



Visual Art at the heart of Shropshire, Telford, and Wrekin

Minutes of the VAN Meeting held 28TH May 2026 at 2pm Massarellas, Darwin Centre, Shrewsbury SY2 6QW

Present: (JG) Julie Goldthorpe, (DT) Dave Thompson, (AW) Alison Wragg, (MS) Monica Silver (MH) Mike Hodge, (LS) Lesley Stabler (DO) David Osselton, (DH) Diane Harrington

Item #	Item	Action	By
1.	All Attended		
2.	Declarations of Interest:		
3.	Minutes of the meeting held 23 rd April 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed as correct by the Chair 	JG
4.	Matters arising from the minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marketing and Publicity Working Group - AW to check with Tracey Hill about sign and updating visitors then contacting them using the Marketing email address. O2 Wi-fi Contract has come to an end. Attingham Art Fair – To be rescheduled due to time constraints. Painting the gallery exterior - Painting group set up to complete the work. Concord College Christmas Fair 2026. Sum Up Card reader for external events. Shrewsbury BID charges – Have received the bill but awaiting BID committee meeting decision. Friends of VAN- ways to thank them, encourage others. 3D Storage downstairs – possible option to use closed store shelving units. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See AOB Ongoing – but centre Wi-Fi is now much better. Ongoing MS looking at dates. Permit completed and work to commence 1st June. Ongoing – LS still to action when date confirmed by college. Ongoing Ongoing JG chased again, still waiting for decision from BID team. Ongoing – Maybe do something near Christmas No go on the extra storage. JG has emailed all 3D members about storage amounts in the 	<p>PL/AW</p> <p>DT/JG</p> <p>JG/MS</p> <p>DT</p> <p>LS</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>JG</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>JG</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging new members - We need new members to join – can we ask current members to encourage people to join. • Advertising on TV screen – possible paid adverts Art Trail now advertising. Trustees suggested potential others that may be interested in advertising with us. • Window Displays- decided to continue with the flower displays until the Autumn as they have attracted people into the gallery. • DT will be away in September/October – rota will need to be covered. • Membership Secretary – DO will review the role and decide if he can take it over from JG. • Desk - MH has looked at a few designs and the conclusion was to keep the top and replace the legs and have a wood surround. It is more cost effective than buying a replacement ready-made desk. 	<p>basement to reduce clutter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some recent new members have joined • JG to contact other art establishments suggested in the meeting. • Ongoing • Ongoing - DT to contact members in August about double payment in November • JG to send details of role to DO • Ongoing 	<p>ALL</p> <p>JG</p> <p>DT</p> <p>JG</p> <p>MH</p>
5.	<p>Treasurers Report for April 2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The financial position for April was much improved on the previous month and we made a profit. • Footfall and sales were also up on this time last year and the average basket value had increased. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Annex A Report for further details. 	DT
6.	<p>VAN Gallery Exhibitions 2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be good to set up a group of members to discuss exhibition ideas for next year. • The Trustees can then finalise and confirm. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AW will contact all the members and set up working group. 	AW
7.	<p>Art Prize</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the exhibition changeover days have moved, we need to change the dates for the Art Prize public vote. • It was agreed to change to cover Wednesday 24th June to Sunday 28th June. • All members of the public who vote will be entered into a draw to win a VAN voucher for £20. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trustees to think about how to award the prizes to VAN members - special event maybe? 	ALL

8.	Meet the Artist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decided not to renew this idea as little interest last year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All agreed 	ALL
9.	Summer Get Together <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decided to give it a miss this year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All agreed 	ALL
10.	Condover Christmas Fair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is anyone interested in organising this. 1st Sunday in December. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LS will check and feedback to JG if she is able to take this on. 	LS/JG
11.	Derwen College <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students with learning difficulties are looking for job placements. A 26-year-old who is also an artist would be interested in stewarding in the gallery 1 day per week. No risk regarding our insurance as the student would be accompanied by a job coach from the college each session. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All agreed to go ahead. DT will contact the college to organise. 	DT
12.	Cash Desk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covered earlier in section 4. 		
13.	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marketing Working Group – AW requires assistance with social media posting to promote the gallery. VAN Flyer – JG proposed we update and redesign it as it hadn't been done for a while. As JG is going to be moving out of the area she has decided to stand down as Chair after the AGM in November 2026. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AW to contact members as to ascertain interest in helping. JG will contact Will Lee who creates the posters to redesign the flyer. Trustees need to think about who could take on the role. 	AW JG ALL
11	Date of Next Meeting: 18 th June 2pm		

Treasurers Monthly Report

Financial Position 1st May 2026

CAF Bank Current Account: £1,519.58

CAF Bank Reserve Account: £ 8,107.62

PayPal Account: £ 308.84

Cash in Hand (cashbox): £243.98

Financial Balance	£10,090.02
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Total to Date	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Sales	£5,860	£5,987	-£127
Total Footfall	3,460	3,847	-387

April Performance	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Sales	£1,995	£1,172	+£823
Footfall	878	832	+46
Number of items sold	108	136	-28
Sales Transactions	67	83	-16
Customers per sale	13	10	+3
Average Basket Value	£29.78	£14.12	+£15.66