



The Hub – Successful Activities and MORE to come!

About 15 members attended our first **Drink and Doodle** in the Hub on Monday 2nd October. It was a very successful and informal session with a good “buzz” in the room, boosted by two delicious cakes made by **Helen**.



This was followed by a very inventive meeting on the afternoon of 17th October where we created via mixed media, poppies that go to make up a Remembrance Wreath for our Chair, **Helen Karakashian** to lay at the Remembrance service held in Victoria Square in November.

It was great to see so many DAN members pop along to the Hub to help create a fresh batch of poppies and build a new wreath. We had some beautiful poppies that were knitted, crocheted and needle felted. Some poppies were made with silky material and adorned with beads and sequins. There’s also plenty of drawn and painted pieces that will be laminated and ready to go on the wreaths for this year and next year’s wreath.

Then on Saturday 21st October the free still life drawing sessions were very well attended with members and others simply dropping into the Hub to try out their skills.

COMING UP! On **Monday 6th November at 6.30 – 9pm** an informal social event is planned for paid up members of DAN – another **Drink and Doodle**. These will now be held on the first Monday of the month. Bring whatever you are

working on. Instant coffee and tea bags provided, please bring your own mug, flask or soft drink. You will need to enter and leave the Hub via the back entrance.

POETRY COMPETITION: To celebrate the 400th anniversary of the printing of Shakespeare’s First Folio. The title “Feare Me Not” uses an old Shakespearean version of the word “fear” and the title can be taken to be the fear of anything. Perhaps the fear of writing poetry!

Entries close on Saturday 18th November 2023. Entries welcome from all age groups. Please put your name and contact details on the back of your work if submitting on paper, or in the covering email. Deliver your entries to the Hub in St Andrews Square or by email to info@droitwichartsnetwork.org. The competition will be judged by local author and member of DAN, **Alison Jean Lester** who has kindly donated the prize. Prize giving will take place at the Hub during the morning of **Saturday 25th November**. All photos on the DAN website click [here](#)



Creativity at the Hub – Christmas Decorations

Decorate the Hub for Christmas and Winter! Youngsters are invited to submit pictures depicting Christmas or Winter scenes for display in the Hub. This is not a competition and we will exhibit as many of your pictures as possible, either on the display boards or in the windows. The rules are:

- Entrants must be aged 14 or under
- Entrants can submit 1 or 2 entries
- Pictures can be drawings, paintings, collages, or mixed media
- Pictures must be on A4 paper (either portrait or landscape format). Larger pictures will not be displayed.
- Pictures will be pinned to display boards so must not be attached to card or framed.
- Pictures may be delivered to the Hub any time after **13th November, on Mondays, Fridays, and Saturdays**, between 10.30am and 3pm. Pictures will be on display from 1st December until 5th January 2024
- If you want us to retain your picture for collection, please write your name and contact number on the back.
- Pictures must be collected by the end of January 2024. All remaining pictures will be disposed of during February 2024. Click [here](#) for all the details.

Sent in by our members - Exhibition – Michelle Doidge



Art Exhibitions
by 8 local artists
Oct-Nov 2023

The Artery Studios
Worcester
Fri 27 Oct-Wed 1 Nov
10am-4pm

Blackwell Community Hall
Sat 25 and Sun 26 Nov
10am-4pm



Enquiries - Michelle: 07866 656218 or Suzanne: 07515 027844

Michelle says “Hot off the heels of my exhibition at The Artery Studios in October, I’m having another collaborative exhibition with the same seven artists - we are called North Worcestershire Artist Collective- at Blackwell village hall (which is not far from Barnt Green) on **25th and 26th November**.

It would be great if members of DAN were able to come along and support me at this exhibition.

The attached painting - Out of the Mist - is one of the pieces I’ll be featuring at the exhibition.”

See more of Michelle’s art [here](#)



Art Workshop – Valerie Kerridge



Mixed Media Collage Art Workshop: A fun exciting way to create art especially beginners (no drawing) or try a new technique... using acrylic paint, paper cut outs, embellishments and various ways of creating backgrounds. Short demos, instructions handouts and individual help throughout. Materials, equipment and magazines supplied to get started.

This workshop is held at: Jinney Ring Craft Centre

On: Wednesday 15th November 10am – 4pm with a mid-way break for coffee. Costs: £36

Valerie is a qualified art teacher, contact her for further info on 07896049491

Colin Jack – The Ancient Mariner



Colin has created a series of 14 paintings (acrylic on canvas 30x24 inches) of imaginary scenes based on Coleridge's 'Rime of the ancient mariner'. Published in 1798, the poem is one of the best known in the English language. It tells the story [via the mariner talking to a passerby on his way to a wedding] of the terrible voyage of the mariner's ship. A tale of sin, punishment, penance and absolution. A tale which the mariner must tell for the rest of his life as penance. For those who may wish to read the whole poem, here is a link

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/43997/the-rime-of-the-ancient-mariner-text-of-1834>

For those of you on Facebook, this link will take you to Colin’s album where you can see his paintings in detail along with the poem. <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=colin.jack.90&set=a.10163509023754196>

Writers’ Circle Update – Karen Read

Our next meeting is on 23rd November 2023.

We are meeting downstairs in the **main library in Droitwich at 6.30 pm** and as a group have agreed, we’ll start with 5-10 minutes of free writing based on a prompt, so that our writing brains turn on.

After that, all must feel free to read something short of their own, letting the group know if they’d like feedback or not. Also as agreed, if you’d like the group to offer thought on something longer - a whole short story, or some chapters of a novel - you’ll need to let us know in advance, so that the piece can be emailed to the group.

See **Karen’s** poems in All Arts Alley.

Changes at Bevere Gallery- Susan Birth

Yew Trees Artist Studios at Bevere Gallery are now known as the 'Artist Studios at Bevere', but this isn't the only development...

Karen Dewson



Artist and photographer Richard Nicholls has moved out to join Worcester Arts Collective in Edgar Street, Worcester, and Chinese ink and watercolour artist Jennifer Ng has taken over Richard's studio. This left room for a new artist to join the Resident Artists at Bevere and the vacant space beside Susan's and Dan's studios is now filled by Karen Dewson, a designer-maker working in fused glass, providing an even greater variety of art for visitors to enjoy! Find out more about Karen and her artwork here: www.karendewson.com

The Artist Studios at Bevere Gallery are open to the public Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm. However, please note that not all artists may be on site at all times. <https://beveregallery.com/>

Art from the Heart, Artrix and King Lear Prizes – Tina Watkins



During July I received an email invitation to submit artworks to the **Art from the Heart** exhibition to be held at Bromsgrove School as a major part of their Creative Showcase weekend. I sent in two paintings for consideration along with my bio. Amazingly, one of my paintings (Laughing Donkey pictured behind the Mayor) gained a place and the other was placed in reserve.

The event was held over 28th and 29th October and so much was going on; entertainment, arts and artisan craft stalls, make and take stalls, creative zones, a wellness zone, a creative words zone, Halloween treat trail as well as the Art from the Heart Exhibition and so much more.

And then recently, I had an invitation from Avoncroft Arts to exhibit two artworks in the **Artrix Theatre**. This of course is a great opportunity to showcase the amazing work of everyone at the arts society. The theatre re-opens on 8th November with productions that have been transferred from the Core Theatre Solihull which has got crumbly concrete and has been forced to close. My two paintings were accepted and will hopefully on show from 8th November until ... who knows!



And to top it all, both my entries into the **King Lear Prizes** got Highly Commended. Pics in our All Arts Alley.

November Musical Update – Mike Johns

We are trying to provide live background music at the Hub especially on Saturday mornings. Anyone who wants to improve their musical skills should call in and leave **Rhys** their details. Over Xmas perhaps we can arrange some festive music outside the Hub and collect for a good local cause. Details of local choirs and clubs and events can be posted on the Hub notice board. The Community Choir will be performing in **St Andrews church at 4.30 on Nov. 25th** before the lights are switched on and in Worcester on the **2nd December during the Victorian Fair**. There is an open mic event at the Norbury Theatre on the **4th November at 7.30** and another in **St Nicholas Church on Friday 10th at 7.30**.

DAN 2023/4 Programme and Information

- **November – Tuesday 14th from 7pm-8pm creating Christmas decorations to hang on the tree – The Hub** Members can use their own materials and decorations or those supplied by DAN to create and/or help others.
- **December – No meeting**
- **January – Thursday 11th, AGM at the Old Cock Inn**

Droitwich Arts Network exists to share ideas and promote arts of all kinds in the Droitwich area. To become a member, or renew your subscription, please visit <https://membermojo.co.uk/droitwichartsnetwork>

Website: <http://www.droitwichartsnetwork.org/> DAN Announcements:

<https://www.facebook.com/droitwicharts> Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/droitwich_artsnetwork/

What's On in Worcestershire

Droitwich Spa Civic Society

On 21st November the Civic Society celebrates the 400th Anniversary of Shakespeare's First Folio.

The Melting Pot Theatre Company present their vibrant and condensed versions of Hamlet and Macbeth at the Droitwich Spa High School Theatre. 7.30 for 8pm. This performance Celebrates Shakespeare's First Folio and Droitwich Born John Heminge, who saved Shakespeare's plays for the world. November was the month the first copy of the Folio was sold in 1623.

The Droitwich Spa Civic Society who are organising the performance hope the accessibility of the condensed versions and the competitive prices will allow as many town residents as possible to attend. Tickets are open to all town residents. Adults £5 Under 18's £3. Book on <https://www.droitwichspacivicsociety.co.uk/whats-new>

Art Meetup at 45 The Tything organised by Worcester Drawing School

On **Wednesday November 8th at 6pm**, this free meetup is an opportunity to meet other artists, find out about prospects, get feedback on current projects and set an agenda for further meetings. Usually on the second Wednesday of the month. Bring work that you would like to discuss. Bring problems that you have. Bring ideas for group projects. Follow us @ FaceBook - @wooddrawschool Twitter - @JainMcKay Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/worcesterdrawingschool>

Local Photographers Landscapes at Worcester Cathedral



A local professional photographer is to have many of his impressive aerial and land-based landscape images exhibited in Worcester Cathedral's historic Chapter House, from **29 October to 4 November**.

Michael Whitefoot, who lives near Martley, will exhibit 40, large-scale wall canvases of his work, marking his third Worcester Cathedral exhibition.

The photographs include many well-known Worcestershire landmarks, such as Worcester Cathedral and the Malvern Hills, as well as eye-catching vistas from further afield. During the exhibition visitors will be able to purchase any of the canvases, which range from £45-£70, by asking at the Worcester Cathedral shop. Other canvas sizes will also be available.

Michael Whitefoot's photography exhibition is free to visit, and will be open in Worcester Cathedral's Chapter House (off the Cloisters) during normal Cathedral opening hours (unless in use for short private events). For a taster of Michael's work, visit www.michaelwhitefoot.co.uk

Contemporary Arts Fair at Stratford-upon-Avon – Discover:Gather:Give

Get ready to immerse yourself in the vibrant world of contemporary arts at the free entry Discover:Gather:Give Fair, at Stratford-upon-Avon Town Hall, 1 Sheep Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6EF.

Join us in the vibrant world of contemporary art. This event brings together talented artists, art enthusiasts, and collectors from far and wide. on **Saturday, November 18 and 19th, 2023, from 10:30 am**.

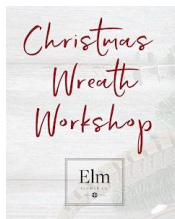
Discover a wide range of stunning artworks, including paintings, sculptures, photography, and more. With a diverse selection of styles and genres, there's something to suit every taste, either for yourself or as a present. Whether you're an avid art collector or simply appreciate creativity, this event promises to inspire and captivate.

Take your time and have a hand roasted coffee, tea, handmade cake or a snippet of sweetness at the wonderfully kitch Golden Cup Cafe with our vintage golden china and gold teapots. Meet your friends there as the event is free you can visit as many times as you like over the weekend.

In the spirit of giving, the Contemporary Arts Fair Discover:Gather:Give aims to support local charities and organizations. By attending this event, you'll not only indulge in artistic beauty but also contribute to a worthy cause, Stratford Youth Collective. Join us for a day filled with creativity, connection, and philanthropy.

Christmas Wreath Workshop

Join Rachel from Elm Flower Co at Crowle Parish Hall, Church Road, Crowle WR7 4AZ on **Saturday 25th November, 1.30pm – 3.45pm** for a popular festive workshop to create a truly stunning wreath using seasonal



foliage and festive decorations. Rachel is a professionally trained florists with a real passion for creating beautiful floral designs for clients. Specialising in bespoke Wedding floristry.

This will be a hands-on-experience to really get you into the festive mood. With clear step-by-step tuition, you'll discover some great floristry skills to make your very own fresh wreath.

General admission is £45 and all tools and materials are provided, including festive treats and drinks. Just bring yourself and don't forget to bring an apron! Taking place at Crowle's Platinum Hall just outside Worcester City Centre. This is a fabulously festive workshop ideal for friends, families, work colleagues or simply those looking to learn something new. All abilities welcomed. Looking forward to seeing you there.

DAN Exhibitions

Parks Café: *Alison Latham* will be exhibiting *during November*.

The Hub: There is space for approx. 70 pictures and 8 shelves for small three-dimensional items. For more information. Contact *Rhys Jones* email: rhys@photomaestro.co.uk

Button Tree Café: *Wendy Simmons* will be exhibiting *during November*

Corbett Medical Centre: *Lyn Sharp* and *Chris Walker* will be exhibiting *during November*

Droitwich Library: *Wendy Simmons* will be exhibiting *during November*

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 November**

Stephen Evans sent in these poignant paintings commemorating Remembrance Day and says *"With the approach of Remembrance Day here is my small contribution with a couple of paintings from my familiar series titled 'WE WILL REMEMBER THEM ALL'. These*



two were painted to coincide with the one hundredth anniversary of the first World War and illustrates British Soldiers in constant danger on the battlefields of Flanders in 1915 and a hundred years later a British Soldier in constant danger on patrol in Helmand Province, Afghanistan! Not everyone Remembers though as conflicts still continue throughout the world! Both paintings are W/C on 300gm paper"



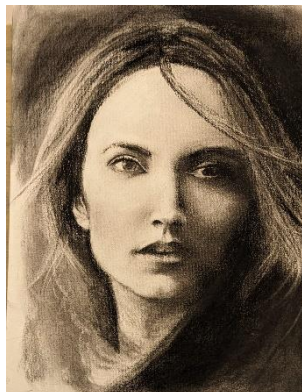
Lyn Sharp sent in pictures of her latest wreaths and says *"I have just created three more wreaths I thought members might like to see"*



Helen Karakashian sent in a photo of a Fair Isle jumper she knitted for her son Tim. She says *"It is knitted in 100% Shetland wool, grown and spun on the island and has 17 different colours in it but as in all Fair Isle knitwear only two colours are used in each row. It is knitted on a circular needle and therefore very little sewing up to do!"*



Roland Evans sent in his Charcoal drawings and says *"They are from images I got from royalty free websites and not of anyone I know; they will not be for sale - just practise*



pieces as I want to get a bit more into portrait art."

Karen Read sent in her poems for this month, the first being...

Autumn

*A ray of sunshine warms your cheek.
U feel the golden carpet of leaves beneath your feet
The trees shadows are shorter every day, and I spend my days wishing the dark away.
Umbrellas not large enough to catch the cascading rain.
Memories of conkers and bonfires lit and hot potatoes to hot eat.
Numb noses and fingers and feet and misty windows and cold car seats*

Felicity Robinson played with Procreate

on her I-pad and sent in this creation and says *"I started with a 'playground' imported from a mark making exercise on a very large canvas almost as tall as I am! ... then added layers digitally to explore ideas...Fun! This is certainly not a finished painting ...just WIP! Whether the final physical piece turns out remotely like this is anyone's guess, but the process is very interesting."*

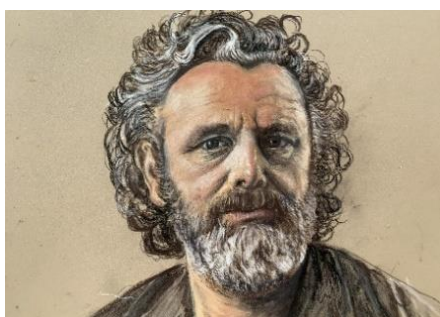


Karen Read's second poem is very poignant...

Poppies for Peter

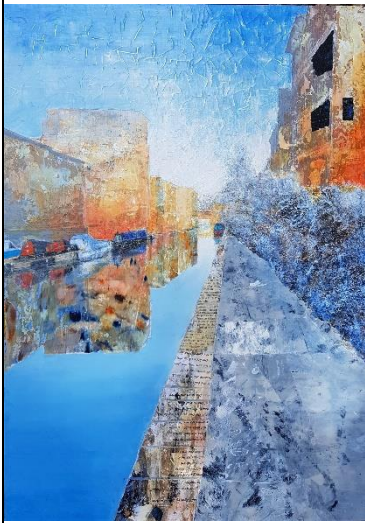
*Poppies for Peter no longer with us dear.
On Remembrance Day we are standing here.
You left us all smiling as you walked up the slope.
We waved not knowing as you looked back that would be the last words we spoke.
Your khaki uniform was new, and brasses shone in the evening sun.
Dad was so proud you joined up to fight the deadly Hun.
It was the only time I saw him cry as they told him he had lost his only son.
He gripped the chair to keep the tears back he didn't want them to come.
He fought for King and country and me and you and them.
And many Peters have passed, and you have made space in heaven for them.
It is with sadness that we feel your loss and freedom came at too high a cost.
So, poppies for everyone today in remembrance of all the innocent angels who gave their lives for our lives today.
We will remember them.*

Tina Watkins sent in her King Lear Prizes Highly Commended paintings says.. *"Laughing Donkey exhibited at the Heart from the Heart exhibition and Michael Sheen is in the Hub this month".*



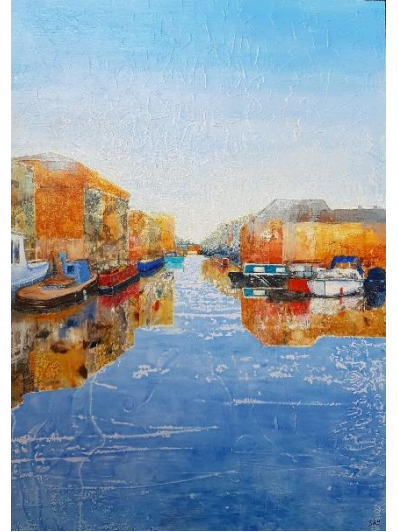
Ken Bell sent in this painting for November and says *"It's called 'The Grace O'Malley' after an Irish female pirate. It had had various owners but is now owned by a trust that teaches young people the skills of sailing and teamwork. The setting is in Carlingford Lough in Ireland, passing the Haulbowline lighthouse."*





Susan Birth sent in these lovely colourful paintings and says *"I've attached images of two of my mixed media paintings interpreting canal-side scenes in Worcester. I used a mix of collage paper, acrylic paint and ink.*

The titles are taken from poems by Canal Poet Laureate Roy McFarlane. The one on the left is Come Walk This Way and the right hand side features Still Waters Serenade"



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