



NEWSLETTER

Friends of Harlow Sculpture and the Gibberd Gallery

Number 33

Summer 2019

The Open Open 2019

The Open Open in 2019 was to be different from the traditional Open Art Exhibition held in the Gibberd Gallery. The Harlow Art Trust, and Artistic Director Kate Harding, wanted to change the format to celebrate the changing face of Harlow and its sculpture collection. The brief was to place something - anything - on or close to a sculpture in Harlow and photograph it, sending the images in to the Gallery who printed them out.

It was an opportunity to 'think outside the box', to explore the artist's relationship with the environment. It raised a lot of debate and comment. But has proved to be a great success!

There were 52 entries, and all were put on show in the Gallery. Here are some comments from the visitors' book:

'A challenging brief but loved the exhibition' BB

'A great idea, some of the images were very thought provoking'

'Brilliant! I hope there will be more Open Opens' GJ

Astro lighting have generously awarded prizes and the judging has taken place. There will be a presentation at the AGM on 10th July at 7.00 pm.

This will include the winner of the People's Choice, where we will discover the art - going public's favourite work.

Liz Boast

The Open Open and Me

When I first read the brief for this year's Open Open I was confused, and not being technically or computer literate, I found it very challenging. However, I love a challenge and my inspiration came from a black and white photograph of the old Town Hall hanging in my living room. This reminds me of my early days in Harlow.

'My Family' - my painting was based on a photograph of the Town Hall which I used to see whilst pushing my children in their pram from Willowfield to the town centre in 1967. I placed my painting against the Henry Moore Sculpture of The Harlow Family Group.

Having successfully got my entry to the Gallery I waited with some anxiety. Although completely different from the norm I was very impressed with the exhibition. A lot of work has gone into the display.

I think diversity can run alongside familiarity.

Betty Bennett



Still Out There

In 2016 the exhibition 'Out There' at Somerset House showcased a large number of our sculptures to illustrate the theme of the history of public art in Britain since the war. Lin Hilton arranged a visit by Community Transport, and we were all pleased to see that Harlow Sculpture Town was receiving national coverage. There were even copies of the Friends' newsletter on show!

Now the curator of that show, Sarah Gaventa, is coming to Harlow to update the story of public art at the Symposium 'Still Out There' taking place at the Gibberd Gallery on Saturday 14th September. The event has been organised by Catherine Mummery as part of the Access Harlow Sculpture Town project financed by the National Lottery Fund.

Other speakers at the Symposium will be delegates from a wide range of backgrounds: heritage professionals, curators, artists, archivists, academics, urban planners and so on. Dr Siebe Thissen, public art director for Rotterdam, will share the platform with Sarah Gaventa.

The day begins at 10 am and will include a tour of town centre sculptures. Subjects discussed will be new approaches to public art, including commissioning, collaboration and securing for the future.

We shall be publicising this important event closer to the time. Look out for more information and book early.

Barbara Burge



Raffle Print

This large linocut print of Harlow Sculpture Town was kindly donated for the Friends' raffle by Liz Boast, our membership secretary, whose studio is at Parndon Mill. Tickets available from the Gallery at £1 each. The studios at the Mill are open to the public this year on the weekend 20th -21st July 10 – 5pm. A good chance to see art in the making and talk to the artists. The raffle draw will take place at the 'Out There' Symposium on public art at the Gallery on 14th September, presented by the curator of the 'Out There' exhibition at Somerset House a few years ago.

Training with the Sculpture Guardians

We have had a good response from people interested in becoming Sculpture Guardians. They are finding out more about Harlow's Sculptures and becoming active in promoting awareness of them.

One Saturday we all met in the Gibberd Gallery for an information Session:

What to consider when planning a Sculpture tour

There is a lot more to it than just turning up on the day! Apart from making sure every one knows the date, time and place to meet, the guide needs to have some awareness of who he or she will be guiding - children, Senior Citizens, professionals.

Each could need a different approach and consideration . Guests like to know who is talking to them, introductions are essential: this is who I am, this is why I am I here, this is what we are going to do. It breaks down barriers and eases conversations.

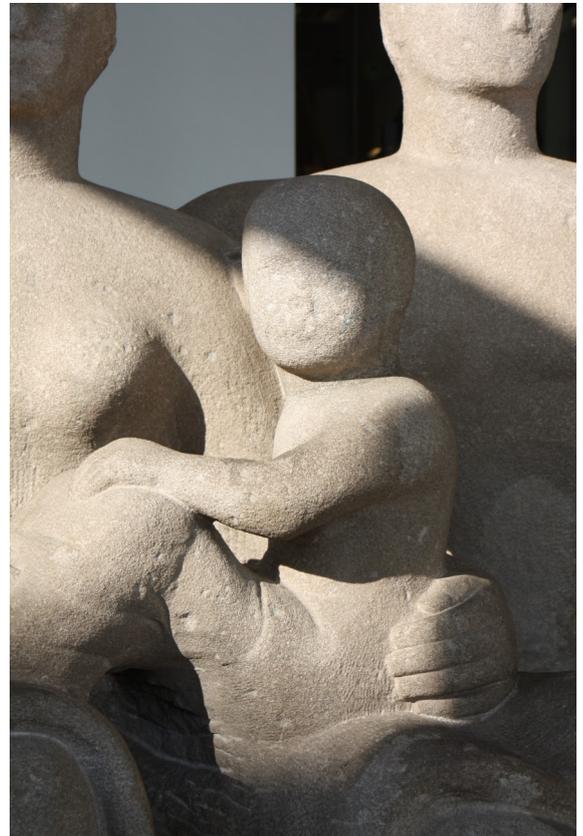
What happens when you move off? Do they follow like sheep? Do they know where they are going? Communication is essential. Say where you are heading and when – and if you can allocate the job of being the back stop to someone , then no one gets behind or lost.

When you get to a sculpture make sure that everyone is close enough to hear you speak . And speak to the guests, not the sculpture! After the discussion and a drink they all followed me for a mini tour of the Gallery, where I tried to make some of the mistakes we had been talking about. They were too nice and obliging so didn't notice many.

Next month they will all be having a go at being a guide. They have each chosen two sculptures to talk about and will take it in turns as we walk round the town. It should be fun and we can relax with a cuppa and cake when we get back to the Gallery for feedback.

We have 9 tours fully booked for the rest of the summer - some of the Guardians may be helping on them as back stop for the tour guide. It will be nice if they can also join in with their own comments and memories of some of the sculptures. I look forward to their help.

Jenny Lushington



Henry Moore, *Family Group*

Future events

The Open Open exhibition closes 20th July.

Henry Moore show, with maquettes and other material, opens 4th August..

Our new STAIR (Artist in residence) is Camille Yvert, starting in November.

Newfoundland Memorial University anniversary walk from the Arc to the Park on 23rd August.

Still Out There Symposium at the Gallery September 14th from 10am to 5 pm.

Sculpture Restoration 2019

This Easter we saw the work of a group of metal and stone restorers from Plowden and Smith in the town. Funding was obtained by Harlow Art Trust from the Heritage Lottery and a contribution from our group, Friends of Harlow Sculpture and the Gibberd Gallery, for the repair of nine sculptures. The Friends had collected money from Charity car parks and events for two years previously and set this aside for the repair of two works.

The chosen sculptures, unsurprisingly, all date from the early fifties and sixties, so were well due for attention. From the town centre the *Family Group* by Moore (1954), McWilliam's *Portrait Figure* (1956), Ralph Brown's *Meat Porters* (1959), Chadwick's *Trigon* (1961) and Rodin's *Eve* (cast up in 1960), were the first to receive treatment. The bronzes were re-waxed to protect the surfaces from further tarnishing and the Hadene stone of the *Family Group* was steamed to gently remove the surface grime.

Chiron (1953) by Mary Spencer Watson in the Stow, one of our earliest public works, had some repainting

done to the plinth and the Portland stone carving sympathetically cleaned, as its organic surface is naturally eroding. *The Donkey* (1955) by Soukop and *Kore* (1963) by Betty Rea were re-waxed in situ, the *Donkey* showing much evidence of wear and tear from carrying young 'riders'.



Brazdys, *Metal Sculpture*

The final piece, *Metal Sculpture* (1965), made by Brazdys when he was a student at the Royal College of Art, was moved from the Water Gardens, when the site was being redeveloped and relocated to the grounds of the Museum. Here the mild steel has corroded badly from weather and the surrounding vegetation. The sculpture has been taken to the firm's South London workshop for sand blasting and a repaint.

There are other works from the collection shortlisted as being in need of TLC. As Friends and supporters of the Harlow Art Trust we will no doubt be trying to raise funds for this ongoing and much needed maintenance in the future.

Lin Hilton



Ralph Brown, *Meat Porters*



Edwina Chaston, *Letting Go*

Sculpture Cycle Rides



Every Saturday morning at 10:15 people meet up at Harlow Museum to take part in led cycle rides provided by Hub & Spoke Harlow CIC, the local community interest cycling group. All the rides are led by qualified ride leaders.

You don't even have to own a bike as you can hire one from Hub & Spoke's hire bike fleet at the cost of just three pounds.

The Sculpture Ride route keeps within the Harlow area and uses mostly the network of cycle paths, covering around 10 miles.

Each week the riders plan to visit a different sculpture, and with over 90 sculptures there is always something different to see.

The ride is very easy paced, lasting about two hours and there is always a stop for refreshments at a local café.

If you are using your own cycle there is no cost but you are responsible for your own safety at all times and your bike must be roadworthy, helmets are not compulsory but are highly recommended.

Roger Prior - Leader Hub & Spoke Sculpture Rides



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.*