



Cheers!



New licensees Anne-Marie & Steve with daughter, Becky, enjoying the winter sun on the terrace at The Fisherman's Arms

Welcome to Golant!

Villagers in Golant have extended a very warm welcome to the new licensees of The Fisherman's Arms, pictured above. Steve and Anne-Marie, who have been together for twelve years, have five children between them. Becky, who is the youngest and a student at Truro College, is the only one living at home. Another daughter, Abbie, who lives and works in Bristol, has already been down to Golant and taken her turn behind the bar.

Running a pub is a new venture for the family who moved from the outskirts of Bristol to run Golant's only inn. Previously, Steve worked as an operations manager for Airbus and Anne-Marie as a co-ordinator for Balfour Beatty. They are no strangers to Cornwall for Steve's parents live at Mabe near Falmouth and a brother at Penryn.

Steve, Anne-Marie & Becky have soon learned the names of a number of customers who are happily flock-

ing back to their village pub. They are a very friendly & outgoing family and are already taking part in village activities, an area which they are keen to promote. The pub's Christmas Raffle is underway and New Year's Eve promises to be quite an evening with the theme 'The Big Top.' Other special evenings are being planned including quiz evenings. *(See the back page for events at the pub in December & January.)*

'Traditional Fare at Fair Prices' is the best description for the bar menu! "We're trying to find out what people want before we assemble and print our menu," said Steve. Various sandwiches are available; ham, fish & scampi with chips are popular and Sunday Roast @ £6.95 is fast gaining a keen following. Recently, I helped the church choir demolish one plate of plain chips and one of cheesy chips– scrumptious! Try it!!!

The welcoming party at The Fisherman's Arms include, also, a delightful trio of Lhasa Apsos dogs– Barney, Alfie & Beau.

From the Editor

I cannot believe that this issue marks the end of the first year of The Golant Pill! The months have simply flown by. When we look back to our first issue we realise that we have learnt a lot. What is so encouraging is the unflagging support of readers. Without *your* generosity we would have folded in a short time. You may recall that we were assured that a start-up grant would be easy to get; in addition, a much larger follow-up grant from the National Lottery would be available. Then the rules changed and we have had *nothing*. Of course, the Olympics are absorbing more and more of the lottery's funds. I love sport but small projects like ours all over the country are suffering. However, our accounts show that we are paying our way. Last month's copy, with its extra page and coloured photographs of the carnival, was more expensive but that was planned. We are confident that we shall continue to have your support to keep the funds healthy. After all, we aim only to pay our way, not to make a profit.

In our last issue we highlighted a new historical guide to the church written by a past resident, John Jenkin. In this month's Golant Pill, we have a poem (p5) from a new collection written by Simon Funnell which has just been published. Both these publications have been printed on our laser printer (and paid for separately, of course!) and I think that both books are really attractive. All profits are going to worthy causes in the village.

I am receiving more copy now for which I am very grateful. I am having to use the delete key more often to shorten reports but that is a very healthy sign because space is at a premium. Please don't be offended if I have to shorten any piece you submit!

We have tried a few competitions and we know from talking to people that they give enjoyment. However, we get hardly any entries submitted! We hope for a bigger response this time to the **Golantagrams** (p5) and the children's Word Search (p7).

I am most grateful for all the support & sound advice I have received from the Production Team. They have been so generous with their time and efforts.

At this special time of the year, I extend my hope that you will enjoy a peaceful Christmas and that 2008 will be full of contentment & fulfilment.

Mike Harris

'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.

Please note that the **Copy Date** for the next issue is:

Wednesday 23rd January 2008

Articles & letters can be sent by email

(golantpill@yahoo.co.uk)

or placed in the postbox at the bottom of the drive to South Torfrey Cottage

CHRISTMAS MEET & GREET

Sunday 2nd December from 11.30am
in the Village Hall

Please bring your choice of beverage & nibbles and meet old and new residents.

Further details from either
David Skerrett (832464), Tom Ross (833346),
Patrick Fox (832344) or Peter Stone (832738)

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The Grand Chutney Challenge

The idea for the challenge came as a result of prolonged discussion by the Chapel on how people were to interpret the message from our televisions on how to eat and be healthy. We are beset by a plethora of food gurus, ranging from pouting cleavage to the frankly abusive and obscene on one hand and a government telling us to eat and drink less, and to conform to an ideal concept of shape and behaviour. This we felt was a threat to normal behaviour of those living in the Country.

We issued a challenge to the cooks (not allowed to say ladies as this would result in charges of sex discrimination) and asked them to produce chutneys. The Chapel would be delighted to then come and judge them. The prizes were to be of leeks as we were none too fond of this vegetable. We were delighted to receive 23 entries and these were made anonymous under the scrutiny of Thomas Ross. Those non-village members of Chapel aided by their good ladies would judge the chutneys. The judges passed comment that things have certainly changed in the village as no bribes were offered. The results were as follows: Joint First place Janet Longman, Mary Skerrett & Gillie Harris and in third place Gail Parsons. This was entirely above board and not fixed as far as the public will be allowed to know.

The reason for the challenge was really to pay tribute to Paddy Shelley and Vilma Dunley for their great efforts in running the Thursday lunches. We also wished to give support to the efforts of the Village Hall Committee, who do so much to continue the existence of the Hall.

The question is, should we offer to do another chutney challenge or should we move on to judge Paté and Terrines? The Chapel will take soundings and come back to the Pill.

David Skerrett

Golant Fireworks

The weather forecast for the night of the 5th was not brilliant but luckily, apart from a short shower at about 7 o'clock, the rain held off. The grounds of the Fisherman's Arms soon became crowded with people, although there were not as many as in previous years. Gail and Sue Edwards did some sterling work selling raffle tickets and this, together with the draw for the 'squares' that had been sold inside the pub for a few weeks, was held just before the start of the display.

We are indebted to Sharps Brewery for providing two poly-pins of Doom Bar and to Tony and Amanda of the pub for providing six bottles of wine which included a bottle of bubbles. Thanks also to Richard and Sue Strode who donated a bottle of wine.

Prizes on the 'squares' were won by Meatloaf (Chris Lundy) who won the Doom Bar (I hope that he had some friends to drink it with because he normally drinks lager!), and Estelle who won the bottle of bubbles. The raffle was won by a visitor who won the Doom Bar and Richard Gabb who won the six bottles of wine.

I am told that the first firework was lit by Neal who used to be the chef at the pub. A superb display followed over the next twenty minutes.

Thanks to the team of Pete Plasterer, John Bittle, Andrew Van den Broek and Dave Johnes. We hope you enjoyed the spectacle which we believe is the only free public display in Cornwall. Please support us throughout the year when we have a few fund-raising activities, and we will be able to put on another good display next year without selling tickets- or putting a barrier across the road at Castledore & charging all entrants!

Maurie Parsons

Carnival Eavesdropping Competition



You're not getting nun!

The Golant Pill team studied a number of entries, (made anonymous by Robert Dunley for the voting); some of the original ones were distinctly scurrilous! The above winning suggestion of what Tauniua was saying to Robert was actually entered by Tauniua herself!! Congratulations!

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Golant Apple & Orchard Survey.

Pam and I took along about a dozen local apples collected from around the village to the National Trust Trelissick 'Apple Day' on the 6th October and succeeded in identifying most of them. The richness and variety of the village apples never ceases to surprise me. Here are some varieties that we had not previously identified.

Peasgood's Nonsuch A large 7-8 cm green/yellow apple with red streaks raised 1853 by Mrs. Peasgood at Grantham, Lincs. Keeps September to December.

Lord Derby. Well known to gardeners, this is a large 7-8 cm. green apple with russet speckling. Pick in September; keeps to November or December. A culinary apple.

Polly or Cornish Polly. This is a medium to large sized apple, 6 cm, round conical, green/yellow with red flush, originally from around the Truro and St. Austell area. Sweet light taste, soft, juicy flesh. Early, used as a cooker. Philip McMillan Browse from Heligan writes, "These are small, roundish to slightly conical, yellow, second-early season apples, on smallish, lightweight, upright trees." Nita Fuge tells me that this is also known locally as 'Dingie' or 'Dingy', and she and John used to have one in their own garden. They think that there is a small orchard of these apples remaining in Penpoll creek, which I hope to investigate in the Spring.

Newton Wonder. Smallish, 4 – 5cm, red/green apple with distinctive swelling at stalk. Was found c1870 by innkeeper Mr. Taylor growing in thatch of Hardinge Arms, Kings Newton, Melbourne, Derbyshire. He transplanted it into his garden where it survived until 1940s. Pick Mid-October, season November - March. I can confirm that this is an excellent eating apple and deserves to be better known. Unfortunately this year most of them have gone for pig food which is a shame. Perhaps next year we can harvest them and distribute them at the Christmas Fair or similar event. There is a specimen Newton Wonder in the Melon Yard at Heligan.

Primrose, possibly Manaccan Primrose. Medium sized, 6 cm, yellow/orange apple with red flecks. From the Truro area. Philip McMillan Browse describes it as a dual purpose apple. "Has medium to large, regularly round, but very slightly flattened fruits, with green skin which quickly turns to a rich clear, pale yellow and develops a little flush on the sunny side. It has crisp flesh with sharp and tangy flavour in the early season, and matures by late October when it can be eaten. The yield is reliable." Mrs Yvonne Matthews, who identified the apple for

us at Trelissick, said that it makes good jam. James Armstrong Evans (St. Dominic) says that "it grows on its own roots from cuttings or pitchers." Like our local cider apple Captain Broad, the branches show distinctive patches of 'aerial roots'. These can be cut off and planted and will grow true to type. ('Pitcher' being a reference to 'pitching' them anywhere and they will grow.) Barry Champion, Head Gardener at Trelissick, says that these aerial roots are also called burrs.

Lord Lambourne. A medium sized, 6 cm greenish/yellow apple with slight red streaks. It is a cross between James Grieve and Worcester Pearmain. Pick mid-September; keeps till Nov.

Paradise. Small 4-5 cm. yellowish apple with red blush. Stock apple used for root stock. First recorded in 1389 in the list of trees at the Hotel St. Pol in Paris. Reached England by C19th.

One of the experts commented to us that identification by fruit alone is quite difficult and not always reliable. Apples from opposite sides of the same tree can look quite different and the same variety of tree can differ from one location to another. To aid identification they need not just the fruit but some leaves, ideally a photograph of the tree showing its height, shape and surroundings and a photograph of the blossom. Next year I hope to be better organised and get around the village with a camera at blossom time. Anybody who would like their trees identified should contact me during the winter so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

Nearly all the apples we identified were good quality eaters or cookers, grown in the village, definitely organic, and with no 'carbon footprint'. It is a pity that so many of them go to waste. Perhaps next year we can harvest them properly and make them available in the village, maybe even have our own Apple Day! Finally there was, possibly, one exciting discovery at Trelissick; an apple that was thought to have been lost. We are awaiting confirmation of this and two of the experts from Trelissick will be coming to view the tree in early Spring. I'm afraid the full story will have to wait for another time.

Stuart Young

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Village House Names

There's River House and Hillcrest,
Old School House, Orchard View
(The name must be quite catching
As in Golant there's two!);

There's Doriam and Highfields,
The Whispers, Golant Farms,
Old Cider House, and opposite
The well-known Fisherman's Arms.

White Gables, Treetops, Cheyles,
And Colbeh, Drinnicks, too,
Ebb Tide, Leyonne and Lantor,
Cosel and Castle View.

Golant Stores, Penquite Old Barn,
And Penquite House and Farm.
Spindrift, Toynes and Bloweys,
And Tanhay House and Farm.

Polbrean, Rozel and Sea View,
Lantyan and Torfrey House;
South Torfrey Farm and Cottage,
Norway and Paradise.

Primrose, Moons and River View,
Mimosa, Myrtle, too,
And Orchard – lovely cottages,
And with a river view.

There's Fair View, Crosstrees, Hillside,
Menethryn, Bracken – phew!
Annet Lowen, Appletrees,
Blackatinnie, High Point too.

St Carroc and Cornelva,
Rose Cottage, Hybadore;
St Sampson's Terrace, Arneys,
Colbeh and many more.

At Castledore the Farm lies;
Ky-Tyak, Higher Leyonne.
Below, Trethellan, Hendra,
Bodriggan, Westhaven.

The Old P.O. and Bellscat,
And Torfrey Nursery,
And Austens Cottage, Highwater ,
Lawhibbet, Trebathery.

There's Cornerways and Sunnyside,
Trevanion, Wringford Farm,
And William's Acre, Altarnun,
And also Wild Thyme Farm.

I'm sure there's more. But spare a
thought
When next you post a letter.
I might have got a couple wrong –
Our postmen do much better!

Simon Funnell

Golantagrams Competition

Can you solve the following anagrams of
house names in Golant? They are all in
Simon's poem! The numbers in brackets
denote the actual number of house words.

Example: cast bell (1) is **Bellscat**

1. Find trips (1)
2. Bring a dog (1)
3. Bite Deb (2)
4. Met Henry N. (1)
5. Wavier chord (2)
6. Store cress (1)
7. The forty-four rams (3)
8. Magic tomatoes (2)
9. Chore held outside (4)
10. Great door catch (2)
11. Yearns (1)
12. Campers get to Rio (2)
13. What big eels! (2)
14. I will race Sam (2)
15. Got to see car (2)
16. Peter leaps (1)
17. Roy got a new cat (2)
18. Vet saw hen (1)
19. Raid G's ace teapot! (2)
20. His pet shrew (2)
21. Roy's new car (1)

Send your answers to Gillie Harris at
South Torfrey Cottage, Golant, PL23 1LA
by Wednesday **23rd January 2008**.

The above poem is one of twelve Simon has written on
Golant and the river. The collection, '**A Round Dozen
Around Golant**', will be available from Simon at
'Orchard View' (833343) by the time this newsletter is
published- a unique Christmas present, perhaps- and will
be sold with all proceeds going equally to Golant Village
Hall and St Sampson's Church. Price £5

Old Photographs & Postcards

A reminder that **Jimmy Fisher**, of 23 Moorland Road,
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Village Hall Committee Report

I am in danger of being known as the 'Bat Lady' as everyone always asks about our village hall roof progression with reference to the 'Bats.' As Mike Freemantle has found out in his pursuit of an answer, it is much easier to get help if you are a private householder than a public body. Some organisations are more helpful than others and Helen Shaw from Kingsworthy Bats Consultancy of Beaworthy, Devon, was extremely sympathetic to our cause and suggested it would be better to contact one man bands than companies, as they tended to be more flexible, cheaper and would be happy to travel some distance. So this is the route the Committee has decided to follow. We really do hope to have this sorted by Autumn 2008.

It has been lovely to see the village hall used so much over the past two months, not only by our regular Thursday Kitchen (over 40 people attended last week) but also for Bishop Bill's lunch, a gardening morning tutored by Alistair Rivers, the Chutney competition, two Carn to Cove shows, Boat Watch AGM, the village Christmas Fayre and a packed house for the Quiz with fish and chip supper.

On Sunday 2nd December the popular Meet & Greet takes place organised by David Skerrett.

On Tuesday 29th January the Restormel S.E. Coast meeting will take place in Golant village hall at 7pm. Not only are Golant villagers invited to this meeting but people from Fowey, Tywardreath and nearby villages. This is a chance to hear of Restormel's plans for the future and to put any of your concerns about the local area. It is also an opportunity to see what grants could be made available to local organisations. So please do try and attend.

On Saturday February 2nd we shall be holding a Cheese & Wine evening, during which Simon Funnell will be giving a talk entitled 'Tristan and Iseult-the local legend?' Tickets are £6 to include an interesting selection of cheeses and a glass of good wine. You are welcome to bring additional wine if you so wish.

Those of you who have heard Simon speak before will know that he is sure to give an entertaining and informative talk. Tickets from Estelle Van den Broek (833707) Janet Gore

Golant Quiz

If you were passing by the Village Hall during the evening of 20th November and heard a lot of groaning and moaning it was probably because eleven quiz teams had just received a set of questions for the next round and they did not like them!

Gail and Maurie set a quiz of ten rounds plus a marathon round and the subjects varied from history to sport to literature and even to Golant.

The quiz was eventually won by The Eggheads who were based on the Luck family with support from Angela Tabb and Evelyn Parsons. The booby prize was won by a team comprising of Vilma, Robert, Gwenda, Martin and Dorothy but they did not disgrace themselves. A total of 64 people took part.

A raffle was held, and our thanks to Steve and Anne-Marie from the Fisherman's for donating a Sunday lunch for two people, Andrew Van den Broek for a large bouquet of flowers, Cynthia for a session of alternative therapy, Andrea Barker for two lovely baskets of natural beauty products and some Golant Christmas cards, and Barbara Ross for a bottle of Dubonnet.

Fish and chips were delivered from Val's Place at Par and these went down extremely well during the interval.

A total of £270 was raised for the Playground Committee to go towards a new swing & cargo ropes for the climbing frame.

Maurie Parsons

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The kids' insight on Golant



!Note from the sub-editor!

Hi Everyone!

I hope you had a great Halloween, and now it's coming up to Christmas!!!! I'm looking forward to hearing from you next year. It was fab to hear from Katharine, and please do the Word Search that Naomi made up!! Have a fab Christmas and keep writing!!



WILDLIFE TRACKERS

Some animals will soon be going into hibernation or stocking up for the rapidly approaching winter. Not many animals actually hibernate here in Cornwall as we are so far south and global warming is causing a crucial rise in temperature.

Loads of birds are out gathering food for the winter. **Trackers tip: To help the birds gather up their last food before a bleak night you can sprinkle some nuts and seed onto your bird table. It's best to do this just before it gets dark.**

Alice Hunter

Congratulations Canoeists

On the 7th of October, Golant's Fowey River Canoe Club held its annual canoe race. Sixty eight competitors took part from all over the south west and beyond; some even came as far afield as Oslo!! It was amazing to see so many canoes out on the water.

You could race a four, eight or twelve mile race in either a single or a double canoe. Fowey River did really well with Megan Middleton winning the Martin Compton memorial cup. Martin was one of the founders of the club who sadly died last year.

There were many first timers from Golant but for the race sadly they were either away or ill!!!! However, Alice and Joe who shared a double canoe (a k2) came third in their division. But it was not all plain sailing. There was loads of shouting, toil, tears and sweat but they crossed the finish line noisily!!!!

All the kids from the club want to say a huge thank you to Kev, who helped us build up our stamina with long paddles, Emma who organised the race and was really kind and patient with us and Carol who helped out on those tiring paddles or when we desperately needed an extra pair of hands!!!! We know you have given up so much time to help train us so we want to say.....

Thank you so much!!!!

Words by Alice Hunter
Source of info. from Emma

Why I like coming to Golant

I like coming to Golant to stay with my Granny and Grandad because there are so many other things to do. Last time I came down I went for a walk with Maurie and Gail and their lovely dog Harvey. Later on I went up with Annie and Alan to see their little piglets which were only two hours old.

We also go to the slip to catch crabs. The last time I went crabbing with my four-year old brother James we caught 26 crabs, and when we released them they all ran down the slipway and back into the estuary.

I also liked going to the Cormorant with my Granny and Grandad for afternoon tea and I had a cream tea for the first time. It was fabulous! I also enjoyed taking my Grandad to the pub for his pint of beer, and I had orange and lemonade.

We also enjoy going to the new playground. We like the seesaw best and the new swing tyres are a lot of fun!!!

Katharine Millar, aged 8

Children's Gleanings

Musical Magician

Good luck to Tom Harvie who is auditioning at three London music schools soon. I've heard him playing his saxophone and if you've ever heard him I think you'll agree he is an amazing jazz musician.

Christmas Word Search

P	C	A	N	D	L	E	M	S	N
A	R	U	S	A	N	T	A	T	C
R	T	E	A	N	L	M	N	A	A
T	I	B	S	G	M	A	G	R	K
Y	U	V	U	E	K	G	E	C	E
C	W	S	Y	L	N	I	R	A	X
I	C	R	I	B	F	T	Z	R	C
D	E	C	O	R	A	T	I	O	N
O	D	P	O	V	H	O	L	L	Y
K	S	N	O	W	M	A	N	S	R

Naomi Harris-Davison

There are 15 words to do with Christmas hidden in the Word Search above. Words can be found diagonally, horizontally and vertically. Write them down and send or give them to Alice Hunter at St Carroc, Golant, by **23rd January 2008**. Whoever finds the most will win a **£5 book token!** All correct answers will be put into a hat and the winner's name pulled out. That's the fairest way!

St Sampson Parish Council

Undoubtedly the most important issue before the Council in the past few months is that of affordable housing here in the village, especially as to where such homes should be built.

The foremost issues raised were:- would it be right to support a proposal to build affordable housing outside the village boundary, and if such a proposal were to be given the go-ahead, would it set a precedent and open the way for future development in the open area surrounding Golant?

We recognize the difficulty facing young people from the village who wish to set up their own homes here and we have no wish to stifle the sustainability of our community. However, the Council believes we have to guard against the possibility of ribbon development in the surrounding Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty especially on the lane leading up to Castledore.

In October we had a long and informative meeting with Mr Anthony Lee, Head of Planning and Affordable Housing Policy at Restormel Borough Council, following which the matter was further debated. We were then in the position of being able to make our policy clear.

The Parish Council is of the opinion that it is not in favour of building affordable housing beyond the village boundary at the present time. We are against setting a precedent for such development in this area. We consider that any building necessary to meet identified affordable housing need here should take place within the village boundary.

This is in keeping with the housing policy statement of the St Sampson Parish Plan:-

- The Parish does not support any major new development.
- Low density in-filling within the existing village boundary is supported.

Sue Reardon
Chairman, St Sampson Parish Council

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Golant Gleanings

CONGRATULATIONS

Jonathan Barker has gained a Silver award in the Duke of Edinburgh's Scheme. This is no mean feat and required hikes of 35 miles across Bodmin Moor. He received his award from Lady Mary Holborow, Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, at Alverton Manor, Truro. Jonathan will now be working towards his Gold award. To cap it all, he has just been made sergeant in the Lostwithiel Army Cadet Corps.

In the list of Conde Nast Johansens Awards 2008, Mary Tozer at the Cormorant Hotel has won the prestigious 'Best wine list in small hotels & restaurants, UK & Ireland.' See her website (www.cormoranthotel.co.uk) for details of her Christmas breaks.

THANKS

Karen Hamnett is most grateful to Greg & Penny White for all their help when mounting her recent exhibition at the Lostwithiel Library, and to all those who supported it. The event, which showed off the great talent and expertise which Karen possesses in a variety of techniques, was very successful.

HEALTH ISSUES

It's good news for Kath Slater who is now home from hospital after her nasty fall. David Scantlebury is still in hospital where he is undergoing further tests.

CHILDREN IN NEED

'Radio Cornwall' listener Kate Renwick alerted the village to the station's idea to get people singing 'Trelawny', the Cornish national anthem, in pubs all over the county at 9.30pm as part of the BBC charity's appeal. Hasty phone calls and a quick print of the words made sure that a good number gathered in the Fisherman's Arms. The singing was strained at times, due to the high key given by the singer on the radio! However, a very commendable £71 was raised. Villagers who were able to attend found it a fitting occasion to meet Steve and Anne-Marie, our new landlords, who had arrived only the day before.

WELCOME

David & Kaye Jenkinson have recently moved from Dorking to Wild Thyme Farm. Both ran a business in catering. We hope that they will be able to join other newcomers and villagers at the 'Meet & Greet' on December 2nd in the Village Hall.

A SPATE OF BIRTHDAYS!

To our certain knowledge, there have been three octogenarian birthdays recently in the village, so many warm congratulations to Evelyn Parsons, Dorothy Rickwood and Graham Vivian! At the other end of the scale, Millie Van den Broek has just enjoyed her first birthday!

THE THURSDAY KITCHEN

The last 'Thursday Kitchen' before Christmas will take place on **13th December**. This promises to be a 'Special!' If you have not already done so, **please** contact Paddy (832613) or Vilma (832807), our brilliant, hardworking cooks, to confirm that you would like to attend. Numbers are already growing very quickly! They suggest that you bring a bottle to help get in the festive spirit!

The Thursday Kitchen will take a break over the holidays, and will re-open on 10th January 2008.

PIGS FOR SALE

Rare breed, Golant reared, free range pork. For sale, ¼ pig @ £90, ½ pig @ £170, whole pig @ £290. Butchered to your requirements & vacuum-packed ready to freeze. Contact Ann Barker (01726 832330) anytime for more info.

CHUTNEY QUERY

Ann Barker is keen to find the producer of the 'Lady Jayne's Beetroot Chutney', which was entered in the recent Chutney Competition, as she would love the recipe!

GOLANT BOAT OWNERS' ASSOCIATION (BOAT WATCH)

For the past few years the post of Boat Watch co-ordinator has been held by Dennis Penhall, who has done a splendid job, but for personal reasons has now passed the duties to Mark Randles. The high level of marine security that all boat owners enjoy is due to such members as Dennis and Mark who spend considerable time co-ordinating volunteers prepared to do a watch.

The AGM of the Association was held on Friday 16th November. The chairman, Mike Harris, welcomed the 50 members who attended, together with Mike Roff and Dean Earl from Maritime and Aviation Intelligence (SW Branch) of HM Customs and Excise. Mike Harris acknowledged the contribution of the present committee who were all re-elected for another year. Special mention was made of our local Beat Officer, PC Tim Rowe, who regularly checks the Boat Watch reports on behalf of Devon and Cornwall Police. The chairman also paid tribute to the Harbour Master's office for their invaluable and ready response whenever they have been called to any incident on the river.

The prudent management of the Association's finances is such that we were able to make donations to the local branch of the RNLI, the Air Ambulance and the Polruan branch of the National Coast Watch Institution. All these organisations are instrumental in ensuring safety of our members.

After the business side of the meeting, the Customs Officers gave a most interesting and informative talk on their work, mainly anti drug smuggling. The size of the problem can be appreciated by one fact they gave: 60 tons of drugs are consumed every year in the UK. Not only do they cover the whole of the SW coastline but also airports, airfields and landing strips, of which there are 43 in Cornwall alone. The lengths to which some drug smugglers go was illustrated by one incident Dean Earl recounted. All the fenders of one smuggler's yacht had been filled with a class A drug. One of the fenders had fallen off and was found on a Cornish beach. When examined, because of its weight, it enabled these officers to trace the yacht concerned.

Robert Gore

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GOLANT QUAY USERS ASSOCIATION

Nothing much to report or any newsy items, so this is short and sweet.

We continue to repair the Quay walls and have found some big holes behind the stone face where the river has eroded the grouting and then the fill material.

A BIG REMINDER TO ALL BOATERS THAT THE NAVIGABLE CHANNEL UNDER THE GOLANT RAILWAY BRIDGE WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN 7TH JANUARY AND 17TH FEBRUARY 2008.

It may also be worth noting that Network Rail has a track possession over the weekend of 19th to 21st January 2008 to work on the bridge, so my guess is that it might be a bit noisy especially if they work at night!

Peter Edwards

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.

Email- tim.rowe@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

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



The performance of Madame Lucinda's Wonder Show went really well – eventually. Obstacles that got in the way were the set having difficulty fitting into the hall and some sort of rugby final I understand. Anyway 'it was all right on the night' as they say.

By the time you are reading this we shall also have enjoyed Cat Wetherill and her Barkbelly and Other Terrific Tales.

It's about time that we had some music, so we have Paul Cherrington and Pam Ward singing for us on Saturday 19th January. They are coming all the way from Northampton and are well worth hearing. Please read the leaflet enclosed.

Tickets, enquiries and suggestions to Mike Freemantle

News from St Sampson

The visit by Bishop Bill on October 14th commemorating the start of the separation of our parish from the monastery at Tywardreath five hundred years ago was enjoyed by all who attended. At the beginning of the service everyone went outside to witness the blessing of the 'Tristan & Iseult' gate. A fanfare on the organ as the congregation returned to their seats heralded the start of a rousing service. This included the new 'Hymn to St Sampson,' the words written by Simon Funnell and the tune by Sheila Funnell. The bishop spoke of the witness of our parishioners through the centuries. He acknowledged the wonders of the natural world and the way people have fashioned beautiful buildings like ours from materials which are millions of years old. Looking to the future, he highlighted the need to maintain the building as a tangible witness to the Truth and to be sure that we seek actively to pass on the Christian message to future generations. Later, the bishop strode down the hill with The Revd Philip de Grey-Warter and some of the congregation to the village hall, where a fantastic buffet had been prepared by Paddy Shelley and many helpers. Bishop Bill, who retires at Easter 2008, circulated around the hall, skilfully engaging people in a huge range of subjects, from Proust to the market price of pigs, whilst consuming a fair ration of the food on offer! Shunning his heart problems, the bishop insisted on walking back up School/Church Hill before driving himself back to Truro.

Some time ago, it was planned to erect an arch over the 'Tristan & Iseult' gate with a light. Unfortunate delays meant that the original design could not be ready in time. The arch, which was placed in position very hastily just before the bishop's visit, is experimental. The PCC has agreed to leave it in position until the evenings lighten early in 2008 because the light is proving to be very helpful to those who attend the church for services and practices during the dark evenings.

Every five years, the church has to be inspected by an architect or qualified surveyor. Such a survey was carried out in July and the full report has been received. There are, of course, problems! However, the architect heaps praise upon our community for the way the church has been restored and maintained. I shall outline specific tasks in future reports. For the moment, I shall mention that the tower is an area which requires attention. Having seen the water pouring down an internal tower wall during a nasty storm earlier this year, we are not surprised at that finding!

Many will be aware that the high cost of metals has encouraged thieves to target churches and to remove lead from roofs. Fortunately, St Sampson's doesn't have much lead. We do urge everyone to note that **no contractor has been asked to work on the church roof**. Please don't hesitate to report any suspicious activity to the police.

Things in the churchyard have been quiet. I have almost completed a cut of all the grass with a boxed mower. The large grave by the seat at the eastern end began to topple a few weeks ago. It was not dangerous but Warren Nichols, our local monumental mason, has removed the heavy lid, rebuilt the granite walls and reset the lid as well as cementing other graves which needed attention. This work was paid for by the Charles Blowey Charity.

On **New Year's Day at Noon**, we hope that villagers and visitors will come along to the church with a bottle and some nibbles. Anyone can help to 'Ring in the New' by having a go at ringing one of the five bells. We don't do this each year but it's another opportunity to have a chat and look around our historic building. Also, if you choose to walk up the hill, it can be quite sobering after the night before!

Mike Harris

A Christmas Message from the Vicar

Dear Friends,

Christmas is a very mixed bag. For some of us it is a great season to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. All the traditional ways of celebrating are part of the pleasure of the season. We enjoy the cards and the holly, the mince pies and Christmas cake, the Christmas trees, lights and tinsel. It is all good clean honest fun, a bit of seasonal cheer in the gloomy winter months.

At the other end of the spectrum, for some, the reason for the season has been submerged beneath blasphemous distortions. There is a confusion of mythology with fact, so that Father Christmas has, with his ridiculous clothes, stupid lies and false religious morality, usurped the place of Christ.

And for most of us there is some confusion between these two extremes. We do not like the commercialisation of Christmas. We do not feel comfortable with Christ being left out of Christmas. The generic 'Season's Greetings' seem weak and pointless. We rush around complaining about materialism whilst steadily stocking up our homes with food and presents. Little wonder that for the two months before Christmas the shops are decorated with Christmas glitter, and the muzak is playing the endless round of carols. There should be some 'sound abuse' award for shop assistants having to endure the same music for more than a week!

But the commercialisation of Christmas is not all bad. From the Christian's point of view, it has the great side effect of making Christmas essential for the community as a whole. Shopkeepers won't allow Christmas to fall off the calendar. Civic authorities sponsor decorations and lights. The community as a whole is focussed on a nostalgia of the season of good cheer. And perhaps, behind it all, there is a residual understanding that what we're celebrating is the most mind blowing, earth shattering, awesome event in all history?

Don't miss out on celebrating the reason for the season—why not join us for one of our special Christmas events—you'll find a very warm welcome.

With every blessing for a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful New Year. Philip de Grey-Warter

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST SAMPSON'S



16th December	6.30pm	Family Christingle with Carols
Christmas Eve	6.30pm	Nine Lessons & Carols
Christmas Day	9.15am	Family Holy Communion

*Please note that there is **no service** on Sunday 23rd December*

St Sampson's Church Flower & Cleaning Rota

December 2nd	Taunua
December 9th & 16th	Jackie & Trish
December 23rd & 30th	Ruth & team
January 6th & 13th	Ruth & Gill P
January 20th & 27th	Paddy & Jill

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The annual Golant Christmas Fayre is always a popular event and this year's was no exception. At first there seemed fewer people but I understand that all of the organisations were pleased with their results.

The Rowing Club's mulled wine and stollen proved popular as did the soup and ploughman's lunches provided by the Village Hall Committee.

An impressive display of Christmas gifts had been put together by St Sampson's Church, and Karen Hamnett, with her individual gifts and cards, proved to be a popular stall. The Bottle and Sweets stall run by Boat Watch (who kindly donated all their profit to the roof fund) had many lucky winners. Profit from the cake stall went to the Playground appeal, together with money made by Alice Hunter from her craft table. Because there were so few children at the Fayre, Alice persuaded adults to choose a design for a card which she then made up, and from those sales made £15! An entrepreneur in the making?

Simon Funnell had produced a booklet called 'A Round Dozen Around Golant,' a collection of twelve poems which he had written. These were sold with all profits shared between the village hall and the church. There are a few of these remaining if you wish to purchase one (see page 5).

The beautiful Christmas hamper was won by Alan & Julie Gee, and three other prizes donated by The Fisherman's Arms were won by Suzanne Edwards, Barbara Ross and Penny Lanagan. The name for the penguin was 'Bruce' and he was won by Sarah Holden.

I'm sure that you will all be pleased to know that just under £700 was made in total for the various charities concerned. A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO TOOK PART.

Janet Gore



WHO GREW THE TALLEST SUNFLOWER IN GOLANT?

At the Plant and Book Sale last May, a competition to grow the tallest sunflower in Golant was launched by the Village Hall Committee. Participants were issued with a free packet of seeds and the intention was to measure the resulting plants on Carnival Day. By August, however, none of the entries had produced a flower, thanks to this year's unfavourable weather.

The plants were finally measured on 4th October and the results were as follows:

Alice Hunter	220cm	Melissa Weatherall	130cm
Hugh Elworthy	184cm	Belinda Weatherall	128cm
Jack Elworthy	177cm	Rosemary Weatherall	113cm
Joe Hunter	160cm	Maddy Rose Hunter	104cm
Meg Elworthy	140cm		

Each entrant received a packet of sunflower seeds ready for next year and a chocolate bar. Our winner, Alice Hunter, received, in addition, a box of chocolates. When interviewed she admitted that she had given no particular attention to her plant, had not prepared any special feed, had not watered it more than necessary, nor did she talk to it!

Mary Jean Stone



Alice with her winning plant



Jack & Millie with the Elworthy's three entries



Melissa Weatherall with her family's sunflower plants

Auntie Paddy's Recipe Corner

I hope you try this over the Christmas holidays. It's a recipe from an ex-resident from Golant. Caroline & Ken used to live at Primrose Cottage. This syrupy twist on Christmas pud takes no time to prepare & can be steamed or made in the microwave.

STICKY ORANGE & MARSALA PUDDING

<i>3 tbsp golden syrup</i>	<i>85g/ 3oz fresh white breadcrumbs</i>
<i>2 clementines or satsumas, thinly sliced</i>	<i>grated fresh nutmeg (about 1/4 tsp)</i>
<i>175g/ 6oz butter</i>	<i>2 tbsp marsala</i>
<i>175g/ 6oz golden caster sugar</i>	<i>zest of one large orange</i>
<i>3 eggs, beaten</i>	<i>200g/ 8oz mixed dried fruit</i>
<i>85g/ 3oz self-raising flour</i>	<i>handful of glacé cherries, halved</i>

FOR THE SYRUPY SAUCE

<i>5 tbsp golden syrup</i>	<i>zest of one orange & juice of half</i>
<i>3 tbsp Madeira</i>	

1. Butter the inside of a 1.2 litre pudding basin. Cut a sheet of foil & greaseproof paper, both about 30cm long, and butter the greaseproof.
2. Spoon 3 tbsp syrup into the bottom of the basin. Lay 5 slices of the clementines or satsumas in the bottom, overlapping like petals.
3. In a bowl, beat the butter & sugar until creamy, then add eggs gradually, beating all the while, until light and fluffy. Add a spoonful of flour if the mixture starts to split.
4. Tip in the breadcrumbs and the rest of the flour, fold until combined, then add all the remaining ingredients and fold again. Spoon mix on top of the fruit slices. Add remaining slices of clementines or satsumas against the side of the bowl as you go.
5. To cook on the hob, cover with buttered greaseproof paper and foil, and steam for 1½ hours. To microwave, loosely cover with cling film, pierce once, then cook on Medium for 12 mins. To check it's done, poke a skewer into the pudding; it should come out clean.
6. Make the syrup by heating the ingredients in a small pan. When the pudding is ready, turn out and serve drenched with syrup, or leave to cool & chill for up to 3 days. To reheat, re-cover with foil & greaseproof and steam for 30 mins, or cover with clingfilm & microwave on Medium until hot.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Have you a friend or relative who would like a regular copy of this newsletter? It costs only £5 (£10 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
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CALENDAR OF VILLAGE EVENTS

DECEMBER

Sunday 2nd	11.30 onwards	Meet & Greet	Village Hall
Sunday 2nd	6.30pm	Advent Carol Service	St Sampson's
Thursday 6th	12-2.30pm	Thursday Kitchen	Village Hall
Sunday 9th	9.15am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Wednesday 12th	9.50-10.10am	Mobile Library	End of Green
Thursday 13th	1pm	'Special Thursday kitchen' <i>Bring your own wine & please note the time</i>	Village Hall
Sunday 16th	4.30pm	Family Christingle with Carols	St Sampson's
Tuesday 18th	9pm	Cornish Carols	Fisherman's Arms
Thursday 20th	NB	No Parish Council meeting this month	
Friday 21st	8pm	Christmas Raffle Draw	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 23rd	NB	No Service	St Sampson's
Christmas Eve	6.30pm	Nine Lessons & Carols	St Sampson's
Christmas Day	9.15am	Family Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Sunday 30th	9.15am	Holy Communion <i>(Book of Common Prayer)</i>	St Sampson's
Monday 31st	Evening	New Year's Eve celebrations <i>Theme: 'The Big Top'</i>	Fisherman's Arms

JANUARY 2008

Tuesday 1st	Noon	'Ring in the New' <i>Bell ringing with refreshments</i>	St Sampson's
Sunday 6th	9.15am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Wednesday 9th	9.50-10.10am	Mobile Library	End of Green
Thursday 10th	12-2.30pm	Thursday Kitchen restarts	Village Hall
Sunday 13th	9.15am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Tuesday 15th	8.00pm	Quiz Night	Fisherman's Arms
Thursday 17th	12-2.30pm	Thursday Kitchen	Village Hall
Thursday 17th	7.15pm	Parish Council meeting <i>The public are invited to take part until 7.30pm</i>	Village Hall
Saturday 19th	7.30pm	Cherrington & Ward- musical duo <i>Tickets from Mike Freemantle: 816454</i>	Village Hall
Sunday 20th	6.00pm	Evensong	St Sampson's
Wednesday 23rd	9.50-10.10am	Mobile Library	End of Green
Thursday 24th	12-2.30pm	Thursday Kitchen	Village Hall
Sunday 27th	9.15am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Tuesday 29th	7.00pm	Restormel SE Coast meeting <i>The public are invited to hear and ask questions re local issues</i>	Village Hall
Tuesday 29th	8.00pm	Quiz Night	Fisherman's Arms
Thursday 31st	12-2.30pm	Thursday Kitchen	Village Hall

FUTURE EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

February

Saturday 2nd	7.30pm	Cheese and Wine evening with a talk by Simon Funnell 'Tristan & Iseult-the local legend?' <i>Tickets from Estelle Van den Broek: 833707</i>	Village Hall
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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.