

Frederick Rolfe known as “The King of the Norfolk Poachers”



A GUNSHOT shatters the peace of a November night. The head gamekeeper of the Earsham Hall estate near Bungay, patrolling the woods alone, follows the sound and discovers a poacher. There's a skirmish as he tries to seize the intruder's weapon. The gun goes off . . . blowing the rim off the gamekeeper's trilby hat. "My mother was heavily pregnant at the time and the next day she gave birth to twins!" remembers Fred Bayfield, then the gamekeeper's teenage son, of that unforgettable scare.

Poacher Frederick Rolfe, a man well known for filching the gentry's rabbits and birds in the dark hours, was taken to court and given the option of a £2 fine or a month in prison. "Knowing Fred, he wouldn't pay the fine; he'd do the month . . ."

During a prolific poaching career he was up before the bench at least 30 times – his most severe punishment being two months in jail with hard labour. He was in his mid 60s the last time he received such a sentence.

Rolfe lived in the Bungay area for about 30 years – dying in the town by his own hand in 1938, aged 77 – and Bungay was where he wrote his memoirs: anonymously.

The story goes that he cured someone of warts – either the farmer's wife on the Ditchingham estate or a member of her family – and later thought the wife would be interested in reading a notebook filled with stories of his life as a poacher. She in turn drew the dog-eared manuscript to the attention of Lilius Rider Haggard, daughter of Sir Henry Rider Haggard (he wrote *King Solomon's Mines*) and a writer herself. Lilius saw the potential, edited Fred's work, and *I Walked by Night: Being the Philosophy of the King of the Norfolk Poachers Written by Himself* was published in 1935. It became one of East Anglia's best-loved tales of country life and is still in print. Fred received £20 for his endeavours.

Size 70x70cm Oil on Canvas Price £1,200.00

Ice Cream- Yummo!



Elsie and Tom enjoy an ice cream cone when ever they go to the park on a sunny afternoon. Sitting in their deck chairs listening to the brass band playing while being entranced both by the music and the cool, creamy, lusciousness of their flavour selections.

Lively, exuberant, full of energy, that's probably the first thing that pops into your head when you hear the words "brass band"... Interestingly enough, as alive and colourful as brass band music might be, you might be surprised to know it had a somewhat more sombre beginning!

Size 40x40cm Oil on Canvas Price £800.00

Auntie Dottie Feeding the Pigeons



Auntie Dot loves and adores animals. A vegetarian since she was seven years old, after seeing chickens being dispatched by a local farmer. Now at 94 she adores animals even more. Her other passion is London, its history, its architecture and just the joy of walking through the streets and parks. Sitting enjoying the spring sunshine in the company of cooing pigeons... idyllic.

Size 30x30cm Oil on Canvas Board Price £800.00

Straw Hat Girl - Henrietta



Maybe it's because of its low-maintenance nature or its utilitarian roots, but the straw hat has been (and continues to be) one of those incredibly rare items that has been able to remarkably transcend age, class, gender, and fashion genres. Is it the most democratic fashion item? It certainly seems to be that way.

Henrietta can often be seen in town or on the beach wearing her wonderful straw hat. What a useful item - it provides shade from the midday sun, frames her lovely face to perfection and can be dipped to hide behind if she doesn't want to be seen!

Size 30x40cm Oil on Canvas Price £900.00

Dan Evans the Dickie Bow Farmer



The Dickie Bow farmer stood at the window, watching his favourite cockerel. He carefully tugged at his bow tie. He was spending more and more time out in the yard with his chickens.

Dan Evans known as the Dickie Bow Farmer owns 24 pairs of overalls and 24 pressed white shirts and a collection of 100 dickie bows. He wears a clean outfit every single day to always keep the spirit of resilience and determination at the forefront of his mind. Because, no matter how bad things got, he would never accept defeat.

Size 40x60cm Oil on Canvas Price £950.00

Freddie Five Pints



Freddie Bingham goes to the pub (The Fickle Finger of Fate) every Friday night and has five pints of his favorite beer Adnams Ghost Ship. And before he goes out he always says to his wife - "It's Friday, I'm off to the Fickle Finger of Fate for Five pints"

Size 40x30cm Oil on Canvas Price £500.00

On the Beach



It was a lovely sunny Norfolk day and the beach beckoned. A young lady called Angela packed a few things for the visit to the coast. Her red knitted bikini, sun cream and sun glasses all packed up and put in her black MGA Sports car for the drive to the coast. She has forgotten the one thing that you should always remember ... The beach towel! Also forgotten are the strawberries that she had picked from her garden and left on the windowsill ready to be baked in a pie. The sky was blue! The sea was perfect for a dip! She was not disappointed, rather she was reminded there are other joys in life besides baking pies — like feeling the wind in her face and watching children building sand castles.

Size 60x60cm Oil on Canvas Price £1,200.00

Mansel Street Olympics



Four school boys hold their own roller skating Olympic competition on the street, in the town where they live.

Size 75x35cm Acrylic on Canvas Price £1,400.00

Pie Maker - Dawn



Since she was a little girl, Dawn had always dreamt of becoming a cook and show-casing delicious dishes and creating her own delicacies. Dawn wanted to treat her family to a delicious meal which they would remember for ever, so she started with a pie and then a pudding mix. When she grew up this little girl would work for one of the leading food establishments in East Anglia.

Size 70x70cm Oil on Canvas Price £900.00

The Very Happy Ice Cream Seller



Ice cream is yummy, and also, deliciously funny! And what's better than eating ice cream? Eating ice cream and laughing at jokes about ice cream. There was a ringing noise. Heads turned to see what it was. "It's the ice cream man!" He was riding on a large tricycle with a box on front, filled with ice creams. He was ringing his bell to let everyone know he was there.

Why does the ice cream man go so slow?
Because he's a sundae driver!

Size 40x40cm Oil on Canvas Price £700.00

Ice Cream - Yummo



Older people like flavors like butterscotch, vanilla or rum raisin, while kids go for chocolate or anything with sprinkles and a flake. This is a lady that loves ice cream, the best ice cream you can find and in her opinion (and she has been testing out her theory for many years) that comes from Norfolk!

Size 30x40cm Oil on Canvas Price £900.00

Girl in the Red Beret



A Girl in a Red Beret was spotted in Norfolk.

After thousands of years of existence, the beret has taken on a number of meanings. At first, it was meant to symbolize a peasant's status, and then an artist. In the 19th century, it had the power to symbolize a political belief. In the 20th century, it could be a fashion statement and a hint to one's ideology. By the 1970s, it could be a signal of black pride and by now, the 2022, it can symbolize pretty much anything, from a political stance to just wanting to innocently wear a beret. For a hat, it certainly has a lot of power.

Size 20x20cm Oil on Canvas Board Price £800.00

Alfie Stains - Farm Hand



Alfie works as a local farm labourer for various farms around the area. He loves his work and all year round he can be seen working. Alfie grew up on a farm in Norfolk and one day at the age of 16, he was hired by a neighbouring farmer to thin a field of sugar beets. When he got to the field he squinted into the distance. It was just dawn and still too dark to see the whole horizon. But that's what farmers do. They wake up before sunrise and go to work till it's dark.

Size 30x30cm Oil on Canvas Price £900.00

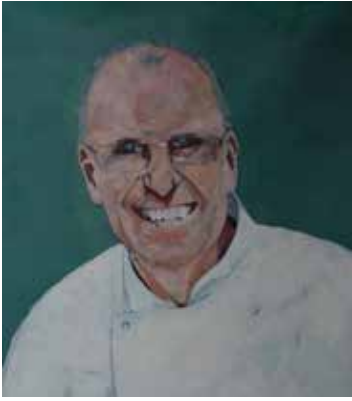
Sleeping in a Deck Chair



Falling asleep in a deck chair is Major Easton, a bomb disposal expert and cross word fanatic. As he sits in the deck chair he memories from his past drift through his mind. He had decided to try and defuse a bomb where it lay, to avoid disturbing it. Easton had not been working for long when suddenly the device dropped. It started ticking and knowing he only had 12 seconds until it detonated, he fled the scene. Diving for cover, he was buried under rubble from the blast but was eventually got free. He lost a hand in the explosion but carried on defusing bombs until the end of the war.

Size 76x76cm Oil on Canvas Price £1,500.00

Chef Freddie



Fredrick Jones a “Michelin” starred chef. After retiring from the world of hotels and restaurants he started Fredricks Fine Foods in Norfolk House Court Yard in Diss in 2006. “When the going gets tough, the tough get going” and “We’re cooking on Gas!” were some of his favourite sayings. Born in the East end of London, and working at the Savoy, he worked his way up to be a decorating expert in the competition world of the catering Olympics.

Size 50x70cm Oil on Canvas Price £2,000.00

Tea Time Cuppa



This is Elma a Cambridge Bedder enjoying a cup of tea and laughing. Bedders have always been something of a mystery to its students. Bedders are no longer seen as a kind of household servant, but rather in the strictly professional terms outlined by the Trinity College website: “A College employee who does domestic work in the residential rooms”.

Size 40x40 Oil on Canvas Price £800.00

The Beauty Contest



It’s a beauty pageant, a competition in which the participants, usually women, are judged on their attractiveness and sometimes their personality. There is usually a prize, and often a title, “Miss East Anglia” awarded to the winner.

Size 45x35cm Oil on Canvas Board Price £600.00

Fish & Chip



We walked into the fish and chip shop and ordered haddock and chips twice. Carrying the newspaper wrapped, fragrantly warm parcels, we crossed the road and walked towards the dock. We took off our shoes and ran to the end, sitting on the edge eating our dinner with our feet dangling just above the waves.

Size 40x40cm Oil on Linen Canvas Price £700.00

One for the Road



‘One for the road’ sounds as though it might be a ‘ye olde’ expression used by medieval travellers when leaving an inn or by a Dickensian character taking a swig of grog before disappearing into a London fog. There is a suggestion that this phrase derives from the supposed practice of offering condemned felons a final drink at pubs on the way to the place of public execution in London - The Tyburn Tree. Sadly this isn’t supported by historical record. In fact, it is a 20th century phrase and came into being around the time of the outbreak of the Second World War. However, the ‘for the road’ element does have its genesis in earlier days.

Size 40x40cm Oil on Canvas Price £800.00

The Merry Go Horse



The Magical Merry Go Round.

When the girls find an old merry-go-round horse they also discover the secret of how to make it fly. The only problem with it was that it only went round and round in a circle. The galloper was left behind by a traveling fair that had visited Fair Green in Diss in July 1955.

Size 50x50cm Oil on Canvas Price £900.00

Boy on a Tricycle



The little boy rides his tricycle in the back garden of his grand parents house, watched by his mother and his grandmother. You can see his mother is pregnant with his sister! The little boy now lives in Burston, Norfolk.

Size 50x40cm Oil on Canvas Price £700.00

The Party



The party was a simple affair, Auntie Jean, Uncle Jeff and a few friends.

It was a surprise birthday party, a drinks and nibbles party. The hostess wore a blue dress and matching slippers. The day of the party Auntie Jean went shopping for an expensive pair of slippers and found a pair of blue, fluffy cashmere ribbed ones that she couldn't resist. The party went well and everyone really enjoyed themselves - who knew that fluffy slippers could make a party sparkle!

Size 40x40cm Oil on Canvas Price £900.00

Girl with an Ice Cream



This is Amy who loves ice cream and boasts she can eat up to 15 cones in one day! She always insists on a ice cream cone when visiting the sea side, "It's that time of year again"! The first day of summer and at the top of her list is the special new flavour of ice cream from the Ice Cream Shop. She enjoys the new delicious flavour so much that she has one nearly every day during summer. But there was something different about the taste on this first day of summer and Amy was determined to find out the reasons why!

Size 50x50cm Oil on Canvas Price £700.00

Man on the Fiddle



Joey was a steam train driver and loved to play the fiddle when ever he could.

Joey worked the 30-odd mile stretch of line to Boston, it was dead straight and flat mile after mile. But once through Boston it ran practically parallel to the River Witham, following its twists and turns for the next 30 miles to Lincoln. It was remarkable how on a very windy day, as the line followed a curve in the river, the wind would catch the empty wagons and hold the train back. The driver would respond by either opening the regulator a little or notch down a turn on the reversing handle. Through experience the engine crew would exchange knowing glances as the train momentarily slowed down, acknowledging the fact: "It's a train load of wind again."

Size 40x50cm Oil on Canvas Price £500.00

Football Crazy



Five boys who loved football, watched as the game was down to penalties. One of their player's kicks flies past our goalie and into the goal. They are shocked, stunned even, but they know that they still have a chance. Bill then races to the box to take his shot. With brilliant technique, he seamlessly pins it to the back of the net, and the uproar from them was legendary. Their next star player lines up his shot, but rain starts to drizzle down. As he runs towards the ball, he slips and his foot barely touches it. The ball rolls to the goal line and our goalie comfortably saves it. WE HAD WON!

Size 50x70cm Oil on Canvas Price £1,500.00

A Little of What You Fancy



I always hold in having it if you fancy it
If you fancy it, that's understood
And suppose it makes you fat?
I don't worry over that
A little of what you fancy does you good.

The Chorus from 'A little bit of what you fancy does you good' by Marie Lloyd

Size 26x36cm Oil on Board Price £800.00

Going to the Races



Newmarket is known as the "Home of Racing" - and who would argue? Certainly not James I, the first notable fan who built a palace in the Suffolk town in 1605. Racing fanatic Charles II followed suit, establishing the first horse race ever run in Britain under written rules. The Rowley Mile Racecourse, indeed - one of two at Newmarket, the other being the July Course - is named after his favourite hack, Old Rowley.

Size 30x30cm Oil on Board Price £600.00

Man in a Straw Hat



The straw plait and hat trades were of considerable importance to the economies of Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, and to parts of Buckinghamshire, Essex and Suffolk in the nineteenth century. Straw plaiting and hat making was already established in the seventeenth century, grew in the eighteenth, benefited prodigiously from the embargo on imported straw during the Napoleonic Wars, and continued to thrive - despite periodic setbacks - into the third quarter of the nineteenth century. The industry developed rapidly in the 1840s, perhaps in response to the agricultural depressions that afflicted the start and end of that decade, but expansion continued after 1851.

Size 30x30cm Oil on Board Price £600.00

On the Diving Board



Joan sitting on the diving board at the public swimming pool in her red swimming costume. Looking up he could see her. There she was on the diving board, waiting for him to notice her. With a finger to her lips she slowly stands up and walks to the edge of the board. She steps off the edge, falls, straight as a rod - and in a flash has gone in a splash.

Size 30x40cm Oil on Board Price £800.00

Ploughed Field Norfolk



There lived an old farmer who had four sons. He was a hardworking man and had a prosperous life. As he approached old age, he was unable to work as hard as before. Unfortunately, all his sons were very lazy and had never gone to the fields. The old man thought of a plan to teach them the value of work. As he lay on his deathbed, he summoned all of them. He told them that a considerable amount of treasure lay buried in his long neglected fields. Then his breath failed and he died. The sons immediately went to the fields and began digging hard to find the hidden treasure. But they couldn't find anything. Then, the rains came. They sowed seeds on the soil they had tilled. That year, they had a rich harvest. They understood that that was the real treasure.

Moral: Work is life, life is work.

Size 50x60cm Oil on Canvas Board Price £900.00

The Ice Cream Maker



Actually, it's weird, isn't it, that there is no specific word in English for someone who makes ice cream, it's just "ice cream maker." So inelegant and clunky compared to the French glacier and the Italian sorbettiere.

I think we should just come up with a name right now, something that really does justice to our love of ice cream.

"Ice-cream maker" — We can do better than that!

I submit that the word for our hero the ice-cream maker should be...Cremeister!

Size 40x40cm Oil on Canvas Price £700.00

Linen Line



A linen line was a news forecast to neighbours passing by,
There were no secrets you could keep when clothes were hung to dry.

It also was a friendly link for neighbours always knew
If company had stopped on by, to spend a night or two.

For then you'd see the "fancy sheets", and towels upon the line;
You'd see the "company table cloths", with intricate designs.

The line announced a baby's birth, from folks who lived inside,
As brand new infant clothes were hung, so carefully with pride!

It also said, "On vacation now", when lines hung limp and bare.
It told, "We're back!" when full lines sagged, with not an inch to spare!

Size 35x45cm Oil on Canvas Price £700.00

Bathing Beauties of Norfolk



This painting shows female bathers in their colourful seaside costumes. It also served as an evocative social document of the newly liberated woman. Victorian women in their last age of innocence went to the beach heavily clad as bystanders. But social fashions began to change at the turn of the century. Women cast aside their cumbersome garments for scantier and sometimes risqué bathing frocks, which in turn gave way to the daring swimsuit.

Size 50x75cm Oil on Canvas Price £900.00