

1. Appointment of new Director

- 1.1 The Art Gallery Committee has appointed Ms Louise Connell as the Director of Falmouth Art Gallery. She was the first choice out of seven candidates who were interviewed on Monday 18th April. The panel was advised by Alison Bevan, Director of Penlee House Gallery & Museum and Head of the South West Federation of Museums.
- 1.2 Louise Connell has worked extensively in museums and galleries in the North West, most recently as Senior Manager, Museum and Archive at Bolton Museum, and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. She moved to St Just, Cornwall in 2006 where she took on the position of Trustee of the Leach Pottery alongside marketing roles for Miracle Theatre and the Golowan Festival.
- 1.3 She shares the gallery's commitment to a family friendly approach and hopes to continue the successful legacy of her predecessor, Brian Stewart, while also making her own mark.
- 1.4 She will officially take up her post on 1 July but has been coming in one day a week since her appointment to familiarise herself with the role and also meeting gallery staff, volunteers and supporters.

2. Lifetime Achievement Award

- 2.1 Falmouth Art Gallery's late Director Brian Stewart (1953-2010) has been awarded a posthumous Lifetime Achievement award by the Museums and Heritage Awards.
- 2.2 The awards, which are recognised within the industry as the 'Museum Oscars', bring together more than 300 movers and shakers from across the museum sector. The awards took place at a ceremony on 11th May at Church House, Westminster and were hosted by broadcaster and comedienne Sue Perkins.
- 2.3 The gallery was represented at the ceremony by the Mayor of Falmouth, Councillor Geoffrey Evans, gallery educator Glyn Winchester, Project Officer Donna Williams and Assistant Curator Natalie Rigby. The special guests of the evening were Brian's wife Carole and their two sons Lawrence and Oliver who graciously accepted the award after a rousing and emotional speech about Brian's life and work by Dea Birkett, Director of Kids in Museums.

Mayor of Falmouth, Councillor Geoffrey Evans then gave a heartfelt thank you speech for the recognition of Brian's innovative and hard work within the industry.

- 2.4 The awards are organised by the Museums and Heritage Show and gallery staff worked closely with Anna Preedy, the Event Director to create a joyful tribute to Brian. A short montage was shown with highlights from Brian's ten years at the gallery.

3. The John Singer Sargent project

- 3.1 As part of the Heritage Lottery Funded 'John Singer Sargent Project' gallery staff have recently embarked on a major new initiative to raise awareness of Falmouth's role as a creative and cultural centre in Cornwall.
- 3.2 The director and Natalie Rigby have met with Kevin Lavery, Chief Executive of Cornwall Council and Malcolm Bell, Head of Visit Cornwall to discuss potential projects that will raise awareness of Cornwall's rich artistic heritage.
- 3.3 Initial plans include better interpretation, signage and linking with organisations in the area to provide services such as artistic tours of the River Fal., arts festivals, audio tours and signage marking the former homes and studios of historic artists.
- 3.4 The gallery is also about to publish a map which marks the graves of historic artists buried in Falmouth Cemetary including Henry Scott Tuke, Charles Napier Hemy and Sophie Anderson

4. 'Frameworks' Project

- 4.1 The gallery's 'Frameworks' project is now nearing completion. As a result of this groundbreaking three year project Falmouth Art Gallery is the first gallery in the country to research, restore and catalogue both picture and frame as an aesthetic union. Falmouth's historic artworks have been magnificently restored or reframed thanks to the work of leading experts and the gallery's collection also now boasts a growing number of exciting 'Falmouth Frameworks' commissions created by contemporary local artists.
- 4.2 The project will culminate in the autumn with the 'Falmouth Frameworks' exhibition (17 September – 19 November) and the publication of a full colour hardback book entitled 'Falmouth Frameworks'.
- 4.3 The 208 page 'Falmouth Frameworks' book is being published by the distinguished publishing house, Sansom & Company. It was written by Brian Stewart in partnership with the world's leading experts in historic frames, Lynn Roberts and Paul Mitchell. Contributions to the text have also been made by Lynn Blake, Pete Hambrook, Paula Ross, Natalie Rigby and Donna Williams.

It has been designed by Steve Collinson of Xgraphica and proof read by Kate Dinn.

- 4.4 Gallery staff have worked extremely hard over the last six months to complete the project and meet the publisher's deadline.

5. Museums & Heritage Show

- 5.1 Falmouth Art Gallery has been singled out by Anra Kennedy of Culture 24 as an example of best practice in community, family and intergenerational learning. She invited a member of gallery staff to give a presentation on the subject in a Culture 24 education seminar at the Museums & Heritage Show in London.
- 5.2 Donna Williams represented the gallery at the event where she gave a 15 minute presentation to a packed room of museum professionals from across the country. At the end of the seminar a number of participants commented on how inspired they were by Falmouth Art Gallery.

6. Exhibitions

- 6.1 The 'Masters of Photography' exhibition was extremely well received attracting 5973 visitors including 791 community and school educational visits. It featured iconic images by major international photographers shown alongside exciting compositions by contemporary masters of photography.
- 6.2 The current show 'Kurt Jackson at 50' has already attracted over 9000 visitors.
- 6.3 The gallery also recently staged an exhibition in the permanent gallery entitled 'Henry Scott Tuke – in celebration of restoration, conservation and framing'. The exhibition featured works from the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society's Tuke Collection and marked the end of a six year restoration, conservation and framing project. During the exhibition a popular talk was given by Tuke expert, Catherine Wallace.

7. Staffing

- 7.1 In order to meet legal requirements for lone working three members of staff will now be working on Saturdays. In consultation with the Town Clerk gallery staff have been trialling a system where they cover Saturdays on a rota with full time staff taking a day off in lieu the following week. So far the trial has been very successful and the gallery has been able to manage Saturdays (the gallery's busiest day) far more effectively

- 7.2 As a result of the appraisals and the adoption of a new staffing structure a number of job descriptions and titles have been changed by the Director in consultation with the Town Clerk. Pending approval from the Staffing Committee Natalie Rigby will become the Collections Manager and Donna Williams will become the Access and Interpretation Manager.

8. Education

- 8.1 The gallery enjoyed a very successful May half term with a week of popular activities celebrating The Fal River Festival and the Heritage Lottery Funded John Singer Sargent Project.
- 8.2 Over 335 adults and children took part in the activities which included a cartoon workshop led by *Beano* cartoonist Nick Brennan. Families were also invited to set sail on their imaginations in the 'All aboard!' workshop led by performance artist, Sally Crabtree. Record numbers also attended the gallery's 'Sparkle and shimmer' felt making workshop and created some stunning textile seascapes.
- 8.3 The gallery's Easter holiday activities were also extremely well received, highlights included a mime performance from Mr B and a crown making workshop to celebrate the Royal wedding.

9. Memorial automaton

- 9.1 The gallery has commissioned an automaton entitled 'Brian's brilliant bike' as a memorial to the gallery's late director, Brian Stewart.
- 9.2 Staff thought this would be the perfect way to remember him as it will be here for generations of families to enjoy. It was generously funded by gallery supporters Richard and Jacqueline Worswick.
- 9.3 The automaton was created by local artist Keith Newstead. It depicts the familiar scene of Brian riding through Falmouth in his fluorescent jacket with a menagerie of animals.
- 9.4 Gallery staff, volunteers and supporters gathered together for a special tea party where the automaton was officially unveiled for the first time. The Mayor of Falmouth, Councillor Geoffrey Evans said a few words and carried out the ceremonial ribbon cutting.
- 9.5 Also on display for the first time is 'Charles Napier Hemy: our premier pilchard painter' by Paul Spooner, which is the last automaton Brian commissioned.

10. AMA

- 10.1 Donna Williams has been awarded an AMA (Associate of the Museums Association) after completing her two year course and facing a professional review panel. Falmouth Town Council would like to congratulate Donna on her achievement.

11. Staff training

- 11.1 Pat Collinson and volunteer Alexander Nyman attended a one day course entitled 'Making Money for Museums and Archive' at the National Maritime Museum Cornwall. The course was organised by the MLA Renaissance South West and the Cornwall Museums Group.

12. Correspondence

- 12.1 Falmouth Town Council recently received a glowing letter from a Mrs M. M. Gentry who had visited Falmouth Art Gallery to view artworks by Majorie Williams in the town's collection. She praised both the gallery service and staff, in particular Alex Hooper who she described as 'so enthusiastic and well informed'. She then went on to say: 'The service and staff were both excellent and a credit to Falmouth. The funding of cultural activities is so important and in times of financial strain is simply uplifting.'