



Droitwich Arts Network

15th March, 2017



In attendance

Alan Davey (AD)
Chris Walker (CW)
John Bodley (JB)
John Dudley (JD)

Kat Webber (KW)
Paul Richardson (PR)
Peter Hawkins (PH)
Rhys Jones (RJ)

Rosie Philpott (RP)
Tamara Jelcaca (TJ)

Apologies

Alison Moore
Ann Reed
David Hull
Julian Rouse

Karen Hotchkiss
Linda Sharp
Malcolm Wakeman
Ruth Bourne

Stephen Evans
Tina Watkins

Progress on the Committee

- The committee held an emergency meeting on the 9th March to discuss the issue of Chairman.
- Peter Hawkins volunteered to take position of Chair for the remainder of 2017 or until someone else comes forward. This is on the understanding that he delegates tasks to other members and if nobody volunteers, it won't be done.
- The committee agreed that we will look for a Vice Chair with the intent of them eventually taking over the role from January 2018. We cannot expect a newcomer or anyone else who has never been on the committee to suddenly take on the position with no experience. We will encourage people to join the committee so they can gain knowledge and experience of DAN.
- We will perform an active membership drive, identifying people that may be keen to take on roles. In the past, face to face contact has been more successful so it was agreed that all members should approach people that might be interested.

Active Membership

The group discussed how we can encourage more active members:

- How can we encourage others to take part and obtain fresh and new ideas from new members?
- We asked Kat Webber and Chris Walker (the newest members present at the meeting), why they joined DAN. They explained that they wanted to be more involved in Droitwich and have an opportunity to display their artwork
- Are we doing too much? Support seems to be dwindling despite a really successful year for DAN.
- Perhaps we are taking the wrong approach. We should be saying to members 'What can **you** do for DAN?', not 'What can DAN do for you?' What can members do to keep DAN going?
- Rhys Jones explained that his first impression of Droitwich when he moved here was that it was quite a boring town with no activities. He approached DAN and asked if they wanted a photographer. At the time, DAN was not very good at its own publicity but he feels we have come on leaps and bounds since then. His view on Droitwich has completely changed since joining DAN, as the network opens up other opportunities. We need to get this across to current and new members!
- People on the outskirts of Droitwich, such as Oddingly, do not receive any local newspapers. How do we reach them? Not everybody is computer literate so we cannot rely on social media and the website.
- We could have a clear, punchy display in the town noticeboards. Perhaps A3 size and not too wordy.
- We could approach the Antiques and Framers shop on the Worcester Road and Neil's Photography in the old Town Hall building.
- We need to have our pop-up banners visible in the Meetbox and Library. Peter Hawkins reported that had agreed that day with Beverly Orlowsky that the library would move the DAN table / display to a more prominent position of (to the right of the stairs, near the entrance to the youth area).

- We need to attract younger people – Peter Hawkins went to a Youth Council meeting that day. They were discussing their ‘Youth Festival’ and expressed strong enthusiasm to link with ArtsFest this year, and be a part of it in 2018. The meeting liked these ideas, but said that, while being an intrinsic a part of Arts Fest in 2018, the youth events should have a distinct identity representing the ownership of those elements by the Youth Council.
- We could at least get an article in the newspapers – photograph of members holding up someone’s artwork.
- We could approach the estate agents and discuss having a small quality leaflet in the welcome packs.
- We could approach people in the new housing development.

What about current members?

- It is not frightening to become an active member!
- We need to get the group leaders involved – we could have a ‘jobs fair’ but for all the different groups in DAN. Individual members could have a stand as well. This could be held somewhere like the library during our exhibition in August.
- Perhaps we need more attractive meetings? Are they being seen as too business-like? We hope to improve this by the committee meeting more regularly and making the decisions. We could add more social time to the meetings.
- We could invite external speakers.
- Members could bring along their artwork and discuss a problem to get advice from the network or talk about their recent work.
- Change the venue every so often as the acoustics in Parks Café are not always appropriate for some activities.

In summary:

- We need to be more visible to attract new members.
- We need to make meetings more exciting.

Agreed actions

	Action	By
1. Sites	Members to look at possible sites on the edges of town that might display notices.	ALL
2. A4 simple page	Chris Walker will have a look at composing some simple, punchy wording for a page to advertise DAN	CW
3. Banners	Pop-up banners dropped into The Meetbox and the Library	JB
4. Estate Agents	Approach town centre estate agents to see if they do a welcome pack, and if so would they include information about DAN.	JD
5. Nicol and Co	Approach Nicol and Co about a welcome pack	RJ
6. New housing development	Approach those moving into the new housing development	PH
7. Youth Council	DAN will seek to have a regular presence (by members of the committee) at the Youth Council.	PH

ArtsFest (brief update)

- Rhys gave the group a brief update on the festival and how it is really coming together. Information will be sent out in chunks to all members.
- It was suggested that the High School students could stand by their mural and answer the general public’s questions as it will be ready for ArtsFest.

How can you help?

- Take some ‘save the date’ bookmarks and distribute them to friends, family, neighbours

- Join and follow our facebook and twitter pages – remember to like, share and comment on posts to help them reach larger audiences
- Visit our website and join up to the newsletter

Agreed actions

	Action	By
8. Bookmarks	Distribute bookmarks (more can be obtained from Rhys).	ALL
9. Social Media	Join and follow social media pages and like, comment and share posts	ALL
10. Information	Send information out in chunks to all members. Send out ALL the information to committee members	RJ

AOCB

Venues

- Parks Café – Rosie volunteered to organise Park’s Café exhibitions. Paul said that he has found mixed exhibitions where artists’ works contrast with each other has worked best. Look into doing this a couple of times throughout the year.
- Library – Tamara volunteered to look after the library table
- Maltstone – Peter will look after this venue
- Button Tree – we still need someone to look after this venue!

All bookings must be sent to Tamara for the website (and Tina Watkins for the newsletter).

St. Richard’s Festival:

- We need to check that we have a tent booked for the art activity on the Monday.

FoDSL calendar

- JD said that the Friends of Droitwich Spa Lido are planning a calendar to photographs of the lido over time. DAN members are invited to supply appropriate photographs.

Schuler Oliver and her quintet

- JD approached DAN to underwrite a concert to be given by the quintet (possibly to be performed as part of Arts Fest). The Quintet have secured Arts Council funding for half of their costs and expect to recover the rest through ticket sales and other sources.
Unfortunately DAN has no funds in the budget to cover the underwriting (up to c.£300 would be at risk) and are therefore currently unable to assist. If alternative funding could be found, DAN would be more than happy to help publicise the event.

Agreed actions

	Action	By
11. St. Richard’s Festival	Contact Justine and review progress of the children’s art activity	PH
12. FoDSL calendar	DAN members to supply appropriate photographs	All

Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 11th April, Park’s Café, 7:15pm

Rosie Philpott

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