



THE BURTON
AT BIDEFORD

OPEN CALL: SOCIALY-ENGAGED PHOTOGRAPHER

The Burton at Bideford is seeking a socially-engaged photographer to work on a project with a group of women with complex needs. The project will use Historic England's Janette Rosing Collection as a starting point.



Clovelly Harbour, Clovelly, Torridge, Devon, c. 1885.
Source: Historic England Archive.

Context

We are excited to commission a socially-engaged photographer based in the South West to facilitate workshops with a group of women with complex needs. The aim of the workshops is to introduce the Janette Rosing Photographic Collection to participants, and use it as a starting point to explore themes of collecting, the landscape, the pastoral vs the sublime and rural histories. Through a series of practical photography workshops and photo walks, the group will develop new skills and creative engagement with landscapes documented in the collection. With the artist's guidance, the group will learn how to improve their own photographs, through considerations in lighting and composition.

The appointed photographer will deliver 10 creative workshops, which will result in an exhibition at The Burton in 2026. The workshops will take place at The Burton, and will be supported by staff from The Burton's Learning and Engagement Team and the charity Brave Spaces.

THE BRIEF

The Brief

The photographer will:

- plan and deliver 10 photography workshops.
- teach photography skills, and encourage experimentation. Participants will be using the cameras on their phones, but there's an opportunity for experimenting with analogue photography methods if this fits the brief
- encourage the group to work on a theme, so that individuals end up with a body of work at the end of the 10 sessions.
- collaborate with the group to agree the best output for the final work.

Budget

Artist fee: £2,000

Artist travel and access budget: £500

50% of the Artist Fee will be paid on appointment, with the remainder due on completion of the workshops.

On top of this, there is a budget of £250 for materials, £1000 for production, and a budget for participants travel to outdoor locations which will be managed by The Burton.

Support

The Burton will:

- Provide the Kingsley Room as a base for the workshops
- Provide the materials in collaboration with the photographer
- Recruit participants through the support partner.
- Be the main point of contact for the photographer, Historic England and Brave Spaces
- Will act as mentor for the photographer, through 2 - 3 development meeting points to monitor progress and workshop challenges and questions
- Promote the work of the photographer and the work of the group.
- Install the final output /exhibition

Brave Spaces will:

- Provide a fully trained Support Worker for each of the sessions
- Help recruit participants



APPLY

How to submit an Expression of Interest

We are asking for proposals for how you would respond to this opportunity. Please include:

1. A 1-2 page A4 statement or 5 minute video outlining the following:

- Your experience of running socially engaged projects such as this.
- How you would approach the workshops, and any themes you may focus on.
- What you would cover in the workshops.
- Any additional support you think would be helpful for us to provide.

2. A CV

3. A link to your website or online portfolio

4. A completed equal opportunities monitoring form [available here](#)

Please email your application documents to carole@theburton.org by 12 noon on 30 April 2026.

Selection Process

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview in the week beginning 11 May. The interview panel will consist of a member of The Burton team, a representative from Brave Spaces, and an external artist advisor.

Timeline

Application deadline: 12 noon, 30 April

Interviews: week beginning 11 May

Workshops begin: June

Workshops end: August

Exhibition/Output: End of 2026



ABOUT US

About The Burton at Bideford

The Burton at Bideford is a National Portfolio Organisation and one of the leading cultural venues in the South West, attracting over 160,000 visitors last year. It is situated in the historic town of Bideford, where agriculture, craft and maritime heritage meet at the water's edge. With two exhibition spaces, a museum, craft gallery, shop and café, The Burton provides opportunities for everyone to access and engage with artists, collections and exhibitions.

theburton.org

About Historic England

We are Historic England, the public body that protects and brings life to the heritage that matters to us all, so it lives on and is loved for longer. From the extraordinary to the everyday, our historic places and spaces matter. From community centres to cathedrals, homes to high streets, markets to mills - there are special places we all choose to hold onto, the legacy we want to pass on and the stories we continue to tell. That's why we work together with people across England to discover, protect and bring new life to our shared historic environment, providing advice, knowledge, support and services.

www.historicengland.org.uk

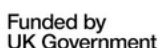
About Brave Spaces

Brave Spaces is a life changing project within the Devon Domestic Abuse Alliance, supporting women who are facing multiple disadvantages including homelessness, trauma, and domestic and sexual violence and abuse. Many of the women we work with have experienced repeated harm and exclusion, and Brave Spaces exists to offer safety, understanding, and a pathway forward.

Our experienced and compassionate team works alongside women to help them live free from abuse and reclaim control over their lives. Through a trauma informed approach, we support women to reconnect with their identity, rebuild self-esteem and confidence, and develop the resilience needed to create safer, more hopeful futures.

We provide specialist trauma stabilisation interventions, safe and secure accommodation, assertive outreach in the community, and welcoming women only drop in spaces and activities. Above all, Brave Spaces offers connection, dignity, and belonging, creating environments where women feel believed, supported, and empowered to heal and thrive.

www.bpag-encompass.org.uk/projects/brave-spaces



About Imagining England: the Janette Rosing Photographic Collection

Historic England's Imagining England project opens up the incredible Janette Rosing Collection to the public for research and enjoyment. The collection which was recently acquired by the Historic England Archive, features over 8,400 images of 19th and early 20th century England and showcases some of the earliest forms of photographic printing, helping to imagine an England now lost in time.

The collection includes images from every county in England. The photographs range in print type and include albumen, gelatine and platinum prints showcasing significant developments in early photography. They were taken by a number of prominent figures and photographic companies at the time, including Francis Frith, James Valentine, W. G. Campbell, William Russell Sedgefield and George Washington Wilson. Information about these individuals and organisations helps provides key context to the images.

The collection was acquired by Historic England as part of the Government's Acceptance in Lieu scheme, administered by Arts Council England. The scheme allows individuals to donate important cultural items to museums and galleries in return for a tax reduction, ensuring that collections like Rosing's are preserved for the benefit of the public. The collection reflects Janette Rosing's keen interest in coastal, maritime and architectural history from a period of significant industrial and urban development and change in England. The content is evocative, giving intimate glimpses into urban life, country scenes and coastal communities, and is a powerful document of English social history and a high-quality art form.



Lookout, Clovelly, Torridge, Devon, 1860
Source: Historic England Archive.

About Archives Revealed

This project is a Historic England project supported by funding from Archives Revealed. Archives Revealed is the only grant programme in the United Kingdom dedicated to cataloguing and unlocking archival collections. The programme is funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Pilgrim Trust, the Wolfson Foundation and The National Archives. Its goal is to ensure that significant archive collections—representing the lives and perspectives of people across the UK—are made accessible for public research and enjoyment.

