

Golant BOATWATCH.

Report to the Parish Council, May 2019.

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 reduce local marine-related crime. We look after the boats and equipment on our stretch of The Fowey, for the benefit of our community.

We currently have **67** 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, with on river patrols, going down as far as Penmarlam and Polruan, in support of our Fowey Boatwatch colleagues.

In the past 12 months to the end of April, we logged hundreds of patrols in all weathers, day and night. 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. Our crime rate has been effectively zero again but there have been some recent instances of minor thefts from boats. This year these patrols have not only continued to be a deterrent but have helped rescue 2 individuals from the river and retrieved a number of "misplaced" boats. Our summer, *on the water evening patrol*, visited the the **Mission to Seafarers** at Caffa Mill.

Our BOATWATCH FACEBOOK site continues to be an excellent way for us to reach-out well beyond the Parish, with frequent postings about events on the river and photographs of interesting marine related stories. But all of our members (and friends) also receive regular bulletins from our own communications editor, who this year has added any local Coastguard activity to our regular briefings.

We continue to supply security items, at cost, to members, but the real benefit of membership is the 10% discount available from UpperDeck Marine in Fowey and TMS chandlers in Par.

Police cutbacks and re-organisation mean that we no longer have monthly surgeries in the Boatwatch Hut and whilst we have regular contact with the police, we no longer have the close individual ties of the past. However, we do remain a highly valued element within the Port of Fowey organisation and recently have been involved in training by the Border Force agency and the Anti-Terrorist team, who encourage us to remain vigilant in these troubled times. They tell us: "If something doesn't look right? Then it probably isn't!" And they point to the many local arrests, seizures and other incidents that have occurred recently around our coastline.

Other aspects of our community involvement continue as in previous years, with financial donations to the local AIR AMBULANCE, RNLI, NCI Polruan and the village Heritage Group's event on "Golant and the River".

As usual, we held our two village hall events in the past year –our November AGM (which includes a "free" wine and pasty supper) and the Spring Get Together. At the AGM this year, we had a very informative talk on the work of the 'Mission to Seafarers' at Fowey, who are always keen to welcome volunteers for the work that they do.

Our finances remain in good shape, with a healthy bank balance of around £2000. And 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, donations by Julian Foye, Charlie Harris and the Fisherman's Arms Pub Quiz. We 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, which this year will require

significant investment, to renovate the fabric of the building and specifically to renew the roof .

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