



**DAN BUMPER 4 PAGE AGM EDITION – Chair’s Report**



It has definitely been a year for lateral thinking, innovation and creativity! We have all been made increasingly aware how important human contact and connections are in our lives and we have done our utmost as a committee to support members in organising monthly virtual meetings and two virtual exhibitions. I would like to thank the members who have given their enthusiastic support throughout the year offering demonstrations, coming to the en plein air painting session and providing work for our virtual exhibitions - you know who you are! Thank you too to those of you who took the time to respond to our survey which confirmed that we were on the right track throughout this unusual year and your committee really appreciated the additional kind comments and words of encouragement.

We started the year at our usual venue of The Old Cock for a couple of our meetings and then we turned somewhat tentatively to holding our meetings on Zoom, which have proved really successful. We have offered a variety of demonstrations, speakers and interviews throughout the year. Some external, but the majority provided by our own very talented members who have risen to the challenge and engaged fully with their audience. Special thanks here go to **Mike Crockett, Colin Jack, Rhys Jones, Wendy Simmons** and **Stewart Bourne**. Les Jones, editor and proprietor of Elsie magazine was very entertaining and there was an interesting interview with Charlie Barnes, Worcestershire’s Poet Laureate in 2019. Our final meeting of the year was a quiz night with a good number of attendees and the winners **Ruth** and **Stewart Bourne** received a £20 M&S voucher.

Unfortunately, because of COVID-19, our planned exhibitions at Hanbury Hall and Artrix could not take place but our virtual exhibitions have proved popular and when possible, art has been shown at The Button Tree and Park’s with good sales.

For the second year we have sponsored the Karen Moore Creative Writing Competition which takes place at Droitwich High School. Karen and I judge the entries, passing the final two to an external judge. This year it was Ross Armstrong, actor and published writer and a former pupil of the High School. The quality of writing was a great improvement on last year and first and second prize winners’ writing was in turn dramatic and sensitive. I presented the cheque from DAN for £100 to the winner Grace Rogers, in the school grounds, whilst socially distancing. Rhys took the photos which went into the local press.

Once again, we donated £25 to the British Legion Poppy Appeal and I laid the second of our two wreaths made at our workshop in 2019, on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020 whilst socially distancing from representatives from other organisations. It was a splendid wreath. Thank you to all those of you who provided poppies using a wide variety of media. We have been unable to do any significant fund raising this year and therefore it is particularly useful to link in with Easy Fundraising. This is a very easy way of providing funds for DAN at no expense to you. Please consider registering for this scheme.

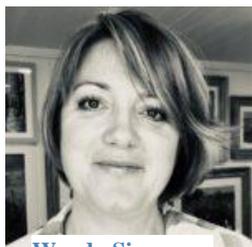


Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their support and the huge amount of work they have taken on this year to make sure all DAN members had the opportunity for an interesting and fulfilling membership during the year. Everyone has played his or her part, including those working full time and those providing hours of essential volunteering. **Rosie** has been an excellent secretary and has used her artistic skills during the year for numerous activities including providing sheets to colour in and put in windows to support the NHS and Remembrance Day. **Rhys** has kept an eye on our finances, hosted our Zoom meetings, spent many hours preparing the virtual exhibitions and has also upgraded our website. An invaluable committee member. **Tina** has kept us all entertained with her excellent Newsletters packed with ideas and information. A big thank you to everyone. **Tamara** has decided to step down from the committee. She has been a very valuable member and created DAN’s initial website. Tamara has kindly offered to help when required and I am delighted that she has agreed to continue presenting the MailArt exhibition which is always a great success, but does need a lot of preparatory work. Thank you, Tamara, for all you have done for DAN during your years on the committee.

Thank you again to all of you, members and committee members, who have helped to maintain DAN over this difficult period. I hope everyone is able to stay safe and that it will not be too long before we are able to meet face to face again and be inspired by all the talent in our midst. **Helen Karakashian**

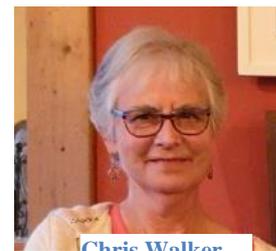
## DAN AGM Report

Members met on Zoom on 27<sup>th</sup> January to hear reports from the Committee on the achievements and work of our group over the year and also to elect the Committee for the next year. We are delighted to welcome **Chris Walker** and **Wendy Simmons** to the committee and also thank **Tamara** for all her hard work as she stands down this year. All committee members were voted in en bloc. Members are advised that the committee still has opportunities to join them and if you are interested please contact Helen [here](#).



Wendy Simmons

Membership: Last year, due to Covid19, we extended membership by 6 months. The committee is NOT proposing that we do this again as we now have a full programme. For those who usually renew in January, you will receive a renewal notice from Membermojo in July. Website: There is a new blog feature on the website set and managed by **Rhys** with a post every week click [here](#) to view.



Chris Walker

## DAN Provisional Programme for 2021

- **Thu February 18<sup>th</sup>:** 'Droitwich Treasures' – Alan Davey
- **Wed March 17<sup>th</sup>:** An Evening with a well-known Midlands performer (tbc) or Poetry
- **Thu April 15<sup>th</sup>:** John Sewell talking about his Eazyl Art project – art exhibited virtually with no commission taken on sales.
- **Wed May 19<sup>th</sup>:** Show and Tell – members evening
- **Thu June 17<sup>th</sup>:** An Evening with a well-known Midlands performer (tbc) or Poetry
- **July:** En Plein Air Art plus musicians (local venue – date tbc)
- **Thu August 19<sup>th</sup>:** Therapeutic Art and Art Therapy - Claire Hilton
- **Thu September 16<sup>th</sup>:** Astronomical Photography – Colin Ross Jack
- **Thu 21<sup>st</sup> October:** Workshops to prepare two wreaths for Remembrance Sundays 2021 /2022
- **Wed 17<sup>th</sup> November:** Workshop to make crackers – Christmas, birthday, anniversary
- **Thu 16<sup>th</sup> December:** Play reading, music, punch and mince pies

## January DAN Zoom meeting – Call My Bluff



Even though many of us may remember the "Call My Bluff" television programmes nothing had quite prepared us for the DAN version!

Two teams of three, for DAN, **Phil Watkins**, **Stewart Bourne** and

**Ruth Bourne** and for PROBUS87, Alan Davey, Geoff Boycott and Peter Hawkins with David Morrison as their Quiz Master whilst **Rhys Jones** was our quiz master. The meeting was very well attended with numerous members of PROBUS joining us and great fun was had by all!

Words such as Fungible, Gosoon, Dandiay Raas and Scoggin and their very odd descriptions were flung around the screens with the teams being neck and neck until the final round

which tipped the result 6 – 4 to DAN. The PROBUS team very kindly awarded DAN a virtual trophy. Many thanks go to all who played and for the hard work that went into finding words and their many, inexplicable, definitions!

Probus 87 Challenge Cup



## EMERGENCY NUMBERS on ZOOM

DAN would like to ask those attending our Zoom meetings to use CHAT to let the host know if they are on their own and might need help, to give the emergency number of a friend or relative to the meeting host on chat so that we have a number to ring on their behalf if necessary. The number is deleted at the end of the meeting.

**HAVING TROUBLE WORKING OUT HOW TO USE ZOOM? Did you know you can use it without a camera? Let us help... email me [here](#) and I will send you an easy guide. Tina**

## Mr February DAN member is ....David Wornham



I am not an artist in the usual sense, although I did just pass my GCE "O" level Art examination. My drawing was reasonable, but my painting was not, so I take more pride in that pass than the higher grades I obtained with less effort in other subjects! I am a casual photographer and video camera operator but admit to only using the automatic features of these excellent modern devices.

So why did I join DAN? For my musical activities. When about 10, I was unexpectedly given and taught to play a cornet, the mellower toned brass band version of a trumpet. I later heard that it was played at a street party in Edmonton at the end of the second world war and, although it is now an antique, still plays well.



I continued with cornet lessons at school in Hertford and playing with the school orchestra and for a while the local town orchestra. However, orchestral cornet/trumpet parts often had difficult key signatures and more rests than notes, so it felt like a counting exercise!

I joined Ware Town Band where playing was far more enjoyable as rests were rare. During my few years with them they competed in the fourth division but seldom gained prizes, although we did obtain a first in an outside competition. My interest in playing waned and I played nothing whilst working for the next 40ish years.



On retirement, I decided to try the euphonium, whose lower tone I have always admired and, after two or three years of playing at home, plucked up courage and joined Blackwell Concert Band, based at Bromsgrove and now 60 strong, which was of the best decisions I have made as I thoroughly enjoy playing with them. You may have seen a small group of us afloat playing excerpts from Handel's Water Music on its 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Droitwich on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017,

I also play with the Elgar School of Music Concert Band, The Film Orchestra Wind Band, run the U3A Droitwich Wind Instrument Group and can occasionally be found playing fanfares at local events. I have amassed a large collection of musical wind instruments and offer a popular demonstrated talk entitled "Tuneful Tubes" which I had the honour of inflicting on the first meeting of U3A Droitwich, and also on DAN members in the challenging space of Parks Café.



COVID-19 restrictions have hit music rehearsals and concerts hard, but we are surviving with a mixture of individual lockdown recordings from home and, when the Regulations allow, socially distanced rehearsals in a garden or unheated hall with doors and windows open, so layers of clothing are needed, as we have experienced when carol playing outside!

## Musical Update – Mike Johns

Any music making is currently taking place on Zoom. **The Community Choir** (you can see their website [here](#)) meets weekly for an hour under the musical direction of Keith Lewis. For those who can cope with the technology it is a treat. The only problem is you can only hear yourself and the pianist! They did manage to go Carol singing before Xmas and the latest lockdown safely by keeping 3metres apart.

**The Norbury Theatre** (their website is [here](#)) produced a seasonal video of music, readings and comedy which was uploaded with a link to YouTube. They also managed to screen Last Xmas with George Michael in time. Now they are hoping to put on 9-5, Goodnight Mr. Tom and Snow White when things get back to somewhere near normal.

**The Folk Club** has also managed to keep meeting virtually every month and uploaded its sessions to YouTube. The challenge of recording oneself is an exercise which is well suited to coping with lockdown, especially if it is in video form.

## ARTS and CRAFTS SECTION February's theme - LOVE

Thank you to everyone who sent in their rather splendid arts and crafts pics for last month's section! Very interesting all! And yes, we are running a month behind as you do need some time to create your wonderful artworks!

**February's theme is LOVE!** Again, these could be funny, serious or just plain silly! I just need a photo with your name (and a little bit more if you wish) to show in the February newsletter, send in pics to me by email, address is [HERE](#). It really is just to be a bit of fun and to see what our members can create quickly. **Last day for receipt is 25<sup>th</sup> February.**

*Now please put yourself in the position of visiting a gallery and you are asked for your 'visitors' choice. You need to choose your favourite item from the January section below and we will feature the 'members choice award' on the website – perhaps with a sentence or two from the artist! Let us know by email [here](#) please!*

**ARTS and CRAFTS SECTION January's theme - ALCOHOL**

**Marelize York's Poster** by computer



**Tina Watkin's painting ...** Having consumed a certain quantity of red wine, she created this dramatic image using Brusho and pen.



**Lyn Sharp** says This is a funny picture I painted for my hubs, he would take our dear Jess (gone now 😞) to the local for a pint and when I asked how many pints, he had had he always said 17!!!! It was a standing joke gif many years




**David Wornham's** musical video submission a short 1.5-minute alcohol related video featuring There is a Tavern in the Town, What Shall We Do with a Drunken Sailor? and Landlord Fill the Flowing Bowl, played on euphonium. click [HERE](#) to HEAR



**Christine Skirrow's** Cocktail glass. I have used Luminance pencils, pastels and Pan pastels. This is a subject way out of my comfort zone but I have tried and learnt some things on the way



**Mike John's** musical video submission – No doubt you will hear the alcoholic connections...click [HERE](#) to HEAR

**Stephen Evan's** produce. Not exactly artistic, but certainly creative! Made from my own grapes and no additives BUT it is addictive. Hopefully will see us out to the other side of lockdown !!!



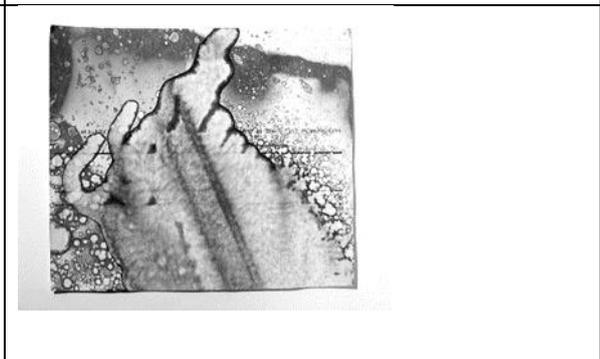
**Rhys Jones's** photo of a glass container in his house full of corks from bottles of sparkling wine. He doesn't remember drinking that number of bottles, but who would?



**Terry Baldock's** video of 'You Pour Em' which is about drowning your sorrows click [HERE](#) to HEAR



**Ruth Bourne** says 'being Covid-cautious, we wipe down stuff that comes into the house with an alcohol wipe or spray it. The other day I spotted an interesting label on a parcel that had been sprayed and was waiting to be opened: the ink had bled to form some marbled patterns, though you could still see much of the label text at that point. I thought I'd have a quick go with the alcohol spray to see how it might come out with another session: pretty abstract is the answer, and I think I was a bit heavy-handed with the spray, but I quite liked it and shall definitely have a go at some more alcohol art abstracts! '



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