

David Welch, local Haworth artist, and specialist in pet portraiture, has recently donated his work to the Haworth Cat Rescue charity with a promise to donate a percentage of further commissions to support their ambitious plans for a new centre in the Airevalley.

An animal lover and pet owner himself, David returned to his art a few years ago and found himself naturally attracted to illustrating animals.

"I have been drawing since I was very young." David explained. "And I went to art school and became professionally trained." But David's work in the commercial field of advertising and signmaking eventually took him further away from his creative talents and in to unrelated employment.

"I'm delighted to be back doing what I do best." David now works from his home in Haworth and is enjoying a variety of portrait work; (He is equally competent with humans, and enjoys capturing landscapes, or sketching client's homes and takes commisions for work in most mediums, including pastels, coloured pencils, watercolours, or oils. "I usually work from photographs, either taken by the client or myself. It is best to capture the subject in its natural environment." People are surprised to hear that it doesn't cost the earth to commision a work of art. David can capture his subject in a simple sketch for as little as £10. It varies greatly, depending on the work involved and the medium.

The pastel portrait of the cats in the photograph (left), for example, can be commissioned for under £100. If you would like to see more of David's work or discuss commissioning a portrait, you can phone him on **07812 540299**. He will also be exhibiting his work at The Arts and Craft Fair in Bingley at the Ramada Bankfield Hotel on Sunday, April 26th. If you would like a trip further afield, David will be in Ripley, near Harrogate, at the Town Hall on Sunday the 19th of April.

(Say you saw him in the Worth Valley Mag!)