

Beating the Odds

Very few of the artists who feature in this exhibition came from artistic backgrounds. In fact, many came from families who made their living from industry or trade.

Take **Joseph Mellor**. Like his father before him, Joseph worked as a weaver in Barnsley's linen-industry. Yet at some point in his twenties, Joseph became a landscape artist. How he could afford to do this, especially as he was married with two young children, is a mystery. However, Joseph's gamble seems to have paid off, as he worked as a landscape artist painting popular Yorkshire locations for the rest of his life.

Or what about **Thomas Liddall Armitage**? His family ran a grocery, wine and spirit business on **Shambles Street** and, as a young man, he too worked as a grocer. Yet at some point in the 1880s, Thomas seems to have moved with his wife to London, where he began working as an artist. We do not know how this came about, but what we do know is that Thomas went on to enjoy a successful career



painting idyllic Victorian scenes and illustrating 'Boys Own' magazine.

'His First Brush with the Enemy'
One of Thomas's illustrations for 'The Boy's Own Paper' (March 1912)

Breaking the Mould

Even for those who weren't born into industry or trade, becoming an artist was not an obvious career choice. Those who grew up alongside Barnsley's 'hidden artists' may well have been surprised by their artistic success. We believe that some of the artists surprised themselves too!

Barker Fairley was the son of a primary school head-teacher and grew up on **Park Road**. Barker emigrated to Canada as a young man and had a successful career as an academic, eventually becoming Professor of German at Toronto University. It wasn't until his retirement that Barker began to paint in earnest. Yet his striking, brightly-coloured pictures mean that he is now celebrated for his artistic as well as his academic achievements.



'Cello Player' by Barker Fairley

Then there is **Archibald Wortley**, whose family residence was **Wortley Hall**. His father was Solicitor General in 1857 and Archibald too was destined for a career in the law. Yet his heart led him to study art at the Slade and he became a successful portrait painter. His legacy includes not only his paintings, but the Royal Society of Portrait Painters, which he founded.

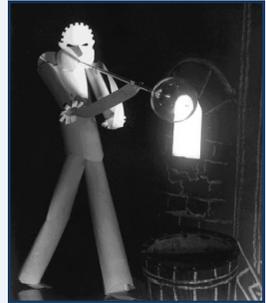


'Lilian Eldee' by Archibald Wortley
Image reproduced with permission from the Royal Academy of Music, London

Finding a Niche

For most of Barnsley's 'hidden artists', art was not just a pastime, but a means to earn a living. Many of the artists were architects or designers and many found that becoming a specialist was the way to make art pay.

Take **Kenneth Leslie Graham**, an incredibly versatile artist, confident with a wide range of media, from pen and ink to paper sculpture. Yet Kenneth made his living, and his name, designing glass bottles, first for **Woods Glassworks at Hoyle Mill** and later for Coty Perfumes in London.



A paper sculpture of a glass-blower by Kenneth Graham

Cawthorne-born stone-mason Samuel Swift also found his niche in London, where he joined architectural sculptors Farmer and Brindley. His work decorated many prominent public buildings, including St Paul's Cathedral.

Equally remarkable are the achievements of **William Neatby**, the son of a **Wellington Street** timber-merchant who decided to become an architect. After designing tiles for Burmantofts of Leeds, William went to work for Doultons of London, where he designed mural ceramics. By the time he was 40, William was a self-employed designer of wallpaper, murals and furniture, as well as an illustrator of books and magazines.

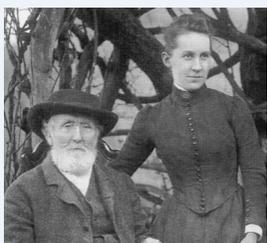


A tile mural by William Neatby

Inspiring Others

Artistic talent often runs in families so it should come as no surprise that many of the 'hidden artists' are closely related. So was this all down to nature, or did having an artist in the family give some of Barnsley's second-generation artists the confidence to explore their own artistic talents?

Abel Hold came to art by an unusual route - training as a house-painter before becoming an artist. Abel moved his family to **Cawthorne**, where he made a



Abel and Florence Hold

precarious living painting rural landscapes, country wildlife and outdoor sporting scenes. It is surely no coincidence that three of Abel's nine children—**Tom, Ben and Florence**—also became artists, and that all were drawn to painting countryside subjects.

Having made his own break from linen-weaving to become a landscape artist, **Joseph Mellor** taught his son **William** to paint. William seems to have continued this tradition with his eldest son, **Everett**, who became the third Mellor artist to forge a career in landscape painting .

Thomas Liddall Armitage may have inspired his son, **Edward**, to try his hand at painting, but Edward's career took a slightly different path. He is now known as one of Britain's most successful stained-glass designers.



Part of a painting by Edward found in St Peter's Church on Doncaster Road

Roads Less Travelled By

Becoming an artist often requires a leap of faith and many of the 'hidden artists' certainly exhibited a liking for adventure.

Thomas Witlam Atkinson, the son of a **Cawthorne** stone-mason, spent six years travelling across Central Asia, painting dramatic locations that few Europeans had seen. Yet Thomas wasn't the only



Thomas Witlam Atkinson

Barnsley artist to find inspiration abroad. Landscape painter **John Spence Ingall** visited Morocco, where he is thought to have painted watercolours for Kaiser Wilhelm II. He also travelled to Assam in India, which may not have been the safest thing to do during World War I!

Just a few years earlier, **Ernest Moore** had ventured into the Wild West of America. After visiting Lulu Island (near Vancouver) to sketch native Americans, he visited a cannery town where he found temporary employment as a local police officer. It was a far cry from his usual work painting portraits of Yorkshire dignitaries!



Ernest in 1937

Running away to sea at the age of 15 marked only the beginning of **John Wood Shortridge's** travels. He visited India, Burma and the USA, before settling on Capri, where he met his wife, Carmela. The couple and their growing family moved to the Isle of Man in the 1890s and later lived in Cornwall and Derbyshire. However, John's thirst for travel remained unquenched and, during his fifties, he emigrated to New Zealand with five of his children.

Brushes with Fame

The endeavours of the 'hidden artists' brought them into contact with some prestigious people. You may already have heard of some of them...

When **William Tate** went to boarding school near Liverpool in the 1760s, he may well have considered himself fortunate. It was an unusual opportunity for a glass-blower's son and took William far from his **Gawber** home. William's older brother, **Richard**, was already living in Liverpool, working as a clerk and painting in his spare time. It is thought that he introduced William to the renowned artist, **Joseph Wright of Derby**, who taught William to paint and became his lifelong friend.

Gilbert Daykin was born in **Platts Common** and worked as a miner at Warsop colliery for most of his life. Yet his artistic talent attracted the attention of his local MP, **Malcolm MacDonald**, and, when Gilbert visited London, he met Malcolm's father, the prime minister **Ramsay MacDonald**.



Gilbert in 1931

Upon his return from Russia, **Thomas Witlam Atkinson** shared a platform with the famous explorer, **Dr Livingstone**, while **Ernest Moore** counted amongst his friends the actor **Sir Henry Irving** and the inventor **Alexander Graham Bell**. **Sheila Graham's** work as a costume designer brought her into contact with some of the leading lights of the forties and fifties. Here she is with **Jane Hylton** in 1952.



'The Hidden Art of Barnsley' is Revealed

Barnsley Art on Your Doorstep's exhibition '**The Hidden Art of Barnsley**' celebrates the work of **almost 30 artists from Barnsley's past**. As this title suggests, all the artists who feature in the exhibition have a close connection to Barnsley.

Most were born in the borough, or lived within it for much of their lives. Many retained links to the area long after their artistic ambitions had led them elsewhere.



Station Road, where artist Ernest Moore grew up

The collective lifespan of the '**hidden artists**' covers **more than 250 years**, beginning with the birth of **Richard Tate** in 1736 and concluding in 2009, when **Peter Brook** and **Sheila Graham** passed away. Much changed over the course of this period, in Barnsley, in Britain and in the wider world. The industrial revolution transformed Britain's landscape, economy and social class system. The British Empire rose and fell. Artistic styles came and went, and culture, fashion and education changed almost beyond recognition.

Yet throughout this period, the desire of a small but determined minority to better themselves, express



Kenneth Graham hard at work in the 1920s

themselves, or both, through art remained a constant feature of life in Britain. This was as true in Barnsley as anywhere else, as the works presented in this exhibition testify.

Uncovering 'The Hidden Art of Barnsley'

Some of the names that appear in this exhibition may be familiar to you. The artistic achievements of **John Roddam Spencer Stanhope** and his niece, **Gertrude**, for example, have long been commemorated at their family's historic residence, **Cannon Hall**. Other names such as **Wade, Tate, Daykin** and **Shortridge** will probably seem much less familiar. As these artists were all **born in Barnsley**, you may well wonder why....

There are a number of reasons why most of the artists who feature in this exhibition are not widely known about in Barnsley. Many of them left the borough when they were quite young, long before they achieved fame and success. This has caused them to slip from the town's collective memory and prevented their achievements being celebrated locally.

Now, thanks to the efforts of 'Barnsley Art on Your Doorstep' (BAYD), all that is changing.



BAYD volunteers hard at work in 2014

In 2009, BAYD's volunteers set out on a mission to identify artists linked to Barnsley and to research their lives and achievements. This proved to be the start of a fascinating, and often surprising, voyage of discovery; the volunteers uncovered far more Barnsley artists than they had ever anticipated and found out a wealth of information about them.

Celebrating 'The Hidden Art of Barnsley'

There is not space within this exhibition to tell you everything that BAYD has discovered about Barnsley's 'hidden artists'. However, we hope that it provides a flavour of the work the artists did and an insight into their lives and times.

The **five themes** of the exhibition illustrate the varied nature of the artists' work. They also highlight the many ways artists could make a living in the past. Some Barnsley artists painted portraits for wealthy clients long before the days of photography. Others painted idyllic landscapes for businessmen living in newly industrialised towns and cities. There were talented designers working across a range of industries, as well as accomplished architects, sculptors and illustrators.

Yet the artists' success was not just a result of their artistic talent, but of their **ambition, determination, application and self-belief**. So, although this exhibition primarily celebrates the achievements of past Barnsley artists, it will hopefully inspire the Barnsley artists of today and tomorrow as well.

Many children and young people have already been inspired by what they have learned about the

hidden artists to produce some amazing works of art, performance art and design. Some of these are presented within the exhibition itself and many more can be seen in a parallel exhibition in **St Mary's Church**, opposite the Cooper Gallery.



St Mary's Church: See the work of some budding Barnsley artists!

Exhibition Themes

Decorative Art

Portraiture

The Outdoors

Churches and Art

Industry and Art



Do you know of any more 'hidden' Barnsley artists? If so, please contact us by phoning **07882 520865** or by emailing bayd2014@gmail.com
You can also find us on [facebook](#).

Competition

One Barnsley artist who certainly found his niche was **Brian Fitzpatrick**, who made his living designing saucy seaside postcards and humorous cartoons. Can you suggest a caption for this cartoon which appeared in the **Barnsley Chronicle** on 1st February 1958? Email your answer to bayd2014@gmail.com



The Hidden Artists of Barnsley

Thomas Liddall Armitage, 1856-1924
Edward Liddall Armitage, 1887-1967
Thomas Witlam Atkinson, 1799-1861
Peter Brook, 1927-2009
Samson Gilbert Daykin, 1886-1939
Barker Fairley, 1887-1986
Brian Fitzpatrick, 1932-1974
Kenneth Leslie Graham, 1900-1979
Sheila Graham, 1927-2009
Abel Hold, 1815-1896
Thomas Hold, 1842-1902
Benjamin Hold, 1847-1917
Florence Hold, 1860-1937
John Spence Ingall, 1850-1936
Joseph Mellor, 1827-1888
William Mellor, 1851-1931
Everett Watson Mellor, 1878-1965
Ernest Moore, 1865-1940
William James Neatby, 1860-1910
Edward Mossforth Neatby, 1888-1949
John Wood Shortridge, 1852-1921
Lionel Percy Smythe, 1838-1918
John Roddam Spencer Stanhope, 1829-1908
Gertrude Spencer Stanhope, 1857-1944
Samuel Swift, 1846-1929
Richard Tate, 1736-1787
William Tate, 1747-1806
Alan Wade, 1927-1987
Archibald John Stuart Wortley, 1849-1905



www.barnsleyartonyourdoorstep.org.uk

The Hidden Art of Barnsley

7th June - 30th August 2014



The Cooper Gallery
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