



## Chairman's Letter April 2020

As you will probably have heard by now, the Museum is closed to the public for the foreseeable future. This also applies to Reveley Lodge, the cafe there and the Stables Gallery, but I'm pleased to say the gardens will remain open Monday – Friday 9-5. This edition will be digital only as we are unable to gather our usual newsletter collators together and also, the deliverers are unable to collect the newsletter as the Museum is closed. Many of you receive the newsletter by email anyway, but it will also be available on the Friends page of the Museum website ([www.busheymuseum.org](http://www.busheymuseum.org)). Please spread the word to other Friends.

The news that the Museum was closing was put on Facebook by Jane Parker and we were heartened to receive many messages of support from the public. Like or loathe it, social media gets the message out there fast!

***The artist David Mullett in front of his painting, Capriccio Espagnol, at the Open Day in February. The painting is in the "New Arrivals" exhibition in the Council Chamber***



Back in happier times, Storm Dennis was doing its best to hurl the spring loaded advertising board on the Museum steps right down Rudolph Road. In the end we had to take it inside where it dripped rainwater all over the entrance hall. It did not look good for Open Day on

Sunday 16 March when we were showcasing our 2 new exhibitions – *Recent Arrivals: Additions to Bushey Museum's Collection* and *20/20 Vision: 200 years of History in Bushey*. Who would want to come out in such bad weather? Social media came to our rescue. When we opened the doors at 11 o'clock the first 3 visitors arrived. They said they had seen word of it on Facebook. This was the response from many visitors. Artists whose work was on display had posted on line details to their supporters urging them to come. Many artists came including David Mullett (pictured on page 1) who caught the 5 am coach from Margate to be with us. When we pushed the doors to at 4pm. over 50 people had visited us on Open Day. We were delighted with the response and hope to do this again.

**Rita Castle**

## Rudolph Road News

Just for starters – Coronavirus!!

By the time you read this, the Museum will be closed! As I write, Matt Hancock, the government's Health Minister, has said that over-70's will be advised soon to self-isolate for four months. (why "soon"??? Why not now?) In view of the fact that the vast majority of our stewards are in that age-bracket, it would have been unwise for us to stay open, with the consequent risks of infection to our people. The very odd thing is that visitor numbers within the last week have been exceptionally high!

But for how long will we be closed? We simply do not know yet. Keep an eye on the Museum's website. But people will probably continue to work within the Museum, as they can keep well-apart.

In the meantime, we will be able to continue with the programme of introducing the stewards to the new card-reader in the shop in small, well-separated groups. So far, the reaction of those who have already been introduced is very positive – after all, most of us see these machines whenever we go shopping, and it is very simple to use!

You may be interested to know that the donations globe, which sits at the top of the stairs, was emptied during the week, and contained just under £1400 – thanks to all our generous visitors.

**Carey Keates**

## Update on Events and Outings

We regret we have had to cancel the following events:

**Bring and Buy Sale** on 28<sup>th</sup> March

**Quiz and Fish & Chip Supper** on 21<sup>st</sup> April

**Purcell School Concert** on 6<sup>th</sup> May

**VE Day Celebrations at the Museum and at Reveley Lodge** on 8<sup>th</sup> May

Outing to **Hughenden Manor** on 21<sup>st</sup> March

**Saturday 9th May Visit to Hatfield House**

This outing has been cancelled as Hatfield House will not open until 1st June 2020 due to the coronavirus.

We hope that we will still be able to visit Southill Park in June.

## **SOUTHILL PARK, BEDFORDSHIRE**

**Friday 12th June 2020**

Outing to the home of the Whitbread Family. We shall arrive for coffee at 10.30 am, have a guided tour of the house and then continue into Bedford, where we can find lunch and visit the Museums or enjoy the town.

We plan to leave Bushey from the Bushey Country Club car park at 9.00 am returning approx. 6.00 pm

Cost £43.00 per person.

## **A Little Bit of Bob.**

At our last Bring and Buy Sale in October, we were joined by Frances Watkins hosting a very special stall: "A little bit of Bob". The gentleman in question was her lovely neighbour who had recently passed away at the age of 98. He had been a keen grower of cacti, having over 300 in all shapes and sizes in his collection. With a big thank you to his daughter Christine, we made £91.00 for the Museum. The remaining plants that didn't get sold were then taken over to Richard in St Albans who does voluntary work for the Earth Works and he was going to make up small gardens to sell at their Christmas Fayre. For all of you that took bits of Bob home, I hope they are flourishing well. On the day the total amount that was raised at the Bring and Buy was £520.00.

**Jackie Taslaq**

## **Reveley Lodge Garden**

Wet, wet, wet. February 2020 has been the wettest February on record for the UK. But has that dampened the spirits of the Reveley gardeners, Rory and Lesley, and the dedicated band of volunteers? Absolutely not! Work has continued throughout the winter months, mainly in the vegetable garden. Following more tree work the light now floods into the whole area, the rhubarb plants have never looked so good. (Rhubarb will be on sale from mid-March). Garlic is flourishing in the veg garden as well as the green manure, which helps to prevent soil erosion as well as improving the soil structure. With the new paths which were laid last year the vegetable garden looks very organised.

The diseased pear tree in the secret garden has gone, the entire core of the tree rotten, the light and warmth will certainly be appreciated by the bees in their hives. The area around the pond has been under water for days at a time - but Lesley's netted protection has kept the leaves at bay and the pond is looking clearer than ever. Traditionally the volunteers have a short winter break; in their absence quite a lot of spring cleaning has taken place, in the cabin, the stable flat and a couple of rooms in the Lodge. We are all back now, refreshed and chomping at the bit. Rory has been delegating large group tasks, such as the removal of some concrete posts, ferrying of garden debris across to the field, rose pruning and the digging up of Jerusalem artichokes. Madeleine and John McCormack gave a short, illustrated talk for the benefit of the volunteers on the history of the garden work over the past couple of decades.

The weather has been awful, cold and wet, but week after week the garden volunteers can be depended upon to turn up, it can't only be for the lure of homemade cake at 10.30. They work together as a team, each falling into their roles within the delegated task. As trustees we cannot express how much we really do appreciate the contribution they make.

**Elizabeth Ramsden**

## Graveyard walk

13 walkers turned up and it all went very well. We managed to go to the Lucy Kemp Welch grave, although when we had looked at it the week before, it was in a abysmal state (overgrown with brambles and covered with moss and vegetation). I felt ashamed that it had got into that state. Ken Moxley volunteered to get a neighbour, Martin, of his to clear it for us, and he did a great job. Many thanks to Martin for doing this. We spoke about 3 graves in the churchyard and Silus Titus in the church vestry and also some of the history of the church. The rector came along to open the vestry for us, and afterwards we had tea and



sandwiches in Church House. We would liked to repeat the walk one summer evening, but with this virus it seems unlikely - perhaps next year when this situation has hopefully passed.

**Brenda Stebbeds**



## Royal Bushey Butter in the 17th century

A visit to the Royal Society with the Bushey Fine Arts Society proved to be a thrilling and memorable occasion for two reasons. Firstly was the opportunity to see archive documents with the actual signatures of founders such as Sir Christopher Wren, Robert Hooke and Robert Boyle, to later celebrities from Charles Darwin to Stephen Hawking and Brian Cox.

The piece de resistance however was the document our guide dug out for us. Knowing we were a Bushey group he looked Bushey up in the archive and found 'An account of the manner of making Butter at Bushey,' dated 4 March 1683/4 and this is the actual document, but why in Royal Society archives?

Still legible and going on for two or three pages, it begins 'March 4th 1683/4 from Miss Eliz. Lingworth. An account of ye Manner of Making Butter at Bushey near Watford in Hertfordshire.' [The use of capital letters for nouns is as modern day German.]

It goes on: 'To make our best Butter I would wish for a Brown Cow, one that is 4 to 8 years old and has a reddish list [stripe] all along its back, a brown nose with a horn that is something yellowish...' and so on.

Looking at the handwritten document (see page 6) by clearly an educated and literate person was like touching personal history. It's hard to imagine it was written by a milkmaid or servant, probably unlearned and illiterate. Was it the owner or a child's homework? We'll never know, but there is Bushey in the archive of the Royal Society nearly three hundred and fifty years ago. We've always known we're special, haven't we?

**Barry Hyman**

## **Newsletters by e-mail**

If you do not already receive your Newsletter by e-mail but would like to do so, please send an e-mail, which must include your name and postal address so that we can identify you, to:

[janjon@bournehall.org.uk](mailto:janjon@bournehall.org.uk)

## **Newsletter deadline**

The deadline date for the next newsletter is Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May. Please send your contributions to: [busmt@busheymuseum.org](mailto:busmt@busheymuseum.org) **marked: NEWSLETTER FAO VAL**

March 4<sup>th</sup> 1683 from Mr. Elie Papworth.  
An Account of the Manner of Making Butter at Bushey  
near Watford in Hertfordshire.

To make our best Butter I would wish for a Brown  
Cow <sup>from 4 to 7</sup> ~~about five or six~~ year old <sup>also</sup> ~~with~~ a reddish tiff  
all along her back & a brown nose with a horn that  
is something yellowish (for we observe <sup>white horns</sup> that  
we give them blue milk, it always yields but little  
cream & looks white) with an udder black & <sup>white</sup>  
or at least somewhat speckled, but by no means a black  
udder & also <sup>with</sup> ~~when~~ <sup>she</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>big</sup> ~~with~~ <sup>her</sup> ~~udder~~ <sup>had</sup> ~~her~~ <sup>teats</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>are</sup> ~~very~~ <sup>good</sup>  
vein along her belly, one that hath not two white  
feet for we say a cow that hath two white feet is good  
for little but one of hath three is stark naught, that  
kind of cow should be of Dutch kind

A brown cow because we find <sup>the</sup> ~~she~~ <sup>gene</sup> ~~gives~~ <sup>a</sup> ~~yellow~~ <sup>yellow</sup>  
milk & it is apt to turn to cream & make of best butter with  
a yellow colour, which pleases most in our markets. between  
4 & 7 year old because before 4 of cow being but little  
gives but little milk & it yields but little cream but  
runs most to curd, & her udder will afterwards <sup>shrink</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>more</sup>  
& yield more: not above 9 year old because of milk will  
have less cream & make butter of a worse colour & of milk  
will be saltish when as of a young cow is of a sweetish taste.  
I thin neck because we find <sup>it</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>gives</sup> <sup>a</sup> ~~great~~ <sup>deal</sup> ~~of~~  
milk & it turns to cream too, when generally a Bull neck  
cow gives but a little milk altho it may be good. A yellow  
tiff & brown nose & a yellow horn because we find they give  
yellow milk. A black & brown udder or speckled because we  
generally find <sup>it</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~good~~ <sup>because</sup> <sup>generally</sup> <sup>gentle</sup>  
& those with 7 teats are best, 6 may  
do well but I we never choose. A great vein because  
they generally give most good milk, as likewise of spring forward be-  
cause there is also more convenient to milk. Short leg because  
generally gentle & not apt to kick & hale down

When I have such a Cow I would wish for a Pasture of the  
Common fine meadow grass & hath mixt with it white & red  
Honey suckle & strabions, upon a midling dry ground neither too  
Right