



NEWSLETTER

Friends of Harlow

SCULPTURE & GIBBERD GALLERY

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Friends of Harlow Sculpture and the Gibberd Gallery Newsletter Spring 2014

Gallery News

We are delighted that nine students have managed to get accredited with the Silver Arts Award (similar to the Duke of Edinburgh in the Arts). Our Young Curators impressed the assessor so much she gave them all a pass. This is a first for Harlow. After the initial shock of over 400 pieces of work arriving from 20 schools as part of their training they created a beautifully curated show. The private view attracted nearly 300 people and Burnt Mill did two stunning dance performances following the theme of Dreams and Fantasies. Thank you to Sue Wagstaff and Amanda Westbury for getting them on track and their encouragement.

On Friday 2nd May Jackie Chakravarti opened her show, "New Works" in the Gibberd Gallery to a rush of buyers, selling over 25% of her works in less than two hours!

Jackie's painting was chosen as 'Best in show' from over 200 artworks in last year's Harlow Open, a popular annual exhibition for local artists, sculptors and photographers both professional and amateur.

We are proud to be the venue for the Launch of "The Summer of Arts" (19 Essex Art Trails) on June 4th at 12.30. Please come along and grab a few brochures for summer days out.

Barbara Hepworth's Contrapuntal Forms



Jackie Chakravarti's Lake Edge



Sculpture News

'Contrapuntal Forms' our Barbara Hepworth piece at Glebelands has finally been landscaped and looks picturesque. The Rotavator is still in storage whilst the site at the Pinnacles is under development.

Rodin's "Eve" is still in Compton Verney and is set to return at the end of this year.

A new map is underway and will complement the free Harlow Sculpture App which has been launched on Google. Just search 'Harlow Sculpture'. This has five trails: walking, cycling and driving routes. A training session will be set up for our Volunteers when we have our mini iPads.

Corrina Dunlea

Volunteering

The Gallery still needs volunteers for invigilating on Friday mornings. And there is a particular need for help with tours and workshops, either on a regular basis or as a stand-in during the summer. Please do feel free to get in touch with Corrina, or speak to the current volunteers at the Gallery desk.

AGM

If you have marketing or publicity skills we would especially welcome you on to the committee. We will also need a new membership secretary. We meet about 4 times a year with some mini-meetings between for special activities. The AGM will be held on Tuesday 15th July at the Gibberd Gallery from 7pm. After the short business session we will be launching our new printed version of the Sculpture Map and giving a demonstration of the new App for the Gallery which will provide help for visitors to the Permanent Collection. All members are invited to join us and meet the committee over refreshments.

Jenny Lushington

Town tours for Schools

I had fun walking round the Town Centre with two classes from Harlowbury Primary School just before half term. The children and their teachers were already familiar with Kore in the Old Town High Street, but Seeing 'Fred's head' in the Civic Centre windows and learning all about his plans for the town seemed to catch their interest. The different aspects of Henry Moore's work, from figurative stone carving in the Family Group which they recognized and could relate to, to his abstract Upright Motifs cast in bronze, gave them food for thought. Was it something they could do: collect interesting items and stick them together until they looked good enough to make into a sculpture?

The Playhouse makes a good final stop for the town tour with such a variety of sculpture, from reliefs in wood and resin (I Am All Leaves and Legs) to full 3 dimensional and very realistic sculptures (Julia and Soldier Bending a Bow) via Buster Keaton - almost but not quite 2 dimensional. The stories behind the sculptures always give them something to contemplate – especially how Julia came to be in her new home. All the children found a mysterious new sculpture there too. It is about the same height as them, it has six legs, it could be three people very close together, what is it? Well – it is a 3d model of the design for a logo for the Razed Roof Theatre Company inspired by their performance depicting the sculptures of Harlow.' Could I do that?' Well quite possibly - we do have some sculptures in the town created by people who grew up here – the artistic influence does rub off.

Jenny Lushinton

Pupils on the Sculpture Trail

Late in February I started getting emails via the Friends email address, they were all asking about various sculptures in Harlow. Where is Eve? Why is Julia in the Playhouse? Where is the Wych Elm relief? The Courtyard? Mother and child? Most I could answer but some baffled me. Where was the Courtyard? The Wych Elm Relief? Did I know the horse had pink paint on it? Why is Contrapuntal Forms in a box? I replied as best I could and promised to find out those I hadn't got an answer for. And I asked where all the questions were coming from. It turned out to be a half term homework project by a school in Bishop's Stortford. It wasn't only the children and their friends who were on the hunt – whole families were looking all over the town and taking photos to prove that they had found each sculpture. I joined the hunt. Why was Contrapuntal Forms in a box? The Horse at Church Langley had been squirted with silly string and Tesco's staff were on the case. But where was the Wych Elm Relief? It wasn't on the outside of any of the buildings in the Mead Park Industrial area where I expected it to be so a bit of detective work was needed. My son's boss at Kier put me on to a lady in the office who knew everything – and she did! It was at the bottom of the staircase off reception in the main building – Phew! I went to see it the next day and it is lovely. Much better than it looks in the map picture, a bit too big for my living room though!

Corrina found The Courtyard in the store cupboard and it was amazingly heavy. Next time I was in the Gallery a young girl came in with her mum to try and see it so we went to get it out, but it was too heavy for any of us to move, though we could see it. So the first time I saw it I was with one of the hunters from The Richard Whittington Primary School. I eventually made contact with the teacher who had set the project – Richard Hamlyn, who had previously worked in Harlow, and had set the project for all the year 3 & 4 children. The school decided to have a special assembly, with the parents there as well, so that every child could be awarded a certificate, with a prize awarded to one child in each class with the best record. Would I like to attend and help present the prizes? Well, I jumped at the chance to see the results of the children's work and was amazed – they had produced beautiful books and folders – all different. Some even three dimensional, one made like a huge open book with all the sculptures' pictures inside. There were lots of personal comments – 'I don't like Trigon it looks like a spider'.

Many of the children had found some of the community sculptures as well, especially along the river bank – the crocodile seat and the Oak Tree Cycle. I am glad all the children received a certificate. They have done pieces of work to be proud of for the rest of their lives. I am so pleased that the children from a school outside our boundaries were able to come and enjoy our sculptures, and I hope to see many more.

Jenny Lushington

Kore by Betty Rea

My daughters, while growing up, passed this bronze sculpture in Old Harlow High street. The young girl in a frock, her weight on one leg, the other, knee bent with the foot resting on the toe, has a universal appeal in her natural and youthful portrayal. I was curious to find out more about the artist and her choice of subject.

The word 'kore' is Greek and refers to the carved statues of 'maidens'. The male equivalent is 'kouroi', adolescent youths. Female connections can be made to the myth of Persephone, an antique myth about fertility and germination. The female forms were usually draped and static, whereas the males were more actively posed. But perhaps the movement in our Kore is not so much a classical quote but signifies the transition from youth to adulthood. An interest in childhood development and education relates to the career of the sculptor.

Betty Rea, born 1904, was a great niece of Dr Thomas Barnardo. She studied at the Royal College of Art when Henry Moore was a student teacher. During the war years she became interested in teaching art and spent time doing so at Huntingdon with evacuee children. In the thirties she joined the Artists' International Association, which set itself against fascism, imperialism and colonialism. Her partnership with the painter, Nan Youngman, at Paper Mills, Cambridge led to the setting up of a schools' art loan project with initial funding from Carnegie, the idea being to afford children with first hand experience of paintings, prints and sculpture by allowing schools to borrow works from their repositories. Initially these exchanges forged good channels between teachers, artists and curators, helping young artists gain greater recognition and funds. The collection, housed in Derbyshire, struggles to survive and provide today. We have many of the painters and sculptors represented there in our own collections in Harlow: Moore, Frink, Soukop, Bawden.

Rea collaborated with Herbert Read in publishing ideas about art through education and the power of art to change and enrich society. Rea and Youngman befriended John Mills: he cast up Rea's Swimmer for the Parkside Pool in Cambridge after her death in 1965. Kore was purchased in 1975 to celebrate Old Harlow winning the European Council's Heritage award with funds from the Development Corporation and Harlow Art Trust. There is a bronze draped girl by Betty Rea entitled 'Stretching Figure' in the Gibberd Garden: both she and Kore seem to be always poised ready for the next step forward.

Lin Hilton

Kore by Betty Rea



Stretching by Betty Rea



Gerda Rubenstein Open Studios

Gerda is taking part in the Surrey Open studios on Saturday 14th June at her home studio in Reigate. We have many of her works in Harlow at the Garden, Gallery and Town. For information go to www.surreyopenstudios.org.uk

Friends' Visit

We are arranging a visit to the newly opened exhibition, Body and Void, Echoes of Moore in Contemporary Art, at Perry Green.

The show connects Moore's post war work, considered avant garde, with the sculpture of now as represented by eighteen contemporary artists including Beuys, Cragg, Deacon, Kapoor, Whiteread, who, today, are also considered cutting edge.

Friday 27th June 10.30 – 4.00pm. Cost of coach and tour approx. £12.00

To book contact linhilton23@gmail.com

To join the Friends of Harlow Sculpture and Gibberd Gallery, receive information about forthcoming events, invitations to private views, the newsletter, talks by artists, subsidised visits to local and regional exhibitions and become involved in investing in Harlow's heritage and future, please complete the following form:-

Membership costs £8.00 for Adults or £5.00 for Students and unwaged or £10.00 for organizations.

Nametype of membership £..... Date
Address Post code
Telephone Mob Email

*Please make cheque payable to Friends of Harlow Sculpture and Gibberd Gallery, (FoHSGG) and forward to :-
The Membership Secretary, FoHSGG, The Gibberd Gallery, Civic Centre, The Water Gardens, Harlow, Essex. CM20 1WG.Cash payments can be made in person at the Gallery desk.*

Items for the next Newsletter to sarah.bracey1@ntlworld.com