

HVAF Members Meetings & Events 2008
for your diary & pinboard!
4 quarterly members networking meetings
at 7 for 7.30pm

at The University of Hertfordshire, College Lane Campus, Hatfield just off the A1 (at junction 3). Lindop Building, foyer and then Room A161

- **Wednesday February 27th – 'Capturing Light'**
Three Artists will speak about how their work is influenced by the use of 'Light'
Helen Robinson; Stained Glass, Barbara Weeks; Textiles, & Claudia Brown; Sculptor
- **Tuesday April 29th – Presentation by the HVAF textiles group:**
The diversity in textiles as art and craft and how it can inspire all artists.

Watch the website www.hvaf.org.uk for updates. More details for the year are enclosed separately.

From the Editor

We say goodbye to an eventful 2007 and also "au revoir" to some of our most active members (read front page). And we will welcome the new year with an added optimism as their good work will continue with the new replacements. They will need all our support. Keep up the debates and all the ideas coming in.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy new Year to all!

Renos Lavithis

I wish to thank all those who have joined me on occasions over coffee and cake to stuff envelopes. I have had a cheerful team of supporters, in particular Edna Eckett. Several times I have had to call up nearby helpers at the last minute to make a deadline and, if free, they have trundled over. Thanks, too, to those who have offered their help but not yet been called upon. I'm sure my successor will be in touch in the New Year. As you will have gathered, I am giving up my title of 'Chief Stuffer for HVAF' which I have held for nearly 4 years. I also wish to welcome my successor, Barbara Weeks, whom I am sure will do a grand job.

Happy Christmas Everybody!

Jill V. Pearce.

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM YOUR HVAF MEMBERSHIP?

We often wonder what you think about what is on offer. We know what you think about Open Studios on the whole, but could do with some input on other things.

- We wonder what you want at networking meetings.
- We wonder if you would prefer a weekend meeting now & then instead of our usual evenings.
- We wonder if you are using the exciting opportunities offered by our web site.
- We wonder if you would prefer anything different about the newsletter or its contents, and have you considered being more involved with your Art Form Group, or suggesting ideas for different things they could be doing, or even starting a new group altogether?
- Is there a reason you do not do any of these things?
- Are you content to make use of just one or two of the benefits of being a member of HVAF or do you have other great ideas?

There is a form enclosed which you can send back, or you will find a copy of it on our web site which you can fill in there if you find it easier. If you have an idea for something new, or you could contribute to making a success of something already happening, it could be a great help to your new organising group. Add it to the form. You can also get in touch - contact details are on this newsletter and there are also email links to the various officers and group leaders on the web site contacts page.

One way or another, we look forward to hearing from you!

Terry

HVAF Organising Group Nov 2007/8
(elected at the AGM on 29th November 2007):

Hon Past PresidentsLeo Gibbons Smith, Roy Chaffin
 Chairman.....not filled
 Vice-Chairmannot filled
 Treasurer.....Rachel Scott
 Sec/Minutes Secretarynot filled
 Regional/County Liaison Officer.....Sue Hartga
 Regional/County Funding.....Andre Bottin
 Publicity.....not filled
 Direct mail officer.....Chris Green
 Newsletter Editor.....Renos Lavithis

Contact/Enquiries

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 & Mahala Miles (01727 839866)
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Sculptors Group Rep......John Spielman
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General Enquiries: – Email June Faulkner
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 – Royal Mail HVAF PO Box 894, St Albans, Herts AL1 9EG.

For all news, contacts, information & opportunities – go to www.hvaf.org.uk

Hello All,

Having just taken over as programme secretary, a few membership meetings have already been arranged promoting more awareness of the group activities. I would like to see if we can't provide a wider range of membership meetings throughout 2008/9 to allow for all interests and needs. We certainly want more group interest meetings and I will come back to you on this.

However, at the AGM some new ideas were aired and I would like to ask that anyone who has any request or suggestions to e-mail me directly on LupeACunha@aol.com with your thoughts. This will allow me to start exploring options for including additional things during the year. Some of you may remember me from when I was newsletter editor before David Newton and know how interested I am in getting in your feedback and information.

So I look forward to hearing from you. Please include HVAF in the subject heading so I can easily identify your ideas/requests.

Lupe

— OPPORTUNITIES —

I am looking of new Artists – Printmakers – Sculptors etc, and was wondering if members of the HVAF will be interested.

They can send me images by email dorienne.carmel@btopenworld.com for selection.

This is an exciting new project and I hope local artists will show support. I have started work on this as from 29th October.

Dorienne Carmel

Edna Eckett... appears on SKY Arts...

The programme "Mastering the Art" evolves around John Myot, a past convicted forger who teaches artists to "forge" a painting by a different painter each week. Edna was to "forge" Georges Braque... See her on January 9th - SKY Arts.

The programme appears every Wed 7.30pm and repeated on Thurs 1.30pm.


The Prince's Foundation for Children & the Arts

The Prince's Foundation for Children & the Arts works in partnership with arts organisations to create high quality artistic experiences for children. We target those children who would not otherwise have the opportunity to experience the arts and we will work with around 27,000 children in 2007/2008.

Children & the Arts is one of The Prince's Charities, a group of not-for-profit organisations of which The Prince of Wales is President; 16 of the 18 Charities were founded personally by The Prince. The group is the largest multi-cause charitable enterprise in the United Kingdom raising over £100 million annually.

The organisations are active across a broad range of areas including opportunity and enterprise, education, health, the built environment, responsible business, the natural environment and the arts. The charities reflect The Prince of Wales's long-term and innovative perspective, and seek to address areas of previously unmet need.

For all press enquires please contact Jessica Fletcher on 07912 123 795 or email jessica.fletcher@childrenandarts.org.uk

From the Chair

It was good to welcome an enthusiastic group to the AGM on Wednesday 28th November to discuss developments in HVAF.

It has been a good year. Open Studios was even more successful, attracting record numbers of visitors. The Artform groups have all been active as is reported elsewhere. We are investing in an enhanced web site which will bring benefits to all as Andre Bottin explained. You will see some benefits immediately and other over the months ahead. We have had a good year financially, producing a small surplus. Our plans for next year include a wider range of events and meetings and the web development. These cost money and the AGM agreed that we shall raise the subscription for next year by £2 per person. This means that we shall improve our services without spending too much of the capital we have managed to accumulate over the years.

I am stepping down now. It has been a great pleasure to work with my colleagues on the OG. I thank them for their support and hard work.

It has been a privilege to be part of organisation so full of stimulating and talented people. I wish everyone great success for the future.

The Organising Group

There have been so many comings and goings this year that it needs and deserves a section to itself.

First, we are sadly losing two founding members-Rikki Harcourt and Terry Sadler who have been the mainstays of the Forum through many hours of thought and hard work that they have devoted to its development of HVAF. They can be very proud of what they have built and their biggest reward will be our continued success.

Wendy Dunbrell is also handing over her work as Open Studios coordinator. In the two years she has been with us she has taken Open Studios to a new level, all done with quiet efficiency and good humour. She is replaced by Karen Rowlinson and Clare Timmis.

June Faulkner is also moving on. She has been a cheerful and effective member of the OG, often helping the chair to avoid gaffes and pitfalls. She is replaced by Katy Williamson. Phyl Harris the treasurer has moved to Northamptonshire. Rachel Scott has taken on the job and Mike Kersley has given up the role of web editor to be succeeded by Nnenna Anisobi. Jill Pearce has fulfilled the role of mail organiser and dispatcher, a vital role in our communication with members, for four years and she leaves the job in April. We thank all the leavers. HVAF depends on volunteers and they have done us proud. Barbara Woolner has joined the OG to look after membership enquiries.

Welcome to all their successors. We hope you will find your new roles enjoyable and rewarding.

– MEMBERS RECENT EXHIBITIONS –
APHRODITE'S WORKS BY RENOS ...


Renos Lavithis, above exhibited with some of his larger works in a spacious central London gallery in early November. He also used the occasion to present his latest works inspired by Aphrodite's Goddess of Love, birthplace and Temple at Paphos and explore some of her symbols (top picture).

Seminar on Photographing your Artwork

with photographer John Sparrow at Beaumont School St Albans on Saturday 19th January from 10am to 4pm. A booking form is enclosed with this newsletter. The cost is £5.00 and the deadline for booking is 12th January. For further information please contact Karen Rowlinson or Clare Timmis, e-mail openstudios@hvaf.org.uk or phone 07813 100651.

OUR RETIRED SECRETARY JUNE FAULKNER


June in one of her numerous Art and Craft Fairs participations. Here at WENDOVER ART & CRAFT FAIR at the beginning of November – "As usual I am inspiring the world to have a go at silk painting!" June said.

Open Studios Community Projects 2008

Remember that the deadline for applications for funding for Community Projects next year is 31st January 2008. Up to £1,000 support per project is available. Application forms are available on the website (under Open Studios in the Community) or send a stamped addressed envelope to Open Studios Community Projects 2008, 280 Hatfield Rd, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4UN. For enquires email openstudios@hvaf.org.uk or tel 07813 100651.



Hertfordshire Life focused on HVAF - the organisation behind Open Studios

Open Studios 2007 – Visitor numbers grow and grow

Open Studios 2007 was the 17th annual event and involved 204 artists at 133 venues. Publicity for the event this year was again enhanced by the Lottery Funding through Arts Council England which allowed us to spend over £2,000 on adverts in local papers and magazines across the county. Publicity generated by the Community Projects and Podcast initiative has also helped. Visitor numbers for 2007 were up again on previous years and estimated to be over 13, 000. Those artists that received most visitors tended to put in a lot of effort with regard to their own publicity.

Some artists also achieved substantial success in terms of sales. The number of artists making sales in the higher price brackets (over £1,000 and over £2,500) was up. Plus around half of artists secured commissions and just under a third were offered exhibition space as a result of Open Studios.

We again had a great response rate to the questionnaire

– 44% of artist participants replied. Many thanks for all your comments. The Open Studios Team has met to discuss the issues raised and have taken these into account when making decisions about 2008.

The dates for the 2008 event are 13th September – 5th October. Entry forms and guidelines will be sent out to HVAF members with the February 2008 newsletter. There will be joint launch/sharers' meetings on 6th and 8th March – more details will be included in the February newsletter.

We still need volunteers to help with next year's event. In particular we need someone to share the role of Publicity Officer, a Sponsorship Officer, a Libraries/Banners Officer plus a number of Area Coordinators. If you can help in any way, please do let us know.

The Joint Open Studios Coordinators for 2008 are Karen Rowlinson and Clare Timmis. They can be contacted on openstudios@hvaf.org.uk or tel 07813 100651.



The Hemel Gazette again gave excellent coverage for Dacorum artists over a number of weeks



Peter Osborne discusses his sculpture with visitors to his home in St Albans



Deborah Broomfield, Christine Browne and Stephanie Littlechild at their Group Open Studio in St Albans



Lyndy Moles and Joanna Bryant encourage the public to join in on Berkhamsted High St



Everyone was welcome to join in at the Sunday Art Experience at the Walkern Gallery near Stevenage



The Artworks Collaborative Group from Berkhamsted enjoy working together



Geoffery Dale at work on a sculpture at his Open Studio in Harpenden



An array of colours at Wheathampstead Art, the Open Studio of Bel Bluemel and Frances Tompson



Candy Queen Designs in Markyate opens for the first time



Textiles Plus Group at an excellent new venue, the Rudolf Steiner School in Kings Langley



Marilyn Andreetti explains some of her techniques to a visitor at her Open Studio in Cheshunt



Trees, the most popular pictures by Renos Lavithis, as voted by visitors to his Open Studio in New Barnet



Sarah Booth, Sharon Cooper, Tina Culverhouse and Sarah Graham of SGS Art, Hitchin, a group new to Open Studios



Another successful Taster event at Harpenden Farmers Market



Lots of visitors to the OS Private View at the Knowl Piece Studio and Gallery in Hitchin



A great new venue for 3 artists new to Open Studios – a Victorian Summerhouse at Chorleywood



Elaine Elespe, Julie Evans and Dorry Smallman, guest artists at Bank Mill Studio, Berkhamsted