



**Newbiggin Arts Centre - Annual General Meeting
Monday 16th March 2026 – 9.30am**

Present S Wilkinson, S Andrew, S Case, V Hearn, F Mills,
 W Storey (secretary)

In attendance A Dobson, H Mills, F Short, S Foy, E Roddick

Apologies S Parker

- Welcome. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. There was an introduction of the Trustee and committee members.
- Chairs Report – since Covid we have had an increase again in numbers attending.

Applying for grants has been difficult, we applied for 24 grants last year and received 3, so the finances for NAC were very tight. The grants we receive, we use to pay partly towards tutors as the aim of the art centre is to be affordable and accessible to everyone.

The Workshops we have been running have helped keep attendee numbers up. We have tried to extend beyond just visual arts by introducing photography, music and community events.

We are helping to promote the community dramatics group and supporting them via making props for their productions.

We have had 2 interns from Newcastle University and this has proved hugely successful.

It was asked if we had any Business Sponsors? We liaise with the Traders association in Newbiggin but do not receive any financial support.

We believe we are a community hub and that we do this through Art and Craft.

- Annual Report and Accounts - Our finances have improved since last year and we are in a good financial position.

- Plans for the future - There has been huge interest in the Ceramics classes/Clubs at Gibson Street and this will help us with the finances for running the studio.

As we now have the glass kiln we would like to explore avenues for stained (and other) glass workshops. We need to find out if there are other subjects people would like us to run as courses/workshops. We would like to run more workshops for beginners in general, finding tutors is difficult

Recruit new Trustees – there are new roles we would like to fill, we would like a Vice Chair who can shadow the Chair and maybe take over this role in future. We would like to appoint a Treasurer on the same basis.

Newbiggin Arts Festival – this is something we would like to think about and starting to prepare for and believe this could be a realistic possibility.

- Constitution - retirement and re-election of Trustees – we need to re-elect one third of trustees every year. SA was now up for re-election. She was re-elected and can serve as a Trustee for another 3 years.

- Questions from the audience –

Volunteering opportunities, we would like to open more volunteering opportunities. H Mills has put herself forward as a volunteer co-ordinator.

Discussion re IT issues, it was asked previously in the meeting what systems we had in place. We discussed the finance system and social media and website. We highlighted that IT is an area we could use some support with as having the time and expertise is something that is providing difficult without paying a consultancy fee.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked members for their attendance and for the constructive and engaged discussion before closing the meeting.



Steve Wilkinson
Chair of Board of Trustees
16th March 2026