



Wishing our Members a Peaceful and Happy New Year!

The committee would like to wish our members a very happy 2018 and invite you to all the events which are coming up in the new year. Especially important will be **ArtsFest** 2018, our many exhibitions throughout Droitwich and social meetings at Parks Café. Perhaps your new year resolutions could include being a little more creative in 2018? I thought it would be fun (and maybe useful) to share some resolution ideas for making this a more creative year. Without further ado, I give you **3 artsy resolutions**, that will make 2018 a year full of creativity. If your field is not visual art, do consider similar ideas that would work for you.

See Real Art: Make a resolution to visit a different art gallery each month. Perhaps become a member at your local art gallery or museum, and milk it for all it's worth. Go to all the openings take the kids (many museums are kid-friendly and offer activities for little ones), and/or visit once a month, on your own, on a quiet weekend morning.

Keep a Sketchbook: If you spend a lot of time outdoors, you could make one nature drawing every day. If you like to collage, try filling a box with inspiring paper scraps that you keep in a space that you like to create in. Find some good paper glue and fill the sketchbook pages with paper creations.

Learn How to "x". What do you want to get better at? Do you want to improve your drawing/ painting/ sculpting skills? Your resolution could be to:

- Master one new art form by year's end
- Explore other art disciplines (try collage, sewing, glass blowing, or ceramics)
- Invite friends over for monthly art-making parties. If this last idea speaks to you, you'll want to read [How to Throw Your Own Craft Night \(Etsy\)](#). With one year to play and learn, you will be on your way to mastering that skill by next December.

The DAN best of 2017

Springtime was a time for planning DAN activities and our first request was for items for the **Mail Art** exhibition, an international populist artistic movement centred on sending small scale works through the postal service. The received artworks were exhibited several times to



great acclaim. Then came **Salt King 200**, the celebration of John Corbett's 200th birthday with a picnic. This was held on the grounds of Chateau Impney, the former home of John Corbett and was open to all. The picnic was full of fun, laughter and a wonderful sense of community spirit.

And then came **ArtsFest** held for 3 weeks from 15 July which was a great success for which much appreciation and gratitude for his hard work must

go to the architect of **ArtsFest**, Rhys Jones. The first two weeks of events were astounding and "Handel's Water Music" on the canal in Vines Park was a brilliant event attended by over 200 towns folk and visitors. Keith Slater (Old Blue eyes) sold out his Frank Sinatra celebration. Excellent Drama from MadCap Theatre was another sell out with an Alfresco "As you Like it" that will stay in the memory. A group of poets led by Worcestershire Poet Laureate Nina Lewis read poetry in St Andrew's Square and music and merriment with Malcolm Stent and friends was a great evening sell out. David Holden's fascinating insight into the Mosaics at the Church of the Sacred Heart and then DAN's own art exhibition in Droitwich Library when DAN members set up their easels for 'Arts in View', for a chat with the towns folk and visitors about



what makes them pick up their paint brushes. A truly great event in our calendar and we are looking forward

to four weeks in 2018. We acknowledge and thank the sponsors of **ArtsFest**, Nicol & Co Estate Agents, Droitwich Spa Town Council and Worcestershire County Council.



Onto October with our Hanbury Hall annual exhibition at the Long Gallery, this is one of the premier events in the Droitwich Arts Network calendar. This year featured 123 works on the walls by 33 local artists plus other work in browsers and cards with many items sold. Visitors also benefited from live music on many days. A group of poets also created new works inspired by the exhibition.

Finally, although not a DAN project, Droitwich High Street was re-Launched. After months of road and pavement rebuilding and improvements in Droitwich Spa's historic High Street, it was ready to be fully open for business with the help of Santa and lots of local helpers.



Rachel Harrison, owner of the beauty salon Inspire, and Viv Findley from HoteslshopUK, lead the drive and rallied many other traders and organisations to get involved. The Droitwich Means Business Group in conjunction with High Street traders organised the relaunch and local businesses and Wychavon District Council provided funding.



The Jinney Ring's Pop Up Christmas shop and Santa's Post Office was open and later the Town Crier lead the procession down the High Street with Santa in his Sleigh and real reindeer. Santa unveiled his post box in his very own Post Office and Droitwich Salvation Army played Christmas Carols. Artists from the Canalside Studios introduced their special Art Advent Calendar which was spread among the stores in the High Street.

Next meetings of the Droitwich Arts Network

DAN AGM 16th January 7.15 pm at Parks Café All members invited to attend.

DAN New Year Social: Saturday 27th January, 7:15pm, Park's Café, Droitwich

You and your partner have been invited to the DAN New Year Social. It will take on the form of previous years with food and drink from around the world with a chance to socialise with other members. Please let Rosie know if you are attending by 16th January.

Droitwich Exhibitions- is your artwork on show?

Bookings are available - please contact DAN on info@droitwichartsnetwork.org

Droitwich library: the DAN table is on the ground floor and it has a different artist displayed every fortnight. *Justine Humphries* 13th January – 27th January then *Stephen H. Evans* until 10th February.

Park's Café, 4 Victoria Square; *Group Exhibition until 23rd January then Trisha Kenny until 20th February*

The Maltstone, Cutnall Green; *Stephen Evens until 9th January then Lyn Davies until 6th February*

Norbury Theatre www.norburytheatre.co.uk (Box Office: 01905 770154)

'Viceroy's House' Wednesday 17th January 7.30pm

'Babes in the Wood' Friday 12th – Sunday 14th, Thursday 18th – Sunday 21st and Thursday 25th – Saturday 27th January 7.15pm, 2.30 matinée each Saturday. Sunday performances 2.30pm only

Droitwich Spa Community Choir Liz Dutton, 07975 834573 info@droitwichchoir.co.uk

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

Droitwich Camera Club Chawson Barn, Old Chawson Lane, Droitwich, WR90BA

Mondays at 20:00-22:00 <http://www.droitwichcamera.co.uk> for their programme of events

Monday, 8th January **Claire Carter:** 'Perpetually in Motion'

Monday 15th January **Monthly Competition**

Monday 22nd January **Lee Morgan:** 'Canadian Wildlife through the Lens'

Monday 29th January **The Graham Trevor British Isles Landscape Competition**

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

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