



The DAN Mini ArtFest 2023

Many of you will remember the heady days before lockdown when **Rhys Jones** launched our Droitwich arts festival which got off to a very hot start during July 2018 with events taking place in the open air. Well, DAN is hosting a smaller, but still perfectly formed, mini ArtsFest in our NEW Hub on Saturday **16th September 2023**. There will be lots of creativity and entertainment during the day. Provisional poster details on the left.



The festivities will start off with the Town Crier announcing and promoting activities throughout the day. There will be music by DAN members in or just outside the Hub and to continue with the musical theme, hopefully I Sing, a large local choir, will be singing for an hour. There will be artists demonstrating in the Hub windows all day and maybe outside if the weather is good.

As part of the ArtsFest, we would like to host another 'Dabble Day', similar to the successful event in the Westlands. We would like to represent all forms of art: knitting, crochet, clay modeling, painting (acrylics/ watercolour/ oils), origami, pastels, poetry, music – you name it!

There will be a table with tutor books for anyone interested in learning the guitar. 4 types of weaving together with knitting and crochet will be showcased.

Are you able to help with this? We are looking for members to help the public 'have a go' at different activities. It would be great if you could lend your

expertise. You could even have a go yourself! If we get enough volunteers, we will hold two sessions throughout the day, just like volunteering for the Hub.

If that wasn't enough excitement... A school holiday art competition is being launched on the 1st August. The title is 'Movement'. There are three age groups: - Up to 5 years, 6 -11yrs, 12 -18 years. Entries should be taken to the Hub with name, age and contact details on the back of the work. **Last date for entries Monday 11th September**. Prizes will be awarded in the Hub on Saturday 16th. Also, a poetry competition will be launched during September to link with the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the printing of Shakespeare 's First Folio by Droitwich born Heminges. Further details in September's newsletter.

If you feel you are unable to volunteer, please keep this date in your diary so you can pop in during the day.

The Hub is OPEN!

Diverse ranges of Art celebrated.

Artists unite on our white walls.

New ideas, shared experiences.

Hours of opening 10am-3pm Mon, Fri, Sat.

U will always

Be sure of a welcome on our Facebook page

Karen Read

The new Hub opened on 8th July and is open every Monday,

Friday and Saturday, it is located in St Andrews Square, Droitwich, between Holland & Barrett and Quality Crust Bakehouse. The Hub is a community space. If people are shopping or just walking through Droitwich, they can come in, sit down, and relax. They can browse the books and magazines, and look at the artwork. Visitors are welcome to bring in a take-away drink from one of the cafes or shops. The pictures and



craft items have all been produced by members of Droitwich Arts Network. The artwork is for sale and visitors who are interested can see the prices on the attached cards or labels, or speak to a volunteer. Already artwork has been sold by **Kate Pullen**, **Bob Addy**, **Sue Cook** and **Lyn Sharp**. The space is totally flexible. The front of the unit can be considered to be a social area. The screens, tables, and chairs can be moved as required to form areas for meetings, classes, workshops, etc. We have had several

new members join Dan and they are entitled to exhibit work here. Please contact **Rhys Jones** at rhys@photomaestro.co.uk. Members can also exhibit at Park's Cafe, The Button Tree, Corbett Medical Centre, and downstairs in the library. If interested, then contact **Derek Webster** on derekwebster20@aol.com

DAN July Meeting – Show and Tell

DAN members and a few people from the general public got together at Droitwich library for a “Show and Tell” event. It was a very informal evening that saw a variety of creative people demonstrate what they specialise in. We had an author chat about her most recent book, poetry, felting, pastels, conversational Spanish, acrylics and illustration all going on.

Everybody loved the felting and most people had a go at making a poppy for the DAN remembrance wreaths.



It was very much a networking event too, that saw individuals meeting for the first time and making great, artistic connections. We are so pleased so many people came and it's fantastic that potential new members came to chat and see what Droitwich Arts Network is all about. It was clear everyone enjoyed

themselves too. **Wendy Simmons**



Karen Moore Award for Creative Writing Winner Announced

Droitwich Spa High School is pleased to announce the winner of this year's Karen Moore Award for Creative Writing sponsored by the Droitwich Arts Network.

This year saw perhaps the highest quality of entries since the competition started five years ago so the first-round judges had a hard job in deciding which three entries should be sent to the final judge. After much deliberation the writing of Imogen Matthews in Year 8, Drew Hankins in Year 9 and Vincent Lane in Year 11 were sent to ex Droitwich Spa High School student Rob Bloom who is chief marketing officer at Aston Martin's Formula One team.

Rob was hugely impressed with all the entries he read but decided that this year's winner is Imogen Matthews, whose work he described as 'A simply beautiful piece of writing that captures the moments of joy on earth that make for a happy and fulfilling life, delivered with absolute authenticity and honesty.'

The award was established in 2019 following the retirement of Mrs Karen Moore who had for many years been the Deputy Head at the school. Mrs Moore said: 'I am so proud of the opportunity the competition gives to the students and the great writing we see and I am also grateful to **Droitwich Arts Network** for sponsoring the competition. It is very encouraging that we continue to get such high-quality entries from across the year groups in the school. This year's title 'The best days of our lives' really seemed to strike a chord with the students who produced some very moving and well-crafted pieces.'



Helen Karakashian Chair of DAN added, 'Droitwich Arts Network is very happy to be supporting this creative writing competition. It is always a joy to judge the high-quality writing of the students and I am delighted that the quality of writing seems to be going up every year.'

Imogen was presented with a trophy to keep for a year, a cheque for £100 from Droitwich Arts Network and, along with the two runners up, some merchandise presented by the Aston Martin Formula One team.



The attached photos show Imogen being presented with her prize by DAN representative **Helen Karakashian** and a picture of Helen with all three finalists.

August DAN Meeting – En Plein Air

Our August DAN meeting will be an En Plein Air, taking place on Saturday 5th August, 10:30am in Lido Park, Droitwich Spa.

There is a food and artisan festival called 'Dine 'n' Devour' taking place in the park over this weekend so we thought there would be lots of interesting things to paint and some lovely food to go with it!

Please bring along your materials (all media welcome). **We will meet in front of Little Al's Café (next to the Lido pool) at 10:30am.**

Hope to see you there and for a dry day!



DAN 2023 Programme and Information

- August – En Plein Air - Saturday 5th, 10:30am, Lido Park
- September – Mini ArtsFest. Saturday 16th, 10-3:30pm, The Hub
- October – Saturday 14th. Table top displays and art auction
- November – Art demo on Zoom
- December – Drink and Doodle. Social, fun, and some art

Droitwich Arts Network exists to share ideas and promote arts of all kinds in the Droitwich area.

It incorporates a number of individuals, art clubs and societies, the Droitwich Spa Photographic Society

(<http://www.droitwichcamera.co.uk/>) and the Norbury Theatre (<http://www.norburytheatre.co.uk/>).

Honorary Patron: **Tristan Harris** (local editor and stand-up comedian).

To become a member, or renew your subscription, please visit <https://membermojo.co.uk/droitwichartsnetwork>

Website: <http://www.droitwichartsnetwork.org/> DAN Announcements:

<https://www.facebook.com/droitwicharts> Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/droitwich_artsnetwork/

Colin Jack announces his NEW PROJECT

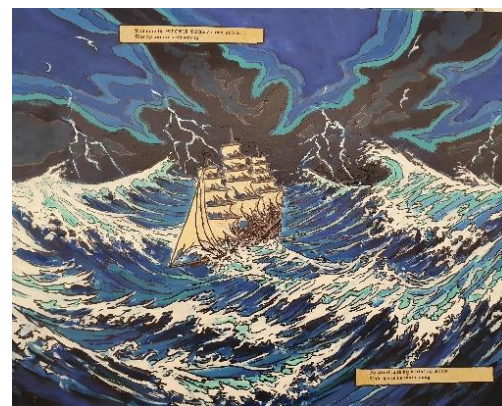
I have decided, after much thinking about it, to begin a big project. One of my favourite poems has long been Coleridge's 'Rime of the ancient mariner'. It is very visual, and I plan to paint 12 large paintings of scenes from it, using a style based on my Japanese ukiyo-e paintings. Not in chronological order, this is #3, the storm. Acrylic on canvas 30x24 inches.

'And now the storm-blast came, and he

Was tyrannous and strong.

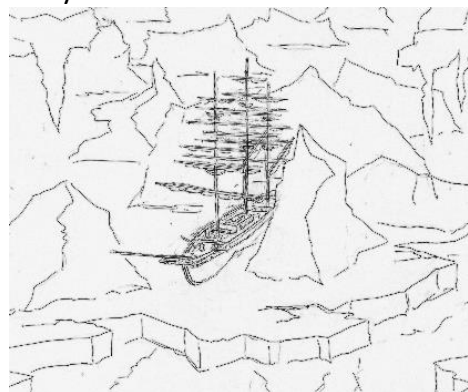
He struck with his o'ertaking wings

and chased us south along'



Plus, some sketches of other scenes, just trying out compositions.

They won't sell and I have nowhere to put them, except the attic, but I just wanted to do it!



At school our English teacher set us an essay

'Is the ancient mariner any more than a fantastic fairy tale?'

It is of course: sin, penance, redemption, absolution. It can also, for our times, be a metaphor for our sins against nature (the killing of the albatross) and a possible

redemption (the mariner blessing the water snakes). **Colin Jack**

And if that isn't enough...Colin's 32nd Scottish exhibition is at the Pittenweem arts festival in Fife. If anyone is in the area, please come say hello! All the paintings and more are on my website at www.colinrossjack.co.uk

Canalside Studio Artists are at it again!

Following on from the success of 'The Coronation' exhibition at Droitwich library in May where the participants very much enjoyed the experience of exhibiting. Some had friends who travelled from Warwick and the WI had a contingent of people that made a special trip to view it. Quite a number of individuals also made nice and positive comments on the work.



Members are following this success by holding another exhibition commencing **7th August 2023 until the end of the month**. This exhibition is for Canalside members only but includes several DAN members and will showcase a wide variety of media and styles based on the theme of 'The Sea'. Do pop in and take a look. The exhibition is open during normal library opening times. **Karen Hotchkiss**

Call for Entries – Broadway Arts Festival



Our 2023 open art competition is now open for entries! Prizes include:

- Main prize £1000 (any medium) sponsored by [Wychavon](#) District Council
- Painting in Oils or Acrylics Prize £500 sponsored by [Priory Gallery](#)
- Watercolour Prize £500 sponsored by John Noott (Founders Prize)
- Sculpture/3D Prize £500 sponsored by Jason & Susan Lewis (Trustee)
- Best entry from a local artist - Exhibition sponsored by [EFA Gallery](#) in Birmingham

- Visitors' Choice Prize - overnight stay for 2 with dinner at Grill by James Martin at [The Lygon Arms](#)

Deadline for entries is 28th August with the exclusive selling exhibition of 150 finalists from 6-15 October at [Bretforton Theatrebarn](#). The competition is open to any artist, in any medium including painting, sculpture (indoor & outdoor), drawing, textiles, ceramics & printmaking. For all the details & to enter visit:

<https://broadwayartsfestival.com/art-competition-2023/>

[Submit Your Entry](#)

Vikings on the River Wye in Hereford – David Wornham



Following the recent three-day success of our "Village Band" playing forties music aboard the Severn Valley Railway's "Forties Special" trains, the U3A Droitwich Wind Instrument Group (DWIG) is now rehearsing water themed music in preparation for our River Wyeside

accompaniment to the annual charity **Wye Float Spectacular** on **August 12th** from the Rowing Club from 12 midday when everyone floats down the River Wye in Hereford in a multitude of inflatable craft!

We plan to play the traditional "Colonel Bogey" which was used as the theme tune for the film "Bridge Over the River Kwai" and have re-named it "Bridge Over the River Wye" for the occasion, as we will be playing under the New Bridge where the acoustics are very impressive.

The photograph is of our Trio at last year's Pirate Theme, and this year we aim to improve with a quintet and are encouraged to dress for this year's Viking theme. See [\(20+\) Wye Float 2023 | Facebook](#) and [Wye Float | Wye Float River And Music Festival | England](#) **David Wornham**

What's On in Worcestershire



Worcestershire's largest art event gets even bigger with 97 venues to visit. Worcestershire Open Studios - the county's largest free annual art event - returns 19-28 August 2023.

Artists and makers will be welcoming the public into their studios, giving behind the scenes access into how they create their art. This year the event has more studios than ever to visit - 97 venues will showcase 128 artists, with over 40 artists taking part for the first time.

19-28 August 2023

There is a diverse range of artwork on show including painting, sculpture, printmaking, jewellery, ceramics, photography, textiles and woodworking. All studios are free to visit.

Experience the joy of looking at local art, to see what's happening in your area, to meet the vibrant and creative makers we have in our county. The artist's work will be on display with the chance to buy original art. Many artists will have prints, cards and gifts for sale too.

Our DAN member **Michelle Doidge** is exhibiting and says *"I would like to invite all DAN members to my Open Studios - everyone who visits will be assured a warm welcome, plus a cuppa and cake! If anyone wants to find out more, they can get in touch with me on 07866 656218 or find me on Facebook and Instagram @michelledoidgeart or visit my website on www.michelledoidgeart.com*

Spanish in Droitwich; The Droitwich Spa Spanish Conversation will be meeting on **Thursday 3rd August at Droitwich Library** from 6 until 8. This will be our first face to face meet since lockdown. So please come and join us. The library is also a new venue for us. The time is during the library lockout time, therefore I will keep an eye out for everyone to let you in to the building. This group is open to everyone. Beginners to native speakers. I look forward to seeing you all. Hasta pronto. Joanna

Following the success of last year's longer event, this year's event will again be open over 10 days. This gives more opportunity to see the artists taking part. Check the website or printed guide for an artist's opening times as these vary, and not all artists are open every day.

Visit the Worcestershire Open Studios website, where you can search for artists by name, artform, location or date they are open. www.worcestershireopenstudios.org.uk

Printed guides have all the detail on the artists taking part and are available in the county's libraries and tourist information centres or can be downloaded from the Worcestershire Open Studios website.

Summer Crafts Exploring Birds of A Feather at Hartlebury Castle, 15th August from 11-4pm

We are taking to the air for inspiration from our feathered friends! We've got lots of birds at Hartlebury Castle, including herons, kestrels and woodpeckers. Watch the kids take inspiration and channel it into their crafty side as they enjoy crafts based on Birds of a Feather (...the birds not the TV show...we're pretty certain children wouldn't get the references). We hope their grownups will also be inspired to be creative.

Bring a picnic to enjoy in our outdoor spaces, or pop into Hayley's Kitchen Café for a delicious meal, or just a cuppa and slice of chocolate brownie (other slices/cakes are available!). Site entry tickets +£3.50 for crafts.

The Worcester Show is on 13 August 2023 at Pitchcroft. Website for info www.worcestershow.org.uk

Enter your prized flowers, vegetables, photographs or crafts, or simply browse the displays, interactive workshops and wander through the market stalls with friends and family. With a 1980s theme, 10am - 5pm.

Festival Malvern 2023 A NEW adventure for Malvern on Sunday 27 August 2023 at Malvern Cube, Albert Road North, Great Malvern, Malvern WR14 2YF

This new one-day festival with an adventurous and exciting mix of music and arts workshops is taking place in Malvern Cube's friendly indoor and outdoor community arts space.

Join us for FREE family-friendly arts workshops from 11am – 1pm and an inspiring and eclectic programme of jazz, electronic, pop, drone and dance from 2 - 10:30pm. Keep checking back for further updates. [Book tickets](#)

The award winning Pershore Plum Festival

Throughout the remainder of the plum season several events are taking place including the Pershore Plum Festival Race Night on Tuesday 1 August to a Plum coach tour on Thursday 17 August. All of this fun culminates with the Pershore Plum Festival over the bank holiday weekend Saturday 26, Sunday 27 and Monday 28 August. We look forward to welcoming and seeing you then!

'Elements', an Art Exhibition in Ombersley Memorial Hall

Featuring three of the resident artists at Bevere Gallery: Jane Arthur, **Susan Birth** and Dan Holden.

Saturday 5th August 10am to 7:30pm. Sunday 6th August 10:30am to 4:30pm.

Saturday 5 August – the Guest Artist at the Artist Studios at Bevere is Lesley Styles whose artwork is largely inspired by landscapes and nature: <https://www.artbystyles.net/>

I'm taking part in

Worcestershire
Open Studios

19-28 August 2023

Open House Art Exhibition
by Bromsgrove Artist Michelle Doidge

Sat 19th, Sun 20th
Sat 26th, Sun 27th, Mon 28th August
10.30am - 4.30pm

312 Stourbridge Road, Catshill,
Bromsgrove, B61 9LH

Free entry, no need to book – just turn up!

Inspired by the beauty and fragility of nature, my artwork is bold and colourful. You are warmly invited to come along to my exhibition and find out more about the tools, techniques and materials that I use in my work and see my range of original paintings, prints and greetings cards.

For further information contact me on 07866 656218 or find me on Facebook & Instagram @michelledoidgeart or visit my website on www.michelledoidgeart.com

www.worcestershireopenstudios.org

DAN Exhibitions

Parks Café: **Jane Dix** will be exhibiting *during August*.

Button Tree Café: **Alison Latham** will be exhibiting *during August*

Corbett Medical Centre: **Peter Hawkins** and **John Dugmore** will be exhibiting in August

Droitwich Library: **Ally May** will be exhibiting in August

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 August**

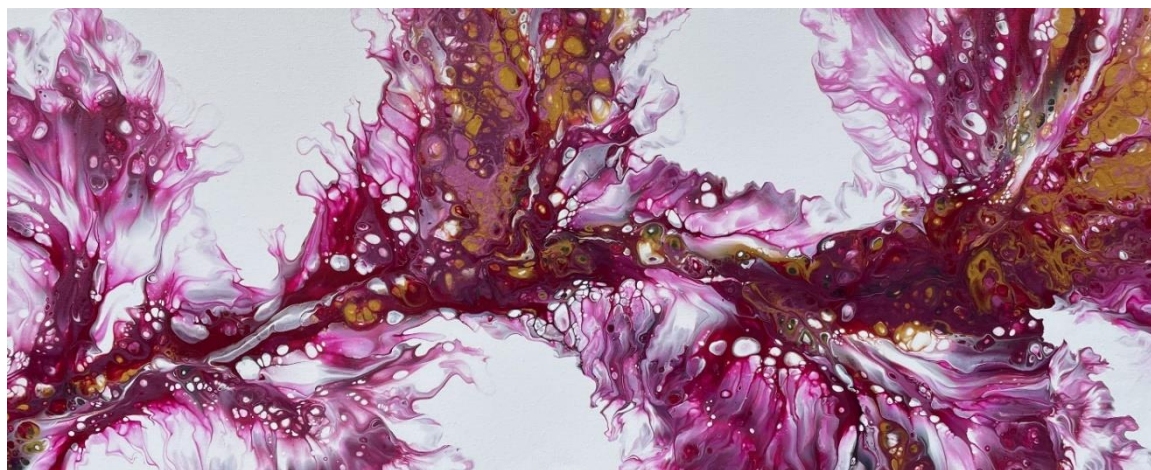


Clare Knighten sent in a dog with no name! and says "Here's a happy chappy watercolour I painted last week- for no particular reason than to practice, practice, practice!"



Felicity Robinson sent in her musical offering... and says "Painting Music! Such fun... and a great way to produce expressive marks, cropped to a composition"

Fliss Osborne sent in this lovely creation and says "Acrylic on canvas, untitled, 40 x 100 cms created using fluid art techniques. This piece and more will be part of my upcoming display for Worcestershire Open Studios. Anyone is welcome to drop by and find out more. I'm artists number 42 and am located on Shrubbery Ave in Barbourne. "



Jane Dix sent in two paintings and says "The first is called Belle and Meadowcut flowers. Belle is my granddaughter's bunny and, in this picture, she's examining the flowers my daughter had for her birthday. It was such a pretty sight that I had to capture it. I used Inkense pencils and ink. The second picture was from a photo I took on a visit to the Confetti fields near Pershore a couple of weeks ago. It was a lovely sunny Sunday morning and the flowers were beautiful. I did this painting in gouache"



Karen Read sent in another lovely poem entitled Rain.

*The sea is calm and inviting.
The rain is coming down.
I pulled the blanket around me and listened to the sounds.
The sky is blue and cloudless.
The wind is light and tickles the leaves.
The pavements are turning brown with freckles of water.
I look around the room and think of my daughter.
The water pulls us closer.
The sky covers us both.
It's raining here and raining there.
We share the drops of hope.
We prayed for rain as the heat swelled, our ankles and our
brains, and took our breath away.
We waited and went for days, worried that it would never
rain again.
But it has at last to cool our fevered brows and feed our
souls, our earth, our seas.
Moving forward as it washes away the past.
It drains away then floats us gently into our future.
To breathe and think and walk again.*

Karen Read also sent in her artwork and says "I paint the colours and scenes that come into my mind. For me painting like this helps to release my anxieties."



Michelle Doidge sent in her pics from her recent exhibition at Corbett and says "I thought I would send in some sunny summery paintings to cheer us up as the weather has been so awful!!"



Tina Watkins sent in her latest paintings and says.. "This time one is 'Better than ALL the Rest'! And the other is of two brothers, one of whom you may recognise". Pastel on Pastelmat as usual.



Lyn Sharp recently sold several pics and pieces, the Hare below sold at the Hub and the Hare on the right is her favourite to date.



Rhys Jones recently took these tremendous photos around Droitwich town centre and says... *"These may not meet your "art" requirements, so I won't be offended if you don't include any! And I say, who knows what indicates "art" requirements? Certainly, DAN being an all arts network and as such is art inclusive..."*



Two friendly buildings leaning against each other, in the High Street



The courtyard in Gurneys Lane, near Waitrose (with some arty processing)

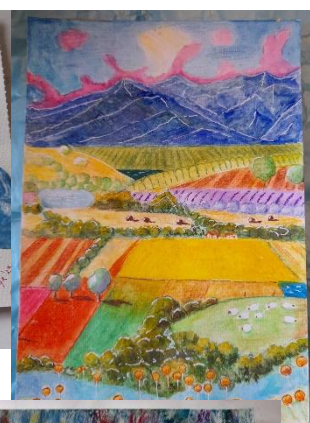


On a wall in the High St



Inside the Brine Pumping Station in Tower Hill, off the High Street

Sylvie Coulthard sent in the following montage and says *"Art is one of my hobbies. I like to use mixed media materials. Thank you for watching! I love all Art.."*



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