



A Message from your Chair

Well, the nights are drawing in and the temperature is dropping. So, when you are not down at the Centre (where it is lovely and warm & inviting!) for a club, class or workshop; turn up your heating and get your paints out!

And, you have some incentive for producing something new. As well as our own **Winter** and **Pets and People Portraits** exhibitions (details below), don't forget the annual open exhibition at Woodhorn Museum. If you missed the mailshot about it; the exhibition runs Saturday 14th February - Sunday 10th May 2026. If you are interested in submitting artworks to the Northumberland Open 2026 please contact Paramijt at programmeNld@northeastmuseums.org.uk by no later than 5pm on **Thursday 4th December 2025**.

Let's get even more entries from Newbiggin Arts Centre than we had last year!!

More details at: <https://www.northeastmuseums.org.uk/woodhorn/whatson/the-northumberland-open-exhibition-2026>



Committee Meeting Update

Hot News: Our Kiln Has Arrived!

At long last — we're fired up and ready to go! Thanks to a generous grant from *The Sir James Knott Trust*, we're thrilled to announce that our ceramics kiln is now up and running.

The kiln was kindly sold to us at a great price by Katie Siddle of Stocksfield — nearly new, perfectly sized, and just what we needed. A big thanks also goes to Craig Hancock for helping with transport and to our own Steve, who brought it safely to the studio at Gibson Street.

After making sure all the safety measures were in place, Saskia and Steve performed the first test firing over the weekend — followed by a second firing on Monday. The results? A total success! The biscuit-fired ceramics look fantastic and have sparked lots of excitement.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, Steve was busy preparing the foundation for the kiln's new permanent home. Over the weekend he cleared and prepped the backyard, and by Monday, he was wheelbarrowing a whopping 1.5 tonnes of concrete from the front of the shop to the back yard — all by hand! (He may not be Mr Universe *just* yet... but we're not ruling it out.)



With the base now set, the next steps are to install the shed, re-house the kiln, and connect the electrics — all scheduled for early November. Once complete, we'll have a fully self-contained ceramics firing facility right here at Gibson Street.



This is a huge step forward for us. Not only will we be able to support more advanced ceramicists — particularly those who've taken part in our classes — but we're also laying the groundwork (literally!) to expand our ceramics clubs and bring back more workshops and classes in the future.

We're so excited about this new chapter and can't wait to see how it helps us grow the creative community at Gibson Street. Watch this space!

Lara's New Art Course: Discover a New Way of Seeing — and Creating — Art

Starting Monday, 27th October, from 1–3 PM at our Front St. studio, join Lara (our talented new art intern) for a transformative 7-week course designed to spark curiosity, unlock creative confidence, and offer a fresh approach to making art.

Inspired by your feedback from her recent survey, Lara has crafted a program that welcomes all levels — from complete beginners to seasoned artists. Each week, you'll explore practical techniques like drawing with intention lines, mixing expressive colours, and using everyday and natural materials for mark making. You'll also dive into basic art history to understand how different styles can influence your work, learn to draw from real objects (not just photos), and discover how to loosen up and express yourself more freely through your art.

By the end of the course, you'll walk away not only with new skills, but also a deeper appreciation for your unique creative voice — and a new habit of seeing the world through an artistic lens, wherever you go.

Keep an eye open for her poster and make sure you book early as this course is sure to be filled up quickly!

Time Flies...and Suddenly it's Autumn!

The leaves are turning, the nights are drawing in, and believe it or not, some of us are already knee-deep in festive planning (or at least thinking about it over a cuppa). There's lots coming up at the NAC, so grab your diaries and let's get some dates pencilled in!

A Very Merry Paint & Sip—You Asked, We Listened!

After the huge success of our last paint and sip, we're hosting a **Festive Paint & Sip** on **Monday, 10th November, 7–9pm**. Think festive fun, a paintbrush in one hand and your favourite drink in the other. Keep your eyes peeled for the poster and book early — it sold out fast last time!

Light Up the Parade – Lantern-Making Workshops!

Get ready to glow! Join us on the **22nd & 23rd November** for some hands-on creative fun as we make lanterns for the town parade and tree lighting event. It's a brilliant activity for kids (and grown-ups too!), and a lovely way to get into the festive spirit together. All materials will be provided — just bring your imagination!

More details coming soon, but pop the dates in your diary — let's light up the streets and make this year's parade the brightest yet!

Saturday, 29th November – NAC Open House

We're throwing open the doors from **10:00–3pm** at our Front St. studio for all NAC members and the wider community. With mulled wine, mince pies and tea/coffee,

it's the perfect warm-up before the town parade and festivities — come along, say hello, and get into the seasonal spirit.

Friday, 5th December – Festive Season Kick-Off at the NAC

We're still ironing out the final details, but we can promise this much: a warm welcome, a buffet, and a glass of wine (or a soft drink) on arrival — all for just £10 to help cover catering costs. There's even whisperings of a *possible* quiz (no promises, but we're dropping hints...). It's a great chance to meet people from other classes and clubs, and a lovely way to start the season. Feel free to BYOB if you fancy making a night of it! Of course, this doesn't replace your own group's celebrations — it's just a fun, shared event to bring us all together. By the way, plus ones are warmly welcomed!



Did you know...

Here are seven unusual (and fun!) tips for beginners or people who are in a rut

1. Make “Ugly” Art on Purpose

Set out to create the worst piece you possibly can. Scribble, smudge, mismatch colours. Why? It removes the pressure of perfection and frees up your creativity. You might just discover something you *love* in the mess!

2. Use Your “Wrong” Hand

Try drawing or painting with your non-dominant hand. It breaks your habits, forces you to slow down, and helps you focus on form and feeling instead of control. It also builds confidence when you go back to your usual hand!

3. Paint to Music

Put on your favourite song and let your brush or pencil move to the rhythm. Don't aim to create a picture — just *respond*. It's a great way to loosen up and let emotion guide your marks.

4. Draw Without Looking at the Page

Try “blind contour drawing” — look at your subject but keep your eyes off the paper. It sounds ridiculous, but it trains your eye to see *really* well and often results in bold, expressive lines you wouldn't get otherwise.

5. Talk to Your Art

Stuck? Say, “What do *you* want to be?” or “Where are you trying to go?” Out loud. It sounds silly, but it shifts your mindset from control to conversation — and can actually help unblock creative decisions.

6. Steal Like a Beginner

Pick a favourite artist and copy a small piece of their work — not to pass it off as your own, but to *learn how it feels* to use their techniques. It's like learning guitar by playing other people's songs before writing your own.

7. Start a “Bad Idea” Sketchbook

Dedicate a sketchbook to all the weird, silly, or “that'll never work” ideas. No pressure to share it. Often, these experiments turn into your most original work — or at least give you a good laugh.

Bottom line? Making art isn't about being “good.” It's about exploring, expressing, and enjoying the process. Be curious. Be messy. Be brave. Your creativity is a muscle — not a magic trick.



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.

A Sneak Preview of What's Coming

It's going to be a very busy time over the next couple of months—keep your eyes open for our email and Facebook advertisements, coming soon!

-  **Paint & Sip**
-  **Jewellery Workshop**
-  **Life Drawing**
-  **Drypoint Etching**
-  **Gelli Plate**

We Have Spaces Available!

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

Looking to develop your artistic skills in a relaxed, supportive setting? Our **Art for All 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.

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

Exhibitions Coming Soon – Get Involved!

We've got a fantastic line-up of exhibitions on the horizon, and we'd love for *you* to be part of them — whether that's by submitting your own artwork or simply coming along to enjoy and support the creative work of others.

From the beautifully handmade pieces in our **Craft Club Exhibition**, to the seasonal sparkle of our upcoming **Winter Exhibition**, and **Pets and People Portraits**, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

These exhibitions are a great way to celebrate the talent within our community, share what you've been working on, and be inspired by fellow makers and artists.

So whether you're picking up a paintbrush, threading a needle, or just popping in to take a look, we can't wait to welcome you!

Craft Club Exhibition – Coming Soon!

Our brilliant Wednesday night Craft Club is getting ready to share the fruits of their creativity — and you're invited to come and see it!

This talented group creates beautiful, handcrafted pieces while enjoying good company, laughter, and lots of sharing along the way. From intricate stitching to imaginative makes, their work is full of skill, heart, and personality.

The upcoming exhibition is a wonderful chance to celebrate their creativity, get inspired, and maybe even spark your own crafty ideas. Don't miss it!

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

COMING SOON
CRAFT CLUB EXHIBITION

17 OCTOBER TO 14 NOVEMBER

Contact us at:
748 Front Street, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, NE54 9QD
27 Gibson Street, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, NE54 8UY
info@newbigginartscentre.org
01779 600 360

Facebook, Email, Website icons

Next Up – Our Winter Exhibition!



Following the wonderful showcase from our Craft Club, we're now looking ahead to our **Winter Exhibition**, featuring artwork from across our amazing community of members. Whether you paint, draw, stitch or sculpt – we'd love for you to contribute!

This is a fantastic opportunity to share your creativity, celebrate the season, and see what others have been working on. Whether you're a regular exhibitor or it's your first time, all are welcome to take part. Most importantly, we hope everyone will come along to view the exhibition, support each other, and enjoy the talent within our creative community.

Call for Submissions – Get Involved and Exhibit Your Work!

We'd love to invite all our members to submit up to **three pieces** for each upcoming exhibition. The standard of work we've seen in recent groups has been fantastic, and we know it'll be a tough job to choose – but don't worry, **we'll make sure that everyone who submits will have their work displayed.**

For the **Portraits Exhibition**, we've decided to include **pets** as well as people — we know not everyone is a fan of painting faces, so feel free to submit your finest furry (or feathery!) friends too.

Whether you're a regular exhibitor or it's your first time, we'd love to see what you've been working on. Don't be shy — this is a great opportunity to share your creativity and be part of the NAC community showcase!



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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27 Gibson Street, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, NE64 6UY

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