

1. The Guardian Museum Awards

1.1 Falmouth Art Gallery has now made double figures for nominations for national awards in the last four years, with their latest short listing by *The Guardian* newspaper in the search for the most family friendly exhibition.

1.2 The Town Council's art gallery has made it to the last five, being nominated for *The Surrealists on Holiday* exhibition, which was shown last summer in association with Falmouth College of Arts (now University College Falmouth) and the Lee Miller Archive.

1.3 *The Guardian* had over 1000 nominations from readers, from which the judges selected five: Falmouth Art Gallery, Compton Verney, Museum of Farnham, Oxford's Pitt Rivers Museum and the Wordsworth Trust.

1.4 These five will now be judged by a panel of children aged 8 to 16 years old. *The Guardian* wrote: '*The criterion for making the shortlist was simple; museums had to have made an effort to be family friendly. Those which relied on well-tested subjects for their exhibitions, such as Vikings (with all those cardboard helmets) or Egyptians (so your kids use up all the toilet paper making themselves into mummies), with no seeming connection to their own collections, were shunned. Instead the judges chose to reward innovation with awkward, and even academic subjects. In its Surrealists on Holiday exhibition, Falmouth Art Gallery managed to take a difficult artistic tradition and make it appealing to children.*'

1.5 The winner will be announced in July. Other major nominations for the gallery have come from the Heritage & Museums Excellence Awards, the Interpret Britain Awards, and South West Tourism Excellence Awards. It is the second time that *The Guardian* has short-listed the gallery.

2. Heritage & Museums Excellence Awards

2.1 Falmouth Art Gallery lost out on top spot at the Heritage & Museums Excellence Awards, but in becoming runner up achieved a unique first. The Town Council's gallery is the only gallery, museum or heritage site to be short-listed for the prestigious awards for Best Educational Initiative three years running, an achievement that attracted special recognition from journalist and broadcaster, Sophie Raworth.

2.2 A delegation headed by the then Mayor, Councillor Maureen Davies and Chairman of the art Gallery Committee heard Sophie Raworth commented: '*Falmouth Art gallery is a gallery that continues to impress the judges for sheer enthusiasm, originality and scope. Last year they were winners of this category and this year we are delighted that their efforts have been recognised.*' The runners up spot was achieved ahead of the National

Maritime Museum Greenwich and Dulwich Picture Gallery. The overall winner in the category was Coventry's Kids in the Blitz project, which was a multi-site project a year in the planning.

3. *Tree-mendous* Exhibition

3.1. Children and families were enthralled to see the performances of one of the country's leading mime artists, Brett Jackson at Falmouth Art Gallery and to take place in a mime workshop as part of the *Tree-mendous* exhibition.

3.2 Brett is the brother of Kurt Jackson, whose work was represented in the *Tree-mendous* exhibition along with other leading British artists John Constable RA, Graham Sutherland and Henry Scott Tuke RA.

3.3 Brett Jackson is the mastermind behind Swamp Circus, the longest running contemporary circus in England. He has over ten years experience in presenting colourful, fun, skilful shows with hilarious audience participation. The free family entertainment was funded by The Heritage Lottery Fund.

3.4 Visitors were also treated to an afternoon of tree bugs and little beasties when Newquay Zoo's Education Manager Mark Norris brought along live exhibits relating to trees for an informal talk. Among the creatures were scorpions, giant African snails, and stick insects much to the delight of the children and the revulsion of their parents.

3.5 Schools, families and community groups including special needs took part in an art workshops with Education Officer, Claire Fuller, using foil, sequins and card to make their own fantastical tree creatures, insects, bugs and leaves.

3.6 The *Tree-mendous* exhibition was attended by 10,052 visitors with 2,160 education visits.

4. Talk on iconic artist

4.1 Fiona Frank, the niece of the iconic Glasgow Jewish artist, Hannah Frank gave a free illustrated talk at the gallery. At 96, Hannah Frank is the last living link to the Glasgow Art Nouveau period. Work by Hannah Frank was displayed in the gallery.

5. Loans

5.1 *A beggar boy* by John Opie RA (1761-1807) and *Viscount Falmouth* by George Romney (1734-1802) were lent to Penlee House Faces of Cornwall exhibition. The Opie was described by the distinguished art critic Frank Ruhmund as the most important painting in the exhibition. *The Message* by Henry Scott Tuke RA RWS (1858-1929) has also been lent for *Painting at the edge – British Coastal Art Colonies 1880-1930* touring exhibition.

5.2 Falmouth Art Gallery has lent six rare engravings relating to Nelson to the National Maritime Museum Cornwall for the *Sea Britain* festival celebrations. The NMMC have in a spirit of co-operation lent three works from the Royal Society of Marine Artists diploma collection to the Passing Ships exhibition at Falmouth Art Gallery. The two museums are working in partnership to ensure that Falmouth's contributions to the *Sea Britain* festival help provide a fitting tribute to Nelson's achievements.

6. New Publications

6.1 Two new publications in the series cataloguing the collection have been published thanks to support and sponsorship from Little Parc Owles Trust, St Ives; Resource Exchange Ltd, and News International Ltd. They are Volume 5 *Harry Ousey*, featuring the recent gift by Sue and Ron Astles, and *Falmouth Tukes*, featuring Tuke related material in the collection with additional loans from the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society. The latter catalogue was produced in partnership with the RCPS, and the curator would like to thank John Tonkin and the RCPS Tuke Committee for their support. An exhibition of the Polytechnic's Tukes is currently on show in the gallery until Saturday 9 July.

7. Gifts

7.1 Ms Jill Armitage Lewingdon has given in memory of her late mother Joan Rhodes (née Armitage) two delightful Tuke watercolours and five important works by the Falmouth Pre-Raphaelite artist John Riley Wilmer. Ms Armitage is the grand-daughter of Edward Ernest Armitage (1871-1948) a solicitor and former Town Clerk of Falmouth.

7.2 John and Valentine Tonkin have generously purchased and presented to the collection the watercolour by Claire Fuller from *Samantha Seagull visits Falmouth Art Gallery* book featuring caricatures of a Falmouth Youth Club visit, including Councillor Gerald Chin-Quee, Councillor Lesley Trenchard and the curator running out of things to say about the paintings.

7.3 Diane Saxon has given in memory of Colin Bramley Parker seven watercolours and drawings by Isobel Atterbury Heath (1908-1989), including an important portrait drawing of the artist Sven Berlin and war time studies featuring the making of spitfires.

7.4 The distinguished architect Jonathan G. Adams B.Sc (Hons) AA Dip RIBA has present the original concept drawings for CUC Tremough. The collection includes the concept drawing for another landmark building by M.J.Long of the National Maritime Museum Cornwall.

8. Finance

8.1 The gallery have had a couple of enquiries about the gallery accounts. Sometimes expenditure is lumped with other Council expenditure, so for clarity the following report is enclosed.

The following are audited Gallery savings on Town Council's estimated expenditure due to sponsorship, grant-aid and prudent management:

2002-2003	£25,000	under budget
2003-2004	£26,460	under budget
2004-2005	£33,717	under budget

8.2 Estimated Budget for 2005-2006

Fixed costs (outside of the curator's control)

Salaries	£104,950	— includes variance, HLF funded post which is reclaimable, 75% of finance officer
Employers NI	£8,000	
Employer's pension	£12,000	
Insurance	£12,500	— includes Mayoral item etc

8.3 Variable costs (controllable by the curator)

Postage	£3167	
Stationery/photocopier	£4900	(split with Town Council)
Telephone	£1434	
Publications/Subscriptions	£700	
Store Room Equipment	£629	
Marketing & Publicity	£6809	
Printing/Artwork	£10,475	
Travel	£2881	
Seminar/Training	£2000	
Education	£8000	
Exhibitions	£16,800	(£2100 an exhibition)
Gallery Equipment	£1571	
Photography	£1571	
Conservation/Collections Management	£5000	
Total:	£65,937	
Stock/Resale Items	£8000	
Stock Movement	£7000	
Budgeted Income:	£35,100	

Estimate of variable costs to Town Council: Total: £38,837

8.4 The £297,000 listed on published rates information is culture and art gallery and includes grants to other organisations, capital items, allocated rents, electricity etc. The division of rents etc, including the Finance officer's salary is split 75% art gallery 25% Town Council, but would still need to be paid if there wasn't an art gallery. The Municipal Buildings, Falmouth are now owned by Carrick District Council who lease to the Town Council at an annual sum, of which 75% of this is allocated on paper as an art gallery contribution, including disabled access. Previously this was funded from the Town Council budget.

9. Art Gallery Staffing:

9.1 The Town Council fund the gallery with 2.3 salaried staff a day to run the gallery on a staff/customer ratio of approximately 1/22,708. The gallery is open six days a week, and also during Summer & Spring bank holidays and has four full-time posts, with one additional Saturday cover. One of the full time posts is split as a successful 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.

9.2 Should the European Directive be passed for a maximum of a 47 hour week, then this would have a direct effect as gallery staff do much work outside gallery opening hours such as private views, visiting artists' studios, preparing educational workshops, research, transport etc.