



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

THIS has been a busy period. The Open Studios have come and gone. We had a splendid brochure this year and we shall see soon when all the questionnaires are analysed whether it has stimulated more people to attend. The studios I attended were well supported and those who participated seemed very pleased with the outcome.

The introduction of Community Projects (there were three this year) was a welcome innovation and we hope that the number of participants will grow next year. We owe a big debt to Wendy Dumbrell and all those who were involved who worked hard to make it all happen. There is no doubt that Open Studios makes a significant impact on the Herts Arts scene.

CHANGES IN THE OG

THERE is a very good chance that I shall be leaving the area shortly and therefore I shall have to hand over the Chair to someone else by Christmas. If you are interested in taking up the challenge or know someone who might like to do it, please let me know as soon as possible as we really need continuity in the role.

Terry Sadler, a founding member of HVAF also plans to leave the Organising Group in November. She will be sadly missed for her detailed knowledge and her remarkable capacity for sustained effort on behalf of

the membership. In addition we are losing Pratima Kramer, June Faulkner and Wendy Dumbrell who have also worked long and hard to keep the show on the road. Phyl Harris (our Treasurer) is leaving the area and is also having to resign although she has agreed to keep the books until we find a replacement.

Luckily we have some new volunteers to take on some of the roles. Bev Paterson is taking on some of the administration, Karen Rowlinson is going to take on the Open Studios work, Katy Williamson is going to have a go at Minutes Secretary, and Barbara Woolner will man the enquiry desk for new members.

But we need more help as we are losing a lot of experience and it is vital to our development that we attract new people and ideas to the Organising group to help maintain and develop the work of HVAF.

This makes it very important that you think about whether you can now step up to make your contribution. Please think carefully about it when you look at the nomination form and get in touch if you feel you can help.

Please also come to the AGM on 28th November to make sure that you have your say in the next steps for HVAF.

Bill Braddick

INDIGO GROUP NEWS

Indigo had a meeting last night with Anne Reilly - an excellent meeting as we were able to welcome three new members. We saw and talked about their work, bandied tips around to Lupe who is developing her gallery and to Christine who is a first time Open Studio entrant. Exchanged news and had a peep at Gill Flack's oil paintings of Luton Hoo.

Gill was approached after their Art Director saw her work on our website and commissioned eight paintings, so far!, for their bedrooms.

We may have another new member coming soon so now is a very good time to join Indigo as a whole bunch of new members together means company and lessens that feeling of working yourself into an awesome long standing group.

So come on in. Ring Rikki on 01462 450393.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

19th January: A Photographic Day for those exhibiting at Open Studios (but available to HVAF members for a small fee if this is feasible). Organiser OS coordinator. Venue TBA

27th February: A lunchtime meeting in which 3 artists discuss how they approach their work. A common theme will be chosen. Each speaker will talk for 20 minutes followed by general discussion. Organiser Sue Llewelyn Elvidge (no doubt would welcome suggestions on themes and likely speakers). Venue University

? March: Visit to the Ballet at Hertford. Organised by John Spielman.

29/30th April: Meeting at which the work of the textiles group is explained, discussed and shown. Organiser Catherin Petit. Venue University

17th July: A sponsored event (to be defined) to celebrate summer. Organiser Bill Braddick. Venue University

? August: Visit to exhibition. Organiser John Spielman. Venue (TBA)

? October: Workshop (Sir John Soane's Museum London). Organiser Terry Sadler

19th November: AGM and forum. Venue (TBA)

MORE DETAILS AND INFORMATION IN THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

SHOPPER STOPPER

Shoppers in St Albans' Maltings shopping centre were treated to a display of work by local artist group Insight, the Herts Visual Arts Forum Lens and Digital Media group, on Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th September.

As part of the Hertfordshire Open Studios in the Community initiative, the group of 5 artists presented wide ranging artworks including a sound piece, two performance art pieces and provided the opportunity for the public to contribute to the work.

Jo Howe, a St. Albans artist and her giant shopping bag, made with advertising hoarding material, placed in the centre, generated a lot of interest especially when she herself interacted with it. Jo says, "The interaction comes with the supply of smaller shopping bags, freely available for the public to utilise as part of their own 'Convulsus Somnium'."



Vitrina, a Hemel Hempstead based artist, interacted with the public as she progressed through the centre in the guise of a White figure named 'Morpheus', anonymous and in many ways detached from her surroundings. She had also placed an



installation comprising a series of 18 delicate goose eggs entwined with cotton (blood red - the colour of wine). Entitled 'Stairway to Heaven' it symbolises the expectation in life that each of us will rise upwards to greater things. This generated a lot of interest both positive and negative with many of the eggs being destroyed.

Russell Palmer "My work depicted a series of photographic images of the Maltings, presenting the centre."

The public were invited to create their own shopping fantasies, using images of shops on paper and using coloured crayons, by **Maud Eager** with her work entitled "Maltings? Amazing! A little fantasy about the joys of shopping."

Jane Newbigging's sound piece, a tuba in a high chair was positioned in the seating area outside Costa Coffee.



Speaking of her work, she said "I play with ideas between found objects and everyday experience - in this instance, a piece of brass band remnant in a defunct bandstand, where shopping-as-leisure may include a coffee break".

The group were grateful to the centre management, Costa Coffee, TKMaxx and the other retailers for their help in staging this event and to the public for taking part.



ENQUIRIES:

By Email:

Use the links at www.hvaf.org.uk. Contacts page

By Post: HVAF, P.O. Box 894, St Albans, Herts AL1 9EG

By Telephone:

New Member Enquiries	01582 766624
Change your membership details:	01582 766624
Create or update a page in the web gallery	01438 326701
Send news for the website or newsletter	01707 650356
Open Studios Coordinator:	07813 100651
Sculptors Group	01920 461625
Painters North Group (Indigo)	01462 450393
Painters South Group	01727 863432
Lens Based Media Group	01442 877402
Textiles Group	01442 401795
Ceramics Group	01727 860615
Creative Herts Associate M/ship	01763 231522
Credit Card Facility	01462 450393
General Enquiries:-	0208 4419805

From the Editor

OUR WEBSITE: Fellow Artists, during our last well attended OG meeting, Andre Bottin highlighted proposals for the re-development of our website. Further discussion is due at the AGM (see above Agenda).

As electronic technology moves so fast, our Forum must follow it and not be left behind. Most members want to progress with this, thus those who have no websites of their own, this is an opportunity to project some of their work to a wider public.

The aim of a well developed site is to provide members with the best and latest way to communicate and even to create a Directory of all member artists for all members, also project it beyond into the wider artworld. This is our future.

Those of you with access to the internet, make it a Regular Habit to use it all the time, others try through friends and other contacts to access it from time to time.....
Always remember it..... www.hvaf.org.uk

Renos Lavithis

Community Projects 2008 –

Do you want to apply for Funding?

We have been able to fund 3 projects this year with the Lottery Funding through Arts Council England. We have more funding available for projects in 2008. Don't miss out on this opportunity! An information sheet about this funding is enclosed with this newsletter. Further information and the application form are also available on the HVAF website. The closing date for applications is 31st January 2008.

New Coordinator for Open Studios 2008

After 2 years in post, Wendy Dumbrell has decided to step down and move on to pastures new. We advertised in the last newsletter for someone to take on the role as Open Studios Development Officer. Karen Rowlinson (a painter from St Albans with a keen interest in arts administration) who put herself forward for this Development role, has indicated that she would be willing to take on the role as Open Studios Coordinator and/or Development Officer. But she would like to share the workload with someone else. The Development Officer oversees community projects, and explores ideas for widening participation and associated funding. The Open Studios Coordinator oversees the administration process associated with the annual Open Studios event.

There is a modest annual payment for the work associated with these roles funded by Lottery Funding through Arts Council England (currently funded to the end of 2008).

Applications to work with Karen in either of these roles, in the form of a CV, should be made by 10th November 2007. Further details are available from Wendy Dumbrell, Open Studios Coordinator, email openstudios@hvaf.org.uk, tel 07813 100651.

A team of volunteers is as important and as necessary as ever to secure the ongoing success of Open Studios. Please put yourself forward to help in whatever way you can.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE 2007 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HERTS VISUAL ARTS FORUM WILL BE HELD ON

**WEDNESDAY 28th
NOVEMBER
at 7.30 p.m.**

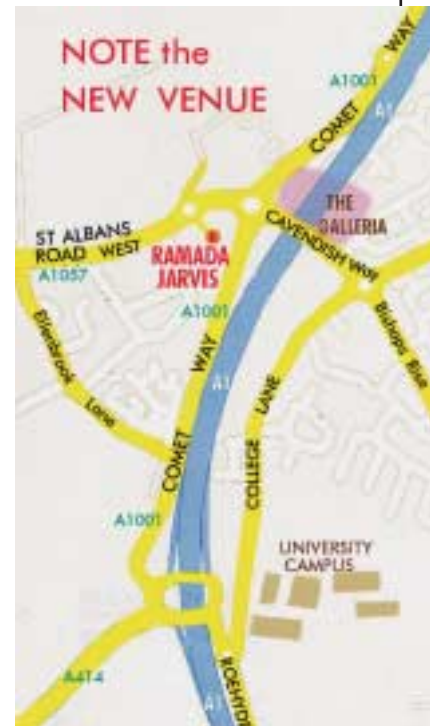
**AT THE RAMADA
JARVIS HOTEL
ST ALBANS ROAD WEST
HATFIELD AL10 9RH**

AGENDA

1. GREETINGS
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
3. MINUTES OF THE 2006 AGM
4. ORGANISING GROUP REPORT
5. TREASURER'S REPORT
6. ACCEPTANCE OF ACCOUNTS 2006/7
7. APPOINTMENT OF ASSESSOR
8. WEB DEVELOPMENT
9. SUBSCRIPTIONS
10. OPEN STUDIOS 2007
11. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

— INTERVAL —

Members will then be given the opportunity to discuss whether the Forum meets their needs. Images of the new website development and the HVAF visit to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park will be displayed during the evening.



Open Studios 2007 – an update

At the time of writing, Open Studios 2007 is well under way. Following another successful media training evening in June (many thanks to Jane Tonkin for leading this), we have received much good publicity in many local newspapers and in magazines across the county, including the Enjoy! tourist magazine, Limited Edition, Optima and Hertfordshire Life. In addition, Sara Wickenden has been interviewed on Chiltern Radio and Fiona Zobole has been interviewed on Verulam Radio. A number of artists have run promotional events at markets across the county including the Harpenden Farmers market, Royston market, St Albans market and Berkhamsted market.

This year (with the help of Lottery Funding) we have commissioned a photographer (John Sparrow) to take high quality images of some Open Studios during this year's event. These will be used on future promotional material and for publicity purposes. Some will be presented in the December issue.

A questionnaire is included with this newsletter for all artists who took part in Open Studios this year. A separate questionnaire about dates for Open Studios 2008 is also included for everyone who has an interest in Open Studios (whether you took part this year or not.) Please take the time to give us your views. Both questionnaires must be returned by 3rd November 2007.

A display of newspaper and magazine features about Open Studios will be available to view at the AGM on 28th November. *Please do come along.*

Podcast Launch

A launch event for the Open Studios podcasts was held in the Art & Design building at the University of Hertfordshire on 5th September. The podcast project involved six Open Studios artists being interviewed about the inspiration behind their work and what it's like to be an artist in the real world. The artists who took part were Phil Madley, Kim Major-George, Claire McInnery, Dick Onians, Jessica Townsend and Anne Waller.

The interviews will be made available as podcasts to students and used as teaching tools on the University of Hertfordshire's Foundation Degrees in Creative Enterprise. You can listen to shortened versions of these interviews via the HVAF website.

