

PAF NEWS

A bi-monthly newsletter for the Friends of the Polperro Arts Foundation

A new season

Welcome to a new season at the PAF gallery. After a short winter break we re-opened for the February half-term holiday and we will remain open daily until New Year. Let's look ahead at some of the events that are coming up in the next month or two.

Art history

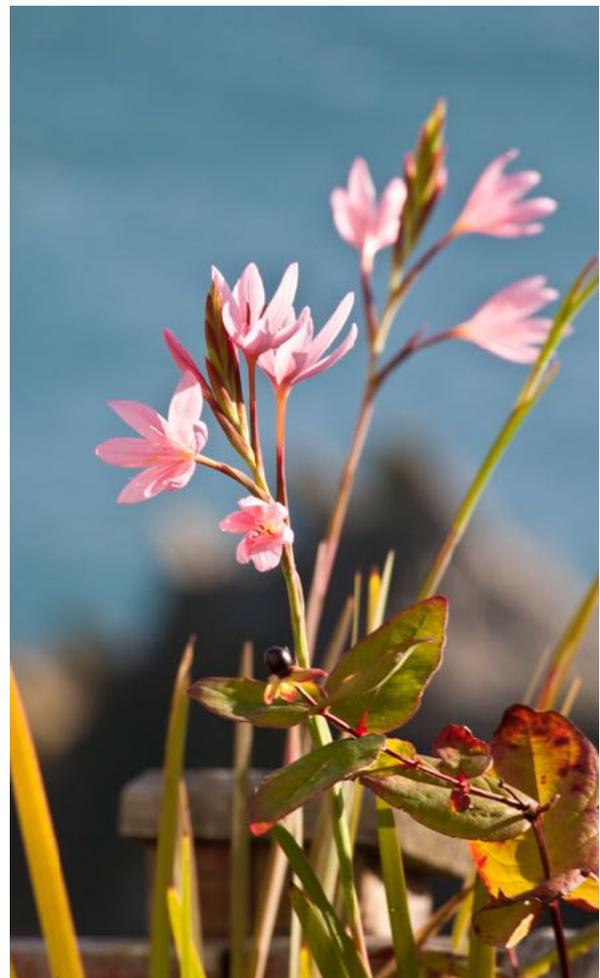
The art historian David Tovey's exhibition of the history of art in Polperro will run from 2nd April until 18th June in the Falmouth Art Gallery. The exhibition is the culmination of David's extensive research into the history of art in Polperro up to the 1960s and to quote from the gallery's website it "will feature paintings, drawn from public and private collections, by leading American, German and Dutch artists, as well as by many accomplished British ones - some familiar, others less so." David is offering guided tours of the exhibition on selected days – contact the Falmouth gallery for the dates and to book a place. As usual, later in this issue of the newsletter we continue our summary of his two-volume work on the subject.

Following the exhibition David hopes to find a permanent home within the village where his personal collection of about 80 historic paintings of Polperro will be on public display.

Polperro School

In the last issue of our newsletter we briefly mentioned our immense pleasure in being able to support various art-related additions to the curriculum in the Polperro School. Our support has several components:

- We have supported a Wild Tribe beach day as part of the National Curriculum Outdoors.
- The school is arranging trips to art centres elsewhere in Cornwall, including Tate St Ives.



Paul Lightfoot, Flowers and Peak Rock

- As a follow-up to our Pollination project in 2016, two of our team, Marian and Sue, are leading a second scheme with the primary school. Both are beekeepers and have secured grants from the PAF and Cornwall Council to introduce local children to beekeeping. Special bee suits, tools and books have been provided and the first ten year old student has already started writing a journal of his new experiences at the apiaries. Sue's 'Pollination Calendar' painting shows the design for the community mural and is available as a print and as a 500-piece jigsaw.



Sue Lord, Pollination Calendar

- Local artist and educator Sean Hewitt is providing a series of additional art classes over a period of six weeks. We will show a selection of the children's art arising from these classes as a special exhibition in the centre of our gallery during the weekend of 20th-22nd May. We hope many of you will come along for a preview of the next generation of Polperro artists. We will include some of the children's work in our next newsletter.

Open Studios

Later in May the PAF will present itself as a gallery within Cornwall's annual Open Studios programme. Every day during 28th May - 5th June most of our artists will be available in the gallery to meet visitors and talk about any technical or conceptual aspects of our work that may be of interest. We will have more to say about that in our next newsletter.

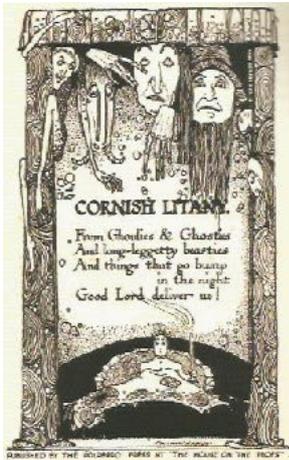
Meanwhile we are open as usual with a wide range of items to suit any budget. Aside from our larger pieces, Sue offers some of her cards at just 50p. All of our greetings cards will do double duty as small, framed pictures. Sandy's keyrings are always popular. Barbara has a new range of miniature paintings. We have books presenting the wonders of the sea and our beautiful local coast and countryside. But in any case do drop in if only to look around and chat, all are welcome. And enjoy the Spring!



Paul Lightfoot, Thrift at Downend Point

Polperro's Art History - the 1920s

More notes from David Tovey's book, Polperro – Cornwall's Forgotten Art Centre (2021)



After a lull during and for a few years after the first world war, the 1920s saw the beginnings of a revival of both the tourist trade and artistic work in Polperro. David devotes the first three chapters of the second volume of his book to this period. He again addresses the recurring question of whether and when there was a genuine artists' colony in Polperro.

In chapter 1, A New Age, David describes the work of the Minards family in developing Greywest Enterprises, which published postcards and guidebooks from their gallery in what is now known as the House on the Props. The colourful Frederick Nettlingham arrived in the village in 1923, saw its potential as a visitor destination, and created a number of tourist attractions over the next three decades. He often promoted them with the assistance of the illustrator Arthur Wragg as in the example on the left.

In chapter 2 we learn that for most of the 1920s the resident artist community remained small. Herbert Butler and Elizabeth Vawdrey continued to be active, and early in the decade, probably in 1921, they were joined by William Blacklock and his wife Nellie. Both the Blacklocks were already active and

successful painters whose work was shown in various galleries. They lived and worked in Polperro until William's premature death in 1924 after which Nellie returned to London.



Nellie Blacklock, Across the harbour, Polperro



William Blacklock, On the rocks, Polperro



John Goodchild, The House on Props, Polperro

Angela Brazil (1868-1947) was known nationally as an early writer of books intended for schoolgirls. In that role she was already well established when she bought The Haven, a modest house overlooking Polperro's outer harbour, soon after the end of the war. Several of her books describe scenes that are clearly based on Polperro. Interestingly, she and her sister Amy originally attended art schools, went on sketching trips together and held a joint exhibition of over 60 of their paintings in London in 1925.

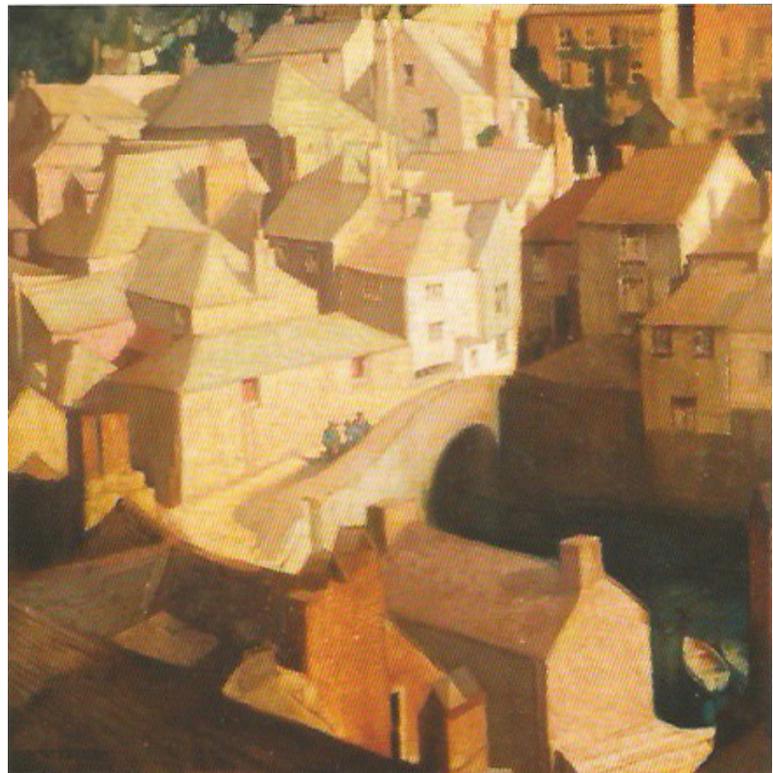
As usual, the numbers of visiting artists greatly outnumbered those who were relatively long-term residents and

included several who were well known both in Britain and overseas. In total David introduces and provides background details for 26 visitors. Among them was David's own great grandfather William Titcomb who visited in 1921. Another visitor, Arthur Netherwood, was best known in Yorkshire and north Wales but seems to have visited Polperro several times judging from the number of his works that David has discovered.

The Dutch impressionist Hendrik Jan Wolter knew Polperro from before the war and re-visited each year from 1921 to 1924, after which he was constrained by his position as a professor in Amsterdam.

The acclaimed Australian water colourist Roy Eldershaw worked in the village in 1926 or 1927. At about the same time Eldershaw's compatriot John Goodchild and his wife Doreen undertook a camping trip around Cornwall which they later wrote about affectionately. Goodchild's depiction of the House on Props was quite distinctive as were the Staffordshire artist Harry Tittensor's view down over the Roman Bridge, and the American Mabel Woodward's 'The Slipway'.

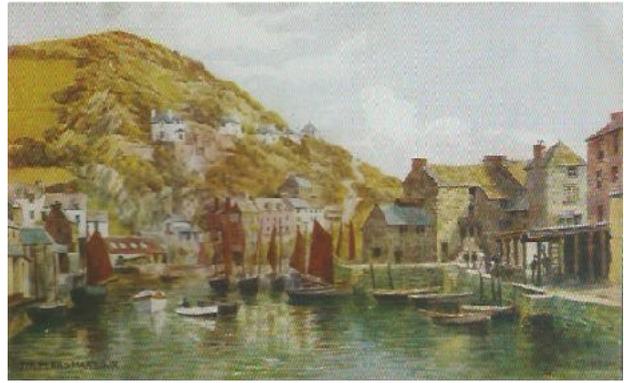
In chapter 3 David identifies as a separate category 15 visiting artists whose work was intended to be marketed as prints, including etchings, posters and postcards, many of them produced for the J Salmon postcard company. As David points out, these



Harry Tittensor, Polperro



Sidney Tushingham, Polperro fish market



Alfred Quinton, Polperro harbour

more commercially-minded artists were often regarded 'rather sniffily' by those who considered themselves connoisseurs, but works such as Sidney Tushingham's 'Fish Market' and Alfred Quinton's 'Polperro Harbour' were attractive in their own right, and often of historical interest.

David Tovey's two-volume, 600-page work can be purchased from his website <www.stivesart.info/art-in-polperro>. Copies are available in the village at the Post Office and in our PAF gallery at the village hall. David has assembled a collection of paintings of Polperro which will be on display at the Falmouth art gallery from 2 April until 18th June.

About the Foundation

The Foundation was set up in 2001 to support and promote local established and aspiring artists and to increase awareness of locally-produced art and the long history of art in Polperro. After 19 years at the Chapel Rock gallery in Foresters Hall overlooking the inner harbour, in 2020 the PAF moved to our present site in the Polperro Village Hall next door to the Crumplehorn Inn.

Our Team

Currently we have eight exhibiting members all of whom live and work locally: **Barbara Ellis**, artist; **Sandy Horton**, glass; **Paul Lightfoot**, photographer, writer, newsletter editor; **Sue Lord**, artist; **Charles Summers**, artist and fan-maker; **Babs Taylor**, artist; **Tracy Watts**, graphic designer and illustrator; and **Lisa Woollett**, author and photographer. **Jennie Hale** (ceramics) and **Rachel Brown** (embroidery) are our guest artists. **Marian Joyce** kindly volunteers for us.

Let us know if you would like to join us as an artist or volunteer.

Contact us

The gallery in the Polperro Village Hall is open daily from 11am. We are always available by email at <polperroarts@gmail.com> or through our website: <www.polperroarts.org>