



Gallery News

We welcome our new Gallery Administrator, Kate Harding and thank Vicky Mathieson for all her help and wish her well in her future endeavours.



Saturday opening of the Gallery

The Friends continue to support Saturday openings of the Gallery with payment to invigilators and our volunteer presence.

We will review this at our AGM in terms of financial status and would like to continue as it allows a wider public access to the collection and exhibitions.

If any member would like to spare some hours volunteering to welcome visitors the Gallery is open on Saturdays 11.00 – 4.00 pm.

‘Proof Positive’

The exhibition ‘Proof Positive’ runs from 19th April to the 28th July, showing original prints from The Cambridge Print Studio in celebration of the Royal Academy’s 250th birthday.

Many of these artists are Royal Academicians and the Gallery has secured a RA/Art Fund grant for printmaker Anne Desmet RA to talk about her work on the 14th June 7.00 – 8.00 pm.

Raffle result

The Friends will draw the winner of the Henry Moore lithograph on the Private View night, Thursday 19th April, 6.30 – 8.00pm.

The Summer Exhibition

The Summer Exhibition at the Gibberd Gallery has for its title: *Show Women: Female Artists Mark the Century*, 9th August – 27th October 2018.

Curated from the Ingram and Jerwood collections, the painting, sculpture, film and installation of these British female artists post 1918 reflect their responses to the changing situation since the establishment of women’s right to vote up to the present. Sir Frederick Gibberd’s permanent watercolour and drawing collection on display alongside this also has many women exponents of this pioneering spirit

Guided day tours

We continue to offer our guided day tours of the Gibberd Gallery, sculpture in the town centre and outer areas, the Gibberds’ former home and Garden on Thursdays: 19th April, 10th May, 21st June, 19th July, 9th August and 20th September.

Possibly, other dates for groups of ten could be arranged. Tickets include local coach transport and lunch at The Gibberd Garden and may be booked through the Friends or the Gibberd Garden.

Our volunteer guides and the Gallery have had very positive feedback from our visitors while exploring the town’s heritage. It is encouraging to see more people from other areas joining us.



Richard Wentworth makes a point alongside Artist in Residence, Finn Thomson sitting with Cedric Christie. See first article on page three.

Grayson Perry at Firstsite

If anyone had doubts about the brilliance and range of Grayson Perry's achievements, they must have been dispelled after seeing his bravura display in an



Visitors chatting in front of the tapestry showing Julie Cope with her second husband.

exhibition FoHSGG visited at First Site, Colchester, in February. *The Essex House Tapestries: The Life of Julie Cope* exhibition was mounted by the Crafts Council which has acquired the two main tapestries on display.

We enjoyed a fact-filled and helpful talk before we were let loose to wallow in the brilliance of Perry's enormous, colourful and intricate tapestries, his ceramics, sketchbooks and photographs. If that were not enough, there was a 3,000-word ballad composed by Grayson Perry and delivered by him as a continuous backdrop to the exhibits.

The recording illuminates Julie's hopes and fears as she journeys through life and provides a touching

yet witty description of the life of his all-Essex heroine Julie from the day she was born – and rescued – at the height of the 1953 floods in Canvey Island until her tragic death under the wheels of a pizza delivery scooter when she was 61.

Julie Cope lived in Basildon and Maldon and the tapestries contain in stunning colours details of what these places looked like and how people lived, along with clues to events that formed Julie. In Perry's words: 'the trials, tribulations, celebrations and mistakes of an average life.'

Alongside the story of the fictional Julie, was the story of Perry's amazing house built at Wrabness as a 'residential secular chapel' to Julie, and available as a holiday let. The house, its design and construction, materials and the huge technical challenges it presented to the craftspeople Perry depended on to turn his ideas into an artistic and liveable whole, was an integral part of this exhibition.

This was a good day out. Thank you Lin.

Mag Barrett

• For those who missed the exhibition, the Crafts Council website contains illustrations and background information.



Harlow Sculpture Archive

The Friends applied for and received a grant to promote the sculpture collection in terms of talks and tours from Essex Community Foundation. The proceeds were used to purchase audio-visual and computer equipment with which we were able to put together illustrated material for tours, talks and research.

The Friends' sculpture archive, which will evolve from its present foundation, will be made available

in the Gallery for study and is to be included in the Art UK website, which will share the information internationally and on a website to be set up by the Harlow Art Trust. The current project of Art UK documents our national public sculpture having completed their survey of its paintings.

It is exciting that our local collection will have such exposure and may be seen by a much wider audience.

Lin Hilton

Sculpture Town Artist in Residence

STAIR is an annual residency for a post graduate Royal College of Art sculpture student under the guidance of Harlow Art Trust, supported by the RCA, Harlow College, ACAVA (Gatehouse Arts), Pearsons and the Gibberd Gallery.

The ten year project is designed to promote contemporary sculpture in the public domain. Each graduate artist will have a sixteen month residency and a studio space in Gatehouse Arts. They will have freedom to develop their work and produce a solo exhibition, donating a work to Harlow Art Trust to add to the Town Collection.

Sculpture has been present in the Town since its earliest days and many of the artists were at the beginning of their careers when commissioned or selected, continuing the practice of promoting public art

and artists.

Emerging artists from art schools usually find the transition to a professional status difficult. This project provides them with an opportunity to work independently and be seen in a public sphere.

Our first STAIR was Finn Thomson, who showed, 'If it Starts to Fall Move Out of the Way', at the Gibberd Gallery in December 2017. A lively discussion and review took place in the Gallery between Finn and guest artists Richard Wentworth, Cedric Christie and audience. The sign and the concrete benches around the Moore Family Group in the Civic Centre foyer are his donations from the residency. Our new STAIR is Paloma Proudfoot due to show at the Gallery in the autumn 2018.

Lin Hilton

Two New Additions to the Town

Last year Harlow Art Trust invited sculptors to apply for commissions to design and create works for two new development sites in the town.

In June the submission from sculptor Tim Shutter was selected for the Lister House Health Centre in Great Parndon, designed by Camm architects of Bishop's Stortford.

Tim Shutter has been making progress in the carving of 'The Magic Jumping Bean', which looks like an upright monumental capsule sandwiching five rings, each tier will have ten protruding spherical 'happy heads'. The final assemblage will certainly make an engaging centrepiece.

In November Harlow Art Trust launched another competition for a site-specific sculpture. This was to be on the theme of Science and Technology for the new build Science Park, which houses Anglia Ruskin Medical Technology Innovation Centre. The Trust chose Nick Hornby's design.

Hornby is 38 and studied at the Slade, UCL and Chelsea School of Art. He has exhibited in the States, Europe, India and the UK. He describes his piece for the Park as a hybrid between figure and abstract form, produced using digital technology. The sculpture should be installed by November this year.

Lin Hilton

Local Artist Unveils Major New Work In Montreal

Local artist and curator Sally Gorham has just returned home from Montreal after installing a major new work for the Art Souterrain 2018 Art Festival which runs throughout March. This new giant, site-specific work titled BIG DATA made in response to

the festival's theme of 'Work', uses the geometric language of performance management.

The work, situated in the glass entrance to the Cité Internationale des Arts building in the heart of Montreal's financial district, is based on comparative data from the employment action plan for Montreal published in 2017 by the OECD.

Last year, Sally's smaller scale work, celebrating the 70th Anniversary of Harlow was installed on the windows of the entrance to the Gibberd Gallery.

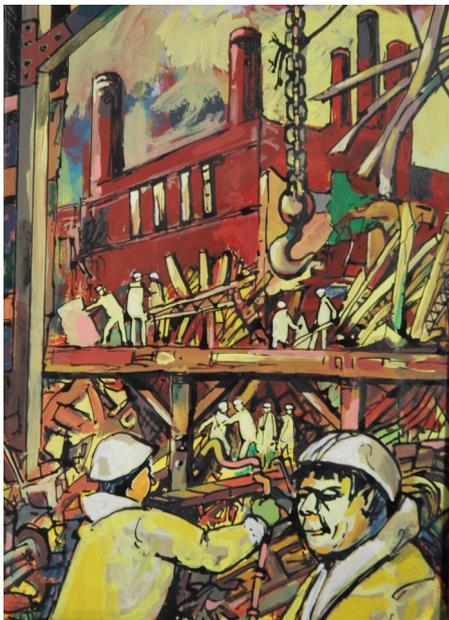
Sally lives in Bishop's Stortford and previously worked locally as an NHS Manager but 6 years ago took early retirement to pursue her love of art. Starting out with weekly painting classes at Parndon Mill in Harlow. Sally eventually decided to realise her teenage dream of going to art college and graduated last year from Central Saint Martins with a BA in Fine Art.



Harlow Open 18

For the first time Harlow Open Exhibition invited artists from Uttlesford, East Herts, Epping Forest and Broxbourne to enter. There weren't a great many who took up the offer, but the standard from Harlow was very high all the same. There are 98 pieces on show, ranging from oil painting, watercolours, mixed media and collage, to photography, wood, wire and fabric.

There were several well-known local artists on show, along with some beginners. The following are works I particularly liked, on a purely personal level: 'Blue



Quiet' and 'Fading' by Gillian Mckenna made use of pale acrylic shades and mixed media. They were understated and atmospheric, as were Tania Scott Durrant's elegant etching and silk screen pieces 'Finders Keepers' and 'Trees=Life'.

These contrasted with photographic entries such as Andy Lee's self-explanatory 'There we were by the 5th floor roof pool when the madness of Malta's sky began' which played with art deco themes, and John Clempner's Spring Hills print, a repeating pattern of flats with balconies and bikes.

Watercolours, although not winning prizes, were well-represented by Betty Bennett's small but perfect 'Wild Sky' and 'Peace', both of which sold. Other works in oils or acrylic were Roger Pryor's 'Beth Chatto's Garden', with lovely blocks of colour, and Jackie Chakravarti's 'Field Edge'.

The Best in Show, chosen by the judges, was Mike Cook's 'It's all got to come down', a small and crowded picture in Indian ink and water colour. The runner-up was 'Nochnata St Sena, in Russia', in acrylic, by Alex



Thomson. The 'People's Choice' ballot was won by 'Night time in the town' by Martyn Leggett. Martyn will have a 2 week exhibition in the Civic Centre front window.

This is my selection, but there were many other works I liked very much - some of them even very large, in contrast to the ones mentioned. Some of the small 3D works were particularly covetable, such as the wire and paint 'Robin', and the cherry wood 'Dancer'. The show was well up to the high standards set in previous years.

Barbara Burge

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE.

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

Nametype of membership: £..... Date

AddressPost code

TelephoneMobile 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.