



Worcester Open Studios (WOS) 28th – 30th August 2021



Several of our members, including some committee members, have participated in Worcestershire Open Studios in recent years. You may recall we had a presentation about it in Park's one evening two or three years ago. One item which was discussed was taking part as a group but it was difficult to organise as a venue was unavailable, however.....

Hosting a group of artists at the Hub would be an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of both Droitwich Arts Network and the Hub across the whole of Worcestershire. The WOS fee for an individual artist using their home is £60. The WOS fee for a group has not been confirmed but is likely to be about £30 per artist. The WOS fee goes towards promoting the event on their website and on printed material.

Our initial thinking is that that we would form a group of 9 artists. Three of them would be actively painting /drawing on each of the three days, with the other six having the option to attend on their "inactive" days to meet and greet, and show off their own work. There is plenty of space for three artists to work in the Hub at the same time, and for all 9 to have some limited temporary display space. We would continue to exhibit the 50+ pictures and ceramic work at the same time. Any sales would be through DAN with the usual 10% commission.

The local MAPP manager is in favour and the proposal will be discussed by the DAN committee on 10th May. **To make a decision the committee needs to know the level of interest amongst members, by 10th May please.**

If you would like to be part of the group of 9 artists at the Hub over the weekend of 28-30 August, please email Rhys at rhys@photomaestro.co.uk Participants will be selected on a first come, first served basis. If you ask to be included, we will expect you to pay the fee quickly to confirm your participation. Click [here](#) for information.

The Hub – Progress Report

Work continues steadily behind the paper covered windows. MAPP (the company that manages St Andrews Square) has taken delivery of more furniture and commissioned the building of an accessible toilet (with baby changing facilities) on the ground floor. **Claire Hilton** has very kindly loaned two large portable display boards which will be placed towards the back of the Hub when the building and plumbing work is complete.

The visit by VIPs from MAPP and the Landlord during early April went well.

Rhys was on standby to be called in if the visitors raised any questions, but he was not needed.

Very recently, external signage has been placed in position above the windows. Initial discussions have been held regarding an official opening event but MAPP has yet to confirm the date. As previously stated, we must remember that the Hub will be managed by MAPP. Rhys



Worcester Open Studios – Individuals Invitation to Join



Nicola Currie

Call for artists to join Worcestershire Open Studios with new year-round format
Worcestershire visual artists are being invited to join Worcestershire Open Studios, as the organisers launch a new extended format. Participants are now being offered a year-round web presence, with the opportunity to feature a gallery of their work and promote their exhibitions, workshops and events. The Worcestershire Open Studios weekend is set to return from 28 to 30 August 2021, and in a new addition for 2021, organisers are offering artists a programme of online events and an outdoor art market.

One of the organisers, Richard Nicholls, said, "Our plans remain flexible in light of the challenges Covid-19 presents. We remain dedicated to giving local artists the opportunity to share their work with the public, both online and in person. Our new format gives more possibilities to do this and offers extra benefits, including art supplier discounts and subsidised training." You can find out more and sign up to take part at

www.worcestershireopenstudios.org

April Meeting – John Sewell of Eazyl

Our April members meeting featured John Sewell who explained how his online art marketplace worked. It operates differently to how most galleries have done traditionally; in that they don't charge a commission fee. Instead, they charge artists a small monthly membership, which allows them to upload and sell as much work as they like. John responded afterwards to say "Thank you so much for having me - I really enjoyed myself and it was great to have a chance to share what I'm working on with new and interested people. When we relaunch, I will send a discount code for your members to use when they sign up for any of our membership packages. I'm hoping eventually I'll have my own broad and varied collection for my own walls too! You can join and view the art on <https://www.eazyl.co.uk/>



Painting to Music – a Wychavon DC Pilot Project



The Painting to Music pilot project is something Wychavon DC and Caroline Tredwell in particular are supporting in collaboration with the Ourside Youth Centre in Evesham. The idea is to create 4 fortnightly sessions via Zoom meetings, a professional artist will lead sessions where different items of music will be preselected by the group and played whilst you paint. The artist leading will then help to facilitate a discussion around the artwork you have created and how this relates to the music. I can see Rock and Blues being high on the Agenda here with a little Hip Hop thrown in! This is not specifically aimed at artists but to anyone who just enjoys splashing paint around too!

WDC need 4 youngsters and 4 'older adults' to try out this new idea. They have the 4 young people already keen to go and just need a couple of willing DAN members (hopefully) to make up an intergenerational group. Could this be you? Participants will need to be happy to share their contact details with the Leader as they will need

to post out some art equipment to you. Contact Caroline on Caroline.Tredwell@wychavon.gov.uk to sign up or ask any questions. They hope to get the project started as soon as possible.

The Arches Worcester

The Arches – Worcester is a brand-new place being developed in Worcester. The beautifully restored Victorian railway arches are already home to a vibrant community of local businesses, restaurants and cafes; and the project will see the area further transformed into a cultural destination for tourists and local communities. Alongside existing businesses, the Arches will house affordable and flexible workspaces and maker spaces for artists, arts companies and the creative industries. It will also be home to a new flexible public space for performances, rehearsals and exhibitions



The Arches also promote new festivals, placing culture and creativity at the heart of Worcester. [Severn Arts](#) is a principal partner in this project and is the lead organisation for the Festivals.

The first of the festivals, [Light Night Worcester](#), took place across the city centre on the evening of Thursday 16 January 2020. There are more festivals to come, each with the same high-quality work and opportunities but completely different from each other. The festivals programme is part of [The Arches Worcester](#) project.

DAN Programme for 2021

- **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

May Meeting – Show and Tell and call out for June Open Mic!

For our next meeting on **Wednesday 19th May** we ask members to bring along anything they are working on at the moment or have finished during lock down. We are only looking for a few words on each item; no need for a formal presentation. It would just be great to see what people are/ have been doing.




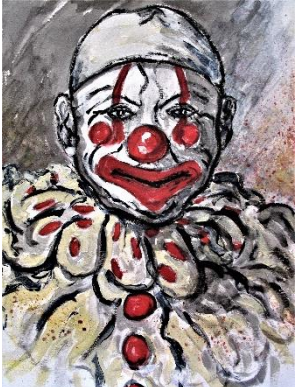


Also, we will be having an open mic evening on **Thursday 17th June** and are asking for our poets to let us know the titles of their poems and roughly how much time each one will take to read out. We can then dovetail you in with the poets that Nina Lewis (2017 Worcestershire Poet Laureate) is bringing along.

ARTS and CRAFTS SECTION May's theme - BLOSSOM

Thank you to everyone who sent in their rather splendid arts and crafts pics for last month's section. **May's theme is Blossom!** Again, these could be funny, serious or just plain silly! A photo is needed with your name and description to show in the June 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 27th May.**

Remember you can send your artwork to Rhys to feature on the website as well as appearing here.

ARTS and CRAFTS SECTION April's theme - FOOL

<p>Chel Walton's 'Fool' Fooling around with mixed media</p> 	<p>Tina Watkin's 'Promise' Once called The Promise.. now a foolish thing in Watercolour</p> 	<p>David Wornham's "All in an April Evening" https://youtu.be/KmR7BWQQ7xY</p> 
<p>Stephen Evan's 'Clown'</p>  <p>I painted this a little while ago while looking at a blank canvas like a 'fool' and with no inspiration what so ever! Then I remembered someone saying in this situation just make marks on the canvas and see how it develops. The end result turned into a 'foolish' circus clown, which I was quite pleased with. I hope you like it too? Painted in acrylics on A3 acrylic paper</p>	<p>Susan Birth's 'Face the day'</p>  <p>This mixed media painting has the title 'Face the Day' and was intended as a fun exercise. Perhaps I was also gently laughing at myself for not being able to face the day without these items or similar ones. My husband actually described the painting as 'foolish', so that suits the theme!</p>	<p>Lynda Sharp's "Foolish Goat"</p>  <p>I painted very quickly in some left-over oils, (hate to waste) I think he has a humorous expression, just sold him he's been hanging around for 12 months! Gone to live in wales now!</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