**Pannett Art Gallery “Staithes Stories” - Can you help?**

As part of its programme of anniversary celebrations and made possible by money raised by National Lottery players, the Pannett Art Gallery is exploring the hidden stories of the Staithes Group of Artists.

A National Lottery Heritage Fund grant has enabled the gallery to develop a programme of research into this group of important artists, who are not widely known outside our area. The Pannett Art Gallery team would love to hear from anyone who has memories of the Staithes Artists, or who remember stories passed down through their families. They are keen to hear about this group of artists who came to Staithes, Hinderwell, Runswick Bay, Whitby and Robin Hoods Bay at the end of the 19th Century, to live and work amongst the community. Do you know any hidden histories about locals who knew these artists or any tales about the artists themselves?

“It would also be really interesting to hear about what is was like for local people to suddenly have this group of creative, sometimes well off and bohemian artists setting up their studios and homes amongst the local hardworking fishing communities” says newly appointed Project Facilitator Bidi Iredale.

As well as looking for stories and accounts of the artists and the locals at this time, The Pannett Gallery is also looking for people to help seek out and collect these stories and anecdotes, to transcribe them, or later in the year to help with presenting them in a number of ways, and to spread the word about these wonderful artists and their link to our coast. “We have a variety of interesting ways people can be involved in the project” Bidi tells us.

If you have a story to share or are interested in becoming involved in this project, please contact the Pannett Art Gallery.

By phone: 01947 600933 (the art gallery is currently closed, we will be answering the phones Monday – Thursday for the foreseeable future).

By email: Pannett.gallery@whitbytowncouncil.gov.uk

## Notes to editors

### About the Pannett Art Gallery

The Pannett Art Gallery is operated by Whitby Town Council. Set in the grounds of Pannett Park, in the centre of Whitby, the gallery has an eclectic mix of 19th and 20th Century paintings on permanent display.

The Gallery is known for it’s two outstanding collections:

**The Staithes Group of Artists** – these English Impressionists painted and exhibited as a group, in and around Whitby, from 1894 – 1909.

**The Weatherill Collection** – two generations of Weatherill artists painted in Whitby and area throughout the 19th and early 20th Century.

The gallery also hosts a range of exhibitions throughout the year, including work by local Art Societies and Groups.

Pannett Art Gallery shares a building with Whitby Museum which is run independently by Whitby Literary and Philosophical Society.

### About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we **Inspire, lead** and **resource** the UK’s heritage to create **positive and lasting change** for people and communities, now and in the future. [www.heritagefund.org.uk](http://www.heritagefund.org.uk).

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## Further information

For further information, images and interviews please contact Helen Berry at Pannett Art Gallery on 01947 600933 or by email, pannett.gallery@whitbytowncouncil.gov.uk