



Upper Downs Path Project



Hard at work clearing fallen trees on the Upper Downs, high above our beautiful River Fowey.

This month, the Parish Council was able to conclude the work on the Upper Downs Path that started the previous year. The processes that were involved started with David Bonsall securing an LMP Grant from Cornwall Council; this provided up to £15,000 of grant funding to improve a footpath within our Parish. Once secured, a tendering process was put together, and three businesses from the area were approached, with the eventual recipient of the tender being Cornwall Landscaping.

Work began not long after Storm Goretta had reaped its damage, and meant that some tree clearing work was incorporated into the wider path improvement scheme. The main aim was Path widening (where possible), and scrub/tree removal to stop encroachment and let more light into the darker regions of the walk. Once this was done, the steps were cleared of vegetation and re-defined to allow for the replacement work to begin.

Logistics were always going to be challenging due to the nature of the access to the steps. However, Mike Paul very kindly allowed the team access over his fields so that the materials could be transported as close as possible to where the work was being carried out. Despite this, the team still had to carry the wood and metal spikes through a hedge and down to the steps, but it could have been a lot worse! The steps were then lifted and the replacements slotted in behind the original steel pins where possible, and then levelled. The work took a good couple of weeks but was completed well ahead of deadline despite some pretty poor weather, and the challenging nature of the terrain.

The final stage of the work was dangerous tree removal, where pre-identified trees were taken down, with the majority being Ash that had been ravaged by die-back, or Elms that had Dutch Elm disease. I am told it is over 20 years ago that the steps were last worked on and I certainly remember scrambling down the slope on foot or horse, prior to their installation: let us hope that the refurbishment lasts at least another 20 years!

Personally I would like to extend thanks to all those involved with the project- in particular, David Jenkinson who gave the initial impetus to the work, David Bonsall for securing the funds, Dave Jenkinson and his crew for their hard work, Mike Paul for the access and finally, Andreas for the tree work. All local businesses, business owners or councillors worked together to improve a Parish asset. Many thanks to you all.

Chris Taylor – Chairman, St.Sampson Parish Council

FROM THE EDITOR

Eclectic - A word which is always applicable to the content of our village newsletter, as I certainly regularly receive a variety of articles from various sources!

It's always difficult, with a bi-monthly publication, when we can't report on very recent events that just miss our copy date deadline, so I make no apology for Jeremy's report (*p.9*) about the wonderful Revue, which took place way back in January!

In this issue, it is lovely to place something very different on the cover, especially about work of such importance on the edge of our great village. A true community effort.

Together with our reports of the latest news from our village groups, for which we thank those regular contributors, we include articles on seasonal events which have wowed Golantians within the past two months, as well as advertising what is coming up, both as posters and on our Calendar of Events page, which has always sat on the back page since our inception way back in 2007!

After the cover story in our last issue about the Christmas & New Year happenings in *The Fisherman's*, it is a pleasure to include another of publican Nick Budd's reports - this time, about their imaginative St Piran's Day evening (*p 12*)

And, having a husband who has VERY strong Cornish genes (on Mike's mother's side), I love to add pieces related to Cornwall, including dialect words and phrases, when I need to fill remaining space. So, in this issue, I've added some interesting information about St Piran, extracted from a book we own, to complement Nick's article.

To add to Simon's report below, about our loyal advertisers, it's been lovely to receive a new member of the band, from Polruan. We thank you all for your support.

Lastly - what a joy it is to see the wonderful spring flowers in their vibrant colours - so uplifting after all the gloomy grey weather we experienced in January, February and part of March. I make no apologies for placing photos (*opposite*) of some of ours. Mind you, the vicious hail that arrived with the strong NW wind at around 4am one recent morning has flattened many of our beautiful daffodils...

Gillie Harris (Editor)

Chairman's Report

The financial year begins in April, and this year does not start promisingly. World markets are in turmoil, the price of oil and gas is changing day by day, and one wonders what all this uncertainty will do for the Cornish economy.

So now is an appropriate time to thank our loyal band of advertisers. It is thanks to them that this is a free publication, and I hope that our readers will continue to support them whenever possible. Roy and Palace Printers deserve special mention, as many readers comment positively on the quality of our newsletter.

Thank you, advertisers; we appreciate your support, and we wish you - and all our readers - every success in the year ahead.

Simon Funnell, Chairman, The Golant Pill

Spring has Sprung!



Just some of the thousands of Primrose plants spread in beds, paths, nooks & crannies all over our garden.



Spring has not yet sprung for our apple trees. This fine Cornish specimen, Sidney Strake, wassailed earlier in the year, will hopefully be in full bloom on 26th April, for the Golant Blossom Open Day, as we are taking part.



This beautiful Magnolia Stellata, planted and shaped by Karen Wells-West for us many years ago, zings against the grey starkness of the winter trees. The daffodils below are just a few of hundreds, of a variety saved from Mike's Cornish Grandmother many years ago. They love it here...



Spring is springing and we are keeping a close eye on the apple trees,
hoping that the blossom will be at its best for our second...

Golant Blossom Day Open Orchards – Sunday 26th April 10am til 4pm

Orchards taking part are: Little Pinnock, Hybadore, South Torfrey Cottage, Robinsons, Golant Farmhouse, Briar Orchard, and the Sanctuary. There will be a booklet giving brief information on each orchard, available to buy (£2) at Little Pinnock, Hybadore and from the gazebo on the Village Green. There will be guided tours to participating orchards in the village for those unsure of their locations, at 11am and 2.30pm. Remember, in times past, Golant was renowned for its orchards and there were special boat trips from Fowey specifically to view the wonderful sight of all the blossom from the river, and could well become so again! We hope that many of you will take the opportunity to enjoy the many well being benefits, and the sights, sounds and scents of the vibrant orchards where we live.

The Human Sundial

It is surprising how many people walk over the sundial slates without realising that they are there, or haven't quite 'clocked' how it works. Ours is registered with https://sundialsoc.org.uk/wp_bridol/pages/S4/S4595.html and the website is worth a look. The idea was conceived and put into action in 1999 as a Community Millenium project, by the late Phil Reardon along with Sue. We celebrated its opening on New Year's Eve at the turn of the century. Of course it didn't really work on that occasion! Every parishioner was invited to take part in some way, with workshops to cut numbers on the slates, held at Bodrigan Barn. The sundial was laid out with the greatest precision and with many people contributing. When first laid the ground was perfectly flat and level! Over time the unstable underground has caused it to undulate and it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep it clear and looking good. There are some great photos on our website <https://golant.omeka.net/items/show/667> The question now is how to refurbish it. Might it make a good community project? We still have all the measurements and co-ordinates and we certainly have the skills needed here among us in the village. Although only in its 27th year, it is an iconic village asset and certainly a part of village heritage worth preserving for the years to come. If anyone has any thoughts, maybe have a chat with Sue or Ian, who has already put his thinking cap on, or any of us in GHG! If there seems to be an appetite for it then we can think about putting together a plan of action.

Penny Parsons, chairman

Spring (Vernal) Equinox

What a lovely day we had for our Spring Equinox gathering this year. We were blessed by blue skies, beaming sunshine and good company to celebrate the turning of the wheel of the year towards lighter, warmer days, new growth and that feeling of everything coming alive again.

Our now customary little ceremony around the sundial was led by the traditional Green Man, AKA Chris Taylor, supported by Mother Earth, AKA Penny Parsons, and musically accompanied by Dave Johns and Peter Edwards, with Puck, AKA Robin Anderson, flitting around to snap the event for posterity! (See Golant Pill Face Book page) And of course, in true Golant fashion, this was followed by tasty refreshments –thank you Karen Wells West and Carol Gabb - and convivial chatter, and some of us took away seeds from the seed swap to get planting. Donations raised £80 for the Lanjeth Nursery and Water Gardens.



This year we were able to gather at the actual time of the Equinox - it is different every year. Jeremy Lloyd Evans counted us down with exactitude! Jeremy writes:

“The precise time was 13.9 seconds after 14.45 in Universal Coordinate time . . . same as GMT. Unlike, say, New Year Day celebrations, the time of which depends on your Earth bound time zone (So New Zealand celebrates 13 hours ahead of us) the 'vernal' equinox is the exact moment irrespective of your time zone when the tilt of the Earth's axis, which remains fixed as it orbits the sun, is perpendicular to the sun . . . so day and night are equal length all over the world.”

I'd never realised that bit!

Penny Parsons

NEWS FROM ST SAMPSON'S CHURCH

As many of you will know, Shona, our vicar, has now been licensed for Fowey Church, as well as looking after ourselves and Tywardreath. Bravely, Shona is now full-time, and we wish her well with her new responsibilities. We shall do our best to lighten her load, and she has enlisted the help of a few recently retired clergy to help her.

The persistent rain and high winds of January and February finally took their toll at St Sampson's, and some roof repairs have now been completed. We are also exploring the installation of a sound system, and are awaiting quotations on this.

The highlight of the last two months was the Mothering Sunday service on Sunday 15th March. Nearly 40 people attended, and the choir anthem, *Non Nobis*, was greatly enjoyed, as were the two groups of handbell ringers. The flowers that were brought to remember loved ones added welcome colour to the rigours of Lent.

Some of you will have heard that there are about 7,500 pipe organs in the churches of England, but only half of these are in working order! We are fortunate indeed that the St Sampson organ is a fine instrument, still in working order - largely thanks to the ministrations of organ builder and tuner Lance Foy, and Sheila's constant vigilance. Nevertheless, the electrics are somewhat outdated, and not very reliable, and in the not too distant future a major re-build will be needed. Many things can make a church distinctive, and at St Sampson's one of these is the music. Our Festival of Lessons and Carols at Christmas is hugely popular, but without a good pipe organ it would not be the same!

Those who remember Vilma Dunley might like to note that on Sunday 26th April, straight after the service, there will be a very short ceremony to bury her ashes.

I am sure that all those who have walked past the churchyard have been struck by the gorgeous spring flowers. If you have not walked that way, please do so - it is a sight worth seeing.

Simon Funnell



The War Memorial area was carpeted earlier in Spring with these beautiful crocus flowers.

Vicar's Ponderings!

Small buds on the trees have been slowly growing and transforming the outline shape and filling in the gaps. By small stages the skyline is altered, and I am encouraged to think that the gloomy days will soon be well and truly over. Our understanding of the Easter story can sometimes be rather like an outline image or overview at best. We may have a hazy pencil-sketch memory from our school days or when we went to Sunday School as a child. The Easter story is both complex and simple. At its most basic level it is a love story. A love so strong that there is nothing that won't be offered in order to restore a broken relationship. And the best part is that we are people in the story who can have that restored relationship.

If you like a story with high drama there is much to be found in the gospel accounts in the Bible – treacherous friends, false accusations, denials, suffering. As Jesus hung on the cross it looked as though there would be no happy ending for those who believed he was the Messiah come to rescue the world. Jesus himself uttered the words “It is finished” as he died, and it seemed a lost cause to hope for a different ending. But that was not the final word. His friends may have buried him and sealed the tomb with a heavy stone, a Roman guard may have been placed on duty to ensure no one stole the body, but on the third day his tomb is found open. An angel at the open tomb makes it clear that something significant has taken place and the news begins to break that Jesus has been resurrected. In the weeks that follow Jesus is seen on multiple occasions by many different people and the truth of what took place begins to filter out. People were so convinced by what they had seen or what they had heard recounted to them that they were willing to commit their lives to ensuring others could hear the story too.

If you are still not sure about the truth of the Easter story why not join us at our services in the week leading up to Easter Sunday. Hear how Jesus was welcomed by large crowds on Palm Sunday only to be rejected by the same crowds on Maundy Thursday as he is betrayed and denied; journey to the foot of the cross on Good Friday and lament the brutality of what took place; and then on Easter Sunday come and join us as we celebrate the risen Christ who offers us the hope of eternal life.

With every blessing
Shona

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

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Priest in Charge

The Revd Shona Hoad (07476 900623)

Churchwardens

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

The Golant Pill Committee

Editor	Gillie Harris	833897
Chairman	Simon Funnell	833343
Treasurer	Tony Strachan	833259
Typesetting	Gillie Harris	833897
Advertising	Mary Shelley	
		07475925610
Distribution	Jacky Fletcher	832615
Parish Diary	Penny Parsons	832727
Production	Simon Funnell	833343
	Sheila Funnell	833343
Golant Pill Facebook	Robin Anderson	832370
	Penny Parsons	832727
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.

A **65mm x 60mm**
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A+B **130mm x 60mm**
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A+B+C **195mm x 60mm**
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Additional £15 for colour for all sizes.

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.

Pill Paparazzi in this issue

RA	Robin Anderson
VB	Viviane Barr
NB	Nick Budd
GH	Gillie Harris
GP	Gill Paull
KW-W	Karen Wells-West

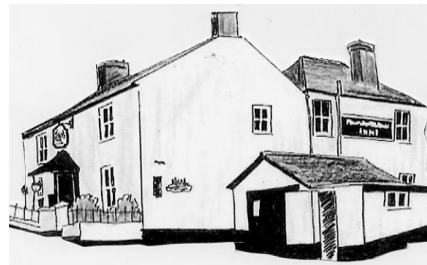
Fishing in Cornwall

'The fishing industry has always been a very important part of the Cornish economy. Many fish have dialect names. These include: anglemaine - monkfish; capel - longer - razor shellfish; chad - a young bream; dogga - dogfish; long nose - sea pike.'

Taken from '*Cornish Dialect*,' published by Bradwell Books

Licensee *Nick Budd* warmly welcomes you to:

From an original drawing by Karen Wells-West



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THE NEXT COPY DATE

Please note that the **Copy Date** for the June/July issue is

Wednesday 27th May

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

thegolantpill@gmail.com

Golant Gleanings

Backalong Newspaper Articles

An edited extract from the
Cornish Guardian, 3rd May, 1956

IS LOSTWITHIEL TO FOWEY LINE LIKELY TO CLOSE?

Under General Review Says Western Region
of British Railways

MAYORS OF THE TWO TOWNS STRESSED THE BRANCH'S IMPORTANCE

Golant Welfare

The clerk to St Austell Rural Council, Mr. W. M. Mitchell, explained that the chief concern of his council at the talks that have been held was for the welfare of the people of Golant.

"At present, the railway is their only link with Lostwithiel and Fowey," he said. "And it would be a long and hilly walk if they had to go to Castle Dore for a bus. Perhaps a bus service would be run down to the village if the branch line closed."

Cornish Guardian, 7th January 1965, 9 years later...

60 ENTHUSIASTS MADE SAD JOURNEY

The last passenger train ran along the picturesque branch railway line from Fowey to Lostwithiel on Saturday evening for Dr. Beeching's axe has severed another branch from the trunk of Cornwall's main line – unless local people, under Mr. Peter Bessel's vigorous leadership, succeed in their campaign.

It was, of course, a sad occasion which might explain the lack of any sort of demonstration or hilarity as the three-unit diesel pulled out of Fowey station at 7.15pm on its 15 minute run past the ships loading china clay, through the deserted Golant halt and on to Lostwithiel.

2026 Golant Sports and Carnival – now 8th August

The committee had previously agreed to hold Sports and Carnival on 15th August in conjunction with Madness in the Pill because of the lack of Carnival participants last year. We hoped that by combining the two events on the same day it would encourage more fancy-dress participants.

What we hadn't considered when we decided to hold Carnival and Madness on the same day, was the impact on *The Fisherman's* income by effectively removing one considerable earning opportunity for our pub and clearly, we want to support the pub as much as possible.

So, in discussion with our great pub team, the Carnival Committee has decided to move the date for **Sports and Carnival** to the **8th August** but keep Madness on the **15th August**.

Reinstating Sports and Carnival as a stand-alone event does mean that we need the village to support it, otherwise our fear is that numbers will drop below a critical mass. These are very much events for villagers and their families, and we really appreciate those with children and grandchildren encouraging them to participate in the Sports. For various reasons, last year, participation in the Carnivals fancy-dress was a bit thin. Only one category had more than one entry, and some had none. We are looking at revising the Carnival categories, but we would really welcome a strong turn-out! Groups can consider getting their wonderful outfits to do double duty at Carnival and Madness.

We hope this decision doesn't mess with any arrangements you may have already made, and if it does, then we apologise but hope you understand our reasoning.

Carnival Committee

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Tel. Bridget on 07854 735205 or Martin on 07877 798180

Taking the Pill 1

We've had quite an adventure travelling with a group of 6 x 24-38 yr olds & Shirou, our interesting and fun Bornean guide. We think we've got pot holes in Cornwall? Come to Borneo and bump your way around the Highlands to the first stop, a rustic but welcoming Homestay. Food is mainly Asian and tricky for Lizzy who is allergic to chilli! Hotel food offers endless worldwide choices especially at the breakfast buffet - our Sea Food Diet works a treat!!

The wild gardens are full of beautiful exotic blooms like Bougainvillea, Hibiscus, Frangipane and a pastel violet creeper. We saw Swimming Monitor Lizards, Orangutans, Sun Bears (only in Sipolok Rehabilitation Centre in the Rain Forest where we had 4 days of torrential rains!), Proboscis & Silver Tail Monkeys, Salt Water Crocodiles, Herons, Egrets, Kingfishers, Pied Hornbills to name but a few.



Lizzy Smart (*with a Pill*) below The Petronas Towers, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Lizzy & Simon Smart

Taking the Pill 2

Trying to share the good news of the Pill with the less than interested residents of the Nile on our recent trip to Uganda!



Ian Loughton

Spot the Logo on his back!



Yes – it is Dave Jenkinson of *Cornwall Landscaping* hard at work on the Upper Downs, as described in the cover story of this issue!



We are a local garden landscaping company focused on designing, constructing and maintaining gardens to the highest standard with a professional service at competitive prices.

Our services include

-  Patios & stone work
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-  Tree surgery
-  Garden design
-  Turfing

For more information please contact Dave Jenkinson on 07872 965920 / 01726 832084 or email cornwall.landscaping@gmail.com



The Boatwatch Spring Get-Together will be held at 12.00 on Saturday, 2nd May. Maybe it will be sunny by then. As in recent years, the event will be a barbecue around the Boatwatch Hut and Jason and Amanda Cross's boathouse.

There will be a free beef or veggie burger and glass of refreshment for all members, with further food and drink available to purchase. Members can bring guests, who will get a drink and burger, at a charge of £5 per head. We will send out an e-mail in early April to ask members to let us know if they are planning to attend, so we can cater for the numbers.

If you are new to the Village and not a member, you can come along to the event and join on the day. If you would like to join before that, you will find a membership form and instructions on how to join on the Boatwatch website at:

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

At the barbecue, we will be selling tickets and holding the raffle draw for the David Parry original painting of a Kittiwake, shown here. As ever, we are very grateful to David for his generous donation. He hopes to be in Golant on the day.



By mid-April we will have extended the CCTV coverage of the Pill and the frape walkway. This will give better coverage at the Village Green end of the Pill, and a view along the frapes unobstructed by the railway. We have had two recent requests, including one from the Police, to examine the CCTV footage. In both cases it was possible to see that no inappropriate activities had taken place at, or from, the Quay.

Signs of spring have appeared, so let's hope it stops raining and warms up a bit so we get boats ready for the water. It is a good time now to dig out your out-board(s) and find out whether they will start and keep running. Better to find out now rather than find yourself drifting down the river.

Again, for your diaries – we will hold flotillas this year in June and August, the first being on the evening of 2nd June. The second flotilla will be an afternoon tea on the river on 11th August. Details to follow later in the year.

David Bonsall, Chairman, Golant Boatwatch

Golant Quay Users Association

We will be holding our AGM on Thursday April 30th at 7.30pm in Golant Village Hall.

We would appeal to volunteers to help with our annual Pill Clean-up on Saturday 13th June at 10.00. Meeting at *The Fishermans* for Nick's bacon/vegan butties to build up your strength.

We have submitted our Port and Marine Facility Safety Code to the Government web-site and the relevant part to FHC, who said they were glad to see Quay Users proactive approach to safety within the Pill.

We have made a further donation of £600 towards Boatwatch plans to extend the CCTV coverage both in the Quay and the Road areas.

Now that the weather is improving, we hope to see members venturing outside and starting to get their boats ready for the season. The improvement in the weather will now enable us to continue with the new mooring chains for the bridge area and a new section further along the Pill.

We also have some planned maintenance to the Quay; this will include some repointing and relaying of a granite stone.

Ian Barker & Peter Edwards

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

Review of GRADS REVUE!

On the very cusp of January ... do you remember, Golanters? ... we were treated to a veritable smorgasbord that truly showed the talent that is buried in this wonderful village. We were led through a menu of sketches starting, appropriately, with 'the gang' (Martin W, Ali, Martyn, Robin, Estelle, Steve P and Paul M) ably demonstrating the frustration of suitable restaurant attire, although to describe Paul M's attire as suitable is stretching it! Later on, the same gang reminded us so accurately of all those failed adolescent romances at the back of the cinema.

Martyn followed with a wonderful rendition of lewd Spoonerisms, followed by Ali, Martyn, Paul M, Estelle and Steve P in a doctor's nightmare failed operation. Dave J then gave a lovely guitar solo. Martin W and Steve P gave an hilarious masterclass on beach ball juggling, but were put to shame by lovely old video footage of Hugh Elworthy and Joe Hunter performing the same sketch so much more professionally!

'Would I Lie to You' – the panel game – included Sue R, Ali, Martin W and Simon H, and was eminently chaired by Giles H. Then the nightmare of failed online deliveries was portrayed so accurately by Penny P, Caroline H and Peter E.

The Ladies Handbell group (Becky, Cris D, Siobhan, Ruth V, Louise and Kay), freed from the shackles of their normal conductor(!), performed a beautiful sequence of popular tunes, and were followed by Sue R and Robin showing their boating skills to the dulcet tones of Simon H as the Shipping Forecaster.

Dave Goss gave a one-man song accompanied by a guitar – spoilt only by an extremely rude heckler who walked out.

The superb show ended in great style with 'The Whistling Midgets' – Steve P, Martin W, Robin and Paul M.

Many thanks to GRADS for presenting this biennial event, Martyn H for pulling it together, Ian B and Steve P for stage managing, Dave B on sound, Andrew van den B on lights and Simon R for professional recording for all for posterity.

Panto next year!

Jeremy Lloyd-Evans



Flashback to 2017 (*above*) with Hugh & Jo's beach ball juggling, inspiring Martyn and Steve to repeat this hilarious sketch (*right*)



The very colourful Boating sketch



The Whistling Midgets in their amazing costumes

Golant Village Hall

A reminder about groups using the Village Hall.

The calendar at the rear of the Pill editions show dates of activities within the Parish.

Some parishioners may not know, or have forgotten, the groups and activities which are open to new members and attendees.

Coffee, tea, cake and chatter, along with books and jigsaws to hire. It is held on the first Friday of every month and starts at 10.30 am. This is an opportunity to meet new parishioners and catch up with friends and neighbours. It is an informal event.

C Fyln takes place on the last Friday of the month. A relaxed event, with carefully chosen films. Parishioners can ask if they would like a specific one to be sourced. Doors open at 7 pm, film starts at 7.30 pm. Booking is required, details provided by Maurie Mail. You are welcome to bring your own drink. It is a little like BFI Southbank, but closer to home.

Other groups who hire the hall regularly are the **Book Group** on the 2nd Tuesday in each month at 7 pm.; **Golant Heritage Group** also on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the afternoon; there are two **yoga** sessions per week held on Monday and Thursday; **table tennis** meets on Wednesday evening at 6 pm - all levels welcome - and the **line dancing** group occupies the hall on Monday night.

If you require any further information, please contact Fayre Hardy (fairyhardy@btinternet.com)

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, CFyln 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.

See page 11, opposite, for some exciting events planned for April and May in the Village Hall, as well as Carol Gabb's reports on Golant Film Club and La Soupe Populaire.

Golant Village Hall's Report on Activities in 2025

The Treasurer reported on the accounts in general at the February Committee meeting, which during 2025 showed an excess of income over expenditure, mainly relating to the successful fundraising events held throughout the year. These events fortunately offset the poor performances of the investment funds. The bank account holds funds for GRADS, Produce and Craft Show, Easter Fun Day and a fund for the Christmas tree lights replacement when the need arises.

The cost of utilities, building maintenance, regulatory licences and insurance in 2026 is budgeted at £4,695.

The approved Trustees report and accounts as submitted to the charity commission are available for anyone to view if they wish to look in more detail.

The Social & Fundraising subcommittee meet regularly to oversee the organisation of activities to balance the Charity's goals of meeting the charitable objectives of public benefit, and the raising sufficient funds.

The Committee continued to spend money on refurbishment, having received a grant from Cornwall Council towards accessibility improvements which included the reconfiguring of the external access steps, a mirror aiding safe exit from the hall onto the road and various audio items to improve sound for the hearing impaired. This work has been completed, and the grant funds have been fully expended.

Those who hired the hall during 2025 were: Quay Users Association; Golant Heritage Group; Friends of the Fowey Estuary; Boat Watch Association; St Sampson Parish Council; private parties; table tennis, yoga, reading group, murder mystery and line dancing. We also hired out the Village Hall furniture and glasses for parties. GRADS committee and the Produce and Craft show committee, both now formally back under the 'umbrella' of the Village Hall, are using the venue for their events, as did the big coffee morning in aid of Macmillan.

In total there were approximately 230 sessions when an activity of some kind went on in the Hall. The Committee supported and organised the monthly bookshelf, fyln nights, winter soupe, film on the green, the revue, produce and craft show, wreath making; Christmas mini market, with performances through Carn to Cove (Go Away Cat) and David Mynn (Christmas Carol); along with the annual Meet and Greet, Easter fun day and the Good Friday egg hunt. They also organised a VJ Day afternoon tea in the Village Hall and VE Day celebrations.

Fayre Hardy
Treasurer of Golant Village Hall
Registered Charity no.21367


Coming to a Hall (or on behalf of a hall) near you...!!

“Black Holes I’ve Known”
by ~~JLS~~ **JLE**
(Jeremy Lloyd-Evans)

Golant Village Hall
Saturday 18th April 2026
7:00 for 7:30pm start

Entry FREE,
donations welcome

Booking essential
tel : 01726 833557
email : cagabb23@gmail.com



Presented by Golant Village Hall.
All proceeds will go to Golant Village Hall - Registered Charity number: 213607

SPRING PLANT SALES



on
Saturday 2nd May
11:00 til' 16:00

on Jackie & Neil's parking area,
top of Fore Street
(3 Golant Farm)



All proceeds go to 2026 Produce and Craft Show,
Golant Village Hall, Registered Charity number: 213607

QUIZ NIGHT

on
Tuesday 12th May
at the Village Hall
7:00 for 7:30pm start

£2 per person
Teams of 6 - Maximum

Space limited!

avoid disappointment
register your team NOW via email
golantvillagehall@gmail.com

All proceeds go to Golant Village Hall,
Registered Charity number: 213607

Golant Film Club

The first of the annual renewals took place in February for 2026, using the new membership fees of £8, £10 or £12. Membership covers no charge for the film on the night of renewal and using your membership card enables visiting other CFylm venues around various parts of Cornwall. Each venue sets its own fee for attending a CFylm showing and can be booked online or at the door. Golant remains booking via Carol Gabb 01726 833445 or cagabb23@gmail.com and cash payment at the door.

Volunteers set-up the film, check the sound, move tables and chairs, undertake the varied administration, attend CFylm meetings and review many films. Due to the decreasing numbers and the work involved in setting up and dismantling the projector and speakers there will be no Film on the Green this year.

La Soupe Populaire

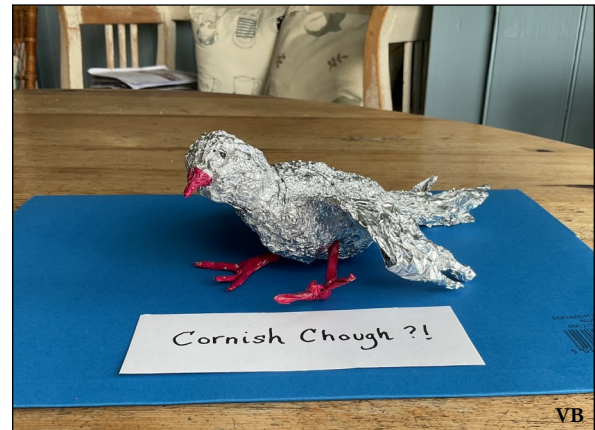
The soup season started well and then hit a blip; huge thanks to Nick at the *Fisherman's Arms* who kindly stepped in and donated soup. Normal service was resumed in the New Year, and as the soup season has now finished, we look forward to a new menu recommencing in October. Many thanks to the villagers who frequently come to the village hall or enjoy a delivery. Volunteers ensure the tables are beautifully set, and there is always a warm welcome.

Carol Gabb

Gool Peran Lowen (Happy St Piran's Day)

Alright, my Lovers, on Thursday 5th March, *The Fisherman's* went proper bleddy Cornish, I tell you, with its annual St Piran's Day Celebrations. The evening started with a full blown bakery competition, with Homemade Pasties and bakes on display.

We had Traditional Steak Pasties, Cheese & Onion Oggies and imaginative Alternative fillings. It was a clean sweep for Matthew and Sophie Hearnden, who won best Traditional, Cheese & Onion and Alternative, and the best other Cornish dish was claimed by Penny Parsons, with her experimental Gluten Free Cornish Fairing. Our fair judging panel of Chris & Henry Taylor (*below, tucking in!*) made short work of the pasty participants.



This year, we went down the mine and had some fantastic entrants for the best Tin Foil Sculpture (suggested by Penny Parsons), which was a fantastic addition, and although there were some brilliant Cornish Pump Houses and a delightful Owl, the winner was Viviane Barr, with her beautiful Cornish Chough (*above*).

After a silly quiz, we got to the matter of a proper Cornish Sing Song, with Chris & Henry Taylor and Penny Parsons leading the fine (?) voices of the assembled crowd. At 9pm, a traditional Trelawny Shout was held, and we hope great fun was had by all. We hope you will all join us dreckly next year.

Nick Budd

St Piran

Piran, sometimes given as Perran or Pirran, was a 6th century abbot who came to be regarded as the patron saint of tanners and the traditional saint of Cornwall. The Cornish flag carries the white St Piran's Cross on a black background.



In Cornwall, he is commemorated in several places including Perranporth, where he was supposed to have founded his first church, as well as Perranarworthal, Perranuthnoe & Perranzabuloe, where in the Middle Ages, the saint's relics were kept in a shrine.

In the reign of Elizabeth I, Piran's skull, together with his staff and a copper bell were preserved, but they disappeared by the beginning of the 17th Century.

Information taken from 'The Cornish Saints', by Peter Berresford Ellis, published by Tor Mark Press, Penryn

Nature Notes

Well, apparently Spring is officially here - although as I'm writing this we are back to wind, wet & cold! But we have enjoyed some actual dry sunny days, and several in a row, which has made life so much easier. It has been a bit frantic trying to get many long overdue outdoor jobs done now, but how lovely not to have to be covered from head to toe in muddy water-proofs!

We enjoyed a beautiful spring afternoon for the Equinox celebration on the green - I managed to find enough spring flowers to decorate a hat, and crystallized primroses to decorate the lemon cake. Thanks as always to Penny for organising, Chris for his Green Man, and everyone who brought cake, and donated. I also understand that a certain part of the ceremony was written by Mike Harris - so Mike, you were also present in your words!



Every day when we walk about, we watch for the first leaves and blossoms to appear - normally it is one of our largest Birches, but sadly that was a victim of storm Goretta, so one of our Guelder Roses (not a rose, but a Viburnum shrub) took the prize, closely followed by a Crab Apple, and Elder. Everything seems to be flowering earlier this year - at least with the Blackthorns, Plums, Redcurrants and Jostaberries. This issue may be the lack of pollinators. I understand that many colonies of honeybees perished this autumn/winter, and although they account for only a small part of whole pollination picture, there appear to be very few other bees about, so this may impact those plants this year - good thing I preserved as much of last years as I could!



Yet again, the Primroses have been incredible; every year we see them spreading across more and more space. I crystallise as many as I can - they keep very well in an air-tight container, and I use them throughout the year to decorate cakes. The Wild Garlic of course is ever abundant - this year I have been flavouring olive oil, and also dehydrating it, then grinding in into power for later in the year. I always await its arrival, get very excited, then almost fed up with it, then wish I had done more to preserve it when it's gone, so I am trying harder this year!

And we have one glorious patch of Cowslips - these were a small tray of seedlings given to me by Gillie & Mike. They are planted at the bottom of a shallow bank - underneath some beautiful white double Rosa Rugosa that were Diana Luck's favourite, so I have a little Golant corner - not far from Evelyn Parson's bright pink Rhododendron!

Our fabulous wood group has managed to cut and chop an amazing amount of stuff this winter. Much of it was dead Ash trees, along with the casualties of Storm Goretta. This left a bare patch in the Sanctuary field, which of course David couldn't resist planting with more... yep, apples! Apparently, these were on a 'wish list', and *Adam's Apples* near Honiton just happened to have them available... And as tradition dictates we planted them on a foggy, damp day in lovely muddy ground... So to balance this, I am now trying to bring on some tree seedlings, of the types we already have, to fill some other gaps, before we are overrun with fruit trees!

I am also experimenting with Mushroom growing - I bought mushroom spawn that is grown on wooden dowels. You then have to find logs that are between 2 and 6 weeks felled, drill lots of holes, bang the dowels in, seal with wax, and then keep shady, watered and protected from wind for anything up to several years! The hope is that the first ones will appear within a year, but who knows - I thought it was worth a try.

We are lucky to hear Owls around here - mainly Tawny Owls, but rarely get to see them. However, I came across some Owl pellets the other day, almost right outside the building. They were fascinating - full of hair, bones and tiny teeth! (*right*)

Thank you to those who came and had a look around the place last weekend. It was lovely to welcome some new faces as well as familiar ones. Of course, the next planned walk about will be for the Golant Open Orchards weekend - more of which will no doubt appear elsewhere in the Pill! We will have refreshments, and would love donations towards the charity *Landworks* - we came across them recently in Dartington, Devon, and they provide land based training for people who have left prison or are in danger of going to prison. Many of us realise the transformative effect of working in nature, but not everyone has that opportunity.

I am also working on an Orchard Map, which I hope will be ready - I had to use aerial photographs and 'what 3 words' app, but David's labels and his mapping don't always correspond - wish me luck!



ST SAMPSON PARISH COUNCIL

Public Toilet

Alongside the renovation of the Upper Downs Path, the public toilet has also had a complete makeover. The planning and work for this project was overseen by Paul Meredith and completed by Andrew van den Broek, and anyone who's seen it will agree that a super job has been done. This work was largely funded by the CIL money the Parish Council receive if there is development in the area. The refurbishment should make the space more hygienic and also easier to clean, reducing cost of maintenance over time. It is worth noting that CIL money must be spent on infrastructure projects within the Parish, hence the renovation of the toilet.

Saints Way Signage

The signage for the Saints Way has been improved and made a bit clearer by our two resident saints, Simon Hubner and David Bonsall (their haloes shineth). This should reduce confusion for walkers and more clearly highlight the route through the village. My thanks is extended to them both.

Precept

Many of you will have noted that the precept has seen quite a significant uptick this year in percentage terms. The reasons for this are many; however, they can be explained quite simply in terms of 'catching up with past inflation' and 'building sustainable reserves'. In the past, the precept has failed to keep up with costs, not just inflationary, but also our acquisition of devolved assets from the County Council. The increase this year represents an opportunity to catch up, so that we can run a balanced budget alongside the income we receive from the carpark. The other facet is to be able to build reserves, so that planned or unplanned capital projects may be covered without impacting on the day-to-day cash flow of the Parish Council. We thank all Parishioners for their support and tolerance of this rise, and can assure you all that the money raised will be put to good use.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter from the Parish Council, and will no doubt see many of you over the bank holiday, whether this is at Church, at the Easter parade and celebrations, or merely in the pub having a refreshing pint; have a great bank holiday all.

Chris Taylor - Chairman St. Sampson Parish Council

Hither and Thither in Cornwall

*The Treffry Viaduct which spans Luxulyan Valley is 100 feet high and cost £7,000 to build.

*Pencarrow was the first home in Cornwall for the tree *Araucaria Imbricata*, commonly known as the Monkey Puzzle. A visitor, having made too close an inspection, remarked, "It would be a puzzle for a monkey".

*Passmore Edwards, in his biography, tells us about a visit he made to Bodmin in 1840 to see the hanging of two brothers called Lightfoot, condemned for the murder of Neville Norway. Edwards walked from Truro, covering a distance of 44 miles there and back.

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

Thank You!

A belated thanks to all who supported the village Christmas Fayre at *Bar Silo* and *The Fisherman's Arms*, and apologies for not submitting this article after Christmas! Just to say that we raised just over £1,000 for charity, most of which went to St Petroc's homeless charity, and the rest to the Fowey community bus.

A big thanks to Paul, the volunteer bus driver, Giles Harrison and Kitchensync, Sandy Keenan & Joe Andrews for all the social media, the elves(!), and, of course, Nick, Ann & Chris at *The Fisherman's Arms*!

The event was a great success, with many traders reporting better sales than at Fowey Christmas market.

We look forward to doing it all again next December!

Thanks again.

Ruth Taylor & Debbie Andrews



Friends of the Fowey Estuary were delighted to welcome an enthusiastic crowd of locals, visitors, and long-standing supporters to Readymoney Beach for this year's 'Love Your Beach' day in collaboration with Cornwall Wildlife Trust, held on 14th February. The event celebrated the community's shared love for this special beach and their commitment to keeping it clean, cared for, and cherished.

Some 40 volunteers worked together to collect numerous bags of litter, plastics and fishing line that had washed up in recent storms - helping to protect both the shoreline and the wildlife.

There was also 'heart themed' crafting activities bringing joy to everyone. And the sun even made a rare but very welcome appearance, lifting spirits and making the celebration feel even brighter.

Friends of the Fowey Estuary extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined in. Your efforts and enthusiasm truly embody what it means to love your beach.

We have agreed with the Harbour Office to survey the non-native Pacific Oyster area that were previously 'bashed' to see if those areas need further attention. If they do, then we will ask for volunteers to help with their removal.

We have a Rockpool event at Readymoney Beach on 19th April and will advertise the times nearer the date.

Peter Edwards/Lorraine

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Join the Village Hall

on
**Good Friday 3rd April for
Easter Egg Trail**

Spot 20 numbered wooden 'eggs' hanging around the village



Collect
Entry Forms from
the **Easter Bunny**
on the **Village Green**
from **2:00pm**

Return completed forms to the Village Green by 4:30pm for a chocolatey reward!
(Donated by the Sanctuary)

PLUS for the 5 & unders....

Cotton Tail Bunny Trail

on the Village Green



*Presented by Golant Village Hall,
Registered Charity number: 213607*

Join the Village Hall

on
**Easter Sunday 5th April
at The Fisherman's Arms**

Easter Bonnet & Decorated Egg competitions

Classes 0-5yrs, 6-12yrs, 13yr-should know better,
plus Family / Group

Entries from 12:30, Judging at 2:00

also
Name the Doggie, Eggs in the Jar & Prize Raffle

**Egg Rolling (Hard Boiled),
Egg & Spoon Races and Egg Throwing (Fresh Eggs)**

Prizes donated by
The Fisherman's Arms &
The Village Hall

Fresh Eggs provided by
Davey's Cracking Good Eggs,
Trenulefoot



Easter Fun Day

All proceeds go towards Golant Village Hall,
Registered Charity number: 213607



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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

Age doesn't always bring wisdom.
 A lot of the time age turns up all by itself.

The only sport left for me now is hunting for my glasses.

Published by Past Times



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A Cornish Maid's Recipe Corner

Panna Cotta with Roasted Rhubarb



Delicious new season English rhubarb matches well with this light and creamy Italian dessert, and can be made a day ahead.

Serves 5-6 depending on the size of your moulds.

Roasted Rhubarb

500g/ 1lb 2 oz Rhubarb, cut into 3cm/ 1¼ in. pieces
2 tbsp Caster Sugar
4 tbsp Apple Juice

Panna Cotta

75g/ 2½ oz Caster Sugar
150ml/ 5 fl oz Double Cream
2 leaves Gelatine ** - See note below
300ml/ 11 fl oz Buttermilk

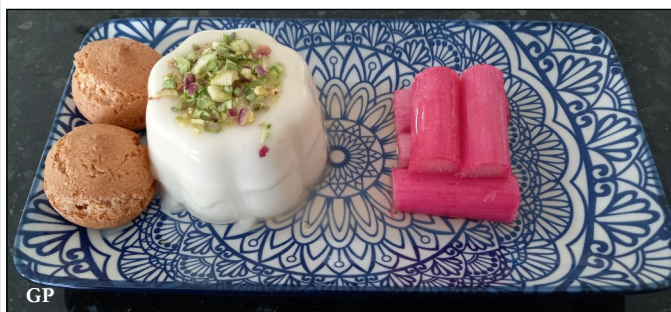
Optional extras

Pistachios
Italian Amaretti Biscuits
Cornish Clotted Cream Shortbread

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C/180°F/Gas Mark 6.
2. Soak the gelatine in a bowl of water until soft.
3. Place the rhubarb onto a roasting tray, sprinkle over the sugar and then drizzle over the apple juice. Roast in the oven for 8-12 minutes, or until just tender. Leave on one side to cool.
4. Add the sugar & cream to a saucepan and bring to a simmer, stirring continuously until the sugar dissolves.
5. Squeeze the excess water from the softened gelatine leaves and add the gelatine to the sugar & cream. Continue to simmer until dissolved.
6. Set aside for about 5 minutes to cool slightly.
7. Add the buttermilk and stir until well combined.
8. Place your dariole moulds on a baking tray. Pour in the panna cotta mixture to each of your moulds and chill in the fridge for 1-2 hours, or until set.
9. To serve, remove the panna cotta from the fridge. Briefly dip each mould about ⅔rds of the way into a bowl of boiled water, then turn each panna cotta out onto a serving plate.
10. Serve with the roasted rhubarb and juices, adding a few chopped pistachios for decoration.
11. I added Italian amaretti biscuits, or perhaps make some Cornish clotted cream shortbread (see p 37 of *Auntie Paddy's Recipe Book*.)

** Note: Gelatine leaves – I actually used 3 leaves based on the instructions of *Dr. Oetker Platinum Grade Leaf Packet*, and still achieved the 'panna cotta wobble.'

Gill Paull



GP



Years ago, gardeners wouldn't sow **Broad Beans** after the middle of May because of the risk of a bad attack from that little blimber the Black Dolphin Aphid, better known as the Blackfly. But today there are plenty of insecticides to control any infestations you may get, and if you have sown any of the early cropping *Broad Beans* like *Aquadulce* or *Bunyards Exhibition* back in the autumn, then they will be well on in flower by now, and will need their tops pinched out. By taking out the tops of the *Beans* then that will deter these beastly little insects from making a mess of your crop. These tops can be cooked just like spinach and can be a useful addition to the table.

Also, whilst we'm on the subject of something for nort, when the overwintered crops of **Sprouts**, **Broccoli**, **Savoys**, **Swedes** and **Turnips** are finished, they will all send out young shoots that make handsome *Spring Greens*. This is because many of the garden crops are biennials, and in their first year they will produce whatever they'm supposed to, and then in their second year all they'm thinking about is to set seeds, and so out comes the new growth. But be mindful of the fact that they can throw out their flowers brave and quick, so don't hang about, or they'll soon go tough.

*Another seasonal extract from **John Kift's Gardening Year Book for May**, full of wit & wisdom and his usual fascinating and amusing 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

APRIL

Thursday 2 nd	6.00pm	Maundy Thursday <i>Readings, Music and Reflections</i>	St Sampson's
Friday 3 rd	2pm - 4.30pm	Good Friday Easter Egg Hunt	Village Green
Sunday 5 th	9.30am	Easter Day, Holy Communion <i>Choir & Handbells</i>	St Sampson's
Sunday 5 th	12.30pm onwards	Easter Fun Day	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 5 th	12.30pm - 4.30pm	BBQ (no roast)	Fisherman's Arms
Monday 6 th	10am-10pm	Pub open	
	10am-11.30am breakfast	baps/12pm-2.15pm lunches/ 6pm-8pm dinners	
Friday 10 th	10.30am	Coffee, tea, cake, books, chat <i>(Note date change due to Easter)</i>	Village Hall
Sunday 12 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Saturday 18 th	7.30pm	'Black Holes' A talk by Jeremy Lloyd-Evans	Village Hall
Sunday 19 th		Roast by the River <u>or</u> Buffet by the Boats <i>(Weather depending)</i>	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 19 th	6.00pm	Evensong	St Sampson's
Thursday 23 rd	12-2.15pm/6pm-8.15pm	St George's Day British Menu	Fisherman's Arms
Friday 24 th	7.30pm	CFylm <i>(booking required)</i>	Village Hall
Sunday 26 th	9.30am	Holy Communion (followed by burial of ashes of Vilma Dunley)	St Sampson's
Sunday 26 th	10am - 4pm	Golant Open Orchards Blossom Day <i>(See GHG)</i>	Various Orchards
Sunday 26 th		Roast by the River <u>or</u> Buffet by the Boats <i>(Weather depending)</i>	Fisherman's Arms
Tuesday 28 th	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Wednesday 29th	Copy Date	<i>The Golant Pill</i>	thegolantpill@gmail.com
Thursday 30 th	7.30pm	Golant Quay Users Association AGM	Village Hall

MAY

Friday 1 st	10.30am	Coffee, tea, cake, books, chat	Village Hall
Saturday 2 nd	12 noon	Boat Watch Spring Get Together	Boatwatch Shed
Saturday 2 nd	2.00pm	Plant Sale	Parking area, Golant Farm
Sunday 3 rd	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Sunday 3 rd	12pm -3pm	Buffet by the Boats	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 10 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Sunday 10 th	12pm -3pm	Buffet by the Boats	Fisherman's Arms
Tuesday 12 th	7pm for 7.30pm start	Quiz Night	Village Hall
Friday 15 th	6pm-8pm	Sound Bath Experience <i>(Booking Essential)</i>	Village Hall
Sunday 17 th	12pm-3pm	Buffet by the Boats	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 17 th	6.00pm	Evensong	St Sampson's
Friday 22 nd -Monday 25 th		Beer Festival	Fisherman's Arms
-Friday & Saturday -		BBQ from 6pm – Live Music from 8.30pm	Fisherman's Arms
-Sunday & Monday 12pm-3pm -		Buffet by the Boats <i>(live music from 3pm ish)</i>	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 24 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Tuesday 26 th	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Friday 29 th	7.30pm	CFylm <i>(booking required)</i>	Village Hall
Sunday 31 st	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's

JUNE

Tuesday 2 nd	5.00pm	Boat Watch June Flotilla	from Golant Quay
Friday 5 th	10.30am	Coffee, tea, cake, books, chat	Village Hall

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