

### 1. The Mrs Naomi G. Weaver gift through the Art Fund

1.1 The Art Fund has chosen Falmouth Art Gallery to house a major collection of master prints and works on paper bequeathed by Mrs Naomi G. Weaver, a passionate art collector and Art Fund patron. The group of 37 works by some of the leading artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century includes Edvard Munch, Pierre Auguste Renoir, Raoul Dufy, Henry Moore OM CH, Eduardo Chillida, Prunella Clough, Barry Flanagan, and Barbara Rae CBE RA.

1.2 Amongst the many highlights in the collection are two etchings by the great French Impressionist artist Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841-1919) – the first depicts a bathing scene, the other a portrait of one of the leading female impressionists Berthe Morisot (1841-1895) who is best known for *The Cradle*, 1872. Artist Edvard Munch (1863-1944), who created the world famous *Scream*, is also represented, by an important etching of a Norwegian landscape. Also included are works by Prunella Clough (1919-1999) who is regarded as one of the most significant British painters and print makers of the post-war period. In 2007 Tate Britain staged a major retrospective of her work.

1.3 Andrew Macdonald, Deputy Director of The Art Fund, said; *'This is a really impressive collection, put together by someone who not only loved art but believed in its power to transform people's lives. Naomi Weaver had been a Patron member of The Art Fund for many years and I am delighted that she should have chosen The Art Fund as a conduit for her bequest. It will add substantially to Falmouth's extensive collection of prints, complementing the Hugh Stoneman Archive, given to Falmouth Art Gallery last year via The Art Fund.'*

1.4 The Town Council is most grateful to The Art Fund for choosing Falmouth to house this selection of works collected by Naomi Weaver. It will provide an amazing resource for future generations. The gallery is planning to produce a full colour catalogue of the collection and make it available online at [www.falmouthartgallery.com](http://www.falmouthartgallery.com)

### 2. From Opie to Terry Frost – an exhibition of Artfunded works

2.1 The gallery is showcasing some of its latest acquisitions in a new exhibition 'From Opie to Terry Frost: Exhibition of ArtFunded works'. The exhibition features works from Falmouth's collection that may have disappeared from public view were it not for The Art Fund.

2.2 Members of The Art Fund are coming on a special visit to the exhibition and the guest of honour will be Art Historian and Art Fund Trustee, Christopher Lloyd, former Surveyor of The Queen's Pictures.

2.3 Visitors to the exhibition will be given the opportunity to see some of the most recent ArtFunded acquisitions for the first time. This includes works from the Hugh Stoneman Archive of 99 master prints that The Art Fund purchased for the gallery as well as prints from the recently acquired Mrs Naomi G. Weaver Bequest. The new acquisitions will be displayed alongside popular Artfunded favourites such as *A beggar boy* by John Opie and *Along shore fishermen* by Charles Napier Hemy.

2.4 The Art Fund is an independent charity committed to saving art for everyone to enjoy. Thanks to their members they have saved more than 860,000 works of art for museums and galleries throughout the UK. Trustee Christopher Lloyd will also deliver a lecture at the National Maritime Museum Cornwall, entitled 'Britain and the Collecting of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist Paintings.

### **3. Celebrating Cornwall's Stained Glass Heritage**

3.1 The gallery held a special tea party to thank the students from Kerrier PRU for creating the designs for the stained glass window. The party was a great success and was well attended by the students, aged 11-15, and their proud families. The gallery put on a spread of party food and the Curator presented each of the students with special prizes.

3.2 The students created the window designs during collage workshops that were inspired by the artist Henri Matisse. Before they started work the groups (like Matisse) listened to some jazz music to relax and clear their minds. They were then asked to cut pieces of coloured paper into interesting shapes and arrange them into patterns, making the colours 'dance'. These collages were then used to create the final designs, which were scanned into a computer and enlarged.

3.3 Caroline Wilkins of Kerrier PRU was delighted with the project. She told the gallery: "*The feedback has been amazing, one Mum said that on receiving the invite she sat and cried with pride, another boy bumped into one of our teachers and reported how thrilled he was. Falmouth Art Gallery work extremely hard to be a socially inclusive gallery and this project really proves their credentials at working with groups that are traditionally hard to engage with great results*".

3.4 Gallery staff are delighted with the students work and there has been a great deal of enthusiasm about the whole project from visitors.

3.5 The making of the large foyer stained glass window, designed by Falcare (formerly MENCAP) and constructed by Cornish-based craftsman Mike Welch is finally underway. After several unsuccessful firings the manufacturers have now been able to match the bluey turquoise background colour that had been approved by conservation and planning.

#### **4. 'Frameworks – the project begins' exhibition**

4.1 The 'Frameworks – the project begins' exhibition has been a considerable success and was extended by popular demand. It attracted a total of 18,070 visitors with 1,584 education and community visits. The frame conservation programme, funded with £56,820 from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, is continuing. The exhibition has now been replaced by the 'From Opie to Terry Frost' exhibition in the Permanent Gallery.

#### **5. Darwin 200 celebratory exhibitions**

5.1 The first Darwin 200 exhibition 'Voyages of Discovery' was a great success. It attracted 8,831 visitors including 1,062 educational visitors – 317 from schools and 745 from the community. The current 'Species' exhibition is also proving popular with visitors, especially with primary and secondary school groups. It ends on the 27 June and the new exhibition 'A Day at the Zoo' opens on 4 July.

5.2 The gallery was filled with musical fun during half term as it staged a week of exciting 'Half Term Hubadillia' activities. The hugely popular activities were part of the Fal River Festival and the Heritage Lottery Funded *Darwin 200* celebrations. Families enjoyed making musical instruments, designing album covers and playing along to a fantastic performance from Tim and Athene of the 3 Daft Monkeys.

5.3 The gallery has been working with Dr Joanna Henley to stage Darwin workshops for secondary schools. Students aged 14-15 from Cape Cornwall School and Camborne Scientific College took part in workshops at the gallery where they learned about scientific and atmospheric drawing. The students produced some fantastic work which is to be exhibited in the gallery foyers. The gallery is holding a special private view for the students and their families on the 25 June.

5.4 Dr Joanna Henley also gave an interesting lunchtime talk at the gallery entitled 'Science and Art – through Darwin's eyes'.

#### **6. FMA's and AMA's**

6.1 The Curator has successfully met the stringent standards to become a Fellow of the Museums Association. He has also been awarded an Honorary Fellowship by University College Falmouth in recognition of his achievements in exhibition curating.

6.2 Natalie Rigby is in the final year of her AMA with the Museums Association and is due to attend her Professional Review in November. The Town Council would like to wish her success. Donna Williams has also undertaken an AMA and has successfully passed the first stage.

## **7. Work Placements**

7.1 The gallery is currently hosting a number of work placements. Richard Harrod is undertaking a thirteen week placement. Susanna Hayes has completed over fourteen days at the gallery for her MA in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Art and Design at University College Falmouth. The gallery will soon be welcoming Leicester MA student Louise Krogsriis for an eight week placement in July and August. This continues a long and successful relationship with the Department of Museums Studies at Leicester University.

## **8. Loans**

8.1 *The Lady of Shalott* by John William Waterhouse is on loan to The Collection at Lincoln for its 'Tennyson Transformed' exhibition which runs from the 28 May – 31 August. The painting will then travel to The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts in Canada for the exhibition 'J. W. Waterhouse – The Modern Pre-raphaelite, 1 October 2009 – 7 February 2010.

8.2 *A Morning Gossip* and *The Message* by Henry Scott Tuke are currently on loan to Penlee House Museum & Gallery for 'The Brotherhood of the Palette' exhibition.

8.3 *Flora gave the fairest flowers* by John Ward and *Diana of the Romans* by John Riley Wilmer are on loan to Southampton City Art Gallery for the exhibition 'Do you believe in Fairies', 25 June – 13 September.

8.4 The gallery's touring exhibition 'A bit of a dive' is to be displayed at Charnwood Museum from 11 July – 1 October.

## **9. Media coverage**

9.1 The auction story of *Along shore fishermen* by Charles Napier Hemy has attracted the attention of the national media. The auction took place on a day when the city was in shock from the Lehman collapse so the saleroom was unusually quiet and the gallery was able to purchase the painting for a price within the auction estimate. The story was featured as a case study in an Art Fund survey of how the recession has affected museums and galleries that was covered by the Financial Times and The Art Newspaper. Both publications included a photograph of the painting in the gallery.

9.2 ITV's Westcountry News filmed in the gallery on Monday 15 July for a feature on Westcountry success stories. They filmed children, visitors, automata, the Darwin 200 exhibition and the purchase of *Along shore fishermen*.

## **10. The Hugh Stoneman Project**

10.1 The gallery is working with KEAP (Kernow Education and Arts Partnership) on an exciting project for GCSE and A-level Art students from Falmouth School, Penryn College, Helston School and Mullion School.

10.2 The students are learning about exhibition development first hand during special sessions at the gallery. The students are being given the opportunity to help curate and market the gallery's forthcoming exhibition 'The Master's Master: The Art Fund Hugh Stoneman Archive'.