

1. Heritage & Museums Excellence Awards

1.1 Falmouth Art Gallery has become the first museum in the country to be short-listed three years running for the Heritage & Museums Excellence Awards. Last year the gallery won *The Best Educational Initiative*, and the year before were runners up. This year Falmouth Art Gallery has been short-listed for two awards – *The Best Educational Initiative* and *The Best Project on a Limited Budget*, both for the Samantha Seagull project. The results will be announced in London in May. The Heritage & Museums Excellence Awards are considered the museum profession's 'Oscars'.

1.2 Falmouth Art Gallery has now won or been nominated for nine national awards in four years. The Curator would like to thank the hard work of Councillors, volunteers, staff, sponsors and community partners. Thanks are also due to the local press, in particular Steve Ivall and Helen Dale, whose support for the gallery has been exceptional.

2. Shop Discount

2.1 In recognition of the above achievements the Curator wishes to recommend to the Town Council that the gallery shop offers 10 per cent discount to volunteers, Councillors, staff and press. The current commission is 35% and the Town Council would still earn 25% on all discounted sales. The difference in earnings would be negligible; indeed it may even encourage an increase in sales. The discount would be a marvellous goodwill gesture on behalf of the Council for all the unpaid hours that staff and volunteers give to the gallery, for example at private views, collecting and delivering artwork, and at educational meetings.

3. Gifts

3.1 Alex Hooper and Jo Mattingly have kindly donated a drawing by the Falmouth artist Charles Napier Hemy RA.

3.2 John and Valerie Tonkin have donated newspaper cuttings and catalogues relating to Falmouth artists to help build the gallery's archive. Pat Webster is the gallery's volunteer archivist and has done a tremendous job in establishing the archive as a valuable resource.

4. Sponsorship and Grant Aid

4.1 Falmouth Art Gallery has received sponsorship of £5,000 from News International Ltd for the *Passing Ships* exhibition, which is the Town Council's contribution to the *Sea Britain Festival*, a countrywide celebration marking the achievements of Lord Nelson on the 200th anniversary of his death.

4.2 The exhibition has also attracted sponsorship from Resource Exchange Ltd who produce high quality prints for fine art galleries, artists and

professional photographers. A & P Falmouth Ltd is helping fund community workshops.

4.3 Little Parc Owles Trust has generously agreed to fund another series of workshops, again using artist Chris Insoll to work with teenagers and primary school children, this time using the recently acquired Harry Ousey collection as inspiration. An illustrated catalogue of Falmouth Art Gallery's collection of works by Harry Ousey will accompany the workshops.

4.4 David Lay of the Penzance Auction House has helped fund the increased insurance premiums for the Tree-mendous exhibition, which features works by John Constable RA, Graham Sutherland, Stanhope Forbes RA and Bernard Leach.

4.5 The gallery has just completed a teacher's pack using the collection as inspiration for Speaking and Listening in the National Curriculum Key Stages 1 & 2. The packs were produced with advice from experienced teachers Paula Ross and Nina Cooper as well as from Literacy Consultant, Jason Hurr from Cornwall Education Authority. The project received funding of £3,500 from SWMLAC, MLA, DfES and DCMS. The pack will also be published on the Falmouth Art Gallery website www.falmouthartgallery.com.

4.6 Since becoming a fully accredited museum Falmouth Art Gallery has attracted over £350,000 in grant-aid, sponsorship and other income. With the addition of donated works of art this would take the added value to the town of well in excess of **half a million pounds**. Volunteer labour was accurately costed using Heritage Lottery Funding formulae for last year at £40,496 and estimated at £161,984 since national accreditation.

5. Budget Cost Centres

5.1 It is recommended to the Town Council that, without additional costs and within the budgets agreed for 2005-2006, a separate cost centre, Falmouth Town Heritage, is identified to support the approved Council policies, obtain best value and maximize grant opportunities:

6. De-accessioning & Transfers

6.1 The Falmouth Art Gallery collection is protected. Nevertheless, there are works that are recommended for transfer to other museums, or to be de-accessioned according to best practice standards outlined by the Museums Association code of ethics. It is recommended that we should go formally through this process by the end of the year with both the art collection and the Mayor's collection. A committee should be formed in the autumn to examine the Curator's recommendations. It is suggested that this could consist of a nominated Town Councillor, the Town Clerk, the Curator, the Assistant Curator, Alison Bevan, Director of Penlee House Museum & Art Gallery and an invited representative of SWMLAC.

7. Masters of Mâché

7.1 The Masters of Mâché proved extremely popular with visitors. Despite the scaffolding we received 7700 visitors and 1182 educational visits. We sold a large number of exhibits including a work by Councillor Gerald Chin-Quee.

8. VIP Visit

8.1 David Barrie, the Chief Executive of the National Art Collections Fund, one of the country's leading organisations for funding the purchase of works of art, visited Falmouth Art Gallery, together with Barbara Spring, the Regional Representative. He reported that the acquisition of the Opie was one of the most significant acquisitions made by a regional museum or art gallery in recent years. He was impressed with the gallery and particularly liked the way internationally acknowledged historical work was displayed alongside children's art and work by contemporary British artists.

9. MA Thesis

9.1 Verity Sidgwick has won praise from her tutors at Leicester University for her MA thesis critically analyzing the provision of children's learning at Falmouth Art Gallery. The thesis was part of Module 3: Interpreting and Communicating Art of the Leicester University Course in Museum Studies. A copy of the thesis is available at the gallery for study.

10. Hemy Painting Returns

10.1 An important large-scale painting of the *Bob Newbon lifeboat* by Charles Napier Hemy RA RWS (1841-1917) has returned to its original position, when it was donated in 1923 by Alfred A. De Pass, in the entrance of the Municipal Buildings. Charles Napier Hemy was Falmouth's first Royal Academician, and along with Henry Scott Tuke was one of the town's most distinguished artists. The large painting behind plate glass took six men to lift and mount it.

11. Loans

11.1 Falmouth Art Gallery is lending *The beggar boy* by John Opie RA, *Viscount Falmouth* by George Romney RA, *The Study for the Message* by Henry Scott Tuke RA, and a bronze bust of *Henry Scott Tuke* by Henry Alfred Pegram RA to Penlee House Art Gallery & Museum for the *Faces of Cornwall* exhibition which is open to the public from 23 April to 11 June 2005.

12. Antiques & Collectables

12.1 Falmouth Art Gallery was featured in *Antiques & Collectables* in an article by editor Chris Sohanta. A copy of which is enclosed with this report.