Newbiggin Arts Centre

Newsletter October 2026

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

A Message from Your Chair

It is with deep regret that I have to tell you that our Vice Chair, April Dobson, has had to pull back from her commitments to the Board of Trustees, as she need to devote some quality time to help family members.

Those who have seen April in action will know that she is intelligent, enthusiastic and, most importantly, just gets down and does things! In just the short time that she has been with us, she has accomplished so much (not least launching the outreach programme – see below) and been a main-stay in our organisation.

We all miss April terribly; wish her the very best in her endeavours; and hope to see her around when she is in the area – and who knows, she may be able to get back to us sometime in the future (I, for one, hope so!).

I am really excited at the prospect of running a pilot of an online booking system in the next few months and, hopefully to launching it in the New Year. If it all works out, it will be a great benefit to our organisation – not least to relieve some of the tremendous workload from our stalwart Studio Manager, Wendy. (I still don't know how she manages to keep on top of things – it is virtually impossible for me to fill in for her when she is on holiday! Moral of the story; no more holidays for Wendy until the online booking system is up and running – only joking Wendy!!)

Life at the Arts Centre

There's always so much happening at the Arts Centre which means that we can get a little overexcited about sharing all the news! We've heard, though, that our newsletters can be a bit on the long side — one reader even admitted to losing the will to live!

As we're all about wellbeing, we certainly don't want our newsletters to become a public health hazard! So, this month we're trying a shorter version, with the aim of keeping you up to date without needing a lie-down halfway through.

We'd love to hear what you think. What news would you like to hear about, how would you prefer to receive it, and how often? Send your thoughts and suggestions

to **admin@newbigginartscentre.org** — we promise to keep the replies shorter than our previous newsletters!

What a blooming brilliant evening!

Our very first preview evening was a great success, and what a wonderful way to celebrate the talent and creativity of our local artists!



A huge thank you to **Advance Northumberland** for generously providing the refreshments and the prize for the exhibition's Most Favourite Artwork. The winning artist will be announced at the end of the exhibition, so there's still time to come along, enjoy the work and cast your vote for your favourite!

Also, of course, a massive thank you to all the artists who submitted work. You've helped Newbiggin bloom, filling the Arts Centre with colour, creativity and inspiration.

Taking art out into the community

Another first for the Arts Centre! We believe art should be accessible to everyone, and sometimes that means taking it to people who can't easily come to us. So, we were delighted to hold our very first outreach session at De Baliol Care Home with Lara leading the way!



What a great start! It's fair to say a wonderful time was had by all, with plenty of creativity, lots of fun and some fantastic artwork produced along the way.

However, this was about more than getting creative. It was about sharing the joy of art, bringing people together and making space for new experiences. We're thrilled to be taking these first steps towards bringing more creativity, connection and a little artistic magic out into our community. Here's to many more!

Making booking easier – together!

We're excited to share the first steps towards something new at the Arts Centre!

With support from Newcastle University, we've started exploring and testing an online booking system that we hope will make booking your favourite classes, workshops and groups quicker and easier. If all goes to plan, we're aiming to introduce live online bookings in early 2027.

Not a fan of booking online? Don't worry! Wendy will still be here to help you with any problems you may have using the system. It's about offering you more choice, not taking anything away.

For those who choose to book online, it should mean a simpler process. It will also help ease the huge amount of time Wendy spends managing bookings, freeing her up to explore new tutors, fresh ideas and even more varied activities for us all to enjoy.

This is just the beginning! We'll share updates as things develop, and we'd love you to be part of the journey. More to come soon…

And the winner is….

A big congratulations to Paul Lapham, whose creative idea won the hearts (and votes!) of our Board of Trustees! Their brilliant suggestion, **Clay at the Bay**, is the new name for our pottery studio, and their creativity will be immortalised on the studio frontage for all to see.

To top it all off, they've won a free pottery session, including firing. Proof that a little creativity can go a long way — and sometimes even get your name on the wall!



Classes, Groups & Workshops

Fancy giving something creative a go?

Whether you're a complete beginner, keen to practise skills you've already learnt, or simply fancy a few hours doing something just for you, our friendly, welcoming art groups are a great place to start.

There's no formal teaching or pressure to keep up with a class, but group leaders can help you get started and everyone shares ideas, tips and experience. Materials can be provided, so you don't need to invest in lots of equipment before you know whether it's for you!

Choose from watercolour, acrylics, oils, crafts, ceramics or mixed media, where you can explore whatever takes your fancy. There's no need to book or commit — just come along, have a look and see what you think. Pop into the studios to have a look around, or give Wendy a call for a friendly chat and help finding the group that's right for you. You might discover a new hobby, meet new people or simply find a little creative time for yourself.

There's always something new on the horizon, with exciting classes and workshops being added all the time! Keep an eye on your emails, our Facebook page, and website so you don't miss out. If a session is already full, don't worry — we keep waiting lists and, when there's enough interest, we'll do our best to run it again!



Exhibitions

What's on Now?

Our *Blooming Brilliant* exhibition is in full bloom at the Arts Centre until 13 November! Come along and enjoy the wonderful creativity of our talented artists, then cast your vote for your favourite artwork.

There's a prize up for grabs for the most popular piece, thanks to the generous support of Advance Northumberland. Every vote counts, so pop in, have a look and help us celebrate the talent that's helping Newbiggin bloom!



What's Coming Next?

Maria Bradshaw – Art with Heart



Maria has enjoyed painting since her school days and, in retirement, has been able to devote more time to her art. This very personal collection has taken on a special meaning following her husband's recent prostate cancer diagnosis, with painting providing comfort and a creative outlet during a difficult time.

Maria is offering her paintings at affordable prices, with **every penny raised going to Macmillan Cancer Support and St Oswald's Hospice.** It's a lovely opportunity to find a special piece of art while supporting two wonderful causes. So, pop the exhibition in your calendar, come along and help make a difference!

An Invitation to Submit

Photography Exhibition: Members, Get Snapping!

Got a photo you're proud of? Whether you're a keen photographer or simply enjoy snapping pictures, we'd love you to take part in our Photography Exhibition taking place from 11th December to 8th January!

You can enter **up to 10 photographs**, either printed and mounted/framed or as digital images.

- **Digital entries:** Email your photos to admin@newbigginartscentre.org by **28 November**, including your name, photo title and camera make/type.
- **Printed entries:** Deliver your labelled, mounted or framed photographs to the Front Street studio between **7 and 10 December**.

Get snapping, get creative and put your photography in the spotlight

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 the Arts Centre, 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 Arts Centre 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 us, whether you follow every update or just drop in from time to time.