

1. Brian Stewart (1953-2010)

1.1 It is with great sadness that we must report the passing of Brian Stewart, Director of Falmouth Art Gallery.

1.2 He died on the 12 December in Treliske Hospital. He had fallen off his bike the week before and had broken his upper femur and the hip socket. The Orthopaedic Surgeon said he had to have an operation – and he did not come out of this – at present we do not know why. It was very sudden and completely unexpected.

1.3 The staff and volunteers of Falmouth Art Gallery wish to express their immense grief at the loss of such an inspirational friend, colleague and mentor. We shall all miss his amazing energy; his unstoppable creativity; his kindness; and of course his many jokes and infectious laughter. We would like to pay tribute to Brian and thank him for all he has done for us and for Falmouth.

1.4 The gallery has received hundreds of tributes from people across the country and worldwide.

1.5 Only a few weeks before his sudden passing Brian had celebrated ten years at the gallery. Councillor Geoffrey Evans, Mayor of Falmouth, hosted a surprise party for Brian where councillors, staff, volunteers and friends thanked him for his hard work and he was presented with a specially commissioned plate made by local ceramic artist Sue Thompson. Brian was totally surprised and told staff how much he appreciated the gesture.

2. Tacita Dean acquisition

2.1 The gallery has won grants of £18,000 from the MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund and £17,000 from The Art Fund to purchase a sequence of works by the award winning artist, Tacita Dean. She is one of the most important artists to have emerged from Falmouth School of Art, and still regularly returns to Cornwall from her home in Berlin. In books and interviews she stresses the importance of her time in Falmouth, Cornwall and the enormous influence it had on her future work.

2.2 Entitled *A sequence of stones: 'Riesenhett II (floating)', 'Großsteingrab (floating)' and 'Hünengrab II (floating)'* the works depict floating dolmens influenced by the associations of the historic Cornish Quoits, such as the Trevethy Quoit, as well as the ancient granite stones that are prominent in the rugged Cornish landscape. The amazing sense of light in these images is rooted to her time in Falmouth. The special light in Cornwall has had a profound effect on so many great artists, including Turner.

2.3 Although still relatively young, Tacita Dean is recognized as a major artist throughout the world. She has won numerous awards, among them the Hugo Boss

Award (2006), New Contemporaries Award (1992), nominated for the Turner Prize (1998), received the Aachener Kunstpreis (2002), The Regione Piemonte Art Prize (2004) and the Sixth Benesse Prize, awarded on the occasion of the 2005 Venice Biennale. She has had a large number of major one-person exhibitions in leading city art galleries internationally including: The Guggenheim Museum, New York; Schaulager, Basel; Tate Britain; Tate St Ives and the Musée d'art Moderne de la Ville de Paris.

2.4 Tacita Dean wrote in an email to Falmouth Art Gallery: *'I only made three floating dolmen, of which these are the only small studies. I first encountered dolmens and standing stones in Cornwall. For me they are very associated to the pre-history of that landscape. I was reminded of them again looking at Caspar David Friedrich's paintings in the Getty and one Easter sought out the Island of Rugen where he painted. As I was making a show about the subject of Germany, I went and photographed various stones the following summer in the North West of Germany. Of course there are very many connective threads between the Cornish standing stones and those in Europe.'*

2.5 Tacita Dean is specifically named as a priority in the 'Acquisitions and Disposals Policy' of Falmouth Art Gallery and the Director felt her work to be of such importance that he had worked tirelessly over a number of years to acquire a work for the town's collection. He learned that he had achieved his goal whilst being treated in hospital and phoned the grant bodies from his bed to express his delight. The importance of this acquisition has since been confirmed as on the 14 December Tate and Unilever announced that Tacita Dean will undertake the twelfth commission in The Unilever Series for the Turbine Hall at Tate Modern which will be unveiled on 11 October 2011.

2.6 The work will be exhibited for the first time in 'Master's of Photography', 12 February to 2 April 2011. Even though these unique works are not strictly photographs their very presence will raise debate about the boundaries of photography and painting in contemporary art.

3. Relationships project

3.1 Falmouth Art Gallery has completed an innovative project with young people, staged in partnership with Plymouth Museum. The gallery received a grant of £5000 to use print-making in a unique way to explore and discuss relationships.

3.2 Gallery staff worked alongside the St Ives artist Naomi Frears who works from the historic Porthmeor Studios. Naomi led three intaglio print workshops for GCSE and A-level students from Falmouth School and GCSE students from Nine Maidens School. At the start of each workshop gallery staff used specially selected prints to start a discussion about different types of relationships and how they are represented in art. The students then created their own prints inspired by the relationships theme.

3.3 Staff and teachers were delighted with the way the students engaged with the relationship theme and the exceptionally high quality of the works they produced. The prints are currently being exhibited in the Staircase Gallery.

4. Renewal of VAQAS Quality Assured Visitor Attraction Status

4.1 The gallery has been awarded Visitor Attraction Quality Assured Status for the third year running after receiving a glowing report from the *Visit Britain* inspector who considers it to be one of the best maintained galleries he has ever visited.

5. Frame funding

5.1 The Greenbank Hotel has kindly funded the framing of an important work by the Falmouth artist Francis Hewlett.

5.2 The large painting on canvas is entitled *The Greenbank Hotel, Falmouth (unfinished 2009)*. A carefully selected wooden box frame was made for the work by the Falmouth-based framers Eat Art.

6. Takeover Day

6.1 On Friday 12 November Scarlet Chapman of Marlborough School became Director of Falmouth Art Gallery for Takeover Day. This nationwide initiative organised by the Children's Commissioner gives children across the country the chance to work alongside adults for the day.

6.2 Scarlett spent the afternoon in the gallery helping staff prepare for the private view of 'A decade of collecting' which took place that evening. At the event she hosted the certificate ceremony and introduced the main speaker, Janet Davies of the MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund, who had travelled down from London to open the exhibition. Gallery staff would like to thank Scarlett for all of her hard work.

7. Exhibitions

7.1 'The Edge' exhibition attracted a pleasing total of 7,711 visitors with 949 educational visits.

7.2 The current 'A decade of collecting' exhibition features an impressive selection of masterpieces by internationally renowned artists, all of which have been acquired by Falmouth Art Gallery through donation, bequest and grant-funding during the last decade.

8. Acquisitions

8.1 The distinguished artist, Trevor Bell, recently presented a major work entitled *Heeler* to Falmouth to mark his 80th birthday.

8.2 The artist and curator Donald Bowen has given to the town sixteen of his topographical drawings depicting views of Falmouth and Penryn. His work is also held in the collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

9. Loans

9.1 A selection of works from The Art Fund Hugh Stoneman Archive have recently returned after a successful exhibition at the Hatton Gallery, Newcastle University.

9.2 *The Peasant Girl* by Arthur Melville ARSA RWS (1885-1904) is currently on loan to the Royal Academy, London, for their exhibition 'Pioneering Painters: The Glasgow Boys 1880 - 1900'.

9.3 *Study for the Car of Love* by Edward Coley Burne-Jones is being loaned to the Galleria Nazionale D'Arte Moderna in Rome for their exhibition 'The Myth of Italy: from Turner to Rosetti and Burne-Jones', 24 February – 12 June 2011.

9.4 *Study for the Lady of Shalott* by John William Waterhouse is going on loan to the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid for their exhibition 'Heroines', 8 March – 12 June 2011.

10. Family workshops

10.1 During October half term the gallery staged a hugely popular week filled with performances and activities funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The theme of the week was showcasing young talent and featured performances from young people aged from 5 – 25.

10.2 Activities included a live dance performance by the Jason Thomas Dance Company, a Capoeira demonstration from the Jinga Communities Capoeira Team and a live acoustic performance from local musician Seamas Carey, who performing songs from his new EP 'Withdrawal Symptoms'.

10.3 The gallery's Family Learning Programme has seen increased popularity, with new families enrolling weekly. The workshops, which are run as a drop-in session on Saturdays between 2 and 3pm, are attracting between 20 and 40 participants weekly despite the adverse weather conditions. During these sessions, families, children and young people are invited to create an artwork which ties into the temporary exhibition programme through a certain picture, artist or technique.

11. Talks

11.1 Brian Stewart, Director of Falmouth Art Gallery, gave a hugely popular talk at The Poly – a fundraiser for the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society - entitled 'Artists of The Fal area'. The talk featured many local artists and presented some of the latest results of the exciting research that has been carried out as part of the John Singer Sargent Project by Brian and the gallery's researchers Linda and Michael Bickford. Many people commented that it was one of the best talks that they have ever been to.

11.2 Falmouth Decorative and Fine Arts Society enjoyed a talk and tea party to celebrate their contribution towards the acquisition of *Innocence* by Thomas Cooper Gotch.

12. Volunteer and Work Placement programme

12.1 The gallery's volunteer and work placement programme is going from strength to strength, with a record number of volunteers participating in work at the gallery. Students from University College Falmouth, in particular, are utilising the programme to gain experience whilst studying. The programme offers the opportunity to gain a diverse range of work experience from education to collections management.

13. Street Pastors

13.1 A celebration to mark the first anniversary of the Street Pastors was held in the gallery on the 9 December. The event was organised by the Mayor, Councillor Geoffrey Evans to highlight how successful the first year had been thanks to positive co-operation between police, pastors and pub/club door staff.

14. 2011 Exhibitions

12 February – 2 April 2011: 'Masters of photography'

This major international photography exhibition features iconic images by Eve Arnold, Jane Bown, Julia Margaret Cameron, Fay Godwin, Linda McCartney, Lee Miller and Man Ray.

Showing for the first time are some of the best images of the short-lived photographer, Ian Stern, who worked for several years on the ground breaking Man Alive documentaries, learning his craft under the BAFTA-winning cameraman Phil Meheux.

Among Cornwall based contemporary photographers featured are: Vince Bevan, Anthony Fagin, Kate Fagin, Miles Flint, Andrew Lanyon, Slavek Leszczynski, Nik Strangelove, Steve Tanner, Gary Treadwell, and Mark Webster

9 April – 18 June 2011: 'Kurt Jackson at 50'

Kurt Jackson is one of Cornwall's best-loved artists. He has been a great supporter of Falmouth Art Gallery and has produced work specifically for this celebratory exhibition.

The distinguished art critic, John Russell Taylor, described Kurt as 'one of the great originals of British painting'. This exhibition will show the diversity of Kurt's work and his ability to capture the very special Cornish light.

The exhibition is organised in association with the Lemon Street Gallery, Truro who will be mounting their own Kurt Jackson show 'The Cornish Tree' from 10 September – 8 October 2011.

**25 June – 10 September 2011:
'British Impressionists...and some automata'**

Cornwall played a major role in 20th century British Impressionism – one of the most popular movements in British art. This exhibition features important loans from Cornish collections and includes work by Sir John Arnesby Brown, Dame Laura Knight, Sir Alfred Munnings, Henry Scott Tuke, and John T. Richardson.

The exhibition will show that the tradition of impressionism is still strong today, and will include work by major contemporary Cornwall-based artists today such as Ted Dyer, Robert Jones, Andrew Tozer and Ben Warner.

Displayed alongside will be masterpieces by Falmouth's automata makers. These are bound to make a good impression!

**17 September – 19 November 2011:
'Falmouth Frameworks'**

This unique, innovative and groundbreaking exhibition is the culmination of a three-year project to raise awareness of the importance of historical and artist-designed frames, and the marriage between frame and work.

There are no museum objects that are more neglected than historical and artist-designed frames. Frames are often an integral part of the work but despite this they are sometimes separated, not conserved or not catalogued.

Using Falmouth's important collection this exhibition examines the artists' relationship with the frame from the early 18th century, through to the modern day. Included are Sven Berlin, Sir Edward Coley Burne-Jones, Thomas Gainsborough, Kurt Jackson, Dame Laura Knight, Sir Alfred Munnings, Ben Nicholson, John Singer Sargent and John William Waterhouse.

In association with Paul Mitchell Limited and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

The new book 'Falmouth Frameworks' is to be published by Sansom & Company to coincide with the exhibition.

**26 November 2011 – February 2012:
Fishwick and friends**

Clifford Fishwick (1923-1970) was a regular visitor to Cornwall, with Falmouth being one of his favourite haunts. As Principal of Exeter College of Art he was an important figure to many South West artists.

This exciting exhibition is mounted to coincide with the publication of a new book on the artist by the distinguished painter and art historian, Peter Davies.

Among Fishwick's friends to feature in the exhibition are: Arthur Ballard, Trevor Bell, Michael Garton, William Gear, Peter Lanyon, Michael Mayer, Jack Pender, Karl Wesche and Bryan Wynter.

Permanent Gallery

24 September – 8 October 2011

Historic Falmouth - Artists' views

This exhibition celebrates the 350th anniversary of King Charles II granting the Royal Charter to the town and the 100th anniversary of the death of John Passmore Edwards (1823-1911), who provided the splendid building that houses Falmouth Town Council, Falmouth Art Gallery and Falmouth Library.

Featured will be delicate watercolours, drawings and prints showing Falmouth from 1734 to within living memory.

In association with Michael Bradley, Local History Group, Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society