

HAPPENINGS

June 2007



Welcome

Eddie introduced himself to the meeting and welcomed everybody before inviting them to have a look at the work displayed in the monthly **Arts Showcase**. There was a greater variety of work on display this month and an obvious development in the quality and standard of work. One interesting submission was a small pot which in itself was not particularly out of the ordinary, but it had been made from local Newbiggin clay. It had fired a rich red terra cotta colour and suggested possibilities for the future!

Eddie went on to thank the flyer distributors and remind them that the next flyers would be ready for collection from Pride of Northumbria on Saturday (9th June).



The finished stained glass panel produced at last month's workshop followed by some pieces from the Arts Showcase.



Summer Spectacular

Laura reminded us all about the Summer Spectacular which is to take place on Sunday September 2nd. Alcan has promised to fund the whole event so we can now look forward to an exciting event which will include the following.

- The production of a community mural
- A singing workshop with 20000 Voices
- Dance demonstrations by Tribal Fusion
- The firing of pottery in a raku demonstration
- The sale of art and craft work
- An exhibition of Forum members' work
- And much more.

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
2nd July at 6.30pm**

Raku Workshop

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 in the Church Hall at 11am)

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



Catherine Trillo specialises in conserving & strengthening antique textiles and taking fine art prints from the originals. She is passionate about people expressing their creativity and from her rather large shop in Jesmond, where she has been since last September, she likes encouraging artists. She showed a number of antique textiles that had been conserved (rather than restored) and talked about the opportunities she helped to provide via the Social Enterprise Scheme for people to develop their skills. Her attention was focussed largely on the disadvantaged and vulnerable and who were referred from a number of venues. One of her aims was to raise cultural awareness, and it was appropriate that her enthusiasm was demonstrated to the forum where opportunities exist for people to help themselves in a variety of creative pursuits. Laura thanked her for giving up her time so freely to give us some indication of yet another facet of the arts.

Groups

The next **Creative Writing Group** meeting is on Thursday 14th June at 6.30pm at the New Ship, Gibson Street.

The next **Photography Group** meeting is on 21st June at 6.30pm at 13 Argyll Terrace.

The next **Adult Reading Group** meeting is on Wednesday July 25th at 7pm at the Library. Please note the current book has to be returned by 27th June.

The Healthy Living Centre (People's House) cannot continue to salary a worker to open the building for **Painters** and **Potters** on Saturdays when we cannot guarantee that people will turn up. So, until further notice, there will be no meetings at the People's House on Saturdays.

The **Painting Group** will continue to meet every Tuesday from 12 noon until 4pm.

The **Ceramics** Group will meet on the last Tuesday of the month (June 26th) from 12 noon until 4pm and subject to negotiation (with the Painters) Potters may join the Painters in their room on other Tuesdays.

The next **Kids' Arts Forum** meeting is on Monday 2nd July at 5pm in Simonside Hall. There will be an Aboriginal Art 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

Pickup for the trip to Rigoletto is at 6.15pm on Wednesday June 13th at the Sports Centre.

Gillian needs to know if anybody wishes to join a trip to see David Essex in

"Aspects of Love" at 2.30pm on September 15th. Tickets (eleven available) £21.50 for upper circle seats at the Theatre Royal. Please contact Gillian asap if you are interested. (01670 856644)

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. Funding applications are underway. Watch this space for further details! Watch for announcements on the website and at Pride of Northumbria, 51 Front Street.

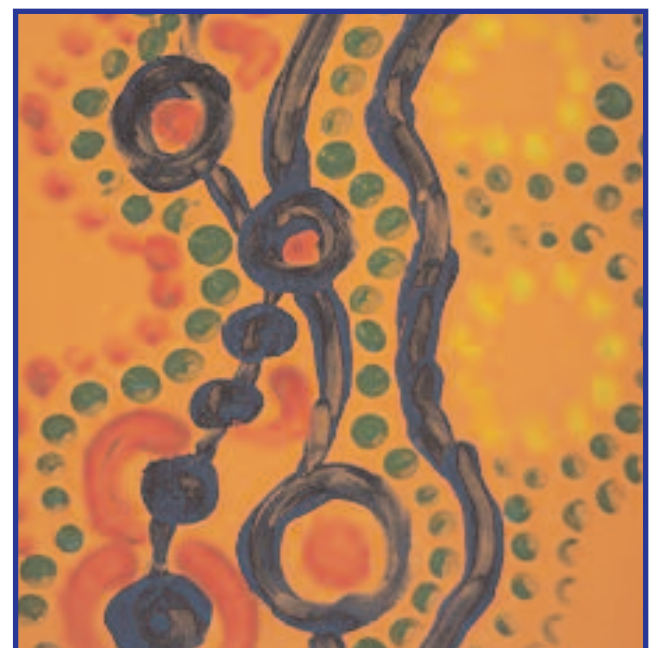
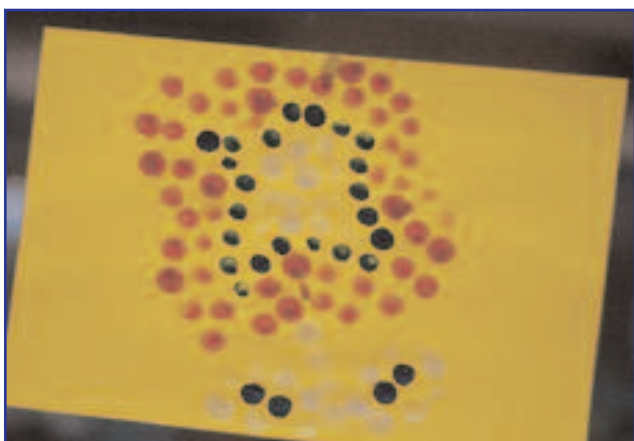
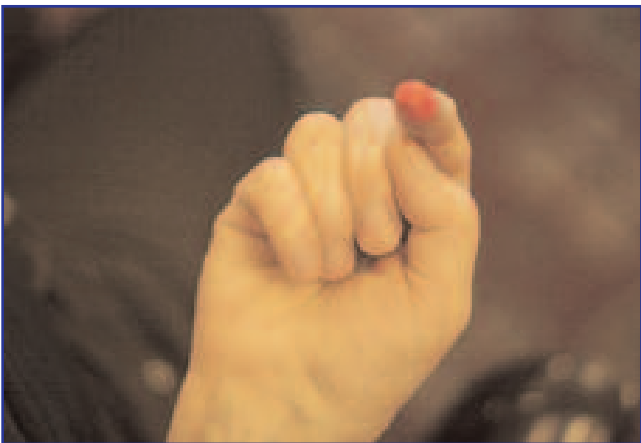
Aboriginal Art Workshop

Eddie began his workshop talk by explaining that his art is about accessible fun art that everyone can enjoy. He went on to say that Aboriginal Art may be as old as 40,000 years and is recognised as culturally significant. He suggested that 2% of the population has a disproportionate influence on the arts and culture of their country. He suggested that Primitive Art is about landscapes, imagery, rituals, ceremonies and environment. Pigments (paint) had to be made by the artists themselves from natural sources. There were symbols common to Primitive Art and Eddie explained that the wicketty grub was one. He showed us an illustration of other such symbols that included the emu, a digging stick, a honey ant, spears, a boomerang, a child, an adult, a group of people, a place or site. He then explained that contemporary Aboriginal Art uses the symbols and context of the original art to provide us with abstract images. Primitive art is also often monochromatic due to the scarcity of pigment. At this point we were shown a number of images, some of which are reproduced here, and comments were made about their significance. He then started to play some music, invited us to imagine being out in the Australian desert and encouraged



us to start painting. He had consciously not suggested any way to go about this, so it was interesting to see that people began using their fingers to paint with. Eddie did not attempt to suggest that there were any correct or better techniques to use. In keeping with his philoso-

phy of enjoying the art and discovering the options he allowed people to discover and invent for themselves. This is a method of working that might be frowned upon by professional artists but it lends itself very well to this situation and it helps to dispel inhibitions and break down precious barriers. What Eddie did do to inspire participants was to invite them to:-
Close your eyes
Clear your mind
Listen to the music
Start to paint
Show us what you have done!



Kids' Forum

Twelve enthusiastic youngsters turned up to participate in the Musical Instrument and Music Making Workshop held in Simonside Hall by **Loon** (a branch of the Isis Arts Organisation). They were instructed in drum making (balloons stretched across apertures, saxophone making (tube and balloon mouthpieces), and shakers. Loon also had bow and saw instruments and Cuban box drums. The children were able to perform with their instruments once they had been made and Loon had demonstrated to them. Everybody enjoyed the experience and agreed that it was great fun. Next month's meeting will host an Aboriginal Art Workshop. Some pots from previous workshops have still not been claimed!



Contacts

Eddie Galvin - Chairman
e.galvin@btconnect.com
Tel: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
01670 856644

Jason Thompson - Webmaster -
Jason@newbigginartsforum.org

Peter Seddon - Newsletter Items -
PS@newbigginartsforum.org
01670 817029

Rebecca de'Wessington - PR -
PR@newbigginartsforum.org