

1. The economic value of Falmouth Art Gallery

- 1.1 A report by the Association of Independent Museums provided a toolkit by which small and medium galleries can calculate the gross impact of visits to the gallery in terms of economic value.
- 1.2 Using data specific to Falmouth Art Gallery, we were able to calculate that the Art Gallery has a value of £1.45 million per year to the local economy. This data is based on the percentage of local visitors, day trippers and overnight visitors who used the Art Gallery in 2010.

2. Brian Stewart Memorial

- 2.1 On 12 December Falmouth Town Council and Art Gallery Staff gathered at Gyllyngdune Gardens to mark the anniversary of the death of the gallery's previous Director Brian Stewart (1953 – 2010).
- 2.2 Mayor of Falmouth, Councillor Geoffrey Evans led the planting of a Wollemi Pine, a rare species of tree that was thought to be extinct until its rediscovery in Australia in 1994.
- 2.3A slate plaque bearing Brian's name and dates and a picture of a tortoise was also laid by the tree. The plaque was made by Long Rock Memorials in Penzance to a design by Brian's friend the artist John Dyer.

3. VAQAS

- 3.1 Falmouth Art Gallery has been awarded Visitor Attraction Quality Assured Status for the fourth year running after receiving a glowing report from the *Visit Britain* inspector. She wrote, *"Falmouth Art Gallery is a great asset to the town of Falmouth. It has a wonderful attitude to customer service. This attitude is reflected not only in direct customer contact but also in the friendly and informative email responses. The staff are very knowledgeable and engage exceptionally well with visitors of all ages."*
- 3.2 One of the areas for improvement that the Inspector noted was the lack of signage leading to the Art Gallery, in particular from The Quarry car park. She also suggested that the front of the building could have additional floor standing banners to make the Art Gallery entrance more prominent.

3.4 The Inspector particularly noted the high standard of cleanliness in the gallery, and she commented that the Art Gallery entrance (front) was very neat and tidy with no litter observed.

4. Cornwall Film Festival

4.1 Director of Falmouth Art Gallery, Louise Connell, was invited to be a judge at the 2011 Cornwall Film Festival. The category for best short film, 'The Edge' was dedicated to Brian Stewart who had been a champion of the Cornwall Film Festival in previous years.

4.2 The winner of the category was a short film entitled *Ellipsis*. The Art Gallery has requested that the film be shown in the permanent gallery in the New Year.

5 Education

5.1 The gallery staged a series of popular workshops and events during the October half term. Activities included a magic show and balloon modelling from Ed Clarke, a cartoon master class with Nick Brennan, mask making and drawing spooky portraits for Halloween.

5.2 A total of 232 people took part in the activities, of which 134 were children and 98 adults.

5.3 Groups from Marlborough School have made eight visits to the Art Gallery since the last report, as well as going on a Cemetery Tour. The Year 4 class has based a whole project on the paintings they saw during their visit and have rebuilt Hemy's 'floating studio' in their classroom.

5.4 The Stroke Club enjoyed a tea party and tour of the *Historic Falmouth* exhibition given by the Director.

5.5 The Young Writers Group, led by Kneehigh Theatre's Anna Murphy, visited the gallery to collect stories about the paintings in *Frameworks*. The stories were turned into plays which were performed in the Art Gallery and around Falmouth Town Centre in December by a group of actors as part of Falmouth's *Shop For Theatre* project.

5.6 The West End Group from the Murdoch and Trevithick Centre and Falcare took part in three art workshops led by Access and Interpretation Manager Donna Williams. The groups learnt how to make felt pictures, collaged frames and badges. Donna also led workshops for students from Cornwall College, Penwith Short-Stay School, King Charles School and St Mary's School.

6 Takeover Day

6.1 Children from Falmouth Primary School and their families 'took over' Falmouth Art Gallery and curated their own exhibition as part of the national Kids in Museums event 'Takeover Day 2011'. They selected all of the works for the gallery's Ivor Abrahams exhibition which is on display in the Permanent Gallery until 14 January 2012.

6.2 Professor Ivor Abrahams RA is an internationally renowned printmaker and sculptor who was elected a Royal Academician in 1991. In 2010 Ivor, and his wife Evelyne, gave the *La Méditerranée* series to Falmouth's 'Master Print Collection'. This was followed by the gift of the *Arcadia Suite* which they presented through The Art Fund in 2011.

7 Baby Paint

7.1 The gallery is still leading the way in the provision of painting activities for children under 2. The fortnightly Baby Paint sessions led by freelance educator Glyn Winchester continue to be popular and always have a waiting list. Around 108 parents, carers, babies and toddlers have joined in the painting fun over the past three months.

7.2 Rachel Woodhead, Programme Manager (Early Years) from Museum of London Docklands visited Falmouth Art Gallery to observe a Baby Paint workshop with a view to running similar sessions at the Museum of London sites.

8. Talks

8.1 The Director, Louise Connell, gave a talk entitled 'Contemporary Collecting' to the Art Group at The Royal Cornwall Polytechnic. The talk was an opportunity to meet with local artists and to talk about how Falmouth Art Gallery supports artists and the gallery's Collecting Policy.

8.2 The Director gave a presentation about the gallery at the 'Guesthouse Familiarisation' event at the National Maritime Museum Cornwall, organised by Fal River Cornwall.

8.3 The Director also gave a talk and tour of the stores to students from the University College Falmouth's MA Curatorial Practice course.

8.4 Donna Williams gave talks to four groups from Falmouth Marine School about exhibition marketing and the gallery's collection of underwater photography.

9. Training

9.1 Director Louise Connell and Collections Manager Ruth Bott attended the annual Museums Association Conference in Brighton.

9.2 Ruth Bott also attended a three-day 'First Aid at Work' training course organised by the Red Cross.

9.3 Assistant Curator Alex Hooper went on a 'Welcome to Cornwall' training day at National Maritime Museum Cornwall organised by NfET.

9.4 Louise Connell attended a training session on 'Appraisal and Performance Management' delivered by South West Councils.

10. Visit to London

10.1 The Mayor, Councillor Geoffrey Evans, accompanied the Director on a visit to London to view some potential acquisitions. They met with Philip Mould OBE, advisor to the House of Lords, Antiques Roadshow expert and owner of Historic Portraits Ltd, framer Paul Mitchell of Paul Mitchell Ltd, Peter Rees the Director of 19th century paintings Bonhams UK and Antiques Roadshow expert and gallery owner Rupert Maas.

10.2 The visit was very successful and was an excellent way to promote the work and ambition of Falmouth Art Gallery and to publicise the support it enjoys from Falmouth Town Council.

11. Falmouth 350

11.1 This year, Falmouth celebrated the 350th anniversary of the granting of its Town Charter. To mark the event, the Art Gallery held an exhibition of historic prints alongside the newly restored Charter entitled *Historic Falmouth*.

11.2 During the two weeks that it was up, *Historic Falmouth* was visited by 2943 people. On the final day, Saturday 8th October, we broke all Art Gallery attendance records, with a total of 359 visits on the day.

11.3 The Charter is currently on loan to the National Maritime Museum Cornwall, along with a selection of historic prints, as the star exhibit in *Falmouth in the Days of Sail*. The Charter is due to be returned to the Art Gallery on 6 April 2012.

12. New Acquisitions

12.1 Six magnificent new works have been donated to the town's art collection, including the bequest of a delightful watercolour by Falmouth's first Royal Academician, Charles Napier Hemy (1841-1917).

12.2 Entitled *Race around the Dodman*, the painting depicts a small sailing boat cutting through one of Hemy's impressive seascapes. Falmouth Art Gallery will be unveiling the work during the 'Hemy and friends' exhibition which opens on 24 November 2012.

12.3 The gallery has also been given by bequest an oil painting entitled *Dry dock at Falmouth* that features a vessel in for repair at Falmouth Docks. The large

painting is by the Cornwall-based landscape painter, Neil Pinkett, who was previously not represented in the collection. It will be displayed in the foyer of the Municipal Buildings in the New Year.

12.4 The artist Grace Gardner has donated a large painting and three prints as part of the Grace Gardner Gift. The painting will be one of the highlights in the gallery's forthcoming 'Effortless brushstrokes' exhibition which runs from 11 February – 14 April 2012.

12.5 The new painting of *Roses* by Sophie Anderson (1823 – 1903) was unveiled at a reception in the Art Gallery. Andrew Holditch and Rachael Browning from the Art Fund were in attendance, alongside the Mayor of Falmouth and staff and volunteers who had helped acquire the piece in memory of Brian Stewart.

13. Exhibitions

13.1 Falmouth Frameworks, which ran from 17 September to 19 November, was visited by 7984 people.

13.2 The new look exhibitions leaflet is out now with details of all Falmouth Art Gallery's exhibitions for the year, as follows:

11 February - 14 April 2012

Effortless brushstrokes

John Singer Sargent's maxim was to '*convey the maximum with the minimum*'. This exhibition features paintings brilliantly composed by seemingly 'effortless brushstrokes' – a skill achieved only by great talent mixed with hard work and study.

Included will be works by Ray Atkins, Samuel John Lamorna Birch, Tom Early, Grace Gardner, Philip Hogben, Dame Laura Knight, Robert Lenkiewicz, Sir Alfred Munnings, Kenneth Newton, Harry Ousey, Adrian Ryan and Michael Strang.

In association with Penlee House Gallery & Museum and Beside the Wave

21 April – 16 June 2012

The World

This exhibition has been inspired by a yearlong trip around the world by two Falmouth artists, Anthony and Kate Fagin. It celebrates both Cornwall and the extraordinary foreign landscapes they visited, including Africa, Australasia, the South Seas, Easter Island, the Galapagos Islands, South and North America.

The paintings, photography and ceramics on display are responses to the great natural events, flora and fauna, human cultures and environmental issues

encountered on such a journey. It explores global diversity while at the same time serving as a reminder of the fragility of our planet.

23 June – 8 September 2012

Soaring Spirits

Matisse's cut-outs, which transformed 20th century art, were done from a wheelchair when he could not hold a paintbrush at arm's length. This led him to design the amazing chapel at Vence, France that has become a landmark building. This unique exhibition, staged to coincide with the Olympics and Paralympics, will show how challenge can lead to great artistic achievements.

All of the artists on display have attained new levels in art as a result of overcoming their own personal challenges. Indeed, they are the catalyst for their genius, enriching and energising their work.

The exhibition looks at inspiring examples from the 18th century through to the present day and will feature works including Henri Matisse, Anne Killigrew, Thomas Luny, Nerys Johnson, Tom Early, Bryan Pearce, Patrick Woodroffe and Edward Lear.

15 September – 17 November 2012

British Surrealists

The infamous International Surrealist Exhibition of 1936 attracted over a thousand visitors per day and is widely viewed as the dawn of British Surrealism - a movement that continues to influence and inspire British artists to this day.

This exhibition shows how a range of artists have responded to Surrealist ideas on dreams and the subconscious. Included will be works by Eileen Agar, Paul Nash, Roland Penrose, Ceri Richards, Ithel Colqhoun and John Tunnard.

A touring exhibition from Southampton City Art Gallery

Showing alongside 'British Surrealists' will be new work by David Kemp entitled Plastic Botany. These larger than life plant sculptures take their inspiration from Hieronymus Bosch's 'Garden of Earthly Delights' and show all of Kemp's trademark wit and ingenuity.

24 November 2012 – 2 February 2013

Hemy and Friends

Charles Napier Hemy was the leading maritime painter of his generation and Falmouth's first Royal Academician. He settled in Falmouth in 1881, and produced the majority of his finest works here.

John Singer Sargent's visit to Hemy's Falmouth home 'Churchfield' in 1905 highlighted the circle of important artists that surrounded the great marine artist in the town.

This exhibition features work by Hemy, his family and friends including Sir Frank Brangwyn, Richard Harry Carter, Montague Dawson, Stanhope Forbes, Winifred Freeman, William Ayerst Ingram, Henry Scott Tuke and John Singer Sargent.

Permanent Gallery exhibitions

21 January – 3 March 2012

A Childhood with the Surrealists

This quirky exhibition will feature newly commissioned works created in partnership by the contemporary Surrealist artists, Andrew Lanyon and Antony Penrose. As small children both artists met (and sometimes played games with!) many of the leading artists of the Surrealist movement. These childhood experiences and Falmouth's Surrealist collection have inspired this exciting collaboration.

Included alongside the commissions will be works by Max Ernst, Henry Moore, Roland Penrose, Man Ray, Lee Miller and budding Surrealists from our family programme.

A *New Expressions 2* project - www.newexpressions.org