



## OUTSIDER ART

THE SUMMER ALLOWS THE ARTISTS OF HIPPERHOLME AND LIGHTCLIFFE ART SOCIETY THE PLEASURE OF OUTDOORS SKETCHING. ALL CREATIVE TALENTS ARE WELCOME AND THE TAKING PART IS GENERALLY THE BEST BIT Photo courtesy of Ian Scott

# Ageless, all ability art at workshops

*A diverse and sociable weekly gathering of amateur artists makes for a creative hub in town centre*

*by Irene Scott  
Community contributor*

**H**ow many of you remember the old Post Office in Brighouse and, just round the corner, the little haberdashery and wool shop? They are long gone, but the Brighouse Rest Centre on Park Row is still alive and kicking, especially on Tuesday evenings between 7:30pm and 9:30pm when the Hipperholme and Lightcliffe Art Society (HandLAS) opens the doors to its members and their guests.

The centre has its own car park, greatly appreciated by the demonstrators, who come along once a fortnight to give us tips and hints, and a boon to members, like myself, who bring everything but the kitchen sink on the other two nights in the month, when we hold our workshops. For those with less baggage, there is plenty of free parking around and the bus station is only a stone's throw away. There is also mobility access back and front.

You can easily find out what other delights we offer by visiting our website [handlas.co.uk](http://handlas.co.uk) where photographs of all previous demonstrators and the work they produce can be

found, along with members' paintings and exhibition images. Our syllabus is also included so members can check whether a life drawing, costume model, themed workshop, demonstration, painting the current Mayor of Calderdale (a once-a-year event) or a 'help and advice' evening is on the cards.

No matter what is programmed, members (and on demonstration nights, guests too) can always look forward to a social and entertaining evening amongst friends. It is even worth attending just to sample the delicious buns and cakes baked and provided for our refreshment period by member David Dickinson.

### All styles covered

Our members cover the whole spectrum of mediums and styles at our workshops. It doesn't matter whether you paint in watercolour, oil, acrylic, pastel, pen and ink, or a mixture of various mediums, or draw in pencil or charcoal, we encourage experimentation. Members paint in a variety of styles from realistic to impressionistic and even in Chinese Brush.

We welcome all ages and abilities and offer an ongoing mentor service on workshop evenings whereby there is always someone in the room experienced in what you are trying to produce and willing to help you achieve it. We can also advise on mounting and framing your paintings or at least point you in the right direction.

**'Summer brings the added pleasure of outdoor painting. From June to September, every fortnight, we get together and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of sketching in a place of beauty'**

Once you have produced that 'work of art', what do you do with it? We have a choice at HandLAS. We have a six week turnround of our work at Milry's Cafe (next to Kwik-Fit) in Brighouse. Pop in and have a look – the coffee is good too. Or you can enjoy a 'cuppa and bite to eat' whilst viewing our paintings at the Lightcliffe Tea Rooms, but you have to be a member to see our wall of paintings at Southwood Lodge, Halifax. However, our exhibition once a year at Smith Gallery in the library is open to all and our marquee at the Brighouse Gala is a hive of activity, especially when it rains and everyone runs in to shelter! We even have members of the public who visit us every year to purchase another painting by their favourite artist.

We also have an unframed selection, which is very popular and great value for money. Our paintings always adorn the walls of the Brighouse Rest Centre and, if you attend a certain doctor's surgery in Northowram, check out the fantastic mural on the wall in the children's play area, produced by some of our members (Pat Keene, Mary Needham, Muriel Kaye, Eileen Dutton and leader and innovator of the project, Jean Robinson).

We do, of course, keep our members up to date with all the local exhibitions and ensure that there are always plenty of entry forms available.

Summer brings the added pleasure of outdoor painting. From June to September, every fortnight, we get together



The mural in the doctor's surgery in Northowram was created by members of the art society

Photo courtesy of Jean Robinson



Members exhibit at a local gala – the group holds regular exhibitions throughout the year

Photo courtesy of Sandra Hulin

and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of sketching in a place of beauty at one with nature and enjoying the process. What a lovely thought and, surprisingly, it is often what we envisage and, as with many things, the taking part is the best bit, so come along folks, join us at the Brighouse Rest Centre and get painting!

To contact Hipperholme and Lightcliffe Art Society, ring Irene Scott on 01274 243 668 or send an e-mail via their website at [handlas.co.uk](http://handlas.co.uk).

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