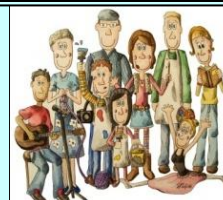




Droitwich Arts Network News

August 2026



DAN supports the Music and Arts Festival



Please support recreating a Music & Arts Festival in Droitwich.

Droitwich has always had a great tradition and community of Music & Arts; there is a call out to interested parties who would be happy to give time and support a new Music & Arts Droitwich Spa Festival in summer 2027.

Next year will mark 20 years since Droitwich Floods, the saving and reopening of our wonderful Lido and 50 years for Droitwich

boxing club all areas that brought our terrific community together and it would be so good to celebrate with Music & Arts throughout the Town while supporting our great hospitality venues.

The idea has support from Droitwich Arts Network (DAN), our special Norbury Theatre group and 'For Droitwich Spa' who were the previous organisers of the music festival. If there is sufficient interest and number of volunteers, we may even consider starting or ending the festival with a carnival.

A meeting was held on 28th July at the Old Cock Pub chaired by Richard Morris. Along with DAN chair **Rhys Jones** and other members of DAN and the Norbury, it was well attended and contained many participants who had exhaustive knowledge and experience with managing and creating the vision for the festival. Volunteers were enlisted to join the management committee which will be created shortly to decide on the format and future for the initial festival.

'Please join us and let's build on the fantastic Rik Mayall Comedy festival, and other great festivals, and show Droitwich is a real centre for great Music and Arts.' If you were unable to make the meeting but are interested in supporting please email Richard on richard.morris@wychavon.net Cllr Richard Morris

High School Creative Writing Winner



Droitwich Arts Network Sponsors 2026 High School Creative Writing Competition

The photos show **Rhys Jones** (DAN Chair) and **Jane Dix** handing over a cheque for £100 to the winner.

For the last seven years Droitwich Arts Network has sponsored the Annual Creative Writing Competition at Droitwich High School. Karen Moore, a retired Deputy Headteacher at the school, initiated this competition in 2019. Droitwich Arts Network member and ex Chair of DAN, **Helen Karakashian** worked with Karen Moore and others, for a

number of years, to judge the competition.

Droitwich Arts Network sponsors the competition by awarding £100 to the winner each year. Karen Moore provided an elegant glass trophy which is awarded to the winner. This year DAN member **Jane Dix** worked with staff at the school and the judges. The theme was "The Long Game". An early task is to ensure that there are sufficient entries of a high enough standard. The judges, including Jane, selected the top three entries.



DAN in the Library in July



During July DAN hosted the regular **New Moon Monthly**. Life is busy, noisy and relentless. New Moon Monthly is a calm space to slow down, breathe and make something – whatever that looks like for you. Ideal for those managing anxiety, stress, or difficult times. **Do join us on TUESDAY 4th August at 6.30pm**

Paintings on the wall were by **Peter Hawkins, Rhys Jones** and **Mark Morris**.

The painting on the large easel (not for sale) was by **Sheena Howarth** of "York and York Minster". And the pictures under the stairs were by **Marelize Yorke**



During July there were no members names submitted to exhibit during August in Droitwich Library and committee members had to step in. The waiting lists are for:

- Pictures to hang on the wall - A maximum of 9 pictures each month. Work from more than one artist provides a mix of styles. This is FREE to exhibit for the rest of the year!
- The large easel - One large and attractive picture. This is FREE to exhibit for the rest of the year!
- The area under the stairs - As many pictures as you can fit in the space. This is FREE to exhibit for the rest of the year!

All work can be shown as for sale with a price. Your contact details will be displayed so that buyers can contact you directly. If you make a sale directly with a buyer, there is no commission. If the sale is arranged through the library, the commission is 25%+VAT (30% in total).

With an average of 400 visitors each day to the library we have a much larger audience than we had in the Hub. You can raise your profile and attract people to our area by spending time working in our space.

Please contact me with information about pictures you would like to exhibit in coming months.

If you have decided not to exhibit in the library, please let me know what you see as barriers to exhibiting. Knowing the reasons why you do not want to exhibit will help me address your issues.

Rhys Jones Mobile 07787 227 390

DAN Exhibition Space

Droitwich Library - Three Displays

Exhibiting in the library is an excellent way to display your work and possibly make a sale

You can send an email to rhys@photomaestro.co.uk asking to be added to the waiting list for the wall exhibition, the space under the stairs, or the large easel. A small charge is required.

Our exhibition in August in Droitwich Library will consist of pictures by **Rosie Philpott, Sue Thomas** and **Tina Watkins** on the Wall and **Stephen Evans** on the Large Easel.

Corbett Medical Centre – 18 Displays

There are two rooms where we exhibit pictures. One room can exhibit approximately 10 pictures; the other room can exhibit approximately 8 pictures. The hanging system only requires paintings to be strung. Artists can book one room or both.

During July **Erika Rosales** and **Steve Evans** will be exhibiting again in the **small** and **large Waiting Room**. At present there is no fee to exhibit. Please contact Derek at derekwebster20@aol.com

Worcester Open Studios



Our biggest ever **Worcestershire Open Studios Art Week** will take place **from 22–31 August**, with more than 180 artists and makers will open their studios and creative spaces across the county, offering visitors the chance to meet the artists, see how work is made and buy directly from the people who create it.

Plan your visit with the new interactive map and digital guide at www.worcestershireopenstudios.org Free printed guides will also be available at local outlets including Tourist Information Centres.

Please note that different venues may open at different times and that not all venues open for the full ten days, however, you can also search by open days on the interactive search map.

The website also hosts a year-round Artist and Maker Directory featuring more than 200 local creatives and also showcases the events, exhibitions, workshops and courses throughout the year that they are taking part in.

Art Week is free to visit, with many new venues taking part this year. The 2026 Worcestershire Open Studios Art Week map and guide are now live, ready for you to use to plan your Art Week.

Dan members exhibiting among many others are **Briony Williams** and **Lyn Sharp**. Find out more <https://www.worcestershireopenstudios.org/>

2026 Programme

New Moon Workshop and Doodlers are now TUESDAYS in the library.

Contact Newmoonmonthly@gmail.com to attend.

Tuesday 4th August – Changeover of pictures exhibited on the wall, and New Moon Monthly / Doodles at 6.30pm

August – No Daytime Doodle.

Tuesday 1st September – Changeover of pictures exhibited on the wall, and New Moon Monthly / Doodles at 6.30pm

Monday 28th September – Daytime Doodle in the Library Meeting Room, 1pm-3pm. Visitors Welcome.

Tuesday 6th October – Changeover of pictures exhibited on the wall, and New Moon Monthly / Doodles at 6.30pm

Monday 26th October – Daytime Doodle in the Library Meeting Room, 1pm-3pm. Visitors Welcome.

Tuesday 3rd November – Changeover of pictures exhibited on the wall, and New Moon Monthly / Doodles at 6.30pm

Monday 30th November – Daytime Doodle in the Library Meeting Room, 1pm-3pm. Visitors Welcome.

Tuesday 1st December – Changeover of pictures exhibited on the wall, and New Moon Monthly / Doodles at 6.30pm

December – No Daytime Doodle.

Spotlight on Lynda Sharp – Worcester Open Studios



Lyn loves to upcycle and repurpose her artwork and create something interesting and unique as you can see here. She says *“My work on display at WOS at Avoncroft Art Society will consist of Needle-felted pictures using upcycled woollen panels were possible, my textile and wool dolls are created from textiles purchased from charity shops or car boots washed and made into tiny clothes. It give me great pleasure to create something unique avoiding landfill !*

I love collage and delight in seeing the picture developing from scraps of paper or textiles I hold workshops at the Gallery at Dalishbakes, Tardebigge

<https://www.thebarnsvillage.com/business-directory/dalishbakes/> and Avoncroft Art Society. My WOS mini demos covering felting, collage, textiles and upcycled jewellery picture will be happening from 22nd August until 31st August 10-4pm. Do come and join me and try something new”. <https://lynsart.weebly.com/>



Worcestershire Arts Events

DROITWICH EVENTS

Bands in the Park

- 2 August - RJ Jazz Collective
- 9 August - Sauce City Jazzmen
- 16 August - Alcester Victoria Silver Band
- 23 August - Cleobury Mortimer Concert Brass
-



Join us for a relaxing afternoon of live music in the Lido Park. Bring your friends, family, a blanket, and enjoy a free performance

Summer Creative Nature Day at Lower Smite Farm

Date: Wednesday 19 August 2026

Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm



Lower Smite Farm is a 150-acre working farm which is also home to Worcestershire Wildlife Trust as well as their education centre and conference and meeting room facilities.

Explore a nature trail around the farm, get creative with a range of flora inspired craft activities and have a go at hands-on wildlife activities such as pond dipping and mini beast hunts.

Bring a picnic to enjoy on our benches and listen to the sounds of nature all around. No refreshments will be provided.

No booking needed - just turn up on the day.

The Fashion Event UK Droitwich

St Andrews Hotel & Spa Droitwich Spa, England

Date: Saturday 15 August

Time: 4 PM - 9:30 PM

This is a Charity Fashion Event in support of Hereford and Worcester Animal Rescue Centre.

Get ready for an amazing day at The Fashion Event UK right here in Droitwich! Join us in person for a stylish mix of the latest trends, cool designs, and loads of fashion inspiration. Whether you're a fashion lover or just curious, this event promises to be super fun and full of great vibes.

Don't miss out on meeting fellow fashion fans and discovering fresh looks! This is a CHARITY event featuring Local and National Designers with local Vendors in place. Bar and Restaurant meals available.



WORCESTERSHIRE EVENTS

Portrait Painting in Watercolour for beginners

The Friends Meeting House Worcester, England

Saturday 8 August • 11 AM - 1 PM



By Worcester Drawing School

Overview: Over 2 hours learn how to make a beautiful watercolour portrait.

Come join us for an exciting in-person event where you can learn to create stunning portraits. This workshop is perfect for beginners and experienced artists alike. Immerse yourself in the world of portraiture and unleash your creativity under the guidance of our expert instructors. Don't miss this

opportunity to hone your skills and take your art to the next level. Sign up now! From £27.80

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/worcesterdrawingschool>

NO PLACE LIKE HOME - In-person Bookbinding Book arts 2 day Workshop

The Orchard Thorngrove Mews, Worcester WR2 6NP

Date & Time:

- Friday August 14, 10:30 AM - 16:00pm
- Saturday August 15, 9.30am - 14.30pm

Get creative this summer crafting your own handmade book in this hands-on bookbinding workshop that combines box making techniques as well.

NO PLACE LIKE HOME - In-person Bookbinding Book arts Workshop
(SUMMER SCHOOL 2026)

Join us in Worcester for an inspiring and hands-on workshop dedicated to the art of bookbinding and book arts. This in-person event offers a unique opportunity to explore creative techniques and craftsmanship in a welcoming environment.

This is a 2-day workshop!! £150

Don't miss your chance to connect with fellow book arts enthusiasts and deepen your skills in this specialized craft. This workshop combines bookbinding techniques with box making as covers are like two small shrines looking like a room with a small carpet, wallpaper, table, tablecloth and flowers in a vase. The idea is simple - two houses with a tree between them. The theme is NO PLACE LIKE HOME where you can decorate it inside out in your own way. Suitable for all levels of experience. All materials included, tools provided.

Tea, coffee, cake or biscuits are included but please BRING YOUR OWN PACKED LUNCH.

To book click this link. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/no-place-like-home-in-person-bookbinding-book-arts-workshop-tickets-1992566982483?aff=oddtcreator>



SAVE THE DATE – FUTURE EVENTS

4-hour Art Workshop Saturday on 12th September 10-2pm, Community Hall, Droitwich



Art by DJ <https://www.artbydj.co.uk/> has been booked to give all DAN members and the public a 4-hour acrylic/oil workshop in the Community Hall, the costs will be in the region of £19 for members and £23 for non-members.

This is a really good opportunity for an enjoyable and worthwhile session. The subject is to be, by popular choice, Winter Skies and you can use either acrylics or oils during the workshop.

Contact me to prebook your place [here](#). Places are now very limited.

A Large DAN Members' Art Exhibition during October

Droitwich Arts Network has booked the walls of the Gallery Room upstairs in Droitwich Library for the whole of October this year. It will consist of two sections: One will be on themes about D.... Droitwich (Delightful Droitwich, Dirty Droitwich or any single adjective beginning with D); the other section will be for anything else. The exhibition fee is £3 per picture.

We will prepare advertising material to entice people to visit. The library manager is willing for us to handle sales so there will not be the 30% library commission charge, just the usual 10% to Droitwich Arts Network. More information can be found on our website.

Rhys Jones will be sending out invitations for you to register your pictures. **Rhys**

Norbury and Nosh - Theatre Tour and Food.

Some of you will remember the wonderful backstage theatre tour the Norbury made available to DAN members a few years back, well we're doing it again with a fully inclusive tour and food at the Old Cock deal.

The full tour and a traditional buffet, to include sandwiches, sausage rolls, pork pie, quiche plus lots more – all at only £10 per person! The date is **Thursday 15th October** at 6pm with food at 7pm. Contact me to prebook your place [here](#). If you do not wish to have food then the price is only £3 which will cover a donation to the Norbury.

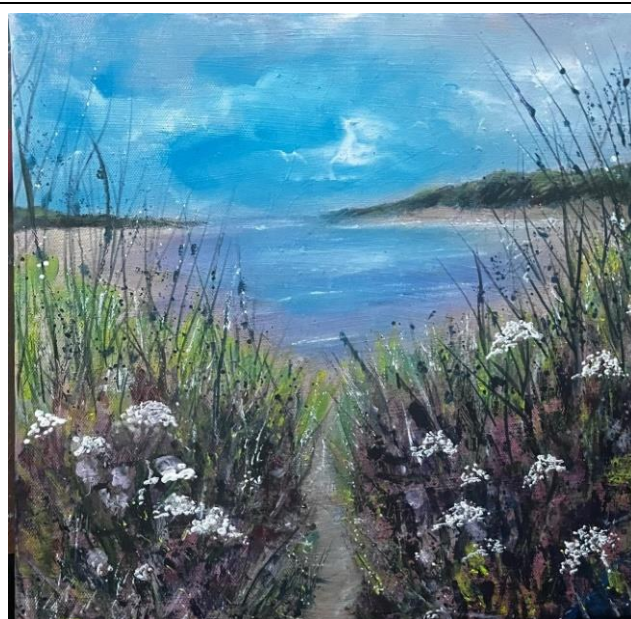
Tina

ALL ARTS ALLEY

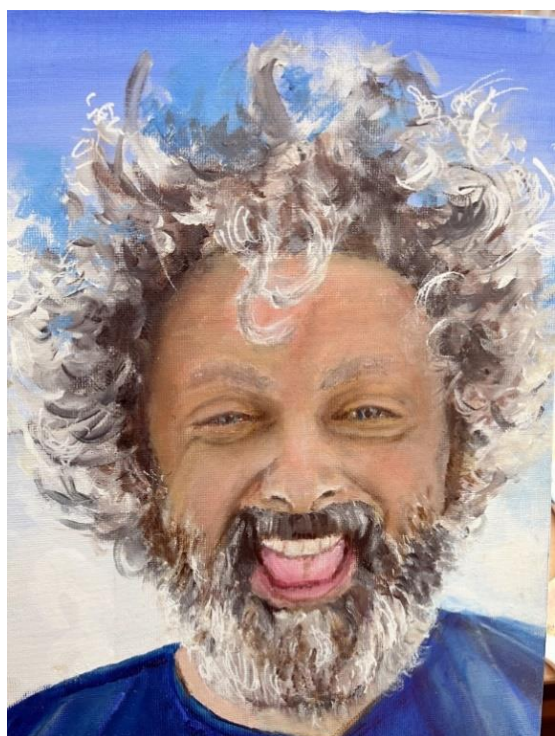
Our All Arts project is continuing in 2026 and we really do thank everyone who sent in their splendid artwork photos, for this and all editions. If anyone has an idea for this spot, please do let me know – in the meantime please send in **ANY ART/CRAFT BASED WORK**. I just need photos of your work with any describing information, to show in the coming newsletter. Send an email, [HERE](#). **By 29th August.**



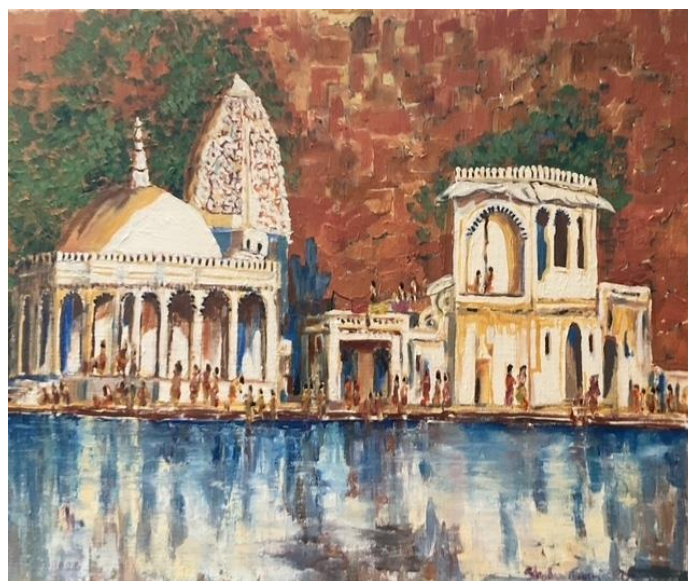
Lyn Sharp sent in these excellent works to be shown at WOS at Avoncroft Arts Society and says "Do come and join me and try something new, mini demos from 22nd August to 31st, 10 – 4pm"



Tina Watkins painted this rather startling portrait in oils of Michael Sheen and submitted it to the usual competition at Droitwich Spa Art Club – something we always do after a demo to try out something new. This time it was DJ's portrait session in oils.



Stephen Evans sent in this interesting work and says "While on a business trip to India during 2002, I was overwhelmed by the breathtaking architecture of the temples along the river Ganges. It inspired me to paint my impression of one of the temples reflecting on the Ganges River in Varanasi."



These Temples are constantly busy with worshippers involved in various ceremonies, which I tried to capture in the painting. I'm having a bit of a sort out and came across this painting along with a selection of other works which I painted 10 or more years ago and thought I would like to share them with Members, as most have not been on display before and the DAN Newsletter would be a great place to showcase some of them.

Title: A Temple Reflecting on the Ganges River in Varanasi.

Painted with water mixable oil paints on 20"x 24" canvas board"

Kathleen Thomas sent in this rather ethereal photograph and says *"It was taken when my son was on the home straight approaching the finishing line of a 50k Marathon. His siblings and cousin joined him to support him during the last few hundred yards."*
Title of photo: Du Crepuscule, (Dusk) on the Pembrokeshire Coast.



Colin Jack sent in this stunning painting and says *"This features a Fifie fishing boat (like the Reaper) and the Pittenweem fisherman's memorial statue (moved to the pier). A special painting. It was conceived as a welcome back to Pittenweem."*
Home with the catch; Oil on canvas; 30x24 inches.



Pauline Franks sent in these lovely views and says *"Attached is Malvern from Fernhill Heath, a watercolour with gold acrylic for barley."*
Harvest time Alton Barns church Wiltshire acrylic.



Pauline Wheeler sent in this lovely quirky artwork.. and says *"It's a mixed media piece using a mixture of textures for the buildings adorned with ephemeria with a collages background overlaid with paint and all on a wood base"*.

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