



DAN AGM



The committee would like to thank everyone who attended our AGM on Tuesday 13th January and made the evening so special - what an evening! Thanks must go to **Rosie** and **Rhys** for organising it all. The AGM was a great way to celebrate the past year and look forward to the year to come. Lots of networking, discussion of ideas and new suggestions were evident, and our new committee and Company directors were elected.

The committee via **Rhys**, paid a fond farewell to both **Wendy** and **Derek** but know they will be continuing in other DAN activities so will still be very much in evidence. Also it was a chance to thank again our outgoing committee members **Soo Magee** and **Karen Read** for their hard work during the year.

After the formal part of the AGM, it was time for the more relaxed part of the evening. The food provided by the Old Cock Inn was excellent and many took the opportunity for seconds.

Hannah King our musicals maestro was tremendous and soon had a row of Dancing Queens up on their feet. All in all, a very enjoyable evening.

DAN Chairmans Report

In his Chairman's Report, **Rhys Jones** thanked the committee for their support and enthusiasm during 2025. In particular he mentioned **Wendy Simmons** and **Derek Webster** who will continue with many of their activities but wish to step down from the committee. **Rhys** presented them with gifts in recognition of their significant contribution to Droitwich Arts Network over a number of years.

Rhys went on to say that 2025 was a very successful year for us. 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 eight evening Drink & Doodles sessions and nine 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 Droitwich Library offered us a space in the 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 incorporating as 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. 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 welcome to be involved if they wish. No decisions have yet been taken on how the Consultative group will work. The dates for evening Drink & Doodles and Daytime Doodles are already set for 2026, and can be seen on the



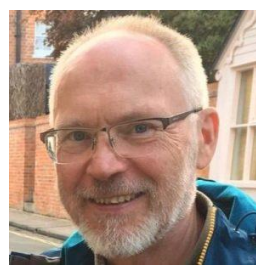
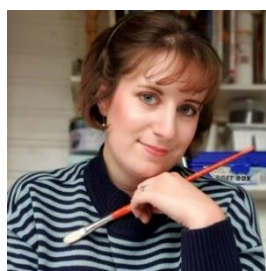
website and below. The new committee will meet soon and work on additional meetings, practical workshops, and events to be spread through the year. Where possible, we will hold events that support our objectives as a Community Interest Company. There are plenty of ideas for the committee to work on.

Nicola Giles, Hon Treasurer, gave a short summary of the Finance Report. The most important aspect is that income exceeded expenditure by just a small amount. Following the unexpected death of John Dugmore, his family asked us to sell some of his artwork for charity. The result was a donation of £893 to the British Heart Foundation.

Once the formal AGM had finished, members enjoyed a hot buffet and entertainment provided by singer Hannah King.

The DAN Committee

The following people were elected as Directors of Droitwich Arts Network Community Interest Company., and members of the management committee.



- Rhys Jones – Chairman, Company Director, and website editor
- Rosie Philpott – Secretary and Company Director
- Nicola Giles – Treasurer and Company Director
- John Evans – Membership Secretary, and Outreach
- Sarah Holmes – Events and Exhibitions Organiser (pic to come)
- Tina Watkins – Newsletter Editor
- Tara Powell – Well-being Activities Lead
- Cheryl Walton – Committee member without portfolio

DAN Membership 2026 Reminder

The committee has concluded that we need to raise the annual membership fees with effect from 1st January 2026. The annual fee for individuals will be £20 per year, and £35 for groups. Membership fees have not been increased for many years and our membership fee still compares very favourably with many other arts organisations.



Membership reminders are sent out automatically by MemberMojo so expect yours during in the year. For those who pay by standing order, this may be the time to check the DAN account details as these changed during 2025. Please ensure you make all payments to our new account at Lloyds Bank. The details are:

Account Name "Droitwich Arts Network Community Interest Company"; Account Type: Business; Bank Name: Lloyds Bank

Account Number: 63555968 Sort Code: 30-54-66

For our new members, MemberMojo is the online membership management software we use to administrate DAN. It can be used to join, update, renew and create membership cards easily from a PC, tablet or phone. You login to <https://membermojo.co.uk/droitwichartsnetwork> using your email address.

2026 Programme

Drink and Doodles are now in the library. **John Evans, Derek Webster** and **Rhys** put up the picture hanging system in our area of the library during January. More accurately, **John** and **Derek** did all the work and **Rhys** held the step ladder and a few tools! The pictures put up are just to make people aware that we are starting to use the space. Information is detailed here later describing how you can exhibit your work.

Tuesday 3rd February – Evening Drink & Doodle, downstairs in the library 6pm-8pm Members only

Monday 23rd February – Daytime Doodle in the Library Meeting Room, 11am – 1pm. Visitors Welcome.

Tuesday 3rd March – Evening Drink & Doodle, downstairs in the library 6pm-8pm Members only

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

Tuesday 7th April – Evening Drink & Doodle, downstairs in the library 6pm-8pm Members only

Monday 27th April – Daytime Doodle in the Library Meeting Room, 1pm-3pm. Visitors Welcome.

Tuesday 5th May – Evening Drink & Doodle, downstairs in the library 6pm-8pm Members only

May – No Daytime Doodle.

Tuesday 2nd June – Evening Drink & Doodle, downstairs in the library 6pm-8pm Members only

Monday 29th June – Daytime Doodle in the Library Meeting Room, 1pm-3pm. Visitors Welcome.

Tuesday 7th July – Evening Drink & Doodle, downstairs in the library 6pm-8pm Members only

Monday 27th July – Daytime Doodle in the Library Meeting Room, 1pm-3pm. Visitors Welcome.

Tuesday 4th August – Evening Drink & Doodle, downstairs in the library 6pm-8pm Members only

August – No Daytime Doodle.

Tuesday 1st September – Evening Drink & Doodle, downstairs in the library 6pm-8pm Members only

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

Tuesday 6th October – Evening Drink & Doodle, downstairs in the library 6pm-8pm Members only

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

Tuesday 3rd November – Evening Drink & Doodle, downstairs in the library 6pm-8pm Members only

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

Tuesday 1st December – Evening Drink & Doodle, downstairs in the library 6pm-8pm Members only

December – No Daytime Doodle.



DAN Exhibition Areas – February and beyond!

If you are interested in exhibiting your pictures and possibly selling them, the options available to you are:

Corbett Medical Centre

There are two rooms where we exhibit pictures. One room can exhibit approximately 12 pictures; the other room can exhibit approximately 8 pictures. The hanging system is the same as we used in the Hub. Artists can book one room or both. During February **Rolf Zink** will be exhibiting in the **large Waiting Room** at **Corbett Medical Centre** and **Simon Wilday** will be exhibiting in the smaller room.

If your pictures are for sale, you should create a small poster (A4 or A5 size) giving your contact details or attach a card to each picture. At present there is no fee to exhibit.

Derek Webster has offered to continue managing the waiting lists at Corbett. Please contact Derek at derekwebster20@aol.com to add your name to the list.

Droitwich Library - Wall Display

We now have a small area of wall that can exhibit 9 to 12 pictures (depending on sizes). The hanging system is the same as we used in the Hub. The whole exhibition will change every month during the evening Drink and Doodle sessions. This is because we need to use a step ladder which is best done when there are very few people in the library.

With an average of 400 visitors a day, plenty of people will see your pictures during a month. Due to space constraints and visual aesthetics, we will not mix portrait and landscape-oriented pictures at the same time.

Pictures (including the frame) should be of a "normal" size, about 55cm (22") by 45cm (18"). The fee is £3 per picture per month (the same as it was in the Hub).

To exhibit your pictures on the wall space, email me at rhys@photomaestro.co.uk giving your contact details if you are aiming to sell (your contact details will be made public).

I will need to build up a waiting list so you can submit details of any number of pictures (within reason). You can always add more later.

For each picture please provide:

- **Title: The selling price (see note below): The orientation (landscape, portrait, or square): The dimensions.**

Each monthly exhibition will probably comprise a mix of pictures from 3 or 4 artists. Pictures will be selected from the waiting list based on a mix of artists, orientation, and the sequence information was provided (not quite first come first served). Pictures that are not selected will be carried forward on the waiting list for future months.

It is impossible for us to have volunteers in the library all the time so sales will be handled by the library staff on duty. Please note that the library charges commission of 25%+VAT (30% in total). You may wish to adjust your prices accordingly. For example, if you want to receive £80 then you could set your price at £115. If a buyer makes direct contact with you, you can agree a private sale and no commission will be charged.

The next Drink and Doodle takes place on Tuesday 3rd February so submit your details as soon as possible. Please note there is no space in the library to store pictures.

Droitwich Library - Large Easel

The easel we used in the Hub window to display one large and attractive picture each month, will be brought back into use in our area as soon as possible. The picture will change each month. The first person to exhibit on the easel will be **Sheena Howarth**.

Please email me at rhys@photomaestro.co.uk to add your name to the waiting list. There is no fee to exhibit on the large easel as it will help to attract people into our area.

Droitwich Library - Under the Stairs

We continue to have the space under the stairs that can display 2 or 3 "normal" sized pictures on small easels, or more pictures if they are quite small. The display changes each month on a day near the start of the month. To add your name to the waiting list, email me at rhys@photomaestro.co.uk

Currently there is no fee to display in this space but we plan to introduce a display fee of £5 for the whole space, per month from 1st May.

Droitwich Library - Meeting Room

If there is sufficient interest, we can hire all the wall space in the Meeting Room upstairs in the library. I will send out an email with more information during February. Let's get pictures on these waiting lists quickly to take advantage of the available exhibition spaces!

DAN – an Ebay Experience, Sheena Howarth

I have a sort of unusual painting experience, not the painting which is quite ordinary, but the circumstances! I was asked to do a painting for a Professor at Freiburg University, when they and our English group were working in Pompeii...way back in 1983! So, I did a watercolour of the villa they were working in, the Villa Imperiali.

He bought it and that was that.

Just recently, I happened to be looking at EBay and there was my painting of 42 years ago! I was so surprised. Sadly, not selling for thousands, but for only \$150! So, the intervening years had not increased its value! The blurb said not able to ship to the UK. So, then I thought of my good friend in Arkansas and emailed her and straight away she got onto the website and bought the painting for \$125.

However, so far, she has not received the painting, so we hope it doesn't turn out to be a EBay mess up. Sheena

ebay

Search for anything

This item is no longer available.

SOLD

Pompei archeological illustration; original drawing, signed and framed

\$150.00

Wed, Dec 03, 08:42 PM

[See original listing](#)

Sell one like this

[Seller's other items](#)

Worcestershire Arts Events

DROITWICH EVENTS

anopia
events

We are arranging an 'I love Droitwich' event at St Andrews square on **14th February**. We really want this event to be about the local community and history of the town bringing in as many local organisations as possible to showcase the work they do and support.

We are looking to have a small schedule from 11am - 3pm to invite people down to listen to historians and local groups (depending on who can support) I guess a bit like seminars throughout the day but more relaxed.

We'd also LOVE to have as many photos / stories shared so will have the opportunity for people to either bring down photos or simply come down and enjoy the event.

Please do let me know if you'd be able to support and if so, in what capacity. I am just drawing up plans at present and will have everything firmed up closer to the date. **Please email projects@anopiaevents.com**

Droitwich Library

If you enjoy walking and being out in the fresh air then why not join one of the Droitwich Monthly Strolls, designed to support wellbeing, connection and enjoyment of the local area.

This is a friendly group which strolls in and around Droitwich. All are welcome Meeting outside the entrance of Droitwich Library at 10am then returning to the library at 11am to enjoy a free hot drink.

The next stroll will take place on **Friday 13th February**.

Please see the poster below for more information and to register.

Walk Wheel Cycle Trust

Monthly Droitwich Strolls!

Event dates:
Friday 13th February 2026
Friday 13th March 2026
Friday 10th April 2026

Time: 10:00am - 11:00am

Location: All events start and end outside the entrance of Droitwich Library, WR9 8DQ

Friendly group strolls in and around Droitwich, designed to support wellbeing, connection, and enjoyment of the local area. All are welcome.

Free hot drink after for those who join!

To find out more, please contact:
e: jack.purvis@walkwheelcycletrust.org.uk
w: www.walkwheelcycletrust.org.uk

Walk Wheel Cycle Trust is a registered charity making it possible for everyone to walk, wheel and cycle.

Walk Wheel Cycle Trust is a registered charity (No. 124688) (Bristol and Glos) SC037523 (England) and 124682 (Wales) 01984

WORCESTER EVENTS

Susan Birth – Bevere Gallery Art Charity Prize Draw

Art that Inspires Giving that Matters

Experience the beauty of art and the power of giving

Charity Draw

28 March 2026 at 2pm

to raise funds for
Acorns Children's Hospice
and
Worcestershire
Breast Unit Haven

You are invited to visit the Bevere Gallery site between 7 February and 28 March to donate and collect your draw ticket from any of the artist studios or the gallery for a chance to win one of seven original pieces of art donated by our six resident artists and the gallery (pictured).

acorns children's hospice
bevere gallery
Worcestershire Breast Unit Haven

supported by The Mighty Creatives

Bevere Gallery, Bevere Lane, Worcester WR3 7RQ

Venue: Bevere Gallery

Timing: From 7th Feb donate and collect a draw ticket: Tue to Sat 10am to 4pm.

Prize Draw: Sat 28th March at 2pm

Date: 7 February to 28 March 2026

Art that Inspires; Giving that Matters

Experience the beauty of art and the power of giving.

Visit Bevere Gallery and Studios between 7 February and 28 March to donate to Acorns Children's Hospice and Worcestershire Breast Unit Haven and collect your draw ticket from the gallery or any of the six open artist studios for a chance to win one of SEVEN ORIGINAL ARTWORKS donated by the resident artists and the gallery. The 7 artworks will be on display.

The prize draw will take place on Saturday 28 March at 2pm (winners must be in attendance with winning tickets)

Donations can only be made on site, either in cash in collection tins or digitally on a phone via a QR code.

All monies raised go directly to the two charities.

Any enquiries please contact Kim Taylor at Bevere Gallery.

kim@beveregallery.com

Bevere Gallery, Bevere Lane, Worcester WR3 7RQ

David Birtwhistle – ‘Landmarks’ Exhibition

Venue: Worcester City Art Gallery

Timing: Daily

Date: 26 January to 30 May 2026

My new exhibition ‘Landmarks’ featuring many iconic Worcestershire locations takes place at Worcester City Art Gallery from 26th January to 30th May 2026. Included in the exhibition is this large piece ‘Bright River’ (oil on canvas, 760 x 910 mm, on-the-wall price £3500).

I will also be running a couple of free talks: ‘David Birtwhistle – a Retrospective’, at 14.00 on Tuesday 10th February and the second, a more technical investigation of the work in the show, is from 11.00 to 12.00 on Saturday 14th March.

Opening times:

Tues – Sat: 10am-4pm; Sun: 10am – 3pm; Closed Mondays

<https://www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk/>

John Singer Sargent: an American in Worcestershire

Saturday 17 January – Sunday 14 June 2026 | Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum

Showcasing the work of John Singer Sargent, one of the most celebrated portrait painters of his time, this exhibition explores his role within the Broadway colony of artists in Worcestershire. His summers spent in the county saw the American artist break free from the conventions of Salon-style studio painting to experiment with Impressionism and work ‘en plein air’, producing famed works such as *Carnation*, *Lily*, *Lily*, *Rose*, painted in a Broadway garden.



The exhibition includes works not seen before in Worcester, with loans from Tate, British Museum, Ashmolean Museum and Houghton Hall.

The exhibition reflects the importance of the Broadway colony of artists on Worcestershire’s artistic heritage; the circle of avant-garde creatives included Frank Millet, William Morris, Lawrence and Laura Alma-Tadema and Edward Elgar.

John Singer Sargent was influenced both by traditional realism and by the growing spirit of Impressionism. He became most renowned as a portraitist, with a remarkable ability to capture the individual likeness and character of his sitters, many of whom were wealthy patrons on both sides of the Atlantic.

Over the course of his career, Sargent focused on society portraiture, impressionist landscapes of his travels, and, as an Official War Artist from 1918, the devastating effects of modern chemical warfare.

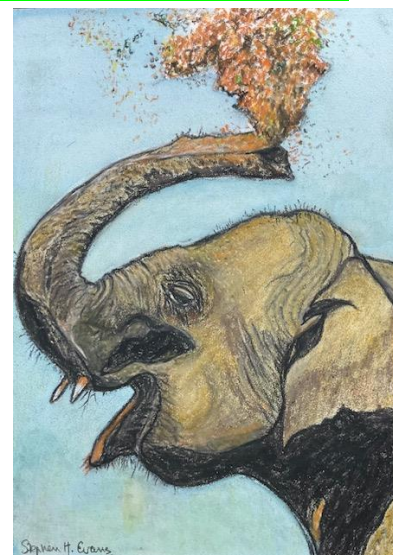
The exhibition is open from 10am to 4pm Tuesday to Saturday, and 10am to 3pm on Sunday. Last entry is one hour before closing. [Book exhibition tickets](#) Or call the telephone box office on [0333 666 3366](tel:03336663366).

Spotlight on – Sketch for Survival and Stephen Evans

The wildlife charity, Explorers Against Extinction, 2026 marks the 19th anniversary of their Sketch for Survival, and to celebrate they are hosting a special one off Big Elephant auction. All profits will support their Campaign Fund.

They are inviting artists worldwide to submit original A5 size postcard artwork inspired by elephants. This is my donated artwork of an Asian elephant, which is smaller than their African cousins, blowing sandy soil out from its trunk. There are less than 4000 of them living in India and South East Asia.

Also noted is that the shocking statistic that an African elephant was on average lost to poaching every 26 minutes. Hence the charity tying this in with their Sketch for Survival Anniversary challenge. They will be choosing 100 paintings for the auction, which will take place in April, and it would be great if I was lucky enough to be selected. My submission is painted with watercolours on A5 Pastelmat.

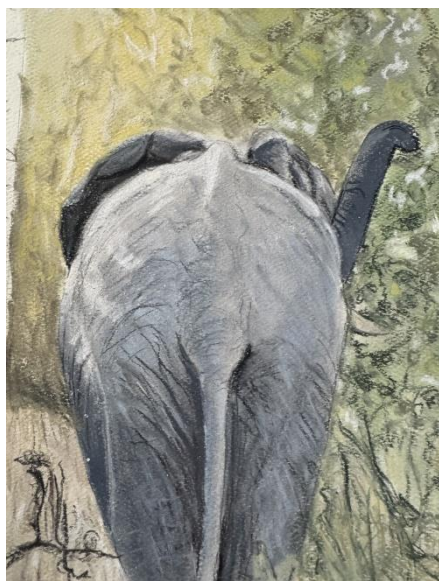


Anyone can enter via their website for free which is [here](#).

ALL ARTS ALLEY

Our All Arts project is continuing in 2026 and we really do thank everyone who sent in their splendid artwork photos this year, 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 email, [HERE](#). **By 28th February.**

Tina Watkins says “One of my almost completed contributions to Sketch for Survival – see Stephen’s article above – you could enter too!”



Sheena Howarth sent in this timely painting and says “I always like Valentine’s, to remind us to keep our hearts warm and loving, during the dark weeks of February! I try to do a Valentines card each year. Here is one of my collages.”



Pauline Franks sent in this lovely impressionistic painting and says “i found hand made paper sitting in my paper drawer i made a long time ago at a workshop in cornwall and thought it was about time i made use of it. Very difficult to paint on as it's so



absorbant. I used a mixture of acrylic and watercolour to give impression of winter trees.”

David Wornham sent in this summer reminder and says “I attach the most artistic illustration of my work that I can find as The Green Horn Man playing in the Fantasy Forest at Sudeley Castle in July 2025 !

It would be better with some sound, and for you Facebook users... the included YouTube link: [\(1\) Facebook](#)



Photo: Sean Taylor
The Green Horn Man in the Fantasy Forest at Sudeley Castle, June 2024
For video with sound see: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/992863482448239>



Pauline Wheeler sent in this interesting artwork and says “Here’s a framed mixed media piece done by blending inks for the background and using stencils and texture paste for the raised relief panels”