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Lillian Clark: A life of Painting

28 October 2003

Lillian Clark, who died in August aged 104, devoted much of her spare time to recording the landscape and plant life of her native Yorkshire Dales. Her medium was water-colour, her output profuse and her work was wide-ranging, from Dentdale to the Scottish Highlands. At her request, about 50 paintings in her possession are to be sold and the proceeds given to St Alkelda's Church at Giggleswick, where she had worshipped since childhood.

The paintings will be exhibited, with some memorabilia, at The Folly, Settle, on a series of dates beginning with a preview (to which all are invited) on November 22, commencing at 11 a.m.

Born in 1899, she lived most of her life in Ribble Terrace, Settle, and trained as a teacher at Bingley College, where she was encouraged to spend most of her time in the art room. She was awarded a scholarship to the Royal College of Art in London but could not take it up, needing to ear a living to help the family's finances. As a teacher, her first post was t Crossflatts Junior School, Leeds, where – at the tender age of 20 – she taught a class of 62 boys aged ten and eleven years. She was subsequently appointed Head of the Juniors and Infants at Bentham Primary School.

Lillian retired from Bentham after 32 years, in 1961, and the next 30 years saw her painting develop and was her most productive period. She was one of the earliest members of the Clapham Art Group, exhibiting every May for more than 50 years. Lillian worked in all seasons and was not averse to painting in rain or even snow. On view at the Folly will be a large painting of the Ribble when it was completely frozen. In contrast are colour studies of garden and hedgerow plants.

The exhibition will be open on Saturday, November 22nd, Sunday 23rd, Tuesday 25th, Saturday 29th, Sunday 30th – on each date at 11am until 4 p.m. Admission is free.

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