

HAPPENINGS

December 2007



Welcome

Jason introduced the December meeting and handed over to Rebecca de Wessington who outlined some of the facts associated with the One Day For Newbiggin Exhibition which had been held in the St. Bartholomews Church Hall the previous week. The attendance had been very good and there had been plenty of feedback, some of which Rebecca read out. Not all was positive, there had been criticisms as well but these were in a very small minority. About 400 calendars had been sold and the remaining stock was now available at various outlets in the village but at the non-discounted price of £6. A number of DVDs had also been sold and these were also still available at £6.50. Rebecca thanked Jason, Pete Seddon and others for behind the scenes work in mounting the exhibition and Laura Mathieson thanked Jason, Rebecca and Eddie Galvin for their part in putting the whole venture together.



One Day For Newbiggin

As stated elsewhere, the Newbiggin Exhibition was a great success and the second exhibition will take place at Woodhorn Museum starting next June and going on for three months. Calendars and DVDs are on sale at various outlets in the village including Pride of Northumbria. It is hoped to publish the book early next year.

Groups

Photography Group Wednesday
December 12th - 6.30pm Pride of Northumbria.

Writer's Group Thursday December
13th - 6.30pm The New Ship, Gibson Street.

Reading Group Wednesday December
19th - 7pm Newbiggin Library.

Painting Group Tuesday 11th & 18th
December - 1pm Healthy Living Centre

**Next Meeting Monday
7th January at 7.00pm**

**GLAZE YOUR
POTS**

&

Wansbeck Matters

Kid's Forum

This month's meeting saw the mass production of Christmas Goodies. See the pictures.

The Kids were also invited to win an MP3 Player by entering the Drawing and Crayoning Competition and submitting their entries at the next meeting. Entry forms are still available from Eddie Galvin 01670 858834 for those who did not collect one at December's meeting.



Have Your Cake And Art It!

Laura Mathieson gave a detailed demonstration on how to ice and decorate with icing small Christmas cakes. In the manner of Blue Peter she presented the meeting with a selection of cakes that she had made earlier so that everybody could have a go. Some of the attempts were adventurous, others amusing. The bonus was that everybody got to take their cake home with them after the meeting. Some of the results are pictured.



Visiting Speaker



Jason introduced David Williams, a writer originally from Ashington. He has been writing professionally for more than thirty years. Many of his plays have been broadcast by the BBC and his works have been published in the UK, Australia, Germany and Scandinavia. "We Never Had It So Good" is his first collection of short stories. It is about childhood and growing up in a northern mining town. It is set in the late 1950s, when children were free spirited 'adventurers', roaming the streets and making their own entertainment. Bonfire night, the miners' gala, leek competitions, the annual fair and school life all feature in the gritty and entertaining collection of short stories. David says that none of the stories are true but all of them are. Each story hangs on incidents that occurred as he was growing up towards the end of the 1950s in Ashington. He went on to read one of the short stories - Dig It - which he had selected for this occasion because it was centred in Newbiggin. It was an amusing tale of three boys setting out for a trip to the sea-side and was well received by everybody.



Status

Jason explained about the conclusions that the steering committee had arrived at in pursuit of their charge to look into the possibilities of charitable status. Colin Hall, who worked in Social Enterprise, had advised on the task of deciding whether to become a charity or a company limited by guarantee with charitable status. Colin was invited to answer questions from the floor and explained the ins and outs of the various options. The steering committee was recommending that we pursue the route of becoming a company limited by guarantee with charitable status and invited the meeting to vote on whether we should go ahead or not. A vote was taken and the decision to go ahead was unanimous.

AGM

The February meeting is the AGM and we really need to have considered the position of committee members by the January meeting. If you wish to be considered for a position on the Steering Committee or you wish to nominate somebody who you think will do a good job this really needs to be done by the January meeting. Proposals and seconds are needed for the Chair, the Vice Chair, the Secretary, the Treasurer and up to three committee members with specific responsibilities such as PR and Representative on the CAP. If you wish to nominate somebody please make sure they are willing to stand. There is a form at the end of this newsletter that you may wish to use.

Contacts

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PROPOSAL FORM for Election of Committee

Nominee Proposed by Seconded by

CHAIR _____

VICE CHAIR _____

SECRETARY _____

TREASURER _____

MEMBER _____

MEMBER _____

MEMBER _____