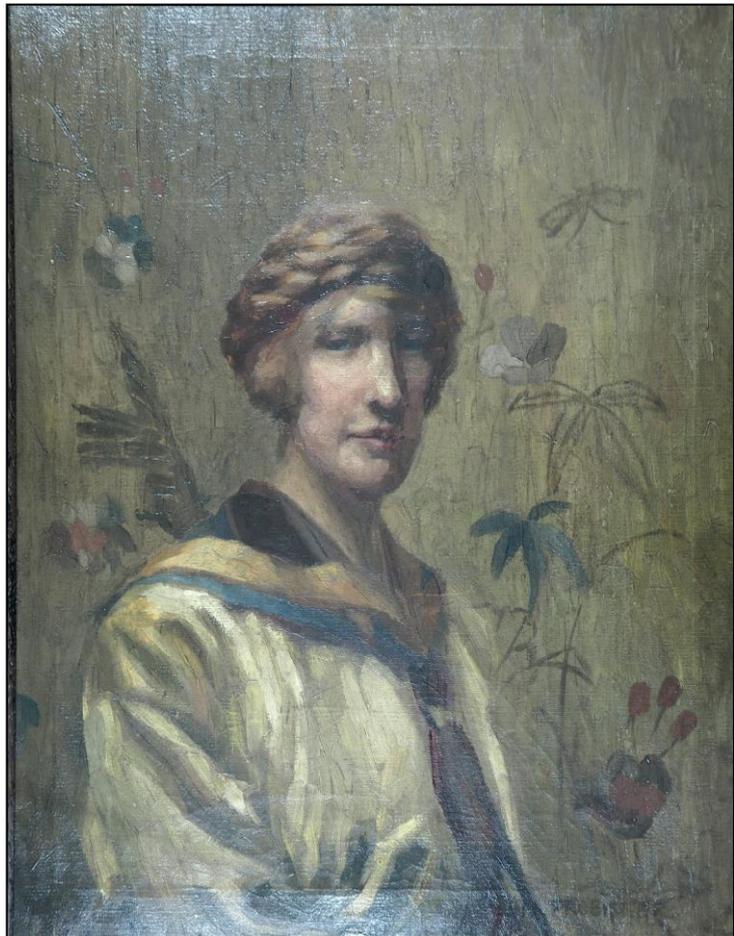




## Chairman's Letter

Roll up, roll up for the bargain of the year – nay, the century. How can you turn £10 into £300? Take a ticket in the Friends 200 Club Draw. £10 only buys you a ticket for a YEAR. Each month from March to December there is a draw for £20 and £15 and the special Christmas Draw prizes are £100, £200 and £300. How can you resist this opportunity of a lifetime? It is open to all, not only Friends. Take as many £10 tickets as you wish. We need to sell 200 to ensure it is a success. Send your £10 to 200 Club Administrator, Bushey Museum, Rudolph Road WD23 3HW. Hurry, hurry, hurry. Don't delay before all tickets are sold.

In the Autumn of 2016 we had the great pleasure of meeting Halcyon McLaren in Chichester when she donated a painting: a self portrait of Marguerite Frobisher. Halcyon's aunt was Marguerite Frobisher, the artist and companion to Lucy Kemp Welch from 1941 until Lucy's death 16 years later. I remember Halcyon telling me about the opening of the Lucy Kemp Welch Gallery in Bushey (now Church House) in the 1970s. We have just heard that Halcyon passed away peacefully in 2020 in her 100<sup>th</sup> year. She was one of the last people alive with a direct link to Marguerite Frobisher and Lucy Kemp Welch.



We were very sorry to hear that Tessa Yates has passed away. From its beginning, she was a valuable and enthusiastic contributor to the Museum as a steward, newsletter collator and donor amongst many other things.

I have news of a glimmer of light in these dark days. Reveley Lodge is hosting the National Gardens Scheme Open Day on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2021. As usual there will be plant and craft stalls. Please put this date in your diary

**Rita Castle, Chairman, FoBM**

## Forthcoming Exhibitions

### The Young Generation: Art by and about Children

ANNE BLESSLEY ART GALLERY

Date: TBA

A good number of artworks in Bushey Museum's collection involve children : Portraits of children, for instance, Beryl Fowler's portrait of Edward Negus; pictures that feature children, as in Hinchliffe's *A Fruit Stall*; art specifically directed at children – Alice B.



*The Meeting on the Beach* by Garnet Ruskin Wolseley

Woodward's work is a good example of this; and last but not least art work by children – see Lucy Kemp-Welch's *Bird Book* and *Book of Birds and Beasts* and *Bushey Swimming Pool* (after Miguel MacKinlay's *Summer*) by pupils at St Margaret's School.

The exhibition encompasses all this, as well as children's costume and toys.

*Exhibition Organisers: Pat Woollard & John Gerry*

## Travels with my Sketchbook - Beyond Bushey

COUNCIL CHAMBER

Date: TBA

The students of the Herkomer School of Art came from far and wide. Their tuition time at the School completed, some of them remained in Bushey, some returned to their original homes, but a good many proceeded to take up their palettes and travel, either throughout the British Isles or abroad.

As a result of exhibiting their work, a number of Herkomer students would have received commissions for portraits, illustration work and design and practising artists needed to go where the work demanded.

With the aid of new inventions of paint tubes and portable box easels and the general improvement of transportation, Bushey Artists, as many other artists, were drawn to venues offering stunning landscapes or seascapes, especially where the quality of light allowed them to absorb new 'impressionist' ways of experiencing light, experimenting with brushstrokes, colour, form and level of finish.

Since the middle of the 19th century, artists have been drawn to the Cornish coast, capturing on paper and canvas the shimmering sunlight on water and rawness of rocks and waves. Devon, Somerset and Dorset offer beautiful unspoiled countryside with rolling hills, stunning views and wild coastlines.

East Anglia has long been a magnet for artists with its natural coastal beauty, full of charming villages and medieval towns, topped with breath-taking skies. Scotland, Wales and other areas of natural beauty all hold an invitation and inspiration to use a paintbrush.

This exhibition includes not only Herkomer School artists, but also those who came after, continuing the dissemination of Bushey's artistic heritage.

*Exhibition Organisers: Pat Woollard & John Gerry*

*Sunny Morning, Pin Mill by Hugh Boycott Brown (1909-1990)*



## **BUT THE WORK GOES ON!**

Many are familiar with the phrase, "We Never Close" This was used as an advertising slogan by The Windmill Theatre, Soho, in and after the Second World War. It referred especially to the fact that the theatre had remained open every night and the show, including the famous Windmill Girls' dance routines continued right through the Blitz with bombs dropping all around. Now here in Bushey in 2020-21 our museum has been sadly closed by the anti-Covid virus lockdown regulations.

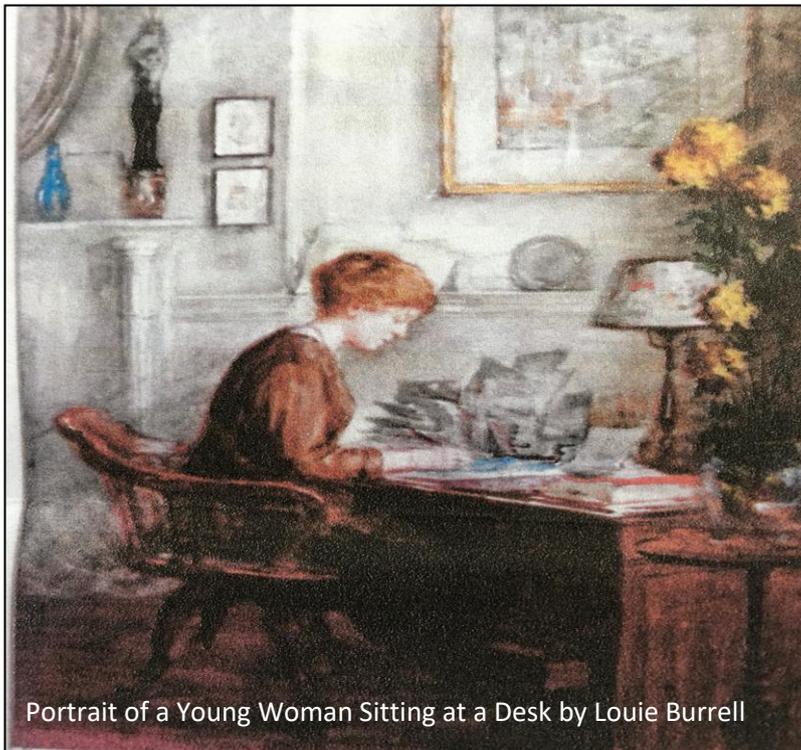
But, like the famous Windmill Girls of the past, volunteer staff, trustees and Friends of the Museum have gone on working quietly, and sometimes unnoticed, throughout this period! Gareth, our manager has been checking on the security of the museum and keeping it warm and dry. When we were able to reopen briefly from September to December, a team of stewards, ably led by Sue Baxter, stepped in to enable visitors to keep coming in. Jane Parker has continued to run and update the face-book page and kept up our liaison with Herts Museums and Hertsmere Museums. Val Penketh has edited and published the Friends' News Sheet in her customary efficient manner. The Trustees have been holding their meetings at home using Zoom on their own computers. Andrew Gunton keeps the Website going splendidly with many improvements and a new Artist of the Month feature which people enjoy. And Rita Castle and her Friends Committee carry on working for the Museum with undiminished enthusiasm.



Margaret Sibley by Francis Gower

Meanwhile John Gerry and Pat Woollard continue with their art curating work. Much of this has been clerical in nature

because a lot can be done on a home computer. John drove to Brixton in the late summer to collect ten landscape paintings by William Ashton (1853 – 1927) who was a pupil of Herkomer in 1896. He collected them from the donor at her flat, socially distanced across the back yard, just behind The Brixton Academy. Pat has been negotiating with Tim Sibley, Margaret’s son. The family want to donate “Portrait of Margaret Sibley” by Francis Gower (1905 – 1995) in memory of their mother. This is a delightful portrait of Margaret as the beautiful young woman she must have been. We will be gladly accepting the offer which will be handed over as soon as lock-down allows. We have also been donated and are waiting to receive “Portrait of a Young Woman Sitting at a Desk” by Louie Burrell (1873 – 1971) from Greta Ashby who lives in Westcliff on Sea, Essex. Greta formerly lived in Newlyn, Cornwall where she was chair of The Friends of Penlee Museum and Gallery in Penzance. This is one of the few other regional museums which is anything like as good as Bushey, housing as it does the Impressionist style pictures of the Newlyn, Mousehole and St Ives schools of painting in West Cornwall. An analogy can be drawn with the Impressionist landscapes of William Ashton mentioned above (but he wasn’t as good!) Again we will be able to display this painting as soon as we can find a break in lock-down



Portrait of a Young Woman Sitting at a Desk by Louie Burrell

to go to Westcliff or to have it couriered. Also the “Portrait of John Herkomer” by Ernest Borough Johnson (1857 - 1949), a pupil of Herkomer in 1886, mentioned in the December issue has now been framed by John and we will display it as soon as conditions allow. Woodcarver John Herkomer was Hubert’s uncle and was responsible for some of the carving in Lululaund including the dresser on display in our Herkomer Room.

Barry Hyman and Jim Craig Gray have been bidding on line at an auction of cartoons by Percy Fearon 1874 – 1948) who was a student of Herkomer in 1897 and who published in London and New York under the nom de plume Poy. Why Poy? Think of the way the first syllable of Percy would have sounded, pronounced by Percy’s New York friends. Poy was famous in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century for political cartoons, for example of Lloyd George, Churchill and Hitler. He was good at lampooning the politicians for their shenanigans. Unfortunately, on this occasion, the Museum decided not to bid but both Jim and Barry bid and succeeded on their own behalf and John and Pat will be trying to persuade them to make a loan for a future display.

From time to time we are asked to give assistance to art history researchers with an interest in one of the Bushey artists or sculptors. Recently, Pat has been corresponding with one Kate Holterhoff who is researching Amy Sawyer (1863 – 1945) a student of Herkomer in 1885. She particularly needed to be pointed towards some of the books which have been written about Amy. This meant liaising with Audrey Adams who is the Museum’s librarian. This work is ongoing.

With all the artworks coming into the Museum there is considerable office work to be done. An Entry Form has to be filled in duplicate. This records the donor’s details and a short description of the object. The top copy is given or posted to the donor as a receipt. Then an ADLIB form has to be completed. This contains much more detail of size, painting medium,

card or paper support, description of picture, value, location in Museum, provenance and far more. This form goes to our data entry person who has to spend an intensive day, in an office with several other people, transferring all that information to the computer's ADLIB programme. Through the pandemic she has found that very difficult to do without proper distancing. However, Patrick Forsyth is kindly standing in for her and doing the data entry on ADLIB at home. We are very grateful to Patrick for this.

These are just a few examples of the work we do. We hope we have convinced you that despite lock-down and the Museum being closed we can now recast the Windmill phrase as

“We did close – but the work has gone on.” Let us all hope that lock-down will be over as soon as possible and allow us a return to museum normality.

**John Gerry**



## Look! It's me!

This is Diane Benge, born and raised in Bushey of an even longer term Bushey family. She is holding Bryen Wood's book on Bushey in the Images of England series. The large picture on the right is of the Park Road VE party in the Co-op Hall above the shop in the High Street. Diane, a small blonde child, is seated third from the right with her sister Marian to her left and mum Beatie Sheffield behind them.

She is shown visiting the Museum last year in the newly opened Herkomer Room. 'There are,' she recalled, 'several others in the picture whom I remember.'

Like so many visitors she purchased a set of the new 'Voices from the Past' pamphlets. 'They are selling very well,' says Shop Manager Barry Hyman. 'I came in on one day to do about a dozen mail orders and stewards report good sales at the counter too. Get your now while stocks last and at just a tenner the set of eight, the bargain of the year!'

**Barry Hyman, Shop Manager**

## Rudolph Road News

Sadly we had to close the Museum again in December, as Hertsmere moved through the tiers to Tier 4 and then joined the rest of the country in lockdown.

It looks as though we will remain closed for some time yet. The decision is not in our hands, but it may be that Easter is the earliest we can reasonably hope to reopen. Meanwhile our Volunteers are continuing to work as best they can from home, while Gareth is keeping an eye on the fabric and security of the building. At least the vaccination campaign, which appears to be proceeding apace locally, offers the realistic prospect of a return to something approaching normality.

It will be interesting to see how future generations come to regard the Covid-19 Pandemic, which has had such a profound effect on all our lives. 2020 will go down in history alongside such dates as 1347 (the Black Death), 1665 (the Great Plague of London) and 1918 (the Spanish Flu pandemic). Spanish Flu is thought to have been spread in Britain by soldiers returning from the First World War. Unlike Covid-19, it affected the young more seriously than the old and led to the death of 50 million people worldwide and 228,000 in Britain alone.

Returning to the present, the four Hertsmere Museums have started a campaign to collect objects and experiences that reflect local people's lives during the Covid-19 pandemic. While you are confined to your homes, you may like to consider if you have anything that encapsulates your life during the last ten months or so. Photographs are an obvious example – images of deserted High Streets, socially distanced dog-walkers and queues at vaccination hubs, as well as more personal scenes like speaking to friends and family via Zoom or home schooling. Perhaps you designed a personalised face covering, or kept a diary of your experiences. One of the artists who usually works in the Frobisher Studio has used the pandemic as an inspiration for his work and designed some postcards. I have still got a rainbow which the children next door coloured and presented to me when we were still Clapping for Carers. Such ephemeral items tend to be thrown away, but they will help to evoke the times we are living in for future generations.

If you have anything which you think might fit the bill, please hang on to it for the time being until the Museum is up and running again and we are in a position to receive possible donations. In the meantime, make sure you keep safe and well.

**Audrey Adams, Chairman, BMT**

**Feeling bored, restless, culturally deprived? Are you wondering how to fill your time? Perhaps you even find yourself wandering down Rudolph Road without realising it? You could be suffering from MWS (Museum Withdrawal Syndrome). Worry not, help is at hand.**

**This debilitating condition can be easily alleviated by a daily dose of Bushey Museum's Facebook page – and it costs nothing!**

**Just sign in to Facebook and every morning you will find something to ease you - guaranteed.**

## **Musing on Museums**

No, I thought. I don't need yet another subscription to more reading matter. Then I was encouraged to support the Museums Association. Well, I thought, I'm spending nowt on going to the theatre or the flicks [yeah, I watch films on telly but it ain't the same as Big Screen, box of Maltesers, and no one saying 'hold it I need a tea or a pee'.] Spending on petrol zilch, so... do the decent thing, try it for a year.

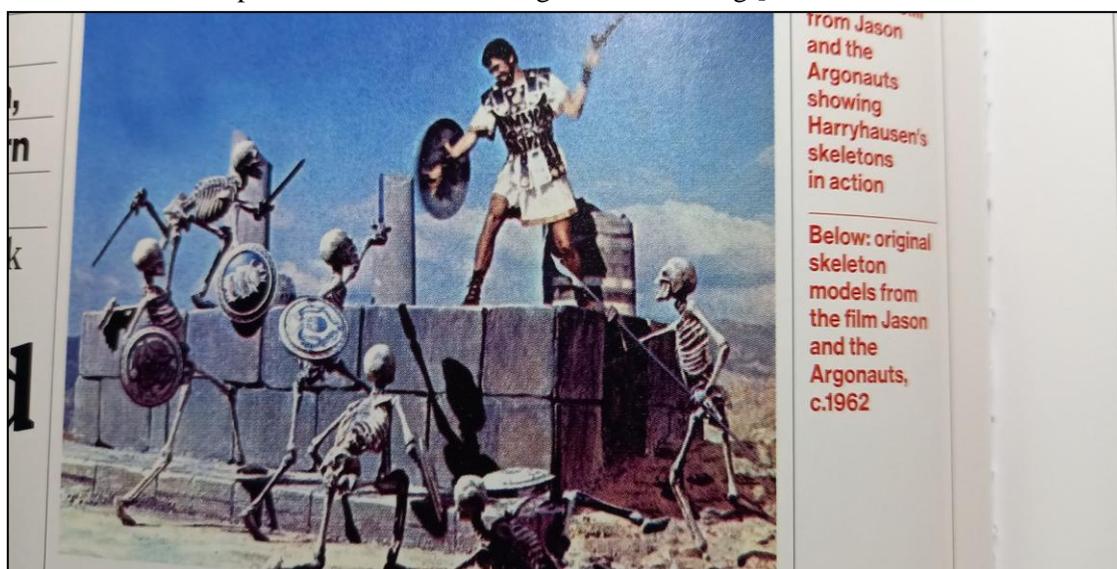
Forgot all about it, then Museums Journal arrived. A revelation. I didn't know about the American Museum and Gardens at Claverton Manor on the outskirts of Bath. It specialises in American

decorative and folk art. The Manor House contains period rooms documenting American domestic History from the colonial period to the C.19th and more. One for the visit list post pandemic.

Further afield is the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, with new buildings just completed and galleries containing painting, sculpture, craft and design, and video. There are works by Picasso, Brancusi, O'Keefe and Miro. And much more. One for a visit in the far future, I suspect.

Top of my list and a bit closer is the new gallery showing 'London's Transport at War,' at the London Transport Museum. It looks at the crucial role played by London Transport during both World Wars, from keeping civilians safe at home to supporting efforts on the front line. My interest is piqued on two scores. One, my mother told of sleeping in the Underground during the Blitz before evacuation to Scotland. Two, I was a mad keen bus spotter and made an adventurous journey from the safety of our brand new council flat in Upper Clapton – rent in 1948 two quid a week – to the wilds of a distant obscure place called Garston to see the new single decker GS Greenline bus by Guy Motors. No one else at school had seen one. I saw 6!

If you're into leather - and I'm not asking for details! – The National Leather Collection, Northampton has what it calls 'an eclectic treasure trove of objects and histories.' Relocated from London to Northampton because of its heritage of shoemaking [You must have seen the film or show



'Kinky Boots, no?'] and leather manufacture, it opens hopefully in April. Whether it has any more. er, exciting leather goods the article doesn't say.

One more for Ray Harryhausen fans. 'Titan of Cinema,' Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art. Ray was an American animator, artist, designer, writer and producer. He invented a stop-motion animation technique known as 'dynamation,' used in Jason and the Argonauts for the battling skeletons, in One Million Years BC and other fantasies. [Of course One Million Years BC, was of greater interest to the male population for Raquel Welch filling, or overfilling, an animal skin bikini.]

Much more in the mag. Do think about a subscription.

**Barry Hyman, Shop Manager on furlough.**

## 200 Club

Happy New Year! Well, hopefully better than the last anyway!

If you are already a member of the 200 club and wish to retain your number, please let me have your money (£10 per number) before the end of February – cheques (payable to Friends of Bushey Museum) or cash to:

200 Club Administrator, Bushey Museum, Rudolph Road, Bushey  
WD23 3HW please.

If you pay by direct debit that will become evident when I get the bank statement. There's no need to send an application form, but please let me know of any change of address, phone etc.

If you have any queries, email me at [200club@busheymuseum.org](mailto:200club@busheymuseum.org)

**Jessie Clack**

## Reveley Lodge: Friends Report January 2021

Despite the various national and local lockdowns, we've managed to keep reasonably busy since my last report in November.

At Christmas, we expanded the lights quite a bit with coloured festoon lighting down either side of the main lawn, colour-changing spotlights, lights round the Stable Gallery canopy and a Christmas tree in the car park. And, courtesy of our gardener Lesley Powell, a disco glitter ball hung from the holly tree next to the terrace! Then, for two Saturday evenings we opened up the gardens for visitors. It was free to enter – it was hardly Blackpool illuminations – but we had a ticketing system so that we limited the number of people in the garden at any one time to maintain social distancing. It was surprisingly popular and all the tickets for the second Saturday sold out in 6 minutes. For the evening openings we put on more of a show – tea-lights in jam-jars all-round the main lawn, extra lights in the trees, a laser pointing at the glitter ball and music on the terrace. The pop-up café re-opened for two weeks before Christmas including the evening openings, and was manned by David Hughes (of whom more later). David operated a proper coffee machine to make the mix of coffees that you find in coffee shops such as americanos, lattes, cappuccinos etc. The coffee machine was part funded with a donation from Bushey Museum for which we are very grateful. The café sold a range of Christmas items to support Reveley, cards, jams, chutneys and preserves made by the volunteers, and plants. We also sold hand-made wreaths in support of Crisis at Christmas which raised £320. The Christmas event was a huge team effort from our staff, volunteers and Trustees who put up the trees, ran cables, strung up lights, made wreaths and produce, manned entrances and served mulled wine, mainly for the benefit of the community; they deserve huge thanks.



In January, David Hughes opened his coffee shop, Latte Art Bushey, in the Stable Gallery selling a range of coffees, teas, home-made cakes, sandwiches etc. It's open Tuesday-Saturday 10:00 till 16:00. At the moment it's takeaway only of course. But please look him up on [his website](https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Cafe/Latte-Art-Bushey-103738695021074/) <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Cafe/Latte-Art-Bushey-103738695021074/> and drop in and have a coffee while you wander round the grounds. The Gallery still has art on display (this month its Sara Dryburgh) but you can't go into the Gallery because of the restrictions.



In the garden, we've cut down a very large ash tree. We've had one complaint that we are chopping down too many trees, but we inspect them regularly and we were advised that the tree in question was rotten, which when cut down proved to be the case. We have retained some large cross sections of the trunk which we will use in some way round the garden.

The extra visitors that we have had during the pandemic has increased the wear and tear on our paths such that some are now muddy and slippery, and some have had to be closed. We have launched a crowdfunding scheme to raise money for improving our paths that would allow us to apply to Hertsmere for additional monies. We need to raise £1,000 as a minimum to be eligible, but the ideal is

lots of small donations to demonstrate widespread support. If you are able to help that would be much appreciated, please go to <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/reveley-lodge-gardens-improvement>



In the house, we've repainted the ceiling in the Billiard Room as it was very dirty, though when we will be able to use the room again is unknown of course. We will be starting work on the outside of the Clay Lane end of the house to replace the rotten fascias and repair the guttering. It will be the first stage in renovating the front of the house which is likely to take quite a few years. Like Rome, Reveley wasn't built (or repaired) in a day!

**Granville Taylor, Chairman**

## **Bushey Museum online**

The large band of volunteers who steward the galleries at Bushey Museum provide an invaluable personal interface with the public in presenting the museum to visitors. Sadly, the Museum's doors haven't been open very much over the last year and so our engagement with local (and

further afield) supporters has diminished.

But Bushey Museum can still engage with the public electronically. It has been said before in this newsletter, and is worth repeating, that during the months of pandemic the Friends of Bushey Museum Facebook page has been alive with illustrated daily postings on a huge range of subjects. It is a delight, and I commend it to you if you are not a regular visitor to the site.

The Museum's other primary online presence is the Bushey Museum and Art Gallery website: [busheymuseum.org](http://busheymuseum.org) which gives access to a wonderful range of information and images, plus links to other websites of interest.

### **.... an opportunity to take part**

Our webmaster has introduced some new initiatives over the last couple of years, including the "Artist of the Month" feature. Hopefully you have enjoyed learning more about a variety of Bushey artists past and present, or even being introduced to some unfamiliar names. Do you have a favourite Bushey Artist of your own, who you would like to see featured? The Art Curators have made suggestions in the past and the webmaster has himself picked a couple to focus on. Now it's the Friends' turn - we would love to receive your nominations. It must be said that while we have significant biographic details on some artists, others are little known other than their name, so selection may be dependent on how much information we have about them at present.

Have a think, and if there is someone you believe should have a month in the spotlight, please send your suggestion to [webmaster@busheymuseum.org](mailto:webmaster@busheymuseum.org) with a few words telling us why you've chosen them.

**Shirley Keates**

