



## A Cover Story

**Village  
Hall  
stripped  
for action!**



**But now  
it's  
business  
as usual !**

For once this year the sun shone at the right time in Golant enabling the roof of the village hall to be stripped and refurbished before the onset of winter storms.

Two problems had beset the project: bats & money. Work was to take place only when the bats had left the hall for their winter roosting places and this process has had to be carefully monitored by the official bat warden.

Members of the village hall committee sought help from various bodies for raising the estimated £12,000. Their persistence paid off for they received generous grants from Restormel Borough Council, the Bernard Sunley Foundation and the St Sampson Parish Council. Numerous small and substantial gifts of money were given by local residents. Remaining monies were raised by an assortment of means including book sales, carnival games, Christmas fayres, a fish & chip supper with a quiz, pantomimes and donations from the Thursday Kitchen.

There were anxious times as the date for starting approached. Lostwithiel Roofing Co, who had been given the contract, had been delayed on their previous job by the weather. There were fears that the appalling summer would deteriorate even further and the project would never 'get off the ground' whilst the bats were away! It was with some relief that the scaffolding was erected by the contractors and, in little time, the slates were off and the weather improved— for most of the days!

Using a few replacement slates from Delabole, the roof-

ers very decoratively created three triangular designs on one side of the pitched roof and on the other the fifteen bezants which are part of the Cornish coat of arms.

It is hoped that volunteers will redecorate the hall in the near future.

On November 22nd, with the roof all finished, there was a *Raise the Roof Party* to celebrate. Siobhan Harper, Chair of the Committee, paid tribute to the builders, the commitment of her members and especially to all those who had given grants & money to make the project possible. She thanked, too, Andrew & Estelle van den Broek, who, as next door neighbours, had been so tolerant during the upheaval. The huge workload undertaken by the Secretary, Janet Gore was applauded.

Dr David Skerrett recalled the state of the Reading Room as it was when villagers set about converting it to the present hall. The floor was strewn with old books and debris, the roof was open to the rafters, walls were unplastered, the cloth on the snooker table was ripped and the floor was in a dangerous condition. The whole village at that time set about the task of redesigning the building into a hall. Today, some forty odd years later, villagers should congratulate the present committee for the way they have maintained and improved a building which has become such an integral part of the community.

*Mike Harris*

### From the Editor

The appearance of the lesser auk, a bird rarely seen before in our waters, has drawn great interest. It has been sighted not only out in the estuary but in the Pill itself. It must have been a special moment for those lucky enough to have observed such an unusual visitor at close quarters. Barry Campbell-Taylor covers the story in his article on page 5. He encourages anyone to contact him about any observations of wildlife in our neck of the woods & waters (832326). Many people have spoken to us in appreciation of his articles and the questions they raise. It was one of his readers who first told me about the auk.

I have an apology to make to Barry. When I wrote the front page of the last issue stating that all the items stolen from boats were unmarked and their serial numbers were unknown, I hadn't realised that his was the one engine which had not been recovered and was the only one for which he had every detail and serial number, even a photograph and microdots applied by the maker. Sadly, it has not yet been recovered and he has experienced further thefts from his boat.

The *Golant Pill* is certainly a world traveller! Lorna Vivian's grandson was shown reading his in his helicopter in Iraq, Bunny Minter-Kemp in the Olympic Stadium in Hong Kong and this month we have Mary Shelley reading her copy in Mongolia! Wherever next.....?

I regret that we have had to raise the price of subscriptions for mailed copies. In particular, the price for the black toner cartridges in the printer have risen dramatically and are now as dear as the colours. Also, the postage has increased since we started two years ago. Please see page 13 for details. I am sure that you will feel that the costs still represent good value. Copies for villagers are still free.

The mornings are pitch black at the moment but the shortest day is only three weeks away. The days will then lengthen very quickly. By the time the next issue comes out it'll feel quite spring like.....I hope! The Production Team wish all their readers and families a joyful celebration at Christmas & the New Year.

*Mike Harris*

### The Last Customer

John Kift was the last customer to use the Post Office at Golant. Several villagers had gathered to say a sad farewell to Pam Rundle. Dick Strawbridge, who lives at Tywardreath, spoke to many present about the demise of our Post Office and the one in his village. Evelyn Parsons shone as the spokesperson when she featured in his report which was screened as an item in the BBC "Inside Out" programme.



### '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.

Please note that the **Copy Date** for the next issue is:  
**Friday January 23rd 2009**  
 Articles, letters & news can be sent by email:  
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## Village Hall Committee

We mentioned in the last edition of *The Golant Pill* that we should like to get some new small tables. There is good news on these. First of all we received a new larger table as a gift from Liam Bunclark, who lives in Devon but receives the magazine, for which we thank him. Secondly, we received £510 (75% of the total) through Councillor Sally Bain from the Member Community Grant Scheme for the purchase of small tables. Again we should like to thank her for supporting us and for the speed at which the grant was obtained.

A sub-committee has been formed consisting of Janet Gore, Sue Reardon and Robert Dunley from the Village Hall committee together with Alastair & Viviane Barr, John Kift and Anita Fuge to organise the **Golant Summer Flower, Produce & Craft Show**. A very positive meeting was held and a programme formulated. The show will be held on Saturday **July 11<sup>th</sup> 2009** so please make a note in your diaries. There will be flower, fruit and vegetable classes plus homemade cakes, pasties and bread, jams and preserves competitions, classes for the children and crafts. Full details will be circulated nearer the time. I would just draw your attention to a Junior (under 14's) and Adult photographic competition to be displayed at the show and entitled *Village Life* (5"x7" pictures please). So keep your cameras to hand as you walk around the village or at some village function and we shall look forward to receiving your entries at a later date.

*Janet Gore*

## The Christmas Meet and Greet

The *Christmas Meet and Greet* will take place on Sunday 14th December at 11.30am in the Village Hall.

I have been asked to write a few words about the *Meet and Greet*. It was started 18 or so years ago to enable new people moving into the village to meet their neighbours and generally get a feel for the village.

It was organised in such a way that it was outside the other organisations within the village (who do a marvellous amount of work on our behalf) and was always non-promotional and non fund-raising.

It was a meeting just to celebrate what we are as a community.

The idea is to bring a bottle or a plate of nibbles and just mingle.

The concept is simple and has no agenda other than to be together as a community.

I hope that this year's meeting will be supported and will be enjoyable for us all. Please come and join us.

*David Skerrett*



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## WHAT THE DICKENS?

If, like us, you are a Dickens fan, and have perhaps been enjoying the BBC dramatisation of 'Little Dorrit', you might like to try your hand at this anagram competition, and win either a **£5 Book Token** or a **Bottle of Wine**.

An anagram of **Little Dorrit** could be: **Lo- litter dirt!**

Can you untangle the following nine Dickens stories?

- 1 **Get extra ace points**
- 2 **Violet wrist**
- 3 **Don named boys**
- 4 **Vicar fiddled Pope**
- 5 **I saw tot at ice floe**
- 6 **No shiny black lice**
- 7 **I hope old Roy cuts this**
- 8 **I murder foul aunt**
- 9 **Rich Sam lost a car**

Send your answers to Gillie Harris at South Torfrey Cottage, Golant, Fowey, Cornwall PL23 1LA or by email to [golantpill@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:golantpill@yahoo.co.uk) by **January 23rd 2009**

**Be careful to spell the titles correctly!**

All correct answers will be put into a hat & a winner drawn.

THEOBALD BOYSENBLEW  
'THE COPSE'  
LETSBY AVENUE  
GOLANT

Re Phantom Finger Post Rotator

Sir,

Although I have long since surrendered my Truncheon I vaguely remember the name of the investigating officer assigned to the above case. After some deliberation the penny dropped, and I remember Sharp-Korner as a young copper serving in the Spent Force. Even in those far off days he was considered completely round the bend; in today's climate of correctness I realise this is recklessly non PC, as he was then. His side kick, Woo Den Top started his police career in the colonies and was whipped into shape on his return to the UK. Both need to sharpen their powers of observation. I refer them to the Police Manual, page 999 or page 112 if using the Carphone Warehouse edition.

This states: 'if the post be rotated in a clockwise direction it's a sign of the times, it be vandals'. It continues: 'if rotated anti-clockwise, it be Sladnav', obviously an illegal immigrant.

Yours in haste, so that I can catch the post before the whole lot disappears,

*T. Boysenblew (ret)*

## TAKING THE PILL



This lovely photo of Mary Shelley, Paddy's daughter, with her recent copy of the *Golant Pill*, was taken at a Mongolian 'spa' early one morning. Mary emailed to say that there was the "luxury of a bath with hot water from a mountain spring on a very basic camping holiday. We were all taking a rest before our day's adventure pack-horsing into the Tarvagatai Uul National Park in Zavkhan province."

**Where do you take your Pill?!!**

If you have any good pictures of where you take your *Pill*, why not send them to us, and we will try to publish them in future issues!

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## GOLANT BIRDLIFE

The Estuary has had a rather exciting visitor recently; reliable sightings have been made of a *Little Auk* feeding in and around the Pill. This is a small bird, the size of a starling. It is black above and white below with dark underwings showing in flight. It has a black stubby bill, a short neck and tail and flies with very fast whirring wingbeats low over the sea. Generally they winter in the extreme North Atlantic, but autumn gales can send the small crustaceans that they eat to depths beyond their reach. Starvation, tide and high winds drive the birds to range for food outside of their usual areas. Small numbers visit the waters around the UK returning to the Arctic to breed in early spring. Sightings in Cornwall are rare, and only one other Auk has been reported this season.

I was a little sceptical about the sighting until David Parry the Wildlife Artist, confirmed that he also had seen the bird. David remembered that last year, a Harbour Commissioner reported a dead Auk being found. David assured him that the bird couldn't possibly be a Little Auk and that he must be mistaken. The next morning, left on his doorstep was the evidence, in the form of the lifeless corpse of a Little Auk. Nothing is certain nowadays!



A Little Auk

Other recent visitors include Redstarts, Firecrests and the strikingly coloured Shell Ducks.

I really appreciate sighting reports from others and I can, if we are confident in our identification, include the information on my reports to the British Trust for Ornithology.

Tip- Nigella seeds on the Bird Table encourage some interesting, normally very shy, species.

*Barry Campbell-Taylor*

## Wot, no Turkeys?

The banner of our Quirky Turkeys  
Has flown away from Castle Dore.  
It was a blustery day-that's for sure,  
But well secured, so I guess it's been pinched-  
Ripped from the hedge,  
And in their haste they left some pegs  
In the middle of the road.  
Blimey- that sort of thing doesn't happen in Golant,  
does it?  
Turkey Wars.....  
Pretty exciting, but not as exciting as Christmas.

To book an organic turkey or goose, please phone  
Debbie or Simon (01726 833126).

We've still got some left.

And look out for a new banner going up soon-let's  
hope it stays there!

*Debbie Andrews*



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The kids' insight on Golant

Hi,

Christmas is near...hooray! I don't know about you, but I've already written my Christmas list and I'm itching for the big day. Let's hope Golant gets festive and puts on a good display of lights this year!

Have a great Christmas...ho, ho, ho!!! *Alice Hunter*

## Happy Halloween!!

Wow, what a lot of children we had going around this year! On the 31st of October me and some friends thought it would be great fun to go 'Trick or Treating'.

Whilst we were on our travels we saw another three groups of children going around as well. We were delighted to see children coming and celebrating Halloween in Golant rather than going off to Fowey or Par.

But most importantly I would like to say a big thank-you to everybody who gave up their own money and gave us all sweets and chocolate. We all came home with bundles and bundles of goodies. Thanks very much for making it a happy Halloween.

*Jack Elworthy*

Jack and Hugh Elworthy with two friends, heavily disguised!!



## Fantastic Fireworks

Bang Boom Bang Bang BOOM!!!

I would just like to say that I thought the firework display was really great, and a big thank-you to everybody who set them off and to those who bought them- good choice.

I thought that the prettiest one was the best because it made the whole sky light up in pretty colours. Next year let's hope they all go off as they should!

Keep up the donations everyone, so that we can have the same next year.

*Hugh Elworthy*



'Fireworks' by Millie van den Broek (aged 2yrs!)

## Children's Gleanings

\* Well done to Bronte Holden, Melissa Weatherall & Joe Hunter who took part in the Fowey River Canoe Race on Remembrance Sunday. They canoed four miles in very challenging conditions. At the start of the race the rain was horizontal, but they battled on against wind and tide, first to the docks and then back to the St Winnow bend before coming home exhausted to finish at Golant Quay. Joe had a few problems near the docks where he got stuck on some rocks, but after freeing himself he was pipped to the post by Melissa who came in third, and by Bronte who came an amazing second. Well done, all you paddlers and thanks to everyone who helped.

*Alice Hunter*

\* Hugh Elworthy won man of the match for Lankelly on Sunday in the under 10s match against Launceston. Although the Cornish All-Blacks managed to beat Lankelly, Hugh played a 'blinder', scoring five tries in his new position of scrum half.

*Alice Hunter*

\* Our school (Tywardreath) did a sponsored Triathlon for 'Children in Need'. We raised over £300!

*Joe Hunter*

I like prickly  
Plants.  
By Maddy Rose

*By Maddy-Rose Hunter,*  
who likes prickly plants!



Welly boots crunch on frosted leaves,

Iced puddles to slip and slide around.

Now I'm back at home, a hot chocolate, creamy and warm, slips down my throat and warms me to my toes.

"To the table everyone"; it's Christmas dinner, crackers to pull, turkey to carve and Christmas pud to be had.

Everyone is having fun but mum and dad are tired and have resorted to cracking open the rum.

Rocking round the Christmas tree, Pictionary and Monopoly. Christmas is nearly done and we've all had fun. I need to start on next year's list. Now mum, where's that Argos Catalogue gone?!

*By AH*



## LETTERS & EMAILS TO THE EDITOR

*Pam Rundle* has asked me to put in the following notice:

Thanking all those who came on our final day with a surprise party, gifts and good wishes for my retirement. Also thanking my loyal customers past and present for their support in trying to keep a Post Office in Golant Village.

I am going to miss seeing my regulars every week....

*(Seeing the last shop in Golant close was a sad day. Events around Cornwall & beyond have proved that, no matter how strong the evidence & arguments, the Post Offices were going to close, come what may. It's even happening to busy Post Offices in London. We can only sympathise with Pam Rundle & Liz Burrow at Tywardreath-Ed)*

Dear Editor,

Through these pages we would like to express our thanks and appreciation to 'Pete the Plasterer' and all his support crew. They provided a magnificent firework display on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks also to 'Mine Hosts' for their warming food and hospitality, and indeed to all those who helped and were supportive in any way.

It was a brilliant evening and lovely to see so many happy smiling faces enjoying a spectacular event. Thank you one and all.

*Jacky & Bruce Fletcher*

## Golant Fireworks Night

This was held as always on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The weather was kind to us this year. It's just about the only show in the area that is free in terms of admission cost and funds are raised for the cost of the fireworks during the weeks preceding the event. Choosing fireworks is not easy; Andrew van den Broek and I went to a showcase display in early October and chose the fireworks from there. We hope everybody liked them!

Thanks to our sponsors Sharps Brewery for providing two 18 pint barrels of Doombar, and of course Steve & Anne-Marie at the Fisherman's Arms for additional raffle prizes. We were able to collect £379 through a mix of raffle tickets, prize draws & a collection bucket on the night. Thankfully, we had a small reserve fund from previous years as the cost of the fireworks exceeded £600, and we intend to cover the loss with a mid-year fund-raising event.

I think everybody was delighted to see such a fantastic turnout, and the comments we have received on this year's display have been very positive.

Fireworks need a skilled team to ensure they go off safely & in the correct order as per the display design; this was masterminded by Pete Stodden, Andrew van den Broek, John Bittle & Dave Johns. Sue Strode & Suzanne Edwards did sterling work selling raffle tickets & the pub did a roaring trade in food and drink.

Fireworks are now an established event in the Golant calendar, and we thank everybody who attended for making the evening such a success.

*Richard Strode*

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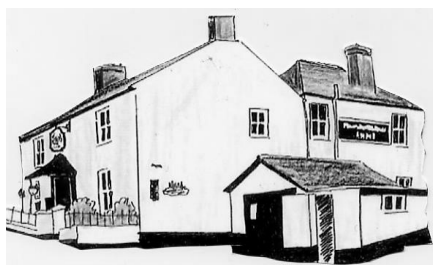
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## St Sampson Parish Council

The Parish Council has met three times since the last edition of *The Pill*, and there have been several planning issues to be decided. As I wrote in the last edition, the council is anxious to support a small scheme of self-build affordable housing, and we are looking forward to receiving detailed proposals for our consideration.

The Parish Council has given the Village Hall £1,000 towards the roof, which we trust will help cope with the extra costs involved, and we also plan to increase the playground equipment once we can identify a suitable supplier.

I wrote to Colin Breed MP about a month ago regarding the sewage, as the down pipe by River House still smells, as also do the RBC units. He forwarded my missive to the chairman of SWW, but as yet there has been no response. I have also asked SWW to replace the present temporary (and disintegrating) acoustic cover over the pumps by the Gallery with a permanent cover, and to trim the area behind the pumping station.

Several of us in the village have badgered Highways to come and clear leaves on Church Hill and Water Lane. As I write this, I can report that Church Hill has been very well cleared, and I hope that work is about to start on Water Lane. Another area that has caused concern is the parking area on the Green, but I believe I have negotiated a satisfactory outcome with the houses whose building works have caused the disruption. We plan to scrape the area, and put down hard-core once the various building works are completed and winter is past!

As many of you will know, there has been a move to transfer some local assets back to town and parish councils from Restormel, prior to the formation of One Cornwall. We have put forward a Business Plan for the car park, stressing its importance for the economy of the village (and many thanks to Richard Strode for much hard work), and

If you have any **News, Articles or Gleanings** about Golant that you would like to see in *The Golant Pill*, please send them to the Editor, Mike Harris, at South Torfrey Cottage, Golant-by-Fowey, PL23 1LA, or place them in the postbox at the bottom of the drive  
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The **Copy Date** for the next issue is  
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although there is currently a log-jam in the process of transfer, we shall do our best to secure this asset for the benefit of Golant. I cannot promise success, but we shall do our best!

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January, and the February and March meetings will also be on the third Wednesdays of each month. We shall then review the day of meetings at the Annual Parish Meeting.

*Simon Funnell*

### Easter Pantomime!

Golant Very Amateur Dramatic Society hopes to present 'Sleeping Beauty', probably on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th April next year. Lots of parts, rehearsals Mondays and Wednesdays from mid January onwards— all we need now are volunteers (Oh, no we don't— Oh, yes we do!) for acting, or for help with scenery painting etc. Children needed!!

There will be a read-through in early January, so look out for the notice in *The Fisherman's Arms*. Or email me ([Rsfgolant@aol.com](mailto:Rsfgolant@aol.com)) or phone me (833343) if you'd like to be in it. Then phone me again, as I've a terrible memory!!

Experience not necessary- enthusiasm essential, as is the ability to ignore the shouts, insults and lunatic ravings of the producer. What better way to get through the winter?

*Simon Funnell*

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# Golant Gleanings

## CONGRATULATIONS

Jess Robins was eighteen on November 10th. Her next door neighbour, Lucien Campbell-Taylor, will be eighteen on December 17th. He has just been made a captain at the St Austell Rugby Club— of the Colts, known also as *The Saints* (17-18 yrs old).

John Fuge will be eighty on January 9th. John's father was born in Norway Cottage and John himself has lived in Golant for fifty-three years.

On November 21st Diana Luck was ninety years old! A large number of her family attended a party at the St Austell Brewery's Visitor Centre to mark such a special occasion. Though she says how frustrated she is by the onset of age, she is still to be seen walking the dog each day and continues to have informed opinions on things local, national & worldwide. It's always a joy to see her inspirational entries in the annual carnival. Her article about her arrival in Golant as a bride in the last issue was very well received by many readers who hope for more.....!

Last year we reported on the resurgence of the playwright, Wally Simpson, who lived at Myrtle Cottage until moving with Elizabeth to Polruan. Wally's latest play, *If so... & Yes* is about to be published. He says that the huge cast which is required makes it rather unwieldy to be produced in these unsound financial times.

John Jenkin had a comprehensive article about Cornish Dialect published in the magazine *Cornish World*. The editor has asked for others for future issues. John is about to have his extensive book about life in the village of Newlyn (not the fishing side for a change!) published. Details of how to secure a copy will be given soon. Meanwhile, I am grateful that John continues to allow me to use his jottings in the newsletters.

Nigel Estlick became engaged to Natalie Smith recently whilst they were on holiday in Croatia. They plan to marry in June 2009 at a civil ceremony in Truro followed by a blessing at St Sampson's.

## GET WELL SOON

Stuart Young is making a good recovery after a spell in hospital. Peter *the Fish* Randall, who had a heart attack followed by pneumonia, is now home at Mevagissey and making steady progress.

Robert Gore has had further surgery on his hip joint. Unfortunately, the holiday to Australia over Christmas which he and Janet had planned has had to be postponed.

## A FAMILY TRIBUTE

Tom Parsons is the third generation of his family to be on the organising committee of the carnival. Tom did the commentary during the carnival this year as well as taking an active role in all the preparations in the pouring rain. He's certainly doing his bit to keep our traditions alive!

His grandmother, Evelyn Parsons, starred in the BBC programme *Inside Out* which featured the last day of the Post Office in Golant. By common consent, she is a natural for the small screen! She showed no signs of nerves and made forthright and constructive comments about the effects of the closure on her life and of those who had supported Pam Rundle at the Post Office. Dick Strawbridge, who fronted the programme, obviously realised her qualities and used her to relate the plight of people trying to use a Post Office in future. Some say that Evelyn is destined for a Hollywood contract!

## 'ERE FOR A YEAR

Many villagers & regular customers accepted the invitation from Steve, Anne-Marie, Becky & Family to join them on November 15th to celebrate their first year at *The Fisherman's Arms*. Everyone had a great time and the karaoke was a particular hit!

"Steve, Anne & Becky would like to thank all our locals and friends for your cards, presents and kind words— it means a great deal to us that we have your support and makes it all worthwhile. Here's to many more years to come with any old excuse to have a party!"

**Golant Village Website ([www.golant.net](http://www.golant.net))** The webmaster can be contacted in any of the following ways:  
Email— [barry@campbell-taylor.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:barry@campbell-taylor.fsnet.co.uk) Telephone— 01726 832326 Post— 4 Riverview Terrace Golant PL23 1LL

## GOLANT BOAT OWNERS' ASSOCIATION (BOATWATCH)

A dinghy and a pair of oars (from another craft) were stolen recently but, fortunately, were found at Fowey.

A number of boats and equipment are retrieved each year by the Harbour Authority which have no names or means of identification. Many dinghies, for example, are not named. We ask all owners of boats of all sizes to mark them in some way. The sticky mooring labels are very helpful but not all people use them.

The Annual General Meeting has just taken place attended by a good turnout of members. In view of the problems experienced this year, ties between the Police, Harbour Office & GBOA have been strengthened further. All those who pay for mooring fees are to be invited to submit serial numbers of equipment and such information will be used by the police. Other systems are being set up to speed up communication. The possible purchase & use of CCTV cameras is to be investigated; the technological advance of these systems has leapt forward in recent years yet the prices have lowered substantially. Laurie Price, a member of the Safety Team, spoke about CCTV & the prevention of theft from the boats.

The new Team Leader, Sergeant John Capp & PC Phil Dingle are hopeful that a boat may become available soon for official police patrols in the estuary. Matt Hodson brought members up to date with harbour matters.

Suzanne Edwards, having completed five years of service as Secretary, resigned from her post. Robert Gore, for health reasons, resigned too. Both will be sorely missed for their skills and dedication.

The evening finished on a disappointing note; the pasties didn't arrive in time. They had been left at the CD Rowing Club and were delivered eventually at 10pm!

*Mike Harris*

## FOWEY ESTUARY NEWS

Laying up for winter often means lots of jobs to do but please remember to carry out any maintenance work in an environmentally friendly way.

When cleaning off old antifouling, prevent dust or scrapings leaching into the estuary or being dispersed by the wind, please collect scrapings and disperse of them as solid waste. Please remember to look after your own health when removing or applying anti-fouling and wear suitable protective equipment.

When antifouling has been re-applied, empty paint tins and used brushes may be disposed of at the hazardous waste facilities provided by the Harbour Commissioners.

Please do not allow the residues of cleaning products and other harmful liquids to enter the estuary. There are an increasing number of environmentally friendly cleaning products available and these should be used wherever possible.

A receptacle for waste oil and oily bilge water is available at Berrills Yard, and for disposal of larger quantities a facility is provided at Brazen Island by arrangement with the Harbour Office. Old batteries may also be disposed of at Berrills Yard or Brazen Island. Out of date pyrotechnics may be disposed of via the Harbour Office.

Further environmental guidance for boat users can be obtained from the Harbour Office. You can also find out about the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) initiative 'The Green Blue'; the Harbour Commissioners support this project which encourages boat users to think about their impact on the environment.

*Jo Sundercombe*

Environment Officer, Fowey Harbour Commissioners,  
Albert Quay, Fowey. Tel: 01726 832471

### POLICE CONTACT NUMBERS FOR INFORMATION

NBM Golant / Fowey / Lostwithiel / Luxulyan / Lanlivery  
**08452 777444** - Police Central Switchboard - advice & reporting non urgent incidents/crime  
**'999'** - Urgent police assistance (offenders still present or life/death situations)  
**0800 555111** - Crime Stoppers - To pass anonymous information.  
**01726 812262** - St Blazey Police Station

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

- ▶ Harbourmaster's Office 01726 832471  
*(Out of hours transferred to Duty Officer)*
- ▶ Mike Harris, Chairman of Boatwatch 01726 833897
- ▶ Robert Gore, Deputy Chairman 01726 832425

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**If the Open-Studio Sign is displayed, please ring the hand-bell by the house front door or, up the steps, bang on the studio door!**

## News from St Sampson

Holding the *Thursday Kitchen* in the church whilst the roof of the village hall was repaired proved to be very successful and enjoyable. Paddy & Vilma skilfully selected recipes which made the management of plates and cutlery easy. I don't recall a single spillage! The little kitchen area helped and, of course, the heating system proved its worth when the weather turned chilly.

The service on Remembrance Day was especially poignant. A good sized congregation filed out to the war memorial where the names of the villagers who died in the two world wars were read out by Graham Vivian. The service in church included *Now that the guns have stopped*, movingly and beautifully sung by Karen Hamnett, followed by the well-known *Benedictus*, both by Karl Jenkins, who had given his personal permission for the works to be adapted for our small choir.

Sadly, Karin Lloyd has had to resign from the choir because of continued ill-health. Karen was a founder member of the choir, the St Sampson Singers, formed about nineteen years ago by Alison Schwab who lived at *Hybedore*. I am pleased to say that David Johns & David Jenkinson have joined the choir and hope to sing with us whenever time allows.

We have been awarded a grant of £5000 by the Cornwall Historic Churches Trust for the tower project. The trust's members who came to view our case were especially impressed by the way the various problems with the fabric of the building have been approached in the last decade. We have not been after 'quick fixes'. All remedial work will have a long term effect—we hope! Actually, our award from the Trust was especially generous because of our planning methods; many thanks to them. Grants towards the project total £18,000 against a target of £50,000; two other applications are pending.

A cheque for £350 has been sent to Harvest for the Hungry as a result of the auction at the Harvest Supper.

The Christmas services are listed opposite. The candlelit carol service on Christmas Eve is usually attended by a full congregation (some arrive very early to get a good seat!) and wine is served afterwards. Many people then go down to sing carols around the village. This is done for the sheer enjoyment of singing & listening to the seasonal music; a collection is not taken. Please join them!

### The Churchyard

The path in the lower churchyard has been laid and 99% of people are delighted with the result. Richard Berriman (Mobile 0787 0569030) showed his expertise with his digger, taking the turf off for use around the graves before fashioning the path. Meanwhile, John Kift & Alan Barker fitted a new granite step and then helped to lay all the turf. Pebbles were then spread along the whole path. It will not remain as such: grass seed has been sown (it may germinate!) and, in the spring, the path will be top dressed. The finished path will be well drained with a safe grip underfoot but will merge in with the surrounding grass.

The little camellia by the steps with dainty pink flowers is called *Sparkling Burgundy*, a popular and reliable early variety. It has certainly gained the attention of everyone and reminds us that spring is not that far around the corner! There is a smaller specimen behind the box hedge around the Internment of Ashes area. *Elizabeth de Rothschild*, by the porch, is enormous again and the mass of buds promises a spectacular display in the New Year.

*Mike Harris*

I once heard a lady buying last minute cards complain that only religious ones were left. "I don't know what Christmas is coming to," she said. "They'll be putting religion into Easter next."

*John Jenkin*

### **CONTACT NUMBERS**

Priest-in-Charge    The Revd Philip de Grey-Warter  
The Vicarage, Fowey  
01726 833535

Churchwardens    Robert Dunley  
Rose Cottage, Golant  
01726 832807  
Carol White  
Bellscat, Golant  
01726 833404

Lay Reader  
& Secretary  
of the PCC        Wendy Earl  
Ivy House, North Hill Park,  
St Austell  
01726 72861

Captain of the  
Bells  
& Flower &  
Cleaning Rota    Ruth Varco  
Penquite Farm, Golant  
01726 833319

### **CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST SAMPSON'S**



21st December	4.30pm	Christingle & Carols for Families
Christmas Eve	6.30pm	Nine Lessons & Carols
Christmas Day	9.15am	Sung Holy Communion
28th December	9.15am	Holy Communion with Carols ( <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> )

### Church Flower & Cleaning Rota

Dec 7th	Taunua & Gill B
Dec 14th & 21st	Ruth & Gill P
Dec 28th	Ruth
Jan 4th & 11th	Vilma & Paddy
Jan 18th & 25th	Gillie & Sheila

# BACKALONG

## FERN DAYS

Since our last issue, we have had two interesting responses to our extract from John Jenkin's book on the history of *St Sampson's School Golant*, regarding the local children **carrying ferns** in October 1877 & 1878:-

\* The following letter came from Graham Hooper:

*"Local (Golant) people will probably know much more about cider-making than the writer, but the following are extracts from a perpetual almanac in his possession. The punctuation etc, are all from the original. Words in italics are by the writer:"*

23rd September Get home with thy brakes, (*bracken*) ere all summer be gone for tethered-up cattle to lie down upon.

Tusser- *Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry* 1573

3rd October If you gather not by hand (which is Tedi-ous) Lay a truss of Straw (*or bracken?*) beneath the Tree and over that a blanket, discreetly shaking them down, not too many at a time, but often carrying them where they are to sweat: which should be on dry boarded floors, by no means on earth unless Straw (*or bracken?*) lie under. By ten or fourteen days they will have done sweating; but the greener they are when gathered, let them lie in longer.

Cook- *The Making of Cider* 1678

\*\*\*\*\*

\* Stuart Young emailed *The Golant Pill* with the following:

*"In your last issue you mentioned the collection of bracken and the possibility that it might be used for storing apples or other soft fruit. In Mary Wright's book 'Cornish Treats' (Alison Hodge, Penzance, 1986) she mentions that bracken was used to transport soft fruit from the orchards around Calstock and St Dominick to markets and jam factories. She also mentions that ferns were used to line baskets for collecting the Kea plums from the Cowling's Creek area on the Fal, and often the fruit was shaken directly into the boats and baskets from the overhanging trees. She notes that straw was not used for this purpose as it imparted a musty flavour to the fruit.*

*As Golant also produced soft fruits then it might have had the same use here."*

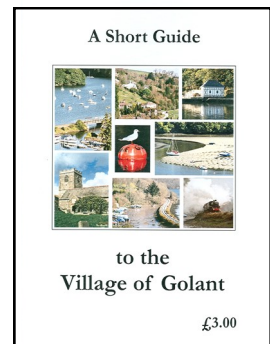
Meanwhile, we found the following extract from the *West Briton* of October 22nd 1866, quoted by John Fenwick in his book *The Parish of St Sampson*, published in 1986:

*"The patch of moor known as Golant Downs gave the (Railway) Company a good deal of trouble. It is claimed by the "inhabitants or the poor" of Golant, who exercise grazing rights over it and once a year upon an appointed day cut the fern for firing, each party carrying away their share upon their backs, as neither animals or carts are allowed to be used for that purpose. Hitherto the land has never been broken up, but proposals to that effect have recently been made. We believe Mr Rashleigh claims to be the owner of the fee. In consequence of so many rights being exercised over this piece of ground the Company had to serve notices upon everybody whose claims can be ascertained."*

So, were the ferns used for cattle bedding, collecting, transporting & storing cider apples, or for 'firing' (presumably fuel)? Any other ideas?

\*\*\*\*\*

Don't forget that John Jenkin's illustrated *Short Guide to the Village of Golant*, in which he describes many aspects of the history of our village, is on sale in St Sampson's Church, for just £3.00. Alternatively, you can purchase a copy from Gillie & Mike Harris. All profits are split between the Village Hall, Church & the Golant Pill.



## OLD PHOTOGRAPHS & POSTCARDS

**Jimmy Fisher** is always interested in purchasing old photographs and postcards of Golant to add to his large collection. He may be contacted at:  
23 Moorland Road, Par (Tel: 813810)



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## Auntie Paddy's Recipe Corner

Sue Strode suggested this recipe to me as a quick and easy way of making meringues.

### MICROWAVE MERINGUES (makes about 2 dozen!)

1 Egg White  
9 oz/250g Icing Sugar

1. Whisk the egg white and then fold the icing sugar into it to make a very stiff mix.
2. Using a teaspoon, shape into small balls and place well apart on a plate or shallow dish on which you have put a layer of greaseproof paper or baking parchment. (I only put 3 on to cook at a time, as they do spread considerably).
3. Cook at full power for 1½ minutes. (If you have the silicon bun tins these can be used, and there would be no need to use the paper).

These meringues are ideal for using in any sweet where you break them up, such as **Eton Mess**, a combination of whipped double cream, strawberries and meringue.

Alternatively, pipe or spread them with cream and arrange fruit on top.

### Thursday Kitchen

I hope you all know that we are now back in the Village Hall. The lunches in the Church have been an interesting challenge for us, and have worked out better than we thought.

Our last **Thursday Kitchen** before Christmas will be on the **18th December**. Following the success of last year's 'Special', we would invite anyone who would like to come to put their names on the Clipboard at the Village Hall Thursday Kitchen between now and December 11th, or contact Vilma (832807) or Paddy (832613) to confirm that you would like to attend. We suggest you bring a bottle to help get into the Christmas spirit!!

The Thursday Kitchen will take a break after 18th December, and will reopen on **Thursday 12th February 2009**.  
*Paddy & Vilma*

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Have you a friend or relative who would like a regular copy of this newsletter? It costs only £7.50 (£12.50 overseas) to have the six issues per year of **The Golant Pill** sent by post.

To Jacky Fletcher, Mimosa Cottage, Water Lane, Golant, Fowey, Cornwall PL23 1LA  
Please send the next six issues of the NEWSLETTER by post (**Please print clearly**)

I enclose a cheque for \*£7.50/\*£12.50 (Overseas) made payable to  
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\*\*Past issues of **The Golant Pill** are available at £1 per copy \*\*

\*\*A laser printing facility is available at reasonable rates for parishioners.\*\*

Contact Robert Dunley (01726 832807) for further information.

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## CALENDAR OF VILLAGE EVENTS



### DECEMBER

Tuesday 2nd	8.00pm	Quiz	Fisherman's Arms
Thursday 4th		<b>No Thursday Lunch</b>	
Sunday 7th	9.15am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Wednesday 10th	9.50-10.10am	Mobile Library	End of green
Thursday 11th	12.45-2.30pm	Thursday Lunch	Village hall
Friday 12th	8.30pm	Live music with <i>Fisberman's Daughter</i>	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 14th	9.15am	Holy Communion (Sung)	St Sampson's
Sunday 14th	11.30am	Meet & Greet	Village hall
Tuesday 16th	8.00pm	Quiz	Fisherman's Arms
Thursday 18th	12.45-2.30pm	Thursday Lunch***	Village hall
Saturday 20th	8.30pm	Live music "Off the Wall" plus Christmas Draw	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 21st	12.00-3.00pm	Pre-Christmas Turkey Lunch <i>Bookings only- see pub notice board for menu</i>	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 21st	4.30pm	Christingle Service	St Sampson's
Monday 22nd	9.00pm	Cornish arrangement of traditional carols Come and sing!	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 24th	6.30pm	Nine Lessons & Carols <i>Christmas Eve</i>	St Sampson's
Wednesday 24th	Evening	Christmas Carols & Sing Along Mince Pies & Mulled Wine	Fisherman's Arms
Thursday 25th	9.15am	Holy Communion (Sung) <i>Christmas Day</i>	St Sampson's
Saturday 27th	8.30pm	Live music "Off the Wall"	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 28th	9.15am	Holy Communion with Carols <i>(Book of Common Prayer)</i>	St Sampson's
Wednesday 31st		New Year's Eve Party Free Buffet & Nibbles Fancy Dress theme: <i>Heroes &amp; Villains</i>	Fisherman's Arms

### JANUARY

Sunday 4th	9.15am	Holy Communion <i>Epiphany</i>	St Sampson's
Tuesday 6th	8.00pm	Quiz	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 7th	9.50-10.10am	Mobile Library	End of green
Sunday 11th	9.15am	Holy Communion (sung)	St Sampson's
Sunday 18th	6.00pm	Evensong	St Sampson's
Tuesday 20th	8.00pm	Quiz	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 21st	9.50-10.10am	Mobile Library	End of green
Wednesday 21st	7.15pm	Parish Council meeting <i>The public are invited to take part until 7.30pm</i>	Village hall
Saturday 24th	7.30pm	"Circus Berzercus" <i>Tickets from Mike Freemantle: 01726 816454</i>	Village hall
Sunday 25th	9.15am	Holy Communion (Sung)	St Sampson's
Saturday 31st	8.30pm	Mama Mia Night Dancing and Singing to Abba	Fisherman's Arms

**NB \*\*\*There are no Thursday Lunches after 18th December until February 12th.  
From February onwards, lunches will not take place  
on the first Thursday of each month.**



*If you have any item you wish to be entered into this Calendar of Village Events, please contact Janet Gore (832425), the Parish Diary Member of our team, by the Copy Date shown on page 2 of this newsletter, & we will try to include it.*

