

# HAPPENINGS

March 2008



## **Welcome**

Jason welcomed everybody to the meeting and drew attention to the work of new artist members in the monthly showcase.

He pointed out that the Arts Forum's Articles of Association were now in place and were available (as a public document) for anybody to see. A list of official members was passed round and everybody was requested to tick their name or add it if it was missing.

## **Mushroom Works & Brick Works**

Jason introduced Nick James who gave an illustrated talk about The Mushroom Works and the Brick Works. Nick was a furniture designer and maker who had been looking for premises. He discovered that many other artist/makers were also looking for premises. He told a very interesting and amusing story about how he acquired a building which was ultimately set up as a collection of artists studios/workrooms. After the success of this he went on to create another. He pointed out some of the advantages of such an establishment. The way artist/designers can interact was an especially worthwhile benefit. The range of disciplines was valuable from the individual artists point of view. The Mushroom Works and the Brick Works are acquiring a national (if not international) reputation. And they are here on our doorstep in Newcastle!

## **Gipsy Art**

While Ira Lightman took about ten members off into the IT suite to pursue their Family Trees, Eddie Galvin gave a talk on Gipsy & Traveller Art which was quite revealing. For example did you know that Elvis Presley was a gipsy? After his talk we were encouraged to look at some of the images that have become commonplace in Gipsy art. 'Roses and Castles' are fairly commonplace and take on a whole variety of interpretations but always with certain specific treatments. We were able to have a go ourselves using very basic materials.

## **Groups**

**Photography Group** Tuesday March 11th - 6.30pm Pride of Northumbria.

**Writer's Group** Thursday March 27th - 6.30pm The New Ship, Gibson Street.

**Reading Group** Wednesday March 26th - 7pm Newbiggin Library.

**Painting Group** Tuesdays from 1pm until 3pm in the Salvation Army Hall, Robinson Square.

**Next Meeting Monday  
April 7th, 7.00pm**

**Chaumage  
Joyce Johnson**

**Speaker - Trudi Michaluk**

## ***Kid's Forum***

Eddie had also run a Gipsy Art Workshop earlier in the evening for the Kids Forum. They all enjoyed themselves (see the photos). We need to attract more children to the Kids' Art Forum. If you can help to publicise what is on offer in any way please do. You may wish to know that Creative Writing with Jason Thompson is on the agenda next month and the month after will be a photographic session with John Fox.



## **Shepherds Dene Exhibition Open Day Sunday 24th February 2pm - 4pm**

The Arts Forum visited Shepherds Dene to have a look at the current exhibition. The venture was well attended and enjoyed by everybody. The work is on display until 6th April. Artists will be individually contacted with regard to collection of work. Below, a few images by Jenn Ridley to show what a beautiful and spiritual place Shepherds Dene is.



### **We're Loving It**

Some of us weren't quite sure what to expect, when visiting the "Shepherds Dene" retreat? But we knew our "masterpieces" were on show there and had to be seen!

The "run out" to the retreat at Riding Mill, Tyne Valley was uneventful, no one got lost!

The "SAT- NAV Lady" got us there, in spite of the light showers.

The house was a pleasant Arts and Crafts surprise and to see our exhibition in such a gorgeous setting was beyond compare. The showing of the pictures was "Tip-top" we were all very happy.

The staff there was more than helpful towards us and kept busy with all the afternoon teas served to us, which were, "out of this world" fresh, classy home-

made foods, just like mum used to bake!

We can understand why the retreat encourages creative talents as well as spiritual, mental and religious fulfilment, by just being there. Thank you to Peter and all those who introduced us to this wonderful house, gardens and surrounding countryside.

The whole ambience of our tour was pleasurable to say the least! As Arnie says "we'll be back" at Shepherds Dene!

Connie Housepian

On behalf of all those who visited on  
Sunday 24 February 2008

## **Newsletter**

**Please note that Pete Seddon has now produced the Newsletter for over twelve months and for personal reasons will no longer be producing the Newsletter after this issue. He will still be updating the website so please continue to send all information for the website to him!!**

## **Contacts**

**Jason Thompson** - Chair & Webmaster -  
Jason@newbigginartsforum.org  
01670 810370

**Rebecca McCready** - Secretary -  
R.McCready@newbigginartsforum.org  
01670 854092

**Rebecca de'Wessington** - Vice Chair -  
PR@newbigginartsforum.org  
01670 818246

## **Music at St. Bartholomew's**

The programme for the 2008 concert season is set out below. Tickets are £5 per concert at the door or a season ticket for six concerts costs £25. Season tickets are available from concert secretary Liz Underhill via the vicarage 01670 817220.

**Sunday April 27th at 3pm**  
WERCAS FOLK

**Sunday May 25th at 3pm**  
THE DENLYN QUARTET  
& FRIENDS

**Sunday June 8th at 3pm**  
BLYTH MUSIC & THEATRE  
COMPANY SINGERS

**Sunday July 13th at 3pm**  
WANSBECK MUSIC FESTIVAL  
YOUNG MUSICIANS

**Sunday August 17th at 3pm**  
LEMINGTON MALE VOICE  
CHOIR

**Sunday September 21st at 3pm**  
NORTH WIND

Another date for your diary....

**Sunday April 13th at 2pm**

**Dedication Service for the new  
Window at St. Mary's Church,  
Woodhorn.**

After the service the church will be open until 4pm for visitors to Keap Creatives' studio spaces.

Refreshments available.