

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

News about our exhibition	1, 3
Unfurling stories of the artists part six	3
Contact us	3

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Talks and workshop programme	1
Our activities in schools	2
Living in a yurt	2



# The Hidden Art of Barnsley

Spring 2014

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## Who we are

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

## Win a £50 prize (from private sponsors)

Prize winners will soon be chosen for our poster competition. There are three age groups. The posters will be used to advertise the exhibition. The closing date is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014.

There is still time to enter the three other competitions (closing date 17<sup>th</sup> April 2014).



## Thought provoking and informative talks during the exhibition

We have arranged free talks jointly with the Friends of the Cooper Gallery. They are all at the Sadler Room, Cooper Gallery\*.

17th May 1100  
Barnsley Art on Your Doorstep  
'Setting the scene'  
14th June 1100  
Nick Fielding, experienced national reporter: 'The Central Asia that T.W. Atkinson explored'  
28th June 1100  
Elizabeth Barker curator of the Mead Art Museum, Amherst College, USA: 'Joseph Wright of Derby and the Tate family of Barnsley'  
2nd August 1330  
Dr A. Scott Anderson, lecturer  
'William J Neatby, ceramicist, designer of architectural decoration, artist and illustrator'  
9th August 1100  
Imogen Holmes-Roe, National Coal Mining Museum  
'From Coal to Canvas'

## Activities during the exhibition

Join our free workshops in the Sadler Room, Cooper Gallery\*.

21st June 1000-1200 and 1300-1500 for 4-16 year olds  
Glass painting+decorative lettering  
5th July 1000-1200 and 1300-1500 for 4-16 year olds with an adult: Paper sculpture  
19th July 1000-1200 for 19+  
Pen and ink drawing  
1300-1500 for 19+  
Tile painting  
16th August 1000-1200 for 19+  
Weaving  
1300-1500 for 19+  
Bag Making

There will also be a storyteller and workshop for school parties only on 4th, 7th and 11th July.

26th July 1000 onwards  
Display of all competition entries and young people's activities

\*For talks & workshops please book at the Gallery. Details on our website.

## Learning about the artists: Schools

Our volunteers supported by Jen Kiernan have delivered a series of classes to years 7-8 and 10 at Holy Trinity ALC. They covered calligraphy, tile design, silkscreen printing and mapping. The work of **William Neatby (1860-1910)** and travels of **T.W. Atkinson (1799-1861)** have provided inspiration.

At Greenacre School for children and young people with special educational needs, Jen with volunteers has delivered 7 classes on Decorative Art with reference to **Neatby**, and **scenery** and wild life with reference to **Abel Hold**.



Example of Greenacre pupils' work

Many thanks to volunteer Anne Nicholls for her help with these classes. There are also plans to deliver classes at Shafton ALC and at Horizon CC.

Bev Ellis and Gary Dutton of the Adult and Family Learning Service are also organizing exciting art activities with reference to different artists. These are with parents and their children at Grimethorpe Milefield, Athersley North and many other primary schools.

## Learning about the artists: Community Groups

Our volunteers have given illustrated talks to community groups. Recently we visited Cawthorne History Society.

51 people attended the parish rooms. **Thomas Witlam Atkinson (1799-1861)** went to school in this very building.



Photo of T.W. Atkinson

We told the story of 6 of the artists. We showed our new film's clip about **Gilbert Daykin (1886-1939)**, the coal miner artist.



Markham's Ponies by Gilbert Daykin thanks to Science Museum

The group learnt about Ann Tate née Longley's Raw Green origins, the mother of the earliest of the artists in our project (**Richard and William Tate**).

Our next visit is to St Thomas Wives Group at Worsborough Dale.

## Film

Conor Ramskill has now completed his beautiful 25 minute film on 9 artists. Nearly 25 volunteers helped. If your group would like a showing, please let us know.

## Living in a Yurt

Our Yurt task group is working hard to create a representation of a yurt. Volunteers and schools are making textiles to reflect how **Thomas Witlam Atkinson** and his wife Lucy experienced Yurts on their Central Asian travels 1848-54.



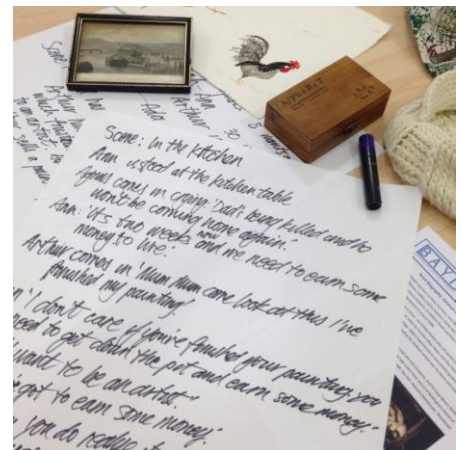
Family in a Yurt  
Copyright Natasha Von Geldern

## Artists' trail

We now have a Task Group to devise an artists' trail. Cawthorne is a possible site for this given the number of artists from there.

## Kidz R Loud

BAYD worked with Community Enterprise Co-ordinators at Horizon Community College for three days during half term. We supported 13 primary age children assisted by older volunteers to make six films for our film competition. They grew so much in confidence, created imaginative and moving scripts and impressed us with their enthusiasm.



Extract of students' mining and art script

## Unveiling Girl with a Lamb by Abel Hold dated 1842

An Australian relative of **Abel Hold (1815-1896)** has generously donated a painting for permanent display at the Jubilee Museum in Cawthorne. Unveiling is on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2014 when they open for the summer. This will enhance their existing Hold collection.

## Bringing art to your doorstep

Thanks to the help from Barnsley MBC Arts, Museums and Archives Service, we are borrowing works from public galleries around the country, including BMBC's own collections at Cannon Hall and the Cooper Gallery.

We have been very impressed by the willingness of descendants of many of the artists to lend us their ancestors' valued paintings. Other private owners both locally and from wider afield are lending works too.

## Unfurling stories of the artists: part six

A recent discovery is that **Edward Liddall Armitage (1887-1967)** did a youthful painting for the reredos behind the altar at St Peter's Church in Barnsley. This was replaced some years ago. The original painting has been hiding in the church. He later gained an international reputation for his designs of stained glass windows.



Maureen Wilkinson of BAYD with the painting at St Peter's Church

A further discovery is that the carver **Samuel Swift (1846-1929)** worked on the previous reredos of St Paul's Cathedral, London. Sadly this had to be replaced in

We are delighted too that the trustees of the Jubilee Museum in Cawthorne have agreed loans.

## Spring Quote

Nick Fielding, our June speaker, has extensive knowledge of the geography and politics of Central Asia. He considers **Thomas Witlam Atkinson** to be this country's most over-looked explorer. He believes his achievements should be nationally and internationally recognised.



Detail of drawing by Sheila Graham thanks to Graham McLusky

1958 because of war damage. This is yet another example of how Barnsley born artists have contributed to the decoration of iconic buildings across the UK.

Consider the inventive and sometimes extraordinary work by **William J Neatby (1860-1910)**. He designed the colourful tiles in Harrods Meat Hall on medieval themes. He achieved beautiful carvings on the outside of the Astronomy Centre at Greenwich Observatory. He created sinuously alluring tiles for the Winter Gardens in Blackpool and many other locations. We will be showing images of this outstanding work at our exhibition.



An example of Neatby tiles in Harrods Meat Hall

Latest news on the **John Wood Shortridge (1852-1921)** story is

that four paintings have arrived from New Zealand safe and sound. His work has never been exhibited before. He painted because of his passion for it. His family inheritance from his industrialist grandfather meant that he had no money worries.



The work of **Sheila Graham (1927-2009)**, daughter of **Kenneth L Graham (1900-1979)**, has excited and amazed our volunteers. She designed costumes for many celebrated theatre and film productions. In the course of this work she sketched portraits of Sir Alec Guinness, Sir Laurence Olivier, Celia Johnson and famous ballet dancers (Margot Fonteyn). Her costume designs are quite stunning. With her son Graham McLusky's permission, we have selected some of her drawings for our exhibition.