



New Unit in St Andrews Square



You may be aware that MAPP, the company that manages St Andrews Square in Droitwich, intends to open a new unit to be called **The Hub**. MAPP would like to open the Hub during May.

The Hub will be controlled by the MAPP Operations Manager of St Andrews Square, and Droitwich Arts Network has been invited to help create a welcoming and relaxing space incorporating various forms of art. **This is an exciting opportunity for members of DAN to display and sell art, as well as to use the Hub for other purposes.** The space will be flexible, with comfortable seating, display space for artwork, space for local artisans, informal meeting areas, and the option of a small stage for live performances.

The Hub will provide shoppers and the local community with a facility that does not currently exist in the town centre, as well as supporting local artisans and local arts-

based organisations. The aim is that the Hub becomes an attractive venue for the community, and engenders a sense of well-being.

This development has come about following many months of discussions between MAPP, the landlord, and a small team from DAN led by **Rhys Jones**. MAPP has already shown its commitment by paying for and installing 5 additional double power sockets, and a line of adjustable ceiling spotlights to illuminate the wall where pictures will be displayed. Recently, **Wendy Simmons, Stephen Evans, and Rhys Jones** painted the floor using materials and tools paid for by MAPP. **Rhys** is working with MAPP on the layout and initial furnishing which will be paid for by MAPP.

The latest government statement gives the 12th April as the earliest likely date for the opening of all shops, probably with some restrictions. MAPP will need to support shops as they re-open, and that is why the Hub is likely to open during May. The plan is that The Hub will be furnished and made to look attractive during March and April, even though it will still be closed. An opening event will be arranged once firm dates are known, and will provide an opportunity for our musicians to perform.

MAPP want the unit to look attractive, welcoming and professional. In line with these objectives, the DAN Committee has agreed to fund a professional picture hanging system that will display about 50 framed pictures. Illuminated by natural light and spotlights, it will be a very attractive display. DAN members will soon be invited to apply for hanging space. There will be a small monthly fee to contribute to the significant running costs of the Hub. Keep an eye open for emails giving more information!

March Meeting - Tom Shepherd – Art Demonstration

Our March members meeting will be a watercolour art demonstration by the internationally recognised artist Tom Shepherd. Tom started his art career creating custom artwork on guitars using graffiti pens. When Tom made a move towards a brush and more traditional mediums, a whole new world opened up to him, and Tom hasn't looked back since. Tom's work has become widely collected in the UK and more recently, internationally. He has been a highly commended finalist in the World-renowned Wildlife Artist of the Year, on several occasions.



Birds in Watercolour - Wednesday 17th March, 7:30pm - 8:30pm. Tom says "Birds are such a

wonderful subject. Always great poses, characters and colours, and the way light falls across their feathers and faces make them a great watercolour subject. The subject for this demo is a green winged macaw. The photo is my own, but please feel free to use as you please, if people would like to give it a go.



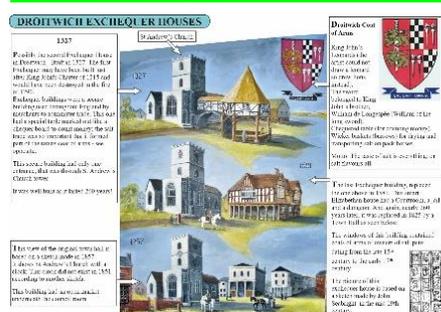
I chose this one because it's a bit more of an unusual pose, the colours are fantastic, and there's a lovely sense of light. Although the face is out of focus there is plenty of information to create a fun watercolour and we will look at translating a photo into a painting as well of course at the medium itself."

If you would like to either paint along or use the demo as inspiration, we will be sending out full details of paints and materials and how to access the Zoom session shortly. Go [here](#) to see more of Toms work.

DAN Programme for 2021

- **Wed March 17th:** An Evening with Tom Shepherd – Art Demonstration
- **Thu April 15th:** John Sewell talking about his Eazyl Art project –art exhibited virtually; no commission taken on sales.
- **Wed May 19th:** Show and Tell – members evening
- **Thu June 17th:** An Evening of Poetry
- **July:** En Plein Air Art plus musicians (local venue – date tbc)
- **Thu August 19th:** Therapeutic Art and Art Therapy - Claire Hilton
- **Thu September 16th:** Astronomical Photography – Colin Ross Jack
- **Thu 21st October:** Workshops to prepare two wreaths for Remembrance Sundays 2021 /2022
- **Wed 17th November:** Workshop to make crackers – Christmas, birthday, anniversary
- **Thu 16th December:** Play reading, music, punch and mince pies

February DAN Zoom meeting – Droitwich Treasures



Who knew Droitwich had so many interesting treasures! **Alan Davey** gave a well thought out presentation outlining many special items in and around Droitwich. A treasure being defined as ‘a thing valued for its rarity, workmanship, appearance and associations.’ Among the items shown were Sacred Heart Church Mosaics, the wonderfully restored interior of the Staryard Tudor Merchants House, and 31 The High Street. Norbury Theatre of course got a mention as did many of the Droitwich Museum Artifacts.

A favourite of Alans was the ‘Old’ Town Hall with slate lined fire proof rooms.

Many of us were particularly intrigued to find that in around 1857 the lower area was completely exposed and found an open market. Windows were added later. A fascinating evening’s entertainment. Thanks Alan!

Competition Deadline – King Lear Prizes

The King Lear Prizes are here again. It's just a few weeks to go until the King Lear Prizes deadline on **Friday 19 March**. There's still time to complete your work **but the deadline is coming up fast!** If you have any questions about the competition, please don't hesitate to email the friendly team of volunteers [HERE](#) who will be happy to help!

Your work can be art, music, poetry and real stories and is open to anyone over 65 and there are many lovely prizes to be won. Submit your work [HERE](#)



Ms March DAN member Claire Hilton



Claire, an art therapist, is running free, online sessions designed to improve the wellbeing of those living with mental health issues in Worcestershire. Founder of Creating Space, **Claire Hilton**, says that the creative sessions – which she is running in partnership with Worcester Community Action – are needed more than ever before, as the coronavirus (covid-19) pandemic continues to disrupt the daily lives of people in the county. She said: “People are worried about their health and the health of those close to them, and their finances. They might also be feeling bored, frustrated and lonely. All of this can take a significant toll on their mental wellbeing.

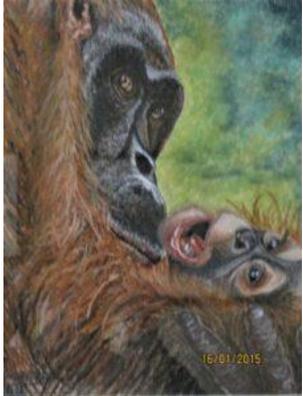
We provide a safe and non-judgemental space where people can express their feelings through creativity. We had been running the sessions successfully at Worcester Arts Workshop for a year or so, but after it closed, we were able to work with Worcester Community Action to keep them going using funding from Openbox Foundation.” “We will deliver 25 more weeks of on-line sessions independently, which we will split into five terms of five weeks. The grant funding means that the sessions are free for those who wish to attend them, although spaces are limited.” “Please share the link below with anyone who may benefit from FREE adult art for wellbeing sessions in Worcester. There are limited places but I'd really love to try and extend the current reach since putting the sessions on independently.”

The sessions will be held on Zoom, with the next term starting on **16th March 2021**, and anyone wishing to participate in them can register their interest at: www.creatingspacesessions.com/wellbeing-studio-info

ARTS and CRAFTS SECTION March's theme - SPRING

Thank you to everyone who sent in their rather splendid arts and crafts pics for last month's section. **March's theme is SPRING!** Again, these could be funny, serious or just plain silly! A photo is needed with your name and description to show in the April newsletter, send in pics to me by email, address is [HERE](#). It really is just to be a bit of fun and to see what our members can create quickly. **Last day for receipt is 25th March.**

ARTS and CRAFTS SECTION February's theme - LOVE

<p>Stephen Evens Orngutan Baby. Stephen 'Loves' painting many and varied subjects but has a particular passion for wild animals, particularly species' that are being threatened with extinction. The Orngutan is one such group of animals that are losing their forest homes due man's disforestation for farming purposes, particularly for planting vast acres of palm oil trees! Stephen says "The title of the painting I feel is appropriate for the reasons given – 'It's Our World Too'. Painted with soft pastels on A3 pastel paper.</p> 	<p>Tina Watkin's 'Be Still My Beating Heart!'</p>  <p>Very messy watercolour painting on A3 paper. Painted a while back but still I hope, relevant today.</p>	<p>Graham Wilson's 'First Love'.</p>  <p>One of Grahams many very funny pictures, this time showing lust and love as it displays in one of its many concepts!</p>
<p>Chel Walton's 'Love Dangle'</p> 	<p>Claire Hilton's 'Love'</p> 	<p>Marelize Yorke's 'Love Theme' Hand sewn Bookmark she made for her husband who loves reading!</p> 
<p>Lyn Sharps 'Love Bunny'.</p>  <p>Needle felted bunny asleep with his sacks of love hearts! Lyn has arranged him into a upcycled frame.</p>	<p>Christine Skirrow's 'Bluey' This is a photo of Christines chatty budgie Bluey with a budgie knitted by her friend. He is SO in love! Ahhh</p> 	<p>One of Roger Ricketts' many fantastic Love Theme artworks.</p> 

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