



Newbiggin Arts Centre Newsletter

Issue #20 | January 2022

A Message from your Chair

A rather belated Happy New Year to all. Let us hope that this year is disrupted less by COVID precautions.

A New Year and a new vitality; you will see some changes and improvements as we go forward this year – from new classes with Ted, demonstrations and workshops with visiting professionals, even life drawing classes! and progressive improvement of our facilities.

Additionally, we will be developing our offerings from art & crafts to many other aspects of the Arts. This will mean more classes and clubs and a greater utilisation of Gibson Street (already with its new central heating and with new flooring on its way). In parallel, we will be starting the planning for the Newbiggin Arts Festival; led by George and working with other local and regional organisations .

A busy time for all, with more people getting actively involved in running our charity. If you have any ideas or suggestions, or if you want to help by volunteering, please get in touch with me or any of the Committee members.

Committee Members: Seve Wilkinson, Sue Case, Valerie Hearn, George Stoker, Fiona Rowley, Heather Peel, Keith Robson, Ted Taylor, Linda Rollinson



New classes!...

As you probably know, we have a variety of classes and clubs in both of our locations, Front St. and Gibson St., and we are excited to tell you that we can now offer you even more to choose from! Please read on for more information.

Our classes generally run for eight to 10 weeks. The cost is £4 for each two-hour session, which includes materials. In them, you will be introduced to different techniques, materials, and given plenty of opportunity to practice.

As spaces are limited, we do ask that if you are signing up for a class that you let the leader know if you decide you are unable to complete the course, thereby freeing up space for someone else.

Clubs are informal and here you will find people of varying degrees of experience using a variety of materials. The cost is £3 per session if you bring your own supplies, and £4 if

you wish to use the materials available at the studios. Whether you are a beginner or more experienced, there is always someone there to help you if needed!

If you are interested in signing up, or if you are already signed up and want to change your session, please contact George Stoker at: george@newbigginartscentre.org or **01670 708269**

We also have a Friday evening children's club. Here children, aged from six to 16 benefit from learning painting skills, developing their life skills, and having the opportunity to socialise with each other. If you are interested in signing up your child, please contact Sue Case at: **078 58 447 090**

[Here is our latest schedule...](#)

Front St. (74B) Studio

Day	Time	Class/Club	Leader
Monday	1:00 – 3:00	Art for Beginners Class	Ted
Tuesday	10:00 – 12:00	Oil Club	Keith
	1:00 – 3:00	All Media Club	Valerie
	19:00 – 21:00	Art for Beginners Class	Ted
Wednesday	10:00 – 12:00	Watercolour Club	Keith
	1:00 – 3:00	Art for Beginners Class	Ted
	19:00 – 21:00	NAC Artist (mixed media) Club	Sue
Thursday	10:00 – 12:00	Acrylics Club	Steve
	1:00 – 3:00	Watercolour Club	Steve
	19:00 – 21:00	Mixed Media Club	Steve
Friday	10:00 – 12:00	Art for Beginners Class	Ted

Gibson Street (25-27) Centre

Day	Time	Class/Club	Leader
Wednesday (every other)	10:00 – 12:00	Pastel Class	Christine
Wednesday (every other)	10:00 – 12:00	Pastel Club	Steve
Wednesday	1:00 – 3:00	Craft Club	Sue
Friday	18:00 – 20:00	Children's Club	Sue



It's all about us...

The great news is that we now have over 100 members of NAC enjoying our classes and clubs and hope with our additional classes to get even more! The not-so-great news is that this makes it more difficult for our small team of volunteers to keep our art materials in good condition keep our studios clean and tidy, so we need your help!

Last Sunday, a few of us got together and gave our art materials a good clear up. We cleaned up and filled up all the watercolour palettes and washed over 250 acrylic and oil brushes—no mean feat, we can assure you!



Please help us keep these materials in tip top condition. You can do this by

- making sure that your watercolour palettes are cleaned after use and that you let the leader of your session know if any of the colours need filling up
- cleaning your brushes after using. This is extremely important, especially if they are acrylic or oil paint brushes. They need to be cleaned using hot soapy water and thoroughly dried.

We are sad to report that when we went through all the materials, we found a number of brushes were missing from the sets and a number were too badly damaged to keep, and thereby, need to be replaced. We don't want to have to raise prices to cover these losses, so please help us help you.

Some other general things you can do to help:

- clean the tables, painting boards and easels at the end of the session and any spillages (especially on the chairs) as soon as they happen. Any problems, let the session leader know as soon as possible
- make sure that the top of the paint is secured after you have taken your paint (acrylics, or oils). If you leave the top loose, the paint will solidify and be VERY difficult to remove to replace the top – especially the large acrylics tubs!

- if you use any of the studio's equipment; when you are finished, it needs to be put back in the correct place (in a clean condition)

We can only afford to have a cleaner come in once a week. As we get more and more people using our studios (which is a good thing!), it does mean that it has become increasingly difficult to keep our premises clean (and safe!). Again, we are asking you to help. There are just a few things that as a member you can do, which will go a long way to helping us all enjoy our time in the studios and helping us to save money, which in turn, keeps your fees low. Some examples:

- making sure to use the bins in the toilets to dispose of any materials other than toilet paper (we've had a few toilet blockages lately!)
- using the right bins in the kitchen to dispose of your rubbish—this helps us with recycling
- wash, dry and put away glasses, mugs, crockery, and cutlery after you have used them
- refill sachets, milk, biscuits, and cups when you use the last one in the retail unit on the worksurface – refills are in the appropriate drawer, or bulk storage is in the cupboards if the drawer is empty, and
- don't forget to let session leader know when you see any supplies (art and kitchen/toilet) running low

Apologies for what may seem like an onerous list of do's and don'ts. Fortunately, most of us do these things automatically, but hopefully this will prove useful to remind us all of our responsibilities as a member of our charity.



Committee News...

At the last committee meeting (held on the 24th of January), we had a lively discussion as to the purpose of our charity. The outcome was that we agreed that our aim is to promote and facilitate art, learning, and creativity; to create a welcoming environment that contributes to the health and well-being of our community.

We felt that we need to do more in encouraging new people to join the classes and groups and promote our studios through better and wider communication. As a result, we will be better utilizing social media (especially Facebook). We are also in the process of looking at adding some new classes/clubs, such as photography, print making, etc., and hopefully we'll be able to provide you more details soon, so stay tuned!

We also talked about the importance of displaying our members' art and encouraging our less experienced artists to 'hang a picture' on the wall. To this end, the session leaders will be on the 'lookout' for potential hangings, so expect some new and exciting displays coming soon! If you have something you would like to display, please just let your session leader know.



Please get in touch...

01670 708269 or 07766 856365

Children's Group: 078 58 447 090

admin@newbigginartscentre.org

www.newbigginartscentre.org

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