

DAN DABBLE DAY

DAN is hosting a **'Dabble Day'** on **Saturday 25th March**, where the public is invited to come and have a go at various artistic activities.

Your committee had been discussing ways in which DAN members could enhance the lives of others through sharing their knowledge of art and crafts within the community. We were hoping that having the benefit of a central meeting place, the Hub, would help us to do that and as there is no prospect of another building being available in the near future we have decided to go out into the community.

The **Dabble Day** is a very exciting prospect and is taking place at the **Westlands Community Centre on Saturday 25th March from 10.00am until 1.00pm.**

There will be a wide variety of things to try including clay modelling, guitar and harmonica tutorials, knitting, crochet, spinning, weaving, a wide variety of art media including expressive acrylic, Brusho and pastels. There will be colouring in sheets, paper and pens for doodling and a poetry corner for literary expression.

Please do come along to either share your knowledge (please let **Rosie** know if you would like to do this) or find out more about a subject that interests you.

The Hall is light and airy and there is plenty of parking available. Adults and children welcome, (all children under 18 need to be accompanied by an adult). Entry is free and there will be light refreshments available.

We already have an exciting list of things to provide including:

- Clay Modelling
- Spinning – Weavers, Spinners and Dyers Guild - Inkle Weaving – Weavers, Spinners and Dyers Guild
- Rigid Heddle Weaving, Stick Weaving and Tapestry Weaving - Knitting - Crochet
- Poetry/Limericks –
- Watercolours - Brusho - Acrylic - Pastel - Spyrograph - Doodles
- Colouring sheets

We are hoping that some of our members may wish to volunteer and provide some guidance in a particular field. There may be one we haven't covered and you are the perfect person to do this!

Even if you don't feel you can contribute in this way, we hope that you are able to attend and have a go at the large selection of activities on offer. It is for all ages so please bring along family and friends. It's a great opportunity to network and try out different techniques. **Helen**

'Dabble Day'

Saturday 25th March
10am-1pm
Westlands Community Centre
Meadow Walk, WR9 9BF



Try your hand at

- Clay Modelling
- Watercolour
- Acrylics
- Pastels
- Poetry
- Spinning
- Weaving
- Knitting
- Crochet
- Colouring

and much more!

Free Entry

Hosted by **Droitwich Arts Network**

Open to anyone who wants to have a go!
*Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult

www.droitwichartsnetwork.org

DAN at the Baptist Church Sale



Derek Webster and **Tina Watkins** had a great time on 4th February at the monthly Lions Club special sale where DAN members were invited to show their art works in support of the Mayors fundraiser. Tina sold two paintings and **Wendy Simmons** sold a lovely pastel of Shell Brook.

It was great to have Mayor **George Duffy** with us as the special sale was in aid of the Mayors' chosen causes, Droitwich C.V.S and Droitwich Waterways (Pamela May) Trust.

Being serenaded by **Mike Johns** and his mates added the finishing touch. Best of all the Lions raised £414 for Mayor George's charities. So, thanks to everyone who came. The next sale will be the first Saturday in March (4th March at 10.00) and DAN are looking to repeat exhibiting there later in the year.



Colin Jack at Number 8

UKIYO-E PAINTINGS IN JAPANESE STYLE



COLIN ROSS JACK



number 8 gallery
8 high street, pershore
february 23 to march 15 2023

UKIYO-E 'PICTURES OF THE FLOATING WORLD'

Ukiyo-e art [translated as 'pictures of the floating world'] was a genre of Japanese art of the 17th to 19th century.

Unlike western art with its realism, perspective, light and shade, textured paint etc, the ukiyo-e style concentrated on flat areas of pure colour, pattern and line, sometimes called 'visual poetry'. The most famous exponents of ukiyo-e are Hokusai and Hiroshige, still hugely popular today.

This art was created on woodblocks and mass printed on rice paper to be sold to the wealthy merchant classes in Edo [now Tokyo]

After a period in which Japan was closed to the rest of the world, during which this unique art style developed, the ukiyo-e prints began to reach the western world, especially centres of art like Paris in the 19th century [strangely, they were first sent as wrapping paper round Japanese ceramics, also becoming popular then.]

They were a revelation to impressionist and post-impressionist artists like Van Gogh, Monet, Whistler and others. Van Gogh in particular was hugely influenced.

I have always loved Japanese art, especially the ukiyo-e woodblocks, and about 3 years ago began to paint in this style, using bright flat areas of acrylic paint, with black outlines



in different thicknesses.



These are an alternative to my usual thick oils in western style. The exhibition is a sample of the many paintings I have done in ukiyo-e style, and most of them were inspired by a wonderful visit to Japan last November with my wife. I hope you enjoy the exhibition. **Colin Ross** Jack February 2023

ENOUGH TO SEE?

From Sunday 5 March OPEN CALL to all creatives in Worcestershire! "Enough to see...but not enough to see by" is an exciting collaborative project coordinated by Worcestershire Litfest, Yew Trees Artist Studios and Bevere Gallery.

This not-for-profit project is sponsored by The Arts Society Worcester. Anyone interested in submitting an artwork, poem or short piece of writing, enter now to catch the Early Bird entry fee – numbers are limited.

Entries accepted from 5 March. Submit by 23 April. In June there will be an Exhibition of selected works and Showcase Day with award of prizes and live readings. For more info and how to enter, email enoughtoseeword@gmail.com or enoughtoseeart@gmail.com



2023 Programme – some dates now confirmed

- **March – a Westlands Dabble day Saturday meeting.** An invitation to local residents will be issued.
- **Tuesday 18th April.** A demonstration by local artist Richard Crabtree.
- **May – a Saturday En Plein Air in Lido Park.**
- **Wednesday 21st June.** DIY session in the Droitwich library. Bring your own materials
- **Wednesday 12th July.** A 'show and tell' and poppy making session in Droitwich library.
- **August – Summer Social Event.**
- **September - a Saturday En Plein Air event.**
- **Saturday 14th October.** A table top and Auction event.
- **November – a Monday Zoom meeting** with an artist / demo speaker.
- **December - at the Old Cock Drink and Doodle.** Social, fun, art.

February Meeting – Life Drawing on Zoom



Our February meeting was an online life drawing session. The session was facilitated by Coz of "Looking Sketchy" fame and life modelled by Endora Sparks with an able assistant. Endora is a plus size burlesque performer as well as a life model and certainly modelled beautifully for us.

Our model took us through several different poses with Coz giving participants the opportunity to draw while sitting in the comfort of their own homes. Coz gave guidance and discussed ideas throughout the session. At the end, members shared their

artwork. Participants joined the session via Zoom. Sketches by **Tina** and **Rosie**.



What's On in Worcestershire

WORKSHOPS from Worcester Open Studios

Don't forget to check our website for workshops and events that our artists are running or taking part in across Worcestershire.

Coming up this weekend on Saturday is a 'Free Your Art' Acrylics workshop by [Jane Powell - Landscape Artist](#) and a one day watercolour course with [John Horton Art](#)

27 Feb [Kirstie Trobe Fine Art](#) is starting a new figure drawing and portrait class till the 27 March and on 28 Feb is starting a new all abilities watercolour course!

[Sarah Greening Glass](#) runs private pottery, glass fusing or enamelling classes throughout the year and is flexible on dates and times so contact them to book.

And also if you are in Bath this weekend look out for our Worcestershire Open Studios artists taking part in Bath Art Fair [Kim Whitby](#) [Susan Birth Artist](#) and Dan Holden

Visit our website and click on workshops for more info. [#worcestershireopenstudios](#) [#worcestershireartists](#) [#WorcestershireArtist](#) [#localart](#)

DAN Literary Section

Karen Read, our new literary representative has sent in another lovely poem. **Karen would like to ask the membership to send in theirs too.** She is thinking of a theme of 'Crowns or Carnations?' as a prompt for 500 or less words for a poem or a short story? Maybe it could lead up to a compilation or even a competition about the Coronation... Contact Karen [here](#) with your ideas.

Swallow Battle by Karen Read

*Looking at the sea of blue with wisps of bridal white
The man walks slowly through the park enchanted by the light.
A swallow sweeps above the trees into the new built nest.
His armour clangs and rests upon his red and sunburnt thighs.
The royal shield he carries does not hide his poor disguise.
I fight for England and Harry the men behind him shout.
He fights for home and family and is not in any doubt that to lose
would be the end.
He glances to the left and sees a friend, a gauntlet raised
acknowledging the fact that they are side by side.
A flash ahead he sees the enemy dressed like himself.
A halt is called a mounted horse runs by a white scarf on the staff.
A peace without the battle would be wonderful today, but he
knows the thirst for revenge and blood amongst his countrymen is
to play.
The swallow dips again into the nest oblivious to the scene, there is
young to feed no matter what the giants below may dream.
The horse returns with headless rider, he knows what will be next a
trumpet and feet are running as the battles commence.*

Alison Lester, another literary member, inspired by Karen sent in this impressive writing.

*Where is the light?
When will it be light? How long
do I have to be awake
before it is light?
Come on
dawn
hit me
and bring colour
not just grey
and brick
but disgusting
lurid hues
that hurt the eyes
vulgar as a crown
vulgar
as carnations dyed
to match a dress*

DAN Exhibitions

Parks Café: **Tina Watkins** will be exhibiting **during March**

Button Tree Café: **Amanda Richards** will be exhibiting **during March**

Corbett Medical Centre: **Stephen Evens** and **Rhys Jones** will be exhibiting in March

Droitwich Library: **Rhys Jones** will have three photographs on display at the library in Droitwich during March

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 in 2023 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 31st March.**

Karen Read our new literary representative sent in these word association poems.

Stigma

Speak again of kindness and patience.

Talk and listen together.

I am just like you.

Go away the platitudes and unconsidered reactions.

Mental Health is as important as physical health.

Accept that we can challenge Stigma together.

Without you

Without you I cannot see a thing.

I struggle to leave a seat unable to see the way.

Without you I reach for things and miss and trip on rice and hit my toes and wince.

Without you I cannot read a thing and blurry screen merges on the laptop as I spill tea on my new top.

Without you I cannot see the road and hit the traffic cones.

I mismatch clothes and smile at strangers.

Without you I make passes at dogs.

Without you I scream and shout. "Where are your whereabouts"?

"Where are my glasses"? I am sightless without you.

Let them eat cake

The guillotine is sharp, and death awaits her thin white neck.

The crowds are baying for the death angered by the words she said.

She thought the cake would help and had no idea.

The poverty and hunger of the crowds standing here.

The passion was palpable and the air was full of blood.

As she lay her neck on the guillotine she tried to look above.

"Oh lord I did not realise the peasants have their say and that was only yesterday."

The click clack of knitting needles as the woman knits the shroud.

She whispers that she is sorry, but the crowd is just too loud.

"Liberty, Fraternity, Equality"

A shadow is behind, a single swish and death is swift no cake is left behind.

Lynda Sharp sent in the following and says "These two are going into my new space at the Jenny Ring Centre. Both needle Felted from Merino wool, I have added drift wood, beads and stood them in a piece of oak. There will also be lots of other Felted work 2D & 3D Olly the Barn owl and Barry the Blackbird!"



Jane Dix sent in this lovely sailboat and says “Here’s my contribution to the March newsletter. This was a commission I painted in acrylic of the Red Fox, a boat which is sailed off the Exmouth coast ”



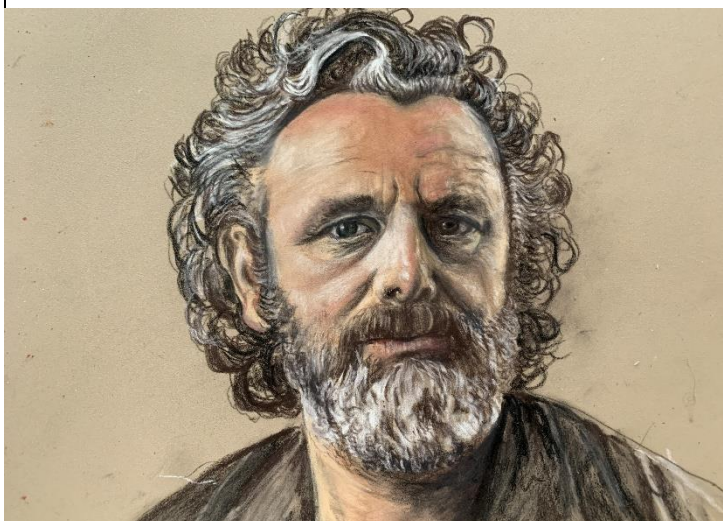
Sheena Howarth sent in a photo and says “Here’s a kind of spring-like painting I did..... Singing Bird”



Deborah Watten says “Here are a couple of my recent botanicals that I have created using mainly watercolour with a little pencil.”



Tina Watkins sent in some recent work and says “As usual, all are Pastels on Pastel Mat! Michael Sheen will have an accompanying David Tennant at some point and the horses were a commission.”



Felicity Robinson sent in this maybe controversial painting and says *"Inspired by Lucian Freud's portrait this was done in 2022. It (sort of) reflects the transition from her to him...?"*

It is not intended to be disrespectful at all, but was a bit of fun done with my local art group before her death, as it happens."

Below there is a quick ink sketch on a very dull early spring day!



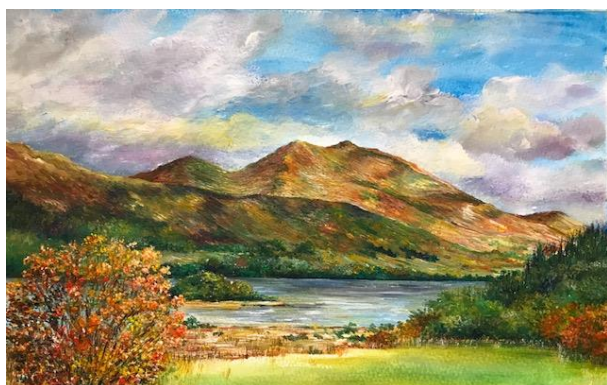
Pauline Franks sent in this recent effort and says "I did this as a card hope this is OK"



Stephen Evens sent in the item below and says *"Unfortunately, I have not been very creative lately with the result of me submitting again a painting I used last year titled 'Lamb with Daffodils'. However, I'm looking forward to this year's challenge of trying out Linocut block printing! I've got the instructions, materials, cutters and yes, some ideas. It's all very exciting and I will look forward to sharing my attempts with members in due course."*



Michelle Doidge sent in these five paintings and says *"All are inspired by my love of Scotland. 'Room with a view' - acrylics. This was the view from our bedroom overlooking Loch Tay in Scotland- I just had to capture its beauty."*





Wassailing. The U3A Droitwich Wind Instrument Group (DWIG) played their part at Avoncroft Museum of Buildings opening Wassail days *"to ward off evil spirits and awake the fruit trees ready for the year ahead"* on the weekend of 25th and 26th February. A selection of Arboraceous Music, otherwise known as Tree Tunes, were played before both morning and afternoon processions finishing with a hearty rendering of "Here We Come A Wassailing" from the assembled throng. Blackadder gave strenuous Morris dance performances on the Sunday.

A photo of the band has yet to emerge so here are a couple from the event, with a Morris Dancing video link here: [\(6\) Facebook](#) **David Wornham.**



Kenneth Robinson sent in this late entry, and says, "This is an older painting of mine in oil"



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