

# The Golant Pill

taken every two months...

## Yeghes da!



Simon Newth encourages his Press Gang to squeeze the cheese!

*Cider, generous strong sufficiently beady.....  
Excites and cleanses the stomach, strengthens the  
Digestion and infallibly frees the kidney and  
Bladder from breeding the gravel stone.*

*John Evelyn, 'Pomona' 1664*

### **CIDER MAKING: A Proper Job!**

The weekend of 8/9th October was the occasion of this year's cider-making event at *Tanbay*. After the remarkable spring the apple crop was the heaviest seen for many years, although there was a feeling that the dry but cool summer had produced smaller fruit. Others attribute the outstanding crop to our Wassailing the trees in January, an event which we hope to repeat on New Year's Day.

Simon Newth, whose family own the *Tanbay* cider press, arrived to find that bags of apples donated by villagers were already accumulating in his yard; more were to arrive over the weekend to supplement Simon's own crop from his restored orchard.

The process begins with chopping up or macerating the apples in the *grinder* or *scratter*. The apples are tipped into its wooden hopper, and after some initial attention from a hand chopper, fall into the jaws of two rotating toothed cogs, powered by the exertions of two keen grinder-men. The mashed apples fall into large bins from which the apple mash, or *pomace* as it is known, is transferred to the press. The cider press consists of a large cement trough, roughly 5ft (1.5m) in diameter and built up about 1ft (0.3m) above the ground. The moving part of the press sits above, supported on a stout metal pillar threaded to allow the press to be screwed down.

Now comes the most difficult part, the building of the *cheese*, made up of alternating layers of straw and pomace. An essential component of the traditional cheese is corn straw. Straw which is long enough for this job is getting difficult to find; this year's straw came from Dick Wood who farms near St. Columb Major, and who specialises in providing straw for thatching.

*Continued on page 8....*

### From the Editor

This issue of *The Golant Pill* is the thirtieth. Five years ago it had been decided to cease the publication of the church magazine which recorded some village events. I found that people were keen to have a newsletter and everything soon fell into place. I was able to form a Production Team with a variety of skills; my special thanks to them for all their efforts.

We had to learn quickly. Those first issues were produced on two inkjet printers and we went through a pile of ink cartridges each time. Our purchase of a laser made things much easier and the results were superior. Printing and compiling is done at *Rose Cottage* and I must thank Robert & Vilma for all their work and patience. We do get problems with the printer sometimes and these can be very frustrating and time consuming. I really must thank Gillie, too, for without her skills, imagination and energy this newsletter just wouldn't be produced.

A special word of thanks goes out to YOU! We frequently receive encouraging remarks about the informative & enjoyable contents. Many individuals & most village organisations have been so kind in their financial support. Our aim is to pay our way, and with your fantastic help, we are achieving that.

The interest in reviving the cider-making tradition in Golant is really taking off! It's rather special that the wonderful old cider press is still in operation at *Tanbay* and that its owner, Simon Newth, is such a fervent supporter. I note that the expert who tasted the sample of last year's cider (p8) commented that it was lacking in juice from real cider apples, as opposed to dessert ones. Would this be an opportunity for us to plant a number of such trees on the Downs? Now, there's a project to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.....

On the front page of Issue 29, I pointed out the old nicknames given to villagers in Cornwall & posed the question of what people in Golant could be called. One polite suggestion (Peter Young) was *Pill-ites*. Another not so polite (Robert Dunley) was *Pill-ocks!*

A Happy Christmas & a Peaceful New Year!  
*Nadelik Lowen ha Blydhen Nonnydh Da!*

*Mike Harris*

### PRIVATE SEPTIC TANKS

In the last issue I passed on information about the requirement to register all septic tanks with the Environment Agency by January 1st 2012.

I am grateful to Michael Fitzgerald for emailing an update which states that this action is not mandatory at present as a review of the procedures is taking place. Obviously two government departments are at odds with each other!

Septic tanks can still be registered. Anyone selling a house is advised to register.

*MGH*

### FUEL THEFT

I have received information that Golant may be one of several places in the area which may be targeted in the near future by thieves who are after diesel & petrol. This is an alert not only for boat owners but householders, too. Those who have oil tanks in vulnerable positions may consider putting locks on them.

If you are suspicious of any behaviour, make a note of the vehicle number & ring the new user friendly Police number- **101**. (**999** is still the number for a real emergency).

*MGH*

### Mobility Scooter available for hire - free of charge

*Fowey River Lions Club* have an electric mobility scooter available for anyone in the local area who could make use of it. The recipient would need to have suitable undercover storage for the scooter and a nearby power-point to charge the battery. There is no hire charge, but the recipient would need to pay for the annual insurance of the machine.

If you are interested or know of someone who could benefit, please contact Lion *Martyn Crowle* on 01726 815239.

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## Village Hall Committee

The new stage has arrived!! How good it is to start this report on a positive note. Not only must we thank you all for supporting the various fund raising events, but, also, the Rank organization for their generous contribution. But, in particular, we should like to thank Councillor Sally Bain who gave us £500 from her Councillors' Community Chest Fund. Councillor Bain has always been very supportive to Golant projects.

The stage is in modules so is easy to put together (well, we hope so!) It can be used for small displays and comes in a storage stack. It is our hope to sell the old stage on eBay. I'm told that you can sell anything on eBay so it is certainly worth a try!

Recently we had the outside lighting system brought up to date. Using the steps had been fraught with danger and the difference is amazing. Negotiating the well-lit steps is no longer a hazard, and a plus is that the automatic system uses energy saving bulbs.

Estelle van den Broeke is collecting Christmas goodies for our Christmas Hamper/s draw and would welcome any contributions. The Committee is grateful to David Skerrett

for his continuing support in allowing the draw to take place at the *Meet & Greet* on Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Looking ahead to the *Flower and Produce Show* next August, the title for the photographic entries is *Golant Weather*. We give you this title now, so that whatever the weather brings forth you can have your cameras ready- come rain or shine!

We would encourage you to support the *Thursday Kitchen*; numbers have declined recently, and after the Christmas Lunch on 8<sup>th</sup> December, Paddy and Vilma are taking a well-earned rest until February 9<sup>th</sup>. Booking for the Christmas Lunch is essential. Tel: Vilma 832807

A new venture for us was the *Casino Evening* at which everyone had a good time; some having been luckier than others. You can read the report on page 5.

It is with regret that the Village Hall Committee accepted the resignations of Mike Freemantle and Simon Funnell, both stalwarts of the Committee for many years. Mike will continue to organize *Carn to Cove* shows for us. As Simon was representing the Parish Council on the Committee we look forward to welcoming a new representative when appointed.

*Janet Gore*



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**TAKING THE PILL**



Ian & Sarah Laughton with a copy of the *Golant Pill* at Annapurna Base Camp in the high Himalayas, when they trekked there over 10 days in October. At a height of 13,500 feet, air is getting in short supply, but the views more than made up with massive mountains all around. The mountain in the background is called the *Fishtail* (23,000 ft) and has never been climbed.

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**Christmas Meet & Greet**

**Sunday December 11th at 11.30am**

in the Village Hall



**The Village Hall Committee will hold the draw for the Christmas Hamper during the event**

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

Further details from

David Skerrett 832464  
 or Peter Stone 832738

**Merry Christmas to Everybody**

 Pam & Stuart Young   
 &  
 Gail & Maurie Parsons

**will not be sending Christmas Cards around the village this year, but will make a contribution to The Pill**

**We wish everybody a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.**

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## “Place Your Bets Please”

For one night only Los Angeles came to Golant. Everyone looked dapper and in the mood for a flutter!

Our own James Bond was there, as were the more experienced gamblers, sashaying around the tables showing a modicum of interest whilst sipping champagne.

It all started off a little worryingly, as the Croupier on the Roulette Table informed the punters that he was colour blind, but all was well, as the lovely Estelle came to the rescue.

Stuart Young was watching the Roulette with a keen eye (or two!) and eventually took the plunge, placed a bet and nearly broke the bank!

Ruth Varco was quietly getting on with it, and was the outright winner on the night, taking home the prize of a bottle of bubbly.

The Village Hall Committee would like to thank all those who attended and can confirm that no one lost their shirt!

*Suzanne Edwards*

## Wassailing

Following the success of the 2011 Wassail (what a bumper crop of apples this year!) we will hold it again on New Year's Day.

The church bells will be ringing in the New Year from 12 noon until 1pm, so we will start the tour at about 2pm, probably from outside the church.

We will aim to organise a route that will comfortably take in as many gardens as time permits – most probably ending up, like last year, at *The Fisherman's Arms*!!

Watch out for posters nearer the time, as the venues are in the process of being organised.

It is traditional to offer the wassailers a small libation whenever the trees are blessed in this way, although most of them bring their own refreshment to keep themselves warm.

Also, bring anything which can make lots of noise, to awaken the trees, and to frighten away any evil spirits which might be lurking in their branches!

Everybody is welcome to take part in the wassailing, or, as John (Nort) Kift, calls it, 'waswailing'! (Wonder why?!)



## 'The Tre Project'

**Saturday 31st March at 7.30pm**

No, I haven't mis-spelled the title and this is not about a planting programme.

Using the Cornish word for 'home' the main show uses footage of Isles of Scilly, St Ives, Padstow May Day festival, Penzance Harbour/Battery Rocks swimmers/Jubilee Pool & Come to Good as well as a film about fishing and traditional Cornish lobster pot making in Penberth Cove.

This tailor-made show mixes archive film and contemporary stories from across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, and the archive material will be specially selected to reflect the area where it is being screened.

So, whether the programme will trigger old memories or whether it will just be an insight into the Cornwall of the last century, it should be of interest to everyone. Tickets are just £6 for Adults, £4 for Children and Concessions, and you can get a Family ticket for £16, bookable through me (Mike Freemantle) on:

816454 or [mikeatpolmear@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mikeatpolmear@yahoo.co.uk)

## Golant Really Amateur Dramatic Society

During a little session in *The Fisherman's Arms*, some of Golant's one-time thespians noted that nothing was happening on the Panto scene in the village this year (unless of course there is an underground group secretly rehearsing somewhere).

Anyway, it was suggested that I write to the *Pill* and ask people who might be interested in treading the boards (on the new stage!) to get in touch so that we can arrange a meeting and start to think about possibly doing something for next Spring. Given the rather short notice, it would probably have to be some kind of *Review*.

I would like to make it clear that I have volunteered to write to the *Pill*, but not to take on any kind of role as Producer/Director.

Anyway, please let me know if you are interested.

*Alastair Barr* 01726 832454 [agfbarr@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:agfbarr@tiscali.co.uk)



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The 2011 season for visiting boats has been a changeable one; the visiting yachts for the start of the season were promising, with the highest numbers recorded in April since our records began in 1990. Despite a promising start, the figures for July and August were similar to last year, but still down on what we have seen. September was disappointing as the weather was not as kind as previous years, so overall it was an average year. We must be grateful, though, for a good Regatta Week, with, on the whole, good weather, albeit fickle winds. But now the evenings are darkening, there is hardly a boat on the water, and the pontoons at Albert Quay and Polruan have been put away for the winter, but we are already looking to improve our facilities for next year.

The programme of winter maintenance for our patrol vessels, pontoons and moorings has already started; with hundreds of moorings to check and service this is quite a task.

There are plans for new pontoon sections in the Underhills area of the lower harbour with the existing sections being utilised elsewhere in the port. We are also looking at the feasibility of some additional moorings in the harbour to try to meet the demand for berths. The visitor moorings will be replaced and will be colour coded to make it easier for visitors to find a berth in the busy harbour area in summer.

There is still storage space available at Brazen Island for the winter and we are now accepting applications for temporary moorings for the 2012 season. A form can be downloaded from the Leisure section of our website or you can come into the Harbour Office.

The dormouse boxes in Hall Walk Woods will be replaced with new boxes later this month. Thanks to the local volunteers and the National Trust for their help with making the boxes; they will be dryer and cosier for the little dormice!

On behalf of the Fowey Harbour Commissioners we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with sunny days and fair winds – let's hope!

Fowey Harbour Commissioners  
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[www.foweyharbour.co.uk](http://www.foweyharbour.co.uk)

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**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  
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## LETTERS/EMAILS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you to all the people who have kindly given me information on *squabs* (baby pigeons); I think I would now know one if I saw one!

Thank you, also, to the people who have given me various information regarding the real, more serious, reason for my article in the first place. That was the use of an air gun in the middle of the village! The police have been informed of instances where people report having had pellets whizzing very closely past their heads while walking in the village; also, where people have sat in their gardens and heard pellets bouncing between the houses.

Then there is the little circular hole in the centre of the broken window at *Golant Farm*; how did that happen?

The police have been very clear- using an air gun in a residential area is a prosecutable offence that can attract a prison sentence, and they are keen to find the culprit.

I would also really rather not wait until this particular person moves on to four-legged creatures. I am not being anthropomorphic when I say that there are quite a few two legged creatures of a particular species that I am very fond of in this village, who could, for no good reason, come to some harm. The common name of this species being PEOPLE!!!

As an old catchphrase goes- 'KEEP 'EM PEELED'!!!

Gail Parsons

### Photographers in this issue:

|             |                       |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| <b>BC-T</b> | Barry Campbell-Taylor |
| <b>AL</b>   | Anita Loring          |
| <b>SN</b>   | Simon Newth           |
| <b>SMS</b>  | Susanna Mary Shelley  |

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## GOLANT WILDLIFE

### Never say never...

Getting a 100% positive ID on unusual species is often difficult even for experienced observers. We often get reports of sightings which seem completely wrong, but nowadays have to be taken seriously.

*Little Auks* are often reported in the estuary. However, these birds live in Arctic waters and only rarely fetch up on the shores of eastern England with no records of any sightings in the South West. Ornithologists assure me that they are probably juvenile *Razorbills*, which closely resemble the *Little Auk*.

Locals often mention the *Wimbrels*. However, as birds of passage, *Wimbrels* only visit briefly during spring and autumn, and I am assured, therefore, that the birds referred to are in fact *Curlens*.

Recently, a *Pine Marten* has been sighted around the grounds of *The Cormorant Hotel*, but *Pine Martens* are extinct in England, and there remains only a small colony in Scotland. Also, they are notoriously difficult to see, being largely nocturnal and very, very shy.



PINE MARTEN ??



STOAT

BUT! And yes, that is a big but. There are no longer any certainties, the weather is changing and having a massive effect on all of our wildlife. *Expert* opinion is often contradictory. For example, in September, when some leaves started to fall, we were told that it was due to our having had a very early Spring, and that the trees, having experienced their normal green period, were going into early dormancy; now, we are being told that the trees are hanging on to their leaves – making the most of conditions and maximising nutrient storage during the current period of very mild weather.

Reliable recent sightings: Stuart Young saw at least 20 *Swans* near Sawmills and David Parry saw a flock of more than 100 *Choughs* – though that was in the Canaries!

*Barry Campbell-Taylor*

## A SPECIAL “THANK YOU”

What a party! Everyone knew about it around the village, and I was blissfully unaware of the preparations going on around me.

Potatoes were hidden in one of Vilma’s wardrobes, and the wine was secreted in the cottage in the village!

I didn’t know so many people, especially my three, could keep a secret for so long.

So - my very special thanks to Vilma & Robert; without them the evening would not have happened. Grateful thanks also to the many helpers getting everything together beforehand, helping at the party, and for the clearing up. All was completed with such good humour and a sense of fun, and the photos say it all.....(see below!!)

“Thank you” is very inadequate phrase to express my reflections on the evening - one I won’t ever forget!

*Paddy Shelley*



### **Golant Wildlife**

party sightings...

Is this a flock of *Lesser Spotted Party-Pal* birds, or five former fellow members of Lawn Primary School?!



The rare *Red-Banded Shoe-Shanks* bird– or could it be our Gwenda, flaunting borrowed designer shoes?!!



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Contact Robert Dunley (01726 832807) for further information.

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

**Monday 23rd January**

Articles, letters & news can be sent by email: [golantpill@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:golantpill@yahoo.co.uk)  
or placed in the postbox at the bottom of the drive to **South Torfrey Cottage**

*Continued from front page....*

Bunny Minter-Kemp and Simon Newth are the expert cheese-builders, with some well-meaning assistance from bystanders.



Beginning with a layer of straw which is fanned out to overlap from the centre to the trough rim, a layer of pomace about 4 inches (0.1m) thick is placed over the straw and shaped into a ring. The projecting straw ends are now bent back over and pressed into the top of the pomace. The straw serves to hold the apples in place as the pressure is applied, but allow the juices to escape. Further layers of straw and pomace are added and the process repeated, the *cheese* building up into a pyramid shape, the ambition being to get at least seven layers in place before pressing starts.

Then the pressing begins, and the press is manoeuvred into position onto the top layer of the cheese. Now the fun starts! A long wooden lever is inserted into the screw collar and the tougher members of the crew are recruited to exert themselves on this lever. Unfortunately the space around this press is rather restricted so that we can only get about a quarter of a turn on the screw each time, before having to retreat, listening for two clicks on the ratchet, to start again. The juice begins to flow immediately and a chain of helpers is needed to carry it to the barrels in which it will be stored, and where the natural occurring yeasts will start the fermentation that will continue over the winter. (See the photograph on the cover).

Casual onlookers are often surprised by the apparent lack of any stringent hygiene, with any older, more experienced, cider-makers present likely to crack a few jokes about adding dead rats or cats to the brew, "to give it body", etc. Whatever the truth of this, it is certain that the fermentation process, producing copious amounts of both carbon dioxide and alcohol, is a self-sterilising reaction, which bacteria or toxins are unlikely to survive, thus producing a sterile and healthy drink full of vitamin C and anti-oxidants.

This year we had a new 45 gallon oak cask, kindly donated by *St. Austell Brewery*, to fill, as well as last year's now empty barrels. In all, Bunny tells me we made about 150 gallons, which should be ready to drink by the Spring of next year.

So there you have it; no added yeasts or sugar, just local apple juice and naturally occurring yeasts.

With thanks to all those who milled the apples and took their turn on the cider press, and to those who donated apples.

**CHEERS!**

*Stuart Young*

**\* Yeghes da! is the Cornish for Good Health! \***

### **CIDER TASTING**

The *Cornish Cider Festival* was held in Lostwithiel on Saturday October 22nd. It was agreed that we should be brave and enter a sample of our *Tanhay Farm Cider* -made in 2010.

So I duly took along a couple of litres and persuaded the guru of cider-making in this part of the world, Andy Atkinson of *Cornish Orchards* in Duloe, to taste ours and give an honest appraisal.

This he kindly did, listing his comments after a lot of sipping & swirling in both glass and mouth. Happily, there were more good comments than bad, which was an enormous relief. Andy's general conclusion was that our cider is very drinkable, but possibly a little on the sweet side with tannin overtones. He thought that perhaps we should consider using more *proper* Cornish cider apples & fewer miscellaneous apples gathered from the orchard floor.

I tried to explain that we were just very grateful to friends and neighbours in the village for any offerings coming our way. Our aim was just to be able to fill the barrels with juice.

This year we were fortunate enough to have three barrels (roughly 48 gallons each), begged for, borrowed and not quite stolen from *St Austell Brewery!*

Now we hope and pray that the juice will ferment correctly and everyone can share in drinking a pleasant local cider sometime after Whitsun next year.

We will then return to the *Cornish Cider Festival* in the October with another offering!

*Bunny Minter-Kemp*

### **CIDER MAKING AT TANHAY OVER 30 YEARS AGO**

A teenage Mary with Les Tabb in 1978-79, with her mother Bunny and Martin Minter-Kemp in the shadows!





### Carols & Songs around the Christmas Tree on the Village Green

Once again we have been able to source a Christmas Tree that has been donated to be erected on the Village Green early in December, and we think that it would be a good idea to have a community get-together around it on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm.

The event will be very informal, so come as you are, and if anybody wishes to bring mince pies, mulled wine etc for themselves and, maybe, others they will be very welcome.

*Maurie Parsons*

#### Thursday Kitchen holiday

Please note that after the Christmas Lunch on 8th December, Vilma & Paddy will be taking a rest, & the first **Thursday Kitchen** of the New Year will take place on **Thursday 9th February**.

#### Seasonal opening times of *The Fisherman's Arms*:

Christmas Day- 12 noon-3.00pm  
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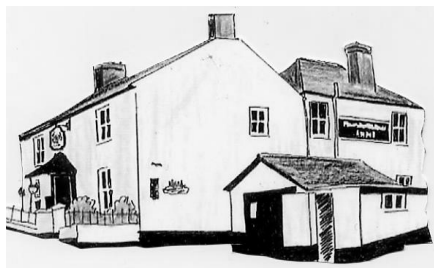
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## GOLANT BOAT OWNERS' ASSOCIATION (Boatwatch)

### AGM:

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November saw a near capacity crowd gathered in the Village Hall for the Annual General Meeting of the GBOA. Being Chairman, it is always slightly unnerving in the half an hour or so before the start of proceedings to see just how many people actually are going to arrive! The pressure really builds when your guest speaker is also not yet present! But, panic over when Capt. Tim Jones and his wife, Elaine, duly arrived as promised. When called upon, and before the pasties got cold, he gave us a brief overview of his previous career and then ran through his initial thoughts about the tasks ahead as the Fowey-based Harbourmaster. Perhaps not surprisingly, the issues of *income versus cost* is no different in the current climate than in any other business, and it looks like our new CEO has his work cut out, if he is to find a way to *balance the books*. But the general consensus of the members was that, "**He is the man to do it!**"

### David Parry:

As many of you know, we enjoy a very privileged relationship with David (our very own internationally acclaimed artist), because he single-handedly provides the means to keep our funds in order, by offering one of his delightful paintings for auction within the Association (yet another benefit of being a member methinks?). In this way, we provide our funds with a welcome boost for the start of the next sailing year. At this AGM, we were especially pleased to have on display David's original paintings and prints that have gone to make up the village calendar.

### The Police:

As in previous years, we were delighted to welcome Russ Hall, the Police Sergeant who has taken the initiative to develop a network of Boatwatch Organisations between Looe and Fowey, (the most recent being Polruan and Fowey). It is his contention, that the more people realise that this area is **well-covered with committed and diligent people watching over boats and equipment**, then hopefully the petty criminal will simply find pastures new. He was able to announce a further *year on year* reduction in reported marine crime, but warned the meeting about any complacency setting in, especially given the increasing pressure within the force on future police numbers.

### 101:

This is the new number to telephone the police, about a crime, or something suspicious!

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- To give information about crime
- To speak to your local officer

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**In an emergency, always call 999**

 **Devon & Cornwall Police**  
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### Welcome Break:

We have a month off now, before starting again in the New Year, so on behalf of the Golant Boat Owners Association, may I wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year. And if anyone is willing to become committee **secretary**, then the job is still open!!! Just 'phone me, on 01726 832246.

*David Jenkinson, Chairman*

## GOLANT QUAY USERS' ASSOCIATION

Nothing to report really.

The tide is coming in and then going out again!!

### Dates for the future:

Sports & Carnival: Saturday 11th August 2012

Madness in the Pill: Saturday 18th August 2012

*Peter Edwards, Chairman*

## ROWING CLUB SUCCESS

Alastair Barr's dedicated involvement with *Castledore Rowing Club* since it was started has been recognised by British Rowing.

He became the *West Regional Rowing Council* overall winner of the Volunteer Awards 2011 "...in recognition of his significant contribution to Rowing."

Alastair's award was presented to him at a lunch and ceremony in the historic *Watermen's Hall* in London, by Di Ellis CBE, Chairman of British Rowing.

Alastair was particularly pleased that he was nominated by Junior members of the club, which made him feel that the many hours he spends helping with every aspect of club activities is appreciated.

*Viviane Barr*

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- ▶ David Jenkinson (GBOA) 01726 832246



## GOLANT FIREWORKS

The week before Bonfire Night I studiously listen to the weather forecasts. On the Monday the long range forecast was for a wet Saturday, but that all changed and we had a beautiful clear evening that was excellent for watching the display on the village green from the pub.

The display had been chosen one September evening by Pete the Plasterer with the able assistance of Dave Johns, and these two were aided to set the fireworks off on the night by Andrew van den Broek and Richard Strode.

The two Safety Officers, Barry Campbell-Taylor and Bruce Fletcher, made sure that everything went to plan and that there were no errant rockets. A big vote of thanks to all of them for their efforts.

The pub forecourt was packed with spectators, many of whom were from outside the village. It is good to hear that our display is gaining a good reputation around the area and people will come to it rather than go to any of the numerous other events that are held in the vicinity. Of course the cynics amongst us may say that it is because it is free, but Gail Parsons and Sue Strode, with the help of Sue Reardon shaking a bucket, made sure that most were caught for some raffle tickets – or even just a donation. They were very successful and were able to collect a goodly sum towards next year's display.

There were two raffles – one sold on the night and the other being *squares* that had been sold in the pub for a few weeks. First prize in the ticket raffle was a polypin of Doom Bar which was won by Mike Waller, with second

prize being a meal for two at *The Fisherman's Arms*, while third and fourth prizes were bottles of wine. Unfortunately I was unable to record the details of the people who won these prizes but I hope that they enjoyed them. The first prize in the squares was also a polypin of Doom Bar and this was won by a guest of Charles Meade-King. However, they did not know that they had won it until the next day by which time they were some way up the A30 heading home, so it was donated to Steve Phillis, who made sure that Tom Parsons and others had a good weekend.

Thanks also to Martin & Bridget Whell for allowing us to use their field to erect a large banner, as well as to *Sharp's Brewery* for the Doom Bar and *The Fisherman's Arms* for other prizes.

Another good Golant social occasion.

Maurie Parsons



**Thursday  
Kitchen  
CHRISTMAS  
LUNCH**



Thursday 8th December  
1.00pm to 2.30pm

**£10 including wine**

**BOOKINGS ONLY**

### Are you supporting our appeal?

The **Birds of the Fowey Estuary** calendar has received general approval - but we need to sell more to make funds to support your **Golant Pill**.

This is a wonderful offer from David Parry, who is allowing us to use all the paintings he made of the Birds of the Fowey Estuary in a calendar.

We are also offering limited edition prints of each of the twelve paintings, mounted and framed or unframed. These are available now, but surely this calendar has to be a *must* for collectors of his work, at such a reasonable price, and would make a wonderful Christmas present for friends, or those wanting to be reminded of Golant.

RD



*Oyster Catchers at low tide (December)*



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## Martien van den Broek 1939-2011

Sadly, Martien van den Broeke, the founder of *Torfrey Nurseries*, died recently in Spain where he had lived for some years with his wife, Mollie. A large number of people attended a memorial service in St Sampson's Church on November 18th to celebrate his life. A retiring collection for Macmillan Cancer raised £330.

At the service his friend, Ed Veerman, spoke movingly about Martien and I am grateful to have been given access to his notes for this tribute:

Martien was a gentleman in the true sense of the word. He was highly qualified and the best plantsman Ed has ever met. He not only had a vast knowledge of plants but he understood their needs. His method of propagating trees and shrubs was unique and copied by others.

In 1960 Ed's father decided to start another nursery at Boscundle (*St Austell Nursery*) where he had purchased a field alongside the main road. Being a Dutchman himself, he thought the only person to manage this nursery had to be Dutch! Martien got the job and the family soon found out that there was more to Martien van den Broek than Horticulture!

They needed a propagating glasshouse so Martien built one. It had double glazing which was unheard of in those days. It was the same with mist irrigation and under bench heating. The boiler installer didn't turn up at the promised time so Martien couldn't wait and installed it himself!

Nothing was a problem to him whether it was stripping down engines, building sheds, making a soil sterilisation unit or fitting a complete irrigation system for the nursery. He took it all in his stride and was prepared to work very long hours and expected everyone else to match him both in effort and achieving exacting standards. Ed Veerman considers Martien to have been the hardest working person

he has ever known. While it was light, he worked. He often erected some form of electric lighting so that he could continue through the hours of darkness.

He did, however, enjoy some relaxation. He was never happier than riding a motor bike, particularly his first bike - a Triumph 350, but even that had to be taken apart and adapted! He was a careful driver but delighted in going fast when it was appropriate.

It came as no surprise to the Veerman family when Martien announced that he was leaving to start his own nursery at Torfrey. They knew that he was far too talented to work for someone else for long. So, with the help of Mollie, who worked just as hard as him, the excellent business took off. At first, various crops were grown including roses, tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce and strawberries. The children were expected to help at busy times in the nursery and, understandably, they were not always happy to do so. There were arguments over the music on the radio in the glasshouses for Martien was a great lover of classical music! But his work ethic pervaded and when the time came to retire he was happy to leave the business in the very capable hands of Andrew & Martin. Now it is a leading nursery for the production of chrysanthemums. How proud he was of that achievement.

Martien enjoyed the love and partnership of Mollie for 44 years. He had such pride and love for his children, Rachel, Andrew, Martin, Sarah and his grandchildren.

The life of Martien van den Broek is, indeed, one to be celebrated by all who were fortunate enough to know him!

MGH

### EVERY CUP COUNTS

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# Golant Gleanings

## CONGRATULATIONS

Special birthdays have been celebrated by Paddy Shelley, (see pages 7 & 17) Janet Gore & Chris Yexley. Chris turned up for a surprise **60th** party at *The Fisherman's Arms*, except that someone had, inadvertently, given the game away. No one cared and a really good party was enjoyed by all!

Janet & Robert went to Devon to celebrate her dreaded (!?) **70th** and had a wonderful few days with their son, daughter and their families.

## ON THE MEND

We are pleased to report that Angela Forsyth is making good progress after a hip replacement and was seen driving out of the village recently!

Pat Robins is recovering steadily after being poorly for some weeks.

Mike Ager, who has recently undergone a further course of chemotherapy, has had the misfortune to suffer an attack of shingles. He is in Mount Edgcombe Hospice for a few days.

## WELCOME!

Paul King & Pat Barr had no sooner moved into *Fleetings End* than they were involved in musical activity at the pub! Paul has had a long career in the musical scene including being a member of that famous rock group *Mungo Jerry* who, in the 1970s, received the accolade of being one of the five best live bands in the world! He has lived in Cornwall for many years. He is a member of the band, *Skeleton Crew*, who regularly perform in *The Fisherman's Arms*.

## NEWS FROM THE ROBINS FAMILY

Michelle & Simon Robins have been working in Southampton but return to their house in Golant whenever they can. They are proud to tell us that Alice graduated from Durham University in July with an Honours degree in Philosophy. She is now working in London as a management consultant at Price Waterhouse Coopers. She is still a keen athlete and won both the 100 & 200 metres at the Duchy Open this summer. Her sister, Jess, is currently in her final year at Southampton University where she is studying Interior Design. She really enjoyed her time in the summer working at *The Clementine*, the interiors shop in Fowey.

Unfortunately, Simon had an accident last year. Michelle is teaching in Southampton but hopes to get a post in Cornwall. When she does, they will move back to Golant permanently when they look forward to "...being part of the village again!"

## WEDDING CELEBRATIONS

On Saturday 8th October, Steve's son Simon and his bride Ami tied the knot in a Civil Ceremony at *Fowey Hall Hotel*, with the Reception being at *The Fisherman's Arms*. This was an exceptionally lovely occasion which was only made possible because of the help and generosity of many locals (and the sun came out for the photos!).

Golant was invaded by Bristolians for the weekend, who took over most of the holiday lets in the village. Many thanks to all those owners who provided them with a roof over their heads for the weekend.

Special thanks go to— Maurie & Gail, who acted as maître d' and waitress for the day; to Clair, Tom, Alice & Gwen who kept all our guests fed and watered, all weekend; to Neil, who provided an excellent meal for 72, single-handed—without his help on the day and throughout the year we would struggle to run our business. THANKS NEIL! xx

Thanks also to Ruth & Penny who provided a beautiful floral arrangement for the top table, and to Janet for her help in providing seating & tables from the Village Hall.

Steve & I were touched by all the offers of help for this big occasion and for your support throughout the year.

Many, many thanks again.

*Steve & Anne-Marie*

## St Sampson Parish Council Report:

Publication deadlines precluded a report in the last issue of *The Pill*, so this account is a summary of the September, October and November meetings. There has been considerable discussion about tree planting on The Downs, and, in particular, about the formation of a working-party to clear various areas. Many thanks to Stuart Young for his enthusiasm and organisational skills, and to those willing to volunteer! Progress has already been made, and anyone wishing to join the Friday morning working party should contact Stuart.

There have been several planning applications, the major one being two affordable homes at *Penquite Farm*. At a special planning meeting the council approved the situation and design, but was concerned at the confusions apparent in the 106 agreement. Since then Mr Jim Lee has contacted me and assured me that the 106 will be properly drawn up and that any future sales will have to be at the discounted price and to a qualifying person. A garage/boat store at *Fleetings End* and minor alterations to 2 *Golant Farm* were approved at the October meeting, and the council supported the conversion of *The Workshop* (better known as *Mickey Morgan's Shed*) to a garage and studio at the November meeting.

Next year's precept was discussed in detail, and it was decided to raise the precept by the same amount as last year, which is an increase of approximately £2.00 per year for a Band D property.

It was agreed to give a donation to the British Legion for the wreath, which, as is the tradition, the Chairman placed on the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. The Parish Council also agreed to buy better goalposts for the village green, and research is under way to find suitable equipment.

Many thanks to Barry Campbell-Taylor for over-seeing a very successful car park season. The future of the car park and the public lavatories is still in doubt, and we have twice invited a speaker to address us on the latter subject, and he has twice been unable to attend at the last minute! I shall give more information when I know more myself.

Boatwatch tried to persuade the council that a CCTV camera on the Boatwatch hut would be a good idea, but,

despite other stake-holders supporting the project, there was a distinct lack of enthusiasm for the idea.

The Parish Plan questionnaire is proceeding, but more slowly than at first envisaged; like the tortoise, though, we are determined to reach the finishing line. Judith Campbell-Taylor has kindly agreed to be the council's representative on the Village Hall Committee, and the Parish Clerk is busy revising the Standing Orders.

The chairman thanked all those involved in the spectacular firework display on 5<sup>th</sup> November, and, unless an urgent planning meeting is required (which will be held on a Monday evening at 6.00pm if necessary), the next meeting will be on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

*Simon Funnell, Chairman*

### **The Golant Pill Production Team**

|                              |                |        |
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| <b>Treasurer/Advertising</b> | Robert Dunley  | 832807 |
| <b>Art/Graphics</b>          | Karen Hamnett  | 832104 |
| <b>Typesetting/Graphics</b>  | Gillie Harris  | 833897 |
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## News from St Sampson's Church

The final profit from the Harvest Supper was £1007! The PCC has decided to increase its gift to a charity and has sent £300 to the St Petroc's Trust. This organisation tackles a range of problems across the whole of Cornwall. They help those who are homeless or require resettlement. They help with accommodation, employment & training & run homes at Truro, Newquay & Bodmin. A visit to their website is very informative.

In the last issue I wrote about the need to replace the guttering around the church. Some of it has rusted beyond repair. All of it is inadequate for the job. When there is a real downpour the gutters are too small to take the amount of rain. It overflows and pours down the walls. The PCC realises that we have to go ahead with fitting larger, aluminium gutters and the quotation for the cost & fitting is £3820 PLUS the hire of scaffolding.

We don't need to be reminded how costs are rising all around us every day. The running of the church faces the same problem. The insurance has gone from £1876.01 this year to £2142.14. Our quota which we are asked to pay to the diocese next year has risen from £7678 to £8446 (over 10%). All this before we think of fuel & electricity etc. We were thrilled with the profit from the Safari Supper (£1150) but such rises put it all in proportion.

Advent, the Christian Church's New Year, is upon us once more. There are no floral displays on the altars. It is a time for simplicity and reflection, as we wait for the coming of Christ to be celebrated on Christmas Day.

The service on December 18th will be different this year. Normally this has been a Christingle service. This year it will centre on the Christmas tree. Children will be encouraged to decorate the tree, sing carols around it and join in a procession of lights around the church. The Holy Communion on Christmas morning will be simple and shorter than normal, concentrating very much on families.

MGH

### Choir

This is always a busy time for church choirs, and St Sampson choir has been no exception. For the Harvest Festival service the anthem was taken from 'Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo', and we were joined by Beth, Abi and Bridget Whell for a rousing performance of three choruses, closing with 'This is my promise to you.'

By contrast, the 'Libera Me' from Faure's Requiem was the anthem for Remembrance Sunday, with Simon singing the bass solo and the choir singing this ambitious but most appropriate piece with distinction.

The Advent Carol Service was on the last Sunday of November, and over 60 people came for this candle-lit and atmospheric service. Many thanks to all the choir for their loyalty and enthusiasm over these last four months, and to James Funnell for accompanying the three services mentioned above.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is, as always, on Christmas Eve at 6.30 pm. We look forward to welcoming you all to this service that, for many, marks the real beginning of Christmas.

SF

## Health & Safety Considerations for Christmas Songs (1)

### The Rocking Song

Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, do not stir;  
We will lend a coat of fur.  
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,  
We will rock you, rock you, rock you...

Fur is no longer appropriate wear for small infants, due to risk of allergy & for ethical reasons. Therefore faux fur, a nice cellular blanket or perhaps microfleece material should be considered a suitable alternative.

Please note, only persons who have been subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check will be permitted to rock baby Jesus. Persons must carry their CRB disclosure with them at all times, and be prepared to provide 3 forms of ID before rocking commences.

### **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**



Sunday 18th December 4.30pm

#### **Carols around the Tree**

A family-friendly time with tree decorating and a procession of lights

Christmas Eve 6.30pm

#### **Nine Lessons & Carols**

Christmas Day 9.15am

#### **Holy Communion**

### Church Flower & Cleaning Rota

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 4th & 11th December  | Gill B & Judy   |
| 18th & 25th December | Penny & Viviane |
| 1st & 8th Jan        | Jacky & Trish   |
| 15th & 22nd Jan      | Ruth & Gill P   |
| 29th Jan & 5th Feb   | Paddy & Vilma   |

Please contact **Valerie Russell**  
(Tel: 833072) if you can help.

## Health & Safety Considerations for Christmas Songs (2)

### Jingle Bells

*Dashing through the snow  
In a one horse open sleigh;  
Over the fields we go  
Laughing all the way...*

A risk assessment must be submitted before an open sleigh is considered safe for members of the public to travel on. The risk assessment must also consider whether it is appropriate to use only one horse for such a venture, particularly if passengers are of larger proportions.

Please note~ permission must be gained from land-owners before entering their fields.

To avoid offending those not participating in celebrations, we would request that laughter is moderate only, and not loud enough to be considered a noise nuisance.

**Jimmy**  
*Marine*

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## UNCLE JOHN'S GARDEN PATCH

### Gardening Tips for Dec/Jan

The main topic of conversation with people, regarding the garden, is just how mild it is for the time of year.

With all the media hype over climate change and dire warnings of impending freezing temperatures it just goes to show how short memories are! In my very limited experience I can remember snow in October and also having to cut grass in Christmas week. And then there is the Old Wives' Tale of lots of berries on the trees leading to a very hard winter. A mass of berries just means there were a large number of insects around when the trees were in flower, leading to excellent pollination. So the thing to do is enjoy it while it lasts, and remember, that once we've had it *they* can't take it away! YET.

One plant that always features at Christmas is the Mistletoe, a parasitic plant that was believed by the Druids to bring good luck, and to be an aid to fertility. The act of kissing under the mistletoe should be accompanied by the removal of a berry after each kiss, and desisting when all the berries have run out, something that seems to have been conveniently forgotten today! The berries are poisonous, but should anyone feel inclined to try to propagate their own supply, then when the berries are really ripe and soft they should be rubbed onto the underside of the branches of apple, pear, thorn or oak. When the pulp hardens the seed will hopefully germinate and penetrate the branch, growing on to provide your own supply for years to come.

In the garden there are the usual jobs like tidying the beds and turning over the ground as and when the conditions are right. Don't go traipsing out on the garden when it's cabby and sticking to your boots, as you'll do more harm than good. Try taking some strawberry plants in pots into the greenhouse for forcing. Keep watered and fed and placed on a shelf near the roof where they will get maximum sunlight.

One last thing- keep your eyes open for the signs, when they go up, about the *Wasmailing*. It will probably be on New Years Day and be similar to last year, when various gardens were visited, accompanied by a brave number of people who all seemed to enjoy the experience immensely. Merry Christmas, everyone!

*Nort*



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**Paddy (of Auntie Paddy's Recipe Corner)!**



*From the left: Natasha, the fiancée of Paddy's son Piran, her daughter Mary, Paddy and her grandson Petroc.*

The dawn of October 22nd. Is the secret party still intact? All hands on deck; got rid of Paddy for the day. Now for action!

Tables, chairs from the Village Hall flooding in, glasses from the church, tablecloths, place settings. How many? Could be 40 - maybe 45! Chaos!!

But at least the "indoubtables" from our wonderful community came up trumps with dishes galore smuggled in.

Came the time - Paddy invited for a "personal" dinner party around 6.30pm. She wondered why so much food, but walking into the room, her face a picture when she saw the set tables, looking magnificent with silver cutlery, crystal glasses et al.

So many supporters celebrated, not only her achievement of 70 years, but also her wonderful contribution to the village over many years, in so many aspects.

Her close family came from all parts of the UK, some with great physical disabilities, but what an evening!

We all celebrated a super party for a lovely lady!

*Robert Dunley*

*Ed: See page 7 for Paddy's "Thank you".*

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Have you a friend or relative who would like a regular copy of this newsletter? It costs only £8.50 (£13.50 overseas) to have the six issues per year of **The Golant Pill** sent by post.

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## CALENDAR OF VILLAGE EVENTS

### DECEMBER

|   |             |   |                  |
|---|-------------|---|------------------|
| Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 9.15am      | Holy Communion                              | St Sampson's     |
| Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>   | 8.00pm      | Pub Quiz                                    | Fisherman's Arms |
| Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>   | 9.50am      | Mobile Library                              | End of Green     |
| Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 1.00-2.30pm | Thursday Kitchen                            | Village Hall     |
| <b><u>NB Christmas Lunch- Bookings only</u></b>                               |             |   |                  |
| <i>Tel: Vilma 832807 (see page 11 for more details)</i>                       |             |   |                  |
| Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>   | 9.15am      | Holy Communion (Sung)                       | St Sampson's     |
| Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>   | 11.30am     | Meet & Greet                                | Village Hall     |
| <i>The Village Hall Christmas Hamper Draw will take place</i>                 |             |   |                  |
| Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>   | 6.30pm      | Carols & Songs<br>around the Christmas Tree | Village Green    |
| Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>   | 4.30pm      | Carols around the Tree                      | St Sampson's     |
| <i>A family-friendly time with tree decorating and a procession of lights</i> |             |   |                  |
| Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>  | 8.00pm      | Pub Quiz                                    | Fisherman's Arms |
| Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>  | 9.50am      | Mobile Library                              | End of Green     |
| Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>  | 8.30pm      | Cornish Carols                              | Fisherman's Arms |
| Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>   | 8.30pm      | Christmas Draw                              | Fisherman's Arms |
| Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>   | 6.30pm      | Nine Lessons and Carols                     | St Sampson's     |
| Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>   | 8.30pm      | Carols with mulled wine<br>and mincepies    | Fisherman's Arms |
| Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>   | 9.15am      | Holy Communion                              | St Sampson's     |
| <i>Christmas Day</i>  |             |   |                  |
| Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup>   |             | New Years Eve celebrations                  | Fisherman's Arms |
| <i>Theme- Mexican/Latin Night</i>   |             |   |                  |

**NB:** See seasonal opening times of *The Fisherman's Arms* on page 9

### JANUARY 2012

|   |         |                                       |                  |
|---|---------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>                                    |         | <b>NB: No service at st Sampson's</b> |                  |
| Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>                                    | Noon    | <i>Ring in the New Year!</i>          | St Sampson's     |
| Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>                                    | 3.00pm  | Wassailing                            |                  |
| Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>                                 | 9.50am  | Mobile Library                        | End of Green     |
| Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>                                 | 10.30am | Zumba resumes                         | Village Hall     |
| Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>                                    | 9.15am  | Holy Communion (Sung)                 | St Sampson's     |
| Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>                                   | 6.00pm  | Evensong                              | St Sampson's     |
| Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>                                  | 8.00pm  | Quiz Night                            | Fisherman's Arms |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>                                | 9.50am  | Mobile Library                        | End of Green     |
| Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>                                 | 7.30pm  | Curry Evening                         | Village Hall     |
| <b><u>NB Bookings only - Tel Vilma 832807</u></b>         |         |                                       |                  |
| Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>                                   | 9.15am  | Holy Communion (Sung)                 | St Sampson's     |
| Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>                                  | 7.15pm  | Parish Council Meeting                | Village Hall     |
| <i>(The public are invited to take part until 7.30pm)</i> |         |                                       |                  |
| Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>                                   | 9.15am  | Holy Communion                        | St Sampson's     |
| Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup>                                  | 8.00pm  | Pub Quiz                              | Fisherman's Arms |

**NB** There is no Thursday Kitchen after 8<sup>th</sup> December until Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February

Zumba classes are taking place in the Village Hall every Wednesday from 10.30-11.30am.  
Beginners and visitors welcome. Details from Penny Parsons (832727).

**NB** There is no Zumba on 21<sup>st</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> December