



Newsletter

January 2026

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

A Message from your Chair

Is it too late to wish New Year to those of you who I haven't yet seen? No?? Then **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

A cold wet and windy start to the year; but don't let it put you off. Take a look at the hints below to help those creative juices to flow.

And talking about creative juices; we have had a record number of our members presenting artwork for the Woodhorn Open Exhibition. Let's keep our fingers crossed that they will all be accepted. However, I hear that there has been a massive increase in the numbers of applicants this year. So, as the competition is going to be very intense, let's not be too disappointed if any of our artwork is rejected – we'll just try harder next year!

But Woodhorn is not the only Open Exhibition. Keep your eyes peeled for announcements about our own Newbiggin Arts Centre Open Exhibition later in the year.

You'll see from the details below that we are widening our scope of offerings – in direct response to your requests. A classical guitar evening and a quiz night complement our offerings of new courses and workshops. And, if you have any ideas for any new creative events – or even purely social events for our community, then let Wendy (or any Trustee) know your ideas and we will see what we can do!

Don't forget that you can keep abreast of all the things that are happening at Newbiggin Arts Centre in lots of different ways: visit our Facebook pages or website; read our monthly newsletter, look at the posters on the tables and noticeboards; – or just ask Wendy (she has never been known to shy away from chatting about what we are doing! - I think that I am going to pay for that last remark!! ☺).

Let's all get together and make 2026 the most artistic and creative time ever for Newbiggin and the surrounding areas. Let's come together as a community, socialise and enjoy ourselves, make new friends, get closer to old friends and help others to make the most of our time together.

Steve



Committee Meeting Update

A Busy and Brilliant Start to 2026 at NAC!

We've started the new year with real creative energy at NAC, with many of our classes and workshops are already fully booked. Our current programme includes the Acrylic Course, Watercolour Course, Ceramics Club, Creative Writing Club, Pottery Sessions (afternoon and evening), an Acrylic Workshop, the Intentional Creativity course with Lara, and a Watercolour Workshop — all now full. While not great news for those wanting to join, the good news is that new opportunities are always on the way. We've just announced our upcoming Soft Pastel Course, and more courses and workshops will be added throughout the year.

To make sure you don't miss out, follow Newbiggin Arts Centre on Facebook for the latest updates and booking announcements.

A quick note for our TGIF members:

As the studio is in use for a Watercolour Workshop, there will be **no TGIF on Friday, 30 January**. Thank you for your understanding.

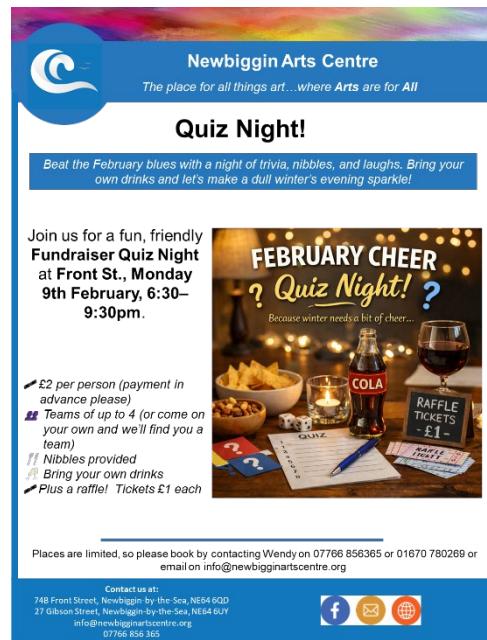
Beat the Winter Blues with a Quiz Night

Our quiz at the Christmas party was such a hit that you asked for more — so we listened and we've made it happen! Join us for our upcoming **Fundraising Quiz Night, on Monday, 9th February** for a fun, social evening to beat the winter blues and support NAC at the same time.

Come as a team, bring a friend, or come on your own, and we'll place you in a team on the night. It will be a relaxed, welcoming and fun-filled evening. We will provide nibbles, and you are invited to bring your own drinks. There will also be a raffle on the night with tickets just £1 each.

Quiz entry is only £2 per person, and we ask that you pay in advance to reserve your place with Wendy, as spaces are limited.

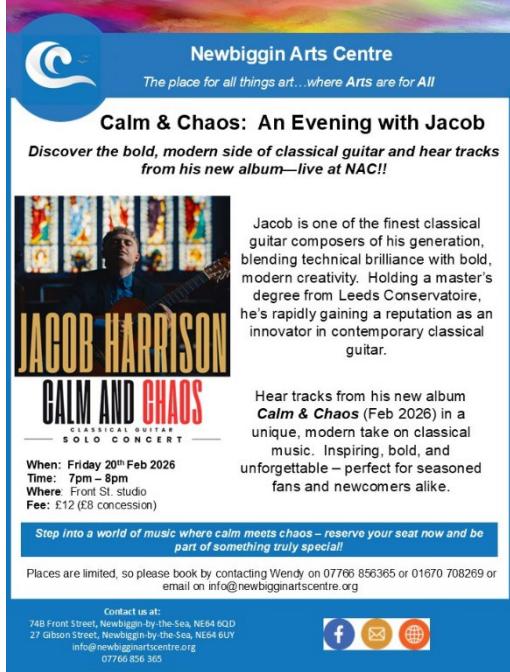
Every question, every laugh and every ticket helps support the centre and the creative community we all love — so wrap up, gather your brainpower and join us for a great night out at NAC!



The image is a promotional flyer for a Quiz Night at Newbiggin Arts Centre. The top half features the Newbiggin Arts Centre logo and the text 'Newbiggin Arts Centre' and 'The place for all things art...where Arts are for All'. Below this is a section titled 'Quiz Night!' with the subtext 'Beat the February blues with a night of trivia, nibbles, and laughs. Bring your own drinks and let's make a dull winter's evening sparkle!'. The middle section contains details about the event: 'Join us for a fun, friendly Fundraiser Quiz Night at Front St., Monday 9th February, 6:30–9:30pm.' It lists several rules and details: £2 per person (payment in advance please), Teams of up to 4 (or come on your own and we'll find you a team), Nibbles provided, Bring your own drinks, and Plus a raffle! Tickets £1 each. The bottom section contains contact information: 'Places are limited, so please book by contacting Wendy on 07766 856365 or 01670 780269 or email on info@newbigginartscentre.org'. It also includes the address '74B Front Street, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, NE64 6OD' and '27 Gibson Street, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, NE64 6UY' along with the email 'info@newbigginartscentre.org' and the phone number '07766 856365'. The bottom right corner features social media icons for Facebook, Email, and a globe.

Discover a Different Side of NAC

At NAC, creativity isn't just about paint and brushes — it's about expression in all its forms. Alongside our visual arts, we love opening the doors to music, words and performance too.



Our upcoming **Music Night** is a chance to experience something a little different, whether you're a regular at NAC or brand new to the centre.

Come along for a relaxed, welcoming evening, enjoy live sound in a creative space, meet new people and discover that NAC is a home for all kinds of art and all kinds of people.



Did you know...

When winter settles in, it's easy for motivation to hibernate — but creativity doesn't have to. This season can be a softer, thoughtful time for trying ideas, sharing space and keeping hands busy. Here are some helpful tips to keep spirits and creativity flowing through the winter months.

Daylight matters

Natural light boosts serotonin (your mood chemical). Even 20–30 minutes near a window or outdoors can lift energy and focus — perfect fuel for creative work.

Create small, not perfect

Winter is for *sketches, experiments and play*. Tiny creative wins keep momentum going when big projects feel heavy.

Warm hands, warm ideas

Cold slows fine motor skills. A mug of tea, fingerless gloves, or a quick hand stretch can genuinely improve drawing, stitching and painting comfort.

Sound changes mood

Background music, audiobooks, or even café noise can spark creativity when the studio feels quiet and flat.

Low energy is still creative energy

Not every session has to produce finished work. Researching, doodling, organising materials or journaling ideas all count.

Creativity grows in company

Social connection reduces winter fatigue. Drop into NAC sessions, chat, share work, or just sit alongside others making — it helps more than we realise.

Winter light = great light

Soft winter daylight is brilliant for observing tone, shadow and colour — painters and photographers often get their best contrast this time of year.

Make dates with your art

Short, regular creative time (even 30 minutes) beats waiting for motivation. Action creates motivation, not the other way round.



Classes, Clubs, & Workshops

Join One of Our Art Clubs – Spaces Available!

Our classes and workshops are currently full (although with more on the way!), but the good news is there are still spaces in our **friendly, creative clubs** — and they're one of the best ways to get involved.

Clubs are relaxed, social sessions where you can work on your own projects, practise what you've learned in classes, and pick up ideas from others along the way. Whether you're into watercolour, acrylics, oils, or something completely different, you're welcome to bring your own thing and enjoy creating alongside like-minded people — or meet some brand-new ones.

They're a lot of fun, very supportive, and many lasting friendships have started around our studio tables.

- ✓ **£5** if you use your own materials
- ✓ **£6** if you use the studio's
- ✓ **Pay as you go** — no long-term commitment

Just **give us a call, drop by the centre to sign up**, or check out our page on Facebook for more details.

Children's Art Group – Spaces Available for Spring

Our popular Children's Art Group has grown into much more than drawing and painting. Sessions now include a wide range of **creative crafts and hands-on activities**, giving children the chance to explore, make, and imagine in a fun, supportive environment.

It's not just about art — it's great for **confidence, social skills, and creative development**. Children learn to share ideas, try new things, and build friendships while enjoying time away from screens.

We still have **spaces available for the new Spring session**, so now's the perfect time to get involved.

Give your child the chance to create, connect and have fun. **Sign them up today** — pop in, give us a call, or check our Facebook page for details.



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

Children's Art Group--Spaces Available!
Fun, friendly art sessions for local children — where imaginations grow and mess is part of the magic!

Let your child's imagination run wild!

- ✓ Our art sessions are packed with colourful, hands-on projects — from bubble painting and pompon pumpkins to sock monkeys and gingerbread houses!
- ✓ Every week brings something new, messy, and marvellous — where creativity, confidence, and friendships grow side by side.
- ✓ Led by friendly artists and volunteers, each session is bursting with fun, learning, and encouragement.
- ✓ All materials are provided — your child just needs to bring their imagination!

When: Fridays, from 6.00 – 7.30
Where: Gibson St. studio
Fee: £3.00 per session

Our Children's Art Group is more than just an art class—it's a community where young artists make friends, explore new ideas, and grow in confidence.

Places are limited, so please book by contacting Wendy on 07766 856365 or 01670 708269 or email on info@newbigginartscentre.org

Contact us at:
749 Front Street, Newbiggin by the Sea, NE64 0QD
27 Gibson Street, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, NE64 6UY
info@newbigginartscentre.org
07766 856365

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

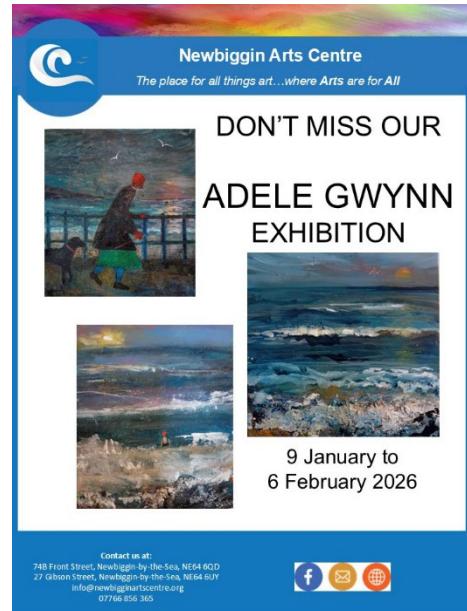
Adele Gwynn Exhibition – On Now!

Inspired by the Northumberland coast, this exhibition celebrates painting made with instinct, emotion and joy.

Working with a near childlike enthusiasm, Adele creates vibrant images driven by a love of **colour and pattern**, drawing on the sea, seasons, wildlife and people, alongside elements of memory, folklore and dream imagery.

The result is a playful, expressive body of work that invites viewers into a rich, imaginative world.

Ending soon, so make sure you don't miss it!



Coming Next



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

07766 856 365

