

Calf House Studios

Visitors to Cold Harbour Farm usually comment on the peacefulness of the setting and the amazing views from the spacious car park down over the Wolds to Beverley Minster and beyond to Holderness.

Calf House Studios are in converted Victorian farm buildings at Cold Harbour Farm, Bishop Burton. It is home to seven resident artists and also provides space for visiting tutors. A new programme of art courses starting in September 2015 is now in preparation.

The farm was originally part of the Bishop Burton Estate which has a well-documented history so the various uses the buildings have been put to over the years is known. Changes in farming policy in 2008 meant that several well-preserved but small buildings had no commercial use for agriculture.

The use of the buildings for artistic spaces was inspired by an advert in the Beverley Advertiser.

Artist requires studio to let.

This was a light bulb moment for Heather Hayward, who owns Calf House Studios. She realised that artists would welcome a small space with peace and quiet - and poor access to phone and internet services! The conversions were carried out with an artistic use in mind so that they all provide suitable light as well as being well insulated and therefore easy to keep warm and comfortable. They offer a fantastic environment for artists with a peaceful environment, and amazing views over open countryside.

Stone carver Peter Brown was the artist who placed that advert and he was the first to take a unit; he uses his studio to create his unique hand carved sculptures. He also offers stone carving lessons, creativity days with a chance to

experiment with various media and art psychotherapy sessions. He moved north from London where he was a successful advertising executive to pursue his dream.

Tracey Spurgin runs her jewellery design business, Craftworx, from Calf House Studios. She spends most of her time teaching others in the use of silver metal clay and runs courses throughout the year for beginners as well as more experienced students. She has become an international centre of excellence for silver metal clay and plays host to visiting tutors and students from abroad as well as teaching in other countries. Silver metal clay is made from reclaimed industrial silver with a binder added for ease of working. In firing, this is burnt off leaving the silver. Tracey can be seen demonstrating on the TV jewellery maker channel and she also produces webinars on new techniques. Solar panels installed behind her studio make this a sustainable business.



Master photographer John Denton operates one of the leading portrait photographic training centres from Calf House Studios. He has also written books on photographic techniques. In conjunction with his wife Liz they run studio development sessions as well as photographic training. John is much in demand all over the world.

Graham Chambers specialises in teaching watercolour painting. His popular lessons have introduced many pupils to the enjoyable and relaxing world of watercolour. When not teaching he shows his love of dogs, Land Rovers and all things rural in his own work in watercolour and oils. His background in printing gives him an amazing insight into the use of colour in art.

Glass art is the specialism of Debbie March whose unique work has been selling really well in galleries this year. She makes unique glass pictures as well as smaller pieces and has collaborated with a woodworker to make colourful glass inserts for some of his pieces. Her work can be found in several local galleries.

Ali Brayshaw is a ceramicist who throws beautiful pieces on her potter's wheel. She works in porcelain and specialises in simple shapes that are beautifully made.

Rob Porter is a talented woodworker who uses reclaimed wood to make drink presentation sets, cheese boards, clocks, seats, tables and other items.

There are more buildings that can be converted, so Heather envisages other artists joining this cosy nest of creative activity in future.

Further details of all the artists and the courses they run can be found on the website. Please note that the artists are usually busy teaching so visitors are welcome on open days or by appointment only. The next open days will be for East Riding Open Studios on 10/11 October and 17/18 October 2015.

www.calfhousestudios.co.uk

