

Golant Heritage Group Report for Parish Council AGM – May 2017

This year has perhaps seemed a little lower key than last, but we have actually been very active behind the scenes, working towards a more comprehensive organisation of our archives and specific detailed research. Ian has been refining our digital archive on the basis of an interactive website, using the cataloguing software OMEKA. We have held some successful working party sessions, sorting through material stored in the filing cabinet and loading all existing digital files onto the computer in the village hall, ready for cataloguing.

Sue has researched the changes of land use and property development of the village over the last 150 or so years by comparing the 1843 tithe map with a map of modern Golant, and has transferred information from the census and poor book into a searchable excel file, tracing landownership and the major families who lived here. All fascinating stuff!

Earlier in the year we identified our focus for the next two years to be the collection of oral history, with priority given to collecting recorded interviews with long term residents. After a slow response, we are now gathering momentum on our Voices of Golant project, loosely based on the Fi Glover Listening Project format (on radio 4). We have investigated the cost and practicality of hiring an audio typist to transcribe these recordings but for the moment we have decided to continue to tackle the task ourselves. However, as we gather more recordings and move towards compiling and editing material for a DVD and a book, we may need to consider again.

Stuart and David have kept alive our interest in Golant's apple orchard heritage by taking cuttings from heritage varieties in the parish. Tamsin Thomas from the Cornwall Record Office, has chosen our Apple Heritage project of two years ago as a good example of an archives and creativity project which has happened in Cornwall, when she gives a talk at the forthcoming national Community Archives and Heritage Group conference in London. Fame for Golant!

The above developments all coincide beautifully with the proposed introduction of an accreditation scheme being devised by the Cornwall Record Office and piloted by members of CAN (Cornwall Archive Network). We have put ourselves forward as guinea pigs to trial and evaluate the draft version, with the aim not so much to acquire accreditation, but to benefit from the detailed guidance outlined for the various standards.

Finally, over the past year we have hosted three very interesting talks, one by Mary Jones on 'The Siege of Lostwithiel', one by Lynn Goold, about the author Kenneth Graham, and the inspiration drawn from the Fowey estuary for his renowned book 'The Wind in the Willows' and the third by Alex Lewis on 'Fowey and the Story of the Humble Pilchard' . All were well attended and much appreciated. We are planning to host our next talk in September, on the China Clay Industry, with a specific focus on the railway.

Penny Parsons

May 2017