



## November Editorial



**Stephen Evens;** I live in Droitwich, I'm self-taught and have enjoyed painting all my life and following retirement after a thirty-year career with the NHS Ambulance Service I have been able to spend more time 'Painting for Pleasure'. I get Inspiration for my work from various sources but mainly I use my own photographs and those sent to me by family and friends. I like to challenge myself to paint any subject that interests and excites me, as will be seen by the range of works I display in my exhibitions.

Over the years I have held several solo exhibitions at Droitwich Library and have displayed and sold works in various galleries in and around Worcester and Hereford. Several years ago, my wildlife paintings were featured as main articles in two county magazines, 'Worcestershire Living' and, as I originate from Shrewsbury, the article was also published in the Shropshire magazine 'Verve'.

I have been a member Droitwich Arts Network (DAN) for over five years, and as members we receive tremendous support from many people and venues in and around the town for displaying our work.

## DAN Exhibition at Hanbury Hall; A Review



It was a great exhibition lasting three weeks – our best so far! Artists commented on how they enjoyed both exhibiting and stewarding, meeting new people and engaging with the public. In total 33 artists exhibited over 140 pictures, as well as prints in browsers and cards.

Approximately £3,000 was taken in sales – well over double last year. Artists that made sales include Claire Hilton, Chris Walker, Dora Bodley, Dorothy Humphries, Graham

Wilson, John Dugmore, Julie Hunt, Julia Rollitt, Karen Harmon, Lyn Davies, Liz Holbeche, Lynda Sharp, Penny Dykes, Bob Addy, Rosie Philpott, Trevor Hunter, and Tina Watkins. Whilst it is wonderful that our visitors bought so many artworks we should recognise the contribution of all artists who participated. Many works that were not sold were appreciated by many of the visitors (as the voting shows). One of the strengths of the exhibition was the diversity and quality of the work on offer. Everyone strives to put their best work on display there - and we know that a proportion of sales have little to do with artistic quality - sometimes matching the purchasers' room colour scheme or size of available space seems to have a high priority!



**Kenneth Robinson**

Lighting was a success. It was suggested that we purchase more LED uplighters and staff at Hanbury Hall will look into getting stronger bulbs for their own lamps. Two poets performed their poetry for us during the closing celebration: Poet Polly Stretton wrote a poem based on Chris Walker's Squirrel painting and Worcestershire Poet Laureate Nina Lewis, wrote a poem based on Stephen Evans painting 'Dragon Series at full speed on the Solent'. £30 in cards were sold on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Oct, but the names of artists weren't recorded. Please submit your claims to Rhys Jones by 14<sup>th</sup> November.

Winners of the visitors favourite artwork competition:

**Winner – Kenneth Robinson for 'Royal Scot 66113 Cameronian' – 101 votes**

**Runner Up – Julia Rollitt for 'Highland Heather' – 98 votes**

**Third place – Malcolm Wakeman for 'Urban Jungle' – 83 votes.**

On a musical note; a least three musicians provided different kinds of background music during the exhibition: Bridget Wakeman on classical guitar, David Wornham on euphonium and Mike Johns on acoustic

guitar (but not playing altogether). Whether they actually helped to sell artwork is questionable but they did add a little something and even received several compliments from visitors!

The National Trust staff were delighted with the exhibition and had felt that it worked well for them as well as for us. Volunteers also enjoyed wearing their Vernon costumes in the Gallery on the last Saturday.

**Thank you for all the artists and stewards, Musicians, Poets and Hanbury Hall staff!**



## Droitwich ArtsFest 2018

Following the success of ArtsFest 2017 which lasted three weeks in July and early August this year, The Mayor of Droitwich and others, have suggested that ArtsFest 2018 should last for four weeks.

Rhys Jones has already started making outline plans for a bigger and better ArtsFest next year and is considering two alternatives. Option 1 is to start on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July and run for 3 weeks, ending on Sat 4<sup>th</sup> August. Option 2 is to start on Sat 30<sup>th</sup> June and run for 4 weeks, ending on Sat 28<sup>th</sup> July. It is not possible to start on Sat 7<sup>th</sup> July as that is the weekend of the Hill Climb at The Chateau Impney. At the moment, option 2 is the favourite particularly as we have already booked the Gallery Room for another DAN exhibition, setting up on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June and ending on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

If we start on Sat 30<sup>th</sup> June, initial ideas include a day of dance with opportunities for the public to join in. We are thinking about holding an open-air music event in the evening of Sat 7<sup>th</sup> July which should attract some of the people leaving the Chateau Hill Climb late afternoon. Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July will be ArtsFest Family Day. We have already booked two Face Painters, and a provider of children's activities with two gazebos, which could create a Chinese Dragon to be paraded through the town later in the day. We are in discussions with the Droitwich Youth Council who may organise music provided by youth bands on the same day. Could members of DAN organise a painting activity for children? More details will emerge as plans are firmed up during the next few months.

## Next meeting of the Droitwich Arts Network

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 19:15** at Park's Cafe, Victoria Square. All are welcome to attend.

## Droitwich Exhibitions - is your artwork on show?

**Bookings are available at all venues - please contact DAN on [info@droitwichartsnetwork.org](mailto:info@droitwichartsnetwork.org)**

**Droitwich library:** the DAN table is on the ground floor and it has a different artist displayed every fortnight. *The artwork of Andy Jenkins until 11<sup>th</sup> November then Karen Harmon until 25<sup>th</sup> November*

**Park's Café,** 4 Victoria Square; *Rhys Jones (photography) until 28<sup>th</sup> November*

**The Maltstone,** Kidderminster Road, Cutnall Green; *David Skidmore during November*

**Music matters – Salt Workers Fayre** at the **Gardeners Arms**, Vines Ln, Droitwich Spa, WR9 8LU (01905 772936) [www.gardeners-arms.com](http://www.gardeners-arms.com)

**Norbury Theatre** [www.norburytheatre.co.uk](http://www.norburytheatre.co.uk) (Box Office: 01905 770154)

'The Time of Their Lives' **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm**

'Children's Theatre' **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2.30pm**

'High School Musical' **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2.30pm and 7.30pm**

**Droitwich Spa Community Choir** Liz Dutton, 07975 834573 [info@droitwichchoir.co.uk](mailto:info@droitwichchoir.co.uk)

19:30 Tuesdays at Droitwich Spa Working Mens Club, 107 Friar St, Droitwich WR9 8EG

**Droitwich Camera Club** Mondays at 20:00-22:00 Chawson Barn, Old Chawson Lane, Droitwich, WR90BA <http://www.droitwichcamera.co.uk/> for their programme of events

**For the latest information visit: <http://www.droitwichartsnetwork.org/>  
DAN Contact: 07766 415094 or e-mail [info@droitwichartsnetwork.org](mailto:info@droitwichartsnetwork.org)**

Links November 2017