

# MUNNINGS-A WAVENEY ARTIST AT WAR

24<sup>th</sup> August -1<sup>st</sup> September 2019

FRIDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> August -PREVIEW EVENING with GUEST SPEAKER AND RECEPTION, at 7.30pm (No admission fee but please book in advance-see below)

OPEN EACH DAY THEREAFTER SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> August – SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> September 10AM to 4PM

SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> August at 4.30pm - AFTERNOON TEA and MUNNINGS RELATED PRESENTATION. Admission £5 (Please book-see below).

ENTRANCE FREE – DONATIONS WELCOME FOR EXPENSES, FUTURE FUNDING AND LOCAL CHARITIES.

During the exhibition there will be merchandise for sale from the Munnings Art Museum's shop and books of local interest.

Further Information & Bookings –

John Warnes-01986 892855

Keith Parker -01986 893133

Bungay Events Group in partnership with  
The Munnings Art Museum Presents  
**MUNNINGS - A WAVENEY ARTIST AT  
WAR**



*Halt on the March by a stream at Nesle 1918 by Sir Alfred Munnings. Copyright  
Beaverbrook Collection of war art at the Canadian War Museum.*

St Mary's Church, Bungay

24<sup>th</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 10am - 4pm

This exhibition further complements the celebration of our most famous local painter Sir Alfred Munnings (1878 – 1959)

Munnings born in Mendham -the son of the local miller. From an early age he exhibited a keen interest in art. After leaving school, he trained as an artist for Page Bros & Co, a lithography firm in Norwich. Munnings was so dedicated, that after a nine-hour day, he continued with evening-classes at Norwich Art School to further enhance his skills. At the end of his apprenticeship he returned to Mendham and established a studio. He was particularly attracted to gypsies, making sketches and portraits. He also welcomed any opportunity to paint horses, regularly attending two annual events in Bungay, the Steeplechases on Outney Common, and the May Fair for the horse auction on Fairstead Meadow in St. John's Road.

Rejected for active service, he was appointed as an official war artist by the Canadian Government to paint their cavalry brigades in action. Serving in eastern France with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1918, Munnings sketched and painted landscapes, battle scenes and horses to document life on the fighting front and the vital work taking place behind the lines. After the War in 1919, forty -five of his paintings were exhibited and created an immediate sensation, attracting the interest of royalty and the aristocracy. A number of commissions resulted, and Munnings was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy. His reputation was made! From that time, he mingled in high society, becoming wealthy from numerous portrait commissions, often including the clients' horses. He purchased a property, in Dedham, which today remains open to the public displaying a superb collection of his work.

1944 saw him elected President of the Royal Academy, and also knighted. He proved to be a rough diamond in his prestigious role as ambassador for the arts. His presidency is best known for the valedictory speech he gave in 1949, in which he attacked modernism.

In the broadcast heard by millions of listeners to BBC radio, an evidently inebriated Munnings claimed that the work of Cézanne, Matisse and Picasso had corrupted art.

The Munnings Art Museum at Dedham is currently staging an exhibition entitled “Behind the Lines Alfred Munnings: War Artist, 1918” consisting of forty-one paintings returning from the Canadian War Museum, Ottawa for the first time in 100 years and shown side by side with the surviving sketchbooks from the museum’s own collection. The reproduction paintings and narrative boards on display in Bungay replicate a part of the exhibition at Dedham which runs until 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2019.

In addition, there will be an opportunity to see reproductions of a number of Alfred Munnings paintings with a local or Waveney theme.

The organisers would like to express their thanks for the continuing support offered by the Munnings Art Museum.



*Painted Study for Cavalry Charge led by Lieutenant GM Flowerdew, VC, 1918 by Sir Alfred Munnings, copyright The Munnings Art Museum*