



Highly Commended DAN members



Worcester Artist and Poet **Colin Jack** and Droitwich Artist **Tina Watkins**, both DAN members have been awarded Highly Commended in a prestigious national competition, the King Lear Prizes, a contest for over 60's and several artistic areas during the lockdown. The competition attracted over 4000 entrants.



Colin received his award in two disciplines, poetry and art. His artwork being 'Park', 'Sabna in Purple Sari' and 'Notre Dame Burning' and his poems 'Not just for Christmas' which is about the death of his beloved corgi dachshund Ross and 'Last test' which explores the fear of losing a parent as they get old. Tina received her award for her portrait in pastels of Sir Lenny Henry and said "I chose Lenny Henry because from his comedy and his acting, including Shakespeare, to his charity work, he has achieved so much". Congratulations to both Artists. 'Pictures courtesy of the Bromsgrove and Droitwich Standard'

DAN Survey - the Results!

Many thanks to members who completed our recent survey. The information is very useful in guiding the committee to do the right things for the membership. Just under 40% of members completed the survey. We can only assume that their views represent the membership as a whole. The full survey results can be seen on the DAN website. Please note that the percentages given in the summary are based on the responses received.

- 100% thought the Newsletter was either "of some value" or "of great value"
- 70% want to receive the Newsletter monthly, 21% quarterly, and 9% every fortnight.
- Reasons for not contributing to the Newsletter include living outside Droitwich, not knowing enough members, and not feeling confident enough to contribute.
- Suggested changes to the Newsletter include making it longer, including profiles of more members, including music and videos.
- 35% look at the website each week, 35% look each month, and 26% look only rarely
- Reasons for not contributing to the Virtual Exhibition were mainly that people were too busy, or did not want to participate.
- About 55% saw live Zoom events or recordings and all found them "good" or "very good". About 45% did not watch any.
- Reasons for not watching included not wanting to watch online, inconvenient timing, and other reasons (not specified)
- 100% thought the Committee's response to the Covid-19 challenge was either "very good" or "good".

A few people mentioned they have difficulties with computers and/or Zoom, and one expressed the need for support to get decent photos of their art. The survey was anonymous so we don't know who you are. If you would like some help, please email Rhys [here](#).

DAN Survey - the Response!

Editor's note: I was very happy to see that your feedback thought our Newsletter to be valuable! I am endeavouring to include more articles from our members including music and videos. I would also like to start a monthly member 'Who's Who' section outlining in just a paragraph or two, who you are and perhaps describing your artistic interests. Besides perhaps bringing you into contact with others via the Newsletter it may be interesting for other members to realise we are not all alone in our activities during this time of restrictions.

BUT.. I need you to send these in to me before the end of each month together with a photograph of you and/or your creative activities. Send to me [here](#). Who will be November's mystery Who's Who member? Who hoo.. Tina

400th Anniversary of the Mayflower captured in paint



DAN member, **Stephen Evans** painted this image as his contribution to the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower leaving Plymouth with the Pilgrim Fathers aboard, on 16th September 1620. The local interest in the Mayflower 400th anniversary is that Edward Winslow who was born in Droitwich in 1595, sailed on this vessel and later became governor of the New World Colony. Droitwich has a *Mayflower Rd* at the junction of *Pilgrim Rd* with *Winslow Ave* next road on the left! Recently the

Standard featured an article explaining about the quarter size Mayflower Ghost Ship model which has gone on display at the Netherwich Basin in Vines Park, highlighting the links to the Pilgrims journey. Read the article [here](#)

September DAN meeting

Charley Barnes PhD, 2019-20 Worcestershire Poet Laureate was our guest speaker on 16th September. **Rhys Jones** interviewed Charlie who outlined her activities and experiences as Poet Laureate, answered questions, and included some of her poems and short items of prose. Members who joined the meeting found Charley both eloquent and inspiring. A video recording of the session is available in the Members' Area of the DAN website.



DAN Upcoming Events

21st October 7.30pm – **Stewart Bourne** will give a talk on 'Creative Photography' 'about' objects rather than 'of' objects, and show a number of examples which may include his image "Man on Bench with Squid" which was displayed in our recent Virtual Exhibition.

November meeting to be confirmed.

16th December 7.30pm – A 'Call my Bluff' style meeting/game with art themed words and in 3 rounds is planned.

Members Doings

Claire Hilton has been working away trying to put new processes in place to get the Wellbeing Studio back up and running and delivering these in a remote way so people can log into a Zoom group online. The new courses, now via Worcester County Council are **Create a Mandala (3-week course)** more details [here](#). And **Working With Paper - 2D Notan technique** this is a one off session for 2 hours exploring Notan technique and paper cutting using symmetry and form. More info [here](#).

PARKS CAFÉ Rosie Philpott's artwork is on display until 13th October and has sold 6 paintings so far! Well done Rosie. **Penelope Dykes** will be displaying her work from 13th October until 10th November when **Tina Watkins** will take over.

BUTTON TREE CAFÉ Roger Rickets displays his work here until 6th October and then **Ruth Bourne** takes over until 3rd November.

Wendy Simmons took part in an online craft market in conjunction with Etsy. Wendy was on hand from 10am till 10 pm last Saturday, to answer any questions about her art work and post information on her Instagram and Facebook pages. She even streamed two live demonstrations of how she completed a pastel painting. This one is of Droitwich Canal. Both pictures can be found on her Etsy page. <https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/WendySimmonsArt>



And finally... pink elephants anyone?

Call out for Artists! Worcester's Big Parade has announced their first call for contributors to next year's public art trail. They are looking for dazzling elephant designs which bring the same joy and buzz to the city that we saw back in 2018 when giraffes took to our streets and public spaces.

Anyone can submit designs – from established artists, to those who are, as yet, undiscovered. Each elephant sculpture is a three-dimensional blank canvas and will hold a wide range of media – from graffiti to mosaic, fine art and even metalwork. Entries close on **Friday 8th January 2021**. Find out more [here](#)

For the latest information visit: <http://www.droitwichartsnetwork.org/> on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/208713719174369/> e-mail tina.watkins@ntlworld.com