

# Cooper's Hidden Art exhibit ends on song

BY HELEN WILLIAMS

**A NEW piece of music using 'instruments' of brushes, stones and glass made its debut in the town's Cooper Gallery.**

The piece by Barnsley man Keith Ramskill was played on a recording to mark the end of the Hidden Art of Barnsley exhibition.

The exhibition from voluntary organisation Barnsley Art on Your Doorstep (BAYD) featured 29 artists including Cawthorne-born Thomas Witlam Atkinson (1799-1861).

Keith said: "My inspiration came from the artists. I used brushes, stones and also glass - because some of the artists in the exhibition had links with glassmaking.

"I have not turned a visual idea into music before. My family links with glass blowing through my grandfather and his brothers made it an interesting challenge."

Keith's son Conor made a film about nine artists in the exhibition. Storyteller Helen Sant also dressed up as Lucy Atkinson, wife of artist Thomas Witlam Atkinson and showed visitors Thomas's paintings and described the dangers of a journey the couple made across Siberia in the mid 19th century.

She also talked of how she gave birth to their son named Alatau at the foot of the Alatau mountains in Kazakhstan.

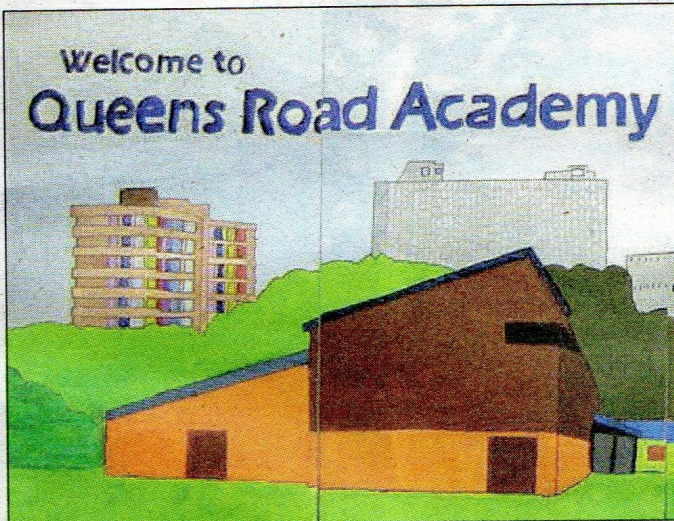
There was more artistic activity in Barnsley's St Mary's church. Children had their portraits drawn by artist Fred Thompson and made banners out of felt with words to describe their feelings about the Hidden Art exhibition.

Some of the banners and other artwork is on display at St Mary's throughout September on Fridays (10am to 12 noon) and Saturdays (10am to 1pm) with extra activities on September 27.

Among displays is work from Barnsley's Adult and Family Learning Service. The service worked with parents and children in 15 schools across the borough to produce paintings and drawings in the style of Barnsley's hidden artists of the past.



**INSPIRED:** Summerfield Primary pupils' work inspired by Atkinson travels.



**COLOURFUL:** Queen's Road Academy picture inspired by artist Barker Fairley (1887-1986).