

A Message from your Chair

Well, it was back to leading a group again for me (I hesitate to call it tutoring!). Under duress, I ran the latest Paint and Sip session on the first Monday of September. But, guess what, I really enjoyed getting back into the swing of things - instead of being inundated by all the financial and governance issues of the charity.

But, what is more important, everyone who came along had a really good time and came away with a brilliant picture – every one of them good enough to hang on the wall at home.

Due to the success of this evening, I will be delivering another Paint and Sip later in the year – and this one will most probably have a Christmas theme; possibly creating something which can be used for Christmas cards?? Keep an eye out for the notices and sign up quickly, as it is sure to be very popular again.

So, as I get back to balancing the books, here are pictures of all the participants working on and then showing off their work (even though some of them were too shy to show their faces to the camera!!).





Committee Meeting Update

It Has Been an Incredibly Busy Summer!

We've had a fantastic summer here at NAC, packed with creativity, energy, and a record number of workshops! From painting to jewellery making, creating coasters, and everything in between, it's been inspiring to see so many people getting involved and making art together.

Art by the Beach

Our *Art by the Beach* event was a great success—even if the wind had other plans! Despite having to move indoors, the atmosphere remained warm and lively. A big thank you to Sue Case, our brave real-life model, and to Leigh for her beautiful jewellery-making demonstration. We also raised valuable funds for the centre. Add in some great conversation and delicious cake, and we couldn't have asked for more (well... maybe less wind next time!).



We Need More Trustees!

Are you passionate about the arts and community? We're currently looking for new trustees to help support the ongoing growth and success of the Arts Centre. If you or someone you know might be interested, please get in touch - we'd love to hear from you.

A Couple of Reminders:

- ✓ **Pottery Pickup:** If you had work fired in a past course, your pottery is now ready for collection at Gibson Street. Please collect your pieces as soon as you can so we can make room for the next round of firings!
- ✓ We love how busy and creative the centre has been lately—but just a gentle reminder to ***please tidy up after your sessions***. Washing brushes, wiping down tables, and putting materials back where they belong really helps keep the space welcoming for everyone.

Thank you for doing your part to keep our shared space clean, organised, and ready for the next burst of creativity!

First Aid – Well Done!

Well done to the 11 people who completed the St. John's First Aid course - a great accomplishment and an important contribution to our community - thank you!

A Huge Welcome to Our Newest Art Intern, Lara!

We're delighted to introduce Lara McFarland, our new art intern! Lara will be with us over the coming months, supporting workshops and developing her own exciting ideas—including a brand-new art course designed with your input (see below!).

A little something about Lara:

Hello! My name is Lara McFarland, and I am going to be running an 8-week course here at Newbiggin Art Centre. I am a fourth-year student studying Fine Art at Newcastle University who loves bringing people together through art. I have organised group exhibitions over the past few years at university, and most recently I had the honour of being selected for my first solo exhibition at High Bridge Works this past January.

What inspires me and my art the most is when I open my eyes to the beauty in mundane objects around us. Seeing the sun hit the leaves in the trees just right. Seeing friends huddle round a table all holding different coloured mugs. Seeing a smiley face sticker left by someone on a lamppost.



To me, truly 'seeing' as an artist begins with noticing the subtle details others might overlook. This way of seeing is at the heart of my course, and it's what I'm most excited to share with others.

As an artist, I use lots of different mediums, going from loose oil paintings one day to detailed charcoal drawings the next. I use photographs, oil pastels, watercolour, ink, acrylic paint, and most recently I have been venturing into sculpture.

I've found that trying a bit of everything keeps my creativity flowing—and it means I can teach a variety of techniques, so you can discover what really works for you.

I've run classes before with an emphasis of bringing people together through art, and I can't wait to do the same with this community at NAC!

Help Lara Shape a New Art Course!

Lara is currently conducting a short survey to find out what kind of 8-week course you'd like to see offered at the centre. She'll be designing and delivering it based on your feedback. If you haven't already received a questionnaire, please ask Wendy for a copy, fill it in, and return it to her. Your ideas matter!



Did you know...

We think that sharing tips with each other is important. Here is the latest collection of handy hints, clever techniques, and practical tools - shared by artists in our community to help you get the most out of your time in the studio. Don't forget, we love getting your ideas and suggestions - just send them along to Wendy so we can add them into our next newsletter.

💧 Keep Acrylics Wet for Longer

When painting with acrylics, try misting your palette with water to keep the paints from drying out too quickly. A small spray bottle works wonders—especially on warm days.

📷 Use References, Not Replicas

Photos are a great starting point, but don't feel like you have to copy them exactly. Move things around, combine multiple images, or play with colour and proportion. Let your own voice come through.

👁️ Don't Fear the Ugly Phase

Every artwork has a moment where it looks rough or unfinished—don't give up! It's a natural part of the creative process. Keep going and let your work evolve with layers and time.

👤 Step Back for a Better View

Temporarily stepping away from your work can help you see it with fresh eyes. Try viewing it from across the room or snapping a photo on your phone—you'll spot things you hadn't noticed before.

🎨 Limit Your Palette

Using fewer colours can lead to stronger, more harmonious results. Try choosing just 3–5 colours for a project and explore how much you can do with them.

🔄 Get Unstuck with a Shift

Feeling blocked? Switch gears. Doodle, write, or start something unrelated. Creativity often comes back when you stop forcing it.

🧼 Look After Your Materials

Brushes last longer when cleaned right after use. Rinse thoroughly, reshape the bristles, and store them upright (or flat) to keep them in good condition.

🧴 Clean-Up Made Easy

- Baby Oil works brilliantly for cleaning Gelli plates (thanks, Nick!)
- Shampoo helps remove oil paint from your hands—gentler than solvents and easier on your skin (thanks, Christine!)

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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 subject.

We Have Spaces Available!

Children's Art Group (Fridays, from 6:00 – 7:30 pm at 25-27 Gibson St.)

There are still a couple of spaces available at our **Children's Art Group**. This new season is packed with fun projects – from bubble painting and pompom pumpkins to sock monkeys and gingerbread houses. Every week there will be something different, where it's all about getting a bit messy, and most importantly, having loads of fun making art together—and all just for £3 per session! If you want to register your child, you can contact us at: info@newbigginartscentre.org, or give us a call at: 07766 856 365.

All Media Art Class with Gary-- Wednesday afternoons from 1–3pm at Front St.

Looking to develop your artistic skills in a relaxed, supportive setting? Our **All Media class with Gary** is the perfect place to learn, experiment, and enjoy making art—whether you're just starting out or have years of experience.

Held on **Wednesday afternoons from 1–3pm at Front St.**, this unique class lets you work on your own projects in any medium you like, while still benefiting from expert guidance and encouragement from Gary when you need it. It's a fun, flexible, and friendly environment where everyone is welcome.

Whether you want to build confidence, try new techniques, or simply carve out some creative time for yourself, this class is a great way to stay inspired and keep learning at your own pace.

Create and Connect – Your Midweek Creative Recharge—Wednesdays, 7–9pm at Front St.

Need a midweek reset? Come unwind and energise your Wednesday evenings at **Create and Connect**—our relaxed, all-media art club running from **7–9pm at Front St.** Whether you're sketching, painting, experimenting, or just playing with colour, this is your time to create exactly how *you* want to. No rules, no pressure—just space to explore and express.

Bring your own materials for just £5, or use ours for £6—we've got you covered either way. It's the perfect way to break up the week, connect with other creatives, and carve out a couple of hours just for *you*.

Whether you're a total beginner or an experienced artist, you'll find a welcoming vibe and a space to do your own thing.

So grab your sketchbook, your paints, or just your curiosity—and drop in this Wednesday.

TGIF Art Club – Ease into the Weekend Creatively on Fridays, 10am–2pm at Front St. Studio

Start your weekend on the right note—whether you're winding down from a busy week or gearing up for a creative one! Our **TGIF Art Club** is the perfect Friday escape: a relaxed, welcoming space where you can make art *your way*, at your own pace.

Drop in anytime between **10am and 2pm** at our Front St. studio. Whether you stay for an hour or all four, you'll enjoy a friendly, social atmosphere where you're free to paint, draw, collage, or experiment with whatever medium you like. Bring your own materials for just £5, or use ours for £6—no booking needed, just turn up and create.

It's a great opportunity to recharge, connect with others, and spend a bit of time doing something just for *you*. No pressure, no expectations—just art, fun, and good company to kick off your weekend.

We'd Love to See You – Online or at the Studio

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.

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

Coming Soon

Nature Reimagined – An Exhibition Not to Miss!

Inspired by the textures and shapes of the natural world, this new collection captures mood and narrative through acrylics, pastels, and ink. With recent exhibitions at Woodhorn and the Summer Show Newcastle, this is one to put in your calendar.

Don't miss it!

A few words from Heather:

"My love of all things organic inspires my art work, particularly nature's shapes and textures. I work in acrylics, pastels, and ink to express mood and narrative. Recent exhibitions include Woodhorn, the Summer Show Newcastle, and various other venues. I also take commissions from time to time."

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

COMING SOON
HEATHER HOWARTH
EXHIBITION

19 September to 17 October

Contact us at:
71B Front Street, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, NE64 6QD
77 Gibson Street, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, NE64 6LY
info@newbigginartscentre.org
01726 826 365

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!

Finally..... Woodhorn Museum have just announced preliminary details for Northumberland Open 2026. As per our exhibition in 2025, this year's exhibition will continue to be non-themed.

Woodhorn will start promoting the artist call more widely from next week but as advanced warning, we will need to register interest by no later than **Thursday 4th December**.

We want to get as many of our members involved this year. Most, if not all, of our participants are good enough to get something accepted. So don't be shy; let's see if we can get lots of our artwork entered and exhibited. We will let you have more details as soon as they are published.



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

