

NEOS 2016 Co-ordinator's report

The Committee decided to have the Website and the Signup system rebuilt, and negotiations with RGU were set to begin in November 2015. As explained earlier my illness resulted in the rebuild not starting until January. The Developer's advised that they would not be able to have the new site & Signup System ready for 1 March; therefore Signup was delayed until 1 – 20 April 2016. I hope you all found the Signup system easy to use, but if you had any problems, please email them to northeastopenstudios@gmail.com, and I will check with the Developers if it is possible to amend the system. We want it to be as user friendly as possible, and only you can tell us if it is.

Thorough testing took place on different operating systems, and different browsers, and no problems were found, and it was published 1 April.

232 Artists signed up, and the majority had no problems, but folks using iPads or macs did have problems, which were reported to the Developers. We found that some mac operating systems & browsers were incompatible, and so the developer's had to recode certain areas on the form.

Upon submission your entry will not be accepted until you tick the box to say you have read the Terms & Conditions. Can I advise you to be sure that you do read them prior to Signup to be sure that you are eligible, as you are agreeing to abide by these T's&C's, which includes, agreeing to distribute Directories & any marketing material.

Images are still a problem and with the rise in the use of iPads some folks are using iPads to take photographs, and then submitting them. The iPad or Tablet on the normal setting reduces the image resolution for viewing on-line, which is not good enough to print.

Image resolution can be selected so please can I ask you to ensure that your image resolution is at least 300ppi and the image size is less than 24000px on the longest side, and more than 1200px on the shortest side. The image field in the Directory is square so aim for a squarer image and you will be maximising the use of the space, making your image stand out. When the image is uploaded the system produces images of different sizes as we want to use the images on the NEOS Website. The plan is to use everyone's image on the Home Page at some point during the year. When you enter NEOS you are agreeing to allow NEOS to use your image in the Directory, on the Website, and also to promote NEOS in adverts etc.

The Committee are promoting the Directory as an annual listing of Artists residing & practising in the North East of Scotland; therefore your Artist's statement should be about your work, and what inspires you. The Directory is used by Galleries & Exhibition organisers to source artists, so references to "Coffee & Cake" are not relevant. "Coffee & Cake" is only relevant for the Open Studios 9 days and not for the other 356 days of the year.

End.