

Golant Heritage Group Annual Report for St Sampson's Parish Council AGM May 24th 2016

The highlight of our year has to be the successful culmination of the Cider Heritage project, with a brilliant village Apple Day. The buzz in the hall, the heady aroma of apples, and the feel good factor of people wandering around the village, visiting the pressings at Tanhay and Hybadore, antics on the green and then the rounding off the day with singing at the pub, all made for a wonderful community event.

The completed banner looks splendid on its moveable frame and is a huge credit to everyone who contributed to it. It is now on display in the church where it is more accessible for people to view it and we are grateful to St Sampson's Church for accommodating it for us.

There have been suggestions that Apple Day could be an annual event. However, because this was the climax of a now completed Heritage Group project, it would probably need to take a different format and be led by a specifically formed Apple Day committee, not GHG.

Our Looking Back Calendar was very well received by the community at large, and we are indebted to the Parish Council who embraced the idea that they should buy and present one to every household in the parish.

The carnival exhibition was not so successful, as few people came to the hall that day, but then numbers were significantly down for carnival itself. However, as a result, we do have a large and varied collection of old carnival photographs in our archives.

On a very wet day in the Autumn, the Heritage Group enjoyed a fascinating conducted tour of the mine workings in Luxulyan Valley, led by Roger Smith of Friends of Luxulyan Valley, which was fascinating. And then only last week we hosted a superb talk by Mary Jones on the Civil War and the Siege of Lostwithiel in 1644. Around 50 people came and everyone seemed to be listening most attentively!

We are now turning our attention to creating a reference bank of Oral History through interviews with older and long term residents of the parish. It is crucial that we record these memories in an accessible format, and two of our members recently attended a course which has helped us to refine and structure our approach. This is a two year project which we hope will culminate in some kind of a publication of fascinating memories, and probably a DVD.

Since the group first formalised the biggest question has been how to store the information and material gathered so that it can be easily accessed by the public. We are agreed that Digital Archiving is the way forward, without the need to store a huge amount of hard copies, and this should be much easier to achieve now that we have a computer and Broad Band access in the village hall. The creation of an online digital archive will obviously involve some cost, and this is where funds raised from the sales of our publications will be vital.

We are only a small and still relatively new group, and I feel that we have achieved much in a short time. The Cider Heritage project brought together many people from the community, and proved that folk are willing to come on board with projects that interest them. We will continue to strive to keep our projects open to all and to encourage wider involvement whenever we can.

Penny Parsons,
Chairman