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# The Hidden Art of Barnsley

Summer 2014

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## Barnsley Art on Your Doorstep (BAYD)

We are a voluntary organization funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Our project is to tell the story of Barnsley's past artists, reveal their achievements and show their works.

We are organizing an exhibition at the Cooper Gallery. This opens on 7<sup>th</sup> June until 30<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

Admission is free. The gallery is open on weekdays 10 am to 4 pm and on Saturdays 10 am to 3 pm.

Please visit our growing website: [www.barnsleyartonyourdoorstep.org.uk](http://www.barnsleyartonyourdoorstep.org.uk) and like our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Barnsleyartonyourdoorstep>

## Ten questions we have been asked about the Hidden Art of Barnsley exhibition

### (1) Is this an ordinary art exhibition?

All 25 artists were connected with the Borough of Barnsley; most were born in the borough. Their history will be revealed.

### (2) What does HIDDEN mean?

At our local talks and classes, only one or two of the artists are familiar to people. Many of the artists are famous elsewhere but their Barnsley origins have not been explored before.

### (3) Will there be things to do?



There will be quizzes and a chance to draw. There are free workshops at the Gallery throughout the summer, some organized by BAYD, others organized by the gallery.

### (4) Who are BAYD?

Sally Hayles, Hugh Polehampton, Fred Thompson and Maureen Wilkinson are the core team supported by HLF funded part time project administrator Jen Kiernan.

## FREE TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

Starting on Saturday  
17th May 2014  
at 11 am in  
the Sadler Room at  
the Cooper Gallery  
Contact the Gallery  
to book. Details on  
[www.barnsleyartonyourdoorstep.com](http://www.barnsleyartonyourdoorstep.com)

We could not have produced the exhibition without the help of volunteers Anne Nicholls and Eileen Symonds, the Adult and Family Learning Service's Bev Ellis and Gary Dutton and without the support of Barnsley MBC Arts, Museums and Archives Service. Many other volunteers have provided valued

help on different aspects of the exhibition. We have been actively supported by the Friends of the Cooper Gallery.

**(5) Is it all traditional art or are there some modern works?**

There is a variety that should appeal to a wide range of tastes with an emphasis on naturalistic images rather than abstract ones.

With different artists on display there is scope for spotting contrasts in style and technique, and in the use of colour, shade and shape.

**(6) What kind of achievements are you 'revealing'?**

- Exploring 39,000 miles of Central Asia not seen before by a European (**Thomas W Atkinson** in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century);
- Decorating iconic buildings in England (**W J Neatby** c.1900);
- Active in major art movements in other countries (**Barker Fairley** in Canada);
- Painting the famous celebrities of their day and royalty too (**Archibald J S Wortley** painting W.G.Grace, the Prince of Wales' dog; **Ernest Moore** painting Wilfred Rhodes, George V);
- **Joseph Mellor**, a local linen weaver, taught himself to paint. His son and grandson also became artists;
- From local glassmaking origins, **William Tate** became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Artists in London. In Liverpool, his elder brother **Richard Tate** helped organize the first public art exhibitions outside London; all his children became amateur artists like their father.

- Coal miner **Gilbert Daykin** had to work to keep his family but did not allow his irrepressible passion for painting to be stifled;
- **Kenneth L Graham** went from mining, glass designing to artist.

**(7) Which is the biggest picture?**

The Poacher's Daughter by **Archibald J S Wortley** (138.5 cm high x 185 cm wide x 13cm deep).

**(8) Which is the smallest picture?**

Garden view by **Florence Hold**. (12.6 cm by 17.7 cm).



From BAYD'S collage of photos of artists

**(9) Will all the exhibits be pictures?**

A majority of the exhibits will be pictures, but we will have sculpture by **Gertrude Spencer Stanhope**. There will be examples of 18<sup>th</sup> century bottles made at Gawber glass works where **William Tate** grew up. Also unusual fragments from the Gawber excavations by Denis Ashurst in the 1960s. We will

show a ceramic vase. Books written by the artists will be on display, for example **Thomas W. Atkinson's** illustrated travel books.

The pictures will be paintings in oils and watercolour, drawings and sketches. Photos of decorative art on buildings will be shown.

There will also be written information about all the artists and their lives drawn from BAYD's booklets on the artists. The full booklets will become available during the exhibition.

**(10) Will there be any young people's work in the exhibition?**

Yes. Winners of our three competitions will be on display: a Barnsley map showing places of importance to the artists; a map of **Thomas W. Atkinson's** Central Asian travels and films made with young people about industry and art.

Conor Ramskill's film about 9 of the artists will be on show. There will also be a digital re-creation of 18<sup>th</sup> century Gawber Glass House by students at Barnsley College.

The representation of a yurt is being decorated with textile work from Holy Trinity School. Queens Road Academy year 6 made tiles for the Neatby section.

There has been a great deal of art work produced by young people from our schools programme. Some of this will be on display throughout the exhibition at St Mary's Church times to be notified. Also on 26<sup>th</sup> July in the Sadler Room at the Cooper Gallery, there will be a display of all the competition entries, including posters to advertise the exhibition.

## Adult and Family Learning Service working with BAYD

Bev Ellis and Gary Dutton are working with parents and their children in over 20 primary schools across Barnsley on a variety of stunning schemes to recall and celebrate the work of different hidden artists, particularly **Gilbert Daykin**, **William J. Neatby** and **Thomas Witlam Atkinson**. Thanks to St Mary's Church, there will be a display of this work at the Church at times to be notified. The church is just the other side of the road.

## Unfurling stories of the artists: part seven

Christ Church, Isle of Dogs, London sits on the opposite side of the river to Christopher Wren's Old Royal Naval College at Greenwich. Higher up the hill behind the College is the Royal Observatory complex. This part of London surprisingly has two Barnsley connections.

The first is through an uncertain Spencer Stanhope connection with Christ Church. The Church's leaflet (also online) says that a new pulpit was installed in 1907 donated by **Gertrude Spencer Stanhope** (1857-1944) in memory of her brother Edward, who had died in 1906.

The finely carved pulpit has three panels and it is believed that they were painted by Gertrude. It is said that they 'bear a marked similarity to pulpit panels in St James the Great, Flockton'.

## Thanks to all our lenders

Paintings have been collected from all across the country from Lincoln, Liverpool, London and many from Barnsley itself with sculpture too. Some have even travelled from New Zealand. 29 different lenders are involved, all requiring loan agreements thanks to Natalie Murray at BMBC. So many private lenders including artists' relatives have agreed to share their valued paintings and sketch books with the public. A stop press: thanks to a private lender we are now able to show examples of the popular paintings of **Peter Brook (1927-2009)**.

These are known to have been painted by **John Roddam Spencer Stanhope (1829-1908)**, her uncle.

It appears that Gertrude copied two of these panels and designed the third herself.



BAYD photo thanks to the Church

The leaflet also suggests that the paintings on canvas above the chancel arch were designed by John Roddam before he died in 1908. It would have to have been installed by someone else.

**Quote:** Graham McLusky, after reading BAYD's draft booklet on his mother **Sheila Graham (1927-2009)**: "Thank you for this. It is absolutely fabulous. I now know more about Mum than I ever did before! It's tremendous."

## Contact Us

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<https://www.facebook.com/Barnsleyartonyourdoorstep>

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<http://www.barnsleyartonyourdoorstep.org.uk>

The second connection is the location of what Dr Scott Anderson, expert on **William J Neatby (1860-1910)**, says is his best sculptural work. This is Astronomia, goddess of Astronomy on the Observatory's 1895 extension (the Astronomy Centre) for which Neatby did the decorative designs. It shows the goddess with arms outstretched between sun and moon with signs of the Zodiac and is clearly signed with the artist's name.



BAYD photo

Images of both these pieces of work will be on show in the exhibition.

**Peter Brook (1927-2009)**

attended Barnsley Grammar School where he had an inspiring art teacher. His paintings are now highly sought after.