



Newbiggin Arts Centre

Newsletter Number 9 – November 2020

This month, I will try to be a bit briefer. Last month's was a bit of an epic, wasn't it?

I hope that you are all still well, keeping safe and still observing all the Government Guidelines.

Legal Stuff

We have formally registered the new name, Newbiggin Arts Centre, with the Charity Commission and have registered all our new Trustees. So no more 'Little Gem'; everything is '**Newbiggin Arts Centre**' or '**NAC**' from now on!

Trustees

As promised, the Trustees' mug shots and their contact details have been uploaded to the website. So you have no excuses for not knowing who we are and how to get in touch with any of us! See <https://newbigginartscentre.org/trustees/>

Transparency

To make sure that you have access to all the latest information and know what has been going on in the Committee Meetings, we will regularly be uploading the minutes and other information to the website. To view this information, please go to the repository at : <https://newbigginartscentre.org/elementor-repository/>

New Name

To reflect the new name: **NEWBIGGIN ARTS CENTRE**, or **NAC** we have re-launched our presence on the internet:

We have updated the new website www.newbigginartscentre.org;

We have also launched the new Facebook feed *Newbiggin ArtsCentre* with its associated page *Newbiggin Arts Centre* www.facebook.com/newbiggin.artscentre & www.facebook.com/Newbiggin-Arts-Centre-104992114734960/ respectively

And we even have a Twitter account [@ArtsNewbiggin](https://twitter.com/ArtsNewbiggin)

Please visit these sites, like them where appropriate and share with all your friends, relatives and colleagues!

Our Trustee in charge of Communications, Valerie Hearn, will be leading the work to make sure the social media get the right messages across to the community. If you have any views on what we should be letting you know about, have anything to include, or just want to vent your spleen, please let Val know at hearn4599@btinternet.com or 0779 274 8665.

Fundraising



Heather Peel will be leading our fundraising activities and she needs your ideas to help her on two aspects:

1. If you know of any sources of grants, sponsorship, or other fundraising mechanisms, please let Heather know on fluffypinkturkey@yahoo.co.uk or 01670 855426
2. If you have any ideas on things NAC need, or any other facilities or equipment which we should have at the Centre, for which we should be applying for grants or other funding, please let Heather know.

Artists Gallery

Keith's exhibition sub-committee have decided that it is time to put away the 'Lockdown Paintings' currently on display and hang paintings for our first featured exhibition. The first theme will be "**Winter**" and will start on **7th November** and run up to Christmas, or the New Year.

Please submit your paintings to Keith (either in person, or by leaving them at Gibson Street whenever we are open) preferably **before Sunday 1st November**. It would be good if we had a wide range of paintings from as many different artists as possible. We don't really want lots of paintings from the same artist (i.e. me!). So, please dig out any paintings which you may have with a 'Winter' theme – or get painting something new.

Let us know the title of the painting, the medium & the price, if you want to try & sell it.

Lockdown paintings have been selling like hotcakes. People seem to be attracted to the new-look Gibson Street and are coming in to buy. So, don't think your paintings aren't good enough to sell – we have already proved that people, who had no concept of selling their paintings, have made some sales and even been given commissions based on their pictures on display.

SAA

We have joined SAA as an arts club. That means that we have the ability to promote our activities through their magazine & website and to buy art supplies at a bit of a discount – which means that we will be able to re-stock the shop and pass on reduced prices to you. Additionally, membership gives us Public Liability Insurance, which means that we are covered in case any pictures fall on a visitor's head!

Sell your paintings on the NAC website

Surprisingly, I have not received any paintings for adding to our website portfolio page <https://newbigginartscentre.org/portfolios/>

Whether you want to sell them, or just let everyone see the fruits of your labours, let me have them and I will post them on our website (and possibly do something with the SAA too!).

If you are interested, please send (or re-send, if you had already sent them for the lockdown exhibitions) me a photo or scan of your artwork together with the following information: artist name; painting title; medium (oil, acrylic, watercolours, etc.); size; whether the work is mounted, framed or unframed; and selling price (or NFS). You can



also add a bit about the painting. For ideas of a similar platform, please see <https://www.artfinder.com/> (note, NAC has no relationship with Artfinder; their website is just offered for reference!)

Note, if you can't manage to produce your own electronic copy of your painting, let me borrow the original and I can either scan it on my own new personal A3 scanner/printer, or photograph it if it is larger than A3 – all part of the service!

NAC Logo

OK, so I have put a rubbish ad hoc logo at the top of this newsletter. But, this is just to stimulate you into thinking about what you would offer as our new NAC logo.

As before, the designer of the winning logo will be awarded a prize.

Please pass your designs to me, or email them in electronic form if you can; and we will let you know the winner as soon as possible; hopefully in the next newsletter.

Office Technology

Thanks to a generous donation from Sheila Cooper, we now have a lovely big TV to replace the one damaged in the refurbishment (and another in the pipeline – update next time). This allows us to use it for presentations (in lessons, etc.) and to link with the office computer and printers to better use the capabilities of these.

Donation

We have just received a substantial donation from Junction Café.

Junction Café is a restaurant staffed by volunteers. They run out of Stakeford Methodist Church on Thursday lunchtime. All of their profits go to local community projects, small local charities and individuals in need. They have been running for 11 years. Sadly at the moment, due to coronavirus they have closed; as most of their volunteers are in the vulnerable category of over 70; as are most of their customers. They usually get between 65 and 85 people coming for lunch on Thursdays.

This significant donation is very welcome to help towards paying our rent at times when workshop and classes income is greatly reduced due to the enforced 'rule of six' class sizes. Thanks to Junction Café! We wish them well when their restaurant re-opens when life gets back to 'normal'.

COVID Workshops

The new COVID workshops have been going ahead with some success. We have been running four painting workshops; oils on Tuesday morning; a mix of watercolours and acrylics on Wednesday morning; acrylics on Thursday morning and watercolours on Thursday afternoon. Additionally, the Craft Club meets on a Wednesday afternoon and the East Coast Art Club re-started in their normal Wednesday evening slot.

Keith started his drawing session on Friday morning.



With changing situations, there will be places become available from time to time. So, if you are interested in joining us at any time, please let me know (admin@newbigginartscentre.org) and I will put you on the reserves lists and let you know as and when any places become available.

NAC Shop

Having tried to have the shop open on Mondays (albeit without any advertising) we had *no* 'walk-in' customers. So, we have agreed to try opening the shop on a Sunday. Unfortunately, the volunteers which we have for Mondays cannot make the Sundays.

So, we *desperately* need more volunteers to join the rota for Sunday. Please let me know if you can spare a few hours every month (or every so often) to help out.

We will continue to try to open on select Mondays, when the volunteers are available and get the message about when we will be open out as soon as possible by social media.

Free Creative Workshops

I've just heard from Alan Vinters that he has filled the slots for the workshops starting on **Saturday 21st November** 2pm to 4pm.

But, if you are interested in attending future workshops, or for further information, please contact Alan or Susan directly:

Phone: 07411 170 604
Email: alan@creativeartsnortheast.com
susan@creativeartsnortheast.com
Website www.creativeartsnortheast.com
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/creativeartsnortheast>



Stay safe and healthy!
Steve Wilkinson
admin@newbigginartscentre.org
077 66 856 365
24th October 2020

Newbiggin Arts Centre Charity Number 1163002

Committee members:

Christine Davison
Sue Nicholson
Fiona Rowley
Valerie Hearn - Communications
Heather Peel - Fundraising
Keith Robson - Exhibitions



Sue Case	- Secretary
Steve Wilkinson	- Chairman and Treasurer

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