



A Message from Your Chair

Two new interns on their way; keep your eyes out! We look forward to welcoming Bex and Pablo to work with us. Another example of how we are working with the community and not just concentrating on painting lessons!

Welcome too to our new volunteer co-ordinator, Heather. If you want to get involved in any form of volunteering to help in the running of your charity, why not come along to Heather's session next Monday 11th May (details below)?

Our Open Exhibition looks good! It is great to see the support from some new artists outside our normal community. It will never be as big as Woodhorn, but I think we may have established a good initiative to pull together the creative talent in our area.

Don't forget to buy your Pet Portrait raffle tickets before the draw at the Dog Show on 24th May.

Bye for now; hopefully see you all soon.



Committee Meeting Update

Welcoming Our New Interns

Following a recent round of interviews, we're delighted to be offering two internship opportunities.

Pablo Mitchell has been offered an Art Internship, supporting the delivery of classes or workshops, and Bex Cooper has been offered a Business Internship, focusing on the preparation and updating of our Business Plan.

Both undergraduates have accepted their offers and, once contracts are finalised with Newcastle University, we'll be working with them to confirm timescales and the details of each project.

Pablo will be mentored by Susan Parker, with Bex supported by Steve, ensuring they're well guided throughout their time with us.

We'll share further updates as the projects develop — watch this space!

Hands That Help NAC

Meet Heather – Our New Volunteer Co-ordinator

We're delighted to welcome Heather to Newbiggin Arts Centre as our new Volunteer Co-ordinator.

Heather's role is all about making sure volunteering is well-organised, enjoyable, and a really positive experience for everyone involved. She will be working alongside Wendy to help match volunteers with the wide range of opportunities we have across NAC — from events and workshops to behind-the-scenes support.

As the main point of contact for volunteering, Heather will be here to chat through what's available, help people find the right fit, and make sure volunteers feel supported and valued in their roles. Whether you can spare a little time or a lot, there's something for everyone.

To help get things started, Heather is hosting a friendly 'get to know you' session on Monday 11th May from 10:30 at Front Street. Whether you're already part of our brilliant volunteer team or just curious about getting involved, you're warmly invited to drop in, have a chat, ask questions, and see what it's all about — plus, there'll be cake!

Volunteering with us is a great way to meet new people, pick up new skills, and be part of something creative and community focused. If you've been thinking about joining in, this is a perfect chance to come along and find out more —we'd love to see you there!

Children's Friday Night Club – Volunteer Helper Needed

We're still looking for a friendly volunteer to support Donna at our popular Children's Friday Night Club, held at Gibson Street during term time on Fridays from 6–7.30pm.

The club is a lively and creative space where children can take part in painting, crafting, and a range of hands-on activities, while learning, socialising, and having fun in a safe environment.

You don't need any special experience—just a positive attitude and a willingness to get stuck in and help things run smoothly so the children can get the most out of each session.

If you're interested in getting involved and supporting a valued community activity, we'd love to hear from you.

Last Chance to Fetch Yourself a Prize!

With the draw date fast approaching, there's still time to be in with a chance of winning something truly special — while supporting NAC at the same time.

We're raffling a custom pet portrait: a one-of-a-kind painting that captures the personality of your much-loved pet. It's a unique keepsake and a perfect gift for any animal lover.

Tickets are just £5 each, and every ticket sold helps us continue offering workshops, exhibitions, and community activities — keeping creativity alive in our town. The draw will take place on **24th May at the Newbiggin Dog Show**, so don't miss your chance.

Tickets are available now and can be purchased or picked up from Front Street.



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

WIN A BESPOKE PET PORTRAIT!
Raffle Tickets - Just £5!

A custom hand-painted portrait created from your own photograph - furry, feathered, or scaly - all pets welcome!

Winner drawn 24th May at the Newbiggin Dog Show

Tickets and details available at the Front St. studio and also available on the day

The winner simply provides a photo of their pet for the artist to work from.

Painted by a talented local artist, this one-of-a-kind portrait makes a meaningful gift or treasured memorial to a much-loved companion.

Don't miss your chance, get your tickets now! For the price of a takeaway coffee, you could own a timeless portrait of your best friend. That's less than a bag of treats...and it lasts forever!

Contact us at:
788 Front Street, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, NE24 0SD
27 Gibson Street, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, NE24 6JY
info@newbigginartscentre.org
01793 855 365

Tombola Donations Welcome

We'll be running a tombola at the Dog Show to help raise extra funds for NAC - and we'd love your help to make it a real crowd-pleaser.

If you have any new, unused items you'd be happy to donate, we'd be very grateful. Popular prizes always go down a treat (let's just say bottles of wine never stick around for long...), but anything you can give will make a difference.

Donations can be dropped off at Front Street. Thank you for helping us make the day a success!

Tutor Spotlight

Meet Our Tutor: Lara McFarland

We're delighted to welcome back Lara McFarland as a tutor at Newbiggin Arts Centre.

Lara first joined us as an intern, quickly making an impression with her warm, creative approach. After a successful initial course, she returned as a tutor and has since delivered two fantastic programmes as part of our core offer.

'Joyful' and 'expressive' are just some of the words participants used to describe her most recent course — and the same can be said of the vibrant collaborative artwork created in the final session.



Over six weeks, participants explored a range of media before bringing everything together in a colourful, intuitive piece.



As one participant shared: *“The sessions were playful and fun, and whatever your level of expertise, there was always joy in the art room. It became the place to let go of preconceived ideas and experiment with colour and form — always with Lara’s patient guidance and support.”*

“What would happen if.....? These are key works I took away from the art sessions with Lara, and they have helped inform my practice ever since.”

“Joyful and explorative environment, encouraging freedom, spontaneity and intuition. Less about precision and getting it right, and more about finding our own unique mark making. I could wax lyrical all day though that about sums it up.”

“Sure, messes were made, but learning is organic and experimental. The support within the group was fantastic. A great learning environment and such fun!”

Inspired by the beauty in everyday moments — the small details we often overlook — Lara encourages people to slow down and really see. Her sessions offer a relaxed, welcoming space to experiment, build confidence, and enjoy the process of making art together.

We think that same spirit shines through in the final piece — let us know what you think, and whether you’ve had any ‘happy accidents’ of your own.



Did you know...

...**Acrylic paint is one of the most versatile and popular mediums** used by artists today, known for its vibrant colour, quick drying time, and ability to be used in a wide range of styles and techniques.

Why so popular?

Acrylic paint dries much faster than oil paint. This means you can layer colours quickly, but you also need to work a bit faster - or keep a spray bottle handy to stop it drying on the palette.

It can mimic watercolour or oil -- by adding water, it becomes more transparent like watercolour. With less water (or gel mediums), it can look thick and textured like oil paint.

Once acrylic paint dries, it becomes water-resistant. That means you can paint over it without it lifting — great for building layers and fixing mistakes.

You don't need fancy brushes for acrylics -- they're quite forgiving, so even older or mixed brushes can be used for texture, effects, or bold strokes.

Acrylic paint can darken slightly as it dries. This means that colours often look brighter when wet, then settle as they dry - something to keep in mind when mixing shades.

You can paint almost anything with acrylics -- canvas, paper, wood, cardboard — even stones and fabric (with the right prep).

It's one of the most versatile paints around—so if you haven't explored it yet, now might be the perfect time to start!



Classes, Clubs, & Workshops

Our Clubs – Creative, Relaxed, and Open to All

Our classes and workshops are always in high demand and tend to fill up quickly - but don't let that put you off getting involved. Our volunteer-led clubs are a fantastic (and often overlooked) way to be part of our creative community.

Clubs are relaxed, informal, and great fun. There's no set structure or tutor leading the session, so you're free to work on whatever you like, at your own pace. Whether you enjoy craft, watercolour, acrylic, oils - or want to try something completely new - anything goes.

Materials are available if you'd like to use them, or you're very welcome to bring your own. Our friendly volunteers are always on hand to help you get started, introduce you to others, and make sure you feel at home.

There's no need to commit in the same way as a class, but we do recommend signing up in advance to make sure you have a space.

If you're looking for a creative outlet, a chance to meet people, or simply a few hours to unwind and make, our clubs are a great place to start.

Arts for All with Gary – Spaces Available

Looking to get creative with a bit of extra support? We currently have a few spaces available in our *Arts for All* class with Gary, held on Wednesdays from 1–3pm.

This is a relaxed, friendly session where you can explore any medium you like — whether that's drawing, watercolour, acrylics, or something a bit different. Gary is on

hand throughout to offer one-to-one guidance as needed, so you can develop your skills at your own pace, whatever your starting point.

It's a welcoming group, a great atmosphere, and a chance to learn, experiment, and enjoy being creative alongside others.

At just £7 suggested donation per session (with materials supplied), it's a brilliant opportunity for personalised support in a supportive setting - honestly, where else can you get that?

Come along and give it a try - you might just surprise yourself.

For more information or to register for these or our other ongoing classes or clubs, please contact Wendy at: info@newbigginartscentre.org or **07766 856365** or **01670 708269**

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.



Exhibitions

What's on Now?

Our current exhibition is a real mix—in the best possible way! Bringing together artists from across the county, it's packed with colour, creativity, and plenty of surprises, with something different around every corner.

Pop in for a browse, take your time, and see what catches your eye — you might find a new favourite (or two). It's relaxed, welcoming, and definitely worth a wander.

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

Open Exhibition
Every piece tells a different story
1st – 29th May

Step into something a little different...our very first Open Exhibition brings together a diverse collection of artwork from talented artists across the county.

From bold and contemporary to delicate and traditional, every piece offers something new to discover.

No single style. No single voice. Just a celebration of creativity in all its forms.

Come along to our Front St. studio, explore, and find something that speaks to you. Not what you'd expect...better!

Many artists. Many voices. One space.

All welcome – come along and have a look around – you won't be disappointed!

Contact us at:
748 Front Street, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, ND24 6DD
22 Glasson Street, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, ND24 6PW
info@newbigginartscentre.org
07766 856365



What's Next?

Something special is on the way...

We're excited to be welcoming Irene Gilmartin for an upcoming exhibition you won't want to miss.

Make a note in your calendar and keep an eye out for more details—this is one to look forward to.

A fresh collection of work, a new perspective, and the perfect excuse to pop in and soak up something inspiring.

Summer Exhibitions—These are for You!

We're delighted to invite all members to take part in our upcoming **Summer Exhibition**, running from **26 June to 17 July**.

This is an open exhibition with no set theme, giving you complete freedom to share whatever you've been working on — whether that's something new, something experimental, or a piece you're particularly proud of.

It's a great opportunity to showcase your work alongside fellow members and celebrate the wide range of creativity within our community.

We're also excited to introduce a special one-week exhibition: our **Beginners Exhibition**, running from **17 July to 24 July**.

This is designed especially for those who have recently started their artistic journey, or who have returned to making art after a long break.

We'd love participants to submit two pieces—one of their earliest works and one more recent piece — to help tell the story of their progress and development.

It promises to be a really inspiring and encouraging display of how creativity grows over time.

Roll on summer!



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



Keeping in Touch — Your Choice

We love keeping our community up to date with what's happening at NAC, but we also want to make sure you only hear from us if you're happy to do so.

If at any time you'd prefer not to receive the newsletter or other NAC emails, just let us know and we'll happily remove you from the list — no problem at all.

We're grateful for your support and interest in NAC, whether you follow every update or just drop in from time to time.