

### 1. Funding

- 1.1 Naomi Frears, the nationally renowned artist based at Porthmeor Studios in St Ives, was employed by the Art Gallery to deliver 2 print-making workshops in a project funded by a grant of £500 from the Little Parc Owles Trust.
- 1.2 A group of home-educated children and another from Nine Maidens Pupil Referral Unit learnt specialist printing skills and their work was framed and later exhibited as a stairway show. Both groups were awarded certificates of achievement at a small tea party to which the press were invited.

### 2. Cemetery tours

- 2.1 The first cemetery tours marking the graves of historic artists buried in Falmouth Cemetery took place in August led by Glyn Winchester, with additional research by Michael and Linda Bickford. To date there have been 3 general tours, each lasting approximately 45 minutes. The number of people for each tour was restricted to 15, and each tour was fully booked, with very positive comments from everyone who came along.
- 2.2 Yr 4 students from Marlborough School also had a tour of the cemetery and Falmouth Art Gallery is considering offering it to other schools.
- 2.3 A free map marking the graves of artists, including Henry Scott Tuke, Charles Napier Hemy and Sophie Anderson, has been published to accompany the tours.

### 3. Education

- 3.1 The West End Group from the Murdoch and Trevithick Centre attended two successive art workshops, producing a large work inspired by 'Kurt Jackson at 50' exhibition and creating postcards after looking at the seascapes in 'British Impressionists'.
- 3.2 Louise Connell, Falmouth Art Gallery's new director, gave two separate 'walk and talk' guided tours of the 'British Impressionists' exhibition in August to a total of 56 people.
- 3.3 The artist Andrew Tozer gave an interesting talk and painting master class as part of the programme of free summer activities.
- 3.4 Overall, the gallery attracted 1,144 people to its summer workshops, which included sketching in the gallery and a variety of hands-on craft activities for families.

3.5 Seamus Carey held two concerts at the Art Gallery, one to promote the work of Dementia UK, and one for Age Concern. Seamus is the grandson of artist Francis Hewlett who has work in the Falmouth Art Gallery collection.

#### **4. Falmouth Week**

4.1 Falmouth Week got off to a flying start with the carnival workshops. Dozens of people dropped in to the Art Gallery to make brightly coloured frames to carry in the Walking Carnival.

4.2 This year's theme was 'come dressed as your favourite painting'. The Art Gallery had an excellent turnout with 30 adults and 20 children taking part.

4.3 There were 6 free family drop-in workshops every afternoon during Falmouth Week, attracting a total of 157 adults and 188 children. Activities ranged from finger and toe painting and collage, to felt-making and printed boxes.

#### **5. John Singer Sargent Project**

5.1 The Heritage Lottery Funded 'John Singer Sargent Project' continues to raise awareness of Falmouth's role as a creative and cultural centre in Cornwall.

5.2 To further the aims of the John Singer Sargent Project, the Director invited Malcolm Bell, Head of Visit Cornwall, and representatives from several cultural organisations within the 'Cornwall Creative Triangle' including Creative Skills, Tate St Ives, Penlee House and Minack Theatre, to a meeting in the Council Chamber in Falmouth to discuss innovative ways of marketing the Creative Triangle to visitors to Cornwall.

5.3 Falmouth Art Gallery has been included as a must-see destination by the Cornwall Arts Tourism Project (CAPT) being run by Services for Tourism Ltd. Commissioned by St Ives-based Borlase Smart John Wells Trust and the Sea Change-funded Porthmeor Studios project, CAPT aims to cater for the demand for exceptional holiday experiences. Falmouth Art Gallery has been included in the draft US tours package 'Inspirational Cornwall' and 'Have Sketchbook will Travel'.

5.4 Louise Connell has written an article for September/October's edition of Here and Now magazine on the historic artists' colony in Falmouth.

#### **6. Passmore Edwards anniversary leaflet**

6.1 The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the great philanthropist John Passmore Edwards (1823 – 1911) has been marked by the publication by the Art Gallery of an illustrated leaflet designed by Steve Collinson.

6.2 Called simply 'Municipal Buildings Falmouth – a short history', the leaflet is free and is full of informative facts about Falmouth and the history of the Municipal Buildings.

## **7. MLA New Expressions 2 Project**

- 7.1 Falmouth Art Gallery has been awarded a £14,000 grant by MLA to develop an artists' project 'A Childhood with the Surrealists'.
- 7.2 The Director attended the launch of New Expressions 2 with all the partner organisations in Bristol, and gave a 5 minute presentation on the Art Gallery.
- 7.3 Donna Williams and Louise Connell met Antony Penrose and Andrew Lanyon, the two participating artists, to plan the exhibition. 'A Childhood with the Surrealists' opens on 16 January 2012 and runs until 3 March.

## **8. Exhibitions**

- 8.1 The summer show, 'British Impressionists' (25 June to 10 September) attracted 12,479 visitors.
- 8.2 'Frameworks' is the result of a three-year project to research, restore and catalogue both picture and frame as an aesthetic union. Works of art in the Falmouth collection have been magnificently restored or reframed following advice and work by leading frame experts.
- 8.3 The exhibition also features 'Falmouth Frameworks' commissions and work produced by local families in Frameworks workshops.
- 8.4 The exhibition is accompanied by a full colour hardback book entitled 'Falmouth Frameworks' with an introduction by the late Director Brian Stewart and contributions from Lynn Roberts and Paul Mitchell who are leading experts in the preservation and interpretation of historic frames. Contributions to the text have also been made by Lynn Blake, Pete Hambrook, Paula Ross, Natalie Rigby and Donna Williams. Falmouth Frameworks is published by Sansom & Company and retails for £25.
- 8.5 The 'Frameworks' exhibition was officially opened by Paul Mitchell on 15<sup>th</sup> September. The Mayor Geoffrey Evans held a small reception beforehand for members of the Mitchell family and Mary Ross-Trevor. The Mayor presented Paul Mitchell with a ceramic bowl by local maker Vicky Heard as a thank you for his contribution. The exhibition is runs until 19<sup>th</sup> November.

## **9. Art Acquisitions**

- 9.1 The Art Gallery has been given six art works since the last report.
- 9.2 The Art Fund has purchased a large oil painting by the Falmouth artist Sophie Anderson (1823 – 1903) and presented it as a gift to Falmouth Art Gallery in celebration of the life and contribution of Brian Stewart (1953 – 2010).
- 9.3 The work, entitled *Roses*, is believed to be the work of the same name that is listed in the catalogue of the first Falmouth Art Gallery in Grove Place. Opened by Henry Scott Tuke and William Ayerst Ingram in 1894, the Art

Gallery exhibited work by Hemy, Tuke, Sargent, Leighton, Forbes and the Knights, among others. The Falmouth Packet reported: '*First among the pictures comes a large and beautifully arranged group of roses by the veteran painter Sophie Anderson, whose famous picture The Choristers has been known and appreciated in every land. Daring and rich in colour and design the hangers Messrs C. Napier Hemy and W.Ayerst Ingram have given it the post of honour in the line as number one.*'

- 9.5 Unrecorded in surveys of Cornwall's painters, Sophie Anderson became the first Cornwall-based woman artist to have a painting sell for over a million pounds at auction (£1,038,050, *No walk today*, Sotheby's, 19 November 2008 lot 96).
- 9.6 The Art Gallery has been given a small oil painting, *Rough Seas* by John Henry West (1856 – 1938). The painting shows two luggers with their distinctive red sails being driven by a strong wind.
- 9.7 John Henry West was employed by the donor's grandfather, Alexander Miller, a wealthy London stockbroker who had a house in Falmouth and employed West as his boatman. It is believed that Miller helped the artist out by providing him with art materials, and that West was also acquainted with Henry Scott Tuke who also gave him help and advice.
- 9.8 Despite being illiterate and having no formal art training, West achieved some success as a painter of navigation and maritime scenes. He exhibited with the Falmouth Art Society and a picture of the artist in his studio was published in *The Daily Mirror* in 1913.
- 9.9 Marcus Williamson has generously gifted a lithograph print entitled *Bonjour Max Ernst*, c.1968 by British artist Roland Penrose (1900 – 1984). The work is a surrealist view of the constellation of Orion above the chalk figure of the Long Man of Wilmington. Marcus presented this work in memory of his father Ernst Frankhauser. This artwork builds on Falmouth Art Gallery's already impressive collection of Surrealist prints and photographs.
- 9.10 The Art Gallery was also given three watercolours by George Farquhar Pennington (1872 – 1962), presented by Agnes Dower: *Polwarth Beach on the River Fal*; *Myrtle Cottage St Mawes* and *Cottages on the seafront, St Mawes*.

## **10. Staffing**

- 10.1 Following approval by Staffing Committee, Natalie Rigby has become Collections Manager and Donna Williams Access and Interpretation Manager.
- 10.2 The Staffing Committee also approved certain changes to contracted hours.

10.3 Natalie Rigby is on Maternity Leave until September 2012. The post is being covered by Ruth Bott, a recent graduate of Leicester University's Museums Studies MA course. Ruth completed her student placement at Falmouth Art Gallery before being appointed as Collections Manager (Maternity Cover) on 20<sup>th</sup> September.

**11. Grace Gardner visit**

11.1 The Mayor Geoffrey Evans and the Director, Louise Connell met with artist Grace Gardner to discuss future exhibitions of Grace's work at the Art Gallery.

**12. Twinning**

12.1 Mayor Geoffrey Evans hosted a buffet reception at the Art Gallery for a group from Douarnenez.

12.2 Around 70 French visitors and members from Falmouth Twinning Association were in attendance.