

To receive a report on project Ann Glanville and consider any actions and associated expenditure

1. BACKGROUND

Early in 2025 I was researching Saltash local history when I discovered an anniversary of hers in 2025. I gave a presentation at Saltash Library on 6th June, kindly attended by our Mayor and Hilary.

I was able to show a slide of a reproduction of a painting of the opening of the new Wet Dock at Ipswich c.1842 by Claude Lorraine Nursey. The painting measures 123 cms x 99 cms (49" x 35"). Everyone in the audience agreed with me that we should have copies of the picture displayed in Saltash, as it included a depiction of a Ladies' Rowing Crew, almost certainly with Ann Glanville at 'stroke'.

2. HISTORY

I understand that several years ago a source in Ipswich contacted Saltash Heritage to say that they believed the painting which was in the Colchester and Ipswich Museum, and was owned by Ipswich Borough Council, was probably of Ann and her crew. This was followed up by Terry Cummings, who arranged image reproduction rights for Heritage, and included the picture in his excellent booklet: 'Ann Glanville: The Myths and The Facts' published by Saltash Heritage, which I found incredibly useful. So much so, that I plagiarised much of it for my presentation - with his permission!

3. FOLLOW UP

Apart from being very pleased to include Terry's research copy slide in my presentation, I have discussed the topic with him. There is evidence to support the fact that Ann and her crew did visit Ipswich around that time. Our research indicates that the painting could well be the earliest representation of a Victorian Ladies' Rowing Crew afloat, possibly the earliest in the world, so it is important for a number of reasons.

4. ACTION

I have been in contact with Ipswich Borough Council and the Colchester and Ipswich Museum. They could not have been more helpful. I should have liked to purchase the painting for Saltash (the artist is competent but no more, so it would have been relatively affordable!) but they wouldn't want to sell such an historical piece...pity.

However, - and with many thanks to Lizzie of Heritage - I have managed to gain with her help personal permission of image reproduction rights, from which we can have hard copies made for framing. Needless to say, I am delighted about this, and to share the news with you.

5. PROPOSAL

You are all associated with organisations and buildings where we could display a copy of the painting as part of our local history, commemorating a real legend. I have to say straightaway that Saltash Heritage do not need my permission as they have their own, and can, of course, (do with their permission what they wish!) However, there are some locations like:

- Saltash Guildhall
- Caradon Gig Club (at Saltash Sailing Club)
- Ashtorre Rock
- County Hall, Truro
- Saltash Library Hub

which you may believe could provide a suitable home for such a picture. If so, clearly you would need to decide what size and type of frame would be suitable. I would also suggest that there could/should be another frame similar but smaller associated with it with some typed, explanatory words. I can provide a draft for your consideration.

I am sorry that this letter is so long, but I feel that I need to make it as comprehensive as practicable as it will save a meeting. I believe that because there are a number of different parts associated with this project, all around a common theme, I have a responsibility to co-ordinate as well as I can, for fairness and maximum benefit for our town. After any such meeting - or now this briefing/letter - I would only have been working with, say, individuals anyway.

6. P.R.

Apart from the intrinsic value of what we might do in displaying such a picture, there should also be significant press and media opportunities. I am happy to help you and your organisation with this, so we could gain the most positive value from it for our town.

I think that there could be something even more, an interesting and creative opportunity over this project. Helen Glover, of course, a Cornish Ladies' Rower, Olympic and World champion, took over Ann Glanville's mantle some time later. She lives on the Thames, but I understand that she does visit family in Penzance/Newlyn with her children. What about considering inviting her to visit Saltash and Truro to show her the picture, and even give her a copy?

This communication has taken longer than I anticipated because I have been trying to make contact mainly with Helen. Children's summer holidays and the World Rowing Championships haven't helped - but I have not given up! Do think about it. I can add some value to this. I have a local contact who is friendly with two Cornish retired rowers who both won Olympic medals. A 'reception' with all of them could provide quite an event! It would be up to you, of course. I would be more than prepared to help.

7. WHAT HAPPENS NOW

It is up to you, as I have said. I now have copyright permission to copy a certain number of images for pictures.

I am offering you and your organisation the chance to have a hard copy picture made of a Saltash and Cornish legend which could then be displayed with pride.

8. CONTACT DETAILS

I hope you are as excited as I am over this project and would like to take part. If so, do please let me know what you think, and how we might follow it up for the benefit of our town and community, both specifically and generally.

Thanks for reading this.

Barry Brooking

Please refer to Appendix A for further information related to the request.