

# THE FRY ART GALLERY TOO

## When Bardfield Came to Walden

*Artists in Saffron Walden from the 1960s to the 1980s*

2 December 2017 to 25 March 2018

Welcome to our new display space - The Fry Art Gallery Too - which opens for the first time while our main gallery at 19a Castle Street undergoes its annual winter closure for maintenance and work on the Collection.

The north west Essex village of Great Bardfield and its surrounding area became the home for a wide range of artists from the early 1930s until the 1980s. More than 3000 examples of their work are brought together in the North West Essex Collection, selections of which are displayed in exhibitions at The Fry Art Gallery. Our first display in our new supplementary space focuses on those artists who lived at various times in and around Saffron Walden in the later twentieth century.

Edward and Charlotte Bawden were the first artists to arrive in Great Bardfield around 1930, along with Eric and Tirzah Ravilious. After 30 years at Brick House, Charlotte arranged in 1970 that she and Edward would move to Park Lane, Saffron Walden for their later years. Sadly, Charlotte died before the move, but Edward was welcomed into an established community of successful professional artists in and around the town. These included artists Paul Beck and John Bolam, and the stage designers Olga Lehmann and David Myerscough-Jones. Sheila Robinson had already moved to the town from Great Bardfield in 1968, with her daughter Chloë Cheese, while the writer and artist Olive Cook had been established here with her photographer and artist husband Edwin Smith for many years. John Bellamy later became established in a studio at the Shortgrove Estate, Newport. All of these artists are represented in the works on display here.

**The Fry Art Gallery is a public art gallery run by volunteers, and is a registered UK charity. Entry is free of charge, but we welcome donations and offer annual and life membership. Exhibition catalogues, as well as postcards, greetings cards and books, are available to purchase. Please ask our volunteers for any help or information you need.**

*The Art Gallery at 19a Castle Street was built by the Quaker banker Francis Gibson in 1856 for his private art collection. When he died in 1859 it passed via his daughter Elizabeth to the Fry family. In 1985 the Fry Art Gallery Society was granted a lease on the premises, and in 2015 it acquired the freehold. This allows the Society to develop the Gallery to provide the facilities which this major national collection now demands.*

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 Fry Art Gallery

## When Bardfield Came to Walden *Artists in Saffron Walden from the 1960s to 1980s*

Having lived at Brick House in Great Bardfield for some forty years, in 1970 Charlotte Bawden arranged that she and Edward would move to Park Lane in Saffron Walden, where life would be more convenient. Sadly, she died before this was achieved, but Edward found a welcome there within an established community of artists.

A number of artists from the Bawdens' Great Bardfield circle had already settled in Saffron Walden before Edward moved to Park Lane. **Sheila Robinson** had moved there because her daughter **Chloë Cheese** was attending the Friends' School in the town. **Olive (Cook)** and **Edwin Smith** were living at The Coach House, Windmill Hill. Chloë Cheese is now an established artist in her own right, whose work is included in the North West Essex Collection.

Apart from the former Bardfield group, a strong contingent of professional artists was already living and working in and around Saffron Walden. **John Bolam** was teaching at Edward's old *alma mater*, the Cambridge School of Art. **Paul Beck** was living at Swards End; the television and theatre designer **David Myerscough-Jones** lived in the High Street, while **Olga Lehmann** – a highly talented stage, film and TV designer and artist – lived in Artisans' Dwellings. A later arrival was the painter **John Bellany** who lived at Newport for nearly 20 years, earning his inclusion in the North West Essex Collection through his contribution to British art from this base. **(Fuller biographical notes on these artists are available to consult in a folder in the gallery.)**

*Unless otherwise indicated, all items have been purchased by The Fry Art Gallery Society, with financial assistance where shown. Numbers in brackets refer to the Collection numbers of the works.*

**1. John Bellany, *My Grandson Luke***

Oil (Coll. 990)

Presented by the artist.

**2. John Bellany, *Walden Belle***

Ink, 2009 (Coll. 1691)

**3. Sheila Robinson, *Audley End***

Cardboard cut (Coll. 180)

**4. Sheila Robinson, *Audley End Park***

Linocut (Coll. 553)

Presented by Mr Bruce Munro.

**5. Chloë Cheese, *My Mother's House***

Lithograph (Coll. 139)

Presented by the artist.

**6. Sheila Robinson, *London Road, Saffron Walden***

Linocut, 1971 (Coll. 1434)

Presented by Robin and Sally Harrison.

**7. Chloë Cheese, *Grey Cat***

Screenprint, 1996 (Coll. 2918)

Purchased with assistance from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

**8. Chloë Cheese, *Walking the Dog – Castle Street***

Monoprint, 2011 (Coll. 1851)

**9. Chloë Cheese, *The Sun Inn***

Monoprint, 2011 (Coll. 1852)

**10. Edwin Smith, *Clipped Decorative Hedge***

Photographic Print (Coll. 1996)

Presented by the Friends of Bridge End Gardens.

**11. Edwin Smith, *Corn and Pomegranate***

Oil (Coll. 1005)

Presented by Olive Cook.

**12. Edwin Smith, *Lighthouse Going for a Walk***

Oil, 1959 (Coll. 1002)

Presented by Olive Cook.

**13. Edwin Smith, *Olive Cook Painting***

Oil, 1953 (Coll. 996)

Presented by Olive Cook.

**14. John Bolam, *Welsh Coast***

Gouache, 1960 (Coll. 240)

**15. John Bolam, *Hill Worker***

Oil, 1955 (Coll. 238)

Presented by Olive Cook.

**16. Olga Lehmann, *Design for Ivanhoe***

Ink & Watercolour (Coll. 11)

Presented by the artist.

**17. Olga Lehmann, *Olga and Carl in the Studio***

Scrapboard, 1950s (Coll. 1946)

Presented by Mr & Mrs W Leeming.

**18. Olga Lehmann, *The Four Seasons***

Print (Coll. 860)

**19. Paul Beck, *Hoy's Cart***

Linocut (Coll. 413)

Presented by the artist.

**20. Paul Beck, *St Mary the Virgin, Saffron Walden***

Linocut, 1970s (Coll. 1519)

Presented by Mrs Judith Buss.

**21. David Myerscough-Jones, *The Flying Dutchman***

Ink & Tempera, 1975 (Coll. 7)

Presented by Mr S McDermott.

**22. David Myerscough-Jones, *Thérèse Raquin***

Ink & Tempera, 1979 (Coll. 6)

Presented by the artist.

**23. Olive Cook, *I Am the Ancient Apple Queen***

Oil (Coll. 40)

Presented by the artist.

**24. Olive Cook, *Rocking Horse, Seashore***

Oil (Coll. 1011)  
Presented by Olive Cook.

**25. Edward Bawden, *Play with Me***

Linocut (Coll. 232)

**26. Edward Bawden, *Death of Francisco Pizarro***

Watercolour, 1980 (Coll. 1865)  
Purchased with assistance from the V&A/ Arts Council Purchase Grant Fund.

**27. Edward Bawden, *Corn Exchange, Saffron Walden***

Linocut (Coll. 189)  
Presented by the Bawden Estate.

**28. Edward Bawden, *The Blue Plough, Saffron Walden***

Linocut (Coll.132)

**29. Edward Bawden, *Saffron Walden Church***

Linocut (Coll. 176)  
Presented by the artist.

**30. Edward Bawden, *Snowstorm at Brighton***

Linocut (Coll. 2649)  
Purchased with assistance from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

**31. Edward Bawden, *Audley End***

Lithograph, 1973 (Coll. 316)  
Presented by Mrs Mary Ward.

**32. Edward Bawden, *Gnat & Lion***

Linocut, 1970 (Coll. 1549)  
Purchased with assistance from the Art Fund and the V&A/ Arts Council Purchase Grant Fund.

**33. Edward Bawden, *Daw in Borrowed Feathers***

Linocut, 1970 (Coll. 1694)

## Heritage Lottery Fund *Collecting Cultures* Programme

Collecting Cultures supports museums, libraries and archives to develop their collections through strategic acquisition projects. The first programme was in 2007 and the second in 2014.

In November 2014, The Fry Art Gallery was awarded £199,000 to improve its core collection and to make it better known. The programme will run for five years, and we have made a number of important acquisitions so far, notably *Two Cows* by Eric Ravilious, which had been on loan and might have been lost to a public collection.

We are very pleased to display here some of the works acquired through the Collecting Cultures award. This has also enabled us to completely revise our website, and develop a new accessions system to record electronically the 3,000 items in the North West Essex Collection. The award also enabled us to hold a 2016 symposium on the Bardfield Artists at Murray Edwards College Cambridge, in which leading authorities gave presentations on the work of these artists.

**34. Michael Rothenstein, *The Red Window***

Watercolour and ink, 1948 (Coll. 2935)

**35. Edward Bawden, *March, Good Food***

Pen & Ink, 1932 (Coll. 2807)

**36. Bernard Cheese, *Vineyards around Suzette***

Watercolour, 2003 (Coll. 2656)

**37. Duffy Ayers, *Portrait of Anne Rothenstein / Girl in Blue: Anne Rothenstein***

Watercolour, 1983 (Coll. 2919)

**38. Eric Ravilious, *Proserpina***

Wood Engraving, 1928 (Coll. 2808)

**39. Walter Hoyle, *Curtain (Marianne Straub Materials)***

Watercolour (Coll. 2916)

**40. Michael Rothenstein, *Green Pagoda***

Woodcut & Screenprint, 1969 (Coll. 2914)

**41. Edward Bawden, *Lloyds Coat of Arms***

Linocut, 1970 (Coll. 2820)

**42. Walter Hoyle, *A Flight near the Rocks***

Mixed Media (Coll. 2917)

**43. Eric Ravilious, *Two Cows***

Watercolour, c1935 (Coll. 1301)

**44. Walter Hoyle, *Universal Figure***

Drypoint & Etching (Coll. 2915)

**45. Keith Vaughan, *Stubble Burning***

Gouache (Coll. 2937)

## Bawden at Home 1 April to 28 October 2018

The Fry Art Gallery will, unusually, be dedicating its full season in 2018 across the whole gallery to one important exhibition. Edward Bawden CBE RA was educated at Friends' School Saffron Walden, and spent his last 19 years living in the town at Park Lane. He is recognized as one of Britain's foremost artists and designers of the twentieth century, and this exhibition will include over 200 artworks and other items, many of which have either not been seen before or not displayed in recent years. The exhibition will also form part of the Royal Academy's 250th anniversary celebrations.

Edward Bawden was greatly supportive of The Fry Art Gallery in its early days, and also a very generous donor. There will be an accompanying programme of events throughout the season.