



### The DAN ArtsFest - A Huge Success!



**Helen Karakashian** has, on behalf of the DAN committee and members, written to all the entertainers to thank them for their support of ArtsFest day and to say how much we enjoyed their performances. She says, "Several people commented on the fact that they had not seen Morris Dancers for a long time and were delighted that the tradition was being upheld. The White Hart Morris men who came to us have gone from a side of 24 members to just 5 lately which is rather concerning.

The Shakespeare Quiz, compiled by Karen and me,

was well promoted by Edgar our Town Crier and the two Norbury Players lead by **Ann Lane**. We had over 30 entries and there were many good scores in the high teens. There was not an outright winner, but we had two entries with 19/20. Edgar Harwood and Eleanor Sinton. These were put in a bag and Eleanor Sinton's sheet was pulled out and was therefore declared the winner.

The prize winners for the School Holiday Art Competition with the title Movement were as follows; The 6-11years category winner was Eliza Tanner aged 7 years with her artwork 'Be You'. Delightful work full of movement and with inclusive rainbow colours. Highly Commended in this category was Olivia Brain aged 10 years with her excellent pencil sketch of a trotting horse. In the 11 – 18years category the winner was Anya aged 12years, from the Chillax Art Club with her acrylic and mixed media painting of 'Alone at Last' full of movement. **Rosie** gave out the prizes and **Rhys** has taken photos of the winners, apart from Olivia who preferred not to be photographed. The prizes for the winners were Crawford and Black Complete Colour and Sketch Studio – in a wooden box. The Highly Commended prize was a Crawford and Black artists sketching set, again in a wooden box. These were bought with support from The Works. Disappointingly there were no entries for up to 5 years. All photos on the DAN website



<https://droitwichartsnetwork.org/the-hub/>

A very happy and successful day. Brilliant support from everyone including the Hub stewards, the artists in the window and the dabblers - thank you. Wonderful

to put on such an enjoyable event hugely appreciated by the local community with over 200 people coming into the Hub and many more lingering outside to watch the Morris Dancers and listen to the excellent Droitwich Community Choir. The Droitwich Ukelele Club was an absolute riot. An amazing sound which had the Hub buzzing and people dancing and waving their arms around like true groupies". **Helen**

### the New Droitwich Writers Circle

**Karen Read** and **Alison Jean Lester** hosted the first Droitwich Writers Circle meeting at the library on 28<sup>th</sup> September, and loved every minute! Here's a little précis!

On Thursday evening, 28th September, **Karen** and **Alison** welcomed the first members of the brand-new Droitwich Writers Circle to the meeting. As hoped and anticipated, there were a few seasoned writers, a few who were picking writing back up after time off, and a few who were thinking about writing and not sure how to begin. The group agreed that each monthly session will begin with 5-10 minutes of free writing inspired by a prompt, followed by the sharing of members' recent efforts, either for or without feedback. The group will meet on the fourth Thursday of the month, so the **next meeting will be on 26<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm.**

The **DAN Poetry Competition**, which is open to all age groups, was launched during **ArtsFest** with the theme of **"Feare Me Not"** to link with the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the printing of Shakespeare's First Folio by Droitwich born John Heminges friend of Shakespeare and who, together with Henry Condell printed the First Folio containing 36 of Shakespeare's plays including some which had never been printed before and could have been lost for ever. **Alison** has kindly offered to judge this competition. If anyone has questions about the group, or would like to join, please email **Alison** on [aj@alisonjeanlester.com](mailto:aj@alisonjeanlester.com).

## DAN October Meeting / Social Events at the Hub

**Drink & Doodle**  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023  
6.30pm – 9pm  
The Hub, St. Andrew's Square

Informal Social Event  
Paid Up Members Only

Sit, Chat, Create  
Meet Like minded People

Bring whatever you are working on  
Instant coffee and tea bags provided  
Bring your own mug, flask, or soft drink

Enter and leave the Hub by the back entrance



**Droitwich ARTS Network**  
[www.droitwichartsnetwork.org](http://www.droitwichartsnetwork.org)

A new social event to be called **"Drink and Doodle"** is starting on **2nd October 6.30 - 9.00** and for the time being will be held every first Monday of the month, in The Hub. Unfortunately, there are no toilets for the disabled in the Hub and the precinct toilets are closed in the evening. Therefore, there will be additional social events during the day in the future.


Tea and coffee facilities are available, but people are welcome to bring along their own flasks of hot or cold drinks and their own receptacles then no one spends the evening making coffee and tea and washing up! Members may bring anything they are working on, or just pop in for a chat to meet any other members. These events are in addition to any other events scheduled

through the year. Do come along to our first **"Drink and Doodle"**. **Wendy Simmons**

**Free Still Life Drawing Sessions with Bryonie Williams.** 21<sup>st</sup> October – Drop in between 10am and 3.30pm. No need to book, guidance and materials provided.

**Free Still Life Drawing Sessions**  
Saturdays 30<sup>th</sup> September & 21<sup>st</sup> October  
Drop In between 10am and 3.30pm  
The Hub, St. Andrew's Square

No need to book  
Materials provided  
Guidance by Bryonie Williams  
Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult



**Droitwich ARTS Network**  
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## Ambulance Service Storyboard at the Hub – Stephen Evans

Copies of 12 paintings of **Steve's** NHS pictures are now on display in the Hub.



**Stephen** says "The NHS celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year and, having spent a 30-year career with the West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust, I had the idea to support the occasion by painting a series of illustrations about the Ambulance Service in a Storyboard format.

The story starts with basic training for Paramedic Students, which includes a three-year university degree course in Paramedic Science, linked in with on-road experience as a third person, applying skills and techniques supervised by qualified Paramedic mentors. Once qualified there are opportunities available to undertake further special training to become Specialist Critical Care Paramedics, Air Ambulance Paramedics and Specialist Rescue Paramedics known as Hazard Ambulance Response Teams (HART).

The West Midlands Ambulance Service Emergency Call Centre currently receives over 4,000 emergency calls from the public every day that will be responded to in the quickest possible time by the Paramedic Care teams. Also, the WMAS receives 1,000 hoax calls every year, which is a criminal offence and perpetrators will be prosecuted!

Ambulance Paramedics are at the sharp end of the NHS delivering and applying their life saving skills and techniques to all seriously ill and injured casualties in our communities with compassion and, without being judgemental, regardless of the circumstances and situations casualties are found in. Paramedics are aware that some situations presented can be dangerous and or emotionally challenging. There are times when these dedicated front line emergency care professionals, understandably, can experience stress levels themselves after dealing with such incidents but team support is always available if needed in what is a busy, demanding but very rewarding and privileged occupation." **Stephen Evans Former member of West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust.**



## Musical Update – Mike Johns

I will try to update the notice board in the Hub with musical events as far as possible. Local choirs are already looking to arrange Christmas events and thinking of new seasonal pieces. Both I Sing and the Community Choirs will be performing during the Victorian Fayre in Worcester and at Christmas Lights switch ons. Further details later. The Community and Parish Choirs will continue to take their music into local Care Homes. Musician members of DAN will also continue to provide suitable live music in and around the Hub. The first-floor room could be used for informal groups of up to 6 if there proves to be a need, probably on Saturdays. **Finally, is there anyone who could donate a keyboard to be kept at the Hub?**

## Droitwich Library Textile Exhibition – Final Call for Entries



If you are planning to submit any work for the Textile Exhibition at the library which goes up at **11am on Monday 2nd October**, please email your name, title of picture, medium and price (if for sale) to [karensstudio@hotmail.com](mailto:karensstudio@hotmail.com).

This exhibition is open to members of Canalside Studios and Droitwich Arts Network. And they are eligible to enter up to 5 pieces of 2D work. All artwork exhibited must

be the artist's original work and not subject to any copyright laws. There is no theme for the exhibition, but all works must incorporate textile element. Entry fee £2 per item.

## Droitwich Spa Community Choir

Droitwich Spa Community Choir is a group of amateur singers and performers in Droitwich Spa who have come together to form a choir, with a view to performing at local events and venues.

The choir was formed in January 2012 by a group of friends who decided Droitwich Spa needed a community choir. They meet Tuesday evenings 7.30-9.30 at the **Baptist Church Hall** Ombersley Street East/Winnetts Lane, WR9 8DE. There are no auditions to join. Anyone interested is welcome to attend a session to try it out with no obligation. <https://www.droitwichspacommunitychoir.co.uk/>



## Art Competition – Exhibition of Finalists



**6-15 October - Theatrebarn in Bretforton** Congratulations to the 150 artists who have made it through to the exclusive selling exhibition from 6th – 15th October at [Bretforton Theatrebarn](#). We had 476 entries from across the country this year! We are very excited to open the doors to the exhibition which is open

daily from 11am - 4pm (free entry & free parking). There is a huge range of art to fit every budget for those of you have a bare wall, nook or windowsill and are looking for a bespoke piece of British art. Monies raised from art sales will go towards our schools outreach and bursary programme. 15 of the finalists will be demonstrating their talents during the exhibition, so take a look at the schedule and come along to watch them work.

Exhibition visitors can cast their vote for Visitor's Choice, the winner of which will be rewarded with a stay for 2 at The Lygon Arms in Broadway. We look forward to welcoming you to the exhibition!

## DAN 2023/4 Programme and Information

- **October – Tuesday 17th. Poppy wreath compiling**
- **November – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>, creating Christmas decorations – The Hub**
- **December – No meeting**
- **January – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>, AGM at the Old Cock Inn**

Droitwich Arts Network exists to share ideas and promote arts of all kinds in the Droitwich area. It includes individuals, art clubs and societies including the Droitwich Spa Photographic Society and Norbury Theatre.

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/](https://www.instagram.com/droitwich_artsnetwork/)

## What's On in Worcestershire

### The Original Craft Co. Creative Studio Grand Opening

**Grand Opening Sunday October 29<sup>th</sup> at 10am. 7 Old Market Court, Droitwich, WR9 8ED**

We are so excited for the 'Grand Opening' of our creative studio in Droitwich Spa. Our Ethos is crafting for the mind, for all ages and all abilities in a relaxed environment. We do this through our workshops and therapeutic creative kits. Come down and meet the family and find out what the creative space is all about. We will have some free crafts on like origami, scratch art etc, and we are working on a special appearance too! Refreshments will be available. So please come along and show your support for a local business. Our main focus is on creativity which helps with mindset and wellbeing for all ages and we want to share that with everyone. Our studio is disabled and family friendly. Can't wait to meet you all. Jo, Ian, Zac, Toyah and Baby River

### Michelle Doidge – Art Exhibition at the Artery Studios, Worcester



**Michelle** will be taking part in an art exhibition at The Artery Studios in Worcester and all members of Dan are warmly invited. The art exhibition runs **from Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Oct to Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov**. As well as being a member of Dan I'm also part of the North Worcestershire Artist Collective. We are a group of 8 local artists - Jane Aston, Myself, Natasha Giles, Edwina Mackinnon, Juliet May, Julie Marcus, Suzanne Nicholl and Amanda Pardoe - and we met through Worcestershire Open Studios. "This is the second collaborative exhibition we have done and we are thrilled to be working together once again on this exciting venture ". Entry is free.

### Roman Worcestershire: On Tracks of Iron & Salt Exhibition



Discover the story of *Roman Worcestershire*, take a 360-degree tour of Bays Meadow Roman Villa which once stood in Droitwich, and enjoy Roman-inspired craft activities for the whole family. Maximise your family's learning with our *Roman Worcestershire* creative

activities below. Part of our **Museum Make-athon** activities released on our social media accounts every Tuesday & Thursday while our museums are closed – designed to get you discovering, exploring and creating together. For more information click [here](#)

### Lights, Camera...Paint! Art Trail In Worcester

**Art inspired by film Worcester City centre shop windows- 26 September 2023 to 08 October 2023**

Worcester Film Festival and Artists Clubhouse announce the launch of 'Lights, Camera...Paint!', an art trail around Worcester City Centre. Posters featuring work by local artists and organisations can be found dotted around the city in 20 shop windows and notice boards for residents and visitors to walk around and find.

'Lights, Camera...Paint!' has been created as part of the Worcester Film Festival to celebrate art in all its many mediums. Artists Clubhouse is excited to be part of this project for the second year and aims to encourage everyone to get involved in creativity in some way as a benefit to their wellbeing, whether it's through seeing art, discovering and talking about new films with like-minded people or having a go at creating themselves, all can be such a benefit for positive mental health. For more information [www.artistsclubhouse.com](http://www.artistsclubhouse.com) its free for anyone to visit across the city of Worcester



### Hygge Craft Night (2-Part Workshop) The Artery Studios CIC, Worcester, WR1 3BD



17th October 7-8.30pm and 24th October 7-8.30pm

Join The Creative Wellbeing Company for a night of Hygge crafts. We'll be making scandi inspired candlesticks using clay, as well as painting our own candles. Hygge is a Danish word that describes an atmosphere of coziness, comfort, and contentment. So, this workshop is a chance to escape 'normal life', indulge and relax, learning the simple pleasures of craft and connecting with others.

In **week 1** we will make your candlestick using clay. You'll be taught basic skills needed to construct your candlestick, and given a range of tools to create your own design.

In **week 2**, you'll paint your candle and candlestick.

What's included? Everything you need to make a candlestick and candle (air-dry clay, tools, paints)

Hot drinks; Cake & Autumnal Treats; A chance to take some time for you, and be creative ♥ Tickets [here](#)

## An Introduction to Paint the Streets - Bite-size Talk Admission £4.00

**on 10 October 2023 2 - 2.30pm Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum**

Worcester Paint Festival brings street, mural and graffiti artists to the city showcasing renowned names in the UK scene, supported by emerging artists to create a vibrant outdoor art gallery with artwork that stays in place for at least twelve months or more. Kate Cox, Director of Worcester Paint Festival and Curator of *Paint the Streets*, will introduce the exhibition at Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum. Hear about her experiences of working with the wonderful Paint Festival artists over the last three years.

Please find access information before your visit via 01905 25371 or click [here](#). When it is necessary for a visitor to be accompanied by a carer we will give free admission to the carer. Please book a free ticket alongside that of the attendee; the team is happy to help if you have any problems.

## DAN Exhibitions

**Parks Café: *Felicity Robinson*** will be exhibiting **during October**.

**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](mailto:rhys@photomaestro.co.uk)

**Button Tree Café: *Rhys Jones*** will be exhibiting **during October**

**Corbett Medical Centre: *Michelle Doidge* and *Sue Cook*** will be exhibiting in **October**

**Droitwich Library: *Rhys Jones*** will be exhibiting **during October**

**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 30<sup>th</sup> November**

**Karen Read** sent in a poem that will resonate with many of us, entitled...

I'm Starting to Crinkle

*It had to be done. The weight loss I mean, as I began to believe, I would be lean.*

*I wanted so much to impress. To lose the breathlessness when going up the stairs and dance energetically while combing my hair.*

*It started to show there was a long way to go, but determined I was to believe.*

*That I could now wear all the dresses I bought in the Sales, the bumps and curves would no longer be seen.*

*But I hadn't thought about the crinkles.*

*I noticed the crinkles appear as the fat disappeared from my knees, of all things and my hands.*

*And then on my face as the skin relaxed in the pace of my weight loss demands.*

*I looked like a crinkle cheesecloth shirt I wore in the eighties and that was that.*

*Now at 64. I am sure there were crinkles before. I chose to ignore them that's all.*

*So, a reality check with my progress as this was something I hadn't considered.*

*The skin had been plumped out by the scaffolding of youth now disappeared far out of vision.*

*So now a decision.*

*Should I stop this religion of counting calories and exercising and going without? Before I am all crinkles and stretch marks and dimples and my skin needs a Botox shout out.*

*So, with a deep sigh, I look at the sky and the floor to decide what to do.*

*I am still me with my crinkles you see so perhaps there is nothing to prove.*

*So, I look for the sale of anti-crinkle cream through the mail.*

*I will order a ton of the stuff - that should do.*



**Bob Addy** sent in this remarkable drawing and says *"I'm sending a photo of an etching I did on a piece of plastic and printed it on a sizzix pro die cut machine. It's from a photo i took when on a trip out with friends from*

*Canalside Studios. Size is 6 x 4 ins."*

**Karen Read** sent in another poem and says, *"Its World Mental Health Day on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October. So, I wrote this poem about self-discovery. I hope you like it.*

Hey.

*"Hey, what you up to?" said the watcher to the walker.*

*"Hey, what you up to?" said the father to the daughter.*

*"Hey, what you up to?" said the mother to the son.*

*They replied.*

*"Looking for the one," they said. "Looking for the one?"*

*"I am looking for the partner."*

*"I am looking for the mate."*

*"I am looking for myself, someone with whom I can relate."*

*They all said. "You are looking, but please just look inside."*

*"For you are the one you are looking for, just close your eyes."*

**Tina Watkins** sent in this recently finished youthful portrait and says.. *"Painted at the Hub during ArtsFest – Can you tell who it is yet??". Pastel on Pastelmat as usual.*



*And another portrait..  
hope they don't get mixed up!  
However, no one would  
ever call the lady on the left a sloth!*



**Felicity Robinson** sent in this lovely colourful painting and says *"Here's a bit of fun...playtime with some wild colours!"*



**Rhianna Bennett** sent in her latest paintings and says *"The first was inspired by wildflower meadows of Worcestershire"*



*"Then next, the moody pre - Autumn storm that washes away Summer's sins"*