

Go West!

Home to a world-renowned music festival, site of architectural splendour and host to some culinary crackers; we uncover the real Huddersfield

HCMF

A time of great rejoicing and merriment which comes but once a year

One of the country's most exciting and diverse (not-to-mention under-documented) arts events, the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival is an impressive 26 years old this month. A showcase for both the highly acclaimed and the underexposed from the UK and overseas, this year promises to deliver one of the most adventurous line-ups ever. In fact, eschewing the mainstream has always been very much at the heart of things according to the event's organisers. "We dare to champion composers and artists that we really believe in and want to hear, sometimes flying in the face of fashion elsewhere," they say, and sure enough, a look at the current event diary confirms this.

While it would be convenient to claim that many of the performers can broadly be categorised into either the jazz or classical arenas; the truth, and in many respects the very point of the matter is that there are many others who more accurately occupy the spaces between and around those two crude delineations. This means you can easily spend an afternoon listening to the **Arditti Quartet's** matchless interpretations of the most avant-garde contemporary repertoire, followed by **Psappha** (they liked it so much last year, they came back) — a theatre-meets-music ensemble the size of a football team with more than a penchant for the works of Frank Zappa. If the exotic modal refrains of Hungary's finest touring musicians don't tickle your fancy, then pop across to the Lawrence Batley Theatre main stage and experience electro-acoustic 'sound' art courtesy of one of the edgiest and most conceptual of trios, **The GRM Experience**.

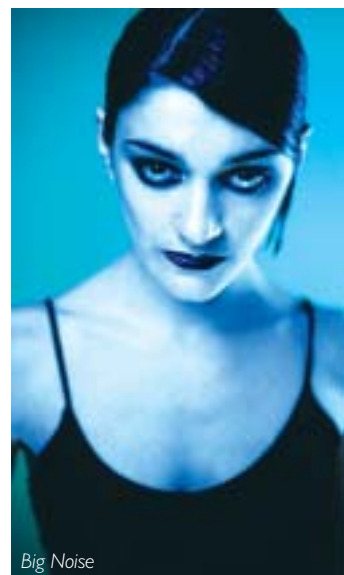
The HCMF must also be applauded for its unwavering commitment to new music, with 14 world premieres, 34 UK premieres and three special commissions — along with a healthy selection of overseas acts making their UK debuts. Among the delights that should be of interest to discerning surveyors of the *Leeds Guide* Jazz & World section is **Big Noise** — an explosive combination which brings together two of the most important forces in contemporary music; Dutch group Orkest de Volharding and British outfit Icebreaker. The former — little known on these shores, but almost

a genre-defining act at home — harnesses saxophones, French horn, piccolo and double bass to quite revolutionary effect. Couple this with the 12-piece fully electrified panpipe and guitar assault of Icebreaker and quite stunning support from leading club visual team Hexstatic and the result is as varied and compelling as the Festival itself.

A few words are also due for opening act **Tim Berne's Science Friction**. A seminal figure in jazz and contemporary music for more than two decades, Berne's career has been a fascinating and sometimes freaky journey during which the deliciously warped alto sax man has fused sizzling avant jazz with an assortment of textural colourations straight out of the BBC Radiophonic Workshop. A crack musical exploration team including long time collaborator, producer, guitarist and electronics pioneer David Torn joins him on his sci-fi quest. Expect mutating funky backbeats and otherworldly improvisation.

As well as live performances look out for the numerous fringe events such as **Ultrasound** — a three-day event "exploring the territory of experimental sound and electronic music" as well as other interactive workshops and educational events — some yet to be announced. All in all, a true musical feather in Huddersfield's cultural cap — and a timely pre-festive treat into the bargain.

Andrew Brown



Ultrasound

Listen up, but don't worry if your brain is deafened, says Abi Bliss



You may not be aware of ultrasound — unless you happen to be one of *Leeds Guide's* select number of canine or bat readers, the high-frequency sounds are outside the range of hearing — but nevertheless it's still there. Similarly, next time you go to a club and dance to some techno whilst admiring the visuals, you may not be thinking of the "reciprocal contamination of creative means and sensibilities", but that doesn't mean that someone else isn't.

Like the Contemporary Music Festival's eccentric, computer-obsessed younger sibling, the Ultrasound festival brings the experimental and technological possibilities of electronic music to the fore. Combining live performances with workshops and a conference, this year's festival will feature a special 'Icelandic Partition'. Co-programmed by Thor Magnusson of *ixi*-software — who produce free software to help create experimental electronica — the strand highlights the rich mine of creativity and individualism to be found on the windswept, volcanic island.

One such act is the **Kitchen Motors Band**, a multi-activity collective who combine music-making with running a label and art organisation, film-making and publishing. Their first gig saw them using only acoustic or battery-powered instruments, including glockenspiel and portable radio. Whilst their set at Ultrasound will be amplified, it's unlikely that their take on electronica's bleeps and bleeps will be completely straightforward. Other Icelandic artists appearing include garage-rockers-turned-amorphous-sound-artists

Stilluppsteypa, and recorder player **Thorunn Björnsdóttir**, who will be collaborating with **Darri Lorenzen**.

Portuguese sound artist **Adriana Sá** has been in residence at the Media Centre's Digital Research Unit since October, working on a piece that combines architecture, weather, geometry, notation systems and philosophy: Ultrasound presents a chance to see and hear the results. Over at Huddersfield Art Gallery, **Messa di Voce** is a US/Netherlands collaboration which pits a duo of "professional abstract vocalists" against two software manipulators, with the aim of exploring the links between visual and heard language. If that sounds a little too highbrow, then back at the Media Centre, Tom Betts, aka **Nullpointer**, will cater to the 8-bit side of listeners' brains with his music composed on the Nintendo Gameboy.

Ultrasound appears to be performing a strange balancing act between accessibility and elitism: the events are free to attend, yet many are couched in an intimidatingly academic language, almost as though the organisers felt that for electronic music to be taken seriously (which it should be), it needs to be taken out of clubs and into the lecture theatres and the laboratory. But that shouldn't put people off discovering some of the most ear-stretching and brain-twisting sounds this side of a bats' convention.

Ultrasound runs from 27 to 29 November at the Media Centre, Huddersfield, with the exception of *Messa di Voce* which takes place on 29 November at Huddersfield Art Gallery

Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival 2003 Listings

A 10-day music festival showcasing the best of modern music practice

FRI 21 NOV

Tim Berne's Science Friction

LBT • 7.30pm • Science Friction and the Arte Quartett.

SAT 22 NOV

Remix Ensemble I

SPH • 11am • Stefan Asbury conductor.

Luciano Berio: A Contemporary Maestro

Town Hall Reception Room
THRR • 2.30pm • Free film screening.

Nicolas Hodges - piano

SPH • 5pm

Tapiola Chamber Choir

TH • 7.30pm • Their UK debut, conducted by Hannu Norjanen.

The GRM Experience

LBT • 10pm • Electro-acoustic works by sound artists in collaboration with GRM Studios, Paris.

SUN 23 NOV

Remix Ensemble II

SPH • 11am • Conducted by Stefan Asbury.

Interview with Brian Ferneyhough

RH • 2.30pm

Arditti String Quartet I

SPH • 5pm • Including works by Brian Ferneyhough.

Psappha plays Zappa

LBT • 7.30pm • Conducted by Nicholas Kok.

The Air in the Text Operates the Form of the Inner Sound

LBT • 10pm • Miguel Azguime — composer, writer and performer.

MON 24 NOV

Ulrich Heinen - solo cello

STC • 1pm

Jonathan Powell - piano

RH • 5pm

Pre-concert talk

RH • 6.45pm • With Jonathan Harvey, James Dillon, Brian Ferneyhough and Irvine Arditti.

Arditti String Quartet II

SPH • 8pm • Noriko Kawai piano, with electronics created by IRCAM.

TUE 25 NOV

Ensemble Exposé

SPH • 1pm • Conducted by Roger Redgate, with Chris Redgate on oboe and Bridget Carey on viola.



Young Composer's Workshop

RH • 3pm • Led by Brian Ferneyhough and members of Apartment House.

Pre-performance talk with Simon Holt

LBT • 6.30pm

Almeida Opera - double bill

LBT • 7.30pm • *Who Put Bella in the Wych Elm* by Simon Holt, and *Infinito Nero* by Salvatore Sciarrino.

Mario Caroli - solo flute

SPH • 10pm

WED 26 NOV

The Schubert Ensemble - Portrait of Judith Weir

SPH • 1pm

Blond Eckbert

THRR • • 3pm • Free Film Screening.

EXAUDI Vocal Ensemble

SPH • 5pm • Conducted by James Weeks

HI Notes - Music and the Deaf education project

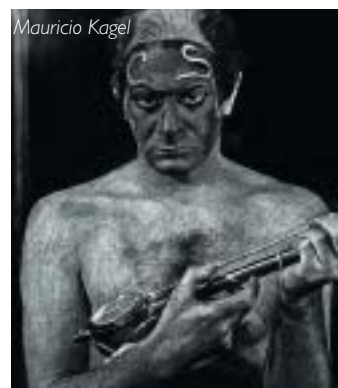
LBT • 6.30pm

A Portrait of Helmut Oehring

LBT • 7.30pm • By Apartment House.

Gavin Bryars and the Experimental Music Catalogue

SPH • 10pm • Seth Josel electric guitar(s), toys, misc. devices; Ulrich Krieger saxophone(s), toys, misc. devices; Alan Thomas electric guitar.



THU 27 NOV

Talk by Gavin Bryars

THRR • 11am

Red Byrd

SPH • 1pm

Mauricio Kagel's Acoustica

RH • 3pm • Interpretation by members of the University of Huddersfield.

Sample and See

LBT • 5pm • Outcome of education project.

Pre-concert talk with the 'Big Noises'

THRR • 6.30pm

Big Noise

TH • 7.30pm • With Icebreaker and Orkest de Volharding.

Jesus' Blood Never Failed Me Yet

SPH • 10pm • Huddersfield University New Music Ensemble, Huddersfield University Symphonic Wind Orchestra.



Conducted by Barrie Webb and Philip McCann

FRI 28 NOV

Jesus' Blood Never Failed Me Yet - schools' performance

RH • 11am • Huddersfield University New Music Ensemble. Conducted by Barrie Webb.

Continuum Ensemble

SPH • 1pm • UK premieres performed by the Canadian ensemble.

BBC Singers

SPH • 5pm • Conducted by James Morgan.

Pre-concert talk with Dr Paul Attinello

LBT • 6.30pm • An introduction to the work of Mauricio Kagel.

Mare Nostrum - Mauricio Kagel

LBT • 7.30pm • Conducted by Gerhardt Müller.

Berio Tribute I - Ex Novo Ensemble

SPH • 10pm • Tribute to Luciano Berio by the Venetian ensemble.

SAT 29 NOV

Berio Tribute 2 - Neue Vokalsolisten Stuttgart

SPH • 11am • Tribute to Luciano Berio by Europe's leading virtuoso interpreters of contemporary vocal music.

London Sinfonietta

SPH • 2pm • Refrains and Choruses.

Music Theatre Wales

LBT • 7.30pm • *Ion*, Param Vir's second opera based on the Euripides play.

Keller String Quartet

SPH • 10pm

Plank (DJ)

FH • 5pm-7pm • Free • A history of electroacoustic/electronic music.

SUN 30 NOV

Ensemble UMZE

SPH • 11am • Their UK debut. Conducted by Zsolt Nagy.

Dancing Figure (UK premiere)

THRR • 2.30pm • Free film screening.

Obscena (Dance)

LBT • 5pm • Composed by Georges Aperghis.



Pre-performance talk with Sir Harrison Birtwistle

THRR • 7pm

London Sinfonietta

TH • 8pm • Conducted by Martyn Brabbins and Pierre-André Valade.

Key

FH: Festival Hub (marquee outside library)

LBT: Lawrence Batley Theatre

RH: Recital Hall

SPH: St Paul's Hall

STC: St Thomas' Church

TH: Town Hall

THRR: Town Hall Reception Room

Price ranges for ticketed events (concs available)

St Paul's Hall £4-£8

Huddersfield Town Hall £5-£15

Lawrence Batley Theatre £5-£15

Recital Hall £3-£6

Lawrence Batley Theatre Attic Theatre £6

St Thomas' Church £7

Box office: 01484 430 528; For further details or to request a brochure visit www.hcmf.co.uk or contact the box office



Huddersfield Eating

Huddersfield is far from the culinary wasteland some may think. Andrew Brown sniffs out some upper crust kitchens

Photos: Anna Greenaway



the claims of such an estimable institution as *The Observer* but when it comes to tasty tucker — in ‘Udders’ at least — seek dear gourmand, and ye shall definitely find.

Nawaab
35 Westgate, 01484 422 775
Nawaab — pretty much bang in the town centre — is one place you’ll have no trouble finding. It’s always busy; though let me be very clear here — this is not your average post pub food venue. A rather grand and prepossessing façade (it was formally a bank) gives way to a vibrant interior animated by the invariable bustle and chatter of people waiting to be seated. The food’s the thing though. ‘Upmarket curryhouse’ probably does it a disservice but you get the picture. The menu is a tome of wonder that’ll make you relinquish all sense and reason. You’ll wait for the food a little while. But trust me, what a wait it will be. Nawaab has sister restaurants in Benidorm and Mallorca which is good — if not slightly surreal.

Nosh
93-97 Northgate, Almondbury, 01484 430 004
Nosh in Almondbury is also part of an idiosyncratic mini-chain (along with Tex-Mex joint Gringo’s and Italian-but-

somehow-funkier post-Trattoria Cibo — both a five-minute stroll from the train station). Brainchild of entrepreneur/foodie Ben Franco who served his apprenticeship at The Golden Cock (acclaimed Huddersfield gastro-pub — find Farnley Tyas on a road map and head there), Nosh “combines food and fun”. A brilliantly original interior somehow manages to make quirky design and neon colours instantly comfortable, and postmodern comfort food is both generous and memorable.

The Three Acres
37-41 Roydhouse, Shelley, 01484 602 606
What CragRats is to modernity, The Three Acres at Shelley (head towards the towering television transmitter at Emeley Moor) is to the classic country pub. It also happens to serve the best food in Huddersfield. A car park crammed full of BMW’s, Range Rovers and Jags may speak volumes about the general profile of the clientele, but the décor, service, food and (my God) the wine is nothing short of a culinary holy grail. Ingredients are sourced locally where possible and food is modern European with a few signature British classics. Hell, the shellfish alone will leave you drooling helplessly

before this stunning and now nationally recognised gem.

Ciao!
2 Water Street, Lockwood, 01484 534 444

A more authentic take on the classic Trattoria is on offer at Ciao! in Lockwood. Sister restaurant of the renowned Da Sandro’s (another Huddersfield institution) it claims to be “the place for a true taste of Italian continental cooking”. And indeed it is. Ever changing specials boards, slightly aloof Italian waiters (a plus in my book actually) and a cacophonous din from the kitchen (another plus) all add up to a fine ambience. Eating is abundant in Italian classics (a wide range of antipasti, focaccia and pastas along with veal and seasonal

fish) and the wine list is entirely Italian — as it should be.

CragRats Brasserie
Sheffield Road, near Hepworth, Holmfirth, 01484 683 775

The uber-stylish should make the 20-minute journey out of the town centre to CragRats. Actually they let scruffs like me in as well but design buffs will adore its fashionably retro straight lines awash with deep browns and beige. Clad in black and self-consciously cool, staff will serve you up some “slow-roasted chilli belly pork”, follow it with “cod, lime and fresh pea tart, sour cream, rocket salad, red onion salsa” and who knows, maybe a “biscuit glace noisette with raspberry sauce” — assuming your Armani clad waistline is up to it.



Huddersfield Drinking

Hazel Davis embarks on a bar crawl round Huddersfield’s best boozers — the lush

Vox
10 Wood Street, 01484 452 229

A section describing the best bars in Huddersfield is rather redundant when Vox is at the top of it. Minimalistically decorated with not a single hint of ponce, Vox is one of those places where you feel just at home if you just pop in for a swift half before a movie wearing jeans and trainers as you do dolled up to the nines sipping cocktails and getting down to the hip hop beats.

Head of Steam
Huddersfield Railway Station, St Georges Square, 01484 454 533

Okay, okay, so it’s a pub really, but what better location than the glorious setting of Huddersfield station. A favourite of CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) members, the pub regularly serves up to seven real ales on handpull as well as really decent cooked food. But the best thing about The Head of Steam is the music: blues on Monday and jazz on Wednesday as well as regular local bands.

Camel Club
Bryam Court, 01484 535 303

A big, camp, Moroccan-themed bar in the heart of Huddersfield, the Camel Club is the place to go if you want hip hop, funk and old skool electric beats. It’s the ideal venue for a swanky night out with the girls, with its cocktail bar and gorgeous décor.

Rhythms in Indigo
3 Northumberland Street, Huddersfield, 01484 537 944

Relatively new on the scene, this club-cum-style bar is better known to some as Beyond Beach Babylon, home to legendary hardcore raves and way back when. Now revamped and rebranded as Rhythms in Indigo it is the regular venue for BeatzCentral, who bring regular DJs, breakdance and hip hop nights to the town.

Varsity
Zetland Street, 01484 511 879
Spacious, minimalist, glass-fronted and far too swanky for West Yorkshire, Varsity is the most luxurious of bars. Especially for the down-to-earth Huddersfield student. Varsity serves a wide range of reasonably priced beers and spirits with a decent array of food too. Like many of the bars

in this sociable, yet early-to-bed town, it’s only open till 11pm but as a pre-club taster or a quiet but sophisticated night out with your posse, it’s a winner.

Revolution
28 Cross Church Street, 01484 513 775
Revolution is a stylish, comfortable bar located in the centre of Huddersfield with, apparently, the most

comprehensive range of premium & flavoured vodkas in the UK. Excellent music — from funk, garage and house to pop. Revolution is the place to go for that special cranberry vodka you’ve been hankering after. You can also get reduced entry into the Camel Club with selected drinks tokens. Bargain.



Head of Steam

Huddersfield Culture

Hubbub in the art of Huddersfield

The misconception of Huddersfield as one of the grim-up-north mill towns left in a post-Luddite limbo should no longer prevail. There is more than enough to keep any culture vulture busy throughout the year, and never more so than in November during the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival. Former Methodist Chapel the Lawrence Batley Theatre is home to cutting-edge contemporary theatre, classics, amateur and professional opera, physical theatre, jazz and world music. The venue also hosts Full Body and the Voice, an organisation that trains learning-disabled adults and young people with physical disabilities in the performing arts. As you will see from this year’s Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival LBT is a major venue, alongside the Fringe venues like the Meredith Studio Theatre which also features some excellent student productions.

Huddersfield Art Gallery has had a recent radical revamp under the auspices of the Culture Company. This means that alongside such more traditional local art shows, like the David Quirke

retrospective or *Mr Aldridge’s Pictures*, you’ll find the likes of Groove — an eclectic mix of art works influenced by vinyl — and *Animate Space*, new sound installations.

Beaumont Street Studios is a not-for-profit company which has provided music and media facilities for the local community for some 18 years, with HD1 Recording Studios responsible for the sounds of the likes of Embrace, Shed Seven, Chumbawumba and Terrorvision. For three years (1999 to 2002) BSS provided New Deal for Musicians, and now offers New Deal for Creative Industries, a mentoring scheme with technical and technological information and a beginner’s guide to the often-exclusive field of the creative industries.

But perhaps the highlight of any trip to Huddersfield is a trip to the Media Centre with its stylish internet cafe and prestigious Medialounge. Shows have included *Aus Lage [in Arbeit]* by Lia + Miguel Carvalhais, *Typographic Tree*, *Mongrel* and a number of electronica evenings with audio-visual delirium. *Rich Jevons*

Did You Know...

Surprise your friends with this arsenal of fascinating Huddersfield facts

Welcome to the largest town in Europe, with a population of over 400,000 and more listed buildings than Oxford. In fact Huddersfield has the third highest number of listed buildings of any town in the UK. It was the birthplace of Labour Terrier

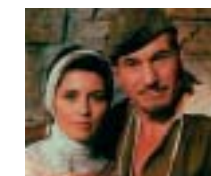


This wonder of the North also gave the world the renowned Albert Poets and Simon Armitage. It provides



international consumers with yoghurt (Longley Farm), pop (Ben Shaws) and fireworks (Standard). It is famous worldwide for its fine worsted, for its award-winning Alfred McAlpine Stadium, and now for schooling Justin Hawkins in music technology before he went off to form pop phenomenon The Darkness, currently on their way to Christmas number one.

Harold Wilson, screen idols James Mason and Patrick Stewart, and UK TV legend Roy Castle. It was also the final resting place of the unsung founding father of modern socialism, Robin Hood. He was murdered here, and buried at Kirklees Priory. The town is twinned with Besancon, a small city set in spectacular low-Alpine countryside in South-Eastern France.



Huddersfield Choral Society is one of the most famous and successful amateur choirs in the world. Their performances of Handel’s *Messiah* are legendary, and you can wait up to two years for a ticket to their subscriber concert season. If punk is more your cup of tea, the Sex Pistols played their last UK gig here on Christmas Day 1977. A quarter of a century later, it is not unheard of to bump into Björk or Karlheinz Stockhausen at the town’s world-acclaimed Contemporary Music Festival (see HCMF feature and listings).

Huddersfield Town FC were the first team to win the English Football League three times in succession, in 1924, 25 and 26, and the feat has only been achieved since by Arsenal, Liverpool and Manchester United.

Rugby League was founded at the George Hotel, next door to the station that poet John Betjeman proclaimed to have “the most splendid façade in England”.



If you arrive by car from Manchester you will probably drive across the highest section of motorway in England, and if you’d turned off a little later you’d have passed the quarry that provided much of the stone used to pave Trafalgar Square.

Freidrich Engels said that Huddersfield was “the handsomest town by far of all the factory towns of Yorkshire and Lancashire by virtue of its modern architecture”, which might explain why it has become a minor tradition in the town to consider neighbouring Leeds and Manchester a little pretentious.

But on the other hand, John Wesley said of Huddersfielders, “A wilder people I never saw in England ... [they] seemed ready to devour us”. And the unfortunate Helen Rytko played witness to this most horrifically when she was murdered by the Yorkshire Ripper outside Garrard’s Timber Yard on Great Northern Street in January 1978.

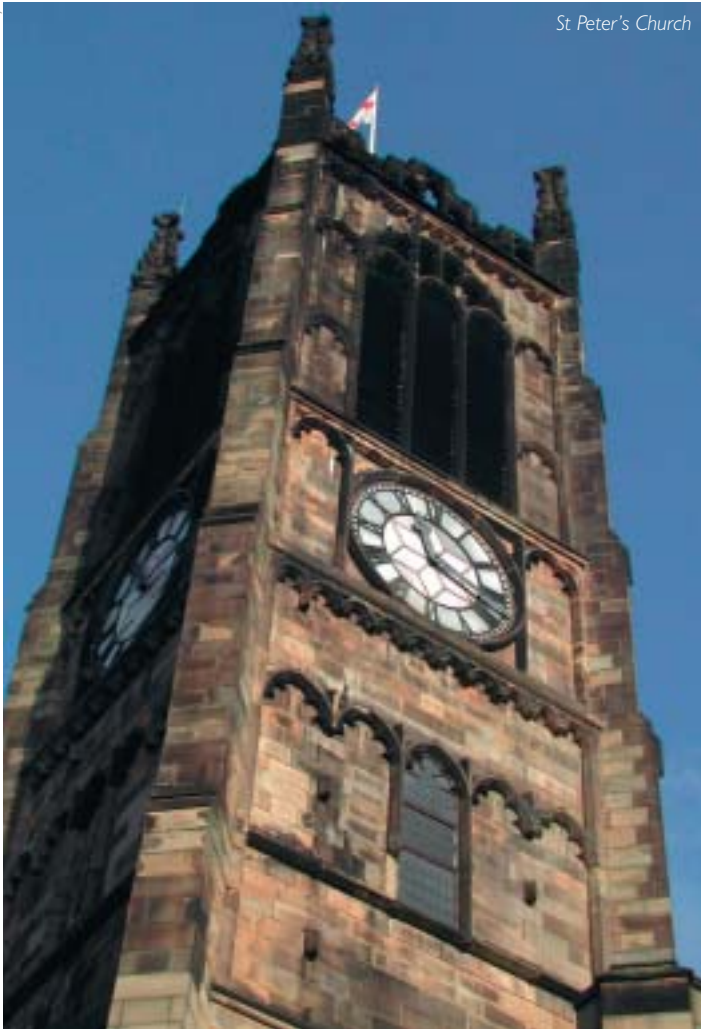
Ian Beestlstone



Building Sight Seeing

Huddersfield local Ian Beetlestone gives us a tour of the town's architectural points of interest

Photos: Anna Greenaway



Huddersfield is a bit of a funny (weird, not ha-ha) town where buildings are concerned, because it has pretensions to being a grim 60s concrete coppice when in fact there are plenty of grand oaks — kind of the wrong way around really. It's just that they hide, the treasures, that's all. It's common knowledge to locals that you have to look up; the nice stuff is all on the roofs. Well that's not quite true, but you do have to know *where* to look, and possibly change some of your ideas about what nice buildings are. If you are patient, and learn to love the town for what it is, you will be rewarded.

Our tour begins, naturally, at the station, since we arrived at the town by train. Walk down the steps into the elegant St George's Square and realise immediately that anyone who told you Huddersfield was ugly is giving the town a really unfair press. To your left, the elegant George Hotel; straight ahead, the Yorkshire Building Society and its neighbouring Victorian offices. Here it is good to look up — and fortunately all these beautifully formed lines tend to

encourage it — at some of the town's grandest roof masonry, including the great lion that schoolboy legend has it leaps down and goes marauding at Hallowe'en when the station clock strikes thirteen (it actually has no bell, so fear not, unless you hear it ringing any number). Wait until you're on the opposite side of St George's Square before you turn around to take in the station in its fullest splendour.

It's a bit of a trek to Leeds Road, but Huddersfield Town's Alfred McAlpine Stadium, with its 'blue bananas', is quite simply spectacular. That's why it won the Royal Institute of British Architects' Building of the Year in 1995. It makes Elland Road look like an Anderson shelter.

Coming back into the town centre it is impossible to ignore another new development, the Kingsgate Shopping Centre. Built on what was Huddersfield's red light area in an attempt to clean up a dirty part of town (though some of us rather liked it down there; the pubs had a certain something...) it is an abject failure. Faceless, bland, and even

containing few shops, it shows our planners still haven't bucked up their ideas enough since the heady 60s and 70s, when they chucked up the Piazza, which is just around the corner and next on our list.

Essentially a covered walkway of shops, the Piazza is nowhere near as exotic as its name suggests, even though the recently installed canopies are a slight improvement. What the Piazza is, though, is idiosyncratically Huddersfield, and if you follow me into the adjoining indoor markets, I'll show you what I mean. Currently threatened with destruction, the ugly and stifling indoor markets aren't very nice, no, but they contain some interesting murals. That may sound like not much of an upside but these are architectural fixtures, and the point is they're not the sort of thing you'd expect to find in a place like this, but in Huddersfield, you tend to. Our ugly 60s architecture isn't always as bad as it seems.

Leave the market by the back door, down the steps by the adjoining multi-storey car park, and you'll find the same thing again — murals. That's right, art imbedded on the wall of a multi-storey car park. Well I don't like multi-storeys either as a rule, but I like this one, honest to God.

Across the road is something more traditionally beautiful, the chunky religious solidity of St Paul's Hall: originally a church, now a concert hall belonging to the university with some of the most precise acoustics for chamber ensembles of any venue within a simply massive radius (I can't think of a venue in Leeds where you hear quiet music better).

Now turn right, head back up around the multi-storey to the Victorian Town Hall. It's not as big and bold from the outside as Leeds' is, but get a concert ticket for a gallery seat (they're the cheapest and by far the best for our purposes) and wallow in a stunning interior (at the back your head nearly touches the roof) that centres around a spectacular original pipe organ, recently restored.

We arrived by train at poet John Betjeman's favourite station; let's leave by bus from my most hated terminus. This enormous low-roofed shed was made even worse by a recent renovation which installed irritating talking machines and banned smoking — for the first time ever you can now see more than a metre in front of you and in this place, that's bad.

As the bus reverses out of its bay, why not reflect on the grimness of the building before you, and then consider the unique mix of architectural ideas on display in this unsung northern town. Consider how eyesores like this

somehow add to the richness of it all. Consider the quirks, the failures, and one or two staggering successes, and remember, this isn't a model village, it's a real town; sometimes this is just how things turn out when places get thrown together over the years (look at London, for God's sake).

Above all else, to my eyes the architecture of Huddersfield speaks of industry and movement, of getting things done and maybe making a few mistakes. Because, you know, that's how life is. ■

St Georges Square



Town Hall



St Paul's

