

## **1. Grant Aid & Sponsorship**

1.1 In two weeks the gallery has successfully raised £34,500 to save for Falmouth an important painting by Henry Scott Tuke RA RWS. It was the first oil painting he completed in Falmouth after returning from the Continent and from studying at Newlyn with Stanhope Forbes. The funding was generously supplied by the MLA/V & A Purchase Grant Fund, the Art fund, and local funding.

1.2 The painting entitled *A Morning Gossip, 1885* will return to Falmouth after more than a century! The painting shows Mrs Fouracre holding her baby Richard, in conversation with Mrs Andrews. Mrs Fouracre and Richard also feature in Falmouth Art Gallery's most famous Tuke 'The Message', which is known throughout the world. It is thanks to gallery volunteer and local Tuke expert John Tonkin who spotted the picture and informed us of its importance and relevance which ultimately lead to the acquisition.

1.3 As part of the Tuke celebrations next year which mark the 150 year anniversary of the artist's birth. Falmouth Art Gallery and Falmouth Town Council have organized the renovations of the artist's grave, which will hopefully feature in a leaflet mapping all of Falmouth's artists' grave sites. The celebrations are headed by the Royal Cornwall Museum as part of the regional hub, whilst Falmouth Art Gallery is a lead partner in association with the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society.

## **2. Staffing**

2.1 The curator would like to congratulate Natalie Rigby, who has passed her Masters degree in Museum Studies at Leicester University. The course included original research and took two and a half years to complete.

2.2 Natalie is now studying to become an Associate of the Museums Association.

## **3. Portscatho – Portrait of a Cornish Art Colony**

3.1 This exhibition, which was sponsored by David Lay, the Penzance Auction House, was very well received and attended by 5863 visitors with 564 community and educational visits. The gallery put on a number of workshops for groups such as Baby Paint, U3A, MENCAP, Stroke Club, local schools and families.

3.2. The show was mounted to coincide with a new book on the Portscatho artists by author Chris Insoll, who kindly gave a number of gallery talks to a wide variety of groups.

3.3 The exhibition inspired educational activities involving literacy and maths using the exhibits as a catalyst. Jo Lumber and gallery volunteers treated local classes to a mock auction using pictures featured in the exhibition. The children were given some specially made Falmouth Art Gallery currency and invited to bid within their budget, for their favourite artworks.

3.4 The *Portscatho* exhibition attracted much publicity and press coverage, which included Alex Hooper being interviewed by Atlantic FM.

#### **4. Training**

4.1 Donna Williams has enrolled on a First Aid Training course. Donna along with Alex will provide first aid cover over the six days of the gallery week for the 6 months Natalie is away on Maternity Leave. Donna will also be attending training in Photoshop and Working with Young People, and will have a Criminal Records Bureau enhanced disclosure check for her time working with children at the gallery.

4.2 Natalie has organized a ½ day seminar at Lanhydrock to review their successful emergency planning system. Lanhydrock are well known in Cornwall for best practice in emergency and disaster planning and the seminar will provide information and research for Falmouth Art Gallery's emergency planning policies which are due to be reviewed by June 2008 as part of the ongoing national Accreditation process.

#### **5. Barnados Social inclusion awareness day**

5.1 Falmouth Art Gallery worked in partnership with Barnardos to organise an inclusive arts day incorporating activities inspired by the current exhibition *Stuff Art- an exhibition of stuff and clutter*. This special event was organized to promote the work of Barnardos Social Inclusion Service. They are working to break down barriers faced by disabled children and to promote social inclusion.

5.2 The gallery ran workshops inspired by artists featured in the exhibition who are famous for recycling discarded materials into amazing art. In the morning families created Kurt Jackson inspired scrapyards using paint and collaged fabric. Then in the afternoon they made David Kemp style Junkyard animals using materials provided by Cornwall Scrapstore.

5.3 Gallery staff were also very excited to welcome back the Walker family who were anonymous judges for the Guardian newspaper when Falmouth Art Gallery won the national Family Friendly Museums Award. The family returned as part of the Barnardos group visit to the surprise and delight of gallery staff.

## **6. Launch of the Stained Glass Window project**

6.1 The 'Celebrating Cornwall's Stained Glass Heritage Project' was launched with a half term extravaganza. The special event on 31<sup>st</sup> May attracted 430 people and featured performances by juggler Jon Udry, magician Ed Clarke and mime artist Brett Jackson who gave a special performance of '*Getting out of a box*'.

6.2 The project, which Falmouth Art Gallery is delivering on behalf of Carrick District Council, will see motifs produced by local groups inspire the design of a new stained glass window feature in the shop area and outside the council chambers.

6.3 It is hoped, subject to planning permission, that this project will kick-start a renewal and conservation process, which will restore the original symmetry of the building, illustrating Falmouth Town Council's commitment to enhancing the building as a community asset. It will also create interest in the work of John Passmore Edwards and his contribution to the local community, as well as highlighting the community work provided by the gallery, council and library services.

## **7. Launch of Public Catalogue Foundation publication**

7.1 On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May the Public Catalogue Foundation book was launched at the Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro. Falmouth Art Gallery will receive a number of copies for its archive and to sell.

7.2 This catalogue includes pictures and descriptions of all oil paintings accessible to the public in public collections throughout Cornwall.