

## FOOD FORTHOUGHT

Have you considered that:

- at no extra cost to you, your annual subscription could stretch further and thus benefit Penlee House even more?

- you could save yourself the time and bother of remembering to renew your membership annually, writing cheques etc.?

- by paying by Direct Debit, you would have the full protection and assurance that the Direct Debit Guarantee gives, backed as it is by all banks and building societies that operate the scheme?

Administrative charges associated with collecting subscriptions annually eat into the amount the Friends have available to support Penlee House, whilst any increase in the number of Friends paying by Direct Debit carries no additional cost whatsoever.

A Direct Debit form is included with this edition of Artefact. If you do not already pay your subscription this way, please give some consideration to completing and returning the form to the Treasurer of the Friends of Penlee House. No money will be deducted from your account yet, but we will use the form to process your membership when it comes due in April.

## JOHN MILLER PAINTING RAFFLE RESULT

As Friends know, earlier this year Michael Truscott (on behalf of the John Miller Estate) donated to the Friends a most generous gift of a framed painting 'St. Mark's Square, Venice' valued at £2,500 to be raffled as part of our fundraising activities.

The Raffle Draw took place on 18 September 2009 at 7:15 pm at Penlee House. Magdalen Evans, the curator of the Marianne Stokes exhibition, did the honours and the winning ticket (number 03283) had been purchased by Astrid Grant from St Just. Many congratulations, especially since this is our first Raffle where the winner lives in Cornwall.

Through the continuing generosity and support of the Friends and visitors to the Gallery, we raised £2,404.30, which will go towards future purchases.



Clockwise from top left: Secretary, Vice Chair, Chair and committee member Owen Baker hard at work....

## A BUSY SUMMER FOR THE FRIENDS

There have been many social activities this year. These included something different – our first book, plant and bric-a-brac sale held in the Coach House in August which raised £374.39. Next year we will advertise this event more widely since it was such a success – the highlight being the bonus of home-made cakes which vanished in minutes!!!

Specially arranged tours, which were so successful as part of our BAFM Conference weekend, were run again for Friends. The first tour to Lamorna in May was over-subscribed, so a second tour was organised at very short notice. The Friends raised £45.60. Our grateful thanks to Liz Anderson, Adam Kerr and Keith Gardiner. Then, in June, Nick Thomas led another popular Archaeology heritage tour which included the Merry Maidens, Tregiffian, Boskenna Cross, St. Buryan Churchyard and Carn Euny and raised £70.00 for the Friends. Our ever-popular coffee mornings continued.

Maryella Pigott entertained 15 Friends in her lovely garden and house in May; Pam Lomax and Ron Hogg were our hosts in August at Thomas Cooper Gotch's house Wheal Betsy; and finally, Margaret Rogers had 12 Friends to her cottage in the Foage Valley between Zennor Hill and Trewey Hill. A total of £53.00 was raised for the Friends. We are extremely grateful for the support of our tour organisers, coffee morning hosts and all the helpers, which demonstrated how friendly the Friends really are!!!

If YOU would be happy to host a 'Friends to meet Friends' coffee morning next year – whether you live in a cottage or a castle – please ring Janeve Bainbridge at 01736 753720.

## FRIENDS OF PENLEE HOUSE 2009/2010 COMMITTEE

*President:* Mrs. Elizabeth Bolitho

*Vice Presidents:* Lord St. Levan, Sir John Banham, Prof. Ken Howard RA

*Chair:* Heather Corbett

*Vice Chair:* Richard Clement

*Secretary:* Ron Hogg

*Treasurer:* Ray Fitton

*Membership Secretary:* Jenny Fitton

*Programme Secretary:* Heather Corbett

*Committee Members:* Janeve Bainbridge, Owen Baker, Gill Cleave, Tessa Garside, Astrid Grant, Pamela Lomax, Maryella Pigott, Nick Thomas, John Wallis

*Penzance Town Council Nominees:* Cllr. Margaret Freeman, Cllr. Malcolm Lawrence, Cllr. John Moreland, Cllr. Judith Parkin

*Cornwall Council Nominee:* To be appointed

*Ex Officio:* Alison Bevan, Director



PENLEE  
INSPIRED  
EXHIBITION



SOCIAL  
HISTORY  
GALLERY  
REDISPLAY



GOLD AWARD  
FOR  
PENLEE HOUSE

# ARTEFACT

The Newsletter of the Friends of Penlee House Volume 3/Issue 10/December 2009

Since the last edition of Artefact, the Friends have helped Penlee House to make some major acquisitions. First, we were offered the chance to buy the wonderful painting *Eyes and No Eyes* by Frank Bramley at a relatively bargain price if we could raise the required sum within two weeks. Your Committee immediately agreed a substantial contribution (£30,000) which enabled the Director to secure the rest of the funding – which she did thanks to the generous support of The Art Fund and the V&A/MLA Purchase Grant Fund. *Eyes and No Eyes* is a painting Penlee House has been hoping to acquire for quite some time, since it is one of a small handful of major works produced by Frank Bramley during his years in Newlyn. Like his fellow Newlynians, he often depicted harrowing scenes of loss and tragedy, the best known of which are *A Hopeless Dawn* (1888), the iconic interior painting in Tate's collection, and *For Such is the Kingdom of Heaven* (1891), a vast painting of a child's funeral procession owned by Auckland Art Gallery, New Zealand. *Eyes and No Eyes* is a rare example of a jovial subject, with an old salt causing



entertainment by struggling to get his sail-mending yarn through the eye of his needle.

As Friends may recall, we have borrowed this work on two occasions, in 1999 and 2005. We had attempted to borrow it again in 2009, but it was unavailable as it had gone out of the country. As soon it became ours, it went on display and has already become a firm favourite with visitors, so it is likely to be almost permanently on show.

The Friends have also made an exciting outright purchase for Penlee: the Newlyn Silver inkwell inscribed 'The

Ship Institute Newlyn', which was the subject of much publicity earlier in the year. We were delighted to be able to acquire this beautiful and historic item and it now takes pride of place among the Newlyn-related objects in the Social History gallery.

During 2009, thanks to your support, we have secured these two important items – and many more, from paintings to a pocket watch, and Crysedde textiles to magic lantern slides – for Penlee and for the public. Thank you for enabling this to happen and please continue to help so that 2010 is another exciting year!

## the FRIENDS of PENLEE HOUSE

Gallery & Museum

ARTEFACT is published three times a year by and on behalf of the Friends of Penlee House. All correspondence should be directed to:

Richard Clement, Editor, ARTEFACT,  
Penlee House, Morrab Road,  
Penzance, Cornwall TR18 4HE  
Tel 01736 363625  
email: artefact@penleehouse.org.uk

## THE 'GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING'

As Friends of Penlee House, we already appreciate the benefits membership brings: free admission to all the gallery's exhibitions, invitations to private views and events, a stimulating programme of lectures and, of course, discount on a wide range of books and gifts in the shop.

Perhaps you also have friends or relatives with similar interests, who may even be occasional visitors to the Gallery and Museum, but have never got around to joining the Friends.

We all know people for whom it is difficult to choose a Christmas or birthday present they would like but don't already have. So, with Christmas on its way, have you considered giving Membership of the Friends as a gift? Your friends and relatives will be able to share all those benefits which we now enjoy, and our organisation will be further strengthened – numerically and financially – in its support of Penlee House. Your gift really would be one that "keeps on giving" – to the recipient, to the Friends and ultimately to the educational and cultural aims of Penlee House Gallery and Museum.

Without the Friends, the recent purchase of Frank Bramley's wonderful *Eyes and No Eyes* would not have been possible. We have a healthy number of memberships, but we cannot become complacent about the need to show support for the 'little gem' that is Penlee House – particularly in these times of credit crunch when arts budgets and grants are often the first onto the political chopping block. It would be fantastic if, during 2010, every member of the Friends could recruit another Friend – why not start at Christmas with the gift of Membership to someone on your present list? That's one way to promote a happy New Year for us all.

*Jenny Fitton, Membership Secretary*

## PENLEE INSPIRED

This Christmas, the exhibition on display showcases how our exhibitions and collections inspire both budding and established artists. Penlee Inspired includes work by adults and children produced in response to visits and workshops, much of which is shown alongside the source of its inspiration.

As always, there will be a strong selection of Newlyn School and Lamorna group works on show, both from our own collections and loaned works from previous exhibitions borrowed again, but these will be complimented by contemporary interpretations.

The exhibition runs from 5 December to 9 January and admission throughout this period is FREE, so bring your whole family for a Christmas or New Year outing. Also on show is our usual selling exhibition of work by Cornwall Crafts Association, and there are lots of new items and books in our shop, so you can even do your Christmas shopping while you're at it!



*'Gulls in Newlyn Harbour' by Jimmy Davenport, John Daniel Centre*

## CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

Please note that, as usual, Penlee House will be CLOSED from 24 – 28 December inclusive, and also on 1 January. We will be open as usual, Monday to Saturday 10.30 to 4.30 (last admission 4.00) at all other times. We wish all Friends a very happy Christmas and hope for a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

## SOCIAL HISTORY GALLERY REDISPLAY

During the autumn, Penlee's Social History gallery ('the museum bit') has been closed while frantic (and sometimes noisy) work has gone on to transform it, with the aim of bringing it up to 'Penlee standard'. The gallery has new walls, lighting, carpets and cases, all funded by the Heritage Lottery, while the displays have been masterminded by a team of talented volunteers from the local community.

Thanks to the input of Dr Joanna Mattingly (funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council through the University of Exeter at Falmouth), not only do we have more than double the number of items on display, but we have a wealth of fascinating facts and intriguing stories to go along with them.

Each of the displays looks at a different theme, using a particular place as its focus. One display is about Humphry Davy and the Penzance of his time; another looks at Penzance's history as a cosmopolitan and cultured market town. St Michael's Mount and Mousehole represent the area's trading history, while St Just is the chosen hub for mining heritage and St Buryan represents farming. Finally, Land's End and Sennen are the focus for a look at tourism, and Newlyn is spotlighted for fishing. Meanwhile an old favourite – the display on the Penzance Natural History and Antiquarian Society – has not been forgotten: it is still in situ, but with some weird and wonderful additions!

One of the aims of the redisplay was to make the space as flexible as possible, so that new items can be incorporated, and mini social history exhibitions presented. The first display includes a section about Madron workhouse, an amazing early aluminium bike built in Penzance and a classic 19th century diving costume. Future plans for exhibitions include a celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Jubilee Pool, an exploration of St Just's cultural history and a commemoration of the centenary of the Fishermen's Mission. If you have suggestions for future themes, please let us know!

The Preview of the redisplay on Friday 4 December also sees the unveiling of the Object Project's 'Cabinet of Curiosities', which was created by the community with the help of poet Sally Crabtree and Penlee House. Containing a video screen and a memory jukebox, the cabinet includes songs, poems, stories and animations that have been inspired by objects discovered during the project.

At Penlee House, we know that paintings can tell stories, but objects can sometimes be just as eloquent: come along and see for yourself!



## NEW EDUCATION SPACE

One of the exciting new developments at Penlee House over the past few months is the addition of a space in which to hold workshops and meetings. Earlier in the year, the old Playgroup in Penlee Park ceased to operate and the building reverted to Penzance Town Council (who own and operate Penlee House). With customary support for our activities, the Council agreed for us to take over this delightful space, which – at the suggestion of one of the Friends' Committee – has been christened Penlee Coach House. The space has already proved a great boon, and various events, workshops and activities have been going on there ever since we took possession of the keys. Your Committee and the Director are now looking for funding to turn it from good to perfect... watch this space!

## EVENTS FOR THE FAMILY

On Saturday 5 December, we are holding an 'Object Project' family day in the Social History gallery. Artist Diane Spiers and poet and songwriter Sally Crabtree will be on hand to inspire young and old to get creative and have fun: it's all FREE, so do come along and bring the whole family.

We've also got two children's workshops (for ages 7 - 12) in the lead-up to Christmas. On Saturday 12 December, Anita Pryor will lead a workshop on table and tree decorations, and on Saturday 19 December, she will be inspiring participants to create shine and sparkle wrapping.

Workshops run from 10.30 to 12.30 and from 2.00 to 4.00, and cost £3.00 per child per workshop. Booking is essential (and pre-payment is required to secure a booking), so if you'd like to come along, please phone us on 01736 363625 or call in to Penlee House.