

The Journal of the Friends of Bushey Museum

FRIENDS OF BUSHEY MUSEUM



A registered charity in support of
Bushey Museum
Registered Charity no. 1039713

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The *Journal* is published by the Friends of Bushey Museum and is mailed to all Friends and selected local organizations. Contributions on all aspects of Bushey's social and artistic history are welcome and should be sent direct to the editor at the museum.

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Printed by Shiremoor Press
Newcastle-upon-Tyne

New Series No. 4 Autumn 2003

Welcome to the latest issue of the Friends of Bushey Museum's *Journal*. Once again it contains a selection of articles on a wide range of topics, some of them by authors who have not previously appeared in print in this *Journal*. At least one of these had not done anything like it before, so come on you 'shy' authors and get pen to paper.

Some of you will be aware that I am leaving the district but I have promised to edit at least the next issue and new contributions can

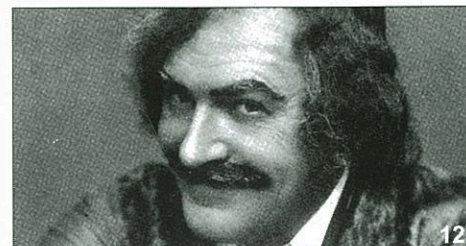
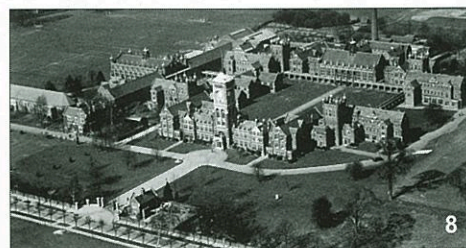
be sent to me at the Museum.

Once again the articles are illustrated by a few of the Museum's large collection of photographs. My thanks go to Bryen Wood who found photographs and cast an eye over the text to point out any historical inaccuracies. Michael Pritchard undertook the technical side of the *Journal*. Thanks to Bryen, Michael and the contributors.

Good reading.

Janet Murphy

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The Festivities for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II

Janet Murphy

Planning for the Coronation celebrations began early. There was an executive committee assisted by other committees responsible for decorations, school activities, sports, the procession and carnival, competitions and the bonfire. In addition the Bushey Old People's Welfare Committee made the arrangements for the old people including a Coronation Gift for all house-bound old folk.

After careful consideration, it was decided not to give individual souvenirs to school-children but instead to give each school a donation at the rate of 1/- (5p) per scholar to buy some lasting memorial. Ashfield received £15 8s from each of Bushey Urban District Council and the County Council. The donation from the latter was used to purchase books for the school library. An electric gramophone was purchased for £27 16s with the money from the Urban District Council with the School Trustees making up the difference. No doubt the children were more appreciative of the three days' school holiday they were given.

The great day approached and decorations appeared. The Coronation Arch designed by Lucy Kemp-Welch was erected across the High Street at its junction with Falconer Road by the donors and

builders, Field & Hemley Ltd. The arch was painted by local scenic artist Mr G Morris. Venetian masts were erected in the village to carry banners and shields decorated with the Queen's Beasts designed by Mr Walter Percival Starmer and painted by local artists. Local firms were responsible for decorations along the By-pass and the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Anti-Aircraft Command was responsible for the decoration of The Warren.

On the Sunday before Coronation Day crowds lined the High Street as the Salvation Army band led a procession of hundreds of people of all denominations and including representatives of almost every organization in the district, from the grounds of the Royal Masonic (Junior) School to the grounds of Bushey House (home of the Eagle Star Insurance Co). Here they united in an open air service which sought God's blessing on the Queen's reign.

On the day itself, Tuesday June 6th, owners of television sets found themselves suddenly popular as friends and families crowded round to watch the Coronation Procession and Service in the morning. At the Fire Station Recreation Room at Rudolph Road, the Darby and

Joan Club were able to watch the proceedings on a television lent for the occasion by the Watford Radio Company. At the Royal Masonic School the boys who had been unable to spend the day at home or with friends were indebted to a Mr Frank Cooley, who lent them a television to watch the procession. In those days of small television screens, how much did they see? Three girls from Merry Hill School were successful in a ballot for places for children from local schools to watch the procession live on the Victoria Embankment.

Unfortunately the one thing that cannot be arranged is the weather and Coronation Day dawned wet. Fortunately by the time the procession of floats left the decorated premises of Blyth and Platt (better known as the manufacturers of Cobra Polish) in Greatham Road, where it was marshalled, the rain had eased somewhat. The theme of the procession was the contrast between the two Elizabethan reigns. Judging was carried out before the procession started so that the prize winners were able to display their rosettes on the way. There were classes for the best decorated floats and for other vehicles including private cars and a class for prams, barrows and scooters. There were also classes for fancy dress. The British Legion provided the marshals for the procession. It was led by children attired in uniforms and regalia resembling those of the earlier London procession. The leading float was a Scammell's lorry, decorated as an Elizabethan theatre and flying the St George's flag, with members of the London Road Youth Club dressed as characters from Shakespeare's plays. Notable amongst the other floats was that of Taylor Walker (a local brewery) whose trailer carried *Ye Old Barley Mow* - a public house and pleasure garden complete with growing flowers and a waterfall, the whole decorated with nearly a thousand lights. Bushey Horticultural Society mounted another garden in which reclined girls wearing Elizabethan and modern dress. Watford and Bushey Art Society made a 6ft high model of St Paul's Cathedral. The Royal Caledonian School portrayed the farewell of Flora

Pepler's coal merchants in School Lane polished up their lorry to provide transport for the float of the then cumbersomely named Bushey, Bushey Heath and District Horticultural Society for the Coronation procession through Bushey on 6 June 1953.



Bushey Museum Archive

MacDonald and Bonnie Prince Charlie. Rather different was the tableau of the Young Conservatives representing *The sporting spirit of Britain* towing a very small pedal car with a driver, representing the BRM (British Racing Motors).

The procession made its way along Bushey Hall Road, Aldenham Road, Belmont Road, Grange Road and London Road to the High Street where it was halted by a tape stretched across the road beneath the Elizabethan arch. The Chairman of the Council Mr Goodhind sought permission to enter the village from Mr H J Hemley. This being granted, the tape was cut and the procession continued on its way via Melbourne Road and King George Avenue to the Recreation Ground where a grand fun fair was in progress. The prizes were presented by Lady Simeon, wife of Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Simeon, who lived in Little Bushey Lane.

Although the rain had relented during the earlier proceedings, it returned as hundreds made their way to the Recreation Ground again in the evening for a large bonfire lit at 9pm by Scouts in Red Indian garb. After the Queen's speech had been relayed over loudspeakers Mr Ian Scleater led the crowd in community singing until 10pm when proceedings were brought to a close by heavy rain.

The festivities were not confined to the day itself. On Wednesday the old folk were invited to a tea party and entertain-



Bushey Museum Archive

Young Conservatives' float representing *The Sporting Spirit of Britain* in Greatham Road waiting to join the Coronation procession through Bushey on 6 June 1953. We would like to know who you all are, so please own up.

ment at St Peter's Parish Hall, which ended at 5pm. Some people must then have had something of a rush if they were also wanted to watch the *Elizabethan Pageant* performed by members of the Royal Masonic Junior School as that started at 5.30. This was one of several performances; a party of fifty children from classes 1 and 2 of Merry Hill School attended a performance a week later. This historical pageant was an ambitious production, written by several members of staff who were also responsible for the scenery and make-up. The colourful costumes were designed by the art staff.

By comparison, the Royal Masonic

Senior School had it easy. On the Thursday the whole School travelled by coach to Windsor where they looked over the town and castle before embarking on two large steamers to sail up-river towards Marlow. Having sustained themselves with packed lunches, the boys were provided with tea on the return trip. Coaches were waiting in Windsor to return the boys to Bushey where they sat down to another tea!

Fortunately the weather kept fine on Friday when hundreds again made their way to the Recreation Ground, this time for an *Elizabethan Revel*. No fewer than seven schools joined forces to present a programme of masque, music and dancing in traditional Elizabethan style. The augmented military band of the Royal Masonic Senior School accompanied the massed choirs in renderings of *A Festival Chime* and *Our Love goes out to English Skies*. A display by the pipe band of the Royal Caledonian Schools was followed by folk dancing and a masque from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Rather more familiar were the renderings of *Greensleeves* and *Now is the Month of Maying* which were followed by more dancing before the audience was invited to join in singing *I vow to thee my Country*, *Jerusalem* and *Rule Britannia*. The other schools taking part were Bushey Grammar School, Ashfield, Merry Hill, Highwood and Bushey Manor. In the evening there were Coronation dances at Highwood School, the Parish Hall, Falconer Road and St Peter's Hall.

On Saturday there was a Grand Sports Meeting for the young people of Bushey in the grounds of the Royal Masonic

The procession for the Coronation on 6 June 1953 is led through the celebratory arch at the Falconer Road end of Bushey High Street. Middleton's shop on the right is now Blythwood veterinary surgeons.



Bushey Museum Archive



The lion and the unicorn dominate the rather perfunctory traffic barrier in Herne Road where they held a large street party on 6 June 1953 celebrating the Coronation.

Senior School. Among the events were athletics, novelty races, netball and country dancing.

Saturday was evidently a very busy day as there were also street parties throughout the district. One of the most lively was at Bournehall Road where the inhabitants had contributed two shillings a week since the previous March to pay for the party. An essay and drawing competition had been organized to stimulate the children's interest. Each child was presented with a propelling pencil as a souvenir and a certificate to say that he or she had attended the party and had eaten as

much cake, sweets and ice-cream as possible. There was also a conjuror, a pianist and an extensive programme of sports including a father and son piggy-back race. At Bushey Grove the sports, fancy dress and tea were followed by a film show and there were also sports, fancy dress and tea at Bushey Hall Caravan site.

Herne Road provided tea for the mothers as well as the children. Mr and Mrs Waterman provided all the decorations for the street party and also won the prize for the best decorated house in the category rateable value under £20 (rates at this time were 25s 10d in the pound). Other cate-

gories were for rateable value £20-£30 and over £30. The latter was won by the Girl Guides who decorated Lady Marjorie Stopford's house, Bournmead, in Herkomer Road. The Fishmongers Arms won the prize for licensed premises and The Flower Shop, Unitts (the grocers) and the Express Dairy won the prizes for the shops.

The final event of the celebrations was a coach tour of the Coronation procession route for the old people. Tickets were limited and allocated by ballot.

The Coronation festivities drew to a close but the Coronation Arch remained standing. Having attracted so much interest it had several stays of execution before the Council agreed that it would definitely be demolished on Monday, September 25th.

In the early hours of previous Thursday morning a notice was suspended from the centre of the arch some 30 feet above the road reading "A curse on he who destroys this arch". In the early hours of Sunday morning the police were back again to remove a notice reading "We want this arch to remain". All to no avail as demolition of the arch began on the Monday morning.

Mr Hemley expressed surprise that the arch had remained standing despite all the wet weather as it was only made of hard-board. He also added that there was £200 worth of tubular scaffolding inside that the firm wanted back!

Nelson's Fighting Sword

During their recent holiday the Friends of Bushey Museum visited Monmouth Museum. The eagle eyes of Dorothy Burr spotted the description, with a Bushey interest, attached to Nelson's sword.

The Admiralty first introduced a regulation pattern sword for commissioned (executive) officers in August, 1805. Lord

Nelson must have had a d v a n c e knowledge of this and ordered from his sword cutler, John Salter, a sword with a

blade six inches short of the regulation. His reason for this is thought to have been the difficulty a man with only a left arm would encounter when drawing a full-length sword from a scabbard hanging on his left (regulation) side.

Nelson did not wear a sword at Trafalgar. Both his new

fighting sword and his dress sword remained in his cabin.

The fighting sword was sent to Lady Hamilton after Trafalgar. From her it passed to John Kinsey, a former servant of Alderman Smith who acquired many of Nelson's possessions. In 1847 Kinsey tried to sell the sword through a local paper. He was unsuccessful, so he pawned it. It was rescued

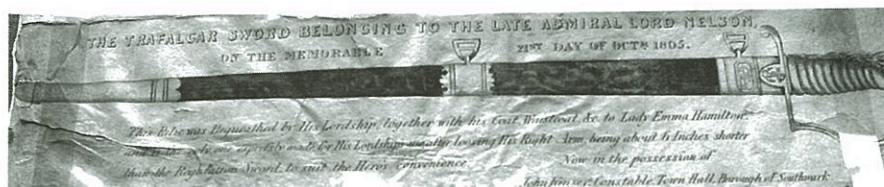
by an innkeeper in Bushey, from whom it eventually passed to Lady Llangattock.

Note

Possibly the sword belonged to James Callard who ran the Lord Nelson beer-

house at 2 High Street from c 1853. It had closed by 1869 when the building was occupied by James Narroway, china dealer. The building is now the Blythwood Veterinary Group Bushey surgery.

Janet Murphy



Stories from the Museum...

Hugh Lewis reports on what has kept him busy thus far through his year as Chairman

I am roughly half way through my time as Chairman of the Friends of Bushey Museum and the Editor invited me to set down my impressions of my first year. The over-riding impression is one of wonder at all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes to ensure that the Museum functions smoothly.

As Chairman of the Friends I was appointed to the board of Bushey Museum Trust and attend meetings of the Trust where all aspects of the operation of the Museum are discussed. Thus I have been involved in debates on topics like the purchase of equipment for the offices and exhibition rooms, the content and timing of exhibitions and so on.

The bequest of Reveley Lodge, the home of Eila Chewett, late President of the Friends, has added an extra dimension to the work of the Trust in managing the estate as it is, whilst planning and executing whatever changes are decided for the future. In due course a separate trust will be set up, but meanwhile all decisions affecting the house and grounds are taken by the present Trustees.

Alongside the Trust there is a Management Committee. This maintains the Partnership Agreement between the Museum Trust and Hertsmere Borough Council, which provides the basic funding for the Museum. Here I have joined elected Councillors, not just those from Bushey wards, in discussing how the Council can support the Museum's activities.

Finally there is the Friends' Committee which discusses their programme of activities such as monthly talks, outings, social functions (like the Murder Mystery Evening) and the Garden Party. Each calls for detailed planning and, fortunately for me, the other committee members bring a wealth of experience to the discussions.

The membership of all these committees is set out in the Appendices to the Annual Reports. Belonging to them all, I am given a fascinating picture of the way in which all aspects of the Museum are kept under review from the differing standpoints of the three bodies.

Exhibitions are an integral part of the life of the Museum, presenting its public face. As Chairman I wanted to be involved in putting them together and joined the selection group which chose the items in the current exhibition - *Best of Bushey Museum*. This has been an eye opener because I had never given any real thought as to how the pictures get onto the walls.

All the pictures in the Museum are catalogued and the selection

Pat Woollard gives directions to Friends' Chairman Hugh Lewis while they select paintings for an exhibition.



Photograph: Patrick Forsyth

group worked its way through the catalogue, choosing those pictures we regarded as the 'best'. We had to bear in mind the available wall space, but even so we ended up with more pictures than we had room for on our first run through, so some pruning was needed. Then, when mounting week arrived, the pictures were removed from the store on the ground floor, taken upstairs and allocated to the different galleries. Still more pruning followed until we reached an acceptable display. Then the hanging process began. There was much climbing of ladders, putting the pictures on hooks on rods suspended at ceiling level, standing back, re-arranging and standing back again ... All this had to be done during the three days at the beginning of the week when the Museum was closed to the public. The atmosphere was far removed from the calm which prevails when the doors are open.

This insight into the life of the Museum, which all this has given me, has been fascinating. When I retired, I vowed not to get involved in any more committees. I don't regret breaking my 'retirement vow'.

After a recent 'Activities for Children' session, the Museum's Education Officer Marion Gee asked some of the children if they enjoyed visiting the Museum

From Sean Aydon

I have been coming to the Museum since I was seven, which is around five years now, and have hardly ever missed a fixture.

Since coming to the Museum I have done a wide range of things, and I have developed some skills in art mainly, which I am not naturally talented, I feel I would never have learned in say school or anywhere else for that matter. I have done printing to portraits and every other piece of arts work imaginable. I just don't know what they're going to do next!

One of my most memorable things of doing is the 'Victorian tea day'. We had to set up afternoon tea and act extremely civilised (well we were supposed to anyway!). At the time I was young, with an extremely large tummy, and I still remember having fifteen jam sandwiches (very nice!) and three cups of tea (two sugars!).

I have really enjoyed the sense of pride at completing a piece of work. I also enjoy seeing my own work displayed around the Museum. It gives me a great sense of pride when I see it and I think, cool that's mine in a Museum full of breathtaking pieces of art.

I definitely think that I was welcome, else I would not come again. The helpers are very nice, especially Marion and Pat.

My name is Alex Revens. I have been coming to Bushey museum for approximately 4 years. I have been to visit, but come here most of the time for the picture plus group. In the past I have remembered picture a portrait, and other subjects. My favourite one I have attended is 'children's choice because it was very interesting choosing my favourite artwork out of a big selection. The museum makes me feel really welcome and I really enjoy it.

From Emily Kinna

I can not remember when I first started going to activities at the Bushey Museum because I think I was quite little. I always enjoy going there, especially during the school holidays when there are quite a lot of other children doing activities like painting and making collages. I really like spending my mum's money in the shop. Earlier this year I was one of

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R C Tween Ltd, Bushey's Chemist

Gordon Reid

In 1900 Robert Chandler Tween took over the chemist's business on Bushey Heath, which had been started in 1854. In 1907 he opened an additional shop in Bushey village as it had a busier, more thriving High Street. He supplied medicines to many well known Bushey families including Herkomer, Cuthbertson, Montague Hall and Attenborough. The first prescription book for the new business can be seen in Bushey Museum. Although some of the ingredients are well known; belladonna, chloroform and digitalin, others are less so including powdered Barbados aloes, essential oil of saffras and solid extract of dandelion. Some of the drugs used were later banned or restricted.

Tween ran the two businesses until about 1920, when he disposed of the one on Bushey Heath. My father, Alexander Stevenson Reid came from Huntley, near Aberdeen, to London to work, having qualified in Scotland. He got digs in Bushey and worked for Tween, taking over from him in 1931. As the firm was so well known, my father did not change the name and it was incorporated as R C Tween Ltd. The company remained in the family's hands until March 2002 when the limited company was dissolved and it now trades as Tween's Pharmacy. My father settled in Bushey and married a local girl Elsie Ing.

During the war years, supplies were very difficult to obtain, so ration coupons were saved for ingredients to make skin creams and the like. Business was less busy after the

war than it is today. My father introduced a tank of tropical fish to attract customers.

My time at Tween's lasted approximately fifty years and during that time there were a lot of changes. During the mid fifties, whilst still at school, I would help my father at the shop during the school holidays, doing deliveries and odd jobs like washing bottles and burning rubbish. The latter job I was still doing after 46 years of full time employment so promotion within the company was not good! I started full time in the late fifties at £1 a week. I escaped National Service by a month as my birthday was in October and they ceased call up in September. So after leaving school I worked at R C Tween Ltd until March 2002 without interruption.

When I started work, Tween's were still making a lot of their own products such as cough mixture, hand cream, face cream and bath salts. A lot of other products came in bulk and had to be decanted into smaller bottles, which then needed labelling, which was one of my jobs. The making of face cream was the worst job I recall. To make it all the ingredients were mixed hot and the mixture would then have to be stirred continually until it was cold otherwise it would go lumpy. This was very hard on the arms as there were no machines to do the job in those days.

The 'Bushey Cough Mixture' was well known and highly effective. It continued to be made until the Trade Descriptions Act was passed. The officials made us change the name as they said that there was no such thing as a Bushey Cough! We said that there was but we didn't win and the name was changed to 'Tween's Cough Mixture'. Its demise came later when some of the ingredients were restricted making it less effective.

Doctor Ramsay was doctor for the Royal Masonic Senior School. During the winter if there were any sore throats he would dose all the pupils with 'Phenol Gargle'. This meant mixing it by the bucket load and delivering it to the school in eight to ten Winchesters (80 oz bottles) at a time. Usually it went in my father's car but sometimes I had to take it on a tradesman's bike. Four or five were carried at a time because of the weight but it was still quite hairy as the bike wanted to go straight when you tried to turn at a corner. Then the weight would shift as you turned the corner,

R. C. TWEEN, TELEPHONE No. 263.
FROM W. MARTINDALE, LONDON.
CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST,
47, HIGH STREET, BUSHEY.

This Pharmacy has been recently established to meet the requirements of the residents of BUSHEY, and is replete with all modern appliances and a well assorted stock for carrying on the same.

THE DISPENSING OF PHYSICIANS' PRESCRIPTIONS and Family Recipes is a Speciality, the Proprietor having had exceptional experience in this branch in the West End and in towns of resort for health, and holding the qualification of the Pharmaceutical Society and the Apothecaries' Hall.

Patent and Proprietary Medicines at Reduced Prices for Cash.
 Mineral Waters. Perfumery and Toilet Preparations.
 Homoeopathic Medicines. Invalids' and Surgical Requisites.
 Kodak Films and all Photographic Accessories.

BRANCH ESTABLISHMENT (Established 1854):
BUSHEY HEATH PHARMACY. TELEPHONE No. 262.
Under the efficient management of a fully qualified and Resident Pharmacist.

Photograph: Gordon Reid



Below left: Rows of bottles on the shelves of Tween's pharmacy section. Their contents were mixed to make up prescriptions in contrast to the pre-packed preparations of today. George Mitchell measures out potions while Alfred Stephens MPS counts pills in the late 1960s. **Right:** Mrs Rosalind Sharpe behind the counter with Gordon Reid before Tween's was modernized in the late 1960s.

taking you with it and tipping you off if you weren't careful. Another incident involving the tradesman's bike, which would not be allowed today, was when my father was away and an oxygen cylinder had to be delivered urgently to a customer on Palmer Avenue. I set off holding the handlebars with one hand and the oxygen cylinder with the other. Looking back, it was very dangerous but it had to be done. The gentleman recipient was most grateful as he was gasping for breath.

When my father died in 1964, I continued to run the company with George Mitchell, known as Jock, who had been an



Photograph: Gordon Reid

apprentice with my father in Scotland and worked with him for many years. We were not qualified so we had to employ pharmacists, some of whom stayed with us for long periods.

The shop interior was modernized to keep up with modern self service shopping when supermarkets were opening up.

However the exterior was retained to keep the appearance of the long serving business in Bushey.

Many or most of the customers only knew me as Gordon and not by my surname, but this shows Bushey as a small friendly village.

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the children in a group who were choosing 3 pictures and 2 sculptures that we liked and that were put in an exhibition called Children's Choice. I was at the Private View with my family and met the Mayor and his wife who were very friendly.

I feel I have seen so many pictures at the Museum I think I can remember some of them. Thjough my favourite painter is probably Lucy Kemp-Welch, I've enjoyed all the paintings there.

I would recommend anyone who hasn't been before to go to the Bushey Museum right away - not only are there paintings and other interesting things to look at but the people there are very welcoming to everyone. So get going there!

From Kevin Gudka

I have been coming to the museum since I was 7 or 8 years old and I have enjoyed it a lot. I have been doing painting, making small films [about 30 seconds], potato prints and patterns. I remember making a movie best because I done that more recently and you can keep that forever unlike the pottery and paintings because pottery would brake easily if you drop it, and paintings would get spoilt if water goes on it.

I feel very welcomed to the museum. I do have one idea and I would like to do something to do with modelling clay next

time I come.

My name is Phoebe Lazarou, and I have been to Bushey Museum for about three years. I have been attending the phenomenal activity day and have been studying and creating things with different materials to do with art. I have also taken part in the 'Children's Choice' exhibition with a couple of my other friends where we were able to choose sculptures and painintings by local artists. I met the Mayor and

Mayoress of Hertsmere at the preview of the exhibition, who were really friendly! My favourite part of 'Children's Choice' was taking part and meeting other people.

I feel that Bushey Museum has been welcoming and friendly since I first began attending courses during the school holidays. The only thing I would really like to do in the holiday activity day is try some needlework. Otherwise I think that Bushey Museum is PERFECT!!!

Mayor and Mayoress of Hertsmere Stuart and Ros Nagler with Museum Education Officer Marion Gee talk with Phoebe Lazarou and her parents at the private view of Children's Choice.



Photograph: Patrick Forsyth

100 Years Ago: The Masonic School

Gordon Metcalfe

The author has kindly allowed publication of an article which appeared in the May 2003 issue of The Old Masonians' Gazette - the annual magazine for the Old Boys of The Royal Masonic School.

January 22nd 2003 marks the day 100 years ago that the main body of boys took up residence at Bushey Grove Park having moved from Wood Green School in North London.

It was in 1798 that Bro William Burwood and other members of the United Mariners Lodge established the 'Institution for Clothing and Educating the sons of Indigent Freemasons' and admitted six boys to its benefits. *'Until a sufficient fund can be raised for building or purchasing a school house, the children can be annually provided with a decent and appropriate clothing and properly instructed in Reading, Writing and Arithmetic at respectable schools adjacent to their Parents' residence'*. (The Masonic School for Girls had been founded six years earlier by an Italian dentist and had taken ten girls from the Kings Cross area of London.) In 1809 Grand Lodge voted £210 to enable the Governors to commemorate the accession of George III and to increase the number of boys to fifty. Numbers rose to seventy in 1841 and by 1852 the Governors determined that the original intentions of the founders should be carried out in their entirety. In four years a building fund had raised enough money to buy Lordship House, Wood Green, Tottenham, with ten acres of land for £3,500. In 1857, the House having been adapted into a boarding school took in twenty-five boys; this was such a success that the following year the whole seventy were admitted. Numbers continued to rise and in 1865 the old House was demolished and new buildings erected. The following year saw numbers arise again until 259 boys were in residence. The School was never designed for such numbers and a new and larger site was urgently required.

At an Old Masonians' Association dinner in 1896 Bro J M Mcleod said in a speech that *"the numbers of the School had risen from 83 in 1866 to 283 at that time; the School was full - over full"* and he referred to the removal of the School to the country. The first details came in *The Old*

Masonians' Gazette in November 1896 which stated publicly that an estate consisting of a little over sixty-five acres known as Bushey Grove Park had been purchased near Watford for the site of the School ... The cost had been £13,000 or about £200 per acre. *The Gazette* published a picture of the proposed school in 1898. The following year a tender of £98,950 was formally accepted for the completion of the school in two years. The foundation stone was laid in May 1900 and from then on parties of boys who had passed the 'cycling test' were allowed to go for rides to Bushey. The January 1901 issue of *The Gazette* said that Wood Green had been sold for £40,000.

The *Masonian* of October 1902 records the first description of the new School which was laid open to visitors for inspection on Saturday October 11th. A plan of the route was fixed upon and the visitors were guided over the intricate maze of buildings by twenty of the senior boys of the School. The visitors were received at the Central Tower by the Board of Management and shewn the various branches of the Administrative Block and the Library and the Museum above. A few even ventured to ascend the spiral staircase and look down on the School from the roof of the tower. The visitors then passed on to one of the eight houses that flank the four corners of the quadrangle - 'B' House being the one chosen. Then came the Science and Art Block; and then, passing round the back of the Dining Hall the visitors examined the Kitchen and Domestic Offices and so on to the Fives Courts, Gymnasium and Swimming Bath. The Laundry and Engine Room with its two huge boilers and the dynamos which supply the School with electric light also gained their share of attention. The long two-storeyed row of classrooms, with the Assembly Hall rising out of their midst and the Music Room, branching off to the left, came next; and finally the visitors crossed over to the Chapel, Mr Keyser's munificent gift, with its oak-wood seats and beautiful stained glass windows. The visitors then once more reached the White Tower and passed through the long quadrangle to the Dining Hall, where the tour of inspection was concluded to the delight and satisfaction

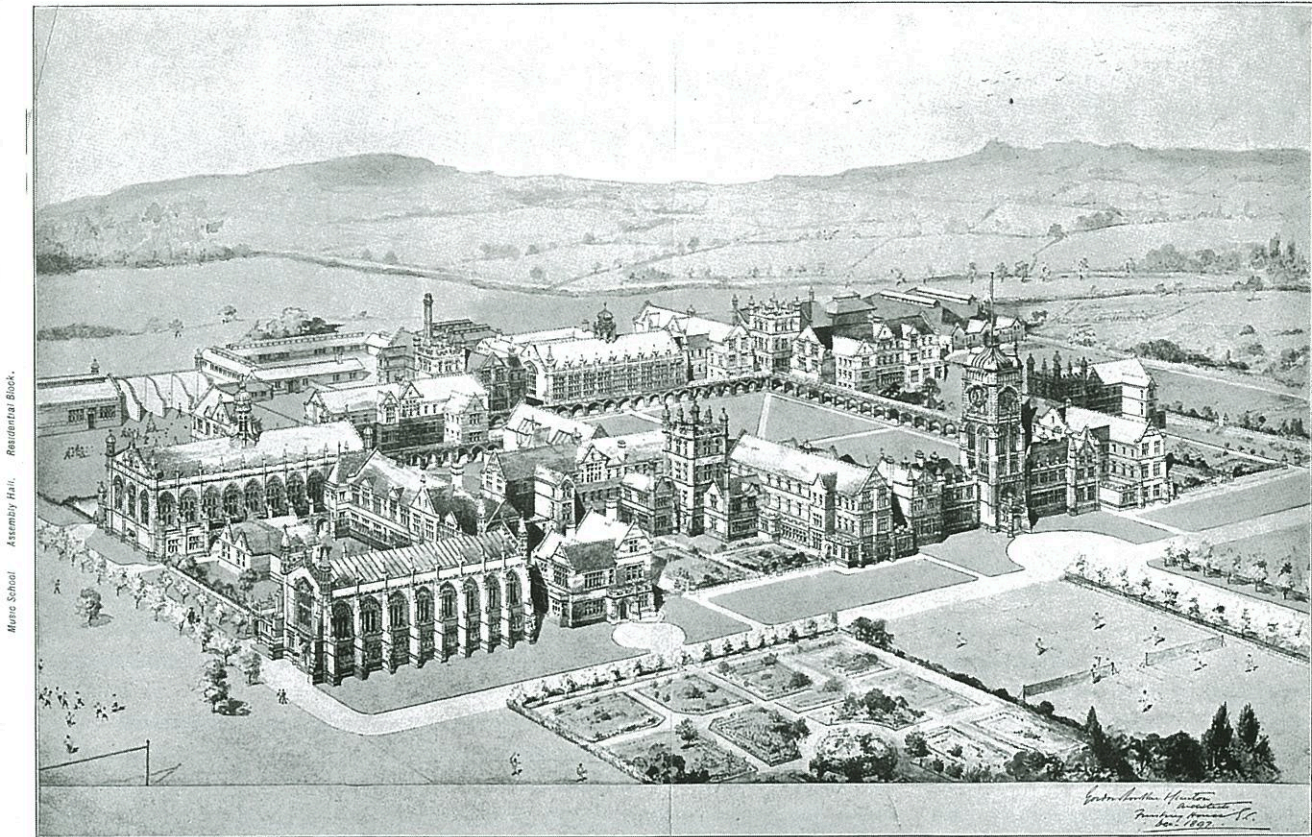
of everybody concerned'.

Meanwhile other preparations had gone ahead. In June 1897 the Board of Management, after some lengthy deliberation, decided on a badge and a motto for the School. The badge was to be (and still is) the 'Lewis'* and the motto: *'Audi, Vide, Tace'*.

Life must have been hectic at the time of the move. The *Masonian* Editorial apologized for appearing in June 1903 instead of March. This was the first edition at the new School and dwelt on the setting up of the 'House' system. 'The old House spirit that we have seen grow up amid many difficulties at Wood Green, now finds itself enshrined in separate 'brick and mortar' houses - no airy structures of the imagination'. *The History of the School Vol 1*** records that the House system really only manifested itself on the games field and the Houses were only 'notional'. The Editor seems concerned that 'each House is left very largely to develop itself along its own particular lines, cut off from its neighbour by a very real barrier'. He worries that 'a member of Crane's would require a formal introduction to a member of Roberts' should the two encounter a few terms hence in the desert of the Big Quadrangle'. But he is even more concerned about how he will keep in touch with his "zealous and hard working sub-editors"!

In the School Notes of the same issue the writer tries to record his impressions of 'our new home, where we arrived in the evening of January 22nd ... the feelings uppermost in our minds were of admiration for the splendidly planned design ... We hardly think that anyone who was present will readily forget the scene when the School met for the first time in the Dining Hall at tea-time on the night of our arrival. In a few brief words the Headmaster and our good and indefatigable friend, Mr Attenborough, the Chairman of the Board of Management, welcomed us to our new home'.

The History of the School Vol 1 relates there were a few teething troubles! As the boys were being welcomed in the Dining Hall on that first night the entire lighting system failed, leaving the whole School in darkness for about quarter of an hour. Later, at bedtime, it was found that there was a lack of bedsteads, so that some of



Masonic School

Assembly Hall.

Residential Block.

Residential Block.

Chapel.

Science and Art School

Master's House.

Residential Block.

Administrative Block.

Main Entrance.

PRIZE DESIGN FOR NEW SCHOOLS

FOR THE ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS
AT BUSHEY (GROVE PARK), HERTFORDSHIRE.

Architects: Messrs. Gordon, Lowther & Gunton, Finsbury House, London, E.C.

From a Photograph by H. Pritchard.

An architect's drawing of how the Royal Masonic School was to be. In the event, the chapel as designed was not built, as the money ran out.

the boys had to sleep on the floor for a time. Much more serious was the almost immediate out-break of measles and chicken pox, this being one of the reasons for leaving the urban part of London for the open fields of Hertfordshire. What a baptism of fire this was for the new medical officer, Dr F W Shackleton (cousin of the polar explorer) who was the much respected village doctor. Mr Attenborough, whose family is still well known and remembered in Bushey, attended the School to help organize things that needed doing urgently.

The House system soon settled down as follows:

A	Mr Knight's	43 boys
B	Headmaster's	40 boys under the supervision of Mr A R Brown
C	Mr Roberts'	43 boys
D	Mr Pinhorn's	39 boys
E	Mr Francombe's	42 boys. The Junior House
F	Rev Daughlish's	44 boys Preparatory House for the youngest, smallest and newest boys
H	Mr Crane's	41 boys
Total 292 boys. G House was at first used as the Infirmary		

The measles epidemic meant that for the first five Sundays of the term, chapel were cancelled and a short morning service was held in the Church of St James, Bushey. The first recorded service was on the 22nd March 1903, as shown in the chapel register. However the *Masonian* of June 1903 records that the School assembled on the afternoon of Sunday March 1st 'for the first time in our beautiful Chapel, a generous gift of Mr Keyser.*** The Choir were tried first in the Chancel seats and afterwards in the body of the Chapel and a few hymns and anthems were sung. On the following Saturday we had the pleasure of listening to a recital on the newly finished organ'.

All was ready for the consecration of the Chapel performed on 19th May by Dr Jacob, Bishop of St Albans. 'The Chapel had to be carefully arranged beforehand as provision had to be made for numerous guests who had come at the invitation of Mr Keyser. By 11.45 the seats were well filled, and very beautiful the building looked with the white frontal on the altar and two vases of lovely arum lilies as ornaments.' The Bishop dedicated various parts of the Chapel to their proper use and

signed the sentence of consecration. He preached his sermon from the text "What mean ye by these stones?" after which he began the service of Holy Communion.

Life at the new School was beginning to settle down. Building work was still not complete. By 1904 numbers had topped 300 and new pews had to be put into the Chapel. Also at this time work was begun on the infirmary and sanatorium, completed in about 18 months thus releasing the former medical quarters in G House to become the eighth residential House under Mr F W Lea.

Notes

* A Lewis is a device that stonemasons use for raising blocks of stone. It is also the name given to the son of a freemason.
** Parkes, A L and Riches, E A. *A History of the Royal Masonic School*

*** The Chapel was originally designed to be built like the School Hall but money ran out. Charles Keyser, a governor, gave £12,000 for a chapel, which is the one we see today. The Chapel remained a consecrated building although it will have to be deconsecrated before its planned change of use in the new development.

Howton, Bushey Heath

Sue Matoff

Howton was one of Bushey Heath's three imposing houses with extensive grounds in the mid-nineteenth century. The others were Sparrows Herne Hall, which still exists, and The Warren which, like Howton, was demolished some time ago.

Howton was built by Thomas How in 1850. Thomas was born in Berwick-upon-Tweed in 1784. His father, a burgess of Berwick, was a Customs officer at Alnmouth. Thomas joined the Royal Marines at the age of 21 in 1805, the year of the Battle of Trafalgar. His career in the Royal Marines was exciting and distinguished, most notably his involvement in the battle at Fort Trinidad at Rosas on the coast of Spain in 1808. For his courage he received much praise but little preferment. Seeking alternative employment, he joined the Customs Service at an annual salary of £400, helped by the Duke of Northumberland. By the time Thomas was superannuated in 1859 at the age of 74, he had become Surveyor General at the Port of London with an annual allowance of £750.

Thomas How probably built Howton with an eye to his imminent retirement from the Customs Service. In 1851 the Census lists him as living there with his wife Rebecca and two servants. The Hows were childless, but came to regard Rebecca's nephew Richard Thomas Prowse as a son. Richard was born in Swanage, Dorset in 1835, the son of Rebecca's brother William. His mother died when he was only six and he went to school at Christ's Hospital in London. He joined the Customs Service in 1853 as a clerk in the Secretary's office, probably with the help of both Thomas How and his father, who was also in the Customs Service.

When Thomas How died in 1868 he left all his property, including Howton, to his 'beloved wife Rebecca'. It may be because of Thomas's death that Richard Prowse came to live at Howton, or possibly he was already there. He was certainly resident at the time of the Census in 1871. Rebecca How lived on until her ninetieth year, dying in 1879, having made Richard her sole executor and beneficiary of Howton with its contents plus the residue of her estate.

After Rebecca's death, Richard Prowse's sister Mary came to live with him and the household staff grew to three, a cook, laundrymaid and housemaid. By 1883 Richard had risen to the post of Surveyor General just

as Thomas How had done before him. He subsequently added the duty of Secretary, becoming confirmed in this post in 1888. He immersed himself in public service both in his professional and private capacity. In May 1897 he received the insignia of a Companion of the Order of the Bath from Queen Victoria and the following year became a Justice of the Peace for Hertfordshire. He retired from the Customs Service in 1900 after 47 years service and was widely praised for his energy and achievements.

Richard Prowse had been on the Board of Management of the London Orphan School for some years and was elected the first Chairman of the Bushey Urban District Council in 1906, a body which he served for several years. He was also Chairman of the Managers and life trustee of Ashfield School.

The grounds at Howton were extended by Richard Prowse in 1888, when he purchased the adjacent four acres from Frederick Charsley. This purchase included two cottages in California Lane, which he subsequently improved. These two cottages have since been made into one dwelling.

Richard lived on at Howton with his sister until his death in December 1921. He was buried in the Old Churchyard at St James' Church, Bushey. A road within the area of the four acre plot that he had bought is named after him.

All of his real estate, including Howton,

its cottages, land and outbuildings, were entrusted to his executors to sell. After the legacies were paid, the remainder was to be put in trust for Christ's Hospital, Sussex of which he had become a Governor in 1910.

The Executors sold Howton at auction to Edward William Maynard Goslett for £6,500. Barely a year later, the property was again auctioned and was purchased by Camille Strauss and Maurice Strauss, wine merchant of Seething Lane in the City of London. In 1931 Camille sold the house and gardens to the Rev Ernest and Eleanor Dray. In 1933 Camille sold the four acres and California Cottages to Frederick Perren for £2,450.

The new owners of Howton were to be its final owners. The Rev Dray was an American who had been ordained in 1889 and took an academic post. Eleanor Dray came from the distinguished Maitland family which can be traced back as far as Edward III. The marriage was childless and, when the Rev Dray died in 1938, Eleanor was joined at Howton by her cousin Ann Julia Wauchope. For a few summers St Peter's Church used the grounds for its annual Garden Party, noted in the local paper as 'the biggest social event of the year in Bushey Heath'. Eleanor Dray died in 1962, having in the meantime sold much of Howton's grounds to Sir Harold Bellman, Chairman of the Abbey National Building Society.

In the 1950s Sir Harold built a bungalow

The back of Howton in 1902.



Bushey Museum Archive



Richard Thomas Prowse CB JP (1838-1921) in court dress uniform wearing his medal of a Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

and swimming pool on the site now known as Downalong. They were subsequently demolished in 1978 and 22 houses were erected on the site. Eight terraced houses

were built fronting California Lane on land previously purchased by Sir Harold.

In 1962, after Eleanor Dray's death, Howton and the remaining grounds were sold to Arthur Pitkin for £38,000. The house was demolished and by 1965 the block of thirty-six flats called Howton Place had been built followed by a block of six flats, California Court. Arthur Pitkin then built two semi-detached houses, apparently living in one of them for a while.

The final piece of land which had been Howton's garden was not developed until 1978 when two more houses, the Courtyard and Tudor House were built.

Thus on the site where there had been a single family house and its gardens, seventy-six dwellings now stand.

On the four acre site, once part of Howton's estate, Frederick Perren built Barbary House which he bequeathed to London University Department of Astronomy, to fund studies in astronomy and to widen its appeal to the public. The University duly sold Barbary House, the proceeds of the sale contributing towards an ongoing Perren Professorship in Astronomy

at University College and a Perren Fellowship at Queen Mary and Westfield College. The remainder of the four acres was sold to the Ministry of Defence which built an estate of married quarters and these were subsequently joined by new roads with private dwellings.

Howton included a drawing room, dining room, library, seven bedrooms, a small tiled conservatory and vinery. The garden and grounds were extensive, featuring a kitchen garden, paddock and ornamental pleasure grounds of which, unhappily, nothing remains. From the few photographs known, Howton seems to have been a typical country house, solidly built with few external decorations - the type of house we might expect a senior Customs official, a JP and a Reverend, each in their turn, to have called 'home'.

Notes

Sale Catalogue for Howton House and Grounds, 26 April 1922. (Watford Reference Library). This is a shortened version of a report which may be consulted in the Local Studies Centre at Bushey Museum.

Too Good to Lose?

Alec Just

Twenty years have passed since the Bushey Museum Trust was founded. It had two principal aims: the first was to act as custodian for the art and artefacts that tell the unique story of our community; the second was to set up a museum for their preservation.

The partnership between Bushey Museum Trust and Hertsmere Borough Council has been very successful in enabling both aims to be realised. Hertsmere provides the museum building and annual funding. The Trust side (including the Friends of Bushey Museum) provide curatorial management and volunteer staffing and display the collections. The result: our Museum is recognised nationally as a model for volunteer-run community museums.

It is said that the Friends' organisation is the largest of its kind in the UK with around 750 members, of whom about 600 live locally. There are about 24,000 people in Bushey and Bushey Heath*. Of those, over 25 per cent are over 55 years old** which is the group from whom the great majority of our membership is drawn. This means that almost one in every ten local people in that group is a signed up member of the Friends of Bushey Museum. That is a statistic of real significance. And our membership is still growing!

The Friends of Bushey Museum is more than a museum support group. It offers a means through which a network of friendly contacts between like-minded people has developed within the local community. In offering opportunities to volunteer time to help the Museum to succeed, the Friends' organisation is at the same time invigorating the community by promoting a positive and constructive spirit. It's called social cohesion and is the glue which holds healthy communities together.

Likewise, the Museum itself, supported by more than one hundred volunteers, is more than a museum. It has become a focus within the social and cultural life of the community and, especially important, a uniquely valuable educational resource for our children and grandchildren.

Thus it is that Bushey Museum has become an integral part of present-day Bushey. Those of us who steward in the Museum can testify to the constant flow of visitors, a surprising number of whom are visiting for the first time. Many tell us how surprised and delighted they are to find such a gem of a museum... and free to visit!

On yet another level, such is its quality and reputation, the Museum has become a source of civic pride in Bushey. When friends from afar come to stay, a visit to the Museum is suggested in the certain knowledge that it will be enjoyed. Children who come on organised school visits often return to bring their parents and grandparents to show them, with pride what they have seen and learned about the place where they live.

And yet, despite its national reputation and all the great benefits that have flowed out into the community, the Museum is run by a team of volunteers. Bryen Wood intends to retire as managing curator in less than three years time. 'Cometh the hour, cometh the man' is an well-known saying. But, and unbelievably, unless the right person emerges in the very near future, a large question mark will hang in the sky over Rudolph Road.

In their 2003-2006 Cultural and Leisure Strategy document, Hertsmere Borough Council have declared as Key Aim and Objective 5.1: 'To continue to support museums in Hertsmere and develop their educational potential...[and]... test the viability and plan for a paid Museum Manager for the Borough's museums.'

It is surely inconceivable, but it is not impossible that, unless a paid Museum Manager is appointed before 2006, we could lose our Museum and the many benefits for local people of all ages that it continues to deliver.

Note

* Hertsmere BC website

**Social Trends (Office for National Statistics)

Arthur Bouchier

Michael Pritchard

Arthur Bouchier (1863-1927) was one of the founder members of the Oxford University Dramatic Society in 1884. In 1889 after leaving Oxford, where he had appeared in several Shakespearean productions, he joined Lillie Langtry's Company and made his professional debut at Wolverhampton as Jaques in *As You Like It*.

In February 1890, Lillie Langtry took over the management of the St James's Theatre but in June the same year she was taken ill and Bouchier, only twenty-six at the time, took over as manager. Lacking experience, he failed disastrously and the theatre closed in July. Over the next decade he acted with several companies, both in England and America. In 1894 he married Violet Augusta Mary Barnes (1867-1942), who appeared under the stage name, Violet Vanbrugh. She was the daughter of the Rev Reginald Henry Barnes, prebendary of Exeter Cathedral - evidently a very enlightened gentleman as he allowed his daughters Ivy and Violet

to go on to the stage in an era when life on the stage was not considered a suitable career for well brought up young ladies.

In February 1900, Bouchier entered into joint management of the Criterion Theatre with Charles Wyndham before becoming manager of the Garrick Theatre for the next six years. Indeed it might be said that he is still there, as there have often been reports of his ghost having been seen at the theatre! As well as Shakespeare he produced several plays by contemporary authors, including W S Gilbert (who was living at Grimsdyke), with his wife taking leading parts. In about 1903 the couple made their home at Otway Cottage (later demolished to make way for Clay Lane) on Elstree Road, Bushey Heath. The photographs below were published in the *Illustrated, Sporting and Dramatic News* for 24th September 1904.

Bouchier continued to act after leaving the Garrick Theatre. He and his wife joined Herbert Beerbohm Tree's

company at His Majesty's Theatre where they took part in several Shakespearean productions. In 1911 they were in a silent film version of *Henry VIII*. Two years later *The Cinema* reported 'Mr Arthur Bouchier and his wife, Miss Violet Vanbrugh, gave up their leisure last Sunday morning, and, attired in the ancient costumes of Macbeth and his lady, went by motor-car to Sir Hubert von Herkomer's country house at Bushey in order to repair the film of *Macbeth* a portion of which had been damaged.'*

In 1917 there came for Arthur the quite different role of Old Bill in *The Better 'Ole*, written by Bruce Bairnsfather, perhaps better known for his First World War cartoons. It was about this time that the couple left Bushey Heath. Violet divorced her husband in 1917. They had one daughter, Prudence, who also became an actress.

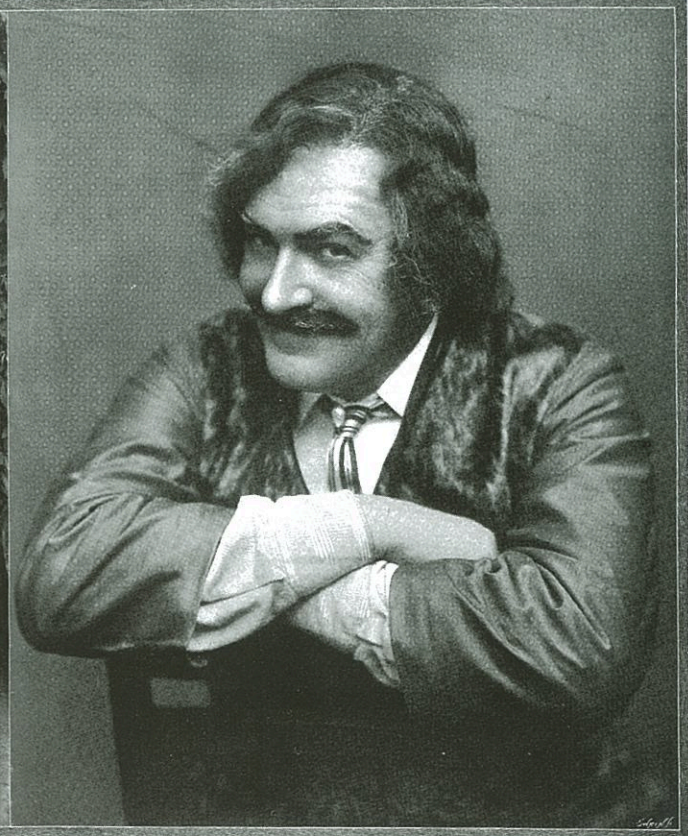
**Two of England's greatest stars. The Cinema, 1 October 1913, p.37.*

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER AT HOME AND AT THE GARRICK THEATRE

Bushey Museum Archive



With Mrs. Arthur Bouchier (Miss Violet Vanbrugh), at home at Bushey Heath, near Harrow



As the Chevalier Montaigne, the grandest showman in Mr H. A. Jones's new play, who is equally proud of having bestowed his title on himself, and of being able to do what he pleases with the English language.

SEPTEMBER 24, 1904

THE ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS

127

The War Memorial for Bushey Urban District

Janet Murphy

As early as November 1917, a committee was convened by Bushey Urban District Council for preliminary discussions as to how to commemorate the service rendered by Bushey men in the service of their country. Subsequently, events in the war took a turn for the worse and it was not until January 1919, with peace in sight, that it was felt that discussions could begin again.* Already the people of St James' had decided to go ahead with their own memorial and there was a suggestion that St Peter's also had their own ideas.

At a well attended meeting in the Council Chamber various suggestions were made as to the form such a memorial should take. Those present were reminded that the memorial should represent the whole area and there should be no distinction of class, sect, political or theological creed. Mr Attenborough felt that there was no suitable site for a memorial and anyway if one was put up hooligans would damage it. Instead he wanted the money to be contributed to the proposed new or extended Watford Hospital. Dr Shackleton was in favour of a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and Lucy Kemp-Welch wanted a monument in bronze or stone and she

had made some rough sketches of such a monument. Another meeting in March resulted in little progress although it was suggested that the memorial should cost no more than £500. It should be possible to raise over £3,000, which meant there would be enough for the Child Welfare Centre and that anything left over could go towards the new hospital in Watford. It was decided to ask for subscriptions with the subscribers being invited to choose where their money should go.

In May there was another meeting and more suggestions. Miss Gulland wanted the water in the pond by St James' Church to be purified by the introduction of water from the Colne Valley Water Company. Miss Wilkinson wanted a non-political club to be established. The Rev Montague Hall proposed that a suitable monument be erected at the junction of School Lane and the High Street replacing the seat erected in memory of Miss Godsall and that a low stone semi-circular wall be erected with a seat forming the background to the monument. Mr Cuthbertson had kindly offered the site if the scheme was chosen. An ex-soldier Mr Watts thought it was an absolute waste to put up a memorial which would be an eyesore in a few years time - he wanted a library. This time there was a vote. Dr Shackleton's scheme for the Child Welfare Centre received 46 votes but a big majority against it. Mr Watts proposal received 23 votes but again a large majority against. The resolution that the memorial should be visible and monumental in character was carried by a large majority. And yet another committee was formed.

The following January a drawing of the proposed memorial was published in the *West Herts and Watford Observer*. The model design had been submitted by the eminent sculptor Mr Reid Dick.** The groups on the two ends symbolised the struggle with evil whilst the central figure personified the final triumph. The cost was estimated at £2,500 and subscription lists were now open. This design was rejected and Reid Dick had to prepare a new design which local oral legend says is based on the Angel of Mons. The memorial was finally dedicated by General Lord Cavan on 12 March 1922.

Family tradition is that the model for the sculpture was



Edith Emily George in the later 1920s. She may have been the model for the civic War Memorial on Clay Hill.

A dramatic view of the civic War Memorial immediately after its dedication in 1922. Chestnut Rise and the lower part of School Lane had not then been developed.

Bushey Museum Archive



Edith Emily George (née Lee). She married in 1912 aged about 29. Her husband worked for a printing firm in North London and they moved to Bushey in the early 1920s. Both Edith and her husband were 'arty' in their different ways - she with her aesthetic tastes and affinity for the Bohemian side of life. Husband George was a talented amateur flautist who played in many concerts including those by the Watford Philharmonic and taught at the Royal Caledonian and the Royal Masonic Schools.

On the memorial there are 158 names of men 'WHO WENT FORTH FROM THIS PLACE AND FELL IN THE GREAT WAR'. However in common with many other memorials throughout the country the list is of names put forward by the residents of Bushey and includes names of men who did not live in Bushey. The inclusion of some of them is understandable; for example Robert Stavert, born and brought up in Bushey, a member of the Conservative Club and a bell ringer at St James' but technically speaking a resident of Oxhey. Colin Dyble had emigrated to Canada six years earlier. However A F Lofts probably never came to Bushey. When he died in May 1916, his parents were living in Kensal Rise. They only moved to Bushey after the war had ended. Conversely some names do not appear. George Boreham Smith lived with his widowed mother. She died shortly after he was killed and there was no-one left to put his name forward. But what about William Timms killed when the mine-layer *Princess Irene* was torn apart by an internal explosion. Did his family not agree with memorials? What about the people who died as a result of their experiences? George Slaughter was buried by a shell. Dug out alive he was discharged from the army as unfit for service. He died six weeks later of a heart attack, his condition exacerbated by his experiences. Or Will North who died of pneumonia whilst at home on leave? Due to the destruction of many of the army records by enemy action in the 1939-45 War a true figure for the men of Bushey who fell during the First World War may never be known.

Notes

*The peace treaty was finally signed 1 July 1919

**Sir William Reid Dick RA 1879-1961

Bushey Decorations for the Coronation of Edward VII

Anne Blessley

The *Magazine of Art* 1902 records a remarkable public display of paintings by Herkomer and some of his students to mark the coronation of King Edward VII. This had been arranged for June but the King's appendicitis operation caused its delay until August which coincided with the Art School's summer vacation. To avoid disappointing the students, the paintings were instead displayed along Melborne Road when the King and Queen made a royal progress through London later in the year.

Twenty of the most important sovereigns (possibly a contentious list) from Alfred the Great to Edward VII were represented by large portraits. The paintings showed Herkomer's usual ingenuity. They were painted in transparent oil colours on muslin and mounted in wooden frames some seven feet from the ground. They were lit from behind by electric lights which were placed in front of wooden shutters. The electricity was supplied from Herkomer's own generating plant at Lululaund which was in itself an innovation. Thus lit, the portraits appeared as though they were stained glass windows and, not surprisingly, caused a sensation amongst the crowds who gathered to see them. They were only displayed for one weekend and no trace of these, probably fragile, paintings survives.

The author of the report records that the portrait of Edward VII was painted by

A portrait of Queen Victoria painted by Herkomer in about 1890. As this is Herkomer's own photograph of the painting which had gone to Australia, it may be that which Marmaduke Flower used to make a copy.



Bushey Museum Archive

Herkomer without a sitting from His Majesty and that of Queen Victoria was a copy by Marmaduke Flower of a Herkomer portrait of her. Who designed the other portraits is not recorded but the names of the painters make a list of prime Herkomer Art School graduates. They included Lucy Kemp-Welch, Rowland Wheelwright and George Harcourt. We can only speculate as to whether His Majesty would have approved of his portrait.

Note

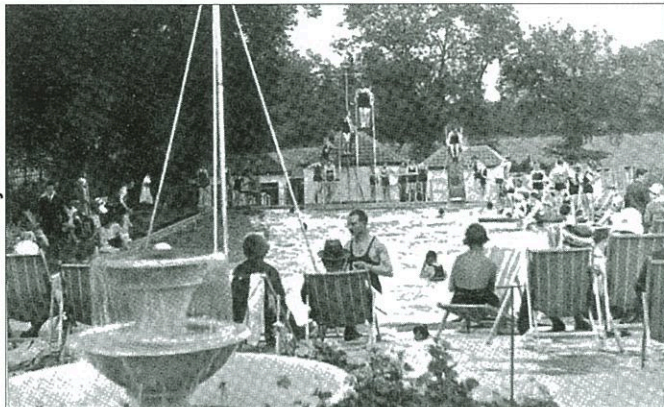
The paintings were stored in a studio which was later destroyed by fire.

The Spider's Web

Bryen Wood

In last year's *Journal* I asked for any information about the Spider's Web on the Watford By-Pass. So far there has been but one major response in that auction particulars for the sale of the 'Important Licensed Roadhouse' have come to light. The sale was to be held by Fleuret Haxell Marks & Barley of

Bushey Museum Archive



Bloomsbury Square on 4 May 1938. In their particulars they draw special attention to the new station of Bushey Heath just down the road which was scheduled to open in 1939. Alas for them, it was never to be. Other details are that their License (*sic*) was restricted to the consumption of alcohol with meals only but

THAT HIGHLY IMPORTANT LICENSED ROAD HOUSE

"The Spider's Web" *Office*

WATFORD BY-PASS

For Sale at the London Auction Mart
155, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4
On Wednesday, May 4th, 1938
at 2.30 p.m.
(unless previously disposed of privately)

Solicitors:
Messrs. GODDEN, HOLME & WARD
34, Old Jewry, London, E.C.2

Auctioneers:
Messrs. FLEURET HAXELL MARKS & BARLEY
22, Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1

*See also
this
Report
Museum
2536*

Bushey Museum Archive



Bushey Museum Archive



Bushey Museum Archive

that did include sandwiches served around the Pool and they also had a special 'supper-hour' extension. The Spider's Web held a 'Monopoly License' which was in force until July 1940 at an annual amount of £125. With an optimism typical of auctioneers the particulars stated: 'under the personal supervision of those well versed in catering there is little doubt that the general trading should be very materially increased'.

There were only four bedrooms for overnight stay but the principal Restaurant could serve 120 diners, the Pink Ball Room could serve another hundred and the Balcony Restaurant could cope with 150. The car park could accommodate five hundred cars which was huge for the time and indicates how popular it was for the bright young things to motor out to what was otherwise quite a remote place then.

Admission to the Swimming Pool was through turnstiles with thatched roofs. It was 100ft by 35ft and had 82 cubicles for men and women, foot baths and shower baths and costumes and towels could be hired. There was also a nine hole golf course and eight 'deck tennis' courts.

I would still like to hear from anyone with recollections of the Spider's Web.

A Short History of Reveley Lodge

Janet Murphy and Bryen Wood

In 2003 Bushey Museum was very fortunate to receive the generous bequest of Reveley Lodge from the late president of the Friends of Bushey Museum, Mrs Eila Chewett. Many Friends are familiar with the gardens and the billiard room having attended garden parties there but what about the rest of the house and the people who have lived in it?

The main part of the house was built between 1842 and 1845 by John Titsel Harvey of Caldecote Hill. The property consisted of the house, a chaise house, stable and other buildings. The house takes its name from Mrs Ann Reveley, who purchased it in 1845. Additional land round the property was bought soon afterwards. She died in 1852 and left it to her eldest son, William Austin Reveley who in turn bequeathed it to his brother George Johnson Reveley in 1854. He too bought additional land and obtained the enfranchisement in 1855. When he died in 1877 his will provided for the establishment of Reveley Almshouses in Bushey village.

The property was sold to the magnificent sounding William John Marjoribanks Loftus Otway of Otway Towers (later renamed Caldecote Towers). His son, Jocelyn Tufton Farrant Otway succeeded to the property in 1894, and straightway commissioned architect A E Hubert of Charing

Two members of the Chewett family tend the plants in the conservatory at Reveley Lodge in about 1920. The young girl standing is Phyllida and the girl kneeling is probably Ellen, niece and sister of Albert Ranney Chewett respectively.



Bushey Museum Archive

Cross to build new servants' quarters on the eastern end, to extend the drawing room and add a substantial billiard room and conservatory on the western end. Most of the extensions were built as planned but in the case of the billiard room, a more elaborate version was built. Anecdotal evidence is that Alfred Waterhouse advised on this. He was in Bushey at the time, building St Margaret's Clergy Orphan School.

Reveley Lodge was sold to Robert Leicester Harmsworth MP in 1898. He was MP for Caithness and Sutherland and used Reveley Lodge as his southern base when Parliament was sitting. He stayed just four years but during this time bought additional cottages to complete the estate. The new owner was Edmund Littler Johnson. In 1909 Mrs Maria Susan Chewett became the tenant. At the time of the Inland Revenue survey in 1910 it was described as having a hall and porch, a very fine drawing room, conservatory, dining room, study, wc, (butler's) pantry, kitchen, scullery, boot room, housekeeper's room and coal store on the ground floor. Two staircases led to the first floor where there were eight bedrooms, a bathroom with hot and cold water, two wcs and dressing room. On the second floor there was a tank room and store room. Outside there was a motor house with space for three cars, stables for three horses, a loose box and harness room. There was also a covered washing yard together with a coal store, a store shed and two old pig styes (*sic*). In the garden there was a greenhouse, tennis lawn and potting shed. There had evidently been some internal changes as the 1901 sales particulars referred to thirteen bedrooms and two bathrooms.

The Chewett family came from Canada. Mrs Chewett came to England with her daughters and her youngest son, Albert Ranney Chewett in about 1898. A R Chewett joined the Herkomer Art School in 1900. He played the flute in the school orchestra and made many friends among the students. After two or three years at Bushey he travelled to Haarlem in Holland, then to Paris before returning to Canada. From Canada, the family moved to Florence in Italy before returning to England. They lived for a while in Essex before finally settling in Bushey Heath. Chewett had a studio on Titian Avenue. After a spell of painting, he turned to photography as his main activity, in which he collaborated with W H



Bushey Museum Archive

Reveley Lodge on Elstree Road in about 1914 taken by W H Hoather. The house is hard to see from the road now but is largely unchanged except that the horizontal slats along the ground floor have been removed.

Hoather of Bushey Heath. During the Great War he was summoned before the local military tribunal to explain why he had not enlisted. He stated that he was a Canadian and normally domiciled in Toronto. He became a sergeant in the Special Constabulary and made his car available to the local Motor Volunteers.

His brothers were not artistic but his mother and sisters were skilled in wood-working, book-binding, lace making and metal work.

Johnson died in 1915 and in 1921 Albert Ranney Chewett was able to buy the estate from Johnson's trustees. In 1931 he married Violet Georgiana Eila Chewett. Eila Chewett had attended St Margaret's Clergy Orphan School in Bushey where she had excelled in music and she went on to study at Watford School of Music. Her great friend at the time was Kitty Roe, a very young professor at the Royal Academy of Music and a concert pianist. It was Kitty that introduced Eila to Phyllida Chewett and in due course her uncle, Albert Ranney Chewett. They were married shortly afterwards on her 19th birthday.

Eila discovered that she had a talent for dancing and the billiard room was converted to a dance studio and she taught there well into the 1950s. Albert Chewett died in 1965 and Eila then qualified as a medical secretary, a career she followed until she was seventy-five.

Aside from work she was a supporter of the Red Cross, lending the gardens at Reveley Lodge for Red Cross events. The first Friends of Bushey Museum Garden Party was held in 1990 giving Friends the opportunity to appreciate the gardens.