



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS**

## Christmas and New Year Greetings from our Chair



Your committee members would like to join me in wishing all members of DAN the best Christmas you are able to arrange this year. I am sure with all your creativity and flair many of you will be planning unusual and interesting ways to link up with family and friends safely over this not quite as festive as usual period! We also send you our warmest good wishes for a healthy New Year with the promise of a vaccine giving us hope for the future.

Thank you for all your positive and appreciative comments about what your committee has been providing for you through a virtual platform with outside speakers, demonstrations and talks from our talented members. Those who met at a socially safe distance in the summer to paint en plein air were also very happy to have that opportunity. It has of course been disappointing not to be able arrange the exhibitions we had planned at Artrix and Hanbury Hall but our first virtual exhibition was a great success and I am sure our new selling exhibition which is of an equally high standard will prove a winner too. I hope it will not be too long before we can meet again face to face and meanwhile please check for updates of DAN activities via our website and our excellent monthly newsletter. Thank you for your continued support. Keep safe, **Helen**

## Remembrance Day with DAN

The poppy wreath made last year by our DAN members was laid by our Chair, **Helen Karakashian**, in advance to ensure social distancing requirements, on behalf of Droitwich Arts Network. Last year, hundreds of Droitwich residents gathered in Victoria Square to pay their respects. This year the Mayor, Chairman and Secretary of the RBL and the Chaplain recorded a short Remembrance Service in St Andrews Church, which was broadcast at the time of the usual service on Remembrance Sunday via social media. Later a collage of the photographs was compiled for public display in the Heritage Centre at St Richards House, also a wonderful display of illuminated poppies was shown on the frontage of St Richards House for the period and many houses displayed poppies in their windows.



## SALE, SALE, SALE – Affordable Art Exhibition



20 Members have submitted 127 works of art for our second virtual exhibition, and most are for sale. The exhibition is open to the public and can be reached by clicking [here](#), the exhibition itself is accessible from the home page.

There is a wide variety of art that could look good in your home or be suitable as a Christmas present, at affordable prices. DAN will not charge any commission on sales which will be by direct transactions between the artist and the buyer.

Three versions of the leaflet shown here, are available for you to use. You can print them for display or use a PDF version to send to your contacts by email, or

posting on social media. **Rhys Jones** can provide these PDF versions if required. Promoting the exhibition not only helps the artists to make sales, but also raises the profile of Droitwich Arts Network as an innovative and progressive organisation during these challenging times. The first five paintings are of particular interest ... and can be seen in all their glory non virtually, in **PARKS CAFÉ WHICH IS OPEN** from **3<sup>rd</sup> December!**

## DAN Programme for 2020 and 2021 overview

**17<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Social** – to be advised. Perhaps a quiz? A festive Art Show on Zoom maybe?

**Meetings dates in 2021** are also to be advised.

Are you willing to give a demonstration or talk? Please contact Rosie if so. [rosiepose@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:rosiepose@tiscali.co.uk)

## November DAN Zoom meeting – Art Demo with Wendy Simmons



Wendy Simmons recently joined DAN, and is an emerging pastel, landscape artist living in Droitwich. Wendy favours a speedy and impressionistic style. Much of lockdown she spent learning and developing her drawing skills with pastels; using many locations in and around Droitwich as her inspiration. From the Bluebells at Trench Woods, the wildflowers at Salwarpe and scenes from the canal.



Wendy gave a fascinating demonstrating on Zoom of some of her newly developed skills and it was very entertaining to see how she built up from a base colour sketch to a full colour finished piece of “Autumn Morning at Heriots pool”. Her video of the session can be seen by Facebook members group [here](#)

## A musical Note – Mike Johns

During the pandemic the Community Choir has continued to practice in the park when the COVID rules allowed and also via Zoom on Tuesday evenings. Not everyone has been able to take part but plans have been made to restart when possible and hopefully to sing outside before Xmas.



The Folk Club has managed to meet virtually each month and posted their sessions on YouTube. Recording oneself at home has been a steep learning curve for some of us. You find out quickly whether you really know what you are trying to play. Finding a suitable backdrop or picture is also a challenge! One positive COVID side effect has been the improvement in many players performance and in some cases even original compositions. Personally, I have managed to post a few songs on the Arts Network sites and I would encourage others to do the same. To conclude, the Norbury Theatre had planned to produce a Xmas video but the most recent lockdown put a stop to that! Facebook members group can see a lovely rendering of The Owl and The Pussycat by Mike Johns [here](#)

## DAN Who's Who for December



And Mr December is ...**Ken Bell** who says “I originate from Cheshire but have moved around quite a bit, ending up in Worcestershire a few years ago. I have always enjoyed drawing and painting, purely as a hobby, with work getting in the way, as with many people. I have completed work in watercolour, gouache, pastels and oils but most of my recent work is in acrylic, mainly due to their quicker drying qualities.

I am mainly self-taught, apart from a few years part time study at Bury, Lancs Art and Crafts Centre, as it was then. My work is fairly eclectic, ranging from landscapes,

derelict boats, tractors etc. To the occasional portrait. I also enjoy depicting scenes from years ago, using old photos for inspiration and reference. If you need more information etc. please get in touch”. [www.kenbell-art.co.uk](http://www.kenbell-art.co.uk)

## DAN Exhibitions and Special Interest

**Park's Café is OPEN!!:** **Tina Watkins** is exhibiting from **3<sup>rd</sup> December** then **Lyn Davies** on **15<sup>th</sup> December** until **12<sup>th</sup> January**. Contact [Rosie Philpott](#) to claim a spot!

**Severn Arts** - is a thriving charitable arts company formed in June 2018, brings high quality music and arts to a wide range of people across Worcestershire through innovative partnership working. We lead Worcestershire's Music Education Hub, deliver an arts programme on behalf of Worcestershire County Council, support the Local Cultural Education Partnership and deliver a three-year Festivals programme. Severn Arts is committed to offering new, inclusive arts activities that focus on widening access to the arts for all, with a particular emphasis on children and young people. Check out all their news [here](#);

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