

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Cultural Services Committee held on 24th January 2022 at 6.00 pm in the Atherton Suite, The Old Post Office, The Moor, Falmouth.

Present: Councillors K E Edwards (Chair), L D Coley, D V Evans BEM, B M A Ross, E E Seiler and Z Young.

Councillors S D Eva (to point mentioned), J S Kirkham CC and J M Spargo also attended.

In Attendance: A M Williams (Town Clerk)
H M Boex (Director of Cultural Services)

A901 APOLOGIES

An apology was received and approved from Councillor Chin-Quee (Covid isolating).

A902 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

A903 MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Ross and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th October 2021 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

A904 CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT

The Director of Cultural Services presented her report that was duly noted and forms part of these minutes. Further she updated on Princess Pavilion operation, events and the delegated management and operational function within Cultural Services.

Councillor Eva left the meeting during the above item.

It was proposed by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Chin-Quee and

RESOLVED that

- (i) A session be arranged for all Councillors at the Dracaena Centre to view and receive a presentation from the youth services team.
- (ii) Regarding the composition and role of the Committee then the Cultural Services Director facilitates a vision exercise as part of the next scheduled meeting.
- (iii) The Town Clerk requests Cornwall Museums Partnership to help facilitate the recruitment of the Cultural Services Director role.
- (iv) Short terms aspirations to include: a review of the Committee composition to inform the wider Council Committee review; the Princess Pavilion Working party to consider and inform the site operation contractual arrangements for 2022; the Chair to liaise with the Neighbourhood Plan Stakeholders Group to develop community engagement and discussion themes from the Plan and the Falmouth Place-Shaping proposals; a changing places toilet facility be developed.
- (v) Medium term aspirations to include proposals for Passmore Edwards bicentenary commemoration (2023) Director of Cultural Services to liaise with Councillor D Evans; library layout and delivery to be rationalised and a Falmouth Museum opportunity considered; the Chair to liaise with Chair of the

Place-Shaping Board regarding inclusion of Street art/murals in town centre development.

- (vi) Long term aspirations to include redevelopment of the Municipal Buildings; large public art installation at Prince of Wales Pier and/or Church Street Car Park redevelopment site.

There being no further business to transact the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.10 pm.

Signed: Date:

Introduction

This report covers the thirteen weeks since the Cultural Services Zoom committee meeting on 25th October 2021 and details the community activity that has taken place in the Library, Art Gallery and Pavilion.

Library and Information Service

- 1.1 Some Covid-safety measures were reintroduced as a result of Plan B especially the legal requirement to respect each other by wearing a mask unless exempt. The computer room remained throughout this period.
- 1.2 The last statistical report received from Cornwall Council Library service was for October 2021 which showed a foot-fall of 6,151.
- 1.3 Plan B also put a stop to the reintroduction of Rhyme time and Storytime although we have had a few schools visiting recently.
- 1.4 Engaging Libraries, the Carnegie Foundation funded project has now concluded. Falmouth Library, the only participating library in the whole of the South West was mentioned at the celebratory event in an address given by Sue Williamson, Director of Libraries at Arts Council England, and Engaging Libraries Advisory Group member – Jayne, Sarah Scott and all staff who took part are to be thanked for their engagement in this project.

Art Gallery:

2. Supporters Scheme, donations, grant Income and awards

- 2.1 Nothing new to report
- 2.2 It has been confirmed that Year 5, an extension of our Arts Council England, National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) funding through the Cornwall Museums Partnership can go ahead. This funding, just shy of £55,000 helps to support our community engagement; our trainee curator; some exhibition uplift and extra capacity through a digital engagement officer and part-time programme manager.

3. Acquisitions, Gifts, Bequests and Loans

- 3.1 The Art Gallery has acquired *The Lizard, Cornwall* dated 1860, a watercolour on paper painted by William Holman Hunt (1827-1910) for £19,680. This has been funded by V&A Purchase Grant Fund £9450, Art Fund £7450 and FAG acquisitions budget £2780 and is a valuable addition to the Collection. See Appendix A for statement of relevance.

4. Exhibitions and displays

- 4.1 *Unholy Trinity, Freud Minton Ryan and Henry Scott Tuke* exhibitions ended on 20th November.
- 4.2 And a three room show *Thanks for the Apples* curated by external curators Naomi Frears and Ben Sanderson featuring artworks by Yemi Awosile, Nicolas Deshayes, Keira Freije, Georgia Gendall, Katie Schwabb, Daniel Sinsel, Caragh Thuring and Marie Toseland opened the following Friday with a Private View attended by Sir Nicholas Serota, Chair of Art Council England. The show closed on Saturday 22nd January.
- 4.3 A new show *The Art of Animation. From Scribble to Screen: Behind the Scenes of Animation Production* curated by Derek Hayes, Catharine Nicholls and Rosa Mulraney, all lecturers in animation at Falmouth University will have a soft opening on Saturday 29th January, 2022 and runs to 26th March, 2022.
- 4.4 In the Entrance Gallery alongside *The Art of Animation*, an exhibition of Rodney Peppé's *Huxley Pig* and *Mice* stories and props will also open during the week leading up to 29th January, 2022.

5. Visitor Statistics – art gallery

- 5.1 In line with the Library we adopted Plan B Covid measures requiring all visitors to respect each other's space and wear masks. The fear engendered by the highly contagious Omicron coronavirus pre-Christmas caused visitor numbers to plummet again and they are only now beginning to pick up.

6. Community and learning – art gallery/Pavilion gardens

- 6.1 Baby Jam and Little Fingers sessions have returned to the Art Gallery and our learning facilitators have been busy with outreach to schools.
- 6.2 At the Pavilion Make and Take meet on a Thursday; *Together Art and Dancing* meet on a Monday; Shallal 2 every Wednesday evening in term-time and a number of informal groups continue to meet and use the café or if empty the auditorium for rehearsals. A table of engagement at the Pavilion from 26th October to 22nd January 2022 is included at Appendix B. The total of 7,454 does not include members of the public visiting the café on a day to day basis.
- 6.3 Baby Paint continues to be run at the Dracaena Centre where it can be run with doors open and fresh air in a more Covid-safe way.
- 6.4 Sarah Scott and Eve Swanson have been running SPLANNA – a Thursday evening workshop for young people exploring well-being and climate change. See Appendix C for some more details. This is a £17,000 project jointly funded through Cornwall Museums Partnership as a legacy of G7.

7. Staffing, training and volunteering

- 7.1 Emily Spargo has been appointed Trainee Curator for Jan-Sept 2022. This post is funded through Cornwall Museum's Partnership.
- 7.2 First Aid Training has been undertaken by Tamsin Bough and Emily Spargo.
- 7.3 We are still in discussion with A&P regarding their apprentices help in restoring the veranda.
- 7.4 Aidan Botha has been appointed Venue and Events Manager for the Pavilion and started on 4th January although actual start on site was delayed due to Covid.

Youth Services

- 8.1 No written update available for this report but I understand that the Youth Service will be featured in the Falmouth Packet on Wednesday 26th January on page 7, to focus on the positive Youth Work activities that the Dracaena Centre and Falmouth Town Council partnership are providing for our local community. We also understand that Councillors have been invited to attend a briefing by Kate Springfield, date to be decided.

Festivals & Events

- 9.1 Events are covered by the Town Team's report to full council.

Parks & Gardens (Heritage)

- 10.1 Jacqui Owen continues her secondment to Cormac for the Making Spaces for Nature (MS4N) project.
- 10.2 A plaque has been erected commemorating the contribution that gardeners Howard Burns and Matt Stannard have made to Gyllyngdune Gardens over the years beside an authentic Darley Oak sapling
- 10.3 A Bench of Hope has been donated to Gyllyngdune Gardens as part of a Netflix marketing stunt to promote the final series of *After Life* which is about to air will be installed in the gardens. It is currently in the veranda for safe-keeping.
- 10.4 The scheme for Kimberley Park Lodge to include community recording studios and a café has been submitted for planning.



Ponsharden and other Cemeteries (Heritage)

11.1 The contract for the restoration of headstones in the Jewish Cemetery has now been let to Torquil McNeillage and further encouraging negotiations with Sally Stracey Monumental Masons are ongoing but nearing completion. In addition Jebb Consulting Engineers were appointed to design the pinning and mesh system for retaining the exposed north boundary adjacent to the Falmouth Road. We should be cognisant that there is romping construction inflation at present and it may be that we will achieve less than we envisioned two years ago when the application was submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Joint Marketing and Publicity

12.1 We have been working closely with Donna Sharpe to ensure that the Pavilion and other cultural activities are comprehensively marketed.

Director of Cultural Services
January, 2022

Appendix A: Statement in support of acquisition

This work is one of a few known watercolours by Holman Hunt on his walking tour of Cornwall in September 1860.

The other works 'Asparagus Island' and 'the Cornish Coast' are in private collections, there is also 'Helston, Cornwall' in the Whitworth Collection.

Holman Hunt was visiting Cornwall with his friends Valentine Cameron Prinsep, Francis Palgrave and Alfred Lord Tennyson who were completing Tennyson's second walking tour of Cornwall to retrace King Arthur's footsteps. This epic trip was made just after Holman Hunt and Tennyson had worked together on 'Tennyson's Poems' published in 1857. They had a tumultuous working relationship and Tennyson did not appreciate Holman Hunt's interpretation of his beloved Lady of Shalott.

The King Arthur legend is synonymous with Cornwall, which has approximately 35 archaeological sites and relics of significance. This will be explored in Falmouth Art Gallery's forthcoming touring exhibition 'The Legend of King Arthur-A Pre-Raphaelite Love Story' which will tour the UK to locations associated with the Legend.

The link between Tennyson, Holman Hunt and Cornwall will also be explored in a chapter of the catalogue which will focus on Tennyson's obsession with King Arthur by Dr Jim Cheshire.

During the trip art critic Francis Turner Palgrave, wrote; 'On Sep. 17 we were at Lizard point, where we found H. Hunt, and Mr. V. Prinsep with him, visiting Kynance Cove, which almost seemed to us like a Turner landscape in actual presence, so rich and so varied is the colouring of the serpentine bastions' (Palgrave's journal, Tennyson Research Centre, Lincoln). It was on that trip that Hunt painted one of his greatest watercolours, Asparagus Island (Christie's, London, 24 November 2004, lot 1). This watercolour also details Holman Hunt's continued study of the English Coast.

In Holman Hunt's Catalogue Raisonné Dr Judith Bronkhurst praises Hunt's ability to convey the landscape in watercolour, she writes 'Hunt deftly describes the overcast scene with great economy of means, leaving the paper bare to indicate the foam breaking against the base of the rocks.'

Appendix B: Public engagement at Pavilion Nov-Jan 2022

Who	Where	When	Numbers
Falmouth Cultural Service	Half-term workshop 10-3	26/10/2021	40
Private	Barrington Ash Scatter	26/10/2021	12
Falmouth Cultural Service	Half-term workshop 10-3	27/10/2021	50
Community Group	Sketch Club	27/10/2021	40
Falmouth Cultural Service	Half-term workshop 10-3	28/10/2021	60
Harbour Church	Auditorium	31/10/2021	100
Great big Halloween FEAST	Garden Room	31/10/2021	300
AMATA	Choreography	01/11/2021	20
Death Café	Meeting	02/11/2021	8
Older Keep Fit Group	Tea	02/11/2021	15
Fal Marine Conservation	AGM	03/11/2021	30
AMATA	Choreography	04/11/2021	20
CCF	Volunteer meet up	04/11/2021	12
FFC	Box collection & eat	04/11/2021	15
Swashbuckling Life Drawing	Auditorium	06/11/2021	15
Comedy	Angela Barnes	06/11/2021	250
Harbour Church	Auditorium	07/11/2021	100
Fishing Project		10/11/2021	5
Squidlets in the veranda	Vineyard	11/11/2021	25
Sketch clubbers informal evening	Garden Room	12/11/2021	55
Harbour Church		14/11/2021	100
Repair Café	Veranda	14/11/2021	25
Dougal	Lindyhop dancing	14/11/2021	10
Cornwall Film Festival	6 day programme of film screening and activity	15/11/2021	1065
Cornwall Film Festival	Other activity in Garden Room and breakout spaces	20/11/2021	764
Repair Café	7:30 in Garden Room while screening is on	18/11/2021	12
Harbour Church	Auditorium	21/11/2021	100
Apprentices to erect trees	Xmas Tree Fest	23/11/2021	10
Volunteer dress trees	Xmas Tree Fest	24/11/2021	10
Golden Gloves	Practice Session	25/11/2021	80
Community Group	Sketch Club	24/11/2021	44
Agent	Dub Pistols	26/11/2021	350
Ambos	Meetings	27/11/2021	25
WOWW	Learners class	27/11/2021	15
Harbour Church	Auditorium	28/11/2021	100
Christmas Tree Festival	Lights on	28/11/2021	600
Death Café	Meeting	30/11/2021	8
Public	Telltales	30/11/2021	20
Christmas collective	Three day event	02/12/2021	300
Christmas collective	Xmas Fair	05/12/2021	150
Harbour Church	Church	05/12/2021	100

Band	3 Daft Monkeys	04/12/2021	350
Falmouth Civic Society	Xmas Lunch	06/12/2021	30
RNLI	Committee	07/12/2021	12
Exeter University	All Site	08/12/2021	100
AMATA	Revoluta	09/12/2021	26
Duchy Opera	Xmas evening - Garden Room	09/12/2021	65
Golden Glove Boxing	Auditorium	09/12/2021	300
Sketch Club	Morning meeting	10/12/2021	40
Falmouth Twinning Assoc.	Morning meeting	10/12/2021	18
Source FM	Christmas Carol Concert	10/12/2021	250
Private	Wake	10/12/2021	30
Harbour Church	Auditorium	12/12/2021	80
Repair Café	Lobby Area	12/12/2021	25
Lindyhoppers	Garden Room	12/12/2021	12
RNLI Concert	Theatre	12/12/2021	250
Public	Wake	13/12/2021	28
Keep Fit Crew	Xmas lunch	14/12/2021	16
Aggie Folk Band	Xmas Lunch	14/12/2021	18
Public - Xmas evening	Rock & Roll (Elvis etc. with Tory	14/12/2021	12
Shallal 2	Garden Room	15/12/2021	10
Public	Cream Tea	15/12/2021	20
Suitcase Singers	Bandstand	16/12/2021	30
Harbour Church	Auditorium	19/12/2021	60
TAD	Xmas lunch	20/12/2021	20
Sketch Club	Xmas reunion	22/12/2021	40
Food Coop	Oxford Real Farming Conference	06/01/2022	38
Food Coop	Oxford Real Farming Conference	07/01/2022	28
Britain in Bloom	Reception	07/01/2022	12
Public	Wake	08/01/2022	20
Starlite Theatre Co	Rehearsal	08/01/2022	34
Friends of Countrylink	Meeting	09/01/2022	20
FTC	Council Meeting	10/01/2022	14
Aggie Folk Band	Auditorium	11/01/2022	12
Starlite Theatre Co	Rehearsal	15/01/2022	34
Sketch Club	Morning meeting	19/01/2022	40
Mark Billy Billingham	Theatre	22/01/2022	300
			7454

Appendix C:

Splanna! - Themes & Evaluation

Wellbeing & Climate – shared themes across the sites' proposals.

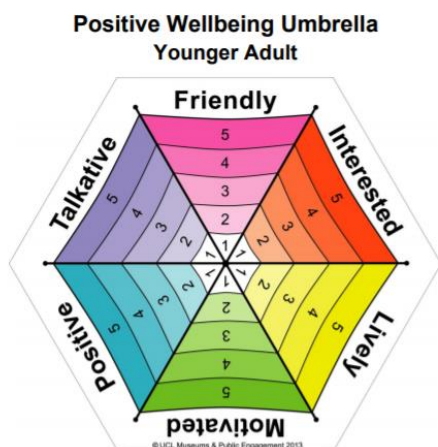
Evaluation toolkit:

The UCL Museum Wellbeing Measures Toolkit is a set of scales of measurement used to assess levels of wellbeing arising from participation in museum and gallery activities that has been trialled across the UK.

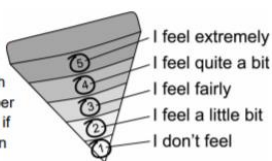
The Toolkit has been designed to help people involved in running in-house or outreach museum projects, evaluate the impact of this work on the psychological wellbeing of their audiences.

The Toolkit is flexible in its application and supports a 'pick and mix' approach. It can be used to evaluate the impact of a one-off activity or programme of events

- https://www.ucl.ac.uk/culture/sites/culture/files/ucl_museum_wellbeing_measures_toolkit_sept2013.pdf



Six words are printed around the edge of this umbrella. Please score how much you feel each word by circling a number from 1 to 5, e.g. 'Lively, if you feel *fairly* lively, then you should circle 3.



Thoughts & Comments

What went well for you?

What do you feel you achieved?

What could have been better?

Any other comments?

Supporting notes and research:

Wellbeing:

'arts engagement can provide a sense of purpose, empowerment and personal growth (121,137), as well as improving self-esteem and confidence (108,138)'

“The evidence base on mixed arts and aspects of wellbeing in young people is excellent (A), consistent (A), and relatively generalisable (B). It is of satisfactory applicability as the contexts of intervention have varied so much (C). The potential for impact is substantial (B). This provides an overall grade of recommendation of B: the evidence on arts and wellbeing in young people is strong and can be trusted to guide policy development in most situations.”

(The role of arts in improving health & wellbeing Report to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport April 2020 D. Fancourt et al:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/929773/DCMS_report_April_2020_finalx_1_.pdf

‘The relationship between arts engagement and mental health—in particular, wellbeing and depression—has been well-rehearsed in large-scale epidemiological data’

(Arts engagement trends in the UK & their mental and social wellbeing implications: : HEarts Survey Published: March 12, 2021:

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0246078>)

‘Can museum activities help create discussions with young people experiencing mental health difficulties around topics like identity, memory, belonging and wellbeing?’

(Between Spaces: Museums & Mental Wellbeing in Young People

https://www.ucl.ac.uk/grand-challenges/sites/grand_challenges/files/iqbal2.pdf)

Mind, body, spirit: How museums impact health and wellbeing

(https://figshare.com/articles/report/Mind_Body_Spirit_How_museums_impact_health_and_wellbeing/10137716/1)

Climate:

The Climate Psychology Alliance provides support and resources for young people around this issue and also for those working with this audience;

<https://www.climatepsychologyalliance.org/support/youngpeople>

The Climate Outreach and Information Network (COIN) is a charity focused on building cross-societal acceptance of the need to tackle climate change and have researched how young people engage with climate change:

https://climateaccess.org/system/files/COIN_Young%20Voices.pdf

COIN’s research has led to the following recommendations:

THE DONT’S

- Don’t talk about how climate change will impact future generations: young people see this as a problem for the here and now and will respond positively to messages that frame climate change as

a contemporary concern that requires an urgent response. They are receptive to learning more about the consequences the UK faces and connecting this to the global picture, although this needs to be handled sensitively so as to avoid trivialising the more extreme impacts in parts of the world with less capacity to adapt. Recommendations useful for: everyone.

- Don't focus on 'fighting the sceptics'. Most participants were either unaware or uninterested in the idea of organised climate change scepticism, suggesting that campaigns to counteract science-based scepticism will not be particularly useful for this audience. Debating solutions – rather than the science – is a much higher priority. Recommendations useful for: campaign groups, think tanks, research institutes.

- Don't assume that climate terminology is widely understood. Some commonly used climate advocacy phrases are either unfamiliar or unpopular with young people. Phrases such as 'more ambitious climate policy' and 'managing climate risks' are considered hollow, technocratic and vague, while terminology such as '2 degrees' and even 'decarbonisation' may be unfamiliar or disengaging. Climate jargon needs to be explained in plain language – and language about managing risks is not in itself intuitively appealing for young people. Recommendations useful for: campaign organisations, think tanks, research institutes and the education sector.

- Avoid language that might be perceived as 'preachy' or guilt-inducing. While concrete, tangible 'actions' people could take were popular, it is important to present these as things people can rather than should do. Appeals to moral duty were seen as unlikely to be motivating for the majority of the population. Recommendations useful for: campaign organisations and political parties.

THE DO'S

- The notion that there is a '97% consensus' among scientists on climate change was widely viewed as a compelling and persuasive statistic if provided by a trusted messenger (not a corporate voice or a politician's) and combined with a call to action. On its own it was not necessarily enough to inspire an action-oriented response among young people. It should not be treated as an argument against sceptic claims, which are not a dominant part of the climate change discourse for young people. Recommendation would be most useful for: campaign organisations, and the education sector.

- Communicate the social consensus on climate action. There is widespread doubt that there is a 'concerned majority' among the general public who support action on climate change. Communicating that there is a 'social consensus' on climate action may therefore be just as important as communicating the scientific consensus. Recommendation would be most useful for: everyone.

- Show how climate change relates to (and will affect) the aspects of young people's everyday lives that they care about. Young people – like the population in general – are receptive to the idea of protecting the 'things they love' from climate change. However, the devil is in the detail – the things people love and want to protect should not be assumed but instead identified through audience research. To avoid trivialising the issue, it is important to always make the link between the 'everyday' and the 'bigger picture', joining the dots between the personal and the political. Recommendation would be most useful for: campaign groups, education sector and youth clubs.

- Ask young people to challenge policy makers. Young people are willing to pressure political leaders for more progressive climate change decisions but do not, as a general rule, have much faith in politicians and other elite decision makers. Asking this audience to ‘challenge’ policy makers may therefore be more effective than asking them to ‘support’ them. Recommendation would be most useful for: campaign groups and the education sector.
- Messages about climate change should be as specific as possible in the actions they recommend using accessible language, for example ‘reducing the use of fossil fuels’ as opposed to ‘decarbonising the economy’. Clearly set out what needs to be done – who, when, where and what young people can do to make a 41 difference – and which policy prescriptions support this. Young people are frustrated by the emphasis on small-scale behaviour change, such as recycling. They are open to and interested in ‘bigger picture’ solutions. Recommendation would be most useful for: political parties, campaign groups, think tanks and research institutes.
- Climate change messages must be communicated by a trustworthy messenger (not a corporation or politician) and combined with a specific call to action. Peer networks and social media are important sources of information on climate change for young people. Generally speaking, young people are suspicious of the mainstream media, with the exception of the BBC, which is widely trusted as a provider of reliable information. Recommendation would be most useful for: campaign groups, think tanks, research institutes and education sector.