



October Newsletter

Sorry for the delay! Where did September go?

We've been busy, as you'll see. Also taking well-earned breaks to refuel in preparation for the next stage.

Steeple Build

After yet more delays in getting the final programme of works up and running, there is now much activity on site and it's estimated work will be completed by the middle of November.

Fife Council contract

Fife Council Cultural Services has issued FAC a further contract worth £6,500, which will run until March next year. The contract requires FAC to:

- Plan and deliver the first set of public classes and workshops.
- Receive adequate training to equip Fife Arts Co-operative's Board of Directors.
- Plan for the organisation's future sustainability based on realistic levels of volunteer activity, an assessment of funding opportunities and partnerships with other organisations.
- Review our membership followed by a membership drive to increase income and recruit active volunteers to participate in the running of the organisation.

January Classes

Fife Arts Co-operative is working in collaboration with St Andrews University in the delivery of a fabulous range of affordable visual arts, craft and music classes and workshops, which will be starting in The **STEEPLE** project space in January 2008.

See our **Upcoming Classes and Workshops** page for details and contact Susie at info@steeplearts.co.uk if you would like more information.

Board training

The Fife Arts Co-op board has had its first workshop in Committee Skills Training, delivered by **VONEF** in partnership with **Volunteer Centre Fife**. It's been very difficult to find times when everyone is available, and we are very grateful for the efforts that have been made to accommodate us. So far the experience has been very useful, and another two workshops are planned.

Members Meeting

Thanks to those who attended the Members meeting on 24th September. At the meeting, both long and short-term plans for projects and the organisational structure were discussed. In the shorter term, Fife Arts Co-op is delighted to be joining forces with Newburgh Community Trust to add to the bonfire night festivities on the waterfront on 10th November. A pirate ship and Guys created by the primary school are in the frame at the moment. With regard to the longer term, fuelled by wine and nibbles, all were invited to stick post-it notes on to a three-year plan with suggestions for activities they would like to see happening.

Artists' Database

In collaboration with Fife Arts and Theatre Trust, FAC has collated a list of Fife based artists with the relevant skills needed to work with disadvantaged, at-risk young people and their families as part of the Family Intervention Service's Drop Zone project. It is hoped that a pilot project will develop and that **Impact Arts** will be able to offer their experience and become a partner in the project. Such a database will be invaluable for similar future opportunities.

Women's Aid Group

Following a request received through our website from Fife's Women's Aid, Moyra Stewart is delivering three clay workshops to the group through the Autumn.

Plum Job Residency activity

Jeanette Sendler has continued to deliver a variety of classes and workshops to the Newburgh Community and artists/ designers from

near and far. These have been very well attended and received. For a fuller picture visit www.sendler.co.uk.

As the River Runs - June 2008

Plans are ongoing for an exhibition entitled **As the River Runs**. Rosemary Campbell, who hails from Newburgh, is a freelance designer, lecturer and tutor specialising in design workshops with a focus on mixed media and stitch. Her work has featured in several books and publications and the dominant theme of the work is the Tay Estuary. Scottish landscape is also at the centre of the work of Alison King. The two artists have brought together a body of work that forms a mixed media exhibition of high quality. A show is already scheduled at Woodend Barn in Banchory in May 2008. It will then travel to the Steeple to run some time in June. We are hoping that Rosemary will deliver a workshop or two alongside the exhibition.

SAC Flexible Funding

The Scottish Arts Council has released a new funding scheme that we feel is just right for FAC! The funding would enable us to deliver a programme of arts based activity from 2009-2011. The deadline is 19th November so there will follow an intensive period work to get the application in! Wish us luck!

Sheila Watson - An Appreciation

Sheila Watson, who died on Monday 15 October 2007, was born in Edinburgh and attended James Gillespie High School as a pupil. She obtained a secretarial qualification before going on to do a degree in Marketing at Strathclyde University, where she met her future husband Douglas. It was at Strathclyde that the couple developed what was to become a life-long interest in Scottish Country Dancing.

Sheila and Douglas were married in Peebles and started off their married life in East Kilbride, where their daughter Morag was born. Sheila gave up work as a secretary to concentrate on bringing up Morag and later Morag's brother Greig, but found an outlet for her considerable artistic ability in a range of activities she was able to undertake at home. The many strings to her bow included quilted clothes and home textiles, dressmaking (for Morag's wedding she made both the bride's dress and her own), hand-made stationery, quilts (many of which were donated to charity), and most recently jewellery.

Sheila enjoyed the outdoors, especially walking (hence the many holidays spent on Arran), and her garden. She will be sadly missed not only as a loving wife and mother, but by all of us who were fortunate to know her as a friend, colleague or adviser. Sheila's business acumen and common sense were a major asset to the Fife Arts Co-operative throughout her four years as director and secretary. Her courage and determination to keep up her involvement in our activities for as long as she could were an inspiration to us all.

From Tracey, John, Alison, Jane, Moyra, Tio, Susie and everyone at the Fife Arts Co-operative.