

Newbiggin Arts Centre Newsletter

Issue #29 April 2023

A Message from your Chair

Well, Gibson Street is nearing completion and plans are being finalised for the implementation of the new set of lessons / clubs. In fact, we had the first Digital Art lesson with Alexx there last Saturday afternoon – greatly enjoyed by the full class. As there are no spare spaces, we will be compiling a list of candidates for the next digital course, nominally in 8 weeks' time.

A major development from the Trustees Board meeting is the allocation of roles and responsibilities amongst the Trustees; spreading the workload and hopefully improving the service which we provide to you, our community.

And, if you are interested in helping us out by volunteering, please ask your session leader or one of the Trustees for more information.

From the Trustees Board Meeting

Well, it was a lively meeting this month! We have been working very hard behind the scenes looking at our structure, identifying what needs to be done and by whom, and most importantly, what do we need help with to make sure that we run our centres efficiently and effectively.

It became very clear, very quickly, that we are in urgent need for volunteers to join the team, especially as we hope to run new classes this coming summer. Some of the areas we need help in include:

- Weekly cleaning of both centres—we know there are some people out there who love to clean!

- IT help—someone who can help us maintain our systems as well as build new ones. This would be ideal for an IT student, or someone who just likes to ‘play’ with technology.
- Administrative support. There is lots to do in this area! People can do as much or as little as time allows—with lots of variety and things to choose from. For example, helping us keep track of people signing up for classes, keeping contact information updated, ordering supplies, etc.
- Helping with exhibitions—hanging pictures, framing, labelling, etc. This would be working closely with Ted, and we can guarantee you, it wouldn’t be dull!
- Organising and/or helping run events, such as table top sales, outings for members, etc.
- Weekend opening—just a few hours on a Saturday or Sunday, where you’ll get the opportunity to meet all kinds of people and share your enthusiasm for the art we do

These are just a few areas where we can use your help. There are lots more and we’ll be highlighting them over the next few months.

Beside the typical benefits of volunteering, such as being able to give back to the community, learning new skills, or even just having some new and different to do, becoming a member of the NAC team also provides the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. For example, we have just started having a monthly ‘social’ evening where the Trustees and volunteers meet informally to have a few drinks, share some food, have a laugh, and even play some games!



If you are interested in getting involved, please ask your session leader or one of the Trustees for more information. There is also a Volunteer Expression of Interest Form available at the centres (or online) you can fill in—we guarantee, you won't regret it!

New Classes

Many of you have been asking when the list of classes posted on the bulletin boards are going to start. We are really happy to say, that now that the Gibson St. centre is almost finished its refurbishment (where most new classes will be held), we are now in the position where we can start to approach possible tutors and purchase equipment and supplies. If all goes to plan, we hope to be able to begin new classes in early summer. So, stay tuned!

In the meantime, as people come and go, we have some vacancies in our various clubs and classes. Please drop by, or contact us at info@newbigginartscentre.org, or call 07766 856365 if you are interested in joining.

A Special Story—A Warm Hug

Many of us find the NAC is more than just a place to make art. While we do benefit from learning and practicing our art, there are other benefits to be had. Mainly, friendship and feeling a part of a community.

This became very evident just a few weeks ago. One of our class members let her group know that she would be unable to attend her class over the next while due to a serious illness and the treatment she had to undergo. So, what did the class do? They dedicated a class to painting her card to let her know they were thinking of her.



Twelve beautifully painted cards, all with personal messages, were delivered to her. Well, to say she was overwhelmed is an understatement. She sent a message which included the words: "Wow, you guys know how to make a girl feel loved. A beautiful collection of wonderful art and lovely messages. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH! ...the kindness of my classmates has been like a warm hug."

Since then, she has said she often looks through her cards which gives her a warm glow—so way to go NAC for providing a place where there is more than just art! (comment by the editor).

Do you have a story to share, or something you'd like us all to know about in the art world? If so, send it along to valerie@newbigginartcentre.org we'd love to hear from you!



Please get in touch...

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