

Brian Fitzpatrick (1932-1974)

Brief biography

The son of a miner, Brian ploughed a very different path. Born in Barugh Green, Brian went to Holgate Grammar School and then to Barnsley College of Art. Brian is now remembered for his work as a graphic artist with Bamford and Co. of Holmfirth.

James Bamford started as a portrait photographer and then made lantern slides and in 1898 was making films in and around Holmfirth with Riley's of Bradford.

In about 1911, the company began producing postcards which were exported world wide. The brightly coloured seaside cards are very well known. There were only four employed artists by Bamford's – the others being Douglas Tempest and Philip and Arnold Taylor. The postcards were a commentary on life and often made fun of the differences between the sexes.

Brian had auburn hair and so did a lot of the people he drew. The humour was not sophisticated but Brian painted a picture of social life through the 1960s and 1970s. He married his childhood sweetheart Joan, herself an amateur artist. Joan worked for Wilson's of Barnsley and modelled clothes.

Brian's own personality, sense of fun and skill as an artist made him an ideal person to design these postcards.

His sketchbook can be seen on the Bounce Pad and we hope there are some familiar images for viewers to reminisce and make you smile.

Kirklees Museums and Galleries hold an archive of Brian's work and of Bamford and Co.

*A special thank you to Brian's family and volunteer Anne Nicholls, for all their help.
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