

HAPPENINGS

May 2007



Welcome

Eddie welcomed the meeting which was held in the 'big room' this month because of a double booking error. He tried to introduce Judith Grieve but she kept disappearing (rumour had it that she was doing some coalmining for Keith and when she had finished she couldn't find anywhere to park her car). Eddie carried on mumbling until she eventually appeared when she made an important announcement .

She announced that the next St. Bartholomew's concert would be given by 20,000 Voices but there would be a singing workshop beforehand. Anybody wishing to participate should turn up at the Church Centre at 11am with their £5 admission fee which would also get them into the concert at 3pm in the afternoon in the Church. The rest of the season's programme can be seen on page 2.

Eddie reminded people that subs were due (to Rebecca McCready) and there were still some tee shirts available at £8 each. Laura demonstrated what could be done to a tee shirt to make it more.... something!!

The volunteers for the flyer distribution were thanked again for their help and reminded that the flyers would be ready for collection from The Pride of Northumbria shop from next Saturday (19th May).

Summer Spectacular

Rebecca McCready pointed out that the Summer Spectacular had been postponed to September 2nd since the funding would not be available in time for the original June date.

From 10am to 5pm at the Sports Centre and on Central Park you will be able to:

- * 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,
- * Buy art, craft and local speciality work,
- * and much more besides!

Keep the date free in your diary!

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 get first refusal.

**Next Meeting Monday
4th June at 6.30pm**

Music at St. Bartholomew's

Summer concerts in Newbiggin by the Sea at 3pm on Sunday Afternoons.

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

July 8 - Heavenly Harps

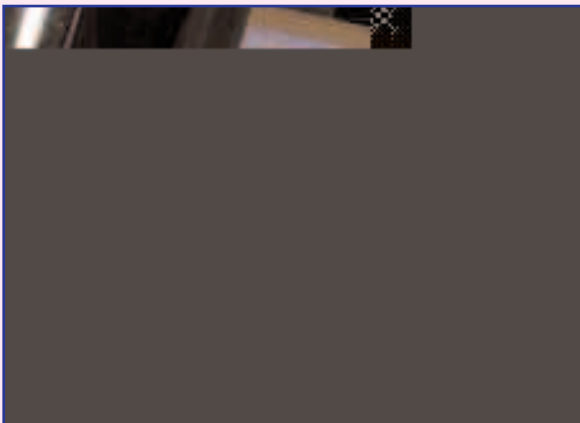
August 12 - The Denlyn Quartet & Friends

September 9th - Soul Doubt

Entrance programmes are £5 per concert, available at the door.

Guest Speaker

This month **Karen Willis** had been invited to talk a little about herself. She is a painter who works in a variety of media but who is mainly influenced by the sky and the coast. She originates from Shetland and her husband showed some slides of the landscape and seascape in that part of the world while Karen enthused about the deep influence that they had on her. Now settled in Morpeth, it is the Northumberland landscapes and seascapes that are Karen's influence. She talked at length about the weather and weather changes and the effect this had on her imagery. She lightened her talk by admitting that she was first influenced by Rolf Harris and later by Tony Hart. (oh dear!). But this persuaded her to first attend Hereford Art College and later Derby Art College where she took Photography. She had a craving for colour so she used to hand tint black and white photographs. She made a connec-



tion with aspects of her Christianity alluding to heavens. She enjoyed using acrylic, watercolour, pastel, oils. She claimed to be very messy and admitted to frequently getting herself covered in paint. While she was talking her husband continued to show slides of her impressive work. She claimed that she could not really draw but insisted that this should not be a bar to people's enthusiasm and desire to enjoy what they are doing! She is participating in the Art Tour 2007 when her studio will be open to the public on June 24th, July 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th. (Booklets were available and extra copies can be obtained from public libraries and tourist information offices). Her website is www.karenwillis.co.uk and is well worth a visit.

Eddie thanked her for an illuminating talk and pointed out that anybody could pursue their interests in this way given enthusiasm and a desire to enjoy themselves.

Groups

The next **Creative Writing Group** meeting is on Thursday 17th May at 6.30pm at the New Ship, Gibson Street.

The next **Photography Group** meeting is on 24th May at 6.30pm at Pride of Northumbria, 51 Front Street.

The next **Adult Reading Group** meeting is on Wednesday May 23rd at 7pm at the Library. Audrey Niffenegger - Time Traveller's Wife.

This month (May) the **Ceramics Group** meets on the last Tuesday (29th from 12 until 3.30pm) and the last Saturday (26th from 12 until 3.30pm). This is to establish which is the better time for future meetings.

The **Painting Group** meets every Tuesday from 12 noon until 4pm and the last Saturday of the month (May 26th) from 10am until 3.30pm.

The **Kids' Arts Forum** meeting is on Monday 4th June at 5pm in Simonside Hall. The next meeting will be a Music Workshop.

Volunteers are required to help with the Kids' Forum. Anybody willing to give up a couple of hours from 4 to 6 pm once a month is asked to get in touch with Eddie.

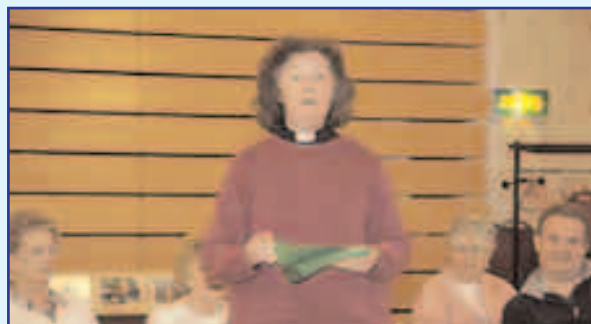
Trips Update

Gillian Perfect is now available on 856644 for booking trips. The trip to Holy Island has had to be cancelled due to insufficient support. The trip to Rigaleto is fully booked. There are proposals for a visit to Alnwick Garden in July and to the Theatre Royal in September. Tickets for the latter would be £21.50. Anybody interested is asked to get in touch with Gillian as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.

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 record of Newbiggin lasting from midnight to midnight on Sunday 19th 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?

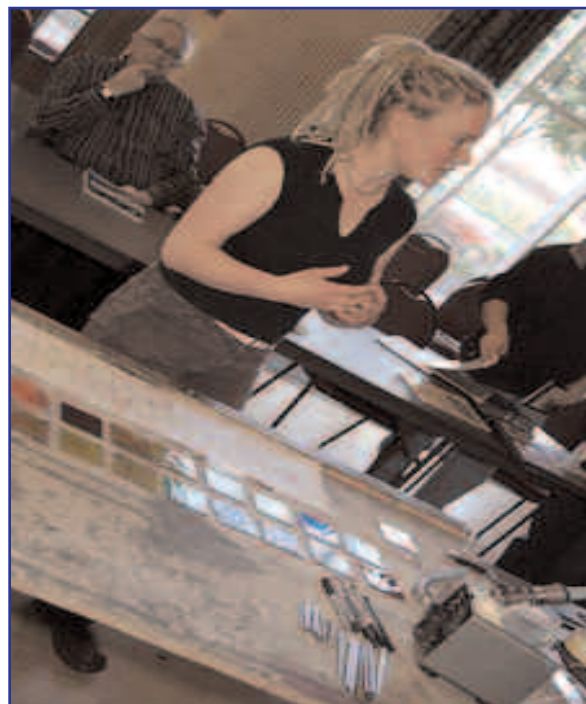
At the very least the photographic record will appear on the Newbiggin website but funding is being sought for other forms of display and exhibition and possible publication, and indeed as a contribution towards the cost of producing the photographs. Watch this space for further details! Watch for announcements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



Judith finally arrives to stop Eddie rambling!

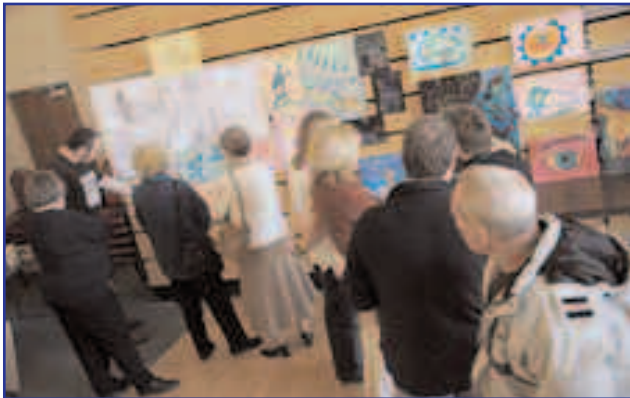
Stained Glass Workshop

Joanne Burke gave a fascinating and well thought out presentation of stained glass making. The aim was to produce a panel “Newbiggin Arts Forum” from eighteen pieces of glass of a variety of colours. She had previously etched one with the letter “I” and the remaining letters were drawn on the other pieces of glass by members of the forum to be etched later. Joanne then set up the arrangement of pieces with two edges of lead strips and showed us how to fit the first letter. Two ‘H’ shaped lead strips completed the frame for this first letter. Since a panel like this would take half a day to complete only a third was attempted, but the novices were able to have a go at fitting the letters together between lead strips. The lead strips were then soldered, with George displaying his expertise. Finally, Joanne masked the glass components and the eager assistants worked leaded light cement between the glass and leads using their best toothbrushes, to make a weather tight seal. Joanne intends to complete the panel, perhaps with some



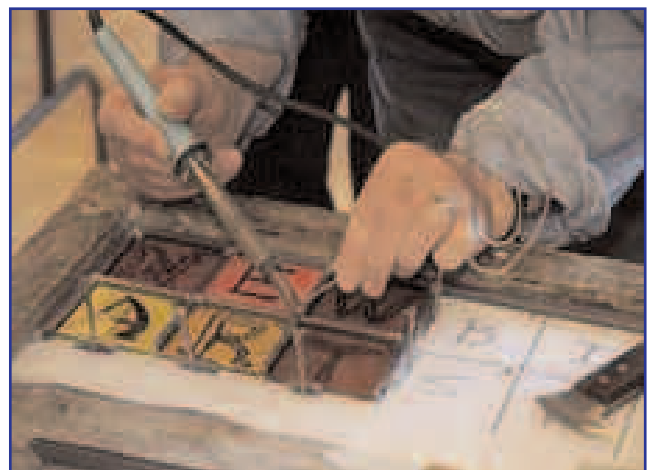
assistance, and to bring it along to the next meeting.

This was a particularly good demonstration and workshop. Everyone has seen stained glass but it is not the sort of craft one can normally experience. There were examples of Joanne’s work in small folders for people to have a look at and a good selection of her work and how to contact her is in the gallery section of the Forum Website. Our thanks to Joanne for an informative and entertaining evening.



Eddie in front of the Monthly Arts Showcase.

Some 'Goings On' during the Stained Glass Workshop



Kids' Forum

Not as many children turned up for this musical instrument making workshop as had turned up for previous workshops but they were all happily engaged in the production of useful wares! Using things such as elastic bands, egg boxes and other everyday bits of junk that you would normally throw away they produced a series of musical instruments to imitate the sounds of a snake, a lion, a monkey and an ostrich.

The pots that had been glazed at previous workshops were distributed. Some are yet unclaimed. Owners are asked to claim them at the next meeting on June 4th, which will be a Music Making workshop.



Sunday 3rd June at 8pm . Movies Night Club, Bedlington. Tickets for Jazz Evening with Brenda Sokell & Band from Andy Curtis at andy@adlib.co.uk or 01670 817331. £6 including buffet.

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