

1. SPLASH Arts Festival 7 to 16 September 2012

- 1.1 Falmouth Art Gallery hosted a number of events as part of this year's SPLASH Arts Festival in Falmouth.
- 1.2 Shallal, the acclaimed dance company, performed highlights from their site-specific summer Doorways shows to a packed audience in the art gallery.
- 1.3 Scary Little Girls Productions brought the streets of Falmouth alive with their Heritage Lottery Funded 'Living Heritage Walks', a blend of interactive performance, poetry and song, on the two Saturdays during the Festival. They completed their tour of the town at the art gallery, with an appearance by the fictional detective Hercules Poirot. It was great to see this project become a reality as Rebecca Mordan of 'Scary Little Girls' involved the Mayor and gallery staff in the early planning stages of this project in 2010. Falmouth Art Gallery and Falmouth Town Council were also both supporting partners for their successful Heritage Lottery Fund application.
- 1.4 Tim Craven from Southampton City Art Gallery and curator of the 'British Surrealists' exhibition, gave an informative talk in the art gallery to an audience of around 40 people.
- 1.5 As part of SPLASH, an eye-catching 30 foot banner was unveiled on the fence of the Watersports Centre on Grove Place. The banner celebrates Falmouth's creative spirit and shows pictures from the Falmouth Art Gallery collection alongside artwork by children, UCF graduates and local artists. Art Gallery Director Louise Connell and designer Steve Collinson worked with Richard Wilcox from BID, Jacqui Owens, John Dyer and 20/20 Design to create the banner.

2. TRAIL! Public Art Project

- 2.1 A grant of £6750 from Arts Council England has enabled the art gallery to fund 6 public artworks in Falmouth as part of the SPLASH Festival.
- 2.2 Around 30 applications were received following a call-out to artists in June. From this, 6 artists' works were selected. The aim of the project was to create subtle and surprising artworks that reflected the character and history of Falmouth.
- 2.3 Ben Delap has created an 11-metre high wind turbine made from boat parts, situated at the end of Prince of Wales Pier.

- 2.4 Melanie Guy has installed a paving stone made from pewter onto Events Square, close to the entrance to the Maritime Museum.
- 2.5 Francis Walsh has created a circular neon light which has been installed on the tower at National Maritime Museum Cornwall. The piece references the dipping needle invented by Robert Were Fox and is accompanied by a small booklet.
- 2.6 Juliet Walshe made a series of large photographs printed onto transparent film which she hung on the railings on Castel Drive overlooking the Docks.
- 2.7 Tony Johns and Camilla Stacey created a fictional character, Victorian explorer Christopher Song, whose archive and personal collection was housed temporarily in the Library and on display in the art gallery.
- 2.8 Jonty Lees held a skateboarding event on The Moor with around 20 children and young adults taking part.
- 2.9 Beano artist Nick Brennan created a humorous map of the art trail in the SPLASH brochure so people could explore all the artworks for themselves.
- 2.10 As part of the project, the public were encouraged to design fun badges that were given away in the art gallery during the festival.
- 2.11 The art gallery was very pleased by the positive reception given to the public artworks. Art gallery volunteers have undertaken visitor surveys to formally evaluate the project as part of the Arts Council England grant conditions and the full report will be published in October.

3. Exhibitions and displays

- 3.1 Michael Chaikin has installed his new artwork, 'Cloud Mobile' on the landing above the stairs in the main entrance to the art gallery.
- 3.2 The Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society has lent the art gallery its portrait by Henry Scott Tuke (1858 – 1927) of Anna Maria Fox (1816 - 1897) who, along with her siblings Caroline and Barclay, suggested the idea of the Cornwall Polytechnic Society to their father in 1833. The portrait will be on view in the Permanent Gallery until 12 November.
- 3.3 The art gallery will be showing a collection of paintings in the Permanent Gallery from 12 November to 3 December on loan from the International Music Seminar Prussia Cove. Entitled '20 Cornish Painters', the show includes works by Jeremy Annear, Naomi Frears, Jeremy Le Grice, Daphne McClure and Lisa Wright.

- 3.4 The paintings will be sold at auction at Christies South Kensington on Wednesday 12 December to raise funds for the IMS Prussia Cove and to celebrate the 40th anniversary of this prestigious music festival.
- 3.4 The 'Soaring Sprits' exhibition closed on 8 September. Since it opened on 23 June, the exhibition has had a total of 10,807 visitors, of which 1,275 were educational.
- 3.5 This unique exhibition, staged to coincide with the Olympics and Paralympics, showed how challenge can lead to great artistic achievements.
- 3.6 Among the exhibition's many highlights was the inclusion of the Olympic Torch, which was lent by PCSO Sean McDonald, who ran with the Torch through Falmouth on 19 May.
- 3.7 The new exhibition is 'British Surrealists' which will run until 17 November. It shows how a range of artists have responded to Surrealist ideas on dreams and the subconscious and includes works by Eileen Agar, Dave Cooper, Jonathan Coudrille, Paul Nash, Roland Penrose, Ceri Richards, Ithell Colquoun and John Tunnard.
- 3.8 Showing alongside 'British Surrealists' is a new work by David Kemp from his 'Plastic Botany' series entitled 'The Hanging Baskets of Basildon'. His larger-than-life plant sculpture takes its inspiration from Hieronymous Bosch's 'Garden of Earthly Delights'.

4. Purchase of 'Venus attired by the Three Graces' by Anne Killigrew, oil on canvas

- 4.1 The Director and staff at the art gallery have achieved their goal and raised £57,585 to purchase a rare painting by the 17th century artist Anne Killigrew (1660 – 1686). This is in excess of the purchase price of £55,000. The balance will be spent on education events, including talks and workshops, connected with the picture.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 The picture has been purchased with the assistance of the V&A Purchase Grant Fund, The Art Fund, The National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund, The Beecroft Bequest, The Estate of Barry Gordon Hughes, Falmouth Decorative and Fine Arts Society, Constantine Arts Society and donations from private individuals.

4.4 'Venus attired by the Three Graces' is on public display in the Permanent Gallery.

5. New Acquisitions

5.1 The art gallery has received a bequest of four paintings by artist Mavis Blasbery (1922 – 2012).

5.2 Mavis Blasbery was a Falmouth-based painter and printmaker who studied at Croydon College of Art. She exhibited in numerous galleries, including in London and in Birmingham, and was a regular exhibitor at Falmouth Art Gallery, most recently in the 'Soaring Spirits' exhibition.

5.3 The paintings are oil painted and gilded on panel, brightly decorated, and formed to resemble totems or religious icons. They are 'A realm of infinite colour', 'A realm of infinite light', 'Interior life' and 'Movement and life'.

5.4 The art gallery has been given an oil painting still life called 'Fish and mushrooms' by Adrian Ryan (1920 – 1998). The painting is a gift from Mrs Susan Ryan and Geraldine Florio.

5.5 Known as the 'painter's painter', Adrian Ryan was born in Hampstead and educated at Eton College. He studied at the Slade School of Fine Art following a brief period of study at the Architectural Association. For most of his working life he was a lecturer in painting and drawing at Goldsmiths College, London, but spent much of his spare time in West Cornwall. Ryan is best-known for his paintings of fish, and he wrote, '*Fish lie before the artist with their sad eyes and fading colour, but in death – as in life – fish are beautiful*'. (1994, 'Why I love fish')

5.6 Jonathan Xavier Coudrille has donated his painting 'Kynance: winter-tide' in memory of Brian Stewart.

5.7 Dr PME Ashton has donated a collection of nine paintings of local scenes. The works are Philip Lyons 'Cadgwith' and 'Feock'; Michael Praed 'Estuary Quay'; Lucy Russell 'Falmouth'; Andrew Tozer 'St Michael's Mount', 'Last days of summer, Mylor Bridge', and 'Summer blue, Restonguet'; and Richard Tuff 'Landscape at Penberth and 'Fowey from the Ferry'.

5.8 Marcus Williamson has donated two small 18th century engravings of the artist Anne Killigrew.

5.9 Jonathan Bailey has donated a delightful 19th century engraving of the Parish Church in memory of Alec and Althea Bailey.

6. Henry Lloyd Falmouth Week 11- 19 August

6.1 The art gallery started its Falmouth Week events with a 'Get sporty!' family workshop. 31 children and 24 adults helped make Olympic-themed ribbon shakers, headbands and medals to wear during the Walking Carnival later in the day.

6.2 The children and their families helped the gallery carry our spectacular giant 'Spirit of the Flame' wicker man in the Walking Carnival.

6.3 The art gallery held five free family drop-in workshops during Falmouth Week, including 'Sketchy Mornings', 'Ocean Motion', 'Action Automata' and 'Giant Jazzies'.

6.4 A highlight of the week was the break dancing demonstration and master class by On All Floors in the art gallery which was attended by 75 people, of which 50 were children eager to learn the latest dance moves.

6.5 Overall, 359 people took part in special events and workshops during Falmouth Week, a total of 222 children and 137 adults.

7. Education

7.1 The Baby Paint workshops continue to be oversubscribed. Session leader Glyn Winchester is back with us after recovering from a broken leg, and these sessions, which take place fortnightly, are a great way of introducing our tiniest visitors and their carers to art.

7.2 The art gallery received a visit from Harriet Curnow, Programme Manager: Schools, Families and Young People in the Learning Department at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

7.3 Harriet was interested in learning more about Falmouth Art Gallery's award-winning learning activities, in particular Baby Paint.

7.4 The art gallery is introducing a new scheme that will bridge the gap between babies and primary school learners. The Early Years sessions for pre-school children will commence on 21 September, led by freelance educator Jo Lumber.

7.5 Called 'Little Fingers', these sessions will involve story-telling, a making activity and singing, and will take place twice a month in the art gallery. As with all our activities, these sessions are free of charge, but do need to be booked in advance by calling or dropping into the art gallery.

- 7.6 The art gallery's regular programme of free Saturday afternoon drop-in workshops continue to offer a wide range of fun activities. The sessions are linked to our current exhibition, which at the moment is 'British Surrealists'. We will be making 'Scrap sculptures' inspired by David Kemp's sculptures and 'Randomness' inspired by Eileen Agar's surreal collages, among other exciting themed workshops.
- 7.7 The weeks since the last Report in June have been very busy with a large number of learning groups taking part in workshop sessions in the gallery led by Access and Interpretation Manager Donna Williams. The art gallery welcomed children and teachers from Falmouth Primary School and Nursery, The Crypt Nursery, Marlborough School, Mabe School, St John's School, Penair School and Home Educated.
- 7.8 The art gallery also received visits from Curnow School for children with special needs, Arts For Health, the West End Group and the LOOK group.
- 7.9 The Director gave a guided tour of the art gallery to The Wayfarer's Group, a 'Star pics' talk to the general public and a walking tour through Falmouth of the TRAIL art installations.

7. Special events

- 7.1 The art gallery welcomed the judges from the Academy of Urbanism, who had short-listed Falmouth for a 'Great Town' award. The event was organised by the Town Manager Richard Gates, and the Mayor of Falmouth, Cllr Geoffrey Evans, was in attendance.
- 7.2 The art gallery was the venue for a fundraising event organised by the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society, hosted by Mayor of Falmouth, Cllr Geoffrey Evans.
- 7.3 The Mayor also welcomed a large group of sailors from the L'Orient Celtacup during Henri Lloyd Falmouth Week. They enjoyed a buffet and drinks in the art gallery.
- 7.4 The art gallery also hosted the annual meeting of the Skippers during Falmouth Week.
- 7.5 The Director received a visit from Richard Tuke, descendant of Henry Scott Tuke. John Tonkin, Hon Curator of the RCPS Tuke Collection was also present, and the occasion was recorded in the West Briton.

8. Staffing

- 8.1 Leicester University Museum Studies Post-graduate student Laura Weill completed her 8 weeks work placement on 14 September.

- 8.2 Natalie Rigby has returned to work as Collections Manager after a period of maternity leave.
- 8.3 Vicky Gillow, MA Illustration student at University College Falmouth, is undertaking a work placement at the art gallery as part of UCF's Postgraduate Placement Scheme.
- 8.4 Vicky will be using her drawing skills to create two small booklets of stories for children aged 8 -15 based on her study of paintings by Henry Scott Tuke and Frank Jameson in the collection. The books will be eventually be on sale in the shop. Vicky's placement fulfils one of the art gallery's aims to make art accessible and develop innovative approaches to education and interpretation. (Aim 3, Service Forward Plan 2012 – 2015)
- 8.5 Volunteers Pat Webster and Ian Martin are continuing their excellent research on aspects of the collections and exhibitions.

9. Training

- 9.1 Gill Nicol from 'Lights going on' gave a training session on art interpretation to staff from the art gallery and University College Falmouth, Museum Development Officers, MA students and the general public. The training was funded by Arts Council England.
- 9.2 Louise Connell attended a 'Creative Thinking' event at University College Falmouth, Tremough in connection with the new Cornwall Museums' Strategy.
- 9.3 Alex Hooper attended a meeting of Cornwall Museums Group at Tate St Ives.
- 9.4 Tamsin Bough and Pat Collinson attended 'Shop talk', a free retail training day delivered by the Association for Cultural Enterprises at the National Maritime Museum Cornwall.

10. Holyer An Gof award

- 10.1 The 'Falmouth Frameworks' book by Brian Stewart, Paul Mitchell and Lynn Roberts, published by Sansom and Co, has won the prestigious Holyer An Gof Award 2012 for the best book published in Cornwall in 2011.
- 10.2 The art gallery was awarded a silver trophy, which will be in teh Mayor's Parlour for one year, and a cheque for £50, which was put towards the Anne Killigrew picture fund.