

GQUA Parish AGM Report 2016

Membership numbers are at 145 let berths as at April 2016, with 7 new members.

Ltd Company Report. I report that the Annual return and Company Accounts were submitted on time and that there were no trading activities in the year and therefore the Company remains dormant. It is essential that this is reported each year for members to be sure that nothing is changing regarding ownership of the land.

Committee Members. Sadly, Bruce Fletcher our Treasurer passed away at Xmas. Bruce had been our Treasurer since 24th May 2004, that's 15 years and out of all the jobs that have to be done, being Treasurer has to be the most complex and exacting. It is alright if I get a few things wrong, as I do, as there is always some smart alex to spot it, but as Treasurer you have to get all the numbers to add up and balance and have to make regular runs to the bank to deposit the payments. So we thought it only appropriate to ask the Parish Council, as he was also a Councillor to make a donation of a commemorative bench and plaque in his memory to be put on the Green. I am still in discussion as to what form this might take.

Thankfully and ever so thankfully Stuart Young has stepped in to do this year's accounts and these have been audited by Tony Strachan our auditor. Many thanks also to Tony.

Stuart has very kindly offered to stand as our Treasurer and he was elected onto the committee at our recent AGM.

One small problem that Bruce did leave us with is insufficient signatures to the bank account and try as I might I have so far failed to get the bank mandate changed. So we have plenty of money but just cannot get at it, yet!

Maintenance Spends. As I reported last year the slip wall and quay steps repairs were completed, but unfortunately we now have a badly deteriorating tarmac surface to the main slip. There are loose patches at the bottom of the slip and bald patches revealing the cobbles underneath at the top. We have an estimate to make the repairs and apply a complete new topping up to the Network Rail bit for £2560 and as soon as we can access the funds I will organise this.

We will also organise a donation box to be installed by the slip together with a polite notice asking for donations towards the slip & quay upkeep.

We also hope that we will get the concreting done along the road by the pub to remove the dangerous step down into the Pill from the road. We estimate that this will cost us between £2000 and £2500 depending on how much concrete it takes.

The completion of the Track is still ongoing as we wait to use the excavation material from the building works on the Green. The builder will take the materials down there and level it out and it will depend on what it all looks like when they have finished as to what additional materials and work we will need to do to make it acceptable in terms of looks and surface finish.

We will also make a £50 donation towards the running of the Golant Pill publication.

So with these spends we still estimate that we will have approximately £10000 left after this year's receipts and normal expenditure. This is comfortably more than the £5000 contingency fund we had agreed we should always have.

Berthing Fees. As we have sufficient funds it has been decided that we should reduce the berthing fees to the levels prior to us purchasing the land. So that's a £20 reduction. We will keep the joining and annual membership fees as they have always been at £10 each.

Committee Members. The committee consists of me as Chair, Harold Richards as Vice Chair, Robin Anderson, Paul Meridith, Simon Funnel, James Fuge, Judith Luddington, David Johns, Roger Page and now Stuart Young as Treasurer. The Ltd Company Directors are James Fuge and Roger Page.

END

Carnival. I can report that this year's Carnival will be held on Saturday 13th August. The afternoon Sports fixture remains good fun for the children albeit that we have less and less village children to take home the village cups. We have also noted less Carnival entries over the last couple of years.

END

If I may I would also like to report on the activities of the **Friends of the Fowey Estuary**, who have increased their level of activity around the estuary.

We now have dormouse monitoring ongoing in 7 areas which we do via installing tubes or where activity has been noted nesting boxes. These areas include Golant Downs, Wringford, Toynes House and Lanytan woods in the Parish, but also Lombard Woods in Penpoll Creek and the woods behind Crockles Quay just past Cliff and hope to get Forestry Commission permission to monitor Ethy Woods.

We have also organised the erection of two pairs of artificial Osprey nests with the help of BT Openreach and the National Trust. These are on Haye Farm opposite Golant but 1 pair is visible from some houses to the south of the village and from the Downs.

We have recently undertaken a survey of likely otter spraint sites and now have 3 likely sites to monitor where we will occasionally set our trail-cam to hopefully capture pictures of otters.

We have just completed this year's Heronry surveys. The Heronry's are located on the north and south sides of the entrance to Penpoll Creek and there are 13 nests on the south side confirmed with 2 more possibles and 4 more nests on the north side which is visible from Golant Downs. So the heronry is at similar numbers to last year. At this time of the year the heron fledglings are about to leave the nests and it appears that the egrets now take over the herons nests.

Some of us have recently undertaken training to be able to enter wildlife sightings onto a CWT web-site called ORKS and this will allow us to monitor species numbers over the coming years.