



**PENLEE
INSPIRED
2023**



**THE FRIENDS
COMMITTEE
NEEDS YOU!**



**CHRISTMAS
GIFT IDEAS**

ARTEFACT

The Newsletter of the Friends of Penlee House

Volume 9/Issue 3/October 2022

**FRED YATES IN CORNWALL
12 OCTOBER 2022 – 7 JANUARY 2023**



Fred Yates, St Michael's Mount, 2008. Oil on canvas. Private Collection. ©The Artist's Estate

Penlee House is delighted to celebrate the centenary of Fred Yates's birth with an exhibition that looks deeply into Yates's relationship with Cornwall and the Cornish people. Cornwall was where he learnt how to be an artist, where he attracted his first collectors, a place he loved and the place where he is buried.

Fred Yates was born in Urmston, Lancashire in 1922. He began his working life in insurance, a career cut short by the advent of the Second World War. Both Fred and his twin brother Arthur enlisted but sadly Arthur was posted missing in action in 1944.

After his training as an art teacher, Yates taught in Devon

and the South Coast for the next 20 years, a profession which brought some security, but which he disliked enormously. In 1968 he made the decision to quit teaching to become a full-time painter and moved to Cornwall where he had the space to develop his style and familiarise himself with Cornwall's artistic heritage.

Most of his early work was painted outdoors on rough boards using household paints, but his approachable style and manner meant that he sold much of what he painted, often to the onlookers who gathered around him as he worked. His use of bright, bold colours and thick

impasto paint seemed to breath a vibrant new life into his views of Cornwall.

The bustle of life was what Fred Yates wanted to capture, making his work gloriously restless. In his paintings the people are usually active, children are playing, couples kissing, everybody is busily going about their lives, often walking, almost always standing, there is a sense that they have somewhere else to be.

The John Martin Gallery, who have co-curated the exhibition, represented Yates for almost 20 years and have managed to track down some of the most extraordinary paintings in order that this collection of Cornish works be shown together for the very first time.

the FRIENDS of
PENLEE HOUSE
— ⊕ —
Gallery & Museum

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

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PENLEE INSPIRED 2023



Jane Tresidder - inspired by Stanhope Forbes Abbey Slip

Penlee House is asking for contributions to its 2023 Penlee Inspired exhibition and YOU could be part of it! All ages and abilities will be represented, from complete beginners to established artists, and their work will be hung alongside works from Penlee's collection and those loaned from other galleries and museums.

Contributions are invited from individuals, groups, schools and colleges, and can be in any medium, including paint, collage, textile, sculpture, photography, film and animation. Creative writing is also welcome. Submitted work can be representational or abstract, the only thing we ask is that the collections or exhibitions at Penlee House are the inspiration behind all contributions.

Application packs are available at www.penleehouse.org.uk or from the Gallery Reception. The closing date for entries is **12 NOVEMBER 2022**.

Like to take part in the Penlee Inspired open exhibition but not quite sure where to start? Join us at one of our free, artist-led, creative workshops to get some ideas. **Booking required on Eventbrite.**

15 October 10.30-12.30 – Adult workshop led by artist Theo Carter-Weber

20 October 10.30-12.30 – Adult workshop led by artist Carys Wilson

From 15 October to 5 November our children's Saturday activities will focus on creating works for this *Penlee Inspired* exhibition. Free drop-in sessions every Saturday, 2.30-3.30

PIPPED TO THE POST

You may be forgiven for thinking that the Gallery has been less active in acquiring works for the collection lately. In fact, there has been a lot of work behind the scenes to acquire two major paintings but, unfortunately, we have been unsuccessful on both counts.

The first painting to slip through our grasp was Stanhope Forbes's 1891 painting *Soldiers and Sailors: The Salvation Army* which came up for sale at David Lay Auctions in February. The Director worked hard to secure funding from the V&A Purchase Grant Fund and the Friends Committee pledged a substantial sum, plus a few offers of donations from private individuals in order to bid to the top estimate. Regrettably, we were pipped to the post by Messum's and the work has since been restored and sold, presumably to a private collector.

The second was Harold Knight's *Portrait of Robert Morson Hughes*, which featured in Penlee's 2019 exhibition *Artists by Themselves* and proved a favourite with visitors. Having waited patiently for over 18 months for the painting to go through probate, the Friends Committee generously agreed to support the purchase of the painting outright, using money from some recent bequests. Once again, we were the underbidders, with the painting selling for one bid over our agreed top limit.

We will continue to look out for paintings and objects which will enhance the collections and hope for better success in the future!



Stanhope Forbes (1857 - 1947) *Soldiers and Sailors: The Salvation Army*, 1891

A FOREST AROUND ST. MICHAEL'S MOUNT BY DR. NIGEL HAWARD

Fierce storms in January and February 2014 washed away sand and gravel from the shore around Mount's Bay revealing the remnants of a forest which stood around St Michael's Mount up to about 4000 years ago. The periodic exposure of the roots and fallen trunks of beech, oak, ash, holly and willow since Medieval times may have given credence to the legend of the lost land of Lyonesse between Land's End and the Scillies.

Modern evidence from boreholes confirms that the forest was in existence some 4000 to 6000 years ago and was perhaps established earlier after the last Ice age 16,000 years ago.

The forest was doomed as sea levels began to rise because of the melting of the ice sheets (and the land sinking in southern England). The intertidal area from Long Rock to Wherry Town, containing the submerged forest is a Cornwall County Geology Site and is of local and national importance. Over the past year, Penlee House has worked with young people and staff from Trelya (a West Cornwall-based charity working with children, families and young people) and artist Emma Saffy Wilson to create a short, animated film exploring the story of prehistoric Penzance.

The film, entitled 'The Lost Forest of Mount's Bay', is available to view online (<http://www.penleehouse.org.uk/penlee-house-online>) and in the Museum, alongside a small exhibition about the project. Late Trustee Francis Howie provided invaluable information and expertise about the submerged forest for this project so please do take a moment to watch it.

The project was funded through Cornwall Museums Partnership and was part of the wider Kernow G7 Cultural Programme commissioned by Cornwall Council with support from Arts Council England and National Lottery Heritage Fund.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE ARTEFACTS

We are always looking for short articles (200-300 words) relevant to Penlee House's collections. If you would be interested in writing a piece to be considered for inclusion, please email us at digital@penleehouse.org.uk

CHRISTMAS GIFTS



Christmas will soon be upon us and so it's time to start thinking about gifts for loved ones.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to produce a calendar this year, but we do have some exciting new products available from our Gallery Shop (and by mail order). We have recently expanded our range of unique products to include a 500-piece *Forty Winks* jigsaw (£15.95), plus a selection of chocolate bars (£3.25), each with a favourite image from the fine art collection.

Also new this year is a delightful book about the artist Tony Giles, written by local author, art lover and good friend of Tony's, John Branfield (£15.00). Featuring images of many of the paintings from the exhibition staged at Penlee House last year, it is the perfect present for all.

If you're looking for that extra special gift, we have a limited edition range of silk scarves by Vivien Prideaux featuring Cryside designs (£120.00).

Please contact a member of the retail team for more details retail@penleehouse.org.uk



Tony Giles

Painter of Man-Made Cornwall

John Branfield

FAREWELL TO VICE-PRESIDENTS



Sir John Banham



Ken Howard OBE RA

It is with great sadness that we announce the deaths of two of our Vice-Presidents. Sir John Banham was elected in 1987 at the inception of the Friends of Penlee House. He lived locally and was a very proud Cornishman. His business acumen and great Cornish pride was much appreciated by the Committee.

Ken Howard OBE, a Royal Academician, was well-known around Mousehole and generously opened his studio to the Friends on several occasions. Kurt Jackson, President of the Friends, writes "Ken's passing will be a sad loss to not just the Cornish art world but the national art world at large."

THE FRIENDS ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW TREASURER AND CHAIR

Dr Caroline Davies is looking to step down from her role as Friends' Treasurer, a position which she has held for nearly six years. The role includes responsibility for managing the Charity's day-to-day financial activities, making financial reports to the Trustees and the Committee, preparing the Friends' annual accounts supported by the Charity's firm of Accountants, as well as liaising with our Membership Administrator. The Treasurer's role will be handed over in good order and good shape and Caroline will work with the new Treasurer to provide training and to facilitate the handover.

Jane Williams, the current Chair, was due to be replaced at the last AGM and has said that while she is happy to remain in post until a successor is identified, she now wishes to stand down. The Chair role is largely a leadership one, involving chairing six or seven Trustee meetings a year, and a similar number of Committee meetings. Forthcoming plans to increase our online presence as well as working with the Gallery on fundraising initiatives and being more ambitious about improving the deal for members means that the new Chair will be joining at an interesting time of change.

If you are interested in these roles, please contact the Gallery info@penleehouse.org.uk to arrange an informal discussion with Caroline or Jane.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Lectures take place at 7.30 p.m. at Penlee House (unless otherwise stated). Booking is essential. Please telephone 01736 363625

Admission: Members £3.00 Non-members £4.00

2022

Monday 17 October

Di Downes, Head of The Fashion & Textile Collection at Falmouth University.

The Fashion and Textile Collection

Monday 21 November

John Martin, Director, The John Martin Gallery, London.

The Life of Fred Yates

2023

Monday 23 January

Zoe Burkett, Education & Outreach Officer, Penlee House.

Penlee Inspired

Monday 20 February

Robert Jones, Artist.

The Life of Alfred Wallis

Monday 20 March

Adrian Rodda, Local Guide.

Penlee's Archaeological Collection and its links to Prehistoric Penwith.

Monday 24 April

Michael Johnson, Principal Craftsman, Newlyn Copperworks.

Newlyn Copper

Monday 22 May

Janet Axten, Social Historian.

Fast, Smart and Outrageous: Art School Fashion in Laura Knight's Paintings

Wednesday 14 June

AGM at 7.00pm

Zennor Building Lecture Theatre, Truro & Penwith College, St Clare, Penzance TR18 2SA

Followed by a lecture: David Tovey, Art Historian

Lamorna Colony Pioneers

No booking required. No admission charge.