

Newbiggin Arts Centre Committee Meeting

Monday 25th October

Present

Ted Taylor, Linda Rollinson Steve Wilkinson, Georg Taylor, Sue Case, Val Hearn, Sue Nicholson Steve Peel , Heather Peel

Apologies

Diane Gough, Fiona Rowley

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

1. Ted Taylor and Linda Rollinson were welcomed to the Committee

2. Financial report

We now have 2 bank accounts up and running and have received £3, 840 from the Ridley Trust to pay for the central heating installation in Gibson Street and also £700 from the CVA for further digitalization - it was agreed that the money would go to pay for a digital smart TV and camera in order to record and relay presentations given by professional visiting artists (and to display demonstrations in Ted's classes).

3. Health and safety

No issues to report

4. Communications

Val has asked for content to add to the newsletter that may be of interest to our member's. Notice will go out about Teds new group starting up, as well as Christine's fortnightly Pastel group.

5. Governance

George's application to be a trustee has yet to be completed.

Post meeting note; this was completed on the evening of the meeting

6. Newbiggin Arts Festival

George opened the discussion. Steve suggested that the aim is to focus on local communities. George suggested a discussion document that matches up with the council aims, but should be independent of "Bait" who create/organises activities' for different parts of the county. (Bait currently works out of Woodhorn Museum and Steve is in contact and communicates with them).

Newbiggin County Council and Newbiggin Hub are totally behind Newbiggin Arts Centre leading the 2023 Festival.

Ted asked if it was to be a regular thing? We have yet to decide, how long should festival run? 2 weeks? George suggested straddling the school holiday's 1st week before they break up and the 2nd after school breakup.

Previous 1-day events in Newbiggin attracted 50,000 people

We need to concentrate on the concept and putting a committee together and leave the details to them. At our level we need to concentrate on the strategy and funding. And remember that the Arts Council is behind that, and we probable talking about 100's of thousand's of pounds,

We have a need of a big venue for the a 'Brassed Off' event which has been offered to us. Previously, it was put on at the Albert Hall, seating 5,000. The new cinema in Ashington could be a possibility. Or, should we consider something in this area as an associated event? but not Newcastle ..

Hopefully George will be able to attend a meeting of the town traders in the new year with a view to talk about the festival and involve them and other organizations from within Newbiggin by the Sea.

Also, needs to promote with local Hospitality providers, on their booking sites, like air-bnb.

George explained the role of critical friends i.e. someone you can trust with no self-interest, financial or otherwise to deliver for our event during the planning stages. The Arts Council is most likely to have someone that can provide that role n. Also, to develop an Art Festival trail app for the venue. It may be that a university student would like to come on board and be involved. Steve W is conversant with VR contacts

Summary; hopefully groups involved in Art in all forms can be involved. Planning for 2023 and the future should start ASAP in the New Year.

Steve suggested allocation of responsibilities and that George (with his artistic background) shall be responsible for the content of the festival and Stephen Peel (experience of former festivals and local politics) responsible for organizational aspects.

It was suggested that we should aim for a working group of ~10 people who will then cascade down to others,

We need to invite people who run an art activity and bands, pipers, sculptors, musicians, children groups, (any organizations who wish to be involved), to give their contact details to George; where upon we can move forward to building a committee for Festival 23.

Then invite everyone else who needs to know what is going on including the likes of the Golf club, sailing club, RNLI, Coastguard and local public houses , restaurants and eateries.

The tide time is critical in deciding a date as no one wants a festival in a storm or sea fret.

George discussed a community flag to be used to open the festival. People should be invited to offer designs with which they can then can.

Newbiggin by the Sea has a banner.

George and Steve to come up with a plan.

7. AOB

Ted identified that for Life Art, we would need black out blinds or curtains. These would also be useful for viewing the TV screen on sunny days.

Children's group closes on the 18th of December.

The Gallery will be closed on the 24th, opening in the New Year on the 3rd

Post meeting note: As the 3rd is a Bank Holiday; the Centres will now re-open on 4th January 2022.

Details for the CRB forms collected , Steve will apply for the certificates.

Storage of pictures needs to sorted.

Sales should be recorded in accordance with the instructions displayed on the desk

We need to display opening times on the door.

Everyone who leaves a picture for hanging needs to put price, title and medium on their work.

The hanging committee would like a better hanging system.

Post meeting note: Steve has identified the cost of a suitable system and applied for a grant to cover the costs

And we *still* need more volunteers to man the building.

On a session by session to decide if they want to hold a Xmas party or meal.

20th Dec Committee Members Christmas Dinner at Porters.

Can people be informed as soon as a picture sells as some folk have their pictures on the web site?

Next Meeting : 10:00 Monday 6th December 2021 at Front Street (with Zoom access for George and anyone else who can't attend)