



NEWSLETTER

Friends of Harlow SCULPTURE & GIBBERD GALLERY

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Friends of Harlow Sculpture and the Gibberd Gallery Newsletter Autumn 2012

This edition of the Newsletter brings us up to date with the latest news of events and changes in the Gallery by Corrina Dunlea, who has worked tirelessly, inventively and very persuasively since taking over from the Council in the summer. At present we have the new touring exhibition by Michael Craig Martin and preparations are under way for our pioneering Saturday opening on November 24th. The Summer Open was a great success, and other Gallery events have involved the town and its various communities creatively. There have been 2 trips by Community Transport since our last Newsletter, and both were very much enjoyed. Two accounts of the excursion to the Fry Gallery in Saffron Walden are included, and the spur-of-the-moment visit to the newly re-opened William Morris Gallery was also very popular. I was particularly glad of the chance to see Grayson Perry's monumental Tapestry of London, which moved on just a few days after we visited. News of forthcoming events is also included, as well as some background information about one of the Town's sculptures, and other news.

Barbara Burge



The Gallery with Michael Craig Martin's autumn exhibition

In and out of the Gallery this Autumn

So far this autumn has raced by with many first-time visitors coming to see 'Harlow Happenings' – a show about the town, its people and legacy. It was in three parts, the hub being at the Gallery, with audio transcripts in the Gatehouse Gallery in Eastgate and a fibre optic light show in a disused shop space in the Harvey Centre. Bishopsfield photographs and artworks were displayed at the same time, and this created a stimulating backdrop which was a nostalgic journey for the residents who helped build the town.

We have now got the contemporary prints of Michael Craig Martin's Alphabet. It's bright, vivid, and has created a varied response from our visitors.

To compliment this show we thought we could have some fun with printing, and are so lucky to be able to offer two sessions with Jane Stobart, our local talented printmaker and tutor who has also produced three books!

We are trying to offer activity in the community such as creating mosaics, Christmas decorations and a varied programme for our first Saturday opening on 24th November. The main aim of Harlow Art Trust is to offer exhibitions that create an interest for the uninitiated and continue to stimulate existing audiences. We have some real gems for 2013 and with your help would like to communicate this to as many people as possible.

We have a new website: www.gibberdgallery.org.uk, a Facebook page-gibberd gallery and a twitter account@gibberdgallery.

Corrina Dunlea

Coming events

'Glass Beads' January 8th-25th.

'Time and Place' Anthony Cleynndert Jan 31st - Feb 22nd.

'Open 13' March 7th - April 29th.

EAF Photography Show May 2nd - 20th

Sculpture Show June 3rd - August 23rd

Michael O'Connell Sept 12th - Nov 28th

Two reports from the Fry Gallery trip in September

The Gallery opened specially for our Friends group and we were given a talk by Fanny Haines and a private view of both the current and permanent collection.

We were given accounts of the artists' careers, which spanned their student days and later ventures into commercial commissions. She also gave information about the varied printing techniques used in Bawden and Ravilious's work. Although they worked in shared studios each had very different approaches to their subject matter.

The current exhibition was drawn from their own permanent collection by a former Saturday morning student, now a recognised printmaker, Mark Hearld. Themed around animal prints, the 'Fry Menagerie' includes illustrations, sketches, greetings cards and designs (notably for Fortnum and Mason). Other artists from the Great Bardfield area make up the 35 works. The Gallery closes for the winter at the end of October.

It was illuminating to see how the Fry manages and promotes their works, in view of our own new role as Friends of the Gibberd Gallery and its permanent collection; from which we recently lent them two watercolours by Edward Bawden for their last exhibition.

Lunching in Saffron Walden on a sunny Market Day and walking around the Bridge End Gardens behind the Gallery were very pleasant too.

Lin Hilton



Fortnum's a-flutter for Easter, 1958 Easter catalogue in a die-cut 'hen coop' sleeve. The chickens hatch as the catalogue is removed from the sleeve.

Above and below, artwork for decorations to Fortnum's Friends Overseas, Christmas 1955.

Advertising print by Bawden at the Fry Gallery



A print by Jane Stobart made during a very successful Gallery print workshop
See more prints made at this workshop on P4

Watch This Space - Literally. Rodin's Eve in the Water Gardens has been spruced up and has gone to the Henry Moore Foundation for an exhibition. We will be getting a temporary replacement.

Fry Gallery Part Two

We might have missed the Bawden Exhibition, with our Bawdens included, but there are plenty of his works still in the Fry Gallery, and with an expert to tell us about the man and his work this was a most interesting and enjoyable visit. I had never visited the Fry Gallery before, and when we stopped in an ordinary (for Saffron Walden) street and entered a side alley in a garden wall and then a short corridor lined with fake marble, I was surprised to find myself in a small but perfectly lit Victorian gallery full of the most amazing pictures. The gallery was built in 1858 by the Quaker Banker Francis Gibson to house his personal collection, but it has always been open to the public and is now run by the Fry Art Gallery Society, and is home to nearly 2000 items of the North Essex collection. Very impressive was the large print of red bulls advertising a butcher's shop. It was the original lino print for the posters. All around were pictures of animals: wild, domesticated and tame, all either prints or watercolours of all sizes. The exhibition is entitled appropriately The Fry Menagerie. It continues till October 28th. Two large rooms make up the Gallery, with two smaller spaces housing ceramics decorated by Ravilious and many familiar books with covers designed by Bawden. The second large room had many examples of Bawden's work, showing clearly the layers of printing used to complete the pictures. He used ordinary brown lino for even the largest prints. It must have taken a supreme effort to separate the printed paper without smudging it. We were told that he used the services of an old lady neighbour to shuffle over the covering boards to get an even printing. I can just see the situation. After visiting the town for lunch and shopping we ended up back in the Gallery to take a second look and to explore the drawers and other nooks and crannies of this quaint building. I will be going there again.

Jenny Lushington

...and the following Thursday...

The Friends' visit to the William Morris Gallery on 20th September was a very enjoyable and educational day. Those of us who knew the old Gallery were delighted with the splendid transformation, the refurbishment of the house and grounds and the excellence of every display room. The £5 million cost was financed by Waltham Forest Council, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Friends of the William Morris Gallery and numerous other charitable trusts and individuals. The new Tea Room is also very good. Waltham Forest Council are spending £5 million on renovating and developing the adjoining Lloyd Park. This has a lake, pleasant walks and a new cafe. Morris was a man of many parts and the Gallery's collection reflects all aspects of his life and work. With his interest in the environment (in the 1850s!) I'm sure he would have applauded Sir Frederick Gibberd's Master Plan for Harlow New Town.

By the age of 50 Morris was a very successful businessman with shops in Oxford Street and Bond Street. He had designed and created many radical fabrics, wallpapers, items of furniture etc, and the radicalism extended to his political views. He thought he could change the world – and had a good go at doing so! As a lifelong socialist myself, and great admirer of William Morris's work, I obviously found the political display room the highlight of the day. It was heartening to look at his ideas and campaigns, and it certainly encouraged me to continue to seek a fairer, better and more just and equal society in our beloved country.

Ron Bill



Chorus by Lee Grandjean

Chorus by Lee Grandjean was bought by the Harlow Art Trust in 1996, and celebrates the anniversary of the founding of Harlow Chorus. It is situated in the churchyard at St John's Arc in Old Harlow and blends well with its surroundings, being made of four slender 'fingers' of iroko wood reaching up into the sky. Lee Grandjean says that the space at the centre of the cylindrical form evokes the idea of sounds resonating together.

Lee Grandjean was born in London in 1949, and lived in Harlow from the age of twelve. He studied at Walthamstow Technical College and Winchester School of Art. He has had solo exhibitions at the Blond Fine Art Gallery in London and Peterborough Museum, and in several group shows. Earlier in his career he worked with green oak, but has since diversified into styrofoam with plastic and colour. He has kept his links with Harlow, and has given a talk to the Friends in the Gallery. He lives in Norfolk and teaches sculpture at the Royal College of Art. He is an Honorary Member of the Friends of Harlow Sculpture and the Gibberd Gallery.

Barbara Burge



Membership costs £8 for adults, £5 for unwaged/students and £10 organisations
If you wish to join the Friends of Harlow Sculpture Collection please complete this form

Please make cheques payable to 'Friends of Harlow sculpture Collection' and return with the completed form to: Karen Bishop, 78 Bynghams, Harlow, Essex CM19 5NT

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