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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018 - GROUP EVENTS REPORT

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

It was a busy Summer of events this year, with attendance at Caerhays Summer Fête, Grampound Road Summer Fair and 1st Roseland Scout Troop in June; Grampound School Fête and Sticker Vintage Car Rally in July; Tregony Heavy Horse Show and Country Fayre, St Ewe Country Fair and Heligan's Wildlife Wednesday Bee Day in August; Grampound with Creed Carnival and M.A. Grigg Open Day in September.

This was perhaps the heaviest schedule we have had for some years and we received very positive feedback, as always. It was once again next to impossible to source honey to sell at events this year, reflecting another poor harvest experienced by most members. However, we still managed to earn a respectable income from seeds, badges, etc, as well more candles than ever before; all of which goes some way to keeping us self-sufficient in terms of funding for events.

Despite the feedback, staffing these events this year proved to be something of a drag for all concerned. The majority of events were hampered by less than perfect weather; additionally, many of them seem increasingly lacklustre and staid; perhaps it is a result of us having attended the same shows for several years now, perhaps partly the cycle these things take as established organisers run out of new ideas or move on and the running of the shows slackens off.

Regardless, I am hoping that we may take a different approach to our events in the coming year. We are currently planning not to attend any of the usual events and instead undertake a 'residency' at Heligan over the Summer months. If all goes well, we will hopefully be able to set up our tent and attend for one or two days each week. This should help us reach vast numbers of people whilst allowing for increased exposure and helping to negate the burnout from the regular events. I will update if and when we confirm this but, with luck, we could have an exciting Summer in store.

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 2018, please don't hesitate to get in touch – it is a very rewarding experience.

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*Roseland Beekeeping Group is a member of Cornwall Beekeepers Association
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