



PENLEE
HOUSE
GREETINGS
CARDS



AGM
LECTURE:
THE QUEEN'S
PICTURES



FROM
EAST END
TO LAND'S
END

ARTEFACT

The Newsletter of the Friends of Penlee House

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This summer's exhibition at Penlee House is set to engender a wave of nostalgia for all those whose early youth was spent living or holidaying in Cornwall. Cheekily taking its title from A.L.Rowse's best-selling autobiography, the exhibition *A Cornish Childhood* looks at the lives and pastimes of children in the county from the late Victorian era and into the early 20th century, through the eyes of some of the leading painters of the day.

As usual with our main exhibitions, the show includes a host of sumptuous paintings by leading figures of the Newlyn School and Lamorna group, including Stanhope and Elizabeth Forbes, Walter Langley, Harold Harvey, Laura Knight, Frank Heath, Dod Procter and Dorothea Sharp. Some - like *Chadding in Mount's Bay* by Stanhope Forbes - are famous favourites, borrowed and displayed at Penlee before, but there will also be some previously unseen works from public and private collections all over the UK.

We are immensely lucky, here in west Cornwall, that the daily lives of our forebears were depicted by many of the leading artists of their day. This



Stanhope Forbes, *Chadding in Mount's Bay*, oil on canvas, Worcester City Art Gallery @ The artist's estate/Bridgeman Art Library

means that the exhibition is not only a treat for the eyes, it also takes the form of a sociological survey of the lives of children from the area's fishing and farming communities in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The selected works are intended to give an overview of how Cornish children spent their days, whether at school, work or play.

Children's involvement in the religious life of the community is recalled in paintings such as *A May Procession* by Harold Harvey (Paisnel Gallery, London) and *A Mariner's Sunday School* by WHY Titcomb (Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery), while idle leisure hours are depicted in works such as *August Blue* by Henry Scott Tuke (Tate) and *The Daisy Chain* by Frank Gascoigne Heath (private collection).

Preparation for working life is represented by Walter Langley's *A Fisherman's Son* (private collection) and *A Chip Off the Old Block* (Ferens Art Gallery, Hull), and formal and informal education is shown in favourites from our own collection *School is Out* by Elizabeth Forbes and

The Lesson by Edwin Harris. Images of childhood entertainment range from fairs - *All the Fun of the Fair* by Ernest Procter (Worthing Museum and Art Gallery) - to crab racing - *Sport on the Shore* by Harold Harvey (Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery), and there are delightful representations of children in all stages of life from babyhood to adolescence.

The social history content of the paintings makes the exhibition ideal for use by schools studying life in the Victorian era. Because of this, we are launching the show rather earlier than is usual for our summer exhibitions, opening on 29 May, to enable schools to visit before the end of term.

Curated by Katie Herbert and Alison Bevan, *A Cornish Childhood* is not touring to any other venues, so the Penlee House showing offers a unique chance to see this collection of beautiful and fascinating paintings all together: don't miss it! The exhibition continues until 4 September and, as ever, is open Monday to Saturday 10.00am to 5.00pm (last admission 4.30pm).

the FRIENDS of

PENLEE HOUSE



Gallery & Museum

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FRIENDS' GREETINGS CARDS

The Friends' Committee recently accepted a generous offer from botanical artist and illustrator Carol Hartley to produce paintings of agapanthus and rhododendron flowers in Penlee Park, with glimpses of Penlee House in the background. Carol and her husband Nick have been Friends of Penlee House for many years, although they live near Namur, in the Belgian countryside. Carol usually works from her garden and studio in Belgium, but the Hartleys also frequently visit Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, where Carol finds inspiration for her watercolours in the wonderful variety of plants, their surroundings and the quality of light found here.

The Friends will use the finished images (reproduced here) to create Greetings Cards that will be sold in the Penlee House Shop. The cards will be priced at under £2.00 to include the envelope, and will be professionally packaged in a cellophane sleeve. They are currently being produced at a printer in Camborne; we hope to receive the first batch within the next two months and we feel sure that they will 'fly off the shelves' of the Shop.

As an added bonus, Carol also offered to donate the originals of the images to the Friends to help with fund raising. A Raffle will be organised later in the year – look out for further news.



FRIENDS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

A final reminder that this year's AGM will be held at the Zennor Building Lecture Theatre on the Truro and Penwith College campus at St. Clare, Penzance on **Wednesday 2 June 2010 at 7.00pm**. Booking is not required and attendance is free. A map was included with the AGM papers, which should already have reached you.

Our speaker for the evening is Desmond Shawe-Taylor (pictured below), who has the grand title of 'Surveyor of The Queen's Pictures'. After studying at Oxford and the Courtauld Institute, Desmond taught Art History for many years at the University of Nottingham. One of his students went on to become our current Director, Alison Bevan; she says he was a brilliant lecturer, combining huge knowledge with a sparkling sense of humour and a lively presentation style.

He moved to his current post after being Director of Dulwich Picture Gallery from 1996 until 2005. He has written extensively on English eighteenth-century portraiture and other subjects. More recently he has curated exhibitions at the Queen's Gallery in Edinburgh and London, including Bruegel to Rubens (Edinburgh, 2008) and the Conversation Piece; Scenes of Fashionable Life (Edinburgh, 2009). His exhibition Dutch Landscapes is currently on show at the Queen's Gallery, Palace of Holyroodhouse (30 April – 3 October 2010).

The illustrated talk he will give for us will be on 'The Queen's Paintings', giving an introduction to the scope and riches of the Royal Collection of paintings. Due to start straight after the AGM, it is a not-to-be-missed opportunity, so make sure you get there in good time for the start of the AGM itself at 7.00pm. We look forward to seeing you there!



SOCIAL HISTORY EXHIBITIONS

One of the aims of the redisplay of the Social History gallery undertaken last year was to make the space flexible enough to accommodate mini-exhibitions commemorating local events. The first of these is currently on show, running until Saturday 19 June, and is called *From East End to Land's End*.

As part of the evacuation of children from blitzed London, on 13 June 1940, about 100 children and five teachers from Jews' Free School (JFS) in the East End embarked on the lengthy and exhausting train journey from Paddington to Penzance.

On their arrival, the JFS group was bussed to Mousehole, where the children were billeted with the villagers, and Jews' Free School, Mousehole, was established within Mousehole School. Synagogue services were arranged in the church hall at Paul, while many of the evacuees also attended chapel with their foster families, most of whom were strong Methodists.

Remarkably, the evacuees quickly integrated into village life, where they were introduced to swimming, sailing, sculling, fishing and mending nets. The extraordinary coming together of these two vastly different communities was a life-changing experience for many involved on both sides.

Seventy years on, these events and some of the children's memories have been recorded in the book *From East End to Land's End* by Susan Soyinka. The book is based on extensive interviews with evacuees and villagers, as well as on historical research. It is richly illustrated with personal photographs and mementoes, historical documents, newspaper articles and photographs of Mousehole and the Jewish East End.



Curiosity by Geraldine Underell

On 13 June 2010, some of the evacuees will be re-enacting the journey by train to Penzance. There will also be a lecture given by Susan Soyinka on **Tuesday 15 June**, to be held at Penlee House at 7.30pm (booking essential). The book *From East End to Land's End* is available from the Gallery shop and the author will be hosting a book-signing at Penlee House on 15 June. Please phone 01736 363625 for more details, or to book for the lecture.

Following on from this exhibition will be another mini-show, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Jubilee Pool. Running from 26 June to 18 September, this will include archival material alongside more recent images of the pool taken by Nik Strangelove.

If you know of an anniversary we should be celebrating or have a relevant pet subject on which you'd like to curate a mini-exhibition, please do contact us on 01736 363625 or email info@penleehouse.org.uk

BOOK, PLANT & CAKE SALE

The Friends are holding a sale of books, plants and cakes on **Saturday 14 August between 10.30am and 12.30pm** in Penlee Coach House (in Penlee Park, between the car park and Penlee House).

Donations of books, plants and cakes are requested, which can be delivered to the Coach House on Friday 13 August between 10.30am and 1.00pm. Alternatively, you can contact Tessa Garside on 01736 874747, Jenny Fitton on 01736 364477 or Maryella Pigott on 01736 810269 to arrange collection.

There will also be a Grand Raffle on the day for which donations of prizes would be most welcome. Last year £374.39 was raised in aid of the Friends' support for Penlee House acquisitions. We hope to do even better this year, so please help us with donations of items to sell or raffle, and come along on the day and grab a bargain!

CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS

Although at the time of writing we are busy recruiting for a replacement for Jonathan Holmes, whoever is in post will definitely continue running workshops for children during school holidays. If you have children in the family who are aged between 7 and 13 and you think they'd like to join any of our workshops, please get in touch and we'll add them to our mailing list so that they get information about what's coming up. To receive workshop information, please phone 01736 363625 or email info@penleehouse.org.uk, giving the name, address and current age of the child.

OUR DIRECTOR'S IN THE CHAIR

We are proud to announce that Alison Bevan, Director of Penlee House, has recently become Chair of the South Western Federation of Museums, an independent membership organisation covering the whole of the region. Alison is also the South West's representative on the Museums Association Council nationally, so Penlee House's fame is spreading far and wide.

PENLEE HOUSE IS ON FACEBOOK

One of our 'up country' members, Linda Dutton, has very kindly set up a Facebook page for Penlee House, where 'Fans' can share news, information and opinions. If you're a Facebook user, do please have a look and join our fanclub - and contribute your own comments, if you like: go to www.facebook.com and search for Penlee House.

PLEA FOR PRESS CUTTINGS

Between our 1300+ Friends, there must be readers of almost every regional and national newspaper and popular magazine. Staff are always alerted to coverage in the Cornishman, but are often unaware of articles mentioning Penlee House - or, perhaps more importantly, mentioning west Cornwall and *not* mentioning Penlee House! If you spot anything that mentions the Gallery, or that you think should have, we would be immensely grateful if you would send us a copy, in the first case so that we can keep it and in the second so that we can contact the author to make sure we're not overlooked again. Please address any cuttings to Sandra Paternotte here at Penlee House.

VICE-PRESIDENTS OF PENLEE HOUSE FRIENDS

We are very sad to report that Lord St Levan has resigned as one of our Vice Presidents due to ill-health. We have greatly appreciated his help, advice and enthusiasm for the aims and ambitions of Penlee House Gallery and Museum over the years. He has always been a great strength in giving us his support and his frequent presence at committee meetings will be greatly missed.

Our other two are Professor Ken Howard RA and Sir John Banham. The responsibilities and duties involved are not onerous; the principal responsibility is lending support to all that we strive to achieve for the benefit and improvement of the Gallery and Museum. This involves occasional attendance at our committee meetings (we have eight a year), help with fund-raising campaigns, being a quotable figure when we are fund-raising or promoting the gallery in some way. Obviously each vice president supports us in ways which come naturally to them: for example both John Miller, when he was a vice-president, and Ken Howard have donated paintings for us to raffle and Ken Howard has opened his studio for us on two occasions.

We are delighted to announce that Sir Geoffrey Holland has agreed to join Professor Ken Howard and Sir John Banham as a Vice President. He is well known in Cornwall for supporting many cultural initiatives, including playing a leading part in establishing the Combined Universities Cornwall, when Vice Chancellor of Exeter University (1994 – 2002). He also fulfils various national and regional roles, including – since 2002 – being South West Chair and national board member of the Museums Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), the governmental body overseeing all Museums. As well as being a Friend of Penlee House, he is co-founder and a trustee of the Little Parc Owles Trust, which has given several grants in support of our education work. We welcome Sir Geoffrey and look forward to his support in this new role for many years to come.

AN(OTHER) EVENING WITH KEN HOWARD

Some of you will remember a most entertaining evening enjoyed by over 60 Friends through the kind invitation of Prof. Ken Howard R.A. at his studio in Mousehole in September 2008. We are most fortunate to have been offered another evening event at the Mousehole Studio later this year.

The date for your diary is **Friday 24 September 2010, between 6.30 and 8:30pm**. The ticket price will be £12.00 per person to include a glass of wine and a delicious finger buffet.

Apart from the opportunity to see the studio itself, we will be able to view many recent works painted in Venice and West Cornwall. In addition, Prof. Howard will be talking about the studio building as well as the paintings on the walls, about which he has many amusing anecdotes. Paintings on display will be for sale.

To reserve your ticket, please contact Heather Corbett on 01872 553821. There is limited space available so do act quickly to avoid disappointment.

FRIENDS TO MEET FRIENDS

The first Coffee Morning of the year was hosted by Friends' Vice Chairman, Richard Clement, and his wife Pauline, at Kerris Vean, near Lamorna, on Wednesday 5 May. A full report will appear in the next ARTeFACT.

The second Coffee Morning provides another chance to visit Wheal Betsy, the unique former home of Newlyn painter Thomas Cooper Gotch, which is set above the town with panoramic views over Mount's Bay. Your hosts will be Friends' Secretary Ron Hogg and his wife, Pam Lomax. The date is Saturday 24 July, the time 10.30 til 12.30, and the cost £1.50. There are still a few spaces available.

We do need two volunteers to be Coffee Morning hosts in September and October. If you would like to promote 'Friends To Meet Friends', to book or enquire, please ring Janeve Bainbridge on 01736 753720.

A BIG THANK YOU

Our Treasurer, Ray Fitton, would like to express his thanks to all those Friends who responded to his plea for Gift Aid forms, and also to those who have switched their renewals to Direct Debit mandates. Gift Aid increases our income substantially, and Direct Debit processing greatly reduces our administrative costs, thereby enabling us to spend more of our funds on supporting Penlee House. If you haven't yet returned your forms, it's not too late - please send them to Ray Fitton, Penlee House Gallery & Museum, Morrab Road, Penzance TR18 4HE, or phone on 01736 363625 if you need copies of either form.

BAFM UPDATE

The British Association of Friends of Museums (BAFM) South West Conference will be held on 9 September 2010 at the Museum of Bath at Work. Details have yet to be finalised, so if there are any topics you would like discussed please let the Editor know and he will pass them on.

The BAFM National Conference will be held between the 24th and 26th September 2010 in the Isle of Man. Full details and a booking form will be enclosed in the spring issue of the BAFM Journal and on the BAFM website. A copy can be obtained from the Editor.

Friends with the technology might find a visit to the BAFM website of interest. The address British Association of Friends of Museums website address is www.bafm.org.uk

PRESIDENT'S SUMMER BUFFET LUNCH - UPDATE

Following the piece in the last edition of *Artefact*, we hope that not too many of you will be disappointed that we are now fully booked for the Summer Buffet Lunch to be held by Mrs. Elizabeth Bolitho, the Friends' President, at her lovely house and garden, Hendra, near Tremethick Cross, on Saturday 5 June. A waiting list is being kept in case of cancellations: if you would like to be added to this, please call Janeve Bainbridge on 01736 753720.