

## **Golant BOATWATCH.**

Report to the Parish Council, May 2017.

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

It has been another good year for Boatwatch and we continue to deliver on our aim of helping prevent and 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.

We currently have **64 members** and the core part 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, and some "on river" patrols to take in Wiseman's and Penmarlam.

In addition to our "members", we also have "friends of Boatwatch" who enjoy receiving the many briefings and updates from Peter Sinclair our watch co-ordinator.

In the past 12 months to the end of March, we logged some **332 patrols**, not including the weekly "on river" patrols coming up-river from Fowey. All patrols are carried out in all weathers, day and night. And we believe that this activity discourages crime and by its visibility makes potential criminals think twice about being active on this stretch of the river. The Police also believe this deterrence is effective and we have had an effective "**zero crime**" rate during the past year.

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 Coast watch, 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.

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 **14,330 people** – on average about **1700 people reached every month**. The content of these posts included entries about 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.

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.

In the past 12 months we have researched the latest ***property marking techniques*** to make it harder for thieves to handle stolen gear. We have published up to date crime prevention advice for our members and purchased a stock of the best property marking kits on the market

and made them available to members at a discount price. We would commend everyone to mark, record and register their valuables – it is great for crime prevention and helps keep Golant an unattractive place for potential criminals to visit.

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.

As usual, we held our two village hall events in the past year –our November AGM (which includes a wine and pasty supper) and the Spring Get Together. This year the Fisherman’s Arms provided the food as, after many years, Paddy retired from this task. We also raffled a painting, so generously donated by David Parry.

At the AGM this year, we had a very informative talk from the Bristow’s Search and Rescue organisation who have taken over the role from the RAF.

Our finances remain in good shape, with a healthy bank balance of **£1093** 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?