

Golant BOATWATCH.

Report to the Parish Council, May 2022.

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

The end of COVID-19 restrictions has allowed us to return to our normal activities meeting our objective of discouraging crime and encouraging safe use of the River Fowey.

Key activities that we have completed in the last year are:

1. Completion of Refurbishment of the Boatwatch Hut

With help from grants from the Parish Council and Fowey Harbour Commissioners we completed the refurbishment of the Boatwatch Hut. It is now dry and suitable for use, and now an attractive feature in the Quay Area.

We held a formal re-opening of the Hut in late June, which was attended by 30 people.

2. Installation of CCTV at the Quay

In consultation with Golant Quay Users, we installed CCTV cameras in the Quay area. There are two High-Definition cameras at the Boatwatch Hut looking up and down the road and two further cameras at the Quay looking onto the Quay and onto the frape walkway

Images are stored and retained for approx. 30 days, and are viewed only in case of an event being reported. The CCTV operation is registered with the Information Commissioner.

We have had a number of requests during the year to use the CCTV record in investigating incidents, ranging from potential illegal immigrants to vehicle oil leakage. We have not yet had a theft issue to investigate – deterrence in action, perhaps.

3. Flotilla Patrols

Two on-the-river evening flotilla patrols were held in July and August. Each had a splendid turnout of around 20 boats and 40-50 people.

Both flotillas travelled down to Fowey and Polruan, to show a visible presence of Boatwatch on the river, before returning to Pen Pol for a social occasion.

We will hold two flotilla meetings again in 2022, including a Jubilee event.

4. Return to Normal Patrols and Observation of the River

We have restarted the use of the Boatwatch Hut and our normal programme of river observation.

5. Virtual Patrols, Facebook and e-mail alerts

During lockdown we started video patrols to let boat owners not able to get to the river see the condition of their boats. This has proved very popular. We have continued this service through the winter months, and will do so in the future.

The Boatwatch Facebook site continues to prove an excellent way for us to reach-out well beyond the Parish, with frequent postings about activities and problems on the river and links to relevant marine related stories. In addition, our members (and friends) also receive regular updates on Boatwatch activities and bulletins on marine related issues.

6. Village Hall Events

We have been able to restart our normal village hall events, with a delayed 2021 AGM being held in Spring 2022. This was attended by over 50 people, including the Harbourmaster and the Police, and included a talk by Border Force.

The reported marine crime rate has been zero again with very little minor pilfering from boats.

We continue to receive encouragement and support from the Harbour Master. Other aspects of our community involvement continue as in previous years, and financial donations have been given to the Air Ambulance, RNLI and NCI Polruan.

Our membership remains at over 70, with new members joining each year.

We have completed the period of high expenditure due to the work on the Hut and CCTV, and our finances remain in good shape. We will be considering new activities into the future to make the best use of the money we receive from subscriptions and events.

That completes the report. Does anyone have any questions?