

Newbiggin Arts Centre Newsletter

Issue #21 March 2022

A Message from your Chair

As we are all now moving onto the 'new norm', we have some exciting times ahead at Newbiggin Arts Centre.

We have now established and consolidated our fine arts activities (drawing, watercolours, acrylics & oil classes and clubs) at Front Street and our craft, children's and pastel groups at Gibson Street. So, it is time to introduce other art and craft activities and then other arts (such as literary, performing and culinary arts) to meet the needs of our community.

We are starting with the 'Photography for Beginners' sessions with Kevin and, once we have the new flooring installed at Gibson Street, we will be looking at printing and sculpture activities.

As well as providing these additional activities to our community, we will be increasing the utilisation of Gibson Street, ensuring the viability of our Community Centre, and building up to the Newbiggin Arts Festival in 2023.

So, if you have any ideas of any activities which you would like us to introduce, or if you have any other suggestions for what we should be doing for you, please drop me an email at steve@newbigginartscentre.org

How about poetry, creative writing or digital art? Let me know what you want to try!

Steve



Committee News...

At the last committee meeting (held on the 28th February), we found out that we now have 179 people on our database, with 120 of them acting members! This is great news as it means

we are continuing to grow and provide a much needed and appreciated service to our community.

We have been asking for feedback from our members, and here is an example of some of the comments we've received:

The classes and groups have given me a new lease on life. A fabulous asset to our community!

Wonderful to be back learning. Super class, super tutor!



Great classes and social contact.

New to the area, it is a great way to meet new people.

Never done anything since school, really enjoying exploring different aspects and class is very friendly and very knowledgeable tutor. Good value for money!



Attendance...

With the rapid growth in membership, and the publicity we are receiving through word of mouth, we have become a victim of our success! With so many new members signing up to our clubs and classes, the committee discussed the best way to manage attendance and agreed to the following.

As we have limited spaces and an ever-growing waiting list, it is important that members who have signed up to any club or class commit to attendance. This means, that if you:

- have signed up to a club or class and are not able to commit to attending on a weekly basis, can you please ask George Stoker to remove you from the session's attendance list; this will free up a space for someone else.
- are committed to attending on a weekly basis, but will need to miss a session due to being on holiday, illness, etc., please just let your session leader know in advance (they can then make a note on the attendance list) or let George Stoker know by contacting him at:

george@newbigginartscentre.org or **077 66 856 365**

If you are interested in joining a club or class, please let George know and he will either sign you up if there is a space or add you to our waiting list.

Thank you for your help with this!



Photography for beginners...

We have a new class coming! It is a series of workshops for anyone who would like to explore photography for the first time or those who would like to improve their existing skills. It will include:

- looking at the basics of using a camera or mobile phone
- having fun taking photographs
- sharing each other's, and
- learning ways to make more interesting and creative images

Kevin Dowling will be leading these sessions which **will start 10:00 a.m. on Monday, 28th March at Gibson St.** They will run for eight weeks (excluding Easter Monday and May Bank Holiday), be two hours in length and will cost £3 per session.

If you are interested, please contact George Stoker.



It's all about us...

We are coming up to our 1st year anniversary! Yes, on the 18th of May, it will be one year ago when we launched the opening of our Front St. Arts Centre--and look at how we've developed!

To help celebrate, we would like everyone who participates in our clubs or classes to create a piece of art that we can display and share with each other and our community.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for many of us who have never exhibited our 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.



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 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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