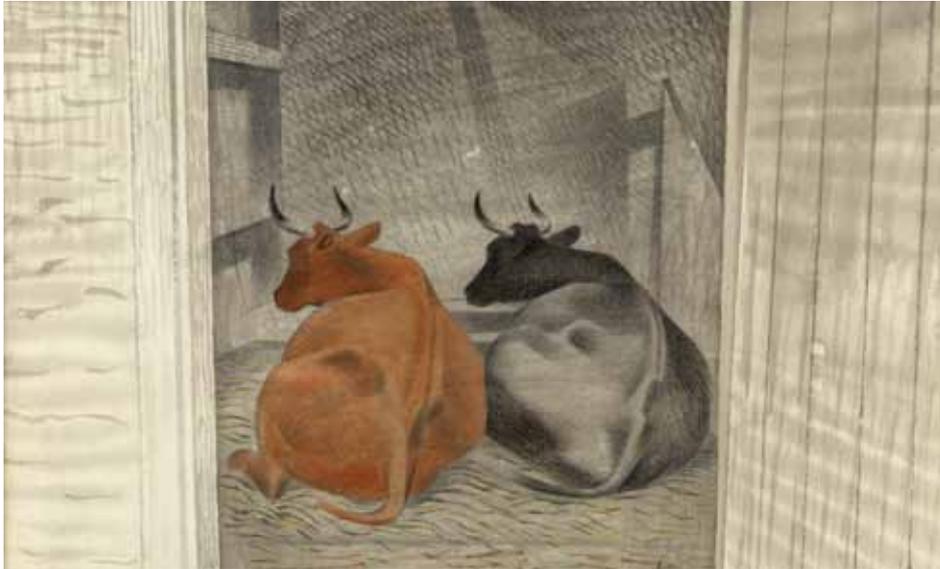


# ART REVIEW

Exhibitions, events, galleries and reviews by Holly Eells



## TWO COWS TO STAY IN ESSEX

THE Fry Art Gallery in Saffron Walden has announced its recent acquisition of Eric Ravilious' watercolour *Two Cows*. This valuable addition to the northwest Essex collection was possible with the help of Art Fund, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the ACE/Victoria and Albert Purchase Grant Fund.

*Two Cows* was first exhibited at the Zwemmer Gallery in 1936, but disappeared from view until 2004, when the present owner loaned it to The Fry Art Gallery. The current owner then made the decision to part with it and it was generously offered to The Fry Art Gallery. This purchase will enable the picture to remain in public ownership close to where it was painted. It will now continue

to be enjoyed and studied by the growing number of visitors to The Fry Art Gallery.

Ravilious developed his work in watercolour during his time in the Essex village of Great Bardfield, indeed his desire to do so was one of the reasons he and his friend and artist Edward Bawden had rented rooms there. Here he was able to explore the rural landscape away from London and the small farms in the vicinity were a rich resource.

*Two Cows* is an important addition to The Fry Art Gallery, which aims to collect and display work by a group of nationally-important artists who lived in the northwest Essex area during the 20th century.

For more details about the gallery, visit [www.fryartgallery.org](http://www.fryartgallery.org)

## New artistic director presents his first season at The Queen's

THIS autumn, artistic director Douglas Rintoul presents his first season at The Queen's Theatre in Hornchurch, which launches with the first ever revival of the hit musical, *Made in Dagenham*.

Heralding a new era of creative collaborations with some of the UK's best theatre companies, autumn begins with *Made in Dagenham – The Musical*, a partnership with New Wolsey Theatre Ipswich, followed by Bob Larbey's comedy *A Month of Sundays* and Agatha Christie's *Partners in Crime*, a Tommy and Tuppence thriller presented by The Queen's in

association with Eleanor Lloyd Productions and The Watermill Theatre.

The Queen's is thrilled to present the regional premiere of *Made in Dagenham – The Musical*, with a book by Richard Bean, music by David Arnold and lyrics by Richard Thomas, from August 26 to September 17. Douglas Rintoul directs this uplifting musical comedy.

For more information about the forthcoming season at The Queen's Theatre in Hornchurch and the Jump the Q season ticket, call the box office on 01708 443333 or visit [www.queens-theatre.co.uk](http://www.queens-theatre.co.uk)

### THURROCK GETS ARTY FOR THE ESSEX SUMMER OF ART

AS PART of Essex Summer of Art, a series of art exhibitions on show all over Essex until October, The Thurrock Art Trail will be hosting its first ever event. From July 2 to 15, at the Thameside Complex, The Thurrock Art Trail will be focusing on four of the borough's foremost artists. Sculptor Lata Upadhyaya, photographer Antonisia Schroder, textile artist Jane Barry and fine artist Michael Murphy will be running exhibitions, while local schools will also take part. An art trail map will enable visitors to explore the borough of Thurrock and the Thameside Complex, providing opportunities to meet artists in their studios.

For more information, call 07843 048040.



## MUCH TO EXPLORE AT OPEN STUDIOS EVENT



MAGNIFICENT glass, weaving, calligraphy, guitar making, ceramics, jewellery and metalwork, along with fine arts, will be on view at Pardon Mill in Harlow during the Open Studios event this month. On July 16 and 17 there will also be an insight into architectural skills and the work of graphic

and product designers. The artists, craftspeople and designers will talk about their work and demonstrate their techniques. Glass blowing is particularly dramatic and visitors are invited to have a go, with one-hour taster workshops in fused glass, ceramics and felt making also on offer.

There will also be an opportunity to watch the construction and firing of a traditional Roman dug-in-the-ground kiln built by Chris Lydamore, the former manager of Harlow Museum. The articles to be fired will be made by schoolchildren with the guidance of Parndon Mill's potters. There is the chance to listen to Richard Ove Stokkereit playing one of David Rouse's classical guitars in his studio during the weekend too.

Examples of the work of most of the participating artists will be exhibited in The Project Space on the ground floor. The current exhibition in The Gallery, entitled Chaos Theory, will present cast glass sculpture by Parndon Mill artist Heike Brachlow, who exhibits her work internationally.

Visit [www.parndonmill.co.uk](http://www.parndonmill.co.uk) for details.

### **Braintree artist hosts exhibition to promote mental health issues**

A CONTEMPORARY artist has recently hosted an exhibition at a prestigious London gallery to help raise awareness of mental health issues. Toby Brown, who lives in Braintree, curated the Behind The Smile exhibition at the Debut Contemporary gallery in Notting Hill during mental health week between May 19 and 23.

Former political aide Alastair Campbell, TV presenter and vocal coach Carrie Grant, her husband David Grant and singer songwriter Rumer were just some of the names from the world of media, art and music who attended the launch of the solo portrait exhibition.

Toby has captured the deep sense of loneliness that mental illness creates in each portrait and, as a result, the exhibition captured the media's attention in advance of its launch.

This evocative exhibition was initiated and curated by Toby and Samir Ceric, the owner of the gallery. The idea for this exhibition was born in 2011, when Toby started to paint a series of three self portraits, allowing people to see what was going on behind the false smiles. Toby's idea evolved, gaining interest from well known names, and is now a series of striking celebrity portraits that includes Alastair Campbell, the late Amy Winehouse, Carrie Grant, musician Sandi Thom, actress Georgia



Taylor, musician Danny McNamara and mental health campaigner Jonny Benjamin, with more portraits to be added.

Now these well known names behind these paintings are helping to raise awareness about mental health issues, having allowed Toby to paint their vulnerability and show that sufferers are not alone in their battle against this invisible illness.

For more information on the exhibition, visit [www.debutcontemporary.com](http://www.debutcontemporary.com)



Liz  
Leatherdale's  
CLASSICAL ESSEX

While the Requiem, or Mass for the Dead, owes its roots to the Christian faith, Faure's Requiem is altogether different. Instead of the usual sombre nature of a requiem, Faure provides a work filled with rich and beautiful music.

Faure's Requiem can be heard on Saturday, July 2 performed by the Chelmsford Singers and special guests Cantato Domino, from Dordrecht in the Netherlands, in a concert entitled In Paradisum (or Heavenly Music). Haydn's Little Organ Mass and Holst's Choral Hymns from the Rig Veda will also be performed at the concert in Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, July 2 at 7.30pm. Tickets are priced from £13 to £16. For details, visit [www.chelmsfordsingers.co.uk](http://www.chelmsfordsingers.co.uk)

The following evening the Harwich Festival of the Arts 2016 closes with the Harwich and Dovercourt Choral Society also performing Haydn and Faure's Requiem plus his Cantique de Jean Racine. The concert takes place on Sunday, July 3 at 8pm. Tickets are available on **07425 1450222** or you can visit [www.harwichfestival.co.uk](http://www.harwichfestival.co.uk)

Colchester's Roman River Festival recently published its main brochure detailing events, talks, walks and, of course, concerts for the main festival, which runs from September 16 to October 2. The festival will feature world-renowned musicians including Nicola Benedetti. In addition to the autumn concert series, there is also a mini-festival, which runs from July 8 to 10, with musicians Tom Poster, Elena Urioste, Orlando Jopling and others performing in informal concerts in Mistley, Wivenhoe and East Mersea. Contact the box office on **07759 934860** for further information on all the events taking place in either festival.

If you have a forthcoming concert of classical music you would like previewed, contact Liz Leatherdale on **0800 999 6994**. You can also read more from Liz at [www.colchesterclassics.co.uk](http://www.colchesterclassics.co.uk)