

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10



QUALITY
TOWN
COUNCIL

A WORD FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the fifth Annual Report of Falmouth Town Council.

In recent times the Council has sought to be more proactive in the services it provides, services that should recognise the needs of the community. To that end the Council has undertaken a wide range of consultation exercises and gained community feedback in a variety of guises.

These reviews of the year and general information on the work of the Council have been positively received and I hope that you find this fifth review as informative.

Councillor G F Evans
Town Mayor

CONTACT DETAILS

Falmouth Town Council
Municipal Buildings
The Moor
Falmouth
Cornwall
TR11 2RT

Telephone: 01326 315559
Facsimile: 01326 312662
Email: emily@falmouthtowncouncil.com
Website: www.falmouthtowncouncil.co.uk

SURGERIES

Regular Councillor resident surgeries are held every last Friday in the month (10 am to 1 pm) at the Municipal Buildings and are supported by the Police, Cornwall Council Highway representatives and Cornwall Councillors.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Falmouth Town Council was formed from the former Falmouth Borough Council on Local Government Reorganisation in 1974.

Falmouth was formed by Royal Charter in 1661.

Falmouth is formally twinned with Douarnenez in Brittany and Rottenburg (Wumme) in Germany and is encouraging informal cultural links with Vilagarcia, Spain.

RECENT AWARDS OF COUNCIL PLAQUES

2006	PC Andy Hocking	Community Hero Award
2006	Tony Slocombe	Long serving Gardener at Kimberly Park
2007	Ivor Bray	Services to Community Theatre
2007	Chris Tagg	President of Falmouth University Student Union
2007	Esther Pollard	Falmouth Ambassadors Customer Service of the Year

RECENT AWARDS OF 'HONORARY' FREEDOM OF THE TOWN

2004	29 th Infantry Division of the United States of America
2005	Merchant Navy
2007	RFA Mounts Bay*

*Falmouth is formally affiliated to the RFA vessel Mounts Bay and her Officers and crew enjoy a close association with the Town.

TOWN MAYORS SINCE 1974

1974	G.V. Davey CC
1975	G.H. Symonds CC
1976	K.H. Townsend
1976-78	G.F. Evans CC
1979-81	Mrs. O.C. White
1982	P.B. Tierney
1983	H.W. Smith
1984-85	D.P.C. Martin
1986	R.C. Hicks
1987	H.W. Smith
1988	J.B.A. Beresford
1989-90	G. Harrison CC
1991-92	Mrs. O.C. White
1993-94	G.F. Evans CC
1995-97	Mrs. B.D. Bowers
1998-99	D.N. Breacker
2001-02	G.F. Evans
2002-05	Mrs. M. Davies
2005-06	R.J. Bonney CC
2006-2009	M A Varney
2009 – present	G F Evans C.C

A full list of Mayors and Aldermen since 1661 is available from the Town Council.

TOWN CLERKS SINCE 1974

1974-1979	D. Hall
1979-1996	E.G. Dawkins
1996-1999	P. Fraser
1999-2002	R.H. Blezzard
2003-Present	A.M. Williams

MISSION STATEMENT

Council Mission: to democratically represent the community of Falmouth as the first tier of local government in order to articulate the needs and wishes of the community, through a process of community engagement. To work in partnership with principle authorities and strategic agencies to ensure the best possible provision of services and amenities for the community. To provide leadership, cohesion, vision and identity for our community.

Council Vision: to improve the quality of life for the residents of Falmouth by promoting economic regeneration, community values, well-being and pride in Falmouth in order to ensure a vibrant and sustainable community.

Council Vision Outcomes:

- Community- an area that supports safe, empowered, thriving communities
- Health- an area where people are healthy, active, valued and engaged
- Energy- an area that seeks low- and renewable-energy solutions
- Environment- an area that values, protects and enhances its unique environment for the benefit of all users
- Learning- an area that embraces education for all as the key to economic and cultural well-being
- Employment- an area that provides employment and progression opportunities for all
- Infrastructure- an area where infrastructure supports the needs of all members of the community

Objectives/Core Activities:

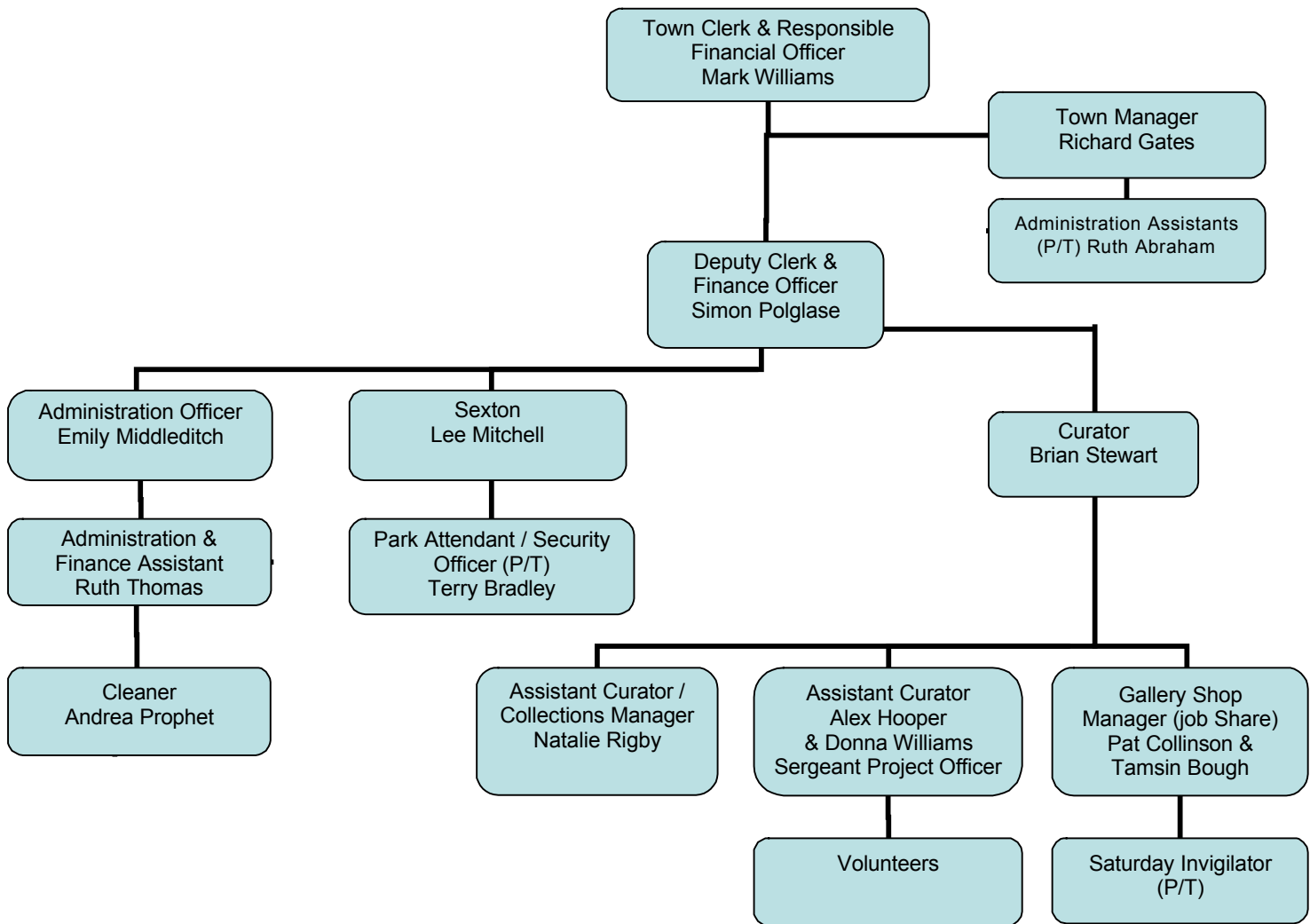
- Providing and supporting good quality recreational facilities
- Supporting local businesses and commercial activity
- Acting as the local Burial Authority
- Providing and supporting heritage and culture, including town events
- Providing and supporting community activity and regeneration
- Supporting the provision of affordable housing
- Contributing to community safety and crime reduction
- Be a responsible employer and ensure continued development of employees
- Providing democratic representation of residents and encouraging a dialogue with residents to better understand their needs and keeping them informed
- Protect and improve the maritime and historical heritage and environment of Falmouth whilst promoting sustainable and necessary development
- Developing partnerships for shared priorities with the public and private sector to pursue devolved and joint delivery of service for the direct benefit of the community

STATISTICS

Total Electorate	16,982
Total Population	19,855
Area	776 Hectares
Visitors	98,228

*Footfall of visitors to Falmouth Tourist Information Office in 2009

STAFFING STRUCTURE



Macebearers: Mr. T. Pond, Mr S Pond and Mr. R. Gardner
Town Crier: Mr. R. Gardner

Internal Auditor: Mr. B. White

Contact the Town Manager at:
34 Church Street, Falmouth, TR11 3EF
Telephone: 01326 313553 email: richard@falmouth.co.uk

Contact the Sexton at:
Cemetery Lodge 28 Pennance Road, Falmouth, TR11 4ED
Telephone: 01326 314752 Fascimile: 01326 312662

Contact the Art Gallery at:
Municipal Buildings, The Moor, Falmouth, TR11 2RT
Telephone: 01326 313863 Fascimile: 01326 318608 email: curator@falmouthartgallery.com

LIST OF COUNCILLORS AND CONTACTS

Falmouth is divided into four wards:

ARWENACK WARD

O.K. CRAMP

16 Harbour Terrace
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 2AN
Tel: 316400

MRS. M. DAVIES

Tophouse, 5 Seaview Road
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 4EF
Tel: 312508

G.F. EVANS

19 Arwenack Avenue
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 3JW
Tel: 311543

MS. D MERRETT

18 Trelawney Road
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 3LX
Tel: 212097

MRS. M. RYAN

8 Carrick Road
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 4PQ
Tel: 312450

PENWERRIS WARD

I.J. BODY

4 Carrick Road
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 4PQ
Tel: 219229

G.W. CHIN-QUEE

29 Old Hill
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 2PR
Tel: 212526 (mobile: 0758 8879 703)

DR. D.A. STERRATT

27 Turnaware Road
FALMOUTH, Cornwall. TR11 4PH
Tel: 318633

D. NOAKES (until January 2010)

1A Swanpool Street, Porthaven House,
FALMOUTH, Cornwall. TR11 1HU
Tel: 0797 443 7097

BOSLOWICK WARD

MRS. J. BOOTH

18 Kings Avenue
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 2QJ
Tel: 219205

B. ELLIOTT

Joshah, 6 Boscundle Avenue,
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 5BX
Tel: 319702

S.D. EVA

34 Trescobeas Road
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 2JG
Tel: 311539

A.J. JEWELL

Pennance Mill Farm, Maenporth Road,
FALMOUTH, Cornwall. TR11 5HJ
Tel: 317431

TRESCOBEAS WARD

A.K. AYRES

5 Manor Close
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 4LE
Tel: 315507

MRS. A.J. BIGGINS

7 Bosmeor Road
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 4PY
Tel: 318096

MRS. V.E. EVA

34 Trescobeas Road
FALMOUTH, Cornwall, TR11 2JG
Tel: 311539

POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL

Liberal Democrat Members (3)

Councillors O.K. Cramp, Mrs. M. Davies and Dr. D.A. Sterratt

Independent Members (8)

Councillors A.K. Ayres, Mrs. A.J Biggins, I.J Body, Mrs J Booth, B. Elliott, S.D. Eva, V.E. Eva and Ms. D. Merrett

Conservative Members (3)

Councillors G.F. Evans, A. Jewell and Mrs. M. Ryan

Labour Members (1)

Councillor G.W. Chin-Quee

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Art Gallery Committee (8)

Chairman: Councillor Mrs M Davies

Vice Chairman: Councillor G.F. Evans

Members: Councillors A K Ayres, Mrs A J Biggins, G W Chin-Quee, A.J. Jewell, Mrs M A Ryan and Dr D A Sterratt

Finance and General Purposes Committee (16)

Chairman: Councillor Mrs V.E. Eva

Vice-Chairman: Councillor A.K. Ayres

Members: All other Members of Falmouth Town Council

Planning Committee (8)

Chairman: Councillor Mrs J. Booth

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Ms D. Merrett

Members: Councillors J Body, O.K. Cramp, B. Elliott, S.D. Eva, Mrs V E Eva, and D. Noakes

(Nb: Councillor Elliott resigned in August 2009, Councillors Body, S.D. Eva and Mrs V. Eva resigned in December 2009 and Councillor Noakes departed the Council in January 2010)

Staffing Committee (7)

Chairman: Councillor Mrs A.J. Biggins

Vice Chairman: Councillor Mrs M. Ryan

Members: Councillors J Body, G.W. Chin-Quee, Mrs M Davies, B Elliott and G F Evans

For up to date information of Committee Membership etc visit www.falmouthtowncouncil.co.uk

WORKING PARTIES

Trescobeas	Councillors A K Ayres, Mrs A J Biggins, I J Body, G W Chin-Queen, S D Eva, Mrs V E Eva and Dr D A Sterratt
Kimberley Park Working Party	Councillors I J Body, O K Cramp, S D Eva, D Noakes and Dr D A Sterratt
Falmouth Cemetery Working Party	Councillors I J Body, Mrs M Davies, G F Evans, Dr D A Sterratt and M A Varney (until June 2009)
Quality Council Working Party	Councillors Mrs J A Booth, G W Chin-Queen, Mrs M Davies, S D Eva, Ms D E Merrett, D Noakes and M A Varney, and, Lorely Lloyd –Transition Falmouth
Bowling Green Play Area Group	Arwenack Ward Councillors
Finance Sub-Committee	Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee and Councillors A K Ayres and Ms M Ryan

REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Arwenack Community Group	Arwenack Ward Members
Age Concern	Councillor Mrs V E Eva
Beach Management Group	Councillor A J Jewell
Bowling Green Residents Group	Councillor Mrs M Davies
Carrick Community Alliance	Councillor G W Chin-Queen
Carrick Urban Safety Partnership	Councillor D Noakes
Carrick Planning Forum	Councillors S Eva and Mrs J Booth
Carrick CCTV Committee	Councillor Ms D Merrett
Cornwall Association of Local Councils	Councillor D Noakes
Cornwall Association of Larger Councils – Local Councils Committee	Councillor S D Eva
Downings Charity	(Mayor (Ex Officio) Councillors D Sterratt, J Body, & Mrs J Booth
Earle's Retreat	(Mayor (Ex Officio) Councillors Mrs M Ryan, Mrs J Booth and D Merrett

Fairtrade Steering Group	Councillors G W Chin-Quee, D Sterratt, A K Ayres, Mrs M Davies and S Eva
Falmouth Transport Infrastructure Group	A K Ayres, Ms Merrett, Mrs J Booth, Mrs M Davies, O K Cramp, S Eva and Mrs V E Eva
Falmouth/Penryn Joint Committee	(Mayor, Deputy Mayor) Councillor D Sterratt and J Body
Falmouth Conservation Area Committee	Chair and Vice Chair of Planning Committee)
Falmouth Gardeners & Allotment Society	Councillor J Body
Fal and Helford SAC Management Committee	Councillor D Noakes
Fal and Helford Advisory Committee	Councillor D Noakes
Falmouth in Bloom	Councillor Mrs M Davies
Falmouth Youth Club	Councillor A K Ayres
Falmouth Citizens Advice	Councillor Mrs A J Biggins
Falmouth Twinning Association	(Mayor (Ex Officio) Councillors Mrs J Booth, D Noakes, A K Ayres & O K Cramp
Jeffery Foundation	(Mayor) Councillor D Sterratt
Maritime Trust	Councillor D Noakes
Maritime Line Working Party	Councillor Ms Merrett
Mencap	Councillor Mrs V E Eva
Moor Piazza Stakeholders Group	Mayor
NHS Consultation Group	Councillor I J Body
Parks and Gardens Consultative Group	Councillor D Sterratt
Rural Transport Partnership	Councillor Mrs J Booth
Swanpool Nature Reserve	
Town Centre Forum	Councillor G W Chin-Quee (substitute Chairman of Planning Committee)
Tourism Action Group	Councillor A K Ayres
Vilagarcia Cultural Links	(Mayor) Councillor O K Cramp

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MEMBER ATTENDANCES FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2009/10

Councillor	Attendance	%	Apologies	Reason
A K Ayres	22 from 24	92	2	2 x holiday
Mrs A J Biggins	28 from 28	100	0	
I J Body	30 from 35	86	5	2 x holiday / 1 x family commitments / 1 x ill / 1 x work
J Booth	35 from 37	95	2	1 x sons graduation / 1 x family commitments
G W Chin-Quee	21 from 24	87	3	2 x ill / 1 x course
O K Cramp	29 from 35	83	6	1 x ill / 3 x holiday / 1 x council business / 1 x family commitments
Mrs M Davies	28 from 28	100	0	
B Elliott	20 from 29	69	9	3 x holiday / 3 x family bereavement / 2 x ill / 1 x intention to resign
S D Eva	32 from 35	91	3	3 x holiday
Mrs V E Eva	28 from 31	90	3	3 x holiday
G F Evans	26 from 28	93	2	2 x holiday
A Jewell	13 from 16	81	3	1 x work / 2 x another meeting
Ms D Merrett	37 from 37	100	0	
D Noakes	9 from 23	39	2	2 x work / 12 x no reason
Mrs M Ryan	25 from 28	89	3	1 x family business / 2 x ill
Dr D A Sterratt	18 from 24	75	6	3 ill / 3 work
M A Varney	4 from 5	80	1	1 x civic engagement

Attendance at Councillor Surgeries:

May 2009	Councillors Mrs Davies & Mrs Biggins
June 2009	Councillors Chin-Quee & Elliott
July 2009	Councillors S.D. Eva & Evans
August 2009	Councillors Ms Merrett & Ayres
September 2009	Councillors Body & Mrs Davies
October 2009	Councillors Cramp & Mrs Ryan
November 2009	Councillors Mrs Biggins & Mrs Booth
December 2009	No surgery
January 2010	Councillors Jewell & Mrs Davies
February 2010	Councillors Evans & Ayres
March 2010	Councillors S.D. Eva and Body
April 2010	Councillors Ms Merrett & Cramp

COMMUNITY POLICING

Your Police service based at Falmouth has gone from strength to strength over the past twelve months. Up until October 2009 we were responsible for covering Falmouth, Penryn, Mylor and out to St Day. Since October 2009 we have inherited a large proportion of the Helston police sector and so now we also take in north of the Helford, taking in Constantine, Rame, Stithians upto St. Day. This of course includes Mabe, Budock and Mawnan.

I reported to you at the same meeting that over the previous 12 months we had started to see over the previous twelve months a significant drop in crime due to local changes in the way that we policed Falmouth but we were not being complacent. I put into effect after consultation with my staff, local structures and policies which we hoped would make things improve further. In 2007, the Falmouth police sector was the worst performing sector of the twelve in Cornwall but since that time and with the changes made including the increase in the number of officers by five and a change of mindset we have improved massively. Prior to taking on the new large Geographic sector in October and consequently Helstons crimes we had improved to the best sector within Cornwall. With the additional size of area we have still managed to stay in 4th place. This is testament to the hard work of my team who are also now working in partnership with other key stakeholder and partners within the community.

At the start of the year Falmouth sector was given some challenging targets in relation to crime reduction to achieve.

They are broken down as follows for the whole sector.

Violent Crime – 9%
Vehicle Crime – 2%
Burglary Dwelling – 28%
All Crime in total – 10%

I can tell you that for Falmouth only, (not the whole sector) we have reduced violent crime by 27%, vehicle crime by 22.7%, burglary dwelling by 21.6%, criminal damage by 29.9% and all crime by 25.8%.

In terms of detection's the whole Force was set targets of

Violent crime – 55%
Vehicle crime – 11%
Burglary Dwelling – 20%
Criminal Damage – 15%
All Crime – 33%

Our detection's are

Violent crime – 63.2%
Vehicle crime – 28.4%
Burglary Dwelling – 13.6%
Criminal Damage – 16.2%
All Crime – 35.8%

This means that since 2006/07 crime has been reduced in Falmouth by 34.4% which means that there are 791 less victims of crime per year within Falmouth in the past 12 months as there were then. We live in a very safe place compared to many places within the county and the country. I can assure you that these figures will stand up to scrutiny and all crimes are dealt with as per Home Office Guidelines and comply with the National Crime recording standards as they did then.

So, moving away from pure crime. What else have we been doing? Well your Neighbourhood Team have been working hard over the past 12 months to deal with longer-term issues that affect you all. There have been large changes within the Falmouth PACT process where we the police and the town council no longer lead. The PACT process is now all-inclusive and no longer exclusive. The communities from all three wards can now be heard and certainly the feedback I have received has been positive in the main. The Chair is a well-known local CEO and Falmouth Town Bandleader, Paul Wickes. I would like to publicly thank him now for his work over the past twelve months. He is a truly able man and brings his expertise to bear on a process that is new to him and I know it has been a steep learning curve for him. His prime goal is to make the process work for the good of the people in Falmouth and he holds the partners to account. That includes the Police you and us as elected Councillors. Like my team, and me you and us are here to serve and I believe that as partners we are doing that. The PACT meetings are held once every quarter and rotate around the wards and are being held at different times of the day to accommodate as many people as possible. Paul Wickes in my opinion is doing a fantastic job to facilitate and is passionate about the town. The Falmouth model is now being held up as best practice in terms of PACT within Devon and Cornwall.

Another great success has been the partnership between yourselves (The Falmouth Town Council), us (the Police) and Falmouth and Penryn Churches Together (FPCT). The finances made available by the Town Council, ourselves in terms of providing training and radios and most importantly the volunteers from FPCT, who are out in all weathers between 2200 hrs – 0300 hrs every Saturday evening has meant Street Pastors have been on Falmouths streets since the start of December 2009. They are warmly welcomed wherever they go, have assisted many, many people and it is no co-incidence that the Accident and Emergency Department at Treリスケ has seen a decrease in the numbers of people admitted from Falmouth on a Saturday evening since December. I must thank the Management Committee for their continued work, with Town Clerk, Mark Williams, representing yourselves.

So what of the next twelve months? Well, I am here to stay (unless anyone knows any different!) and I guarantee that I will not be having any accidents with lorries to take me out of the game for three months. I truly love my role and I hope to continue in it for a considerable period of time. I have been in post now for 2 ¼ years and have learnt a lot. One of which, (despite trying – my wife tells me I am very trying!) is that you cannot please everyone all of the time.

Well firstly, we will continue to drive crime down and detect as many crimes as possible and bring people to justice. I don't believe we can take our eye off the ball in that area. If we do then other problems will manifest themselves. However, I do believe that the rate of improvement will slow, as you cannot keep improving *ad infinitum*.

What I do intend to drive and try to improve on is our public confidence agenda. This is where we put our customers at the heart of everything we do, whether we are engaging with communities, dealing with individuals, reducing crime or tackling anti-social behaviour.

Every officer and member of my staff has a part to play in ensuring that we not only provide a high quality policing service but that we also reassure the public that we do and inform them of the results.

There are **five main areas to improve public confidence**. These five areas put the people we serve at the centre of what we do.

Engage fully with the community

- Be visible, to be there when needed – I allocate my staff to be in the right place at the right time based on all sorts of evidence.

- Communicate with members of our local community - using leaflets, newsletters, the neighbourhood policing website, Red Times/Red Zones and the media to tell people what we are doing.
- Listen to the concerns of local people - hold regular public meetings with partners to agree local priorities, and when on patrol take the opportunity to listen to people's concerns.
- Understand the issues that affect the community - knowing what our local PACT priorities are and ensure the community are aware of the outcomes of cases.

Treat people fairly

- Deal with the public in a fair, polite way; be friendly and approachable.
- Deal with dissatisfaction at the first opportunity and make sure that it is acknowledged within 24 hours of being reported.
- Ensure all my team have an understanding of the complaints procedure. If they know what it is then hopefully, they should not fall foul of it.
- Not being reluctant to apologise if our service falls short of what we would expect.
- Understanding individual needs.

Dealing effectively with crime

- Prioritise the issues the community wants tackled first.
- Continue to allocate areas of responsibility to my team to deter offenders, gather intelligence and reassure the community.
- Ask victims and witnesses how often they want to be updated and the best method to do so.
- The public has told us that the 'You matter, we care' leaflet we distribute does make a difference, improving their satisfaction of our service.
- Thinking about how we can work with partners to reduce crime and disorder and use not just our powers but our partners too.
- Ensure regular tasking meetings between partners.
- Train my staff to know how to improve satisfaction levels.

Alleviate ASB in local communities

- Use the PACT process to identify and understand local ASB priorities.
- Use key times/key zones to provide reassurance where ASB is being committed.
- Think about how partners can work with us to provide long-term solutions.
- Update victims and witnesses soon after the ASB has been reported.

Tell people what we have done

- Use the communication methods outlined above to:
 - Ensure victims and witnesses are regularly updated on individual cases.
 - Inform the general community about individual arrests and brought to justice outcomes and the wider work that we are doing to reduce crime and disorder.
 - Reassure people that Falmouth is a safe place to live.
 - Reassure people that crime and anti-social behaviour is low
 and finally,
- Consider how we can reduce the fear of crime in our communication

Your worshipful the mayor, town councillors, the public and media I commend this report to you.

Inspector John Trott
Falmouth Police Station

TOWN MANAGEMENT

Town Manager Annual Report (Richard Gates started in post 15/12/10)

Pre Christmas I met the majority of the traders within the town. This continued into January to build rapport with as many stakeholders as possible.

My first focus has been communication across the town in an electronic format to be more proactive and re-active. This process was not in place before I started in the role. Ruth and I have established this database during January and February; it continues to develop and is currently around 250 contacts. We have so far sent out information such as an events list for the year, cruise ships calls as well as traders meeting minutes. There has been a positive reaction from traders and there is much more we can do to improve this for the future.

Vacant sites. The primary focus has been on the Woolworths site. I am in regular contact with the letting and management agents and the site is currently going through the legal process with a new tenant who will be a value retailer.

The roadworks in High Street which, have run very smoothly, although there has been disruption to the stakeholders affecting their business, all involved have worked together to help as much as possible. I have tried to accommodate all points; concerns raised and deal with accordingly in a professional manor. Examples of this are adapting the electronic screens entering the town, working with the press as well as frequent communication with the traders. The Shuttle Bus has had an agreement to continue into a second year with funding from Cornwall Council and Falmouth Town Council.

We have started our plans for Christmas 2010 much earlier, with meetings beginning in January which will continue throughout the year giving more impact and organisation to the festive period.

I have worked closely with Cornwall Council, Cory Environmental, Police, Press as well as the local community to improve the standards within the town. This has been a great success so far but has a long way to go. There are many areas that still require focus including private land such Falmouth Town railway station.

In my role as Town Manager I have worked with many organisations to build up contacts and communication such as Chamber of Commerce, Falmouth BID, Henri-Lloyd Falmouth week, Falmouth and Penryn Community plan, Falmouth PACT, Falmouth Town Forum, Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together, Cornwall Marine Network and Fair Trade. I also chair the monthly meetings of the Christmas Working Group and organise the Traders meetings. I liaise with the markets to ensure these continue to develop and most recently the artists market that is moving to The Moor on 21st March.

Working with Ruth from the Town Council and Image Delivery we are revamping the town guide for this year to show what Falmouth has to offer and the positives of the town. Please note this list is not exhaustive.

THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW COUNCIL/CIVIC

A busy year for me and the Town Council with my election to Town Mayor commencing unusually from mid July 2009 following the resignation of the previously elected Town Mayor. I have been ably assisted by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor John Body, fellow Councillors and Reverend Barrington Bennetts my Chaplain. My charity is the very worthy Age Concern and through various events and the generosity of many, I hope to have raised a significant amount during my year in office. My civic diary has been full and I have attended too many events to recount here. However, to give you a flavour of the past year:

During May the Falmouth and Penryn Community Plan went out to public consultation through a special edition of Fathom which was delivered to households, community groups, campuses and local businesses in both Falmouth and Penryn. The long awaited multi screen Phoenix Cinema opened its doors this month giving locals and visitors alike a wider choice of activities to choose from which is great for Falmouth. An inaugural meeting of the Youth Council that aims to give the towns young people a say on projects and issues that affect them made political history and proved to be a great success.

In June the future of the successful Shopper Bus was secured for at least twelve months as a result of funding from Cornwall Council which was matched by the Town Council. The bus has made the town much more accessible and has built up a mix of regulars and visitors alike. Another hugely successful Sea Shanty Festival took place which has become one of Falmouth's main events.

Following years of pressure by the Town Council to restrict traffic movements in the main shopping street an automatic Rising Bollard on Church Street finally became operational in July. The Street Pastors Launch took place, an initiative that the Town Council has fully backed. The Street Pastors will be an asset to the Town engaging with people on the streets by providing and offering help to anyone in need. The Town Council supported an inaugural National Servicemen Day event that provided an opportunity to show appreciation for National Servicemen who served their country between 1939 to 1960.

August was a busy month all round. Falmouth Week was another great success and drew thousands into the town. The Red Arrows were a huge crowd puller and an absolute highlight to the week. Following the local By Election Alan Jewell, the Conservative Party Candidate was elected to the Town Council and will represent the Boslowick Ward. Further I am pleased to report that the BID Scheme has received continued support and has been boosted by voluntary donations from small businesses in Falmouth.

September was an exciting month all round. Falmouth claimed a gold award, a top trophy and praise for one of its primary schools at this years South West in Bloom Awards. The awards clearly represent what can be achieved when local authorities work with communities and partnering organizations. Despite being the first time that Falmouth Cemetery had been entered into the Cemetery of the Year Awards 3rd place was secured. The redevelopment of the Trescobeeas recreational space at Lambs Lane was celebrated this month with a Paint Party to mark the start of the next phase of improvements. My Civic Service took place and I would like to thank all those that supported me, this was an important day for me as I was not elected into office at the usual Mayor Making Ceremony.

Falmouth was in the spotlight throughout October commencing with Veterans, Civic Officials including the Mayor of St Nazaire and Members of the St Nazaire Society gathering to commemorate the extraordinary personal sacrifice and bravery of those who took part in operation chariot. Both the Oyster and Beer Festivals drew huge crowds into Falmouth and both received extremely high attendances by visitors and locals alike.

In November I was delighted to attend the Art Gallery's official opening 'Celebrating Cornwall's Stained Glass Heritage Project. The Stained Glass Windows, aided by grant funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund have transformed the foyer of the Municipal Buildings. The end of the month saw yet another successful Christmas Parade which was well supported despite the inclement weather.

A special Christmas Festival took place in the town in December with the High Street hosting an inaugural glitter parade. Amongst the festivities the official Falmouth and Penryn Community Plan Launch took place. The Plan was prepared solely by the communities of the two towns and is the first to be prepared since the change to a unitary authority in Cornwall. The Town Manager David Pollard retired this month and his replacement Richard Gates was welcomed to the team.

In the New Year the Town Council and the BIDS company came together with Cornwall Marine Network to form a partnership to promote business training and funding in the town. It is hoped that the funding will help kick start new skills training during these difficult times. On behalf of the Town Council and Art Gallery I was honoured to receive a personal invite to the prestigious 2010 Launch of Kids in Museums Manifesto held in London at the British Museum.

Councillor Geoffrey Evans C.C

ART GALLERY COMMITTEE

1. Grant aid

1.1 This past 15 months has been the gallery's most successful in terms of the acquisition of important works and external funding. Much of this support is from outside of the county, and will help to support Cornish businesses and artists. The funding is for specific additional community projects or acquisitions. This has been achieved during a difficult period when the Heritage Lottery Fund has been rejecting 85% of applicants. The gallery would particularly like to thank the Mayor, Councillor Geoffrey Evans and the Art Gallery Committee for their invaluable support.

2. The John Singer Sargent Project

2.1 The gallery has now begun work on an important two year project to help promote Falmouth's rich artistic heritage. The John Singer Sargent Project involves the acquisition of a masterpiece of world importance, an exciting two year exhibition and community education programme, as well as the creation of a temporary post in Falmouth of a Project Officer.

2.2 Staff worked hard for over a year to raise the funding for the ambitious project. To date the gallery has been successfully awarded grants of £253,500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, £62,000 from The Art Fund, £20,000 from the MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund and has received additional financial support from the Cornwall Heritage Trust, members of the Hemy family and local donations.

2.3 The masterpiece the gallery is going to acquire is the oil painting, ***Portrait of Charles Napier Hemy RA RWS 1841-1917 by John Singer Sargent RA RWS 1856-1925***, which was offered to the gallery for £285,000, considerably below the market value.

2.4 Interviews for the post of HLF Sargent Project Officer were held on Monday 11th January. Donna Williams was the successful candidate appointed by Councillors. The Staffing Committee also interviewed a candidate in Japan through Skype – a first for the Council.

3. Thomas Gainsborough acquisition

3.1 The gallery has been selected by HM Government to permanently house a major masterpiece by the famed English portrait painter Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788).

3.2 Gallery staff wrote a detailed document making a special case to the Museums Libraries & Archives Council explaining why the portrait should be housed in Cornwall. A panel of the country's leading experts recommended to the Government that the picture be allocated to the gallery, after it was recognised as being of major international importance and accepted by HM Government in Lieu of Inheritance Tax.

3.3 Gerry McQuillan from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council commented: *“This magnificent portrait by one of England’s greatest portrait painters, Thomas Gainsborough, shows the artist at the height of his powers. The Acceptance in Lieu Panel considered it to be of pre-eminent importance and was impressed by the application made by Falmouth Art Gallery for permanent allocation.*

3.4 The stunning work, entitled *Portrait of the Rev. Isaac Donnithorne (1709-1784)* was one of Gainsborough's most expensive commissions. Isaac Donnithorne was a member of an important and historic Cornish family who ran Polberra, one of the richest mines in Cornwall. His father Nicholas Donnithorne was High Sheriff of Cornwall in 1731. The family lived at Trevellas Manor near St Agnes and it is likely that this painting was commissioned to hang there.

4. Darwin 200 Celebrations

4.1 The project has been completed and has exceeded all expectations. The following has been achieved:

Exhibition visitor figures:	44,159
Falmouth Art Gallery community and education visits:	4,721
Added value in volunteer hours: (according to HLF formula)	£55,181
Total Media Reach:	12,098,000+
Total visitor figures for Darwin 200 Project (including Newquay Zoo):	208,041

4.2 The gallery celebrated Falmouth's role in the Darwin story with four celebratory exhibitions.

4.3 The gallery's research team headed by Michael and Linda Bickford were able to locate the spot from which Darwin left Falmouth, after *The Beagle* moored in the Fal following its epic and historic five year journey. Darwin left from The Royal Hotel at Fish Strand on the Royal Mail coach. This site is now the premises of HSBC bank. With the kind support of the HSBC bank manager Steve Martin the gallery has erected a Cornish granite plaque to mark the occasion. It was designed and fitted by local craftsman Robert Lawrence, monumental mason using local granite.

5. Celebrating Cornwall's Stained Glass Heritage

5.1 The end of this three year project was marked with a huge community launch party hosted by the Mayor. It took place on Friday 5 November, the 15th anniversary of the Heritage Lottery Fund and provided an opportunity to thank them for all that they've done for Falmouth. A delegation from the Heritage Lottery Fund's office in Exeter travelled down for the event.

5.2 Over 250 people gathered from across the country for the day's event. The opening speeches were provided by The Mayor, Hilary Bracegirdle, a Trustee of the Heritage Lottery Fund and Dea Birkett, Director of Kids in Museums.

5.3 Special needs groups from Falcare, Falmouth Marine School and Cornwall College were presented by the Mayor, Councillor Geoffrey Evans, with special certificates and prizes as a thank you for all of their hard work. The groups, local families and other guests enjoyed making stained glass greeting cards and HLF birthday badges.

5.4 One of the highlights of the day was a musical performance by Esteban Antonio, who has performed with George Michael and written film music for Johnny Depp. He has been described by *The Observer* as 'one of the greatest guitarists of our century', and was awarded a scholarship to the Royal College of Music at the age of 9. He played to visitors the Ha-Shem, a new musical instrument he designed himself, before he premiered it in Hong Kong. It was made in Cornwall by Stephen Hill and is a 17 string double necked guitar with harp section. Esteban played his own composition written about the Cornish sea in front of sea paintings by Kurt Jackson, Sir Frank Brangwyn and Charles Napier Hemy.

5.5 The day's activities were documented by children from 'KC Talk' (the TV station of King Charles Primary School) and by Radio Cornwall for the Tim Hubbard Saturday Show.

5.6 Dea Birkett, Director, Kids in Museums, commented on the project:

"Wouldn't it be wonderful if the whole world was like Falmouth Art Gallery where everybody was included? A huge number of people have been involved in this project – 120 babies, artists, different agencies, young people, children – and everyone of them makes it very special. Hundreds of people have got their hands dirty, literally, to make this project work. This is a beacon of how things can be done."

6. New acquisitions

6.1 The Art Fund has chosen Falmouth Art Gallery to house a major collection of master prints and works on paper bequeathed by Mrs Naomi G. Weaver, a passionate art collector and Art Fund patron. The group of 37 works by some of the leading artists of the 20th century includes Edvard Munch, Pierre Auguste Renoir, Raoul Dufy, Henry Moore OM CH, Eduardo Chillida, Prunella Clough, Barry Flanagan, and Barbara Rae CBE RA.

7. Loans

7.1 The gallery has now administered over 550 loans to accredited museums. Last year important loans were made to: Groeninger Museum, Amsterdam; The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Canada; The Collection, Lincoln; Penlee House Museum & Gallery; Southampton City Art Gallery; Royal Cornwall Museum; and Charnwood Museum.

8. Renewal of VAQAS Quality Assured Visitor Attraction Status

8.1 The gallery has been awarded Visitor Attraction Quality Assured Status for the second year running after receiving a glowing report from the *Visit Britain* inspector who considers it to be one of the best maintained galleries he has ever visited.

8.2 The inspection was once again very thorough with anonymous site visits and a series of test telephone enquiries.

9. Professional development and training

9.1 Brian Stewart has successfully met the stringent standards to become a Fellow of the Museums Association. He has also been awarded an Honorary Fellowship by University College Falmouth in recognition of his achievements in exhibition curating and has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) which for 250 years has encouraged forward thinking and been a force for social progress.

9.2 Natalie Rigby has now been awarded an AMA (Associate of the Museums Association) after completing her three year course and facing a professional review panel. Natalie has also attended a course entitled 'Managing your finances' which included an LSC qualification which is equivalent to a refresher Maths GCSE as well as 'Introduction to Excel' and 'Introduction to Project Management' courses.

10. Volunteers

10.1 It was an excellent year for our volunteer and work placement programme. Volunteer contributions calculated by Heritage Lottery Fund formula for the Darwin 200 project came to a total of £55,181.40.

10.2 The gallery successfully hosted a number of work placements over the last year. Louise Krogstriis, an MA student from Leicester University, completed an eight week placement over July and August. Students Peter Barclay, Suzanna Haynes and Julia Molland completed two week placements as part of their courses at University College Falmouth and Truro College.

11. Renaissance museums survey

11.1 In a survey carried out by Mori of museum public awareness in the South West the highest levels of awareness were achieved by Falmouth Art Gallery and SS Great Britain, both of which outperformed government funded Renaissance Hub museums.

12. Falmouth Art Gallery exhibitions

12.1 Over the last year temporary exhibitions have featured over 214 works from the town's permanent collection. In addition a number of educational groups have booked to view specific collections such as The Surrealists, Masters of Photography, The Art Fund Hugh Stoneman Archive and the Master Print Collection.

13. Falmouth Art Gallery website

13.1 Improvements to the website continue. Families can now access the community gallery showing works produced during our workshops. Now that our collection is online under 'Artist's A to Z' we are creating subject indexes such as 'The children's illustration archive', 'Local views', 'Art Funded works', 'Masters of photography' etc.

13.2 On advice from Dea Birkett, Director, Kids in Museums, the gallery has created pages on social networking sites Twitter and Facebook. The twitter page (www.twitter.com/FalmouthArtGall) currently has 487 followers which increases daily by approximately 5-10 followers. The Facebook page (www.facebook.com/FalmouthArtGallery) has 205 fans, with one fan from Spain posting photos taken during an exhibition in the gallery.

14. Education

14.1 In October 2009 the gallery enjoyed one of their most successful half terms with 1,141 visitors participating in the celebrations for the 15th anniversary of the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Campaign for Learning's 'Family Learning Festival'. In addition 259 people took part in a range of creating workshops including badge making, penguin collages, Picasso portraits and mask making. All the activities were funded by the Campaign for Learning (£500) and the gallery also received £250 from the Heritage Lottery Fund when they were selected as one of four venues in the region to mark their 15th anniversary.

14.2 The gallery has also staged a number of successful talks from staff as well as distinguished outside speakers including: Dr Anthony Philips, Antony Fagin, Mark Webster, Susanna Webster, Dr Joanna Henley, Michael Bird and Mark Norris.

15. Kids in Museums

15.1 The Mayor of Falmouth was invited to attend on behalf of the gallery and the town the 2010 launch of the Kids in Museums Manifesto at the British Museum in January. The event was also attended by Rt Hon Ed Balls MP, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, Ed Vaizey, the Shadow Minister for Culture and Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum. It is an honour to receive this personal invitation to this prestigious event. The Mayor also attended the 2009 launch at the Royal Academy where Falmouth Art Gallery was the only museum to be mentioned by the guest speaker Mariella Frostrup, when she highlighted the gallery's 'baby paint' sessions and work with children.

16. Services in Art Gallery

16.1 Colin Brown, a Church Army officer, was licensed as 'Creative Arts Evangelist' by Bishop Tim of Truro at a special service held at the gallery on 20 July. The acoustics in the gallery were excellent and the service was extremely well attended.

16.2 Colin trained and worked as a commercial artist prior to becoming a minister. He continues to paint, exploring the spiritual aspects of art. The focus of his work is to help those who might not normally go to church to explore faith through art.

16.3 Colin also recently read the Gospel Lesson at the Mayor's Carol Service which was held in the gallery on 9 December.

17. NIRU approval

17.1 The gallery has now been recognised as a National Import Relief Unit approved trader by HM Revenue & Customs and can import artworks from abroad.

18. Excellent museum recognition

18.1 The Museums Association has nationally praised Falmouth Art Gallery for excellence. The *Excellent Museum* recognition was given by Mark Taylor, Director of the Museums Association.

18.2 Falmouth Art Gallery has been selected as one of a handful of small museums across the world as a case study in a 'Small Art Gallery Best Practice Research Study' being conducted by the international museum planning firm, Lord Cultural Resources who are based in Canada. The firm are working in collaboration with the Prairie Art Gallery to conduct an evaluation of best practices in selected international art institutions. John Rubino of Lord Cultural Resources, Canada has recently contacted the gallery to begin his intensive research.

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Cornwall Council has now been up and running for almost 12 months and the Town Council are continuing to pursue assets and services to be delivered locally within the Falmouth Community.

The Council has a track record of financial prudence and is continuing to work closely with the community. This is still being demonstrated in regeneration schemes like the Trescobeas Recreational area, footpaths in both the cemetery and Kimberley Park, input to events and others including the new cemetery provision, which the community advised was a priority and the Council will be pushing to secure in 2010/11.

The community is also regularly updated via Fathom, Residents Surgeries, our website and consultations.

Councillor Ayres has been working closely with the Town Clerk to revamp the Town Council grant system. They are working on new application forms to simplify the application process for small community grants and for more detailed information for events grants. Events grants will receive match funding from BIDS.

The Town council is working with BIDS for the benefit of the town and its traders.

The shuttle bus is still proving to be a great success and the Town Council are supporting its continuity.

The Falmouth and Penryn Community Plan has now been completed setting out the 15 year vision of the community.

Councillor Vicky Eva
Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

PLANNING COMMITTEE

I was fortunate to be elected as the Chair of Falmouth Town Council Planning Committee in June 2009, following the resignation of the Chair, Councillor Stephen Eva, who continued as a Committee Member. Councillor Diana Merrett was duly elected as my Vice Chair. Councillor Oliver Cramp is also a valued member of the Committee.

The new Planning Protocol is working well and the process is getting smoother.

There have been several very sensitive applications before the Committee in the past few months, and we have had numerous members of the public attending Committee meetings to speak on these applications. Although sometimes challenging, I believe that we have dealt with all applications in a thorough and 'professional' way. On a couple of occasions we have requested that a Senior Planning Officer attend to be on hand in case more Professional advice is required, they were quite happy to do this and if we need this assistance again in the future, I am sure that we will be able to request their attendance again.

I took the Falmouth Town Council Planning Committee and the Deputy Town Clerk to meet the Planning Officers at Truro on the 23rd February 2010, as I thought it would help to forge a good working relationship with the Officers. They appreciated that we had taken the time to visit their offices and it seems to have been a very worthwhile exercise.

We continue to take advantage of planning training, and the Committee attended an extremely informative course last week at Helston Town Council, given by Deborah McCann – Planning Consultant.

The Planning Committee are continuing to move forward and are being proactive in undertaking positive engagement with developers at an early stage of consultation. We have also been busy assisting members of the public who have come to the Planning Committee for advice and assistance with their applications, or any applications which may affect them. We are always keen to carry out site visits of any significant developments, large or small, to ensure that we have a full understanding of the impact that application will have on the surrounding area. We also engage with the Planning Officers to get their views on the applications and then discuss the application at the Committee meeting. We are then in a position to make an informed decision and vote on the application accordingly.

Following the publication of the Falmouth and Penryn Community Plan last year, there were four objectives identified in the document relating to ‘Accommodating Our Community’. They are:

1. Ensure that new housing development and planning policies properly serve the needs of our community.
2. Influence and guide housing design and construction in our community.
3. Address the unique demands for accommodation placed on Falmouth and Penryn as university towns.
4. Make our communities stronger and more connected.

We have already started work on item 3, and are in discussion with various Stakeholders and Partners in producing a Policy document which will start to address this Objective. Over the coming months we will continue to work with other Councils, Officers and interested parties to ensure that we continue to address the concerns raised by the public in this consultation.

All in all, a very busy time for the Planning Committee and we look forward to the challenges that the next year will bring to Falmouth Town Council Planning Committee.

Residents of the Town who have any concerns relating to Planning issues can contact their Ward Town Councillor or County Councillor, a member of the Planning Committee or contact the Falmouth Town Council offices.

Councillor Jenny Booth
Chair of Falmouth Town Council Planning Committee

STAFFING COMMITTEE

I make no apology for starting my report in the same way that I usually do: The Committee is responsible for overseeing the Council’s most important resource, its staff and ensuring correct procedures and policies are in place in the working environment. This is reflected in one of the Councils objectives: Be a responsible employer and ensure continued development of employees.

The Council has welcomed a new Town Manager, Mr Richard Gates, who has made a very positive start to his role. I wish David Pollard well in his retirement and thank him for his efforts, as I do with Rosa Skinner who ably assisted the Town Manager and who has found employment elsewhere. Unfortunately budgetary restrictions means that that post has remained vacant for the time being.

Heritage Lottery funding has ensured that the efficient Donna Williams will continue at Falmouth Art Gallery. We were also able to embrace technology by interviewing a candidate remotely via the skype system, a new experience for us all. Brian Stewart the Director also received an Honorary Degree to recognise his contribution to the arts in Falmouth. Cornwall Council has still not got to grips with active partnering to identify the enhanced role of the Town Council in local service delivery. The Council has therefore set a business as usual budget but will need to be reactive to that when it is decided.

Councillor Mrs Allyson J Biggins
Chairman Staffing Committee

TOWN COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor O K Cramp

During the year I have represented the Council on the following bodies:-

Town Forum

This group consists of representatives of business and other organisations in the town.

Topics covered have included:-

The Community Plan, where members have played a key part.

Traffic and Car Parking policy and the shuttle bus.

Politics, where prospective parliamentary candidates were each invited to a meeting to give their views and answer questions.

Planning, including the proposed Board walk.

CALC - The Cornwall Association of Local Councils

Most local town and parish councils belong to this group, which enables them to work together on issues of common interest and concern. CALC has become even more important since the One Cornwall reorganisation and the move towards 'Localism' which will give local councils more responsibility in the years to come. In connection with this I have also represented the Council on CALC's Larger Town Councils group which is a division of CALC where the larger towns discuss common issues and meet Cornwall Council representatives.

Local Councils Planning Liaison Group.

This is a group run by Cornwall Council's Planning and Regeneration Department.

The main aim is to agree the framework under which Cornwall Council and town councils will work jointly on planning matters and to up-skill local councils so that they can play their full part and be able to take greater responsibility in the future.

Falmouth and Penryn Regeneration Group.

I was recently asked by the Mayor to chair this group.

The function of the group, at which Cornwall Council officers are strongly represented, is to plan for the future of the two towns, in particular to make the best use of SIF funding from Europe, with a wide ranging brief covering the Docks, Industry, CUC, Transport and Employment. It does not cover Tourism.

2009/10 GRANT AWARDS

APPLICANT	<u>GRANT (£)</u>
Royal Naval Association (Sea Sunday)	700
Falmouth Youth Club	1000
Bosvale Community Centre	1000
Citizens Advice Bureau	1000
Cornwall Blind Association	250
Cornwall International Male Voice Choir	1000
Young Generation	200
Fal River Festival	250
Falmouth Shout Sea Shanty Festival	1000
Cornwall Film Festival	750
Falmouth Spring Flower Festival	1000
Carnon Carers	150
Shoreside – Falmouth Week	1000
LLAMA – Trescobeas Fun Day	515
Falmouth & Penryn Boxing Club	1000
Pendennis Brass	954
Royal Naval Association (Sea Sunday) additional request	250
Street Dance Project – Falmouth School	300
Fal Fibro Friends	55
Falmouth and Penryn Sea Cadets	1000
Over 60's Friendly Club	250
Falmouth Town Youth Football Club	300
Aberfest	55

COUNCILLOR SURGERIES

As part of Quality Status requirements the Council introduced surgeries in October 2005. These are held on the last Friday of every month and enables residents to attend to raise issues with their Town Councillors. Surgeries are also supported by attendance of Community Police, Cornwall Council Highway representatives and Cornwall Councillors.

Surgeries have proven to be very popular with many residents attending and a huge range of issues being raised. Items that are regularly raised are:

- parking and traffic congestion
- anti-social behaviour including late-night noise
- public transport and bus shelters
- civic pride including cleansing, weeds and litter
- seagulls
- licensing changes

If you have an issue you wish to raise with the Council, or the Council can take up on your behalf, then speak with your local Councillors at the next surgery.

Mark Williams
Town Clerk

FALMOUTH AND PENRYN COMMUNITY NETWORK MANAGER REPORT

Background

Community Networks across the county are reaching the end of their first year. The last year has been spent building relationships with town and parish councils, Cornwall Councillors, together with community groups and the wider public. It is hoped this will provide a firm foundation for working together to face the challenges ahead. This has proved difficult during a time of recession and extreme budget pressures in all areas of the community but it is only by working together that service providers will be able to deliver for their communities. Below are just a few examples of the work undertaken in the last year.

Local management of assets

There has been a focus on assisting the town council in its endeavours to ensure that local asset management is explored with the unitary authority. Assets for which local management has been progressed include the Moor and the building which it occupies. Although conclusions are yet to be agreed, this has set the scene for considering other areas where local management could play a key role. Further efforts will continue during the 2010/2011 financial year on this substantial piece of work.

Establishment of the Falmouth and Penryn SAFE partnership

Very early on it is apparent that work to develop activities for young people to encourage them to adopt a healthy and positive lifestyle would be a priority for local agencies to continue to work together on. The Community Network area is fortunate to have many enthusiastic and energetic people who are working together. A key group that as Community Network Manager I am working with is the Falmouth SAFE partnership. This includes the police, fire service, youth team, extended services for schools team, Dracaena Centre staff, schools themselves and other community groups who are delivering projects and developing further ones for the future.

Supporting the work of Cornwall Councillors

As a Community Network Manager, many of the meetings I need to attend are in the evening to support community groups, residents coming together, and parish and town councils. Work generated by these meetings can often be as a result of issues drawn to the attention of Cornwall Councillors and a significant part of my time has been spent pulling together colleagues and agencies to work together to seek solutions to local problems. There is no short cut to building a relationship with local councils, councillors, agencies and community/voluntary groups and this will continue on a rolling basis as time allows.

Supporting local partnership working

The PACT (Partners and Communities Together) process is a good example of how Community Networks can support colleagues in other agencies to develop local working. In Falmouth, the Community Network now provide the administrative support to PACT and organises officers from within Cornwall Council to attend as needed. Work to expand the issues being explored at the PACT meetings will continue in the year ahead.

Another good example would be the partnership between Cornwall Council and Falmouth Town Council to deliver Town Management functions. Cornwall Council contributed this year to the funding pot and the function of town management is held locally by the town council.

A further example would be the work undertaken to secure a significant reduction in the cost of collective BID (Business Improvement District) levy fees to allow the BID to direct its resources to local needs.

Local consultation

The Community Network is beginning to provide a focal point for local consultation on a number of key strategies being developed at present. Two such examples that will shortly be brought to the local community for consideration are the Local Development Framework and Sustainable Community Strategy. Locally held meetings will help gather area based information to influence how places are shaped over the coming years ahead.

Community Chest grant scheme

Another significant area of work for the Community Network has been to support the process of awarding grant funding to local groups and organisations via the Community Chest grant scheme. Cornwall Councillors have received a large number of applications between them and this work will continue into next financial year. Many local groups have been supported and some money is still being distributed.

Scott Sharples, Cornwall Council

FALMOUTH AND PENRYN COMMUNITY PLAN

Over the past year an almost unique exercise has been taking place. During this time, at the request of both Falmouth and Penryn Town Councils, members of our community have been canvassing views and opinions which have now been assembled into a vision for our future – The Falmouth and Penryn Community Plan.

The reason this Plan is unique is because this is the first one that encompasses the entire area and covers all the issues which concern people as opposed to previous Plans which have focussed on specific areas only. Critically, it is a ground up document, direct from the people of this area, not a top down interpretation of our needs by outside consultants. It is something that Councillors and other enablers of Policy can refer to with confidence.

The Plan represents the views of around 1,100 people who contributed either through paper responses from the Fathom community newsletter, through visits to the drop in centres we established, the Topic Group Multiplier events held at various venues in the area and by direct approaches to members of the Community Plan Management Group. To each and every one of you I extend heartfelt thanks. When Falmouth Town Forum and Penryn Vision started on the road to preparing this document we had little idea of whether the outside community would embrace it. That so many people came forward and gave their time both enthusiastically and willingly is gratifying.

The other reason that the Plan is important is that it coincided with the move to Unitary Status in Cornwall. Falmouth, Penryn and the 9 adjoining Parishes now form a Community Network Area and our Plan, which encompasses this area exactly, is perfectly placed to inform County Councillors and our Community Area Network Manager as to those issues which are most pressing in their own backyard.

So, where next?

The completed document was launched in December by Cornwall Council's CEO, Kevin Lavery, at the National Maritime Museum Falmouth to an audience of Councillors, Council Officers, members of the various Agencies who are in a position to enable the delivery of key features of the Plan, the Press and the public.

After a Christmas breather, the Management Group is now refining the overall document, which contains over 200 aspirations, into a prioritised list of those things that are easily deliverable in the short term, major projects which require strategic vision in the medium and

longer term and finally over arching views of the public on matters such as sustainability which need to be a common theme cutting across all of the initiatives.

Additionally we are looking at appointing someone to act as a research monitor, whose job will be to watch emerging Policies at County, Town and Parish and ensure that these take cognisance of the views of the public as expressed through the Plan document.

The Management Group itself will be enlarged to include elected Members and others who are in a position to directly implement the Plan findings. Previously it was felt important, not least by Councillors themselves, that the Plan process was divorced from them, so that it can be viewed as a true community based exercise.

The project has been supported both in kind, and financially, by Falmouth Town Council, Penryn Town Council, Cornwall Council, former Carrick District Council, Falmouth Harbour Commissioners, University College Falmouth Falmouth Town Forum, Penryn Vision and those of us involved in the Plan preparation are grateful to them for their unstinting support.

The Plan can be seen at Falmouth and Penryn Town Libraries and online at www.falmouthtowncouncil.com.

Christopher Smith

Chair, Falmouth and Penryn Community Plan Management Group

FAIRTRADE COMMITTEE

Fairtrade Fortnight: A lively team arranged a variety of 'A Taste of Fairtrade' events around Falmouth during Fairtrade Fortnight (22nd Feb to 7th March). Data from the latest survey of retailers (organised with the Town Manager), and from local consumers will be available asap. A recipe book has been produced with offerings from Fairtrade Foundation and the Head Chef of the Greenbank Hotel.

Several organisations are steadily progressing in becoming Fairtrade; the local Churches becoming a Fairtrade Churches Together, University College Falmouth becoming a Fairtrade University and St Marys School a Fairtrade School.

Last year Fairtrade Falmouth with Falmouth Town Council encouraged Central Government to establish a Supermarket ombudsman for ensuring a strong emphasis on fair trading for local and global growers and suppliers. We are pleased to report that an ombudsman has been appointed.

This year Fairtrade Falmouth is anxious to start to broaden its activities in encouraging, thoughtful and ethical purchasing, for people and the planet, local and global.

Lorely Lloyd

FALMOUTH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

The Association has enjoyed a successful year, with many fund raising events, mainly in order to entertain our French 'twins' in September 2009, of whom some 30 arrived! Our accommodation officer had great difficulty in finding hosts for them but after much gentle persuasion, and finally slight coercion, achieved her goal and all our guests were well pleased with their accommodation. We arranged a comprehensive programme for the visitors, including both leisurely and cultural activities. The visit culminated with a splendid civic reception, hosted by our Mayor, at the Falmouth Marine Bar and Restaurant, to which Councillors were also invited. Our esteemed Mayor caused some confusion during the official speeches by 'marrying up' the Douarnenez

Mayor with somebody else's wife, which caused great amusement, thankfully, amongst everyone, not least the parties concerned! All agreed it was one of the best exchanges thus far.

On a sad note, we lost our long serving Treasurer, Bill Harris, who died in April last. Bill and his wife, Jill, had given great dedication to the Association over twenty plus years and their joint input to FTA is much missed. During the past two weeks, we have also lost, through death, another long-standing lady member.

Twinning was 'born' from an idea by the late Sir Winston Churchill at the end of World War II, when he urged the people of Britain to become 'friends' with our former enemies (the German nation) and allies (French) and twinning became a popular way of achieving this. Many of us in Falmouth have certainly made some very firm friendships over many years.

Turning briefly to this year's activities, we are expecting a delegation (number, as yet, unknown) from Landkreis Rotenburg, which is due to arrive in Falmouth in early May and the committee are currently busy organising what, we hope, will be an interesting programme.

In order to host these people as 'grandly' as they host us, we have to arrange a large sum of money. We are grateful to Falmouth. Town Council for the small grant they award the Twinning Association and I think this reflects the importance the Council attaches to the whole Twinning concept.

All Councillors are very welcome to attend any of our fund raising events, the second of which thus far this year, will be a coffee morning to be hosted by Cllr. Evans here in the chamber on 23rd March, commencing at 10.00.am.

On a final note, membership of the Association is open to everyone -- young and old alike but we **would** like to see a few new, young, faces!

Councillor Maureen Davies,
Secretary, Falmouth Twinning Association

TRANSITION FALMOUTH

As part of The Falmouth and Penryn Community Plan team, Transition Falmouth were very pleased to be able to contribute to the long term aspirations for a resilient future and look forward to further involvement.

Transition Falmouth has for three years been active in awareness raising about 'peak energy resources, climate change and economic issues, but as these issues and importance are becoming mainstream concentration is being focussed on practical projects and partnerships.

A group of students have recently started very successful, regular (every 3 weeks) community meals at The WI with films, talks and a shared meal attended by members of the local community and students.

For more information: 01326 317587 lorely@transitionfalmouth.org.uk

COMMUNITY BATTERY RECYCLING

1,200 kgs have been collected from the two recycling tubes purchased by Falmouth Town Council, organised jointly by Transition Falmouth and Falmouth Residents Association and sited in Falmouth and Boslowick Post Offices in 18months.

New European legislation, requiring retailers to take back used batteries, will hopefully reduce the need for volunteers to continue the community scheme.

There will then need to be a focus on recycling of light bulbs especially the low energy bulbs.
Lorely Lloyd

COMMUNITY ALIVE EVENT: MAY 2010

This event is being organised to engage all sectors of the community to celebrate 'community capital' and is aimed to be the first of many. Free food, entertainment, and information will provide a hospitable and enjoyable environment for meeting and sharing ideas and hopes. The Community Plan display will be available as will information about many organisations. A database of all activities, projects and organisations, formal and informal is to be collated.

A marquee on The Moor and the whole of the Methodist Church is being made available.

For more information, bookings, to offer support and ideas:
01326 317587 lorely@transitionfalmouth.org.uk

THE DRACAENA CENTRE

Our charity objects are to "To increase the health, employability, skills, leisure opportunity and ultimately long term quality of life for the residents of the community to be achieved by enabling people to have better access to services and facilities such as advice, guidance, recreation, healthy eating, employment and training.

As well as providing these services for the local and broader community we aim to support those disadvantaged within our society including; people with disabilities, young people, people with literacy and numeracy issues, ex-offenders, lone parents, carers and returners to work. "

The support we have received has given us the capacity to develop a significant number of new relationships with community and statutory organisations and during our first year of service we have delivered a wide range of activities. These include:

Youth drop-in sessions; Martial arts; Conferences and staff training; Computer courses; Adult health; Art workshops; Dance Workshops; 1st aid courses; Youth café; Multi sports; Theatre; Homework club; Football academies; Client interviews; Community fun days; Brass band practice; Bingo and Private bookings

What difference are we making?

Our first year of 'trading' as The Dracaena Centre has been both challenging and exciting. Our key priorities have been to promote our new focus and to invite the local and broader community into the Centre to enjoy the numerous activities on offer.

- we are delivering activities and events in partnership with 15 other organisations
- we have signed 3 service level agreements with both statutory and voluntary sector organisations
- over 50 organisations have used/are using the Centre to deliver their programmes
- we have delivered our first newsletter to 11,000 homes in Falmouth
- we have hosted a number of conferences for the voluntary, statutory and private sectors
- the first floor has been completed and is in use 70% of the working week
- we have created 3 casual part time jobs and enlisted the services of 7 volunteers

Youth Cornwall have a full time position in the building and are delivering programmes

Our first year has seen:

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	"Turnstile"	"Individual"	Been before	New visitors
Oct-08	2	6	8	8	8	0
Nov-08	35	35	70	70	0	70
Dec-09	66	41	107	107	0	107
Jan-09	150	79	442	251	19	232
Feb-09	202	59	608	305	96	209
Mar-09	224	115	886	383	121	262
Apr-09	141	90	711	287	106	181
May-09	416	413	1446	873	220	653
Jun-09	712	745	2003	1457	270	1167
Jul-09	271	302	996	591	217	356
Aug-09	167	118	754	303	144	141
Sep-09	219	233	1133	558	221	426
Totals	2605	2236	9164	5193	1422	3804

Key stats			9164	5193		
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What Works!

A warm welcome.....

We have seen a steady increase of users/visitors to the Dracaena Centre over the first 12 months. It is of the highest priority that all of our visitors are well received and have a positive experience at the Centre. Feedback demonstrates that our staff and volunteers create a welcoming and supportive environment for the users of our wide range of activities with our "nothing is too much trouble" approach!

Partnerships.....

Working in partnership is one of the keys to our success. We are continuing to set up service agreements with a number of statutory and voluntary organisations. Our integrated Centre maximises its benefits to the community by providing a 'one stop shop' for a wide range of services and gives our partners a fixed base from which to operate to compliment their peripatetic working practices in the area.

Talking to people.....

Through our Partnership and Collaborative working practices we are able to identify the kind of activities the young people in our community would like to access. Young person consultation has resulted in our delivery of:

- Street Dance project
- FLAVA dance workshop
- Street art
- DJ activities
- Youth drop-in
- Archery (due to start November 2009)

A wide range of activity.....

It is important that people coming to our Centre are able to see the other activities on offer for themselves, their family and friends or their neighbours. We try to provide (from our own resources and through other organisations) a diverse range of opportunity. If someone asks us if we run a specific programme and we don't, we try to find out how we can make it happen.

The next 12 months

There are some further exciting challenges ahead of us to ensure stability and sustainability for the Dracaena Centre to allow us to continue to serve the local and broader community.

- We will continue to raise our profile and ensure that all our partners, participants and visitors are able to recommend the venue to their colleagues
- Continue to develop the menu of activities delivered at the Centre
- We need to be able to offer our community wider professional services from the first floor facilities
- Further funding needs securing to allow us to put in post a sports development officer
- Forge more Partnerships with the statutory, public and voluntary sectors
- Secure funding to allow us to deliver more training programmes for those in our community who are not in employment, education or training
- Look to possible sources of funding/part funding for Centre Manager
- Successful funding bids to allow free/significant subsidy for community activity
- Develop further corporate partnerships - we recognise that we require ongoing support from a variety of sources if we are to continue to make a success of our community resource

FALMOUTH HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS **EXTRACT FROM 2009 ANNUAL REPORT**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The past year has been a positive one in progressing the Board's strategic aspirations. The increase in staff levels during 2008 and 2009 has resulted in a more resilient Organisation which has made positive progress towards improvement in all key areas whilst at the same time ensuring that the Organisation is operating with a healthy surplus.

GOVERNANCE

A full analysis has been undertaken of the new guidelines issued by the Department for Transport in October 2009. In general, the Board had few difficulties in meeting the standards required but there were certain very specific guidelines that the Board are currently unable or consider to be unrealistic for an Organisation of this size. The guidelines have flexibility to accommodate this and require ports to either meet the standards or explain why they are not doing so. Any instances where FHC is not following the guidelines will be explained in the full annual report.

VIABILITY

The diverse business mix of the Commissioners has performed well during 2009. Although there has been a global downturn in shipping which has reduced the trading fleet by 10 – 15%, our commercial shipping activities have held up well. Pilotage figures have been boosted by vessels going to and from lay up berths and harbour dues by vessels remaining in Falmouth Bay for extended periods. Leisure activities met budget expectations despite the impacts of the recession and poor summer weather.

The Commissioners have committed substantial resources to ensuring the future viability of the Port and have worked in partnership to progress the Port Of Falmouth Development Initiative. There has been substantial costs committed to this project including the cost of

application for the necessary consent applications and for ongoing environmental consultancy work in support of these applications. The Board has also funded specific legal advice relating to state aid and ports policy issues as well as agreeing funding the port masterplan in 2010.

SAFETY

The Harbour Safety Management System has been audited against the updated Port Marine Safety Code which was issued in October 2009. It will be audited against the revised guidance in 2010. A key strand of risk management in the harbour is communication and consultation with stakeholders. FHC participates in a Estuarial Safety Management Committee which includes advisory members from a wide variety of activities undertaken within the Estuary. The advisory members are invited to attend an annual meeting where feedback on all aspects of safety management is received. Issues raised are considered by the core members of the marine safety committee during the next year.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

FHC has been partnered by the University of Plymouth in a Knowledge Transfer Partnership. The aim of the project has been to assess the impact of activities undertaken within the Harbour on the environment. The study has been undertaken by Harriet Knowles, a graduate environmental scientist who has been appointed as a full time member of FHC's staff for the duration of the project. Supervision has been provided by academics at Plymouth University with a range of relevant expertise.

STAKEHOLDER BENEFIT

The Commissioners have committed substantially to support projects providing benefits to the community and their wider stakeholders. The most spectacular of these was doubtless the appearance of the Red Arrows during Falmouth week. Additionally the Commissioners contributed both time and funding towards the Falmouth and Penryn Community Plan.

February 2010

EARLES RETREAT

There is not a lot to report on the Retreat, other than this continues to be a very well run, happy community for people in their twilight years. Whenever a flat becomes vacant - and that is not very frequently we are able to re-allocate fairly quickly. Over the past twelve months we have had three vacancies, one occasioned by the death of a resident and the other two caused by two residents being admitted to residential care. All flats are well maintained by their occupants, of which they are very proud.

Our Warden is second to none and organises many activities for the residents, including keep fit sessions, regular weekly (Tuesday) lunch in the common room, outings to restaurants and coach excursions in the summer. They have also just purchased a wii system, which they are enjoying and hope to progress to some of the more sophisticated activities in time.

The garden at ER is well maintained by a gardener, supported by some of the enthusiastic gardeners amongst the residents and this work is rewarded by annual recognition in the Falmouth in Bloom competitions; this year will, we hope, be no exception as it is the intention to enter again.

Councillor Maureen Davies
Chairman of the Board of Trustees