



The Hub – The Grand Opening – probably!



I am delighted to tell you that the Hub will open on **Friday 25th June** on the assumption that Covid-19 restrictions are lifted on 21st June. We will hold a Launch Event on the 25th (details below). If the lifting of restrictions is delayed, the Hub will still open to the public on the 25th (with limitations, hand sanitiser, QR Code, etc) but the Launch Event will be held at a later date.

If you are displaying art work in the Hub, you will have received an email confirming your exhibitor fee, with instructions on how to pay. Emails will also be sent to people who have volunteered to be stewards in order to create a volunteer schedule.

Please note that MAPP will issue a press release and initiate publicity on a new St Andrews Square website. Once that has started, we can publicise the opening on our website, on Facebook, Instagram, etc, and members can then spread the word to their contacts.

Details of the Launch Event are:

- 11.00 Doors open. Background music by Harpist Meredith McCracken
- 11.30 Light refreshments
- 12.00 Short speeches (The Mayor and our MP) and official launch
- 12.15 Viewings with background music on guitar by Swing 42 (Mike Johns and Ian Peden)
- 13.00 End of launch event
- 16.00 Doors close.

Dress: Smart casual.

The Hub is a community initiative by MAPP to transform an empty retail unit into a community hub. The aim is that the Hub will evolve into a comfortable space for the local community, encouraging a sense of well-being. MAPP invited Droitwich Arts Network to help create a welcoming environment embracing a variety of forms of art. The Hub is situated near the entrance to St Andrews Square from St Andrews Street, and is opposite "Mr Harry" hair salon. There is ample parking near Morrison's and Waitrose. **Please let me know if you plan to attend the Launch Event on the 25th of June (arrive any time before 12 noon).** Rhys Jones

Bunting!

As you know and may have seen on your travels through Droitwich town centre, the Community Hub is fast taking shape. **The Hub' is getting ready for its grand opening, subject to the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions.** In light of this, the committee has decided it would be a fabulous idea to create our own bunting, showcasing all that the DAN does.

We would love members to contribute by providing **A5 flags** that a group of us will then string together. We have decided to do rectangle bunting to make it easier for everyone to contribute.



We would love to see paintings, pastel work, photography, knitting, crochet, embroidery, felt work, poetry, sheet music – even some Norbury flyers! **The idea is to promote the Arts Network and ALL forms of arts within our group.** The subject can be anything you want. The bunting will be inside so there is no need to weatherproof your work.

You all did a fabulous job creating poppies for our Remembrance Wreaths in 2019 so we can't wait to see what you produce for our special bunting. Let's make the grand opening of our long-awaited Hub as great as it can be! Please drop your flags off on **Friday 18th June, between 2 and 4pm.** If this is not possible, please let me know and we can make alternative arrangements. **Remember, they must be A5 rectangle flags!** Contact Rosie [here](#)

May Meeting – Show and Tell

Our May members meeting featured a whole wealth of talent. Many of the tellers outlined what they had been up to during the many lockdowns.

Susan Birth showed us her abstract landscapes with several added details. Susan was very excited that one had been chosen to be exhibited at the coming Broadway Exhibition



Rosie Philpott – TT's Hope is a book written by a member of staff at St. Peter's School and beautifully Illustrated by Rosie together with the pupils.

Rosie has also produced some delightful crocheted animals including Sweep.

Rhys Jones showed photos he had expertly taken of Kate Pullen checking on the placement of the repair she has made to the Historic Mural.

Stephen Evans displayed his pastel paintings of Prince Charles and the Duke of Edinburgh and a painting inspired by a poem written by member, **Terry Baldock**.



Lyn Sharp showed her intricate wet and needle felting which included animals, landscapes and several 3D items.

Tina Watkins explained that the best way to blend pastels was to use Vodka !!!!!

Malcolm Ross gave a very interesting explanation of 3D printing in which he became involved after he was encouraged by his daughter and granddaughter. Other than NHS facemasks his major enterprise was Bag clips.

George Duffy showed pictures of his Butterfly artwork attached to the wall of the Westlands Community Centre. These brighten up the whole area and can be used as a back drop for selfies.



Colin Jack with not his usual artwork, presented a wooden musical gear box, all ready to be motorised, together with a clock minus the pendulum to watch it going round more quickly! He then showed us a wood sculpture he made from the left-over pieces. He also gave us a glimpse of his painting of seagulls in acrylic rather than his usual oils and paintings of Venice.

Julia Rollit has been experimenting with Batik which is an ancient way of decorating cloth using wax and dye, on fabrics. Batik is both an art and a craft, and is becoming ever more popular and well known among contemporary artists all over the world,

Bic Beaumont has been creating art work to go onto sustainable merchandise.

Helen Karakashian has been very busy as usual! But this time her efforts were directed towards creating a beautiful Aran Wheatsheaf sweater and a Fair Isle cushion.

June Meeting – June Open Mic Meeting Postponed

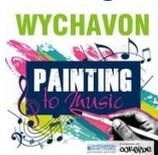
Due to the closeness of the Hub opening to our June meeting and the lack of entrants, the committee has decided to postpone it until further notice. We are still asking for our poets to let us know the titles of their poems and roughly how much time each one will take to read out so that we can reschedule this event.

ARTWORKS – News Items

Norbury Theatre hosts One Act Play Festival

The Norbury Theatre will be hosting the Worcestershire Theatre Festival, a one act drama festival in which drama groups from across the area compete for a number of prestigious trophies and awards. This will be taking place from 25 - 27 June and [tickets can be booked on the Norbury Theatre website](#)

Painting to Music online has launched!



WYCHAVON Tuesday 25 May saw the launch of our first painting to music online session in collaboration with OurSide Youth Centre in Evesham. It was a really enjoyable hour, well led by local artist Bridie Austin who helped to free everybody's minds by painting with food! The responses to the music through painting were very insightful and we look forward to sharing more shortly.

Broadway Arts Festival

Broadway Arts Festival scheduled for 4 to 13 June this year has got a fabulous programme of events. This year Wychavon are sponsoring the main prize for the 2021 Open Art Competition. [You can find out more information on their website.](#)

DAN Programme for 2021

- **Thu June 17th:** Postponed
- **July:** En Plein Air Art plus musicians (local venue – date **27th July**)
- **Thu August 19th:** Therapeutic Art and Art Therapy - Claire Hilton
- **Thu September 16th:** Astronomical Photography – Colin Ross Jack
- **Thu 21st October:** Workshops to prepare two wreaths for Remembrance Sundays 2021 /2022
- **Wed 17th November:** Workshop to make crackers – Christmas, birthday, anniversary
- **Thu 16th December:** Play reading, music, punch and mince pies

Music – Its Role within DAN

Mike Johns wrote, “I am enthusiastic about the role music could play within the new Hub facility in attracting visitors and even recruiting new members. Firstly, I see it as a chance for individual musicians to help create a background to our exhibitions such as at Hanbury Hall.

Secondly, as a space for workshops for which a fee or donation could be charged. Theatre and choirs could use the Hub to promote themselves and their upcoming performances with a limitation on numbers. It could also be used to celebrate Saint’s days and support charities like Children in Need.

There could be space both inside and out for small groups to perform, with the Managements consent of course. The Meetbox worked well in this way but footfall past the New Hub would be much increased. Things will obviously need to evolve but if existing and potential musical members work together, I feel we can help. To this end I would be happy to receive any musical suggestions which I can pass on to the Committee”.

Mike also added, “SaltFest is planned for 4th September when I think the Gardeners’ Arms is involved. The Community Choir will be there too so it sounds like there will be a marquee and stalls in Vines Park. This might be a chance for our members and the Hub to join in”. Contact Mike [here](#)

Artwork Opportunities



Sharing Visual Arts Inspiration

AccessArt is running an international Drawing Challenge with the aim of helping support teachers, facilitators and individuals to develop drawing skills

through a series of inspirational exercises and drawing projects. The Drawing Challenge can be taken at any time to suit you. It might be used whilst you are self-isolating or home educating, or be used in an after school or lunchtime art club, as content for gifted and talented pupils, or those who need extra help, or even in a museum or gallery education context. It’s completely free to join in, and it’s up to you how much time and effort you put into the Challenge.

You can undertake the exercises and projects in your own time and space. Once downloaded, the PDF contains everything you need to know to run the exercises and projects. If you need any help at any time, you can email info@accessart.org.uk. You can decide if you use all the warm ups and projects, or just choose a part of the Drawing Challenge. Access the website [here](#)

Another exciting idea for all types of art is the King Lear Arts Club. The King Lear Arts Club was set up for entrants to the King Lear Prizes, the national arts competition for older people stuck at home because of Coronavirus, but is now open to anyone over 60.

Every Saturday (or sometimes Sunday...!), members receive an email with creative writing and art challenges in their email inbox. Members of the club email us their works, and we share the best entries with everyone in the next week’s email. To join the Club, all you need to do is enter your details [here](#)... It’s free!



ARTS and CRAFTS SECTION June’s theme - WIMBLEDON

Thank you to everyone who sent in their rather splendid arts and crafts pics for last month’s section. **June’s theme is Wimbledon!** Again, these could be funny, serious or just plain silly! A photo is needed with your name and description to show in the July 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 27th June.**

Remember you can send your artwork to Rhys to feature on the website as well as appearing here.

ARTS and CRAFTS SECTION May's theme - BLOSSOM

Chel Walton's 'Lotus Blossom'
Watercolour and Gouach



Tina Watkin's 'Lilac'
Another touch of messy watercolour with a little bit of pastel thrown in!



Christine Skirrow's 'Blossom'



I was inspired to paint this after seeing a photo sent in to Central News for their weather report. Unfortunately, although I managed a screenshot for reference, I missed the info about the person who sent it in so I am unable to credit them for this picture. A mixed media painting.

Stephen Evan's 'Bee on Blossom'
Hungry common bumble bee probing for nectar on tree blossom. Painted with soft pastel chalks on A4 300 gsm w/c paper.



Susan Birth's 'May Madness'
I think there's some blossom in here somewhere!



Lynda Sharp's 'Bluebells'
Are bluebells blossom? Well they are spring flowers so I hope this is ok ...Bluebells and Bunnies oil on canvas



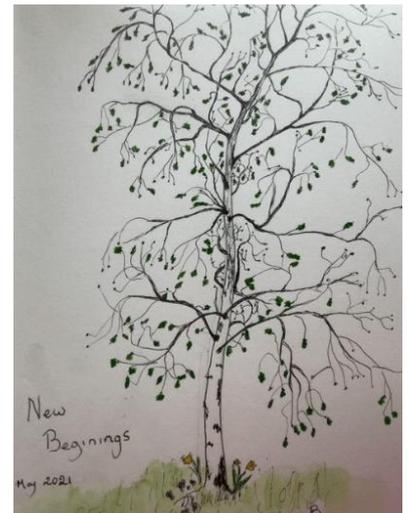
Meredith McCracken 'Harp Happiness'
A preview of what is to come at the opening of the Hub!



Sheena Howarth's 'Blossom from our Cheery Tree' Mixed Media



Beryl Quennell's 'New Beginnings'



Bryonie Williams' "White Blossom Falling"

Glaze and oxide on clay



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