



Visual Images Group News

Updates, news and resources from the Visual Images Group Committee.

Welcome to your March newsletter!

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Please read at least some of it 😊 - here is what we're covering this month:

- Win a £100 art and craft supplies voucher! Have your say and raise your profile: take our members' survey
- Have you updated your gallery page?
- Beginners guide to Instagram for artists and makers workshop
- Promoting Bucks Art Weeks - can you help?
- Creative opportunity at Waddesdon Manor
- Buckinghamshire Craft Guild workshops
- Towersey Festival artist opportunity
- Tell us your news
- Members' news - new gallery and exhibition successes
- AGM update
- Open calls

As always, if you have any queries, please contact Paola on admin@bucksartweeks.org.uk.

Best wishes

Visual Images Group Committee

(Heather, Jay, Keith, Mia, Pete, Paola, Sam & Sarah)

Have your say and win!

We're working to make your membership of this network something valuable to you. Will you help us?

Our **members survey** aims to understand what you want from your membership, as well as asking you some profile questions that we can feature in our publicity around Bucks Art Weeks and throughout the year. Please give us a few minutes of your time and you could **win a £100 voucher** - see the survey [here](#). Thank you!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NPKX7Z3>

Have you updated your gallery page?

As you may know, you pay £35 to be a member of Visual Images Group (regardless of whether you take part in Bucks Art Weeks). By joining this group, you are part of a large, diverse and professional community of artists and makers. There are opportunities to network and learn throughout the year, with strength through numbers and year-round exposure on your own

gallery page, as well as the opportunity to take part in Bucks Art Weeks and other exhibitions and events.

Your gallery page on the website is a fantastic tool that promotes you to the 25,000 people who look on our website each year. You can upload up to three videos, 10 photos and plenty of information about yourself and what you do, and it's a great way for people to find you.

Instructions and hints about how to get the most from your gallery page are at the end of this newsletter... please scroll down↓

Beginners guide to Instagram for artists and makers: free workshop for members

This workshop is **almost full** - you can grab the last couple of spaces by contacting admin@bucksartweeks.org.uk

It will be at Queen's Park Arts Centre, Aylesbury from 7 to 9.30pm on Thursday 18 April. If you can't make it, don't worry - this is a pilot session and if there is demand we may repeat it, possibly online, and we will prepare **resources for all members**.

Promoting Bucks Art Weeks - can you help?

We are working on publicity for this year's Bucks Art Weeks and looking to send press releases to media outlets around the county. Could you help with this?

We are **looking for volunteers** around the county who may be able to **source news items, write press releases or contact local newspapers** and radio stations. **Full training will be given** if you'd like to help.

Please contact our PR and marketing coordinator, Sarah, on sarahcrippsart@gmail.com to find out more or to volunteer. Thank you!

Creative opportunity at Waddesdon Manor

Waddesdon Manor is a stately home in Buckinghamshire, managed by the charitable Rothschild Foundation on behalf of the National Trust.

They are currently looking for artists to work with their learning team over their really busy Christmas period in putting together a **project for schools and community groups**. You can see all the details, and apply, [here](#).

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:EU:3e0d2d13-00c4-49...>

Buckinghamshire Craft Guild Workshops

If you fancy a day creating with others, Buckinghamshire Craft Guild have some fun workshops lined up this Spring:

On Friday 22 March in '**Play with Clay**' with Sophie Smith you can make a decorative bowl and spoon or create a low relief tile either by hand-building or using press moulds.

And on Friday 26th April '**Paper Sculpture**' with Graham Lester will introduce you to the techniques of sculpting with paper by cutting, folding, scoring and gluing in position. You will make high-heeled shoes and lilies!

You can see all the details and book places [here](#).

<https://www.buckinghamshirecraftguild.co.uk/pages/workshops>

Towersey Festival artist opportunity

Towersey music and culture festival runs this year from 23 to 26 August. They are looking for an **artist in residence** who would be willing to run a **daily art class for festival goers, in return for free festival tickets**. You can find out more about the festival at www.towerseyfestival.com and contact Joe Heap the Co-Director if you'd like to take part (joe@towerseyfestival.com).

Please note: this festival takes place at the same time as our exhibition at Stowe, so you would not be able to take part in both events.

Tell us your news

We will be working hard to promote Bucks Art Weeks this year both in the press and on social media. To do this, we need you to tell us anything that would make a good story - it could be

about you, your work, your venue or your inspiration. We can't promise that newspapers will publish what we send them but we will try our best!

Please send us any stories using this [quick form](#) and we will try to promote them as much as we can.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8BX655B>

Members' successes

Thank you for letting us know your news - here are some of the successes your fellow creatives have achieved this month... you can see their pictures at the top of this newsletter.

Asya Dudko had one of her sculptures 'Birthday Boy' included in the Annual Exhibition of the Royal Society of British Artists at the **Mall Galleries**...

...And **Nathalie Pymm** also had her work in the same exhibition. Nathalie's piece was a lino print entitled 'Sunflower'.

Claudine Hanks has opened a **new art gallery**, Hanks Gallery, at 91 High Street, Great Missenden. Not only is Claudine an artist, she's also a graphic designer and proud owner of design agency, Blooberry Creative. She's also a DJ who founded OUR HOUSE which hosts local house music events. "It's always been my dream to own an art gallery and exhibit my creations," she says. Hanks Gallery will be open during Bucks Art Weeks and alongside Claudine's work she will be hosting guest artist, **Sue Sibley**.

Chris Jones entered her piece 'Surfers Dream' into the **King Lear Prizes 2023** and received some really warm feedback: 'The artist has achieved a stunning level of detail in the painting, from the crests of the waves to the subtle reflections of light on the surface of the water. The composition and colour palette have been expertly chosen to capture the feeling of being at the beach, and the result is an incredibly impressive artwork.'

Bhavika Garg has launched a **pop-up Art Stall** at Milton Keynes with the aim of helping parents of **children with special educational needs** to support and inspire their children in art and creativity. She says: 'I feel so grateful to be able to teach the children in my neighbourhood about mindfulness and art. I am keen on hosting such a workshop during Bucks Art Weeks, so please do contact me to learn more.'

Graham Lester, who will be running a workshop at Buckinghamshire Craft Guild in April (see above), has completed a **paper sculpture** of the Odeon in Birmingham. Unfortunately, the cinema closed in 1962 and is now a bingo hall, but has recently been granted Grade II listed status, demonstrating its significance as one of the finest Modernist cinemas in Britain.

And **Alison Vincent**, who featured on TV's '**Make it at Market**' series last year, recently took part in the Contemporary Glass Society exhibition in St Helens, where one of her pieces was bought by **Lady Kirsty Pilkington** of the famous Pilkington Glass dynasty.

AGM update

Our Chair, Sam Burke, writes:

Thank you for your patience in waiting for the minutes of our last AGM. I have been unable to obtain a set of minutes from the person who was creating the minutes. I hope that this document captures the key points & decisions made. Any queries, please email Paola on admin@bucksartweeks.org.uk.

Visual Images Group – Notes from AGM – 11th October 2023

BACKGROUND

The Committee have been unable to obtain minutes from the Committee member who was responsible for taking the minutes & who is no longer on the Committee. This document will be in lieu of the minutes & aims to capture the key points & decisions made.

ATTENDEES

Committee: Sam Burke, Paola Aldus, Keith Dale, Jay Nolan-Latchford, Rosie Blacher, Vanessa Mayhead.

Number of members: 28 (including Committee who are VIG members).

KEY ACTIONS/DECISIONS

- Minutes from last year's AGM were approved.
- Financial report (for 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023) – by Keith Dale (Treasurer) was approved.
- Plans for 2023/24

List of proposed initiatives presented. The Committee used the feedback from the members' survey & observations during the previous year to create a list of proposed initiatives.

AGM agreed to focus on a few initiatives for 2023/24 to further improve our association (in addition to our delivering our flagship event). The initiatives are as follows:

1. Increase the number of members (409 (not 412 as stated in Sam's pack)). This will include looking at how we can add additional value for our existing members too.
2. We will look at how we can reduce the cost & wastage for the BAW yellow signs. The yellow signs cost £4.3k for BAW 2023.
3. Organise an exhibition where all members can submit one piece of art, as a showcase for our members.

In addition, we will continue to:

- Nurture the relationship with the National Trust.
- Update the Constitution document to share with members for review & approval.

Spend vs. cost 2023/24: forecast overspend approx. £2k.

- Election of Committee members

Committee members stood down:

- Floating Committee Member - Vanessa Mayhead
- Directory & Website Editor - Sarah Beak <not present at meeting>

Committee members elected/re-elected:

- Chair – Sam Burke (elected into role)
- Treasurer - Keith Dale (re-elected)
- Co-ordinator – Paola Aldus (re-elected)
- Social Media Co-ordinator – Jay Nolan-Latchford (re-elected)
- Floating Committee Member – Heather Larson (re-elected)
- Floating Committee Member - Vacant
- Directory & Website Editor – Vacant

END

Open calls

We include open calls, residencies and job opportunities which might be appropriate when we can. Here are some which you might like to look through...

'England is a Forest' exhibition curated by Small Works Art Gallery

<https://www.artshub.co.uk/opportunity/open-call-england-is-a-forest-2614463/>

'Photography Eyes' is Online Photography Exhibition

<https://www.artshub.co.uk/opportunity/photography-eyes-open-call-2614459/>

Embracing Our Differences Exhibition Open Call

<https://www.artshub.co.uk/opportunity/embracing-our-differences-exhibition-open-call-2614456/>

The GroundWork Residency 2024 <https://www.artshub.co.uk/opportunity/the-groundwork-residency-2024-2614280/>

Flight 2024 open call <https://www.artshub.co.uk/opportunity/flight-2024-lancaster-arts-and-art-beats-open-commission-call-2614279/>

Future of Money Design Awards 2024 <https://www.artshub.co.uk/opportunity/future-of-money-design-awards-2024-2613683/>

This Homeland Open Call <https://www.artshub.co.uk/opportunity/this-homeland-artists-open-call-2613283/>

And finally...

Thank you for reading this newsletter! I hope it's been useful - if there's anything you'd like to see in future news, please let Sarah know on sarahcrippsart@gmail.com

Don't forget to check out the hints for your gallery page below.

Happy making!

Hints and tips for editing your gallery page

(Thank you to Oxford Art Weeks for sharing these resources with us)

If you can, **use a computer rather than a phone or tablet** and please note **THERE IS NO AUTOSAVE, YOU MUST CLICK 'SAVE' AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE WHEN YOU MAKE CHANGES.**

Log into your user account at www.bucksartweeks.org.uk to create your gallery.

Scroll down to 'My galleries 2024'.

Click on the link to create your gallery.

Your gallery is your shop window: an online portfolio/virtual exhibition/studio tour. You can include some or all of these elements:

- A picture of yourself
- Further contact details and social media links
- Ten photos
- Exhibition information and link to a catalogue
- Artist information
- Up to 3 videos – uploaded to Youtube or Vimeo

You don't need to add all the elements at once: however, **remember to click SAVE** at the bottom of the page each time you edit.

Get ahead of the crowd! The earlier you complete your gallery the better, as we will use these pages to source photos for the directory and stories for the press.

Let's go through each section...

Member picture of yourself

Think of this picture as your welcome, a way to connect with visitors.

You are important! What makes a festival like Bucks Art Weeks special is that visitors get to meet the artist and hear the story of their art from the horse's mouth. Also, some visitors are choosing an art teacher or thinking about a commission, and editors of local media concentrate on the person first and the art second.

Art specialism

Please tick your key art specialism(s).

Visitors will be able to choose to see all the artists working in a particular media.

Gallery images

You can add up to ten images, one at a time. The first is your 'iconic image' and will pop up elsewhere on the website where it will appear cropped square, so consider this when choosing an image and avoid long and thin.

You must add at least one image for your artist profile to appear on the website.

Good images will encourage a visitor to explore your artist profile further; poor images will probably put them off.

TIP: Prepare your images before uploading them. Trim the photos so that they look their best. Look at the background and check it is uncluttered, avoid light reflecting off glass etc.

Also, check the image size – they must be at least 800x800 pixels. Ideally each image would be between 1-2MB. They cannot be larger than 10MB. If an image doesn't upload then they are probably too small: look for the error message at the top of the page.

You can reorder the images by clicking and dragging them up and down using the small cross icon at the top left of each.

You can change your images at any time.

Videos

Videos add a dynamism and encourage a visitor the chance to 'stop and linger' in your virtual studio/exhibition profile. They are also fantastic way to give a friendly insight into your approach, art and studio and have the charm – almost – of a mini studio visit. Don't worry that a video isn't professionally produced: embrace the homegrown charm that Bucks Art Weeks celebrates and let your personality shine through! It is fine to use a smart phone (although remember to hold it widthways) to film a short video. If you're not happy filming yourself or being filmed, you can always compile a series of photos of your art into a video.

There is space for three videos, one in each of the following three categories:

a) **Meet the artist** – just a quick hello on a smart phone is fine though it's great if you talk about your inspiration, style and ethos, and perhaps your workspace.

b) **The artist at work** – You don't have to show your face!

Timelapse apps can do this wonderfully but it could be created from a series of images of the stages of creating a piece.

c) **Virtual tour**: this could be a walk-through tour of pictures hanging on the walls of a 'real' exhibition, or a through the keyhole look at the studio. Either can be filmed in a single go on a smart phone. Alternatively you can put a series of photos into a video.

There are many ways to make films using software available free online such as Windows Movie Maker or Movavi, or Ripple and TimeLapse apps for iphone.

Or you can create a slideshow of photos with captions in Powerpoint, then click File and Export to create a video.

Video files should then be uploaded onto Vimeo or Youtube, for free, and either will generate a link for sharing. This is the link you should include in your artist gallery.

Social Media

Here you can add links to all the various online accounts you have for your work.

This section also includes a place for an **exhibition catalogue or flipbook** of your work.

To do this, make a document (in Word, Powerpoint, Google Docs etc). You can include just images, or put titles and prices/artist information etc. Then use the 'save as' option to save the document as a PDF. You can then upload this into your gallery.

You can even turn your PDF into a flipbook by using a site such as fliphtml5.com or flipbookpdf.net which will generate a link for you to add to this section.

Biography and further information boxes

You have two free text boxes in which to add exhibition and artist information. It is easiest to write these elsewhere in Word and then when you're happy copy and paste it.

Make them not just up-to-date but personal too. Remember, potential purchasers buy direct from artists and makers because they get something unique and hand-crafted, and part of their pleasure is the story that comes with it: who made it, how, where and why? If you are exhibiting physically, this is useful to visitors who may be choosing between different venues, as well as being of interest to visitors online throughout the year. And, if you're lucky, it might also catch the eye of the press/gallery owners.

The biography section adds depth to your profile and to your work. Bucks Art Weeks celebrates the artist as well as the art so let your personality show.

Your artist information shouldn't be a CV. Who is excited by an art foundation course in Swindon in 1995? What's much more interesting is what inspires you to create: is it the things you see and places you go, or is it your imagination, or the process itself? Why are you a potter and not a jeweller, or vice versa?

We know that for expensive purchases/commissions it often takes time and a period of getting to know you before someone decides to go ahead. Therefore, you want people to feel a connection with you, what drives or excites you, your ethos and approach, style and inspiration. This is what you can write in this section.

Contact details

You may want to add your phone number, email, and studio postcode here.

REMEMBER TO CLICK SAVE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE!

Your gallery should now be complete - thank you!

P.S. BAW 2025 will take place on Saturday 7th June to Sunday 22nd June.

Visual Images Group

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United Kingdom



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