



A Message from your Chair

Some of you have been asking where I've been lately, and I'd like to assure you that I haven't been hiding away! Rather, I have been working behind the scenes seeking out and applying for grants. As you can imagine, due to the current economic climate, there are fewer grants available to apply for – and those that are have proven difficult to secure. This means that our access to funding has decreased. As a result, I need to spend even more time looking for new sources of funding and finding other ways to cover our operating costs.

We spent a lot of time at our last committee meeting (2nd June) discussing how we can increase our income, and agreed that one of the ways (unfortunately) is to increase the fees and donations for our classes and clubs. However, the increase is slight (as set out in the following section), and as always, if there is anyone who finds this a hardship, please talk to me or Wendy.

It's not all doom and gloom! We have a couple of things to celebrate:

First, visitors to Gibson Street will have seen the new ceramics kiln, financed by courtesy of a grant from Sir James Knott Trust. It is temporarily installed in the studio, but will be transferred in due course to its permanent home in the shed in the back yard once we have the foundations and electricity supply sorted.

Second, thanks to the hard work of Brian and Wendy our Gibson St. studio walls have a new coat of paint! Well done, and thank you!



Committee Meeting Update

We've certainly had a very busy and productive spring! Lots of new classes and workshops covering a variety of activities. Everything from watercolours, calligraphy, photography, jewellery making, etc., to something completely different—the art of slow cooking.

Most of our recent classes and workshops have been made possible through the funding we've received from NIECP. This grant subsidised the fees of the tutors and the provision of the materials and equipment. Unfortunately, as all good things must come to an end, so has the funding. This means that we must work even harder over the coming months to seek out, and apply for, further funding so that we can continue to offer the variety of new classes and workshops that have been so successful to date.

Until such time that we can access more funding to run new classes and workshops, we will continue to run our regular classes and clubs. However, due to the cost-of-living increases that we, along with our many suppliers are experiencing, will have to increase our fees for the classes and clubs. This was a difficult, but necessary decision, as the fees we get from our classes and clubs do not cover the costs of running them.

However, as we are committed to keeping the fees as low as possible, the increases will be minimal, with most increasing by only £1, except for the pastels class which, due to the higher cost of materials, will increase by £2. These increases will take effect as of 1st July.

On a much happier note, we are very excited to let you know that we have Annie Twyford, an arts intern from Newcastle University, joining us for this month. Annie will be mentored by Leigh and will be developing and delivering a workshop for us. This will give her a fantastic opportunity to gain some 'real life' working experience, and at the same time, benefit us with her educational experience and perspective. Welcome Annie!



"Hey, I am Annie and I will be interning at Newbiggin Arts Centre over the next month! I am currently studying Fine Art at Newcastle University, and I am passionate about sculpture and making art accessible for everyone. I am so excited to learn from everyone at NAC and deliver a workshop in the next few weeks, it would be great to see you there!"

You may have noticed the recent addition of our ‘donation station’ in the Front St. studio. This originally came about as we had received several very generous donations from various members of the community. Many of the materials have been put to good use in our classes and clubs, but as we had a surplus, we decided that we would offer them to our members—asking for a donation in exchange.

Our donation box has proven to be very popular, with members now adding their own unused or pre-loved art materials. It’s gratifying to see that this is often the first thing that our members check out to see what’s new when they arrive for class.

If you have any art materials that you don’t use and are just taking up space, please feel free to bring them along—all donations gratefully accepted!



Did you know...

A pizza box (clean!) makes an excellent carrier for transporting oil paintings that you are working on back and forth to class.

Do you have any tips or information you'd like to share with our readers? If so, we'd love to hear from you. Just drop Wendy an email and we'll be happy to pass them along.



Classes, Clubs, & Workshops

NAC really is the place for all things art...where arts really are for all. This is evidenced by the number and variety of workshops and classes we deliver.

Of particular note was the 'Art of Slow Cooking' workshop held on Monday, the 13th of May. This was the first of our Community Initiative events. The focus of this workshop was to highlight the use and versatility of slow cookers, demonstrating the variety of ways in which we can all save energy, and thereby, save money on our energy bills.

Ten people attended the light-hearted event, which was hosted by Christine and Anna from Community Action Northumberland; and, judging by the comments on the evaluation forms, all enjoyed it immensely (along with the slow-cooker cake which Anna brought with her!)



As a bonus, each attendee was given a slow cooker to take home. Many thanks for the donations from this event and look out for more Community Initiative events in the future!

Spaces Available

We have spaces available in our All Media class with Gary, Wednesday afternoons, from 1-3. This is a unique class where participants can paint their 'own thing' but with support and guidance from Gary as needed. It's a fun and friendly environment suitable for beginners as well as for those more experienced.

Creating art on a Friday is a great way to wind down at the end of the week, or to gear up for your weekend. Why not come by our Front St. studio on Fridays, for our TGIF club? We are open from 10-2 and for just £4 or £5 (£5 or £6 as of 1st July), you can spend an hour or all four hours, doing your own thing while enjoying the company of others.

Our children's art group have a few new spaces available from now until 19th July. Held on Fridays from 6-7:30, at our Gibson St. studio, children from the age of eight can enjoy learning art and crafts in a sociable and fun environment. If you are interested in registering your child, please contact Wendy.

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



Exhibitions

Our members' spring exhibition was a huge success, with many positive comments from our visitors with the added bonus of six paintings sold! Well done everyone!

Drop by our Front St. studio for our latest exhibition (30th May to 27th June) which features the work of Michael Dennison of Whitley Bay, held from 30 May to 27 June.

Coming up: From 27th June we will be displaying a variety of work by the late Norman MacKillop, followed by our Summer Exhibition of work by our own members



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:

74B Front Street, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, NE64 6QD
27 Gibson Street, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, NE64 6UY
info@newbigginartscentre.org
07766 856 365

