

Fusion of old and new

Dave Morgan previews the latest exhibition by an Alvechurch art group.

Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue" is a well-known phrase for brides – and the first two parts also apply to the annual Alvechurch Art Exhibition in July.

The "something old" could refer to the style of paintings in what has become a yearly competition supported by local businessman Kamal Khan, owner of Grosvenor House and Tutnall House care homes.

This is the sixth year of the art exhibition and Kamal has sponsored competitions in three of them, so many of the paintings by local artists now adorn the walls in both care homes.

This year's brief is to produce Georgian-style paintings, possibly featuring people in Georgian costume; this is to celebrate the Georgians and the link to Tutnall Hall, which is a Georgian-era mansion built during the reign of George III, although the actual date is difficult to uncover.

The BBC has been showing a series of programmes recently, celebrating 300 years since the Georgian era (the first George came to the throne in 1714) and it was that plus the age of Tutnall House that gave Kamal the idea for this year's competition.

Many of the artists have app-



roached the challenge with enthusiasm and there should be a fine display of interesting and often quite large paintings – as was the style in Georgian times.

One of the artists, Di Morgan, said, "When I first heard of the subject matter I wasn't filled with enthusiasm, but as I researched some of the paintings from that era I became more interested and decided to try one.

"I enjoyed it so much that I'm now working on a painting based on the style of George Stubbs, who was famous for his horse paintings in the mid-18th century – although this one isn't for the competition and whether it will be complete before the exhibition is another matter!"

The "something new" refers to the large number of new paintings and drawings produced by the artists

since last year's exhibition. These will include some done as group exercises, so with similar subjects or using the same medium, while others will be of a more random nature with paintings based on the artists' own interests.

Many of these new works of art will be for sale at very reasonable prices, which gives visitors the chance to both view and own original art at a fraction of what you would pay through a commercial gallery.

Over the past few years the exhibitions have received excellent reviews by visitors and in addition to the Georgian paintings and other new works of art on display, there will also be a section of previously displayed work, some of which will be at reduced prices – so a chance to pick up a real bargain!

The one thing that will not be at the exhibition is "something borrowed" (and the "something blue" only refers to the colour of paint used in some of the paintings) but there will be plenty of wonderful works of art to view and enjoy.

The exhibition runs from Thursday July 20 until Saturday July 22 in Alvechurch Village Hall, open from 10am–6pm on Thursday and Friday and 10am–5pm on the Saturday. Entry is free and refreshments will be available. More details about the art classes can be found at www.pamsartclasses.co.uk



Kamal Khan and Sajid Javid MP congratulate last year's winner, Jackie Lee.