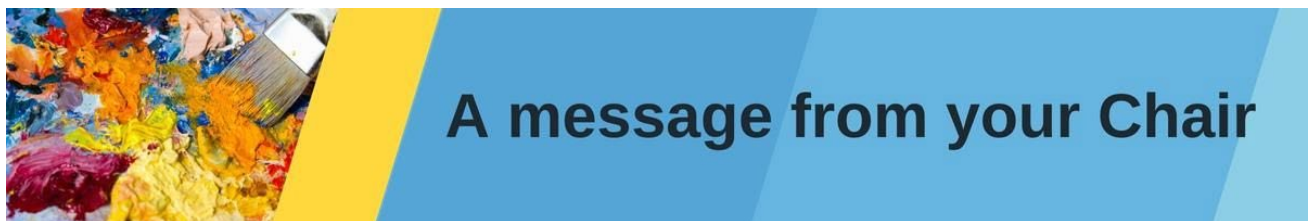


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March 2024

In this edition: getting hands dirty in new classes, WHAT's happening, and last chance to get involved with our Easter Open Exhibition.



What a fantastic weekend at the Dovecote Centre in Amble for our portraiture weekend (more later). The 'Newbiggin contingent' was in the majority and we plan to have more art weekends in future at both Newbiggin and at Amble (where the space can accommodate a much larger number).

Now, it is back to the administration work of sorting out our finances (especially arduous following my long stint away). But, I can report that our finances are becoming much more stable. Additionally, it looks like we will be receiving some very significant grants in the very near future. I will tell you more when they are definite and I am free to disclose details. Suffice it to say that we are now in a position to plan our and implement the expansion into our Phase 2 development and we will be able to finance more things which we need to do in order to help our charity better to address the needs of our community.

Finally, while Ted has been taking a rest to recover from his blurgy, I have been standing in for his sessions. I have therefore had the opportunity to see the phenomenal advance in the standards of many of our participants. Dipping back in after such a long an absence has shown me how well you are all doing. Of course, this is also reflected in our Easter Exhibition which has been receiving rave reviews from all the visitors. Someone even said that it was a fair match for the annual exhibition at Woodhorn – and all of us are amateurs!! Well done everyone; keep it up!

-Steve



Committee news

Easter Opening

The Front St. studio will be open all Easter weekend, from 10 – 4 (Saturday from 9:00), so please drop in and have a look at our Members' Exhibition and cast your vote for your favourite.

The Children Art Club will be closed from 29th March, reopening, 5th April.

Job Opportunity

Some good news to share from our meeting held on the 25th March. We are doing well financially: our classes are full, we have waiting lists for some, and we are in the process of looking for more tutors to teach more classes. All great to see!

This means that we are now in the position where we can hire a cleaner for both our Front St. and Gibson St. premises.

This job pays £12.50 an hour and is perfect for someone who is looking for evening or weekend work. We expect the job to take two hours per week at each location (totalling four hours a week) and we are flexible with the days and times as long as classes are not taking place.

If you are interested in the job and would like more information, please send us an email at info@newbigginartscentre.org, or drop by Front St. to have a chat with Steve Wilkinson or Sue Andrew.

As we are committed to supporting our **local** arts community, we are hoping that a current member of NAC will be interested in taking this on.



Classes and Clubs

As our **current** Ceramics, Sculpture, and Printmaking Classes come to an end, we are pleased to say, despite a couple of hiccoughs (which we managed to work through),



they were a hit. This is great as we are very excited to let you know that due to some **imminent funding we have just received**, we are now able to offer even more of these and other classes soon.



We are always on the look for qualified tutors; **in particular, we are looking for experienced practitioners in ceramics, printmaking, photography (including photo manipulation), digital art, animation, other applied arts and non-visual arts, such as poetry.** So if you **fit the bill, or if you** know of anyone who might be interested, please contact us at: info@newbigginartscentre.org.

Our Childrens Club has some spaces available. These are suitable for children aged 8 – 14 and the group runs from 6:00 to 7:30 on Friday evenings at our Gibson St. location. If you are interested in registering or learning more about it, please contact us at info@newbigginartscentre.org.

Having fun with ceramics—can't wait to see the final product!

Portraiture Weekend

Over the past weekend (23rd and 24th March) we held our first collaborative portraiture weekend in partnership with Dovecote Street Arts in Amble. The event, arranged by Luke McTaggart and Ted Taylor, was held at the Dovecote Centre, home of the Northumberland Theatre Company.



The weekend brought together members of our community with some from the Amble and surrounding areas to learn and practice drawing and painting portraits.

This special event was led by (in)famous Ashington Artist and NAC lead tutor Ted Taylor, who brought his vast experience to help the less able of us to produce something more than acceptable!

Resident photographer Jim Donnelly (Overall winner of the Woodhorn Open Exhibition) was on hand to take some great photos, a selection of which are shown alongside.

It was great fun and really helped us to develop our techniques in a convivial atmosphere. Which is why we intend to arrange many more such events in the future.

A few more photos



Willing Hands Art Team (WHAT)

What's this you may ask? Well, it's the name for our fantastic team of volunteers--without whom we would not exist.

As we continue to grow and develop as an Arts Centre, we are (thankfully!) growing our team of volunteers. We are in the process of developing a volunteer programme where we are focused on attracting, retaining, and recognising the people we need to run and develop our arts centres.

To help us develop this programme, we will be asking our current, (and potential) volunteers what they would like to see. One of the first questions is what do we want to use our volunteer socials for—what would people like to see happen at them? We plan on getting answers to this question at our next social on Friday, the 12th April, at 7:00 p.m. (Front St.).

If you are one of our volunteers, or if you are interested in joining the team, please join us on the night. Most of us order a takeaway (pizza is a favourite!) and bring our own refreshments. This will be a great opportunity to give us your views as well as enjoy the chance to meet each other and have a bite to eat. Hope to see you then!

Steve: I didn't say anything about providing free pizza as I didn't want people coming just for the free food—we can either offer it as a 'surprise' on the night, or wait and provide them once we get to the point where the volunteer socials are for the active volunteers---will go with your opinion. Good idea!

Another aspect of our programme is communication, and we all know how important (and sometimes difficult) it is, so we have created a WhatsApp chat group for the volunteer team. It will be used as a way for the trustees or leaders to ask for help when needed. It's also a place where members of the group can ask a question or share an idea with others. If you are a volunteer and haven't been invited to join yet and wish to be added to the group, please let us know by emailing us your phone number at info@newbiggingartscentre.org. For those not using WhatsApp, we will continue to keep you updated through emails and newsletters.

This space will be a regular article (**WHAT's Happening**) in our upcoming newsletters where we can keep everyone updated on upcoming events and where we can 'advertise' the need for people with specific skills or expertise that we don't already have to know about. For example, IT, finance and marketing to name just a few. So, stay tuned, and please pass on the opportunities to anyone you think may be interested.



Exhibitions

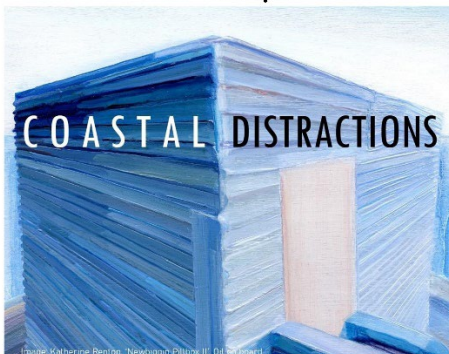
The feedback from visitors to our Members' Easter Exhibition has been amazing! So many people have commented on the talent we have in our community--one person even said they were surprised to find out they weren't done by professionals.

If you haven't already come and had a look, it's not too late; and don't forget, visitors and class members alike, have the chance to vote for their favourites. The exhibition runs until 4th April.



COMING SOON

5—19 April



Upcoming Exhibition

From the 5th to 19th April, we have the works of local 'celebrities', Iain Bolton, Katherine Renton, Luke McTaggart and our own Ted Taylor on exhibit.

Their group showing focusses on the overlooked beauty of the South-East Northumberland coast. Any questions or submissions related to exhibitions (including the Easter Exhibition), please email exhibitions@newbigginartscentre.org

Advert

Free to a good home: 32" Panasonic LCD television (model TX-32LXD70) – older heavier model, but still in good working order. All enquiries to Steve steve@newbigginartscentre.org
075 84 852285



Contact us



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