



Newbiggin Arts Centre Newsletter

Issue #22 | April 2022

A Message from your Chair

New flooring and the TV in place at Gibson Street; new soundproofing to the back room at Front Street which now supports the new hanging system; new dishwasher (about to be installed); and new blinds to replace the voiles at Front Street (in a couple of weeks). Things are moving on!

Thanks to our sponsors and supporters for the financial assistance which helps us to provide such excellent facilities – the best in the North of England (if not further).

And more to come as we ‘ramp up’ and start the diverse activities which will end up with Gibson Street being utilised as much as Front Street. How long before we need a third Centre??

Let me know if there is anything else which you can think of that we need in order to provide better services to all our members and the community as a whole. Then we will work hard to find a way to finance it all! (looks like a lot more grant application writing over the next few months!).

Take care,
Steve



Committee News...

Some of you may be asking, “*what exactly do we talk about at our monthly committee meetings?*”. Well, the answer is, quite a lot!

We generally hold our meetings on the last Monday of every month. We have a set agenda that covers our monthly finance report—how well we’re doing, and the status of

the grant applications that we are continually working on. These grants have been invaluable to helping us get up and running, to make improvements to our premises, and to fund new classes, groups, and activities.

Also on the agenda, we discuss any health and safety issues to ensure a safe environment for all of us. So, as a member, if there is anything you see that you think might be a risk, please let your session leader know.

Communication is another topic that we discuss. We are continually looking for ways to ensure our members (and potential members) get the information they need to make this the best community asset we can be. In addition to the monthly newsletter, we also send emails to all the members on our distribution list if there is something we think you need to know about (outside of the newsletter). It is therefore important that we have your up-to-date contact information, so if it changes, or if you know someone who can benefit from receiving these newsletters, please let us know. (Contact details below.)

We also want to hear from you. What do you find helpful to know about, is there anything you would like to share with the community, is this newsletter helpful for you? Please let us know.

We also talk about our governance—how we operate. Again, we are always looking for ways to improve how we provide our service to you as a member, and to the community as a whole. As we continue to grow and diversify our offerings, we are even more dependent on our volunteers, and this is where we ask for your help.

We are looking for people who would be interested in helping us to choose, hang, and display artwork in our studios. This is a fantastic opportunity to try something new, and don't worry if you don't have any experience, because our resident artist, Ted (who I am sure most of you know by now!), with help from Fiona, will run an informal (and fun, we're sure!) session on curating. What a great way to get involved and learn something new! Please let us know if this is something you would like to do.



Creative Newbiggin...

On 18th May, it will be one year ago when we launched our new identity of 'New Newbiggin Arts Centre' and the opening of the Front St. premises. When we look back, it is hard to believe how much we have grown and evolved from our 'Little Gem' roots on Gibson St. to where we are now. However, we believe we can still go a lot further!

When we decided on our new name, we purposely used the word 'Arts' (in the plural) as the word describes much more than just drawing, painting, and crafting. The term 'arts' includes so many more creative activities where we can express ourselves using a variety of methods. For example, storytelling, music, taking photographs, maybe throwing a pot or two (!), etc. As the NAC, we want to do whatever we can to encourage and support the creative arts in our community—we want to help develop a 'Creative Newbiggin', a place where we can promote our culture through expressing ourselves through the many forms of art.

So, stay tuned, and keep your eyes and ears open! You will see more and more opportunities to participate in and enjoy new activities provided by, or facilitated by, the NAC. Let's get creative Newbiggin!



It's all about us...

Reminder

Don't forget we are looking for your artwork to display to help celebrate our one-year anniversary on the 18th of May. This will be a wonderful opportunity for anyone who has never exhibited their work and for the community to see what we have been up to. So please, over the coming weeks, think about what you can do to add your art to 'the wall' for our anniversary celebration.

Coming Up

It's that time of year again...time to boil some eggs! On Thursday, the 14th of April, there will be an egg painting and decorating workshop for the Children's Art Club. It will be held at the Gibson St. location, from 1 – 3 p.m. All you need is the hard-boiled eggs; all other supplies will be provided. The cost is £1.50.

The decorated eggs can be entered into a competition held on Sunday, the 17th April in the piazza at the Newbiggin Spring Fayre. As an adult, if you fancy your chances, you can also enter your decorated egg, so don't be shy and good luck!

Holiday Closures

All classes and clubs will be closed on the Easter bank holidays (Friday, 15th and Monday, 18th April).

The Children's Art Club will be closed on 15th and 22nd April, restarting on the 29th April.



Who do you call...?

If you are not sure who to contact and for what, we have some new phone numbers and contact information for you.

George Stoker is managing anything to do with our clubs and classes' **attendance**. He can be contacted at:

george@newbigginartscentre.org or [077 66 856 365](tel:07766856365) or **01670 708269**

Fiona Rowley is the person to contact for **Support Services**. If you have a problem or concern, or need help with our service, she is the person to call at:
075 84 852 332

Sue Case is in charge of anything to do with the Children's group. She can be contacted at: 078 58 447 090

Last, but not least (!), **Steve Wilkinson**, our Chair, is the person to contact for everything else. For example, if you have any ideas or suggestions for new classes, want to help by volunteering, or just want more information about what we do, he can be reached at: 075 84 852 285



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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