

1. Gifts

1.1 A rare steel engraving by John O'Connor ARHA RI (1830-1889) of a view of Falmouth taken from the castle at St Mawes has been presented by Miss Pauline Howard. The estuary is full of a number of interesting tall ships. The gift was just in time to be included in '*The Saved for the Town*' project (see item 3).

1.2 A self portrait by the distinguished Falmouth artist Ashley Hold (b.1964) has been presented in memory of William Lennox Hold by Bolam, Kitchen & Pearce, Accountants in Truro.

1.3 Studio photographs of the Falmouth artist Frank Jameson (1899-1968) have been presented by the artist's daughter, Miss Daphne Jameson along with a photographic record of some of his paintings.

1.4 The gallery has been generously offered the opportunity to choose a representative selection of works by Harry Ousey (1915-1985) for the collection. The offer comes from the artist's niece, Mrs Susan Astles, following the gift of one of his finest abstracts, *Edge Movement*, which has been much admired in *The River* exhibition. In 1950 Ousey moved to Cornwall, joining the colony of artists at St Ives. 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.

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

2. Saved for the Town

2.1 The collection of rare topographical prints purchased in 2000 for the Town Council by Councillor Geoffrey Evans (then Mayor) and curator, Cath Wallace have now successfully been put onto a CD Rom and on the website for local schools, colleges and local historians to access. Historical research has been kindly provided by Peter Gilson, from the Local History Group of The Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society. The project was funded by Falmouth Education Trust and we are most grateful to Councillor Evans, Mr Percy Lobb, Cornwall Heritage Trust and Cornwall Arts Marketing for their help and support. The project will become the blue-print for making other areas of the collection more accessible, and hopefully will become an example of best practice for smaller museums.

3. Tours and Loans

3.1 The award-winning *Bit of a Dive* exhibition, featuring underwater photographs by Mark Webster, is touring the country thanks to much hard work undertaken by staff and volunteers. The tour includes Lymington; Herne Bay; Havant; Christchurch; Fareham; Gosport; and Warrington. Susanna

Webster has been providing interesting talks and presentations to a variety of audiences including The Canterbury Festival and children's hospices.

3.2 *The Caravan* by Sir Alfred Munnings PRA has been lent to *Shades of British Impressionism* exhibition, which is being shown at the following registered museums: Penlee House Museum & Art Gallery; Warrington Museum & Art Gallery; The Lowry, Salford and the Williamson Art Gallery, Birkenhead. It will be returned in August 2005.

3.3 *The Surrealists on Holiday* exhibition will be lent to St Barbe Museum, Lymington for showing between 11 December 2004 and 12 February 2005.

4. Surrealists on Holiday exhibition

4.1 This exhibition has been incredibly successful attracting 17,940 visitors and 1,399 educational visits. The show attracted national press coverage and was reviewed by one journalist as '*the most interesting and significant exhibition in Cornwall this summer*'. The exhibition catalogue is being featured in the next volume of the national journal *Museums Practice*, as a good example of what can be achieved by museums.

4.2 The educational programme included many community links with partners such as Falmouth College of Arts, Falmouth Community School etc. One of the most successful was working in partnership with Falmouth Youth Club on a *Surrealists on Holiday* float for this year's carnival. We are most grateful to Councillor Gerald Chin-Quee and Councillor Lesley Trenchard for their hard work, and we were delighted when they won first prize. The exhibition and educational programme will be the subject of an independent evaluation the results of which will be reported back to Falmouth Town Council.

4.2 The curator would like to thank Antony Penrose of the Lee Miller Archive, Professor Alan Livingston, Principal of Falmouth College of Arts and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation for making this exhibition possible.

5. Donations box

5.1 It is believed that donations would increase if the public knew to what purpose their donation was contributing to. For this reason it is suggested that all donations be allocated towards Educational workshops or new acquisitions.

6. Paul Smales Trust

6.1 The Paul Smales Trust has generously funded the Bridge Project. Members of *Age Concern* and Earls Retreat produced art hand in hand with young children from Falmouth. Together they made brightly coloured felt juggling balls, inserting bells to create interesting sounds.

6.2 The project was devised as part of the gallery's inspired learning programme. Gallery staff have observed how well the elderly and very young

children get on in the gallery. This project encourages them to make art together, and to give small children a safe environment in which to talk to people with whom they are not acquainted. The project breaks down some of the barriers that can separate people of different ages, giving them the chance to learn together.

6.3 The art and tea was followed by a performance from Blossom the Clown. Blossom gave some lessons in juggling and plate spinning and soon young and old were performing skills to impress the other visitors, as reported in the local press.

6.4 One couple from Wales, Tom and Lillian Kesall, were invited to participate, having visited the gallery for the first time only the day before. It was Lillian's 84th birthday and she was surprised and delighted when a birthday cake was produced. Lillian commented: "*We had such a great time. We are going to tell everyone about it back home. They don't do anything like this in our galleries. We think it is wonderful*".

6.5 The event was attended by David Peters of Hine Downing, legal advisor to the Trust and by Paul Smales's mother, Eileen who said: "*I believe Paul would be very proud if he could see what pleasure his fund has brought*".

7. Cartoon Workshop

7.1 Falmouth artist, Nick Brennan, a cartoonist for *The Beano*, generously gave a workshop on cartoon drawing in the gallery. The children were taught skills such as drawing different emotions, action pictures and storyboarding. The children were really excited to meet a real cartoonist.

8. Working for Mental Health

8.1 A national campaign was launched at Falmouth Art Gallery. *Madforarts* is launching an online gallery offering individuals with mental health issues their own studio space to review pictures, audio, text and video of art works that inspire them.

8.2 Having selected the work that made them happiest in the gallery they were invited to the new computer wing of Falmouth Library where they set up the website with their views and comments.

8.3 *Madforarts* is to be launched nationally at Tate Modern in London on October 6.

9. Economic Benefit

9.1 A recent report from SWMLAC estimated that museums in the region contributed an off-site spend for local businesses of £27 million pounds and 1,425 jobs on/off site are supported by museums.

9.2 An economic impact study established that an estimated 8.5 million non-local day trips to Cornwall contributed approximately £120 million to the economy.

9.3 The gallery also brings considerable outside money to the region through grant-aid, sponsorship and partnerships.

10. Christmas card

10.1 The National Art Collections Fund, which presented *The Adoration of the Magi* – a triptych by Falmouth artist John Riley Wilmer (1883-1941), have reproduced it as one of their Christmas cards and distributed it countrywide. Copies are now available through the gallery shop later in year.

11. Permanent Gallery

11.1 The wall cases in the permanent gallery were fitted in front of existing windows. Despite our efforts to insulate them, there are periods during the year when the humidity does not meet with museum standards. The conditions of grant-aid towards from the NACF specify that those cases are not used during these periods. It is recommended that they are removed over the Christmas period and boarded over using existing gallery budgets.

12. Volunteer Programme

12.1 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 this year £35,571 in unpaid labour.

12.2 Due to the success of our volunteer programme Falmouth Art Gallery is honoured to be one of only three museum services to be asked to address 'The Managing Volunteers in Museums' conference in Bath organized by GEM (Group for Education in Museums) South West and South Wales.

12.3 The curator would particularly like to thank Alex Hooper for his assistance with the volunteer programme.

13. Sustainability Policy

13.1 A new Sustainability Policy is enclosed for Falmouth Town Council to amend and approve.

14. Service Forward Plan

14.1 A revised Service Forward Plan is enclosed for Falmouth Town Council to amend and approve.

15. Temporary Exhibitions for 2005

15.1 Attached is a list of temporary exhibition for next year. There will also be the Samantha Seagull exhibition (as part of item 1) in the permanent gallery.

Part II

1. Heritage Lottery Fund

1.1 We are delighted to announce that the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the saving and preservation of Opie's Cornish masterpiece (linked to a year of educational activities) has been successful. The £110,950 project includes other contributions of £24,000 by the MLAV & A Purchase Grant Fund, £14,000 from the National Art Collections Fund, £5000 from The Beecroft Bequest, as well as from local sources including Cornwall Heritage Trust and private sponsors.

1.2 John Opie was Cornwall's first famous artist and the only Cornish artist to be honoured with a burial in St Paul's cathedral. A number of Opie experts consider this to his finest work. The campaign to save the painting from being sold to America attracted considerable local and national press.

1.3 '*The Cornish Beggar*' by John Opie RA (1761-1807) will now enter the collection of Falmouth Art Gallery and will be unveiled in the permanent gallery on Friday 12 November 2004 7 – 9 pm. An independent valuation carried out for the NACF valued the painting at £100,000.

2. Staffing Levels

2.1 The previous Town Clerk, Bob Blezzard cut a half post from gallery staffing, without consultation. This has resulted in a staffing cut of 175 days (35 weeks) for the gallery. Although the gallery has increased productivity this staffing cut does put a strain on staff resources, particularly during holiday periods.

2.2 The gallery is open six days a week, and also during Summer & Spring bank holidays. With sickness and holiday entitlement the staffing levels for the gallery work out at 2.3 staff a day (3 full-time posts and 1 job-share). This is considerably lower than most museums with similar attendance figures. For example Penlee House have 10 staff, Swansea Art Gallery have 13 staff, The American Museum, Bath have 12, Kettering has 11 staff and Torquay 10 staff. All these museums have similar or fewer visitors. The average number of full-time staff per museum in the South West is 5.6 per day.

2.3 It is hoped that it will be the Council's intention, as soon as economically viable, to restore the gallery's core staffing to the same levels they were when the curator was appointed. It is hoped that this may be discussed by the Town Council's Staffing Committee.