

# CONNECT!

The Art Ministry Newsletter

April 2010



Reg Charity No. 1108227

**THE ART MINISTRY**

*Adjacent to: The United Reformed Church, Church Road, Hadleigh, Essex*



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# The ART MINISTRY



## ART MINISTRY EXHIBITION MARCH 2010

The Art Ministry hosted an exhibition in the beautiful space which is the atrium of the Castle Point Council Offices from 12-15<sup>th</sup> March. There were lively and colourful displays from all the classes plus two exhibits of special interest. From the bridge which intersects the space was hung the large wall hanging that the Fabric Group have now been working on for more than two years. It's design is taken from the very beautiful painting of Benfleet as seen from Canvey by Ted Rodway which was also on display. While the design could be seen to full advantage as a whole it was a pity that people could not appreciate the fine detail that Kathleen Gutteridge and her group have so carefully worked into it. The hanging is destined for the Tyrrels Centre and should be ready to move there in May. It is the most recent of a number of large pieces of needlework created by The Art Ministry for public places.





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On the Tuesday evening an illustrated book on local history organised by the Art Ministry and partly researched and written by local schools was launched. Copies of it were presented to representatives of the schools involved. The book, 'Exploring Our Past' was funded by The Heritage Lottery Fund. The Mayor of Castle Point Councillor Brunt and a representative of the HLF, Mr Roy Swanston were present.

We are grateful to the Castle Point Council for allowing us to use the atrium for the exhibition gratis. We should like to make it an annual event.



Mary Mitchell with Angela

The picture shows Angela with one of the elderly people who were interviewed by Pat Marshall and pupils from Cedar Hall School for the chapter 'Living History'.

Mary is 91 and has lived in Hadleigh all her life. It was especially good to have Mary with us at the launch, a link with an earlier period in Hadleigh's history. Mary also produced one of the illustrations for the book, a watercolour of Hadleigh High Street as it was when she was a child.

Other illustrations were created by two exceptionally talented young artists who have worked with The Art Ministry as volunteers. Amy Mc Kenny produced six very dramatic whole page illustrations and Mandy Jane Tout smaller pictures with a delightful humour about them. These will surely be popular with their young readers.





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## WORKING WITH THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

On Friday March 8<sup>th</sup> Carole, David and Angela went to St. Peters Church in Southend to run a workshop with around 30 members of a club run by Southend Blind Welfare Organisation. Members experienced how easy it can be to decorate a simple object like a plant pot- even when you have very limited sight. Two of those present have since joined the Monday Group at Hadleigh and others are thinking of doing so

*This term we have welcomed Carole Blanche who has come to be a volunteer teaching assistant with the Monday Class for people with visual disabilities. Carole comes to us with much to give: artistic skill and a bright and friendly personality.*

*Carole was trained as a widow dresser and apart from time out to bring up her children has worked as one until her retirement recently. Carole worked first in a department store in Wood Green and arranged displays for a wide variety of goods, ladies fashions, perfumes, dinnerware etc. After she had had her children she worked freelance with a variety of retailers, mainly wholesale.*

*Carole and her husband love to travel and have had quite a lot of opportunity to do so since they retired.*

*Carole learned about the Art Ministry from the website. She is thoroughly enjoying her work with us and we hope she will continue to do so for a long time.*



## NEW TRUSTEES

We have welcomed two new trustees this term - Rev. Jack Roche, minister of Hadleigh United Reformed Church where The Art Ministry is based and Betty McCarthy who has worked in the Class for the Visually Impaired for several years as pottery teacher. Both bring considerable ability and experience. We thank them for volunteering to work with us.

*We need **more** trustees!*



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## FAMILY WORKSHOP FOR MOTHERS DAY CARDS and BAGS

Five groups of family members came to the art room on Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup> to prepare cards and gifts for mothers on Mothers Day. Led by volunteers Laura Smith and Charlotte Condon they produced some vibrantly designed bags that were sure to delight the recipients





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## ADULTS WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

Each Thursday afternoon the art room is a very busy happy place as the Group for adults with learning difficulties meet to engage in a very wide range of activities. There are two groups present, trainees from the Salvation Army Training Centre in Castle Lane, Hadleigh and residents from Richmond Lodge in Benfleet This term the Salvation Army Group have been making puppets for a staging of Cinderella. The Richmond Lodge Group have been developing ability with a wide variety of crafts including china and fabric painting.

*Overheard in a Tuesday Class. 'It's a lovely atmosphere here. It cheers me up. I love to see Rick and the others so happy. It inspires me!*





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