



NEWSLETTER

Friends of Harlow

SCULPTURE & GIBBERD GALLERY

Number 24

October 2015

Friends of Harlow Sculpture and the Gibberd Gallery Newsletter Autumn 2015



Corrina with Artists Langlands and Bell in The Gibberd Gallery

The Friends are very sad to hear of Corrina's imminent departure, while fully understanding her wish to do something different after four years of hard work and tremendous success in the Gallery, although we understand that she intends to be in the Gallery for one day a week, at least for some

time. I'm sure all Friends, committee members, volunteers and regular visitors will join in wishing her well and thanking her for taking on a job many of us thought couldn't be done, and doing it so spectacularly well!

Gallery News

Over the past four years I've never tired of greeting new visitors and smiling wryly at their complete surprise whilst they witness one of the brightest jewels in the crown of Harlow, our artwork, public collections and depth of knowledge from our volunteers. QUOTE "Once again a beautifully mounted exhibition ... We are so lucky to have these creative artists working so near... thanks also to Corrina and all of the volunteers."

So with pride we showed off Wood, Stone, Steel and Paint our summer show of sculpture paintings and drawings, a significant story illustrating fifty years of commitment of two people earning a living from their art and making a difference in their community. Angela Godfrey and Alan Burgess have made a major impact on the landscape of our town and their show drew large audiences. We have without doubt major creative talent on our doorstep and are gifted with this wonderful space to give art a unique platform that makes what would otherwise be a disparate a body of work shine.

I have made my views clear on word of mouth marketing and our exhibitions are going some way to help eliminate some visitors' low expectations of what Harlow has to offer culturally.

This year we have trained 12 young people for six months in curating and gallery management

We've seen nearly 900 children experience bespoke workshops and appreciate the town's art collections.

We've had exhibitions that have brought in a horde of visitors: dance, music (jazz and commissioned compositions) theatre, new graduates' final shows' pieces and portraiture .Plus there's a first time contemporary print exhibition coming soon!

I have to say the support we get locally is tremendous, we are a small team and I appreciate very much the commitment of our volunteers plus the Friends' energy in fund raising.

I'm stepping down in October whilst I study for my MA and know you are in great hands; I will be in the background and continue to help where I can and hope to see many of you before I disappear.

Corrina Dunlea

Pisces and cobbling restored in The Town Park



We are very pleased to see the work recently done in the Town Park Water Gardens, and the restoration of 'Pisces' by Jesse Watkins - now back to its former glory in the middle of the pond. Thanks to Harlow Council, Amanda Lucas, Graphic Designer Communications Team and Mike Levett, Education and Volunteers Officer, for getting the work done and for letting us use this information.

Jenny Lushington

Fixing the Philosopher

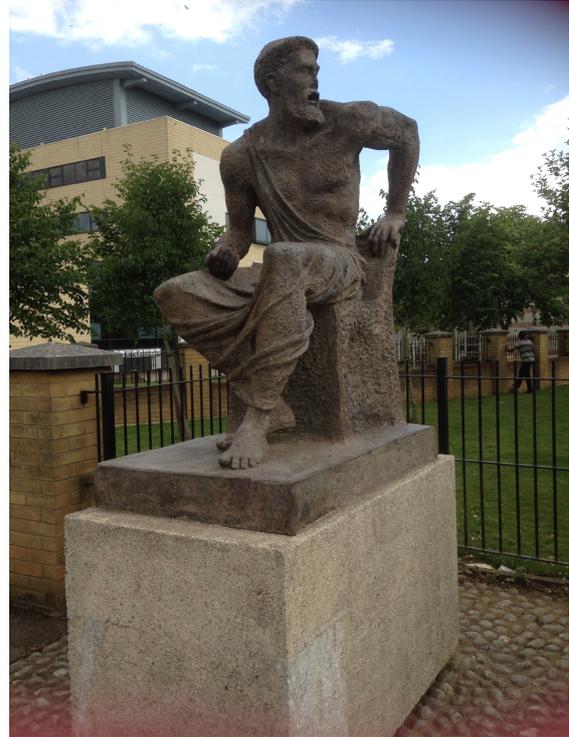
The Philosopher was damaged last winter when his right forearm was broken off. His left hand had been damaged earlier, and a general cleaning to remove dirt and red spray paint was also needed. Some parts of the plinth were damaged and chewing gum and bird droppings had led to the growth of lichen.

Conservation began with removing chewing gum and the paint by the use of a proprietary paint remover. The sculpture was then washed with a high pressure water spray. This removed the lichen and calcite build-up. The cracks and missing plinth sections, and the left hand, were filled and remodelled using tinted cement matching the original colour. The right hand fingers were modelled over plastic-covered wire armatures. These were held in place with a two-part epoxy filler before a final layer of tinted cement was applied. A thin layer of clear Renaissance wax completed the work.

Sue McDonald

Before Repairs, damage to right hand visible.

After Repairs



The Philosopher and the Culture Tours

When we have collected all our guests for the culture tours we disembark in College Square. The guests on our big double bus culture tour on 13th August were the first people to see the lovely clean and repaired sculpture by Keith Godwin - The Philosopher. He is still looking out for the students but they don't come to College Square any more, however, the visitors do.

It seems to have taken ages to get him sorted, waiting for the insurance, the weather and the availability of the specialist team to provide the TLC he needed. The Friends were able to pay for the work with the remains of the grant we received last year from the ECF. But more money was still needed to cover the shortfall in insurance for the repairs. With the profits from the charity car park coming up a week later we were able to underwrite the cost for the work from our basic funds. Now we have to start planning for the next sculpture to receive some Tender Loving Care.

Regarding the culture tours - this year I am especially grateful to the people who have volunteered to help with escorting the groups round the town. On the 13th John Curry escorted one group with the aid of Gwen Jones, who made sure the group stayed together and helped with any queries. I wasn't very mobile but I was ably helped by Mag Barrett and Andrew Vanner who took the guests around the town centre and Water Gardens, both groups getting back to the buses at the same time to set off for Contrapuntal Forms. Other tours have been helped by Mandy Bray, David Giese and Geraldine Tollington, They made the days so much easier. We even have a special extra tour booked in October.

Car park

Thanks so much to all the volunteers – Jamie Lush, Amanda Westbury, Geraldine Tollington, Mag Barrett and son, Gwen Jones, Valerie Jepps, Edna Stevens and Robin McCartney, who helped on 15th August to run the Charity Car Park at the College; Especially to Sue MacDonald and Liz and Bob Boast who helped start and finish the day when I could not be there. This was the first time the Friends had this opportunity which enabled us to raise the extra funds

needed for the Philosopher and also to get some publicity for our organisation. Many people don't know much about the Harlow Art Trust and Harlow's Sculpture Collection, but even fewer know about us: The Friends of the Sculpture Collection and the Gibberd Gallery. This event enabled us to raise awareness of all the work we do in the Town as well as **£234.00** for the care of the sculptures and, I am hoping, to get a few more members.

Jenny Lushington

The Art of The Garden Party 2015

What a lovely afternoon, sunshine, music, dance, poetry and stories all in the Museum's walled garden, a perfect setting with the roses in full bloom and the herbaceous border at its best. This gave us a good opportunity to create a display with information about the Friends and the Gallery and to sell some raffle tickets for Alan's lovely painting, which in



COPYRIGHT malcolm tinn

itself drew people to our table. We kept to a blue theme (the colour of our logo) wearing blue sashes and using a blue table covering and blue display boards which set off the maps and leaflets very well. Several Friends came to say hello but the nicest part was talking to people who didn't know about us but did know about the sculptures. They were very pleased to receive an up-to-date map with all the latest sculptures and their location. But they were also pleased to buy raffle tickets and support us in looking after the collection, especially as the Brazdys Metal Sculpture in the Museum garden looks in desperate need of restoration. It may well be our next project.

Jenny Lushington

Damaged Sculpture

If you have any concerns over the condition of a sculpture please contact Sue McDonald.
sue@harlowarttrust.org.uk.

Membership details

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 £12.00 for Adults or £10.00 for Students and unwaged or £20.00 for organizations.

Nametype of membership £..... Date

AddressPost 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.
Membership renewal is 8th April please.*

Newsletter Edited by Barbara Burge and compiled by Sarah Bracey

