

Golant Heritage Group Chairman's report for Parish Council AGM 2019

It has been an extremely busy time for Golant Heritage Group over recent months, culminating with a very successful exhibition weekend of which the group can feel justifiably proud. The Golant and the River exhibition itself was well attended and we have received much positive feedback. The idea was to involve the community as much as possible and we are grateful for the support of local organisations, including Castledore Rowing Club, Fowey River Canoe Club and Cafe Kayak. We plan to display exhibition material on one of the hall boards, on a rotational basis.

As a legacy we have a beautiful embroidery created by Sue Strachan and her team of embroiderers, specifically for this project, and which now has a permanent home here in the village hall. The wooden montage depicting various river craft, and designed by Ruth Taylor, looking splendid on the side of Castledore Rowing Club boathouse, unveiled on an extremely windy day by the CDRC chairman, Alastair Barr.

Another triumph is the creation of two complementary films charting and reflecting the significance of John Fuge's building of two Troy class boats. One piece of original footage, created by the late Barry Trust and charting the actual build of T20 with Peter Williams as the apprentice builder, has been cleverly edited to a short film by Ian Laughton with a voice over narrative from Peter Williams himself. The second film captures a relaxed discussion between Ted Luck and Peter, reflecting on the building of the T20 and T22, with input from Anita Fuge. This was created for us by Shauna Osborne-Dowle of Medial Productions. These films were screened throughout the exhibition and both are available for people to view on request and on YouTube.

And last but not least we have produced our third Looking Back booklet, called Golant and the River, which summarises much of the material researched and displayed. These are on sale at the church, the pub and Cafe Kayak and will soon be available to buy on line. Great value at only £3 a copy!

We only managed to put on one talk this past year, but it was a fascinating evening provided by Marcus Lewis talking about the Story behind the Troy Class Boats. There is little Marcus, himself an accomplished wooden boatbuilder, doesn't know about Troys. This talk was well attended and most informative.

Through work with the Cornwall Archive Network Quality Standard Pilot, we have updated our Policy and Constitution documents and reviewed our accession forms and procedures. We can be confident that these documents are both current and meet requirements. It is our aim to complete our application this summer in order to acquire accreditation. Our submission will provide a sample application from a small heritage group such as ours, to be used for the Quality Standard Scheme guidance pack when it is eventually rolled out to history and heritage groups around the county, and beyond.

Our main focus for the coming year (or two!) is to update our cataloguing system and complete work on the GHG website which we plan to launch in the autumn. The

intention is to have all our archive material available digitally, enabling people from anywhere in the world to be able to access what information we have. Eventually it is hoped to be able to link in with the Cornwall Records Office website, which is currently moving into its marvellous new premises at Kresen Kernow, on the site of the old Redruth Brewery.

Penny Parsons

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