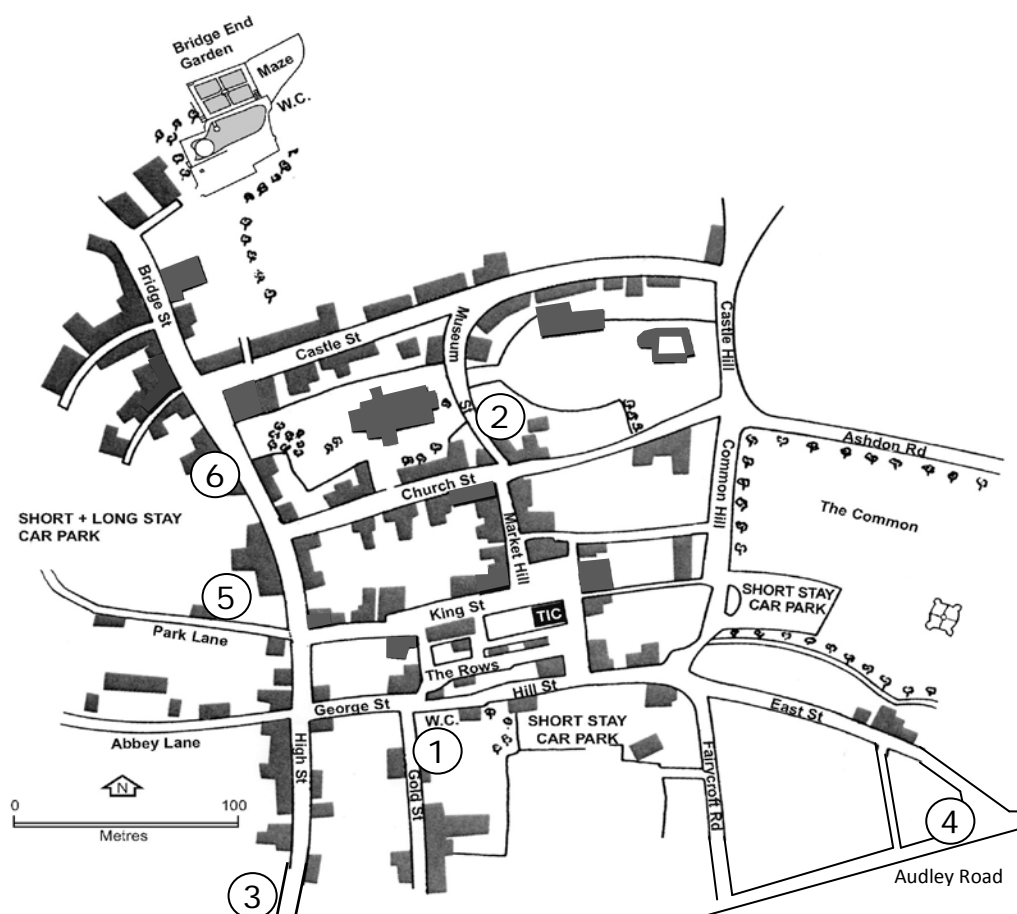


SAFFRON WALDEN BLUE PLAQUE SCHEME



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|--------------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1. GABRIEL HARVEY | C16th poet and scholar
Saffron Walden Laundry Office, 13-17 Gold Street CB10 1EN | 1545-1630 |
| 2. HENRY WINSTANLEY | Inventor and builder of the Eddystone Lighthouse
Former Conservative Club, 5 Museum Street CB10 1JL | 1644-1703 |
| 3. GEORGE STACEY GIBSON | Banker, philanthropist and botanist
Hill House, High Street CB10 1AA | 1813-1893 |
| 4. GORDON JACOB | Composer and arranger
1 Audley Road CB11 3HW | 1895-1984 |
| 5. EDWARD BAWDEN | Designer, printmaker and illustrator
2 Park Lane studio CB10 1DA | 1903-1989 |
| 6. JACK CARDIFF | Oscar winning film Cinematographer and Director
7a High Street CB10 1AT opposite The Close Garden and Church | 1914-2009 |

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GABRIEL HARVEY

1545-1630

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 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.)



HENRY WINSTANLEY

1644-1703

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.



The name of 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.

GEORGE STACEY GIBSON

1818-1893



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. He was a town councillor and alderman for 24 years and twice elected Mayor. He was 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 and, as a distinguished botanist, was also the author of the "*Flora of Essex*" which remained the standard work on the subject for many years.



As a local philanthropist, there was hardly any institution that did not benefit from his 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.

GORDON JACOB CBE

1895-1984



Born in London in 1895, Gordon Jacob was educated at Dulwich College before serving in the First World War, during which he was taken prisoner. In 1919 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 arranged Ralph Vaughan Williams' *English Folk Song Suite* for full orchestra. He taught at the Royal College of Music from 1924 until his retirement in 1966, becoming a Fellow in 1946. His personal teaching skills and influential books on orchestration were highly regarded and throughout his career he also maintained a prolific output of original compositions and arrangements. These included ballet scores for Sadler's Wells, two symphonies, works for wind band and concertos for solo instruments.



The height of his reputation was in the 1950's, during which his *Music for a Festival* was played at the opening of the Royal Festival Hall, his arrangements of the National Anthem and Handel's *Zadok the Priest* featured prominently in the Queen's Coronation. However, the 1960's brought a change in musical taste towards the avant-garde. His melodic conservatism fell out of fashion in this country despite the fact that in Europe, Japan and the USA his works have continued to be warmly appreciated. He lived in Saffron Walden from 1959 to 1984 with his second wife, Margaret, was awarded the CBE in 1968 and contributed greatly to the musical life of the town.

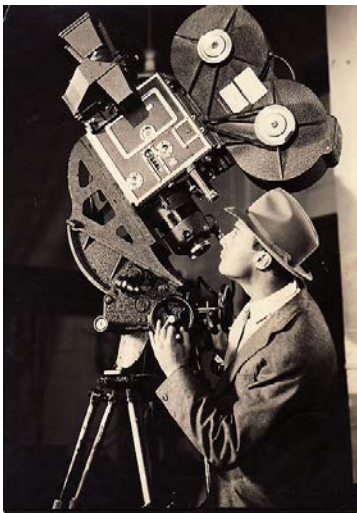
EDWARD BAWDEN CBE RA 1903-1989



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, where Eric Ravilious was a fellow student. 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, Bawden moved to Great Bardfield, Essex and, in addition to his commercial design work, developed his watercolour technique 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, where he recorded the unique life of the Marsh Arabs.

Returning to north-west Essex, Bawden was a key figure in the Great Bardfield group of artists. Though diverse in style, they shared a love of figurative art and print-making and mounted a series of "open house" exhibitions during the 1950's which attracted press attention and visitors. After the death of his wife Charlotte in 1970, he moved to Saffron Walden where he continued to work until his death, aged eighty-six. Bawden 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 Saffron Walden holds a substantial body of his work in its permanent collection.



JACK CARDIFF OBE 1914-2009

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 technical 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. 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 a string of big-budget films followed, including "The African Queen" with Hepburn and Bogart, "War and Peace" with Hepburn and "The Prince and the Showgirl" with Olivier and Monroe. He also 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 a Golden Globe.

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.