



**The Hub – The Opening**



**Successful Opening Weekend:** You probably know that the Hub opened on Friday 25th June, and we hope to open every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. There was a steady stream of visitors last weekend including an informal visit by **Nigel Huddleston MP** on Friday. On Saturday visitors enjoyed relaxing background music by **Mike Johns** and **Ian Peden**.

**Sales:** Over the opening period so far, we made 13 sales - two sales each by **Bic Beaumont, Kate Pullen** and **Lynda Sharp**,



one picture by each of **Malcolm Ross, Colin Jack** and **Trevor Hunter**; and three sales by **Rosie Philpott**. Congratulations all!

**Volunteer Stewards:** As well as exhibitors, at least three other members have volunteered to be Stewards. It will strengthen our ability to open three days each week if a few more people are willing to volunteer. Could you please consider volunteering for one or two half days each month? In particular, we need more volunteers on Thursdays. Please let me know if you can help.

**Display Changes:** You may change your exhibits at any time, but it makes record keeping much easier if all changes can be made on Friday mornings. Obviously, pictures are changed following a sale, but exhibitors may like to change some of their pictures from time to time to keep the exhibition fresh.

**Available Space:** One display space will become available at the end of July, and 15 spaces will be available from the end of August. You can now apply for these spaces, which will be allocated using the following rules:



- 1) Priority will be given to members who have not yet exhibited. The aim is to give every member the opportunity to display at least one item.
- 2) Current holders of remaining spaces will have the option to extend their booking \*.
- 3) Existing exhibitors can apply for any remaining spaces, on a "first come first served" basis.

\*A few exhibitors have made me aware of medical conditions or personal circumstances that make it very difficult or impossible to volunteer as a steward. However, a small number of exhibitors have declined to volunteer without explanation. They will not be able to automatically extend bookings for their second or third spaces when they become available.

**Three-dimensional craft items:** We currently have one glass display cabinet with four shelves, and hope to acquire a second cabinet. Members may book a shelf, and the same rules apply as for pictures.

**Duration:** The first space for each artist can be booked for as many months as they like. Second and additional spaces are limited to 3 months to allow other members the opportunity to exhibit.

**Fees:** The fee for exhibiting is £2 per item per month, and £2 per shelf per month in a display cabinet. This allows us to make a contribution of about £100 per month towards the running costs of the Hub. The commission on sales is only 10%. Many thanks to all exhibitors and volunteers who have helped get the Hub off to a great start! Rhys



## Karen Moore Creative Writing Winner



The presentation of the Karen Moore Creative Writing trophy took place at Droitwich High School on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June in the grounds of the school and **Rhys Jones** was the photographer. Droitwich Arts Network sponsors this competition and **Helen** presented a cheque for £100 to the winner **Hope Rose** (Year 11)

- this is the first time we have had a poet as the winner. Hope's winning entry is displayed here.



Three pupils were Highly Commended **Matthew Oliver** (Year 8) **Charlie Hunter** (Year 12) and **Annabel Brannan**

(Year 9). Their Highly Commended certificates were presented together with £10 book tokens kindly donated by Karen Moore. Well done everyone! A link to the entries can be seen on the DAN [website](#).

## Museum of Carpets – News Item



*Generation: An Exhibition of Photographs - The People and Production of Kidderminster* runs from 26<sup>th</sup> June – 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and is included in

a standard museum entry ticket

*Generation* tells stories of a Kidderminster industry and community with stunning photographs and objects from the Museum of Carpet archive. It explores connections between generations in Kidderminster who lived in the town and worked in the same carpet factories by including photographs from different decades side-by-side.

The exhibition includes a free outdoor installation made possible by the Culture Recovery Fund, and by meeting you outside we hope to put everyone at ease. The exhibition is accompanied by a selection of photographs submitted to the Museum of Carpet's local photography open call on the themes of legacy, hope and the future.

**The Beautiful Game: a poem by Hope Rose.**

Down, down the number on the scale,  
My fingers, my face grow pallid and pale.  
The feeling of superficial validation is welcome and warm,  
Yet my body is cold, and so I am torn.

On whether to carry on with my irate race to perfection,  
The conquest to beauty, the divine resurrection,  
Of long-lost confidence in myself,  
For if I'm delicate enough who cares about 'health'?

The beautiful game,  
As months pass by, I grow weary and thin,  
But brittle bones are the price I pay for a life without horrid chagrin,  
Of playground taunts,  
Who cares if I'm gaunt?

The beautiful game, Counting, counting calories,  
Of toothpaste and butter and bread.  
For the mere mention of carbohydrates fills me with dread, repugnant litanies  
swarming in my head,  
If I am getting lighter, then why does every step I take feel like lead?

'Nothing tastes better than skinny feels.' as a wonderful monster once said,  
I recite this mantra as I go to bed,  
The emptiness in my stomach does not deter me,  
But rather it comforts, for if I am idle then I am free.

You see,  
It's a twisted euphoria, feeling hungry and ravenous,  
A feeling of glorious sorcery,  
Abara cadaverous!

The beautiful game,  
Green, green tea.  
The murky liquid settles in a vacant stomach,  
The feeling of phantom fullness providing temporary relief,  
For I know it will dissipate soon as I grind down my teeth,  
Like a punishment for even hoping for a scintilla of sustenance,  
Self-loathing thoughts I hold in abundance.

The beautiful game,  
Breaking, breaking break.  
The hollow chasm in my heart cemented with chocolate and crisps and cake,  
Out of control, spiraling, unmanageable.  
As I cram my mouth with anything tangible.

And wait for the merciless guilt to arrive - dripping with mordant mirth.  
It's gravity as sharp as dagger's, weight as small as the earth.  
Then begins the purge of it all, grotesque and vile,  
Until it is nothing more but vomit and bile.

The beautiful game,  
Seeing, seeing stars,  
As wobbly knees walk a thousand planets,  
Mercury, Venus and Mars.  
Constellations etched into my torpid shape,  
Connecting the sullen rivets of my ribs – wanton mouth agape.

The beautiful game,  
I am not the only monster on this ruthless crusade,  
The everlasting pilgrimage, the laborious charade.  
Forums and chats are filled to the brim,  
With girls like me who long to be dainty and slim.

The beautiful game,  
I am sick, I am ill, I know this and yet,  
I am not occupied with one ounce of regret,  
The answers yes!  
If you asked me to play once more,  
Because if I'm not playing, then what am I living for?  
The beautiful,  
Beautiful,  
Shame.

- Delving into the heritage of the local area at a time when we've been forced to slow down and stay at home.
- Inspiring intergenerational conversation and a sense of community in a time of seismic change.
- Showcasing the photographs of local photographers, children and young people to complete the story and look to the future.

Take in the museum while you're here. Take a walk down memory lane of what Kidderminster was like in past decades, or discover for the first time the fascinating world of what's under your feet, hear stories from volunteers who worked in the carpet factories.



- Watch our volunteers weave and have a go yourself.
- Learn the process of turning fleece to finished product.
- Design your own carpet and see it beamed onto the floor.
- Demonstrations of our roaring power looms at 12pm daily (subject to volunteer availability)

**Helen** says "Have you visited this Museum? It is very well laid out, light and airy and you park in the Safeway car park and the entrance is to the side of the Safeway doors – very easy access!! Book [HERE](#)

## Think before you Paint!

The art supplies industry is lined with toxic materials: plastics, lead-based paints, preservatives. The list goes on. However, there are products and methods available to us that can help reduce, if not eliminate the environmental impact we have.

Our job, as one artist among millions, is to help spread awareness of this and make people aware that they have a choice in the materials and techniques they use. **We hope you can help support us in this cause.**

On Tuesday, we hosted leading animal watercolourist Liz Chaderton, and spoke to her about this very subject as she described various alternative, sustainable techniques for creating textures in watercolour. The video is [here](#).

## DAN Programme for 2021

- **July 17<sup>th</sup>:** En Plein Air Art plus musicians perhaps? (Vines Park 10am – 1pm, date **17<sup>th</sup> July**) Timing does not really matter if everyone is spread out, you could really come and go as you wish (see details below)
- **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

## Sketching Outdoors

All you have to do is turn up with a few sketching things - or whatever you want to use. Everyone has their own way of working but you may like to keep things as simple and lightweight as possible.

1) Lightweight plastic tablecloth (or similar) usually about £1 in pound shops for children's parties etc.

Keeps art material dry and stops them getting lost in the grass, and prevents insects tickling to toes! Also, can be used one as an improvised tent when the heavens opens!

2) Seating: Depends how you like to sit. Those of us of the younger persuasion may wish to take a plastic table cloth and foam cushion. You may have graduated to a low picnic chair but a lightweight picnic chair and lightweight easel will suit us all. Sometimes a bench is available in a park if it's in a convenient position.

3) Art materials: Up to you. Start with an A3 drawing pad, B pencil, pencil sharpener. 30 cm rule. Plus: A firm surface to lay your paper on, plus bull dog clips. i.e., piece of hardboard, // stiff cardboard packaging (drawing boards are usually too heavy to carry far).

(A foam board and part cover it / strengthen it with parcel tape can be very useful. You can buy these in Hobbycraft).

4) A flask of coffee and a sandwich! Keep it simple and enjoy the morning!



## Creating Space Wellbeing Studio – Claire Hilton

Booking now open for Creating Space Wellbeing Studio - Summer Term.



This is a group for adults to improve their mental health and wellbeing through meeting others and doing something creative. Anyone can book a place who consider themselves to in need: this could include individuals who have a specific mental health need, individuals in supported living or anybody who feels isolated or suffers low mood or depression/anxiety.

Booking closes: 19th July

Term dates: Wednesdays 2-4 From 21st July - 18th Aug 2021 via Zoom (5 weeks) we will have a starting point of a different artist each week.

These sessions are **free of charge** thanks to grant funding so places are limited. This is a supported creative space to try out new materials, techniques and meet new people. Facilitated by a qualified Art Therapist, the group will all work

independently on their own projects whilst being supported and inspired by each other. for more information, please go to <https://www.creatingspacesessions.com/wellbeing-studio-info>

## Musical Update

Update from your music correspondent. The Community Choir is now rehearsing in the Lido Park on Wednesday afternoons between 2.00 and 3.00 as well as on Zoom on Tuesday evenings.

Swing 42 has provided easy listening background music on the first Saturday morning in the Hub. They are **Ian** and **Mike**, both members who have put together a set of guitar standards in the style of Django Rheinhardt. They hope to do this again and to encourage others to have a go. In the longer term, musical workshops could be on the agenda. We've already had requests for guitar and ukulele sessions.



The Parish Choir is also preparing to resume singing fully in September in easy stages. As is Sing and Tonic who are now singing at Droitwich Working Men's Club. Contact on [www.singandtonic.co.uk](http://www.singandtonic.co.uk)

I believe the Norbury Theatre is rehearsing 9 to 5. Hopefully the Hub will become the place where musicians of all kinds can showcase their talents. Mike Johns

## ARTS and CRAFTS SECTION July's theme – TREES

Thank you to everyone who sent in their rather splendid arts and crafts pics for last month's section. **July's theme is TREES!** 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 27<sup>th</sup> July.**

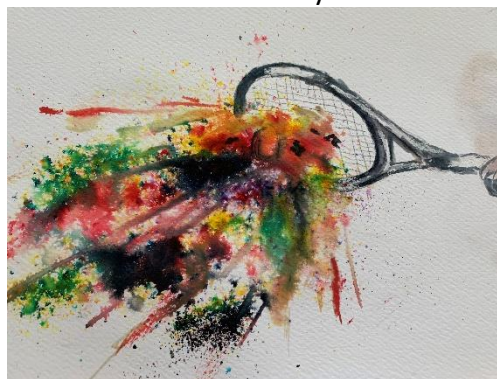
## ARTS and CRAFTS SECTION June's theme - WIMBLEDON

**Chel Walton's 'Wimbledon in Watercolours' Yum!**



**Tina Watkin's 'Aced'**

Another smash of messy watercolour



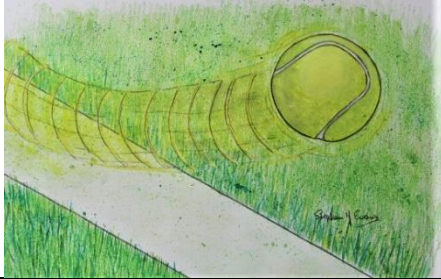
**Susan Birth's 'Knocked up'**

Something Susan knocked up quickly!



**Stephen Evans 'ACE'**

A quick piece painted with watercolours and coloured pencils in which I have tried to capture the speed of the tennis ball hitting the white line in an Ace serve. I enjoyed painting this last-minute challenge. It was fun and I think it's 'ACE'!!



**Sheena Howarth's 'Tennis!' this drawing**



I did a while ago, from photos in the newspaper, of the joy and despairs of watching tennis.

I find working from newspaper photos is a

good way to practice drawing people and their expressions.

**And one we all wish we had done – by Maggi Hambling!**



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