



# Newbiggin Arts Centre Newsletter

Issue #23 | June 2022

## A Message from your Chair

Well, hasn't a year passed quickly? One year since we opened Front Street! And, I was blown back by the surprise party and the thank you gifts. The award was really lovely and I look forward to the alcoholic portion too (when I have some spare time to try it!).

Your gratitude was, and is, very much appreciated. But, as I said then, the biggest kick which I (and, I am sure, the rest of the volunteers) get is to see everyone enjoying the classes & clubs, and to see the improvement in everyone's artwork. These two things make all the hard work so worthwhile.

So where next? After almost exactly a year, with the installation of the blinds, we now have Front Street as we planned it. Now it is the turn of Gibson Street.....

We will be expanding the range of visual arts which we will be offering (photography, digital creation, sculpture, pottery and printing) as well as creative writing, poetry and various performing arts. As Front Street is virtually full up with sessions, most of these new activities will be held at Gibson Street – hence the installation of the security shutters, central heating and new resilient flooring.

So, over the next few months you can expect to see lots more work taking place there, including the installation of new racking for storage, 'electronic classroom' capability and lots of other equipment and materials to support the wider range of activities.

We will keep you up to date with our developments. Meanwhile, if you want to express an interest in any of the new activities, or have any ideas of what we should be doing, please get in touch.

Onwards and upwards. Or, in the words of Buzz Lightyear: "To infinity...and beyond!"



## Committee News...

We had lots of lively discussion at our last committee meeting held on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> May. Most of it was about how we can manage our clubs and classes registration and attendance better. We have three main issues that we need to address.

- 1. Our current system for registering new members and tracking attendance is paper based with a central point of contact. It is not working.** It does not allow us to get a continuous and up-to-date understanding of where sessions may be over subscribed, where there are now vacancies due to habitual 'no shows', where people on waiting lists can be accommodated, and when we can advertise opportunities for new members to join a session.

2. **There is also an issue as to how we can incorporate new members into Ted's classes.** Currently there is no official start or end date; learning is continual and varied, based on the members' desires. This makes it difficult to open-up his classes to new members
3. With our attendance list and payment pot left in the open for all members and visiting public to see, we are at **risk of a breach of data security.**

Based on these three issues, the committee agreed that as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of June, **we will be piloting a different approach.**

***So, how does this affect you? What can you expect?***

For those of you already attending sessions, you won't see a huge change, but for people who are waiting to join a club or class, hopefully, they will see a big one—the opportunity to get off the waiting list and into a session!

**Our new approach involves taking a 'term' approach** to the sessions and for the leaders to take charge of their sessions' registration and attendance lists.

Each term is for two months, and you will be asked to sign up for the next term once the current one ends if you wish to continue. This provides a 'refresh' and a good starting point for new members to join the classes.

**Session leaders will take ownership of their sessions' membership and waiting lists.** Attendance lists will no longer be visible to others (thereby protecting personal information and data security) with the leaders to collect the fees as they mark attendance.

**As a member, it is really important that you let your leader know if you are not able to attend a session, or if you don't want to continue,** especially in the case of Ted's classes. This will allow us to contact people who are on the waiting list and/or 'drop ins' to attend in your place.

Members of Ted's classes who do not turn up without prior notification, will be asked to pay for their missed session unless there is a 'good' reason for their absence. There will not be a charge for clubs (although we still ask you to let us know beforehand if you can't make it). The reason for the difference is that NAC pays for Ted's time (and will thereby lose money if his sessions are not full) while the rest of the sessions are run by volunteers.

**At the beginning of a new term, your leader will ask you to provide them with your contact information and will also provide you with theirs.** This will ensure that contact information is easily available and up to date.

Now for the fun stuff!



Happy Anniversary!

It was one year ago on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May when we launched our new identity of 'Newbiggin Arts Centre' and the opening of the Front St. premises...and what a year we've had! Much of it has been down to the vision and hard work of our renowned Chair, Steve. Well, to say he was surprised and overcome with emotion with his surprise party is an understatement!

Thank you to everyone for contributing to his award and gift of a delicious assortment of bottles (which we're sure he will enjoy on his well-deserved holiday) and for dropping by the centre on the 26<sup>th</sup> May. Also, a very big thank you to Sue who put together a delicious buffet of food for us all to enjoy. We think it is safe to say, a good time was had by all as evidenced by our resident photographer, Kevin Dowling!

Surprise!!



Thank you!



Yummy!



Still working?



Help Please!

Communication is very important for us (after all, the arts is all about communication!) and we are trying our best to communicate to as many people as we can, in as many ways we can. We know we can do a lot better through our Facebook account, but unfortunately, we just don't have the skills to use it to its advantage. This is where we are asking for your help. If you, or anyone you know can spare a couple of hours to help us learn how to use it better, please get in touch—we will be so grateful!



It's all about us...

We have some vacancies in our various clubs and classes. If you, or if you know anyone who is interested in joining us, please get in touch with us using the contact information below. We have spaces available in our Tuesday evening Art for Beginners class, run by Ted. For only £4 per two-hour session (from 7-9), it is a bargain not to be missed!



### Art Exhibition

Our esteemed artist and tutor, Keith Robson, is exhibiting his art at our Front St. studio. His work will be available to view and/or purchase until Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> June. Don't miss out, it is well worth a visit!



### Please get in touch...

01670 708269 or 07766 856365

Children's Group: 078 58 447 090

Steve: 075 84 85 22 85

[admin@newbigginartscentre.org](mailto:admin@newbigginartscentre.org)

[www.newbigginartscentre.org](http://www.newbigginartscentre.org)

[www.facebook.com/newbiggin.artscentre](https://www.facebook.com/newbiggin.artscentre)

*[If you do not wish to receive further mailings from Newbiggin Arts Centre, please click here.](#)*