



A Message from your Chair

Grant money is like hen's teeth – very difficult to obtain! So, we have not yet managed to secure enough funds to run our *full* lesson programme. But, never fear, we are still pursuing the elusive grants and hope to have some good news ready for the next newsletter.

Until this further funding becomes available, we are still managing to arrange some tuition for you. But this will be primarily one-off workshops, rather than courses of lessons (apart from, of course, Christine's regular watercolour and pastels classes and Gary's Wednesday afternoon session). As soon as money becomes available, we will be starting off some new, interesting and exciting courses – from some old and some new tutors!

I would just like to add my personal congratulations to Annie Twyford. The two workshops which she ran were well attended and proved very successful. Well done Annie! Now that the internship bar has been set high, we look forward to welcoming our second internee, Lara McFarland, at the beginning of September – under the watchful eye and guidance of Leigh.

Finally - last, but certainly not least - I would like to thank Sue Case for all the hard work which she has put into running the Children's Club on a Friday evening over the past years – and welcome Donna Fitch to the team as lead for the Children's Club.



Committee Meeting Update

We are on a mission! Over the past couple of years, generous grants and public funding have helped keep our art centre thriving, welcoming, and accessible. However, like many arts organisations, we're seeing these vital resources diminishing—and rather than scaling back, we're stepping up!

We want to raise more of our funds ourselves in a way that matches who we are: creative, inclusive, and community driven.

After much discussion and brainstorming, we've begun to plan a series of events and activities that invite everyone to experience the joy of making art. We are hoping that these events will help us raise the money we need and raise the profile of the arts in our community.

A taste of what's to come:

- Art by the Beach
 - Paint and Sip Evening
 - Coffee, Cake and Quiz
 - Paint Your Own Christmas Cards,
- ...and more...

Details about these and other events will be coming out soon, so stay tuned and get ready to get involved. If you have any fundraising ideas or would like to help out at these and any other future events, we'd love to hear from you!

Our first art intern, Annie Twyford, has successfully completed her internship with us—and what a great experience it has been, for her, for us, and for the people who attended her two workshops!

Annie's workshops were all about smashing, creating and celebrating—the art of Kintsugi.

Kintsugi is an art form and techniques that is based on the philosophy that flaws and imperfections are not something to disguise, but to celebrate. 'Brokenness' becomes part of the story, and the repaired piece is often considered even more valuable and beautiful than before.



All the participants thoroughly enjoyed the workshops and the resulting exhibition can only be described as stunning!

During the internship there were also opportunities for Annie to see how the Art Centre operated re Trustee meetings, attending clubs and classes and assisting in curating the monthly exhibitions.

Now that the internship is finished, we wish Annie every success in her future and really hope she keeps in touch--well done and thank you Annie! Also, a big thank you to Leigh for supporting Annie and getting our internship programme off to a roaring start!

It is the end of an era. Many people know Sue Case. Sue is our longest-standing volunteer and Trustee who has been the primary lead for creating, organising and running the Children's Art Group. SADLY, she has now decided it's time for her to hand over the reins to Donna Fitch so she can spend more time creating her own art, spending time with her family, and generally, taking a well-deserved rest! Thankfully, Sue will continue her role as Trustee and lead for the Craft Group and will be seen helping out when and wherever needed.

It is also the start of a new era...We have been very busy over the last few weeks improving our website. It has been quite a challenge as none of us have had much experience in creating and building a website, so it has very much been a 'learn as you go' experience. While there are still some areas under development, we hope that is not only visually appealing, but also informative, and easy to find your way around in. Please do have a look, and any feedback, suggestions for improvement will be greatly appreciated.



Did you know...

Your Can Trick your Brain!

When it comes to making art, our brains are known to play tricks on us. They *think* they know what something should look like and we are tricked into drawing what we think we see instead of what's *really* in front of us. Here are some tips on how you can outsmart your brain...

Take photos of your work in progress. Looking at them on a phone screen reveal flaws you don't notice on the easel—great for spotting a wonky perspective or overworked areas.

View your work in a mirror. It instantly reveals composition issues, symmetry problems or anything 'off'. Your brain sees it as new, and mistakes jump out.

Stuck on a portrait? Flip your reference photo and your drawing upside down. This helps you focus on shapes and angles instead of what your brain thinks a face should look like.

Try squinting—squinting blurs out the details and lets you focus on contrast and overall shapes.

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

As you can imagine, our courses and workshops are very popular and when advertised, they become full very quickly.

We operate on a 'first come, first served' basis, so unfortunately, there will be times when some people miss out. However, please don't feel discouraged, as when this happens, we create a waiting list, and those on it, will be given first refusal in the event we are able to provide an additional course or workshop for that particular subject.

Spaces Available

There are a couple of spaces still available for our **Antique Print Workshop**. Don't miss out on what will be an interesting (and fun!) event.

In addition to our courses and workshop, we run weekly classes and clubs. We have some spaces available in the following:

Wednesday evenings, from 7-9 at Front St. is our All Media club where you are invited to come along and draw or paint what you want, in any medium. The cost is £5 if you bring your own materials, or £6 if you use ours. It is a great way to break up your week and carve out some time, just for you.

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 £5 or £6 (if you use our materials), you can spend an hour or all four hours, doing your own thing while enjoying the company of others.

Don't forget to check out our website and Facebook page to see our full schedule, or please pop by the studio to see what's on offer and where we'll be happy to show you around and answer any questions.

Newbiggin Arts Centre
The place for all things art... where Arts are for All

Antique Print Workshop

Interested in stepping away from the digital world and connecting with a slower, more mindful practice rooted in art, history, and story telling?

If so, join us for a fun, hands-on workshop where Victor will give a short, fascinating talk on how and why this beautiful craft developed. You'll also get to put this into practice by learning how to hand-colour your own antique print, using traditional watercolours or pastels, to take home with you.

When: Monday, 14th July from 2-3:30 p.m.
Where: Gibson St. studio
Fee: Donation of £5

No experience necessary—just curiosity and a love of old things brought to life!

Places are limited, so please book by contacting Wendy on 07766 856385 or 01670 780269 or email on info@newbigginartscentre.org

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27 Gibson Street, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, NE54 6UT
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Facebook, Email, and Website icons.

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

What's On Now



A little bit about Norman

Born in Scotland, Norman discovered a passion for painting in his mid-forties after taking an evening art class at Newcastle University. A keen photographer, he found a new creative outlet through art. This exhibition showcases a variety of his work, celebrating his talent and love of visual expression. Norman passed away in 2019 and we are delighted to be able to share some of his work with you.

What's Coming

Our members have been busy getting prepared for two upcoming exhibitions, and there is still plenty of time to get painting if you haven't already...just make sure that you submit your artwork, ready for hanging, by the Tuesday before the exhibition starts. As usual, if you need help with this, please drop by or contact us and Gerry will be pleased to help you.



A quick reminder...if you have any paintings stored at the studio, please don't forget to drop by and pick them up (storage space is always at a premium)....thank you!



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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