the day.

Grab yourselves a partner and have some fun!

Entries:

Contact Paul (07976757076)
paulmargdith007@hotmail.co.uk



Some Cornish Charms

- * Water taken from the church font is good for children with rickets and will straighten bow-legged children and children with the wobbles.
- * A baby should wear a coral necklace to ensure easy teething.
- * Tea made from dried camomile flowers will cure an upset stomach.

From 'Jan Bedella's Fiddle and other Cornish sayings' by Kathleen Hawke, published by Tor Mark Press, Redruth

ST SAMPSON PARISH COUNCIL

Meetings:

As you probably know already, we ordinarily meet (as a Parish Council) on the fourth Tuesday evening of every month in the village hall, with the AGENDA being posted on the Village Hall notice board. However, we do take a break from proceedings in August and December when many of us have family holidays and other commitments. So, unless we receive a planning application that needs our attention, the next PC meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd September 2025.

Water Lane:

I have now been informed that Highways have fixed a date for attending to the collapsed bank on Water Lane. Inevitably this will require that Water Lane will be closed. But after some discussion with Highways, they have agreed to hold off the work until October, and by increasing the number of operatives, limit the closure to 1 week as opposed to the 2 weeks originally planned. To enable some limited access in and out of the village (using Water Lane) they will not begin work until 9:00am in the morning and finish by 4:30pm in the evening. I will send round a Maurie Mail in due course, but please put Monday 13th October in your diary, when the work is due to commence.

Hedges and Trees:

Given the inevitable disruption to everyday life in the village from the collapsed bank and previously from a fallen tree, it may now be a good time for landowners who have hedges or trees fronting any of our roads or walkways, (like Water Lane, Tinneys Lane and along by the Quay) to seek professional advice about their trees and hedges and where necessary take action now to avoid issues in the forthcoming winter. Access to our village is limited to us, never mind service vehicles and emergency vehicles. So, it would be good to know that we have planned ahead and where possible, have minimised the risk from overhanging hedges or trees.

Derelict Boats:

I am pleased to report that Ian Wilson (our Cornwall Councillor) attended our most recent Parish Council meeting, and below I have selected a part of his monthly report which I think you will find interesting:

The "Abandoned Boats" Motion passed pretty much unanimously in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 22nd July at County Hall. Although this doesn't solve the problem of abandoned Boats in the short term, it at least means that the consultation process to discuss the best way forward on removing these vessels is now officially recognised by Cornwall Council. This issue had been raised by Golant residents, so I hope this result will be of specific interest and welcomed by the community.

The Golant Boatwatch committee has agreed to begin the process of identifying vessels that are derelict and/or abandoned.

*David Jenkinson
Chairman St Sampson Parish Council*

Golant Village Hall

Golant Village Hall Hire

The hall is beautifully renovated and is a central point for the community to meet and take part in the many events that we host here. The hall is available to hire for private events. Tables, chairs and glasses are also available to hire.

Hire rates for the hall are as follows: -

£2 concessionary rate ; £12 for parishioners; £27 for commercial bodies and for those charging subscriptions.

If you want further information, please contact:
martynhardy501@btinternet.com, or phone 01726 833380.

Fayre Hardy, on behalf of the Village Hall Committee

Taking the Pill

This year I took the *Pill* to Kauai, Hawaii, where I spent 3 months on this beautiful Pacific island. It was my seventh time here, but I hadn't been for 8 years.

The island stole my heart the first time I visited back in 2008. I was getting withdrawal symptoms, and decided that there was no better reason to go back than to celebrate my 40th birthday. Words can't describe my experience!



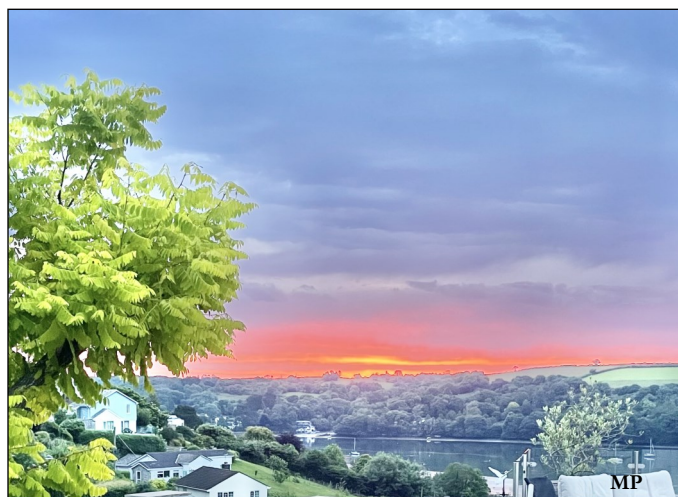
The adventures I had, the people I met, the memories I made... Here I am with one of my best friends, Ben.

We met 11 years ago, whilst camping on the North Shore of Kauai. A few weeks later he moved there to live. Whenever I visit Kauai we always have so many fun adventures together. This year was no different. We went spear fishing and pole fishing, where we made a fire and cooked our catch, then fell asleep under the stars in our hammocks. We went target shooting, which it turns out I'm quite good at! We kayaked to secret waterfalls and camped on stunning beaches. A trip of a lifetime. Kauai, I will be back!

Claire Lower



Golant Sunrise



Maurie Parsons sent this lovely picture of a sunrise, captured on 20th June at 4.50am.
Ed.

Political One Liners

"The problem with political jokes is they get elected".

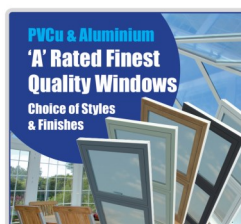
~Henry Cate, VII~

"Instead of giving a politician the keys to the city, it might be better to change the locks."

~Doug Larsen~

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James Churchfield from BBC Radio Cornwall broadcast live from Golant Quay on 22nd July, here with Clair Connibeer of Encounter Cornwall.

A guide to SENIOR MOMENTS

The **good news** about middle age is that the glass is still half full. The **bad news** is that before you know it your teeth will be **soaking** in it.

Growing old is **compulsory**.
Growing up is **optional**.

Published by **Past Times**

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A Cornish Maid's Recipe Corner

Hasselback potatoes with Comté cheese & smoky bacon



20 baby Potatoes
250g Comté Cheese (or Mature Cheddar)
6 rashers Smoky Bacon – chopped
Thyme - leaves from small bunch
Olive oil – garlic infused works well
Sea Salt
Ground Black Pepper – freshly ground

1. Wash and dry potatoes.
2. Place each spud in turn on a work surface between 2 chopsticks or knife handles (or sit the potato in the bowl of a wooden spoon) and make approximately 6 vertical slits 2/3rds of the way down.
3. Cut the bacon into roughly 1" pieces & slice the cheese thinly into similar squares.
4. Insert the bacon & cheese slices carefully into the slits and arrange the potatoes in a close-fitting oven-proof dish.
5. Heat the oven to 190°C/170°fan/Gas Mark 5.
6. Drizzle the potatoes generously with the oil and then sprinkle with the salt, ground black pepper & thyme leaves.
7. Bake for 30-40 minutes....just check that the potatoes are cooked through.

This is a delicious potato dish – something a little bit different – ideal for BBQs too.



Prepared



Cooked!

Gill Paull



Tom Tailors, Daddy Long Legs, Crane Flies- no matter what they're called, they're bad news. These little blimmers lay their eggs in the grass during August through to October, and when the grubs hatch out in a couple of weeks, they will burrow down into the soil and start to feed on the roots of the grass. If there are scads of them they will soon make their presence known by the grass looking yellow, withered and dying off. When these grubs are fully grown, they have a very tough skin and are known as Leatherjackets, and will pupate in the soil to emerge the following summer as adult Tom Tailors. There are no chemicals available to the home gardener to treat these little blimmers, but you can get some nematodes that, when watered onto the lawn, will seek out and kill these pests, but make sure the lawn is really wet for these nematodes to survive and do their job.

*Another seasonal extract from **John Kift's Gardening Year Book** for September, full of wit & wisdom and his usual dialect.*

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)

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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CALENDAR OF VILLAGE EVENTS

AUGUST

Sunday 3 rd	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Saturday 9 th		Madness in the Pill (See p.9 for details)	the Pill
Sunday 10 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Friday 15 th	10.30am	Coffee Morning for VJ Day Commemoration	Village Hall
Saturday 16 th	2.00pm	Golant Sports and Carnival	Village Green
	6.15pm	Assemble for Carnival	Village Green
	7.00pm	Carnival Procession	
	Evening	BBQ + Live Music <i>'The Stone River Band'</i>	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 17 th	2.00pm	Golant Doubles Table Tennis Tournament	Various venues
Sunday 17 th	6.00pm	Evensong	St Sampson's
Tuesday 19 th	1.00pm	Golant Boatwatch Afternoon Tea Flotilla (See page 8 for further details)	from Golant Quay
Friday 22 nd – Monday 25 th		Golant Beer Festival <i>Fri/Sat evening live music + BBQ, Sun/Mon lunch time buffet + afternoon live music</i>	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 24 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Friday 29 th	7.30pm	CFylm Night (Booking required)	Village Hall
Sunday 31 st	11.00am	Holy Communion (NB No service at St Sampson's)	St Andrew's, Tywardreath

SEPTEMBER

Friday 5 th	10.30am	Coffee/tea, cake, chat and books	Village Hall
Saturday 6 th	8.00pm	Film on the Green (<i>Moulin Rouge</i>)	Village Green
Sunday 7 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Sunday 14 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Sunday 21 st	6.00pm	Evensong	St Sampson's
Tuesday 23 rd	7.15pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Friday 26 th	10.30am	MacMillan Coffee Morning (See page 12 for full details)	Village Hall
Friday 26 th	7.30pm	CFylm Night (Booking required)	Village Hall
Friday 26th	Copy Date	<i>The Golant Pill</i>	thegolantpill@gmail.com
Sunday 28 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's

OCTOBER

Friday 3 rd	10.30am	Coffee/tea, cake, chat and books	Village Hall
Sunday 5 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Wednesday 15 th	12.15pm	La Soup Populaire (Booking required)	Village Hall
Friday 17 th	7.30pm	'Go Away Cat', Owdyado Theatre (Carn2Cove event)	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 Copy Date shown on this page of the newsletter, and we will try to include it.*

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