



## OPEN STUDIOS 2008

At the time of going to press our Open Studios are in full swing and the exceptionally nice weather we have been enjoying during most of September, hopefully has contributed to some good results in both visitors and sales to brighten up the economic gloom we are all feeling...

**John Spielman** as always is in the front line visiting various studios and with his camera catching the moods and the presentations of various exhibitors at work. Here are his first such photos and without doubt more will follow.

You can send your own photos for the forthcoming newsletters. *The Editor*



GRAHAM FINDLAY in his workshop



PAUL BAINBRIDGE at his studio



Above and Below: PAULA EVANS working and demonstrating in her studio

LINDA GIFFORD showing her works



### NEW HVAF MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT!

We are pleased to offer to HVAF members (artists only) a **30% discount** on web design services. St Albans based, long term established, web design company EAB is offering the discount to artist members till 31/03/2009. This means an artist can end up with a complete, professionally designed, website for as little as **£518.13** including the hosting fee!

Furthermore, 5% of each contract will be donated to HVAF.

**For further information visit: [hvaf.org.uk](http://hvaf.org.uk) or [www.eab.co.uk/artists/hvaf/](http://www.eab.co.uk/artists/hvaf/)**

### GOLF ART PAINTINGS

by **Renos Lavithis** at **Mill Green Golf Club: Gypsy Lane, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL7 4TY, Tel: 01707 276900; web: [www.millgreengolf.co.uk](http://www.millgreengolf.co.uk)**

Open **22 September 2008 to 20 January 2009** - Visit the Clubhouse daily during daylight hours, enjoy refreshments from the bar and view the works of the artist. (Dress code applies, ie no jeans, no trainers or use of mobile in the bar area).

This is a unique exhibition and the artworks of the artist are inspired by the contrasting landscape of the golf course. Members with interest in golf should not miss this inspiring exhibition



### The latest from the Open Studios....

Just received this image from June showing her studio in Barnet. Together with her annual textile works, she shared the place with visitor artists, Janet with her works on the wall and stands and Helen (pictured) showing her jewellery creations.

**ENQUIRIES:**
**By Email:**

 Use the links at [www.hvaf.org.uk](http://www.hvaf.org.uk). Contacts page

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

**By Telephone:**

New Member Enquiries	020 8386 9428
Change your membership details:	01582 766624
Create or update a page in the web gallery	07949 312054
Send news for the website or newsletter	01707 650356
Open Studios Coordinator:	07813 100651
Sculptors Group	01992 581688
Painters North Group (Indigo)	not filled
Painters South Group	01727 863432
Photo/Dig Based Media Group	01438 869485
Textiles Group	01442 401795
Ceramics Group	01727 860615
Creative Herts Associate M/ship	01727 751445
Credit Card Facility	020 8441 9805
General Enquiries: -	020 8441 9805

**For all news, contacts, information & opportunities – go to [www.hvaf.org.uk](http://www.hvaf.org.uk)**

**VACANCIES**

- Membership Secretary • Programme Secretary • Leader
- Painters (N/Central-Indigo group)
- Deputies/Assistants – *New policy of 1 year involvement, prior to taking over the role.*
- Deputy Newsletter Editor • Assistant Treasurer
- HVAF PARTNERS CLUB (see article in this edition)
- Council Liaison Officer • Retail Sponsorship Coordinator
- 2 Monitoring Committee Members

**CANCELLATION**

John Spielman informs, the visit to Sir John Soames Museum has been cancelled as there were only four takers and we need 16 to make it viable.

**It is very unfortunate.**

**LUPE**

Does your artwork include photography? Digital or traditional, still or moving? We are putting together a presentation for the HVAF and would like to hear from you to include your work in this!

**Contact me ASAP. Lupe Cunha 07847 384084 or [LupeACunha@aol.com](mailto:LupeACunha@aol.com)**

**Report from Open Studios Coordinator September 2008**

Open Studios is now running and I hope it is a success for all participating artists. The OS team has invested in a good marketing programme and extended our cover to more commercial outlets this year in the hope that this brings more visitors and new audiences to studios across the county.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and effort of all volunteers for helping to keep open studios on the road. Their effort is integral to the success of the event. I would also like to thank the County Councils and Arts Council who have funded Open Studios over the last three years. Due to their support OS has been able to invest in marketing, community projects and development work – so a big thanks to them also.

Finally, I would like to thank all participating artists whose talent and energy make the event what it is – a celebration of creativity across the county. I would like to apologise to artists who had problems with their proofs or brochure entries. We did have a some problems this year and thanks to all who rallied around to rectify the situation.

I hope you all have an exciting and rewarding OS – an outcome that will justify all the hard work of artists and volunteers and the support of our sponsors.

**Fiona Scheibl** – September 2008

**HVAF AGM MEETING**
**WEDNESDAY 26TH  
NOVEMBER 08**
**for 7.30pm**
**at University of  
Hertfordshire UH,**
**HVAF welcomes all members.**

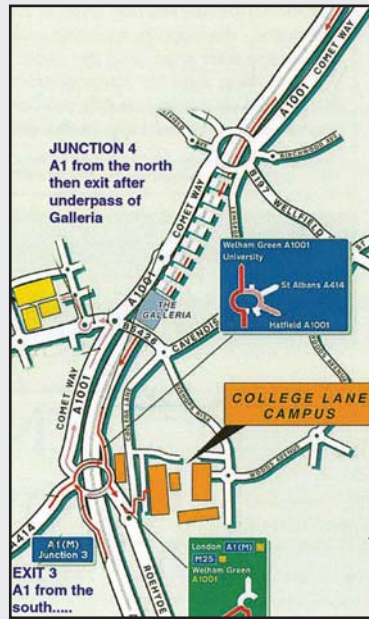
After the business side of the evening, over a glass of wine and nibbles, we have a visual review of images of all the years events - not to be missed.

It is now your chance to put your points of view and ideas forward for the HVAF and the coming year, meet up with group leaders and other members of your HVAF - it's networking time.

**PLEASE DO COME.**

Programme Secretary- John Spielman  
01992 581688 or [post@johnspielman.co.uk](mailto:post@johnspielman.co.uk)

**COLLEGE LANE CAMPUS  
LINDOP BUILDING  
ROOM A161  
(3rd turning on the left, park  
behind the building)**


**HVAF Partners' Club**

The Organising Group (OG) has approved the necessity of appointing a part-time Arts Administrative Officer, for both HVAF and OS, taking on as well in future the role of OS Coordinator. It has also been agreed that we must build up a range of sponsors from various sources – to fund this role, and off-set any grant shortfall from the Arts Council in future years.

In Fiona Scheibl's first thoughts on the 2009 Arts Council grant application, she highlights the need for a much closer future relationship with the Arts Officers of the 10 local Councils and Boroughs. This face-to-face relationship will require both time and maturity, to find out their Arts promotion priorities in their local areas, and to see how HVAF may become involved with those priorities.

Although Fiona is willing to establish initial personal contact with the Arts Officers, to maintain contact throughout the year we also need a key 'Special Volunteer'. Someone with both the personality and the time to establish 10 relationships, and hopefully not just for one year.

The second key role is for a 'Retail Sponsorship Coordinator'. Compared with the total number of businesses in Hertfordshire seeking to catch the public's eye, we are only scratching the surface with the current number of advertisers in our OS brochure. Consider – all galleries, some stores, medium to large restaurants, solicitors, estate agents, some retailers, etc. – the potential market is large. In future, when we contact one of these businesses, it should not only be for a brochure advert, but also for a possible entry on our website, with links to their own site. We should also point out the further benefits available to a sponsor contained in our new Sponsorship Pack. This will take time, and the idea is that the 'Retail Sponsorship Coordinator' will coordinate the team making contacts throughout the County.

It is difficult to find volunteers to carry out roles involving more than a

minimal time commitment. Simple, short tasks – maybe, but longer ones – difficult. This is understandable. Most volunteers are also trying to build a career, and their priority must be to produce art work. Both the key roles, mentioned above, need suitable previous experience, and more time than most volunteers are prepared to give. We have a problem.

Chris Green came up with the suggestion – "why not look for more retired partners of HVAF artists?" We must have a few partners amongst the 300 artist members, who have the required skills. It seems worth a try, particularly as we have had two excellent examples in the late Tony Harcourt, and Chris Green.

So, the OG has agreed to form the "HVAF Partners' Club". Admission – no fee, but a willingness to help with voluntary roles with skill and time requirements suitable to the 'Partner'. We may also meet socially from time to time.

The current vacancies, particularly suited to 'Partners', and the skills required include:

- Council Liaison Officer – ability to form and maintain longstanding relationships with the Arts Officers.
- Retail Sponsorship Coordinator – previous sales, marketing or retail experience would help.
- 2 monitoring committee members – able to monitor the Open Studios budget performance and execution of their plan, on behalf of the OG. Involves 4 or 5 meetings a year. (Note – The OS Coordinator is responsible for both plan and budget. The role we are seeking is 'monitoring')

Anyone who thinks he or she may be interested, drop me a short note giving contact details, and the type of experience you can contribute, (not a CV), even if the experience is not at present suitable for one of the above tasks.

Many thanks.

**Mike Willison**