

Golant Heritage Group Chairman's Report for SSPC AGM May 2018

Golant Heritage Group currently has a significant amount of work in progress. Initiatives include work on the creation of a dedicated website and searchable data base, a review of what is actually in our archives, the recording, transcribing and summarising of oral histories of Golant and a community based project under the heading of Golant and the River, with an exhibition date set for October half term.

We held two fascinating talks in the autumn, both well attended and appreciated. Ivor Bowditch spoke to a full hall on English China Clay and Its Importance to the World, illustrating the story with anecdotes and photographs.

This was closely followed by a talk from Dendy Easton, outlining his career as an expert in old paintings. He brought along several pictures including his two wonderful paintings of the Golant foreshore before the railway.

Dendy's talk proved to be a very popular event and provided us with a wonderful platform to launch our Golant and the River Project. The project has a number of research strands including riverside landing places and buildings, fishing and boating activities, regattas and river based clubs. A major focus is on boat building, and in particular boats built by John Fuge. It is hoped to produce a small publication about John's work.

Meanwhile there are two ongoing collaborative creative projects. A wonderful embroidered banner, destined for display mainly in the Village Hall, but which can also be hung in the church, is well on its way under the guidance of Sue Strachan, and Ian Laughton is leading a group of enthusiasts to create a wooden montage which we hope will be mounted on the side of Castledore Rowing Club.

Meanwhile we are involved in the piloting of the Cornwall Archive Network 'Quality Mark', an accreditation scheme which is designed to serve primarily as useful guidance on best practice for Cornish history groups and museums. GHG is part of a pilot group working with Cornwall archivist Tamsin Mallett, and whilst we are ticking many of the boxes, the exercise is throwing up some interesting areas for development. We are also currently looking at the implications of GDPR .

It has been rewarding to see our numbers gradually increasing, with a solid core of regular attendees, and with a good number of people from the community coming on board for various aspects of the river project. We have a wonderful spread of skills and interests amongst our numbers and I would like to express my appreciation and thanks for everyone's enthusiasm and the way in which they contribute to the aims and ethos of the group.