



NEWSLETTER

Friends of Harlow

SCULPTURE & GIBBERD GALLERY

Number 17

May 2013

Friends of Harlow Sculpture and the Gibberd Gallery Newsletter Spring 2013

This edition of the Newsletter contains a piece by Corrina outlining the implications of the Arts Council funding she applied for and received, plus an account of the Open 13 she curated with the help of twenty willing volunteers. Jenny has her own take on the exhibition, and also writes about our contribution to the Harlow June Festival. Other pieces on our visit to the Henry Moore Foundation, Chiron's Spring clean, and disturbing attempts to steal public works are also included, as well as a glimpse into our future programme in the Gallery. We would welcome any comments or general contributions – if a few people feel like writing we could start a letters page. Send emails to me b_a_burge@yahoo.co.uk

Barbara Burge

Gallery news

We were so excited about the news that Harlow Art Trust have received £150,000 for 'Reframe', a three year participatory programme for the Gallery that it nearly overshadowed our wonderful Open show.

This year six artists were commended (two were volunteers). Jackie Chakravarti won best in show and received £100 kindly donated by Denne Construction. She will also take part of the gallery walls for a show of her work at the end of the year. We have some brilliant reviews in the visitors' book:

'Wonderful selection, love that there is something for everyone absolutely loved walking round today.'

'Thank you for a lovely display. Harlow College students enjoyed the show.'

'This is my third visit to the Harlow Open. Thank you to everyone who made it possible. It is fast becoming one of the best things about living in Harlow.'

'A wonderful eclectic exhibition, what talent - Its inspiring.'

'Another wonderful showcase of the vision and talent built into the town's culture.'

'The art was good. I liked the fist most.' (maybe a reference to 'Not in Anger?')

'This is the first time I have visited the Gibberd Gallery. I loved the artwork and would come back again!'

This one made me laugh...'Was very surprised and creepified to see that No 24 looks like me and has the same name as me. Creepy!' - I think the artwork she was referring to was by her dad - of her.

This show is a great example of how community art can reach a large audience of otherwise disengaged people. It's been another glowing illustration of the extraordinary talent we have around Harlow.

Back to the funding from Arts Council East: this will mean several great things for the arts in Harlow;

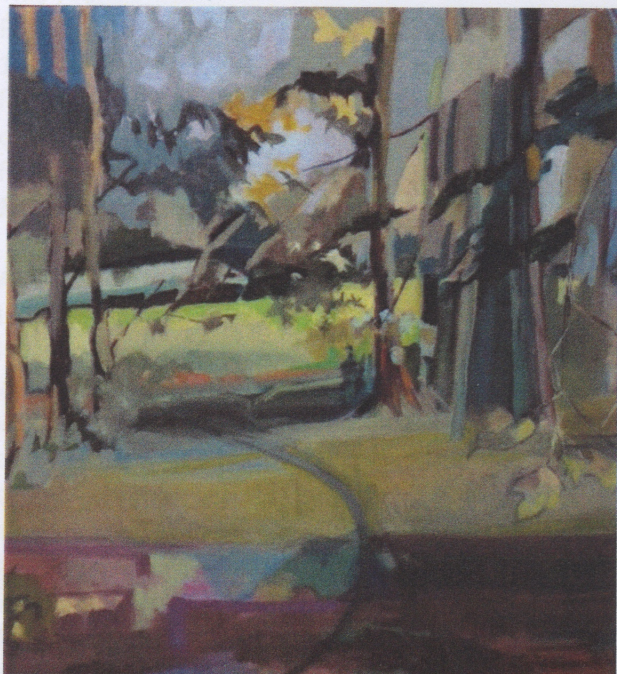
- We have the flexibility to offer five excellent shows each year including a sculpture event and invite guest curators to share their expertise with local artists.
- Schools will receive Outreach (1500 pupils) and be educated about the collections.
- We will be able to run a young curators' programme offering children 13-19 years the chance to enter the world of Gallery administration, gain a silver arts award and create a schools show next year - we have also received funding from Royal Opera House bridge for this.
- We are expanding our loan programme so we can expose our brilliant collection to other organisation and raise the town's profile.
- We will be able to invest in prime marketing to raise the profile of art and cultural opportunities within the Gallery and town.
- It is also part of the plan that a long term financial strategy will be created by the trustees.

We will also be able to offer two one-day positions to cover the IT and marketing aspects and one for coordination of the school education programme and finance. It will also mean we can offer work to artists/tutors to cover the programme of learning both for schools and young curators. Other companies will benefit from working on Reframe both locally and regionally. It will be a privilege to facilitate this funding for Harlow and encourage growth and participation in culture.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who continually make all this great work possible.

Corrina Dunlea

Jacqui Chakravarti's Winning entry in The Open



Corrina Dunlea with Commended Art Work in The Open

Harlow 13 Open – A personal appreciation

I hope you have all been in to see the wonderful Harlow Open 13 exhibition in the Gallery. Right from the entry day to the final display of work I have been surprised, pleased and even laughed with joy at the variety, quality, skill and humour portrayed by the artists in their work. On entering the Gallery one is firstly caught by the little girl's eyes seemingly looking out at you from a letter box - then by the colours drawing you round to explore all the works. (That shows the influence of Corrina in knowing just how to arrange everything to show it off to its best advantage.) But it is not just paintings – there are sculptures – of life and nature and even an amazing piece encapsulating many of the sculptures in the Town; there is even an object which is a painting! And I love the Rapunzel book case!

Jenny Lushington

More Gallery news

Another temporary visitor to the Gallery is Not in Anger by Leon Underwood, the impressive bronze fist formerly situated in the Stow. It was not safe on its plinth, the screws were loose and it was thought wise to bring it in, although there is no CTV evidence that it had been attacked. It will stay in the Gallery until a solution is found. After previous such incidents, including the assault on Julia, it is clear that sculpture theft has become a worrying trend which we shall have to address in more detail. While only metal pieces have been subjected to this so far, others are repeatedly vandalised. We can't bring them all inside, and nor would we wish to – people in the town are attached to their local sculptures. If you have an opinion on this please contact the Newsletter. The following is a happier story about another of the Stow pieces.

Exhibiting Opportunity

'Art groups can exhibit their work, for sale if requested, in the Civic Centre windows for a small weekly fee. Contact Corrina Dunlea, Gallery Director on 01279 446404

corrina.dunlea@harlow.gov.uk

www.gibberdgallery.co.uk

The Cleaning of Chiron

The grime of six decades has now been removed from one of the first sculptures to be sited in Harlow. Last Spring Robert Mountsteven contacted the Harlow Art Trust and offered to pay for the cleaning of his local sculpture, Chiron, which stands in the forecourt of Moot House at the Stow. The Art Trust, which has no fund for the cleaning and maintenance of the sculptures, gratefully accepted this generous offer and arranged for the work to be done.

Chiron was one of the first sculptures to come to Harlow. It was commissioned by the Harlow Development Corporation to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, and was afterwards vested in the Harlow Art Trust.

The carving, in Portland stone, is the work of Mary Spencer Watson and portrays the centaur Chiron who, according to the Greek myth, was both wise and kindly, and also skilled in the arts, especially music. He was entrusted by Thetis, a beautiful nereid or sea goddess, with the education of her son Achilles. Chiron is shown with his large hand protectively resting on the shoulder of young Achilles who, eyes almost closed, is intent on listening to the sound being produced as he plucks a kithara – a small seven-stringed harp. It is very appropriate subject for Harlow with its many educational and artistic activities.

As the piece freshly reveals its detail in the Spring sun the Trust is particularly pleased with the way this cleaning has come about, and the care for the sculpture it demonstrates.

John Graham

Chiron After Cleaning



Moore Rodin at the Henry Moore Foundation



Friends Trip to Perry Green

Friends of the Sculpture Collection and the Gibberd Gallery visited the new exhibition at the Hertfordshire estate. Moore's work and that of Rodin - considered to be the first 'modern' sculptor - have been positioned in close relation to each other in the grounds and galleries.

Moore had long been an admirer of Rodin's approach to the human figure, acquiring a small cast version of The Walking Man in 1967, just before the major Rodin exhibition at the Hayward Gallery in 1970 curated by Alan Bowness. The figure in action, twisted, bent, crouching inspired by Michelangelo's titans, contrasts sharply with Moore's strong static forms, whose seated or recumbent figures echo the shape of the landscape and rock formations.

There were some similarities however. Rodin preferred to model his figures in clay often combining parts of the body from different pieces to create new narratives. The Burghers of Calais were modelled and cast individually and then configured for the monument (separate casts of individuals from the group exist). He liked the malleability of the clay, leaving his imprints, incorporating 'accidents' into his pieces and 'recasting' the figures into new roles.

Moore's large public works are mostly bronzes, cast in editions for worldwide markets, (carving being a more time consuming and unique process). His constant return to the monumental figure, reworking his themes of mother, kings and queens, and the reclining nude in different scales echoes the obsessive practice of his predecessor. The beautiful new gallery space allowed more intimate viewing of drawings and models of both.

We were afforded a great guided tour of the grounds and studios. Many of Rodin's pieces were studies for The Gates of Hell, (never completed for the original museum commission). The triple Adams was to stand

on top of the gateway, the figure of the Thinker below, before the descent into the cascade of tormented souls. The over life size figures of Adam and Eve were to stand on either side of the cast bronze doors. They have been cast up, sold and seen separately ever since. Both are in the garden now. Perhaps the only pity was that our Eve didn't get to share a plinth with her old Adam.

Thanks for help with organizing this free guided visit to the centre from Rosie Walker, our Gallery Administrator. The exhibition runs till October 27th.

Lin Hilton

The Spring Harlow Festival

This year the Festival kicks off with an Art Village in the Water Gardens area on Saturday 25th May. The Friends will be active on that day conducting two walking tours of the Town Centre Sculptures starting at 11.00 and 2.30 from the Information Area outside the Library. Events will continue throughout the Town for the Whole of June. We will also be linking with the Gibberd Garden again to conduct two mini bus tours of the outlying sculptures on Wednesdays 12th and 26th June. Do keep a lookout for the Festival brochure for details of all the events, or for the tours contact me at jenny.ml@virginmedia.com

Jenny Lushington

A Volunteer's View

I became a volunteer at the Gibberd Gallery after finishing my degree in Fine Art. I found getting paid work in the arts difficult and decided that volunteering would not only give me experience in my chosen field but also be an enjoyable way to spend my time whilst looking for work. At the gallery I do a variety of tasks, one which I really enjoy is installing exhibitions. Before volunteering I had never done DIY and I have grown in confidence with practical skills, having been tutored by a fellow volunteer on how to use a drill. I feel like I can give positive input into tasks and that my ideas are listened to. Just stewarding in the gallery I am always meeting lots of new and different people from artists, councillors, families and young people. I feel good that I have helped the gallery by imparting my skills in design and IT creating posters and invites. I feel valued by the gallery and by attending and helping at private views I am able to see all my hard work turned into a successful and appreciated show that people enjoy. There's always a great atmosphere in the gallery, normally tea and cakes and lots of laughs!

Hannah Lee

Gallery Diary

EAF Photography Show-Annual Display, May 2nd – 20th.

Sculpture Show, Nick Turveys' 'Bunkers', an interactive installation', June 3rd – August 23rd.

Michael O'Connell-'The Lost Modernist' - hangings, pots and more, Sept 12th – Nov 28th.

The Private View for 'Bunkers', Nick Turvey's exciting Summer blockbuster, will take place on 19th June at the Gallery. Members and guests welcome.

Newsletter edited by Barbara Burge and compiled by Sarah Bracey

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:

Pat Catlin, Membership Secretary FHSC, 107, North Street, Nazeing, Waltham Abbey, Essex. EN9 2NJ

Name.....

Date.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

Telephone..... Email.....