

HAPPENINGS

October 2007



Welcome

Jason welcomed everybody to the October Forum meeting and began by drawing attention to the **One Day For Newbiggin** event. While he showed a selection of the submissions Rebecca de'Wessington explained that over 200 photographers had submitted work which numbered 1000s of photographs. The first exhibition would be held in St. Bartholomew's Church Hall on Front street during the last week in November. This would include a selection of prints and a slide show of every exhibit. Plans were already in place to publish the book containing a selection of about 200 photographs, and it is hoped this would be available by Christmas. A further exhibition will be held at Woodhorn Museum in June 2008.

Arts Forum Major Art Exhibitions

Pete Seddon will be contacting the following people who have expressed an interest in exhibiting at Shepherds Dene and Woodhorn next year in order to finalise the arrangements.

Claire Cooper
Ian Robinson
Margaret Field
John Fox
Barbara Clough
George Hart
Alan Keilty
Patricia Wilson
Alan Driver
Pip Driver
Pamela Shears

Eva Hartley
Keith Tait
Alan Vinters
Peter Seddon
Stephen Williamson
Linda Brash
Jason Thompson
Eddie Galvin

Visiting Speaker

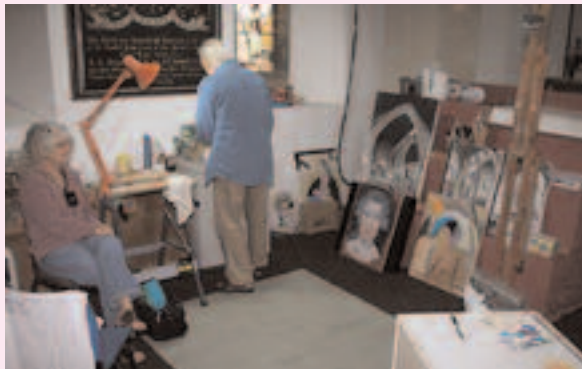
Jason introduced Eva Hartley who gave a most informative illustrated talk about KEAP Creative.

Eva started by stating that she wanted to share with everybody KEAP's journey over the last few months.

She explained how the group of seven friends met for a winge over a drink in a local pub and how the winge centred around having no permanent workspace in which materials and equipment could be safely left. This led to inquiries being made and establishing that Woodhorn Church might be available.

After negotiations with Wansbeck Council which led to establishing an artists' co-operative to be called KEAP Creative, devising a constitution, opening a bank account, taking out third party liability insurance and the eventual signing of a lease which contained certain conditions, the main one being to open Woodhorn Church to the public each

**Next Meeting Monday
5th November at
7.00pm
MAKE A POT**



Sunday between 2pm and 4pm, and another one being to pay an agreed monthly rent, the group moved into Woodhorn Church at the beginning of July 2007. Eva explained how the name had been created derived from the initials of the group members. She went on to show how bare the church was when the group initially moved in, she contrasted this with views of the progress made over the eleven weeks that the group had been tenants. She showed some of the work of members of the group and explained how they had also been active in the community. The group now has a website (www.peterseddon.com/keap.html) which explains in more detail what the members of KEAP Creative are doing



Eva concluded by mentioning some of the things the group hopes to do in the future and how these depend on funding. One idea centred around a week's exhibition and open day at Woodhorn Church, hopefully in the Spring next year. Another idea invited the community to watch the unfolding story of the Hidden Gallery!.

Rebecca McCready announced that there would be a Barn Dance on Friday 7th December. This would be held at the Community Centre. Tickets from Rebecca

Groups

The next **Creative Writing Group** meeting is on Thursday 18th October at 6.30pm at the New Ship, Gibson Street.

The next **Photography Group** meeting is on Wednesday 17th October at 6.30pm at Pride of Northumbria.

The next **Adult Reading Group** meeting is on Wednesday October 24th at 7pm at the Black Pearl.

The **Painting Group** will continue to meet every Tuesday from 12 noon until 4pm at The Healthy Living Centre. (Peoples' House).

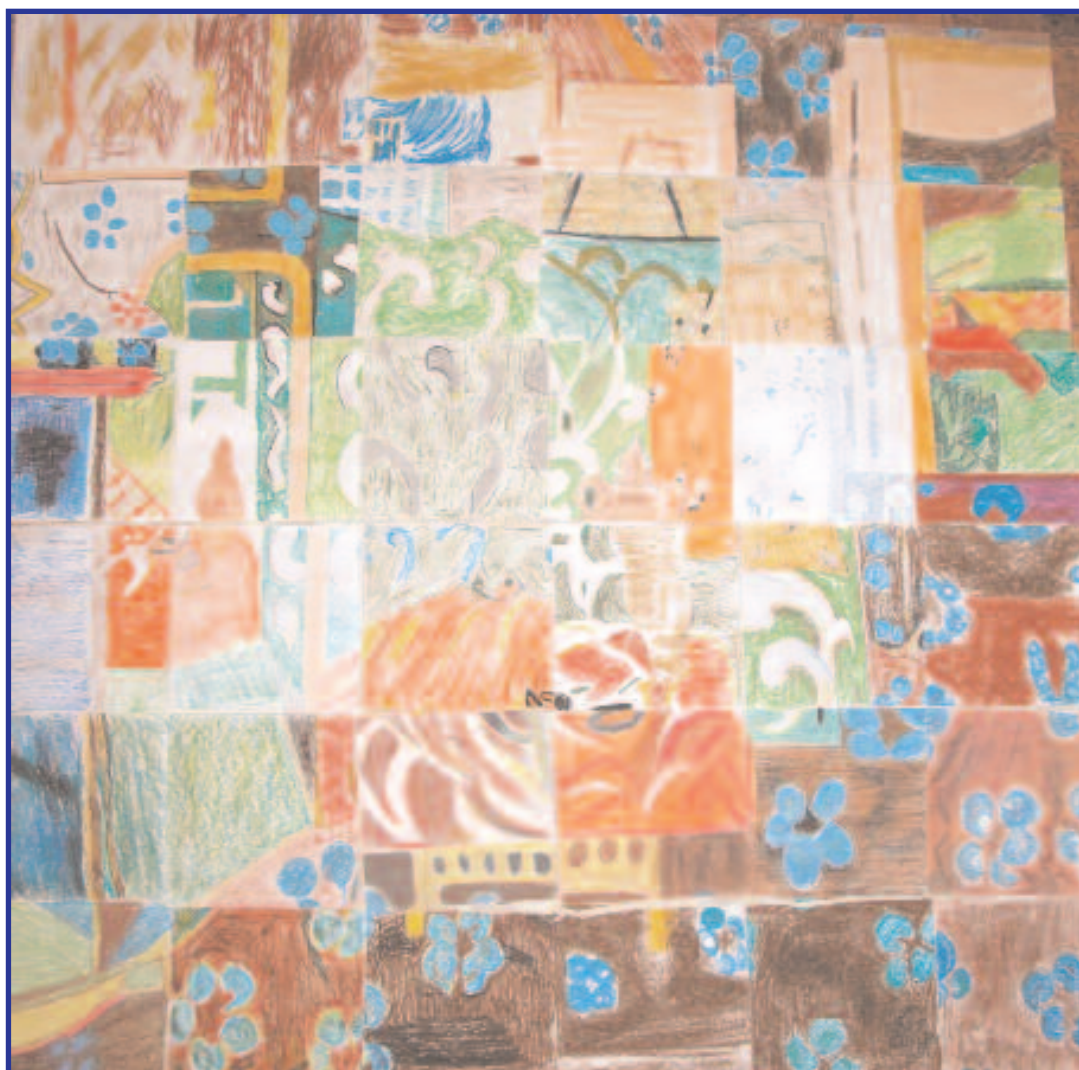
The next **Kids' Arts Forum** meeting is on Monday November 5th at 5pm in Simonside Hall.

The Big Draw

Jason thanked Eva and introduced Peter Seddon and Alan Vinters who were going to explain the Big Draw Workshop. Firstly, Peter drew the meetings' attention to the fantastic piece of modern technology that translates the Forum website into the language of your choice. Peter had tried it out in French only to find that "The Big Draw" was translated as "le grand aspiration" which really meant "the big suck" (as in a vacuum cleaner). So don't believe everything you see on websites!

Peter explained that a copy of one of Matisse's paintings had been cut up into 5cm squares and everybody was given one square. The task was to copy as accurately as possible the square that you had using what you considered to

be the most appropriate medium from a choice of oil pastels, ordinary pastels, coloured pencils and crayons on a much larger square (21cms). A simple grid was explained as a means of copying more accurately but only a few appeared to use one. When everybody had finished the drawings were arranged in order so that the enlarged copy of Matisse's painting could be seen. The result was quite interesting and added a new dimension to the Matisse since there was clearly variation in the style, execution and medium used in each individual square. Peter promised to stick all the works together so that the completed project could be viewed at next month's meeting. A photograph of it is reproduced here to be going on with.



Visiting Speaker

After the workshop Jason introduced Ira Lightman who is running a Family Tree project based at Woodhorn Museum. He was an articulate and an amusing speaker, but could only operate in stockinged feet. He gave out flyers for people to see what it was all about and explained by way of his computer how everybody could have a go by visiting his website at www.iralightman.com where there is a package ready for personal use. He hopes to produce a virtual forest of family trees to be exhibited at Woodhorn Museum next year. Jason thanked him for his amusing and informative presentation.

Kid's Forum

This month's Kids Art Forum was to do with Halloween, the kids made pumpkin bags, skeletons, monsters and face masks (including ghost, black cat and frankenstein's monster)



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