



NEWSLETTER

Friends of Harlow SCULPTURE COLLECTION

Number 6

ECHO IN THE SNOW



Photo - Jenny Lushington

Echo is situated on a high point overlooking Southern Way and Staple Tye. In its shadow is the 'Youth Shelter' where local kids gather and as usual when it is snowing slide down the slopes and throw snow balls. It was lovely to see kids of all ages some with their parents sliding down the snow on tea trays and plastic bags or being dragged along on their sledges by Mums getting their work out! Everyone seemed to have come out with a smile and even the few who moaned about the snowballs couldn't dampen their spirits. I am most pleased to see that this sculpture did not act as a target for any bad behaviour but was amazed it see how the snow had actually stuck to the vertical shiny surface giving it quite a strange appearance.

Jenny Lushington

VISIT TO HENRY MOORE FOUNDATION

The Summer outing will be to the Henry Moore Foundation, Perry Green on Friday 12th June. As it is so close, we will economise and not order a coach

March 2009

but for those without transport, we will arrange a pool of cars. The programme will be:

- 12.30-13.30 Tour of estate and grounds
- 13.30 Lunch
- 14.30 Tour of Hoglands
- 15.00 Visit Henry Moore Textile Exhibition

The cost will be £8. If you are interested in coming please ring Nick on 07792118924

SPRING LECTURE & AGM



Photo - Parndon Mill Gallery

A new artist to Harlow will give the Spring Lecture. She is **Nicola Burrell**, whose sculpture 'Mill' by Latton Lock makes up part of the River Stort Sculpture Trail and she is currently working on a commission for the Florence Nightingale Health Centre in Church Langley. Nicola will give an illustrated talk on her work on WEDNESDAY, 25th MARCH in the GIBBERD GALLERY at 7pm The lecture will be followed by the Society's Annual General Meeting. Please come along.

THE NEW PIECE FOR THE PADDLING POOL

The work on the new sculpture for the Town Park paddling pool is well on the way. In December a short list of five sculptors was drawn up and in January the successful sculptor was chosen. He is **Will Spankie**. His proposed sculpture is a stone carving made from Kilkenny limestone approx. 700 mm round depicting a shoal of small fish swimming round the stone. The fish will be carved in low relief onto the stone and polished black, which against the blue/black of the limestone looks very distinctive. It will be fun for the children using the paddling pool and aesthetically pleasing for others enjoying the park. It meets health and safety issues and hopefully minimizes the chance of vandalism.

Will will be arranging a young people's workshop at Burnt Mill School, which as it is close to the location of the piece will, we hope engender a care for the piece amongst the students.

The piece is scheduled to be finished and installed by the end of July in time for the school summer holidays.

SCULPTURE TOURS

Last year's sculpture tours were a great success and we will be repeating them again this year.

To also mark Bicycle Week, on **Sunday, 21st June** John Curry will organize another tour by bike visiting as much sculpture as he can in two hours. Meet again at the Museum of Harlow Car Park at 2 p.m. Please let John know if you are coming on 01279 425214

The Coach Tour will be slightly different, sponsored by Harlow Civic Society, it will cover "Art and Architecture" in the town. It will be on **Sunday, 5th July** leaving the Museum of Harlow Car Park at 2 p.m. The coach again will be free but seats must be booked by notifying Jackie Storey on 01279 830784. The tours are receiving regional publicity as part of the County's Summer of Art Programme. So book your place as early as possible, as I expect the coach to be booked up very quickly

HENRY MOORE AND HARLOW

In 1953, with the endorsement of the Harlow Development Corporation, Sir Frederick Gibberd established the Harlow Art Trust. The Trust was to

carry out his vision of using art to embellish the town's design by acquiring and commissioning contemporary sculpture for Harlow's neighbourhoods and shopping precincts. By the 1970's the trust had amassed a collection comprising sculptures by many of the country's leading artists, including Barbara Hepworth, Elizabeth Frink, F.E. McWilliam, and Lynn Chadwick. However it is the sculpture of Henry Moore and in particular the **Harlow Family Group** for which Harlow is best known.

Moore was approached in 1954 by the Harlow Art Trust to undertake the town's first commissioned sculpture. He was an obvious choice as he was one of the country's leading contemporary artists, living only eight miles from Harlow in Much Hadham. He had also shown an interest in the development of the town, and was a close friend of the Chairman of the trust Sir Philip Hendy. Moore chose to carve in Hadene stone an enlarged version of one of his family group maquettes, which seemed particularly appropriate at the time as Harlow had a large population of young families. **Harlow Family Group** was unveiled by Sir Kenneth Clark in May 1956, becoming almost immediately the town's unofficial emblem. Prior to unveiling a rumour had spread amongst residents that the sculpture depicted obscene imagery. This encouraged the local 'purity squad' to turn up to protest at the unveiling. Needless to say they came away disappointed. The

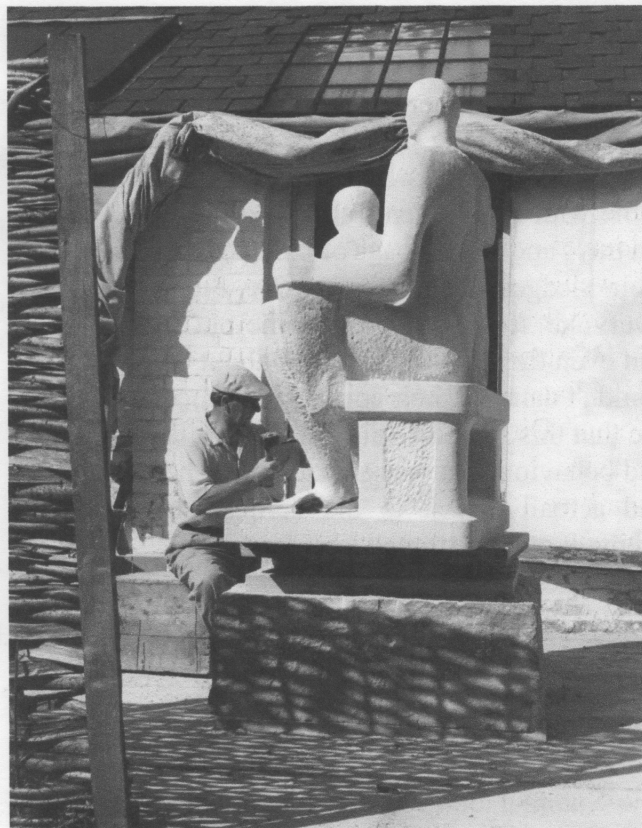


Photo - Henry Moore Foundation Archive



Photo - Errol Jacksoe

sculpture was originally sited outside St Mary of Latton Church in Mark Hall. It has since been moved on several occasions for conservation reasons and is currently on display inside the new Civic Centre.

The family group theme is strongly associated with Moore's work. A rather peculiar association as he only made two large versions of the theme; Harlow's carving and a bronze (enlarged from a different maquette) of which there are six casts.

Moore first proposed the idea for a family group sculpture in 1946 when he was approached by Henry Morris, Secretary for Education in Cambridgeshire, to make a piece for the planned college at Impington. Moore was inspired by Morris' views on rural education and in particular his idea of creating a building central to village life that would school different generations of one family at the same time. Despite starting work on a series of maquettes, the commission was abandoned due to lack of funds. However in 1948 John Newsom, Director of Education for Hertfordshire, persuaded the Hertfordshire Educational Committee to set aside a fraction of a percent of each new school's budget for works of art. One of the first schools to benefit from this scheme was Barclay School in the new town of Stevenage. Newsom revived the commission, selecting one of Moore's family group maquettes to be enlarged. In 1957 Newsom left Hertfordshire to become Director of Longman, and was instrumental in the acquisition of Harlow's third Moore sculpture, **Reclining Figure on Pedestal**, which is on permanent display at Pearson education.

Moore's relationship with Harlow continued throughout his life and in 1963 the Trust acquired their second of his work's, **Upright Motive No. 2**.

Nick Bullions

PUBLIC ART – WHERE NOW ?

There has been a good deal of interest lately in the future of public art, Anish Kapoor, whose is responsible for many massive public art works in many part of the world, has stated that he 'hates' public art. The Essex County Council sponsored art events in Harlow last autumn featured a discussion on this subject, although it was not very well publicized.

Harlow is almost unique in possessing a very large collection of sculptures of great artistic and monetary value, many out in the open. Some have been vandalized and at least one destroyed. Of the rest many seem rather neglected and unappreciated. The Friends have been trying to establish a register of members who will undertake to keep a watch on the pieces in their area but this has never really taken off. Jackie Storey, our chair, has set up walks and coach tours of the collection, which have been very popular. People have come from great distances to see our works but within Harlow they seem to have been ignored by most of the population.

There is no doubt that some public art is extremely popular – one has only to think of the Angel of the North and Anthony Gormley's other figures in London and Liverpool, the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square and the projected White Horse at Ebbsfleet by Mark Wallinger. The questions remain – who should commission and pay for these works? Who are they for? How should they be promoted? Are they any good? Is the concept of large pieces in public places sustainable.

We have in Harlow the problem of renewing interest in the collection. Roman Vasseur suggested one way of renewing interest in a collection that couldn't be sold off or moved would be to have new plinths for them.

I remember being on Jackie's coach tour last summer and looking at 'Not in Anger' in the Stow surrounded by litter, overturned bins and graffiti and my daughter saying, like the boy in the Emperor's New Clothes- but what good is it if no one cares about it? It doesn't make the lives of people here any better.

This was just a tentative expression of personal, mostly untutored opinion. I would welcome the opinions of others.

Barbara Burge

HARD TIMES

As you all probably have read in the press the Harlow Council is going to heavily cut its 2009/10 budget and this will impact on the money Kelly will have to spend on the Changing Exhibition programme in the Gibberd Gallery. As a voluntary organization, we can assist in being a channel for raising money for the exhibitions. This will be first put to the test with the Summer Exhibition, which traditionally is a FHSC exhibition, so as well as invigilating we will have to help raise sponsorship. Following our usual practice of choosing an artist whose work already features in the sculpture collection, we hope it will be the work of **Robert Koenig**, whose Grisedale Panel is in the Barbara Castle Health Centre.

FRIENDS OF HARLOW SCULPTURE COLLECTION COMMITTEE

Chair	Jackie Storey
Vice –chair	Jenny Lushington
Secretary	Barbara Burge
Treasurer	Karen Bishop
Committee	Nick Bullions
	Theodora Georgiou
	Kelly Lean
	Jim Peel

A GOOD READ

There is at the moment a good selection of booklets and leaflets available to promote the Arts in Harlow :

- The Harlow Arts Directory
- The River Stort Sculpture Trail brochure
- The Harlow Sculpture Map
- Sculpture in Harlow
- Harlow- A Living Town – Harlow Civic Society
- The Gibberd Gallery Exhibitions brochure
- Newsletters from Harlow Arts Council (including What's on in the Arts)
- And of course the FHSC newsletter

These are all free with the exception of 'Sculpture in Harlow' and can be obtained from the Gibberd Gallery. Books such as 'The Long, the Short and the Tall', Harlow Story of a New Town, The Design of Harlow and Parndon Recollections are available for sale from Museum of Harlow. So if you are arranging an event why not have them available or if you just want to learn more about our artistic heritage visit the museum bookshop they are much cheaper than e-Bay.

Membership costs £5 for adults, £2 for unwaged/students and £10 for organizations.

If you wish to join the Friends of Harlow Sculpture Collection please complete this form.

Please make cheques payable to Friends of Harlow Sculpture Collection and return this form with your cheque to : Karen Bishop, 78, Bynghams, Harlow, Essex CM19 5NT

Name..... Date.....

Address.....

Town..... Post Code.....

Telephone e-Mail.....