



# NEWSLETTER

Friends of Harlow Sculpture and the Gibberd Gallery

Number 28

June 2017

## Saturday openings at the Gallery

We are very happy to announce that since April 8<sup>th</sup> this year the Gibberd Gallery has been open on a Saturday from 11-4pm. We have had a lot of lovely visitors to the Gallery, new and old, many of whom have not until now been able to access the exhibitions and collections.

To help promote and celebrate the new Saturday openings, and to encourage new visitors, we have had an exciting programme of events and workshops which started in April with a series of painting classes with artist Averil Sinnott. Participants were inspired by the colours of Harlow landscapes through looking at aerial photographs of the town taken by a drone.

On 20<sup>th</sup> May to celebrate the opening of the new exhibition there was a well-attended talk by Batik artist Noel Dyrenforth. Noel's exhibition 'Five decades of Batik painting' is on at the Gallery until 30<sup>th</sup> June. We would not be able to keep the Gallery open on Saturdays without our fantastic volunteer team, who happily meet and greet visitors. If you have 2 – 3 hours to spare on a Saturday once a month and would like to join the team, please contact the Gallery.

**Amanda Westbury**

## Great News for the Gallery

Councillor Edna Stevens handed Jenny and Robin a cheque for £2000 at the Council's AGM, this being the proceeds due to the Friends, her favourite charity during her year in office as Chairman of the Council.

The money will be used to finance the cleaning of either 'Metal Sculpture' by Brazdys in the Museum Gardens, or 'Still Life with TV Set' by Fred Watson in Sumners Health Centre, unless another work seems in greater need.



## A successful funding year so far

At our committee meeting on 6th June Jenny Lushington revealed the following details about our successful funding year so far:

£2000 from Harlow Council as the result of Cllr Edna Stevens's choice of the Friends as her charity for her term of office;

£332 from our turn in the College Car Park;

£217 from a tour by the Kettle's Yard group;

£154 from another cultural tour,  
making a grand total of £2703.

This is in addition to our previous successful bid for funding for our archives and talks equipment. We await the result of another bid which would fund Saturday Gallery openings among other things if successful.

Many thanks to Jenny, Robin, Liz, Amanda, Martin and others for these impressive efforts.

# 'Paperwork'

## Jane Stobart's exhibition at the Gallery



*Pulling back*, 2015, Jane Stobart

Jane Stobart's prize, as winner of the 2016 Open, was her own exhibition in the Gibberd Gallery in March and April this year. This was entitled 'Paperwork' and was an intriguing collection of prints, drawings, woodcuts and etchings inspired by her close observations of people at work – in foundries, construction sites, tube train maintenance depots and sewage pumping stations.

As an artist working in monochrome she is attracted to locations with strong contrasts of dark and light, and with dramatic physical effort.

Jane has a long connection with Harlow, having lived here for twenty years, as well as teaching at the College on the Art Foundation Course. She has a permanent work entitled 'Building Blocks' in the atrium of the University Centre, and is represented in many permanent collections nationally and abroad. She has had exhibitions in Kenya, Russia, Australia and the US.

Jane is an artist immersed in her chosen field of work, and a highly accomplished, creative talent.

Barbara Burge

## Gerda Rubinstein at Parndon Mill Gallery in August

This summer one of our foremost sculptors will be exhibiting once again at Parndon Mill Gallery. In the show entitled 'Observation and Insight' she will have bronze and resin casts of current and past work.

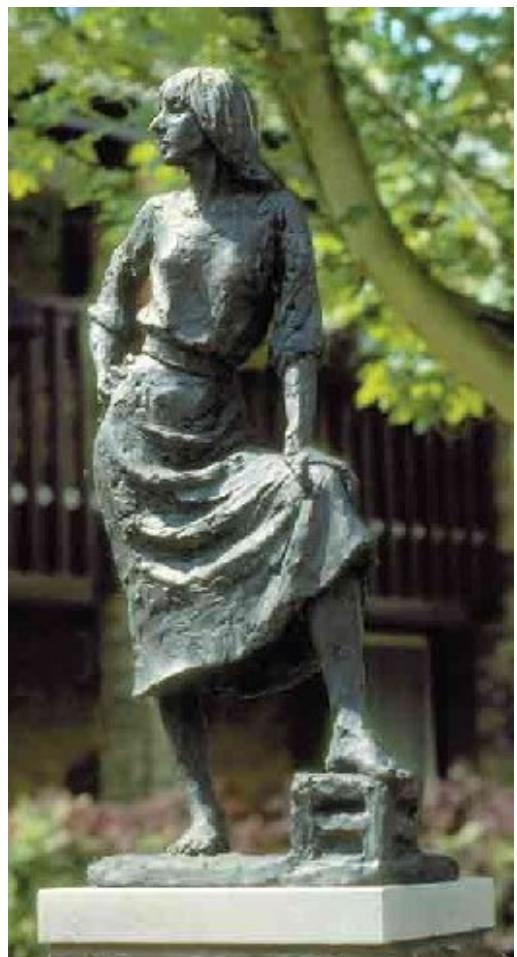
She is well represented in the town and the Gibberd Garden and many will be familiar with the concrete eagles at the entrance, commissioned by Sir Frederick in 1977. Lady Patricia Gibberd purchased a 'Tower' in 1972 as her wedding gift for her husband and another of the series was acquired by the Trust for Bishopsfield.

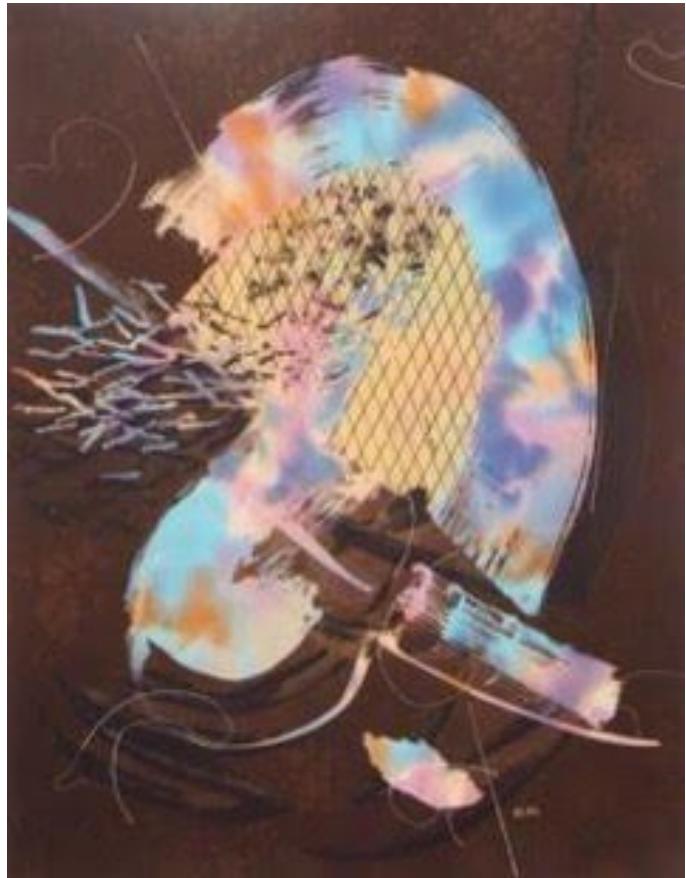
Her first exhibition of sculpture in Harlow was in a group show at the Playhouse Gallery, curated by Lady Gibberd, which she helped mount in 1978. She has since produced pieces for Harlow Art Trust and privately for the Gibberd Garden. We have three works in the Gibberd Gallery: 'Screen', the bronze version of Sir Frederick's portrait and a maquette of a tower, 'City'.

'Julia', pictured here, was relocated to the Playhouse and replaced with a resin cast in Sewell Harris Close, The Stow. Still creative at the age of 87, Gerda continues to explore ways of capturing the figure in motion. Her works are a delight.

The Friends would like to offer its members free transport to Parndon Mill Gallery on Friday 11th August. We could arrange several pick up points in the town if you wish to book a place on the Combus. If interested please ring Lin Hilton on 01279 415007. The show runs till 17th September and is free entry.

Lin Hilton





## **Hot wax and liquid colour on fabric!**

### **Noel Dyrenforth exhibition attracts new Saturday visitors to the Gallery**

Since his first solo show in London in 1967 Noel Dyrenforth has held over 100 exhibitions, including one at the Victoria and Albert Museum. From 13<sup>th</sup> May until 30<sup>th</sup> June the Gallery has been showcasing 'Five decades of Batik painting', a retrospective of his work so far.

Dyrenforth is a leading, internationally known, artist. His work is innovating and exciting, in that he creates art out of hot wax and liquid colour on cotton, silk and paper with dramatic results.

The exhibition coincides with the Gallery's new Saturday opening times (11am-4pm) and is a key reason for attracting many new visitors and some rave reviews.

*'Noel has given us the breadth of his life's work'  
'Fantastic space, fantastic work..fantastic Batik'  
'Fantastic space for such powerful work'*

There's still time to see this colourful exhibition, but hurry – it only runs until 30<sup>th</sup> June.

**Vicky Saggers**

## **Friends' AGM**

Friends of Harlow Sculpture will be holding their AGM in the Civic Centre (Committee Room on the top floor) on Tuesday 11th July at 7pm. We hope to have a speaker, and light refreshments will be served. We will also be drawing the winning raffle prize number. Please come along with your raffle tickets if you have them. (Last chance to buy on the night).

## **Your chance to win £100!**

The Friends are starting a 30 Club and you are invited to become a member. For just £5 per month you will have the chance of winning £100 twelve times a year at very low odds. You will shortly receive an entry form by email for you to fill in with your bank details etc. The draw will take place on the 15th of every month, starting with July. The aim is to provide funding for the Gallery and to have a bit of fun.. If it takes off it could become a 50 Club, with more prizes. Look out for our email.

# A good start to the summer season

## Cultural Tours, May 2017

This year's monthly Cultural Tours of Harlow got off to a slow start with the April tour cancelled. However, we had a good bus load of ten guests for May. All the guests turned up at the Garden on time and so did the bus with Paul, a familiar face.

Mag, though, had got caught up in a traffic jam on the main road to Bishop's Stortford and arrived just as we were setting off. With our driver reversing down the lane and Mag getting parked we started off with our full complement.

The traffic was still slow but we saw Solo Flight and Ports of Call (Jonathon Clark) before we arrived at the Civic Centre for very welcome refreshments served by Gwen who also made sure everyone had their sculpture maps and Friends and Gallery information.

It did look a bit as though we had arrived in a carpenter's workshop as the preparations for Noel Dyrenforth's Five Decades of Batik Painting were in full swing, each piece of work having its own wooden stretcher made to fit. The new lay out for the permanent collection worked very well as it created a peaceful haven for looking at the paintings.

### A diversion

After looking at the Family Group as usual, one of our guests suggested walking to the other end of the Civic Centre entrance hall to see this year's Architectural Award for a residential building in Harlow, which was won by Sir Fred's Orchard Croft,

the crescent at the Stow. This did create much interest as one of the other guests was a Town Planner!

They didn't get away with just seeing that though. We took the opportunity to view Paul Mount's spiky Ecstasy, the pre-Olympic bubble that shows all the most loved Harlow Sculptures, and the sewing needle with a shot gun pellet in its eye.

### Chinese link

What we could not miss was the big yellow circle in the window, a sculpture to remember the Chinese link with Essex and the visits by the Chinese delegation to Harlow a couple of years ago. It acts as a focus and viewing point to the valley over the way.

Before getting on the bus for our drive round we called in to St Paul's to see the Piper Mural, which always amazes visitors. Paul set off on the tour in a different direction and drove slowly past Addison House twice, so we all got a good look at Splash – whoops! It is a splash of water frozen in time, called Shenzou, by Simon Packard. Everyone thought that it should be out in a larger space it is so lovely.

Our only other diversion was at the Stow when we drove down past Orchard Croft. Everyone was amazed at the condition of the crescent, so modern and up to date.

We all had a lovely day, even the weather was kind to us. A good start.

**Jenny Lushington**

*Membership costs £12.00 for Adults or £10.00 for students and unwaged or £20.00 for organizations.*

Name ..... type of membership: £ ..... Date .....

Address ..... Post code .....

Telephone ..... Mobile ..... 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 8<sup>th</sup> April please.***