

1. Gifts

1.1 Three oil paintings by the post-impressionist painter Martina Thomas (1924-1995) have been donated by her husband Eric James Mellon NDD Hon Fellow CPA. They are 'Cape Cornwall', 'Marigolds at Mousehole' and 'Parrots at Birdworld'. Martina Thomas studied at St Martin's School of Art, was elected a member of the Islington Art Circle and exhibited at the Royal Academy. She regularly visited Cornwall to paint. Two oil paintings have also been gifted to Penlee House Museum & Art Gallery who are planning a major exhibition of her work in the near future.

1.2 The distinguished abstract artist Grace Gardner has generously donated an important collection to the gallery featuring work by Chris Insoll, Terry Whybrow, Michael Praed, Margery Glaser, Colin Orchard, Ralph Freeman, Helen Langdon and Joanna Shannon as well as key pieces by herself. These have now been published in a catalogue *The Grace Gardner Gift*, which is volume 4 in a series featuring Falmouth Town Council's permanent collection. She has also extremely generously contributed towards the catalogue costs.

1.3 Miss Daphne Jameson daughter of the Falmouth artist Frank Jameson (1899-1968) has presented an early self portrait in oils and a still life exhibited at the Royal Institute of Oil Painters in 1961.

1.4 Claire Fuller has kindly presented two illustrations she made for the *Samantha Seagull visits Falmouth Art Gallery* activity story book.

1.5 The gallery has now collected from Derbyshire twenty-three of the finest works by Harry Ousey (1915-1985) that have been donated to the collection by the artist's niece, Mrs Susan Astles, following the gift of *Edge Movement*, which has been much admired in *The River* exhibition. Ousey was influenced by the Surrealists exhibition of 1936, and his collages were admired by E.L.T. Mesens, who was one of the Surrealists who came to stay at Lambe Creek in 1937. In 1950 Ousey moved to Cornwall, joining the colony of artists at St Ives, where he met Ben Nicholson and Barbara Hepworth. He also lived for a time in Helston. Ousey studied at Académie Julian in Paris, and knew many famous artists including Augustus John, Picasso, Ernst, Magritte, and Mondrian. Falmouth now possesses the most important collection of Ousey's work held in a public collection.

1.6 The Town Council is most grateful to the generosity of these donors.

2. Financial Virements

2.1 Due to the success of the National Heritage Lottery Fund application some of our priorities have shifted since the 2004-2005 budget was set in 2003. It may be necessary to make virements between art gallery budgets in the last quarter to help meet with our commitments promised to the Heritage

Lottery Fund. These would only be undertaken with the knowledge and approval of the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Town Council's Finance and Administration Officer; and it is hoped that this proposal would be passed by Falmouth Town Council.

3. Data

3.1 Despite many venues in the South West reporting a decline in tourism Falmouth Art Gallery is delighted to report that it received 49,712 visitors for the calendar year 2004. Educational and community visits totalled 3,868 with 1,973 education visits and 1,895 community visits. Website visits totalled 21,150.

4. National Press Coverage

4.1 We are also pleased to announce that complimentary articles recommending the gallery appeared in November in *The Independent*, *The Guardian* and *Museums Practice*. The new acquisition of the painting by John Opie RA was also given a full colour page in the National Art Collections Fund magazine.

5. Samantha Seagull Publication

5.1 *Samantha Seagull visits Falmouth Art Gallery* is believed by museum consultants to be the first publication of its kind in the country featuring a children's selection from the permanent collection, wrapped in a story, activities, children's comments, workshop photographs, children's art and cartoons of visitors to the gallery. The publication is intended to make the permanent collection more accessible to under 10 year olds. It is linked to an exciting exhibition, involving a wide range of community activities. The project has been funded by Cornwall Arts Marketing and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

6. Children's Book Illustration Archive

6.1 A children's book illustration archive is to be created at Falmouth Art Gallery as a resource for the region. The idea for the Illustration Archive was developed earlier this year by David Peters, Chairman of Falmouth Decorative and Fine Art Society, and Professor Alan Livingston, Principal of Falmouth College of Arts.

6.2 The Art Gallery already has in its collection a number of important children's book illustrations by leading artists such as Peter Firmin, John Harrold, Joel Stewart, Paul Spooner, Keith Watson and Nick Brennan. There are also images of popular characters such as Bagpuss, Ivor the Engine, Rupert Bear, Yogi Bear, and Crazy for Daisy of *The Beano*.

6.3 The BA (Hons) Illustration programme at Falmouth College of Arts is considered by many professional illustrators to be one of the best in the country and it is hoped that the archive will provide a valuable resource for

current and future students. The Gallery is particularly keen to collect published illustrations aimed at children that depict suitable themes for Cornish thematic exhibitions – subjects such as gardens, rockpools, sea life, beaches, trees, animals and tall ships. A priority will be to attract works that universally reflect the culture and activities associated with Falmouth and its environs.

6.4 It is hoped that the illustration archive will encourage gifts from professional illustrators. Some purchases will be funded during a five-year period by the Falmouth Decorative and Fine Art Society.

7. Little Parc Owles Trust

7.1 Little Parc Owles Trust has provided funding of £450 in a project to help increase the understanding of Cornish abstract art.

7.2 Renowned artists Chris Insoll and Grace Gardner worked at the gallery with lower sixth form students from Falmouth School, and pupils from Beacon Infant School.

7.3 The students were able to see works by leading Cornish artists such as Paul Feiler, Bob Crossley, Sam Dodwell, Michael Praed, Gill Watkiss, Terry Whybrow, Roy Walker, Ralph Freeman, Roy Ray and Colin Orchard, as well as some key pieces by Grace Gardner.

7.4 The students were then able to produce their own work inspired by the art surrounding them. Thanks to the Little Parc Owles Trust the students got to use the finest quality paints and watercolour paper.

8. Permanent Gallery

8.1 The problem wall cases in the permanent gallery have now been removed to ensure that environmental conditions remain within recommended museum standards.

9. Volunteer Programme

9.1 Heritage Lottery projects often need to account for the financial benefit of volunteer contributions. Using their formulae it has been calculated that Falmouth's volunteer scheme has contributed to this calendar year £40,496 in unpaid labour.

10. Disabled Access

10.1 Some wall areas in the gallery toilet have been painted to create more contrast to assist the visually impaired.

10.2 The new lighting track in the entrance gallery will assist visitors wearing hearing aids as it will not give off a hum (see item 13).

11. Book Launches

11.1 Two books were launched at Falmouth Art Gallery. The first was *The Golden Dream – A biography of Thomas Cooper Gotch* by Dr Pamela Lomax, which coincided with an exhibition in the permanent gallery of works by Gotch and his friend Henry Scott Tuke, lent by the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society.

11.2 The second was *Master of the Sea: Charles Napier Hemy RA RWS* by Margaret Powell, who is the artist's grand-daughter. Hemy was Falmouth's first Royal Academician and Mrs Powell recently donated 'Falmouth Town' by Hemy to the gallery.

12. Partnership Exhibition

12.1 Pupils from schools in Truro and Falmouth saw their photographs of rivers and creeks exhibited at The Royal Cornwall Museum, alongside their poems. The project was a partnership between RCM, The National Trust and Falmouth Art Gallery and used as inspiration the *Surrealists on Holiday* exhibition. The pupils worked with photographer Vince Bevan, poet David Scott, and museum education officers Richenda McNaughton and Claire Fuller.

13. Lighting

13.1 The gallery has won a grant to carry out major improvements to the gallery's lighting system. The £4,665 award comes from the Arts Council England, South West and combines with a budget set aside by Falmouth Town Council, together with sponsorship from Green Island Lighting in Penryn.

13.2 Falmouth Art Gallery, run by Falmouth Town Council, is one of only three art galleries in Cornwall that has obtained full national accreditation. The planned improvements will help ensure that the gallery remains one of the leading galleries in the South West and that the facilities are appropriate for mounting high quality art exhibitions of national and international interest.

13.3 The current lighting transmits a frequency that interferes with hearing aids. The new lighting will improve the presentation, will be more environmentally friendly and improve facilities for visitors with disabilities, many of whom participate in the gallery's special needs workshops.

13.4 The gallery received independent advice on the project from Dr Tim Skelly, Senior Lecturer in Lighting Design at the University of Leeds, who has produced lighting for Yorkshire Sculpture Park and the sculptor Sir Anthony Caro CBE. The lighting is scheduled to be completed in time for the first exhibition of the year.

