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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017 - GROUP EVENTS REPORT

We have once again managed to build our group identity and visibility at events. We are, it seems, managing to get the beekeeping message 'out there' to the public.

Whilst not involved with any Heligan events this year, we still attended a good number of events. Pulla Cross fête and Grampound Road Summer fair at the end of June were both badly hampered by severely wet weather so attendance was much lower than had been hoped.

Sticker vintage car rally at the start of August was better served by the weather although, unfortunately, the event itself seemed a little tired and lacklustre in comparison to recent years. Tregony heavy horse & country fayre was as usual very popular with visitors (despite the ever-increasing food and attraction prices at the event!) and St Ewe country fair rounded off a very busy August. The first weekend in September saw us attending the Grampound with Creed. Only an afternoon event, but the display always proves to be very popular with visitors. At all events this year, as every year, we have received very positive feedback from organisers and visitors alike.

It was unfortunate that we had no honey to sell at events this year, reflecting the poor harvest experienced by many beekeepers, something I fear will be repeated this coming year. However, we still managed to earn a respectable income from seeds, badges and stickers as well as from the ever-popular candle rolling; all of which goes some way to help fund the purchase of more polo shirts for volunteers and to keeping us self-sufficient in terms of equipment at events.

My gratitude must to everybody who was involved in making this season of events a success. Also, a special mention must be made to Merv Kitt's grand-daughter Ruby, who's efforts at several of our events brought a new perspective and helped to encourage and look after so many of our younger visitors.

I believe we play a very important role in educating the general public about beekeeping and the role of honeybees, and it is essential that we continue to do this. We can only continue to attend events thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of volunteers from within the group who help with erecting the marquee and staffing our displays at the events. Volunteering is a great opportunity to get more involved with RBG, to get to know other group members better, to have a great deal of fun and to experience some fantastic events.

If you would like to get involve with events in 2017, please don't hesitate to get in touch – it is a very rewarding experience.

Matthew Buchan

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