



Droitwich Arts Network

9th May 2017



In attendance

Peter Hawkins (PH)
Mike Johns (MJ)
Malcolm Wakeman (MW)
Julia Rollit (JR)

Faustyna Popkiewicz (FP)
Paul Richardson (PR)
Dave Skidmore (DS)
Martin Driscoll (LitFest) (MD)

Yvonne Stollard (YS)
Helen Karakashian (HK)
John Dudley (JD)

Apologies

Rosie Philpott
Chris Walker
Rhys Jones
David Wornham
Tonia Enderberry
Kat Webber
Justine Humphries
Stephanie Vale

Stephen Evans

New Members

- Peter welcomed the group including new members **Dave Skidmore** and **Yvonne Stollard**. Yvonne is interested in drawing, textile art and sings with a Birmingham choir specialising in Jewish music sung in a variety of languages. She came across DAN via the Facebook pages.
- Dave Skidmore is an artist, using paint, pastels, pencil work and also does woodcarving. Dave brought a small 'menagerie' of his striking drawings in proof print form: He has found a print firm in Redditch to be good. MW asked about his preferences – DS works in both colour and monochrome but enjoys the discipline of mono. He also enjoys the freedom of paint vs more time-consuming pencil.

News/Updates

PH updated the group on some recent developments.

At short notice we had a request from Wychavon to have a sign saying the High Street is open for business during the works. **Rosie** has kindly offered her 'Wonky High Street' picture, Mick Sparks will print, and all is ready to go for Wychavon. This will go at Saltbarrow Market and will have a DAN logo. **JD** asked if there would be one at main road end too, as this has a lot of passing traffic? **PH noted and will follow up.**

The Ring project artist, Katy Beinart, is organising a **Salt quiz** on either **Fri 26th** or **Sun 28th May**. **Do support the event** if you can – it sounds fun! Look out on FB for further information.

Worcester's University Art & Design degree students are having a show: There is an invitation to DAN for the private viewing (Thursday 19 May 2016, 5.45pm for 6pm start, City Campus, University of Worcester, Castle Street, Worcester WR1 3AS, and The Garage Studios, Hylton Road, Worcester WR2 5JS). - **Contact Peter for details** if interested in representing DAN there.

Interactive Section

Martin Driscoll & LitFest: LitFest

- is a CIC community based festival, mainly poetry and spoken word, created Worcester Poet Laureate but also includes the shire. Festival **9th – 18th June**: programmes were distributed. Wide range of events – [see website](#). Launch night at racecourse on the Friday, judging of laureate, finals of writing, plus flash fiction competition. Latter is international - Swiss winner last year. They publish anthologies through [Black Pear Press](#) – we could encourage members to talk to them as a publishing outlet. Not for profit basis. **Want local community to join in. Please support if you can.**

- Martin explained a number of the partnerships including work with Amnesty and community engagement. He noted they have worked with some 50 venues over the 7 years of the festival. They use the publicity mechanisms of partner and venues to increase the reach.
- **JD** commented we need someone like Sarah Leavesley to lead a literary section of Arts Fest. Could get laureate in on 22nd July. Claire Walker and Charlie, Droitwich writers run children's workshops billed as 'Wordplay'
- **PH** – ref Long Gallery at Hanbury Hall, October; in the past we asked for poets and writers to come along, they did and results were displayed throughout Hanbury Hall. MD offered to collaborate and noted Maggie Doyle at Hanbury as contact.
- **RB** asked about use of more effective venues' own marketing mechanisms – increases reach.

Malcolm Wakeman

- **Malcolm Wakeman** then dusted off his origami skills and had us all making a [nifty box](#) from a square of paper. Ruth followed up with a [flapping bird](#), which was probably marginally less aerodynamic than the box. Peter's was beautifully folded, betraying a childhood spent making water bombs! Thanks to Malcolm for organising something a bit different!

Agreed actions

	Action	By
1. Ideas for future meetings	Please continue to send suggestions for future meetings to Peter / Rosie	All
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HK offered a starter knitting session, possibly crochet too. 	
	Action	By
2. Salt King 200	Volunteers needed to staff the activities on the day of the picnic (25 th June 12-5 pm). Offers of a 'shift' would be welcome, whole session is not required.	All
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We had 2 things on offer, children's art activity – paper, paint and modelling materials, but need volunteers to supervise with paint, pencils and papers as original volunteers cannot be there. We also wish to encourage the public for ideas for a permanent memorial to Corbett. We just need someone to staff a stand on the day and encourage people to have a go at a design. There will be display elsewhere about Corbett. We possibly need help with writing (to assist Barbara). FP offered to help with the art activity. More volunteers are needed. The meeting noted that food-quality salt is now in production. 	
	Action	By
3. Ceramic Mural	Offers of design for interim cover to PH and celebration event ideas to RB.	All
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PH is awaiting feedback from centre. Funding is identified, centre and council will contribute. We need a design for the banner to cover the gap when the mural is removed. RB would also welcome ideas for a celebration event with the community which the grant bid could support. 	
	Action	By
4. Sybil Chapman exhibition	Sybil, who is now house-bound, wishes to exhibit her mother's work in the library gallery. Offers of help with transport and/or hanging to Peter. Confirm date(s) of exhibition.	All PH

Help needed: we once had a presentation on weaving from Sybil Chapman, now confined to home. Her mother, Nancy Chapman was a respected Manchester-based artist. Sybil has 30 pictures which she wishes to display at the library. She needs help with transport and hanging. No date as yet, address is local. **JD, HK, RB will help**, depending on date.

	Action	By
5.	Arts Centre suggestions (Neighbourhood Plan) to Malcolm ASAP.	All

AOB

At **Salt King 200 MW** will be in the procession (bearing salt) from Corbett's burial place in Stoke Prior.

MD – Suz Winspear will remain in residence at Worcs porcelain (current laureate).

FP's work is currently at Button tree.

MJ – has CD with 3 original Droitwich and salt-related songs only £3.50! (Heritage centre).

MW – Droitwich has no **arts centre** such as Pershore No 8. Government initiative the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) incorporates all aspects including arts. We don't have one in Droitwich at the moment. If we proceed with NP, could incorporate an arts centre. Richard Morris is charged with the NP. **We want ideas from people about what they would like to see.**

- **JD** What about linking in with Norbury? Could extend? Now have long lease sorted, now resolved.
- Malvern Cube was failed youth centre, have turned into arts centre, lots of meeting rooms.
- **JR** noted new estates are required to put community facilities in.
- SOBBS now making some progress with brine baths since recent site visit. If so, could include arts centre.
- **MJ** suggested a town centre position is preferable to park.
- **RB** suggested colleges/Universities in Worcs/Redditch/Bromsgrove are all expanding and could be interested in a multi-purpose base in Droitwich.
- **PH** explained the relationship of Neighbourhood Plans to the [South Worcs Development Plan](#).

Ideas to MW please. Open meeting this Thursday at Parish centre (St Andrew's) 7.30pm. All welcome.

Martin says Lit Fest would wish to partner.

JD - Clyde Spencer of Drifters is now local. Event on **May 27th 7pm** in shopping centre. "Ex-USA Drifter" plus 3 more, big act for Droitwich, only £10! Will be local youngsters as warm-up acts. **Members are warmly invited.**

Lido cafe is now refurbished and available for meetings etc. Possible venue. There is no art there currently.

	Action	By
6.	Lido Cafe	
	PH needs contact details of cafe	JD
	Contact cafe re art works	PH

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 14th June, Park's Café, 7:15pm



Ruth Bourne