



A Message from Your Chair

Firstly, my congratulations to everyone who had their artwork accepted for display at the Woodhorn Open Exhibition. We had a fantastic success rate with **23** of our current members exhibiting a total of **41** pieces. If we also include past users of Newbiggin Arts Centre, the number rises to a total of **50** artists with **100** pieces (exactly!). That is nearly one fifth of all pieces exhibited! What a brilliant reflection on the success of our small independent charity.

Everyone who entered got at least one work accepted – and some two, or three! So, let this be inspiration for all of you who have been reluctant to submit work for the exhibition. If they can do it, then so can you! Let's see if, next year, we can make it 100 pieces of artwork accepted from just our *current* members!

Secondly, we now have the glass kiln installed beside the ceramics kiln (which itself is being frequently used by classes and clubs). This means that we can now look towards glass workshops or classes once we have found a tutor. If anyone can recommend someone suitable, please get in touch with Wendy or me.

Thirdly, it is good to see that the numbers attending classes and clubs has not been diminished due to the bad weather. In fact, the numbers are steadily growing, with demand for the new subjects exceeding the available spaces. We are currently examining how best to address this challenge. So please bear with us if you don't get that place you wanted straight away; we will endeavour to meet all your needs as soon as possible

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to welcome our latest Trustee, Susan Parker who joined the Board last week (more below). We all look forward to working with Susan – despite the confusion of now having **three** Sue's on the Board!



Committee Meeting Update

A Warm Welcome to Our New Trustee, Susan

We're delighted to welcome Susan as our newest trustee, bringing a wonderful blend of creativity, experience, and practical know-how.

Originally trained as a teacher, Susan's background is in textiles. She taught dressmaking and textiles in local adult education classes for many years and ran her own craft business designing and making children's clothing, selling at fairs and giving demonstrations.

After retraining, she went on to work for many years as an NHS office manager, coordinating services, supporting medical teams, and leading projects. She's highly organised, great with people, and knows how to get things done.

A lifelong love of painting led her back to art in retirement. After passing the Newbiggin Arts Centre Front Street studio many times, she finally joined a Saturday workshop — and was instantly hooked. She now describes the art centre as her *happy place*.

Susan is always ready to roll up her sleeves and get stuck in — especially when practical help is needed — and we're so pleased she's joined us... though she may not fully realise what she's let herself in for!



Welcome, Susan!

Join Our Team – Make a Difference!

NAC is always looking for enthusiastic people to get involved. Whether you're interested in helping behind the scenes, supporting events, or shaping the future of the Centre, there's a role for you.

We're currently seeking:

- **Trustees** – bring your skills and ideas to help guide the Centre's growth and community impact.
- **Volunteers** – assist with exhibitions, workshops, performances, and more.

If you've ever wanted to give back, be part of something creative, and meet like-minded people, now's the perfect time to get involved. Your time and talents make a real difference!

Interested? Get in touch with us to find out more and join our friendly, supportive team.

AGM – Monday 16th March

If you have an interest in NAC and want to find out more about what we do, our Annual General Meeting is the perfect opportunity to come along. It's a great way to learn about our plans, share your ideas, and get involved in shaping the future of the Centre. Whether you're an artist, a supporter, or simply passionate about the arts, your input is welcome — and it's a wonderful chance to meet others in our creative community!

The invitation is open to all regular attendees and supporters of NAC.

Celebrating Creativity Beyond the Canvas!

If you joined us for our recent music night, you'll know that NAC is about so much more than painting and crafts. We're always exploring new ways to bring people together, celebrate local talent, and create experiences that support our community and help everyone thrive.

The **Calm & Chaos** evening with Jacob Harrison was a perfect example — a night filled with incredible music, a warm atmosphere, and enthusiastic audiences.

From the laughter and applause to the new connections made, it was a reminder that the Centre is a place where all kinds of creativity can flourish, whether it's visual arts, music, performance, or collaborative projects. **There's no doubt that the evening was a resounding success!**



Something Paws-itively Exciting is Coming...

We'll soon be launching a special raffle where you could win a **beautiful hand-painted portrait of your beloved pet** — the perfect way to celebrate a furry (or feathery... or scaly!) family member.

More details coming very soon... keep your eyes peeled — and start choosing your favourite photo!

Something to Celebrate...

Can you believe it's been almost five years since the Newbiggin Arts Centre opened its doors in its new home?

We're getting ready to celebrate — and you're invited! Keep an eye out for special events, memories, and a few surprises as we mark this milestone together. More details coming soon...

Give a Little, Do a Lot — with Gift Aid!

We're thrilled to be introducing **Gift Aid** at the Newbiggin Arts Centre! It's a super simple way to make every donation go further — whether it's a coin in the box, payment for a hot drink, class fees, or contributions at events.

If you're a UK taxpayer, just one quick declaration lets us claim 25p extra from the government for every £1 you donate — **at no extra cost to you**. One form covers past donations (up to 4 years) and future ones. Higher-rate taxpayers may even get extra tax relief too!

We'll have forms available at all clubs, classes, and workshops until the end of March, or you can grab one from Wendy.

Not a UK taxpayer? No problem — you can still donate as usual, and small donations can be claimed as anonymous gifts.

A small tick really does make a big difference. Your generosity goes further, your impact grows, and together we can keep creativity thriving at NAC — thank you for being part of it!



Community Spotlight: Drama Group Expands!

We're excited to share the news that the local Newbiggin panto group is expanding into a year-round amateur dramatics programme — and the drama group itself can't wait to welcome new faces!

Who can join? Anyone aged 16+
When? Mondays at 6:30 pm
Where? The Community Hub at Newbiggin Sports and Leisure Centre

There are lots of ways to get involved — it's not just about acting! You could help with:

- *Painting scenery*
- *Sewing and costume work*
- *Crafting and prop making*
- *Front-of-house and welcoming audiences*
- *Fundraising and event support*

Spotlight or backstage — whichever you choose, there's a place for you! Join the drama group, have fun, meet people, and maybe discover a new passion along the way.



Did you know...

... art can boost your wellbeing?

Creating art isn't just enjoyable—it can also have real health benefits. Research shows that spending time on creative activities can:

- **Boost your mood** – *Making something, no matter how small, gives a sense of achievement.*
- **Reduce stress** – *Focusing on colours, shapes, or textures can help calm the mind.*
- **Encourage social connections** – *Art sessions and workshops are a great way to meet people and make friends.*
- **Spark curiosity** – *Experimenting with new materials or styles can be surprisingly exciting.*

You don't need to be “good” at art—just trying it can be beneficial! Whether it's painting, crafting, pottery, or simple doodling, the key is to enjoy the process and connect with yourself and others.

Even if you've never tried art before, don't worry—there's no right or wrong way to create. Come along to NAC, give it a go, and see how a little creativity can brighten your week, lift your spirits, and help you meet new people. Everyone is welcome!



Classes, Clubs, & Workshops

Make Wednesdays Your Mid-Week Boost Day!

Wednesdays don't have to be just the middle of the week — they can be your midweek boost! At NAC, we're inviting everyone to take a break from the usual routine and get creative with our **Wednesday art and craft sessions**.

We've got something for everyone, whether you've never picked up a paintbrush before or you're a seasoned art lover:

Morning Watercolour Group: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Led by our new trustee, Susan, who is excited to share her watercolour expertise with beginners and more experienced painters alike. Beginners will learn the basics, while Susan will also offer tips and guidance to those with more experience. She'll be starting later in March, so it's a great opportunity to try watercolour in a friendly, supportive space.

Craft Club: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

A great group for all kinds of crafts, meeting at Gibson Street. Bring your ideas, try something new, or just enjoy working alongside others in a welcoming, relaxed environment.

Afternoon Tutored Group: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Guided sessions with expert instruction for all mediums and skill levels. Learn new techniques, get tips from our tutor Gary, and try something you've never done before!

Evening Open Studio: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Work on your own projects in a social, relaxed setting. Bring your ideas — all abilities welcome, beginners encouraged!

Never painted or crafted before? Don't worry — just bring your curiosity and enthusiasm, and we'll provide the rest. It's the perfect way to refresh your mind, meet new people, and brighten your midweek.

So why not make Wednesday your creative day? Whether you want to learn, experiment, or simply enjoy being creative with others, there's a session for you.

Come along and see what you might discover!

Easter Paint & Sip at Newbiggin Arts Centre!

Get ready for another **fun-filled Paint & Sip session** — this time with an Easter twist! Our past sessions have been a huge success, and we can't wait to welcome you back for an evening of creativity, laughter, and relaxation.

- ***Expert tutor to guide you every step of the way***
- ***All materials provided — just bring yourself!***
- ***Supportive and fun atmosphere for all skill levels***

Keep an eye out for our poster coming soon with full details — it's the perfect chance to try something new, enjoy a drink, and create your own Easter masterpiece.

Spaces are limited, so don't miss out!

Lots of New Things Coming Soon!

Keep a look out for some new workshops coming your way this Spring!

We've got a whole host of creative opportunities lined up, suitable for all skill levels — from complete beginners to more experienced artists. Whether you're curious about watercolours, keen to experiment with different art materials, or just want to try something completely new, there'll be something to spark your imagination.

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

Last Chance to See This Stunning Exhibition!

Since retiring, Joanna has been exploring wildlife and botanical subjects, capturing the colours and shapes of plants and birds in watercolours and coloured pencils.



Fascinated by the behaviour of kingfishers and herons, and recently experimenting with acrylics and oils for landscapes, her work reflects a love of nature and the power of colour.

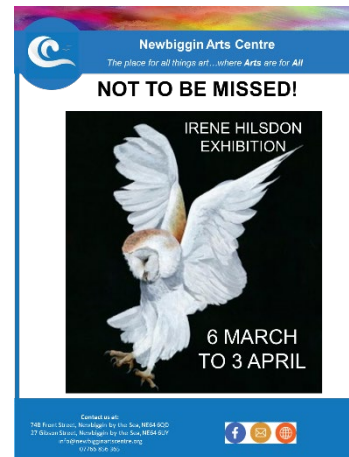
Don't miss the chance to enjoy this beautiful collection!

Coming Soon: A Celebration of Wildlife and Nature in Art

We're excited to share an upcoming exhibition featuring the stunning work of Irene, a Northumberland-based artist. Since 1995, she's been creating finely detailed images of birds and animals, specialising in pastels and pastel pencils, and has exhibited at the **National Exhibition of Wildlife Art** and numerous other shows.

Recently, she's also been sharing her passion through teaching art and craft on cruise ships.

Plan a visit to see this beautiful collection up close — perfect for nature and art lovers.



Spring Exhibition: 3 April – 1 May

We're thrilled to invite our members to take part in this open-themed Spring Exhibition! Whether you're a seasoned exhibitor or it's your first time showing your work, we'd love to see what you've been creating.

You can submit up to three pieces during the week leading up to 3 April. Each piece should be ready to hang and include a note on the back with your name, title, medium, and price (or NFS).

We always aim to show at least one piece from every artist, so please don't be shy — this is your chance to share your creativity with the community in a supportive, friendly environment.

Come along and be part of a celebration of art — everyone's contribution matters!

And now for something completely different!

Calling all newer members and anyone returning to art after a break...

We're always delighted to welcome new faces to our groups, clubs, and classes — and to see creativity grow. Have you ever looked back at your earliest work and realised how far you've come?

Many people feel hesitant about showing their artwork, whether they're just starting out or feel others are more experienced. Please don't let that stop you — everyone begins somewhere, and every piece of work has value. Your art matters to us.

If you're still learning, building confidence, or discovering your own artistic voice, this exhibition is for you. Whether you've just begun or have been developing your skills for some time, we'd be delighted for you to take part.

If you have earlier work to compare, we'd be excited to see how your art has grown, and you're welcome to bring two pieces — one early and one more recent.

However, if you're a true beginner or only have one piece to share, that's absolutely fine too — one piece is more than enough.

To participate, please bring your artwork to the Front Street studio during the week leading up to the **Beginners Exhibition**, which will run from **17–24 July**.

We also ask that you have the artwork strung and ready for hanging, and attach a sticker on the back of each piece with your details: name, title of work, medium, approximate date of completion, and (if you wish) a selling price — or simply mark it as not for sale. ***We can't wait to celebrate your progress with 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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