Hertsmore’s new MP visits Bushey Museum-in-the-making and strongly agrees that the museum will be...

‘A tremendous asset for Bushey’

JAMES CLAPPISON, MP for Hertsmore, spent an hour or so exploring the emerging Bushey Museum in the Old Council Offices in Rudolph Road on Friday 19 June. Although the Museum is not yet open, he was able to see the considerable progress already made by the concerted efforts of Hertsmore Borough Council, the Bushey Museum Trust and the Friends.

He saw the various rooms being prepared for displays, as well as the offices and stores. Mr Clappison expressed great interest in the project and said he expected Bushey Museum would play a valuable role in the community life of Hertsmore when it opens towards the end of this year. Meanwhile there will be an opportunity to see two of the rooms during and after the Bushey Festival, when the exhibition ‘Animals in Bushey Art’ will be open in the upstairs galleries until Sunday 2nd August.

Accompanying Mr Clappison during his museum visit were Councillors Mrs Audrey Atwood and Mr Carey Keates.

Grant Longman

Support in high places

The MP’s visit; from left to right: Cllr Carey Keates, Friends’ Vice-Chairman Anne Blessley, Cllr Audrey Atwood, James Clappison MP, and Bushey Museum Trustees Bryen Wood, Grant Longman and Nick Browne

Continued on Page 16
Grant Longman reviews the 1992 Summer Festival Art Exhibition which is on show until 2nd August at the Old Council Offices in Rudolph Road. Opening hours are Wed–Sun from 11am until 6pm.

**Animals in Bushey Art**

**THE BUSHEY MUSEUM**

contribution to the Bushey Festival of July 1992 takes the form of a display of the tradition of animal painting and drawing established in Bushey for over a hundred years.

Its beginnings lie in the Herkomer Art School, 1883-1904, where several students showed outstanding ability as animal painters. Herkomer himself depicted very few animals in proportion to his tremendous output of paintings, drawings and prints etc., but he encouraged special talent when he found it in others.

A prime example was when the young Lucy Kemp-Welch timidly took her unfinished painting of ‘Gypsy Horse Drivers’ (driving horses to the fair) to show Herkomer as a part of her extramural work. He was known to be a stern judge of students’ work and he might slash the canvas if he was really displeased! But when he saw her work he was very impressed and within two years this painting was exhibited at the Royal Academy.

Lucy became one of his star pupils— but primarily as a painter of horses, which was not a field in which Herkomer excelled. Lucy and her sister Edith Kemp-Welch came to the Herkomer Art School in 1892 and one might well consider this exhibition the centenary celebration of that event.

A group of paintings and drawings by Lucy Kemp-Welch, which includes a major surprise, is supported by one or two works by Sir Hubert von Herkomer and several by other students of the Herkomer Art School. Nathaniel H J Baird was at the school as early as 1886 and William Dacres Adams came in 1888. A U Soord (1890), Robert Hugh Buxton (1891), Algernon Talmage (1892), Harry Goffey (1894), Rowland the students, Lucy Kemp-Welch remained in Bushey and kept closely in touch with the ‘artists’ colony’ in Bushey. She was therefore not acquainted with Kate Cowderoy (1899) and Wynne Apperley, who was a Herkomer student in 1903-04. Gerald appointment of ‘war artists’ by several governments to make illustrative records of various wartime activities.

Lucy Kemp-Welch did some work in this field and so did Septimus Power, an Australian artist sent to Europe by his government. He remained in England after the war and spent a considerable amount of his time in Bushey between 1920 and 1935 and became a part of the local art community. Dorothy Adamson became one of his pupils and she was joined by another artist, Mabel Gear. Septimus Power was a fine painter of horses (horses were

Henry Hill (1895) and William Ashton (1896) were her near contemporaries in the school—remembering that most students spent three years at the school.

(Harry Goffey provides the terrier on the poster.)

However, unlike the majority of Palmer, a friend of Apperley, may have studied at the school but evidence is not yet forthcoming.

With the closure of the Herkomer School it became possible for other schools of art to open in Bushey without it seeming that they were in competition with Herkomer! Almost immediately three opened and other teaching connections grew in significance within the village.

Of these the ‘Animal School of Painting’ run by Lucy Kemp-Welch was the most important and she was assisted by Rowland Wheelwright and John Whiteley for a time. Her students included, amongst many others, Dorothy Adamson, Margarette Froshiser and Hilda Cholmondeley.

The First World War had a considerable impact on painters and one consequence was the heavily involved in the War of 1914-18 and both Dorothy Adamson and Mabel Gear specialised in animal painting. (Substantial groups of works by these two lady artists are on display and reflect their dramatically contrasted lives.)

Meanwhile Lucy Kemp-Welch gave up her school in 1926 and went on tours with Sangers Circus instead. Her place as the principal art teacher in Bushey was then taken by her friend and pupil, Margarette Froshiser, who continued the ‘Herkomer tradition’ until well into the Sixties. A group of works by Margarette Froshiser pays tribute to her role as an excellent painter of dogs and other animals and as a teacher to whom many living artists are indebted.

*Continued on Page 3*
Van Gogh and Herkomer

Chris Jordan tells us that the young Van Gogh was influenced by Herkomer during his stay in England in the 1870s. In this article Chris reviews the recent Van Gogh exhibition at the Barbican: 'Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man'.

WHAT has Van Gogh to do with Bushey you might reasonably ask! No, there is no record of Vincent Van Gogh visiting this locality but a visit to this important exhibition revealed that Hubert Herkomer, amongst others, was a profound influence on both his style and subject matter. A number of Herkomer’s works were shown and are illustrated in the exhibition catalogue.

Van Gogh came to London in May 1873, aged 20, to work for the art dealer Goupil in Covent Garden. He visited the Royal Academy summer exhibition in 1873 and 1874 and possibly those in 1875 and 1876 before his return to Holland in early 1877. The Barbican display recreated part of a room at the Royal Academy and included Herkomer’s oils ‘After the Toil of the Day’ (exhibited 1873) and ‘At Death’s Door’ (exhibited 1876).

On his way to work Van Gogh passed the offices of the Illustrated London News. He was much taken by the work of the black and white illustrators in the Illustrated London News and the Graphic. In a letter to his brother Theo at The Hague dated 11 December 1882 he enclosed a copy of Theodore Wigman’s article ‘Some Graphic Artists’ from the Graphic Christmas edition of 1882. Illustrated were ten leading artists: Green, Herkomer, Sydney Hall, Edward Gregory, Godfrey Durand, Henry Woods, Fildes, Small and Joseph Nash. He commented to Theo – ‘Look at that group of great artists, and think of faggy London and the bustle in that small workshop’. Herkomer painted his large oil ‘The Last Muster, Sunday at the Royal Hospital’ in 1874. Charles Roberts’ work ‘The Paris Exhibition - A Sketch in the English Fine Art Court’ was published in the Graphic on 29 June 1878. In late January 1883 Van Gogh wrote that the Graphic had published an illustration of the spectators looking at the ultimate painting of the ‘The Last Muster’. A few days later he wrote to Theo exclaiming that ‘The Last Muster’ had … gained the wonder and admiration of the best in Paris, as well as London’. A 1909 lithograph of the picture was exhibited with others of the so-called Social Realists, namely: Luke Fildes’ oil ‘Admission to a Casual Ward’, exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1874; and Frank Hall’s oil ‘Leaving Home’, exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1873.

‘Hubert Herkomer makes up the trio of Social Realist artists who were to deeply influence Van Gogh in the early 1880s, when he took up drawing in The Hague. Their subject matter - abandoned women with babies, the homeless, the elderly and the bereaved - reflected Van Gogh’s own social concerns’ - according to the commentary on the exhibition.

Van Gogh was impressed by Herkomer’s series ‘Heads of the People’ drawn from life. Shown were ‘The Agricultural Labourer - Sunday’ [Graphic, 9 October 1875] and one of his favourites ‘The Coastguardsman’ [1879]. It bears a thematic and stylistic relation to his own ‘Fisherman with Sou’wester’ of January 1883, also on display.

Van Gogh frequently purchased odd copies or small runs of the Graphic. On 20 January 1883 he wrote to Van Rappard at The Hague about his purchase of an almost complete run of the Graphic from start of publication in 1869 through to 1880.

‘The Graphics are now in my possession. I have been looking them over until far into the night. While I was looking them over, all my memories of London ten years ago came back to me — when I saw them for the first time they moved me so deeply that I have been thinking of them ever since, for instance Hall’s ‘The Foundling’ and Herkomer’s ‘Old Women’… there is something stimulating and invigorating like old wine about these striking, powerful, virile drawings.’

Chris Jordan
[All quotations are from exhibition material.]

ANIMALS in Bushey Art

11 July - 2 August 1992

An exhibition of pictures and sculptures from the Hereford School to the present day

‘The Coastguardsman’, one of the series of drawings from life ‘Heads of the People’ by Herkomer. Published in the Graphic in 1875, they were much admired by Van Gogh, particularly this one.

Benham Winters & Co of 72a High Street, Bushey, have been appointed honorary auditors to Bushey Museum Services Ltd in succession to Griffiths Hicks of 35 High Street, Rickmansworth, whilst Gallagher & Co of London EC2 continue as honorary auditors to the parent Trust.

Bushey Museum Trust is grateful to all these accountancy firms for their support as it is to Graham White & Co, solicitors of 76 High Street, Watford for their legal advice and services over many years.
`A look back with pleasure`

Chairman of the Friends Gawan Vesey recalls the many events he has enjoyed since the foundation of the Friends in 1985.

WHEN Alec Just telephoned to ask me to write something for the next issue of the Journal my first response was somewhat less than enthusiastic. I pointed out that I already gave a verbal report at the Annual General Meeting and a visual report with slides. However Alec felt that a written report by the Chairman of the Friends of Bushey Museum Trust when the museum was at last about to become a reality would be a good idea.

Warming to his theme he suggested that an informal report covering the six and a half years since the Friends’ organisation came into being would be an even better idea. I realised that I would have to write something; so here is a brief, if sketchy, account of the history of the Friends.

It was at a Bushey Museum Trust exhibition in 1985 that Anne Blessley, who has arranged every lecture and outing in the last six and a half years, put a sheet of paper on the stewards’ table inviting anyone who was interested in joining an organisation to support the work of the Trust to sign their names. I wonder if she realised what she was starting!

I do not propose to mention many names in this review since thanking those who work for the tokens, films of Bushey and Oxhey, flat irons, veteran bicycles, Bushey windmill, the history of postal services, the Churches’ Television Centre, old bottles, fire services in Bushey and Watford, the bells of St James, the history of marquetry, the museums of St Albans, Dr Thomas Monro and his circle, letter boxes, Hertford Seed Warehouse, the St Johns Ambulance Flight Wing, and most recently, furniture restoration, the glory of stained glass (in St James’ Church), the history of Luckett’s taxi firm and the planning and development of the Harlequin Centre.

We have had a regular series of outings to other museums and places of interest including Wall Hall College, Harrow Museum and Heritage Centre, Amersham Museum, the restored listed buildings in Watford High Street and, I think most memorably, the church of St Lawrence, Whitchurch, Stanmore during a spectacular flower festival when John Wyatt, the organist at St James’, Bushey, gave us a recital on the organ played by Handel.

We have had Christmas Socials every year with various entertainments and in 1990 and 1991 Garden Parties at Reveley Lodge. Planning for the 1992 Garden Party is now well under way.

`John Wyatt gave us a memorable recital on the organ played by Handel.'

Among our other activities is the 200 Club, which, after a rather slow start, is now beginning to approach its planned membership of 200. At all our meetings and at outside events such as the Bushey Show we have had sales tables where the most popular items have been the Trust’s growing range of greetings cards and postcards followed by the attractively designed tea towels. It should not be necessary to mention the excellence of our annual Journal since you have a copy in your hands, while the value of the bi-monthly Newsletter is obvious.

Our chief aim, of course, is to support Bushey Museum Trust not only financially but in many other ways. The presentation to the Trust of a work of art or some item essential to running a museum is now a regular feature of our annual general meetings while those many Friends who have generously acted as stewards at Trust exhibitions in Church House Gallery must look back with pleasure at the time they have spent there. Now we look forward with excitement to the first exhibition to be held in the new museum galleries.

Those who have seen the conversion work that has already been done in the old council offices in Rudolph Road will have some idea of how impressive the museum will look and of how fully the energy and enthusiasm of members of the Trust have justified the existence of the Friends.

(Those who have not seen the conversion work in progress should make a point of visiting the Festival Exhibition ‘Animals in Bushey Art’ which runs until 2nd August.)

Gawan Vesey

Friends’ Chairman Gawan Vesey in earnest conversation with the then Mayor of Hertsmere, Councillor Mrs Geraldine Ferguson on the sunny occasion of last year’s Garden Party. Our 1992 Garden Party is again to be held at Reveley Lodge, 88 Elstree Road, on Saturday 22nd August (see Pages 8 and 9).
FLOWERING PLANTS

Avens, Wood (Herb-Bennet)  Daisy, Common
Bindweed, Larger  Daisy, Dog
Bindweed, Lesser  Dandelion, Common
Bittersweet  Dandelion, Lesser
Bluebell  Dead-nettle, Red
Buttercup, Creeping  Dead-nettle, White
Buttercup, Tall  Dock, Broad-leaved
Meadow  Dock, Curled

Campion, Red  Feverfew
Celandine, Greater  Forget-me-not, Field
Celandine, Lesser  Foxglove
Chickweed (probably more than one species)  Goosegrass
Cowfoot  Goutweed (Ground Elder)

Cinquefoil, Creeping  Ground Ivy
Clover, Red  Groundsel
Clover, White  Hawkbear, Smooth
Coltsfoot  Heartsease

Crabgrass, Bloody  Heather
Crabgrass, Cut-leaved  Herb Robert
Crabgrass, Shining  Hogweed
Creeping-Jenny  Horse Radish

Grasses and Sedges

Cock's-foot Grass  Fescue, Tall
Common (Brown Bent) Grass  Meadow Grass, Rough leaved
Creeping Soft Grass  Scurvy Grass, Common

Trees and Shrubs

Acacia, False Ash  Elm, English (as hedge bush)
Ash  Elm, Smooth Leaved
Beech  Elm, Wych
Birch, Silver  Hawthorn
Blackberry  Hazel
Box  Holly

Cypress, Lawson (three varieties)  Ivy
Cypress, Nootka  Laurel, Cherry
Elderberry  Laurel, Common

Lime, Town  Magnolia
Maple, Field  Oak, Pedunculate
Pine, Scots  ('Christmas Tree')
Privet, Common  Plum, Wild
Privet, Golden  Rose, Dog

Rhododendron  Rose, Dog
Rose, Sweet Briar  Rose, Trailing (Field)
Sallow, Great  Sloe
Sump  Sycamore
Yew, Common  Yew, Irish

G R A S S E S A N D S E D G E S

Sedge, Prickly  Sedge, Wood
Timothy Grass  Yorkshire Fog Grass

CHURCHYARDS are interesting places, botanically. The large churchyard at St James, Bushey could well be in parts about a thousand years old and has at no time been ploughed. Animals have grazed in the churchyard and some trees and shrubs have been planted deliberately, but parts have seldom or never been much disturbed.

In May 1991, Bushey Museum Trust provided a Field Day led by John Sears who examined the churchyard and Haydon Hill Fields. It became apparent that the churchyard, in particular, lent itself to a special study.

Here was an area well provided with footpaths and an abundance of different species, in fact a natural laboratory where one can go back to an easily found spot to see a plant again and again. It will remain so if it is ecologically managed.

With the help of John Sears, I have made lists of the plants and trees most easily seen in 1991 and 1992. They are alphabetically arranged by their usual English names.

No attempt has been made to be comprehensive and plants thought to be cultivated by grave tenders are excluded unless they are commonly included in British Flora. Trees and shrubs are almost all listed although many will have been planted by man.

The lists may well have a wider use as they include most of the plants commonly found elsewhere in Bushey and can be used as a check list on other walks in this locality.

For those interested the Local Studies Centre can provide an A4 size plan of the churchyard.

Grant Longman

Journal of The Friends of Bushey Museum Trust, Summer 1992
Of gown & town and other things ...  

George Cusack and Terry Toms are Bushey born and bred. They emigrated separately to Australia many years ago and through the Journal have made contact with each other. They have both contributed to the Journal before.

IN the summer 1991 edition of the Journal, the impact of the Royal Masonic Senior Boys’ School on village life in Bushey is mentioned as not being well represented in the Museum Trust collection. As a Bushey resident, growing from primary schoolboy - to secondary student - to young manhood in the 1920s and 30s, my memory is that its impact on myself and my contemporaries was minimal. Certainly, I can recall no contact with the pupils, not even in the realm of sport, although I remember well our envy of their magnificent and spacious sports facilities. Nor have I any recollection of the rivalry, even animosity, between school and village, of the sort which was often featured in those boys’ books of the period, the *Magnet* and *Gem*.

So, was there any connection at all that I remember? Yes, there is, and, perhaps not unexpectedly, it includes Green’s Farm. A frequent visitor to the farm was a Mr. Lear, owner of a number of farms from South Mimms to Oxhey. With his headquarters at Boreham Wood, where an uncle of mine, Bill O’Shea, was head cowman. Mr. Lear supplied milk in bulk to the Senior Masonic, and, when he didn’t have enough, often called on Charley Green for a churn or two to make up the quota. If I were around, he would ask me to go along with him to lend a hand at the School.

The milk was delivered to the School kitchens, which I remember as large, spotlessly clean and well-equipped; the churns of milk we emptied into highly polished, open-topped, stainless steel vats. I presume the milk was boiled in these vats, for this milk, straight from the farm, was not pasteurised (was any in those days?), nor do I believe that tuberculin testing (TT) of herds was yet in vogue, and bovine tuberculosis was common.

What next do I remember? In our teens, undoubtedly the major impact of the School upon us, was that of the female domestic staff.

These lasses, most of them from the Rhondda Valley, were a different breed from our local girls; for us it was indeed ‘vive la difference’, we found their dark good looks, lilting voices and vivacious characters entirely captivating.

...we found their dark good looks, lilting voices and vivacious characters entirely captivating...’

Captivating. The names of the villages they came from, Treorchy, Cowparc, Treherbert, and sometimes of the villages they came from, Treorchy, Cowparc, Treherbert, and so often spoken of, still live on in my memory.

With the outbreak of WWII, most returned to their homes in Wales, but some married local lads, and are probably in Bushey still. One, Megan Edwards, married my good friend, Johnny Guest, of Rosebery Road. But, alas, she was the first person I ever heard of dying of lung cancer; a non-smoker, she was doubtless a victim of the same fouled air that killed so many of her male relatives and friends at the coal-faces of the Rhondda.

There is yet another odd little memory that has lingered down the years. Along The Avenue fence, just beyond the main gates, were a number of trees which bore a small pear-shaped fruit, with a large stone, which turned red/yellow when ripe. These, we called ‘lady-apples’. But, to this day, I have seen them nowhere else, nor do I know their real name. Are they still there and what are they?

As an ex-resident of Bushey and now a resident of South Australia, I was interested to discover that Queen Adelaide, consort of William IV, after whom our capital is named, had a connection with the Bushey area. In 1846/47, by then a widow, she lived at Cassiobury House in Watford, and in 1848 moved to Bentley Priory, where she died in 1849.

There is also an Australian connection with the Herkomer Art School. Among the students there in 1895 was William Blamire Young. Born in England, he graduated in Mathematics at Cambridge University, then taught at subject in New South Wales. He became an established artist in his 50th year, holding exhibitions in Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide. He was responsible for the ‘Kangaroo’ series of postage stamps, the first of which appeared in 1912 and continued in all denominations and many shades, until 1938.

Sir Hubert von Herkomer’s work was featured in the very first Adelaide Festival of Arts in 1960; he was referred to as Queen Victoria’s favourite painter.

George A Cusack

A Dining Hall of baronial proportions: boys at the Royal Masonic Senior School in about 1925 or so. Perhaps some of those Welsh lasses are among the uniformed staff in the picture.

From Terry Toms:

YOUR article by Doris Philipe inspired me to write to you, and the subsequent article ‘More Farm Memories’ motivated me to write to George Cusack himself in South Australia. My family lived opposite the Cusacks in Herne Road for a few years, moving to Glencoe Road in 1934.

I reminded George about my memories of Herne Road, Glencoe and Coldharbour Lane and within days he had replied and given me a lot of facts about Bushey people I was unaware of.

He then went on to tell me of what he knew about my family and I even found out that my neighbours in Glencoe Road were relatives of his. He hadn’t realised that I played soccer and worked with Bill and went to school and London Road Youth Club with John. [Editor’s note: Bill and John are younger brothers of George Cusack]

After writing to you almost two years ago, Mrs Goodison one of the Youth Club teachers who now lives in Coldharbour Lane, saw my article and wrote to me. She even invited me to a reunion barbecue on July 6th (1991).”

‘If the invitation hadn’t arrived too late, I would have been tempted to attend.’

If the invitation had not arrived after that date, I would have been tempted to attend. Anyway, she sent me a card written while the festivities were going on, signed by a group of my friends including my brother and ... (yes, that name again)... John Cusack. Small world isn’t it?

George’s parting paragraph in his letter was: “Thank you once more for the article, also for turning the clock back to a place and people about when and whom we both hold treasured memories. Any time you make it to South Australia you will be more than welcome and looking forward to hearing from you again. Best wishes, George (Bunny) Cusack.”

I have unearthed some photos of his family and will be writing to him shortly. I believe I have whetted his appetite!

I copy and send snippets of your publications to June Martin, an ex-resident of Langmead Drive, and Mick Mapp, ex-Park Road, now living in Tasmania and Melbourne respectively. Thank you for all these nostalgic moments you give us ‘down under’. Terry Toms
The old Red Lion

Another in the present selection by Jenny Just of letters written in the late Sixties to Hertfordshire Countryside magazine by T W Hedges, father of Norman Hedges, an active present-day member of the Friends.

THE 'LANDLORD' of this old inn was a lovable old lady named Young. I recollect very distinctly this 'mine host' when, as a youngster, my father used this house as a final port of call after a round along Little Bushey Lane, Aldenham Road and The Avenue (when this road was a cornfield). My father tried to show me how to separate the ears of corn from the husk, but never succeeded. (During these visits I was often regaled by a short ginger and a heart cake sometimes as a free gift from the lady herself.)

The Red Lion yard then had a saw-pit and journeymen visited the pit several times a year. It was an interesting occupation watching 'Top & Bottom' alternately changing places as the work proceeded. The logs were usually oak or elm and the planks invariably used for coffins. The pit was then owned by Ben Pratt the builder, as builders in those days were also undertakers as well.

A maiden lady called Barton occupied a nearby cottage. She also ran the adjoining shop [see photo] as a general store including chemist's sundries and, in season, fireworks. I have a very vivid memory of being sent on errands for Seldrize powders for my mother's workpeople and, horror of horrors, for liquorice powders for the benefit of myself and the other young members of the family. This evil-smelling substance was of a dark green-grey colour, gritty and quite insoluble. The taste and odour would remain long after the bulk had been swallowed. Liquorice powder was the universal specific used by the mothers for childish ailments: headaches, earaches, toothaches, sore throats, boils and aches, and I am sure the cure of broken limbs could be expedited by liquorice powder.

My elder sister on one occasion was considered to be in need of this item. A suitable portion of powder was mixed for her at breakfast time. She was promised the usual reward of a toffee on completion of the exercise. My mother was called away and found Etta's cup empty on her return. The good child was congratulated and rewarded. Mother finished her half-cup of tea, and gasped, but too late! The 'good child' had poured the powder into her mother's drink. Needless to say, Etta was given a second helping and an additional spoonful for good measure, and no 'afterwards!'

Miss Barton had a niece, Maggie: she became a pupil-teacher after a period as Monitor. Her salary was 2s 6d [12½ pence] weekly. As pupil-teacher she was advanced to 10s [50 pence]; after four years she was rated assistant at £35 to £50 annually. She became certificated at 21 and her emoluments were £50 per annum. This is interesting when compared with present [late 1960s] salaries.

I kept up a correspondence with Maggie for some years until about two years ago (1966). In one of her many letters she told me of an affair she had with Auntie. She threatened to run away; Auntie took her to the front doorstep, closed the door and told her to run away; she didn't! Maggie is now [late 1960s] a dear old lady of 90 and is living in Surrey.

The Home Rule election Campaign of 1892 was the occasion of much excitement in Bushey. The Liberal candidate was a gentleman named Marnham opposing the sitting veteran member T F Halsey. People took politics very seriously in the village. I remember our Liberal posters being covered over on the eve of the poll by Conservative specimens; my mother's helpers going through the High Street wearing the Liberal yellow favours were cat-called and even our old retriever Gyp came home plastered with mud and other filth.

My father and his companion Fowler, who incidentally was caught up in the [Indian] Mutiny, spent most of the day in the 'Lion' and returned home in the dark in a very optimistic vein celebrating, in advance, Marnham's victory. He failed!

Fowler married an Indian lady and brought her home to England. Tilly, their coffee coloured daughter, was my playmate for some years, and very much my senior, was of course the 'Master of Ceremonies'.

On one occasion we were sent to buy cheese from the queer old-fashioned couple who owned the grocery store in the first of the Elizabethan houses opposite the 'Bell'. We were supplied with Dutch which disgusted my mother and we were sent back to exchange it. Tilly was not in agreement and suggested eating it and buying fresh, and we accordingly sat in the gutter outside Eldred's, the drapers, and commenced our meal.

Unfortunately, the effort was beyond our capacity so we decided to return to the shop and suggest an exchange. The grocer looked at the remains and said we had been eating it. We tried to deny this, but he said 'There are your teeth marks!'

However, the accommodating old gentleman removed the damaged portions and gave us an equivalent quantity of English cheddar in return. I have only hazy recollections of my mother's reaction to this dénouement!

My old friend Maggie also told me of her memories of the tales which were current of the infamous highwayman 'Spring stile Jack' and also about the French family, refugees from the Terror, who lived in the house on Mainfield Road.

Her informant was a very old lady who used to 'chat' for Auntie and was 90 when Maggie was a child, so she was speaking of events in Bushey some 160 years ago!

[T W Hedges]

Bushey High Street in the 1890s with the old Red Lion inn in the middle of the picture. The fence marks the entry into the present Rudolph Road.
above: Louise Manhire demonstrating a craft almost as old as time

below: Kathy Shipman, cellist with Bushey Symphony Orchestra, prepares to entertain her audience to the delights of classical music in a beautiful outdoor setting.

Mrs Elia Chewett with Homebeat Officer PC Nick Mortimer at last year's Garden Party.

---

GARDEN PARTY

THE Garden Party on Saturday 22nd August will be opened by the Mayor of Hertsmere, Councillor Eric Muddle, and will offer another chance to visit the beautiful gardens of Reveley Lodge. Those members who have attended one of our Garden Parties will not need reminding of the pleasures to be savoured at these events.

In addition to the numerous stalls raising funds for Bushey Museum and other local charities, we have again invited craftsmen and women – some familiar faces and some new – to demonstrate and exhibit their skills. The attractions include flower-arranging demonstrations; calligraphy; lacemaking; painting; sculpture; spinning; weaving; marquetry and, we hope, patchwork.

There will be music, drama and games for the children; teas and cakes, soft drinks, ice cream and biscuits. You will have the freedom to explore and enjoy one of the most extensive private gardens in Bushey as well as seeing and hearing all the various entertainments.

There will be a special display (in the billiard room) of paintings by A R Chewett, who formerly lived in the house, mounted for this event by the Trust. We are greatly indebted to Mrs Chewett, a long-standing member of the Friends’ Committee, for kindly allowing the use of her garden for this important event in our calendar.

Members and their friends who have not yet enjoyed these pleasures would be well-advised to set aside the afternoon of 22nd August for a very English experience. The evocative photographs taken by Albert Ridgeley of last year’s Garden Party recall the delights of that occasion and we hope to renew them all this year.

We look forward to seeing you all, with family and friends.

Jenny Just
Who is this elegant lady, partly hidden under her so-very-English hat? Apart from looking like everyone’s favourite aunt, she was one of the many public-spirited people who, by manning stalls, helped to ensure that many charities benefited at last year’s Garden Party.

The pictures of the 1991 Garden Party are reproduced from the original colour photographs taken by Rtn. Albert Ridgeley.

Traditional Irish dancing, with music on the concertina played by Amanda Gaffney (kneeling, front). The girls’ decorated dresses, each one separately and individually made to slightly differing designs, blended well together and were widely admired. The group are expected to perform again this year. The spaciousness of the garden with its lawns and mature trees made an idyllic setting for those delightful girls to demonstrate their skills.

Last year’s sun-dappled bric-à-brac stall manned by a contemplative Bryon Parkin with his wife Beryl, attired in a business-like butcher’s apron, and their daughter Louise Washbourne with a smile more than enough to charm the visitors into spending a little money in a very good cause! Pat Simmonds, in earnest conversation, is centre-left of the picture.
Chairman of the Friends). My interest in and knowledge of painting dates from that course.

AJ: Do you have any preferences in terms of artists, styles, subject matter etc?

PW: No, I don’t. Though I would like to know more about modern art. I think art should be adventurous and exciting and stimulate us into thinking about ordinary things in new ways. I also think good technique is important: and I do love to see paint on paper.

AJ: The art in the Bushley Museum collection centres on the Herkomer period of course. Do you have any personal favourites?

PW: Some of his portraits I like very much; particularly ‘The Lady in Grey’ in Watford Museum. His social-realism pictures I like also. ‘Hard Times’, the famous and moving picture of the agricultural labourer and his exhausted family in Coldharbour Lane is something we should all be proud of: to think it was painted in Bushey... just down the road’. Mind you, the scene has changed a little since 1885! It’s a shame we haven’t got that in the collection.

AJ: What about Herkomer himself?

PW: There is such a huge variety of work in the Trust’s collection, it’s very difficult to single out any one picture. I am fond of ‘Teasing’, the large Chewett picture of the girl in the blue dress reclining on the chaise-longue while idly tickling her cat with a feather. I used the card of that as a Christmas card a few years ago. It has a delightful harmony about it, somehow. What is truly remarkable is the legacy of art in Bushey - that was Herkomer’s real gift to us. I wonder how many people in Bushey today really know all that much about it.

AJ: Do you see the task of educating local people into our own art history as a major job for the Museum?

PW: I certainly do. Unless a lot of emphasis is given to that I think there’s a real danger that the wonderful collection we have will only be seen by a small minority of Bushey people.

Herkomer’s famous painting ‘Hard Times’, a scene in Coldharbour Lane, Bushey, poignantly depicting the social distress of the agricultural poor of the time. The painting hangs in the City Art Gallery, Manchester who have kindly allowed us to reproduce it from their coloured postcard (the latter being the reason for the mottled effect).

AJ: It’s a bit of a chicken-and-egg situation, isn’t it? You’re saying that people have to know about the pictures to want to visit the museum. And yet to know about the pictures they have to see them first.

PW: I agree it’s a problem, but the Museum will certainly give them the opportunity to view Art and I do think that it’s terribly important that the publicity side is not neglected. The whole Herkomer story with the Moraro Circle before it is reason enough for people to go and see what has been produced by Bushey artists over the last century-and-a-half or so. They will be amazed. But first we have to get the message across.

AJ: I doubt we’ll be able to show all the pictures. Even the whole of Rudolph Road is not half big enough for that.

PW: Of course not. But we should try to route pictures from time to time. Perhaps there could be temporary exhibitions featuring particular artists or themes. After their first visit people should be encouraged to return six months later to see something new and different and see more of what they saw before.

AJ: I can’t wait...

Herkomer's famous painting 'Hard Times', a scene in Coldharbour Lane, Bushey, poignantly depicting the social distress of the agricultural poor of the time. The painting hangs in the City Art Gallery, Manchester, who have kindly allowed us to reproduce it from their coloured postcard (the latter being the reason for the mottled effect).
THE NOT-SO-GOOD OLD DAYS

In 1970 Watford & District Consumer Group did a survey to compare the cost of a basket of groceries, bought in Caters Supermarket, with the same items listed in an ancient grocery order book dated 1953. We repeated the exercise for the sake of historical curiosity and came up with a surprising discovery.

In 1970 the Watford & District Consumer Group did a survey which compared the cost of a basket of groceries, bought in Caters Supermarket, with the same items listed in an old grocery order book dated 1953. We thought we would repeat the exercise as a matter of historical curiosity. As Caters no longer exists we shopped at Tesco where we found, surprisingly, that despite all the changes of the past twenty years or so, most of the same old brand names were still there.

The price comparisons are not totally scientific as the modern-day equivalents of the good old pounds and ounces tend to weigh slightly more - but only a little.

Two startling revelations have come out of our exercise. The first is that despite popular belief grocery prices have hardly gone up in real terms since 1970. The second is that in 1953 we (or our parents) were paying nearly 50% more in real terms for our groceries in 1953.

We (or our parents) were paying nearly 50% more in real terms for our groceries in 1953.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>1953</th>
<th>1970</th>
<th>1992</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 lb Lyles golden syrup</td>
<td>11d</td>
<td>1s 8d</td>
<td>£0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 lb Orange Marmalade</td>
<td>1s 6d</td>
<td>1s 6d</td>
<td>£0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saxa Salt (drum)</td>
<td>10½d</td>
<td>9d</td>
<td>£0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 lb green back bacon</td>
<td>5s 0d</td>
<td>6s 8d</td>
<td>£1.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 lb currents</td>
<td>1s 0d</td>
<td>2s 0d</td>
<td>£1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 lb icing sugar</td>
<td>1s 0d</td>
<td>1s 3d</td>
<td>£0.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Birds custard</td>
<td>1s 7½d</td>
<td>1s 8d</td>
<td>£0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paxo sage &amp; onion</td>
<td>7½d</td>
<td>1s 0d</td>
<td>£0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 lb butter</td>
<td>3s 0d</td>
<td>3s 7d</td>
<td>£1.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 lb Lard</td>
<td>1s 6d</td>
<td>1s 8d</td>
<td>£0.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packet of dates</td>
<td>7½d</td>
<td>1l</td>
<td>£0.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Shreddies</td>
<td>1s 3d</td>
<td>1s 8d</td>
<td>£1.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Quaker oats</td>
<td>1s 5d</td>
<td>2s 3d</td>
<td>£0.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 oz Marmite</td>
<td>2s 4d</td>
<td>3s 0d</td>
<td>£0.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 lb Cadbury's cocoa</td>
<td>1s 9d</td>
<td>2s 9d</td>
<td>£1.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 lb haricot beans</td>
<td>1s 6d</td>
<td>1s 4d</td>
<td>£0.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 lb ground rice</td>
<td>2s 0d</td>
<td>1s 4d</td>
<td>£0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 lbs flour</td>
<td>1s 9d</td>
<td>1s 9d</td>
<td>£0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Carnation milk</td>
<td>1s 5d</td>
<td>1s 4d</td>
<td>£0.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 lb Echo margarine</td>
<td>1s 4d</td>
<td>1s 10d</td>
<td>£0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 lbs sugar</td>
<td>1s 2d</td>
<td>1s 7d</td>
<td>£0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowntrees jelly</td>
<td>10d</td>
<td>10d</td>
<td>£0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large unsliced loaf</td>
<td>8½d</td>
<td>1s 11d</td>
<td>£0.69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In decimal currency, the entire shopping list cost: £1.76 in 1953, £2.21 in 1970, and £16.96 in 1992.


*By reference to the Government’s long-term index of prices of consumer goods and services.

It is hard to grasp the fact that grocery prices fell so much in purchasing power terms during the period between 1953 and 1970. There are several reasons for it. During that period the food manufacturing industry was modernised after the War with huge capital investment and consequent improvements in productivity leading to much lower costs. It was also a time of revolutionary changes in the way groceries were distributed and sold. In 1953 we still shopped at the ‘family grocers’ where there was a counter and the word ‘check-out’ hadn’t been invented! Also during those seventeen years most of the primary motorway network was built, greatly reducing the cost of transporting packaged foods to the new supermarkets.

However, since 1970 real prices have remained more or less stable. Nevertheless, over almost 40 years it is true to say that the changes described above together with the buying power of retailing giants like Tesco, have brought down real prices to the great benefit of the people of Watford and District but not necessarily to those of Africa and elsewhere - but then that’s another story, for another time and place. Also Just P.S. *This article may have strayed a little from the concerns of the Museums, but even they had to eat.* – AJ

P.S.S. But Ambrosia (cream rice) is not on the list! – BW

THE PHOTOGRAPHY of the works of art and old photographs illustrated on pages 2, 3, 7, 11 & 14 is by Michael Pritchard FRPS.

DON’T MISS

The Bushy Museum Exhibition

‘Animals in Bushey Art’
at the Old Council Offices,
Rudolph Road.
Open until Sun 2 August.

A rare photograph of Bushey Churchyard taken in Edwardian times. Does anyone know what the strange dome-shaped objects are?
Bushey in the late 1940s

Ivy Hassell lived in the Revely Almshouses for many years. Here she recalls her time as a Council employee at Rudolph Road in the late ‘40s as well as other Bushey memories of that time. Sadly she died recently.

I JOINED the staff of Bushey Council in November 1946 as a member of the newly created Public Health and Housing Department. There was no room for us in the main Council Offices, so we had two rooms in a house on the opposite side of the road. Heating was by coal fires and as coal was rationed in those days and we were having very cold winters, we usually ended up by wearing our coats to work in. I cannot imagine present-day staff putting up with such conditions for even a week.

Surprisingly we kept very healthy and I think it was so cold that even the germs did not want to be there and found a warmer place! Eventually we had a woman councillor on the Committee and it was due to her efforts that gas fires were fitted in place of the coal fires and what bliss it was to work in a comfortable atmosphere.

Another problem was the lack of a decent typewriter. Although there were three machines, they were all very old and not capable of being put into good working order. There is nothing more frustrating to a typist than to have a machine that jams up if you want to type fast and, as I pointed out to my boss, I could do much more work if he would get me a decent typewriter. It wasn’t easy to get office equipment in those days, but eventually to my great joy a brand new Oliver machine was bought and I was able to increase my daily output of work.

In spite of these trials, I enjoyed my job and spent many happy years with Bushey Urban District Council.

There was one amusing incident. One day the door handle came off outside the office door and no-one could get either in or out. Drastic action was necessary and as we were on the ground floor, I opened the window, hopped over the window sill and went across to the Council Offices to get help. A councillor who was standing on the steps of the Council Offices looked in amazement and said, ‘Miss Hassell, do you usually come out of the office that way?’ I explained what had happened and the reason for my unorthodox exit — he was much amused.

Both on the public health side and housing, the work was interesting. New regulations were coming in and it was sometimes an uphill battle to get the co-operation of the people concerned, the usual attitude being, ‘We never did this before, why do we have to do it now?’ Milk had to be pasteurised and the samples obtained from the dairies for submission to the public health laboratory. Ice cream was also submitted for testing. Sometimes there would be food poisoning cases and it would be necessary to find out what foods had been eaten prior to the attack. Some people found it very difficult to remember what they had eaten. It also gave a very interesting sidelight on people’s eating habits! Smoking by staff in food shops was also frowned upon and the inspectors made a habit of popping in unexpectedly to see if their instructions were being carried out.

Refuse collection also came under this department and it was really extraordinary the number of people who accidentally threw things away. More

Continued on Page 13

A FAVOURITE verse from one of my favourite poets, Gerard Manley Hopkins, goes:

What would the world be, once heresy
Of not and a wilderness; let them be left,
Or let them be left, wilderness and sea; Long live the woods and the wilderness yet.

Not surprisingly this is a verse which the Green Movement has taken to heart. Like so many in the South-East I have a nightmare of our beautiful countryside covered in tarmac and concrete, the air polluted by fumes and the noise of cars and planes. For all of us, nature is a source of renewal and this isn’t just paganism. The spirit of freshness that lives deep down things, is the Holy Spirit, who touches and quickens our souls.

Yet there is a terrible dilemma. People need houses and in the developing world, they need a growing economy in which all can share. The Earth Summit Conference which met recently in Brazil somehow had to hold together the need to save the planet for the future and the need to save people from starvation now.

My wife ensures that our household follows a Green code. I stamp empty beer cans flat and pile them in a box. We collect bottles and piles of paper for recycling. But I did let the other day when I read an article entitled ‘Twenty-four hours in the life of a good Green’. After telling me to save more important, what about a developing country whose only source of foreign currency is, for example, the banana crop? Poor countries need trade in order to buy the technology to develop.

A businessman friend of mine, Kenneth Adams, argues that it is the essential nature of growth that we want to get rid of the idea of growth. But we need to look for growth in those areas which do not pollute the environment and which do not use up non-renewable resources. It is false to think we can do without growth — which is a God given sign of life.

The desperate need in the developing world is for appropriate and sustainable material growth, enabling those one billion people in the world living at or below starvation level to enjoy something of the life we take for granted and which God wills for all His children. The overwhelming need in our society is for growth in the quality of life. The two kinds of growth are limited. For the more we go for growth in the quality of life in our own society, the less we will ruin the environment and the more we will care about those for whom economic growth is literally, a matter of life and death.

Thought for the Day

The transcript of a recent broadcast talk given by The Rt Rev Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford, in the regular BBC Radio 4 series. The Bishop suggests that we should be striving for growth in the quality of life instead of its material abundance.

As well as the wider implications, his theme has direct relevance to the purpose of Bushey Museum.

water, it then urged me not to buy imported fruit or vegetables because of the way their transportation uses up fuel and pollutes the atmosphere. Here I have to admit a bias. I enjoy the variety of fruit and vegetables available in our shops. But human beings to want more and more. But now in the developed world we should be channelling this desire away from material goods, into education, music, culture, recreation: and God, in whom the desire is rooted, for he wishes to give us more and more of himself. We cannot nor should we want to get rid of the idea of growth. But we need to look for growth in those areas which do not pollute the environment and which do not use up non-renewable resources. It is false to think we can do without growth — which is a God given sign of life.
SINGING IN LANDSBERG

Grant Longman describes a choral visit to Bushey's 'cultural twin town', Landsberg-am-Lech in Bavaria.

The latest in the annual calendar of local events was the Bushey Festival Kammerchor, Dirigent: John Wyatt, and organised by Kate Morgan. The highlight of the programme was a visit to the Landsberg Museums, about three artists who used large paintings on canvas to expand the visual dimensions of selected rooms. The artists were Monet, Segantini and Herkomer. The talk was supported by a 'tour de force' of three projectionists simultaneously projecting colour slides onto three separate screens in order to show three aspects of the same room at once, - a rather perilous undertaking.

On Wednesday we were treated to a tour of the famous castles built by King Ludwig II of Bavaria, Neuschwanstein (better than Disneyland) and Linderhof (visual dimensions extended almost infinitely by huge wall mirrors facing across a room) and then, in the afternoon, to a visit to the Pilgrimage Church of Wies-Kirche, a beautiful, newly restored, baroque church. Here our choir sang Bach's motet 'Singet dem Herrn' (musical dimensions extended almost infinitely by the echoing in the lofty building - I thought it a heavenly effect).

The next day was Ascension Day and many of us attended Mass in the Town Church (see photo below) where their Parish Church Choir sang Rheinberger's Mass in G. Then we were given a guided tour of Landsberg's museums by Hartfried. These are the New Town Museum (in the converted Jesuit College) and the Herkomer Museum which comprises the famous Mutterrn and the adjoining house where Herkomer stayed when in Landsberg. In the evening we joined four local choirs and a large public attendance at a Chorfest concert in the very large hall of the Parish Church. Each choir performed in turn to rapturous and well deserved applause from the audience. It was astonishing how each contributed something special to the evening. The Bushey choir concluded the evening with a performance of an Ascensiontide anthem by Stanford and the amusing 'Captain Noah', which gained them a standing ovation. There followed some sort of party in the hall. Friday was a day out in Munich or Nymphenburg, according to choice.

Saturday was another busy day in Landsberg (except for such as myself - a 'non-choir' visitor). In the morning Angelika Lutz-Pfeifer, the organist of Christuskirche (the Lutheran church) and conductor of the choir which came to Bushey in May 1991, showed us the church organs at the two principal churches in old Landsberg and played organ pieces on each. In the afternoon the choir had another rehearsal, the last of many, and at six o'clock they gave a concert of sacred music in Christuskirche. This was a very varied programme closing with 'I was glad when they said unto me' by Parry, a suitably joyous piece to end an exceptionally enjoyable week in which we had indeed gladly gone into many churches. The concert was followed by an extended Farewell Party.

Sunday was coming home day, but not before we had been taken to lunch at a biergarten on the shore of Lake Ammersee and then on by coach past four other lakes set in picturesque countryside to finally reach the new Munich airport. It was well past midnight before we parted on the Green in Bushey Village, each of us having been given a splendid time by our generous hosts in Bavaria.

Grant Longman

Continued from Page 12

Bushey in the late 1940s

than once we were asked to find jewellery that had somehow found its way to the dustbin and, of course, it was always after the bin had been emptied that the owner found out what had happened. In those days outside contractors were used as now. They were very good and if we contacted them before the particular van had tipped its load, they would do their best to find it. The vans used then were not the mechanical crushers of today, the bins were emptied into the van and when the van was full it went to the refuse dump for tipping.

Housing just after the war was a very thorny subject. No building had taken place for years due to the war and housing applicants had to be handled with kid gloves. Like most rural areas, much intermarrying had gone on in Bushey and it sometimes seemed that half of Bushey was related to the other half, which made it extremely difficult when allocating any property. Mrs A would come rushing into the office demanding to know why Mrs B had got a place and she hadn't. One needed the patience of a saint and a very keen sense of humour to deal with it all. No one seemed to suffer from stress in those days - I don't think we had ever heard the word. In those days Bushey was a thriving village. There were three grocers, a fish shop and Evans, the drapers which was an absolute boon. There was also another drapers, kept by the Misses Tilliard, which was very old-fashioned and kept the sort of stock wanted by old ladies. The Post Office was on the opposite side of the road to the present one and the Copper Kettle café catered for lunches and teas.

Further up the road at Bushey

Continued on Page 15
Bushey’s Woodpecker

Bryan Wood reports on the fruits of some concerted research into a story with ingredients of solidarity, thrift, courage and compassion in the face of peril, spiced with a taste of salt. Reading of this grim time in our history, we are thankful that present-day energies are directed more towards the building of friendships than warships.

Norman Hedges was searching the Watford Observer files for information about Bushey Hall during the War - another big story - I asked him to look out for the Woodpecker.

The story that follows is what we have found out so far from the Observer and from other sources. There must be many people who remember aspects of the story directly and we and Alec would love to hear from them.

In the darkest days of the War in 1941, the Admiralty asked local Savings Committees to raise money for more warships. To help encourage this effort it was decided that communities could ‘buy’ specific ships and Warship Weeks were nominated to launch the campaigns. Watford and Luton challenged each other to raise a million pounds to buy light cruisers, Hemel Hempstead and district were to aim for £700,000 for a destroyer and Berkhamsted set out to raise £175,000 for a submarine. The Bushey Committee chaired by Armand Blackley decided to raise £120,000 for a corvette.

Bushey’s Warship Week was 21-28 February 1942 and the Board of Admiralty allocated HMS Heliotrope to Bushey. Some of the Committee visited the ship which was being renovated and the collecting efforts were launched by a grand parade, with Rear Admiral C E B Simeon who lived in Little Bushey Lane taking the salute. It is recorded that a film was made of the week but we have not traced it. Some of the money collected went to a Comforts Fund for Heliotrope but for reasons which are not very clear, the Admiralty changed their minds about their allocation. The postcard issued in Bushey is however of a Flower Class corvette very similar to HMS Heliotrope (925 tons, 205 feet, one 4-inch gun and principally armed with depth charges). Collecting efforts went on unabated, however, and by October 1942 the full £120,000 had been raised. Bushey’s population was about 12,000 at this time and the £10 per head was an enormous sum - well over £300 a head in today’s terms.

The money being available, the Admiralty allocated Bushey HMS Woodpecker, a new Black Swan Class sloop (a much larger vessel than Heliotrope, being 1250 tons, 300 feet overall, 6 4-inch guns and depth charges). The Savings Committee got in touch with their new ‘godchild’ asking what the crew themselves needed. Lieutenant Brownrigg, the second-in-command, responded warmly and asked for gramophone records and it was also agreed that Bushey WVS would repair the crew’s woolies. Bushey also offered to provide extra Christmas fare.

The relationship worked well and in September 1943 members of the ship’s company visited Bushey. At a reception in Falconer Hall (then the Parish Hall) the crew members presented Bushey with a model of the ship made by the coxswain and a piece of a U-Boat they had recently helped to sink. [Where are these items now?] The Captain’s only need at the time was apparently oranges, which were then hard to come by and the Horticultural Society promised to respond. Amongst the people at the reception were children from The Rutts School which had one hundred per cent membership of the Savings Association. There was a grand dinner with the ship’s

A contemporary postcard of HMS Heliotrope, Bushey’s first adopted ship.

A close-up of the inscription on the ‘Woodpecker’ plaque.

Vice-Admiral Simeon receiving the Bushey plaque on behalf of the ship’s captain and crew at a ceremony in the Council Chamber in Rudolph Road during which a ‘Woodpecker’ plaque was presented in exchange.

Continued on Page 15
company that night at Bushey House given by Newnes the publishers who had their headquarters there during the War. A Woodpecker Contact Committee was formed and many further ship's needs were supplied including books, magazines and a new ship's cat inevitably to be called 'Bushey'. Early in 1944 it was decided that plaques should be exchanged between the ship and Bushey. In March, recently promoted Vice-Admiral Simeon was asked by the Admiralty to make and receive the presentations, which took place in the Council Chamber in Rudolph Road. Woodpecker was at sea at the time and the Admiral accepted Bushey's plaque for her. It was a copy of the armorial badge designed by Lucy Kemp-Welch which had been carved in teak by Leading Fireman Fred Gardner at the Fire Station in the same building.

Unfortunately Woodpecker never received her plaque from Bushey because within about two weeks she had been lost. Six sloops including Woodpecker formed the Second Escort Group which had been patrolling the Bay of Biscay where the U-Boats waited to attack the Atlantic convoys.

On this occasion the Group under Captain Walker in Starling sank six U-Boats. Woodpecker sank one with depth charges herself and was involved with sinking two others. She had rescued some German sailors from one of the submarines in the early evening but later the same evening she was hit herself. The other sloops rescued all her crew and the prisoners and eventually one of the sloops took the severely damaged ship in tow but owing to the foul weather she sank on the way home.

Most of the crew joined a new sloop, the Lark, which sadly was sunk while escorting a convoy to Russia and many lives were lost.

'She had rescued some German sailors ... but later was hit herself.'

Bushey asked to adopt another ship but we have no record of whether this ever happened. By the time the Woodpecker was lost the total collected had risen to £154,847, some £18 per member of the Savings Association - nearly £600 each today.

So there is the story so far. Bushey had other Savings campaigns during the War and we would very much like to hear about them and, who knows, perhaps there will be further stories to tell.

Byron Wood

JESSIE'S GIFT

THOSE of you who frequent King George Recreation Ground may have noticed a new seat at the top end of the far field - Catsey Lane end.

Jessie, along with her dog Sheba, was a daily visitor to the Rec. and we often walked and talked together as we exercised our dogs. There is as you can imagine quite a regular group of dog-walkers, and news of Jessie's sudden death just a short time before her eightieth birthday was soon passed around to all who knew her. She had left instructions in her will for her dog to be put to sleep on her death, since she knew that Sheba would have pined terribly for her mistress. She also left a request for a seat to be placed at the top of that hill - she had always felt that there was a need for a seat there.

I had tried several times to go over and sit on Jessie's seat, but until now someone else had always beaten me to it. At last today it was my turn; and I sat down and peace, thinking of Jessie, to survey that wonderful panorama in the peaceful, warm summer evening, surrounded by the young rowan trees, with house-martins diving and wheeling overhead. I feel it was her gift to us, and it is a lovely and thoughtful way to be remembered.

Jenny Just

STOP PRESS

Meeting at Church House
Tuesday 28 July at 8pm

An extra meeting has been arranged at which Gawan Vesey will show some of his slides, in order to test various public address systems in the hall. A good attendance is needed for proper testing, so please come along. The Coffee Morning at Rudolph Road is planned for that date has accordingly been cancelled.

Mr Bushey comes to Bushey

BY SHEER COINCIDENCE as Mr Clappison was leaving the Museum building (see Page 1) an American couple walked into the reception area. They introduced themselves as Mr and Mrs Bushey from California and were at once taken on a brief tour. There isn't as yet very much to see, but they were shown the rather grand Council Chamber which remains formally furnished and is still used by the Council for planning meetings.

They were photographed standing in front of Herkomer's 'Our Village' - one of the many pictures hanging there. Mr Bushey was pictured sitting in the Chairman's high chair, holding the gavel.

They were then taken on a flying visit to Church House by the pond to see the Lucy Kemp-Welch Memorial Gallery, where they purchased various Bushey Museum greetings cards, books on Bushey, and membership of the Friends.

It was by mere chance that we happened to be there in the Museum just as they arrived - we could so easily have missed meeting this charming couple with such a relevant but unusual surname. We really can say 'Gladi to know you!'.

Jenny Just

A contemporary newspaper photo of the crew of Bushey's adopted sloop HMS Woodpecker. They all came from the Bristol area as boys' sea-dogs. Fortunately they were all rescued after their ship was torpedoed in the Bay of Biscay in 1944. Alec Hinton is on the left of the group.

Mr Ralph Bushey of Santa Cruz, near San Francisco, sitting in the Chairman's chair in the Old Council Chamber.

Mr Bushey in the late 1940s Heath, there was a further selection of small shops including a dairy and newsagents and another café. Supermarkets had not yet arrived to bring frustration into our lives and the many large houses standing in their own grounds in the High Road, adding to the rural charm of Bushey, had not yet fallen into the clutches of the property developers! Ivy Hassell

Continued from Page 12
BUSHEY MUSEUM:
PROGRESS TOWARDS
THE OPENING

Grant Longman reports ...

Access to and use of the Museum by disabled people is also receiving attention. Decoration, museum lighting, fitting of display cases and the mounting of the initial set of heritage displays are amongst the many things still to be done before we open.

The local history content of the Heritage Rooms will be very varied (and of course subject to periodic change). The majority of the material will relate to the last two hundred years and the area of the ancient parish of Bushey. Nearby parts of Hertsmere – in particular Aldenham and Elstree – will have some representation.

The aim will be to provide both ‘entertainment’ and ‘education’ which the visitor can choose between according to taste. Thus the labelling of displays will be at two or more levels of information, one rather generalised and the other(s) more detailed. The whole area will be well leavened with maps and photographs.

Culture is growth
Continued from Page 1

throughout our lives. The increasing popularity of cultural activities and facilities must have something to do with our instinctive need and desire to grow richer in mind and spirit as well as in the bank balance. The fact that those of us fortunate enough to live in the developed world may, in the future, have to look for our fulfilment more and more from cultural enrichment was the central theme of a recent talk in the Radio 4 series ‘Thought for the Day’ given by the Bishop of Oxford, the Right Reverend Richard Harries.

He has kindly given us permission to reproduce the text of his talk in our Journal (see Page 12). The Bishop’s words have a special relevance for all those actively engaged in the business of setting up and running of Bushey Museum.

Bushey is very fortunate in having such a rich local heritage. The Friends of Bushey Museum Trust are dedicated to ensuring that those with the power to make things happen do not underestimate the case for a properly endowed museum in Bushey.

The preliminary phase in the conversion of the Old Council Offices in Rudolph Road to a museum should be completed this year. Hertsmere councilors and officers are as supportive as they are able to be within the very tight financial constraints imposed upon them. It is to be hoped that they will be able to increase their support as they see the Bushey story beginning to unfold.

Alec Just

James Clappson, Hertsmere's new MP, pictured on a recent visit to Rudolph Road to see for himself progress in the conversion of part of the Old Council Offices into Bushey Museum. After his visit Mr Clappson made clear his personal support for the Museum project. See cover story.

Journal of The Friends of Bushey Museum Trust, Summer 1992