



Festive Frolics at the Fisherman's



The Grinch-themed Generation Game



Fancy Dress at the New Year's Eve Party

Well, what a Christmas it was, starting on 25th November with decorating the pub. A *Fisherman's* Christmas is about 4 things: Good Food, Good Drink, Good Fun and Charity. We set out to provide all these things in spades.

Good food was certainly found during our Christmas Roasts, which allowed people to enjoy a festive feast without any washing up.

Fun was another thing we looked to provide throughout the Christmas Season, and we put on a host of events designed to provide the fun that Christmas is all about. One of the biggest fun events was our Grinch-themed Generation Game. Six teams battled it out over crafting games, for the winning team to get a chance at the luxury conveyor of prizes. Very well done to our winners Steve & Anne-Marie Phillis and Simon & Lara Hubner.

Other Fun events were the Christmas Quiz, which was packed, and included an interesting round based on Flavoured Cheeses, Pates & Chutneys. More fun was had during the evening with the Raffle and the Golant Handbell Ringers, led by Simon Funnell, who provided a very melodic evening with some classic Carols and Christmas Songs.

On Christmas Eve, the pub was standing room only with Christmas Singalong. Nick, perched on a decorator's hop up led the thronging crowd in a singalong that Father Christmas himself could hardly ignore.

Charity is also important to us at Christmas, and there were several events that had a donation to Charity. Our main recipient was the Cornwall Air Ambulance, to whom the proceeds of the Quiz and Raffle went. Mission Christmas received support with some of the fees from the Generation Game, and St Petroc's received a very generous donation from the Golant Christmas Market, which was put on in partnership with Bar Silo and Golant Village Hall.

Our final Festive event was the New Year's Eve Double Event, with a Gala Dinner early, followed by the Fancy Dress Party to dance in the New Year.

We want to thank everyone who joined in with all of these and the other events which the Pub put on this Christmas. It's such a special time to be within this wonderful village, and we feel privileged to be able to provide some Christmas Cheer. Thanks, all, for a wonderful Christmas.

Nick, Ann, Chris & The Fisherman's Crew

FROM THE EDITOR

GOLANT– What's in a name?

Our village has been spelt in various ways over the centuries, but nobody can be sure of its meaning. The late John Jenkin, in his publication *'A Short Guide to the Village of Golant'*, writes- "The one consistent thing in all forms of the spelling is the Cornish word 'nans' or 'nant', a valley, and there is a Cornish word 'golnans', a little valley, which seems apt."

A very different aspect about the word Golant has now arisen, as just before Christmas, I received an email via the Pill address from a lady called **Sophie Golant**, who wondered "whether there were any historical records, archives or local information that reference families with this surname, as I am currently exploring my family ancestry".

As many of you know, I am a keen amateur genealogist, and her request fired me up to try and help! Whilst there don't appear to be any such local families, I did manage to find some exciting ancestral information for her – too lengthy to detail here! Sophie was delighted, and wrote: "Your effort has only strengthened my desire to visit the place that carries my name." She and her husband hope to come for a stay in the village this year. Watch this space!

And what a very special village this is. Our cover article is an exceptional record of imaginative ideas and sheer hard work from the team at **The Fisherman's**. At this present time, one hears of so many pubs who have had to close, and yet ours deserves great praise for all they have achieved, and not just at Christmas!

For example, one remembers the difficult early Covid times, when Nick and his team, deeply caring for our community, obtained basic provisions for Golantians who couldn't leave the village to shop. On the other foot, we also need to praise all those villagers who regularly support the pub. They are the mainstay of Nick's clientele, as summer visitors, however much welcomed, are not all-year round customers.

This photo of Nick, suitably attired(!), was taken on Saturday 24th January – Burn's Night, when the team at *The Fisherman's* presented yet another fantastic themed Dinner, which included Homemade Tattie Scones, a Classic Haggis (which he is holding) and a Whisky and Marmalade Pudding!



Gillie Harris (Editor)

Further festive photos taken in *The Fisherman's*



A packed crowd, including the ubiquitous Santa!



The Golant Handbell Ringers



Celebrating New Year's Eve at the Gala Dinner



The Fisherman's crew on New Year's Eve



First up we have an intriguing talk by Sue Reardon in store for you, entitled: **New Money versus Old?** Sue has done a lot of digging in the archives to put together an in-depth look at the shenanigans and skulduggery behind this long lived feud. It seems that the disputes between the Barretts of Penquite in Golant and the Rashleighs of Menabilly were, even by modern standards, quite sensational. The excuse for the bitter legal battles between these two families was over wood, and whether the Barretts had the right to access it on land they didn't own – well that was how it started!

Saturday 7th February at 7pm in Golant Village Hall

Doors open 6.30pm with refreshments on arrival. There is no charge, but as always, donations are welcomed.

You may have noticed that the UTurn Round machine has been absent. It had been malfunctioning and we needed to send it away for repair. It is now back in working order and Ian plans to refresh some of the material before it is remounted once the weather improves.

As the wheel of the year turns, we are already looking forward to Spring and beginning to plan our **Golant Open Orchards 2026**. Last year the first weekend in May proved to be a little too late, with much of the blossom past its best. Thus, this year, we are considering either Sunday 19th or Sunday 26th April (the latter being the favoured date of other orchards in the West Country). Potential participating orchard owners and anyone else with an interest in the planning of this event are warmly invited to join us at our next Golant Heritage Group meeting on **Tuesday 10th February, 2pm in the Village Hall**. A welcoming cuppa awaits you!

Penny Parsons, chairman

Spring Equinox – Friday 20th March 2026 – 2.30pm – Village Green

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

We invite you to join us around the human sundial on the green to enjoy a simple, uniquely Golantian, ceremony with an accumulative spoken chorus for all and a little bit of fun and drama. The colours of the Spring Equinox are **bright green, purple and yellow** – so why not dress for the occasion - anything goes!

This is a sociable gathering with **refreshments** available. (*Tea and Coffee provided by the Sanctuary and any offers of cakes to share will be welcome.*) We will also have a **seed swap table** for anyone who would like to pass on spare seeds/seedlings etc. There will be no charge, but if you feel you would like to make a donation, this year we will be giving to *Lanjeth Nursery and Water Gardens*.



Lanjeth Nursery and Water Gardens

This is a real gem tucked away just south of St Austell. Its 15 acres include more than 130 reclaimed interlinked lakes and ponds, wet woodland and pockets of ancient woodland - all threaded together by sun-dappled paths.

It is an open community space with free entry and they rely on visitors' donations. Restoration is costly and ongoing, and unfortunately they have suffered significant storm damage, including to their two recently renovated green-houses.

A number of us in Golant also take advantage of their Christmas Tree hire scheme.

Penny Parsons

The Green Man & Mother Earth at the Spring Equinox event in March 2024

NEWS FROM ST SAMPSON'S CHURCH

A Cornish Christmas

Well, this marked our first Christmas full time in Golant, with all the wonders that brings!

One of the highlights for us without a doubt was the **Cornish Christmas** celebration at St Sampson's. A packed church, beautifully decorated and candle lit, set the scene for a wonderful evening of handbells, carols, and readings.

The whole evening was structured around a series of readings and poems by Simon, Chris, Greg, Ali and Pat, Glynis and Jeremy. Poems by Cornishman Charles Causley played a prominent part lending a distinctly Cornish flavour to the evening. Jeremy and Glynis led us on a voyage of discovery with their poem, adding of course his own interpretation to the script. Very entertaining.

Greg's talent for accents was on show as he endeavoured to give a local colour to his reading of The Jamaican poem sending us on a journey around the Caribbean.

Led by the inimitable Simon Funnell, the full depth of Golant handbells talent was on show, playing a wide range of carols with what looked like some very complex arrangements.

Sheila Funnell accompanied the carols which had an enthusiastic airing from the congregation, though Shona was sadly missed being called away on official duties.

The whole evening finished with a convivial glass of wine with friends, neighbours and family.

And finally a special thank you to everyone involved in this wonderful evening.

Sue & Mark Steers

Triumph in adversity

This year's **Christmas Eve** Service at St Sampson's was beset with many obstacles. I'm sure when the Funnells look back at the end of 2025, it will be declared their Annus Horribilis. The weeks leading up to Christmas were stressful for both of them as Simon's health deteriorated to a point where he was hospitalised on Christmas Eve.

Meanwhile, various choir members were succumbing to the winter bugs requiring Sheila to make last minute changes to the programme. The bass section was reduced to one, and the sopranos were much depleted in number. As if this weren't enough, the relief organist was not able to play at the service, which meant Sheila had to trot between organ and clavinova to cover all the accompaniment, and the choir had to sing without a conductor.

How was it then, that in spite of such adversity, the service was its usual magnificent, uplifting self? As a choir member, I'm biased, of course, but for me, this particular service is the heart of my Christmas. The light of the candles, along with the scent of the beautifully decorated tree, the familiar readings and the joy of the carols create a magical atmosphere. Most of all, it's the coming together of the community, and the joint participation that is the very essence of Christmas. As a choir, we were in awe of Sheila's indomitable courage in leading the service. We were privileged to sing one of her own compositions "There is no Rose" during the service. Thank you for the music Sheila! And thank you to everyone who worked hard to prepare the church, pour the wine etc.

Continued in opposite column

The **Christmas Day** service was another joyous occasion, made all the more moving by the efforts of the handbell ringers who were determined to do Simon proud by valiantly and flawlessly delivering their programme in his absence. Christmas always feels complete for me when I belt out the descant to 'Hark the Herald'. As those final notes 'Glory to the New born King' soar and disappear, I always hope that I'll be here to do it all again next year. And for all of us, along with the Funnells, let's hope 2026 will be kind.

Glynis Kelly

Vicar's Ponderings!

We now have a family weather station, which was a Christmas present. It is positioned on top of the washing line pole in the back garden. The slight downside with this positioning is that it is in a fairly sheltered position behind the house, so the wind measurements may not reflect the same reality that the front of the house is feeling as it faces in a westerly direction, which is where most of the prevailing winds are from. It was quite exciting watching the measurements recorded for the gusts of wind during the recent storm Goretti and seeing how quickly the rain gauge was changing. The impact of the storm has been less damaging in this part of Cornwall than that experienced further west, but none the less, for those who went without power or who have had to deal with tile damage or trees down, the effects were very real. It has been a reminder to us that the forces of nature can have long lasting consequences.

Many of us with smart phones will have received the red alert warning text message advising us to take action ahead of the storm's approach. Some of us were 'fortunate' enough to receive it a second time about an hour or so later, and for some reason others did not receive the alert at all – which was the experience we had in my household! It was enough of a prompt to make me go outside and ensure the bins were secure. However, no preparation could save the fencing which blew down, the randomness of the way branches were snapped off trees or the surprising way individual trees fell among a whole woodland of trees that otherwise seemed unaffected. Sometimes it is more about managing after the event, and it was good to see people in the area helping their neighbours with repairs and supplies.

A reminder to be alert and pay attention to what is happening around us is often useful as it is easy for us to become complacent. When St Paul was writing to the people of Ephesus he reminded them that they were equipped with everything they needed to withstand the difficulties of the world, telling them "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." And remember of course to offer practical help for those in need, as James writes "Faith without works is dead".

As we move further into 2026, may we be people who are alert to, praying about, and where appropriate offering practical help, with what is happening in the world around us.

With every blessing,

Shona

Revd. Shona Hoad 07476 900623

shona@tandgchurches.uk

www.tywardreathandgolantchurches.uk

PLEASE NOTE: Information about Shona's recent **Re-Licencing** can be read on page 5, opposite, as well as other Contact Information.

The Golant Pill Committee

Editor	Gillie Harris	833897
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Golant Website	David Bonsall	834458

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.

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

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.

Licensing Information

On Thursday 22nd January Shona was re-licensed as Interim Priest in charge of Tywardreath and Golant, and in addition was licensed as Interim Priest in Charge of Fowey. The service was conducted by the Archdeacon of Cornwall, Clive Hogger. This is a one-year appointment and it is expected that before the end of this year the three parishes will become one Benefice, at which point Shona will become the Incumbent and her appointment will be made permanent.

Licensee *Nick Budd* warmly welcomes you to:

From an original drawing by Karen Wells-West



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The Fisherman's Arms, Golant

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CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Priest in Charge

The Revd Shona Hoad (07476 900623)

Churchwardens

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

01726 812642

Johns Hair Studio

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THE NEXT COPY DATE

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

Wednesday 25th March

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

thegolantpill@gmail.com

Golant Gleanings

Backalong Newspaper Articles

Following Storms Goretti, Ingrid & Chandra, it was interesting to do some more Backalong research on local news, and the following newspaper articles from over a century ago about flooding here make one wonder whether times are changing on the weather front.

The poor road man certainly had his work cut out...! Ed.

The Cornish Guardian, 5th December 1902

GOLANT

I suppose our reading room will soon be finished now. I see the painters are hard at work. I am sure it is a great improvement to our little village, and I think some of the people here wish some of their cottages were so well built, after what they have gone through this past week. Some of them, I hear, were nearly washed out of their home. There is some work now for the road man to do to make up the roads. They are in an awful condition after the storm. Such weather has not been known for years.

The Cornish Guardian, 6th November 1903

GOLANT

I am glad to see that our road man is at last filling in some of the trenches that were made by the great flood last Tuesday week. I think I never saw such a storm in my life before. At times our roads were quite impassable, but we must be thankful that we got off so well, when we read such awful accounts of other places and the great damage that was done. We are still getting a lot of rain and everywhere it looks gloomy and miserable.

Carnival & Madness combined

Carnival/Madness will be combined on Saturday 15th August.

Childrens' Sports will be at 2pm, with cream teas and cakes.

Fancy Dress competition for both Carnival and Madness at 6pm, then Madness when the tide 'permits'.

Carnival Committee

Pill Paparazzi in this issue

RA	Robin Anderson
KA	Kirsty Angwin
JL-E	Jeremy Lloyd-Evans
CL	Claire Lower
GP	Gill Paull
SR	Sue Reardon
KW-W	Karen Wells-West

Extract from 'A Short History of St Sampson's School, Golant'

by John Jenkin, May 2002

In January 1896 Mr J W Burt, Certificated Teacher 1st Class, was appointed master.

He was not impressed by the school, the village nor most of its inhabitants, and his first Log entry reads:-

-After a week's work, I can only say the children are extremely restless.

Further entries in February confirm his initial impressions:-

-10 February 1896. Children are very noisy both in and out of school. They do not know what it is to sit still.

-21 February 1896. Children are totally ignorant of Geography.

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A Christmas Carol



KA

It was an evening to remember! On 5th December, the good folk of Golant gathered at the village hall to witness the opening night of **A Christmas Carol** (Charles Dickens). This was performed by the amazingly talented David Mynnes, who had captivated us with his Dracula solo act earlier in the year.

David plays all the complex characters himself. His story telling is so original, wily, convincing and creative. Quite how he can transform himself into so many characters using just a handful of props, is quite extraordinary.

So much was crammed into this mesmerising performance, using a cloak, hat and scarf. David pulled off an inspired show, leaving his audience in awe, and wholly entertained.

We look forward to the next one, David, and our thanks to Penny Parsons, who secured this production for us to enjoy. Whatever will be next?

Kirsty Angwin

Christmas Festivities

The Village Hall was delighted to join in the annual Golant Christmas Fayre by holding a Christmas Mini Market for everyone to enjoy. The weather was kind, and with the bus stop in place and giant parcels adorning the Village Hall we waited with bated breath to see if anyone would come in. Fortunately, lots of you did!

The atmosphere was very festive as shoppers enjoyed browsing our guest stalls, purchasing carefully crafted gift items and Christmas Hyacinths.

Many gentlemen took the opportunity to relax and enjoy one of Sophie's fantastic hot chocolates and a piece of Christmas cake whilst their partners shopped! We knew when the wonderful shuttlebus arrived from *Bar Silo* by the surge of new faces as they dropped in on their way to more fun and games at the *Fisherman's Arms*.

We would like to thank everyone who supported our event, crafting, cooking, planting and planning. Thank you to all our helpers on the day, it felt as if it turned into a great social event, catching up with lots of people. It was a huge team effort, and we are grateful for the support.

Jackie Smith





Thanks to all of you who have renewed your memberships very promptly, as the Boatwatch year starts in January. If you haven't done so yet, please could you pay your £20 membership fees soon.

To renew your membership, please pay by direct transfer to sort code: 20-74-20 a/c 43341380 using your surname as a reference. Alternatively, send a cheque (made out to Golant Boat Owners Association) or cash, to Richard Gabb at Briar Cottage, Downs Hill Golant PL23 1LJ.

If you would like to join as a new member, email-richard.gabb24@btinternet.com for an application form.

Many of you will be entering your activities for the year on your beautiful 2026 Boatwatch calendars. Just the time then to mark in the key Boatwatch activities for the year, which are:-

- * Saturday 2 May 2026 Spring Get Together.
BBQ at Midday.
- * Tuesday 2 June 2026 Evening Flotilla.
HW 1837 hrs, 5.2 m
- * Tuesday 11 August Flotilla Afternoon Tea on the River, HW 1612 hrs, 5.3 m
- * Friday 20 November 2026 AGM 19.30
(Evening Low water)

Thanks to everyone who participated in making the Pill sparkle with Boatlights in December. A great addition to the village environment for the very splendid Christmas Fair.

Most of the vessels moored in the river have managed to survive the recent storms. One vessel did sink; there are one or two with a degree of listing, and there have been a number where sails have escaped from their covers, leading to significant sail damage. A good number of dinghies on the frapes and in the river have overturned or become submerged. All these instances have been reported on Boatwatch Facebook, which sometimes, but not always, results in action by the owners. We do understand that not everyone uses Facebook, but it is interesting to note that our posts regularly attract three to four thousand views, nearly all of these being from the UK (not trawling bots from China!).

There have been surprisingly few vessels coming free from their moorings in the gales. When this has occurred, Fowey Harbour Patrol has come quite quickly to restore the vessels to a safe mooring. It was good to see the Harbour Patrol coming round to check the security of moorings in mid January.

The weather has been so gloomy and miserable recently, and most of our boats have been left untended in the damp. It will soon be time to plan the work to be done to get ready for the water. We should all be thinking of engine maintenance, anti-fouling, woodwork vanishing and painting and all the other joyous spring activities. It is also time to look at the state of your lifejackets and other safety equipment, and check whether your mooring lines are suitable for another season. Let's all make sure we are ready for another year's safe and pleasurable boating.

David Bonsall, Chairman, Golant Boatwatch



Just one of the many boats sparkling with lights in the Pill in December.

Golant Quay Users Association

We have been working on our documentation to comply with a new Harbour office and Government requirement in the Port and Marine Facility Safety Code. A heinous amount of paperwork, and we can only hope that we have satisfied their requirements.

We are still awaiting a response, since November, from South West Water to meet so we can agree on where we can dig in the anchors for the new stern chain in the Bridge section of the Pill.

We are contacting the owners of boats that have not moved, and/or not been worked on to ask them to remove them from the Pill, as there is no point in these boats just sitting there and deteriorating.

We would reiterate our request that you regularly check your boats in the Pill for slackened mooring ropes and baling them out.

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 2025/2026

Over the last year, Committee members have continued to plan a variety of events in the hall and village. Part of this undertaking is to ensure there are sufficient reserves for the future, while offering a variety of social occasions.

Application to Cornwall County Council for a grant enabled safer steps to be built, handrails either side and a mirror to be positioned to view safer exit onto the road. The grant also covered replacing the computer, new microphones and a signal booster for wi-fi connection. All of which contribute to the Hall being an up-to-date and a well-equipped facility.

The year commenced with another fantastic GRADS pantomime and two totally different live performances— a comedic look at dyslexia- ‘Go Away Cat’- and then a superb rendition of ‘A Christmas Carol’. For those of you who participated in learning the dance steps for the filming of ‘The Party Train’, remember the following day aches!

Highlights from last year included the commemoration of VE and VJ Day, starting with the lamplight Peace Procession to the village green and singing with the nation ‘I vow to thee my country’; a picnic on the green (hastily relocated to the pub marquee) and a coffee morning with villagers sharing family memorabilia. The torrential rain for the Good Friday egg trail around the village and Easter Fun Day didn’t dampen the enjoyment. We had a Wimbledon afternoon tea complete with a quiz and screening of past tennis champions. A very popular annual event is the Produce and Craft Show which has an array of beautiful floral displays, vegetables, cookery and crafts showcasing the many talents of the entrants. Creativity was again demonstrated in the Christmas wreath workshop and the addition of a Christmas Mini Market. Regular meetings include monthly coffee mornings, CFylm Club and La Soupe Populaire.

The hall was used for a very successful Macmillan coffee morning generously supported by villagers, and St Sampson’s Church Murder Mystery fund raiser. Over the year the reading group, heritage group, table tennis, yoga and the line dancing met regularly. We had Boatwatch AGM, Quay Users, Parish Council, and Friends of Fowey Estuary talks, which included a free workshop building bee houses.

Hiring of the hall for private functions & equipment supports vital funding for the village hall. Many visitors over the past year commented on ‘a lovely village hall, a fabulous venue’.

In 2026 the committee continue to explore new social events alongside the monthly and annual events. Activities undertaken are greatly assisted by the help of volunteers on an irregular basis or one off. If you would like to know more about helping please contact Fayre Hardy via:

fairyhardy@btinternet.com

The Village Hall Committee would like to thank Nick at the *The Fisherman’s Arms* for preparing and donating the soup to the charity for December’s soup luncheon.

It was a great act of kindness and enabled us to easily continue our winter soup whist a member of the team was poorly.

THANK YOU NICK!

Golant Village Hall Price List (Charity Number 213607)

Extra donations are always welcome!

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

2nd Wednesday in the month - Jan, Feb, Mar & Oct, Nov, Dec - La Soupe Populaire, accompanied by refreshments - £3

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

Hire of Hall Tariff (unchanged from last year):-

Commercial Rate - fee paying is £27 per session;
Subsidised Parishioner’s Rate - for private events for parishioners £12;

Subsidised Concessionary Rate - £2;

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

Queries- contact martynhardy501@btinternet.com

Charges may be subject to change at the 2026 AGM meeting.

CFylm

Do you like films? The Village Hall has a film club. CFylm is Cornwall’s film club network, which supports communities to bring cinema to the heart of rural villages and towns, giving people the chance to watch great films together, close to home, at an affordable price.

Held monthly in the Village Hall, it is more than a film club; it’s about community, and screenings are around social events as much as showing a film.

It’s a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours, or meet someone new.

If you would like more information about the Village Hall film club, contact Carol Gabb via:-
cagabb23@gmail.com

The Secret Life of Bees will be shown on Friday 26th February.

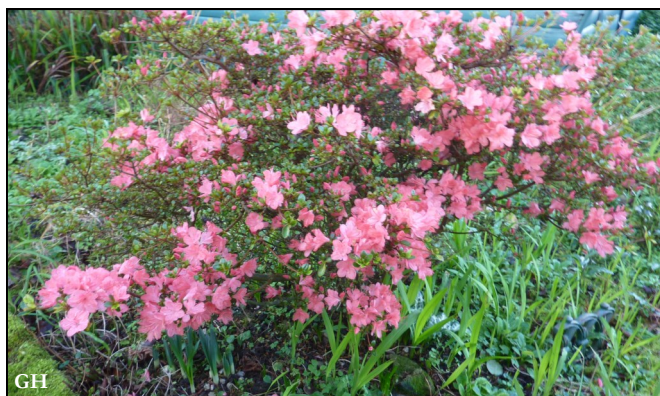
Carol Gabb



Notice is hereby given that the
Annual General Meeting
of Golant Village Hall (Charity Number 213607)
will be held at the Village Hall
on Tuesday 24th March at 2.00pm.
All villagers are very welcome to attend.

Christmas 2025 Annual **INBLOOM** Challenge

Global warming has obviously not helped our flowering blooms this year, with fewer numbers of blooms spotted. However, it is interesting to observe that some shrubs were flowering much more profusely before Christmas than usual, particularly the Camellias, and in our garden, this beautiful Azalea, which has never been in such full bloom in midwinter. Usually, it is early spring for full flowering!



Whilst I found **17** different varieties, once again including our hardy Primroses that always flower throughout every month of the year (despite any frosts thrown at them), Claire Lower and her mother Karen once again discovered more, with a count of **24**, pictured and identified by them below, though that was far less than last year, when they had identified 37. Claire's lovely photo is so cheering to see here in the midst of bleak midwinter, with all the vibrant colours of the blooms.



1. Abelia
2. Anthemis
3. Camellia
4. Campanula
5. Campion
6. Daffodil
7. Dianthus
8. Erigeron
9. Forget-me-not
10. Geranium
11. Geum
12. Heather
13. Helichrysum
14. Hellebore
15. Mahonia
16. Osteospermum
17. Primrose
18. Rose
19. Rosemary
20. Salvia
21. Schizostylis
22. Solanum
23. Viburnum
24. Vinca

To add to Claire & Karen's list, Sarah Laughton, who commented that it was the fewest Christmas blooms she had seen over the years, found one solitary Snowdrop and Wintersweet, whilst there was beautiful Yellow Jasmine still flowering profusely in the front hedge of the churchyard.

The additions in our garden, extra to all the listed blooms above, were – Azalea, Daisy, Kaffir Lily, Sisyrinchium (yellow-eyed grass), Thyme, Violet, Wild Strawberry, Winter Honeysuckle and one lone Yellow Poppy, making a total of **36** different blooms flowering over the Christmas period in Golant.

Gillie Harris

Schedule of Classes for the Produce & Craft Show

Please note-

* denotes a max of 1 Entry per person per Class. Otherwise, Classes limited to 2 Entries per person per Class.

Vegetable Classes

5 Cherry Tomatoes
3 Other Tomatoes
2 Cucumbers
6 Runner Beans
6 French Beans
3 Courgettes
4 Potatoes
3 Onions
3 Beetroot - trimmed
3 Shallots
1 Garlic bulb
1 Plate mixed vegetables, 4 items - *one of each*
3 Stalks of different Herbs in a jar
Any other Vegetable

Novelty Vegetable Classes

*Heaviest Marrow
Longest Runner Bean
Longest Stick of Rhubarb - trimmed of leaf
1 Wonky Vegetable

Fruit Classes

A plate of Fruit

Flower Classes

6 Sweet Pea stems
3 Dahlia stems
1 Gladioli stem
1 Stem - any other bloom
1 Rose bloom
1 Hydrangea head
Vase of mixed flowers - max 7 stems
Pot Plant - 8" or 20cms pot max

Floral Art Classes - max 30cms x 30cms footprint

* 'Bee Friendly' arrangement, max 5 blooms
* Floral arrangement in an unusual container
* Petite arrangement in a Teacup
* Foliage arrangement (no flowers)

Cookery Classes

* Quiche - max 8" or 20cms
* 3 Brownies
* 3 Rock Cakes - *Made to recipe in Schedule*

Cookery Classes continued in opposite column

Cookery Classes continued-

* Victoria Sponge
* Plate of Fudge
* Any other Cake

Home-made Jams and Preserves Classes

Jam
Jelly
Fruit Curd
Marmalade
Chutney

Drinks Classes

Home-made Flavoured Spirit
Home-made Alcoholic Beverage
Home-made Soft Drink

Craft Classes

* A Handcrafted Wooden, Metal, Ceramic or Glass item
* An item of Embroidery or Cross Stitch
* A Knitted or Crocheted item
* Hand crafted Bunting - max 6ft in length
* Any other craft not otherwise included

Artwork Classes - Photos to be unmounted, 7" x 5" max

A picture inspired by 'Golant' - A4 max, no photographs
A picture of any other topic - A4 max, no photographs
A Greetings Card or Gift Tag
A Photograph 'Golant'
A Photograph 'Nature'

Children's Classes - under 12

Make a 'Fruit/Vegetable Sea Monster'
Grow and decorate a 'Cresshead'
Make a picture of a Mermaid- A4 max
3 Chocolate Crispy Cakes

Limerick

Complete the following Limerick:

"There's a boat tied up in the Pill...."

Golant Wassail – January 1st 2026



KW-W

We were a small but enthusiastic band of wassailers this year. It wasn't tipping it down with rain for once, just a bit of Cornish mizzle, but with some key people celebrating the festive season elsewhere, and illness besetting others, the route was somewhat curtailed and two alternative venues bravely stepped in at the last minute.

Thus we had a very pleasant route through the Gabb's orchard and *The Sanctuary* orchard, before blessing the old apple tree in Sue Reardon's garden and a young, but very productive, red-fleshed 'Pendragon' in the Goss's garden, before retiring to the *Fisherman's Arms* for a wholesome pulled pork bap! Huge thanks to all our generous hosts.

Wassail season seems to extend throughout most of January; ours is particularly early! It seems that a number of this year's wassail events in our region had to be cancelled or postponed due to severe winter weather – icy roads, high winds and storm damage.



KW-W

Buckland Abbey encouraged people to wassail their own trees at home and set out a step by step guide on how to do it! "Gather round your chosen tree . . . place pieces of toast in the branches to entice the robins, believed to be guardians of the orchard . . . pour cider around the roots of the apple tree . . . clatter your pots and pans to ward off the evil spirits . . . serenade the apple tree with a traditional wassail song and of course raise a cup of your chosen tippie as a Waes Hael!" So now you know what to do!

Penny Parsons

2nd Wassail

Thursday 21st January saw a repeat wassail hosted by Gillie at *South Torfrey Cottage*. A merry bunch of Golantians turned up, despite the rain playing a stop-start game with us.

We made much noise and sang whilst blessing Gillie's chosen tree with cider and toast, so that it may produce a bumper harvest this year.

We finished with cake from Penny Parsons and Karen Wells-West and mulled cider from Carol Gabb.

Karen Lower



CL



CL

Our apple orchard was planted by Mike in 1999, so is now mature, with one newer exception. Nine of the eleven trees are Cornish varieties, including *Sidney Strake*, my chosen tree for this lovely event. However, I do feel a personal kinship to one of our others, aptly named *Cornish Gilliflower*!

It was so special to welcome ten villagers (and two dogs) to our personal wassail, organised by Penny. Her dog had a wonderful time scrumping fallen apples!

Ian Laughton had offered to record and geolocate our trees, to add to the growing data on the fruit trees of the village, and he kindly spent quite a time completing this.

We had taken part in last year's Open Orchards' event, held in May, and hopefully will again join in this year's – planning for that is in the pipeline! So, will it be a bumper harvest after this lovely wassailing? Let's hope so...

Gillie Harris

Nature Notes

And here we are, already at the end of the first month of 2026. We managed a dry Wassail for once, but ironically low numbers - do people prefer 'tramping through mire' as the wassailing song goes? And a few of us went up to Gillie & Mike's a few weeks later to Wassail their orchard - almost in the dry!

The large event just past is that of storm Goretti, the devastation of which is still being dealt with weeks later. We just happened to be away that week, travelling down Cornwall to one of the worst hit areas - we spent the night of the storm in a power cut, listening to 95mph winds cause havoc outside. The next day we witnessed the absolute destruction first hand as we tried to navigate our way back - not an easy task, with so many roads blocked.

We sadly lost a few trees (*right*) - some dead ash, parts of oak which had been damaged by squirrels (saved us a job there!), but also two of our largest birch trees - uprooted, along with a section of hazel hedgerow, also uprooted. There was a very clear line of destruction tracking the path of the wind. Our fabulous wood group came out in force to help clear up, and we're crossing our fingers that the uprooted trees will recover - they all more or less went back to the ground, so all we can do is wait and see.



It was a very sobering event - we saw so much destruction on our journey home, and also when we got back, along the 'top path' and into Sawmills Wood. The stream was blocked by a large fallen beech, along with lots of debris. (*Before and after, below*) And further up the hill along the Saint's Way path to Fowey, the path was completely impassable with several, very large beech fallen across the path. This made for an 'interesting' walk to a dentist's appointment in Fowey....



Both the stream and the path to Fowey are now passable with care. The Fowey path was reported to the Council, but of course they can't say when they will be able to completely clear it as there is so much presumably to do... So the Cornish Piskies have been out and cleared enough to be able to get around...

When we were thinking of where we might go for a day out, we realised just how many places are special to us, and no doubt so many people, precisely because we are surrounded by trees, and the feeling that we have walking amongst them.



Nearly all of the of the main gardens in Cornwall have suffered incredible damage - many trees over 100 years old have been felled by the wind. They are all pretty sanguine about it, saying it gives them new opportunities to plant, but I can't help feeling that we have lost the opportunity to see these huge trees - a result of the foresight of a generation who planted knowing they would never see their trees in their maturity - and now we will have to wait a generation or two to marvel at them again.

We think we are so sophisticated because we have knowledge and technologies - but the last few weeks have shown that we are no match for nature - we perhaps need to be more humble in the face of such power, and be grateful for the opportunities to be able to grow anything (as she crosses her fingers for her veg patch this year!).

Ending on a positive note, the snowdrops are blooming lovely, I've picked a few primroses and it's looking like a good year again for them, and I've seen the first, tiny shoots of wild garlic!

Karen Wells-West

ST SAMPSON PARISH COUNCIL

David Jenkinson

As you should all now know, David Jenkinson stepped down from the Chair of the Council and also being a Councillor just before Christmas, after just over five years of holding the role. David's tenure was marked with a bit more than the usual ups and downs of Chairmanship. A difficult planning situation early on, and navigating the Council through the Pandemic marked a challenging start. However, his work alongside other Councillors and volunteers in raising a significant amount of money to replace the playground, was an utter success, and a fitting legacy to all the hard work and time that David gave to the Council and the wider community over the years. We thank you, David, and hope you enjoy having an extra Tuesday evening back!

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Procedurally, we were not able to hold elections at this meeting for these roles; however, elections will take place at the February meeting. I will continue to be Acting Chair until the election takes place. There is also a vacancy on the Council, and more details pertaining to this will come to the village via Maurie Mail once the process for co-opting a new member is clearer.

Storm Goretti

The Council would like to extend thanks to all those who helped clear up the aftermath of this generational storm. In all the time I have lived here, I don't think I've ever experienced such a powerful wind, and in many ways it was a minor miracle that more damage wasn't done.

Particular thanks is extended to Cornwall Landscaping, who did significant work on the Downs clearing fallen trees, to Dave and Karen for all the volunteer clearing they did on the Downs and in Sawmill Woods, and a more general thank you to the Parishioners for reporting back on fallen and dangerous trees, and also supporting each other within the wider community. This sense of community spirit only goes to highlight what a special village Golant is, and long may it continue.

Wishing you all a wonderful 2026.

*Chris Taylor
Acting Chair- St Sampson Parish Council*

Hither and Thither in Cornwall

- * The earliest known book printed in Cornwall is a volume of poems by N. James, printed in Truro in 1742.
- * Richard Lower, of Tremere, St Tudy, born in 1631, was the first to perform the operation of blood transfusion.
- * Launceston Gaol was closed in 1829 on completion of the new County Prison in Bodmin.
- * In October, 1799, the Cornwall Agricultural Society organised a ploughing match at Wadebridge in which 29 ploughs competed. The ploughs were drawn by oxen.

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

Some Animal Adjectives

Ape-	Simian
Bear-	Ursine
Crocodile-	Eusuchian
Dolphin-	Delphine
Kangaroo-	Macropodine
Rattlesnake-	Crotaline
Slug-	Limacine
Stork-	Pelargic
Swordfish-	Xiphoid
Wolf-	Lupine
Worm-	Helminthic

Meet and Greet

Sunday 7th December 2025 saw another resurgence of this village tradition, and it didn't disappoint, despite horrible weather and the 'Golant lurgy'!



Meet and Greet is a gathering of villagers to welcome newcomers and family friends to the village. We welcomed four (or six?) newcomers to the village (I think, but can't quite remember!) I counted the turnout...early on when I could still count ...and we were 68 strong (including Santa, aka Henry Taylor!)



As advertised, it started at noon and I had to call 'last orders' at 2.30pm. Some went down the hill to continue the festivities at *The Fishermans Arms* for their Sunday Roast.

Just a big, big thank-you to The Village Hall for hosting it, and most importantly to you the villagers for some magnificent canapes, (more than usual!), and some superb wines (the best of which I wish I had kept!).

Jeremy Lloyd-Evans

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



We have booked the Lone Kayaker (Rupert Kirkwood) for our AGM to be held at the *Royal Fowey Yacht Club* on Thursday 26th March 2026 at 8.00pm. The Yacht Club will host their normal supper before talks at 6.00pm (booking required).

I am resigning as Chair this year, and we are looking for both new committee members and a new Chair. If you are interested in joining the committee, but are not sure what is involved and would like a chat, please don't hesitate in contacting me. I assure you there is nothing onerous and it does not take up a lot of time.

We have decided not to produce an annual events card, because it has become increasingly difficult to book speakers and venues a long time in advance and is a disappointment when we have to cancel. So, will use our members Gmail account and Facebook to notify you of our events.

Come and join us on Saturday 14th February between 10.00 am and 12.00 for 'Love your Beach Day' and join in the Beach Heart Art at Readymoney Beach Fowey.

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

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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.

A guide to SENIOR MOMENTS

Old age is when you know all *the answers* but no one bothers to ask you *the questions*.

More people would live to a *ripe old age* if they weren't so busy *providing* for it.

Published by Past Times



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A Cornish Maid's Recipe Corner

Blood Orange Marmalade



A simple recipe, and a little different to the usual Seville marmalade...a super colour too. This recipe makes a very small batch. Blood oranges freeze well either whole or juiced and zested beforehand, if you wanted to make more later in the year.

5 large blood oranges
125ml/ ½ cup water
2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice, or to taste
350g/ 1¾ cups white sugar

1. Place the sugar in an ovenproof bowl and place in low-heated oven/bottom oven of Aga/Rayburn to warm through. Helps to dissolve better in cooking process later on.
2. Immerse storage jars and lids in simmering water until marmalade is ready, or wash jars in dishwasher cycle.
3. Wash oranges well. Peel the oranges removing all the zest in long strips. It's no big deal if some of the white pith comes off too.
4. Transfer the peel to a saucepan and add 1500ml/6 cups of cold water. Bring to simmer over high heat. Reduce heat to medium-low to low and simmer until the peel is soft and tender- about 45mins to 1 hour.
5. While the peel cooks, cut oranges in half and juice them. Juice should equal 250ml/1 cup. Add 125ml/½ cup cold water to the juice and put to one side.
6. Remove saucepan from heat and strain the peel from the water. When the peel is cool enough to handle, transfer to cutting board and slice into very thin strips. Transfer cut peel into the blood orange juice.
7. Pour the peel & juice mixture into a saucepan along with lemon juice & sugar. Bring to simmer over medium-high heat. Reduce heat to medium-low; cook, stirring occasionally, until the mixture reduces and thickens slightly-takes about 30-40 mins. Test for setting point- either a little marmalade on a chilled saucer, or when temperature probe reaches about 105°C.
8. Pour into sterilized jars and leave to cool to room temperature. Seal and label jars and transfer to the fridge for 8 hours or overnight, before enjoying.

Gill Paull



GP



This month can be a brave and busy time with the daylight hours increasing, and there should be a rise in temperature. There are on average about 160 growing days to come, so more seeds can be sown in the greenhouse. And when conditions allow, some seeds of certain plants that are completely hardy in relation to *Jack Frost*, such as the vegetables *Parsnip, Cabbage, Brussels, Beetroot, early Potatoes, Spinach, Leeks, Lettuce, Shallots, Spring Onions* and *main crop Onions* can be sown. With flower seed, try *Candytuft, Calendula, Cornflower, Clarkia, Godetia* and *Lavatera*.

All these can be sown outside, but only when conditions are right. To get these you must wait until you can walk across the ground without the soil clagging up your boots. The soil needs to be well worked over, being friable with a fine tilth, and the seeds are sown thinly at the correct depth. If there is a very dry time, water the bottom of the drill before sowing, and lightly firm the seed-bed. When you're sowing seed and not firming up the soil in a proper manner, then this is very often the reason for gaps or misses in the row after germination because the ground can dry out and leave the young plants suffering for want of a drink. Most of these seeds are sown where they will grow on until maturity, but the likes of *Sprouts* and *Cabbages* are lifted out of their original row and transplanted into their final positions when they have reached a fair old size.

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

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

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

£6 each or two for £10 (Mix or Match)



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CALENDAR OF VILLAGE EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Friday 6 th	10.30am	Coffee, tea, cake, books, chat	Village Hall
Saturday 7 th	7.00pm	'Old Money v. New' <i>GHG talk by Sue Reardon</i>	Village Hall
Sunday 8 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Tuesday 10 th	2.00pm	Golant Heritage Group <i>meeting re Open Orchards</i>	Village Hall
Tuesday 10 th	7.30pm	Euchre	Fisherman's Arms
Saturday 14 th	6.00pm-8.30pm	Valentine's Dinner (<i>ask for menu</i>)	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 15 th	6.00pm	Evensong	St Sampson's
Tuesday 17 th	12 - 2.15/6pm - 8.15pm	Pancake Day (<i>special pancake menu</i>)	Fisherman's Arms
Tuesday 17 th	8.00pm	Quiz Night	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 18 th	12.15pm	La Soupe Populaire	Village Hall
Sunday 22 nd	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Tuesday 24 th	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Tuesday 24 th	7.30pm	Euchre	Fisherman's Arms
Friday 27 th	7.30pm	CFylm club – 'The Secret Life of Bees'	Village Hall
		<i>Booking required</i>	

MARCH

Sunday 1 st	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Tuesday 3 rd	8.00pm	Quiz Night	Fisherman's Arms
Thursday 5 th	TBC	St Piran's Day Celebrations	Fisherman's Arms
Friday 6 th	10.30am	Coffee, tea, cake, books, chat	Village Hall
Sunday 8 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Tuesday 10 th	2.00pm	Golant Heritage Group AGM <i>All welcome!</i>	Village Hall
Tuesday 10 th	7.30pm	Euchre	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 15 th	9.30am	Mothering Sunday (<i>NO Evensong</i>)	St Sampson's
		<i>A short celebration with readings, choir and handbells</i>	
Tuesday 17 th	8.00pm	Quiz Night	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 18 th	12.15pm	La Soupe Populaire	Village Hall
Friday 20 th	2.30pm	Celebration of Spring Equinox	Village Green
Saturday 21 st	TBC	Mexican Night	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 22 nd	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Tuesday 24 th	2.00pm	Village Hall AGM <i>All villagers welcome</i>	Village Hall
Tuesday 24 th	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Tuesday 24 th	7.30pm	Euchre	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 25th	Copy Date	<i>The Golant Pill</i>	thegolantpill@gmail.com
Friday 27 th	7.30pm	CFylm Club - 'Mad About the Boy'	Village Hall
		<i>Booking required</i>	
Sunday 29 th	9.30am	Palm Sunday Service	St Sampson's

APRIL

Thursday 2 nd	6.00pm	Maundy Thursday <i>Readings and reflections</i>	St Sampson's
Friday 3 rd		Good Friday Easter Egg Hunt - <i>details to follow</i>	Village Green
Sunday 5 th	9.30am	Easter Day, Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Sunday 5 th		Easter Fun Day - <i>details to follow</i>	Fisherman's Arms
Friday 10 th	10.30am	Coffee, tea, cake, books, chat	Village Hall

Fisherman's Arms Sunday Roast by the River – 3 sittings: 12.00-12:30pm/2.00-2.30pm/6.00 – 8.00pm

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