

8 July 2021

## A Message from our Chair

Back to normal on 19<sup>th</sup>! I can't wait to see all the old faces (and some not-so-old!) again. Thanks to everyone involved in getting the Front Street Studios up and running and refurbishing the Gibson Street Community Centre in time for the full re-opening.

Now we need to look to the future and ensure that we are giving you, the community, what you want and need in all the arts (not just painting!). Planning is well under way and you can hear all about it and make your views heard at our AGM. We will get details of when that will be in our next newsletter.

Meanwhile, to cope with all the demand for classes and clubs; if there are any experienced artist out there who would like to share their wisdom by leading groups, please get in touch with us.

## What's Happening?

### We're Getting Close!

As most of you will know, we are currently running our workshops in a covid safe way which means having to restrict the number of people allowed indoors at the same time using the 'rule of six' rota system.



Well, all this is about to change!

**Based on the latest government announcements, we are looking forward to starting our full capacity (up to 12 people per session) classes and clubs, to start beginning the week of 19<sup>th</sup> July.**

### Classes

Our classes will be led by our experienced painters who will be able to help you learn the basics of drawing, watercolour, acrylic, or oil painting. The cost will be £4 for a two-hour

session, with all materials supplied. There will be a limit of 12 people per session.

### Clubs

The clubs will be of interest to people who prefer to do 'their own thing', using their own materials. The cost for these will be £3 for a two-hour session (again with a limit of 12 people). If there is a need to use communal materials, they are available, and we ask that a £1 donation is made to cover the cost.

The children's art group is scheduled to begin on Friday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> July, held at the Gibson St. centre. We are pleased to say it is fully booked and we are looking forward to seeing them all again...!

While several of our scheduled classes are full, there are still some spaces available, so if you are interested in signing up, please do so as soon as possible. You can do this by either calling in to the Studios at Front Street and fill your name on the chart in the kitchen or send an email to [admin@newbigginartscentre.org](mailto:admin@newbigginartscentre.org).

## What's New?

### 'Rent a Wall'

One of the benefits of having our new Front St. studio is its location in the heart of Newbiggin. Since we opened, we've had many visitors to the

studio and their reaction has been overwhelmingly positive. There have been sales of our members' paintings, purchases of art materials, and requests to sign up to our classes and clubs.

To build on this, for the first week in each month, we will offer the opportunity to artists to 'rent a wall' in the studio. For a small fee of £40 (plus a commission of 20% on any sales), they are entitled to a space in the window and a full wall in the studio. This will help promote local talent, engagement with our local community and provide holiday makers and visitors a 'buzzing' place to visit. If you, or anyone you know, may be interested in renting a wall, please get in touch (contact details below).

We look forward to seeing Steve Wilkinson's (our Chair) exhibition beginning the week of 31<sup>st</sup> July!

## What's Coming?

### Our 'Launch'

We are excited to let you know that on the afternoon of 26<sup>th</sup> of July, we are officially launching the opening of our Front St. studio. We have invited our many supporters and sponsors to come and visit our new location, have a look around and meet our committee members.

Later that day, we are hosting a 'thank you' gathering to show our appreciation of the support and help given by our NAC members. Without the dedication of our volunteers and those who have attended our workshops throughout our restricted opening, we would never have been able to be ready to launch our new studio. So, thank you all!

## How Can You Help?

We think we have done an excellent job in getting the Front St. studio up and running—certainly the feedback we've received supports that! However, we can do more work in sprucing up the Gibson St. location. This is where you may be able to help. **To keep costs low, we are asking if anyone has a microwave and any kitchen units they can donate.** If you do, please contact us—we will be so grateful!

We are always looking for volunteers to help us make the NAC a 'go to' place. There are many things you can do, such as greeting people at the door and showing them around, helping with the administration duties, leading a club or teaching a class, or just spending a few hours in the studio running the shop—you can even use this time doing some of your own painting. If you are interested, please get in touch—we would love to hear from you!

## Contact Us

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