

ART

Paintings by former health worker now on show in exhibition

Ray nursing hopes of success as artist

WASHINGTON

By GARETH CRICKMER
gareth.crickmer@northeast-press.co.uk
@washingtonstar0

Retired nurse Ray Bradshaw has made a clean break with his past, swapping the National Health Service for art.

Three years ago, he quit work after 38 years and began brushing up on his life long love of painting.

And he is more than happy with the results, with his Lowry-inspired style benefiting from an added touch of humour.

Such is his success that 27

of the 58-year-old's works are now on display at Arts Centre Washington in an exhibition entitled Canny Folk.

Married dad-of-two Ray said: "I returned to my love of art at the age of 50. I had not picked up a paint brush since the age of 17.

"I was going to have a career in art in some sort of way and had planned to go to art school, but my path led into the NHS and nursing instead.

"In 2010, I retired from the NHS and continued to develop my painting. I started with landscapes but could not resist including people into the scene.

"I have always been a lover

of LS Lowry, and my style has mainly gone in that direction.

"My earlier work is more representative of the Lowry style, but this has developed to where there is a feeling of realism merged with impressionism within the figures I produce.

"But where Lowry paintings portray sadness, mine have a more humorous feel to them."

Ray works from a studio at his home in Moorside, Sunderland, using acrylic paints, watercolours, oil and pastels.

Most of the Canny Folk pictures are of North-East scenes, including Penshaw Monument and Newcastle's

quayside.

He added: "I like portraying the interaction of people as they go about their business, grasping the mood and moment, the individual, the crowd.

"My style is simplistic, colourful with a splash of humour. I occasionally like realistic landscape and animal paintings. Generally, I keep to the vibrant colours and simplistic style of art that I enjoy."

His Canny Folk exhibition is on at the Biddick Lane arts centre in Fatfield until Friday, February 28.

For further details, ring the venue on 219 3455 or go to www.artbyraybradshaw.com



Ray Bradshaw at Arts Centre Washington. Below, two of his paintings.



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FANCY A LAUGH? Divorced, caring lady, 51, down-to-earth, honest, would like to meet like minded man for friendship and a lasting relationship. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **151905** or send a text to **80361**

HEALTHY MIND AND BODY Avant-garde, trustworthy Sunderland female, 53, N/S. Enjoys socialising, theatre, the arts & dancing. Looking for a male N/S, friendship initially, but hopefully leading to a long-term relations. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **162218** or send a text to **80361**

LET THE FUTURE UNFOLD Blonde, caring Durham female, 55, blue eyes, 5ft, med build, N/S, likes nights out, country walks and family time, seeking a decent, kind and caring male, N/S, with GSOH, for long term love. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **125182**

A FUTURE FILLED WITH LAUGHTER Kind, sincere 56 year old female. Enjoys cinema, eating in and out and going for walks. Would like to meet a kind, considerate male to share time with and hopefully long term romance. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **162275** or send a text to **80361**

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE Amiable, sensitive and attentive Darlington girl, 56, with a genuine personality and many varied interests, looking to find a gregarious, intuitive man, for lasting love and future happiness. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **104906** or send a text to **80361**

CUDDLES, SNUGGLES, ETC. Bubbly Ashlington lady, 57, medium build, enjoys nights out socialising as well as home comforts, looking for an affectionate, considerate man, for cuddles, cosy nights in, affection and romance. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **148144**

THE PERFECT COUPLE youthful, attractive Durham female, 62, 5'1", with a loving and affectionate nature, searching for a very special man, 60+, who is romantic and gentle, to share love, life and happiness with. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **113196** or send a text to **80361**

JUST WHAT YOU NEED Spirited, happy Darlington lady, 65, now retired, close family, enjoys days out, reading, crosswords and many places of interest, searching for a fun, active, loving man, to share it all with. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **112660** or send a text to **80361**

MUSICAL TYPE Petite, romantic Durham lady, 65, active, fun, caring, likes most types of music, walks, being out and about and cosy nights in, seeking a similar guy, open to new interests, friendship and love. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **125974** or send a text to **80361**

OLD FASHIONED ROMANTIC Slim, smart, attractive, intelligent Darlington woman, 66, 5'2", solvent, own home and car, independent and intelligent, seeking a charming ex-forces gent, to share friendship and company. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **102249**

TIRED OF BEING ALONE Sweet, caring lady, 66, tired of spending days alone, would like to meet a sincere, honest, decent gentleman, to share days out, evenings in and future happiness. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **154858** or send a text to **80361**

QUIET NIGHT IN Young-at-heart, quiet, genuine Seaham female, 68, 5'2", blue eyes, blonde hair, would like to meet a caring, considerate male, for a lasting relationship full of happiness and love. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **149236**

ROMANTIC, LOVING, CARING...

Intelligent, attractive, youthful Durham lady, 68, 5'4", blonde hair, medium build, own home and car, widower, seeks a bright, honest and caring man, with GSOH, to enjoy cosy nights in together. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **157096** or send a text to **80361**

LIVE THE LIFE YOU LOVE Genuine, active Durham lady, 69, 5'4", widowed, GSOH, caring, N/S, enjoys gardening, days out music, coast and country, seeking a chatty, decent man, with modern outlook, for friendship & love. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **115511**



Men seeking women

LET'S GET TOGETHER Genuine, caring, honest Sunderland man, 28, would like to meet a kind-hearted, witty woman, for friendship and possibly a romantic relationship. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **159038** or send a text to **80361**

LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER Friendly, sincere Ashington man, 32, enjoys meals out and walks along the beach, looking to meet a nice, affectionate lady, to spend some quality time together and see where it goes from there. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **148958**

JUST LOOKING FOR SOMEBODY

Down-to-earth, sincere Seaham male, 36, enjoys the cinema, nights out, social drinks, dog walks and more, would like to meet a female companion, to share interests and maybe more. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **159341** or send a text to **80361**

THAT CERTAIN SPARK Nice, hard-working and loving North Shields bloke, 53, 5'10", looking to find a sweet, understanding girl, for fun and maybe a little romance. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **148390** or send a text to **80361**

LOVE AND COMPANIONSHIP Open minded, fit Durham guy, 53, quite adventurous, likes walks along the beach, would like to meet a similar female for fun, laughter and more. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **159868** or send a text to **80361**

AFFECTION IS IMPORTANT Considerate, warm, romantic Houghton Le Spring male, enjoys nights in and out, would like to meet a kind-hearted, affectionate lady, for love and future happiness. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **154113** or send a text to **80361**

PERFECT MOMENTS Friendly, tactile and loving Morpeth gent, 56, enjoys meals out and reading, wants to meet a tender, sensitive woman, for friendship and maybe more. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **149651** or send a text to **80361**

ON A MISSION

Fun-loving, caring and honest Sunderland male, youthful 57, 5'10", slim, blue eyes, looking to meet a lady, to have fun with and hopefully a lasting, happy relationship. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **152935** or send a text to **80361**

FUN LOVING Friendly male, 60, enjoys going to clubs along the coast, walks on the beach, listening to music and watching videos. Looking for a lady to enjoy life with. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **150912**

DARE TO DREAM Kind, caring male, 60, down-to-earth, looking for a lovely lady for nights out/in, walks, and to build a future with. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **151908** or send a text to **80361**

BRING A SMILE INTO MY LIFE Kind, thoughtful, kind-natured man, 63, 5'9", GSOH, enjoys social drinks, days out on the train and travelling abroad, would like to meet a loving female, to find and share happiness again. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **148438** or send a text to **80361**

IT BEGINS HERE... Happy go lucky Boldon Colliery male, 65, 6', own flat and car, likes watching tv, crosswords, keeping fit, seeking a woman, to settle down with. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **161243** or send a text to **80361**

BE THE SPECIAL INGREDIENT

Kind, trustworthy Houghton Le Spring man, 68, likes socialising, social drinks, cooking, wining, music, would like to meet a woman, for company, friendship and hopefully more. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **159401** or send a text to **80361**

MEANS MORE WITH TWO Youthful, active Newcastle Upon Tyne male, 70, enjoys walks, long drives and relaxing holidays, would like to meet a woman with similar interests, to share a life together. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **153509** or send a text to **80361**

NEED SOMEBODY Youthful, caring, widowed man, 71, own home and car, 5'4, enjoys dancing, rock and roll music, cycling and dining out, seeking a loving woman, to share happiness, companionship, love and holidays. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **150683**



Women seeking women

UNDERSTANDING SORT Outgoing, kind hearted Middlesbrough CD, 49, would like to meet an understanding, open-minded, kind woman, for good company, great conversation and a lasting friendship. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **149690** or send a text to **80361**

MISSING COMPANIONSHIP

Sweet, caring South Shields woman, 56, enjoys walks on the beach and shopping, would like to meet a kind-hearted male, for companionship and see where it goes from there. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **153273** or send a text to **80361**



Men seeking men

GOOD COMPANY AND PLENTY TO GIVE Open-minded Hartlepool male, 49, likes swimming, playing snooker and social drinks at the pub, no ties, would like to meet a mature gent, age 65-89, for fun, friendship and hopefully more. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **155346** or send a text to **80361**

FUN & MORE Active, friendly, laid back South Shields male, 56, would like to meet a mature, open-minded male companion, for fun times, friendship and much more. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **154720** or send a text to **80361**

GENUINE GENT Easy going Wallsend man, 60, enjoys nights out, sunday markets and trips to the coast, would like to meet a kind, genuine woman, to spend quality time together and see where it goes from there. Call **0906 403 0756** and enter box number **150732**

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