

Newbiggin Arts Centre Newsletter

Issue #27 January 2023

A Message from your Chair

I don't think that it is too late; so.... Happy New Year to all those that I haven't yet seen at one of our Centres.

As we drive forward into Phase 2 of the development of the Newbiggin Arts Centre charity there is a lot to do. We will be introducing new classes and clubs in some new areas (ceramics, pottery, sculpture, printing, etc.) and need helping hands to take some of the increasing workload from our existing volunteers.

So, we are on the look-out for anyone with dedication and enthusiasm – but, more importantly, commitment to helping - , preferably with a strong interest in art, crafts and the other Arts. If you want to give back something to the community and have an enjoyable time doing so, please get in touch.

See you all soon.

Steve



Committee News...

Kicking off the New Year, we held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Monday, the 9th of January. We are pleased to report that we are doing well financially overall, however, we agreed that there is an opportunity to make some improvements.

At the moment we have no formal 'members'. This means that any decisions we make as a charity are left entirely to the trustees. As we want to make the NAC the best place it can be for our community, we want to develop a membership scheme whereby you can become a member (if you choose) and thereby become more involved in our future AGMs and play a part in making decisions in how we operate. We will be looking at various ways we can do this over the coming months, so stay tuned!

Another improvement we are making is in how we pay for our classes.

Unlike our clubs where the sessions are led by our volunteers (and thereby there is no cost to the studios), the classes provided by Ted are paid for by us. This means we need to have full classes to break even.

Over the last few months, attendance at Ted's classes has fluctuated, which means some classes operating at a loss. When we have vacancies, we need to either open spaces to new people or we need to ensure our costs are covered by asking people to pay for sessions they haven't attended.

Based on this, as well as providing people with the convenience of paying once a month, **beginning in February, participants in Ted's classes will be asked to pay for their classes a month in advance (every four weeks).** If you have booked a holiday or know you will be unable to attend a session in the month ahead, you will only be asked to pay for the classes you attend, but you **must let Ted know in advance**, otherwise, you will be asked to pay for the full month.

As our clubs are based on a 'drop-in' basis, the prepayment does not apply to our clubs. You can continue to pay a session at a time.

Some great news!

Newbiggin Arts Centre has joined the #WarmWelcome network of community warm spaces.

Come in for a hot drink and a warm place to spend some time. You can even have a go at some of our arts and crafts activities.

74B Front Street, Saturdays 11am-4pm

25-27 Gibson Street, Wednesday afternoons



Help Please!

As you probably know, the NAC is run entirely by our volunteers. As we continue to grow and develop as an art centre, we are looking for volunteers to join our committee to help us become even better. We need people with all kinds of skills; but having enthusiasm and commitment is the most important. Helping out can be anything, from cleaning up materials, opening up the studio on the weekend, helping with the administrative work (and there is a lot of that!), to leading a session or working as a trustee, helping to guide our direction.

We wouldn't be anything if it wasn't for our volunteers, so please, if you would like to be a part of this, get in touch. We would love to have a chat with you to see how best to get you involved.



Art Exhibition

Throughout January, we are pleased to exhibit paintings by the participants in Keith's Wednesday morning watercolour club, so why not drop by and have a look?



It's all about us...

For the first time in a long while, we have vacancies in our Children's Friday Art Club! If you have a child, between the ages of 8 and 15, who would be interested in joining a fun and engaging art club, this is the place for them.

Sessions focus on helping them to learn and practice their skills in water colour painting as well as providing them the opportunity to interact with other children. The sessions are led by Sue Case, and take place from 18:00 to 19:30 on Friday evenings in our Gibson St. Community Centre. If you are interested in registering a child, please contact Sue at 078 58 447 090.

Here is a photo of some of our children proudly showing their Christmas picture cards, painted in their last session for 2022.



For teenagers and adults, we have some vacancies in our various clubs and classes. Our classes are taught by Ted, our resident professional artist and cost only £4 for a two-hour session. Here you will learn drawing and painting skills. Ted's approach is very much based on your needs, whether you are a beginner or more experienced. We guarantee, you will not only learn lots, but will have a great time doing so!

Our clubs are on a 'drop-in' basis and cost either £3 if you bring your own materials, or £4 if you want to use ours. The two-hour sessions are informal and you are free to draw/paint what you wish. While our leaders are not there to 'teach' you, they are usually experienced artists and will do their best to help you as needed.

If you are interested in signing up, please contact us as below.



Please get in touch...

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