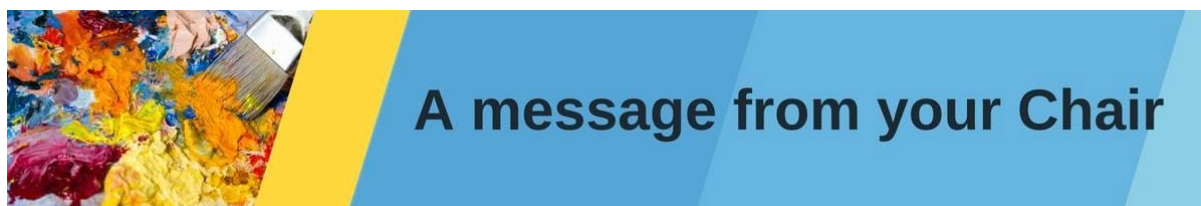




February 2024

In this edition welcome to a new face and welcome back to a couple of familiar ones, volunteering can be fun, and get involved with our Easter Open Exhibition.

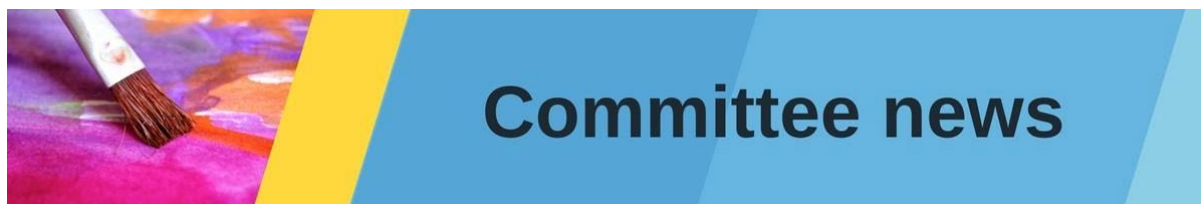


As we charge into the New Year, we have all been very busy starting up our new classes to expand our offering. We already have the Pastels classes with Ted at Front St on a Tuesday afternoon and the Printing classes with George at Gibson Street on a Thursday morning. Last week, on Thursday evening, we started the first Ceramics course with Lynda at Gibson Street and Ted has just started his Sculpture classes at Gibson Street on Wednesday mornings.

We are also in the middle of some intensive work towards a few grant submissions, which will help us finance the expansion programme and the other things which we mentioned at the AGM last week - keep your fingers crossed!

Last, and by no means least, I would like to extend our welcome to our latest new Trustee, Gerry Cape, who is joining 'without portfolio' to apply his extensive business experience across all our operations. And, welcome back to Val Hearn, who is again taking up her position as Trustee in charge of People. In this capacity, she will be leading the recruitment and organising of volunteers to help with the running of our charity.

-Steve



Committee news



A little bit about Gerry

From Ashington originally, now living in Morpeth, married with one daughter and one grandchild.

“I joined one of Ted’s art groups at the NAC after seeing him on TV and have enjoyed all of the courses I’ve attended over the past two years including acrylics, watercolours, life drawing and digital art. The facilities and equipment available are excellent and all of the groups very friendly, but more importantly they are relaxing and good fun. So much so that I was delighted to join the panel of trustees when the opportunity arose, and hope that I can help the other trustees and the excellent team of volunteers to continue to offer this wonderful facility to the community with such a wide range of activities.”

Other Committee News

The Annual General Meeting was held on Monday the 19th February. The annual report highlighted that throughout the previous years, the use of Front St. was almost at full capacity and Gibson St. is building up capacity with new classes recently added.

As per the Constitution, two of the current Board members were put up for re-election—Steve Wilkinson and Sue Case. Both were re-elected unanimously for a new term.

We need your help

One of our priorities is to help the environment, and recycling is an important part of this. Can you please help us putting only clean paper/cardboard, cans and plastic bottles into the recycling bin. Not

only does this ensure that we follow the Northumberland County Council's rules, it also means that Ted doesn't have to go through and remove all the non-recyclable waste before putting the bins out (he will be forever thankful!)

We also ask that you help us keep our materials and premises clean—as the saying goes, many hands make light work. At the end of your session, please clean up any equipment you have used, give your board/table a wipe down, and wipe up any splashes in the sink and worktop.

Thank you!



We really have started 2024 off with a bang! We are now in full swing with our new classes in ceramics, pastels, sculpture, and printing. As Steve mentioned in his message, spaces often become available, so if you are interested in signing up, please do let us know.

Some spaces are available in several of our other classes:

Art for All - Front St.

Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:00 – 3:00, £6

Life Drawing - Front St.

Mondays, 7:00 – 9:00, £10

If you just want to come and paint or draw, then you may want to sign up to one of our clubs. We have spaces available in all of our clubs and the cost is £5 with materials supplied or £4 if you bring your own.

We are also pleased to welcome Keith back! He has been sorely missed and has resumed his oil painting (Tuesday mornings) and watercolour clubs (Wednesday mornings). There are spaces available in both, so if you are interested, please sign up by emailing info@newbigginartscentre.org

We will have a new Creative Writing class starting after Easter - day to be confirmed. If you are interested, please email info@newbigginartscentre.org to express your interest.



Volunteering can be fun

Volunteering with the NAC isn't all hard work (e.g., keeping the centres and classes and clubs running smoothly), it can be fun too! You just need to ask the volunteers who attended the first (of what we hope are many!) volunteers' social evening of the year, held on Friday, the 23rd of February. They will tell you that a good time was had by all—lots of laughter, sharing of stories, and enjoyment of refreshments; and they look forward to more of these in the future!

In amongst all the socialising, we did manage to get some 'real' work done, for example, we started populating a matrix that aligns the things we need to do with the people who offered to do them. We also started gathering contact information that we can use to improve our communication, for example, creating WhatsApp chat and an email distribution list. We also plan to create a page on Facebook dedicated to volunteering.

You will be seeing lots more about our volunteer programme in the coming months. As we continue to expand and diversify our offer, we will need to expand and diversify our team of volunteers. If you or anyone you know would like to join our volunteer team, please let us know. As many of our volunteers say, volunteering benefits them as much as it benefits the NAC and it's fun!



Coming this Easter

This Easter we are going to hold our first Open Exhibition, at Front Street, of artwork produced by our members.

We invite everyone who comes to our classes and clubs to offer for display (and, optionally, sale) one or more pieces of their art which they have produced over the past few years (preferably stuff which hasn't been shown before) – whether produced in our classes, the clubs, or at home.

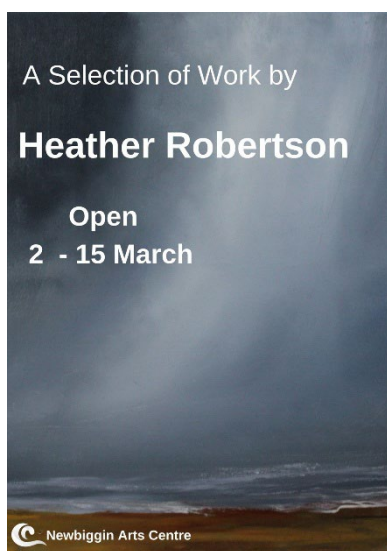
We want to show off the exceptional talent which our community has developed by attending the Newbiggin Arts Centre; whether the artwork is paintings (in any media, on any surface), drawings (pencil, charcoal, or whatever), mixed media, or craftwork.

The exhibition will be held for three weeks, starting on 15th March 2024.

So, we would ask you to bring the artwork into Front Street on, or before the week beginning 15th March 2024, and give to Steve or Ted.

As an incentive, Steve is offering a reward for the artwork which is selected as their favourite by a poll of visitors to the exhibition. He's keeping it a secret for now – but, it should be worthwhile entering for the chance to get something from him! – and possibly selling the artwork, if you wish.

We look forward to receiving your entries!



Upcoming Exhibition

From the 2nd March to the 15th March, we have the works of Heather Roberston on exhibit. Heather works mainly in acrylics. Her paintings are atmospheric; exploring the sky meeting the land.

Any questions or submissions related to exhibitions (including the Easter Exhibition), please email exhibitions@newbigginartscentre.org



Contact us



You can contact us by email at:

info@newbigginartscentre.org

Call us at:

01670 708269or 07766 856365