



The Hundred Parishes

An introductory article about ART AND ARTISTS

Within the People section of the Hundred Parishes website, there are short introductions to four renowned local artists: Edward Bawden, George Clausen, Henry Moore and Eric Ravilious.

Eric Ravilious and Edward Bawden were students at the Royal College of Art when, on a cycling holiday, they happened upon Great Bardfield. There, they rented Brick House (shown on the right), starting a fascinating period for the village.



Over the next two decades, numerous artists came to live in the village; they became known as The Bardfield Artists.

In 1932 Bawden married fellow student Charlotte Epton, a potter, and his father bought Brick House as a wedding present for them. In the same year Ravilious married Tirzah Garwood, an artist and engraver, and they lodged for a while with the Bawdens at Brick House.

Edward Bawden's work is probably most visible on London Underground's Victoria Line where three station logos were designed by him: Victoria, Highbury & Islington and Tottenham Hale, the latter shown on the right.



Another artist, John Aldridge, bought Place House in Great Bardfield in 1933 and soon became friends with Bawden.



Place House is shown on the left. Like Brick House, it has a blue plaque.

Aldridge and Bawden produced Bardfield Wallpaper together for the company Cole & Sons to distribute.

In 1952, painter Stanley Clifford-Smith moved into Bucks House and later to the Old Bakehouse. He was very involved in Open House exhibitions that were held in the 1950s when the public could view and buy art in the studios and homes where it had been created.

Marianne Straub, a textile designer, moved to Great Bardfield in 1953, buying Trinity Cottage. She was the senior designer for Warner & Sons of Braintree.

Other Bardfield Artists included Kenneth Rowntree, Michael Rothenstein and Walter Hoyle. In more recent times, the ceramicist Sir Grayson Perry spent some of his teenage years in Great Bardfield.

Hundred Parishes walk number 104 explores much of Great Bardfield village and passes Brick House, Place House and *Between The Lines*, a bookshop that offers coffee and stocks several publications about the many Bardfield artists.

A good selection of the Barfield Artists' work can be seen at Fry Art Gallery in Saffron Walden – see <https://fryartgallery.org/> for opening hours.

The Hundred Parishes logo, at the start of this article, is a copy of a wood engraving by Eric Ravilious. Ravilious was also responsible for the wood carving that has featured for many years on the front cover of the annual cricket handbook, *Wisden*.

2022 saw the release of the film “*Eric Ravilious – Drawn to War*”. Eric Ravilious is one of our local ‘heroes’ both for his artwork and for his sacrifice in World War II. His life and his work are well covered in this excellent full-length film.

In the parish of Much Hadham, Henry Moore’s studio and open-air display at Perry Green are open to the public during summer months. Hundred Parishes walk number 172 passes through the grounds - where these giant works in bronze are visible all year round.



Henry Moore lived at Perry Green for 40 years. Further examples of Moore’s work can be seen at Much Hadham’s parish church – royal heads on either side of the entrance and an unusual window which was based on a Henry Moore etching.

They are shown on the next page. The window, depicting the Tree of Life, was created by Patrick Reyntiens, a renowned stained-glass artist.



“The Parish Churches of North West Essex, drawn by Charles Grigg Tait” is an excellent book of black and white sketches of churches, mostly within the Hundred Parishes. Charles Grigg Tait (1915 – 1996) lived in Maldon, Essex and was a prolific local artist. The book, one of a series of four covering Essex, includes two drawings each of 108 churches, 73 of which fall within the Hundred Parishes.

The Hundred Parishes is rich in churches, many of which have stunning stained-glass windows. Amongst them are works by William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones in Furneux Pelham parish church, shown below. (Walk 112 passes this church).



[See also the separate article on Church Stained-Glass Windows and individual articles under the People section of the website]

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Any comments or suggestions for improvement may be submitted by using the Feedback form on the website. The website has many short articles on various aspects of The Hundred Parishes, as well as introductions to individual parishes and to a number of local celebrities, and an extensive What's On section. More than a hundred walk route descriptions can be freely downloaded, with each of the hundred parishes featuring in at least one walk.