



DAN DABBLE DAY - a huge success!

A dabble day, a DAN idea,

- in which to stage

Something special for a change!

Music, crochet, bags of fluff,

colouring, Brusho - lots of stuff

Weaving, spinning and much more

We welcomed Westlands through the door.

Mayor George was there for all to see

In his DAN capacity...

The tea was free, the biscuits too

Thanks to those who served the brew

We're all hoping those who went

Will tell far and wide of this event...

It's pictured there for all to see on

Droitwichartsnetwork.org all for free!

Tina



10.00am until 1.00pm.

There was a wide variety of things to try including clay modelling, guitar and harmonica tutorials, knitting, crochet, spinning, weaving, a wide variety of art media including expressive acrylic, Brusho and pastels. There was colouring in sheets, paper and pens for doodling and a poetry corner for literary expression. All this and light refreshments available too. Slowly people

DAN hosted its '**Dabble Day**' on **Saturday 25th March**, where the public were invited to come and have a go at various artistic activities. The **Dabble Day** was a very exciting prospect and took place at the Westlands Community Centre from



arrived along with children of all ages, amateur artists, moms and dads and built to a crescendo of over 40 at the busiest time. Many tables had queues! All in all, a great success! Well done everyone who participated.



New DAN Member **Felicity Robinson** had a fun morning at 'Dabble Day' making "3D art" with adults and children (a few in this photo –the art, not the children!) She says "I also got some lovely feedback comments and sign ups to my art mailing list as well. The freedom of expression was especially appreciated by the adults. Here are a couple of quotes from my visitors book "...nice to let go and freeform..."fun and relaxing". My website

is www.felicityknappstudio.org My sign-up form is at the bottom of each page if anyone is interested in occasional Knapp Studio news. Lovely to meet some of you too. I had hoped to chat to everyone but it got busy so quickly."

Musical Updates – Michael Johns and David Wornham

Michael Johns: Dabble day: I managed (more than managed, it was lovely, musical and calming - ed) to provide some musical background to the event in Westlands Community Centre with the aid of a guitar and blues harmonica. Some younger visitors and an adult tried out my new ukelele. An enjoyable event!

In the evening the Community Choir performed their Spring Concert in the Baptist Church in aid of Acorns Hospice to a full house and raised well over £1000. They were helped by the Ukelele Club and the choir from Hanbury First School. The Community Choir will next appear on 29th April at 2.00 during St Richards Festival. We are still looking for new members.

Practices take place on Tuesdays at 7.30. In between concerts the choir will be visiting Care Homes in the town and singing on Wednesday afternoons in the Lido Park. The Parish Choir meets in the Parish Centre each Monday to practice at 7.00pm and goes monthly to entertain the residents in Brindley Manor Nursing Home. There is a Strummers Jam Session in the Old Cock on the 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings each month and the Folk Club also meets there on the first Thursday monthly at 7.30pm.

The Ukelele Club meets at the Old Library Centre on alternate Wednesdays. Contact Pattie Leach at pattie_leach@hotmail.com for more info. The Norbury Theatre has started a monthly open mic session. Details on their website. This is well organised in the Skylight Room. There is something of interest here for all.

David Wornham: Following two days of cold, but successful, Wassailing at Avoncroft in February, the U3A Droitwich Wind Instrument Group (DWIG) have been busy selecting and rehearsing a collection of "Forties" music. This is in preparation for their mobile playing on Severn Valley Railways' Forties Specials trains on the weekends of 24-25th July and 1st-2nd July. We now have to consider appropriate period dress!

What's on in Droitwich



The St Richards Festival is on from **28th April – Monday 1st May**. As in previous years a large display of boats will be moored up for the weekend on the canal in Vines Park. Amongst the boats on display will usually be many historic working boats and static engines.

The all new 'Pamela May' will operate trips from Vines Park along the canal throughout the weekend.

Plenty of live entertainment on offer throughout the weekend, including local choirs, groups and soloists on the stage in the marquee and also a 'real ale' bar

throughout the weekend with a wide selection of beers. There is plenty to entertain both adults and children throughout the weekend – inflatable slide, face painting, WW1 exhibition, judo and much, much more.

One of the main highlights of St Richard's Canal Festival in previous years has been the annual 'Great Droitwich Duck Race'. For 2023 this will take place on the Monday afternoon at 4.30pm. Ducks make their way down the River Salwarpe, in Vines Park, in an exciting race to the finish. Tickets are cheap with fantastic prizes on offer.

Our own **Rosie Philpott** will be selling her wonderful artwork. She says "I'm there all three days and will be selling original watercolour paintings, limited-edition prints of local views and greetings cards."



Exhibition in Droitwich Library: Our DAN member **Karen Harmon** of Canalside Studios has booked Droitwich library for an art exhibition in May. The exhibition will be called 'Coronation'. She says "I am intending to invite a limited number of paid-up members of DAN to exhibit. Application forms will be available in April and there will be a small fee of £2 per item. More details to follow later.

ENOUGH TO SEE ... OPEN CALL in Worcestershire

Latest date for entries and submissions 23rd April. Enter now – Submit by 23rd April.

OPEN CALL to all creatives in Worcestershire! "Enough to see...but not enough to see by" is an exciting collaborative project coordinated by Worcestershire Litfest, Yew Trees Artist Studios and Bevere Gallery. This not-for-profit project is sponsored by The Arts Society Worcester. If you wish to submit an artwork or poem, please enter as early as possible – numbers are limited!

In June there will be an Exhibition of selected works and Showcase Day at Bevere Gallery with award of prizes and live readings. For more info and how to enter email enoughtoseeart@gmail.com or enoughtoseeword@gmail.com



2023 Programme

- **Tuesday 18th April.** A demonstration by local artist Richard Crabtree, for info see below.
- **May – a Saturday En Plein Air in Lido Park.**

- **Wednesday 21st June.** DIY session in the Droitwich library. Bring your own materials
- **Wednesday 12th July.** A 'show and tell' and poppy making session in Droitwich library.
- **August – Summer Social Event.**
- **September - a Saturday En Plein Air event.**
- **Saturday 14th October.** A table top and Auction event.
- **November – a Monday Zoom meeting** with an artist / demo speaker.
- **December - at the Old Cock Drink and Doodle.** Social, fun, art.

April Meeting – Demonstration by Richard Crabtree



We are delighted to invite you to our April DAN Meeting taking place on **Tuesday 18th April, 7:30pm at the Old Library Centre, Droitwich.**

It promises to be an exciting evening with our guest demonstrator, Richard Crabtree, a well-known Midlands artist who will be demonstrating watercolour.

Richard is passionate about wildlife and this shows through in his fantastic paintings. He paints wildlife, landscape, and portraits, and holds regular weekly classes in painting and drawing at the Avoncroft Arts Centre. Richard is an elected member of the 'Birmingham Watercolour Society' and a professional associate member of 'The Society for All Artists'.

The demonstration will start at 7.30pm on Tuesday 18th of April at the CVS Building, The

Old Library Centre, 65 Ombersley Street East, Droitwich Spa, WR9 8QS.

Attendance is free for paid up members of Droitwich Arts Network. **£5 entrance for non-members.**

Call for Entries – Worcester Open Studios

Worcestershire Open Studios to return in August and now Open for Entries

Worcestershire Open Studios, the well-loved free annual art event, where artists and creators across the county throw open their doors to the public, returns this year 19-28 August and is now open for entries.

Call for entries is open until 23 April for anyone who lives or has a studio in Worcestershire. Like previous years the event is looking to showcase the diverse range of creative talent there is across the county

- painting, sculpture, printmaking, jewellery, ceramics, photography, textiles, furniture making and lots more.

'For artists and creators, it's an amazing platform to increase their exposure, meet buyers, gain feedback, build experience and encourages artists to look at how they can develop and sell their artwork' said Gillian Simpson of Worcestershire Open Studios.

New this year the organisers are looking to encourage younger artists to take part. Artists aged 30 and under will benefit from a reduced registration fee and an online noticeboard is in place for artists to seek or offer studio space for the duration of the event to support other artists.

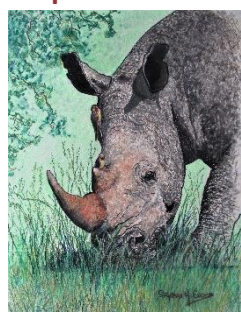
The event runs for ten days but artists can choose when they open their studio - it could just be one weekend. If you'd like to take part in Open Studios or need more information please visit:

<https://www.worcestershireopenstudios.org/call-for-entries>



Sketch for Survival

Stephen Evans sent in his contribution to the newsletter and says *"After participating in Sketch for Survival last year I have entered another of my original paintings, an African White Rhino painted using pastel chalks with W/C, for this year's art competition. Sketch for Survival supports the charity 'Explorers Against Extinction' with campaigns to recover key species and restore ecosystems. Sketch for Survival helps to raise vital awareness about species extinction and biodiversity loss while also raising funds for projects around the world.*



Just 100 finalists are selected from all competition entries received and win a place on their prestigious Sketch for Survival fundraising exhibition tour. The donated works are sold via

online auction, with all proceeds going to their Project Fund. Over \$100,000 USD was raised for nominated conservation projects in 2021.

Anyone can enter – its free to enter with closing date 30th June. Artwork must meet the criteria or will be discounted. For further details and full submission guidelines: Explorers Against Extinction or Info@realworldconservation.org.uk

What's On in Worcestershire

WORKSHOPS from Worcester Open Studios: Don't forget to check our website for workshops and events that our artists are running or taking part in across Worcestershire, but here are a few to savour. Visit our website and click on workshops for more info. <https://www.worcestershireopenstudios.org/>

Introduction to Oil and Cold Wax, 2 Day Workshop April 2023: £120

Introduction to Oil and Cold Wax' is a 2-day workshop taking place on Sat **15th April and Sun 16th April**, 10am-4pm at Crophorne Village Hall, Crophorne, Nr Pershore Worcestershire (WR10 3LZ).

Why use Cold Wax Medium? It's a fantastic medium which creates wonderful and surprising results when mixed with oil paint. It enables you to build up textural effects and layers as it increases transparency and workability and gives you great freedom of expression and potential for new discoveries!

All Day Mosaic Workshop; Come and spend a creative day with me, Victoria Harrison, at my Studio in the Malvern Hills on **Saturday 22nd April from 10am to 4pm** mosaicking your very own unique all weather A4 panel. Suitable for beginners to the more advanced. Full tuition is given and you will go home with new skills and a mosaic to impress friends and family. **Cost £80** includes all materials and a light lunch. For more information and to book please go to my website: <https://living-mosaics/mosaic-workshops>

One Day Watercolour; I offer a one-day watercolour course on a Saturday every month **costing £75**, our next is **Saturday 29th April from 10.30 am to 5.00 pm** at the studio, 29 Froxmere Rd., Crowle

Full details can be found on my website at www.johnhorton.co.uk

MORE Worcestershire based Events

Threads – Worcester Stitch and Textile Art Group: present their **first public installation of members' work at Croome Court, at the invitation of the National Trust.** Our theme is "My Happy Place", reflecting personal responses to concepts of sanctuary and well-being. For Threads members, to have a needle, thread and fabric is a happy place in itself, so each item you see is the product of someone taking the opportunity to relax and reflect, while creating an original piece of art. For opening times and visitor information: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/worcestershire-herefordshire/croome or find us at www.threadsworcester.org.uk



Broadway Arts Festival; I'm getting in touch to invite your group to the Broadway Arts Festival which is coming up from **Friday 9th to Sunday 18th June.**

Over 80 events of highest quality across 10 days at some pretty special venues in and around the beautiful Cotswold village of Broadway.

Groups, societies and clubs enjoy trips to our festival either as a group or as individual members. Broadway is centrally located with good transportation links, with a rich artistic heritage through the likes of John Singer-Sargent who famously painted 'Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose' here. We are 30 mins drive from both Cheltenham and Stratford upon Avon just off the M5 in the stunning north Cotswolds.

We have a host of fabulous artists running **30+ workshops** across the 10 days including Haidee-Jo Summers, Penny German, Vicki Norman, Georgina Potter and Jenny Aitken (Oils), Shelley Rhodes, Tim Fisher, Tansy Hargan (Sketchbooks/Sketching), Paul Talbot-Greaves (acrylics) and Gareth Jones (Pastels). There is also a wide choice of hands-on creative workshops ranging from picture framing, jewellery, ceramics and even stone carving- plus many more!

You may be particularly interested in our **demonstrations** planned for the first 3 days of the festival: Haidee-Jo Summers (Portraits), Jenny Aitken (Sparkling Seas), Vicki Norman (Landscapes) and Rachel Higgins (Wire

sculpture). These can be combined during a day visit with ['artBEAT'](#) which showcases 40+ of Britain's top artists & designers demonstrating their skills and selling their work in the marquees on our village green.

We also have the [Great Broadway Paint-Off](#) on Sunday 18th June where artists from across the country spend the day in the village competing for great prizes (and kudos!). There is then a selling exhibition of the entries for all to enjoy at the end of the afternoon.

On top of all this - the festival has broader appeal with superb live music, outdoor theatre at Broadway Tower, dance and family events. Find a full list of all events [here](#).

Tickets are on sale now and selling fast (with some events already sold out). Please share this invite with your members and if you'd like more information about arranging a group visit, contact info@broadwayartsfestival.com or leave us a message at 01386 898387 and one of us will call you back.

We hope to welcome you to the festival in June. Julie Allen **Workshops and Demonstrations Organiser**,

DAN Literary Section

Karen Read, our new literary representative has sent in another lovely poem. **Karen would like to ask the membership to send in theirs too.** Perhaps 500 or less words for a poem or a short story? Maybe it could lead up to a competition? Contact Karen [here](#)

Luscious Lido by **Karen Read**

*Within the canopy of lido trees lies a blue salty swimming pool
Cold or warm the water draws me in to dip.
To swim in Natures umbrella beneath the setting sun.
An oasis in Droitwich to relax and revitalise and visualise the sea.*

DAN Exhibitions

Parks Café: **Sheena Howarth** will be exhibiting **during April** Tina Watkins sold one last month!

Button Tree Café: **Rhys Jones** will be exhibiting **during April**

Corbett Medical Centre: **Tina Watkins** and **Wendy Simmons** will be exhibiting in April

Droitwich Library: Exhibitors are needed for this venue.

The Guidelines for displaying your art can be found in the Members' Area of the DAN website.

ALL ARTS ALLEY

Our All Arts project is continuing and we really do thank everyone who sent in their splendid artwork photos for this edition. If anyone has an idea for this spot, please do let me know – in the meantime please send in **ANY ART/CRAFT BASED WORK**. I just need photos of your work with any describing information, to show in the coming newsletter. Send email, [HERE](#). **By 30th April**

Tina Watkins sent some quite old pics.. all now gone to good homes



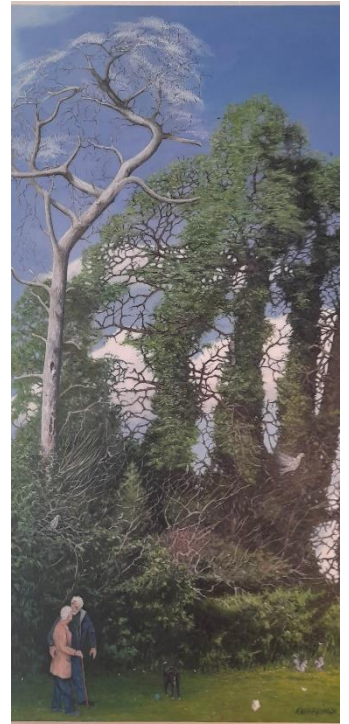
New Member **Malgorzata Powell** sent in her first submission and says "so I hope this is something you have had in mind... As I love painting seasonal flowers, here are some of last month's daffodils in acrylic and last spring's magnolias in oil. Both painted on stretched canvas, 12x9in.



Lynda Sharp sent in the following and says
"Hoped to make Dabble day but wasn't able! Long story, bus driver on no 19 hadn't heard of it ended up bk in Droitwich, went to the old Cock for lunch and chef had gone off sick 😞 so got bus back home!"



Kenneth Robinson sent in this lovely painting and says *"This is my latest oil painting from a photograph taken on my phone and painted in my shak, the photo from October last year was taken in Wychbold park at the rear /side of the Dodderhill Council building, I added the birds and squirrels and finally myself and wife. Size 36" x 24"*



New DAN member **Tara Powell** sent in these and says
"Spring means fishing particularly around the new moon following the vernal equinox. To celebrate my parents' 92 fish haul during their 3 day stay at Furnace Mill Fisheries at this time, I made 3 pieces of mixed media fish art in varying styles."



Pauline Franks sent in another of her lovely works and says *"this is one of a series of elemental dragons etc. this one is 'green nature dragon' which seemed appropriate now things are greening up. I've used acrylic paint with some bits of collage and ink on 10 x 8 canvas"*



Rhys Jones sent in a photograph and says *"If you have a small corner that needs filling, you might like to include my photo entitled 'Lone Traveller'".*
 Happily we have many corners available to accommodate those photographers in DAN – do send some in!



Sharon Jean, a new DAN member sent in these further paintings.

The Name of This Painting is 'Daughter of Africa'.... (36.5 x 36.5 Inches/Acrylic). Her Colours Represent the Vast Resources that the African Continent Holds, her History and her culture has all been depicted in this Painting as I see it..



"Endemic Beauty" is the name of this Painting. (40 x 30 Inches /Acrylic)

My goal was to bring elements from the islands that would pay Homage to the Seychelles....the painting took a couple of weeks as it was challenging to bring my ideas together. However, I think this Painting has been beautifully adapted. Endemic Meaning: Native to a particular area or culture; originating where it occurs.

This Painting consists of...

**The Coco-De-Mer (The Coconut of Love)*

**The Seychelles Pitcher Plant*



**The Seychelles Scop Owl*

**Blue Butterflies*

**The Hibiscus Flowers and other plants*

**The Rare Seychelloise Woman*

. The woman's eyes have two colours, green and blue, to show the uniqueness of life, animal and humans in this world.

Michelle Doidge sent in another five paintings and says *"Here are pics of some of my work I've created using Polyfilla/ which was what I was demonstrating on Saturday at Dabble Day and I thought it would be appropriate to show some of my finished work.*

One of the pieces I have sold, two are hanging in a dentist's waiting room in Barnt Green and one is in my home. Apart from the sold piece they will all be featuring in my upcoming exhibition at Yew Trees Artist Studios, Bevere Gallery on Saturday 29th April 10-4pm. Would love to invite all DAN members to come along and say hello."



Julia Rollit sent in a couple of pictures for the Gallery and says *"The first (on the left) is a watercolour recently completed, from a photo I took of the canal in Vines Park. "*

