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| |  | | --- | | Little Gem Arts & Crafts Gallery    **Newsletter Number  7C – 23rd September 2020**  **COVID Update**  **OK,** I know it isn’t yet the first of the month. But, I thought that you may want to know how things are going. So here is supplementary 7C. But, you will still get another newsletter (#8) after the next committee meeting. So I can tell you then of any new decisions, etc.  And, we have four, or five, prospective new committee members. I will let you know more in Newsletter #8!  **Gallery Opened**  Well, the Gallery opened for our special COVID workshops last week. We had four workshops in total and everyone who attended really appreciated getting back together with our fellow artists.  We have managed to keep within all the COVID regulations and guidelines. There doesn’t seem to have been any problems cleaning and sanitising between uses and the workload isn’t as heavy as we had feared.  Having carefully read the Northumberland County Council advice on the latest COVID local restrictions (see extract at the end of the newsletter), we decided that as a ‘social club’ taking even more precautions than pubs, with full track & trace, not to mention our waiver forms, we were safe to continue with our ‘rule of six’ workshops. So, we are half way through the second week, with no problems.  Additionally, I have just today received our contactless thermometer for testing temperatures on arrival. We are therefore doing everything above and beyond the regulations to ensure your safety when you come to the Gallery.  So, if you have changed your mind and want to consider attending a workshop, or two, please get in touch with me.  **Lessons Learnt**  We were surprised at how it wasn’t too difficult painting for two hours while wearing our masks. The biggest problem was for those of us with hearing difficulties; we now realise how, sub-consciously, we are dependent on lip reading – which, of course, you can’t do with face masks on. So there has been a lot of (good-humoured) shouting going on in the workshops.  On a more serious note, we identified that potential attendees have missed out on a slot when people didn’t turn up for their allotted session. We have therefore introduced a new rule: if you can’t make the allocated slot, then you must contact me 48 hours beforehand so that I can make the slot available to someone else. If not, you will be invited to (voluntarily) contribute the lost workshop fee of £2.50 to the Gallery. Obviously, last minute illnesses and ‘force majeure’ will be taken into favourable consideration! ☺  **More workshops**  Given offers to act as ‘lead organisers’ we will be examining, at the next committee meeting, whether we can manage to run further additional workshop(s) to meet the needs of those who can’t attend one of the four current slots. As a minimum, I hope that we will be able to run at least one evening session for those of you who are tied up during the day.  However, I would still like to hear from others who may be able to help run these workshops as ‘lead organisers’; enforcing the COVID procedures, collecting the money and cleaning up after the session, ready for the next.  Likewise, we have noticed a significant increase in interest from the general public, who seem to be attracted to the new-look Gallery. In just the last few days, we have sold a couple of paintings, some jewellery, some picture frames and lots from the shop. So, I would be very interested to hear from anyone wishing to volunteer to ‘man’ the shop at times when the workshops are not running, especially at weekends. Don’t worry, I have implemented an easy-to-use recording and receipt system and have a detailed price list of everything available. Additionally, all items are now priced in rounded pounds, so looking after change is a lot easier. The role of shopkeeper is therefore not as onerous as it may at first seem!  **Refurbishment**  We have been continuing with the non-critical elements of the refurbishment – mainly in the back of the gallery.  Our latest addition is an 8’ x 6’ metal shed in the back yard for the storage of less-used equipment, the gazebo and craft supplies (as well as a bit of junk! ☹). This will allow us to store the chairs in the alcove outside the toilet and further tidy up the back rooms.  **Paintings**  We still have some room for some more lockdown paintings and SUNflower paintings – especially since we keep selling them as people are attracted to the newly refurbished gallery. (As one visitor said yesterday before paying £100 for one of the lockdown paintings; “I didn’t know that Newbiggin had an art gallery, isn’t it lovely! – and, you do workshops too?!)  So please bring your offerings to the Gallery on either a Tuesday morning, Wednesday morning or Thursday morning or afternoon.  If you have any queries, or need any more information please contact me.    [**Stay safe and healthy**!](https://www.sky.com/watch/title/series/ea09995e-34a0-4d81-bb30-aa8440cf722f)  [Steve Wilkinson](https://www.sky.com/watch/title/series/ea09995e-34a0-4d81-bb30-aa8440cf722f)  [steve@littlegemnewbiggin.org](mailto:steve@littlegemnewbiggin.org) (new email)  077 22 234 752  [23rd September 2020](https://www.sky.com/watch/title/series/ea09995e-34a0-4d81-bb30-aa8440cf722f) | | Little Gem Art & Craft Gallery  Charity Number 1163002  Committee members:  David Sinclair  Christine Davison  Sue Case - Secretary  Steve Wilkinson - Chairman and Treasurer | | [*If you do not wish to receive further mailings from Little Gem, please click here.*](mailto:steve@littlegemnewbiggin.org?subject=UNSUBSCRIBE) | |

**Extracts from NCC website dated 18th September 2020:**

*(The emboldened words are mine to highlight the relevant issues)*

From Friday 18th September, regulations will **lawfully ban** the following:

* Residents must not socialise with other people outside of their own households in private homes and gardens
* All hospitality for food and drink will be restricted to table service only
* Late night restriction of operating hours will be introduced, with venues required to close between 10pm to 5am.

Residents are also **advised** to adhere to the following guidance to further reduce rates of infection:

* Residents **should** not socialise with other people outside of their own households in all public venues.

You must not meet people who do not live with you, or are not part of your support bubble, either indoors or outdoors, unless for the specific purposes mentioned below.

* for work purposes or for the provision of voluntary or **charitable** services
* for the purposes of **education or training**

### 10. Do these measures affect access to education?

No. Schools, colleges and universities remain open and **are operating in a COVID-secure way.**

15. What are the changes for the hospitality venues?

The following must close from 10pm to 5am:

* …….
* Social clubs

As elsewhere in the country, venues must also **take details of customers for NHS Test and Trace** from September 18.

### 16. Can I still go to a hospitality venue, like a pub or restaurant, or meet up outdoors for example in a park or at the beach with family and friends there who don’t live with me?

You are **advised** to only visit these venues with other members of your household (or support bubble).

### 17. Why can I visit the pub but not my relative’s house?

This is because the hospitality industry has **enhanced measures, such as risk assessments and test and trace**, which private homes don’t have.

### 21. Can I go to the gym, gym class, leisure centre or a swimming pool?

Yes, **as long as these venues have the required Covid-secure risk assessments and guidelines in place.**