



Droitwich Arts Network

Community Interest Company

Company No. 16823091

AGM: 13th January, 2026
Held at The Old Cock Inn, 7pm



In attendance

Rhys Jones
Rosie Philpott
Derek Webster
Tina Watkins
Phil Watkins
Stephen Evans
Martin Kovacs
Sue Thomas
Janet (invited by Sue Thomas)

Wendy Simmons
Jane Dix
Nicola Giles
Michelle Doige
John Evans
Sheila Ballantyne-Smith
Erika Rosales
Tara Powell
Karen Harmon

Cheryl Walton
Karen Read
Pauline Wheeler
Mark Wilday
Simon Wilday
Celia Rowe
Julia Rollit
Richard Rollit

Apologies:

David Wornham
Malcolm Beckett
Lynda Sharp
Lesley Short
Helen Karakashian

Joanna Wright
Rob Webster
Marelize Yorke
Carly Mustoe
Catherine Palmer

Philip Moorhouse
Dave Hull
Peter Hawkins
Sarah Holmes

Previous Minutes (AGM 14/01/25 and EGM 02/09/25)

Approved.

Proposer – Stephen Evans

Secunder – Tina Watkins

Chairman's Report

Rhys Jones

2025 was my first year as Chairman. Luckily, I was working with a very active and enthusiastic committee, and I must thank them for their support.

A few committee members are not seeking re-election. Karen Read left the committee during November so we thanked Karen for her significant contribution during the Drink and Doodle on the 4th of November. Two other committee members that have made significant contributions are Wendy Simmons and Derek Webster. Wendy was Membership Secretary, and continues to organise and lead the Daytime Doodles and the evening Drink and Doodles. Derek managed our picture displays in a number of venues, and continues to run art-based



activities in local care homes.

Derek and Wendy were presented with gifts from the Network as a thank you for their significant contributions.

2025 was a very successful year. The Hub provided the base for most of our activities including inviting in the public for Dabble Days and a joint event with the NHS, each attracting hundreds of visitors.

During 2025 we held 8 evening Drink & Doodles and 9 Daytime Doodle sessions. Apart from the Dabble Days, the best attended events were an art demonstration by Kirstie Trobe, two sessions on taking better photos on mobile phones by Andy Checketts and Erika Rosales, and a demonstration of making small silver jewellery items by Phil Moorhouse. Unfortunately, two En Plein Air sessions to be led at Aztec Upton Warren, had to be cancelled; one due to very high temperatures, the other due to bad weather.

After over two years the Hub closed in August, making way for the new Banking Hub. The Manager of the Library, Nicki Hitchcock, offered us a space in Droitwich Library and we have booked it until the end of 2026.

The display space in the library is much smaller but with an average of 400 visitors each day, our audience is much larger. We have yet to work out how best to use the space for members to exhibit and sell their work. We also have the option of exhibiting in the Meeting Room upstairs.

A major change during 2025 was that members agreed to Droitwich Arts Network becoming a Community Interest Company. Overnight, nothing changes. The main reason for the change is that it allows opportunities to access larger grant funding. Additional funding would allow us to hold events and undertake projects that benefit our members as well as the community at large.

The dates for evening Drink & Doodles and Daytime Doodles are already set for 2026, and can be seen on the website. The new committee will meet soon and work on additional meetings, practical workshops, and events to be spread through the year. Where possible, we will hold events that support our objectives as a Community Interest Company.

One aspect of becoming a CIC is that we are required to engage with our "stakeholders". In our case that is anyone who could experience or benefit from our activities. During coming months, we will form an independent Consultative group that can give us feedback and ideas. Members of the group would not normally become actively involved in delivering our activities and events, but they are very welcome to be involved if they wish. No decisions have yet been taken on how the Consultative group will work.

There are plenty of ideas for the committee to work on. I would welcome any last-minute volunteers to join the committee, possibly without any specific responsibilities. Perhaps you feel you can be a "critical friend" adding value to our discussions. The committee meets about four times a year and meetings last about 90 minutes. Meetings are held on Zoom so you don't have to leave your favourite comfy chair.

Thank you for listening and I hope to see you all at events during 2026.

Transfer of Membership

It was resolved that all paid-up members of the unincorporated association Droitwich Arts Network on 1st January 2026, become Members of Droitwich Arts Network Community Interest Company, a company limited by guarantee. As a result, all Members continue to have full voting rights, and become guarantors with personal liability limited to £1.

Finance Report

Nicola Giles invited the network to congratulate Rhys Jones for his first year as Chair

2025 Final Accounts:

Droitwich Arts Network

Income and Expenditure Accounts for the period 1st January to 31 December 2025

	12 months to 31 Dec '25		12 months to 31 Dec '24	
	2025	2025	2024	Corrected
	<i>See Note</i>			
Income				
Membership fees		1350		1470
Donations, Easy Fundraising, Others		198		349
Hanging Fees at venues (not Hub)		0		335
Exhibition Fees & Art Sales		3390		4794
Interest Earned		62		2
Sale of John Dugmore's Pictures	1	893		5000
		5000		6950
		5893		
Expenditure				
SAA , Insurance		177		177
Fundraising costs		0		299
IT, Promotion, Admin		890		992
Donations, Gifts		287		155
Equipment		24		386
Meeting Costs		678		301
Exhibition Space & Art Purchases		2963		4139
		5019		6449
Donation to British Heart Foundation	1	893		
		5912		
Net income		<u>-19</u>		<u>501</u>
Movement in Funds				
Opening funds		8846		8365
DAN Net income		-19		501
Net Advance Payments Received		-580		580
Future Hub Payment		0		-600
Movement in Restricted Funds		0		0
Closing funds	2	<u>8247</u>		<u>8846</u>
Analysis of funds				
Restricted funds	3	1118		1118
Future payment		0		-600
Available funds		<u>7129</u>		<u>8328</u>
		<u>8247</u>		<u>8846</u>

Notes

- 1 Sales of John Dugmore's pictures following his sudden death. No fees or commission deducted.
 2. Funds of £8247. £587 in cash, £4935 in Lloyds Current Account, and £2725 in Commercial Savings Account.
 3. Funds held towards a permanent memorial to John Corbett
- DAN members hold assets such as furniture, a projector, A frames, picture hanging system, etc.
These are not valued for the purposes of the accounts

I confirm that this summary of income and expenditure is a true summary of the accounting records of Droitwich Arts Network for the year ending 31 December 2025.

Nicola Giles, Hon Treasurer

Dated: 6th January 2026

Comments

We had to leave the Hub during August to make way for the Banking Hub. The result was almost no exhibition fees and sales in the second half of the year.

Park's Café closed during the year, and the decision to suspend exhibition fees at Corbett Medical Centre while the Hub was open, continued for the rest of the year.

We controlled costs and the result was that income exceeded expenditure by £53 (near break-even). Following the unexpected death of John Dugmore, his family asked that we sold as many of his pictures as possible, and to donate the proceeds of £893 to the British Heart Foundation. We did not charge any fees commission on those sales. The figures are shown separately in the accounts as it was an event that is unlikely to occur again. 2026 could be challenging for us financially. Moving into the library changes our financial profile. We took the decision to increase the annual subscription which has remained unchanged

for many years. Over the years we have gradually built up financial reserves, so we can absorb reasonable losses if that is the outcome for 2026.

Resignations from the Committee during 2025

Wendy Simmons, Soo Magee, Karen Read, and Derek Webster.
Jane Dix has temporarily resigned from the committee and hopes to rejoin in a few months.

Election of Chair, Management Committee and Company Directors for 2026

Nominees	Roles
Rhys Jones	Chairman, Website Editor and Company director
Rosie Gallery	Secretary and Company director
Nicola Giles	Treasurer and Company director
John Evans	Membership Secretary and Outreach
Sarah Holmes	Events & Exhibitions Organiser
Tina Watkins	Newsletter Editor
Tara Powell	Well-being Activities Lead
Cheryl Walton	Without Portfolio

Voting

The 2026 Management Committee and company directors were elected unanimously.

AGM closed at 7:40pm

Members enjoyed a hot food and musical entertainment from local singer Hannah King.

