

Record year for Bucks Artists

Bucks Open Studios is a regular annual showcase for local art and craft talent in Buckinghamshire. Now in its 26th year Bucks Open Studios has broken all records, with over 480 artists taking part in 183 different venues across the County. We were particularly pleased to welcome 64 new artists and makers this year, proving that artistic talent is alive and growing in the county.

Participants also reported record visitor numbers, with over 12,000 visitors, and despite the economic doom and gloom, record sales! Art and craft is definitely thriving in Bucks!

We asked visitors to let us know what they thought about this year's event and 99% of respondents rated the event as either 'Good' or 'Excellent'. Here's just a small selection of what visitors had to say about their highlights from this year's event:

"The variety of artists exhibiting was very impressive. It was lovely to see so many different things and amazing to think there's so much talent in Bucks!"

"All of the artists I visited were wonderful, friendly, inspiring people. As a professional artist myself I tend to work in isolation most of the time so it's great to get out and meet others in the same boat!"

"This was the first Bucks Open Studios event I'd attended so it was all new to me. The main highlights were the standard and diversity of the work on show and also the opportunity to speak to some really interesting, knowledgeable people along the way."

"I was particularly impressed with the incredibly high standard of craftsmanship on display; all the studios that I was able to visit showed work that was so inspirational."

"Realising what an astounding amount of talent is around. Bucks Open Studios is valuable and so important for Bucks, even in the simple way it gets people visiting and communicating with others in the local community."

Artists and makers themselves get a great deal out of taking part. Not least the benefit of raising the profile and visibility of their own craft in their local community, but also meeting and networking with fellow artists and makers, viewing others work and of course, selling more of their own. If you love art and live in or near Buckinghamshire, remember Bucks Open Studios in June next year. It's a chance to see the amazing talent in the area, talk to artists and makers face-to-face, see them at work and even have a go yourself. Unique gifts make perfect presents too, and you won't find them in high street shops, so you're supporting the local economy and local artists who make their living by their creative talent.

Visit: <http://www.bucksopenstudios.org.uk/index.asp> for more information and to search a database of everyone who took part this year and to find pictures of artists at work visit:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/bucksopenstudios/>

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About Bucks Open Studios

Bucks Open Studios is an annual two week art event held in June every year when artists and makers all over the County open their studios or hold exhibitions and events showcasing and demonstrating their work. It is a wonderful opportunity to experience first-hand the creativity going on around the County. Bucks Open Studios is run by the Visual Images Group, an alliance of over 600 artists and makers living and working in Buckinghamshire. It's the largest open studios event in Buckinghamshire and one of the largest in the country.

For more information email: vi-group@btconnect.com or Tel: 01296 614283

You can also contact The Visual Images Group by writing to: The VIG Co-ordinator, c/o Obsidian Art, Layby Farm, Old Risborough Road, Stoke Mandeville, Bucks, HP22 5XJ.

Or visit: <http://www.bucksopenstudios.org.uk/index.asp>

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Press Contact

For more information about the event, to request images or to find out about the work of the artists taking part in Bucks Open Studios 2012, please contact: Ruth Holroyd at rh marketing on 07979 855047 or ruth@ruthholroyd.com