

Alan Wade (1927-1987)

Brief biography

Geof Wade, who is a son of Alan Wade, has written the following about his father:

“Lifelong Barnsley resident Alan Wade (1927-1987) was passionate about recording the landscapes of his home area. From early in his life he sketched avidly and he began to paint seriously in the 1950's.

Initially he worked in oils but as he developed his own inimitable style he soon embraced the freshness and ethereal qualities of watercolour which characterised the majority of his work.

Largely self-taught, Alan was influenced by the work of Marine and Kentish artist Rowland Hilder OBE and more importantly by the work of fellow Yorkshire artist Fred Lawson who was a frequent contributor to 'The Dalesman' magazine.

Alan drew inspiration from his local environment, its natural beauty and its industrial landscapes. He also produced work in Scotland, Wales, and Cornwall as well as the Yorkshire Dales, Moors and coast.

Whatever the weather he preferred to work on location rather than indoors. His best work derives from this direct and al fresco approach.

He regularly exhibited work with Barnsley and Wakefield Art Societies and occasionally at the Ferens Gallery in Hull. In 1975 Alan was invited to stage a one man exhibition at the Cooper Art Gallery comprising 75 framed original works. He has work hanging in places across the globe including the USA, Australia and Europe.

Despite his clear ability to connect with others through his chosen medium, Alan preferred to retain his art as a hobby. His greatest legacy is the art work which speaks to his audience with the same clarity now as it did in his lifetime."

He worked for the railways, Freeman hot water bottles, Wath Main Colliery and then a long spell at Barnsley Canister Company where he became commercial manager. He was born in South Elmsall and moved to Cudworth, Barnsley when he was 4 years old.