



New Moon – Creative Wellbeing

Feeling stressed?
Need a quiet corner to breathe,
slow down and lose yourself
in something?



DROITWICH ARTS NETWORK
New Moon Monthly
a free creative gathering

LAUNCHING
Wednesday 6th May 2026
6:00 – 7:30 pm · Droitwich Library
then every first Wednesday of the month

Free to attend
All welcome
Materials provided

*No experience required. No explanations needed.
Just come and create.*

Spaces are limited – to book yours, email:
newmoonmonthly@gmail.com

**Launching Wednesday 6th May
6.00-7.30pm Droitwich Library**

Life is busy, noisy and relentless. New Moon Monthly is a calm space to slow down, breathe and make something – whatever that looks like for you. Ideal for those managing stress, anxiety or difficult times.

No experience required.

No explanations needed. Just come and create.

Free Materials provided Evening

Non-members welcome Spaces are limited

To book yours, email newmoonmonthly@gmail.com

Tara Powell, is the lead organiser of these meetings and has requested help from our members. Can you provide a short activity, offer advice and encouragement to participants? Can you simply be another person present to help **Tara** during the evening? Any help would be greatly appreciated.

We are already having people register for the meetings so hope this event will grow as the months go on.

If you are interested in providing support and joining the skill swap, please contact

Tara: <Tara.Powell963@outlook.com

Spotlight On – Droitwich Folk Club

Droitwich Folk Club News

Hello again fellow DAN members!

Just to let you know that Droitwich Folk Club is still going strong despite my recent 'radio silence'. Our next meeting is on Thursday 21st May 2026 at the Old Library which starts at 7.00pm. Admission is £4.00 per person and you can come along and perform or just watch and sing along. Refreshments are available at nominal cost and the venue has full disabled access and facilities.

From June onwards we shall be returning to our twice monthly sessions (i.e. the first and third Thursday of each month).

You may well have noticed the Rik Mayall Comedy Festival is returning in May and I am pleased to announce that for the second year the 'Salties' have been asked to perform in the High Street.

We are representing Droitwich Folk Club whilst also raising money for the MS Society, which we have been doing for the past 3 years.

We would love you to come along to Folk Club or to support us on Saturday 30th May 2026 in the High Street.

Many thanks

Malcolm Beckett

for Droitwich Folk Club



DAN Exhibition Space

Droitwich Library - Three Displays

Exhibiting in the library is an excellent way to display your work and possibly make a sale. You can send an email to rhys@photomaestro.co.uk asking to be added to the waiting list for the wall exhibition, the space under the stairs, or the large easel. A small charge is required.

Our exhibition in May in Droitwich Library will consist of pictures by **Rosie Philpott** and **Tina Watkins** on the Wall, **John Evans** Under the Stairs, and **Tina Watkins** is again on the Large Easel with 'Countryside Walk' – oil on board.

Corbett Medical Centre – 18 Displays

There are two rooms where we exhibit pictures. One room can exhibit approximately 10 pictures; the other room can exhibit approximately 8 pictures. The hanging system only requires paintings to be strung. Artists can book one room or both.

During May **Tina Watkins** will be exhibiting again in the **large** and **small Waiting Room**. At present there is no fee to exhibit. Please contact Derek at derekwebster20@aol.com

A Wonderful Free Day Out

Where: Canwood Gallery

Checkley, Hereford HR1 4NF

Canwood Gallery is a contemporary art space set in the Herefordshire countryside, offering a unique visitor experience with indoor exhibitions and an open-air sculpture park. They showcase world-renowned and local artists and believe in art that sparks debate, shifts perspective, and invites reflection.

[Canwood Gallery](#) opens for its summer season in **May, open 11-4 Thurs-Sun**. If you've not been, do take a look at their website!

It makes a very pleasant half-day or so out in the Herefordshire countryside; the Canwood outdoor **sculpture park** is always a pleasure to meander around and both the [permanent and changing exhibitions](#) in the indoor galleries offer a wide variety from both [local and world-renowned artists](#).



and inspire (and on occasion to bring home!). For groups of 5 or more it is possible to arrange out-of-hours visits, if anyone fancies a joint jaunt... **Ruth Bourne**

New DAN Treasurer Needed

As you know, **Nicola Giles** has stepped down as Treasurer of Droitwich Arts Network. This was not an easy decision for **Nicola**. It has been suggested to **Nicola** that she stays on the committee "without portfolio". This will allow **Nicola** to keep in touch and comment on our activities, with the option to take on tasks when she feels able. In the meantime, **Rhys** will act as temporary Treasurer, but DAN is in need of a new Treasurer.

You do not need experience of accounting or bookkeeping to become our Treasurer.

It is essential that you have a computer, either a desktop or notebook, to maintain our accounts and to access our bank accounts via the web, and a "smart" mobile phone to use a banking App.

You would feel comfortable about using a simple spreadsheet to record income and expenditure under various headings, and to record money paid in and out of the bank account. The spreadsheet cross checks entries to reduce the likelihood of mistakes. About once a week you will compare the bank balance on our spreadsheet with the true bank balance and resolve any difference.



You will be made a full signatory to the bank account and will be supported by **Rosie Philpott** and **Rhys** as full signatories. Don't worry about making a mistake. All payments out of the account must be approved by a second person who will spot any mistakes. Members with access to the bank account use a WhatsApp group to solve problems quickly.

You will become a member of the committee. Committee meetings are held using Zoom to avoid travelling. You do not need previous experience of using Zoom.

Please contact Rhys by email or phone if you feel you could help or have any questions. Mobile: 07787 227 390

Charity Against Extinction – update


Explorers Against Extinction is a UK based conservation charity working with partners worldwide to recover key species and restore ecosystems. They focus on positive action to make a tangible difference, from funding reforestation projects, fieldwork, monitoring and scientific research, to those promoting human-wildlife co-existence

The Explorers AGAINST Extinction Big Elephant Auction took place on 26th April 2026 of all selected postcard size art works of elephants. **Stephen Evens** was delighted that out of the hundreds submitted his painting of an Asian elephant has been one of the ones selected.

There was strong interest and a steady flow of sign-ups which was encouraging. As with Sketch for Survival, bidding gathered pace on the final day, so even if a piece hadn't received an opening bid, this changed quickly as the auction drew to a close.

All the monies raised help fund various wildlife projects to save those species that are becoming extinct,



Lot 173  **Stephen Evens**

Asian Elephant
 ● **Opening Bid: £50**
 5d 9h 40m 23s
[BID NOW](#)

Droitwich Spa Art Club - Chair Needed

Droitwich Spa Art Club (a group member of DAN) meet on Monday mornings (excluding Bank Holidays) in the Community Hall, Heritage Way Droitwich Spa from 10.00am until 12.00 noon. Visitors are welcome. Membership fees vary depending on the cost of the hall but are due each term.

Members and visitors are invited to paint freely during this time and tea; coffee and biscuits are available and paid for by your membership. Every term a demonstration or workshop will be held by a local artist or craftsperson to which all are welcome. Visitors may attend for an additional fee of £4.00. Competitions are held usually two weeks after a demonstration based on the theme of the demonstration and members are asked to vote for their favourite. A small prize is given for the artwork given most votes.

Now our lovely Chair, **Celia** is retiring next year and that leaves a huge gap. It is not a horrendous task as there are only approx. 21 members and the other 6 committee members help organise most things, but you would need to hold committee meetings (once each term) and keep an eye on the financials.

As Chair you would have free entry to the club with no membership fee. Please contact Tina [here](#) for more info.



Drink & Doodles

April: D&D went well again, **Wendy** brought in a spring themed, floral arrangement from her garden, for a still life, which we all attacked with enthusiasm, some more erm.. less structured than others (yes, I do mean me)... Others brought in creative pieces they had been working on, and chat was definitely on the agenda. It's lighter for longer now and it's always good to see more of you.

May: We are looking forward to seeing you at our **Evening Drink & Doodle** on **Tuesday 5th May – downstairs in the library 6pm-8pm, but there is no Daytime Doodle this month.**

2026 Programme

Drink and Doodles are now in the library.

Tuesday 5th May – Evening Drink & Doodle, downstairs in the library
6pm-8pm Members only

Wednesday 6th May - New Moon Monthly, downstairs in the library,
6pm - 7.30pm.

May – No Daytime Doodle.

Tuesday 2nd June – Evening Drink & Doodle, downstairs in the library
6pm-8pm Members only

Wednesday 3rd June - New Moon Monthly, downstairs in the library,
6pm - 7.30pm.

Monday 29th June – Daytime Doodle in the Library Meeting Room,
1pm-3pm. Visitors Welcome.

Wednesday 1st July - New Moon Monthly, downstairs in the library,
6pm - 7.30pm.

Tuesday 7th July – Evening Drink & Doodle, downstairs in the library 6pm-8pm Members only

Monday 27th July- Daytime Doodle in the Library Meeting Room, 1pm-3pm. Visitors Welcome.

Tuesday 4th August – Evening Drink & Doodle, downstairs in the library 6pm-8pm Members only

August – No Daytime Doodle.

Tuesday 1st September – Evening Drink & Doodle, downstairs in the library 6pm-8pm Members only

Saturday 12th September – Painting Workshop with DJ – 10-2pm in the Community Hall, sign up now!

Monday 28th September – Daytime Doodle in the Library Meeting Room, 1pm-3pm. Visitors Welcome.

Tuesday 6th October – Evening Drink & Doodle, downstairs in the library 6pm-8pm Members only

Monday 26th October – Daytime Doodle in the Library Meeting Room, 1pm-3pm. Visitors Welcome.

Tuesday 3rd November – Evening Drink & Doodle, downstairs in the library 6pm-8pm Members only

Monday 30th November – Daytime Doodle in the Library Meeting Room, 1pm-3pm. Visitors Welcome.

Tuesday 1st December – Evening Drink & Doodle, downstairs in the library 6pm-8pm Members only

December – No Daytime Doodle.



Drink & Doodle

TUESDAY 5TH OF MAY 6-8PM

Droitwich Library



Worcestershire Arts Events

DROITWICH EVENTS

FESTIVALS

St Richards Canal Festival 2026

- **Dates & Times:** Friday 1st May (5 PM–11 PM), Saturday/Sunday (10 AM–11 PM), and Monday (10 AM–5 PM).
- **Location:** Vines Park, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire.
- **Attractions:** Real ale/cider bar, live music, hot food, and trade stalls.
- **Special Events:** The Great Droitwich Annual Duck Race takes place on Bank Holiday Monday at 4:30 PM.
- **Boat Info:** The festival celebrates the Droitwich Canals and is a major event for boaters.

The event is hosted by the [St Richard's Canal Festival Committee](#) in conjunction with the Droitwich Waterways (Pamela May) Trust to celebrate the restoration of the Droitwich Canals.

Our own **Rosie Philpott** will have a stall and is EXCITED to unveil her NEW painting 'Wonky Droitwich 1960s' which will be available to purchase along with prints.

The St. Richard's Canal Festival is a weekend event that's great for all including boat owners. The festival comprises: * **Friday** Live music and entertainment* ** **Real ale bar** * **Hot food** * **Over 50 beers and ciders** * **The Great Droitwich Duck Race on Monday.

ST RICHARD'S CANAL FESTIVAL 2026
DROITWICH SPA

Vines Park WR9 8LB
Friday 1st May 5pm - 11pm
Saturday 2nd May, Sunday 3rd May 10am - 11pm
Monday 4th May 10am - 5pm

- Food Stalls
- Children's Activities
- Model Boats Sat & Sun
- Now in its 15th year
- Dog Show on Monday
- Fun for all the family
- Arts & Crafts

• Real Ale & Cider Bar all weekend
• Around 50 different beers and ciders
• Live Entertainment every day

• Canal boat rides during the days on 'Pamela May 2'
• The 'Great Droitwich Duck Race' 4.30pm Monday

*** FREE ADMISSION * LATE NIGHT BAR * FAMILY EVENT**
strichardsfestival.co.uk | wbdc.org.uk | [Facebook](#)

Dine N Devour Food & Artisan Festival returns to Droitwich Lido Park.

Date: Saturday 9th and 10th May 2026

Dine 'N' Devour Food & Artisan Festival returns to Droitwich Lido Park on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th May and 25th & 26th July 2026. Enjoy a weekend of global street food, artisan traders, craft drinks and live entertainment, including a DJ compère, stilt walker and face painting.

📍 **Droitwich Lido Park, Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa, WR9 8AA**

🕒 **Saturday: 10am–7pm | Sunday: 10am–5pm**

🔪 **Free entry | Dog friendly | Family friendly**

Here's what you can expect:

- 🍔 Mouthwatering street food from around the world
- 👩‍🍳 Artisan traders showcasing their unique creations
- 🎵 LIVE DJ compere playing some of your favourite tunes
- 👨‍👩‍👧‍👦 Enjoy family entertainment throughout the day

Interested in trading? 📞 01384 877 336 customerservice@lsdpromotions.com



Rik Mayall Comedy Festival

Huge Fringe Festival | Free Family Entertainment | Music | Screenings | Pop-Up Museum

29 MAY to 6 JUNE 2026 Droitwich Spa

Massive news! The BBC Upload crew are crashing this year's festival and hosting two shows. Got jokes? Or just a desperate need for attention? You'll fit right in. Just like us, they're here to support new talent, so if you've been thinking about giving it a go, now is your chance to get involved with one of the UK's top comedy festivals.

Upload stage applications open

The Upload stages will be located at the Old Cock Inn on 29 May, and in the town centre on 30 May. The BBC is still inviting people to apply for the chance to appear on the stages:

- **Upload to BBC CWR:** [Upload to BBC Hereford & Worcester](#)
- **Upload to BBC Radio Shropshire:** [Upload to BBC WM](#)

Also we're looking for more amazing people to help us pull off this year's Rik Mayall Comedy Festival

What's in it for you?

- A free official Festival Volunteer T shirt
- Complimentary refreshments to keep you going.
- Build lifelong friendships with a team of like-minded people

What we need:

- Help with setup and pre festival jobs.
- Be the face of the festival, helping people find their way around town
- Provide a warm welcome, man doors, and check tickets.
- Help us keep the festival safe, tidy, and running smoothly.

The Requirements:

You must be 18+ *Available between 29 May and 6 June *Be ok with wearing yellow



<https://www.rikmayallcomedyfestival.com/volunteer/>



WORCESTERSHIRE EVENTS

ArtyFacts Gallery Colouring for Card Making Workshop.

56 Broad St, Bromsgrove B61 8LL

Come and learn the art of card colouring with **Pauline Wheeler**.

The class runs from 10am until 1pm, and the cost is just £35 per person, which will include hot and cold drinks, and maybe a biscuit or two.

The workshop will be using **Pauline's** PWD products and she will have products on sale too. To book your place please message Pauline direct through her Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/paulinewheelerdesigns>), or email her at paulinewheelerdesigns@hotmail.com



Worcester City Art Gallery Spring Makers Fair

Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum. Saturday 9 May, 10am – 4pm. Free entry.



Don't miss our Spring Makers' Fair at Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum on **9 May**

The Makers' Fair will be full of local artists and small businesses selling prints, textiles, homeware, jams and more! Browse artisan products from craft makers from Worcestershire and beyond and pick up an exquisite gift for a loved one - or yourself!

Little Al's at The Balcony will be open for drinks and homemade food 🍷

For more information, please visit: <https://www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk/.../spring...>

SAVE THE DATE

4-hour Art Workshop

Saturday 12th September 10-2pm, Community Hall, Droitwich

Art by DJ <https://www.artbydj.co.uk/> has been booked to give all DAN members and non-members of DAN a 4-hour acrylic workshop in the Community Hall, the costs will be in the region of £19 for members and £23 for non-members. This is a really good opportunity for an enjoyable session. Contact me to prebook your place [here](#) as places are now limited.

Avoncroft Arts Society, Redditch Rd, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove B60 4JR, UK

Art Show 20 Jun 2026, 10:00 – 13:00

****Save the date for our Annual Art Show**, featuring an exhibition of outstanding arts, crafts, and ceramics created by our members on 20th June.**

We are also offering ****free two-hour taster workshops**** in drawing and painting, providing hands-on experience with both traditional and contemporary techniques.

We welcome you to Avoncroft Arts Centre, a vibrant hub for creativity. Our centre is easily accessible and offers a diverse range of artistic activities for all skill levels. Whether you're a seasoned artist or just beginning to explore your creative potential, you'll find a welcoming community and a variety of exciting classes, including dance, crafts, pottery, and painting. Join us and immerse yourself in the arts at **Avoncroft Arts Centre**.

Contact for more information Email: admin@avoncroftarts.org.uk

ALL ARTS ALLEY

Our All Arts project is continuing in 2026 and we really do thank everyone who sent in their splendid artwork photos, 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 an email, [HERE](#). **By 29th May.**

Tina Watkins says *“a little May madness – Pan pastel and pastel pencils on Pastelmat”*. Now sold, prints available.



Peter Hawkins sent in this wonderful painting and says *“The attached is Ruffy We have good friends in Monpazier who have greatly helped us over the last eight years.*

Ruffy is their much-loved dog and I decided to surprise them with a painting of him.

Painting the carpet took almost as long as Ruffy. My research has suggested that it was a hand-made Persian one, likely to have been made in a remote village in Iran.

The pattern whilst looking regular, is not - it's somewhat random, so difficult to reproduce convincingly.”



Lyn Sharp sent in these excellent images and says *“Just finished at Hanbury Hall now pop up is starting !*

The elephant is mixed media painted on Cotton.

The violinist is painted in acrylic on canvas both painted quite quickly to capture their energy! “



Pauline Wheeler sent in these lovely spring welcomes and says "The May design is drawn with black pen work and coloured with pencils
The flower is drawn with a gold pen and then colour added with pencils



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