









ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE – 30 MARCH 2026

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

PENLEE HOUSE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Our Culture	Our Decision Making	Our Environment	Our Money	Our People	Our Places	Our Resilience & Wellbeing
						
						

(i) Exhibitions and acquisitions

The Spring exhibitions, ‘Harry Penhaul: Life Through a Lens’, displayed in Gallery 1 and ‘Face to Face: Portraits from Penlee’s Collections, displayed in Galleries 2-4 opened on 21 January and closes on 18 April 2026. These exhibitions are proving a huge success particularly with our local audience, many of whom are visiting to reminisce, seeing familiar faces, and helping to identify some of the unknown faces in the Penhaul photographs.

(ii) Learning & Outreach

The spring term is fully booked for onsite and outreach school sessions

Arts & Health sessions: we have now finished working with We Are With and Space For You. Space For You are having an exhibition of the work they produced in June. We also worked with WILD Young Parents, who are having their exhibition in May, and this has been going really well. Friends funding has been used to part-fund Arts & Health sessions with Space For You and WILD. We completed a project with Humphry Davy School textile students, and an exhibition of their work is currently on display in the Social History Gallery.

We did a project with Cornwall Music Service Trust where pupils from Newlyn School, Mousehole School and Pensans School came to the Gallery and composed music to go with the paintings. We are hoping to share an audio file of this soon.

This year Friends Funding has also been used to support our work with Under 5s. This has been through the Little Penlee Explorers sessions and our Welcome to the Museum sessions, which work with local nurseries to familiarise young children with what museums and galleries do, and what they are for. This year, we will have worked with six nurseries, including Skylar at Trelya.

Since the previous meeting there have been:

- 18 onsite school visits with a total of 393 students and 61 staff
- 17 outreach sessions with 13 young people, 22 children and 43 adults
- 2 Little Penlee Explorers sessions with a total of 49 children and 39 adults
- 4 Baby Sensory sessions with a total of 21 babies, 4 children, 24 adults
- 9 Saturday/Holiday Activity sessions with a total of 60 children and 50 adults

(iii) Going Places Project

Interviews for the role of Audience Engagement Assistant were undertaken on 11 March. The post will predominantly focus on Penlee's under-5s activities, delivering to local nurseries as well as to visitors to our onsite under-5s sessions. The work of this role will also support the development of the Going Places 2028 exhibition relating to childhood, an opportunity to explore new ways of interpreting artworks for a younger audience. This post will be a two day a week post for a period of 2.5 years with an anticipated start date of the beginning of May.

Press releases for the first Going Places exhibition, 'Making Her Mark: A Celebration of Women in Art' opening to the public at Penlee House on 30 April 2026, have gone out. This has gained significant interest, both locally, and more widely, with pieces on BBC Radio Cornwall and an article in Art Quarterly. As the first exhibition in the Art Fund Going Places programme (out of 6 partnerships delivering programmes), it is a great opportunity to raise the profile of Penlee House.

Work continues with Carefree Cornwall, continuing to work on their final piece for inclusion in the 'Making Her Mark' exhibition. The group have also undertaken both visits to our partner museums, visiting Worcester and Fife to meet other young people involved in the exhibition-related programming. A report by Carefree Cornwall of the impact of the project on its participants is attached at Appendix 1.

(iv) Coach House Café

Jewell Construction continue to redevelop the Coach House, with weekly meetings undertaken with the Contract Administrator, to ensure work is on track and any issues between both parties can be raised. A separate report for information provides further detail.

(v) Town Of Culture

An Expression of Interest to be considered for the award of the status of 2028 Town of Culture is underway, the deadline for submission is 31 March. Towns will be judged on the way they'll tell their unique story, how they'll bring everyone in a community together, and how towns will deliver on their vision. The strongest bids will progress to a shortlist, with each shortlisted town receiving £60,000 to help deliver their full bids for the competition. Three finalists - one small, one medium, one large town - will be chosen. The winner will be crowned UK Town of Culture 2028 and receive a £3 million prize. The two runners-up will each receive £250,000 to deliver elements of their bid

(vi) Income and visitor numbers January – February 2026

Week beginning	Visitor numbers		Admissions (inc. VAT) (£)		Shop takings (inc. VAT) (£)		Weekly total (£)	
	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026
05/01/2026	522	441	£2,668.00	£1,516.00	£1,241.91	£1,335.80	£3,909.91	£2,851.80
12/01/2026	610	130	£2,812.00	£104.00	£1,597.39	£589.37	£4,409.39	£693.37
19/01/2026	94	441	£258.00	£902.00	£467.26	£818.54	£725.26	£1,720.54
26/01/2026	76	385	£230.00	£1,016.00	£587.63	£724.64	£817.63	£1,740.64
Jan totals	1,302	1,397	£5,968.00	£3,538.00	£3,894.19	£3,468.35	£9,862.19	£7,006.35
Cumulative YTD	25901	22,111	£140,368.31	£103,377.00	£117,065.88	£79,306.44	£257,434.19	£182,683.44

Week beginning	Visitor numbers		Admissions (inc. VAT) (£)		Shop takings (inc. VAT) (£)		Weekly total (£)	
	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026
02/02/2026	192	487	£788.00	£1,368.00	£954.73	£965.56	£1,742.73	£2,333.56
09/02/2026	394	361	£1,747.76	£1,344.00	£785.54	£1,063.39	£2,533.30	£2,407.39
16/02/2026	416	505	£1,772.00	£1,912.00	£1,181.58	£1,306.49	£2,953.58	£3,218.49
23/02/2026	313	439	£1,276.00	£1,556.00	£714.60	£1,164.07	£1,990.60	£2,720.07
Feb totals	1,315	1,792	£5,583.76	£6,180.00	£3,636.45	£4,499.51	£9,220.21	£10,679.51
Cumulative YTD	27,216	23,903	£145,952.07	£109,557.00	£120,702.33	£83,805.95	£266,654.40	£193,362.95

(vii) Admission statistics January – February 2026

	Adults	18-26 (50%)	Child	Friend	Free	Art Fund member	PZ Pass	Educational visit (adults & children)
Jan-26	546	51	96	218	185	58	220	196
Feb-26	759	27	106	264	127	68	302	101

Anna Renton
Co-Director, Penlee House Gallery & Museum

Verity Anthony
Co-Director / Visitor Experience & Retail Manager, Penlee House Gallery & Museum

Appendix 1

Senior Youth Worker
Carefree Cornwall

The Going Places project has brought together a group of young care leavers who have all experienced childhood trauma and face challenges including social isolation, low self-esteem, anxiety, mental and physical health issues, financial difficulties, and stigma. These challenges can negatively impact their ability to make friends, be successful at college or in the workplace, and find fulfilment in their daily lives. By providing a safe, inclusive space where these young people can meet together and engage in low pressure creative activities, the project has given them the opportunity to discover their creativity, develop their social skills, and boost their self-esteem. One young person with autism who finds focussing on an activity and engaging with peers challenging has been gently encouraged to participate in the art activities and to give positive encouragement to others. Another with low self-esteem and social anxiety has developed her self-confidence and social skills to the extent that she is now making jokes and revealing her sense of humour. A young asylum seeker who is new to English has been able to practise his speaking skills and reveal a real talent as an artist, whilst another young man has shown himself to be a caring, tolerant, and inclusive role model and group leader.

Over the months that the project has been running, the young people have gradually learned to trust, respect, and believe in each other. This was evident when four of them were taken on a residential trip to Worcester for three days. The young people involved have very different levels of self-confidence, social skills, motivation, and physical and emotional need. Leaving Cornwall, staying in a hotel, and meeting care-experienced young people from another county was daunting, scary, exciting and everything in between, but because they had had the time to bond as a group beforehand, understand and respect their differences, and develop trust in each other and their support workers, the young people thrived. They developed friendships on the long train journey and appreciated the cultural spaces, restaurants, activities, and people they encountered who enriched their understanding of the world outside Cornwall.

The project has highlighted how creating a safe space where young people can engage in simple creative activities, share food together, exchange ideas and appreciate each other's unique qualities can help them to overcome barriers, find self-confidence, and develop an appreciation of art, each other, and the world around them.

ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE – 30 MARCH 2026

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

PENLEE COACH HOUSE REDEVELOPMENT - PROGRESS REPORT

Our Culture	Our Decision Making	Our Environment	Our Money	Our People	Our Places	Our Resilience & Wellbeing
✓		✓	✓		✓	✓

Background:

The development of the Coach House continues with excellent progress consistently made.

Weekly meetings to ensure work is being done to timetable and any decisions required can be made continue. These are supplemented with monthly meetings between the client, the contracting team and the contract administrator.

The current operator of the Orangery café has been awarded the operator contract for the Coach House Café. Contracts will be finalised on completion of inventories of all Council owned kitchen equipment for both the Coach House Café and The Orangery.

The project is nearly at completion with the majority of works completed. Fire shutter for the kitchen has been installed. The coffee machine is being installed 27 March, and shelving for the servery area will be installed after this. Signage development is being undertaken. Furniture is due to be installed week commencing 23 March.

The external work including the completion of the terrace paving and fencing, as well as the tarmacking of the path is complete. Training in how core facilities such as underfloor heating works has been carried out for relevant members of the Penlee House team and the café operator.

Anna Renton
Co-Director, Penlee House Gallery & Museum

Verity Anthony
Co-Director / Visitor Experience & Retail Manager, Penlee House Gallery & Museum

Financial Budget Comparison

for Arts & Culture Committee

Comparison between 01/04/25 and 28/02/26 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions. Includes commitments.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/25

		Revised	Reserve	Actual Net	Balance
INCOME					
Arts & Culture Committee					
400	Penlee House Gallery & Museum				
400/1	Shop				
400/1/1	Admissions	£95,000.00	£0.00	£91,571.65	-£3,428.35
400/1/2	Sale of Merchandise	£65,000.00	£0.00	£74,127.11	£9,127.11
400/1/3	Image Licensing Fees	£1,000.00	£0.00	£532.19	-£467.81
400/1/4	Education Workshops	£1,500.00	£0.00	£2,128.41	£628.41
400/1/5	Till Discrepancies	£0.00	£0.00	£19.19	£19.19
400/1	Total	£162,500.00	£0.00	£168,378.55	£5,878.55
400/2	Grants and Funding				
400/2/2	Capital Build Grants	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
400/2/3	Friends of Penlee	£24,011.00	£0.00	£24,011.00	£0.00
400/2/4	Arts Council	£80,000.00	£0.00	£81,779.42	£1,779.42
400/2/5	Other Grant Funding	£0.00	£177,362.12	£255,430.01	£78,067.89
400/2/6	Building Projects Donations	£0.00	£0.00	£2,284.35	£2,284.35
400/2/7	Art Fund - Going Places	£34,376.00	£0.00	£35,125.50	£749.50
400/2	Total	£138,387.00	£177,362.12	£398,630.28	£82,881.16
400/3	The Orangery Café				
400/3/1	Franchisee Payments	£50,000.00	£0.00	£42,563.64	-£7,436.36
400/3/2	Utility Re-Charge	£8,000.00	£0.00	£6,363.57	-£1,636.43
400/3	Total	£58,000.00	£0.00	£48,927.21	-£9,072.79
400/4	Community Toilet Scheme	£1,320.00	£0.00	£1,320.00	£0.00

Financial Budget Comparison

for Arts & Culture Committee

Comparison between 01/04/25 and 28/02/26 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions. Includes commitments.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/25

		Revised	Reserve	Actual Net	Balance
400/5	Miscellaneous	£349.00	£0.00	£609.16	£260.16
400	Total	<u>£360,556.00</u>	<u>£177,362.12</u>	<u>£617,865.20</u>	<u>£79,947.08</u>
495	Miscellaneous Arts & Culture	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Arts & Culture Committee		<u>£360,556.00</u>	<u>£177,362.12</u>	<u>£617,865.20</u>	<u>£79,947.08</u>

Financial Budget Comparison

for Arts & Culture Committee

Comparison between 01/04/25 and 28/02/26 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions. Includes commitments.

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		Revised	Reserve	Actual Net	Balance
EXPENDITURE					
Arts & Culture Committee					
4000	Penlee House Salaries	£421,622.00	£0.00	£369,169.76	£52,452.24
4100	Penlee House Gallery & Museum				
4100/1	Administration				
4100/1/1	Staff Travel	£750.00	£0.00	£611.30	£138.70
4100/1/3	IT Provision	£13,200.00	£0.00	£11,981.30	£1,218.70
4100/1/4	Office Postage	£400.00	£0.00	£323.48	£76.52
4100/1/5	Website	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00	£0.00
4100/1/6	Office Supplies & Equipment	£1,500.00	£0.00	£982.02	£517.98
4100/1/7	Subscription & Membership Fees	£1,800.00	£0.00	£1,658.52	£141.48
4100/1/8	Insurance	£26,000.00	£0.00	£23,320.83	£2,679.17
4100/1/9	Agency Support	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4100/1	Total	£43,800.00	£0.00	£39,027.45	£4,772.55
4100/2	Penlee House Building				
4100/2/1	Non-Domestic Rates	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4100/2/2	Gas	£14,000.00	£0.00	£11,673.84	£2,326.16
4100/2/3	Electric	£52,000.00	£0.00	£46,458.20	£5,541.80
4100/2/4	Water	£9,400.00	£0.00	£6,664.44	£2,735.56
4100/2/5	Cleaning Contract & Materials	£20,000.00	£0.00	£17,107.11	£2,892.89
4100/2/6	Maintenance & Repairs	£9,000.00	£0.00	£8,209.64	£790.36
4100/2/7	Fittings	£3,000.00	£0.00	£1,255.73	£1,744.27
4100/2/8	Contracts	£30,000.00	£8,215.00	£31,450.71	£6,764.29

Financial Budget Comparison

for Arts & Culture Committee

Comparison between 01/04/25 and 28/02/26 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions. Includes commitments.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/25

		Revised	Reserve	Actual Net	Balance
4100/2/9	Capital Refurbishment	£0.00	£1,120.00	£1,120.00	£0.00
4100/2	Total	£137,400.00	£9,335.00	£123,939.67	£22,795.33
4100/4	Shop				
4100/4/1	Inventory Purchases				
4100/4/1/1	Merchandise for resale	£35,000.00	£0.00	£34,365.41	£634.59
4100/4/1/2	Carriage inwards	£200.00	£0.00	£110.66	£89.34
4100/4/1	Total	£35,200.00	£0.00	£34,476.07	£723.93
4100/4/2	Till & Consumables	£1,500.00	£0.00	£1,285.94	£214.06
4100/4/3	PDQ Charges	£4,000.00	£0.00	£2,807.93	£1,192.07
4100/4/4	Cash Collection	£1,470.00	£0.00	£1,278.82	£191.18
4100/4/5	Carriage outwards for orders	£300.00	£0.00	£276.20	£23.80
4100/4	Total	£42,470.00	£0.00	£40,124.96	£2,345.04
4100/5	Gallery Exhibitions & Museum				
4100/5/1	Exhibition Costs	£32,000.00	£0.00	£24,711.45	£7,288.55
4100/5/2	Marketing	£10,000.00	£0.00	£7,117.53	£2,882.47
4100/5/3	Art Conservation	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4100/5/4	Consultancy Work	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4100/5/5	Volunteer Refreshments	£4,500.00	£0.00	£3,295.46	£1,204.54
4100/5/6	Acquisitions	£0.00	£0.00	£65,000.00	-£65,000.00
4100/5	Total	£46,500.00	£0.00	£100,124.44	-£53,624.44
4100/6	The Orangery Café				
4100/6/1	Equipment Maintenance	£1,500.00	£0.00	£1,506.31	-£6.31
4100/6/2	Capital Purchase	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4100/6	Total	£1,500.00	£0.00	£1,506.31	-£6.31

Financial Budget Comparison

for Arts & Culture Committee

Comparison between 01/04/25 and 28/02/26 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions. Includes commitments.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/25

		Revised	Reserve	Actual Net	Balance
4100/7	The Coach House				
4100/7/1	Electric	£1,750.00	£0.00	£653.13	£1,096.87
4100/7/2	Water	£750.00	£0.00	£699.23	£50.77
4100/7/3	Non-Domestic Rates	£42.00	£0.00	£122.49	-£80.49
4100/7/4	Maintenance & Cleaning	£1,200.00	£0.00	£984.41	£215.59
4100/7/5	Capital Refurbishment	£75,000.00	£447,736.94	£620,814.50	-£98,077.56
4100/7	Total	£78,742.00	£447,736.94	£623,273.76	-£96,794.82
4100/8	Education				
4100/8/1	Council Funded Educational Activities	£10,000.00	£0.00	£9,639.05	£360.95
4100/8/2	Art Council Educational Activities	£22,350.00	£0.00	£20,277.38	£2,072.62
4100/8/3	Other Funded Educational Activities	£6,000.00	£0.00	£6,000.00	£0.00
4100/8	Total	£38,350.00	£0.00	£35,916.43	£2,433.57
4100/9	Fundraising Activities	£210.00	£0.00	£209.65	£0.35
4100/10	Miscellaneous	£1.00	£0.00	£4.53	-£3.53
4100/11	Art Fund - Going Places	£29,930.00	£0.00	£29,546.10	£383.90
4100	Total	£418,903.00	£457,071.94	£993,673.30	-£117,698.36
4200	Town Flags and Promenade Banners				
4200/1	Projects	£24,000.00	£0.00	£18,274.95	£5,725.05
4200/2	Erection and hanging	£6,150.00	£0.00	£6,150.00	£0.00
4200	Total	£30,150.00	£0.00	£24,424.95	£5,725.05
4300	Penlee Open Air Theatre	£1,500.00	£0.00	£925.64	£574.36
4400	Christmas Lights				

Financial Budget Comparison

for Arts & Culture Committee

Comparison between 01/04/25 and 28/02/26 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions. Includes commitments.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/25

		Revised	Reserve	Actual Net	Balance
4400/1	Contribution to BID	£13,800.00	£0.00	£0.00	£13,800.00
4400/2	Light Rigging	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4400/3	Christmas Tree installation & delivery	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4400/4	Overhead wire testing	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4400/5	Suspended wire repairs	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4400	Total	£13,800.00	£0.00	£0.00	£13,800.00
4500	Events				
4500/1	Golowan Festival	£49,000.00	£0.00	£48,975.00	£25.00
4500/2	Cultural and General Events	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4500/3	Annual Firework Display	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4500	Total	£49,000.00	£0.00	£48,975.00	£25.00
4600	Cultural Strategy	£5,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5,000.00
4995	Earmarked Reserves				
4995/1	Penlee House EMRs				
4995/1/1	Conservation Fund	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4995/1/2	Building Fund	£31,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£31,000.00
4995/1/4	Coach House Fund	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4995/1/5	Projects Fund	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4995/1/6	Acquisition Fund	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4995/1/7	Plant Fund	£80,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£80,000.00
4995/1/8	Catering Equipment Fund	£5,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5,000.00
4995/1	Total	£116,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£116,000.00
4995/2	Christmas Lighting Infrastructure	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

Financial Budget Comparison

for Arts & Culture Committee

Comparison between 01/04/25 and 28/02/26 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions. Includes commitments.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/25

	<u>Revised</u>	<u>Reserve</u>	<u>Actual Net</u>	<u>Balance</u>
4995 Total	£116,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£116,000.00
Total Arts & Culture Committee	<u>£1,055,975.00</u>	<u>£457,071.94</u>	<u>£1,437,168.65</u>	<u>£75,878.29</u>
Total Arts Culture Committee Inco	£360,556.00	£177,362.12	£617,865.20	£79,947.08
Total Arts Culture Committee Expe	£1,055,975.00	£457,071.94	£1,437,168.65	£75,878.29
Total Net Balance	<u>-£695,419.00</u>		<u>-£819,303.45</u>	