



River Project Launched



An appreciative audience listened with rapt attention to Dendy as he talked with passion about the pictures he owns.

What a perfect way to launch our project on Golant and the River, with a superb turn out for Dendy Easton's relaxed and unassuming talk about his work.

Dendy brought with him several paintings of local interest, and introduced us to each of them chronologically, bringing them to life with details of their provenance, their significance for him as a collector and how he came to own them. It was a wonderful opportunity to be able to view the actual pre-railway paintings of Golant at close quarters, identifying recognisable landmarks and reflecting on how the village must have been at that time.

Dendy has been active in the world of fine art since 1971, spending some thirty years working for *Sotheby's* before becoming a consultant for *Bonhams*, although he may now be best known for his appearances as an expert on *Antiques Roadshow*. He talked fondly of his passion for fine art, about what led him into the world of paintings and some of the significant milestones in his career.

But his overriding message to us was that, rather than buying paintings as an investment, it is wise to buy them because you like them. He gave a number of examples of how the art world is precarious and how paintings can dramatically drop in value as fashions change.

Having outlined our initial ideas for the Golant and the River project in the last issue, and having explained our ideas in greater detail in the meeting that followed Dendy's talk, it was very rewarding to receive much enthusiastic feedback, and to find lots of memories and anecdotes starting to bubble to the surface.

The hope is to begin a series of workshops in the New Year, including a session on research skills. In the meantime, if you have any snippets which you think might be of interest, please do write them down and send them to us. Let's make this our best Community Heritage project yet!

Penny Parsons

The Village Graveyard

‘Do you mean the churchyard?’ is the question most will ask. They are one and the same thing, and the graveyard needs your help.

St Sampson’s churchyard, as most refer to it, is the burial ground for our Parish of St Sampson, and as such any parishioner has the right to end his or her days there. The graveyard contains the bones and ashes of Church of England followers, Methodists, Quakers, Roman Catholics, and atheists! It is, like the church itself, an asset for the whole village.

‘Why,’ you may ask, ‘can’t the church pay for the churchyard?’

St Sampson’s Church is the only Grade I listed building in Golant. It is true that, over the years, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) has built up a significant Fabric Fund (to which many villagers have most generously contributed – thank you), as well as making huge improvements to the church fabric, both inside and out. It is vital, however, that this fund is kept intact as repairs to a Grade I listed building are a huge liability on a small parish such as ours.

The outgoings of the church are well over £20,000 a year (some years have significant fabric repair costs). Last year the running costs totalled £28,000, which included repairs to the organ, towards which the Parish Council generously donated £1,000, for which we were very grateful. The bulk of the running expenses, however, are paid for, willingly and cheerfully, by the regular congregation, small though it is. The church is there for the whole village, and is used at key moments in life: Christenings, weddings, and, sadly, funerals and memorial services. The village particularly enjoys the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols and the Cornish Christmas service, as well as major services at Harvest Festival, Easter and Remembrance Sunday. It is the regular worshippers who make these services possible, by paying our share of the vicar’s stipend, our contribution to the Mission and Ministry Fund required by the Truro Diocese, and also paying to light and heat the church and, at Christmas time, ensure the church is candle-lit. You might think that weddings and funerals bring in a significant income: they do not. The charges are relatively low, and the Diocese takes a cut – and the number of weddings is small!

The cost of maintaining the graveyard is also borne by the regular congregation, and this is now creeping towards £2,000 annually, as much of the tree and hedge trimming and the strimming has to be done by outside contractors. For many years Mike Harris organised volunteers to maintain this churchyard, but advancing age and stringent insurance and health and safety requirements no longer make volunteer labour a viable option.

Recently an application was made to our Parish Council to help with the churchyard maintenance, on the grounds that this is a village asset which many families have made use of, and many more will make use of in the future. Unfortunately this request was refused. The PCC has to plan ahead in order to set up maintenance contracts for the year, and, in the light of the Parish Council’s decision not to help with funding, we are now having to decide how to proceed. We cannot ask the congregation to pay even more, as the basic church maintenance costs are, as you can see above, formidable.

Thus we are faced with the prospect of having to reduce maintenance of the churchyard, and this is to explain that, in the absence of extra funding, the churchyard will be cut less often and hedge trimming will be drastically reduced. We do not want the churchyard to look uncared for, and we do not want those families who have graves and memorials to think that we are disrespecting their loved ones. We do have to face economic reality, though, and the PCC’s primary responsibility must be to maintain regular worship at St Sampson and ensure proper maintenance of the church itself.

It is also worth remembering that the church stands on The Saints’ Way, and for all those walkers the churchyard is their first view of Golant. Also, with the increasing interest in genealogy, more and more people visit and make use of Gillie’s excellent grave and memorial map. One look at the Visitors’ Book will show how appreciative people are of the way both church and graveyard are kept at present. The churchyard/graveyard is for the whole parish, and thus the War Memorial stands as an integral part of our village history.



We are extremely grateful to those villagers who have supported the maintenance of the church through donations to the Fabric Fund. If you feel, as we do, that the upkeep of our village graveyard is also important, then please either give us your ideas for putting the maintenance of this area on a sustainable footing, or lobby your Parish Councillors to change their mind over support for the graveyard. There is much work that needs doing, and we need help if we are to make this area an asset to the village and a fitting burial ground for relatives and friends.

Simon Funnell & Mike Harris

FROM THE EDITOR

I know that I shall cause him embarrassment but I'm still going to extend my thanks to Robin Anderson for supplying us with so many wonderful photographs. Many are used, also, on our very own *Facebook* (see p12) as well as for *Boatwatch* and other local websites.

Taking photographs in the village hall is never easy- I know that only too well! Robin managed to capture the mood of the audience who were captivated by the talk given by Dendy Easton about his paintings which highlight Golant and other local scenes.

Then Robin sent a series of pictures of a rehearsal for the next production in the hall- *The Wizard of Oz*. We've squeezed one in opposite! What a joy it is to see the faces of the youngsters (& the adults!) so excited by the antics and enthusiasm of the director, Martin Whell! We look forward to seeing them all on the stage in February 2018.

What a time it has been for three of our villagers: Dorothy Rickwood, who has just celebrated her 94th birthday, and Evelyn Parsons & Pat Robins who both became 90 years old. Super parties were organised to mark all three special events and these are covered on page 8.

The Golant Heritage Group has set about collecting information from the past with great success- photographs, documents, recordings of older villagers with memories of past days and so on. Our committee has presented the group with a memory disc on which all the issues of *The Golant Pill* have been saved for generations to come. Future issues of the newsletter will be added.

Nadelik Lowen ha Blydhen Nowydh Da!
A Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year!



Mike Harris



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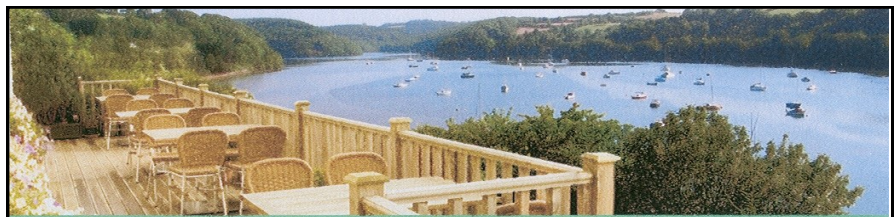
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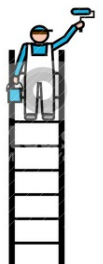
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There was a lot of interest for Ivor Bowditch's talk on the China Clay Industry. Laced with some fascinating anecdotes, his illustrated presentation took us from the early beginnings of the industry, through the busy times of the 1960s when English China Clays was one of Cornwall's major employers, and up to the modern day. The impact that the industry has had on reshaping Cornwall's landscape and the St Austell area in particular, is immense, but it is also reassuring to know about the efforts to return much of the ravaged land to natural habitats and places to enjoy. If you have never visited Carloggas Downs' 'reclaimed heathland' near Stenalees, then it is well worth it on a clear day, if only to get an overview of the extent of the china clay district, and to enjoy far reaching coastal views.

Golant Heritage Group has a busy time coming up in 2018, and we are hoping for lots of community involvement on any level. Whilst we are embarking on our next major project of ***Golant and the River*** (see front page), we will continue to collect memories and to build an online archive, which we hope will become accessible during the next year.

Meanwhile in the 'big wide world', Cornish Archives Network, led by Tamsin Mallett, principle archivist at *Cornwall Records Office*, is developing a Quality Standard Mark for Cornish heritage/history groups, archives and museums, which will fall in line with other nationally recognised schemes. This is still in the draft stages, and is intended to be used both as guidance and as an accreditation scheme, with different entry levels to allow for the wide diversity of groups in Cornwall. GHG is one of three groups on the Pilot for this, representing the small groups, for whom the value lies in the use of the guidance notes to help us in our practice. However, who knows, in time we may feel that we tick enough boxes to apply for a lower level category award!

Penny Parsons, GHG Chairman

Golant Really Amateur Dramatic Society

presents

The Wizard of Oz

February 9th and 10th 2018

Tickets will go on sale
in the New Year.

Don't miss out! Book your seats
early through Viviane Barr (832454)

Christmas 2017 *IN BLOOM* Challenge

Can you help?

Keen Golantian gardeners may recall this photo from last Christmas of Liz Anderson's blooms still thriving in her garden.

She picked 33 different varieties, whilst I found 21. Between us, we identified 46 varied blooms in our Torfrey area.

We threw out a challenge to other

Golantians, especially those living down the hill, so that this year we can make a comprehensive list of blooms happily growing in our village gardens over this Christmas period. So this is your reminder challenge... You would need to identify any flowers, and send your findings to me. Meanwhile, please let Liz or me know if you are interested.



Any takers??

Gillie Harris

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Village Hall Committee

Well, it's coming to the end of another great year for the Village Hall. It has been topped by the Canvas Theatre's *Coastguard's Daughter* sell-out live performance, which was accompanied by our Golant choir. It truly was a fantastic evening. Well done, Penny Parsons, for your enthusiasm, organisational skills and drive.

Our Golant C-Film Club now has an incredible 60 members. The final films for 2017 were *Their Finest* in October and November's *Hidden Figures*. Thank you for your support. 2018 membership renewal starts in January.

Improvements to our Village Hall are continuing with new exterior decorative lighting to lift the hall's profile both for Christmas and for future functions.

Happy Christmas, everyone.

Paul Meredith, Chairman
Tel: 01726 832548 Mob: 07976757076

To book the hall, or for any enquiries,
contact Penny Parsons, at:
golantvillagehall@gmail.com
or tel no 01726 832727

Calling all Young Artists...

**Christmas is coming, and there is a
competition for you to enter.**

Turn to page 15 of this issue to read more.

GOOD LUCK!!

Pill Paparazzi in this issue

RA	Robin Anderson
AL	Anita Loring
KW-W	Karen Wells-West

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Is La Niña on the Way?

According to the more sensationalist press, it is this year, and so we may be in for a really cold winter. The answer is obviously to ensure we stay warm at home, and clearly we all want to pay less for our heating oil.

Through the Golant Oil Buying Gang, that is exactly what we do. For the last ten years around 25 households have bought oil together, to get a better price by buying bigger quantities and reducing delivery costs for the supplier. Although oil price margins are tighter this year and the wholesale price is on the way up, we regularly get at least 2p per litre off the one-off 500 litre price.

The system is very simple. We each still have our own account with the supplier but when a member needs oil, or about once every couple of months via an email or phone call, I collate the individual orders and send off the order to the supplier.

Currently our supplier is *Heltor*, who have the small tanker to get to all the difficult sites, but from time to time I check their deal against the other suppliers. Whilst sometimes, on a particular day, another supplier might be cheaper, overall we save a considerable amount of money.

The more people we have, the better the prices, so if you would like to join us, just let me know, and I'll send the joining instructions and member form.

*Ian Laughton, Waters Edge, Golant 01726 832442
ian@laughtons.org.uk*

139 years ago in Golant....!!

At *St Sampson's School* in 1878, "Log Books show for the first time the well-known local names of Blowey, Dyer and Rundle, the last appearing in December that year when a Mrs Rundle transferred her son to Tywardreath because her son tore his trousers at school, the Mistress being to blame for insufficient supervision. The Mistress's version was that the boy pulled himself through the hedge during recreation and, when he went home, told his mother that other boys had done it".

*Extract from **A School with a View** by John Jenkin*

Advertising Rates

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Additional £15 for colour for all sizes, and £10 for any alterations made during the year

Preferably, Artwork/Copy should be e-mailed to
golantpill@yahoo.co.uk

An invoice will then be sent to you by Karen Wells-West.

Alternatively, send your artwork or copy as required, together with an appropriate crossed cheque made out to
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to Karen Wells-West, Bloweys, Downs Hill, Golant, PL23 1LJ

The Golant Pill Production Team

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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.

Early Warning of Dates for next Summer's Fun....!!

Madness in the Pill

Sunday 12th August 2018
at about 3.30pm

Sports & Carnival

Saturday 18th August 2018
at 2pm

PE

**Pasture
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Live Theatre Attracts Full House at Village Hall

What a lot of talent we have in the village!

Live theatre came to the village hall last month when the Canvas Theatre treated us to a moving performance of *The Coastguard's Daughter* - a piece of original lyrical theatre and storytelling.

Supporting their small band of actors in a one-off performance especially for us were *The Golant Singers* - five of our own (Penny Parsons, Sue Reardon, Caroline Harvie, Karen Wells-West and Liz Barclay). They sang their hearts away treating us to sea shanties and hymns of the sea. How good did they sound.



The Golant Singers and all five Actors came together at the end of the show to sing *Cornwall My Home*

The Coastguard's Daughter tells the true and almost forgotten tale of the Cornish community of Pentewan reacting to the perils and difficulties of war, bringing to life the story of Mrs Helena McDiarmid, the Coastguard's wife, and her two teenage daughters.

In 1915 the Head Coastguard and his crew left their posts to enlist in the First World War. His daughters volunteered to take up their father's mantle, undertaking the responsibility of the perilous post, looking out over the boats and the bay, staying strong and lighting the way. But the story ended in tragedy when the elder daughter was swept out to sea.

"As far out as the tide may go, it will always return to the rocks, the shore, to you and to me. Everything returns. They never really leave us. It's just the push and pull of the tide. That's the rhythm of our lives."

At the end of the show, director Rosanna Elliott told the audience that the group wants to continue the legacy of the project by collecting stories from the communities it visits. These will then be archived through *The National Maritime Museum*, Cornwall. If you have a story to tell contact the theatre company:

www.canvastheatre.co.uk/storiesofthesea

Debbie Pugh-Jones

...and thanks from Canvas Theatre

"Another packed evening, huddled into the small and beautifully formed Golant Village Hall. Thank you for our warm welcome, and to the singers; five brilliant women with a passion for singing came together, specially for the show."

*This lovely message was posted onto our **Golant Pill facebook** page from Canvas Theatre. Ed*

Christmas Greetings

Maurie & Gail Parsons, and Stuart & Pam Young
wish everyone a lovely Christmas.

As usual, we will not be sending Greetings cards, but
will be making a donation towards the cost of printing
The Golant Pill instead.
Happy Christmas, everyone.



Fisherman's Arms

★ 12th December: Beginning of
12 Days of Christmas Pub Deals & Events.
Ask at the pub for details.

Christmas Day	11.30am - 2.00pm
Boxing Day	12 noon - 4.00pm
New Year's Day	12.30pm - 5.00pm

Dorothy at 94

On Sunday 18th November 1923, two people were born who were to become legends. One was Alan Bartlett Shepard who became an astronaut and landed on the moon. The other was Dorothy Bennett Richardson who was born in Nottingham. She, of course, later married Stan and became Dorothy Rickwood. They moved to Golant in 1963 and were suspected by the locals as being members of the Great Train Robbery gang, along with Basil and Gwenda Towell.

On Saturday 18th November 2017, a surprise party was held at *Rose Cottage* to celebrate Dorothy's 94th Birthday. She believed that she was going out for a meal with Gail & Maurie and were just going to Robert & Vilma's for a quick drink before travelling on. To her surprise, a group of over thirty people were waiting in the lounge for her arrival, and sang to her as she entered.

An exceptionally convivial evening was had by all, and Dorothy showed her stamina by getting round to talk to everybody.

Here's to her 95th...!

Maurie Parsons



A Special Birthday Tea

Evelyn Parsons recently enjoyed her 90th Birthday Cream Tea at *Trenythob Manor*, where they were well looked after!

"There were probably about 20 of us, and they laid out a table in the dining room for us, and waited on us throughout. Evelyn had a wonderful time with family, friends, and her very old friend Rita."

Penny Parsons



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A Very Special Family Day

The third villager to join the Nonagenarian Club is Pat Robins, who recently shared his 90th Birthday at his home (decorated with balloons!) with all his family, including his third and newest great-grandchild, 3 week old Rosie, sister to 2½ year old Joanie!

Daughter Valerie had done the catering, which included a special birthday cake decorated with a model & his name, and topped with nine candles, so he proudly blew out 10% of his ninety years!

Pat was delighted to have received a number of cards from friends in the village. He enjoyed one or two visitors, but realises that more elderly friends would have had difficulty in climbing the many steps to his house!

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Fowey River Canoe Club

Sunday 29th October saw Fowey River Canoe Club's annual end of season race. After a few very wet and windy days, the weather cleared in Golant.

The event saw 156 paddlers aged 6 to 72 from across the UK competing across the 2, 4, 8 and 12 mile courses on the river as part of the south west regional series.

With 29 paddlers from the home club competing, the event was, as to be expected, won by Fowey, who scored the maximum number of points available on the day across all classes. All our club's paddlers performed fantastically; however, a special mention must go to Dillon Wilton/Annabelle Cabrera and Kai Wilton/Ethan Hunt, who, as Under 12 paddlers, competed against seniors in the doubles event over 4 miles, and showed what a great future lies ahead for the club.

The club would like to thank the Parish Council and local residents for supporting our event, including our traffic management system and for the use of the village green, and we look forward to next year.

Further information including the full results can be found at foweyrivercanoeclub.co.uk

Emma Riley



Golant Wassail – January 1st 2018

Put on your coats and boots and blow away those cobwebs! A great way to start the New Year!

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

Muster at the Church Lay-by 2pm. We will visit various orchards/gardens on route before a **Grand Finale** on the terrace of the **Fisherman's Arms** where there will be pork and stuffing rolls (or veggie option) on the menu to soak up the booze! *N.B. the pub closes at 5pm that day.*

If you would like us to wassail your apple trees, please let me know!

Penny Parsons



FOWEY HARBOUR NEWS

Introducing the ReFILL Revolution...

Do you want to become a part of a global movement of individuals and organisations who want to stop the needless pollution of our rivers and seas with plastic ... in particular single-use plastic bottles?!

Refill is a free tap water initiative designed to reduce plastic pollution and promote healthy hydration by making refilling a water bottle easy, social and rewarding!

In the Beginning...

The ReFILL model was first initiated in Bude, Cornwall, by a small team of volunteers and with funding and support from *Beachcare* (Keep Britain Tidy). From here the word has spread and thanks to the work of *City to Sea* in Bristol there are now several ReFILL locations all over the UK, all of which are connecting as a network on their new ReFILL rewards app.

Happening Now!

Cornwall is a county that prides itself for its beautiful coastline and beaches as well as the amazing conservation work that takes place all over the county by a number of different organisations and local marine conservation groups. We believe that together we have the power to roll out this disposable bottle-busting scheme into all Cornish communities.

A collective of organisations in Cornwall have been coming together to discuss how to make ReFILL go bigger and better countywide – *Beachcare*, *Your Shore Beach Rangers Project*, *Clean Cornwall* and *Cornwall Wildlife Trust*.

Did you know... adults in Cornwall will use an estimated 64 million single use plastic water bottles this year!

We want to work with people within the communities that border the Fowey Estuary to engage businesses in the scheme and get them refilling water bottles and educate and encourage people to use reusable drinking bottles rather than single-use plastics.

If you know a business who'd like to be involved or you can help us spread the word, we'd love to hear from you.



A bottle mountain on the beach

Claire Hoddinott, Environment Officer
clairehoddinott@foweyharbour.co.uk

THE NEXT COPY DATE

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

Saturday 27th January

Articles, letters & news can be sent by email to:
golantpill@yahoo.co.uk

or placed in the post-box at the bottom of the drive to South Torfrey Cottage.



Annual General Meeting

Recently held in the village hall was the AGM for our organisation, when we check the pulse of Boatwatch, and ensure that the committee are providing the right sort of governance for our members, and to hear from various other organisations with whom we work. It is an evening to provide feedback. Oh, and a pasty, glass of wine and a free raffle!

Positive Cash

This year, I can announce that we are 'in funds,' with a modest amount of finance going forward, but at the same time benefitting from the purchase of security marking kits, which we can offer to ANYONE, at cost price! Please ask any of the committee members or Robin to supply you with a kit! They are well worth it and can be used for all sort of items, in the home as well as on a boat!

David Parry

Each year, the mainstay of our income (apart from membership fees) is the generous contribution by David Parry. He provides a painting or limited edition print (*see picture below*) for us to raffle within Boatwatch, and as we calculated this year, this amounts to over 30% of our income. So our thanks to him and a reminder to members that the draw for the picture will be at the Spring Get Together on March 16th 2018! Put the date in your diary. And for anyone not at the AGM, get your ticket now from Cris Dodridge!

Speakers

This year, we were delighted to have David Earl provide an interesting and very informative presentation on Cornwall Air Ambulance, which is one of our chosen charities. And Russ Hall (*see picture*) gave us a review of Crime statistics in the area, and on behalf of Paul Thomas (the Harbour Master) read out an annual report from the Fowey Harbour Commissioners.



New Members

It was particularly pleasing this year to see new members joining the assembled company for the evening, and now would be a good time to join, if only to become eligible for the Picture raffle in March!

Crime

But the other (and arguably more vital) reason, is the need to enhance and increase our watch-keeping duties on the river and around the moorings. It has been a worry for me recently that for a variety of reasons, our local Policing support is diminished, with Lloyd being away from work currently and Russ Hall officially 'off duty!' (but not by choice!) So, more than ever, we need to be even more **vigilant** and **visible** going forward to help limit marine and other crime in our area.

*David Jenkinson
Chairman Golant Boatwatch*

Golant Quay Users Association

The track down the side of the Pill past the Green playground has had the topping work completed, and it is hoped that this will become a favoured leisurely stroll as much as the walk to the quay is. The far end has a seat, and is a pleasant spot where kingfishers and redshanks and other bird life can often be seen.

The more folk use it, the more it will help Boatwatch in deterring thieves from even thinking about going down there. You just need to watch the tide times, as anything over a 5.0m tide has a chance of coming over the track top.



We have also tarmaced the area at the other end of the Green, and hope that this will prevent the mud from settling there, as it gets washed down the road in heavy rain. We hope these improvements will be enjoyed by all.



Peter Edwards, Chairman



Campbell Murn from the *Hawk Conservancy Trust* gave a very impressive and enthusiastic talk in October on the work of the Trust at the *Mission for Sea Farers* in October. He works overseas a lot, and included information about the plight of vultures that get deliberately poisoned by ivory poachers to prevent them circling overhead, whilst they are in the act of poaching.

We also had a talk at *Trennython* by Mike Kent about his walk around the South West Coast path, which he completed in 16 days with some cliff-top camping – not my style of walking! He recorded his trip with pictures and later wrote a book about his adventure, and being a marine biologist it all made for a very interesting evening, reminding us that we live in a very beautiful county all within a short distance away.

A date in 2018 to book is Wednesday 17th January at 7.30pm in *Lerryn Village Hall*, where we will be given an Owl and Hawk demonstration by Sara Warne.

Not a member yet? You can join by visiting our web site <http://www.friendsofthefowey.org.uk> or follow us on Facebook.

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 Jenkinson (Boatwatch) 01726 832246

To contact the **Police**, please take note of the new number **101** which you should use in a **non-emergency** situation.

In an **emergency**, or if you think a crime might be in progress or pending, dial **999** for **Police** and **Coastguard**. You can say "**reference Operation Kraken**" if the incident is concerned with maritime crime or terrorism.

The **Plymouth UK Border Force** is 01752 689 200.

FOWEY RIVER PRACTICE

Have you had your flu jab yet?

For those who did at the Fowey River Practice, the patients Participation Group took full advantage of selling raffle tickets to raise funds for a Doppler Machine for use in the Practice. This quickly measures the flow of blood in the body, particularly in the legs, ankles & feet of patients with circulation problems in this area, and diabetics.

We raised £696 towards our target of £2,500, so we now need donations from businesses and patients who are in need of this equipment.

Please help if you are able, sending donations to the Fowey River Practice, marked 'Doppler Machine Donation'.

Robert Dunley

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Tales from the Riverbank

We are enjoying the most beautiful Autumn colours at the moment, and a much needed respite from rain and wind! Although the busy summer holidays are over, we have been as busy as ever on the river with trips, and also with the second of this year's 'River Clean Ups.'

An amazing 44 people came to help – 16 from *Plymouth University* who had asked us to arrange it in term time, as there wasn't enough room for them in Spring, and local, familiar faces. Steve Phillis led a land-based clean up of the track alongside the Pill, and many thanks to motor boat owners, who helped to collect rubbish from kayaks, and also picked up larger items direct from the banks. Special thanks to Robin who liaised with *Clean Cornwall* to organise removal of the mound of rubbish, and thanks to Michelle & Sheila who helped run the café, (as Carol was taking a well earned rest in the sun...) handing out pasties & cake.



The team...



...and some of the collected rubbish!

FACEBOOK

Our team members Robin Anderson & Penny Parsons produce a Facebook page for *The Golant Pill*.

Do check it out. It is designed mainly to promote village activities, including those published within our Calendar of Events page.

The immediacy of Facebook is such that Robin & Penny are able to add reports of such events as soon as they have happened.

Wildlife-wise we've had good sightings of all the bird life – including a solitary Spoonbill!



Unfortunately, we also discovered a dead seal pup, that we believe had been washed in during Storm Brian – it was on the high tide line, and Sue Sayer from the *Cornwall Seal Group* said it was a grey seal pup, and not our Serena – phew! We reported it to *Cornwall Wildlife Trust's Marine Strandings* – if you do see any wildlife either dead or injured, please report it to them, as they are best placed to be able to record/monitor or help – 0345 201 2626.

...and finally, we are delighted to say that this year we made it to the finals again for the *Cornwall Tourism Awards* – this time winning Silver for the 'Best Guided Tour'. There were over 160 entrants in 23 categories, so there was pretty stiff competition all round. We received a beautiful Jo Downs glass trophy - and huge thanks must go to our wonderful kayakers Steve Phillis- our newest Boatman, Will James, Tom Parsons and Bronte Holden, and of course the incomparable Carol Gabb for always holding the fort with such dedication and enthusiasm!

Karen Wells-West



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Golant Gleanings

THREE NONAGENARIANS

Two new nonagenarians, Evelyn Parsons & Pat Robins, recently celebrated their special birthdays, joining Dorothy Rickwood in this decade – she has just notched up her 94th! (*See page 8 for further celebratory details of these three remarkable Golantians...*!)

FORMER RESIDENTS

Many longer-term residents will remember Don & Jean Ayres, who lived at *Polwartha*, the house now called *Riverside*. The couple moved away some years ago, and Don died in 2005; his ashes are interred at St Sampson's. He was a stalwart of the church, acting as churchwarden, treasurer and also organist. The bench sited in the churchyard at the east end, where many folk like to sit quietly, enjoying the peace and the river views, was presented by Don & Jean in 2000, "for you to enjoy God's Acre". This was the year in which we began the Living Churchyard.

We have recently heard that Jean has now passed away. She is well remembered as an active member of the congregation, not only singing in the church choir, but quietly working behind the scenes- cleaning, flower arranging and helping with various social events. A number of us recall being welcomed into their home to make up bunches of flowers for Mothering Sunday and to prepare oranges for the Christingle service.

DOROTHY SYLVESTER (RIP)

Dorothy Sylvester's funeral was held at St. Sampson's Church on Friday 17th November following a cremation service at Bodmin. Both services were taken by Philip, the funeral service being well attended by Dorothy's family and friends.

Her sister Jen had written a eulogy which was read by Philip and this highlighted the very full and fascinating life that Dorothy had led – born in New York (although her father was Cornish and her mother from Newcastle), raised from the age of five in Cornwall, married to Gerry who was an ex-POW and the son of a local business man, a keen golfer who was Cornwall Ladies champion for a while, a stylish fashion retailer from her shop in Fowey, and a popular and much appreciated hostess both in Carlyon Bay and later in the house in Spain where she and Gerry moved to escape the unsettled nature of the Cornish weather – but nevertheless always returning to their luxury caravan at Treyarnon in the summer. When Gerry contracted Parkinson's Disease they returned to Cornwall and lived in Fowey, with Dorothy providing loving and stalwart care until he died.

After Gerry's death, Dorothy found life difficult, and for some two years was not the happy lady she had always managed to be – and that despite the loss of a daughter aged 18 months and much later the death of her son John at the age of 29. However, things changed for her when Michael Sylvester came into her life. They were so well-matched, both being active and very sociable people, and so very soon Dorothy was busy entertaining in her inimitable style (menus always recorded to avoid any duplication) and also enjoying mixing with friends at the Yacht Club. The caravan at Treyarnon was a new experience for Michael but one he came to enjoy; meanwhile Michael introduced Dorothy to holidays on cruise-ships. This was something she had previously said she never fancied, but soon she did become a fan and they did some ten cruises in their eleven years together.

Dorothy had never been a regular church-goer, but after Gerry's death she was inclined more towards church attendance. However, she chose to come to Golant rather than Fowey as she preferred the style and timing of the service, as well as having friends in the congregation. And when she and Michael decided to get married it was naturally where they came for that happy day in August 2005.

Among her friends at St. Sampson's were Paddy Shelley and David Earl, both of whom remember Dorothy well from childhood days. Paddy recalls in particular that Dorothy's beach-hut on Crinnis beach was kept so neat and tidy compared to the sight of swimming and picnic gear scattered around interiors of other huts, and that for social occasions her sense of style and fashion was such that she never wore the same outfit twice. Dorothy was a great friend to David's parents, godmother to his brother, and she was always a most vivacious and charming lady.

David Earl

ST SAMPSON PARISH COUNCIL

October 2017 - November 2017

The Council has enjoyed a busy Autumn sorting out things that need sorting as best we can and encouraging others to do the same. We have a vacancy, and with so many good deeds still to be done I hope that someone will step up to join us, and enjoy making a difference to Parish life. I have always found that if you don't contribute much to an endeavour then you don't get much out. It is thus very pleasing to report what we have done, but also to commend others who put the effort in. Although I would not normally wish to single out an individual to the detriment of the many others who do take an active interest in Parish life, I feel it is fair to commend parishioner Graham Estlick, who has over my time in Golant attended almost every council meeting and keeps us all on our toes by closely following our debates, challenging where appropriate and contributing fully in our public discussion sessions. Well done Graham, your Parish needs more like you! On a related note, I have been asked by councillors to invite all parishioners for their ideas on how we can continue to improve the village and parish. There is much more that could and should be done to make this a nicer place, and we seek your support and inspiration.

I don't know if you are a fan of the Blue Planet series on TV, but it does broadcast that people everywhere are now coming round to the idea that the planet, wildlife, and human health is unarguably at risk from man-made junk – particularly plastic rubbish. So it is great to see how much rubbish has been removed from our river, foreshore and the north end of the Pill – wonderful work by all concerned! Take a bow!

A quick summary of some council business I can mention:-

Infrastructure:- Repair work and upgrades to the playground to keep the equipment safe; the dilapidated fence on the public bridleway at *Tinney's Lane* has been replaced; a new bench is on the Green; drains have been cleared several times with *Cormac* doing a sweep up; the yellow lines opposite the car park and the turning area at the slip have been cleared of accumulated debris; we will shortly be putting in place David Parry's beautiful village sign and look forward to having a new village map display made for the Green.

Finance:- Our accounts have been independently audited and approved; conclusion of the charging period at the car park for the winter provided approximately £1,500 in the last quarter alone; work continues to draw up our own draft Traffic Management Order for future operation of the car park; Parish funds stand at some £18,175 which councillors have judged to be appropriate to meet our spending priorities and anticipated future expenditure – we have therefore decided to **keep the Parish precept unchanged** for the coming financial year. (This is the local tax parishioners pay and will show as a minus percentage increase on Council Tax bills as the other charges have gone up.)

Planning:- We continue to work on our Neighbourhood Development Plan and our Community Emergency Plan drafts. We supported Planning Applications for an Activity Centre at *Down's Hill*, residential development below *St Carroc*, re-development at *William's Acre*, water troughs to be placed on the disused wind turbine bases, and occasional use of *The Boathouse* at the Quay as holiday accommodation. These applications were subsequently granted by The Planning Authority. We repeated our opposition to the proposed development of the *Cormorant Hotel* which went to the Secretary of State's Inspector on appeal. I can now report on what is a **very significant planning adjudication** for us, that **the appeal has been dismissed on rounds of adverse impact on the AONB and inadequate provision for affordable housing**.

Lastly, as we look forward to the Golant Heritage Group project on The River, well done to the Golant voices contributing to the wonderful Remembrance Day concert at Fowey led by music maestro Andy Virr, and it was an honour to join parishioners at our own Act of Remembrance at our War Memorial looking down to our beautiful river where service men and women once trained for the wars of the past and their successors continue to train for our future safety and defence.

We do not hold a scheduled meeting in December so our next full meeting will be on Tuesday 23 January 2018 at 7.15pm in Golant village hall. All are welcome.

Minutes of meetings are on our Parish Council website www.stsampsonparishcouncil.org.uk

Our Parish Clerk Sue Blaxley can be contacted on stsampsonpc@gmail.com for any further information or to raise issues of concern.

Robin Anderson, Chair

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News from St Sampson's Church

This has been a busy time for the church, and it is about to get busier! Many gave gifts of dried and tinned food for Harvest Festival, and these all went to *St Petroc's*, and at this service and the Service for the Bereaved the choir sang Paul Getty's *Beauty for Brokenness*, which has a haunting melody and beautiful words. On Remembrance Sunday there was a good congregation both at the War Memorial and in church, and as well as a most moving sermon by the Reverend James Funnell there was Samuel Wesley's *Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect Peace* sung by the choir.

The flowers in the church for all these occasions were quite outstanding; remember that the church is open every day, and particularly at festival times it is well worth the climb to see these floral displays.

Sunday 3rd December is the **Advent Carol Service** at **6.30pm**, which has great hymns, readings and carols. On **Sunday 17th December, 6.30pm**, is the **Cornish Christmas**; this is an opportunity to sing carols, listen to some readings about Cornwall, including more poems by Charles Causley, and enjoy the St Sampson Handbell Ringers, and possibly a surprise item or two!

Sunday 24th December is the **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** at **6.30pm**. We are aware that recently this service has been quite long, so it is more streamlined this year, without losing any of its magical candlelit qualities. There will still be the congregational carols, carols by the choir, and those familiar bible readings. This is the best way to begin Christmas – do come.

After both the Cornish Christmas and the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols there will be refreshment, paid for by the Handbell Ringers and the Choir & Organist respectively.

The choir deserves credit for some lovely singing, and Mike Harris continues to be master of the organ. He cannot play as often these days, so our thanks also go to James Funnell, Sheila Funnell, Sue Brodie and Roger Paine for playing at services when required.

Finally, there is, of course **Family Communion** at **9.15am** on **Christmas Day** for more carols, and even some handbell ringing.

On New Year's Day, at noon, there will be the opportunity to try your hand at big or little bells, and enjoy some restorative refreshment after the rigours of the night before.

We really look forward to welcoming you to these services.

Simon Funnell



Competition for Young Artists

Design a poster on A4 sized paper illustrating your idea of the Christmas Story.

It can be in any medium suitable for laminating.

2 classes: 10 and under, and 11 to 16 years

A prize for the winner in each group, and the winning posters will be displayed in the church over Christmas.

Closing Date: **Thursday 14th December**.

Please put your name and age on the back of your work.

Please hand in entries to Simon & Sheila Funnell,
Church View, Church Hill,
or to Greg & Penny White,
The Old Cider House, Fore Street.

Church Flower and Cleaning Rota

3rd & 10th December	Sue S & Sue T
17th & 24th December	Gillie & Mike
7th & 14th January	Vilma & Paddy
21st & 28th January	Ruth & Gill P
4th & 11th February	Sue S & Sue T

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Priest-in-Charge at Golant

The Revd Philip de Grey-Warter (01726 833535)
email: vicar@foweyparishchurch.org

Churchwardens

Mrs Carol White (01726 833404)
Robert Dunley (01726 832807)

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UNCLE JOHN'S GARDEN PATCH

Well, yer 'tis, the end to another year and we'm starting to see Jack Frost 'ev bin out with his paintbrush on the grass and plants. 'Tis a brave while ago that maister was able to do much damage to the plants and we'm all become some forgetful of what can happen if things are just let go. I do think that one of the first things to be mindful of is- don't 'ee go traipsing about on the lawns if they happen to be frosted, 'cos your footsteps will show there for a brave while afterwards. So, if you've bin a bit lackadaisical and relying on hope that we'm going to have another mild time, then I would think on if I were you, and either lift those tender plants or cover them over with dead ferns or fleece.

About three weeks ago the little holly bush on our hedge was absolutely lampered in berries. But now they little blimmers the blackbirds and thrushes have stripped it bare, and are now making inroads on the hawthorn. If there's nort for them to feed on dreckly, then 'tis up to they to be a bit scheme to find summat else to eat.

Keep an eye on any stored fruit and veg in the greenhouse. Pick them up from off the table or staging to see if anything is turning pluffy or if there is any signs of it going merthery with any soft spots. If there is, then aive it out because 'tis certain sure that 'twill only spread to the others; and whilst we'm on the subject of the greenhouse, be certain sure to have plenty of air circulating around the plants during the daytime. Close it up by all means during the night, but daytime it needs good ventilation. And keep a good lookout for those blimmers the slugs and snails getting under your pots and feeding on any roots poking through. They'm best dealt with by the bottom of your boot, and another blimmer is the greenfly. They just love to set up home on your plants and feed off the sap, weakening whatever you'm trying to look after. A good insecticide sprayed over the plants on a regular basis will deal with they.

As we come to the New Year, just think on. Would you rather just sit and stew in the excesses of Christmas after you'd eaten and drunk more than was good for you, or would you rather like to come out with that hardy bunch of Wasswailers that roam around the village in the New Year, singing to the apple trees in various gardens and drinking the cider that kind folks provide for us. 'Tis all legal and above board, and the singers are quite safe to be out with! Look out for the notices that will let 'ee know when 'tis happening.

If you baint done it already, then make certain sure that all plants that need it are well and truly lashed up proper. 'Tis enough to make a saint weep to come down after a stormy night and to find a clematis or passion flower scat down all to flitters. 'Twill never go back up again as 'twas, and 'twill allis look like Jan with his shirt hanging out! So the best cure is to make certain sure that it don't happen in the first place, and check all trellis and supports, and if there's anything that is a bit doubtful, then change it.

All that is left for me to do is to wish you all a handsome, healthy Christmas and a really fitty New Year.

Nort

Auntie Paddy's Recipe Corner

We are coming up to the time when we must think of the dishes we can make up now, to make life a bit easier for catering over the build-up to Christmas. This dish can be made up and frozen, so that it can be brought out and reheated for an occasion when time is precious.

BEEF, RED WINE & CHESTNUT CASSEROLE

(Serves 6)

900g/ 2lbs Plain Flour

Salt & Pepper

800g/ 1.75lbs diced Beef (Chuck Steak or Shin)

2tbsp Olive Oil

120g/ 4¾ oz diced Pancetta

4 Shallots, chopped

200ml/ 7fl oz Dry Red Wine

One Beef Stock Cube

One Bay Leaf

2tbsp Redcurrant Jelly

200g/ 7oz peeled Chestnuts

150g/ 5oz Chestnut Mushrooms, halved

1. Preheat the oven to 150°C/130°Fan/Gas Mark 2, or you can use a slow cooker.
2. Season the flour and toss the beef in this; set aside.
3. Heat one tbsp of the oil in a flame-proof casserole or large saucepan and fry the pancetta for 3 minutes. Add the shallots and cook till soft and the pancetta begins to crisp. Remove from the pan, leaving the oil.
4. Add the rest of the oil and fry the floured beef in small batches until brown, adding each browned batch to the pancetta mixture.
5. Pour the red wine into the casserole dish and simmer uncovered for 4 minutes, then dissolve the stock cube in 250ml/8fl oz hot water, adding it to the pan with the bay leaf & the beef mixture. Heat until simmering. If you have been using a pan, transfer to a casserole dish. Cover & cook in the oven for 2 hours. If using a slow cooker, cook on high for about 4 hours, then turn down to medium for a further 2 hrs.
6. Add the redcurrant jelly, chestnuts and mushrooms and cook for another 30-40 minutes (for both casserole & slow cooker).

Paddy Shelley

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Have you a friend or relative who would like a regular copy of this newsletter? It costs only £12.50 (£17.50 overseas) to have the six issues per year of ***The Golant Pill*** sent by post.

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CALENDAR OF VILLAGE EVENTS



DECEMBER

Sunday 3 rd	6.30pm	Candlelit Advent Carol Service (choir) <i>Carols for congregation and choir and readings</i>	St Sampson's
Tuesday 5 th	8.00pm	Quiz Night	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 10 th	9.15am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Sunday 10 th		Christmas Roast – lunch and evening	Fisherman's Arms
Tuesday 12 th	8.00pm	Euchre	Fisherman's Arms
Friday 15 th	7.45pm	Carols on the Hand Bells	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 17 th	11.30am	Meet 'n' Greet	Village Hall
Sunday 17 th	6.30pm	A Cornish Christmas <i>Congregational carols, readings and hand bells</i>	St Sampson's
Monday 18 th	8.00pm	Christmas Carols/Sing-along	Fisherman's Arms
Tuesday 19 th	8.00pm	Christmas Quiz	Fisherman's Arms
Friday 22 nd	9.00pm	Christmas Draw	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 24 th	6.30pm	Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols <i>Candlelit congregational and choir carols and readings</i>	St Sampson's
Monday 25 th	9.15am	Christmas Family Communion (Choir)	St Sampson's
Sunday 31 st	9.15am	Holy Communion <i>(Book of Common Prayer)</i>	St Sampson's
Sunday 31 st	9.30pm	New Year's Eve Fancy Dress <i>(Heroes & Villains)</i>	Fisherman's Arms

JANUARY 2018

Monday 1 st	12 noon	Ring in the New Year <i>Try big bells, handbells, and restorative refreshment</i>	St Sampson's
Monday 1 st	2.00pm	The Golant Wassail- meet at:	Church Lay-by
Friday 5 th	10.00-11.00am	Book Shelf Bring and Browse	Village Hall
Sunday 7 th	9.15am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Tuesday 9 th	8.00pm	Euchre	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 14 th	9.15am	Holy Communion (Choir)	St Sampson's
Sunday 14 th		Sunday Roast – lunch and evening	Fisherman's Arms
Tuesday 16 th	8.00pm	Quiz night	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 21 st	Breakfast Morning		Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 21 st	6.00pm	Evensong	St Sampson's
Tuesday 23 rd	8.00pm	Euchre	Fisherman's Arms
Friday 26 th	7.30pm	C-Fylm Club	Village Hall
Saturday 27th	Copy Date	<i>The Golant Pill</i>	golantpill@yahoo.co.uk
Sunday 28 th	9.15am	Holy Communion (Choir)	St Sampson's
Tuesday 30 th	8.00pm	Quiz Night	Fisherman's Arms

FEBRUARY

Friday 2 nd	10.00-11.00am	Book Shelf Bring and Browse	Village Hall
Sunday 4 th	9.15am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Tuesday 6 th	8.00pm	Euchre	Fisherman's Arms
Friday/Saturday 9&10 th		GRADS presents <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> <i>(See page 4 for how to book your seat)</i>	Village Hall
Sunday 11 th	9.15am	Holy Communion (Choir)	St Sampson's
Tuesday 13 th	8.00pm	Quiz Night	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 14 th	Valentines Day Dinner		Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 18 th	6.00pm	Evensong	St Sampson's

*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.*