

HAPPENINGS

November 2007



Welcome

Jason opened the meeting by welcoming everybody and drawing attention to the following events and activities:- Masquerade (A programme of extremely good value arts activities in the region. The Sports Centre Christmas Celebrations. The Northumberland Lights Programme and the Couple Poetry Competition Booklet.

He then pointed out that the first sorting of One Day For Newbiggin photographs had whittled the number down to about 480 and he invited everybody to stay at the end if they wished to be involved in whittling these down to about 40. Details of One Day For Newbiggin appear elsewhere.

Returns from those members exhibiting at Shepherd's Dene have to be returned to Peter Seddon by December 3rd.

Rebecca McCready drew attention to the Barn Dance that has been organised for 7th December in the Wansbeck Suite. Tickets are from £7 to £10 depending on food, family tickets etc.

There would also be a trip to Newcastle University People's Theatre on Saturday 17th Nov. at 2pm. Let Becky know if you are interested in either of these events.

George drew attention to the BP Portrait Exhibition at the Laing Gallery which he urged everybody to visit since it is "fantastic"

One Day For Newbiggin

The First Exhibition will take place in St. Bartholomew's Church Hall on Front Street from Sunday 25th November until Saturday 1st December. It will be open from 12pm until 4pm on the Sunday and each weekday and will be open from 10am until 4pm on the Saturday. Additionally, there will be two late evening openings from 4pm until 8pm on Tuesday and Thursday. Volunteers are needed with policing the exhibition and Jason asked for people who are prepared to give some time to sign the rota.

The intention is to have all the photographs submitted available for viewing on the web site, about 200 available as a slide show (which it is hoped will also be produced as a CD) and about 40 large scale prints available for the exhibition.

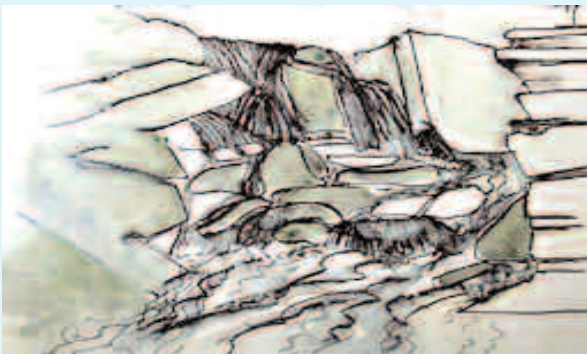
There will be a Calendar produced and it will be launched at the Exhibition in time for Christmas. It is hoped that the calendar will contain about 40 images and will cost about £5. The book funding is not yet available and the deadline for Christmas has now passed. It is hoped to publish the book early next year.

The second exhibition will take place at Woodhorn Museum starting next June and going on for three months.

Visiting Speaker

Jason introduced Pete Seddon who apologised for being full of a cold and blamed Alan Vinters for spreading malicious bugs.

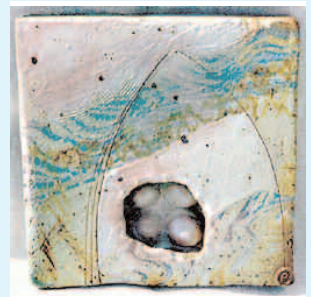
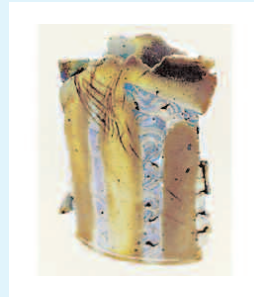
He showed about 100 slides which gave a picture of the history, inspiration, themes and development of his work over forty years. He pointed out that landscape and the environment had always been a significant influence and he had always tried to evolve new ways of representing amongst other things the



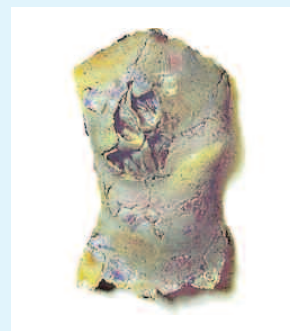
craggy character of rocks and the flow of water in rivers and streams. Jonathan Livingston Seagull had made him think about the spiritual things behind the landscape and after learning some new techniques from Jim Robison, one of the country's top ceramic sculptors, he began to become more introspective and more narrative. It was Celtic Mythology (especially the stories surrounding Cu Chullain and Sgathaic) which provided the first powerful influence. Pete explained how the stories were interpreted and symbolically represented in his work which at this time was largely wall hanging. (He had realised that galleries



do not provide a lot of space for free standing 3D work). The main idea of peering through an external surface to reveal a series of hidden symbols derived from observing the burial of his mother when he spent some time looking down into the grave at family coffins. The next serious influence was the



Andartes in Crete which he was moved to respond to after seeing some children's drawings of the 1941 German Parachute Invasion of Crete. He became aware that the White Mountains which he had been walking in for years, held secrets that needed revealing!



The next major influence was the neolithic rock art of Northumberland, especially the powerful imagery of Cups and Rings which began to feature on much of his work. His recent move to Newbiggin has resulted in becoming moved by the sea and more recent work

is concerned to represent its effect on the land and the community. He was unable to show any slides of work influenced by the sea but invited the audience to watch this space. Interested parties can follow up the talk by visiting his web site at peterseddon.com.



The next **Creative Writing Group** meeting is on Thursday 15th November at 6.30pm at the New Ship, Gibson Street.

The next **Photography Group** meeting is on Wednesday 14th November at 6.30pm at Pride of Northumbria.

The next **Adult Reading Group** meeting is on Wednesday November 27th 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 December 3rd at 5pm in Simonside Hall.

Make A Pot

After a breather and a cold glass of diet coke Pete Seddon went on to demonstrate a low tech way of making a simple impress decorated dish before inviting the meeting to have a go. A small ball of clay was rolled out between two laths of wood to ensure that a consistent thickness of slab was produced. Then a small piece of crochet work was laid on the slab and impressed by rolling out again. A ubiquitous beans can was then used in the manner of a pastry cutter to cut out a circle which was then gently arranged over a hump mould. The more ambitious potters could then attach feet if they wished. The results were taken away to be dried out and biscuit fired and Pete has promised to return them to the January meeting when they can be glazed.





Kid's Forum

This month's meeting unfortunately fell on Bonfire Night. Most children were therefore preoccupied and only one dedicated soldier turned up.

***Next Meeting Monday
3rd December at
7.00pm
ICING ON THE
CHRISTMAS
CAKE***

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