

HAPPENINGS

April 2007



Welcome

Eddie was unable to attend this month's meeting so Jason Thompson very ably stepped into his shoes and started by offering apologies from Eddie, Pip & Alan Driver and Laura Mathieson. He reminded the meeting that subs were due (to Rebecca McCready) and that there were still T-shirts available at £8 each. He went on to thank all the flyer distribution volunteers and reminded them that the flyers would be ready for collection from Pride of Northumbria on Saturday. There had been a misunderstanding about the flyers for the Kids Forum. Pete Seddon took responsibility, invited the meeting to rap his knuckles, and assured the meeting that these would also be available with the main flyers this time!

Guest Speaker

Fred Brookes gave an interesting talk in which he explained his role in trying to research into creative industries in the region. He explained the breadth of areas this covered with some explanation of what is included. He insisted that amateur table top art was as important as professional work produced to earn a living. He is hoping to produce a database of businesses and creative industries and was keen to have an input from the Forum. The data protection legislation forbids him to request personal details from the Forum so he asked that if anybody was prepared to have a short telephone interview could they ask Rebecca McCready to let him have their telephone details when somebody would then get in touch.

What's On

Music at St. Bartholomew's. Summer concerts in Newbiggin by the Sea at 3pm on Sunday Afternoons.

April 22 - The Solingen Quartet

May 13 - The New Tyneside Chamber Orchestra

June 10 - 20,000 Voices (plus a workshop)

July 8 - Heavenly Harps

August 12 - The Denlyn Quartet & Friends

September 9th - Soul Doubt

Entrance programmes are £5 per concert, available at the door. Season tickets for all six performances can be purchased for £25 from Mrs. E. Underhill, Concert Secretary, 106 Wansbeck Road, Ashington, NE63 8JD or ring Revd. Judith Grieve on 01670 817220 for more details.

Groups

Creative Writing Group first meeting Thursday April 5th at 6.30pm at 56 Meldon Terrace, Newbiggin.

Photography Group next meeting 12th April 6.30pm at Pride of Northumbria.

Adult Reading Group next meeting April 25th at Newbiggin Library. - St. Agnes's Stand by Thomas Eidson

Ceramics and Painting Groups next monthly meeting at the People's House April 28th. Painting Group from 10am onwards, Ceramics Group from 12pm.

Kids Arts Forum next Meeting 5pm 14th May at Simonside Hall. Musical instrument making. Kids are invited to bring along any bits that might be useful in the production of various musical instruments - peas, lentils, etc.

Trips Update

Gillian Perfect outlined the current state of play with regard to organised trips. There were still some tickets left for **Rigaleto** at £16 each (this is half price). This was for Wed 13th June departing 6.30pm Bus fare would probably be about £3.75.

A trip to **Holy Island/Bamburgh** was proposed for Saturday 19th May - details to be published in due course. There will be a trip to **Woodhorn** on 22nd April (£2). Anybody interested in any of these trips is asked to contact Gillian as soon as possible and where necessary to pay the appropriate deposits.

Second Guest Speaker

Wendy Scott who works for Inspire (South East Northumberland Public Art & Design Initiative) gave a short talk about how she had ended up in this role. She

was originally from Edinburgh, trained as a fine artist and later worked in museum services before ending up where she is now. She is probably better known for her role in introducing the sculptures that have been installed around the village and perhaps more recently for her part in the installation of "Couple" on the new breakwater. We need more Wendy Scotts!

Summer Spectacular

Oh what a day! Sunday 24th June. Between 10am and 5pm at Newbiggin Sports and Community Centre and on Central Park. What's going on?

- *Contribute to a community mural.
- *Sing along with 20,000 Voices.
- *Dance with Tribal Fusion.
- *Make pottery in a Raku workshop.
- *Browse Arts Forum members' work.
- *Listen to local bands play great music.
- *Buy Art, Craft and local Speciality work.
- *Watch the Cobweb Orchestra in concert. and much more.

Keep the date free in your diary.

And if you would like to exhibit your work or have a stall to sell your wares, please email becky@newbigginartsforum.org or call Rebecca McCready on 01670 854092. Arts Forum members have priority on space.

This adventure is brought to you by the Spectacular Committee: Laura Mathieson, Jenn Ridley, Kim Herring & Rebecca McCready.

Tom Fleming - Calligrapher

Tom gave an interesting talk about his long and chequered life and the influences brought to bear on him with regard to his calligraphy. He showed very early work (older than a lot of us at the meeting) which comprised very competent sketches made during the second world war, and calligraphic designs on shells, stones and other bric a brac. He regaled us with amusing anecdotes of his experiences and showed us his portfolio of work over a period of something like seventy years. He presented some members of the committee with calligraphically produced nameplates. He then went on to demonstrate some calligraphic techniques and invited people to have a go which the more adventurous did! Newbiggin should be proud of this gentle man with a gentle Scottish accent, a gentle sense of humour and undoubted talent.



Kids' Forum

The activity at this month's meeting was printmaking. Not as many children turned up as previously (this was put down to the Easter school holiday) but they were all enthusiastic and produced a range of interesting work which they all enjoyed making. Some children were able to glaze the pots they had made at last month's meeting. The remaining pots will be glazed with a simple clear glaze and they will all be available for collection at the next meeting on **Monday 14th May**.



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Kid's Forum



**Tom Fleming -
Calligrapher**



One Day For Newbiggin

Jason explained about the One Day for Life project that had been undertaken previously and how we are hoping to use the idea in Newbiggin. It is intended to produce a twenty-four hour photographic picture of Newbiggin lasting from midnight on Sunday 12th August until midnight the following evening Monday 13th August. If you live in Newbiggin, work in Newbiggin, visit Newbiggin, have friends or relatives in Newbiggin, or have any other connection with Newbiggin, you are invited to submit a photograph of some aspect of your life during the twenty-four hour designated period. You do not have to be a photographer. We would like a full twenty-four hour representation so if you do shift work or keep unusual hours we would welcome your contribution. What might your contribution show? Catching the bus, shopping, fishing, at work, at home, gardening, hanging out the washing, cooking, walking along the promenade or somewhere more ambitious, admiring the sea, having a drink at your local, taking the dog for a walk and so on. Anybody got any unusual ideas?

At the very least the photographic record will appear on the Newbiggin website but funding is being sought for other forms of display and exhibition and possible publication, and indeed as a contribution towards the cost of producing the photographs. Watch this space for further details! Watch for announcements on the website and at Pride of Northumbria, 51 Front Street.

Harry Hall

Harry Hall is a photographer who over the years has documented many mountaineering expeditions throughout the world. His work has appeared in many magazines. Harry lives and works in Northumberland and enjoys photographing the landscape of the county. He currently has an exhibition of his work at Alnwick Playhouse which lasts until 28th April. It is well worth a visit!

Pathways Through Northumberland

An exhibition of art at the School Room Gallery, Alnmouth until April 13th. This too is well worth a visit!

Arts Council Debate

Don't forget to fill in and return your response sheet. You can do this individually or you can return it to the next Arts Forum meeting for despatch collectively.

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Contacts

Eddie Galvin - Chairman

e.galvin@btconnect.com

Telephone 01670 858834

Rebecca McCready - Summer

Spectacular & 2008 Calendar

- R.McCready@newbigginartsforum.org

Laura Mathieson - Summer Spectacular

- Laura@newbigginartsforum.org

Gillian Perfect - Trips & Events -

Gillian@newbigginartsforum.org

Jason Thompson - Webmaster -

Jason@newbigginartsforum.org

Peter Seddon - Newsletter Items -

PS@newbigginartsforum.org

General Enquiries -

Enquiries@newbigginartsforum.org

**Next Meeting
Monday 14th May
at 6.30pm**