

Golant Heritage Group Chairman's Annual Report to the Parish Council 2019 - 2021

It is very much the story of a year of great industry followed by a year of not a lot! April 2019 kicked off with our very successful exhibition on Golant and the River, the culmination of lots of research, creativity and community involvement. We also held two extremely interesting and well attended talks about Golant itself, firstly by former resident Stuart Hunkin and the other delivered by our own Sue Reardon and Ian Laughton.

Following our AGM in March 2020 we did manage to hold two COVID secure face to face meetings in August and September, which went a little way towards helping us keep the heritage group ticking over during the past year. We have recently restarted by holding this year's March AGM and subsequent monthly meetings via ZOOM.

During the winter 2019/20 we had made wonderful progress with sorting, scanning and cataloguing our physical archive, through a series of working party meetings. This inevitably ground to a halt, but having broken the back of creating a working catalogue, digitalising our archive and launching our own website during the pre-COVID year, I cannot say thank you enough to Fayre and to Ian for their dogged determination to finish the task on our behalf during the lock-down months; Ian for his expertise and leadership in this and Fayre for the huge part she has played in getting the paperwork shipshape, in all aspects of the group's organisation, but especially in terms of the cataloguing and accession systems. Our filing cabinet has never been so efficiently sorted! The next task is for designated GHG committee members to have some in house training in order to keep the website fresh and new accessions up to date.

Meanwhile other members of the group have not be idle:

Sue Reardon has been beavering away almost non stop on a House History project and is amassing a wealth of information in order to create a comprehensive picture of how Golant has changed over the centuries. We are now planning to create a photographic 'snap shot' of Golant 2021 (mostly street by street), with the welcome aid of the photographic skills of Claire Lower and Valerie Russell, to be followed by a 'then and now' comparison based on old photos of properties in our archive alongside the same view taken as now. This will be co-ordinated by Anne Bonsall.

Sarah Laughton has been pursuing the idea of a U-Turn Round talking post to potentially be sited on the sundial end of the green. This manually activated machine enables listeners to hear brief recordings containing interesting historical facts and anecdotes about the village. We are very grateful to the Parish Council for their donation of £500 towards this exciting idea.

We now plan to turn our attention to a new line of focus. We have identified Golant and the Land as our next project, and for the remainder of this year we will concentrate on fact finding and collecting memories via oral history recordings before launching community based creative activities next year, working towards an exhibition in the autumn of 2022. Membership to Golant Heritage Group is free, requires no expertise or previous knowledge and with the easing of restrictions and a new project about to launch, now is as good a time as any for people with an interest in Golant's past to become involved!

Penny Parsons May 2021