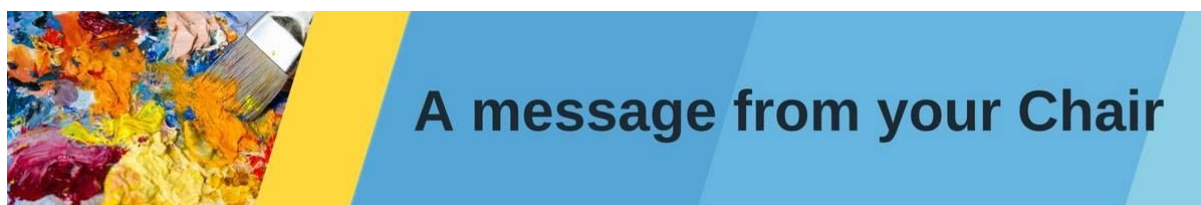




**April 2024**

In this edition: exciting news about funding; we have a winner; and upcoming WHAT social event!



You will be seeing a lot of this Community Fund logo in future! We will be using it to acknowledge the grant which we have been awarded by The National Lottery Community Fund. The grant will enable us to go to the next phase of our development as a charity and enable us better to serve our community. Read on to find out more

*-Steve*



### **Some Exciting News!**

On the 21st of March we found out we were awarded a grant from the National Lottery, RC North East and Cumbria Region and this was confirmed on 5th April in a meeting with Lottery representative Debby Flannery.

### **What does this mean for NAC? Lots!**

**First of all**, we are now able to hire a full time person to cover administration and volunteer support and training. This will be a huge help to our volunteer team (currently numbering 26!) as well as to our members and visitors. So, stay tuned for the job posting coming soon!

**Secondly, the funding is spread over three years.** This gives us stability and contributes significantly to how we run and develop our charity. The funding will also help us pay for operational costs, such as rent, utilities, art materials etc.

**Thirdly, and what will be really exciting for our community, is that we have received a contribution that will allow us to bring in additional tutors for Gibson Street activities**, and as a result, we will be able to increase our sessions over both sites from 16 to 26 per week. If you know of anyone (maybe it could be you!) who might be interested in running classes, please let us know.

This funding will be instrumental in how we run the organisation and support our community. So, a big thank you to Kathy Urwin and our Trustees for working so hard in putting together our bid, and of course to the Lottery for our generous grant. The next three years will see us able to move into Phase Two of our expansion (more on this later on) and provide an even better service to our community.

**Well done everyone!**



We are always on the lookout 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](mailto:info@newbigginartscentre.org).

### Children's Club

Our Children's 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 [atinfo@newbigginartscentre.org](mailto:atinfo@newbigginartscentre.org).



### WHAT's Happening

A reminder for existing (and potential!) volunteers that on Friday, 12th April, we are holding a social evening at our Front St. centre starting at 7:00.

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!



### **We Have a Winner!**

After showing for three weeks, we have now taken down the Easter Exhibition (and replaced it by a fantastic exhibition from four local professionals - including our own Ted!). We counted the Visitors' votes for their favourite artwork and were delighted to see the number of votes cast.

In fact, it was great to see how many different pieces (well over 20) which received votes! This is certainly an indication of the brilliant quality of all the entries.



The winner of the Visitor Choice vote was Janet Patterson with her painting 'On the Verge of Evening'. Janet's artwork showed some close attention to detail and a perfect choice of colour and composition. Well done Janet! A £25 voucher for use in the charity's shop (or towards session fees) will be winging its way to Janet in the next few days.

The Chair's award went to Jeanette Neale for her work entitled 'Cobwebs'. For this, Steve will be personally funding a £15 voucher.

Steve says: " This, our first open exhibition, was a phenomenal success. When we dreamed up the idea, we never thought that we would receive artwork of such a high standard. Comments from visitors included 'we thought they were all by professional artists'. The quality and diversity of the artwork was of the highest standard and definitely a match for other local exhibitions. I'm glad that we left the choice of 'Best in Show' to the visitors' vote, as it would have been virtually impossible for one person to choose between the work on display."

"For my personal award, I wanted to recognise the advances which our members have all made in the quality of their work and the acceptance of challenges made by Ted and our other session leads to develop their techniques and to be adventurous. Jeanette certainly showed how she had embraced the challenge. From her traditional subtle delicate watercolours, she experimented with the use of Brusho and came up with something very artistic (and even had some strong colours!). Jeanette's adventurous approach is a good example for all of us to follow to try something new instead of just churning out 'more of the same'. "

**Can we ask that all exhibitors please drop by the centre and pick up your work—thank you!**

Don't forget to watch out for details of our Members' Summer Exhibition, which will be themed and have a challenging title.



## 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, entitled Coastal Distractions 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](mailto:exhibitions@newbigginartscentre.org)



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