



**Face to Face:**  
**Portraits from Penlee's Collection**  
**21 January - 18 April 2026**  
**Penlee House Gallery & Museum**  
Morrab Road, Penzance TR18 4HE

[www.penleehouse.org.uk](http://www.penleehouse.org.uk) | 01736 363625 | @PenleeHouseGallery

# Face to Face:

## Portraits from Penlee's Collections

21 January – 18 April 2026

This display of paintings and sculpture, all from the collections here at Penlee House Gallery & Museum, is an intriguing assortment of portraits of people associated with Cornwall, ranging from stiff formal likenesses of the great and the good to intimate studies of humble fisher-folk, from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day.

Over the centuries, Cornwall has been blessed in playing host to a rich assortment of visiting and resident artists, so its inhabitants have been portrayed by some of the greatest painters of all time. One such is the county's first famous painter, 'the Cornish Wonder', John Opie (1761 – 1807), who was patronised by the Royal family and who so impressed Sir Joshua Reynolds, he described him as 'like Caravaggio and Velasquez in one'.

Not least amongst the artists associated with Cornwall are the Newlyn School painters, of course, and the exhibition includes portraits by Stanhope Forbes, Elizabeth Forbes, Harold Harvey and Dod Procter. Some of the most enchanting paintings are the depictions of the unnamed fishermen, their wives and families by artists such as Edwin Harris and Walter Langley.

The show includes newly acquired works by Leonard Fuller, who ran the St Ives School of Painting from 1938 until his death in 1973, self-portraits by Midge Bruford (1902 – 1958) and Pat Algar (1939 – 2013), and busts by sculptor Barbara Tribe (1913 – 2000).

## **Hallway**

Laura Knight DBE RA (1877 - 1970)

### **Bernard Walke, c.1912**

Charcoal on paper

*Penlee House - gift through the Art Fund, 1998. 'In Memory of Mary Wales of Newlyn, 1910 – 1997'.*

Bernard Walke was Vicar of St Hilary Church for over twenty years. He and his artist wife, Anne, were close friends of many of the 'Lamorna Group' of artists and he invited several of them – including Dod and Ernest Procter, Laura Knight and Harold Harvey – to join Anne in decorating the church with religious panels and altar pieces.

Walter Langley RI (1852 - 1922)

### **A Newlyn Fishwife, 1895**

Watercolour

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum - bequest of Dr Eric Richards, 2012*

Laura Knight DBE RA (1877 – 1970)

### **Juanita, 1928**

Etching

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum - The George Bednar Donation*

William John Wainwright (1855 - 1931)

### **Portrait of Thomas Cooper Gotch, 1882**

Watercolour

*Penlee House - donated by Pep and John Branfield, 2023*

William John Wainwright (1855 - 1931)

### **Portrait of Caroline Gotch, 1882**

Watercolour

*Penlee House - donated by Pep and John Branfield, 2023*

Elizabeth Adela Forbes ARWS (1859 – 1912)

### **A Newlyn Maid**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum, on loan from Newlyn Art Gallery*

Stanhope Alexander Forbes RA (1857 - 1947)

### **Head and Shoulders Portrait of the artist's son, Alec, c.1904**

Watercolour

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum - bequest of Dr Eric Richards, 2012*

In 1904, aged 11, Alec attended Chygwidden School, a small preparatory school in Lelant, as a boarder before going to Bedales in Hampshire.

Elizabeth Adela Forbes ARWS (1859 - 1912)

### **Boy with a stick, c.1883**

Drypoint engraving

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum - The George Bednar Donation*

Mortimer Menpes (1855 – 1938)

### **Whistler, Roguish Smile, Evening**

Drypoint engraving

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum - The George Bednar Donation*

Menpes taught etching to Elizabeth Forbes while she was studying in

Pont-Aven in 1882. He later lived in St. Ives for a time.

Elizabeth Adela Forbes ARWS  
(1859 - 1912)

**Peeling Onions, c.1884-85**

Drypoint engraving

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum -  
The George Bednar Donation*

Walter Langley RI (1852 – 1922)

**Waiting for the Boats, 1890**

Watercolour

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

William John Wainwright (1855 – 1931)

**The Old Pilot, 1884**

Watercolour on paper

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum*

Walter Langley RI (1852 – 1922)

**A Reverie, 1885**

Watercolour

*Penlee House - purchased by the  
Friends of Penlee House, in  
memory of Jonathan Holmes, 2021*

Fred Hall (1860 - 1948)

**Self-Portrait**

Mixed media

*Penlee House. Purchased by the  
Friends of Penlee House, 2003*

This self portrait was executed towards the end of Hall's life.

**Gallery 2**

Ralph Todd (1856 - 1932)

**Woman Mending Nets (untitled)**

Watercolour

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum -  
bequest of Dr Eric Richards, 2012*

Frank Wright Bourdillon (1851 – 1924)

**The Jubilee Hat, 1887**

Oil on canvas

*Private Collection, on loan to  
Penlee House Gallery & Museum*  
This scene depicts preparations for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee celebrations in Newlyn.

Karl Bror Albert Konstrand (1875 - 1950)

**Mayor Bazeley, c.1895**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum*  
William James Bazeley was Mayor of Penzance in 1895, and again for the first few months of 1897, following the death in office of Mayor Thomas Reynolds. Here he is portrayed wearing court dress, which indicates a royal event, together with the Victoria Diamond Jubilee medal, awarded to all provosts and mayors in office in 1897.

Leonard John Fuller (1891 - 1973)

**The Man in the Panama Hat, c.1949**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum*  
Portrait of Herbert Thomas, who was Editor of The Cornishman Newspaper for fifty years. He was a great supporter of the arts and in 1949 this portrait was donated by Thomas to the Museum. Herbert Thomas also funded the gates at the Morrab Road entrance to Penlee Park.

After T Lawrence

**Humphry Davy**

Oil on canvas

*Penzance Town Council*

Sir Humphry Davy (1778 - 1829), the famous chemist and inventor of the miners' safety lamp, was born in Penzance. During his career he discovered a number of chemical elements, including sodium and potassium, and investigated chlorine and its oxides. He was knighted in 1812, was made a baronet in 1818, and in 1820, he became President of the Royal Society.

**NEW ACQUISITION**

Leonard John Fuller (1891 - 1973)

**The Silver Jacket, c.1930**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House – donated in 2024*

Elizabeth Adela Forbes ARWS  
(1859 – 1912)

**Portrait of Stanhope Forbes with Cello, c.1900**

Oil on panel

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum;  
bequest of Adam Woolfitt, 2023*

Edward Bouverie Hoyton RS FRSA  
(1900 – 1988)

**Canon Buckley, c.1952-3**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum*

Charles Hector Simeon Buckley obtained a BA from Keble College, Oxford in 1919 and an MA in 1924. As an Oxford undergraduate he volunteered for the army, first as a private in the 28th London

Regiment, later rising to the rank of Captain in the Devonshire Regiment. He fought in Italy, Belgium and France, including at the battle of the Somme. He became a Deacon in 1920 in Birmingham, and then a Minor Canon and Head of the Choir School at Chester Cathedral, before moving to take up the appointment as Vicar of Gulval in 1932, where he remained until his death in 1960. He was an immensely popular man who was a keen member of the British Legion, being Chaplain of the Penzance branch.

John Opie (1761 – 1807)

**A Portrait of an Old Jew, c.1779**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House - purchased with funding from Art Fund, V&A/ACE Purchase Grant Fund, the Friends of Penlee House and numerous private donations, 2016*

This portrait of c.1779 is thought to be of the Penzance Rabbi Abraham Hart (Solomon Lazarus). The sitter looks directly out at us from the shadows, just discernible on his forehead is the Tefillin, a box containing four scrolls inscribed with words from the Torah, the Jewish holy book. This detail shows that the subject was undoubtedly an important person in the Penzance Jewish Community at that time.

Dod Procter RA (1890 – 1972)

**Boy and Canary, c.1952**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum - donated in memory of Christopher James, 2022*

The sitter is Gilbert Gray, whose family lived close to Dod in North Corner, Newlyn, and whom she used for a number of paintings in the early 1950s.

Fred Millard (1857 – 1937)

**The Thread of Life Runs Smooth as Yet, c.1885**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum - The George Bednar Donation*

Richard Thomas Pentreath (1806 - 1869)

**Rabbi Barnett Asher Simmons, c.1839**

Oil on canvas

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

Barnett Simmons was born in London in 1784 and died in Penzance in 1860. He was apprenticed in 1797 to Abraham Jacobs, a 'Japanner and Painter' in London, and was then pressganged into the Navy (he is said to have served at Trafalgar). He came to Penzance as a rabbi to the Jewish community in 1811, aged 27, and in 1813 he married Flora Jacob from Redruth. He retired in 1854 and moved to South Wales, but returned to Penzance in 1857.

**Gallery 3**

Harold Harvey (1874 - 1941)

**Portrait of James Jewill Hill Jr, 1920**

Oil on board

*Penlee House - purchased by the Friends of Penlee House, 2004*

Stanhope Alexander Forbes RA (1857 - 1947)

**Portrait of James Jewill Hill, 1944**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House, bequest of Miss Laura Jewill Hill, 2004*

James Jewill Hill was a partner in the solicitor's firm Jewill Hill and Bennett, Penzance. In 1915 and 1920, he and his wife commissioned artist Harold Harvey to paint portraits of their children Laura, Paul and James Junior, seen here.

Harold Harvey (1874 - 1941)

**Laura and Paul Jewill Hill, 1915**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House - bequest of Miss Laura Jewill Hill, 2004*

During the sitting for this painting Laura recalled getting extremely tired and uncomfortable standing on one leg! The Italian flag was included to celebrate Italy joining the Allies on 23 May 1915. An interesting detail is the self portrait of Harvey in the mirror.

Marjorie Frances 'Midge' Bruford (1902 - 1958)

**'Elephant Bill', (Lt Col J H Williams OBE), 1956**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum*

A soldier and a writer, 'Elephant Bill' was famous for his knowledge and understanding of elephants. His experiences were recounted in an autobiographical book entitled 'Elephant Bill'. He lived in Lamorna at 'Menwinnion', a house originally built for the Heaths.

Stanhope Alexander Forbes RA  
(1857 - 1947)

**The Young Apprentice, Newlyn Copperworks, 1908**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House - purchased with funding from the Art Fund and the V&A/MGC Purchase Grant Fund*

This shows John Drew MacKenzie, instigator of the Newlyn Industrial Class, instructing Johnny Payne Cotton (who produced Newlyn Copper until the 1950s).

Marjorie Frances 'Midge' Bruford  
(1902 - 1958)

**Self Portrait**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House - purchased by the Friends of Penlee House, 2019*

Edwin Harris RBSA (1855 - 1906)  
**Not forgotten, 1884**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House – donated in 2024*

Ruth Simpson née Alison (1889 – 1964)

**Maroon and Gold**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum, on loan from Newlyn Art Gallery – gift of Miss Leonora Simpson*

Ruth Simpson's portraits, such as 'Maroon and Gold', where she set her subject against a bright backdrop depicted in a single colour, were very innovative, and won high praise.

Donald Swan (1929 – 2004)

**John in his Red Raincoat, 1965**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum - gift of an anonymous donor, 2003*

The artist's son, age five. The painting was executed in one day, as the sitter was very reluctant to stay still for long! John went on to work at the Lamorna Pottery from 1998 to 2006, before setting up the Pendeen Pottery with his artist wife, Gemma.

**Gallery 4**

Henry Scott Tuke (1858 - 1929)

**Going Aloft aka Jack Rolling on the Julie of Nantes, 1888**

Oil on panel

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

Dod Procter RA (1890 – 1972)

**Little Sister, 1933**

Oil on canvas

*On loan from Private Collection*

Exhibited at the Royal Academy 1933.

Elizabeth Adela Forbes ARWS  
(1859 – 1912)

### **Autumn Breeze**

Oil on panel

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum - purchased by the Friends of Penlee House with assistance from Annie and Leon Suddaby, 2022*

Harold Harvey (1874 - 1941)

### **Girl on a Cliff, 1926**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House - Gift of the artist's wife, Gertrude Harvey*

A portrait of Cressida Wearne, aged 14. The artist painted the sitter posing in the garden of his studio and the background was painted in at a later date.

Patricia Algar (1939 - 2013)

### **Self-Portrait**

Acrylic on board

*Penlee House - donated in 2023*

Born in London, Algar studied at Wimbledon School of Art and the Royal Academy Schools. There she won several prizes for painting and drawing, including the silver medal for composition. She started visiting Nancledra in the mid-1960s, before settling in St Ives in 1976. In the 1990s she spent time in America painting and visiting collectors, exhibiting her work in San Diego and Dallas. Returning to Cornwall she settled in Marazion where she continued to paint and exhibit until her death in 2013.

Walter Langley RI (1852 - 1922)

### **Time Moveth Not, Our Being 'Tis That Moves, 1882**

Watercolour

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum - purchased from the estate of Ronald and Beryl Middleton with assistance from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Art Fund, the V&A/ACE Purchase Grant Fund, the Friends of Penlee House and all those individuals who gave money through our donations box, 2014*

The sitter is recorded as Grace Kelynack. This was Langley's first success in London, in January 1883, and led to his election to the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolours later that year. The title of this work is taken from 'Time, A Poem' by Henry Kirke White (1785 – 1806).

John da Costa (1866 – 1931)

### **Portrait of Marjorie Armstrong, c.1895**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House. Frame kindly restored by Paul Treadaway*

Miss Marjorie Armstrong was the cousin of Judge Scobell Armstrong of Nancealverne, Penzance.

Richard C Weatherby (1881 - 1950)

### **Stanley Gardiner at Lamorna, 1945**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum*

Dorothy 'Dobs' Merry (1911 – 1998)

### **Portrait of a Newlyn Fisherman [Andrew], 1959**

Oil on board



*Penlee House, donated in 2025*

Edwin Harris RBSA (1855 - 1906)

**Something Wrong, 1885**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House - purchased by the Friends of Penlee House, 2021*

The model for this work is thought to be William 'Billy' Maddern, a Newlyn fisherman.

John Armstrong (1893 – 1973)

**Veronica as a Clown, 1950**

Oil on canvas

*Newlyn Art Gallery, on loan to Penlee House*

Veronica Sibthorp was John Armstrong's second wife. The couple met in 1938, living first in Kent and later, after the war, in Oriental Cottage in Lamorna, near Penzance. The departing figure is thought to be a self-portrait of the artist leaving Veronica, although the couple did not finally separate until 1955. The picture has an inscription on the back, 'John to Veronica 1952'.

**NEW ACQUISITION**

Leonard John Fuller (1891 - 1973)

**The Beige Hat**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House - donated in 2025*

This is a portrait of Fuller's wife and fellow artist, Marjorie 'Nancy' Mostyn.

Edward Bouverie Hoyton RS FRSA (1900 – 1988)

**Guy Gibson**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum*

Guy Gibson spent his early years in Penzance and attended West Cornwall School. He was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1943 for his leadership during the legendary Dambusters Raid of the same year but died in action in 1944, aged just 26.

Harold Harvey (1874 - 1941)

**Portrait of Rhoda, 1934**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum - Gift of the sitter, 2003*

Bequest of the sitter, Rhoda Littler, who was Harold Harvey's niece and often stayed with Harold and Gertrude when she was a teenager.

Barbara Tribe (1913 – 2000)

**Linda [Turney, aged 3], 1951**

Terracotta

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum*

Simon and Linda were the two eldest of Dr W J Turney's four children and the family lived opposite Barbara Tribe in the hamlet of Sheffield in the early 1950s. Dr Turney went on to become Mayor of Penzance in 1971.

Barbara Tribe (1913 – 2000)

**Simon [Turney, aged 6], 1951**

Bronze

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum*

Dod Procter RA (1890 – 1972)

**Gabriel in St. Lucia**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum*  
Gabriel was one of Dod's regular St. Lucian models.

### **Top of Stairs**

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..

William Brooks (fl. 1780 - 1801)

#### **Mount's Bay from Ludgvan, 1794**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House - purchased with assistance from the MGC/V&A Purchase Grant Fund, 1984*

### **Gallery 5**

Frank Bramley (1857 - 1915)

#### **Eyes and No Eyes, 1887**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum - purchased with grant aid from: the Art Fund, V &A/MLA Purchase Grant Fund and the Friends of Penlee House, 2009*

The scene is set on Gwavas Quay showing the recently completed South Pier in the distance.

Harold Harvey (1874 - 1941)

#### **In the Whiting Ground, c.1900**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House - purchased with funding from the MLA/V&A*

*Purchase Fund, the Art Fund, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Friends of Penlee House, 2006*

Whiting is a small fish, usually weighing about 1kg, which is caught between two and six miles off shore.

Walter Langley RI (1852 - 1922)

#### **Cornish Fisherfolk, 1908**

Oil on canvas

Walter Langley RI (1852 – 1922)

#### **Among the Missing — Scene in a Cornish Fishing Village, 1884**

Watercolour and pencil

*Penlee House - purchased with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Art Fund, the V&A/MGC Purchase Grant Fund and the Friends of Penlee House*

Newlyn's fishing boats travelled all around the British coast. When one of these long-haul boats was lost at sea, a telegram sent to Newlyn Post Office would be posted on the wall to tell the villagers the name of the lost boat and the list of fishermen who were 'among the missing'.

Elizabeth Adela Forbes ARWS (1859 – 1912)

#### **School is Out, 1889**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum – Gift of Monica Anthony*

Although there are alternative suppositions, it is believed that the

setting for this painting is Paul School and that the small boy is Richard Vivian Spargo, whose two elder sisters are the red-haired girls laughing at him.

Stanhope Alexander Forbes RA  
(1857 - 1947)

**Abbey Slip, 1921**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum*

Purchased 2010 with support from the National Heritage Memorial Fund; MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund; the Friends of Penlee House and over 250 individual donors, including donations made in memory of Gerda Dales, Mrs Margaret Anne Veitch, Lt.Col. Martin Scrase and Frank Julian.

Stanhope Alexander Forbes RA  
(1857 - 1947)

**The Seine Boat, 1904**

Oil on canvas

*Private Collection, on loan to*

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum*

A 'seine' net, which is being carried in this boat, was used for catching pilchards. The 'tuck' net, used with it, is in the boat behind.

Stanhope Alexander Forbes RA  
(1857 - 1947)

**On Paul Hill, 1922**

Oil on canvas

*Penlee House Gallery & Museum - purchased with funding from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the Art Fund and the Friends of Penlee House*

Stanhope Forbes lost his first wife, Elizabeth, to cancer in 1912 and their only child, Alec was killed in the First World War four years later. After the horror, this painting is full of optimism, with the next generation basking in Cornish sunshine, but in the far distance the Cenotaph (completed the year this was painted) shines like a beacon to remember those lost to save such an idyll.

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.