

# Look Up!



Discover Decorative Art on  
Barnsley's buildings and in  
its open spaces

**BAYD**  
Barnsley Art on Your Doorstep

   
**LOTTERY FUNDED**

## Introduction

This booklet is produced by **Barnsley Art on Your Doorstep** as a result of the **Hidden Art project** and supported by the **Heritage Lottery Fund**. Barnsley has a rich history of producing artists who had successful careers in decorative art. **Samuel Swift** of Cawthorne was a stone mason, as were generations of the Swift family. He became an architectural sculptor working on buildings all over the country. **William J. Neatby**, born in Wellington Street, created sculptural designs and colourful tiles to decorate many of our British public buildings. **Thomas W. Atkinson**, also of Cawthorne, was a stone mason and architect who designed several churches and public buildings.

In this booklet we want to encourage you to have a new awareness of your surroundings and to stimulate your interest in decorative art and architecture. We hope you will appreciate its uplifting effect.

We looked at the way buildings and open spaces in our town are decorated. We found a great deal of beautiful decoration that we had not noticed before. A lot of it was well above our eye level and we realised that you would have to look up to spot it so that is what we did.

We photographed items in 12 different parts of the town centre to create this little booklet. The children of Barnsley helped us to choose which to use at an event at Barnsley library in November 2013. Here is your chance to walk around the town to find these decorations and to look for others that you like and that we may have missed.

## Churchfield Peace Garden

Churchfield Peace Garden was once the graveyard for St Mary's Church. It became a burial ground in the early 19th century. It is now an important recreational area in the town centre and in 2010 Barnsley residents worked with the Council to improve the park and create the Peace Garden. The paths were renewed and Victorian style seating was installed as well as a tree sculpture. In 2014 the Garden won a gold award in Yorkshire in Bloom.





## Victoria Road



Victoria Road grew up in the nineteenth century as local business men built their houses on the edge of the town centre. They liked to show their standing in the community by decorating the outside of their homes with sculptural stonework and beautiful stained glass. Buildings gradually spread from the junction with Old Mill Lane to the top of Victoria Road.

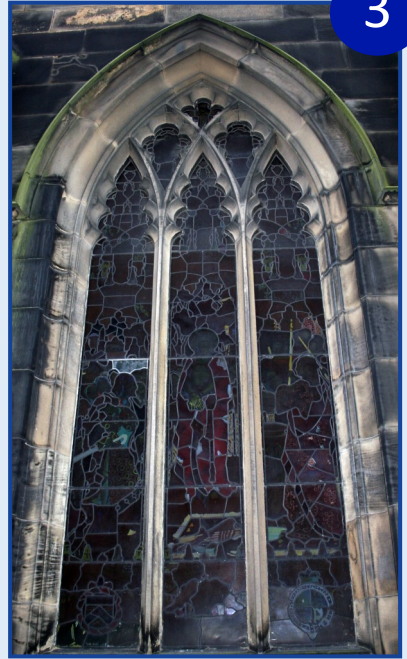


The NUM Headquarters formed part of this



development. It was built in 1874 and then was the headquarters of the South Yorkshire Miners' Association. This was in the days when there was no national union. The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) was only created in 1945. The monument in the front of the building commemorates leading figures in the history of the union. Near it is a bronze sculpture by Graham Ibbeson dedicated to people who have lost their lives supporting the union.





## St Mary's Church

St Mary's Church was rebuilt in 1822 but the tower is from a much older church built here in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The eight bells in the tower are also 15<sup>th</sup> century. If you find the church open, do look inside. The small garden next to the Church is the Cooper Memorial Garden. It was given by Samuel Joshua Cooper. Do have a look at the war memorials in the garden.



## Town Hall

Our beautiful Town Hall shines in the sun because it is faced with Portland stone. It was opened in 1933 and its tower is 44 metres (145feet) tall. It was designed by Sir Arnold Thornley an architect based in Liverpool. He is most well-known for his design of Stormont, the Northern Ireland Parliament Building in Belfast. Our war memorial, in front of the Town Hall, was created by artist John Tweed and architect W.T. Curtiss. It is made from Halifax sandstone and bronze. It was dedicated on 11<sup>th</sup> October 1925 before the Town Hall was built.







## Church Street and Upper Market Hill



On Church Street and Upper Market Hill stand some of the oldest buildings in Barnsley. As well as St Mary's Church, the parade of shops opposite has timbers dating to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Here also is the Cooper Gallery which was built in 1769 as Barnsley Grammar School. When the school moved to Shaw Lane, Samuel Joshua Cooper bought the building. He gave it to the people of Barnsley in 1914 as an art gallery.

On Market Hill you can see the frontage of the building that was once Butterfield and Massey's department store where you could buy almost anything. Also here is the entrance to The Arcade. By the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century this area of shops had a glass and iron roof to protect shoppers from the weather. You can still see it today.





## Regent Street



At the top of Regent Street is the General Post Office building with its tall and elaborate doorway. It served Barnsley from 1882 to 1967 and has now been converted into flats. Standing on the opposite side of the road is the old County Court. It was built in 1871 and paid for by the railway company. They had taken the original courthouse at the bottom of Regent Street to create a second Barnsley railway station. Court House Station continued to be used until 1960 and is now a pub. On the opposite side of the street we can see the Queen's Hotel. James Fox, a local wine merchant, built it in 1874 and it is now offices.



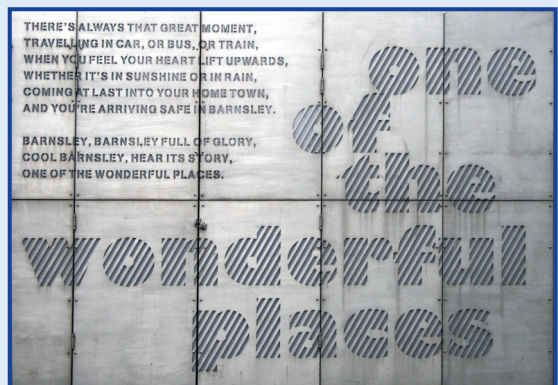
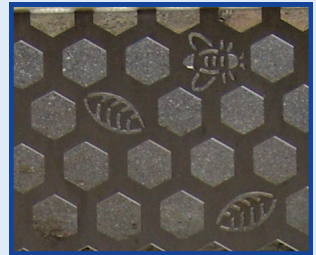




## Hanson Street and Mandela Gardens



The re-landscaped Mandela Gardens and the modernised and extended Civic were reopened in 2009. This is a very modern extension added to the existing Civic Hall building. The whole of the side of the new building is a clock. Can you work out how to tell the time? Opposite the new building is the Thomas Whitworth Forum. It stands on the corner of Hanson Street and George Yard and the core of the building is the old warehouses that existed on the site. Venture into George Yard and see the decorative work.





## Eldon Street and May Day Green



On Eldon Street is the Civic Hall, now council offices. Completed in 1878 by the Harveys, a local family of linen merchants, it was given to the people of Barnsley in 1890. It housed the public library, a museum and the art school. Look high up over the doorway. Can you see the sculpture of a woman holding an artist's palette and brush? In 1908 there was a serious accident at the Civic. Sixteen children died in the building when they were crushed on a staircase that had become too crowded. Further along the street is the shop that was Benjamin Harral's jewellers. The business moved to this shop in 1906 and many couples bought their engagement and wedding rings there. For many years they were also given a breadknife as a wedding present.

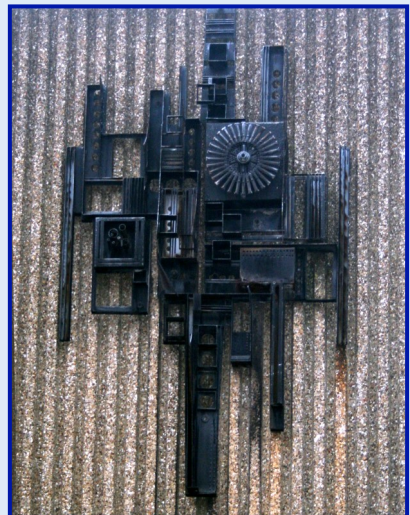


## Queen Street and Cheapside

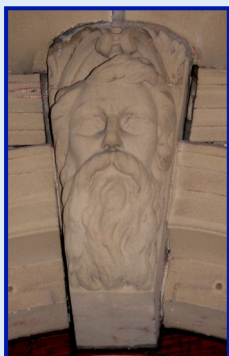
Queen Street is still an area of shops in the centre of town. In 1930 the shop that is now the Halifax building society was built and became Montague Burton's the tailors. It was later used by MacDonald's as a fast food restaurant before becoming "The Halifax". Burtons provided many of the military uniforms and also demob suits for World War II.



As you walk on past the shops you come to Cheapside. Cheap comes from an old English word meaning trading or market. The charter to hold a market in Barnsley was granted in 1249 and that is exactly what still happens on Cheapside today. The entrance to the indoor market is here and recently the outdoor market stalls have been moved here. Find the sculpture on Boots the Chemist.







## Market Street and Wellington Street

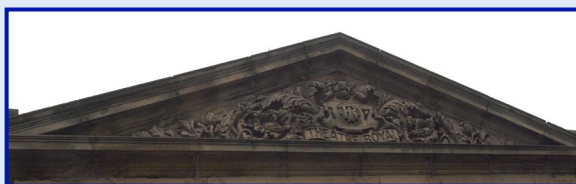
Where Wellington Street, New Street and Market Street meet stand the buildings that once formed the main shops of the Barnsley British Co-operative Society. They were built in 1911 to celebrate 50 years of the Co-op in Barnsley. The architect was A. H. Walsingham and the decoration on the building was produced by the Leeds Fireclay Company in their Burmantofts works. The style is baroque and shows wonderful sculptures and mouldings in terracotta and green Burmantofts faience. Faience is clay with a glaze over it. The Co-op was making a statement! The first shop was opened on the lower end of Market Street in 1861. This is long gone but the 1911 buildings remain.



Walk on down Wellington Street and see buildings such as the old Salvation Army citadel. A citadel is a stronghold or fortress.

See how the top storey has been designed to look like a castle.

There is also the Theatre Royal. Although this is now a nightclub, you can still see its original carved exterior.







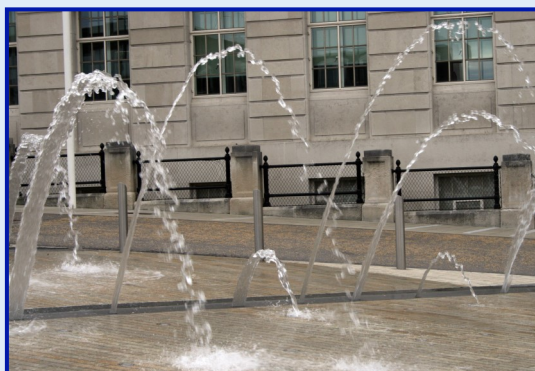
## Peel Square and Lower Market Hill

Peel Square was once called Peasehill Nook and here you are surrounded on all sides by decorative buildings. Although many of the ground floors have modern frontages, the upper stories are Art Deco, Edwardian and Victorian designs. The Chambers pub was originally built as the Barnsley Chronicle offices. Walk around the corner to Market Hill. The outdoor market stalls that stood here have disappeared. Although many of the buildings have again been modernised, there is still decorative work to be seen on them.



## Shambles Street

A Shambles is an old name for an area of butchers' shops and the most well-known one is The Shambles in York. In the past Shambles Street had butchers shops and was very narrow like The Shambles. It was most famous for the number of pubs operating there in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Pubs with names such as The Old Globe Inn, The Cock Inn and The Lord Nelson were demolished in the town redevelopment. The hairdresser's with its art deco curved window still remains. It was once a pawn shop and the adjoining building was a furniture shop called the White House. Do take the opportunity to walk towards Townsend and see the Pinfold Steps. These led to the pinfold where stray animals were kept. Now they lead up to the beautiful Lamproom Theatre, once a Methodist Chapel.



We hope you have been able to find all the places that we photographed. Do you have a favourite or did you spot something that you thought was even better? Do keep checking for decorative art when you come into the town and remember - Look Up!

Although we haven't found work by Swift, Neatby or Atkinson in the town centre, you can find more information about them on our website. Work by Atkinson and Swift can also be seen in Cawthorne village. Again, look on our website or at our leaflet **The Cawthorne Art Trail** to find their work. If you would like to contact us you can email us or look at our Facebook site

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

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

Email: [bayd2014@gmail.com](mailto:bayd2014@gmail.com)

## **Acknowledgements and Sponsors**

Photographs by **Gill Bestall**

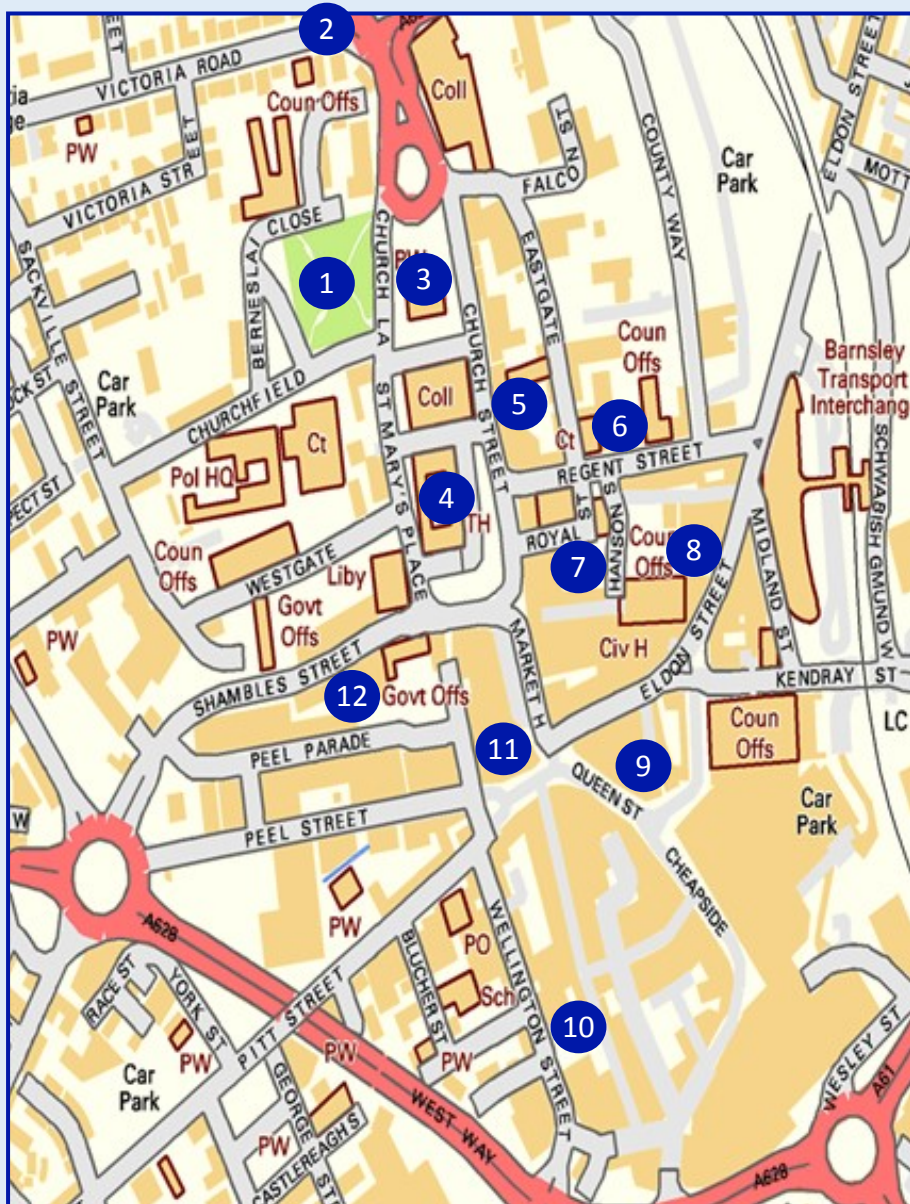
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The children of Barnsley who helped to choose the photographs

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