




### The DAN Mini ArtsFest 2023 – 16<sup>th</sup> September

As most of you will know by now DAN is hosting a mini-**ArtsFest** in our NEW Hub on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023**. There will be lots of creativity and entertainment during the day. You will see posters on public notice



**ArtsFest**  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September  
10am-3:30pm  
The Hub  
St. Andrew's Square, Droitwich Spa

**Music and Dance**  
Local Choir, Droitwich Ukulele Club,  
Guitar Duo Mike Johns and Ian Peden,  
The White Hart Morris Dancers

**Artists in the window**  
Watch artists at work!

**Have a dabble**  
Watercolour, knitting, acrylics, pastels, weaving,  
colouring, clay modeling, origami, guitar tuition and  
much more!  
\*Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult

**School Holiday Art Competition**  
Prize Giving

**Shakespeare Quiz**  
Prize Winner announced at 2:30pm

**Launch of Poetry Competition**

Free Entry



**Droitwich Arts Network**  
**School Holiday Art Competition**

**TITLE: MOVEMENT**

Entries welcome from all age groups  
Up to 5 years  
6 years to 11 years  
12 Years 18 years

Entries to be brought to the Hub  
St. Andrew's Square, Droitwich Spa

Final date for entry is  
**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2023**

Please put name, age and contact details on the  
back of your work

Prize giving will take place at the Hub during  
ArtsFest on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023

[www.droitwichartsnetwork.org](http://www.droitwichartsnetwork.org)

boards and A frames throughout the town and on the Old Cock notice board. So, we hope most of Droitwich will now have no excuse not to visit! The festivities will start off with the Town Crier announcing and promoting activities throughout the day. There will be music by DAN members in or just outside the Hub and to continue with the musical theme, the **Droitwich Spa Community Choir**, will be performing a wide range of songs including a Beatles medley, there will be artists demonstrating in the Hub windows all day.

**As part of the ArtsFest, there will be another 'Dabble Day'**, similar to the successful event DAN held in the Westlands with all forms of art: knitting, crochet, clay modeling, painting (acrylics/ watercolour / oils), origami, pastels, poetry, music – you name it! There will be tutor books for anyone interested in learning the guitar and also 4 types of weaving will be showcased.

If that wasn't enough excitement... **A school holiday art competition was launched on 1st August**. The title being 'Movement'. Entries should be taken to the Hub with name, age and contact details on the back of the work. **Last date for entries is Monday 11th September**. Prizes will be awarded in the Hub on Saturday 16th. **There will also be a Shakespeare**

**Quiz** available throughout the day – the answers must be returned by 2pm on 16<sup>th</sup> September when the winner will be announced at 2.30pm by the Norbury Players.

Then last but not least, the **DAN Poetry Competition** will be launched during **ArtsFest** with the theme of **"Feare Me Not"** (for those who are not overly familiar with Shakespeare, the title is a quotation from Laertes in Hamlet) 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 Jean Lester**, a published writer and member of DAN has kindly offered to judge this competition and has generously offered a prize too. The competition is open to all age groups.

### The Hub is OPEN Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays 10 am – 3.30pm



Don't forget the screens, tables, and chairs can be moved as required to form areas for meetings, classes, workshops, etc. We have had several new members join DAN and they are entitled to exhibit work here. Please contact **Rhys Jones** if you wish to exhibit at [rhys@photomaestro.co.uk](mailto:rhys@photomaestro.co.uk). Members can also exhibit at Park's Cafe, The Button Tree, Corbett Medical Centre, and downstairs in the library. If interested, then contact **Derek Webster** on [derekwebster20@aol.com](mailto:derekwebster20@aol.com)

## DAN October Meeting / Social Events

A new social event which we will call **"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 disabled toilets 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. I will email members next month and start Facebook posts too. **Wendy Simmons**

## DAN Group Members – Droitwich Camera Club Restarting



Droitwich Camera club are a small and friendly photography group based in Droitwich. They are restarting their weekly club meetings on **4<sup>th</sup> September**. They are based in Droitwich at the Methodist Church, Worcester Road, WR9. The first event – from 8pm to 10pm - will feature short presentations by members who have recently joined.

They say "We welcome new members of all ages and abilities, we listen to stimulating presentations by a wide range of exciting speakers, see the works of our current members and take part in both club and inter-club

competitions". If you are interested in developing your photography further and being part of a group of photography enthusiasts, then please get in touch via [www.droitwichcamera.co.uk](http://www.droitwichcamera.co.uk)

## 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. The first meeting of the choir was in the back room of the Old Cock Inn, Friar Street, to which around 100 interested people attended. The Choir has been going strong ever since. 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/>



## DAN Exhibition Review

A few words from our DAN curator, **Derek Webster**; *"I thought I would give a quick review of how things have gone this year at the venues where members can exhibit. There have been some really good exhibitions at each of them. Park's Cafe takes up to 17 paintings and Corbett Medical Centre with the two waiting rooms can exhibit 20. It is our first year at Corbett and it is going really well. Many thanks to all the artists who have exhibited there because it really has brightened the waiting rooms up for the everyone who visits. Thanks to **Rhys** and **Steve Evans** for all their help there. So please contact me if you would like to make use of any of these venues. Corbett Medical Centre, Park's Café, The Button Tree and Droitwich Library.*

*It would be really nice to see members who have not exhibited before give it a try. Be proud of the art you produce and share it with others who will enjoy what you've produced".* [derekwebster20@aol.com](mailto:derekwebster20@aol.com)

## Come and Join the New Droitwich Writers Circle

Have you got a piece of writing on the go, or are you wishing you could get started? Do you use a fountain pen or a pencil stub? However you do it, come along to our first organisational meeting as we get the Droitwich Writers Circle up and running! **28<sup>th</sup> September 6.30-7.30pm**  
**Droitwich Library Gallery Room.**



This initial meeting is to discuss with **Alison Jean Lester** and **Karen Read** the goals and the guidelines for success in group communication. This information will be shared in the DAN newsletter and the local newspaper and the beginning of the Circle sharing of writing and feedback is scheduled for October.

**Alison Jean Lester** is a novelist, memoirist and essayist living in Droitwich. She has published four novels – *Lillian on Life*, *Yuki Means Happiness*, *Glide*, and *The Sound of It*; a collection of short stories – *Locked Out: Stories Far from Home*; a memoir – *Absolutely Delicious: A Chronicle of Extraordinary Dying*; and a collection of essays – *Restroom Reflections: How Communication Changes Everything*; as well as various short stories in literary magazines. She has participated in literary festivals and conferences in Birmingham, Newcastle, Dublin, Singapore, and Japan.

**Karen Read** is the DAN literary lead and writes poetry and short stories. She wants to encourage everyone to write, and is looking forward to seeing where the Droitwich Writers Circle may lead.

**Alison** and **Karen** are forming this monthly get-together for writers, both aspiring and advanced, to provide a safe space for sharing work, giving and receiving feedback and encouragement, and discussing the joys and challenges of the writing life. Please email **Alison** at [aj@alisonjeanlester.com](mailto:aj@alisonjeanlester.com) to let us know if you'll be attending this meeting, or with any questions.

## DAN 2023/4 Programme and Information

- **September – Mini ArtsFest. Saturday 16th, 10-3:30pm, The Hub**
- **October – Saturday 17th. Poppy wreath compiling**
- **November – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>, creating Christmas decorations – The Hub**

Members can use their own materials and decorations which they can help others with. Mince pies and alcohol!

- **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 incorporates a number of individuals, art clubs and societies, the Droitwich Spa Photographic Society

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

**Salt Fest** until Sunday 3 September in Vines Park, Droitwich Spa, WR9 8LB



**Friday 12.30pm – 10.30pm** First official day of Salt Fest 2023. All stalls and attractions will be open with a special line up of local performers appearing in the new extended

**Saturday 10am – 10.30pm** The 2nd day of Salt Fest action, with 'Salt Fest Slam'- live wrestling performances.

**Sunday 10am – 9.30pm** Visit for the final day of Salt Fest Fun including a 5k fun

run, a display from the Royal Navy Parachute Team and a firework finale. Attractions throughout the weekend include – pony rides, water safety education, salt making history, a Roman village, outdoor shopping village, Food Hall by Droitwich Diners Club, fitness village and wellness centre, children's fun fair and many family activities.

**Broadway Autumn Show Saturday 9 September**

The Broadway Horticultural and Craft Show is an annual event that takes place on the village green in Broadway. Locals and anyone wishing to enter can share with everyone what they've been able to grow or create and then have it judged against others by experts. People from all areas are welcome to enter. The online entry form is now live! <https://www.broadwayhcs.co.uk/entry-form> You can still enter by filling in the entry form by hand and delivering to the stated address

**Droitwich Spa & District Horticultural Society Autumn Flower Show Saturday 16 September**

At Sacred Heart Parish Hall. This is a traditional autumn flower show with a variety of classes. Opens at 1.30pm

**Droitwich Spa Civic Society – John Herminges Talk**

Our next talk will be on **Tuesday 19th September**. Society member John Armstrong will give a talk about John Heminge. Everyone is welcome to attend. 7.30pm at the Droitwich Methodist Church Centre WR9 8AN. £5 per



person to include refreshments. A few words from John "Droitwich Spa Civic Society and the town is celebrating the 400 years since the publication of the First Folio of William Shakespeare's Plays in 1623.

For more information about John Heminge please look at the Civic Society website under "Heritage" you will find a members' article from 2014-2015 on John Heminges. There are many spellings of the name, as was the case in the 16/17 century, but we have now settled on Heminge. We look forward to seeing you there

### **Paint the Streets Saturday 16 September – Saturday 6 January 2024 Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum**

Celebrating the story of graffiti and street art in partnership with [Worcester Paint Festival](#), *Paint the Streets* explores the work of pivotal artists from the US and UK such as Basquiat, Haring, Shepard Fairey (Obey), Banksy, Goldie and Inkie, alongside a selection of current street artists who have been part of Worcester Paint Festival.

Worcester Paint Festival takes place on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 September, the opening weekend of *Paint the Streets*. The Art Gallery and Museum will be open all weekend, including Sunday 17 September, especially for the festival. **Free entry.** Plan your visit to [Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum](#).

### **Observational Drawing Workshop with Catt Standen Saturday 23 September, 11am – 3pm.**

You've likely seen Catt Standen's art on the windows and in the streets of Worcester – in September, you can join her at the Art Gallery and Museum for an observational drawing workshop. [£55; book here.](#)

### **Wednesday Art Club 10 Afternoons Option – 45 The Tything, Worcester Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 1pm-3pm**

A weekly art class running for 10 weeks covering all the different aspects of drawing and painting. This class is aimed at beginner and intermediate skill level and will give you all the tools needed to become proficient in drawing and painting. Including perspective, colour theory, composition and measuring in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. We will explore landscape, portrait and still life painting. Watercolour, pencil, charcoal, oil painting and much more. <https://www.instagram.com/worcesterdrawingschool>

### **Worcester Music Festival from 15th to 17th September, 2023.**

**Free** live music festival in Worcester with more than 250 performances over 3 days.

Worcester Music Festival – a metropolitan festival supporting emerging artists and raising money for charity. The festival takes place in more than 20 venues in Worcester City Centre, hosting around 250 bands over 3 days as well as a number of workshops.

A non-profit making event, it is run by an enthusiastic team of volunteers who all give their time for free to support live music, encourage new audiences to visit new venues and help to make live music accessible to more people. The festival also delivers free music-related [workshops](#) for the whole community. Adults and children can take part in everything from drum clinics and Q&As with industry experts to learning an instrument or singing in a pop choir. Amateur photographers of any age or experience can also enter the annual photography competition.



## **Business Tips for Artists**

**Sourced From The Fine Art Guild Journal Art Business Today.** Professional artist Julie Cross offers her advice. "Don't underprice your work would be my advice, and make sure that your pricing is consistent across all your galleries and other outlets. Most artists sell the majority of their work in the area where they live, so focus on quoting prices that would work locally. Selling work for higher prices in London, for example, will damage your reputation and is a short-term approach. Go round exhibitions, look at work that is similar to yours, and where the artists are at similar points in their careers to you, and see what they are charging. I've seen work for sale at prices that can barely cover the cost of framing, which is unsustainable."

Information provided for members of DAN by **Stephen Evans.**

## **DAN Exhibitions**

**Parks Café:** *Margaret Powell* will be exhibiting **during September.**

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

**Corbett Medical Centre:** *Michelle Doidge* and *Jane Dix* will be exhibiting in September

**Droitwich Library:** *Rhys Jones* will be exhibiting in September

**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> October**

**Karen Read** sent in another thoughtful poem, entitled...

### *Red Fruit Bowl*

*I came across it suddenly the red glass fruit bowl.  
As a child I loved its welcoming colour.  
The memories flooded back; it was always full.*

*When I came back from school or work, or dancing and I  
had no time to wonder.  
Who filled the bowl I did not know? It was always there  
to plunder.*

*From school I was starving.  
From work too tired to eat.  
From dancing I needed energy for the happy tiredness in  
my feet.*

*I took for granted it was there to reach into and get  
relief.  
Now it's not empty but full of memories of moments that  
were sweet.*



**Lyn Sharp** sent in two lovely works and says "The gold fish is made from up cycled textiles and silk all stitched into place"



**Wendy Simmons** sent in this recent painting and says "Fresh off the board! A commission for my brother in law. His four labs and a Jack Russell on a beautiful sunrise walk in North West Norfolk"

**Tina Watkins** sent in this almost finished painting and says.. "Another Tina". Pastel on Pastelmat as usual.







**David Wornham** sent in a pic of The Village Band from U3A Droitwich in Viking mode playing Underneath the Arches at the Hereford Wye Float on 12th August.

**Pauline Franks** sent in these interesting studies and says *"A couple of space pictures inspired by Ancient Aliens on TV. The large acrylic 27 x 20 canvas of moon looking at earth as a warning of what we are doing*



*it. Unfortunately, I'm having to do this again as I don't have much room where I paint and put the canvas against the wall and moved my chair back and put the leg into it making an unrepairable rip!! The other smaller one is an imaginary space picture acrylic on paper."*



**Michelle Doidge** sent in pics from her recent WOS exhibition and says *"These are some of the pieces I featured in my Worcestershire Open Studios in August. Some of these originals were sold at the event along with a number of prints and greetings cards. It was great to be able to welcome visitors to my home art exhibition!"*

