

Golant BOATWATCH.

Report to the Parish Council, May 2016.

Chairman, councillors, ladies and gentlemen, good evening.

I am delighted to bring you this year's annual BOATWATCH report.

Golant BOATWATCH is in good shape and continues to fulfil our mission to reduce local marine-related crime. We look after the boats and equipment on our stretch of The Fowey, for the benefit of our community and now also reach down as far as Penmarlam and Wiseman's, in support of the Fowey Boatwatch Team. To this end, we are currently in discussions with our Police contacts, about liaising with their colleagues on that side of the river, which is part of a different organizational area.

We currently have **71 members** and the essence of what we do is to provide **high visibility patrolling** of our foreshore, from the north end of the Pill, to the far end of the mooring frapes, in the direction of Sawmills.

In the past 12 months to the end of April, we logged some **369 patrols** – in all weathers, day and night. And we believe that this activity helps to keep the Golant community safer and more secure. The Police think it works and more importantly, criminals will be aware of our presence! We cannot prevent all crime, but we can help provide an environment where crime is discouraged and made less profitable for the criminal fraternity.

As in previous years, we get involved in local events wearing our High Vis vests, **flying the flag** for Golant BOATWATCH. And probably the best example of this is our **display stand** at the annual **Fowey Gallants Lifejacket Clinic** which was held recently. This worthwhile joint enterprise combines the involvement of the Police, RNLI, National

Coastwatch, Fowey Harbour Commissioners, local chandlers, Ocean Safety (who carry out the service) and the two local sailing clubs in Fowey. Our BOATWATCH team talked with many of the people queuing to have their Lifejackets checked, and we made use of the opportunity to advertise our activity and to raise awareness of the need to prohibit marine-based crime generally. Using our own Facebook site, we posted 4 photographs of the event and managed to attract over 900 people, who clicked onto our page.

In fact, our BOATWATCH FACEBOOK site continues to be an excellent way for us to reach-out well beyond the Parish. As an example, in a period of just 6 months (up to our last AGM), our posts on Facebook were served to over 17,000 people. The content of these posts included entries about The village DEFIBRILLATOR coming on line, the Fowey River Clean Up day, photos of the Police Rib patrolling the river, photos of our own Boatwatch Operations Day on the river, and any number of marine-related interesting and informative photographs or news stories. It is to be highly recommended and our thanks go to Robin Anderson who has masterminded this specific outreach for our organization. Do please have a look at it.

Acting as eyes and ears for the police, we have also been delighted to once again host the monthly police surgeries, in our Boatwatch HQ, where members of the public meet our local PCSO Lloyd Paynter and other members of the local Police force. And this, despite the ongoing Police cutbacks and economies. So our thanks to Lloyd for his continued support for us and for our community.

We also have to thank Lloyd for helping us once again, to secure a £100 sponsorship gift from local firm Julian Foye, to help defray the costs of the tea, coffee and biscuits enjoyed by our members and visitors to the Boathut, when a Police Surgery is held.

At this stage, I would also like to record our thanks to the Parish Council, for ***their*** support in meeting the electricity bill at our corporate HQ – the BOATWATCH hut.

Other aspects of our **community involvement** continue as in previous years, with financial donations to the local RNLI, COASTWATCH, the local AIR AMBULANCE and The village PILL MAGAZINE. This year, we also sent a donation (which was raised by our members specifically for this project) to the Fowey Harbour Commissioners. This was to support (along with other fund-raisers) the installation of additional CCTV coverage for the Lifeboat pontoon, following the break in and vandalism of the lifeboat earlier this year.

As usual, we held our two village hall events in the past year –our November AGM (which includes a wine and pastry supper) and the Spring Get Together, when we were treated to a more lavish evening dinner provided by Paddy, when we also raffled a painting, so generously donated by David Parry.

At the AGM this year, we had a very informative talk given by the RNLI and we are already looking forward to our next AGM, when we have invited a speaker from the Bristow's Search and Rescue organisation.

Our finances remain in good shape, with a healthy bank balance of £1164, almost entirely financed by member's contributions. Once again, we are indebted to David Parry whose picture raffle (which is only available to Boatwatch members) raises hundreds of pounds for our organization, alongside our annual membership fees and the donation by Julian Foye.

Thank you very much for listening. Does anyone have any questions?