



# NEWSLETTER

## Friends of Harlow SCULPTURE COLLECTION

Autumn 2007

### Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to the second newsletter of the Friends of Harlow Sculpture Collection, I am sorry it has taken such a long time coming. The FHSC has now been in existence over a year and it has been quite a successful birth. We have now over 35 members but are still looking for more, so please if you are interested in joining complete the membership form at the back of this newsletter.

We have organized five successful talks by sculptors and owners of sculpture: John Mills, Gerda Rubenstein, Julian Rea, Lee Grandjean and Suzanne Eustace of the Henry Moore Foundation. We have been successful in acquiring two grants: one for £100 from Harlow Council to establish ourselves and £8,000 from the Lottery Fund to mount the Outside Inside exhibition.

I am afraid it is also time to renew your subscription. Membership fees are £5 adults: £2 unwaged/students: £10 organisations. Could you complete the form at the end of the newsletter and send it to Simon Carter.

Jackie Storey, Chair

### Moore at Kew

Our next visit will be to the Moore Exhibition at Kew on Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. We will provide a coach from Harlow to Kew at a subsidized rate and book a guided tour. Cost will be entry to Kew: Adult £12.25, Concession £10.25 and Coach £5. The coach will leave Harlow Town Centre by St. Paul's Church at 11.45am and return hopefully by 6pm. Our tour starts at 2pm.



Please complete the enclosed form by Monday October 22nd and return it to Jackie Storey, 47 Byngams, Harlow, Essex, CM19 5NS.

### Christmas Celebration

To mark both Christmas and the end of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year we will be holding a very special private view.

We will have a performance by the De Merc Choir of *Harlow 1947*, a piece composed by Adrian Joliffe featuring the early years of Harlow, and an evening viewing of an exhibition of prints by Ana Maria Pacheco. The event will be on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> in the Gibberd Gallery at 7pm (music at 7.30).



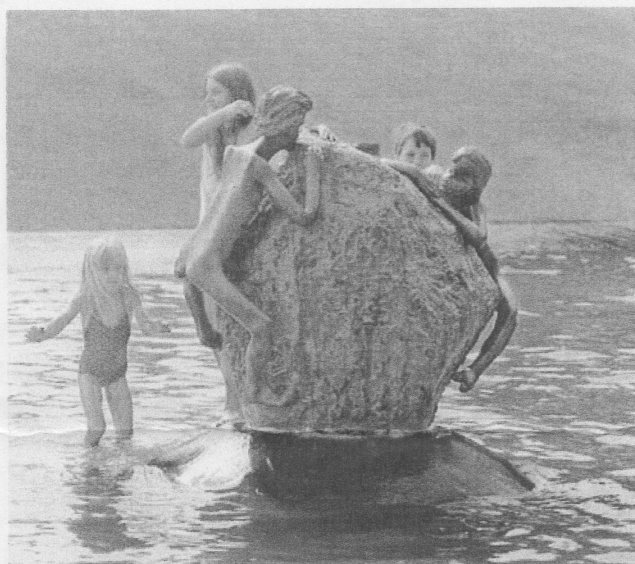
# Aims of the Society

The aims for of the FHSC are:

1. To provide information about the sculpture through talks, brochures and visits
2. To provide guides to give tours of the sculpture and invigilators for exhibitions.
3. To keep a watching eye on the sculpture
4. To promote the collection

The affair of the Children on the Rock has highlighted our third aim. Our secretary Barbara Burge writes:

## Two Children on a Rock



For the first time since the Family Group scandal, when the child's head was stolen and the piece was lost to Harlow for 12 years, sculpture made the headlines in Harlow this summer.

Two Children on a Rock had been repeatedly vandalised over a long period and repaired. Recently it lost limbs and a head, and eventually a whole figure. The sculptor, Hilary Frew, decided that it could not be repaired again, as she no longer had the mould and the material of the sculpture was not durable, so it had to be removed.

Unfortunately, it was thrown into a skip by workmen; observed by Harlow citizens including a FHSC member.

Friends were deeply disturbed by this development, as part of our programme had been to keep a watchful eye on the collection, and some felt that we had failed.

The story has now faded, but lessons have been learnt. We all have a more realistic idea of our capabilities – we should try to be more observant and report damage to the Council. Above all we should in future handle such things more sensitively, and perhaps go to the press before lurid headlines erupt.

Now is the time to be more positive. The fallout has not been all bad. FHSC has a higher profile now, and the concern shown in letters to the press is heartening. We regret the loss of a loved piece very much, but we have learnt from it and the Harlow Art Trust will use any funds from insurance to buy a new work for the collection.

Barbara Burge

To make the task easier we have listed some of our more vulnerable pieces and their locations. Arm yourself with a sculpture map and keep an eye.

Town Centre: *Eve, Upright Motif No 2 (Bronze Cross), Trigon, Vertex, Returning from Work, Meat Porters, Portrait Figure, Obelisk and Still Life.*

Mark Hall: *Contrapuntal Forms, Solo Flight, Sheep Shearer, Not in Anger, Chiron.*

Netteswell: *Donkey*

Staple Tye: *Echo*

Old Harlow: *Kore*

Bush Fair: *Six Cubes*

Colt Hatch: *Iceni*

Church Langley: *Chinese Dynamic*



# Outside Inside

Outside Inside was our first attempt at sponsoring an exhibition and what a success it was. Firstly on getting the money from the Lottery Fund and then on the running of the exhibition itself. It was a learning process for us and I wish to thank Nick and Kelly for the huge amount of work they put in and leading our faltering steps. It was our first attempt at invigilating Barbara relates:

## Should we count people walking through?

The pieces in 'Outside Inside' were mostly small, easily portable, some were breakable. One was very valuable indeed. For these reasons we decided on a programme of invigilation from July to September – almost two months. For the most part Friends were happy to agree to sign up. Some stalwarts managed one 4-hour session a week for the whole period, and we salute their indefatigability.

We had questions: What do we do if people thrust money at us for Harlow Sculpture? (Stick it under the cupboard door.) Should we gen up on the works to be able to answer questions? (If you like, but there is a free information sheet.) What about parking? (You will be reimbursed.) Should we count people walking through? (Your choice. If they pause and look, yes.) Should we attempt to prevent someone from stealing or vandalising pieces? (No. Call security.) How do we call security? (Erm...)

Now I am attempting to sum up the experience. For my part I came to value the sessions. I got a lot of reading and writing done. I did crossword puzzles and quizzes. I even attempted to draw *Girl in the Rain* in my sketchbook. I met a few nice people. I observed changing cloud patterns over Asda. I like to think that I grew to appreciate the works more from lengthy acquaintance. I got spooked out when all the lights went out. (It only happens when the building thinks there's no one there – you have to move about.) I hope everyone else had positive experiences too. I'll be glad to get my Friday mornings back, but wouldn't mind doing it again. So what about next summer's exhibition? Ideas please. (How do you survive four hours without a comfort break? You don't, but make it quick.)

Barbara Burge

# Forgotten Sculptures

## Kore by Betty Rea



The small bronze girl 'Kore' in Old Harlow High Street is a well-loved sculpture. However few people know little about the piece or the artist who made it, Betty Rea.

Rea was born in London in 1905. She studied at Regent St. Polytechnic and at the Royal College of Art. She was a founding member and secretary of the Artists' International

Association, a left of centre political organisation that embraced all styles of art both modernist and traditional. In the 1930s, Rea devoted a good deal of time and energy to anti-fascist activities, including organising medical and humanitarian aid for refugees from the Spanish Civil War. During the Second World War, she taught art in homes for evacuated children in Huntingdon. Later, she taught for many years at Homerton College, Cambridge. During the 1950s and 60s, Rea showed regularly with the Cambridge Society of Painters and Sculptors and in many of the 'Pictures for Schools' exhibitions organised annually by the Society for Education through Art. In 1955, she co-organised an exhibition of realist art, *Looking At People*, in Manchester. Two years later, an expanded version of the show toured from London to Moscow. A major retrospective exhibition of her work was held at Zwemmer's in 1965. She died in London in 1965.

Kore was bought by the Harlow Art Trust with funds from the Harlow Development Corporation to mark European Architectural Heritage Year in 1975. The figure is based on a family friend, of Betty Rea, Anne Twentyman.



# The Committee

The committee elected for 2007/8 is:

Jackie Storey	Chair
Jenny Lushington	Vice Chair and Press Secretary
Barbara Burge	Secretary
Simon Carter	Treasurer
Nick Bullions	Events Organizer
Jane Steer	Committee Member
Kelly Lean	Arts Officer

We would still welcome further committee members so if you would be prepared to volunteer, please contact Jackie Storey on 01279 830784.

## Join FHSC or Renew your Subscription

Membership costs £5 for adults, £2 unwaged/students and £10 for organizations. Please make cheques payable to Friends of Harlow Sculpture Collection.

Please return this form with your cheque to Simon Carter (treasurer), 71 Mark Hall Moors, Harlow, Essex, CM20 1NF

Name .....	
Address .....	
.....	
Tel .....	Email .....

## To book a place on the Kew Visit

.....(name) would like to book .....	(places) on the FHSC visit to
the Moore Exhibition at Kew Gardens. I enclose a cheque for ..... made payable to	
Friends of Harlow Sculpture Collection (cost of place: £17.25 or £15.25 concession). Contact	
telephone number.....	