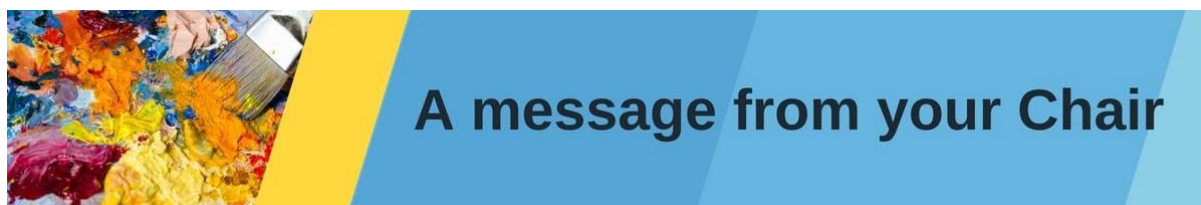




September 2024

In this edition: New courses, classes, and volunteer opportunities



Well, they say that change is a good thing; and things are certainly changing at Newbiggin Arts Centre!

The new courses, providing a wider range of activities, have proved to be VERY popular. As well as a core of our regular members trying out these new activities, we have attracted a total of **45** new members who between them are attending over 50 sessions.

My advice is that, if you want to join in any of these activities, or any of the forthcoming events and activities, you get in touch with Wendy (at info@newbigginartscentre.org) as soon as possible to secure a place.

Full details of our new and forthcoming courses are given on our website at:

[New Workshops and Courses](#)

Meanwhile, we wish Ted the best of luck in his new venture, further adding to the art activities available in our area.

Steve



Making some changes...

Most of us think of autumn as the new start to the school year—the chance to start again and continue with learning. While we are not a school per se, we also think it's a great time to begin new courses and to try something new.

At our last committee meeting held on Monday, 2nd September, we had a really good discussion about how we are doing and what we can do differently to make sure that we are providing the right learning (and social) opportunities for our current and future members. The highlights from the meeting are as follows.

New volunteers are urgently needed! As we continue to expand our number and type of classes and workshops we need to expand our number and type of volunteers. Details about how we are going to do this are found further on in the newsletter.

We agreed that we needed to change and develop the way we do our business planning. We have come a long way since we first moved to Front St. four years ago and we believe there is huge scope for us to develop even further. As a result, we are planning to run a stakeholder consultation workshop, facilitated by the NCVA in the coming months. The information we gather will help us with our business planning, so it is important that we have a diverse group with representation from all key stakeholders (including our members). Invitations to participate will be out soon--so stay tuned!

Although it is only September, it is never too late to start planning for the festive season. Our annual Christmas Dinner has been booked for Monday, 16th December at Il Girosolo, in Ashington. Details and menus will be available soon, but in the meantime, book your place early by letting Wendy know you will be attending.

Speaking of the festive season, we are already planning for our Christmas Art Exhibition, and we want your suggestions for a theme. If you have any suggestions, please send them to Wendy at: info@newbigginartscentre.org

EVENTS

Events



On Saturday, the 24th August, we held a very successful Art on the Beach event. In spite of the weather, we had dozens of visitors come and have a look at our studio, art exhibition, and event have a go at water colour painting. Have a look at Barbara's very first attempt at watercolour—well done Barbara!



Here's our very own Keith sharing his expertise with some of our visitors, thank you for helping out Keith!



Classes and Clubs

We have some spaces available!

The Arts for All classes begin on Wednesday, 11th September, from 1-3 at our Front St. studio. Our new tutor, Gary Simpson will be on hand to help/advise/guide everyone, whether you are a beginner or more experienced. Support will be tailored to meet the needs of individuals across all media (watercolour, acrylics, etc.) so it is a fantastic opportunity for all! A donation of £6 is requested, and all materials are supplied. So, don't be shy, come along and have some fun and learn something new!

We are expanding our photography course. As the six-week photography class with Ivor comes to an end, the existing class has asked that this programme is expanded (it's obviously been a success!). As a result, we are running additional sessions which has opened up the opportunity for those who weren't able to attend originally but are still interested. If you are, please let Wendy know.

How does coming along to one of our clubs where you can paint what you want with others sound? We have spaces available on Monday and Friday afternoons from 1-3 and Friday mornings from 9-11 held at our Front St. studio. Costs are minimal at £4 if you use your own materials or £5 if you use ours. If you are interested and want to have a good time painting with others, please let Wendy know and she'll sign you up.

The Children's Art Group is back up and running again on Friday evenings, from 6:30-8:00 in our Gibson St. studio. Cost are £2 with all materials supplied.

Registration for any of our new and/or current classes and clubs is easy. Just send Wendy an email at info@newbigginartcentre.org



WHAT

Our (WHAT) volunteer programme is changing...

Our volunteers make up a small but mighty team of people who get great pleasure in helping to run and develop NAC and provide a valued service to the community. In addition to the work we do behind the scenes, we like to have fun too! We have volunteer events where we get together to discuss things, learn things, and enjoy a bite to eat and a drink (or two!).

However, with all the changes we are undergoing, what with new classes, workshops, and the recent addition of Wendy, our Administration Officer, what we need from our volunteers has changed.

We have identified three key roles that we need to fill. If you are already a volunteer with us, or if you aren't currently a volunteer with us but think one (or all!) of the roles sound like something you'd like to do, please let us know—we'd love to have you join our team.

The following are the three main roles we need to fill:

1) Tutor Support

This role involves taking responsibility for opening and closing the studio, taking attendance and cash and/or card payments. For ongoing classes, it requires a commitment to attend all sessions with the understanding that if there is a reason you can't attend, you would inform Wendy who will find a substitute. This is a great opportunity to not only meet new people, but attend the sessions for free!

2) Weekend Cover

In this role you can either be a 'keyholder' who is responsible for opening and closing the studio and taking payments (card only) if there are any sales, or you could cover a period of time in between opening and closing. The hours are flexible and based on your availability. All we ask is that you let Wendy know when you are available.

3) Events Support

We have a few regularly scheduled events through the year where we need people to help set up, e.g. tables, gazebo, etc., serve refreshments, greet visitors, etc. We are also planning on increasing the number and location of events in the coming months, and thereby, are looking to create a pool of people who would like to help out, on a one-off basis.

We currently have a 'hanging' team who are responsible for organising and displaying our art exhibitions. While we are operating with a full team at this time, if this is something you might be interested, please let us know and we can call on you as needed.

If you are listed as a member of our volunteer team but not interested/available to help out in one of these roles, don't worry, we won't remove you from our list unless you request us to. We will keep you in 'reserve' so we can contact you as required.

What's next? We will be sending an email to our current team of volunteers to see if anyone is interested in taking on one or more of these roles (if they haven't already) and invite any of our other members to express their interest by emailing Wendy (info@newbigginartscentre.org).



Calling all members...

The next two exhibitions are for you! Starting Friday, 27th September we are inviting all works done with pastels. This will be a great opportunity for our new pastels' class members and more experienced members to show and share their work with each other and our visitors

PASTELS EXHIBITION
From Friday 27 SEPTEMBER

**Invitation to
submit your
Pastels Works
for our next
exhibition**

**Open to members
of our groups
and classes**



Upcoming Exhibitions
Invitation

**Members are
invited and
encouraged to
submit your
artwork to be
included in our
upcoming
exhibition.**



Our next exhibition is on a theme of "Newbiggin"
beginning on Friday 8 November

Our November exhibition, beginning on Friday, 9th November, is all about Newbiggin. What a wonderful way to pay tribute to the home of NAC. There's lots of time for our members to paint their favourite views or representation of Newbiggin in their choice of media. We're sure that our visitors will love to see them!



Contact us



You can contact us by email at:

info@newbigginartscentre.org



Call us at:



01670 708269 or 07766 856365