

A Message from your Chair

Another momentous step for us here at Newbiggin Arts Centre – our first employee, Wendy Storey, will be starting work as our Admin Officer at the end of the month. The position has been made possible by a three-year grant from the National Lottery Community Fund; which allows us also to develop our offerings at Gibson Street.

Wendy rose above the other exceptional administrators who we interviewed and the other 40 candidates (and 49 additional overseas candidates!) who we filtered out from the recruitment process, many of whom themselves were well equipped for the role – but Wendy's experience and personality made the choice easy for us, as reflected in the quantitative evaluation scores from the pre-selection and interview phases.

On behalf of all of us, I would like to welcome Wendy to the team and really look forward to working with her in the coming months (and years!).

As you will see below, we have a few slots available in many of our clubs and some classes. So if you, or a friend, or family want to fill these spaces; just let us know. And spread the word to anyone who you think may be interested!

Committee News

We are thrilled to be able to let you know that we have a new member joining our team at the end of May. After a very rigorous and thorough recruitment process, we are delighted to welcome Wendy Storey as our new Administration Officer. Wendy brings with her a wealth of experience, and even more enthusiasm! Wendy's role will be to provide administrative support to the trustees and other volunteers which will involve a variety of tasks, right from managing class lists, ordering materials and supplies, and helping us to improve our systems and communication.

Welcome Wendy!

"Hi, my name is Wendy and I am thrilled to be joining Newbiggin Arts Centre as your new Admin Officer. I am excited to be part of the wonderful team who support the Centre and getting to know the many talented and creative people who attend the classes and sessions.

Some of you may already know me as I started attending the art sessions myself approximately



twelve months ago and as well as rekindling my love for painting and drawing I found I have met the loveliest of people.

I am excited to use my extensive admin and management expertise to support the development of NAC moving forward.

I look forward to meeting you all soon.”

Classes and Clubs

We have vacancies in our clubs! Unlike our classes which are structured and led by a professional tutor (I think we all know Ted!), our clubs are more informal, where participants choose what they want to paint/draw/craft. The session leaders are there to provide advice and guidance when asked. Many of our club participants find these sessions as a great way to meet new people, have a break from the daily routine, and get creative while doing it!

The cost is minimal. Only £4 per two-hour session if you bring your own materials, or £5 if you use ours.

If you or anyone you know is interested in joining one (or more!) of our art clubs, please contact us at: info@newbiggingartscentre.org.

Your help is required! While most of us are diligent in cleaning up after ourselves when attending a class or club, unfortunately there are times when it hasn't happened. Please remember to wipe your table down and clean your materials and pallets when finished. Also, please help us to keep the kitchen clean by wiping up any spills or splashes you might make. Thank you!

Exhibitions

The importance of exhibitions

Providing opportunities for our participants and visiting artists to exhibit their work is an important part of what and who we are. You may have noticed that over the past year we have focused on improving our ability to provide exhibitions. For example, we installed a professional hanging system and developed a marketing and hanging strategy to ensure that we utilise our studios to their fullest potential.

The new system has increased our ability to attract visiting artists which has allowed us to display different styles of art to the community and to our members. It has helped to promote NAC further afield and served as a financial benefit for us through commissions.

Our focus isn't just on exhibiting visiting artists though; it's about showcasing our own artwork, created by participants in our classes and clubs. For example, over the

coming months we have scheduled four exhibitions, all providing our members with the opportunity to exhibit (and sell if desired!) their artwork. The schedule is as follows:

- 17-31 May - Oils
- 14-28 June - Ted's classes
- 28 June – 12 July - Acrylics
- 12 July – 2 Aug - Summer Exhibition "Summer Dreams"

Our Summer Dreams Exhibition (by the way, a huge thank you to Liz Dickinson for her winning suggestion!) will encompass all forms of art that fits with the theme of summer dreams. This can be something that has been produced in the past or could be something created in one of the classes or clubs. It's up to you!

All submissions must be in by the Tuesday before the start date.

There is an incredible amount of work--all done within very tight timelines--that goes on behind the scenes when preparing for an exhibition. Thereby, our hanging team have asked for everyone who is exhibiting to help by making sure the artwork is 'ready to hang'. This means the piece is framed and strung or mounted. It should have the following information attached:

- Artist's name
- Title of work
- Medium
- Price if for sale, or marked NFS if not

Please don't let this put you off if you are new to exhibiting your work. Gerry Cape has offered to provide help and advice in getting your artwork ready in advance. He can be contacted through our info@newbigginartscentre.org email.

The hanging team, when organising the exhibitions, firstly choose a piece from EVERYONE who has submitted, then go on to add others (usually up to a maximum of three per person) as space permits. We value everyone's work."

As we don't have a lot of storage space at Front Street, we ask that works be submitted by the date shown for each exhibition (typically the Tuesday before the start) and any works that aren't being displayed, to be picked up as soon as possible.

Please don't be shy in submitting your artwork. This is a great opportunity for each of us to give and/or receive recognition and inspiration from our peers. Furthermore, the comments we receive from our visitors couldn't be more positive and encouraging, with many saying how impressed they were with the talent in our local community.