

Golant BOATWATCH.

Report to the Parish Council, May 2023.

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

The key thing to report must be that we have another year with no marine crime in Golant.

Our membership has risen to over 80, with new members joining each year.

Following the end of COVID restrictions we have returned to our normal programme of Spring and Autumn meetings, and two river patrol flotillas during the year.

In 2022 we held two extremely successful flotillas, both blessed with excellent weather. The first was for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, where we were able to celebrate the occasion with an excellent turnout of well decorated vessels, accompanied by a flypast from our favourite local pilot. The second flotilla was an afternoon event due to tidal considerations. It was the first time we had held one in the afternoon, but we rafted up at Penquite Quay in the sunshine, giving the opportunity for some attendees to take the plunge. Both events contributed greatly both to maintaining our profile and adding to the overall feeling of well-being for attendees.

We have already held a Coronation Flotilla in 2023, with a further event to be held in August.

Other key activities that in the last year are:

1. Installation of Broadband at the Boatwatch Hut

Parish Council members will be well aware of the somewhat tricky process of obtaining broadband to support both the Car Park machine and remote access to the Boatwatch CCTV. Boatwatch obtained a

postcode for the Hut, which then allowed the Parish Council to have Broadband installed. That is up and running and, after a few teething issues, has technically worked without problems. The contractual issues with BT are, I am pleased to say, for the Parish Council.

The equipment that was previously used to connect the Hut CCTV to the internet via the broadband at Driftwood was no longer required after the installation of broadband at the Hut. This has now been redeployed to provide a broadband connection to Oakenhurst. This connection is operational with an agreement on payment between the property owner and the Parish Council.

2. Virtual Patrols, Facebook and e-mail alerts

We have continued the winter video patrols to let boat owners not able to get to the river see the condition of their boats. This has proved very popular and will be continued in the future.

The Boatwatch Facebook site continues with frequent postings about activities and problems on the river and links to relevant marine related stories. In addition, our members receive regular updates on Boatwatch activities and bulletins on marine related issues.

3. River Webcam

We intend to fit a webcam, connected to the Hut Broadband, to provide a publicly available view of the river. This will benefit boat owners and river users who wish to check conditions, and will also be available to local businesses to show the lovely setting of the village.

The Parish council has already made a grant towards this. The original intention was to fix the camera at Oakenhurst, but some technical issues have been identified. The optimum location will be identified in the next couple of months and then we will proceed with fitting.

That completes the report. Does anyone have any questions?