



To the Rescue...



GBOA's 2026 Calendar has boosted funds for Fowey RNLI. These happy Boatwatch members are on its cover!



David Bonsall presented a cheque to Rob Collings from Fowey RNLI, Rescuers of those in peril on the sea.

Many of you reading this have purchased the 2026 Boatwatch Calendar. Indeed, so many have been bought to pass on to families and friends that the name of Golant Boatwatch will be spread wide across the country (and maybe further afield). Thanks to all who bought them.

David Jenkinson and Robin Anderson did a sterling job in selecting content and then managing the production process. Many thanks to them, and to all of you who submitted photographs for consideration. It was an unenviable job to make the final selection. I think we would all agree that the result has given us a stunning set of images of lovely Golant to admire through the year.

Apart from providing a splendid calendar, Boatwatch had the objective of raising money for Fowey RNLI. At the AGM in November, Boatwatch were able to present a cheque for £400 to Water Safety Advisor Steve Lloyd on behalf of Fowey RNLI. Following further calendar sales, the donation was able to be increased to £500, and David Bonsall presented this to fundraising committee member Rob Collings by the side of the Atlantic 85 lifeboat on a splendid sunny morning in Fowey.

There are just a few Calendars left if anyone needs further copies.

And do remember, the RNLI Shop in Fowey is open every day until 17th December, and is well stocked with Christmas Cards, Calendars (although you have enough of those), Diaries and lots of other little gifts that may help you in your seasonal shopping.

David Bonsall, Chairman, Golant Boatwatch

FROM THE EDITOR

R is for **Rescues** ... There are three which I am going to refer to, two of which feature within this issue!

Firstly, our cover story about the Fowey **RNLI** and our very own **Golant Boatwatch** is a testament to all those volunteers who devote their time to Rescues within our local waters. And congratulations to **GBOA**, who made such a good amount selling their 2026 calendars with their beautiful photographs; another great fund-raising event in our special village.

Secondly, on page 7 you can read about a recent Golant Rescue on the River Fowey, with a very local link.

Thirdly, Robin recently came to my Rescue, and not only solved a printer problem, but has also set me up with Windows 11, which has not been easy or quick, and has included the need to hide (so he says) many of my widgets – there's no answer to that...!!!

After the many annual summer activities we reported on in the last copy of the *Pill*, there have been fewer later events in our village, but there is still plenty to read about in this issue, as our lively, imaginative and hard-working Golantians have once again proved! And there is much to look forward to...

Our *Golant Pill* team send seasonal greetings to all our readers, in Cornish as well as English.

Nadelik Lowen ba Blydhen Nonydh Da
(A Happy Christmas and a
Peaceful New Year)



Gillie Harris (Editor)

Stop Press News!

Thank you to all who contributed to the Macmillan Coffee Morning in different ways.

Particular thanks to the kind raffle prize donors: Leyonne Farm, Colwith Farm Shop, Golant Village Hall, Jackie & Neil Smith.

The amazing final total was **£824.00**.

Well done Golant!

Jacky Fletcher

A Festive Message



Martyn and Fayre Hardy would like to wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all parishioners.

As usual, we will be making a donation to stpetrocs.org.uk instead of sending cards.

As we have new babies arriving in the family during December and January, we will not be organising an 'at home' this year, as our services may be required in London and in Largs on the west coast of Scotland.

Take Care xx

Fowey Valley Cidery Harvest 2025

WOW!

At least three times more apples have been brought to our *Lostwithiel Cidery* by local people this year. So many apples delivered by so many people. If you brought your spare apples to us ... thank you very much!

And what a deliciously fruitful year we are having! I thought 'mast' years only affected acorns and beech nuts, but apparently it can happen in orchards too. Mast years are nature's clever way of ensuring the growth of next generation trees. Producing fruits and nuts takes a lot of energy, so trees can't do it every year. Instead, they build up resources and release them all at once. The strategy is known as predator satiation. In normal years, squirrels, mice, and other seed-eating animals consume most of the crop. But in a mast year, there's so much food that the animals can't possibly eat it all, so some seeds inevitably escape and grow into new saplings. It happens about every five years, and the last one was in 2020.

And it's not just apples showing up in large numbers. When we saw the early sloes this year, we decided to make our very first Sloe Gin Liqueur in time for Christmas. Like Santa's Elves, we are working round the clock building up our stocks of Mulled Cider, Mulled Wine, Single Malt Cornish Whisky and our delicious cream liqueurs.

Come on over to the tasting room and have a sample of any or all of the above, Monday to Friday 10am till 4pm. Our address is:

Unit 11, Restormel Estate, Liddicoat Road, Lostwithiel, PL22 0HG



(If you brought apples to us, make sure to come and choose the goods your apples have earned you from the shop. Stock up for the coming winter!)

Barrie Gibson



Despite the awful weather, we had a steady stream of appreciative visitors to our Apple Day on 19th October. The hall looked most inviting with interesting displays, clever poems and stories and Sue Strachan's beautiful tapestry depicting cider making in Golant (*right*).

With the season having been early this year and most apples already harvested, Karen and Dave still managed to put on a super display of Sanctuary fruits, sharing their knowledge of apple varieties and different ways to preserve them, including a selection of bottled apples opened for us to taste.

Liz Barclay's display of the story behind Sheila's Orchard at *Wringford* also included a selection of labelled apple varieties. This is a well established and carefully managed orchard, and incredibly, Liz, with the help of Carol and Alice Gabb, harvested an incredible **7,298kg** to take to *Fowey Valley Cider* as part of their apple swapping scheme. A number of other Golantians also took advantage of this scheme and so there should be much merriment this festive season!

It was therefore lovely that Barrie Gibson (*below, left*) supported our apple day with a Fowey Valley Cider stall. Along with his wife Geraldine, he first established a small cidery at *Hybadore*, Golant in 2012 before moving to their current premises in Lostwithiel in 2020. (See page 2 for Barrie's article)



Once the rain cleared, Tony Strachan and Brian Murray set up their scrapper and juicer (respectively) in Brian's gateway, which demonstrated the juicing process perfectly. My grandchildren were fascinated and savoured the delicious juice they 'helped' to produce. (*Below, right*)

GHG wishes to say a big **thank you** to everyone who contributed to the day, and a **special shout out to Carol and Alice** - our wonderful refreshment ladies in the kitchen!



Barrie offering me a sample of a cream liqueur! Ed.

Penny Parsons, Chairman

On another subject entirely - prompted by the recent release of the 2025 film *The Nuremberg Trials*, Christine Kift alerted me to this snippet of history relating to a former Golant resident, and Sarah has provided this background:

"My parents Peter and Reay Fuller bought Waters Edge in July 1978. The house looked rather different then - there were wrought iron screens on the windows facing the street and high Leylandii hedges along the river side and behind the garage. The previous owner was a man called Corry Wright, and his wife's first names from our deeds were Marina Hildegund. My parents always told us that the screening was because Corry had been a witness at the Nuremberg trials and wanted to maintain his privacy. We have done a quick search of the list of witnesses from the trial that are on the web but have not seen his name. Was he really anxious about being found, was this true at all? The film Nuremberg has made us wonder again. Any thoughts gratefully received."

Sarah Laughton

NEWS FROM ST SAMPSON'S CHURCH

Remembrance Sunday is always at the mercy of the weather, but the worst of the rain held off during the Act of Remembrance at the Village War Memorial. The Reverend James Funnell again presided, and the handbells played *The Last Post* and *The Rouse* to mark the start and end of the two minutes' silence. Despite the forecast, many villagers came to support, and many stayed for the service of Holy Communion that followed. A highlight of the service was undoubtedly the choir anthem, *Sunset and Evening Star* by Parry.

Several of the congregation then went to *The Fisherman's Arms* for lunch, and many thanks to Nick for making a donation to the Poppy Appeal for every Remembrance Sunday lunch served, and also for making a similar donation from the previous Friday's fish and chip menu.

Christmas highlights are as follows:

Sunday 14th December: 4.30pm: **A Cornish Christmas:**

A very varied set of readings about Christmas - including local poets, Cornish poets, and famous poets - carols on the handbells, and congregational carols - with a candle-lit church giving that Christmas feeling. There will be something for everyone at this service, including a glass or two of wine at the end!

Wednesday 17th December: 7.00pm: **Carols on the handbells** at *The Fisherman's Arms*, followed by the Christmas Raffle. Come and sing along or hum along to well-known carols, and enjoy our lovely pub - and see if you have won something in the raffle!

Christmas Eve: 6.30pm: **A Festival of Lessons & Carols.**

A fully candle-lit service, with the traditional Christmas Bible readings, and carols for both congregation and choir. Very few churches still offer this lovely service, first devised by Bishop Benson when he was Bishop of Truro. This is the best way to start Christmas, and there will be a glass or two of wine served afterwards.

On **Christmas Day** there is a family **Holy Communion** at 9.30am - all most welcome! Choir and crackers!

Sunday 28th: 10.00am Tregaminion Chapel of Ease.

No service at St Sampson's, but the handbell ringers are playing for the Benefice Service at Tregaminion Chapel of Ease at 10.00am. This is a lovely old chapel, built for the workers on the Rashleigh Estate, and consecrated in 1816. Do come and join us.

Finally, on **January 1st, 2026**, there will be a chance to Ring in the New Year. Try your hand at the handbells or big bells - or both - and enjoy a glass of wine and some nibbles. All most welcome. 11.45am onwards.

Happy Christmas!

Simon Funnell

Vicar's Ponderings!

As we head into the winter season with the darkened days, it is no wonder we choose to brighten our lives with thoughts of Christmas and the displays of Christmas lights that bring so much joy and comfort. One of my favourite story books is *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* written by C.S. Lewis. Many of you will know it tells the story of a magical land accessed via the back of a wardrobe full of winter coats, whose residents are living in permanent winter where the snow never melts. It sounds like every child's dream until the realisation sets in that the scene never changes, and every day is cold and without the hope and promise of new life coming into bud. Something is missing.

For many people today the Christmas season is a bit like Namia. Shortly after the August Bank Holiday it seems that the shops begin their foray into Christmas displays, enticing us to splash out on what appears to be an exciting and fun-filled time ahead. We find all sorts of things that catch our eye and our expectations of what is to come can be raised. But if we focus solely on the accessories then we can soon come to the realisation that something is missing. Party food is lovely and great for sharing as we meet together; gifts are a wonderful way of expressing our love or thanks to someone; cards enable us to keep in touch with people we have not seen in a (long) while. Even with all those lovely reasons for celebrating we can be all too well aware that there is more to it even if we cannot quite pinpoint what that might be.

Here in our village churches we will be celebrating Christmas with all the accessories – music, mince pies and wine, cards and gifts - but we celebrate because the birth of a tiny and helpless baby some 2,000 years ago has helped us understand that we need not live as though something is missing from life. We party and celebrate together because the birth, life and death of Jesus has given us hope that even in the darkest of times we are not forgotten and isolated. God is with us.

Come and join us at one of the many services and events we will be hosting in our church over the coming weeks. From traditional readings and carols, to reflective services of Holy Communion, to full-on Family fun with Christingle and crafts at St Andrew's in Tywardreath, we will be celebrating the full meaning of Christmas alongside all the festivities.

With every blessing for Christmas and the year ahead.

Shona

Revd Shona Hoad

07476 900623

shona@tandgchurches.uk

www.tywardreathandgolantchurches.uk

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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Churchwardens

Greg White (01726 832315)

Simon Funnell (01726 833343)

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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

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

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

A 65mm x 60mm
@ £40 for six issues

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Preferably, Artwork/Copy should be emailed to
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An invoice will then be sent to you.

Our Advertisers

We are indebted to our loyal advertisers, old and new, who help to keep *The Golant Pill* afloat.

Do please use them, and mention us when making contact.

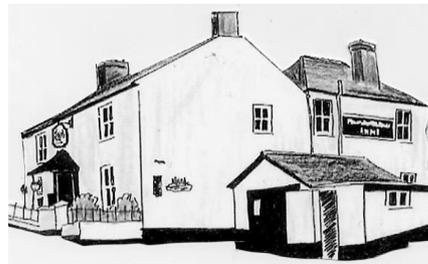
To keep up with events, and when you are planning an event, you can check out the new '*What's On*' page on the village website at golant.net

If you want to have an event listed on the page, email:

debbiepughjones@aol.com

Licensee *Nick Budd* warmly welcomes you to:

From an original drawing by Karen Wells-West



The Fisherman's Arms

Tel: 01726 832453

The Fisherman's Arms, Golant

A charming character Inn dating back to 1826 with spacious outside terraces boasting stunning views over the River Fowey.

Choice of Traditional Cask Ales, Hot and Cold Meals and Snacks served daily.

Sunday Lunches served from 12 - 3pm.

All produce locally sourced.

Book early to avoid disappointment

Pill Paparazzi in this issue

RA	Robin Anderson
GH	Gillie Harris
PP	Penny Parsons
GP	Gill Paull
KW-W	Karen Wells-West

01726 812642

Johns Hair Studio

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Jara

Qualified hair stylist

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THE NEXT COPY DATE

Please note that the **Copy Date** for the February/March issue is

Wednesday 28th January

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

thegolantpill@gmail.com

Golant Gleanings

Backalong Newspaper Articles

*This extract is taken from the
West Briton & Cornish Advertiser, on 4th April 1889*

NARROW ESCAPE FROM DROWNING NEAR LOSTWITHIEL - On Monday afternoon a misfortune befell Mr. J. Thomas of Lostwithiel, as he was coming up the River Fowey with a heavily laden boat. By some means the craft capsized, and Thomas was thrown into the water. The man, unfortunately, was unable to swim, and after being in the water for some time, he was seen and rescued by some bargemen. He was taken to the public-house at Golant, where, under the treatment of two medical men, he soon recovered.

*So not only was this another local **Rescue**, albeit 136 years ago, but also **The Fisherman's Arms**, (dating back to 1826), was a good recovery venue, as was our recent one (page...)!!*

Ed

*The following extract is taken 100 years ago from the
Cornish Guardian, on 14th December 1925*

GOLANT.

At the Queen's Musical Festival held on Friday last, Miss D. White was successful in winning a silver medal (83 marks) in the contralto class, and with her sister, Miss R. D. White won silver medals in the class for pianoforte duets (162 marks). Miss Mildred Jefford won a certificate in the mezzo-soprano class (81 marks.) All three young ladies are members of the Golant Wesleyan Choir and are to be congratulated.

New Local Pet Sitting and Dog Walking Service

Polruan Pets is a family run business specializing in providing a loving and caring environment for the special pooch in your life.

Based slightly down river on the 'Sunny Side', your pets' days will be filled with fun, adventure, cuddles and treats. Specializing in solo/same family walks, so your furry friend will have my undivided attention, dog walks, house sits/stays; going out for a meal, day trip, walk or business needs, we can help. Give us a call today to discuss your requirements.

Contact Emma (07442037602), or find us on Facebook- Polruan Pups Pet Sitting

Save the Date: The Golant GRADS Revue 2026

As you will already be aware, 2026 brings the renowned GRADS Revue to the stage in the Village Hall. For two nights, you can forget all the worries of how to pay for all those Christmas presents, stamp duty increases, cost of living crises and the general depression that January can bring.

On **Friday 30th and Saturday 31st January** we will be putting on a show brought to you by the multi-talented inhabitants of Golant.

A show of the people, by the people and for the people!

So, put those dates in your diary, on your day-page wall calendar, or on the electronic device of your choosing.

Just don't miss this fabulous event.

Tickets will go on sale in the New Year, when more information will be supplied on how to obtain these priceless gems.

Looking forward to seeing you all there. Season's Greetings.

Martyn Hardy

Carnival & Madness combined –

All on one day Diary Date - Saturday 15th August

The Carnival Committee recently reviewed 2025 Madness and Carnival events to discuss what we might do to re-energise the Carnival fancy dress turnout, as it was evident that a lot more effort is going into the Madness costumes.

It is proposed that we amalgamate the two events to hold them on the same day.

In 2026 the best high tide for Madness is on **Saturday 15th August**, with a high tide at 20.29 of 5.6m. So, we will be holding the normal Children's Sports & cream teas starting at 2.00pm with the side games and tea tent.

Then assemble the fancy dress contestants for both Carnival and Madness on the Green for judging, with a short parade along the front to show off the wonderful fancy dress costumes before Madness commences.

Carnival Committee

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Local Hero Rescues Elderly Man from Spring Tide Drama on the River Fowey

On what started as a typical Saturday evening in Golant, a group of locals were enjoying a relaxed drink on the pub terrace just chatting about life. Suddenly we heard a voice carrying over the water from the middle of the river. It was an elderly man shouting, "Row, row, why aren't you rowing," to whom we thought was a second person in the dinghy.

Initially, we all had a bit of a chuckle – typical village humour – why would anyone try to row against a strong spring tide, in the middle of the river? It then became clear that the man was alone and in real trouble as darkness started to descend.

That is when Dan Palmer, our very own local hero, sprang into action. Without a moment's hesitation, he changed into his canoeing gear and pulled his canoe off the top of his van. He was out on the water in minutes and reached the man shortly after. If you have seen Dan paddling at top speed, it is an impressive sight!

Dan is a member of Truro Canoe club, is a top competitor and coach and that day, coincidentally, had been on a lifesaving course. Dan reached the man and secured the dinghy with a tow rope. He then towed the dinghy and its occupant to a secure mooring back on the slipway.

In a time when we all need a bit of good news, Dan's actions remind us that there are still everyday heroes among us, ready to help at a moment's notice. A huge 'thank you' to Dan for his quick thinking and big heart! Oh, and I bought him a pint!

Kristina Kyburaitė



Dan Palmer (*foreground, left*) in action in a canoe race.

(Taken from a Facebook page)

At Bar Silo & The Fisherman's Arms

GOLANT Christmas

13TH December

10am - 5pm

Christmas Fayre and market

Loads of great stalls, lovely Food, music including Kitsch in Sync acapella choir, Santa at the fisherman's from 12.30-2.30 Games and twinkly Christmas boat lights! shuttle bus going between the venues. Parking at Bar Silo. Prize Hamper in support of St Petrocs homeless charity

Bar Silo, loads of great stalls music food and drink!



Park at Bar Silo

Catch the shuttle bus
(\$1.00 a trip all proceeds to charity)



Village hall mini market
Stocking fillers and gifts, seasonal refreshments, (request stop for shuttle bus)

Fisherman's Arms Marquee
Great Stalls, games, Santa, music, Food, drink and pretty boats!



Twinkly boat lights, very Christmassy!

Backalong Winter pictures in Golant



St Sampson's Church in the snow, February 2009



The pantomime 'Aladdin', about 1990



Golant Boatwatch held a very enjoyable Annual General Meeting on 14th November in the Village Hall, and was privileged to be addressed on behalf of Fowey RNLI by Steve Lloyd.

David gave a presentation covering the work of the RNLI in both rescue and water safety education, and also the reasoning behind the replacement of the Trent Life-boat in Fowey by an Atlantic 85.

Russ Hall, BEM, represented the Police, and confirmed that marine crime in the area remains low. The Harbour-master sent a report on Port activities as he could not attend, due to prior commitments at the Fowey Christmas Market.

The meeting was very well attended, with forty-four Boatwatch members there, together with the two speakers. We were all well refreshed by very fine pasties and suitable liquids.



David Parry has once again generously donated an original painting for us to raffle, this time of a Kittiwake. We started sales of tickets at the AGM, and the raffle will be drawn at the Spring Get Together Barbecue on Saturday 2nd May 2026. Do save the date for that event. The raffle is only for Boatwatch members, so anyone yet to join should do so now, to be in with a chance of winning. There will be another opportunity to buy tickets at the Spring Get Together.



Steve Lloyd from Fowey RNLI was presented with a cheque by David Bonsall. All is revealed on the cover!

Winter storms are with us, so please make sure your boats are secure for the winter. If your boat is staying on a river mooring or on the frapes, it is important to ensure that your mooring lines are adequate and in good condition.

We will re-start the winter video virtual patrol in December. We will put videos of the river, frapes and Pill on YouTube every 6 weeks or so, and after major storms. Also, of course, many of the boats on the river and frapes are visible on the Golant Webcam, which can be found on the golant.net website.

Please remember to prepare boats in the Pill for the Christmas Boatlights event. They need to be lit by December 13th. Please do your best to bring a sparkle to Golant Christmas Fair and the darker winter evenings.

Membership renewal time is approaching. After a very long time without an increase, we do now need to make a small increase to the membership fees, which will be raised to £20. Still excellent value, as it covers members and their partners, and Richard Gabb will be sending round a renewal reminder in early December. 2026 Tide Tables will go out to each of you as you renew or join. For non-members wishing to join, membership details are on the web at-

<https://golant.net/village-life/golant-boat-watch>

Have an excellent Christmas and New Year.

David Bonsall, Chairman, Golant Boatwatch

Golant Quay Users Association

Ian has laid out the new chain in its proposed position, and for the Bridge area we await a site meeting with South West Water to check on where the sewage pipes are before we dig our anchors in.

With the high winds, some boats have swung round on their neighbours, and this, together with the heavy rain we are experiencing, does mean that you must check up on your boats regularly.

Peter Edwards & Ian Barker

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

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

David Bonsall (Boatwatch) 01726 834458

Golant Village Hall activities in the last couple of months

We have had a drop in Trustees with Carol becoming poorly. We therefore cancelled soup in November, as not many people were keen on my Ainsley cuppa soups. We wish Carol a speedy recovery.

At September's Macmillan morning, hosted by Jacky Fletcher, a marvellous £824 was donated! This does not take into account all of the gift aid which you signed up to when possible. We have received a thank-you for this, and a note saying that £805 manages to provide emotional support to EIGHT people living with cancer for around eight weeks through regular support sessions.

The grant we received from Cornwall Council's Community Capacity Fund has been spent wisely. The funders are happy with what we have achieved and are planning to visit to talk through the actions and have a look. The Community Capacity Fund is part of the Good Growth Programme, which is delivering the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly.

The Hall continues to be used frequently and looking forward into December; we have lots going on- Wreath-making workshop, A Christmas Carol performed by David Mynne and Meet'n'Greet to name but a few.

This year the Village Hall decided to get involved and host a Christmas Mini Market at the same time as the Christmas Fayre. The Elves have been busy; we have a range of stocking filler gifts, decorations, fabulous toys, wreaths and Christmas Hyacinths for you to peruse while enjoying some festive refreshments. We have beautiful jewellery by LoveLight and original artwork by Cockney Studio that features many scenes you will be familiar with! Look out for the cards featuring village residences.

I am about to set the budget for 2026 and prices are rising. Thank you to everyone who physically helps us, to those that encourage us, to those who hire the hall and equipment and those who generously give us donations to keep the building open and looking good.

Fayre Hardy

Treasurer, on behalf of the Village Hall Trustees.

Golant Village Hall Price List

Extra donations are always welcome.

1st Friday in the month, from 10am - Tea. Coffee, cake, with books, dvds and jigsaws to select. £2

2nd Wednesday in the month - La Soupe Populaire, accompanied by tea, coffee and cake. £3

Last Friday in the month, CFyln Night - Membership fee (set by film supplier) is detailed in Carol's entry below.

Hire of Hall:- Concession for Parishioners £2; Parish Group £12; Commercial, fee paying £27

Hire of trestle tables £10 each. Chairs, tumblers & wine glasses £poa.

Queries- contact martynhardy501@btinternet.com

CFyln

As from November 1st, a sliding scale CFyln membership was introduced of £8, £10 or £12. The lower price will help fund the CFyln charity which brings film to rural communities, while the higher fee for those who can afford it will contribute to the overall service. The staff are always seeking grants to reduce the cost of DVDs.

Currently, CFyln are charged approximately £104 per licensed DVD, which we are able to book for a minimum of £35 or more if funding is unavailable. Three films set and filmed in Cornwall have been booked for October, November and December as part of BFIs Too much: Melodrama on film grant, which enabled accessing the films at a slightly reduced cost. *The Ballard of Wallis Island* has been booked for the 16th January to kick start the 2026 CFyln programme.

La Soupe Populaire

Unfortunately, the November get-together was cancelled. However, on Wednesday 17th December we will be hosting a Christmas soup celebration, complete with mince pies, crackers and yuletide fun. Any visiting family and friends are very welcome.

Carol Gabb



Pasture fed beef

Leyonne Farm Produce

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



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

Beef, Pork, Sausages, Burgers, Bacon, Ham and Eggs

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

Boxes of fresh meat available—please call

On the right as you go down to Golant

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

Golant Walking Group 1

It never rains on Golant Walkers!

Despite a very poor weather forecast, we headed off in October for a long walk from Mount Edgecumbe to Kingsand and back. The weather stayed kind, even if somewhat windy, and we enjoyed a lovely lunch at the Devonport Inn, Kingsand, although the food may not have helped us with the steep climb out of the village.

We learnt that the old county line between Devon and Cornwall used to be on this side of the Tamar, and ran through Kingsand. It is now marked.

On the return journey, David, who knows the area well, took us on an alternative route following the river, which meant we walked (depending on whose fitness tracker you believe) between 7 and 10 miles.

Needless to say, all were glad to see the car park, but had enjoyed a great day out.



Siobhan Harper

Yee Haw!!

In response to a tentative Maurie Mail asking if anyone might be interested in learning to Line Dance, we have had an overwhelming level of enthusiasm, with over 20 people coming along to our Monday evening sessions. Our instructor, Jo, shows great patience as some go one way, and some the other, but we seem to get there in the end.



Line dancing has been shown to be good for you in many different ways— social (although we probably don't need much encouragement for that in Golant), physical (who knew you could do so many steps in 1½ hours?), and mental, as we try to remember what on earth to do next! So y'all— keep on dancing!

Siobhan Harper

Golant Walking Group 2



The walk proposed for 22nd November was the Rilla Mill to Plushabridge 4.5 miles circular route.

Unfortunately the weather forecast suggested there would be heavy rain for most of the morning, so only David Bonsall and myself decided to brave it. Well wrapped up in the much needed wet weather gear we set off through woods high above the River Lynher.

The route follows the river valley for most of the way with views up to Caradon and Kit Hill, or there would have been if they weren't shrouded by cloud and rain.

There were numerous stiles along the way and two very steep places which were tricky. The walking poles were most helpful. By the time we arrived at the Manor House Inn for lunch the weather had improved.

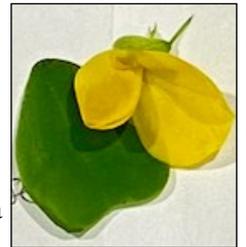
Following an excellent meal we had a dry short walk to finish back at the car. An enjoyable outing despite the rain; here's hoping the next walk won't be quite so wet!

Sue Reardon

Christmas 2025 Annual **INBLOOM** Challenge

For those readers who are botanically minded and keen supporters of my annual event, here is the reminder of this one, which is the ninth year I have thrown out the same challenge!

Last year, five of us participated. As well as some flowers blooming well out of season, you may recall that Claire Lower & her mother Karen found this particularly unusual flower, native to Mexico - the *Amicia Zygmeris*. What other exotics may be found in Golant?!



What may we find this year, with its odd seasons? Do please join us. As I have previously explained, my challenge is NOT a competition; we aim to make it a collaborative score.

Our highest ever full count of different varieties blooming in Golant over Christmas was in 2021, with **77**, whilst last year **60** were identified; as always, this included wild as well as cultivated flowers.

Please email your entries (with a photo if possible) to me at thegolantpill@gmail.com by the copy date, Wednesday 28th January.

Gillie Harris

Murder Mystery Evening

On Saturday 22nd November, a Murder at the Vicarage took place in Golant Village Hall. Penny Parsons narrated events beautifully and kept the cast in order.

The cast comprised Simon Hubner– the poor murdered vicar Martin with terrible taste in jewellery, who met his just demise at the end of act one.

Ali, as Gladys the housekeeper, was the star of the show as voted for by more than half of the brilliant and heckling audience. Sue Reardon, a rambler with very clean boots, turned out to be Ali's daughter (Mum's the Word.) Martin Whell, the scout troupe leader who just wore his own clothes and looked the part, took a great deal of stick, but also gave as good as he got. Paul's props came under fire, quite rightly.

A plentiful supply of bread & cheese kept most people sober. Rob (Robin) Chimes, the organist, caused some confusion when trebling the quantity of his lines, but the poor hobbling interloper was acquitted of any wrong-doing, and his occasional bursts of singing were very entertaining. The PCC was led by Lulu (Louise), the best jam tart maker in Golant– well, almost– with the help of Tobias (Marty Hardy) the curate whose strong brummie accent suited him so well, and his hilarious hair-do put him in character right away.

Luckily, after answer sheets were handed in, the murderer Lulu, devastated by the vicar placing her jam tarts in second place at last year's summer fayre, and aided and abetted by ambitious Tobias, was apprehended by a rather too believable Lily Heeks, (Chris Davidson, voted best dressed attendee in his smart black skirt and jacket with matching long hair). Lily was under the expert guidance (and expert acting as usual) of super sleuth DI Van den Broek (Estelle, who managed to let go of wonderful grand daughter Mila (Congratulations to all) long enough to attend rehearsals and performance.

'The Scouts' team managed to track down the murderer and accomplice, thereby winning a tub of Heroes, which of course, as they are heroes, they generously passed around.

The whole superb evening was enjoyed by all 48 attendees- quite a squeeze with the stage up- and a fantastic £440 profit was raised to be shared between St Petroc's Charity to help fight homelessness in Cornwall and our own Church of St Sampson.

Thanks to Mark and Sue who have placed themselves at the top of the Brownie points list by getting to grips with the kitchen after the performance. Paul did a marvellous job of cleaning the hall the following morning while the rest of us either had a lie in, went to church, or resumed the cuddling of grandbabies!

Report by *Cris Dodridge*, chief script organiser and cheese buyer. 😊



Meet and Greet

ONE OF THE MAINSTAYS OF GOLANT VILLAGE LIFE IS BACK AGAIN! SUNDAY 7th DECEMBER
Write it in your diary, NOW!

Meet and Greet is a totally *informal* gathering of villagers to welcome newcomers and family friends to the village (well, that's the excuse). We particularly welcome extended family visitors....so don't be shy. COME!

Why not go the whole hog and combine visiting us all at The Village Hall for a pre-dinner drink (or three!) followed by a stagger down the hill to enjoy one of Nick's superb Sunday roasts at the Fishermans Arms. [3 sittings that day, at 12-12.30, or 2-2.30 or 4.30-5 ; reservation is needed for the Fishermans]

12 noon start, and if you are still there at 2.30pm you might be helping washing up. To the initiated: please spread the word and encourage newcomers who might not yet be on the Golant super broadband village network to attend and have some fun; to the uninitiated- we all bring a "bottle or TWO" plus some nibbles/bakes/tapas/canapes/cakes/.....you name it.

LAST YEAR THE VILLAGE EXCELLED ITSELF WITH OFFERINGS OF PIES, CAKES, YOU NAME IT!

Any questions or queries, such as "what is your favourite wine, Jeremy? Or "do you think a homemade quiche would be welcome?" (it will be!) to jeremylloydevans@gmail.com.

See you there!

Memories from Backalong in Golant



Meet and Greet, December 2024



Wassailing on New Year's Day, 2025

Golant Wassail - January 1st 2026

Put on your coats and boots and blow away those cobwebs!

A wonderful way to start the New Year!



Join our merry band of wassailers as we wend our way around the village. Enjoy a drop of mulled cider and apple treats on the way – *bring your own cup*. Oh, and bring something to shake, bang or blow!

Muster at the Church Lay-by 2pm.

We will visit various orchards/gardens on route through the village, ending up in the two young orchards on the **Sanctuary hillside** before descending to the **Fisherman's Arms** where there will be pork and stuffing rolls (or veggie option) on the menu to soak up the booze!

If you would like us to wassail your apple trees, please let me know! pzparsons@yahoo.co.uk

Nature Notes

The power of the press... In my last Nature Notes I mentioned that despite having 7,000 litres of rainwater storage, this last summer had nearly depleted the whole amount, and that I was thinking of getting some more water butts... Well, a very kind person emailed me to say they had two available and would I like them? Turns out they actually had 4 of differing sizes in their garage sitting idle, so we came to an arrangement and now they are all sitting collecting the 'generous' amounts of rain we've been having! Saved me money, and reused something, so every one is a winner, especially my vegetables!



I have finally finished the picking and preserving of the last fruits this year - this time, medlars. Thanks to Mike and Gillie for the extra from their tree; they were picked and 'bled' - i.e they are placed in crates and left to get soft and brown - almost rotten, but not quite! This turns the hard, inedible fruit into an incredible soft, sweet and tender fruit - a flavour a little like a date with vanilla. I can see why they are not popular in the shops - after waiting for them to almost go off, they are then cooked and pushed through a sieve to get rid of the pips and any tough skin. I've made this into jelly, purée, chutney and a 'cheese' - a solid paste than you can cut and have with meats or cheese. *(Left)*

Another interesting discovery was fruit on our Autumn Olive - this is an eventually tall shrub/tree in the Eleagnus family (*Eleagnus umbellata*) and the tiny berries are beautifully speckled and very tart! I picked about 500g and they are steeping in gin, and I went back for the rest to make some sweet and sour sauce, but they had disappeared! So I don't know which animal enjoys them, but they certainly had a feast!

What a satisfying end to a record breaking harvest year! We still see loads of hawthorn berries and sloes hanging on the trees; possibly because we haven't seen the Fieldfares and Redwings that normally flock through the land, stripping it of every berry in a matter of days! Are they staying North as it has been so mild? Have they just bypassed this year? No idea, but we have never seen this amount of berries still left hanging...

The winter flowering blossoms are flourishing, and smelling incredible, especially a winter honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima* - a cutting from Gillie & Mike) and a *Viburnum (bodnantense)* - a 50p bargain from a garden centre, now six foot high! *(Right)*

We enjoyed a lovely day in the Village Hall back in October for Apple Day. We had very few apples left by then, as they had all been so early, but I had bottled 12 different varieties to see, although the flavour difference wasn't huge. I brought down some of my preserves - the most popular were the quince cheese and the tasting of the Chilean Guavas. It was wonderful to see the reaction as people picked up this somewhat insignificant looking berry and put it in their mouth - only to have a flavour bomb of strawberry and pineapple - not what you would expect! I have heard that they strike well from cuttings, so I will be encouraging many more plants next year!



Our volunteer wood group has started, and they have already chopped a large amount of fire- sized logs! Anyone who fancies a two hour workout in the fresh air is welcome - there is coffee and cake afterwards! Unfortunately we have had a large amount of Ash die back, so we are slowly dealing with that, although there are several Ash trees that are showing some resilience, so fingers crossed.

Penny has detailed elsewhere, *(page 12)*, but we are looking forwards as always to Wassailing on 1st January - the beginning of the apple growing season - as always with cake and something to wash it down with - and we are nice and near (and downhill) to the pub for afterwards!

Karen Wells-West

ST SAMPSON PARISH COUNCIL

Meetings:

Our meeting in November was the last official meeting for this year, unless we must call an extraordinary meeting to transact any formal business. But barring that possibility, our next meeting will be on the fourth Tuesday in January. We don't traditionally have a meeting in December.

Planning:

We considered one planning application this month: PA25/07689, which we supported.

Just Park:

Many of you will be familiar with the company called JUST PARK who can arrange parking with a phone call. We have recently moved the JUST PARK arrangement under our direct control and we would encourage residents and their visitors to add the JUST PARK APP onto their phone for ease of use in the future.

Parking prices and permits:

Following a thorough review of our pricing strategy and by comparison with many neighbouring car parks, we have made the decision to maintain prices in the P.A.Y.G. car park and for PERMITS as they are for this coming season. But you must still apply for your NEW Parking Permit in the normal manner, by going onto the Parish Council web site (www.stsampsonparishcouncil.gov.uk/) and looking under DOCUMENTS/OTHER. Vehicles not displaying a permit or a ticket from the machine (or via JUST PARK) are liable for charges being imposed by Alliance Parking.

Budgets and the PRECEPT:

The most important AGENDA item this month was the preparation of the budget for the forthcoming year. Each Councillor provided their thoughts and financial calculations to be fed into the mix of numbers, which were then put together by our Parish Clerk.

We have decided to make good our intention to upgrade the toilet facility, and below this report you will note that the toilet will be closed for a while at the end of January while we carry out the work. This, together with projects to tidy up the village green parking area and the outside of the kayak store, will mean that we dip into our reserves. So, to protect our existing 'ring fenced' reserve (playground) and to begin a process of rebuilding our general reserves for future asset replacement, we have been obliged to increase the PRECEPT. This might mean a higher percentage increase in your individual local Parish tax, but it will remain one of the lowest in Cornwall.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and dare I say Prosperous New Year.

David Jenkinson
Chairman St Sampson Parish Council

Notification from St Sampson Parish Council

Golant Toilet will be closed for 2 weeks– January 19th until February 2nd.

Sorry for any inconvenience; we are refurbishing the Golant toilet adjacent to the car parking area.

New Toilet Cleaning Contract

St Sampson Parish Council are looking for a local cleaner to clean the refurbished toilet, starting April 2026. If you are interested, please contact Sue, the parish clerk, for the proposed contract details by email at: stsampsonpc@gmail.com
Applications required by 1st January, please.



The committee has met twice recently, and has decided that because it is becoming increasingly difficult to book speakers and venues a year in advance, that we will organise events quarterly.

So, our normal colourful events card will be a little condensed in 2026, but we will keep you well informed via our members' Gmail account and our Facebook page.

We are looking at refurbishing the Readymoney beach sign that shows the species of Jellyfish that can be present at the beach.

Sunday, 7th December, 12 noon at Readymoney Beach, Fowey there is a Winter Shoresearch Survey with Sally Cuthbertson. All are welcome to join Sally for this walkover survey - a great one for anyone new to surveying. Wear warm layers and sensible shoes.

Readymoney Beach Shop will be open for hot drinks and cakes!

Merry Xmas to all

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

Some Animal Adjectives

Cow, Ox-	Bovine
Fox-	Vulpine
Mole-	Talpoïd
Pheasant-	Phasianid
Shrew-	Soricine
Tortoise, turtle-	Chelonian
Zebra-	Zebrine

A beautiful **bovine** sight at *Leyonne Farm!*



GOLANT VILLAGE HALL
proudly present

David Myrre in
**A CHRISTMAS
CAROL**

Friday 5th
December
7pm for 7:30pm



Tickets £15

Age 14+ only
BOOK EARLY! or risk
disappointment



Booking essential
email : golantvillagehall@gmail.com

bring your own refreshments !

All profits from this event will go to Golant Village Hall
Registered Charity number: 213607

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Hither and Thither in Cornwall

- * Mevagissey was the first town in Cornwall to be lit by electric, in the year 1896.
- * At a magistrate's court of Petty Sessions held at the Porcupine Inn, Tywardreath Highway, in the year 1842, two persons were charged with being tipsy on a Sunday and were fined 7s 6d, or to sit six hours in the stocks.

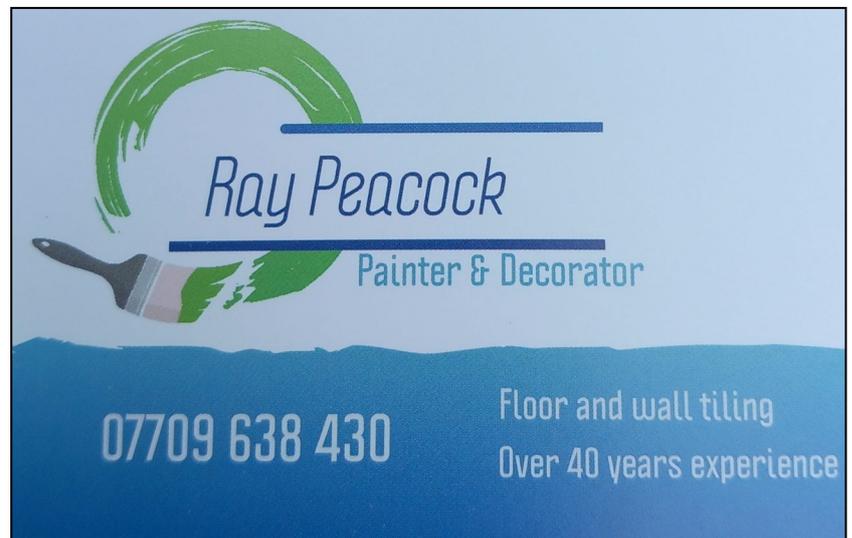
Taken from 'A Cornish Hotchpotch' by Kathleen Hawke, published by Truran

A guide to SENIOR MOMENTS

A sure **sign of old age** is waking up feeling like the **morning after** the night before and realising you haven't been anywhere.

Age is a **high price** to pay for **maturity**.

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A Cornish Maid's Recipe Corner



Tahini Turkey with Persian Rice

This flavoursome recipe is perfect for using up your leftovers on Boxing Day. Serves 4.

225g/ 8oz Basmati Rice, rinsed
 3 tbsp Rapeseed Oil
 2 Onions, peeled and thinly sliced
 350-400g/ 12-14oz cooked Turkey, shredded
 2 Garlic Cloves, peeled and crushed (optional)
 150g Greek-style Yogurt (150g pot)
 2 tbsp Tahini Paste
 25g/ 1oz Pistachios, roughly chopped
 125g/ 4½ oz Pomegranate Seeds
 15g/ ½ oz Chopped fresh Mint
 Lemon wedges to serve (optional)
 Spring Onions, thinly sliced diagonally to serve (optional)

1. Add rice to a large pan of salted boiling water. Simmer for 8 minutes, then drain, rinse with cold water and set aside.
2. Place pan over a medium heat, add 2 tablespoons of oil and onions. Season. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 8 minutes until softened and golden.
3. Stir in rice, cover tightly and cook over a low heat for 8-10 minutes.
4. Heat remaining oil in a wok or large frying pan until hot, add turkey and garlic, if using, and fry until crispy.
5. Meanwhile, mix yogurt and tahini in a bowl & season.
6. Stir pistachios, pomegranate seeds and mint into rice.
7. Spoon onto plates. Arrange turkey on top with tahini yogurt.
8. Serve with lemon wedges & spring onions, if you like.

Gill Paull



[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)



Now we'm at the start of a new year, and Christmas is long gone, so one of the first jobs is to get all the decorations down and packed away until needed again, and I reckon 'tis always a sad sight when they'm gone.

In years gone by in Cornwall, and when the holly was the usual tree to have in the house, once its job was done and before it was aived out, people used it to clean the chimney. This involved dropping a weighted rope down, having lashed the holly tree to it, and then hauling it down through the chimney. Of course, this was done when the fire was out and a brave bit of soot would come down. This would be repeated as many times as it was thought to be necessary, and all the soot would be taken outside into the garden and left in a heap to weather for about six months or so. This only applies to soot taken from wood fires and not from fires where coal has been burnt. Coal fires produce soot with various toxins left in it and 'tisn't advisable to put it on your garden. But any soot from burnt wood can be used quite happily around the edges of the beds to deter those blimmers the Slugs and Snails! It will also darken the soil and help to warm it up, and assist in retaining the heat overnight.

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

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

DECEMBER

Thursday 4 th	7.00pm	Christmas Wreath Making Workshop (<i>booking essential</i>)	Village Hall
Friday 5 th	7.30pm	Christmas Carol – David Mynne (<i>booking essential</i>)	Village Hall
Saturday 6 th	6.00pm	Christmas Generation Game	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 7 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Sunday 7 th	12pm – 2.00pm	Meet'n'Greet	Village Hall
Tuesday 9 th	8.00pm	Euchre	Fisherman's Arms
Friday 12 th		12 Days of Deals start (<i>See Insert</i>)	Fisherman's Arms
Saturday 13 th	10am – 5pm	Golant Christmas Fayre	Fisherman's Arms – Village Hall - Bar Silo
Sunday 14 th	4.30pm	A Cornish Christmas <i>A candle-lit service of Christmas readings, and handbell and congregational carols.</i>	St Sampson's
Tuesday 16 th	8.00pm	Bumper Christmas Quiz (<i>booking advised</i>)	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 17 th	12 noon	La Soupe Populaire (<i>booking essential</i>)	Village Hall
Wednesday 17 th	7.30pm	Carols on the Handbells and Raffle Night	Fisherman's Arms
Friday 19 th	7.30pm	CFylm 'Love Story' (<i>booking essential</i>)	Village Hall
Sunday 21 st		N.B. No service at St Sampson's	
Wednesday 24 th	6.30pm	Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols <i>A candle-lit service of Congregational and choir carols and traditional Bible readings</i>	St Sampson's
Wednesday 24 th	8.00pm	Christmas Eve Singalong	Fisherman's Arms
Christmas Day	9.30am	Family Holy Communion, Choir & Crackers!	St Sampson's
Thursday 25 th	11.30am – 2.00pm	Pub Open - Drinks Only	Fisherman's Arms
Friday 26 th	11am – 2.00pm	Boxing Day Brunch (<i>Pub closes at 4pm</i>)	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 28 th	10.00am	Handbells and Holy Communion <i>(No service at St Sampson's)</i>	Tregaminion Chapel of Ease
Wednesday 31 st	5.30pm for 6pm 9.30pm	New Year's Eve Early Dinner Fancy Dress Party - 70s and 80s Theme	Fisherman's Arms Fisherman's Arms

JANUARY 2026

Thursday 1 st	11.45am	Ring in the New Year <i>Drinks, nibbles, and a chance to ring big bells and handbells</i>	St Sampson's
Thursday 1 st	12pm – 2pm	New Year's Survivors Brunch (Pub closes 6pm)	Fisherman's Arms
Thursday 1 st	2.00pm	New Year's Day <i>WASSAIL</i>	Assemble at church lay-by
Sunday 4 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Tuesday 6 th	8.00pm	Euchre Night	Fisherman's Arms
Friday 9 th	10.30am	Cake, teas, coffee and chat (NB date change!)	Village Hall
Saturday 10 th	6pm for 6.30pm	Tapas Night	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 11 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Tuesday 13 th	8.00pm	Quiz Night	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 14 th	12 noon	La Soupe Populaire (<i>booking essential</i>)	Village Hall
Friday 16 th	7.30pm	CFylm 'Ballad of Wallis Island' (<i>booking essential</i>)	Village Hall
Sunday 18 th	6.00pm	Evensong	St Sampson's
Tuesday 20 th	8.00pm	Euchre	Fisherman's Arms
Saturday 24 th	6.00 for 6.30pm	Burn's Night Supper	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 25 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Tuesday 27 th	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Tuesday 27 th	8.00pm	Quiz Night	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 28th	Copy Date	<i>The Golant Pill</i>	thegolantpill@gmail.com
Fri 30 th /Sat 31 st	7.30pm	GRADS revue (<i>booking essential</i>)	Village Hall

Fisherman's Arms Sunday Roast during December (Christmas Roast) and January 2026
sittings: 12-12:30pm/2-2:30pm/6 – 7:30 (*4.30-5pm on Meet'n'Greet day and Sunday 21st*)

*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.*