



Frank Gascoigne Heath (1873-1936) *There is Music in the Night*, c.1922, Oil on canvas. Penlee House Gallery & Museum

The Shape of Things: Our place in a changing climate

5 February - 26 April 2025

Penlee House Gallery & Museum

Morrab Road, Penzance TR18 4HE

www.penleehouse.org.uk | 01736 363625 | Open Monday to Saturday

The Shape of Things: Our place in a changing climate

The Shape of Things explores the impact climate change is having on Cornwall and has been curated by the local community.

Environmental organisations and groups have chosen artworks depicting ‘our place’ from the collections at Penlee House. In addition, local community groups and schools have worked with artists and environmentalists to produce their own pieces in response to the original works. The new works celebrate the local landscape, warn of the dangers it is facing, imagine its possible futures, and advocate for its protection.

“It would be hard to find greater variety of subject in narrower compass than is to be found in this slim line of Cornwall”

Norman Garstin on the attractions of the scenery in Cornwall for painters, 1902

The landscape of West Cornwall, with its granite cliffs, white sandy beaches, hidden coves, wild moors, patchwork fields, and ever-changing sea, is loved by both its residents and visitors from all over the world.

In the late 1800s, the beauty of West Cornwall’s environment, along with the particular quality of the light reflected from the surrounding sea, drew the Newlyn School artists to the area. One of the joys of viewing their paintings at Penlee House is seeing them so close to where they were originally painted. You can look at a painting and step out of the door to see the same view, relatively unchanged. This may not be the case for much longer.

Though the threats from climate change are extremely serious, Cornwall has many groups working to protect our environment and enable positive change. Their stories are shared throughout the exhibition, along with suggestions for actions we can all take to tackle the climate emergency.

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The Shape of Things: Our place in a changing climate

This community-curated exhibition has involved:

34 organisations and groups, including **17 local environmental organisations**, **4 primary schools** and **3 secondary schools and colleges**. The Penlee House Learning Team, alongside **7 artists**, have delivered **57 creative workshops** to **over 250 participants**.

We wish to offer a huge thank you to all who have contributed:

Alverton Primary School
Ben Cook
Caroline Schanche
Cornwall Climate Care
Cornwall Wildlife Trust
CPRE Cornwall/The Countryside Charity
Earth's Green Guardians
Embroidered Bees for West Penwith Project
Emma Wilson
Extinction Rebellion West Cornwall
Growing Links
Gulval School
Heamoor Community Primary School
Humphry Davy School
Jo Lumber
Little Penlee Explorers
Melanie Young
Mounts Bay Academy
Mounts Bay Marine Group
Out of Sink

Pensans Community Primary School
Penlee Arts and Health Group (online)
Penlee Arts and Health Group (in-person)
Penlee House Volunteers
Penwith College
RSPB
St Aubyn Foundation
St Mary's Church
Sea Soul Blessings
Social Prescribing Group
Sustainable Penzance
The Gardeners' House
The Seaweed Institute
Theo Carter-Weber
Trelva
Vicks Harrison
We Are With You
Women's Institute
WI Climate Ambassadors

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What is climate change?

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in average temperature and weather patterns.

Such shifts occur naturally, but since the 1800s human activities have been the main factor in driving climate change, particularly our use of fossil fuels.

When we burn fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas), greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide and methane, are released. These gases accumulate in the atmosphere, trapping more of the sun's heat and therefore raising temperatures. This is called **global warming**. The average temperature of the Earth's surface is now about 1.2°C warmer than in the late 1800s and warmer than any time in the last 100,000 years.

But it's not just higher temperatures. Other associated effects of climate change include more intense droughts, wildfires, rising sea levels, flooding, melting ice caps, and more frequent and intense weather events.

The **climate crisis** refers to the serious problems that are being caused, or are likely to be caused, by changes in the planet's climate, including weather extremes and hazards, ocean acidification and sea-level rise, loss of biodiversity, food and water insecurity, health risks, economic disruption, displacement, and even violent conflict.

This is already happening. We are already seeing damage to human societies and the natural world.

This is happening rapidly, at a far faster rate than ever before. The current pace of global warming hasn't been seen for over 200 million years.

We must act now. The UK signed up to the Paris Agreement, aiming to limit warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrialised levels. To do this, the world's governments need to ensure that all greenhouse gas emissions peak by 2025, and reach net zero in the second half of this century. The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) has recommended to reduce CO2 emissions globally by 45% before 2030 (compared to 2010 levels) and reach net zero by mid-century.

As this exhibition shows, a lot is already happening in Cornwall to tackle climate change. Penzance Council unanimously declared a climate emergency in April 2019 and has a Climate Emergency Action Plan, and there are many local groups doing brilliant work. We hope you are inspired by their stories.

Who we are:

Penlee House Gallery & Museum collects, looks after, and shares the history and art of West Cornwall. The Gallery is owned and operated by Penzance Council.

What we do:

Though we know there is more to do, Penlee House has started to make changes to operate more sustainably. This includes:

- More energy-efficient LED lighting in most of the building
- Auto-stop taps in the toilets to reduce water use
- Recycling/reusing as much as possible, e.g. reusing packaging for postage and using scrap materials for creative activities
- Single-use plastic free, including the shop and café
- Fully-renewable energy tariff
- Refillable water bottles and coffee cups used by staff
- Use local suppliers wherever possible
- Only stocking sustainable, non-plastic toys in the shop

In the future we hope to:

- Install movement-activated lights in the toilets to reduce energy use
- Insulate any roof spaces that aren't already insulated
- Renew elements of the environmental plant (air handling units, boilers etc.) so they are more energy efficient

Top Tip:

We have power as consumers. In the past, people were more likely to repair or reuse items rather than buying new. Can you repair what you already have or get second hand? If you need to buy new, buy from ethical and sustainable companies where possible.

Who we are:

Cornwall Climate Care is an award-winning charity making a series of documentaries around various climate-related themes in Cornwall.

What we do:

Cornwall is one of the places in the UK most likely to suffer from climate impacts – but it is also really well placed to offer many of the solutions. Cornwall's Climate Stories are films presented by real, relatable people, such as fishermen, farmers and hairdressers, talking about the climate issues that affect them – and meeting the fantastic Cornish organisations, researchers and communities finding ways of tackling the climate challenges coming our way. The films, which have been praised by Sir David Attenborough, are designed to be non-judgmental and non-sensationalist, and are used at cinemas, events, community halls and school workshops around Cornwall and further afield. Audiences score the films on average at 9.5 out of 10, and the words most commonly used to describe people's feelings after watching them are 'positive', 'inspired' and 'keen to learn more'. We want our films to kickstart conversations, encourage behaviour change, boost pride in what Cornwall is doing to confront the climate crisis, and help to counter the misinformation and pushback against climate action that is sadly so prevalent online today.

Top Tip:

If you're feeling hopeless or depressed about climate change, please check out our films, which are free to view online!

There's also masses of information on our website www.cornwallclimate.org about how you can help make a difference on topics ranging from food, farming and water to the marine environment, energy and flooding.

Who we are:

Penzance Council Leisure and Amenities Team are responsible for the maintenance, management and delivery of Open Spaces, Facilities, Parks, Allotments, Play Areas and Projects across the parish of Penzance.

What we do:

Across our service delivery areas, we have researched the tools and vehicles used by the team on a daily basis in order to reduce our carbon footprint. Penzance Council have become early adopters of electric commercial vehicles and battery powered commercial gardening and maintenance equipment. Penzance Council recognizes the importance of access to safe and clean green spaces, and the adoption of these tools and equipment enables us to look after our sites to a high standard whilst not detracting from the enjoyment of users. The benefits from adopting these technologies have been numerous. Members of the public have commented on the lower noise levels and removal of fumes from jobs that we complete in and around public spaces. The team who use the tools daily, prefer the ease of use and fewer vibrations of the equipment. All of these benefits have been alongside the primary reason for the change, which was to significantly reduce our carbon footprint across the areas of work that we are responsible for delivering.

Top Tip:

Consider how you travel. Are there more environmentally friendly methods of getting to your destination?

Who we are:

The Earth's Green Guardians (EGG) is a registered charity which provides youth, ages 6 to 11, with activities for HOPE (Helping Our Planet Earth). **CONNECT-PROTECTRESTORE-PREPARE**

What we do:

EGG takes an optimistic approach to improving Environmental Literacy. Our goal is to provide knowledge and experience that empowers youth to make a difference by becoming Green Guides. This is achieved through engaging and motivating activities that include: exploring the issues of climate change; permaculture gardening; renewable energy; restoring local habitat; citizen science testing of water and soil quality; and spending quiet time in nature. Our Mission H.O.P.E (Helping Our Planet Earth) curriculum will align with the Department of Education's upcoming Natural History GCSE.

Top Tip:

You can help mitigate Climate Change by finding creative ways to take part in a community approach to The Circular Economy. Circular Economy Principles include: eliminating waste and pollution; circulating products and materials; and regenerating nature.

Who we are:

We're **Out of Sink**, an eco-synchro swim team: 8 Penwith friends of a certain age, who love getting into the sea together.

What we do:

Out of Sink formed just before the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2021, setting ourselves a challenge of becoming a synchronised swim team in just six weeks. We wanted to show politicians at COP26 the power of coming together in the face of apparently insurmountable challenges. Miraculously, we were pretty synchronised! Out of Sink performed for the first time at Jubilee Pool on the Global Day of Action for Climate Justice. Our performance, Tide's Reach 2050, highlighted the impact of rising tides as a result of the climate crisis. We began with a 'land swim' from Newlyn to Penzance through areas likely to flood in 2050 (and sooner). And ended by sharing the more urgent impacts of rising tides across the ocean in Tuvalu. We've continued our joyful eco-synchro activism ever since, raising awareness and funds for environmental causes via performances and community synchro sessions. We've performed in the sea at antipollution protests, and in Jubilee Pool, filled to the brim with plastic bottles.

Top Tip:

When we claim our place in a giant synchro team of activists, we have greater power and resilience. We're also much more likely to sustain our work for change when we share and enjoy it. So, if you want to help combat the multiple crises we face right now, join an existing organisation, and find a fun way to take action together.

Who we are:

We're the **Royal Society for the Protection of Birds**, we help birds and lots of other wildlife too.

What we do:

We save birds and other wildlife — preventing them from becoming extinct. So whether we're transforming thousands of hectares of reserves, working with farmers and landowners, or showing a supporter how to install a bee box, it all adds up to the same thing: giving nature a home, so that birds and other wildlife can thrive again. We save the environment — we can't stop climate change on our own, but we can do everything within our power to lessen its effects and to help wildlife adapt. Our conservation work helps, and we're also campaigning to influence policies on energy, agriculture, transport, planning, fisheries, climate and water use, which all affect the environment. We connect people with nature — we believe that bringing people closer to nature enriches their lives. We create opportunities for people to experience wildlife at first hand. Our ability to help wildlife depends upon the understanding of people like you...

Top Tip:

We can't tackle the nature and climate emergency without decarbonising all sectors of the economy. This will require rapid fossil fuel phase-out, a transition to renewable energy that works in harmony with nature, and behaviour changes to encourage us to think about planet-friendly diets, energy usage and the efficiency of our homes

Who we are:

Sea Soul Blessings is a nature wellness company that connects us more deeply to the sea, and to ourselves.

What we do:

Inspired by daily sea swims here in Penzance, by Wallace J Nichols' 'Blue Mind' research into the positive physical, mental and spiritual benefits of time spent in and around the sea, and by my training as a Blue Health Coach, I create mindful tools and experiences that deepen our appreciation for nature – and especially, for the sea on our doorstep. As an ocean advocate, I raise awareness of the environmental challenges we face, and I'm a joyful activist via Out of Sink, Penzance's very own eco-synchro swim team. I also donate a proportion of my income to environmental causes, because I believe we all have a responsibility to do what we can to create change, and to support others taking action. I've learnt that the more we deepen our connection to the sea, to nature as a whole, and to ourselves as part of nature – the more likely we are to care for the natural world around us. We protect what we love. So through my work, I aim to deepen this connection for as many people as possible, rippling out the ocean activism.

Top Tip:

The more we connect to and love the world around us, the more grief we can also feel. When I feel lost, I focus on one particular cause, ideally in community. Like the Stop Rosebank campaign - Stopcambo.org.uk has simple, easy actions to immediately have a powerful impact, and prevent a huge new oil field.

Who we are:

We are **The Seaweed Institute**, a social enterprise, which works with seaweed and people in many different ways.

What we do:

The Seaweed Institute is a social enterprise based in Cornwall. Inspired by seaweed's ecological significance, cultural heritage, and varied uses, we work to encourage sustainable and joyful engagement with seaweed and the intertidal space. We hope to gather a collective story of seaweed, from people today and records of the past. In 2024 we published some of our research on seaweed in Cornwall in our first book Gomonna. Gomonna is Cornish for seaweed gatherer/gathering. We also advocate for governance that safeguards against overexploitation of the foreshore. We want to help ensure local communities voices are not overlooked when marine development occurs. This winter we have taken part in research to identify how local communities can be more integrated into aquaculture licensing. Our seaweed studio is based in the CAST building in Helston, where we run creative workshops exploring seaweed. As well as this, we host foraging and cooking workshops around the coast.

Top Tip:

We try to choose recipes that use seasonal local ingredients and to source them from local sustainably minded producers. Buying from or volunteering with Food hubs like Growing Links, Penzance and The Falmouth Food Coop can be great ways to be involved in a community. We have found joining a community to be a nice way to face the topics of climate change in a way that feels empowering rather than overwhelming.

Who we are:

St Mary's Church in Chapel Street, Penzance, serving the parishioners and the many visitors to the town.

What we do:

Our church considers the care of the planet and all its inhabitants (human and otherwise) as a core principle of our faith. In 2022 we became the second church in Cornwall to acquire Silver status of the national Eco Church award scheme and are currently working towards Gold. The award covers five elements of church life – Worship & Teaching, Buildings, Land, Community & Global Engagement, and Lifestyle. In early 2025 we will install a pioneering infrared heating system which will radically reduce our carbon emissions and make the church more comfortable for the congregation and for community groups e.g. Night Church and concerts. We have been chosen by Truro Diocese to be a Net Zero Demonstrator Church which has enabled us to achieve funding for green initiatives. We have a wonderful group of neighbours, who live near the churchyard, who help with planting and complement the fine maintenance work done by Cormac. During September and October 2024, we hosted an art exhibition showing paintings on the subject of the climate crisis, with suggestions for positive action.

Top Tip:

Imagine three questions from schoolchildren in 2055 ... “We’ve been reading about life 30 years ago, stories about wars, huge numbers of people starving and homeless, and poisons in the seas and soil and air, and many dying species of wildlife. We’re still feeling the effects of all this.” “How much of this did you know about?”, “What was it like for you to live with this knowledge?” and “What did you do about it?” Discuss with others in the community, actively listening.

Who we are:

The St Aubyn Foundation supports charities and other organisations in west Cornwall, funding community, education, health and cultural initiatives.

What we do:

St Aubyn Estates, which together with the National Trust manages St Michael's Mount, has been awarded Green Dragon Level 5 accreditation, the highest grade within the Green Dragon Environmental Standard framework. This recognition reflects the Estate's ongoing commitment to sustainability and its efforts to reduce environmental impacts across all areas of operation. Reaching this milestone is part of an ongoing journey. Sustainability is a constant process, and there is always more to learn, improve and achieve. By setting clear objectives, creating a thoughtful strategy and working coherently, St Aubyn Estates aims to play its part in caring for the environment. This award not only acknowledges what has been accomplished so far but also reinforces a commitment to future progress. Protecting the natural world for generations to come is a responsibility shared by us all, and St Aubyn Estates remains dedicated to working towards that goal, step by step.

Top Tip:

Supporting local businesses and food reduces emissions from long-distance transport, cuts waste and strengthens communities. By buying, eating, and living local where possible, you minimize your carbon footprint, promote sustainable practices, and protect the environment. Small choices add up: think local, act local, and help combat climate change for a healthier planet.

Who we are:

Cornwall Wildlife Trust is one of 46 Wildlife Trusts working across the UK – we believe in a wilder future for Cornwall.

What we do:

Restoring nature can help soak up carbon emissions - known as natural solutions to climate change - whilst contributing many additional benefits. Emission reduction should come first, as there are limits to what nature can do, but peatlands, woodlands, ocean sediment, seagrass and wetlands are just a few of the incredible natural carbon stores that we need to protect and enhance. Nature itself is at risk from climate change, but if helped to recover, its potential to store carbon means it can help us to turn the tide on the climate catastrophe. Cornwall Wildlife Trust is currently consulting on plans to bring wild beavers back to mid-Cornwall in and around our Helman Tor Nature Reserve. Beaver dams on small streams slow and reduce flood waters, keep streams flowing in drought conditions and create varied carbon-storing habitats that become home for a multitude of other species. We are also trialling seagrass restoration on mudflats in the Fal and Helford estuaries by harvesting and planting their seeds. Sea grass meadows are a vital carbon store and habitat for other wildlife including seahorses.

Top Tip:

Consider changing what you eat. Eating less-but-better meat, fish and dairy can have a big impact. Choosing local and seasonal produce helps put money straight into the hands of valued local producers. Buying local food also encourages you to cook more from scratch, which is great for your health.

Who we are:

The Embroidered Bees Project is run by artist Vicks Harrison as a way to engage people with learning about the 277 kinds of British native bees and biodiversity loss, and how by growing the right plants and creating the right environments we can have an impact on their decline.

What we do:

Regular bee embroidery sessions are held at Morrab Library and elsewhere, such as Penlee House, when requested. I have also held sessions at WAC, Bosavern Farm and Redwing Gallery. Sometimes groups come together and send us their bees. We had a group get together on the Isles of Scilly and another in Helston. The participants develop knowledge, learn new skills and become part of a social group. Some go home and replant their gardens, creating bee-friendly habitat. The embroidery is then exhibited which engages more people with the issues. The most common comment is “I did not realise we had all these types of bees or that they needed specific plants”. It’s often a huge revelation. The embroidery itself is mostly stitched onto old fabric napkins and cloths. It is an unfunded project so relies on donations of this kind. It’s a gentle way to make a difference. You can still get involved – our Facebook group is Embroidered Bees for West Penwith or email vickyvicks@btinternet.com.

Top Tip:

If I could ask people to do one thing it would be to plant native Birdsfoot Trefoil, Field Scabious, Red Campion and Ivy in their gardens.

Who we are:

We are **Sustainable Penzance**. We work to bring together our community to protect the environment and create a more sustainable way of living, working and doing business. Join us to help create a thriving town which puts people, place and planet first!

What we do:

We recognise that our communities and environment are under immense pressure. The two are inextricably linked and creating a better future is about tackling root causes, not sticking on increasingly un-sticky plasters. We're called Sustainable Penzance because we want to be part of the solution. We want to help create a town that is resilient and works for everyone, without damaging the environment. One where the economy works for the many (not the few) and a place where health, wellbeing and our connection to nature are nurtured, valued and protected. A thriving community that is based on regenerative and sustainable practice, and a new economy that builds resilience and puts people, place and planet first. We work in three ways: Community Information & Action - our online portal, resources, workshops and events empower everyone to get involved. Community Collaboration - we want to strengthen and link up the brilliant work already happening in Penzance, and create new projects together. Community Decision Making - we work to get people, place and planet top of the agenda. Asking questions, exploring different approaches and holding to account.

Top Tip:

Start small and build. An easy win is to get a refill bottle and cup, then refuse to use plastic drinks' bottles or disposable coffee cups. If we all did that, we would save 46 million plastic pollution items being thrown out every day in the UK.

Who we are:

We are **Mounts Bay Marine Group** – a local voluntary conservation group focused mainly on conserving and protecting the health of the coastline in and around Mounts Bay.

What we do:

We are a local conservation group that was established in 2019, and we are a community group associated with the Cornwall Wildlife Trust, whose aim is to protect and conserve the local marine environment. The Group encourages awareness of the challenges and threats to marine life in the bay, helping Mounts Bay to be a rich and vibrant place for wildlife and people. Mounts Bay was designated a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) in 2016 as part of England's marine protected area (MPA) network.

Key points of interest for us are:

- Giant Goby – a fish which lives in rock pools and is a rare find in Britain.
- Seagrass meadows – help stabilise sediments, provide a food source for water birds, and shelter and nursery areas for a range of species such as cuttlefish, sea trout and other commercially caught shellfish and fish species.
- Stalked jellyfish – found on most types of seaweeds and seagrasses but prefer to attach to the leaf-like fronds of kelp plants.

The Group holds monthly meetings to discuss our current ongoing conservation projects on the first Monday of the month at 18:00 at the Yacht Inn in Penzance. Anyone is welcome to attend. No experience is necessary.

Top Tip:

Give time and get involved if you can. We hold talks throughout the winter, and outdoor events (rock pooling, snorkelling, seagrass and kelp surveying, sea quests, beach cleans) open to all ages and abilities.

Who we are:

The Gardeners' House mission is to celebrate our landscape and stories of West Cornwall and to share it with our community.

What we do:

At the heart of the Gardeners' House work is a living archive - a growing collection that documents the rich history, heritage, and natural landscape of our region. Built upon a foundation of local stories, history and environment, we will continue to co-create this evolving, contemporary collection with the help of our community. Together, we are preserving the essence of West Cornwall, ensuring the voices of the landscape and its people may inspire future generations and positive action for the planet. The restoration of our historic building in Morrab Gardens will provide a welcoming space for wellbeing workshops, community-led green projects, and a sensory garden. At The Gardeners' House, we are building a place where people can come together to share and celebrate the world around them and their importance within it.

Top Tip:

It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the size of the climate challenge but as individuals we can make a difference by taking small actions, such as reducing plastic use, walking more, and building supportive community connections which is what the Gardeners' House is all about.

Who we are:

Extinction Rebellion is a movement using non-violent direct action and civil disobedience to persuade governments to act urgently, justly and honestly on the Climate and Ecological Emergency, humbly following the noble Suffragettes and Civil Rights movements, who themselves were once outlawed and demonised.

What we do:

Why rebel? We are in a climate and ecological breakdown. We are facing an uncertain future - our world is in crisis and life itself is under threat. The Earth is getting hotter, CO2 levels are rising, and we are in the midst of the Sixth Mass Extinction. We are facing two critical issues - biodiversity loss and climate change. Both are having unprecedented dire consequences not only on us as humans, but on the ecosystem of the planet. XR West Cornwall has been active since 2018 and we have participated in major national events as well as local actions, speaking 'truth to power', raising awareness of the climate emergency, working alone and in collaboration with others. We meet at the Redwing Gallery in Penzance every Saturday morning at 10am. We are friendly and everyone is welcome. xrwestcornwall@protonmail.com.

Top Tip:

There are easy fixes we can all do: be aware of your carbon footprint; contact your MP, council, banks, and water companies; use ethical banks and search engines; grow your own or buy local; engage with your community; reduce, repair, reuse, and share; travel sustainably; plant a tree and wild your corner; and keep informed and updated. Don't give up - we can fix this!

Who we are:

There are currently ten **Women's Institute (WI) Climate Ambassadors (CAs)** in Cornwall, plus two Climate Friends: Cornwall CAs are based in WIs from Albaston to the Isles of Scilly.

What we do:

WI members are at the heart of their communities, and WI CAs have a strong educational remit within WIs and beyond. We are active members of the Cornwall Climate Action Network, work with the Westcountry Rivers Trust testing water quality, and collaborate with Forest for Cornwall to plant and maintain trees. We produced a free booklet, 'Green Tips', endorsed by Cornwall Council and funded by the National Lottery and ourselves. 1600 copies have been distributed, and we are working on our next booklet. These give advice on reducing our carbon footprint and building resilience, and are aimed at both WI members and the general public. We write a Green Corner article in the monthly newsletter of the Cornwall Federation of WIs and give talks on climate change to WIs and local groups. We have a presence at County events including Royal Cornwall and Stithians Shows and Cornwall Flood Forum, where we display our lovely craftivism banners and raise awareness of climate change. We joined the first ever Climate Coalition March in Westminster in 2014, as well as the recent March for Clean Water in 2024, and we lobby organisations and politicians for change. Recently, we joined Surfers Against Sewage demonstrating at the South West Water AGM in Exeter.

Top Tip:

The single most impactful step that anyone can take to reduce their carbon footprint is to reduce or preferably eliminate flying. You could try Inter Railing, or perhaps a Staycation instead.

Who we are:

Growing Links CIC is building a local, resilient, and accessible food system. We champion health creation for people, communities, and the planet—uniting social justice and environmental action to drive positive change.

What we do:

Growing Links addresses climate change through action, education, and growing communities. Our initiatives focus on promoting organic and agroecological practices while fostering health and wellbeing. Through our Community Garden, we grow fresh, chemical-free produce while engaging our community in hands-on food production. By working with the NHS and other partners, we empower individuals to lead healthier lives by being active, learning where food comes from, and connecting with nature. We support biodiversity, regenerate soil health, and minimise environmental impact. Our Veg Bag scheme provides access to seasonal, local produce, reducing reliance on imported goods while encouraging nutritious eating habits. Our Street Food Project is an essential lifeline which helps to feed some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Partnerships with local businesses and farmers provide vital support through donated food and surplus produce. Using supermarket and gleaned waste combats food insecurity, reduces landfill contributions, greenhouses gasses, and transforms potential waste into nutritious meals. Volunteers are central to our work; their efforts create a ripple effect of climate-conscious actions, inspiring others to make sustainable choices.

Top Tip:

Choose local, organic, or agroecological produce to nurture your health, strengthen community resilience, and protect the planet. Eating seasonally reduces food miles, supports biodiversity, and promotes sustainable farming practices. Together, these small actions make a big difference for people, the environment, and future generations.

Who we are:

CPRE Cornwall/CPRE Kernow is the Cornwall branch of the nation-wide campaigning network, formerly CPRE but now called the countryside charity/Aluseneth an powdir. We seek to protect our Cornish countryside and coast.

What we do:

This display marks 95 years of the Cornwall branch of CPRE. CPRE Cornwall was set up in 1930 and that year it produced a comprehensive survey of the whole of the county of Cornwall edited by W. Hardy Thompson. An impressive list of supporters included the great and the good of Cornwall: landowners and industrialists, farmers and fishermen, bankers and philanthropists. All of them signed up to the preservation of the best or most vulnerable of the landscapes of Cornwall.

Nowadays the branch has 300 members and a small committee of volunteers who carry on the work of supporting sustainable development to give local people the homes and the infrastructure they need – while opposing the loss of greenfield and protected land to commercial housing developments that locals cannot afford. We strongly support the mitigation of climate change, biodiversity, habitat protections and sustainable farming. We advocate renewable energy and especially the provision of rooftop solar and wind power wherever possible.

Top Tip:

If you are concerned about a local planning application, contact us. You don't have to join to get our help - but it helps us if you do!

Who we are:

Open the Box Arts is a female led artist collaboration between Melanie Young and Caroline Schanche. They are based in Cornwall and have been working together since 2013.

What we do:

We create socially engaged work with diverse groups of people, with a particular interest in working with people who may feel excluded from mainstream culture. Our practice encompasses choreography, visual art and film to create thought provoking artworks. We are specialists in devising and delivering engagement projects, working with museums, schools, arts & health organisations and charities. We use co-creation methodologies to flatten hierarchies; place value on everyone's contribution and develop meaningful creative experiences with the people engaging with our projects.

Hecate's Journey

As a liminal deity, Hecate is a crosser of boundaries and guardian of entrance ways, tasked with aiding migration and transition. Her universal role as a protector and guide to navigate change, resonates with the times in we which we live. Hecate stands at the crossroads where she is able to see into the past, the present and the future. She is a guide to help us along the way. To respond to climate change, we need to learn from the past and consider the present to be able to build a better future. Hecate's Journey Hecate is associated with many plants and animals which has inspired the imagery adorning her. Her sumptuous decoration has been created during workshops with a variety of community groups including: Penlee Arts and Health Group, Penlee House Volunteers, the Women's Institute, and We Are With You.

Cornwall Council

Climate Change Impacts in Cornwall, 2022

Digital print

From the Cornwall Climate Change Risk Assessment Report (c) Cornwall Council

Chosen by: St Mary's Church, Penzance.

Stanhope Alexander Forbes RA(1857 - 1947)

Abbey Slip, 1921

Oil on canvas

Penlee House Gallery & Museum

Stanhope Forbes's painting *The Inner Harbour - Abbey Slip* is such an iconic image, reproduced in countless cards and table place mats, and so may well be a part of everyday life at the dinner table in many homes! It shows the church in a prominent position and hopefully, with the environmental work going on inside (and perhaps with solar panels on the roof one day) as a good example of how the church takes creation care seriously as a core element of faith and offers a prominent warm and welcoming, reduced carbon-emitting space for all of Penzance and its many visitors.

Also chosen by Heamoor Community Primary School

Inspired by: Abbey Slip by Stanhope Forbes

Heamoor Community Primary School Year 5

Boats of the Future, 2025

Mixed media

Year 5 pupils from Heamoor School chose to respond to Stanhope Forbes's *Abbey Slip* through a climate lens. The pupils shared their own stories about how they interact with this place, their memories of playing and spending time with family and loved ones. The pupils reimagined how this scene may look in the future and they explored the notion that we may all have boats to get around as opposed to cars. Working with artist Theo Carter-Weber, the children designed their own boats with patterns and words that could express their individual and collective thoughts on climate change, our home and our futures. Heamoor School Year 5 are: Lilly, Lola, Isacc, George, Ruby, Ezmee, Leo, Alfie, Louie, Zenzi, Konnor, April, Amelia G, Ella, Daisy, Elizabeth, Ellie, Freddie, Kensi, Grace Pen, Grace Per, Lewis, Amelia S, Jack, Blake, Cleo, Jaxon and William.

Chosen by: Sea Soul Blessings

Samuel John 'Lamorna' Birch RA RWS(1869 - 1955)

Tol Pedn, 1907

Oil on canvas

Penlee House Gallery & Museum – purchased by The Friends of Penlee House, 2024

Tol Pedyn inspires awe at the beauty and history of our coastline. Unlike other positive emotions, we can feel awe even when we feel overwhelmed. Awe connects us to each other and the world around us. It both calms and energises us to take action – empowering us to face the climate crisis together. Tol Pedyn reminds us that Earth will continue long beyond humans. But it also evokes the freedom and wild power we feel in reconnection to the natural world. It reminds us that even the hardest of rocks can be worn away by the sea – offering hope that we can still make the changes so urgently needed.

Inspired by: Bedruthan Steps by Robert Borlase Smart

Top: Clare, Bottom: Roger

Mixed Media

Top: Inspired by: Bedruthan Steps by Robert Borlase Smart

Top left: Miron, Top right: Amanda, Bottom left: Laurie, Bottom right: Evelyn

Mixed Media

Bottom: Inspired by: Bedruthan Steps by Robert Borlase Smart

Top left: Kath, Top right: Ralph, Bottom left:

A.L.F.T., Bottom right: Kate

Mixed Media

Chosen by: Penlee Arts and Health Groups

Robert Borlase Smart(1881 - 1947)

Bedruthan Steps, undated

Oil on canvas

Penlee House Gallery & Museum

Top: Inspired by: Bedruthan Steps by Robert Borlase Smart

Top and Bottom: Linda C

Mixed media

Bottom: Inspired by: Bedruthan Steps by Robert Borlase Smart

Top left: Miron, Top right: Miron, Bottom left: Helen, Bottom right: Evelyn

Mixed Media

Inspired by: Bedruthan Steps by Robert Borlase Smart

Top left: Louise, Top right: Therese, Bottom left: Julia, Bottom right: Helena

Mixed Media

St Aubyn Foundation working with Year 4 children from Alverton Primary School. Modern

Solutions for future problems: How do the islanders get their shopping home?

Photograph

It's the most frequently asked question by visitors to St Michael's Mount. We took this very real issue and thought about how rising sea-levels and increased frequency of storms would impact island life. The Learning Programme on St Michael's Mount is bespoke. We were able to work collaboratively with Penlee House and Alverton School to create an exciting project focusing on sustainability. Our programme on the Mount is centred on experience and process rather than driven by an end product. It was a joy to take this journey with the year 4 children of Kerris class. Top: Photo 1: What do you already know about climate change and St Michael's Mount? We prepared questions to ask on the fact-finding mission. Bottom: Photo 2: A Visit to St Michael's Mount to meet the islanders and learn what life is like.

Photograph

From top to bottom: Photo 3: A visit to St Michael's Mount to meet the islanders and learn about what life is like. How do families cope now and what's important to them about living there? Photo 4: Blue sky thinking. Don't let current technology hold you back ... we could be the inventors of tomorrow! Photo 5: Honing down our thoughts, carrying out internet research, refining ideas and producing finished concepts. Rehearsing our arguments and explanations. Photo 6: Presentations to the St Michael's Mount team, parents, head teacher and chair of governors. Using our oracy skills to explain and justify our thought process.

Chosen by: James St Levan

Frank Gascoigne Heath (1873 - 1936)

There is Music in the Night, c.1922

Oil on canvas

Penlee House Gallery & Museum - purchased in 2024 by the Friends of Penlee House, with partial funding from The Frank Heath Bequest

For many years, we have planned projects with sea level rise in mind, trying to mitigate more frequent flooding of properties at the foot of the Mount by for instance installing slate floors and placing electrical points at a higher than usual level. However, the other and more immediate effect of climate change is from more frequent storms and extreme weather events, which disrupt travel to and from the mainland, which is essential to our way of life. This is the reason for choosing this glorious stormy scene to represent what at the moment seems our greatest threat.

In case

Inspired by: There is Music in the Night by Frank Gascoigne Heath

Alverton Primary School Year 4

How to reach the Mount: Design Models

Mixed media

These are models for reaching the Mount by bridge and tunnel.

Alverton Primary School Year 4

How to reach the Mount: Six Designs

Pencil and pen on paper

Alverton School Year 4 are: Isaac, Casper, Tyler, Otilie, Charlie, Immy, Samara, Henry, Iris, Wren, Matilda, Bethany, Millie, Kitto, Cooper, Ted, Rory, Miller, Jordan, Korben, Betsy, Ayla, Ruby, Lily, Kea, Jensen, Effy, Millie, Flinn, Darcy and Arlo.

Chosen by: Mounts Bay Marine Group

J. T. Richardson (fl. 1900 – 1927)

Low Tide, St. Michael's Mount

Oil on canvas

Penlee House Gallery & Museum - Gift of John Corin

We have chosen this painting of St Michael's Mounts because it really clearly shows one of our main areas of conservation work – our Mounts Bay seagrass meadows – an area of great magic and vital importance to not just our marine life but also to us as human beings, with seagrass meadows being an extremely effective carbon sink – storing carbon 30 times faster than rainforests as well as being vital coastal defence systems against storm damaged caused by climate change.

Cornwall Climate Care

Trailers for Climate Films

Cornwall Climate Care have produced eight short films so far on a range of climate subjects. A trailer for each film is shown here. You can view the films online for free at cornwallclimate.org. Penlee House is hosting two screening events of some of these films during the exhibition on 12 February and 5 March - visit www.penleehouse.org.uk/event/ to book your free place. Duration: Each trailer approximately one minute, whole loop approximately 8 minutes.

Chosen by: Cornwall Climate Care

Thomas Herbert Victor 1894 – (1980)

Penzance from Newlyn

Watercolour

Penlee House Gallery & Museum

The general scenes in this artwork may have altered a lot since it was painted, but one thing has remained

unchanged. The Newlyn Tidal Observatory, in the little red and white tower at the end of the pier, has been working away silently to measure heights above sea level for Ordnance Survey mapping – while also revealing the steadily increasing impact of climate change. Sea levels have risen around 20cm in the past hundred years, but the rate of increase is now accelerating. Rising global temperatures are increasingly melting glaciers and ice sheets, as well as causing seawater to grow in volume through thermal expansion.

Inspired by: Market Place by Stanhope Forbes
Pensans Community Primary School Year 5/6

Market Place of the Future, 2024

Mixed media

Pensans pupils from year 5/6 chose Stanhope Forbes's *Market Place* as inspiration for their climate artwork. Working alongside freelance artist Theo Carter-Weber, they discussed their relationships with 'Market Place' and how it could evolve, responding to climate change and our changing needs as individuals and communities. The pupils illustrated their imaginative ideas, from drones for delivery to using kayaks to travel up Market Jew Street. Pensans School Year 5/6 are: Jenson, Mason, John, Charlie, Jacob, Kacie, Haruki, Eli, Blake, Edi-May, Eva, Aiva, Lilly, Vincent, Ava, AJ, Skyla, Jago, Ruben, Kajus, Jack, William, Josh, Leighton, Orion, Keegan, Riley, Kobe, Alex and Saoirse.

Chosen by: Pensans Community Primary School
Year 5/6

Stanhope Alexander Forbes RA(1857 - 1947)

Market Place, 1921

Oil on canvas

*Private Collection, on loan to Penlee House
Gallery & Museum*

Chosen by: Sustainable Penzance

Frank Gascoigne Heath(1873 - 1936)

The Milk Cart, c.1920

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum - purchased in
2015 with funding from The Frank Heath
Bequest, the Art Fund and the Friends of Penlee
House*

Rachel Yates from Sustainable Penzance chose *The Milk Cart* by Heath as a focus for workshops with children from Gulval School. This painting was chosen to represent local agriculture and enable conversations about farming and shopping for food.

Inspired by: The Milk Cart by Frank Gascoigne
Heath

**Top: Year 3 Gulval School: Eliza, Caleb, Lucy and
Ed, Bottom: Year 4 Gulval School: Ev,
Suzannah, Herbie and Sienna**

Collage

Gulval pupils from year 3 and 4 worked with Rachel Yates from Sustainable Penzance to create future visions for places in the local area. After exploring sustainability and what it looks like now and in the future, the pupils worked on images from the collections at Penlee House chosen by Rachel. The pupils updated the scenes with their ideas for how we can more sustainably farm and shop for food items in the future.

Additional artwork from Gulval School, Alverton
Primary School and Community Groups

Top: Inspired by: Penzance from Chyandour by
Bob Vigg

**Year 4 Gulval School: Leven, Henry, Karson and
Harvey**

Collage

Here the the Gulval School pupils updated the scenes with their ideas for how we can more sustainably travel in the future.

Bottom: Inspired by: Penzance from Chyandour
Beach by Le Huguet

Year 4 Gulval School: Arlo S and Arlo T

Collage

Chosen by: Sustainable Penzance

Le Huguet

Penzance from Chyandour Beach, 1900

Oil on canvas

Penlee House Gallery & Museum

This 100-year-old view of Penzance from Chyandour - along with another more recent view by Bob Vigg (not on display) - were chosen by Rachel Yates from Sustainable Penzance for workshops with children from Gulval School. These works encouraged conversations around travel, by land, sea and air.

Hallway

Map showing the Penwith National Landscape
area (formerly AONB)

Cornwall Council

Top: OS map of St Buryan, second edition, 1908
(detail of sheet LXXIII SE)

Reproduction

Kresen Kernow

Bottom: OS map of St Buryan, 2017 edition

Chosen by: CPRE Cornwall/The Countryside
Charity

Robert Morson Hughes(1873 - 1953)

St Buryan, undated

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House Gallery and Museum - donated in
2024 by David Tovey*

Painted from a viewpoint south of the village.

St Buryan, 2025

Reproduction Photograph

Taken from a vantage point similar to Robert Morson
Hughes's painting. The skyline shows the wide
extension of buildings extending outwards on both
sides of the church.

Top: Aerial view of St Buryan (detail) from a
survey taken by the RAF in July 1946

Reproduction Photograph

Kresen Kernow (CC/PAP/1/B)

Bottom: Recent aerial view of St Buryan, 2025

Left: Peggy Pollard, Right: Peggy Pollard in later
years, in her Truro flat

Reproduction Photograph

In case:

CPRE Cornwall's Survey of Cornwall 1930.

Prepared W Hardy Thompson, published by
University of London Press

Cornwall by Peggy Pollard. Published by Paul
Elek, London 1947

Containing illustrations by Sven Berlin.

Two plates from the 1930 Survey - Plate II, 'Two
kinds of Development' and Plate XXXVII,
examples of 'Disfigurements'

Postcard of St Buryan, pre-1902

Reproduction Photograph

Penlee House Gallery & Museum

CPRE/The Countryside Charity

St Buryan

Inspired by: Mount's Bay from Sancreed by
Eleanor Hughes and Lamorna Cove by Geoffrey
Garnier

Top: Jill, Middle: Helen, Bottom: Jill

Mixed media

Inspired by: Mount's Bay from Sancreed by
Eleanor Hughes and Lamorna Cove by Geoffrey
Garnier

Top: Caroline H, Middle: Diane, Bottom: Susan
Mixed media

Chosen by: Women's Institute Members

Geoffrey Sneyd Garnier(1889 – 1970)

Lamorna Cove

Aquatint

Penlee House Gallery & Museum

Inspired by: Mount's Bay from Sancreed by
Eleanor Hughes and Lamorna Cove by Geoffrey
Garnier

Top: Jo, Middle: Caroline H, Bottom: Pippa

Mixed media

Inspired by: Mount's Bay from Sancreed by
Eleanor Hughes and Lamorna Cove by Geoffrey
Garnier

**Top: Lynn, Middle: Margaret, Bottom: Carol
Jackson**

Mixed media

Chosen by: Women's Institute Members

Eleanor Hughes née Waymouth RI(1882 – 1959)

Mount's Bay from Sancreed

Watercolour

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum – bequest of
Miss Anne Wright, 2003*

Inspired by: Mount's Bay from Sancreed by
Eleanor Hughes and Lamorna Cove by Geoffrey
Garnier

Top: Carol M, Middle: Susan, Bottom: Janet

Mixed media

Gallery 2

Chosen by: The Seaweed Institute

Ernest Procter NEAC ARA(1886 – 1935)

Rising Tide, undated

Watercolour

Penlee House Gallery & Museum

At The Seaweed Institute, we are inspired by the
rhythmic movements of the tides. This liminal space,
revealed briefly during low spring tides, is often
overlooked, but we hope to draw attention to its
beauty, importance, and challenges. The algae that
stretch along our coastline—mostly submerged and
out of sight—offer immeasurable benefits, from
creating vital habitats and shielding our shores from
erosion to capturing carbon and helping mitigate
marine pollution issues. We are left wondering how
this ecosystem will weather threats from rising sea
levels, shifting ocean currents, and marine heat

waves. What can we, as a society, do to safeguard it for the future?

Chosen by: Growing Links

Percy Robert Craft RCA(1856 – 1934)

Tucking a School of Pilchards, 1897

Oil on canvas

Penlee House Gallery & Museum

Although this painting depicts fish in the sea rather than vegetables on land, the sentiment of community and collaboration is what Growing Links is all about. It reflects the spirit of working together towards a common goal, working hard, sharing the rewards of collective effort, and creating equality through unity. Just as the fishermen in the painting might gather to share a pasty after hauling in the pilchards, we bring people together at the Street Food Project and Community Garden — sharing food, connections, and a sense of purpose. This imagery perfectly mirrors our mission of building resilience and sustainability through community action.

Inspired by: Hevva Hevva! by Percy Robert Craft
Extinction Rebellion West Cornwall

Wevva Wevva!, 2025

Textile

Chosen by: Extinction Rebellion West Cornwall

Percy Robert Craft RCA(1856 – 1934)

Hevva Hevva!, 1889

Oil on canvas

Penlee House Gallery & Museum

Hevva Hevva was selected by Extinction Rebellion for two reasons. The Hevva Hevva cry was used by lookouts to raise the alarm that the pilchard shoals were in sight. Extinction Rebellion's first aim is to raise the alarm about the climate and ecological emergency. We need to face up to and react with urgency as we are already seeing impacts across the world. It also shows a community working together in a sustainable way supplying their own seasonal foods. It's a scene reflecting a low carbon existence. The artist Percy Craft was also a Rebel, involved in the Newlyn Fish Riots.

Chosen by: The Gardeners' House

Geoffrey Sneyd Garnier(1889 – 1970)

Seaweed Gatherers, undated

Engraving

Penlee House Gallery and Museum - donated in 2024 by David Tovey

In our archive we have a collection of pressed seaweed, showing how important keeping records is to helping us understand our impact on the natural world. Seaweed is a vital part of the marine

ecosystem, providing food and habitats for sea creatures and helping prevent coastal erosion. In the past, it was harvested from beaches and used as fertiliser, as in Garnier's print. Seaweed is being affected by pollution, dredging, ocean acidification, invasive new species, and the increasing sea temperature (two degrees in the last forty years around the UK). However, it could be part of the solution, as it absorbs and stores carbon dioxide and helps clean water by removing excess nutrients from runoff.

Left:

Mounts Bay Academy Air Ambassadors

Unseen, 2023

This film was produced by student Air Ambassadors at Mounts Bay Academy to highlight the problem of air pollution. Duration: approximately 9 minutes.

Right: Inspired by: Postcard designs by Valentine & Sons Ltd., Dundee

Top: Sophia and Eloise, Bottom: Fred

You'll Wish You Weren't Here Postcard Series
Mixed media

Mounts Bay Academy

Mounts Bay Air Ambassadors are a group of student activists from Mounts Bay Academy. After choosing a selection of early 20th Century designs for postcards from the collections at Penlee House, and other paintings of the local area, they collaborated with artist Ben Cook to make their own 'postcards from the future'. The young people worked in pairs, one to create an updated image for the front of the card using collage or Photoshop, and the other to write an emotive message on the back. The messages express their views regarding the possible drastic effects on our local landscape in the future, if we do not take measures to halt climate change.

Chosen by: Mounts Bay Academy Air Ambassadors

Valentine & Sons Ltd., Dundee

Top: Bolitho Gardens, Bottom: Newlyn Old Harbour, c.1930s

Watercolour

Penlee House Gallery & Museum

This shows the promenade towards Newlyn Green, where the Bowling Club is situated.

Top: Inspired by: Postcard designs by Valentine & Sons Ltd., Dundee

Joe

You'll Wish You Weren't Here Postcard Series
Mixed media

Bottom: Inspired by: Newlyn Bridge by Harold Harvey

Fin and Ollie

Inspired by: Postcard designs by Valentine & Sons Ltd., Dundee

Anon

You'll Wish You Weren't Here Postcard Series
Mixed media

Top: Inspired by: Penzance from Chyandour by Bob Vigg

Lauren and Violet

You'll Wish You Weren't Here Postcard Series
Mixed media

Bottom: Inspired by: Abbey Slip by Bob Vigg

William and Wyatt

Inspired by: Tren crom with Rainclouds by Tom Early

Neena

Lino Print

Chosen by: Social Prescribing Group

Tom Early(1914 – 1967)

Tren crom and Rainclouds, 1947

Watercolour

Penlee House Gallery & Museum - donated by Eunice Campbell, 2012

Inspired by: Tren crom with Rainclouds by Tom Early

Becky

Lino Print

Gallery 3

Chosen by: Penzance Council Leisure and Amenities Team

Carol Hartley, b.1948

Agapanthus at Penlee House, 2010

Pencil and watercolour

Penlee House Gallery & Museum - Gift of the artist, 2010

The Leisure and Amenities Team chose this painting as it shows Penlee Park, which is maintained by the Team to provide a safe and clean green space for local residents and visitors to connect with nature.

Left: Community creation (lead artist Vic Harrison)

West Penwith Embroidered Bees Project Quilt Textile

Chosen by: Embroidered Bees for West Penwith Project

Right: Eleanor Hughes née Waymouth RI(1882 – 1959)

On The Cliff

Watercolour

Penlee House Gallery & Museum – bequest of Miss Anne Wright, 2003

I chose the painting because of the large patch of wildflowers on the cliffs reminding me of summer days with flower patches full of bees, crickets and butterflies something which is fast disappearing. Pesticides, runoff from fields, invasion by non-native species, wet weather, very dry periods, and removal of Cornish hedges are having an impact on our insect numbers and so this scene is becoming less common. We need to be gentle with the countryside and try to develop awareness of who lives there and what we should provide.

Chosen by: Trelya Families

John Miller(1931 – 2002)

The Church Between The Trees, 1976

Oil on canvas

Penlee House Gallery & Museum, presented in 1994

In case

Inspired by: The Church Between the Trees by John Miller

Trelya Families

The Community Tree Board, 2024

Mixed media

Families from Trelya worked alongside artist Emma Saffy Wilson to explore the importance of trees to our environment. They created lots of small artworks inspired by trees, including clay leaf pressings, paintings, and representing their own ages as tree rings! The mini artworks came together to create The Community Tree Board.

Inspired by: The Rain it Raineth Every Day by Norman Garstin

Little Penlee Explorers

The Rain it Raineth More and More, 2025

Mixed media

Penlee House runs a monthly under 5s sessions, Little Penlee Explorers. Over four sessions, we looked at The Rain it Raineth Every Day by Norman Garstin with our youngest visitors and their adults. Working with freelance specialist Jo Lumber, the children did some amazing mark-making on umbrella and welly shapes. They also used sea and stormy cloud colours to add marks to paper for clouds and waves. The result: a very stormy Penzance Prom!

Chosen by: Penlee House Gallery & Museum Team

Norman Garstin(1847 – 1926)

The Rain it Raineth Every Day, 1889

Oil on canvas

Penlee House Gallery & Museum - Gift of the artist

The title appears in two of Shakespeare's plays, most notably in 'Twelfth Night', but also in the Fool's song in Act III Scene 2 of 'King Lear'. The blue structure in the middle-ground of this painting was a collecting box for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, placed on Penzance promenade in 1877. For many years this painting lay hidden in the depths of St John's Hall as the Town Council felt that it pictured Penzance in a bad light and would put off tourists. Today, this painting is probably the most popular work in Penlee House's collections and prints of it have been spotted all over the world.

Chosen by: Out of Sink

E.C. Ford

The effects of the Ash Wednesday storm on Lower Morrab Road, Penzance, 1962

Reproduction Photograph

Penlee House Gallery & Museum

These powerful photographs of storm damage offer disturbing evidence of the impact of tidal flooding – right in the midst of our community, and in the path of our Tide's Reach performance. Sadly, these images also illustrate events that will happen much more frequently as a result of the climate crisis. By taking urgent action now, we can slow this process down, and work to protect what remains.

Chosen by: Out of Sink

Gibson and Sons

Storm damage to the Promenade at Penzance, 1895

Reproduction Photograph

Penlee House Gallery & Museum - purchased with the help of the V&A/MLA Purchase Grant Fund and the Friends of Penlee House

Climate Central

Land projected to be below annual flood level in 2050, 2025

Digital print

From the Climate Central Coastal Risk Screening Tool

Climate Central's website allows you to view the expected sea level rise for a particular area using a variety of settings. This images shows the land which is expected to be below the annual flood level in

2050 on our current trajectory with a medium level of luck, based on the leading consensus of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report 2021. To use the coastal risk screening tool visit coastal.climatecentral.org.

Out of Sink/Duncan Scobie: Editor and Drone Work

Tide's Reach 2050

Tide's Reach 2050 was created in partnership with Sustainable PZ and Plastic Free Penzance. Funding came via FEAST's Shout Louder project: the G7 Kernow Cultural Programme, supported by the Cabinet Office, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Arts Council England and Cornwall Council. This short film captures the 'land swim' performed by eco-synchro swim team Out of Sink to show the expected reach of the sea level in 2050. Duration: approximately 4 minutes 30 seconds.

Gallery 4

Becky

Hanging by a thread, 2024

Poem

Community creation with Open The Box Arts (Melanie Young and Caroline Schanche)

Hecate

Mixed media

Inspired by: GWR and British Railways Posters

Penwith College Progression Pathways Group

Three Posters

Digital print

Working with freelance artist Theo Carter-Weber, the young people from Penwith College Progression Pathways Group were inspired by the collection of vintage Great Western Railway and British Railways posters at Penlee House. Focussing on the importance of sustainable travel and the beauty of our place, the group designed new uniforms for GWR employees and reimagined GWR posters for the future. Penwith College Progression Pathways students are: Lizzy, Rachel, Immy, Liam, Jake, Kieron, Owen, Cameron and Max.

Humphry Davy School

Humphry Davy School students from years 7 to 10 joined us at Penlee House for a series of after-school workshops led by local artist Ben Cook. Ben's work examines the landscape of west Penwith through the eyes of a surfer, with a focus on the environmental challenges it faces. Taking inspiration from the collection of vintage Great Western Railway and British Railways posters at Penlee House, the young

people were asked to re-imagine the images through the lens of climate change. They created their own contemporary versions of the posters, which, express how they feel about the future of our local landscape.

Inspired by: GWR and British Railways Posters

Above: Alyssa, Top right: Jago, Bottom right: Lola

Chosen by: Penwith College Progression Pathways Group and Humphry Davy School

Henry 'Harry' Riley(1895 - 1966)

Penzance - the Centre for West Cornwall, c.1951-52

Lithographic poster

Penlee House Gallery & Museum

Inspired by: GWR and British Railways Posters

Above: Joanna, Top left: Evie, Bottom left: Isla

Chosen by: Penwith College Progression Pathways Group and Humphry Davy School

Frank Sherwin(1896 - 1986)

Penzance in the Cornish Riviera, 1935

Lithographic poster

Penlee House Gallery & Museum

Inspired by: GWR and British Railways Posters

Above: Leo and Lucaz, Top left: Elvie, Bottom left: Daniel

Chosen by: Penlee House Gallery & Museum Volunteers

John Miller(1931 – 2002)

The Bay in Winter (Penzance from Ludgvan), 1976

Oil on canvas

Penlee House - bequest of Dr Eric Richards, 2012

Penlee House Volunteers chose this piece because of the familiar view of Penzance; it gave them a real sense of place. They appreciated the combination of the productivity of the land with the wild, natural hedgerows represented in the image. The Volunteers commented on how it shows the promise of spring – which they felt comes earlier every year.

Chosen by: Earth's Green Guardians

Samuel John 'Lamorna' Birch RA RWS(1869 - 1955)

In Our Old World Valley, c.1921

Oil on canvas

Penlee House - purchased with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund, the V&A/Resource Purchase Grant Fund, the Friends of Penlee House; Leon Suddaby and The Lamorna Society

We chose *In Our Old World Valley* by Birch because it captures Lamorna Valley's beautiful lushness and unspoiled combination of essential natural elements of water, stone, air, light and wood. Lamorna Valley has been an inspiration for artists and visitors for centuries. It is a place to reconnect with nature and restore wellbeing.

Chosen by: Cornwall Wildlife Trust

Samuel John 'Lamorna' Birch RA RWS(1869 - 1955)

In Our Old World Valley, c.1921

Oil on canvas

Penlee House Gallery & Museum - purchased with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund, the V&A/Resource Purchase Grant Fund, the Friends of Penlee House; Leon Suddaby and The Lamorna Society

In Our Old World Valley was painted when humans had already impacted the landscape. It makes me imagine how Cornwall's streams and valleys looked centuries earlier when Eurasian beavers were still common. Archaeological evidence confirms beavers were once here, and centuries later Cornwall has six large, fenced enclosures housing reintroduced beavers. These help us to see how these resourceful animals could transform our streams again, enhancing wildlife, protecting downstream properties and farmland from flooding, and keeping rivers flowing during drought. Cornwall Wildlife Trust is preparing a wild beaver release license application for mid-Cornwall, so our days of just imagining may soon be over.....

Chosen by: WI Climate Ambassadors

Robert Jones(b.1943)

Mackerel Fleet, First Light, 2008

Oil on board

Penlee House - Gift of the artist, 2008

We have chosen Robert Jones's painting *Mackerel Fleet, First Light*, a very beautiful painting of the fishing fleet as it was in the last century. The little boats fill the middle distance, their mizzen sails set to keep them to the wind. Jones recalls that in those days one man could land 100 stone of fish, but he, like Alfred Wallis, is painting 'What used to be'. The huge shoals of mackerel have followed the pilchards into oblivion, partly due to ocean warming and partly to massive overfishing by fossil-fuelled factory ships. The gannets and other seabirds that used to follow the fishing boats are in decline, unable to find food for their chicks and decimated by bird flu. WI Climate Ambassadors campaign to minimise global warming and restore biodiversity.

Chosen by: RSPB

Harold Harvey(1874 - 1941)

Marazion Marsh, 1923

Oil on canvas

Penlee House Gallery & Museum

Harold Harvey's painting of Longrock Pool was created over 130 years after the marshes were drained by Mr R Moyle for farming. The artwork shows a peaceful rural scene with animals grazing in a wet meadow and a view of the pool on the right side, which was dug out in the 1800s to provide materials for the Hayle railway. When you compare this to old maps from that time, you can see that there were far fewer buildings and much more open green space. Today, the marshes are squeezed in between the railway, roads, housing, industrial areas, farmland, and the sea, putting this delicate nature reserve under much greater stress than it faced in the past.

Upstairs Landing

After T Lawrence

Humphry Davy

Oil on canvas

Penzance Town Council

Sir Humphry Davy (1778 – 1829), the famous chemist and inventor of the safety lamp, was born in Penzance in 1778, the son of a woodcarver. During his career he discovered a number of chemical elements, including sodium and potassium in 1807, and investigated chlorine and its oxides. He was knighted in 1812 and received a special dispensation from Napoleon to travel across France the following year. In 1815 some Newcastle miners wrote to him about the dangers of methane gas in the mines, which, ignited by candles on their helmets, caused fires and explosions and resulted in many deaths. Davy looked at ways of separating the flame from the gas and invented his safety lamp. The Davy lamp was introduced into mines in 1816 and soon became widely used, allowing deep coal seams to be mined despite the presence of methane gas. In 1818 Sir Humphry Davy was made a baronet, and in 1820 he became President of the Royal Society. He died in 1829.

Louis William Desanges(1822 – c.1887)

The Capture of Tubabecelong, Gambia, 1866

Oil on canvas

Penlee House Gallery & Museum - Gift of Mrs Nicholas Paul, 1931

This painting commemorates the heroism of Lance-Corporal Samuel Hodge of the 4th West India Regiment, who was the first soldier of African descent to be awarded the Victoria Cross. Col. D'Arcy, who took a distinguished role in this battle, was a resident of Penzance for many years following his retirement from the army. Louis Desanges, a British painter descended from an aristocratic French émigré family, was born in Kent and studied painting in France and Italy before settling in London. In the late 1850s he embarked on a series of portraits of soldiers and sailors who had been awarded the recently instituted Victoria Cross for their actions during the Crimean War and Indian Mutiny. Some of these paintings were displayed at the Crystal Palace in 1862 and there were numerous unsuccessful moves to acquire the collection for the nation. The collection was eventually given to Wantage Town Council and later dispersed.