



From left, Shorn Sheep participants Matthew Binns, David Johnson, Sophie Ogden, Sarah Woollard, Andrew Wood, Liz Barker, Abigail Pell, Thomas Ogden, Christina Cooper, Sarah Hutton.



Christina Cooper, member of the Worth Valley Young Farmers group and Sarah Hutton, artist and teacher, work together at the Arts Factory studio in Keighley.

Sheep Cred

A flock of Worth Valley Young Farmers recently gathered at the Keighley Arts Factory to participate in the Shorn Sheep project, an initiative to bring businesses together with community groups and to consider the importance of creativity in society.

The lively group is being sponsored by the publisher of the Worth & Aire Valley magazines to paint a sculptured sheep in the style of David Hockney, Bradford's own famous son of international acclaim.

Another talented artist and teacher from Yorkshire, Sarah Hutton, has been commissioned to guide the Young Farmers and channel their creative enthusiasm in the project.

On a crisp weekend in March they



A Bigger Splash by David Hockney

began their journey together with a workshop at the Arts Factory studio in Keighley. It included looking at Hockney's work inspired by the relationship between water and light and how objects appear underwater.

Hutton showed slides of A Bigger Splash

and Paper Pools, two examples of Hockney's work that exude a certain Californian quality of light and the bright blue water from Santa Monica swimming pools. Hutton also brought in books about Hockney from her private collection and a limited edition of



Paper Pools by David Hockney

a lithograph signed by the artist from a series of studies on pools.



Thomas Ogden

With the Hockney reference in mind but wanting to reflect a Yorkshire quality of light in their own approach to the project, the Young Farmers, mobile telephones (with cameras) in hand, embarked on a quest to find examples of water and light in the Worth Valley. Sladen Valley reservoir proved to be a worthy site for their inspiration...a flurry of photo opportunities ensued and suitable images were captured as references for their



Abigail Pell

sheep design.

Back in the studio, Hutton continued with a quick guide to colour theory and gave the Young Farmers, now budding art students, the opportunity to sketch out ideas, discuss a design approach, and mix a colour palette that reflected their experience of light and water in the Yorkshire landscape.

A further workshop is scheduled in April to complete the commissioned work and the finished sculpture will go on display with other painted sheep at the Sheep Fair in Keighley on April 24th followed by a diary of events to showcase the work throughout the district.

Contact the Keighley Arts Factory for more details. 01535 618 554



Sladen Valley Water