

PANDEMIC PAINTING

The pandemic may have stopped many things and put paid to many events, including Pam's Art Classes that meet every Thursday in Alvechurch Village Hall, but one thing it didn't stop was the creative juices flowing in the homes of the Thursday artists, writes David Morgan.

Spurred on by art tutor Pam's regular messages and ideas for paintings, and supported by her willingness to assist when folks got into difficulty with a picture, via WhatsApp and emails, the art has continued to flow. So much so that the groups are now planning an exhibition of *Art through the pandemic* in the Village Hall from Thursday July 22 to Saturday July 24.

This is not art about the pandemic itself but samples of people's artistic endeavours during lockdown.

Pam said: "Lockdown was more difficult for some than others. A few of the members found it, at times, difficult to get motivated during the periods of isolation and preferred to do other things, whilst others found the times when they couldn't go out to other venues a golden opportunity to draw and paint more."

"But we will still have a wide variety of subjects, styles and abilities on display due to the hard work of the artists themselves."

This will be the ninth exhibition by Pam's classes, which also include a small group based in Droitwich, but the first one since 2019 as the 2020 exhibition was cancelled due to Covid. So it will include two years of paintings including a few that were created before the first lockdown.

One of the features of the exhibition will be a number of paintings produced as part of a competition sponsored by Kamal Khan and Spring View Care, owners of Tutnall Hall in Bromsgrove and Grosvenor House near Alvechurch.

Kamal has sponsored an annual competition for several years challenging the artists to paint in different styles. In previous years this has



Styles: Cubism meets Art Deco in this painting from the exhibition.

included painting like David Hockney, da Vinci, the Impressionists, such as Monet and even to paint in the Georgian style. This year's challenge, delayed by 12 months due to the pandemic, was to take Cubism as the approach.

Cubism was started about 1907 by Pablo Picasso and led to many new styles of abstract painting. In Cubism, objects are analysed, broken up and reassembled in an abstract form. Instead of depicting objects from a single viewpoint, the artist depicts the subject from a multitude of viewpoints to represent the subject in a greater context and has been considered the most influential art movement of the 20th century.

As in previous years, the staff and

residents at the two care homes operated by Kamal will choose their preferred painting from those submitted for the competition and then these two pictures will compete against each other to become the 2021 overall winner.

Entry to the exhibition will be free and some of the paintings will be for sale, so it is an opportunity to purchase an original painting by local artists at a reasonable cost.

The opening times for the exhibition at Alvechurch Village Hall will be 10am until 6pm (until 5pm on the Saturday). Entry is free and refreshments will also be available.

More details about the art classes can be found at:

www.pamsartclasses.co.uk