



**Roaming** is a small, hardy perennial not-for-profit arts company.



Its official goal is *"to carry on creative activities that benefit the community and in particular (without limitation) people who find themselves in some way disadvantaged, excluded or vulnerable."* Our values are really our common ground: confidentiality, integrity, fairness, respect for the values and culture of others, the withholding of judgement, inclusivity, flexibility, and equity in relationships.



Most Thursdays, we provide a place to meet, draw, paint, chat, plan – and change. You might think of roaming a metaphor for experimenting, being curious without quite knowing where you are going. There is a safe, accessible, well-lit space with tables and simple materials; there are no specified goals, and no judgements. We make drawings and paintings, a lot of observations, lunch...and always discoveries!





Open Days at Roaming

Roaming began as the Breadline Art Group, a few people associated in various ways with St. Petroc's Society ("supporting single homeless people in Cornwall"). They just liked to paint and draw and talk together. They liked it so much, in fact, that in 2013 one of them registered Roaming as an independent Community Interest Company (CIC). The group has changed size and shape, but still meets Thursdays, 9:30 – 3:30 at the Breadline Café in Penzance, a space still maintained by St Petroc's. Then, as now, decisions are made in group conversations.

Each year we have an Open Day, one Thursday when we invite everyone we know, as well as many we suspect of being curious, to join us, see what's going on, have a bit of lunch, talk to the artists about their work, and ideally join in one or more workshops we offer, such as felt-making or silk painting.

Roaming works. We know it does, although we can't exactly explain why. It is working when people who arrive anxious and angry are able to fall asleep and wake up smiling, when isolation melts into the shared

and transporting experience of making something, when BBC Cornwall broadcasts some hastily scrawled lyrics sung by a Roaming rap artist, when an addict in withdrawal find solace in a Roamer's painting, when the Lord Mayor of Penzance joins in a bit of silk painting on Roaming Open Day, when one Roamer stops another from using language of ethnic contempt. Maybe Roaming works because people who have been isolated and in distress flourish if they can find – or recover -- their own voice. To roam is to branch out past what's familiar, and simple reassurance on a regular basis is as helpful to Roamers under these conditions as it is to anyone.

Roaming has grown and will continue to grow, although we don't usually measure growth in numbers. We grow in terms of what we're able to offer, and in terms of partnerships — short and longer term — with other organizations. Through our first Open Day, for example, we got acquainted with Red Wing Gallery, located very near our baseroom in Penzance. In addition to having had a very successful group



Private View: Thursday, 24 March, 5.30 - 7.30  
Gallery Hours: Tuesdays - Saturdays 11-4.30; Thursdays until 7.30



Exhibition at Red Wing Gallery



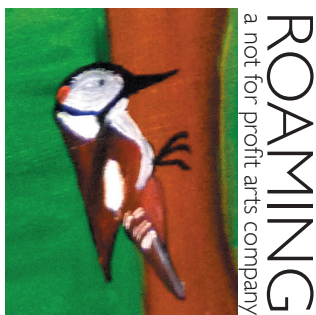
Launch of Roaming mural at St. Ives Farmers' Market



Outdoor cooking



Drawing at Tremeneere



exhibition there, Roamers have received lots of advice about documentation, captioning and pricing of work.

In 2015 a chance meeting of friends resulted in a collaborative mural. Three Roamers worked together for months on a painting to welcome visitors to the St Ives Farmer's Market.

Roamers like being outdoors: some want to grow food or flowers, others to learn survival skills, still others to lead a nomadic life. The group may spend a Thursday in a local park or woodland.

Roaming has enjoyed local funding in Cornwall, as well as support from the Big Lottery. We asked Roamers what we should do when our current funding runs out. Unanimously and unhesitatingly, they said they wanted to go on roaming.

For more about us, including on-line galleries for a number of Roamers, please go to our website at [www.roamingcic.com](http://www.roamingcic.com). Please contact us by e-mail: [mail@roamingcic.com](mailto:mail@roamingcic.com)