

Born in Great Yarmouth in 1914, Jack Cardiff's career spanned the development of cinema from silent film, through early experiments in Technicolor to the production sophistication of the late 20th century. He was best known for his visionary colour

cinematography, while working with major directors such as Powell and Pressburger, Huston and Hitchcock, which was strongly influenced by his deep knowledge of Old Master paintings.

In the post war years, he made his reputation as the cameraman for "A Matter of Life and Death", "The Red Shoes" and "Black Narcissus" and other big-budget films followed, including "The African Queen" with Katherine Hepburn and Humphrey Bogart, "War and Peace" with Audrey Hepburn and "The Prince and the Showgirl" with Laurence Olivier and Marilyn Monroe. He claimed to have discovered Sophia Loren and was responsible for her first screen test. As a director, his 1960 adaptation of "Sons and Lovers" won seven Academy award nominations and a Golden Globe and he also directed Marianne Faithful in "Girl on a Motorcycle" in this period. During the 1970's and 1980's, he returned to cinematography and worked on mainstream commercial films such as "Death on the Nile", "The Dogs of War" and "Conan the Destroyer"



In 1995, he was presented with a lifetime achievement award by the American Society of Cinematographers, awarded an OBE in 2000 and in 2001 received an Honorary Oscar for his contribution to the development of cinema. Jack Cardiff retired to live in Saffron Walden from 1995 to 2000 and took part in the first film presentation and interview organised by the newly formed Saffron Screen Community Cinema in 2006. He died in 2009 aged 94.

**1. GABRIEL HARVEY**

C 16th poet and scholar  
Saffron Walden Laundry Office  
13-17 Gold Street CB10 1EN

**2. HENRY WINSTANLEY**

Inventor and builder of the Eddystone Lighthouse  
Former Conservative Club  
5 Museum Street CB10 1JL

**3. GEORGE STACEY GIBSON**

Banker, philanthropist and botanist  
Hill House, High Street CB10 1AA

**4. GORDON JACOB**

Composer and arranger  
1 Audley Road CB11 3HW

**5. EDWARD BAWDEN**

Designer, printmaker and illustrator  
2 Park Lane Studio CB10 1DA

**6. JACK CARDIFF**

Oscar winning film Cinematographer and Director  
7a High Street CB10 1AT

TWO EXISTING PLAQUES, SEE BACK COVER

**A. JOHN NEWMAN**

**B. WILLIAM CAMPLING**



John Newman, a pewterer from Maidstone, was one of many non-conformists who were persecuted and killed during Queen Mary's reign. A follower of John Bradford, who preached in Saffron Walden, he was arrested in August 1555 on suspicion of being a Protestant and, after a summary conviction, was burnt at the stake in the town



William Campling was the High Constable of Saffron Walden Borough police, who was shot in the legs near The Eight Bells public house and died from gangrene on November 9th 1849, nine days after the attack. A local man, Benjamin Pettit, was arrested and tried but was found not guilty by the jury, despite a signed statement given by Campling on his death-bed.

Funded by Uttlesford District Council and the Saffron Walden Initiative and supported by Saffron Walden Town Council and the Tourist Information Centre

For more information  
[www.visitsaffronwalden.gov.uk](http://www.visitsaffronwalden.gov.uk)  
[www.swinitiative.org](http://www.swinitiative.org)



Design: James Butler [www.jamesbutlerdesign.co.uk](http://www.jamesbutlerdesign.co.uk)

# Blue Plaques in Saffron Walden



*The lives of the Saffron Walden residents commemorated by the town's first six blue plaques span from the mid-16th to the beginning of the 21st century and are marked by a diversity of achievement that ranges from the creative arts to scholarship, invention, banking and philanthropy.*

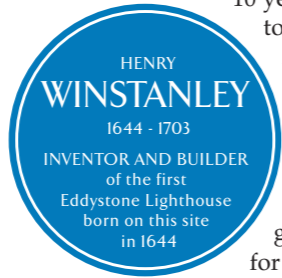


The eldest son of a local rope-maker, Gabriel Harvey was born in Saffron Walden about 1545, matriculated at Christ's College Cambridge in 1566 and was elected fellow of Pembroke Hall in 1570. Here he formed a lasting friendship with Edmund Spenser, author of *The Fairie Queen* and, as a poet on his own account, sought to become "*epitaphed as the Inventour of the English Hexameter*". Having become professor of rhetoric in 1576, he was invited two years later to dispute before Queen Elizabeth I on the occasion of her visit to Sir Thomas Smith at Audley End House.

Harvey's reputation as a notable scholar and inventive wordsmith was compromised by his unbending and quarrelsome character. Two attempts to be elected master of Trinity Hall were ultimately unsuccessful and he maintained a vitriolic literary correspondence with Thomas Nashe over several years. In the latter's pamphlet, "*Have with You to Saffron Walden*", Harvey is caricatured "*as he is readie to let fly upon Ajax*" at the thought of Nashe's publication. (Ajax being a common Elizabethan pun on "a jacks", which was slang for toilet.)



Though better known as a resident of Littlebury, Henry Winstanley was born in Saffron Walden in March 1644. As a young man he worked at Audley End, first as a porter and then as a secretary, before embarking on a grand tour of Europe which lasted nearly five years and stimulated a strong interest in architecture. On his return, Winstanley made a fine set of engravings of Audley End House, which took 10 years to complete and, from 1679 to 1701, held the position of Audley End's Clerk of Works, a role in which he earned the respect of Sir Christopher Wren. Winstanley was well known in Essex for his fascination with mechanical and hydraulic gadgets and had a house built for him at Littlebury which was filled with mechanisms of his own design and construction. This "Essex House of Wonders" became a local landmark which attracted a number of distinguished visitors and, in the 1690's, he also opened a commercially successful Mathematical Water Theatre in London's Piccadilly. Known as "Winstanley's Water-works" it combined fireworks, perpetual fountains and ingenious automata.



Henry Winstanley is most associated, however, with the construction of the Eddystone lighthouse. After failed attempts by others, he managed, despite capture by a French privateer during the course of the works, to erect an octagonal structure of wood and iron with glass lantern room that was completed in November 1698. The next spring it was partially rebuilt on a grander scale and, during the five operational years of Winstanley's lighthouses, no ships were wrecked on the Eddystone. Tragedy struck, however, on the 27th November 1703, while he was on an inspection visit. The tower was entirely destroyed by the "Great Storm" during the night and its occupants were swept away. Two days later the Winchelsea ran into the rocks and all 21 crew perished.

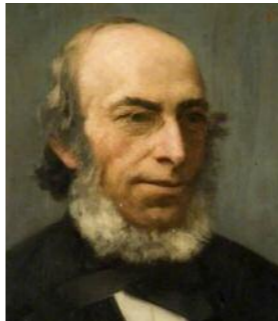


A member of the notable Quaker family of Saffron Walden, whose wealth was accumulated through brewing, banking, and land ownership, George Stacey Gibson was born in the town in July 1818 and died in April 1893 after a lifetime of public service, scholarship and philanthropy. As well as being a town councillor and alderman for 24 years and twice elected Mayor, he was also treasurer of the local British Schools for 45 years, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Guardians, and Chairman of the Management Committee of the Saffron Walden Hospital. He played a prominent part in bringing the railway to Saffron Walden, took a keen interest in the early development of electric light and photography and as a distinguished botanist, was the author of the "*Flora of Essex*" which remained the standard work on the subject for many years.



The Saffron Walden and North Essex Bank, of which he was the founder, proved to be a profitable business venture and, after his death in 1896, was joined with others to form Barclay's Bank. Gibson's imposing premises, built in 1874 to the design of Eden Nesfield, house the current local branch of Barclay's and the main façade contains carved bas-reliefs of storks, taken from the family's coat of arms.

As a local philanthropist, there was hardly any institution that did not benefit from George Stacey Gibson's generosity and, on his death he left a substantial estate of £342,456, equivalent to £25m today. This was distributed to the hospital, the museum, the literary society, the Grammar School, the British Schools, the Friends' School, the training college for female teachers, and the alms houses, as well as worthy causes outside the town. Building uses may have changed, but the physical legacy of these institutions is still a very visible reminder of his contribution to the history of Saffron Walden.



Born in London in 1895, Gordon Jacob was educated at Dulwich College before enlisting in the Artillery at the outbreak of the First World War. In 1917, he was taken prisoner and was one of only 60 men who survived the conflict out of a battalion of 800 men. With the return of peacetime, he gained a place at the Royal College of Music to study composition, theory and conducting and, during his student years, published the popular William Byrd Suite and arrangement of Ralph Vaughan Williams' English Folk Song Suite for full orchestra.

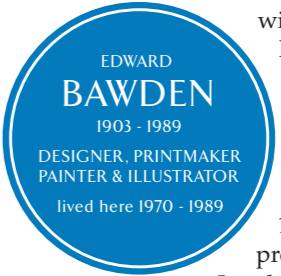


From 1924 until his retirement in 1966, Jacob taught at the Royal College of Music, where his personal teaching skills and influential books on orchestration were highly regarded and Imogen Holst and Malcolm Arnold were among his pupils. He became a Fellow in 1946 and, throughout his career, also maintained a prolific output of original compositions and arrangements. These included concertos, ballet scores for Sadler's Wells, two symphonies, and works for wind band.

The height of Gordon Jacob's reputation was in the 1950's, during which his Music for a Festival was played at the opening of the Royal Festival Hall and his arrangements of the National Anthem and Handel's Zadok the Priest featured prominently in the Queen's Coronation. Although in the 1960's, his melodic conservatism fell out of fashion in this country, his works continued to be warmly appreciated abroad. He lived in Saffron Walden from 1959 to 1984 with his second wife, Margaret, where he contributed greatly to the musical life of the town and was awarded a CBE in 1968.



Born at Braintree in 1903, Edward Bawden was educated at the Friends' School, Saffron Walden, and the Cambridge School of Art before winning a scholarship to the Royal College of Art. Here, Eric Ravilious was a fellow student and their talent was recognised by a commission to paint a large mural at Morley College, London from 1928-9. By 1930, Bawden was producing illustrations for London Transport, Westminster Bank, Twinings and Shell-Mex and in the early 1930's some of his most innovative work was commissioned by Fortnum and Mason and Imperial Airways. Following marriage in 1932, Bawden moved to Brick House at Great Bardfield, Essex. In addition to his commercial work, which included the design of block-printed wallpapers in collaboration with John Aldridge, he also developed his watercolour technique by painting local rural scenes. During the Second World War he served as an official war artist, initially with the British army in France and then in the Middle East and Iraq.



Returning to north-west Essex, Bawden was a key figure in the Great Bardfield group of artists that lived in and around the village. Though diverse in style, they shared a love of figurative art, print-making and illustration and mounted a series of "open house" exhibitions during the 1950's which attracted wide press attention and visitors. After the death of his wife Charlotte in 1970, Bawden moved to Saffron Walden where he continued to work until his death at the age of eighty-six. He was awarded a CBE in 1946, appointed Royal Designer for Industry (RSA) in 1949 and elected a Royal Academician in 1956. The Fry Art Gallery in Church Street Saffron Walden holds a substantial body of his work in its permanent collection.

