



DAN AGM - 2023



DAN welcomed members to its AGM at the Old Cock in Droitwich. It was wonderful to see so many members after a couple of years of just seeing everyone online.



Firstly, the wonderful stitched by **Helen**, Droitwich Arts Network banner, was erected – how intricate and crafty it was too!

After the brief formalities members enjoyed some comforting nourishment, served by the pub; giving members an opportunity to have a good catch up and network. To finish the evening members were entertained by the musical sounds of **David Wornham** and his melodic and very shiny Euphonium with anecdotes of his various tunes. Thank you, David, for stepping in at such short notice!



The Committee would like to extend huge gratitude to **Claire Hilton, **Chris Walker** and **Lyn Sharp**, who have stepped down from the DAN committee but, would like to give a warm welcome to **Karen Read**, who has joined as our literary representative.**

Chair's Report

2022 has been an unsettling year for most of us and DAN has experienced some mixed fortunes. Sadly, we no longer have our permanent home in The Hub but the committee has worked very hard to keep the network alive.

We have an up-to-date website, a brilliant and informative newsletter and varied monthly meetings. However, turn out to these meetings has been disappointingly poor. A lot of people, including the guest speakers, put a lot of work into the evenings and it can be embarrassing for the committee when only a handful of members attend.

We hope that this can be improved in the future with our new 2023 programme to which a lot of the membership has contributed (thanks to a survey carried out last year). We have made a move to more social meetings with quality guests and Zoom meetings in the colder, winter months.

We now have four exhibition spaces: The table in the library (free), The Button Tree (free), Corbett Medical Practice (small fee), Park's Cafe (small fee). **Derek Webster** (our exhibition space manager) is particularly looking for artists to exhibit in Corbett Medical Practice. The artwork needs to be glass fronted for hygiene purposes.

We thank **Stephen Evans** for his help in installing the exhibition equipment in Corbett Medical Centre.

Friends of Droitwich Spa Railway Station: Art on the Station – members of DAN have contributed to the artwork on the station (with more to come). **Rosie Philpott** and **Wendy Simmons** have provided paintings that feature on the blocked-up windows of the building on the Droitwich side.

We plan to make two Remembrance Wreaths this year. Please think about making your poppies – they can be in any medium! We hope to see you during our varied programme this year! **Helen Karakashian**



Euphonium Features

David Wornham sent in the answer to some questions posed at the AGM.

I now realise I failed to answer Helen's excellent questions in enough detail, probably because I was focused on the music, as the AGM event was a first for me and time was a premium, so now will try to make amends:

Q1. If unrolled, what is the length of the euphonium?

My guess at the time was wrong, and a facetious answer would be the same as when coiled!

However, I have now checked:

Euphonium (lower Bb): 112" (9.33') (284cm)

Trumpet (Bb): 56" (4.67') (142cm)

Q2. Does the fourth valve change the musical key?

Actually yes it can, from the usual Bb to the lower F, in similar fashion to the French Horn although the latter works the other way round, from the usual F to the higher Bb. However, I rarely use it this way as it is more useful to use instead of the valve combination of 1 and 3, which tend to be sharp (*see below).

If you have the time and interest for more explanation, which I said at the time I would probably confuse myself if I attempted it then, and you have probably heard it before from your French Horn playing son, but here is my attempt:

Brass type, or lip vibrating instruments (labrosones) play "open" (no valves used) or "bugle" notes of 5 or more, by using the embouchure (lips), tighter for higher notes, and loosely for lower.

The intermediate notes are made by the opening of the valves (piston or rotary) which add tubing length so lowering the note:

Valve 1: A whole note or tone.

Valve 2: A half note or semitone

Valve 3: One and a half notes= 1 & 2 together, but slightly flatter*

Valve 4: The same as valves 1&3, but slightly flatter*

* Slightly flatter is needed because each length added by a valve should be an exact proportion of the previous instrument length, so if more than one valve is open that proportion is lost.

There are other ways of compensating for this:

a) Listening and "lipping" up or down, which some say good players can do well.

b) Many modern good instruments have a movable slide, usually on the 3rd valve tube on trumpets/cornets and on the main tuning slide on larger instruments. These slides can be moved out whilst playing to flatten the note when needed.

Most good lower brass instruments are also mechanically "compensated" by automatically adding more tube length when more than one valve is opened on some valve combinations.

Q3. Is there a smaller euphonium version?

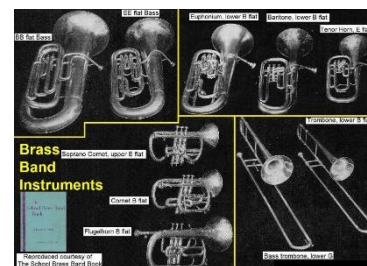
My facetious answer Yes, it's a cornet, pitched an octave higher, remains correct as the gradual taper of the tube or bore occurs throughout the instrument in similar fashion that of the euphonium, whereas the trumpet and trombone have a late tapering bore.

However, there is also the Baritone Horn (or just Baritone), which is the same tube length and lower Bb pitch of the euphonium but has a smaller bore, so appears smaller in size, and late bore taper making the tone less mellow.

As mentioned before, there is also a Tenor Horn which is pitched in Eb, higher than the euphonium, and also a Flugelhorn (or just Flugel), which is the same pitch as trumpets and cornets but has a larger bore and taper throughout leading to a more mellow sound.

There are also more tightly coiled "travel" versions or euphoniums and tubes ("Basses") from Wessex Tubas:

One problem is that these are too short to rest on the knee when sitting, so the weight has to be supported by the left arm. David



Park's Café need a SIGN WRITER - is this you?

Park's Café asked if we have any sign writers in the group as they have a large menu style board that needs doing. Also, **they are now open and serving Sunday lunches from 5th February at £14.95.** And a **special Valentines Sunday Lunch with a glass of fizz for £19.95.** Bookings only for Sundays, 01905 776633



2023 Programme – some dates now confirmed

- **Thursday 9th February.** Zoom life drawing session with 'Looking Sketchy'.
- **March – a Westlands Dabble day Saturday meeting.** An invitation to local residents will be issued.
- **Tuesday 18th April.** A demonstration by local artist Richard Crabtree.
- **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.

February Meeting – Life Drawing on Zoom



Everything is confirmed for the Life Sketching session on Zoom on **Thursday 9th February at 7.30pm, for 90 minutes.**

The session will be facilitated by Coz "Looking Sketchy" and the life model will be Endora Sparks. A little research reveals that the Endora is a plus size burlesque performer as well as a life model.

The Zoom details will be sent out for distribution to members in a week or so.

What's On in Worcestershire

"ENOUGH TO SEE...BUT NOT ENOUGH TO SEE BY" is an exciting collaborative project between Worcestershire Litfest, Yew Trees Artist Studios, Bevere Gallery and The Arts Society Worcester and will include an Open Call to Worcestershire artists and writers.

BEVERE GALLERY January 2023 Graduate Show. This year we are featuring the work of 13 ceramicists and one original printmaker who all graduated in 2022 from universities and colleges around the UK. Always something new – a constantly changing display of studio ceramics, original prints, paintings & jewellery. The Gallery is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm. Check their website [here](#)

ART IS AR'T THE GALLERY is an independent art gallery based in the heart of Worcester city centre. Having launched initially in Redditch, the gallery quickly outgrew the space there and needed to expand into bigger premises and an area and environment that would support it's needs for the future. This was in order to offer services beyond selling artworks only. With needing space for an open artist's studio, along with offering space for art classes, the ideal location and premises were found to be in Worcester, which had been our desired location from the start. We offer a wide and vibrant range of contemporary art by established, internationally renowned artists and local emerging artists. The gallery is owned and run by artists who understand and share your love of all things art.

WORKSHOPS from Worcester Open Studios



'Winter trees'

25 February 2023 by John Horton. The studio, 29 Froxmere Rd., Crowle

I offer a one day watercolour course on a Saturday every month. We will work on a pre-set composition on Two Rivers 200lb watercolour paper which I have put together to explore the use of brushes and colour mixing from a limited palette. Full details can be found on my website at

www.johnhorton.co.uk



DAN Literary Section

Karen Read, our new literary representative has sent in a lovely short story from which she got the idea when eating Bread Pudding at the Lido! **Karen would like to ask the membership to send in theirs too.** She is thinking of a theme of 'Crowns or Carnations?' as a prompt for 500 or less words for a poem or a short story? Maybe it could lead up to a compilation or even a competition about the Coronation... Contact Karen [here](#) with your ideas.



Bread Pudding Fingers

Mom stood at the sink her tiny hands squashing the water out of the bread, soon she would be adding the lard and currents to make the bread pudding. The welcoming smell of the pudding cinnamon and fruit filled the small kitchen.

Her hands were small and strong strengthened by the years of factory work pulling down the gates of the lathes. Each finger was adorned by a ring "Keeping my money close" she used to say to me these were carefully put on the side as the baking was done. The rings of gold my favourite being a Tigers Eye sat on her middle finger of her right hand. The Tigers Eye flashed in the sunlight when Mum was playing one potato two potato with me.

I stood on a stool as she plaited my long blond hair, silky hands twisting the plaits, she could not bend down to do this as her back jarred still from carrying bags of shopping up the three flights of stairs which lead to our council flat.

I have no idea how old I was but I remember the softness of her touch as she wiped away my tears and the smell of the lily of the valley hand cream she was always putting on her hands. "Hands and neck should be moisturised everyday". Of course, I never listened as I always believed time was endless and I would always have soft hands and a silky neck.

Now as I help her take her rings off her fingers before she goes into the operating theatre, I can see how I may struggle to get them off as her knuckles are swollen with arthritis and could use the lard from the bread pudding to ease the removal. "Remember to moisturise" she said as she goes into theatre "I will Mum".

Next morning as I walk along the canal towards the Cafe the sunshine reflects off the water and the air is full of smoke from the canal boat chimneys. I sit down by the Canalside cafe, and the waiter brings me bread pudding covered in custard. I eagerly take a bite; it does not taste as I remember of course, not like when it was made with Mums love.

Walking into the ward I see Mum smiling and as I approach, she is putting on hand cream and talking to the Nurse "You should always moisturise". The nurse replies, "Well you have wonderful hands, so it must have worked for you". The ringless fingers are knitted together resting on her lap on her flannel nightdress, the veins are blue and visible beneath the thin skin and bruises are showing on her wrists where the tubes were. I approach the bed and she reaches to adjust my grey hair behind my ears "There that's better" she says.

"Look Mum, I have got you some bread pudding". There's a glint in her eyes "Hope you have got custard" and we both smile "Better put your teeth in first Mum" the laughter echoes in the ward as we hug.

DAN Exhibitions

Parks Café: **Rosie Philpott** will be exhibiting **during February**

Button Tree Café: **Ken Bell** will be exhibiting **during February**

Corbett Medical Centre: **John Dugmore** and **Stephen Evens** will be exhibiting in February

Droitwich Library: **Ken Bell** will be exhibiting in February

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

Taking Pictures of your Artworks

At various points in your artistic career, you will find yourself in need of digital photographs of your artwork. From uploading work to a website or the DAN newsletter, to entering an art competition like Jackson's Painting Prize, digital copies always come in useful. This guide takes you through the process, from how to photograph your artwork on a budget to getting the right file size and resolution. Read the full article on their blog:

<https://www.jacksonsart.com/.../how-to-create-the-best.../>

Musical Matters

The Community Choir was busy over Christmas, visiting several Care Homes in and around Droitwich and performing before the lights were switched on. We are now rehearsing for our Spring Concert on March 25th in the Baptist Church in aid of Acorns. Last year £1,000 was raised. We are always looking for new members. No auditions! Just come to the Baptist Church on a Tuesday evening to see if you fancy it. Also visit their Facebook page for photos. Cinderella at the Norbury was excellent and a sell-out.

The Parish Choir practices on a Monday evening at 7.00 in the Parish Centre. The Folk Club meets in the Old Cock on the first Thursday in the month and in St Nicholas Church on the third Thursday. There is a jam session in the Old Cock on the first and third Sunday evenings each month. Music making in Droitwich is alive and well. This is just a snapshot. There is also U3As Wind Band (David Wornham) and Singing for Pleasure Group which meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays in the month. Check out the U3A website for more details. **Mike Johns**

ALL ARTS ALLEY

Our All Arts project is continuing in 2023 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 28th February.**

Karen Read our new literary representative sent in this short poem.

“Let them eat Cake”

The guillotine is sharp, and death awaits her thin white neck.

The crowds are baying for the deed angered by the words she said.

*She thought the cake would help and had no idea.
The poverty and hunger of the crowds standing here.
The passion was palpable, and the air was full of blood.
As she lay her neck on the guillotine she tried to look above.*

*Oh lord I did not realise the peasants have their say.
The click clack of knitting needles as the woman knits the shroud.*

She whispers she is sorry but the crowd is just too loud.

“Liberty, Fraternity, Equality”

A shadow is behind a single swish and death is swift, no cake was left behind.

Sheena Howarth sent in photos of some of her recent exhibition at the Corbett Medical centre



Ken Bell sent in this lovely landscape and says “It is called St John's castle and is in a gorgeous part of Ireland at a village called Carlingford, at the entrance to Carlingford Lough on the East coast of Ireland. The lough forms the political division between the north and the Republic of Ireland.”



Stephen Evens says "Has anyone else tried these 3D puzzles?"

Here is a photo of my attempt at two of these wooden puzzles I was given and found them an enjoyable challenge and lot of fun to construct. I painted the owl and thought the stag looked better unpainted."



Tina Watkins sent in some new work and says "As usual, the Bears are Pastels on Pastel Mat! Sir Tom was a study from his show in Worcester last summer, a new venture into just black and white..."



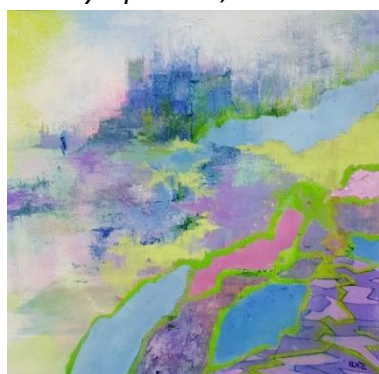
Felicity Robinson sent in one from her recent collection. And says "Currents and Connections-Flow, is from a series exploring human interconnectedness with the natural world. Created through successive layers of intuitive application of paint, inks, marks and glazes. Delve into the details. Imagine the hidden worlds of communication between species in oceans. Find a moment of connection. "



Pauline Franks sent in this recent effort and says "The attached is an acrylic painting on canvas. Fox with Gt Whitley hills in the background. I did see the fox but moved position to a better view of the hills".



Susan Birth sent in three paintings and says "Here are a few pics from my Dreamscape Series, Lull, Chimera2 and Nymphaea2,"



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