

Happy New Year to All our Members



To our full members, Network members, Facebook and Instagram friends, we do hope you have all had a really enjoyable Christmas and welcomed the New Year in with optimism for the future.

We've had a really busy 2023 which has seen us offer our members a watercolour demonstration, life drawing zoom workshop, en plein air events and social get togethers with our Drink and Doodle evenings.

In addition, this year, the brand-new Hub offers our members more opportunities to exhibit and a home for some of our events. These events have allowed us to open up to the community, so that The Hub is not only a place to meet, relax and enjoy local, artistic talent, but for DAN to hold public events like

our clay workshops, Dabble Days, Poetry Competitions, Christmas bauble decorating and of course our very successful Arts Fest held in the summer.

Thank you to all our volunteers that have given up their time to help at these events and steward The Hub too.

Our **AGM will take place on 11th January at The Old Cock at 7.30**, where members will be able to elect their 2024 committee and discuss our future programme, the Hub and anything else related to DAN over some lovely hot food. (Members **please RSVP to Rosie Philpott by 4th January** please.)

The committee are always open to suggestions and will need your help this coming year as always, and even if you do not or cannot attend all our events, there is plenty of scope for members to help out. The committee will be finalising the new year programme at our next committee meeting so the 2024 programme is mainly provisional at the moment.

However! Your input is still very much required. 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? Do let us know if so, click [HERE](#)!

2024 Programme – some dates and new ideas

- **Thursday 11th January 2024, AGM.** Members and partners are invited. You will need to RSVP by 4th January.
- **Monday 5th February 2024** Drink and Doodle
- **Film Evening Fundraising Event**
- **En Plein Air sessions**
- **Life Model for art sessions**
- **Sunday Still Life sessions**
- **Dabble Days**
- **Several projects are under discussion** – if you have any ideas, please let us know

DAN Membership for 2024



The network gives opportunities to share ideas and to be involved in events and exhibitions. We hope you have enjoyed what your membership of DAN has provided during 2023 and we look forward to seeing you all at our events and exhibitions during 2024.

Membership 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 check the DAN account details as these have changed. Please ensure you make all payments to our new account at Lloyds Bank. The details are:

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

Account Number: 14760363 Sort Code: 30-99-50

The old account at Metrobank will be closed shortly

For our new members, MemberMoJo is the online membership management software we use to administrate DAN. You can also 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.

Exhibitions by Members - January

Felicity Robinson is exhibiting at **Parks Café** during January. **Park's Cafe**, has space for 8 – 12 pictures depending on size. Park's Cafe has supported Droitwich Arts Network for a number of years. Artists provide their details so that members of the public can purchase pictures if they wish.

Sheena Howarth is displaying paintings at **The Button Tree, Tagwell Road; The Button Tree** has space for 3 artworks. This is an ideal venue for artists who want to try exhibiting their work without feeling the pressure to make sales and there's no charge!



Fran Higginson will show 8, and **Rosie Philpott** will show 12 paintings **at the Corbett Medical Centre, Corbett Avenue** where artists have a choice of rooms. The New Waiting Room has space to exhibit 12 pictures, and the Old Waiting Room has space to exhibit 8 pictures. The rooms can be booked separately. Artists provide their contact details so that members of the public can purchase. The displays there really brighten the rooms and members have had success in selling works.

Pauline Franks will show her paintings at the **Droitwich Library, Victoria Square**; There is space to exhibit 2 or 3 pictures in the small area below the stairs. Again, ideal for just showing a few works.

Being a paid member of Droitwich Arts Network offers lots of opportunity. Members can display their work for one month. Brief guidelines can be found in the members' area of our website. It is exciting and rewarding to show your work. Please contact Derek Webster to book your venue. derekwebster20@aol.com.

Worcestershire Arts Events

Sip and Craft Evening Folk It Beginners Class

On Friday 5th January 19.00-21.00, Old Market Court, High Street, Droitwich

Do you feel a little bit down? Are you looking for a new hobby? Do you just simply need to take your mind off of things? Then our workshops are for you!

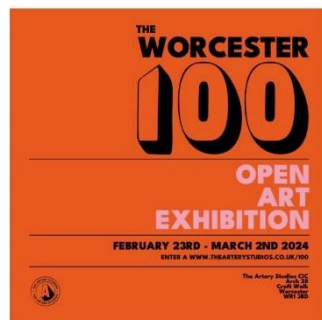
Our Folk it workshops are simple, mindful and fun for all. In this first class we use a simple dotting technique used in Folk Art to create beautiful items that will make you smile and have a sense of achievement.

Our crafts are not about being perfect, it's being in the moment and focusing on each dot or stroke.

In this workshop we will distress a wooden heart and create a beautiful card and hanging heart using the simple techniques. Included in the £30 price are all the materials needed, guided session and fizz.



The Worcester 100 Open Art Exhibition.



Registration is now open for at The Artery Studios - a celebration of Worcester's unique creative community welcoming entry from all levels, ages, background and experience. When we call it an open, we mean open.

Between **Friday 1st March - Sunday 10th March 2024**, the Artery Gallery will be filled with a showcase of 100 pieces of work by Worcester's local creative talent including paintings, prints, photography, sculpture, ceramics, and more.

There is no selection process, the first 100 entries will be successful. Simply pay for your place via our ticket shop (link below) and submit your work to us either on

Thursday 29th February or Friday 1st March & we will take care of the rest. All

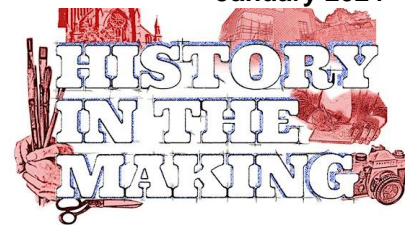
participants plus guest will be invited to the launch night on Friday 23rd between 7-10pm. For more details on how to register visit the website or click the link to the Worcester 100 in our bio.

<https://thearterystudios.co.uk/the-worcester-100-open-art-exhibition/>

Poetry & Photography Walk Worcester (History in the Making)

On Saturday, January 6, 2024 · 12:30 - 2:30pm GMT at the Hive, the Butts, Worcester WR1 3PD

As part of the History in the Making project, we are creating a poetry map of Worcester. Join us for this walk around the city centre, where we'll create poems and photographs of key landmarks that can be used in the printed map. The map will also link via QR codes to audio versions of the poems. (The map will be available for free throughout Worcester from the end of March 2024).



Meet us in the Hive Café from midday for a prompt start at 12.30. (Please wear sensible shoes and dress for the weather). The walk will be fully accessible. We will be returning to the Hive after an hour to finish our poems. Participants are welcome to focus solely on photography or poetry, or embrace both disciplines! (Submissions for the map do not need to be completed on the day, there will be several weeks in which to submit your work).

History in the Making is a year-long programme of creative activities celebrating Worcestershire's rich heritage and the voices of underrepresented communities. It will result in a published anthology, joint visual arts and poetry exhibitions and a poetry map of Worcester's key community spaces. All of the activities will be free, as the project has been generously funded by Arts Council England with additional support from Worcester City Council. www.the-word-association.com/history-in-the-making

Art House Open Lecture - Marcus Coates



**Tue, 23 Jan 2024 17:00 - 18:30 GMT at The Art House, University of Worcester
Castle Street Worcester WR1 3HN**

Hosted at the Art House, Worcester the lecture series offers a unique opportunity to hear firsthand from some of the most exciting contemporary artists currently making work in the UK. The talks offer the opportunity to engage in thought-provoking dialogues with the artists (via a Q&A), connect with Worcestershire's artistic community, and gain an understanding of artistic processes and influences.

Marcus Coates attempts to understand how we relate to each other and the implications of this for the world around us. His work is often motivated by the need for change, with a social and ecological impact in mind. He works with others to create processes founded on empathy and trust, collaborating with members of the public, organisations and institutions, as well as experts from a wide range of disciplines including; anthropologists, ornithologists, wildlife sound recordists, choreographers, politicians, psychiatrists, palliative care consultants, musicians, and primatologists amongst others.

Coates was nominated for the 4th Plinth Commission in 2014 and was the recipient of a Paul Hamlyn Award in 2008. In 2014 he was the first recipient of the James Lovelock Commission and in 2009 he won the inaugural Daiwa Art Prize. If you are unable to join us in-person, this event will be live streamed via zoom. If you wish to attend this event online, please book an online ticket.

The registration link is in the ticket description, you will also receive the link ahead of the event.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/art-house-open-lecture-marcus-coates-tickets-717796166657>

Droitwich Wind Instrument Group (DWIG)



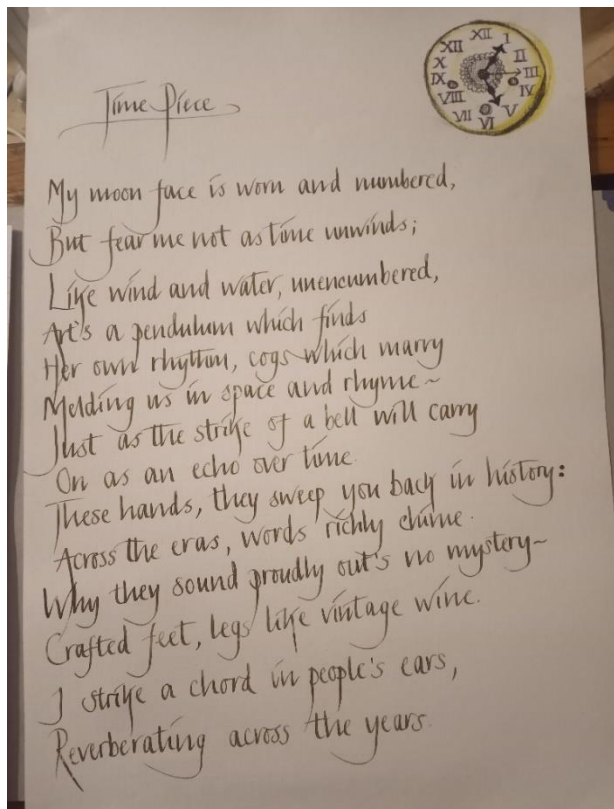
DWIG had a busy time leading up to Christmas. We had two Saturday busking sessions in Victoria Square, Droitwich where we played Christmas carols to an appreciative audience of Christmas shoppers. We collected a very respectable £135.30 for the Air Ambulance charity, thanks to their generosity.

On Monday 11th instead of our usual "2nd and 4th Monday" rehearsal meeting, we threw our doors open for other musicians to join us in an afternoon of playing carols. It was a fun afternoon, and we were joined by musicians from several other local brass and wind bands. We played a wide range of carols and Christmas tunes, from Jingle Bells and Rudolph, through Stop the Cavalry to the beautiful Coventry Carol.

The following Monday, a small group of DWIG members visited the Corbett House Care Home in Droitwich and played a selection of Christmas carols for the residents and staff, which was warmly received. We are always on the lookout for new members, so dust off that old trumpet, saxophone or flugelhorn, and come join in the fun. For more information, please contact group leader **David Wornham**, Tel.01905 775840 or flexicase@gmail.com

ALL ARTS ALLEY

Our All Arts project is continuing in 2024 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 30th January.**



Jacqui Cashmore/Halcyon sent in her entry for the 'Feare Me Not' Shakespeare first folio poetry competition and says *"As a retired English teacher, I really enjoyed this challenge and congratulations to the winner and highly commended entries, they were a pleasure to read."*



Tina Watkins says *"Happy New Year all and I welcome the new year in with this finished commission from our previous Mayor, Councillor George Duffy in all his mayoral regalia!"*



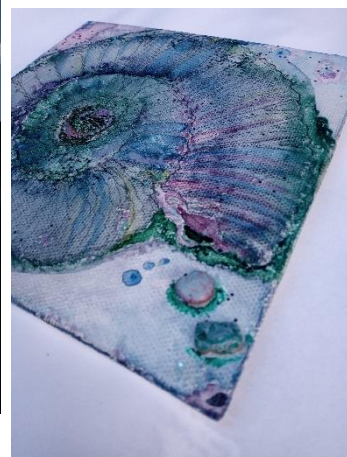
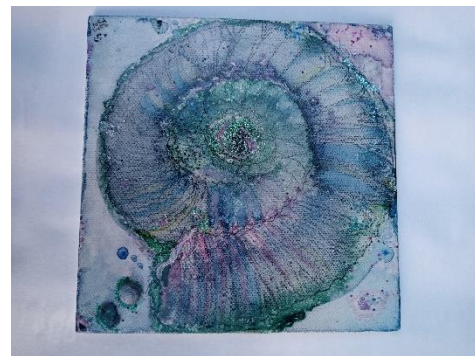
Karen Read sent in her photo of a recent painting and the poem to go with it.

The Orange Sun

Sitting on the horizon balances the Orange Sun.
Waiting for the year to end its job almost done.
A year of hope and change and laughter and rain.
2023 is a year we will never see again.
As the warmth withers and the Moon begins to rise.
We move on with hope and gratitude for the next day's sunrise.



Jacqui Cashmore sent in these lovely pictures and says *"The Schnauzer sketch/ painting was a Christmas gift for a lovely friend who adores her canine companion. I've not drawn a dog before and my aim was to capture the cheeky personality of this little dog. The same can be said of the quick cat outline done for a friend's scrap booking project. I tried to capture the feline elegance, shape and grace. The ammonite picture was made for me to keep and enjoy. I love the shapes and textures of fossils and had fun in completing this. Finally, a photo of an ancient church and gargoyle where one photo becomes a series of three geometric triptychs due to the angles and architecture from the position the picture was taken."*

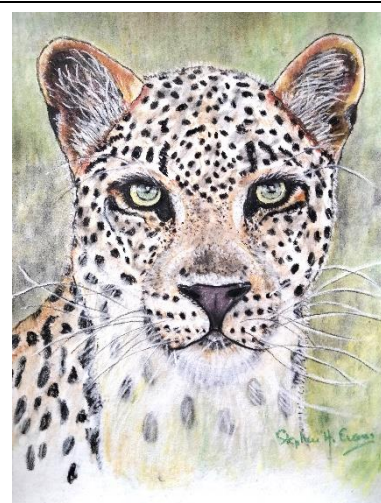


Lynda Sharp sent in two images and says *"The Snow leopard is needle Felted with merino wool, onto a panel of upcycled navy woollen coat. He went into Jinney Ring shop as I rent space there and was sold in the first week. I really enjoyed creating him "*

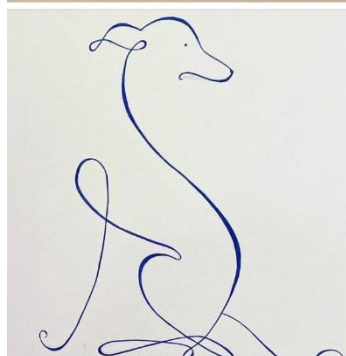
Felicity Robinson sent in this creation and says *"This is a Christmas book I made for my son, contains an archive of family news from the last 20+ years... mostly photos with captions. I'm hoping the grandchildren will enjoy this in time!"*



Stephen Evens sent in this lovely pastel painting and says *"Have just finished this painting using pastelmat. It is really great surface which I really enjoyed using. I'm now inspired to return again to using pastels and has become my creative challenge for 2024."*



Jessica Wood sent in several pieces of her artwork and says *"I mainly produce pet portraits for commission. I also enjoy using watercolours or oil paints to create seascapes, landscapes and floral type artwork. With oil paints, I prefer to use a pallet knife to capture atmosphere. Whilst, with watercolours I focus on line and form."*



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