

### 1. Olympic Torch Day – 19 May

- 1.1 Falmouth Art Gallery staff gave a great welcome to the Olympic Torch runners, their families and Olympic Committee organisers as they gathered in the art gallery before the start of the Olympic Torch Relay.
- 1.2 To mark the event, the art gallery commissioned artists Tony Crosby and Jill Hudson to construct a giant withy figure carrying a ball of flame called 'The Spirit of the Flame'.
- 1.3 'The Spirit of the Flame' was positioned on The Moor on the morning of the Torch Relay. Members of the public were invited to write their own messages which were fixed to the sculpture, making a very colourful spectacle.
- 1.4 The messages included one from Liakopoulos Kostasa, a Torch runner the 1964 Tokyo Games. He sent a special message to the Mayor of Falmouth written in both Greek and English: *'I hope you have fun and enjoy the Olympic Games. It's a big party with guests from around the world. Good luck to the Torch runners of Falmouth and Cornwall.'*
- 1.5 'The Spirit of the Flame' and its messages of support will be on public display in the entrance to the Municipal Buildings until the close of the Olympic Games in August.

### 2. 'Global Gardens' Project

- 2.1 The 'Global Gardens' art competition was a partnership between Falmouth Art Gallery, artist John Dyer, Gyllyngdune Gardens and The Packet. The competition was open to any young person aged from 0- 16 and all the winners will be exhibited in the community gallery at Falmouth Art Gallery, with a selection of children's work published in the Packet.
- 2.2 The closing date was 10 June and competition judges included artist John Dyer, art gallery director Louise Connell, Packet editor Paul Armstrong, Gyllyngdune Garden's Sarah Spiegler-Williams and singer Kim Wilde.
- 2.3 There were over 530 entries and judges had a difficult task choosing their favourites. The winners will be invited to a special event to receive their prizes from the Mayor Geoffrey Evans at Gyllyngdune Gardens on Thursday 21 June from 6pm – 8pm.

2.4 All of the entries received are in an online exhibition on the John Dyer website and will be displayed at the Gyllyngdune Gardens Visitor Centre.

### **3. Falmouth Arts Festival 6 to 16 September 2012**

3.1 Falmouth Art Gallery has secured a grant of £6750 towards the Falmouth Arts Festival which takes place in September.

3.2 The grant was awarded by the Arts Council England's Grants for the Arts Scheme. The money will be used to fund 6 artists' projects around Falmouth during the period of the Festival, alongside a programme of fun and informative workshops aimed at the general public.

3.3 The art gallery has appointed Charlotte Williams of Embark Ferry Art and Truro Arts to manage the project. Charlotte has a track record of running successful public arts projects and working with contemporary artists.

3.4 The art gallery has sent out a call-out to artists who would like to be considered for the project. The final six applicants will be selected by a panel in early July that includes Kate Southworth, Award Leader in MA Curatorial Practice at University College Falmouth and James Green, Director at Newlyn Art Gallery and The Exchange.

### **4. Exhibitions**

4.1 The art gallery's spring exhibition 'The World' has been extremely well received. It featured 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.

4.2 'The World' exhibition closed on 16 June. During its 8 week run it was visited by 6063 people. 923 of these were educational visits.

4.3 Comments in our visitor book have shown that 'The World' exhibition was warmly received by the public. They range from '*Staggeringly beautiful – what talent! A unique exhibition*', '*Brilliant and tingle factor*' to '*Wonderful, colourful, inspirational and poignant. Very easy to take in for all ages.*'

4.4 The new exhibition, 'Soaring Spirits' runs from 23 June to 8 September. This unique exhibition, staged to coincide with the Olympics and Paralympics, will show how challenge can lead to great artistic achievements.

4.5 The exhibition has been enhanced by some major loans including four watercolour sketches by Edward Lear (1812-1888) kindly lent by The Wordsworth Trust Museum.

- 4.6 Other 'Soaring Spirits' loans include three paintings by Bryan Pearce (1929 – 2007) from The Royal Cornwall Museum, 'Trebah Gardens', 'Art School Interior' and one of his very last works, a view of 'Falmouth Harbour'.

## 5. Acquisition of a William Ayerst Ingram oil painting

- 5.1 The art gallery has been awarded a grant of £4000 from the Tony Banks Memorial Trust towards the purchase of 'At anchor, Falmouth' by William Ayerst Ingram from WH Lane in Penzance. The outstanding amount has been raised with a generous donation of £2000 from The Worswick Trust.
- 5.2 William Ayerst Ingram (1855 – 1913) was a major figure in the art of Falmouth. Together with Henry Scott Tuke (1858 – 1929) he founded the first Falmouth Art Gallery in 1894 and attracted work to exhibit there from artists such as James Abbott McNeill Whistler, John Singer Sargent, Charles Napier Hemy and Stanhope Forbes. His friend Whistler described Ingram as his 'valiant lieutenant' because of the support he provided during heated meetings of the Royal Society of British Artists.
- 5.3 'At anchor, Falmouth', depicts the period of transition from sail to steam and features a steam tug guiding a sailing ship with sailing ships in the background. The landscape feature of St Anthony Lighthouse can be seen on the headland, indicating that this scene was painted, as the title suggests, at the mouth of the Fal Estuary at Falmouth.
- 5.4 The blues, silvers, greens and greys in the sea and sky are lifted by the bold addition of a fluttering red ensign on the sailing ship, and the whole composition is animated by a flock of seagulls in the foreground that swoop and dive close to the water. Indeed, the economical painting of the gulls, described with a few expert strokes of the brush, may suggest the influence of Ingram's friend John Singer Sargent who was an advocate of painting '*the maximum by means of the minimum*'; and the tonal harmonies of the picture show the influence of Whistler and Tuke.
- 5.5 'At anchor, Falmouth' complements the two other oil paintings in the Falmouth collection by Ingram, The home port, Falmouth and Schooner on the high seas; however these works are on a much larger scale (both are around 200 x 100 cms) and for this reason are on permanent display outside the art gallery in the main entrance to the building. 'At Anchor, Falmouth' is smaller and can therefore be exhibited alongside the permanent collection within the art gallery itself.
- 5.6 'At anchor, Falmouth' will go on public exhibition in the art gallery's forthcoming exhibition 'Charles Napier Hemy and friends' from 24 November 2012.

## 6. Acquisition of an Anne Killigrew oil painting

- 6.1 The Director and staff at the art gallery have been fundraising from a number of different grant-giving bodies and organisations towards the £55,000 purchase price of a rare painting by the 17<sup>th</sup> century artist Anne Killigrew (1660 – 1686).
- 6.2 The painting, entitled ‘Venus attired by the Three Graces’, dates to the early 1680s. It shows Venus, the goddess of love, being dressed by her attendants, the Three Graces, in a woodland scene with mythological creatures. The public will be able to see the picture for themselves when it goes on display in at Falmouth Art Gallery as part of the ‘Soaring Spirits’ exhibition which opens on 23 June.
- 6.3 Anne Killigrew worked at the Royal Court of King James II as Lady-in-Waiting to the Queen, Mary of Modena. Although she was born in London, Anne’s family history is firmly rooted in Falmouth. Anne’s grandfather, Sir Robert Killigrew, was the Governor of Pendennis Castle and was succeeded by his eldest son Sir William after his death in 1567. Sir William’s younger brother, Dr Henry Killigrew, was Anne’s father and worked in London, first as chaplain to King Charles I and later as master of the Savoy Hospital.
- 6.4 Anne Killigrew’s exceptional qualities as an artist and a poet were highly praised in her lifetime and the poet John Dryden dedicated a poem to her in which he refers directly to this picture: ‘Where nymphs of brightest form appear,/ And shaggy satyrs standing near’ (from *‘To the Pious Memory of the Accomplished Young Lady Mrs. Anne Killigrew Excellent In The Two Sister-Arts of Poesy And Painting: An Ode’*).
- 6.5 The art gallery is working towards its target of £55,000, which is the asking price for the picture. So far it has raised £48,000, with grants from The Art Fund, the V&A Purchase Grant Fund, The Beecroft Bequest and Falmouth Decorative and Fine Arts Society.
- 6.6 Falmouth Art Gallery has until 21 July to raise the balance before the largest grant offer expires. **It is urging anyone who would be willing to donate any amount, however small, towards the ‘Anne Killigrew Purchase Fund’ to contact the art gallery.**

## 7. Education

- 7.1 The art gallery held five free family drop-in workshops over June half term as part of the Fal River Festival. Activities included ‘Planet Print, ‘Faraway Fabric’ and ‘Tropical Shakers’, themed around ‘The World’ exhibition. A total of 141 people took part in the activities.

- 7.2 John Dyer gave an entertaining talk about his artistic journey around the globe from Peru to the Philippines. Visitors had the chance to see six of his very colourful pictures displayed in the art gallery.
- 7.3 The weeks since the last report at the end of April 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, Marlborough School, Godolphin Primary School, Constantine School, Home Educated children, Flushing School, Bosvigo School, Mylor Bridge and Penryn Primary School have all taken part in a total of 18 learning sessions in the art gallery. A further 16 sessions were organised at Gyllingdune Gardens as part of the 'Global Gardens' project.
- 7.4 The fortnightly Baby Paint sessions continue to be hugely popular. The regular session leader Glyn Winchester has, unfortunately, suffered a broken leg, and has been unable to run the last three sessions. The workshops have been managed by gallery staff Tamsin Bough and Donna Williams in Glyn's absence. We all wish Glyn a speedy recovery!
- 7.5 The Director attended the Private View of children's print making at Falmouth Primary School. The Mayor of Falmouth, Geoffrey Evans was also in attendance. Everyone was hugely impressed by the quality of the work on show, some of which was inspired by works from the Falmouth Art Gallery collection.

## **8. Talks**

- 8.1 Artist Anthony Fagin gave an enjoyable talk about 'The World' exhibition.
- 8.2 Alex Hooper gave a talk to a group from Brightwater Holidays about 'The World' exhibition.
- 8.3 Louise Connell was invited to judge the Falmouth Arts Society annual art competition in May. Louise was also a judge at the Constantine Art Club annual exhibition.

## **9. Kids in Museums**

- 9.1 Falmouth Art Gallery director Louise Connell attended the announcement of the winner of the 2012 Kids in Museums award at the offices of the Telegraph Newspaper in London.

## **10. Training**

- 10.1 Louise Connell attended a one-day course on Intermediate Excel run by Logical Solutions Cornwall.

10.2 Tamsin Bough and Louise Connell were also given training in managing web content by Adrian Look as part of plans to re-vamp of the Falmouth Art Gallery website.

## **11. Staffing**

11.1 Collections Manager (Maternity Cover) Ruth Bott departed in May to take up a new post at Birmingham University.

11.2 Natalie Rigby will return to the post of Collections Manager on 4 September following her maternity leave. Meanwhile, Natalie is using her ten 'keep in touch' days to ease in her return to work in the interim.

11.3 Alex Fairnie has joined the art gallery staff on a work placement from 5 to 22 June. Alex is a MA student of Curating Contemporary Design at Kingston University in partnership with the Design Museum.

11.4 Leicester University Museum Studies Post-graduate student Laura Weill will be joining the art gallery team on 23 July for 8 weeks work placement.

## **12. Twinning Reception**

12.1 The art gallery hosted a reception to welcome delegates from the German town of Rotenburg. The Mayor of Falmouth Geoffrey Evans and Chair of the Twinning Association Councillor Maureen Davies were in attendance and gifts were presented.

## **12. Holyer An Gof award**

12.1 The 'Falmouth Frameworks' book by Brian Stewart, Paul Mitchell and Lynn Roberts, published by Sansom and Co, has been nominated for a prestigious Holyer An Gof Award.