

## **1. Exhibitions**

1.1 The Fur, Feather and Flora exhibition proved very popular with visitors attracting 5,588 visitors during its short spell. The gallery worked in partnership with Newquay Zoo, and we are grateful to Mark Norris, education officer at the zoo for bringing some unusual creatures to the gallery as part of a workshop for children. First time visitors included an African snail and a giant millipede. The children then made shadow puppets with Claire Fuller.

## **2. Christmas card**

2.1 The National Art Collections Fund, who presented the gallery in 1994 with *The Adoration of the Magi* – a triptych by John Riley Wilmer (1883-1941), are to reproduce it as their next Christmas card to help raise funds. The card will be distributed countrywide, and copies will be made available through the gallery shop later in year.

## **3. Family Learning**

3.1 The gallery has been contacted by the National Museums & Galleries on Merseyside for advice on family learning projects.

3.2 The gallery has been listed for its good practice in family learning by the Campaign for Learning in Museums, Children's BBC and The Henry Moore Foundation websites.

3.3 Sadly Falmouth Art Gallery did not win *The Guardian's Kids in Museums Award*. However, we were delighted to be short-listed in the final five along with the V & A and the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter. Claire Fuller visited the Guardian offices to receive a certificate on behalf of the Town Council. The judges said of Falmouth Art Gallery: "*This gallery reaches out to places other galleries simply don't reach, from disaffected youth to the very young. It was astonishing to see that even babies are encouraged to come and enjoy the art, as well as create it themselves. Every visitor of any age feels valued*". Congratulations go to Kilhope, The North of England Lead Mining Museum, Co Durham, who were eventual winners.

## **4. The Richard Harris Gift**

4.1 All thirty works by Kenneth Newton that were generously given to the Town Council by Mr Richard Harris are featured in a new catalogue on the artist sponsored by The Canterbury Auction Galleries and Cornwall Arts Marketing. It is the second in a series of catalogues to list the impressive collection held by Falmouth Town Council. It was produced to the same format as the first, *A Bit of a Dive, underwater photographs by Mark Webster*. The series of catalogues can be bound together to chronicle the collection. The catalogue was featured in *House and Gardens* magazine April 2004 and on the front cover of *Antiques & Collectables*.

## **5. The Surrealists in Cornwall**

5.1 We are delighted to report a major coup for the gallery. Anthony Penrose has agreed that the forty prints showing the Surrealists on holiday in Cornwall in 1937 will enter the collection of Falmouth Art Gallery after the exhibition, along with other relevant images of Picasso, Miro and Magritte. The photographs are an important and valuable archive, featuring Man Ray, Max Ernst, Roland Penrose, Lee Miller, Ady Fidelin, Leonora Carrington, Aileen Agar, Joseph Bard, Henry Moore, and Paul and Nusch Eluard. The costs of mounting the prints is being funded by The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, London. These images will be reproduced in volume three of Falmouth Art Gallery's collection.

5.2 The gallery is mounting the exhibition in association with Falmouth College of Arts. The business writing course has secured funding to launch a website to support the exhibition – [www.surrealistsonholiday.com](http://www.surrealistsonholiday.com). They are doing a splendid job and we look forward to its launch in the near future.

## **6. Conservation**

6.1 A highly important etching of the *Temple of Cybele, Rome* by Giovanni Battista Piranesi (1720-1778) has recently been conserved and has recently been displayed alongside Rembrandt's etching of *The Baptism of the Eunuch*, 1641 (2<sup>nd</sup> state). Both rare prints were donated by Alfred A. de Pass in memory of his sons.

6.2 Cornwall County Council and Falmouth Town Council have worked in partnership to help conserve a collection of celebrated engravings featuring Lord Nelson from the collection at Falmouth Art Gallery. These (and the Piranesi) have been conserved by Sue Corfield of Blue Iris, an accredited member of the Institute of Paper Conservators. We are most grateful to Cornwall County Council for their support.

6.3 In 2005 national celebrations are planned to mark achievements of Lord Nelson on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death, the news of which first officially arrived in Great Britain with *The Pickle* at the port of Falmouth. Falmouth Art Gallery plans to participate in these celebrations by displaying these historical 19<sup>th</sup> century engravings of Nelson from the permanent collection as well as putting them on the world wide web.

## **7. D-Day Commemorations**

7.1 To mark the 60th anniversary of the Normandy landing Falmouth Art Gallery is displaying a number of original drawings made by the distinguished royal portraitist, John Ward CBE (born 1917). At the time John Ward was serving with the Royal Engineers, and during his spare time recorded the invasion preparations in pen and ink. He is kindly letting us exhibit these powerful and poignant drawings for the first time. Major Hibbert from Trebah

Garden, who was also part of the D Day landings, will formally open the display in the permanent gallery.

## **8. Community Visits**

8.1 Falmouth Art Society enjoyed a day in the gallery drawing details from the Kenneth Newton exhibition. They produced some excellent work and this has gone on display in the staircase gallery.

8.2 The exhibition has also enjoyed first time visits from U3A in Truro and has mounted successful workshops for Cornwall Women's Refuge Trust, Falmouth Stroke Victims, Budock Brownies and Mencap House, Falmouth. The Gallery is now piloting Family workshops on Wednesday afternoons in addition to Saturday afternoon due to popular demand.

8.3 Members from Age Concern worked together with local children in an art workshop at the gallery. The aim of the project was to mix young and old together with the aim of building confidence and breaking down some of the barriers that can separate people of different ages, giving them the chance to learn together and from each other. The afternoon was funded by the Paul Smales Trust Fund through the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society. The gallery is hoping to repeat the success in the future involving members of the Falmouth Stroke Club and residents of Earl's Retreat.

## **9. Saved for the Town**

9.1 Through the support of Councillor Geoffrey Evans the rare topographical prints of Falmouth during the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries are being made available to schools in the area. The images will be available on CD Rom in a teacher's pack, as well as becoming available on the world wide web. We have decided to call this project *Saved for the Town – Rare Views of Falmouth* after the successful exhibition held here last year. Local historian, Peter Gilson, is assisting with research.

## **10. Transfers**

10.1 A slight amateur pencil drawing of a building in the Isle of Man was discovered as the backing to one of the prints in the collection. As this has not been accessioned and has little historical relevance other than in the locality of the Isle of Man it was decided to transfer the drawing to the Manx Museum, Douglas, Isle of Man. The museum is a registered museum with a protected collection. Falmouth Art Gallery will be acknowledged and will be entitled to borrow it should we ever wish to do so.

10.2 An accessioned painting by Arthur Trevor Haddon of F.J.Horniman MP (FAMAG:1000.63) is recommended to Falmouth Town Council for transfer to The Horniman Museum in London, on condition that Falmouth Art Gallery be allowed to borrow it for temporary exhibition if required.