



The HUB Returns!



Many of you will have seen the St Andrews Square Facebook post announcing the opening of The Hub during July. This is to confirm the exciting news that it is indeed going ahead and DAN are very much involved. All DAN members will have received an email from **Rhys** announcing the planned opening schedule.

He says "After many months of behind-the-scenes discussions with Sajid Iqbal of MAPP (the Manager of St Andrew's Square) I am delighted to tell you that we should be able to open a new Hub during July.

The new Hub will be located in the old Meetbox unit which has been empty for many years. The electricity has been reconnected, new ceiling tiles, new LED lighting, and spotlights have been installed. The floor at the back has been levelled, and the walls have been painted white. **Stephen Evans, Derek Webster** and I installed new tracks for picture hanging on 26th June. Staff from MAPP brought in the furniture and other items that were placed in storage when the first Hub closed. New signage and posters are also to be designed.

There are two upstairs rooms. The larger room at the back can be used for storage, small meetings, music

workshops, etc. and has a door out onto the roof where we might be able to set up a small roof garden. The smaller room at the front will be controlled by MAPP who may use it as a meeting room.

ARTWORK DISPLAY: The picture hanging system will display about 75 pictures, which should allow every member of DAN to display at least one picture. Artwork to be exhibited was delivered to the Hub on 29th and 30th with the aim that the new Hub will open for visitors on **Saturday 8th July**.

We also have two glass display cabinets that display articles made of ceramic, felts, wood, metal, etc. Members may be allocated more than one shelf depending on how many artists wish to display three-dimensional work. The committee has agreed to a fee of £3 per picture or display shelf per month, and 10% commission on sales. The monthly fee will commence from the start of the month following the opening. Assuming the unit opens on 8th July, the monthly fee will start on 1st August. The fee will be greater for particularly large frames.



VOLUNTEERING: Members that display artwork will be expected to volunteer in the Hub on a rota basis. The frequency will depend on the number of days that the Hub is open and the number of artists displaying work. The rota will be created taking into account both availability and an even spread of work across volunteers. I will send out further information about the new Hub as it evolves, but please contact me if you have any immediate questions or observations." **Rhys**

King Lear Prizes – Reminder! Register Your Work with Group Entries



The [King Lear Prizes](#) is a national creative arts competition for older people (60 and over) run by King Lear Arts. The *King Lear Prizes* was launched to encourage people to produce new works of literature, drama, poetry, music and art during the pandemic.

Hopefully many of you have already submitted entries. When you do, please remember to select **Droitwich Arts Network** from

the pull-down list of groups. The deadline for the competition on **Friday 14 July** is fast approaching. There is **still time to register** using the button on the right. When ready, remember to **submit your work** using the online form.”

[Submit Your Entry](#)

Call for Entries – Broadway Arts Festival



Our 2023 open art competition is now open for entries! Prizes include:

- Main prize £1000 (any medium) sponsored by [Wychavon](#) District Council
- Painting in Oils or Acrylics Prize £500 sponsored by [Priory Gallery](#)
- Watercolour Prize £500 sponsored by John Noott (Founders Prize)
- Sculpture/3D Prize £500 sponsored by Jason & Susan Lewis (Trustee)
- Best entry from a local artist - Exhibition sponsored by [EFA Gallery](#) in Birmingham

- Visitors' Choice Prize - overnight stay for 2 with dinner at Grill by James Martin at [The Lygon Arms](#)

Deadline for entries is 28th August with the exclusive selling exhibition of 150 finalists from 6-15 October at [Bretforton Theatrebarn](#). The competition is open to any artist, in any medium including painting, sculpture (indoor & outdoor), drawing, textiles, ceramics & printmaking. For all the details & to enter visit:

<https://broadwayartsfestival.com/art-competition-2023/>

50 Years of Carpet Design – Kidderminster Invite

David Oakey - 50 Years of Carpet Design from Kidderminster to America - 22nd July 2023

The Museum of Carpet invites you to join David Oakey for a special presentation. Come and learn how David pioneered the growth of carpet tiles for forty-five years that shifted industry norms and standards; the past 25 years guided by sustainable design. Carpet tile is now a dynamic soft floor covering used in all interior markets. Oakey's primary philosophy, above all, is that it has to be good looking, otherwise all the sustainable benefits have little meaning.

David Oakey, founder of David Oakey Designs is the exclusive product designer for Interface and Flor since 1994, leading global efforts in sustainable or “smart” design, learning from nature, the study of biomimicry.

When Interface founder Ray Anderson declared his company would be sustainable and closed loop by 2020, Oakey and his team quickly identified sustainable design must be innovative utilising efficient use of materials, seeking smart products and eliminating waste during the process. Oakey is passionate following his steps to sustainability through process, product, and people.



Educated in carpet design at Kidderminster College in England, Oakey pursued his entrepreneurial dream establishing David Oakey Designs in 1985. Structured for integrated design and development programs, Oakey has created an award-winning work environment for design research.



Oakey and his philosophies have been featured in *Business Week*, *Fast Company*, *Interior Design Magazine*, *New York Times Science*, *Green Futures Magazine*, *I.D. Magazine*, and *The Smithsonian Magazine*. His inspirational presentations have influenced companies like Nike, Walmart, Boeing, and British Petroleum to name a few.

Pond Studios is the soul of David Oakey Designs, an early bio-inspired office, winning an AIA award in 1997. In conjunction with biomimicry, biophilia is at the deep-rooted core, the essence of David Oakey Designs' design

process. We live it and work it at Pond Studios, a truly biophilic architectural space. In the year 2000, Business Week named David Oakey Designs as one of the top offices to work for in the United States, for bringing nature indoors.

David Oakey was one of the early adopters of biomimicry, working together with Janine Benyus since 1998. Biomimicry is an approach to innovation that seeks sustainable solutions to human challenges by emulating nature's time-tested patterns and strategies. The goal is to create products, processes, and policies – new ways of living – that are well-adapted to life on earth over the long haul.

David currently serves on the Advisory Board of the Biomimicry Institute- **Helen**

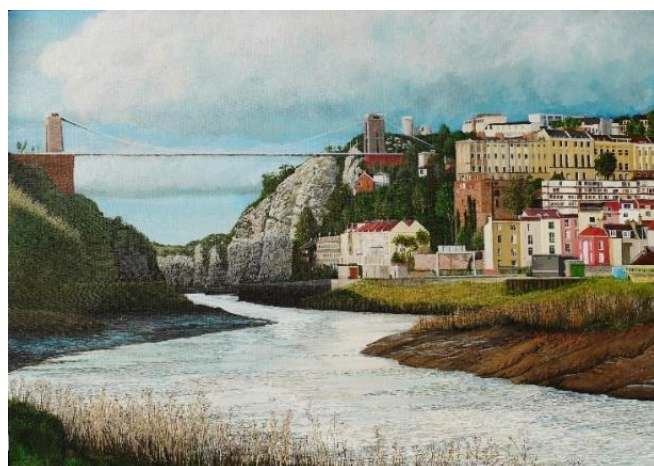
Art by Peter Hawkins

After a period where I have shown little, I suddenly find that I am exhibiting during July at Park's Café and during July and August at the Corbett Medical Centre. This provides an opportunity for some of my earlier pieces to be seen as well as new ones. I thought I would take the opportunity to share a few thoughts on painting.

I am content to mainly work in acrylics – at least until I feel that I have achieved some measure of competence. I tend to paint landscapes and I try to capture the feel of a place.

For that reason, I only paint subjects that I've experienced. As my painting tends to be in some detail and takes time, I use photographs as a reference. However, I let my memories override the photos for several reasons.

Photographs do not capture all the colours accurately as the camera tends to average the light levels across the picture. A great example of that comes from painting the Clifton Suspension Bridge at Avon Gorge, Bristol. I took several photos, then looked at images from Google. In all of the pictures, the towers supporting the bridge cables were coloured differently, ranging from near white through to dark brown. In fact, they are made of red brick!



I have noticed that, if I try to paint or draw something exactly as it appears in a photograph, it does not look right. I feel it helps to understand the components of the picture – the three-dimensional image held in the mind allows one to create a more “real” representation in the two dimensions of a painting.



I am moving from direct representation of a scene to asking myself “how am I making it better or more interesting?” I have taken photographs of a place that I might subsequently paint – then look at the images later and think “that’s great as it is”, and I drop the idea of painting it – for now. I like to add elements from other images, usually adding some details or people. In the picture of an evening at Bognor Regis, I included a building from further along the sea-front as it was more interesting.

That said, I could not resist trying to capture the fun in the way the little girl covered her face when her mother tried to photograph her in the picture to the right. Incidentally, the location is the largest reflecting pool in Europe which is on the south bank of the Gironde in the attractive city of Bordeaux. **Peter Hawkins**



My Happy Place – Julia Rollit



Threads Worcester Stitch and Textile Art Group were invited to participate in an exhibition at N.T. Croome Court. The theme of Sanctuary and Well-being was considered with members asked to think about their go to 'Happy Place.' Everyone contributed textile panel pieces to represent the changing seasons on see-through fabric to be hung and viewed from both sides. They were also encouraged to include all forms of textile art forms and 3D sculptural pieces too. We made wellies, cats, cushions, blankets, logs and fires for Winter and bird tables, hares and primrose covered woody glades for Spring, to name a few!

Rock Pool Installation



My thoughts immediately went to Summer, the sea, beaches, rocks and shells. I took plenty of photos for inspiration and started to plan how to convert my usual 2D landscape pieces of

work into some sort of 3D sculpture. In March and April, we held demonstrations and mini workshops making rocks, pebbles and shells out of silk fibres. Everyone took home their pieces to embellish with stitch, beads, and other sewn additions. I was completely overwhelmed at all the fantastic contributions that rolled in. Embroidered shells, beaded starfish, sea urchins and anemones appeared as well as crabs, seaweed, pebbles, limpets and jellyfish all made of fabric and fibre.

I constructed a base out of card and chicken wire, covered it in felt and silk fabric and made a rock pool with surrounding sand and water. It grew and grew to accommodate all the amazing additions that many of the members contributed. At the June Threads meeting a group of us gathered, to sew it all together, ready to be installed into the fireplace at Croome.

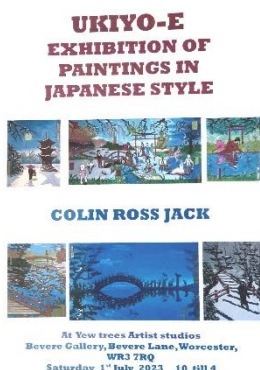
It will be on display, attracting visitors upstairs in the Boudoir for several months and I hope that some of you are able to visit and enjoy all the other Summer items now on display there too. **Julia Rollit**



DAN 2023 Programme

- **Wednesday 12th July. Meeting cancelled.**
- **August - a Saturday En Plein Air event.**
- **Saturday September 16th – social event / activities at the Hub**
- **Saturday 14th October. A table top and Art Auction event.**
- **November – a Monday Zoom meeting with an artist / demo speaker.**
- **December - Drink and Doodle. Social, fun, art.**

Yew Trees Artists



Fellow DAN member Colin Jack is holding a one-day exhibition at **Yew Tree Artists Studios on Saturday 1st July.**

Guest Artist at Yew Trees Artist Studios – **Colin Jack** will be the Guest Artist at Yew Trees Artist Studios. Local artist and DAN member **Colin Jack** will be exhibiting a collection of paintings in Japanese style. Colin says "Recently I have enjoyed painting in the style of Japanese ukiyo-e woodcuts, using acrylic, emulsion and black felt pens to mimic this colourful, lyrical style of artists like hokusai and hiroshige." Visit:

www.colinrossjack.co.uk

It would be lovely to support him and other artists that are based there.

Also on site: resident artist studios to visit, ceramics, original prints and café.

Sunday 2 July, Midday to 5 pm: a **Family Art Day** to launch the Summer Art Exhibition in support of St Richard's Hospice at the Wood Norton Hotel. Barbecue, Art Trail and Art Activities for children.

<https://www.thewoodnorton.com/artexhibition> Guest Artist at Yew Trees Artist Studios – **Laura Jayne Smith**

On **Saturday 8 July** Yew Trees Artist Studios welcomes Wildlife Artist Laura Jayne Smith working in watercolour, charcoal and graphite. <https://www.laurajaynesmithart.com/> Also on site: resident artist studios to visit, ceramics, original prints and café. Guest Artist at Yew Trees Artist Studios – **Marcus Claytor**

On **Saturday 15 July** Yew Trees Artist Studios welcomes local artist Marcus Claytor who specialises in charcoal portraiture. <https://instagram.com/marcusclaytorart?igshid=MzNlNGNkZWQ4Mg==> Also on site: resident artist studios to visit, ceramics, original prints and café. Guest Artist at Yew Trees Artist Studios – **Barry Lockwood**

On **Saturday 22 July** Yew Trees Artist Studios welcomes Worcestershire Guild artist Barry Lockwood who adopts a broad approach to printmaking using collagraphy, relief, etching and screen-printing.

<http://www.worcestershireguild.co.uk/printmaking/barry-lockwood-printmaking/> Also on site: resident artist studios to visit, ceramics, original prints and café.

Location: Yew Trees Artist Studios, Bevere Gallery WR3 7RQ – Susan Birth



What's On in Worcestershire



Bromsgrove Folk Festival at its new location at Avoncroft Museum over the long weekend of Thursday 6th (weekend camping arrivals) Friday 7th Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th July 2023

The long established and popular local festival of folk music has found a new home at Avoncroft Museum of Buildings in Bromsgrove. With an exciting line up and many fringe activities to enjoy.

The Folk Festival organisers are dedicated to the principle of 'better, not bigger' and visitors to Avoncroft Museum over this weekend will discover a wide range of demonstrations and activities to immerse yourselves in the stories of ordinary folk whose homes and workplaces are preserved in this 19-acre site.

Worcester High Street Arts & Craft Market

From Teddy Bears to soap, and pottery to jewellery, we have a fantastic variety of crafts made by incredibly talented traders, available to you in Worcester High Street!

Whether you are looking to buy a gift for a loved one, or even treat yourself, there is fantastic variety amongst the stall holders, so you are sure to find something unique and very high-quality.

The Market takes place on the 2nd Saturday of every month, from 9:00am-5:00pm.

[10th - 11th July - Malvern Food Festival](#)

As one of the only free food festivals in the region, the Malvern Food Fest celebrates its 10th year boasting the best of local produce, with over 40 food stalls and more street food trucks. Keep your eyes peeled for the live cookery demonstrations too, taking place throughout this two-day event.

[Brockencote Hall Hotel to host free family fun day](#)

A Victorian country manor house hotel in Kidderminster is opening its doors for a unique open day with free activities, live music, a summer BBQ, and guided tours this July.

Brockencote Hall Hotel is inviting guests to the free family fun day which will include children's activities such as Giant Jenga and croquet in the hotel's 70 acres of grounds, as well as laser clay shooting hosted by Marksman Leisure.

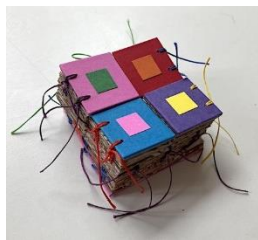
Caricature artist James Bailey will be on hand to bring portraits to life, and visitors can enjoy live music and a summer BBQ in the sunshine, while the bar will also be open for drinks and cocktails.



The free event takes place on **Sunday 2 July** from midday until 4pm and is also a chance to meet the hotel's staff and for people to immerse themselves in its history with a free guided tour of the historic building. For details on the free-to-attend open day visit brockencotehall.com,

Eventbrite Art Events <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/united-kingdom--worcestershire/art/> featuring....

PUZZLED - IN-PERSON Book Arts / Artists' Book Workshop



Join us for this IN-PERSON creative workshop & create this beautiful piece of book arts to showcase your artwork, calligraphy or photography. This IN-PERSON workshop is suitable for ALL levels of abilities from beginners to more advanced participants.

We start our day with one piece of card and finish with your very own beautiful piece of book arts in your hands to take home. Limited to 6 people only. All materials and tools included and provided. Written instructions provided too. Tea/coffee/cakes included but

please bring your own packed lunch. **When and Where:** Monday, August 21 · 10am - 3pm BST **Worcester** The Orchard Thorngrove Mews Worcester WR2 6NP

DAN Exhibitions

Parks Café: **Peter Hawkins** will be exhibiting *during July*. **Lyn Sharp** sold **TWO** pictures *during June at Parks!*

Button Tree Café: **Alison Latham** will be exhibiting *during July*

Corbett Medical Centre: **Peter Hawkins** and **John Dugmore** will be exhibiting in July

Droitwich Library: **Derek Webster** will be exhibiting in July

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

ALL ARTS ALLEY

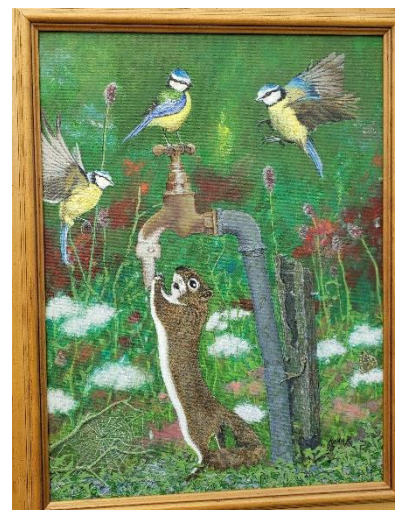
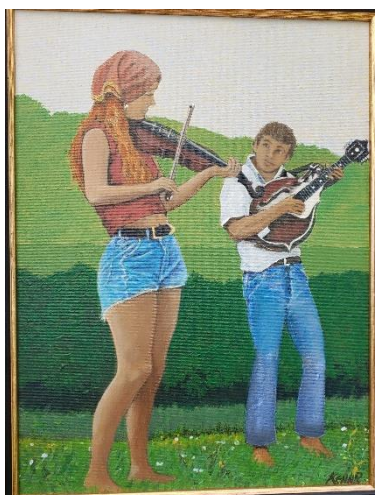
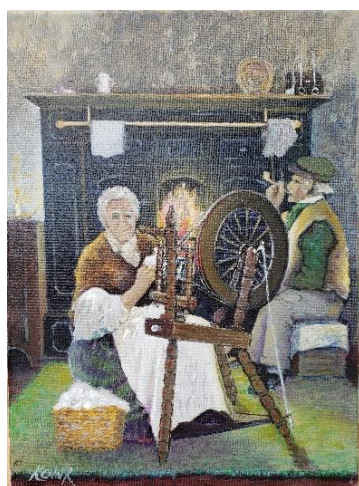
Our All Arts project is continuing and we really do thank everyone who sent in their splendid artwork photos for this edition. If anyone has an idea for this spot, please do let me know – in the meantime please send in **ANY ART/CRAFT BASED WORK**. I just need photos of your work with any describing information, to show in the coming newsletter. Send email, [HERE](#). **By 30th July**



David Wornham sent in his photograph of The Village Band and says "The U3A Droitwich Wind Instrument Group (DWIG) adopted a new persona as "The Village Band" to face the challenge of playing Forties music on an occasional bumpy, moving train between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth on one afternoon and two mornings for the Severn Valley Railway's Forties Weekends.

Photo. attached courtesy of Tony Carwithen, Unofficial Severn Valley Facebook Group. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2360466988>

Kenneth Robinson sent in three of his workings.. 1, Spinning a Yarn, Oil on canvas. 12"x9"...2 Garden Scene or Spot the Cobweb, framed Oil on canvas board, 20"x9"...3, Country Music, framed Oil on canvas board, 18"x14".



Karen Read sent in two poems, the first entitled ..

Angel Wings.

*In the blue sea above
were Angel wings floating
in the perfect sky.
I remembered in the past
lying on the grass, sorting
shapes as they went by.
There were many choices
of shapes moved on by
the wind to see.
Then time moved too slow
as I waited to go home for
my tea.*



*Now time moves so fast and I stood and relaxed.
One shape is enough, and I watch it melt in the air.
I hope the Angel wings have been seen everywhere.*

Karen Read also shared a poem by her friend Alison Jean Lester with us.

Bully

*An outsider at eight,
I chose a best friend of five,
a sweet golden slip of a thing,
and bent her to my hungry will.
I made her steal sweets
and expose herself for bubble gum.
I pushed her face in the snow.
She said to me once,
about another little girl,
"I know her by heart."
"You can't say that about people," I instructed,
"It's for memorising words."
She had been smiling.
I put a stop to that.
When invited to stay the night, though,
I was the one who grew scared
and asked to go home*

Margaret Powell sent in the following and says "I have just finished a much bigger piece - it is such a treat to return to a sizeable canvas! Our very own Malvern Hills - the best of Worcestershire 🥰
The varnish is drying and it will shortly go to the framers."



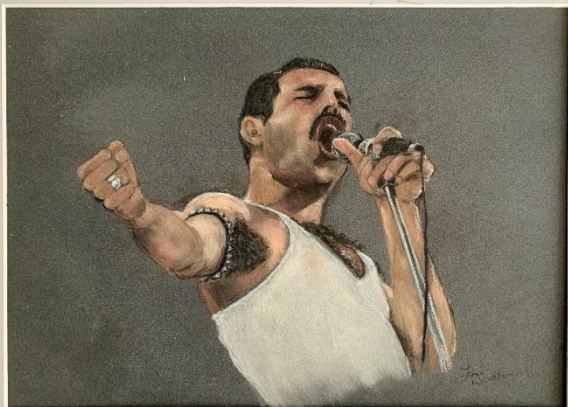
Sheena Howarth sent in her pics from her recent exhibition at Corbett and says "They are a group of pictures, not often seen, as I keep them out of light and in a drawer!
They were done in the 90's when I was lucky enough to work in Pompeii, as part of a project to record wall plaster, over a period of about 3 years. One of the years when I was there, I had an exhibition of my work and sold six pictures....but now wish that I had done copies before I sold them !!
All the technical drawings are now stored at Manchester University, who were one of the sponsors.
I do always like to say of my paintings, that if anyone wants a copy, I can get Giclee copies done of any of them. The originals take far too long to create to sell!"



Jane Dix sent in this lovely study and says "I thought you might like to include this painting I did recently of the Alliums in my garden. I painted this in acrylic on canvas."



Tina Watkins sent in her latest painting .. this time a Freddie! Then an older one of a young Kate Bush Pastel on Pastelmat as usual.



Stephen Evens sent in his usual artistic contribution to the newsletter and says *"The Yorkshire Dales National Park is one of our favourite parts of the country for a holiday. The beautiful vista is enhanced by the unique stone walls and stone barns standing in wonderful hay meadows. I have just finished a small painting of one of these barns in Muker. The grass in the meadow contains a variety of grasses, clovers and herbs is ready for mowing to make hay. All the visits we have made to the area over the years I have never done a painting of what are natural, cultural and land management history of hay meadows. So, when I came across a photo taken a little while ago, I thought I would have a go at painting it. So here is my attempt at painting the view as a small landscape on 14"x11" paper using watercolour and pastel pencils. I don't usually paint landscapes but I'm quite pleased with result!"*

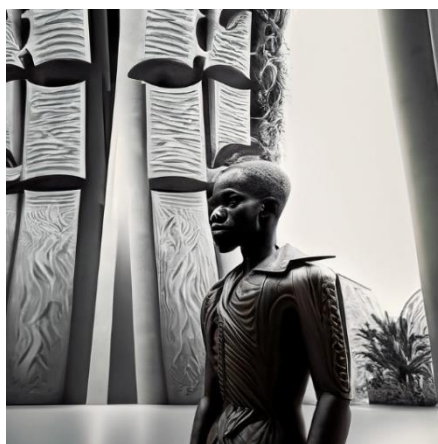


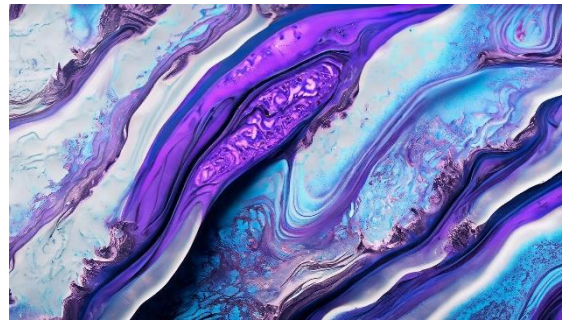
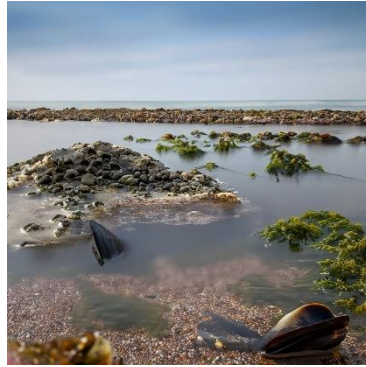
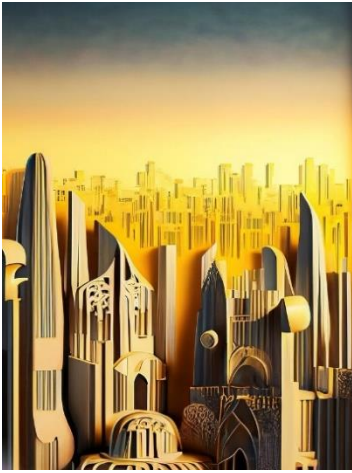
Ruth Bourne sent in the following and says *"AI ...Anyone else been having fun playing with generative AI (text-to-image)? This random collection emerged among others from a first play with Adobe Firefly.*

The latest generation of artificial intelligence software can create images in different styles (illustrative, photographic, deco, fantasy etc...) though not yet flawlessly, from text descriptions you give it. These systems have been 'trained' on thousands of images and descriptions.

Some are simpler to use than others e.g., PicsArt, Midjourney is quite complex. Here are some I tried quickly in Adobe Firefly. It initially offers 4 variations on what you type, more if you request, and you can also remove and edit in the same way, e.g., marking a patch on the picture and telling it to 'add a red boat' or 'there is a limpid lake'. There are big debates about the use of these going on, as you may imagine..."

Try Firefly <https://www.adobe.com/sensei/generative-ai/firefly.html>





Ruth Bourne also sent in a photo and says *“And here’s a random garden photograph to show I have clicked a shutter! ‘Generations’”!*

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