

1. Falmouth Spring Festival 17 – 24 March

- 1.1 As part of this year's Spring Festival, Falmouth Art Gallery organised a series of community workshops led by artist Penny MacBeth. Groups from Falcare, King Charles School and families from the gallery's drop-in workshops worked with Penny to make a giant textile garland to decorate the front of the Municipal Buildings.
- 1.2 The garland, which is made up of leaves, flowers, berries and insects, around a traditional 'green man' mask, will be in place until this September.
- 1.3 The art gallery also hosted the Spring Festival launch party. Hundreds of daffodils were delivered to the gallery as part of the Festival's 'Paint the town yellow' theme and the Permanent Gallery was hung with a flower-themed display of art from the collection.
- 1.4 The art gallery also organised two separate 'spring' tours of historic artists' graves in Falmouth Cemetery led by Glyn Winchester.

2. 'Global Gardens' Project

- 2.1 The art gallery has launched a workshop programme and children's art competition in partnership with the Packet, John Dyer Gallery and Gyllyngdune Gardens.
- 2.2 The 'Global Gardens' competition is open to any young person aged from 0-16 and all the winners will be exhibited at Falmouth Art Gallery with a selection of children's work published in the Packet.
- 2.3 The closing date is 10 June and competition judges will include artist John Dyer, art gallery director Louise Connell, Packet editor Paul Armstrong and singer Kim Wilde.
- 2.4 Already the workshops have proved hugely popular with local primary schools, with 16 art sessions booked at the art gallery and a further 16 at Gyllyngdune Gardens.

3. 'A Childhood with the Surrealists' Project

- 3.1 'A Childhood with the Surrealists', the culmination of a £14,000 funded project by MLA New Expressions 2, was held at the art gallery from 16 January to 3 March.

- 3.2 The exhibition featured work by artists and childhood friends Andrew Lanyon and Anthony Penrose.
- 3.3 The art gallery published an illustrated catalogue to accompany the exhibition with an introduction by the leading art critic Mel Gooding.
- 3.4 To coincide with the exhibition, the art gallery and Anthony Penrose organised a performance of 'Roland Penrose: A portrait of space' at the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society. The show was movingly performed to a packed audience by Anthony and a cast which included his daughter Ami Bouhassane playing the part of her grandmother, Surrealist photographer Lee Miller.
- 3.5 The art gallery also hosted an Arts Council Road Show to promote the exhibition and to discuss the next phase, New Expressions 3. This was attended by both the artists, visual arts professionals from the region and officers from Arts Council England. Director Louise Connell and Donna Williams gave a presentation about the project and Andrew Lanyon and Anthony Penrose took part in a chaired discussion.
- 3.6 Overall 'A Childhood with the Surrealists' had 5,170 visits, of which 605 were educational, and there were 21 workshops. The project resulted in 25 new works for the Falmouth Art Gallery collection and 70 responses to our visitor survey.
- 3.7 One of the aims of the exhibition was to introduce a new audience to contemporary art. The positive comments that we received about the exhibition showed that we achieved this goal, with one visitor commenting that *'It confirmed my belief that Falmouth is a living, active gallery'*.

4. Exhibitions

- 4.1 'Fishwick and Friends', an exhibition which showcased the work of abstract painter Clifford Fishwick and his associates, closed on 4 February. The exhibition had a total of 5,682 visits, of which 642 were educational.
- 4.2 'Effortless Brushstrokes' ran from 11 February to 14 April and featured an impressive array of paintings including prestigious loans from the Lenkiewicz Foundation; the Harris Art Gallery, Preston; Penlee House Gallery & Museum; and Beside the Wave Gallery. It attracted a total of 7,679 visitors with 1,169 educational visits.
- 4.4 'Effortless Brushstrokes' was accompanied by an illustrated catalogue with a foreword by Louise Connell and essays by Ingrid Heseltine and Catherine Wallace.
- 4.5 The art gallery welcomed a Finnish TV company to the gallery to film one of the paintings in 'Effortless Brushstrokes', 'Hens among corn stooks' by Helene

Schjerfbeck. The painting was on loan from Penlee House. Schjerfbeck is relatively unknown in this country but is revered in Scandinavia. The programme will be broadcast on Finnish TV 'Making Movies' later on this year.

- 4.6 The current exhibition 'The World' has been extremely well received. It features the work of two Falmouth artists, Kate and Anthony Fagin, who have produced photographs, paintings and ceramics inspired by a yearlong trip around the world. The exhibition explores global diversity while at the same time serving as a reminder of the fragility of our planet.

5. Acquisitions

- 5.1 The art gallery has received a bequest of 46 prints from Dr Margaret Whitford (1947 – 2011) through the Art Fund.
- 5.2 The prints enhance Falmouth's already impressive print collection and include works by Alan Davie, Terry Frost RA, Dhruva Mistry, Peter Randall-Page, Michael Rothenstein RA and Rachel Whiteread.
- 5.3 Also included in the bequest was a papier-mâché sculpture by Hew Locke (born 1959) entitled 'Fishman', 1995. Hew Locke graduated from Falmouth College of Art in 1988 and has since become one of Britain's leading international artists. Examples of his work are in the Government Art Collection, the Tate Gallery, the Arts Council England, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Henry Moore Institute as well as in galleries in New York and California.
- 5.4 The art gallery was given a charming watercolour by Neil Miners entitled 'Old Falmouth' presented by Donald and Bette Prell.
- 5.5 The Barns-Graham Charitable Trust donated 2 prints by Wilhelmina Barns-Graham, 'Water Dance (Porthmeor) 3' and 'Walkabout Time'.
- 5.6 Wilhelmina Barns-Graham (1912-2004) was a founder member of the Penwith Society of Arts, a member of Newlyn Society of Artists and part of the St Ives group of artists which included Ben Nicholson, Barbara Hepworth, Borlase Smart and Naum Gabo.
- 5.7 Dan Davidson donated his oil painting from the 'Fishwick and Friends' exhibition entitled 'Teignmouth-Dawlish Line'. Peter Davies also donated his oil painting 'The Markey Mural' from the same exhibition.
- 5.8 Nicholas Charles Williams donated a print by himself entitled 'Plateau' from the Curwen studio.

6. Loans

- 6.1 The National Maritime Museum Cornwall has returned the Falmouth Town Charter. It was on display in their popular 'Falmouth in the Days of Sail' exhibition.
- 6.2 'The Pear Orchard' by Alfred Parsons will be loaned to the Haynes Fine Art Gallery in Broadway, Worcestershire from 8 to 17 June 2012 as part of the Broadway Arts Festival.
- 6.3 'Portrait of Charles Napier Hemy' by John Singer Sargent is being lent to Trinity House Gallery for their prestigious John Singer Sargent exhibition from 8 June to 31 July 2012. It will be displayed alongside other works on loans from the National Gallery and Tate Britain.

7. Education

- 7.1 The art gallery held five free family drop-in workshops over February half term. Activities included 'Touch Textures', 'Funky Faces' and 'Painting Party', themed around the 'Effortless Brushstrokes' exhibition. A total of 136 people took part, of which 84 were children and 52 adults.
- 7.2 89 people took part in our free drop-in family workshops over the Easter holidays of which 53 were children. Nick Brennan gave another of his popular cartoon workshops and painting, zoetrope and felt-making workshops were also on offer.
- 7.3 The months since January have been very busy with a large number of school groups taking part in themed workshop sessions in the gallery led by Access and Interpretation Manager Donna Williams. Children from Falmouth Primary School, King Charles School, Falmouth School, Marlborough School, Penryn Infants and Penryn Primary School have all taken part.
- 7.4 In March, the art gallery held a painting workshop for a group of 36 French Exchange students and their teachers from a secondary school in the Loire Valley.
- 7.5 Other learning groups included the University of the Third Age, Falcare and the LOOK group.

8. Talks

- 8.1 Louise Connell gave gallery talks to groups from the University of the Third Age, the Culture Vultures group, a group from Brightwater Holidays, Teignmouth Art Society and the Porthcurno Telegraph Museum Volunteers.

- 8.2 Louise was also invited to Falmouth Primary School on their Art Day to talk in the school assembly about 'Printmaking'. Louise showed the school a number of original prints from the art gallery collection, as well as some printmaking equipment in her 'magic bag'.
- 8.3 Afterwards, Louise visited the classrooms to show the children the artwork in more detail. The children enjoyed wearing their white curator's gloves and getting close to the art.
- 8.4 Louise published an article in 'My Cornwall' magazine on the artist Martina Thomas and her painting 'Marigolds at Mousehole' in the Falmouth Art Gallery collection.

9. Kids in Museums

- 9.1 In January, the Mayor Geoffrey Evans and Falmouth Art Gallery director Louise Connell attended the launch of the 2012 Kids in Museums Manifesto launch at the Wallace Collection, London.
- 9.2 Among those present at the event were former arts minister Lord Boateng, Kids in Museums Trustee Dr Elizabeth Mackenzie, Kids in Museums Director Dea Birkett and television presenter Penny Smith.
- 9.3 In a letter to the Mayor thanking him for attending the launch, Dr Mackenzie commented, *'Your chain of office was a big success and Brian would have been proud of you generally banging the drum for Falmouth, especially with Lord Boateng.'*
- 9.4 As a past Kids in Museums Family Friendly Award winner, Falmouth Art Gallery has been appointed a Kids in Museums mentor. The aim of the partnership is to share and encourage best practice and the art gallery has been partnered with the Galleries of Justice Museum in Nottingham. The mentor scheme is being funded by KIM.
- 9.5 Louise Connell gave a talk at the MAGnet (Museums, Archives and Galleries education group) meeting at the National Maritime Museum Cornwall on the new Kids in Museums Manifesto and how Falmouth Art Gallery maintains its family friendly ethos. The event was attended by around 50 museum, gallery and archive professionals.
- 9.6 Louise also gave a talk on Falmouth Art Gallery's future plans 'The Way Forward' to invited guests at the gallery who included volunteers and Town Councillors.

10. Training

10.1 Louise Connell and Ruth Bott, Collections Manager, attended the Inter-Agency Child Protection one-day course run by the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

10.2 Louise also attended the Directory of Social Change course, 'Making the Ask', on charitable donations at the Royal Cornwall Museum in Truro.

11. Accreditation

11.1 Museums and galleries are periodically required to provide evidence that they continue to maintain the Accreditation Standard. Falmouth Art Gallery's Accreditation return is now due, with a deadline of 6 June 2012.

11.2 Louise Connell has updated two key documents required for Accreditation. These are the Service Forward Plan and the Major Incident Plan.

11.3 The Major Incident Plan has been reviewed following advice from PC Andy Hocking of Cornwall and Devon Police to include procedures for how to respond to criminal damage and theft.

12. Positive feedback

12.1 The art gallery received the following comment in a letter from a member of Teignmouth Art Society who made a visit to see 'Effortless Brushstrokes' in March. *'We had a wonderful day and the whole tone was set by your warm welcome, informative talk and tea and biscuits. It was most kind of you to go to so much trouble. And of course your exhibition was wonderful; so beautifully hung, such variety.'*

12.2 The visitors' book recorded a comment from a Claire, who wrote, *'Thank you for making children so welcome, I really enjoy bringing them here and i want places like this to be familiar to them and we feel so relaxed here. The automatons are great, they're 'hands-on' and captivating – perfect for 4 year olds and 1 year olds!'*