

The Golant Pill

taken every two months...

Seasonal Celebrations!



‘Squire’ Robert Dunley dispensing the spirit of goodwill!

Christmas at the Thursday Kitchen

What a party atmosphere was created in the Village Hall at Golant in preparation for the final *Thursday Kitchen* of 2009! The tables were all gaily decorated in all the colours of Christmas with candles and the traditional crackers.

Only a few of the forty people who had booked their Christmas meal would have imagined that turkey would be served. The menus at the *Thursday Kitchen* usually contain a surprise or two. “What’s in this pudding, do you think? Cointreau? Tia Maria?” (Answer: probably both!)

Our esteemed chefs, Paddy Shelley & Vilma Dunley, frequently like to come up with the unexpected and this meal was no different.

- Prawn Cocktail or Waldorf Salad
- Game Pie with apricots, chestnuts, baked potatoes & seasonal vegetables
- Trifle followed by an array of cheeses and chocolates
- Coffee or Tea

And, of course, diners had brought along plenty of bottles of wine to supplement the food which helped to bolster their efforts when singing a few carols just to round off a lovely lunchtime event.

As a mark of the appreciation for all their hard work throughout the year, Paddy & Vilma were presented with orchids & tokens for the *Hall for Cornwall*.

MGH



The Intemperance Six in ‘full flow’

New Year’s Eve at the Fisherman’s Arms

Things weren’t looking good for Steve and Dave’s debut gig at the Fisherman’s Arms ‘*1960s Night*’ on New Year’s Eve. Star singer Becky (aka *Fisherman’s Daughter*) was double booked, and Dave was laid up with a streaming cold, so it was looking like a solo spot from Steve. However, fortified by a bottle of wine, Dave arrived with his sidekick guitarist friend Andy, plus Golant’s very recently formed all girl backing trio (Sue Reardon, Penny Parsons and Trish Jones) and the show went on with 20 or so hits from the 60s which got everyone singing along. Many made the effort to dress for the occasion – with a clear Golant preference for the flower power look rather than clean-cut Beatle suits. However, it wasn’t all ageing hippies, and there were a couple of stunners in Mary Quant mini skirts.

After handling Mrs Robinson and some Monkeys, dreaming of California and lazing on sunny afternoons, everyone eventually lapsed into Auld Lang Syne as the clock struck twelve, followed by a wobbly conga around the pub. For anyone with any voice left there was equally wobbly Karaoke singing into the small hours. Rumours abound that talent scouts from the internationally renowned *Village Hall People* are keen to sign up Steve, David and their hangers-on for more village gigs on their rocky road to stardom.

Dave Johns

From the Editor

In many ways there are more problems now than in years past when we have a substantial snowfall and most of them can be put down to our reliance on the use of the car. Like most of the duchy, Golant was badly affected with snow and ice over Christmas. Indeed, some roads were 'No go' areas; the only way to get down Downs Lane was on one's behind! But what fun was also to be had! The children certainly enjoyed themselves and why not? I applaud the people who shovelled rock salt over the most dangerous parts of the roads, even on the steep slope up to Castle Dore, and on neighbours' driveways. No one can doubt the community spirit which exists in Golant, so it comes as no surprise that there were many reports of acts of kindness. Ours was one of a number of households who received help with some shopping- a part of our drive was a sea of ice. I can't name names because I know I would unintentionally leave someone out. But to all those Good Samaritans who helped to make life easier for villagers with a problem: Thank you!

We continue to have a fault on our printer (the red toner device) but, as is common these days, we can't get a response from the manufacturers. A letter was written to *hp* before Christmas but it must have got lost in the system. The fault occurred as we printed the last issue and we are so grateful to one of our advertisers, *Micro-test*, who took the machine away, cleaned it, and returned the machine within a couple of days- service indeed! (Our last issue was a little late as a result). They had identified the fault but, unfortunately, only the makers can mend it as specialised equipment is required. Also, as is common these days, it may be more expensive to repair than to buy a new printer.

It's good to have a new writer this month in Pam Ager who has provided the *Backalong* subject (page 9) and I hope for some response to her query. Also, Stuart Young has stirred my interest with his report on trees planted on Golant Down in 1980 (page 10).

Mike Harris



Gill Bunker enjoyed toning her pectoral muscles on New Year's Day. Note the Cornish colours on the fellet (otherwise known as a sally).

Bells and Bottles

New Year's Day at midday was a sparkling jewel in the cold drab days that surrounded it, with blue sky, low winter sun and little wind.

Quite a crowd came to St Sampson's Church to meet together, imbibe a little and nibble.

Surprisingly, about twenty men, women and children had a go at ringing, and for an hour, three bells chimed out with their efforts.

Ringling looks easy and requires little physical effort – it's all in the timing of the pull, but you can't see the bell which weighs several hundred pounds and is twenty feet above your head! Everyone managed to make the bell toll and some were actually ringing with the bell making a near 360 degree swing.

After ringing, a small party climbed the ladders through the deadening chamber (no bats), the bell chamber and up onto the roof to magnificent views of the surrounding countryside and river Fowey.

Greg White

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Village Hall Committee

The Committee would like to thank everyone who supported the Christmas Hamper raffle by donating 'goodies' and/or buying tickets which raised £147 for village hall funds, and in particular special thanks must go to Estelle van den Broeke the organiser, and to David Skerrett for allowing the draw to take place at the *Meet & Greet*. The first prize was won by Tricia Jones and two smaller hampers were won by Janet Longman and Alastair Barr.

In the last edition of the Pill Maurie Parsons wrote an invitation to all villagers to come to a **Mid Winter Tea party on Sunday 7th February from 4-6pm**. We hope to see as many of you as possible at what promises to be a lovely event with scrumptious food and good company. There will be jam tart competitions (3 on a plate)- one for adults and two for children. On entry you will be given a number so the judges can be completely neutral! During the tea there will be a rolling quiz for each table and a continuous visual presentation depicting Golant. Do you have any pictures you could please loan to Maurie and Gail? They are particularly looking for photos of older past residents like the lady who lived in Tinneys Cottage who was a dance teacher, plus the last resident of Beach Cottage. We promise to return them so please put your

name on the back of your pictures. There will be a small charge of £3 for the tea to cover costs. Please pay on the day. However, it would be helpful if we knew approximately how many people are coming so please could you let us know if you can attend: Tel: Maurie and Gail Parsons (833475) or Janet Gore (832425).

It is hoped that the insulation of the walls will begin over the next few weeks. The Committee has chosen Bromleigh Building Services to do this work. They are a local firm based at Par and the job should take 1-2 weeks. I shall keep those who have bookings informed but the hall should be available for evening meetings.

This insulation is the first step in improving the comfort of the building and in particular cutting the cost of heating. An offer of a grant for half the cost of solar panels has been received from The Low Carbon Buildings Programme, and in February we should hear whether our grant application to SITA has been successful.

The Thursday Kitchen makes a welcome return on 11th February and Vilma and Paddy look forward to seeing you all again.

Other dates for your diary are: **Tuesday 28th April: Village Hall AGM and Saturday 22nd May: Plant and Book Sale.**

Janet Gore

With your magazine this time you will see a schedule for the **Flower, Produce and Craft Show** to be held on **Saturday August 14th**. This should give everyone plenty of time to plan their entries in all the categories. As you will see, there are some changes from last year in all the sections, but please note the requirements in the photography and craft classes so you can start preparing now. In addition this year, there will be a homemade (non kit) wine, cider, sloe gin etc section. Any offers to be a judge for these?!!

Janet Gore

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)

Can any reader throw light on the following details on an old envelope which Jimmy acquired? It is dated 1720!!

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IVY

A few years ago Bill Oddie made an impassioned plea on television for viewers to maintain and encourage ivy, popularly perceived as a pernicious weed that killed trees and destroyed buildings. His argument, which I have subsequently researched and found to be true, was that ivy does minimal harm to trees, it is not parasitic and does not 'strangle' trees. However it does provide food and shelter for a wide variety of wildlife, which in turn help to control it. The late autumn flowers provide abundant nectar attractive to bees, butterflies and other insects. The berries, which ripen in early spring, are the most nutritious of any wild fruit and are eaten by many birds including early migrants such as the Blackcap. Note- Ivy is toxic to humans and most animals if eaten in large quantities. The berries are poisonous to humans, and should be kept away from children.

The sources I have consulted conclude that ivy is generally beneficial in woodlands and parks. Control should be for specific reasons such as tree safety, conservation and aesthetics, rather than just mindless destruction.

Taking a common sense view it is obvious that trees and ivy have co-existed for millennia without human interference and that ivy has its own special place in our culture.

I was recently saddened to find that some perhaps well-intentioned but unfortunately misguided person is cutting the ivy on trees bordering the Saints Way. I would ask this person to desist; you are harming the natural environment and disturbing nature's own balance. If you require corroboration please refer to the Woodland Trust's website, or contact Colin Hawke, Natural Environment Officer at Cornwall Council. I also have copies of a Dept. of Environment analysis of ivy '*Boon or Bane*', which I am happy to circulate.

Stuart Young

On Saturday 23rd January some 50 children from 4 to 70 (ish) enjoyed an evening of fun, juggling, uni-cycling and general mayhem supplied by **Circus Berzercus**. '*Funny Business*' is the sequel to last year's '*Komedy of Errors*' that also caused much excitement to liven up the winter.

Some of the children showed that they had been practising their skills with the plate-spinning, whilst those who weren't there last year did about as well as I managed.

There will not be a further *Carn to Cove* event until the Autumn and I shall let you know what it will be in the June issue of *The Golant Pill*.

Thank you for the support you have shown in the last year, which has been a great success both for entertainment and financially.
Mike Freemantle

Some Cornish dialect words for flowers

Foxglove- Poppydock	Hydrangea- High angels
White clover- Quillet	Periwinkle- Queens
Broom- Bannel	Antirrhinum- Calves' snout
Scabious- Devil's button	Cow parsley- Keggies

Please note that the [Copy Date](#) for the next issue is:

Wednesday 24th March

Articles, letters & news can be sent by email:

golantpill@yahoo.co.uk

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

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GOLANT WILDLIFE

The recent cold snap brought some interesting visitors to Golant, the most spectacular of these being a trio of *Spoonbills* which appeared on the 8th January as the tide was falling. We first noticed these unusual birds in flight, looking rather like anorexic swans with a long thin platypus bill. They landed by the railway bridge and then worked upstream along the edge of the mud bank, using a very graceful side to side feeding sweep with their spatulate beaks.

The writer was especially pleased to be able to observe, and make a positive identification, using the new and powerful binoculars provided by Santa. These exotic birds, members of the Ibis family, are occasional visitors to the southwest, and have previously been seen on the Exe estuary and around Brownsea Island near Poole. Last winter a pair nested and reared a clutch in Scotland - a real first!

During the really cold weather *Snipe* could be seen flying up and down Water Lane. They are stunningly beautiful and interesting creatures, not often seen at close quarters. They had of course been driven down from the high ground by the appalling weather, which has, doubtless, claimed many victims; I have noticed several corpses of small birds around the village.

Another visitor has been a *Muscovy Duck* who seems to be settling in along the Bridge and Road areas of the Pill; undoubtedly a domestic creature from, who knows

where? She (for it is a she, being slightly less ugly than the male) is quite tame and recognises a bag of food when she sees it.

If you have been feeding your garden birds please continue, and if you have not, do please think about it: the really hungry months lie ahead.

Barry Campbell-Taylor



The distinctively named *Spoonbill*

On opening the Church door at the end of a recent choir practice, a wren flew in from the porch, no doubt attracted by the light and warmth within. Sadly, despite a number of attempts to catch it over the next couple of days using a net, all efforts proved fruitless. The little body has not been found.

A few years ago, we had swallows trapped in the church, and it was Chris Taylor who proved the most successful rescuer using the net! I think I'll ring him for advice!

Ed

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sandbanks

The kids' insight on Golant

A NOTE FROM THE SUB EDITOR

Hi! Hope you have had a great two months and got everything you wanted for Christmas, but not those horrible things in the 'Worst Present List' (except for the chocolates!)

Valentine's Day is coming up; don't forget that special card or chocolates, like **AL** in **ACCIDENTAL** below, but I just hope you don't end up like him!!

I've included a joke- what do you think of the idea? Let me know! This is one off the internet: If you have any of your own, get in touch.

Knock, knock **Who's there?**
 Romeo **Romeo Who?**
 Romeo over the river, please!

Thanks to all the contributors to this page.

Bye from *Megan Dean*



Bethany Whell

GOLANT- A 'SNOW' GO AREA!!

From the 5th to the 9th January, Golant was snowed/iced in! While the conditions proved hazardous for some trying to get to work, for the kids of the village it was a dream come true, with most, if not all, enjoying up to a full week of school closures! While for days it was impossible to travel at speeds of even one mile an hour, we found our own mode of transport...a sledge!

We would like to thank Sue Reardon for her kindness in letting all of us kids use her field and her sledge. Thank you!

Alice Hunter



"This is a picture of the snowman I built. He is called Sid."

by *Millie van den Broek*



Collapsed in a heap at the bottom of an icy drive!

Could this be to do with Health & Safety? Ed

LEYONNE IN THE COLD

On the farm it was icy and the slopes were very slippery. Dad's tractor slid backwards and luckily was stopped by the gate.

In the parlour they had to drain the pipes because in the morning it would have frozen. One day the wash water was frozen.

Mum and Dad had to put rock salt on the driveway so the tanker could come in. We were lucky, but some people had to chuck their milk away.

The cows had to walk very carefully on the ground. We did not scrape the yard so it did not get too smooth.

Abigail Whell

ACCIDENTAL + FRIENDS

'Blind Love' by Charlie Swyer



Read-

Look out, you two!!

Clumsy Clara



Silly pair!

Ho ho! Happy Valentine's Day, readers!

LETTERS/EMAILS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am pleased that we have raised the problem of poor broadband reception in this area. It is good to talk to your ISP to highlight the problem, and perhaps suggest that a competitor could do better!

We all know our up/down speeds available, but may I suggest that we consider repositioning our router to avoid obstructions—a simple but possibly effective remedy.

Another suggestion is to disable P2P software; i-Players and O/D systems do not help. Set programmes to 'no peer to peer' to avoid runs.

The time of day to go online affects access greatly. Avoid evenings after six till late.

After all this with no improvement, it is time to consider switching. The speed still is restricted by BT capacity, but perhaps now is the time to start a campaign to highlight our local problem. I will write to Fowey and Lostwithiel Newsletters for support, but I urge you to register your complaint with me for a petition, to Government, BT, and our prospective candidates at the forthcoming election. Let's build a campaign!

Robert Dunley, Rose Cottage Tel: 832807

From the Editor

I was advised to use the homepage of my provider to find out the capacity of our telephone line—0.5 Mbps.

A recent *Which?* Magazine quoted the case of two neighbours, one with a top speed of 0.5Mbps, the other with a top speed of 6Mbps (12 times faster!). Both lines came from the same exchange pole. There can be reasons for such a situation.....

Rick Maybury in the *Saturday Telegraph* gives excellent advice on such matters (rick.maybury@telegraph.co.uk). Here is a précis of his response to a recent letter:

There is no easy answer and we are at the mercy of BT who provide the quality of lines. Accelerators will probably not be effective. Go to your ISP's homepage and check the capacity of your line. Cable TV broadband is available in some localities (but not to us in Golant).

We could try mobile broadband which is coming down in price but there may not be a big leap in speed. Some providers claim 7Mbps but in practice the best is more like 1Mbps—2Mbps.

I'm definitely in favour of putting pressure on someone.

Lost in film

Mon 22nd Feb: *Moon* Cert 15

Mon 29th March: *Vicky Cristina Barcelona* Cert 12A

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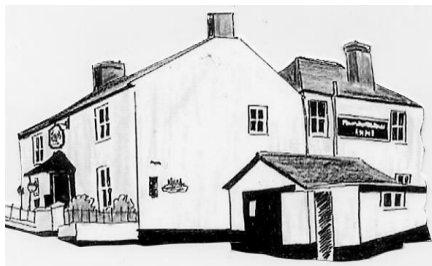
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PUB QUIZ TAKINGS

Well done to all those *Fisherman's Arms* 'quizzers' who this season have so far raised £250, which they have recently sent to the wonderful Helston based **Shelterbox**, where volunteers pack boxes with high quality emergency shelter for disaster relief, as featured in our last *Golant Pill* (and seen on local TV news). The charity's response to the tragedy in Haiti has been typically quick and well organised, but apparently has been one of the most difficult to implement.

We are wondering if any Golantians would be interested in coming on a group visit to **Shelterbox**, to see behind the scenes the fantastic work that goes on all the time. We would be very pleased to go again and share our uplifting experience. There is a lot of goodness in this world....

Mike & Gillie Harris Tel: 833897

*Pam & Mike Ager were much amused by this on New Year's Eve!
Pam says: "Clear as mud- but then my Chinese is pretty sketchy".*

Instructions for lighting Chinese Sky Lanterns

1. After the distribution of fuel to packaging equipment Kong Cross wire in the side of the field again deduction presses The fuel-pressure lock firmly.
2. A person KongMing light take up a Top. Another person fuel ignited the four angle.
3. Wait for the heat enough light, lanterns person lest loose A top hand, changes grips under light to encircle. Has when the lifting force may let go releases for flying.
4. KongMing light rose slowly the sky, do not forget Wish-ing oh

Notice Item

1. Should choose at the option open, calm environment released for flight. No fire bans in areas. The tall building the floor, and so on have covers under the thing to release for flight, must leave outside the airport 10 kilometers from flying.
2. KongMing light can only be used for the distribution the special purpose of fuel, prohibited by any burning Re- place.
3. KongMing light are on the rise, that of the flying, cannot the long time not put and the Flight not to be append the foreign body.
4. Children must be under the custody of the adults use.

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 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

Collapse of sea wall at Berrills Yard

On the morning of Saturday 16th January, a substantial piece of the harbour wall at Berrills Yard collapsed onto the foreshore. There had been a failure in the South West Water sewerage system, which had been under investigation for a considerable period prior to the incident, and remedial works had been planned over the winter period. The fracturing of pipe work allowed waste water to escape under pressure resulting in the collapse of the harbour wall. There was a short discharge from the damaged pipe work which was quickly isolated by South West Water operatives and a temporary repair has been made. Luckily no persons, cars or other property were affected.

A programme of works will be undertaken to repair the pipe work and re-instate the sea wall. We would like to apologise in advance, on behalf of South West Water and ourselves, for any inconvenience caused to FHC customers or other harbour users.

A Notice to Mariners (2010/02) has been issued which outlines the obstruction to navigation; the outer extremity of the rubble being marked with a green buoy. We would like to advise the public not to go on to the foreshore especially during the repair works when an exclusion zone will be in place to protect public safety.

The Fowey Harbour Commissioners website is currently under review so look out for a new layout in the spring. If you have any suggestions for services and information which you would like to see displayed, please get in contact with us.

Claire Hoddinott, the FHC environment officer will be on maternity leave from the end of January, any environmental matters in the estuary should be directed to the harbour office as normal.

Claire Hoddinott

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

Friends of the Fowey Estuary Events
www.friendsofthefoweyestuary.org.uk

Tuesday 23rd February
Talk 'The Wildlife of Baja, California'
By Steve Bulford
 Meet 7.30pm Mission for Seafarers,
 Fowey Docks
Free to members, £1.50 to non-members
 Contact Terry on 01726 832036

Tuesday 23rd March
AGM (very short) followed by a Talk
'The Civil War and the Fowey Estuary'
By John Jenkin
 Meet 7.30pm Royal Fowey Yacht Club
Free to members, £1.50 to non-members
 Contact Terry on 01726 832036

BACKALONG

A Glimpse of the Past

Mike and I finally made Golant our full-time home in July this year. As we have both retired from busy jobs, we are thoroughly enjoying being together in this lovely village and getting to know our neighbours.

BUT- I do miss my walk to the shops. Rushing round a supermarket is no substitute for ambling down a high street, chatting and shopping in equal measure.

SO- I have discovered the joys of eBay. Granted, it is not the same, but the pleasures of serendipity make up for the lack of personal contact, and we have found some very interesting items as we skim through the categories. I idly typed *Golant* into the search engine one day and was rewarded with, amongst various cds and self help books, a number of old postcards. I left bids on some of these and was delighted to win the one pictured here in *The Pill*.

The photograph was taken at the bottom of Downs Hill and shows Briar Cottage, Evelyn Parson's house, Napier Cottage and a corner of The Old Post Office. Evelyn explained that the building which stood where Blowey's now stands was the village wash house. I can well imagine the steamy gossip that took place over the coppers and dolly tubs.

With a magnifying glass, it is possible to make out figures standing in the doorway of Napier Cottage as well as the

four well-dressed children in the foreground. As the stamp has been removed from the postcard, we do not have a date, though I would guess the picture dates from around the turn of the century. So just who are these people? I feel sure I have seen the children in other pictures but as families were large, they might just have facial similarities.



The postcard was sent to a Mrs Finch in Tooting from Ella and Frank. I wonder if anyone can shed any further light.

I had another look at *Golant* on eBay last week and there was a Fowey/Golant train ticket from 1957. The frenzied bidding had reached £2 with four days to go. I mentioned this to Evelyn, who said she had three of these in her purse!

It is great to live somewhere where roots go down so deep.

Pam Ager

COLQUITE (Dougie and Bella's place)

The 1901 Census

*As this photo would appear to be about the beginning of the 20th Century, I decided to access the 1901 Census for Golant. There were 4 properties (unnamed) in 'Down Lane', three of which had young children: **Hender Phillips** with 3 grandchildren, (7, 5 & 5), **George & Caroline Thomas** with George (5) & Henry (3), the latter being the father of the late Henry Thomas of Golant, and **William & Mary Tabb**, whose children were 7 year old Susie (Evelyn Parsons' mother), Tom, 4, (Roger Tabb's father) and Reginald (one year old). Could there be any link? If only we could date the photo....*

Gillie Harris

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TREE PLANTING ON GOLANT DOWN

The Parish Clerk, Barry Campbell-Taylor, recently unearthed a folder of Parish Council correspondence relating to a tree planting exercise that took place on the Golant Down between 1980 and 1981. At that time many of the villagers were concerned at the loss of local Elms as a result of Dutch Elm Disease; local and national schemes were started to assist replanting.

My recollection from my early visits to the village, c. 1965, is that the Down was then quite open, with clear views of the river from the lower path, and was still being grazed in places. Presumably the grazing ceased and the area was gradually allowed to return to 'nature'. Without the cattle, bracken and bramble would have flourished and I understand it became a regular practice to burn it off. By 1980, the time of this planting-scheme, it could have been overwhelmed.

From these records it appears that about 600 broad-leaved trees- Ash, Oak, Maple, Sweet Chestnut, Rowan, Whitebeam and Beech were planted, with a further 150 Scots Pine and Larch. These were supplied, free, by Cornwall County Council and the scheme was drawn up with the assistance of Mr. M. Godrey, the County Forester.

The trees were supplied as saplings or 'whips' about 2-3 ft (0.6 – 0.9 metre) in height, and each one was inserted into a 'slit' in the soil made by a spade. (The saplings would be supplied 'bare-rooted', not in pots, so it was not necessary to dig a hole and back-fill.) Although this may appear a bit hit and miss, it is a commonly practised method; success would seem to depend on the after-care, protection from overgrowth and predators.

In this instance no measures were taken to protect the young trees from rabbits, it being declared to the County Council that there were 'no rabbits in the area'. Was this true in 1980? It certainly isn't the case today.

Although the bracken was cleared from the planting areas beforehand, was it kept under control for the following few years? We know that occasionally the bracken was fired and although a well established tree would survive this, a sapling probably would not; perhaps the roots would survive and throw up new shoots in a ring around the original stem. Even a simple rabbit guard would probably have sufficed to protect the saplings from a bracken fire.

Barry & Judith Campbell-Taylor, Sue Reardon and I recently 'surveyed' the area and concluded that perhaps 150 of those trees have survived. The planting area, which was confined to the area between the lower and upper Downs paths, is now submerged by Gorse, Bracken, Brambles and young Hazel, Blackthorn, and Hawthorn; the haunt of rabbits, badgers and deer. The only significant survivors of the planting are a patch of approximately 75 Norway Maple not far from the rows of Scots Pine and Larch, at the northern end of the Down. There are also some Sweet Chestnut adjacent to the lower path just past the Slate Stile. The Maple all appear to have been coppiced, (reduced to ground level and allowed to re-shoot as multi-stemmed trees). We concluded that this was the result of fire damage or predation by rabbits and deer. Dotted across the rest of the area are single examples of Maple, Ash, and a few Oak. None of the Beech appears to have survived.

Our conclusion is that most of the trees perished due to lack of after-care with no protection from overgrowth, fire and predation. But who knows, had they flourished, Golant Down might now be a semi-mature broadleaf woodland.

Stuart Young

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Deaths

It has been a very sad time for some villagers:

Sheila Funnell's mother, Sophie Kibblewhite, died just before Christmas.

Ian Andrews, father of Simon, died at Torfrey Farm and was cremated at Bodmin.

Pam Tabb lost her brother, Terence Hill, on Christmas Eve.

Ann Barker was in Ireland when her father, Barney, died there on New Year's Eve. He passed away in the same room in which he was born 92 years ago.

The Sick

Lorna Vivian is recovering well but, as so often happens, did too much too soon and is now having to rest again. Do as you're told, Lorna!

Colin Tabb is on the way to recovery after a spell in Derriford Hospital where a defibrillator was fitted. He will not be able to drive for six months but we hope that he has a regular store of 'hop water' in his home.....

Ann Barker is now back from Ireland and is feeling much improved. She will be receiving different medication soon which promises to bring further improvements to her health.

Valerie Russell has had operations to insert a varifocal lens into each eye. Apparently, it's all gone really well.

No sooner was Dorothy Sylvester home recovering well from an operation than her husband Michael fell ill and was taken to Treliske Hospital where he was placed in a bed opposite Geoff White. He was sent home because of the norovirus at the hospital but is improving. He has had further tests this week.

The news about Geoff White is not so good as he has been diagnosed with a serious illness. He is now home at *Bellscat* being lovingly looked after by Carol and his devoted family.

Birth

Bruce Fletcher has become a proud grandfather to Charlotte Grace Ann, born 9th Jan 2010. Her parents are Kate and David Richardson, who were married at St Sampson's Church just over two years ago. Mother & baby are doing well.

Educational News

Jess Robins started a BA course at Southampton Solent University in September, and will be studying Interior Design for the next 3 years. Her sister, Alice Robins, is now in her second year at Durham University where she is reading Philosophy.

Thanks

Vilma and Paddy would like to thank their 'regulars' at the Thursday Kitchen for the lovely gifts. The orchids are still living (!) and they are both looking forward to going to the *Hall for Cornwall* in the Spring.

Free to a good home....

Wendy Earl has spare 'Autumn Bliss' Raspberry canes which can be transplanted now! Contact her on 72861 or wendyearl@yahoo.co.uk

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 bcgolant6@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

St Sampson Parish Council (January)

As there were no topics brought forward by the public, the meeting began promptly at 7.15pm, and all the members sent their very best wishes to Geoff White.

The contractors who had damaged the posts on the Village Green assured the Parish Clerk that they had undertaken the repairs, although unfortunately they had carried out this work at Par! Whether or not we finally manage to persuade the contractors to re-visit Golant, we shall replace all the posts on the Village Green, as many of them are now in poor condition.

It was noted that gritting of the Castledore to Golant road had been somewhat tardy, but very effective when finally completed. The grit bins had been re-filled promptly, for which we were grateful, but the work on Church Hill was now scheduled for the next financial year. Given *One Cornwall's* finances, and the number of pot-holes caused by the frosts, I do not think the Church Hill re-surfacing is by any means a certainty!

Western Power is to refurbish the power lines in Golant, and move some of the telegraph poles so as to meet new EU regulations (!), and there will therefore be some road closures in the week beginning 22nd March. During the previous week some tree lopping will be carried out, and this may also result in restricted traffic movement. David Johns has made considerable progress in the move to have the Lanherriot path adopted as a bridleway. We now need to establish how frequently the path is used, and for how long, both by walkers and horse-riders. If, therefore, you are or have been (no matter how long ago) a user of this path, whether on two legs or four, please get in touch with David (832842). There is a very simple form to fill in which will support our case as long as we have enough respondents.

There is still no news on our attempts to have the car park transferred to the Parish Council, but we continue to try! The planning requests mentioned in my previous report have all been passed. A lively debate then followed on the web-site and various related matters. In a unanimous vote the council expressed itself very happy with the present arrangements. The Parish Clerk was thanked for his excellent work in this role, and also in his entirely separate role as web-master. *Simon Funnell*

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Please send your artwork or copy as required together with an appropriate crossed cheque made out to '*The Golant Newsletter*' to Robert Dunley, Rose Cottage, Golant, PL23 1LD or telephone 01726 832807 for more information.

Artwork/Copy may be e-mailed to golantpill@yahoo.co.uk

News from St Sampson

In the bleak mid-winter was the one carol we didn't sing at church this year but that's how it turned out to be!

It was great to have so many families at the Christingle; a highly successful service.

The Advent Carol Service was very well attended. It was lovely to welcome so many from the congregation at Fowey several of whom stated what an inspiring occasion it had been.

When the snow fell and, even worse, the ice formed across the bend by the church, I thought we'd be lucky to see forty people in the congregation. How wrong I was! We had our normal average of over one hundred and ten! The superb flowers in the church, the glow of the flickering candles, the singing of the choir and congregation made for a truly memorable beginning of the real meaning of Christmas.

Again, on Christmas morning, the weather didn't deter the normal number of adults and children from attending the morning service. During the administration of the sacraments a new carol, *Gloria!*, was sung with words and music by Karen Hamnett.

Sadly, Sheila Funnell has decided to step down from the choir. Fortunately, she has left us a number of compositions which will be continue to be sung at services. *The Lord's Prayer* in Cornish is a special favourite of everyone.

Mothing Sunday falls on **March 14th** this year. It would be lovely to have many families at the service. Please bring a flower, all of which are combined in front of the altar as a floral tribute to all mothers.

On **April 2nd (Good Friday)** the choir will lead a service at Noon. Easter Day will be celebrated with a service at 9.15am.

Our vicar, Philip de Grey-Warter, has been granted leave of absence from January until Easter and, for the most part, is travelling with his family in New Zealand. Various retired clergy will be taking our services during that period.

After all the work on the tower last summer, we have had a difficult problem recently when, after a violent rain-storm from the south-east, the water poured down that corner of the ringing chamber, flowing all over the electrics, and down the wall before draining out over the granite steps. This was discovered by our churchwarden, Robert Dunley, half an hour before Evensong on January 17th. The sparks were really in evidence in one switch! There was smoke and steam! However, some remedial action and sets of candleholders as a standby ensured that evensong could go ahead. Investigation into the serious leak has begun.

Church Flower & Cleaning Rota

Feb 7th	Gill B & Kaye
Feb 14th & 21st	Penny & Viviane
Feb 28th & Mar 7th	Jacky & Trish
Mar 14th & 21st	Kate & June
Mar 28th	Ruth & Gill P
April 4th (Easter Day)	Ruth & Gill P

Contact for Flower & Cleaning Rota:

Valerie Russell at Torfrey House Tel: 833072

The remaining bat has at last flown the tower, so the internal work which was delayed in September can now begin.

Rachael Bromley brought her wonderful model of the church down with her when she and Carl came down for their annual Christmas holiday. The model has been on display. A special case is being purchased using money kindly donated by Sue Nice in memory of her husband, Paul, whose memorial service took place at St Sampson's in November. The model is featured in an excellent article in the current issue of *Dolls House & Miniature Scene*.

As we have had the problem with the laser printer, the booklet about St Sampson by Simon Funnell has been delayed.

In February the choir will be singing an anthem entitled *Peace* with words & music by Karen Hamnett. She admits that she thought of the words and the music whilst drinking a modest measure of Guinness at *The Fisherman's Arms*. Personally, I don't believe that it was a modest measure but I'm sure the quality of the piece will confirm the efficacy of the Guinness in our local hostelry! MGH

HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY

Congratulations to our Great-Grandmother for reaching her 90th birthday on Sunday 10th January.

Fondly known as Gan-Gan or Gans by us children, a name created by our Aunt, her eldest Granddaughter, who couldn't say Granny.

Despite the weather, many of her Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren made it to the celebration with absences from those living in New Zealand and others snowed in in France.

What an amazing lady— she has two daughters, 9 Grandchildren and 15 Great-Grandchildren, ranging from Jack at 15 to the newest addition Olivia at just 7 weeks old.

Keep up the jogging— you are an example to us all!

With love, *Jack, Meg, Hugh and Millie*



Djon with Millie, Meg, Jack and Hugh

Women's World Day of Prayer

This annual event will take place on Friday 5th March at 2.30pm at St Sampson's Church. This year's Service has been prepared by the women of Cameroon. Instead of a speaker this year there will be a power point presentation about the Cameroon. So please do join us and many women worldwide for this service. Men are also welcome. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Church.

Janet Gore

ANAGRADS competition ANSWERS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. White tern | Trewithen |
| 2. Lent the motor car? Oh! | The Cormorant Hotel |
| 3. Clap slave | Val's Place |
| 4. Cleric trails hare | Harris Electrical |
| 5. Al cooks in a tub | Nautical Books |
| 6. Surly Mrs Viner's scared | Mrs R's Laundry Services |
| 7. Duck? Prepare mine | Upper Deck Marine |
| 8. Best altar | Stable Art |
| 9. Man's fire harms Seth | The Fisherman's Arms |
| 10. Sell thick salmon | Allen Locksmiths |
| 11. Weak miller | Mike Waller |
| 12. Seen a calf? | Safeclean |
| 13. Sue's doll; I hid it | Hillside Studio |
| 14. That tub was cherry red | Tywardreath Butchers |
| 15. Oddest vet | Steve Todd |

The winner, drawn out of a 'hat' was Liz Burrow, who wins a bottle of wine. **Congratulations!**

ABJECT APOLOGIES

No- there was not a deliberate mistake, but there was an inadvertent mistake- Sorry! Number 7's advert had been removed at the last minute, but I forgot to delete the corresponding clue, which caused some puzzlement....

Well done to those who had kept back copies of *The Golant Pill*, where the answer was to be found as large as life!

Gillie Harris

UNCLE JOHN'S GARDEN PATCH

Gardening Tips For Feb/Mar

Hands up all those who said "Oh, wouldn't it be nice to have a white Christmas?" Well, I hope you are happy now! I know it didn't quite make it to Christmas, but it was close enough! Personally I don't like the beastly stuff, having seen more than enough of it over the years whilst working on the land. It is nothing more than a hindrance (bah humbug!), although on the plus side it does act as a duvet over the ground and stops the frost penetrating too deep towards the roots.

If you were able to turn over any ground in the vegetable patch in the autumn, then you are well ahead of the game. Those of us whose ground was far too wet to work on may need to cover the ground with either cloches or make up some small polythene tunnels. This has two advantages, 1)- It will help to dry the soil out and 2)- It will raise the temperature of the soil, because once the ground is friable you can get in some early sowings of parsnip, carrots, swede and onion. Remember that slugs seem to be more of a nuisance where frames or cloches are concerned, so a sprinkling of pellets is necessary to deal with them, and for the environmental lobby out there, the birds can't get at the pellets or corpses!

Indoors and in the greenhouse sow into seed trays tomato, Brussel sprouts, early cauliflower, summer cabbage, lettuce and leeks. Leeks benefit from a long growing season, especially if they are needed for showing. (Hint)

When you come to sowing some of the smaller veg. seeds, or, later on, the even smaller flower seeds, try mixing them with some sand. This tends to thin out the seeds and you don't get masses of plants germinating together resulting in leggy seedlings and the need to thin out later on.

Get your main crop potatoes set out in trays, eyes or cheenes facing up. Early potatoes should have been done a few weeks ago. Put the trays in a cool, light place, not in direct sunlight.

Because of the very wet autumn, apples and pears will probably benefit from an extra dose of potassium with the annual top dressing of fertiliser, just to help the fruit buds to open and not to remain tightly closed on the branch.

March month is sometimes referred to as "the gateway to the year" because there is so much that can be done as regards to seed sowing either in seed trays or directly into the ground.

John Kift



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Auntie Paddy's Recipe Corner

As I sit and think what recipe to choose for this copy, it is snowing outside. So much for our "Barbeque Summer" & "Mild Winter"! We have served this recipe at the Thursday Kitchen and each time it has been popular.

BEEF IN GUINNESS

1 *tblsp seasoned flour*
 900g/ 2lbs *skin, chuck or braising beef cut into cubes (not too small)*
 3-4 *tblsp oil of your choice*
 225g/ 1/2lb *shallots*
 225g/ 1/2lb *onions (chopped)*
 2*tblsp light muscovado sugar (this counteracts the bitterness of the Guinness)*
 2 *carrots cut into slices*
 2 *sticks celery cut into slices (optional)*
 1 *bottle Guinness (330ml/ 11fluid oz)*
 200ml/ 7fl oz *stock (powder or cube)*
Bouquet garni (bay, rosemary, thyme, sage) Tie in a large bundle, to be removed easily, or use 1/2 tsp mixed herbs
Chopped fresh parsley to garnish (optional)

- 1 Put the seasoned flour in a polythene bag, add the meat and toss to coat.
- 2 Heat some of the oil in a heavy based pan & fry the meat in batches until it is brown on all sides. Add the rest of the oil as needed, keeping some back for the vegetables. Remove meat and set aside.
- 3 Stir fry the celery & carrots for a few minutes, then fry the shallots until they start to colour. Finally fry the chopped onion.
- 4 Combine all the ingredients in a suitable casserole dish.
- 5 To oven cook:
 150° or Gas Mark 2 or in an Aga or Rayburn for about 2 hours (but check earlier, as time will depend on the cut of meat used).
To cook on the top:
 Simmer very slowly for about 1½-2 hours, checking occasionally to see that the pan is not catching.
To use a slow cooker:
 This is a very good recipe for a slow cooker. Add all the ingredients to the slow cooker and stir to mix them. Turn onto 'High' and cook for 4-5 hours.
- 6 Adjust seasoning before serving and add parsley if wished.

Paddy Shelley

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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.

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CALENDAR OF VILLAGE EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 2 nd	8pm	Quiz	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 3 rd	9.50-10.10am	Mobile Library	End of Green
Sunday 7 th	9.15am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Sunday 7 th	4-6pm	Afternoon Tea (<i>see p 3</i>)	Village Hall
Thursday 11 th	12.45-2.30pm	Thursday Kitchen	Village Hall
Saturday 13 th	7.30pm	Valentine's Day Evening Meal <i>Book early to avoid disappointment</i>	Fisherman's Arms
Sunday 14 th	9.15am	Holy Communion (sung)	St Sampson's
Sunday 14 th	12-3pm	Valentine's Day Lunch <i>Book early to avoid disappointment</i>	Fisherman's Arms
Tuesday 16 th	8pm	Quiz	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 17 th	9.50-10.10am	Mobile Library	End of Green
Wednesday 17 th	6.00pm	Holy Communion <i>(Ash Wednesday) (Book of Common Prayer)</i>	St Sampson's
Thursday 18 th	12.45-2.30pm	Thursday Kitchen	Village Hall
Sunday 21 st	6.00pm	Evensong	St Sampson's
Wednesday 24 th	7.15pm	Parish Council Meeting <i>(The Public are invited to take part until 7.30pm)</i>	Village Hall
Thursday 25 th	12.45-2.30pm	Thursday Kitchen	Village Hall
Sunday 28 th	9.15am	Holy Communion (sung)	St Sampson's

MARCH

Monday 1 st		<i>(St David's Day)</i>	
Tuesday 2 nd	8pm	Quiz	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 3 rd	9.50-10.10am	Mobile Library	End of Green
Friday 5 th	2.30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer Service <i>(St Piran's Day)</i>	St Sampson's
Sunday 7 th	9.15am	Holy Communion	St Sampson's
Thursday 11 th	12.45-2.30pm	Thursday Kitchen	Village Hall
Sunday 14 th	9.15am	Holy Communion (sung) <i>(Mothering Sunday)</i>	St Sampson's
Sunday 14 th	12-3pm	Mothering Sunday Lunch <i>Book early to avoid disappointment</i>	Fisherman's Arms
Tuesday 16 th	8pm	Quiz	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 17 th	9.50-10.10am	Mobile Library	End of Green
Thursday 18 th	12.45-2.30pm	Thursday Kitchen	Village Hall
Sunday 21 st	6.00pm	Evensong	St Sampson's
Wednesday 24 th	7.15pm	Parish Council Meeting <i>(The public are invited to take part until 7.30pm)</i>	Village Hall
Wednesday 24th	Copy Date	(Golant Pill)	golantpill@yahoo.co.uk
Thursday 25 th	12.45-2.30pm	Thursday Kitchen	Village Hall.
Thursday 25 th	7.30pm	Pantomime ('Peter Pill')	Village Hall
Friday 26 th	7.30pm	Pantomime ('Peter Pill')	Village Hall
Saturday 27 th	7.30pm	Pantomime ('Peter Pill') <i>Tickets from Viviane Barr (Tel: 832454)</i>	Village Hall
Sunday 28 th	9.15am	Holy Communion (sung) <i>(Palm Sunday)</i>	St Sampson's
Tuesday 30 th	8pm	Quiz	Fisherman's Arms
Wednesday 31 st	9.50-10.10am	Mobile Library	End of Green

APRIL

Friday 2 nd	12 noon	Meditation with music <i>(Good Friday)</i>	St Sampson's
Sunday 4 th	9.15am	Holy Communion (Sung) <i>(Easter Day)</i>	St Sampson's
Sunday 4 th	from 2pm	Easter Day Celebrations <i>Decorated eggs, Easter bonnets, egg rolling & throwing and much more</i>	Fisherman's Arms

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 4 of this newsletter, & we will try to include it.