



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

Minutes of the VAN Meeting held 18th June 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, (DH) Diane Harrington

Item #	Item	Action	By
1.	Apologies: Lesley Stabler and David Osselton		
2.	Declarations of Interest:	Nothing new	
3.	Minutes of the meeting held 28 th May 2026	Signed as correct by the Chair	JG
4.	Matters arising from the minutes: - Marketing and Publicity Working Group - AW to check with Tracey Hill about sign and updating visitors then contacting them using the Marketing email address. - Attingham Art Fair – no date scheduled yet. MS provided dates but agreed she would be better to liaise directly with contact at Attingham. - 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. - Advertising on TV screen – possible paid adverts Art Trail now advertising. Trustees suggested potential others that may be interested in advertising with us.	- AW updated about new group member Ilse joining the Marketing group. - AW to speak to Tracey next week. - JG to provide MS with Attingham contact details - Ongoing – LS still to action when date confirmed by college. - Ongoing - Ongoing – still nothing back from them despite JG chasing again this week. - Ongoing – Maybe do something near Christmas. - Ongoing - Still needs to be address, maybe in September. - Ongoing JG to contact other art establishments suggested in the meeting.	AW DT/JG LS ALL JG ALL ALL JG

	- 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 agreed to take on role. - Desk – MH has created a great desk base on wheels, and it has been installed in the gallery. The curtain will be replaced with painted plywood and VAN logo added to the front. - VAN Gallery exhibition ideas - AW had received ideas and is waiting to organise a date to get together to discuss and whittle down. - Condoover Christmas Fair – still need to confirm - Derwen College – DT has contacted the college and the student, Lily, and her coach will work in the gallery in September for a day as part of her work experience. - In relation to the previous item. A Job Enterprise back to work scheme contacted us about a client who makes textile items and whether this was something we could help with. - VAN Flyer – Will Lee has designed the new flyer, and it has been sent to the printers. - Chair Role – as mentioned in the previous meeting JG will step down as Chair in November 2026.	- See Item 11 for further discussion - Ongoing - DT to contact members in August about double payment in November - JG to handover gradually. - Ongoing - Well done Mike - Ongoing - LS to confirm if she can take this on. - Ongoing - JG is in contact and will update further when she has heard more. - DT will collect from the printers. - All the Trustees need to think who could take on the role.	DT JG/DO MH AW LS DT JG DT All
5.	Treasurers Report for May 2026: - Sales and footfall are still down on the year to date. - Sales in May were also down but surprisingly Footfall was up.	See Annex A Report for further details.	DT
6.	Art Prize - During the Open Exhibition JG has reduced the amount that people can exhibit. - JG has created the Voting Slips and Boxes Pink for 2D, Green for 3D and Blue for the public drawer. JG will collect after and do the count.	JG will email instructions to members.	JG

7.	BID Window Competition MS and JG have entered on behalf of VAN. The windows are to be judged on the 1st July.	Ongoing	MS
8.	Restrictions On 2D Artwork - It was discussed and all agreed to limit the size of artwork in an exhibition to 1m in width. - Only allow one artwork of this size for each member in an exhibition.	This information needs to be added to the Artwork Selection Policy for clarification.	JG
9.	Demonstrations - Although Artist in Residence did not work. It was agreed that members could work in the gallery on a separate table whilst they are stewarding. - It would be good to share a video of this on social media.	- JG to email members about this opportunity. - AW to contact Ilse Torres to see if she can create a video.	JG AW
10.	Interior Design - DH and AW presented some ideas for changes in showcasing items in the gallery. - Agreed to reuse items we already have – paint the plinths and change the current window display format. - AW to look at adding mirror film to the jewellery cabinets to enhance the viewing.	To put some ideas into action	DH/A W
11.	AOB - Market Town Vets – we currently have some members' art displayed and they would like some more for this venue and a new Vet practice opening in Whitchurch. - VAN don't charge commission but organise payments to the artist on behalf of the Vet's practice and invoice them after, should we charge commission? - Business Cards for VAN – can we provide these for members to hand out at shows and fairs, to promote the gallery. - Sunday opening – it has been very quiet recently. Decided to reduce hour until October to 11am to 3pm	- DT to contact Phil Langstaff about the original agreement with the Vets. - DT to establish what sizes of work they are looking to exhibit. - JG to investigate printing and costs involved. - DT to update the rota going forward.	DT DT JG DT
11	Date of Next Meeting: 16 th July 2pm		

Treasurers Monthly Report

Financial Position 1st June 2026

CAF Bank Current Account: £776.24

CAF Bank Reserve Account: £ 8,107.62

PayPal Account: £ 337.65

Cash in Hand (cashbox): £298

Financial Balance	£9,519.51
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Total to Date	2026	2025	Variance
Sales	£7,078.87	£7,606.56	-£527.69
Total Footfall	4,345	4,652	-307

May Performance	2026	2025	Variance
Sales	£1,218.93	£1,619.62	-£400.69
Footfall	885	805	+80
Number of items sold	112	146	-34
Sales Transactions	70	87	-17
Customers per sale	12	9	+3
Average Basket Value	£17.4	£18.6	-£1.20