



# Newsletter

November 2025

*The place for all things art...where Arts are for All*

## A Message from your Chair

I'm pleased to say that the ceramics kiln is now installed in the shed and working well. We can now look forward to some more ceramics classes in the New Year.

Now that the cold weather is upon us, remember how warm the two Centres are. Just come along to one (or more) of our sessions and save on the heating bills at home!

Due to a lack of grant funding during 2025, we have unfortunately not been able to run as many courses with external tutors as we would like. However, we are due to receive a not-insignificant grant which will enable us to run a few more diverse classes and workshops in the New Year. Keep your eyes open for future announcements.

Finally, as well as the two internal exhibitions; the current Winter Exhibition and the forthcoming Portraits Exhibition; don't forget to register your interest in, and subsequently submit your artwork for, the Woodhorn Open Exhibition. If you need any more details, ask Wendy!

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



## Committee Meeting Update

### **Exciting News—our ceramics kiln is now up and running in its new home in the shed!**

Getting it there was a bit of an adventure (it wouldn't fit through the narrow door, so Steve had to dismantle and reassemble it), but all is working perfectly. Saskia has already completed a successful 'biscuit' firing, and plans are underway for the first glaze firing.

This opens the door to new workshops and classes to meet the high demand for ceramics. A 'Ceramics for Beginners' course will start in the New Year.

The shed is also ready for our glass kiln, with storage shelves and space to spare. Once Steve has safely tested the second-hand kiln and built its base, we'll be ready to launch glasswork classes, further expanding the wide range of creative disciplines we offer at our Centres.



So, stay tuned and keep an eye out for our new ceramics and glass classes—they're coming soon, and you won't want to miss them!

### **Energy & Air Fryer Community Event**

At NAC, we're passionate about creativity—but we're equally committed to supporting our community in practical, meaningful ways. With energy prices continuing to rise, we know that small everyday changes can make a big difference.

That's why we've launched a series of energy-saving community initiatives in partnership with Community Action Northumberland (CAN).

Our first session explored how slow cookers can help cut household energy use, and it proved just how valuable this kind of support can be: 36 local households went on to receive personalised guidance and follow-up help simply by reaching out afterward.

Building on that success, we held our second event on 3rd November, this time focusing on the benefits of using air fryers to reduce cooking costs and saving time.

Their independent Energy Advisors offered clear, practical tips on saving money on energy bills, alongside an engaging demonstration of how air fryers can be an efficient, cost-effective alternative in the kitchen. Participants not only learned valuable skills—they had fun doing it!

Participants found the advisors friendly, approachable, and full of practical tips on saving energy. They are knowledgeable and genuinely keen to help—so if you'd like support, guidance, or just someone to point you in the right direction, don't hesitate to get in touch with them through Community Action Northumberland via [Community Action Northumberland](#). You're never wasting their time, and the advice you receive could translate into real savings!

This event is just one example of how NAC brings creativity and community together. From workshops and classes to clubs and events like this, our welcoming and warm space is always open for you to connect, learn, and thrive!

### ✳️ Kicking off the Festive Season ✳️

What a great way to kick off the festive season with another fantastic **Paint & Sip night** on Monday (10<sup>th</sup> November)!

We had a full house of fourteen happy participants, with everyone saying what a fun and enjoyable evening it was. The session was so popular that we even had to turn away a few last-minute requests for places—clearly, Paint & Sip is in high demand!



With a glass of wine in hand, Steve guided everyone through some new painting techniques. The artwork may have looked easy at first, but there were a few tricky spots—fortunately, Steve was on hand to offer tips and help, so everyone was able to complete their masterpiece. We even extended the session to 2½ hours to make sure nobody felt rushed. The results? Simply stunning—as the photos show!

We're thrilled to announce that Steve has agreed to run more Paint & Sip sessions. The next one will likely be around Easter, with a spring theme, and another is planned for summer. So, keep your eyes peeled for updates in newsletters and social media—and be ready to book fast, because these sessions fill up in a flash!



## ⚠ Christmas Party Reminder – Friday 5th December! ⚠

Don't forget to grab your tickets for our festive Christmas Party! It's a fantastic opportunity to meet other members, catch up with friends, and kick off the season in style. For only £10, you can enjoy a fabulous buffet, a free drink on arrival (bring your own if you fancy more), plus a raffle and lots of festive fun. Make sure you're part of the celebrations—**tickets are going fast!**



## ⚠ Christmas Holiday Closing Times ⚠

Just a heads-up on our festive season opening hours: our **last class before the holidays will be on Tuesday 23rd December**, and we'll be **back open on Monday 5th January**.

We can't wait to welcome you back in the New Year with even more classes, clubs, workshops, and community events!



## Did you know...

There's a whole world of fascinating art books out there...

Looking for a spark of inspiration—or the perfect gift for the art lover in your life? Why not dive into an art-related read? One of our members recently shared this recommendation: *"I've just read an excellent book called *Madame Matisse* by Sophie Haydock. It was a novel but based on true facts. I don't even like Matisse but was fascinated by it".*

Here are a few more suggestions to explore:

- ✓ The Artist by Lucy Steeds
- ✓ Renoirs Dancer by Catherine Hew
- ✓ I always loved you by Robin Oliveira
- ✓ Claude and Camille by Stephanie Cowell
- ✓ The Secret Painter by Joe Tucker
- ✓ How to be an artist by Jerry Saltz
- ✓ The Artists Way by Julia Cameron

Whether you're a budding artist, an art enthusiast, or searching for a thoughtful present, these books are full of stories, techniques, and creativity to enjoy and share.



## Classes, Clubs, & Workshops

### Learning, Creating, and Having Fun: Lara's Classes Take Off

Lara's classes are proving to be a big hit! Participants are loving the chance to try new techniques, explore different materials, and even learn a bit of art history along the way. Many have commented on how they are enjoying experimenting with their new skills in other creative projects, showing just how inspiring and transferable the classes are.

The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with everyone appreciating the friendly, supportive environment that encourages creativity and confidence.

Lara is enjoying the experience too! As well as sharing her knowledge and guiding participants through their artistic journeys, she's learning a great deal herself. The classes are proving to be a wonderful two-way experience—both for those taking part and for Lara as she hones her teaching skills while fostering creativity across the community.



### Life Drawing Workshop Coming Soon!

We're excited to announce a new Life Drawing workshop taking place on Monday 8th December, from 7–9 p.m. at the Front St. studio. Led by tutor Nick Christie, this session offers a fantastic opportunity to develop your drawing skills with a live model in a relaxed, supportive setting—and at just £20, you really can't beat the price!

A poster with full details will be coming out soon, so keep an eye open—spaces are limited, and these workshops have been very popular in the past!

### 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](mailto:info@newbigginartscentre.org) or **07766 856365 or 01670 708269**



## Exhibitions

### Craft Club Exhibition

Our recent Craft Club Exhibition was a tremendous success, drawing in visitors who were genuinely blown away by the quality and creativity on display. Many people commented on how amazed they were by the depth of local talent within our community, and several even said they felt inspired to have a go at crafting themselves. It was a wonderful celebration of skill, imagination, and shared creativity. Well done!

### On Now

Step into the festive season with a visit to our open-themed Winter Exhibition, running for the next four weeks!

Our members' work is beautifully diverse, showcasing everything from pastels and sketches to watercolours, acrylics, oils and mixed media. It's a wonderfully vibrant display of local creativity — and you might even find yourself inspired to join one of our groups or classes that you haven't considered before. Come along and enjoy the talent on show!



### Coming Next

Our next exhibition theme is **portraits — people and pets** — and we'd love our members to get involved. Start thinking about the faces, characters or creatures you'd like to capture, and have fun creating something for the display. We're excited to see what you come up with!

**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:

74B Front Street, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, NE64 6QD

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

[info@newbigginartscentre.org](mailto:info@newbigginartscentre.org)

07766 856 365



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