



## Happy New Year to all our Members



We do hope you have all had a really enjoyable Christmas and welcomed the New Year in with optimism for the future.

Our **AGM will take place on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January, 7:30pm on Zoom**. As in last year, all papers would be emailed to members on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January. These will include a chairman's report, a financial report and a few words on membership.

All committee members presently in place are willing to stand again but we do hope some of you will be interested in joining the committee – we will need your help as always, this coming year and even if you do not or cannot attend each month, there is plenty of scope for members to help

with events etc. The committee will be discussing the new year programme at our next committee meeting so the 2022 programme is provisional at the moment and will be confirmed and circulated later.

**However! Your input is very much required..** for instance, do we stick with meetings on the third Thursday every month or alternative Wednesdays throughout the year? Would you like one of our presenters from last year to give us another talk/demo? Perhaps you know of someone who would like to provide a session for us? There is even a possibility of a small payment! Do let us know if so, click [HERE!](#)

## December DAN Zoom meeting – Quizzical!

There was a large turnout for our December Zoom meeting and members enjoyed a great evening's quiz with the hostess with the mostest **Helen Karakashian** and the PowerPoint king **Alan Davey** delivering questions, some quite hard indeed!



The quiz consisted of 2 main rounds, Helen delivering the first and Alan the longer (and some say, much harder) second one. Members were requested to dress up if they wanted by wearing a Christmassy hat or other attire and to feast on their own snacks and drinks. Members complied with some vigour! The well-deserved winners of the prizes were **Ruth** and **Stewart Bourne** whilst **Chris Walker's** household won the marathon second section. A great evening involving everyone! Thanks go to our hardworking Chair, **Helen** for organising and running the event.

## DAN Membership for 2022



During 2021 we met on Zoom most months and these included presentations or performances by other members and whilst this may continue into 2022, we hope to be able to meet face to face much more often. The network gives opportunities to share ideas and to be involved in events and exhibitions. With a difficult year behind us we hope you have enjoyed what your membership of DAN has provided during 2021 and we look forward to seeing you all at our events and exhibitions (wherever and however they are held) during 2022.

January was the usual renewal time of year for many of us but as DAN extended membership by 6 months during the main part of the pandemic, most members will now find their renewal date has been extended to July. Reminders are sent out automatically by MemberMojo so if you do not receive one in January, expect yours later in the year. For those who pay by standing order, this may be the time to change the date. For our new members, MemberMojo is the online membership management software we all use to administrate DAN. You can use it to join, update details, renew and create membership cards easily from a PC, tablet or phone. The administrators send out group emails and newsletters which you will receive by email assuming you have given consent. All this wonderful software is bound to have a few glitches and we have found one or two! For instance, occasionally people get sent reminders when they have already paid – please forgive us if this has happened to you! Go [HERE](#) and select JOIN US / RENEW to update your details or renew.

## Artist Commission for Jubilee Banners

Severn Arts, in partnership with Worcestershire County Council, seeks to commission five Worcestershire-based **visual artists / designers** who live, work or learn in Worcestershire to each produce a new and original large-scale design for public display, celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, in a creative and innovative way. [Find out more about the commission](#). **The deadline for submitting applications has been extended to 9am on Tuesday 4 January 2022.**

## Photography anyone?

**Rhys** has come across a free video on YouTube about photography that some members might find interesting. It covers many aspects, is not overly technical and is easy to watch. It lasts for 90 minutes but no need to view it all at once. See <https://fstoppers.com/documentary/how-say-something-your-street-photography-590778>

## DAN Exhibitions and Special Interest Groups

**Parks Café** : **Wendy Simmons** will be exhibiting **from 3<sup>rd</sup> until 31<sup>st</sup> January** then **Ken Bell**.

**Button Tree Café** : **Steve Riley** will be exhibiting **from 3<sup>rd</sup> until 31<sup>st</sup> January** then **Derek Webster**. There is space for about 5 pieces (no larger than A3). Contact [Chris Walker](#) for details of both and to register.

**Norbury Theatre** has a full programme of events on [www.norburytheatre.co.uk](http://www.norburytheatre.co.uk) (**Box Office: 01905 770154**)

**The Droitwich Underpass Art Project**: DAN involvement, but led by Wychavon District Council, will transform seven underpasses across the town into outdoor pieces of artwork. The artists set to transform some of the underpasses in Droitwich Spa have now been chosen and designs are being completed.

## And for 2022 perhaps..... a POETRY CORNER?

### Ten Rules for Aspiring Poets

1. Poetry does not have to rhyme.  
Well, at least not ~~all the time~~ always.
2. Metaphors are great!  
But mixing them is not so good.  
If they start to fly in all directions,  
then nip them in the bud.
3. Focus and concentration  
are important skills to hone.  
Turn the wi-fi off for once.  
Don't get distracted by your ph-
4. Avoid cliches like the plague
5. Don't do stuff that's too vague.
6. The use of needlessly long words  
may result in reader alienation.  
Rein in your sesquipedalianism  
in case it should cause obfuscation.
6. Always proof-read you're work.  
Accuracy can be its own reward!  
And never forget that the penis  
mightier than the sword.
8. Haiku looks easy  
but plan ahead or you may  
run out of syllable
9. Never ever follow rules.

Brian Bilston

For January we are launching a Poetry CORNER in the newsletter for a couple of months – a small corner all your own... so poets get composing!!

I just need one of your poems with your name to show in the coming newsletters, send by email, my address is [HERE](#). **Last day for receipt is 27<sup>th</sup> January.**

**On the left, to encourage you to greatness, a word or two from a leading poet of some renown!**

*Brian kindly responded to my question for permission, "if there's one in my books or on my FB page that you think may be appropriate for your group, please do feel free to use it. Best Wishes Brian."*

So, I did.....