



From War Baby to Wild Life Artist

Life has certainly had its ups and downs for David Parry, the internationally acclaimed wildlife artist, and he shared many of his memories with fellow members of the Golant Boatwatch (GBOA) at their recent Annual General Meeting.

Despite experiencing the worst storms of the winter, nearly sixty members attended the meeting. Some had avoided fallen trees and other inconveniences to reach the village hall. Candles and torches were ready if power cuts took place during David's talk!

David was born in the middle of the war, 1942, and his early years were spent with his mother in Liverpool. Life was very hard especially when they moved to the Hoylake area. Even as a toddler he was never happier than when he was wielding a pencil, attempting to draw anything which intrigued him. When he started school he found out how harsh life really can be. Many children at his school had no shoes even in the depths of winter. The behaviour in the playground was often vicious and his early naïvety was exploited when he experienced at first hand what a punch-ball felt like.

For a short time he was fostered by a wonderful couple and they took him on a few trips to the Lake District which awakened in him an empathy with the natural world. He attempted to recreate his observations in the only way he knew— with his drawing. Books, particularly any by Enid Blyton, gave him a spirit of adventure. Nature and adventure have underpinned his life ever since! Fortunately, a teacher at his secondary school realised David's extraordinary talents and did all he could to further the youngster's expertise.

Life was different when he moved with his mother and

her employer to Tunbridge Wells. "Nobody looked at you or even spoke, which was a shock after the people in the north." He eventually went to the Tunbridge Wells Art School followed by the Central School of Art in London. "We actually had to learn to draw which they don't do now! Incidentally, the Tunbridge Wells Art School was much better than London for teaching one about art." No grants were available so he had to find a variety of jobs to make ends meet.

Apparently, when he eventually started work, he didn't realise that he had to pay taxes on earnings! A demand from HM Tax Inspector forced him to sell his car. So he bought a bicycle and decided to tour France and Italy on it. Many incidents and adventures ensued but the cycle eventually skidded and left the road causing serious damage to the bike. However, the tour taught him much about life and people.

When he was 25 years old David was commissioned to tour Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and produce illustrations for a series of Natural History books. He has never looked back. He managed to get away from humans and wander around the many areas of the exciting safari parks on his own. Those solitary excursions allowed him to absorb and empathise with the creatures around him. He soon developed a passion for all things African. The resulting paintings and drawings have sold worldwide. David has returned several times to Africa and his latest paintings, particularly of lions, have won him special acclaim.

For several years he has been commissioned by the Sultan of Oman to produce watercolour paintings of the birds of Oman.

Continued on page 2

From War Baby to Wildlife Artist

(continued from page 1)

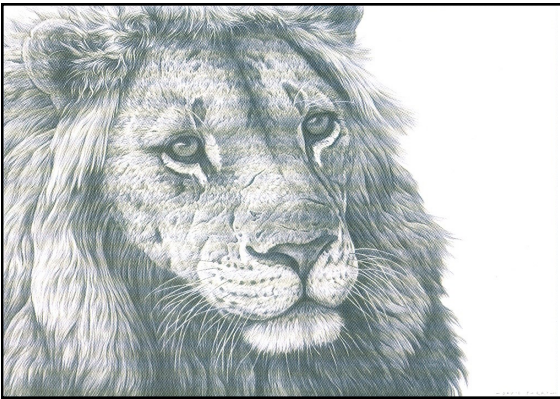
As a young man, David Parry had discovered Cornwall and has lived in the duchy for several years, returning from his present home in Wiltshire whenever he can. He still retains his studio in Golant. Sailing on the river remains a most magical activity.

David recalled that his first exhibition was a complete sell-out. He is a full member of *The Society of Wildlife Artists* and his pictures sell through various London galleries. He has held major exhibitions in Cornwall— at Lanhydrock through the National Trust and other galleries.

Every year, David has generously given one of his paintings, either in original or fine print form, to be raffled amongst members of the Golant Boatwatch, a gesture which makes an enormous difference to working funds. Three years ago, he was made a Life Member of the association. The Picture Raffle always creates huge support. This year David has donated a lovely picture of an African elephant. The draw for this will take place in the Spring Get Together which the association plan to hold in 2010.

Annual General Meetings are not generally known for being the most exciting and enjoyable of events. But, try telling that to the members of the Golant Boatwatch who heard David Parry talk at their AGM this year!

MGH



Ngorongoro Pride Lion

From the Editor

Thanks to everyone who bought our calendars. I'm sure you're delighted with them! We sold the first two hundred in double quick time & had to order a further fifty. Most of those seem to have gone by now. People have been delighted with the quality of the calendars and the high standard of the photographs. A special vote of thanks to Karen Hamnett for organising the whole operation.

The subject of war seems to have affected more and more people this year as was witnessed in many services on Remembrance Sunday & 11am on 11/11/2009. We met up with Geoff White & Clarence & Ruth Paull to hear about life on the land at that time. Hence, the subject of the *Backalong* article (p9). As always, our conversations went off at various tangents and I wish we had room to mention more of the many things we heard about.

Castle Dore is a noted historical site but I wonder how many of our readers have actually visited it? It offers a superb vista across the countryside. No wonder King Mark built his castle there; what a vantage point! It is within the curtilage of land owned by Clarence & Ruth Paull who have maintained it through the years mainly through grazing animals on the site. Clarence has information about Castle Dore some of which goes in the face of the views of so-called experts. We plan to meet up with him next year so that he can share his knowledge & experience with us.

It's really good to welcome Megan Dean's first efforts producing *Sandbanks*. It's always a popular page particularly amongst adults!

Also, it's lovely to welcome John Kift as a regular contributor (p14). He will be giving tips on gardening with particular reference to helping readers win prizes at the Golant Show next August.

We wish everyone a very special Christmas & a peaceful New Year. Nadelik Lowen ha Bledhen Nowwyth Da!

Mike Harris

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Village Hall Committee

We are sorry that we had to cancel the Christmas Fayre this year but we hope that next year it can take place again.

However, Estelle van den Broek has kindly agreed to put together the usual Christmas Hamper(s) for which she will be selling tickets in the village. This is usually very well supported and raises valuable funds for the upkeep of the hall. I'm sure Estelle will be pleased to receive any Christmas related items for the hampers.

The Committee is grateful to David Skerrett for allowing us to draw this hamper raffle at the Meet and Greet on Sunday 13th December. (See below for further details of this annual event).

Because it is nice to have a get together in the winter, Maurie and Gail Parsons have come up with the splendid idea of having an afternoon tea which will take place on Sunday 7th February from 4-6pm in the Village Hall. Maurie has written a piece to whet your appetite on page 7 of this newsletter, and we would urge you all to come to this.

At the present time we are getting quotes for the insulation of the walls, and it is good to be able to report that The Bernard Sunley Foundation, which has been so generous to us in the past, has agreed to give £1000 towards

this project.

It will be February before our main grant application to SITA will be considered.

In the meantime we have had to put on the night storage heaters again. Could we please ask people **not** to alter the setting on these heaters? For some while our Treasurer, Sue Reardon, has been concerned about the costs of our electricity bills, the off peak hours system and the way the meters are operating. There seem to be all sorts of anomalies. So to sort things out EDF has agreed to send one of their inspectors free of charge to the hall to look at the present set up.

Please support the next Carn to Cove show on Saturday 23rd January, a new show from 'Circus Berzerkus'. Tickets can be obtained from Mike Freemantle (Tel: 01726 816454) Further details can be found on page 4.

Janet Gore

THURSDAY KITCHEN CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Paddy & Vilma would much appreciate if you would **pre-book** for this special meal on 17th December.

There will be a clipboard for this at the kitchen on 10th December., or you could contact them direct.

Do please bring your own wine on the day!!

Christmas Meet & Greet

*Sunday December 13th
at 11.30am*

in the Village Hall

*Please bring your choice
of beverage or nibbles
and meet old and new
residents*

*The Village Hall
Committee will hold the
draw for the
Christmas Hampers
at 12.30pm*

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: 01726 813810)

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Buying 500 litres of oil, which is what individuals often do through one off orders or via top-up schemes is the most expensive way to buy. If you can place orders for 5000 litres the discounted price is much less— often 5p per litre cheaper.

When someone in the group needs oil then all the members are contacted and asked if they need any, and a joint order is placed. The more people we have and the bigger the order the better the price, but it is always better than the spot price, so there is nothing to lose. We are currently buying from Total Butler as offering the best deal, but we could equally take our custom elsewhere if there was a better operator. If your household isn't in the scheme yet, do give it a try. Each house has a separate account with the oil company, so the only complication is getting the order together. As it takes a bit of time to assemble everyone's needs, delivery sometimes takes a little longer, so don't leave it to the last moment! Total Butler can't reach some properties with their smallest tanker—they have tried!

If you would like to join, just call for a form and start to save.

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PORTRAIT & LANDSCAPE COMMISSIONS



What a crack- ing Autumn season we have had from Carn to Cove. Back in October we had a record turnout of 72 people for Bec Applebee's 'Ob Mary!'. If we weren't able to fit you in, the show was highly praised, and is well worth watching as it tours Cornwall.

Gordon Giltrap was, as expected, a sell-out in November and it was lovely to see him again.

The next event is likely to prove as popular, and bookings have been received already. **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE** of 23rd January for the return of **Circus Berzerkus**, with a different show 'Funny Business', a sequel to 'Komedy of Errors' that they brought to Golant a year ago.

Tickets, as usual, from Mike on 01726 816454

UNDERSTANDING THE CORNISH LANGUAGE !!

- 1 **AVEEDUNUN**- Have you taken the necessary steps to complete your course of action?
- 2 **DIDDY NAWN**- Did you know the person of whom we speak?
- 3 **PIDDLEDOWN DIDDA**- Was it raining heavily at the time?

With grateful thanks to Clarence Paull for these! More in the future.

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

Friday 22nd January

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GOLANT WILDLIFE

Bats: to know them is to love them - honest! I've had no involvement with any of the village projects that have been delayed due to the presence of Bats, but, as I was sorely tested by the discovery of a trio of *Lesser Horseshoes* in the roof of our own restoration project, I sympathise with anyone troubled by their presence. But, having of necessity become familiar with the lifestyle of Bats, particularly *Lesser Horseshoe*, I can only praise and admire these fascinating and complex creatures.

Various roosts of *Lesser Horseshoe* may be found: Nursery Roosts, where pregnant and nursing females congregate in Spring and Summer; Hibernation Roosts where individuals spend the cold months in a cave-like environment, preferring steady cool conditions, and Bachelor Roosts where all the action takes place! A solitary male will, in spring, find a suitable pad- for example, our Church tower or village hall roof, and then entice females back to join his Harem. He will entertain up to three females at a time until they become pregnant, then out they go!... being replaced in short order (Hmmm!). Interestingly, the females can control the length of their pregnancy, speeding or slowing the process so as to give birth when conditions are most favourable.

We have a Bachelor Roost in our own roof and I think that the Church tower and Hall also fulfil that role. I'm interested to know where our local Nursery Roosts may be; it could contain hundreds of females or just a few. Anybody suspect its whereabouts?

The Lesser Horseshoe Bat



In passing, the 'Bat Bridge' at Dobwalls is not a bridge at all; the Bats don't walk, or even fly, over it. It's an echo locator that they are meant to use as a guide. It replaces a hedge, which was hundreds, if not thousands of years old, removed prior to excavating the by-pass cutting. Without a replacement, it was feared that Bats, flying along the remaining stretch of hedge would follow the new contours and into the path of fast traffic - splat! On similar road schemes without any measures, massive Bat mortality has been witnessed. The 'bridge' is something of an experiment, and its effectiveness is being closely monitored, with the results being of national importance.

Recent Golant bird sightings: *Little Grebe*, *Black Redstart*, and *Garden Warbler*. The *Grey Wagtail* continues to vandalise parked cars outside the Pub.

Barry Campbell-Taylor

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sandbanks

The kids' insight on Golant

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Hello!

My name is Megan Dean and I am taking over Sandbanks from Alice Hunter, so the first thing I want to say is a big thank you to Alice for all her hard work.

Today we have two great pictures of Halloween and I have also been asking people in the village what would be their best and worst Christmas presents.

If any other children in the village want to contribute to this page, please let me know because we would love to have your stories, updates, photos or paintings. You can get in touch with me or via Gillie (*see page 8 for contact details*).



Can you identify these 'Trick or Treat' kids who appeared on Jacky & Bruce Fletcher's doorstep at Halloween? Look closely- two *Sandbanks* characters may be spotted!

Here are some of the ideas people gave me when I asked what would be their best and worst Christmas presents.
We have some strange people in Golant!!

BEST

A grand piano
My new chickens to lay an egg!
A laptop
A kayak
A piano
A rowing boat
A cruising chute
A holiday home in Ile de Ré
A yellow Lamborghini
A new kitchen table

WORST

Chocolates (*how can they say this!!*)
A year's supply of salad
A worm (*weird?*)
A bag of coal
A snake
A Chelsea doll
An orange
A spider
A sewing machine
The sprout I have been cooking since 21st April

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS Do you know why....

...we kiss under the mistletoe?

The Druids used mistletoe as part of their winter celebrations (200 years before Christ) but we probably get our kissing from the Scandinavians who connected mistletoe with their Goddess of Love.



HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

...we have Father Christmas?

In the 4th Century, the Bishop of Myra (Saint Nicholas) lived who was a generous man devoted to children.

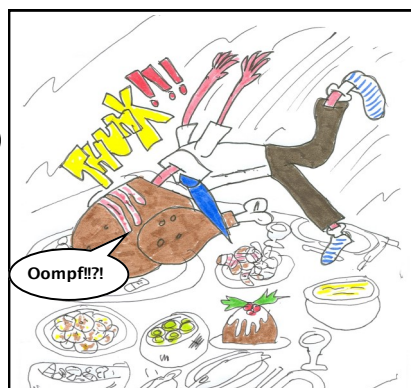
He had a broad face and a little round belly
That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

'A visit from Saint Nicholas' by Clement C. Moore 1822



ACCIDENTAL + FRIENDS

"Al's Christmas" by Charlie Swyer



LETTERS/EMAILS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Re: Broadband Speed

I'm sure that there a number of other people in the village who become quite frustrated over the broadband speed that is available to computer users. We read advertisements from companies that offer up to 20Mb upload speeds with many times that speed for downloads.

I have just checked the speeds of my connection and am getting, at best, 241Kbps upload and 504Kbps download. I am aware that we are at the far end of a line from the exchange but the disparity from what is offered and what I am getting seems unacceptable.

I am writing to you to see if any Pill readers know any way that pressure may be brought to bear on the telephone company, BT in particular, to improve the situation.

I understand that the Prime Minister has stated that it is government policy to get fast speeds to all rural areas by 2012. It appears unlikely that Mr Brown will be running the government from the middle of 2010 in which case a new administration may change or abandon the objectives.

Yours sincerely,

Maurice Parsons, QPM

We get 576kbps at best & would support any action which would seek an improvement. Ed.

MID WINTER TEA PARTY

Sunday 7th February 2010 from 4pm to 6pm

Lift the winter blues by coming along to the Village Hall for a proper Sunday tea with sandwiches, tea cakes, crumpets and cake. Unfortunately there won't be a nice open fire but there will be a warm welcome and good company.

There will be a jam tart making competition for those adult/children, male/females who feel creative as well as a raffle. It is also hoped that there will be a continuous visual presentation depicting Golant during 2009 and other entertainment.

This is not a fund raising event but there will be an entry fee of about £3 to cover costs.

There will be more details, including where you book your place, on telegraph poles around the village nearer the time.

Lost in film

Sun 20th December: *Monsters vs Aliens* Cert. PG
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Doors open 2pm, screening 3pm

Mon 25th Jan: *The Boat that Rocked* Cert 15

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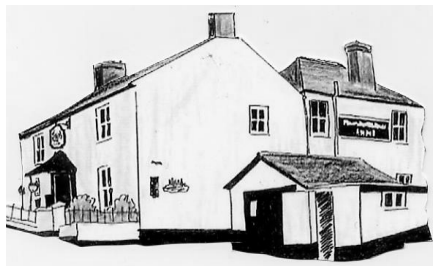
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November Meeting

The Council met on Wednesday 25th November, with one member of the public present. Topics raised during the public participation were the poor state of the map holder on the Village Green, the small landslip at the beginning of the road to the church, and the overhanging brambles on Torfrey corner and School Hill. Steps were agreed to try to address all these problems.

The Chairman expressed his thanks and congratulations to the organisers of the fireworks display, which was excellent, and particularly to Richard Strode and Bruce Fletcher for their work in ensuring the safety of the event. Relatively small planning applications for Water's Edge, Colquite, and the SWW plant were approved. It was agreed to apply for a grant for new bollards to support the chain surrounding the Village Green, as Cornwall Councillor Sally Bain had a little money at her disposal.

The question of vehicular access across the Village Green for a few residents was discussed, and it was agreed that professional advice should be sought to ensure that the situation would be permanently resolved. The dreadful state of Church Hill and the increasingly slippery surface of Water Lane were highlighted, and Cllr. Bain would be asked to ensure action was taken. Councillor David Johns reported that he had started the process of making the Lanherriot path into a bridleway, and several further contacts were suggested.

The Chairman had received a response from South West Water, following the failure of the pumping station, and had been visited by Adrian Miles earlier in the week. Mr Miles had admitted that SWW's claim that 'no salt water would penetrate the system' was a promise that should never have been made. He promised that the specifications, installation and noise levels of the pumps were all under investigation, and that the company accepted that these pumps were not operating as they should. Road and spring water in the system was a major problem (and a waste of energy), but the cost of re-routing the drains at this stage was prohibitively expensive. He also admitted that the RCB units did not work to the standard of their specifications, but, as the water that went back into the pill was 95% pure (mainly because it is so diluted with rain water), SWW would not be taking further action to improve their performance.

The Council had been asked to set the precept for next year, and after a preliminary budget had been prepared and this year's figures examined, it was unanimously resolved to

keep the precept at its current level. Sincere thanks were expressed for the clear budget the Parish Clerk had produced, and also for his excellent work over the year.

Finally, Fowey Library is arranging for a series of murals to be erected by the fence to the Bodinnick Ferry, and had written to ask whether anyone from Golant would be interested in painting an 8ft x 4 ft panel on the theme of 'What does Fowey mean to you?' If anyone is interested, then please contact Fowey Library (03001234111 – Helen Barden) by Monday 14th December.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 27th January, at 7.15 pm. *Simon Funnell*

Golant Pill Production Team

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Typesetting/Graphics	Gillie Harris	833897
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Parish Diary	Janet Gore	832425
Production	Sheila Funnell	833343
	Simon Funnell	833343

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Views & opinions expressed in 'The Golant Pill' may not be necessarily those of the Editorial Team.

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

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BACKALONG

The War Years— On Land

Around Remembrance Day in early November, we got talking to Clarence Paull & Geoff White about what life was like for the farming community in Golant during those grim years. Geoff had left the Tywardreath school & Clarence the St Austell Grammar School where he had made little effort to study for the School Certificate. Both joined the workforce at their family farms at *Torfrey* & *Leyonne* and were not called up for service in the armed forces, being classed as being in a 'reserved occupation.' The Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries set the targets for food production and, perhaps unlike their modern department, were very effective in increasing the efficiency of farmers.

A gun emplacement was constructed on the top field at *Torfrey*. Geoff recalled the sweat and toil of the soldiers who had to manhandle a large gun up the lane and field to the site. This avoided too many marks in the nearby fields which could have given German spotter aircraft clues about the gun site's position. When the Americans arrived they drove their vehicles anywhere and everywhere! Every field was covered with ruts leading to the emplacement. Within a few days of arrival, the granite gatepost at the end of the drive had been destroyed by a jeep. It was never replaced. "We had more important things to do in those days!" There is a large well at the top of the hill. Within the three weeks that they were there, the Americans had drunk it dry! Geoff remembers his father going down into the bell-shaped well on a rope.

At *Leyonne* Clarence was one of five sons and two daughters. The farmhouse faces east and he remembers on occasions seeing the glow from Plymouth which suffered a series of devastating raids: "...a distant grandstand view..." Another memory is of searchlights probing into the skies to illuminate the German aircraft. One searchlight was situated very close to where the sewage works have been built near *Bodriggan*.



Clarence was about 10 years old in this photograph.

Some prisoners of war who were based at Lanescot were transported to local farms to work. The Paulls were allocated one called Ernst. In no time Clarence was speaking German fluently ("and vice versa"). Ernst proved to be a good worker. He was issued with a couple of sandwiches each day and ate them in a barn. After a while, when he had proved himself, the family invited him to join them for dinner each day in the farmhouse kitchen.

Ernst was transported from the POW camp to *Leyonne* each day but, if working out of hours, Mr Paull drove him to and fro by car. Ernst was repatriated in 1946 but, strangely, did not keep in touch. *Torfrey* was allocated three POWs: "...an Austrian who was a good worker & a right pair of Nazis who were lazy & ill-tempered so Father made them pick up stones in the fields..."

At *Leyonne* they had the help of two Land Girls— one from Tywardreath & another from Tooting Bec. At *Torfrey* there were two Land Girls, both from Sheffield, but Geoff, who was then about 13yrs old, was not allowed to work with them. For some reason they under-achieved when he was around.....!

Clarence's elder brother was in the Home Guard. Ralph Varco's father was the only officer and Wilf Dixon was made sergeant in charge of the Lewis gun. At their hut, tea & hot water were available but no teaspoons, so Joe Tucker used his pipe to stir his brew! One day, the Home Guard was down at the Pill receiving training in the use of hand grenades. They were using live grenades. When it came to Joe Tucker's turn, he withdrew the pin and then he froze, unable to let go! Fortunately, the instructor dashed forward and saved the day.

MGH

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From your Cornwall Councillor

It is now six months since I was elected to represent you on the new Cornwall Council. You probably know that I have taken over the post of Cabinet Member for Children's Services, a huge portfolio which involves everything to do with children, from social care to education.

We have been hugely busy since coming into office and the priority is the council's budget. The current year's budget has been under severe pressure and was heading for a substantial overspend. Firm action has been taken to manage the situation and it is hoped that at the year end we will come in on target. And the challenge is on to agree a strategy for the next and future years, knowing that public sector finance is going to be extremely tight.

The other big issue that has dominated has been the Ofsted inspection on the Council's performance on safeguarding children. This has been widely reported and discussed, but I want to say how disappointing it is to receive such a poor rating when the service has had substantial investment in recent years, seemingly without much effect. I am determined that we shall drive improvements, supporting and developing the front line staff and giving them clear leadership.

Following the decision to scrap the Council newspaper, we will be launching soon, on a trial basis, a monthly column in the Cornish weekly newspapers. Some of the content will be common across all the newspapers, but the rest will be local news, activities and issues relevant to the geographical area covered by individual editions of each paper. Recognising that not everyone buys newspapers, we will post content onto our website and distribute it by email to the appropriate town and parish councils, local parish newsletters, voluntary and community sector groups, localism staff and ward members. It will also be attached to the email as an A4 sheet so that it can be printed and posted

onto notice boards.

In October I attended the National Children's and Adults' Conference in Harrogate (a three day event). The main issue to come out was Social Workers— we do not value them sufficiently well, training is inconsistent, some degree courses excellent, some very poor. We also need to constantly update their training.

It's that time of year, and after all that gloom and despondency I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Sally Bain

TAKING THE PILL

Gill Paull is pictured with her recent copy of the *Pill* on The Great Wall of China.

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



Gail & Maurie Parsons
Pam & Stuart Young

wish all of our friends and neighbours a very merry Christmas and a prosperous, healthy New Year. We will not be sending Christmas cards within the village this year, but, instead, we will make individual dona-

tions to the *Golant Pill*.

Seasonal Greetings to All.

Many thanks to Gail, Maurie, Pam & Stuart for their kind thought. Ed

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Golant Gleanings

CONGRATULATIONS

Grahame Vivian celebrated his ninetieth birthday in November. The event passed in a very special way— a quiet affair with family and a few close friends, some of whom served with him with the Gurkhas.

Wally Simpson, who lived at Myrtle Cottage before moving to Polruan, was ninety recently, too. His hilarious play *If So, Then Yes* was published a few months ago.

Kevin & Pobo Taylor are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Clair to Ben Connibeer. The couple plan to marry on June 19th next year.

Phil & Gill Bunker's son Oliver has become engaged to Estelle Packer, and they hope to marry sometime next summer.

IN RECOVERY

Micky Morgan is recovering from a fall from a step ladder.

Evelyn Parsons is walking well after cracking her knee.

Dorothy Rickwood is much better after her 'funny turn'. She lost the feeling in one arm, one leg and the foot. Standing with no slippers on she did not realise that she was standing on the cat's tail! The cat has forgiven her.

Lorna Vivian is still fighting a respiratory problem.

We wish all these villagers a speedy recovery.

THANKS

Wilma Dunley wishes to thank all those people who sent cards, flowers, phoned for news, brought meals and so on following the successful operation on her hip.

CHURCH MODEL LATEST

Rachael Bromley's beautiful model of St Sampson's church has recently been featured in the *Doll's House World* magazine. There were pictures within an article on the Epsom Show where the model was exhibited. Plans are being made to have the model on permanent display up at St Sampson's but it will be necessary for the exhibit to be secured against theft.

I am always delighted to receive any items, no matter how small, for the page of Gleanings. You need merely to give me a ring! Ed.

GOLANT VILLAGE WEBSITE

The Webmaster is having difficulty in attending, photographing, and reporting on the many events and activities that take place in our Village. He is, therefore, hoping to attract contributions from the community to keep this very successful website vital, interesting and up to date.

If you have suitable photos of village activities and are willing to share them, then please let the Webmaster have a copy. Any format will suffice; they can be emailed to bcbgolant6@googlemail.com, provided on a digital disk, or simply provided as a photograph which may be scanned and then returned to its owner.

The Website now has the facility to display movies. So if you have any interesting digital moving images, taken by mobile phone or camera then please consider sharing with us all via the website. Anyone without email facility can post or drop in to 4 River View.

Have you looked at our website recently? (www.golant.net) Have you any suggestions for improvement or addition? Comments and suggestions will be very welcome.

Barry Campbell-Taylor. Webmaster

GOLANT QUAY USERS ASSOCIATION

A lot of boats are in on their winter berths declaring that winter has finally arrived. Some boats stayed out until after fireworks, which is probably a wise move and something we will encourage more of next year.

The land purchase continues. We think we are finally near the end of resolving the Articles of Association, in which we are trying to prevent future Directors from being able to sell-off or change the land. We have also now received the missing Title documentation from Cornwall Council via *Coodes* our solicitors. There are a lot of maps and paperwork concerning the transfers or ownership and who owns what, mostly relating to the original ownership by British Rail when the old station existed, and of the subsequent sale to Restormel. All of which we need to be clear on regarding boundaries before we can proceed. Your Parish Council has kindly agreed to assist us with the financing of the purchase that we all hope will preserve the foreshore as it is, for future generations.

Peter Edwards

GOLANT BOAT OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

The weather on the evening of the AGM was so bad that it was a surprise that sixty members managed to arrive. Sgt Capp & PC Dingle were so busy dealing with emergency calls that they were unable to attend. Sgt Russ Hall (Looe) reminded everyone about the importance of marking equipment & keeping a record of serial & model numbers. Officers at Looe, & those at St Blazey, are working even closer than before. More police presence on the river will be observed in future. He was pleased that a good number of Boatwatch members had bought the special outboard covers complete with the microdot system. "Mark everything on board!" This would help police charge thieves in future. There was nothing more frustrating to a police officer than being unable to prove ownership and being obliged to hand stolen goods back to the thief.

Mike Harris, who took over the chairmanship from Dougie Cooper nearly ten years ago, had given notice in 2008 that he would be unable to continue in the post after 2009. A new chairman has not come forward yet.

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

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| ▶ Harbourmaster's Office | 01726 832471 |
| | <i>(Out of hours transferred to Duty Officer)</i> |
| ▶ Mike Harris | 01726 833897 |

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

Harbour News

The autumn is certainly with us, the harbour is nearly empty and the first of the stormy weather has reached our shores. This time of year sees the start of our annual maintenance programme for our craft, facilities and, here in the office, the review of the many statutory plans and paperwork we control.

Some of the plans currently under review include the Fowey Harbour Oil Spill Contingency Plan and the Port Marine Emergency Plan, both of which would form an important part of the Harbour Commissioner's response to an incident.

The Harbour Commissioners' Annual Report and Accounts and Environmental Review have been approved by the board and will shortly be available both online and as hard copies from the Harbour Office. Please contact us if you would like a copy sent.

There has been a recent meeting of the Fowey Estuary Partnership, which represents the various statutory bodies, organisations and interested parties in the management of the estuary. We are undertaking a review of the Estuary Management Plan, a non-statutory document containing guidelines to inform, advise and guide current and future management of the estuary.

The Estuary Partnership set up the Fowey Estuary Voluntary Marine Conservation Area (VMCA) to conserve and protect the estuary and its varied habitats, encourage community involvement with the marine environment and to raise awareness of the value of the marine and coastal life around the estuary. In a recent edition, a new 3 year project by the Cornwall Wildlife Trust was mentioned which would support the aims of the Fowey VMCA and others in Cornwall through the provision of environmental training, surveys, events and school visits. The decision on the application of this funding will be known at the beginning of December, and if successful we will see a programme of events for 2010 and a number of other volunteer activities, so keep a look out for news in forthcoming editions. If you are interested in any aspects of this project, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We are looking forward to a busy 2010 with 7 cruise liner visits planned, including a repeat visit by the 'World' from 29th – 31st July. We will also be undertaking a tree planting programme at Penmarlam, to replace some of the non-native screening planting with native tree species.

The Fowey Harbour Commissioners would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Claire Hoddinott
 Environment Officer,
 Fowey Harbour Commissioners,
 Albert Quay, Fowey.

www.foweyharbour.co.uk

News from St Sampson

The Harvest Supper made a profit of £610.11. The collection at the Harvest Thanksgiving service raised £110.15. *Harvest for the Hungry* was chosen again as our charity. The normal 20% share was rounded up to £250 for the charity.

At last the remaining lesser horseshoe bat has flown from the tower. The repairs to the problems inside can now take place when the builder's schedule allows.....

The Union Jack flew from the tower on both Remembrance Sunday & Remembrance Day. The wind and rain on both days was ferocious, to say the least! The first flag ended the day shredded along one edge; the other lost some of its colours (Made in Taiwan). We always realised that it was crucial in the long run to have flags which would endure the conditions at the top of our tower and which require strong material. I have talked to people (not necessarily in Golant) who have flags stored away in their lofts, almost forgotten. I would love to hear from anyone who has flags and would like to see them in use. We need to build up a set of: a Union Jack, St Piran, St David's Cross (or Welsh Dragon), St Andrew, St Patrick, and St George. (Ideal size 6' x 4')

Simon Funnell has produced another publication entitled *The Life of Saint Sampson* which will shortly be on sale in the church. A great deal is known about our patron saint and this is a really entertaining, informative & illustrated read. Do pop in and buy your copy.

Visitors are often at the church investigating their family roots; others email for help. The internet has helped two such families recently. One was from Dorset, whose ancestor is buried near the large camellia, the widow living at Tanhay in *Victoria Cottage*. Which dwelling was that, we wonder? The other email came from USA. A lady and her cousin were arriving in three weeks' time and wanted information. From information we passed on to them, they were soon emailing the County Records at Truro, the Genealogical Society and so on. Gillie & I met up with the two ladies and showed them around. The Americans are in farming and, after further investigation into the UK Census records, we were able to tell them that one ancestor was farming at *Wringford* in 1841. We've heard from them since their return home and they hope to be back sometime for more delving into their past.....

In response to my plea in the last issue for more singers, we are really pleased to welcome Steve Philis and Glynis Kelly to the choir. That makes four new members in the last year— wonderful! There may be times when Steve will be too busy at *The Fisherman's*. Indeed, all of us have other commitments at certain times in the year (eg holidays, family visits) and we plan around such absences.

MGH

Church Flower & Cleaning Rota

Dec 6th	Ruth & Gill P
Dec 13th & 20th	Gillie & Sheila
Dec 27th	Ruth
Jan 3rd & 10th	Gillie & Sheila
Jan 17th & 24th	Carol & Valerie
Jan 31st	Gill B & Judith

A VISIT TO SHELTERBOX

Mike & I recently enjoyed a truly uplifting group visit to the Helston-based **Shelterbox**, which, as most of you in Cornwall will know, is an international disaster relief charity. It was founded by Rotarian Tom Henderson in 2001.

Its instant response to disasters such as earthquake, flood, volcano, hurricane, tsunami, cyclone or conflict is to provide boxes of emergency shelter, which are delivered extremely quickly, with the minimum of red tape, unlike many other aid organizations.

A typical box contains a 10 person tent, thermal blankets, insulated ground sheets, a truly multi-fuel stove (any fuel, including paint stripper, can be used!), cooking utensils, a tool pack, water containers, purification equipment and a children's pack of colouring books, pens etc. Each box costs £490, including transportation.



We were shown a short but very powerful DVD recording the transportation of these boxes, with their high quality, well thought out contents, often through appalling conditions, directly to those in need. Highly trained **Shelterbox** disaster response teams, comprising volunteers from all walks of life, give of their spare time to help locals distribute the boxes by whatever means are available. These include boats, donkeys and men, who carry the heavy boxed life-saving equipment on their heads, often wading through rivers or deep mud. It was very moving to see the delighted reactions of children to their packs, so simple, but so comforting in such disturbing conditions.

The packing of each box is a highly organised procedure effected by a dedicated team of volunteers. "Since 2001, **Shelterbox** has provided shelter, warmth & dignity following over 80 disasters, in more than 52 countries". Prepared boxes in disaster-prone countries await mobilization to maximise the speed of response; a brilliant idea.

We were told that 92p out of every £1 donated goes directly into furnishing this aid; a high percentage indeed.

Do visit their website: www.shelterbox.org

Gillie Harris

KNIT ONE, PURL ONE.....

Pam Rundle continues with her skilful knitting, with all proceeds of any sales going directly to charities of her choice. Recently, she has given money to **The Children's Hospice South-West**, but her next chosen charity is to be **Shelterbox**.

Now that the Post Office has closed, Pam tells us that she does not take so many orders, but she would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like her to knit items, including her delightful soft toys!

ANAGRAMS competition

The following anagrams can be unravelled to reveal 15 of the **advertisers** in our *Golant Pill*. Be careful— sometimes it is just the advertiser's name, sometimes a heading!

Send your answers to Gillie Harris at South Torfrey Cottage by 22nd Jan. The drawn winner will glean a bottle of wine or a £5 book token.

1. White tern
2. Lent the motor car? Oh!
3. Clap slave
4. Cleric trails hare
5. Al cooks in a tub
6. Surly Mrs Viner's scared
7. Duck? Prepare mine
8. Best altar
9. Man's fire harms Seth
10. Sell thick salmon
11. Weak miller
12. Seen a calf?
13. Sue's doll; I hid it
14. That tub was cherry red
15. Oddest vet

OUR ADVERTISERS

If you support & use any of our advertisers, please do mention *The Golant Pill* when making contact!!

UNCLE JOHN'S GARDEN PATCH

Gardening Tips for Dec/Jan

According to my Trago Mills' rain gauge, since 19th October until writing this article on November 17th, we have had in the region of 9 inches (230ml) of rain. Now that is a brave way up my wellies!! So the best tip for the time being is to keep well off any turned-over ground.

The Autumn is traditionally the time to dig over the harvested vegetable patch, to let the winter frosts help to break up the soil and so make the ground easier to work down in the Spring. But to do so when it is saturated only compacts the soil, driving out the air and leaving it as a solid lump which will be slow to warm up in the Spring.

There are a few vegetables that you can sow during the Winter months, but the time is getting too late to till much outdoors. Broad beans *Aquadulce* and *Bunyards Exhibition* are the two varieties most suited to Winter sowing, as they are perfectly hardy and will produce a fine early crop next year, if you can keep the mice away from the seeds! Once they have germinated there is no problem.

In the greenhouse you can put in various salad things like lettuce, mustard & cress and radish, and it's well worth trying some French beans, early carrots and some early potatoes in a large pot or bin.

When the leaves have fallen off the apple & pear trees, then it's time to do any pruning, to take out any branches that are rubbing or any that are infected by canker. It seems that canker is indigenous to the village, as it affects most trees to some extent, although some of the newer varieties have a degree of immunity from it.

Now is a good time to plant any fruit trees, but remember to put plenty of well-rotted manure in the bottom of the hole; you'll never get another chance!

If you wish to grow your onions & shallots from seed, do it as soon as you can in January.

John Kift

Food & Produce Show 2009

We wish to acknowledge the generous donations from Duchy Nurseries, Duchy Timber, Walter Bailey & Son, Wyevale Garden Centre, St Austell Garden Centre, Four Turnings Garage & The Fisherman's Arms.

It's never too late to be one step ahead of your rivals for next year's Show! The full schedule for 2010 will be sent out with your *Golant Pill* early in the New Year. To help you with your seed order and other plans, the schedule will include, amongst many others: Gladioli (3 spikes), sweet peas, pelargoniums, french & runner beans, sloe gin, jams, wines, chutney, marmalade, photographs (*Garden Life*) & a hand crafted wooden item— 2ft cubed, cushion covered.



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Auntie Paddy's Recipe Corner

Here are two unusual soups for you to try. The first was given to me by Sarah Laughton. Her mother Reay will be remembered by many in the village. She lived at Waterside, on the edge of the Green, with her two long-haired dachshunds, Henry & Freddie.

Reay Fuller's Chestnut Soup

Ingredients

1 tin chestnut puree	1½ oz butter
1 onion, chopped	2 pints chicken or vegetable stock (from cubes)
1 carrot, sliced	Small tin evaporated milk or ¼ pint double cream

1. Melt butter in thick bottomed pan and let onion and carrot sweat gently for 5-10 minutes with the lid on.
2. Add stock and chestnut puree and cook for 30 minutes.
3. Put in blender or through a sieve to get a smooth liquid.
4. Add evaporated milk or cream seasoning to taste.

This soup seems to go down well though people struggle to identify the taste! Sarah prefers to use evaporated milk rather than cream.

Spicy Peanut Soup

Ingredients

30ml/2tbsp oil	2 red peppers, seeded & finely chopped
1 large finely chopped onion	225g/8oz carrots, finely chopped
2 crushed garlic cloves	225g/8oz potatoes, finely chopped
5ml/1tsp mild chilli powder	3 sliced celery sticks
900ml/1½pints veg stock	90ml/6tbsp crunchy peanut butter
115g/4oz sweetcorn	Salt & Pepper
Roughly chopped unsalted roasted peanuts to garnish (optional)	

1. Heat the oil in a large pan and cook the onion & garlic for about 3 minutes.
2. Add the chilli powder and cook for a further one minute.
3. Add the peppers, carrots, potatoes & celery. Stir well and cook for a further 4 minutes.
4. Add the veg stock, peanut butter & sweetcorn and stir well. Season to taste.
5. Bring to the boil; cover and simmer for about 20 minutes until all the veg are tender. Adjust seasoning and sprinkle with the chopped peanuts.

Paddy Shelley

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
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CALENDAR OF VILLAGE EVENTS





DECEMBER

Sunday 6 th	9.15am 6pm	Holy Communion Evensong	St Sampson's St Sampson's
Tuesday 8 th	8pm	Quiz	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 9 th	9.50-10.10am	Mobile Library	End of Green
Thursday 10 th	12.45-2.30pm	Thursday Kitchen	Village Hall
Sunday 13 th	9.15am	Holy Communion (sung)	St Sampson's
Sunday 13 th	11.30am	'Meet and Greet' <i>(An opportunity to meet old & new villagers)</i>	Village Hall
Tuesday 15 th	8pm	Bingo Evening	Fisherman's Arms
Thursday 17 th	12.45-2.30pm	Thursday Kitchen Christmas Special <i>(see page 3 for booking details)</i>	Village Hall
Sunday 20 th	4.30pm	Christingle (family service)	St Sampson's
Monday 21 st	evening	Cornish Carols	Fisherman's Arms
Tuesday 22 nd	8pm	Christmas Quiz	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 23 rd	9.50-10.10am	Mobile Library	End of Green
Thursday 24 th	6.30pm	Nine Lessons and Carols <i>(Christmas Eve)</i>	St Sampson's
Thursday 24 th	evening	Hot Toddlies, Nibbles and Sing Along	Fisherman's Arms
Friday 25 th	9.15am	Holy Communion (sung) <i>(Christmas Day)</i>	St Sampson's
Sunday 27 th	9.15am	Holy Communion with Carols <i>(St John, Apostle- Book of Common Prayer)</i>	St Sampson's
Thursday 31 st	New Year's Eve	60s theme night	Fisherman's Arms

JANUARY 2010

Sunday 3 rd	9.15am	Holy Communion (<i>Epiphany</i>)	St Sampson's
Tuesday 5 th	8.00pm	Quiz	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 6 th	9.50-10.10am	Mobile Library	End of Green
Sunday 10 th	9.15am	Holy Communion (Sung)	St Sampson's
Sunday 17 th	6.00pm	Evensong	St Sampson's
Tuesday 19 th	8.00pm	Quiz	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 20 th	9.50-10.10am	Mobile Library	End of Green
Saturday 23 rd	7.30pm	Circus Berzerkus <i>(Tickets; Mike Freemantle:816454)</i>	Village Hall
Sunday 24 th	9.15am	Holy Communion (Sung)	St Sampson's
Wednesday 27 th	7.15pm	Parish Council Meeting <i>(The Public are invited to take part until 7.30pm)</i>	Village Hall
Saturday 30 th	evening	Murder in Golant?	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 31 st	9.15am	Holy Communion <i>(Candlemas, Book of Common Prayer)</i>	St Sampson's

**NB There is no Thursday Kitchen after 17th December until 11th February.
Vilma and Paddy are taking a well deserved break.**

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.