

## **1. Visiting Picasso Exhibition**

1.1 The *Visiting Picasso* exhibition proved very popular and was named by both *The Times* and *The National Art Collections Fund Magazine* as one of the top five exhibitions to visit this summer. Over 12,870 visited the exhibition with 590 educational visits including MENCAP, Brightwater Holidays, Corland Cluster Schools (gifted children), Pool College, baby paint and family workshops. The highlight was a talk for children by Antony Penrose, who as a boy featured in the famous Lee Miller photograph seated on Picasso's lap. He told his experiences of playing with Picasso and analysed Picasso's portrait of his mother Lee Miller, explaining that Picasso had painted his mother yellow to reflect her sunny personality. His talk ended with him copying Lee Miller's profile on acetate and placing it over the cubist portrait to show Picasso's draughtsmanship. It fitted exactly. The exhibition was mounted in association with University College Falmouth, The Lee Miller Archives and The Roland Penrose Estate. The gallery is grateful to these partners.

1.2 The Mayor of Falmouth presented certificates and prizes to all the children whose work was shown alongside Picasso's in the exhibition. The visitors' book was full of complimentary comments about the standards of the childrens' work.

## **2. Family Friendly Museum Award**

2.1 A delegation from Falmouth, including the Mayor of Falmouth, Cllr Roger Bonney, the Chair of the Art Gallery Committee, Cllr Gerald Chin-Quee, Cllr Maureen Davies, staff and volunteers attended the London ceremony of The Family Friendly Museum Award run by *The Guardian*. On route they were invited to visit in Bristol the award winning *SS Great Britain*, designed by Brunel. They were generously shown around by Trustee, Liz Mackenzie and the costs of the visit was kindly sponsored by Philip Mould of Historical Portraits Ltd.

2.2 At the ceremony, to our great delight Falmouth Art Gallery was announced the winner, beating hundreds of venues nominated by *Guardian* readers. The final shortlist of five was road-tested anonymously by families. The shortlist included the Horniman Museum, London and Livesey Museum, London, the National Waterfront Museum in Swansea, and the North Somerset Museum in Weston-super-Mare.

2.3 The judges for the 2006 prize included the 24 Hour Museum's Head of Learning, Anra Kennedy, the founder of the Kids in Museums campaign, Dea Birkett, the Chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Scott Trust, Liz Forgan, *Guardian* Family Editor, Becky Gardiner and Director of the Museums Association, Mark Taylor.

2.4 The judges said of Falmouth Art Gallery: "*Although tiny, Falmouth has pioneered family involvement, which is why it's the only museum to make it on*

*the Family Friendly award shortlist three years running!* The judges asked the Walker family to anonymously road-test Falmouth Art Gallery. They included Mike, Anna, Susie-Jo, twelve, Matty, nine, Herbie, seven, and Susie-Jo's friend, Carly Mann, twelve.

2.5 Mike Walker said "*When we usually take the kids to a museum, even one with dinosaurs in it, they're queueing to get out*". The family stayed over three hours and gave the gallery 10 out of 10. Mike couldn't remember his family ever spending this long in a museum before, not even the big national institutions that are packed with ancient artefacts and computer screens. "*Here they've sat down, been enthused, and had a whale of a time. It's difficult to see what more this gallery could do.*"

2.6 The family joined in a drop-in workshop by volunteer Glyn Winchester. What they didn't realize is that it was Glyn's first family workshop. She has successfully taken baby paint sessions and assisted with family workshops before, but this was the first one that she had led.

2.7 The gallery has now won The Museums Excellence Awards, The Interpret Britain Awards, The Lottery's 'Heritage Heroes' Awards and The Family Friendly Museum Award, as well as being the smallest project ever to be nominated for the £100,000 Gulbenkian Prize.

### **3. Gallery Spotlight**

3.1 The press coverage for the Family Friendly Museum Award has put the gallery in the spotlight, with an article featured in the national *Museums Journal*. Over the summer we have had official visits from delegates from Museums, Libraries & Archives, South West, SS *Great Britain*, The Lowry, and Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery. Ten delegates from the Heritage Lottery Fund wanted to experience rather than just view a workshop. This was delivered by volunteer Claire Harrison. At the end of the session they were treated to remarkable performances from some of Cornwall's finest young talent - juggler Jon Udry, magician Ed Clarke, singer Lily Slydel and dancer Alex Bird.

### **4. New Acquisitions**

4.1 These works from the *Visiting Picasso* exhibition have become part of the permanent collection: - Antony Penrose's *Barbarella's basque* (which was specifically for the gallery); Jonathan Xavier Coudrille's *Analogue of Surreal Nostalgia*; and Andrew Lanyon's photograph of Man Ray. Andrew and Antony Penrose, as teenagers, visited Man Ray in Paris in August 1964 and it was Antony's suggestion to put Man Ray's chess board behind to mask the clutter of his studio. Man Ray wrote to Andrew saying it was his favourite portrait of himself. It is an important historical work and has never been reproduced and is not known in the books on Man Ray.

4.2 The distinguished artist Robert Jones has generously donated *Atlantic Breakers* to the gallery. The oil painting was shown in *The Painters and*

*Sculptors of the South West* exhibition mounted by David Messum in London in 2002. Robert Jones was born in Newquay, studied painting in Falmouth and is now one of Cornwall's most successful and distinguished painters. The painting was executed *plein-air* and makes an excellent companion piece to Harry Ousey's *Edge movement*.

4.3 The gallery has acquired a fine watercolour of *Falmouth Market*, 1891 by William Edward Croxford. The painting was discovered by the artist Robert Jones, who quickly telephoned the gallery. Councillor Geoffrey Evans was consulted and the Council acted to acquire it. The owners, Copperhouse Gallery, Hayle generously reduced the price to help the gallery purchase it from their existing budgets. The painting shows the old market place on The Moor, where the Post Office is now situated. In 1891 the artist was standing approximately on the site where the Municipal Buildings now are.

4.4 The Falmouth Decorative Fine Arts Society has presented the gallery with a coloured drawing '*Parrots' toast*' by Quentin Blake. Quentin Blake is one of the country's most distinguished illustrators, and is particularly known for his much loved drawings in Roald Dahl's novels. Dr Amanda Hobson, Chairman of the FDFAS was taught by Mr Blake, before he became a full-time illustrator. The work will become part of the growing *Children's Illustration Archive*, which is also supported by University College Falmouth, which runs one of the best illustration departments in the country.

4.5 Through the Brunel 200 project the permanent collection has gained works by Paul Spooner, Carlos Zapata, Keith Newstead, John Harrold, Emily Firmin, Justin Mitchell and an oil painting *Gateway to Cornwall* by John Dyer. Dyer's painting features Brunel's Royal Albert Memorial Bridge at Saltash and the Brunel 200 firework celebrations. The painting is featured on the front cover of the new book *John Dyer – a vision of paradise* published by Truran Books.

## **5. Teachers' Pack**

5.1 Natalie Rigby and Jo Lumber have produced an excellent Teachers' Pack to accompany the *Childhood Delights* exhibition. The show is the gallery's contribution to the Falmouth Festival of Literature & Arts. The pack is available free to teachers in paper format or PDF file and can be reproduced by teachers without permission.

5.2 Jo Lumber is running a dozen Surestart sessions in the gallery with families during the course of the exhibition.

## **6. Donations Box**

6.1 The donations box this year has raised £1001.15 to date. This figure does not include grant-aid, cheque donations or sponsorship. The money is tied to spending on new acquisitions or educational workshops.

## **7. Aardman Fire hits exhibition**

7.1 The gallery had at the end of last year negotiated loans for plasticine models from Wallace & Gromit and Creature Comforts to appear in the *Childhood Delights* exhibition. Unfortunately shortly afterwards Aardman Animations Ltd suffered a dreadful fire to their warehouse and the majority of these models were destroyed. Instead they have generously allowed us to show footage of Creature Comforts 'Monarchy Business'. The short film is proving extremely popular with visitors.

## **8. Kids in Museums**

8.1 Following the success of the Family Friendly Museum Award the curator has been asked to become a Trustee of *The Kids in Museums* campaign, founded by journalist Dea Birkett.

## **9. Educational Visits**

Educational visits for 2003 were 3,730, rising in 2004 to 3932. In 2005 when the gallery had Heritage Lottery Funding for an education officer to help deliver the Opie Project educational figures rose to 7222. Opie's Cornish masterpiece is now featured on the Heritage Lottery's website as an example of best practice, and the gallery has provided advice to other museums on grant bids. The funding for the post of education officer ceased at the beginning of the year.

## **10. Brunel and Diane Ibbotson Exhibitions**

10.1 Both these exhibitions were well received and attracted 8,614 visitors and 751 educational visits. Diane Ibbotson's talk proved popular as did a Brunel paper plane competition undertaken by young inventors.

## **11. Joint Project with Penlee House Gallery & Museum**

11. The Newlyn Project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund is proving useful to the gallery in sharing skills. Staff from Falmouth are working closely with staff at Penlee House Gallery & Museum. Alex Hooper, Natalie Rigby & Tamsin Bough have all worked at Penlee House on a range of tasks from exhibitions to shop management. Katie Herbert and Jonathan Holmes have both helped with education at Falmouth. Brian Stewart and Alison Bevan have also shared roles and provided talks at both venues.

## **12. Little Parc Owles**

12.1 Little Parc Owles are funding a series of workshops for local 'A level' students studying Ben Nicholson's masterpiece 1933, *Study for a Head*. The painting was acquired by the gallery at the end of last year and features a portrait of Barbara Hepworth at the start of their relationship. It was recognised as being of national importance by the Secretary of State and accepted in lieu of inheritance tax. It was allocated to the gallery after a successful bid was made to house it in Cornwall.

12.2 The students from Falmouth School and Truro College will study the painting with support from professional artists Chris Insoll and Naomi Freers, and use it to stimulate their own studies and course work.

12.3 This is the third time Little Parc Owles have funded the gallery, having provided successful workshops on the artists Grace Gardner and Harry Ousey.

12.4 The gallery is also organising cartoon workshops with Nick Brennan of *The Beano* and *The Dandy*. His workshops are always extremely popular. There are also drop-in workshops most Saturday afternoons.

### **13. Carnival Celebrations and Fancy Dress Party**

13.1 The gallery worked closely over the summer with Cllrs Lesley Trenchard and Gerald Chin-Quee to provide workshops for Falmouth Youth Club for the Walking Carnival and a fancy dress party held at the gallery. They were assisted by Natalie Rigby and volunteers Donna Williams and Claire Harrison.

### **14. Volunteer Contributions**

14.1 Volunteers have made a tremendous contribution to the success of the gallery. They are helping deliver the community programme and are working hard behind the scenes to help make the collection available on the world wide web. Since the volunteer programme was set up in 2002 volunteers have contributed, using HLF formulae, over £204,274 in free labour. This year their contributions have so far been calculated at £42,290 (to end of July).

14.2 Falmouth Town Council and the gallery have a policy in place not to use volunteer labour to replace posts of salaried staff. Instead young volunteers are helped to build up their experience for the job market. The volunteer programme and the gallery's volunteer policy have been used as a model for other museums and has received praise from a number of institutions including MLA, South West and the Heritage Lottery Fund.