

Replacing Falmouth's stolen FitzRoy Barometer



In the portico of 'The Stable', formerly Falmouth's Custom House, you will see a substantial granite housing with a dilapidated glazed door and broken glass. Until about 50 years ago it contained one of the barometers which had been inspired, and largely financed, by Robert FitzRoy the Captain of HMS Beagle, which bore Charles Darwin on his World voyage of discovery.

On his return to Britain, via the port of Falmouth, FitzRoy studied its weather systems realising that changes in barometric pressure were related to sea conditions, and so he set about trying to predict bad weather; a system which he called weather 'forecasting'.

He was also very concerned about the substantial loss of lives of fishermen living in poor communities around our coasts. To help save lives through more accurate weather forecasting he ensured that barometers with sets of instructions were distributed through the RNLI to all such communities.

One of two barometers donated to Falmouth was set in the granite housing 150 years ago in 1868, and there it remained for about 100 years until it was stolen.

Falmouth Civic Society aims to reinstate a FitzRoy barometer back in its rightful place, on display to residents, visitors and tourists to our wonderful town. This will need funding, and your help and donations will be of great assistance to achieve this aim, and will be acknowledged on a plaque.

What we intend to do:

- Purchase an antique FitzRoy barometer
- Make a new and secure glazed fitting to house the barometer in the granite stand
- Move the granite stand to the front of 'The Stable' (Custom House) close to where it originally stood, in full public view.
- To have an unveiling celebration
- To do this we hope to raise £4,000.

You can help - donate, or be a sponsor named on our plaque:

- Donations, however small will be welcomed and recognised on our website and Facebook
- Individual sponsors - £50 or more
- Organisation / business sponsors - £250 or more

So far we have support from the Falmouth Harbour Commissioners, Pendennis, Falmouth Town Council, The Stable, and a number of individuals.

Contributions: by cheque to 'Falmouth Civic Society' sent to the Treasurer; 3a Castle Close, Falmouth, TR11 4PE or by direct payment to our bank Account Number 45084858 Sort Code 52 - 41 - 31.



Top photo: The FitzRoy barometer to replace the stolen one.

Bottom photo: The Granite housing and damaged glass door.

We hope you will join us in making this happen, and add a bit more to the history and attractions of Falmouth.