

# Introducing The Palm Court Exhibition Designers



For more details please contact the  
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Press Release from **The Grand**, Folkestone. **May 2011**

Subject: **Introducing The Palm Court Exhibition Designers**

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From August of this year the independent organisation, entitled the "Palm Court Exhibition Designers", which is a cooperation between local artists Phyllis McDowell, Christopher Bone and Roberta Harrold will be holding a permanent gallery space within what will be a refreshed and redecorated Palm Court restaurant, The Grand.

**Robert Richardson, General Manager of The Grand** approached Mrs. McDowell early this year for her up take of this scheme and said *"For The Grand, this is a not-for-profit initiative for us to support the artistic quarter in Folkestone by holding three exhibitions a year, which will all last for a period of four months, with art-work being offered for sale by the artist throughout the exhibition whilst also highlighting the vast pool of talent that Folkestone and the surrounding towns possess and whom might not normally have an outlet to exhibit in. Whereas the initial idea for this project came from myself I swiftly realised that for it to be a success I would need someone with the passion, drive and respect for The Grand and for Folkestone to make it work, so when I sat down to write out the list of people who would be best suited for the role I never managed to get past Phyllis's name- luckily for me she said yes and recruited the equally talented Christopher Bone and Roberta Harrold to our cause"*

**The proprietor of The Grand, Michael Stainer** said *"We're thrilled to welcome Phyllis McDowell and her team to the Palm Court Gallery. She has organised a couple of very successful exhibitions in the Ballroom (of The Grand) with Chris Bone, and we're delighted that she also has the support of Roberta Harrold, who also has many contacts in the local artistic community."*

### **About Phyllis, Christopher & Roberta:**

**Phyllis McDowell** MDD, AFD has been a practicing artist & teacher, holding teaching appointments in the UK, Ghana, Zambia and the United States, since 1961. Aside from her being a founder member of Folkestone's Open Air Gallery Initiative she has also had her work exhibited at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, the Royal Institute of Painters In Watercolor, the Mall Gallery, Westminster Gallery and the Lacing Collection. Abroad she has exhibited at the British Council in Ghana & Zambia and the Library of California. She is also a published author on the subject of painting and has numerous television appearances, discussing her work between the UK and Los Angeles, under her belt. Finally back in Folkestone, Mrs. McDowell has been a regular contributor to the Folkestone Herald's monthly art column.

**Christopher Bone** is an artist of many years experience, who also teaches art in adult education at the Cube in Folkestone and in 2002 won first prize for the event "Reflections" having the award presented to him at the National Gallery in London. Of the future Mr. Bone had to say *"Having lived in Folkestone for many years I am aware of the importance of the Grand not only as a fine piece of architecture but also as a venue for art and social events. I am therefore pleased to be able to work with the Grand to present the work of new and established artists from Shepway"*. Mr. Bone has exhibited the Mall Galleries, London and St. Albans Cathedral and has recently established the independent Muirhead Studio in Folkestone.

**Roberta Harrold** is a photographer and designer whose work explores the hidden beauty of the Shepway area. She grew up on the Romney Marsh before studying graphic design and photography at the Medway College of Design. She worked in the print industry for many years but currently works with vulnerable, homeless adults using her creative skills to help them achieve their goals. She says photography allows her to discover the life around her, often in unlikely places, and to create lasting images to record it. Her photographs have been regularly exhibited in the Shepway area and further afield and hopefully inspire others to find beauty where it is least expected.

**Of the “Palm Court Exhibition Designers” relationship with The Grand Mrs. McDowell said** *“Since I came to live in Folkestone I have had a great relationship with The Grand, and so it is with pleasure that I take up the invitation from Michael Stainer and Robert Richardson to run the Palm Court gallery with fellow artists Christopher & Roberta. We, as the Palm Court Exhibition Designers, will endeavor to maintain a high standard of presentation, and take responsibility for selecting and hanging the artwork on a four monthly basis.”*

**In Closing Mr. Richardson had this to say** *“The Grand has a longstanding and successful history with the wonderfully talented artistic community in Folkestone and we look forward to deepening that relationship with the addition of Phyllis, Christopher and Roberta”*

The “Palm Court Exhibition Designers” begin their first exhibition at The Grand in August with **“Art for Art’s Sake- One Woman’s Journey: The Debut of the Palm Court Exhibition Designers”** which will run until January 2012 (with a brief pause in December) and to celebrate the refurbished Palm Court and collaboration with the “PCED” the management of The Grand will be dispensing **5000 Palm Court loyalty cards** to the local area as an added incentive to view some stunning artwork in the sumptuous new look Palm Court from August.

For more details please contact either the **“Palm Court Exhibition Designers”** by email on [palmcourt.designers@gmail.com](mailto:palmcourt.designers@gmail.com) or The Grand’s General Manager, **Robert Richardson** on [rr@grand-uk.com](mailto:rr@grand-uk.com)



**(L-R)** The Palm Court Exhibition Designers **Roberta Harrold**, The Grand’s General Manager **Robert Richardson**, Proprietor of The Grand **Michael Stainer**, Food & Beverage Manager **Ramesh Babu** and **Phyllis McDowell**