



A Message from your Chair

In the body of the newsletter, you will see that we have restricted opening times over Easter. This is because we want to give Wendy, the Trustees and the other usual volunteers a break over that weekend.

However, we would really like to be open all weekend for the holiday makers, sightseers and people coming to view the Morpeth Group exhibition. So, if anyone would like to help with opening up, please contact Wendy as soon as possible so we can advertise more opening times in advance of the weekend.

HAVE A GREAT EASTER WEEKEND! ... and, don't forget to take your paints and brushes with you when you go out in the sunshine.



Committee Meeting Update

We've had a very busy start to spring! In March, our Board of Trustees took part in two business planning workshops, facilitated by Kate Duffy from Junction Point. Needless to say, she had her work cut out to keep us all on track!

All in all, it was a very productive exercise. We were able to come out of it with a clearer direction and understanding of where we want to be, and how we need to get there, both for the short and the longer term.

One key action item that came out of the exercise was the need for us to do some succession planning to ensure that we are a sustainable organisation. We all know the expression: *'if so and so got hit by a bus'*; well, it certainly applies to us! As we continue to grow (at a fairly rapid pace), there are some skill gaps we need to fill. Primarily, we need Trustees, or volunteers, with skills and/or experience in the areas of IT, fund raising, and social media (marketing).

Please help us to spread the word.

Trustees Needed!

- *Passionate about the contribution of arts to well-being*
- *IT, finance or marketing skills*
- *Experienced in fund raising*
- *Desire to give back to the community*

Sound interesting?

Please contact us to find out more



Once again, we've been the recipient of a very generous donation of art materials, most of which has already been put to good use by the Children's Art Group.

You will also find a box of various art materials in the Front St. studio that we aren't using, to take away with you - we just ask for a small donation in exchange.

A huge thank you to our supporter!

We just participated in our second 'Wellness' Event. What a great success!

The atmosphere was energising, really buzzing with people talking and sharing their experiences and difficulties. There was lots of laughter and fun!

Our aim in attending was to spread the word as to how art really is good for your health, and we achieved it, with many people saying that they'd like to give it a go!



Easter is just around the corner, and we will have restricted openings to give our volunteers some well-deserved time off.

Gibson Street will be closed from Friday, the 18th of April to Monday, 21st of April (inclusive).

Front Street is currently planned to be open Friday 18th (for the usual TGIF) and Easter Sunday afternoon (1-4pm).

We will advise additional opening times over the weekend if we can arrange them. We will be back open, as normal, on Tuesday the 22nd.

For our artists, don't forget to put our 'Spring into Spring' Exhibition (from the 2nd to the 30th of May) in your calendars. As we begin to see the signs of spring, now is a great time to get your art materials out and start painting!



Did you know...

For anyone who is struggling with drawing, and just want to get straight to painting; or if you need to get that outline just right, we have lightboxes available at both of our studios. It's not cheating, it's just a way to help us achieve the picture we want—without the added stress of drawing!

Need help with composition? Try using a Viewfinder. You can make your own mini ones to use outside when painting or drawing a landscape, or use bits of card to pick out a view on a photograph. Simple, but effective!

Do any of you have some tips you'd like to share with us? We'd love to hear from you, just drop Wendy a line.



Classes, Clubs, & Workshops

NAC really is the place for all things art...where the arts really are for all.

This is evidenced by the number and variety of workshops and classes we deliver.

For example, over the last month or so, we ran quite a variety of workshops, including making paper jewellery, etching, using ink and watercolours, etc.

We've had nothing but positive feedback with requests for more of the same. There are more planned for April and others in the pipeline.



"Just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed Jeanie's workshop today...who knew ink and bleach could produce such lovely results. Jeanie is a great teacher and I hope she does some more sessions... I'm in! Thanks for arranging it"

Our places are filled on a 'first come, first served' basis, so it's important to keep your eyes open for our advertisements sent via our mailing list and Facebook. If you can't secure a place (they do get filled quickly!), then you will be placed on a waiting list. If we get enough people on the list, then we will do our best to run another workshop.

Now for something really different! We have a workshop planned for the morning of Monday, the 19th of May at our Front St. studio. Let's just say, food, tips, saving money, and even a surprise, are all involved! Keep your eyes open for our ad coming soon!

In addition to our new classes in pastels, watercolours, photography, and ceramics (all brought back by popular demand), don't forget about our weekly clubs where you can come along and try your hand at watercolours, acrylics, oils, ceramics, and crafts - there really is something for everyone, whether you are a beginner, someone honing your skills, or someone who just wants some company in a fun and relaxed environment.

Of particular interest for anyone who couldn't get a place in our new classes; don't forget about our Wednesday, 'Art is for All / Drawing/Multi-Media' class where our professional tutor, Gary, will help you learn in your preferred medium, at your own pace, providing one-to-one support and guidance in a relaxed and friendly environment!

Our **TGIF** club is still in its infancy, with attendance fluctuating from almost empty to almost full! People have told us they love the idea, so don't forget, it's a great way to practice what you've been learning in your classes. We're open from 10 - 4, all for £4 (if you bring your own materials), or £5 (if you use ours) and you can stay for as long as you want within those times. There is no need to sign up for this, just drop in.

For more information or to register for these or our other ongoing clubs, please contact Wendy, please contact Wendy at: info@newbigginartscentre.org or **07766 856365** or **01670 708269**

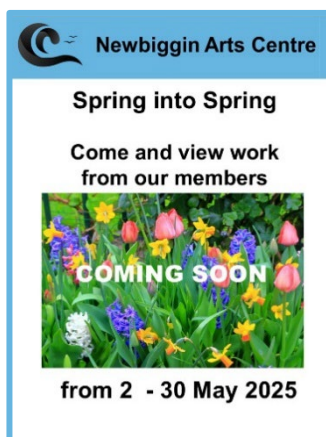


Exhibitions

A big welcome to the Morpeth Art Group! This group has been running for over 25 years.

As you will see from their exhibit, they use a variety of mediums with varied subject matter, including abstract, impressionist, figurative, realist, and everything in between.

This is an exhibit not to be missed!



We mustn't forget about our own exhibit 'Spring into Spring' coming up next.

Members are invited to submit up to three pieces of their work, in any media, during the week leading up to the exhibition (held from 2nd to 30th of May).

We're already seeing many of our members using their class or club time in preparation, so it should be a great exhibition - let's just hope it coincides with some spring weather!



How to Contact Us

If you want to sign up for a course, provide us feedback, or send us your ideas on what we can do better, we always appreciate hearing from you.

Contact us at:

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