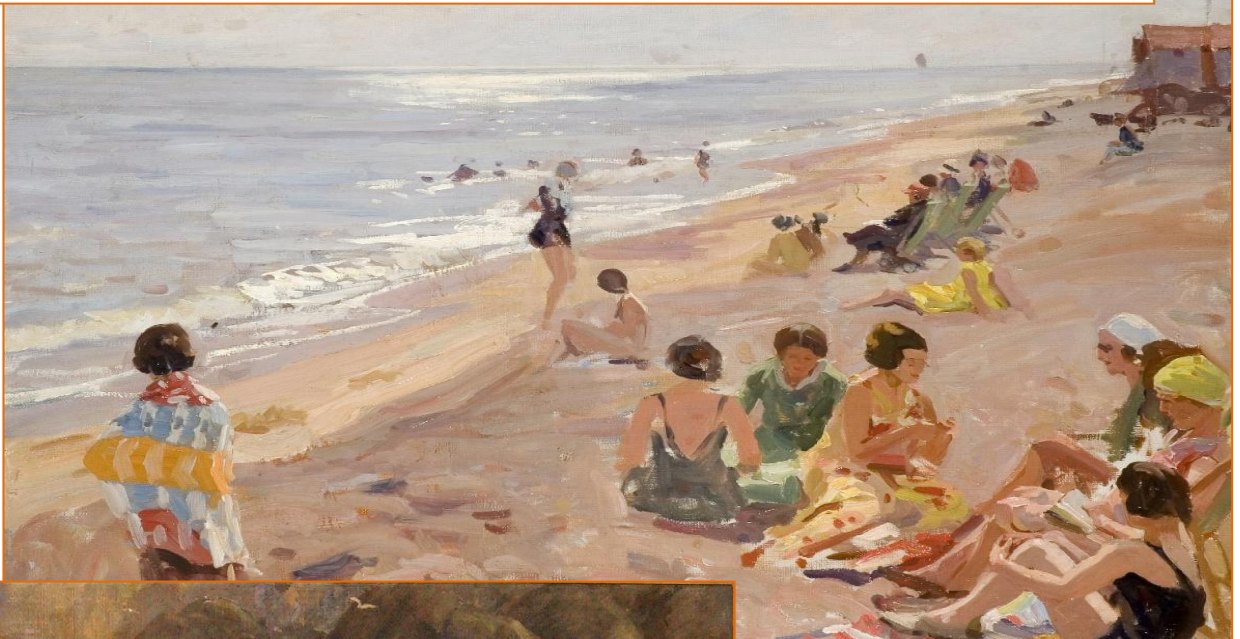




All our fingers are crossed that we are seeing the end of lockdown and the relaxation of restrictions on travel. though it looks like Europe may be off the cards for a while yet. So, to get us in the mood for summer and British beaches, here are a few favourites from the Bushey Museum Collection.



Top: Algernon Talmage – Silver Morning on Aldeburgh Beach

Middle: Rowland Wheelwright – Two Girls on a Beach

Bottom: Rowland Wheelwright – On the Rocks

Rudolph Road News

A year on from the start of the pandemic lockdown, the Museum remains closed, though we have a possible date for reopening to the public. According to the government's "Road map", we should be able to reopen our doors on Thursday, 20th May, though I must stress this is a provisional date and subject to further government edicts. It's been a frustrating time: I think this is the longest the Museum has been closed since the lift was installed back in the early 1990s. Our Volunteers continue to keep the work of the Museum ticking over from home and Gareth as ever is responsible for the fabric and security of the building, helped by Margaret Craig-Gray in particular. Val Penketh, the esteemed Editor of this publication, has occasionally been visiting the office to check the post and deal with emails.

Meanwhile, the longer-term future of the Museum has suddenly moved into focus again. Hertsmere announced a Zoom presentation to update the Bushey community on the current position with the former Bushey Country Club site off the High Street. Some of you may have joined the session or submitted questions or comments. A draft plan of the future development of the site was displayed, which showed most of the former-golf course will remain a green space open to the public. A secondary school to the south of the site is under consideration, along with two blocks of residential development – one off the High Street and a second accessed from Merry Hill Road. The other main proposal is the creation of a "community hub" sited off the High Street which may incorporate the library, the CAB office – and the Museum.

200 Club Draw

April Winners

£20 23 Mr John Gerry

£15 183 Ms E. Dunphy

This is not the first time the community hub idea has been floated, and as you would expect the Trustees have previously considered this suggestion. Personally, I love our existing Museum building in Rudolph Road, which of course has its own place in Bushey history as the offices and Council Chamber of the former Bushey UDC. However, we have to accept we occupy the building as tenants, and although Hertsmere have always been very supportive, it is possible the Council will have different ideas for

the site when our lease comes up for renewal. So we would be very foolish to rule out any possible alternative accommodation without giving it our fullest consideration.

When the Trustees discussed plans for the Country Club previously, our concerns centred on the provision of sufficient gallery space and storage. At the presentation, Carey Keates asked a question about this. Cllr Paul Morris, who has led the consultation so far, replied that a detailed assessment would be needed and promised careful consideration of these matters. Any of you who have been in our store rooms or in the attic will know how pushed for space we are already. This of course is why we are so interested in the fate of the Fire Station, but it seems any further discussion about that will have to wait until the Country Club site is sorted out. One thing is very clear: nothing is going to be decided any time soon!

You can read further information about the Country Club project and join in the debate by visiting the dedicated website: www.formerbusheycountryclub.commonplace.is **Audrey Adams, Chairman, BMT**

Liberation?

Another newsletter, still online, but printed next time would be fine.
Meanwhile we sit at home and Zoom and try to fight the Covid gloom.
Us oldies who have had the jab are told now we must fight the flab
From overeating while locked in. Cadbury's Dairy Milk's a sin!
Good to receive this next newsletter to help us all feel that much better,
But better still when we can be back in the pub, the shops... and FREE!
When the Museum's back in biz and things begin to really fizz
With friendly visitors galore and shopping with us more and more.
When Reveley Lodge is open again and Mabel's tearoom dulls the pain
Of lockdown in a darkened room and hours spent on *****ing Zoom!
Come June the twenty first and see, just what it's like then to be FREE!

Barry Hyman Poet Unlaureate

Reveley Lodge



Queuing for coffee on a wet February morning

The last few weeks have been a bit busier than we expected. The planned launch of the Latte Art cafe operating out of the stable gallery went very well. It is run by David Hughes and in the two months that it has been open has garnered very good reviews for the coffee, the cakes and the toasties. It's takeaway only of course at the moment but that hasn't

stopped the customers queuing up across the car park. The main problem has been keeping up with demand and keeping the electrical power low enough to prevent it from tripping! In February, Latte Art sold over 1700 coffees and hot chocolates, which implies that, if this continues, Reveley would have over 20,000 visitors a year, a threefold increase over our normal visitor numbers.

Talking of power, UKPower came to us in mid-February to say that they were intending to move the substation by the end of March. The move from the stable block to the corner of the Paddock is proceeding 'at pace' to use a Covid *phrase du jour*. If you've been up to Reveley, you will have seen that the footpath on the Paddock side of Elstree Road has been dug up ready for the installation of cables between Caldecott Gardens and the Paddock. The new substation is in position and UKPower expect to remove the old transformer, decontaminate the room and hand it back to us by the end of the month. Our current plans are to use it for storage.



We've just completed some significant renovations to the house. The Billiard Room toilet has had a complete makeover. It was in terrible condition with a long-term leak to the roof. When we investigated, the leak had caused extensive wet rot to the roof timbers so we took the decision to have a full renovation that would allow us to hire out the room with integral toilet without needing to arrange

access to the rest of the house. The Billiard Room ceiling was repainted in January and we hope to sand and seal the floor soon.

The Clay Lane end of the house has had the soffits, fascias and the gutters repaired and painted. When the weather gets better, we'll finish the painting of the Clay Lane end of the house – which will leave just the front to do! Small job! We have also been raising funds for the repair and extension of the garden paths which have suffered from our higher footfall over the last 12 months and we expect to start this work in the new financial year. We have been fortunate to receive a grant for the improvements to some steps in the garden and for a sitting-out area near the greenhouses.

One of the cottages long term residents has moved to new accommodation, giving us an opportunity to renovate it. Whilst it's yet another hit to our bank balance which has sustained some bruises of late, it will give us a reasonable return on our investment as the cottage will command a higher rental charge.

Now for the big news. We were both sad and delighted that Rory handed in his notice at the beginning of February. Sad because it's a great loss to Reveley and its family of volunteers to see the departure of Rory and Sara who have done so much for us and who have become an important part of our lives. Delighted in that Rory is to become Head Gardener of Titsey Place, a fine historic manor house dating to 1775, former home of the Leveson-Gower family, with a walled kitchen garden, rose gardens, lakes and 500 acres of woodland. We would like to think that Reveley can perhaps claim some credit as helping Rory to develop as a gardener able to be in charge of such a grand estate. Sara, too, has had a huge impact on Reveley. She won the Artist Challenge within a week of arriving; it was she who first suggested converting the old garages into a space for art; she ran the pop-up café last summer to get us started and who can forget the La Notte Siciliana she cooked for!

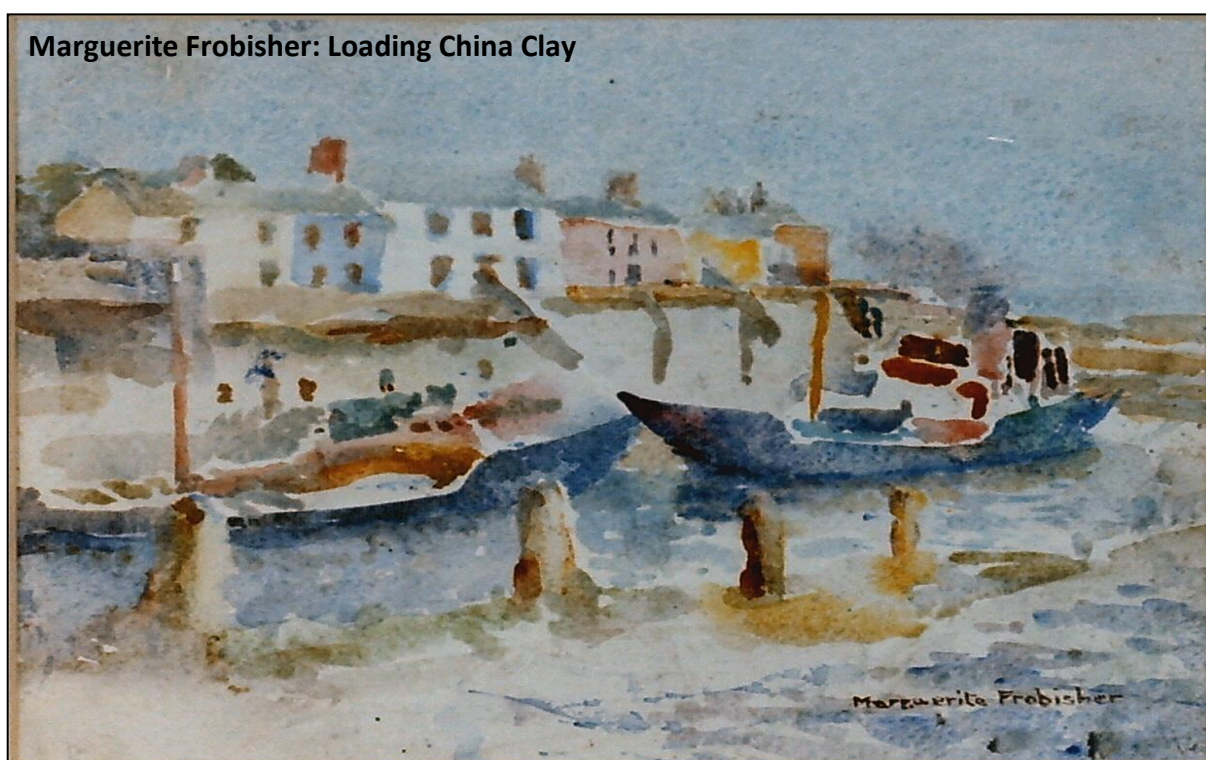
I'm delighted to say that Lesley Powell, who has been with us for three years now, has accepted our invitation to become the new Gardener-in-Charge. Lesley has a first-class degree in Biological Sciences from Newcastle University and an RHS Level 2 diploma from Capel Manor, with distinction. After university she spent 17 years in publishing rising to a senior role specializing in project management and web design, before changing her career to gardening that has always been a passion. Since she has been at Reveley she has transformed the conservatory, provided an interesting and unusual display of plants on the terrace, revamped the website, and set up a fantastic Instagram site. Please have a look at it – the pictures she takes are stunning – and she is tantalizingly close to having 1000 followers. We wish her the best of luck in her new position.

We are currently recruiting for a live-in caretaker/facilities manager who will also provide gardening assistance to Lesley and hopefully by the time of the next newsletter we will be able to introduce the new person to you all.

Of course, please feel free to come to Reveley and look round the garden which is now emerging from its winter slumber, and have a coffee and cake in the grounds. We expect Mabel's tearooms to re-open in May and we are already getting some functions booked. You will be able to see the latest art exhibition in the gallery while you wait for your coffee, which at the moment is the Bushey U3A Art Group.

Finally, we are putting the finishing touches to the setting up of a Supporters of Reveley Lodge Group and hope to announce our plans shortly.

Granville Taylor



Travels with my Sketchbook to sandy golden beaches, small rocky coves and piercingly bright light

Last month I gave a zoom presentation to the Watford U3A Art Appreciation group on *Landscape of the 1950s* and was surprised to recall how many artists at that time lived and worked in Cornwall. Although their artwork was notably abstract, it was always inspired by the light, the water and the visual and physical attributes of the coastal weather and landscape.

When it came to deciding the items from the Museum's collection to be included in the forthcoming (summer) Council Chamber exhibition, again it was a pleasant surprise for John and me to find so many Bushey artists were inspired by Cornwall and its seascapes etc.

On a very personal note, my niece and her family recently moved down to Cornwall to live. We are close and I shall miss her very much. They have moved to a place near Charlestown, an area where the largest clay deposit in the world was discovered in the 18th century. Once the site of a thriving industry, it is now mainly a tourist area, with the Eden Project built in an old clay pit.

Coincidence being what it is, one of the paintings we chose for the exhibition is by Marguerite Frobisher and now has the title *Loading China Clay*. However, on the reverse of

the painting is the title *Unloading the Catch*, but, as it states in the Museum's records "subsequent information identifies the location as Charlestown, Cornwall and it is more likely the vessels are china clay boats moored at the clay chutes".

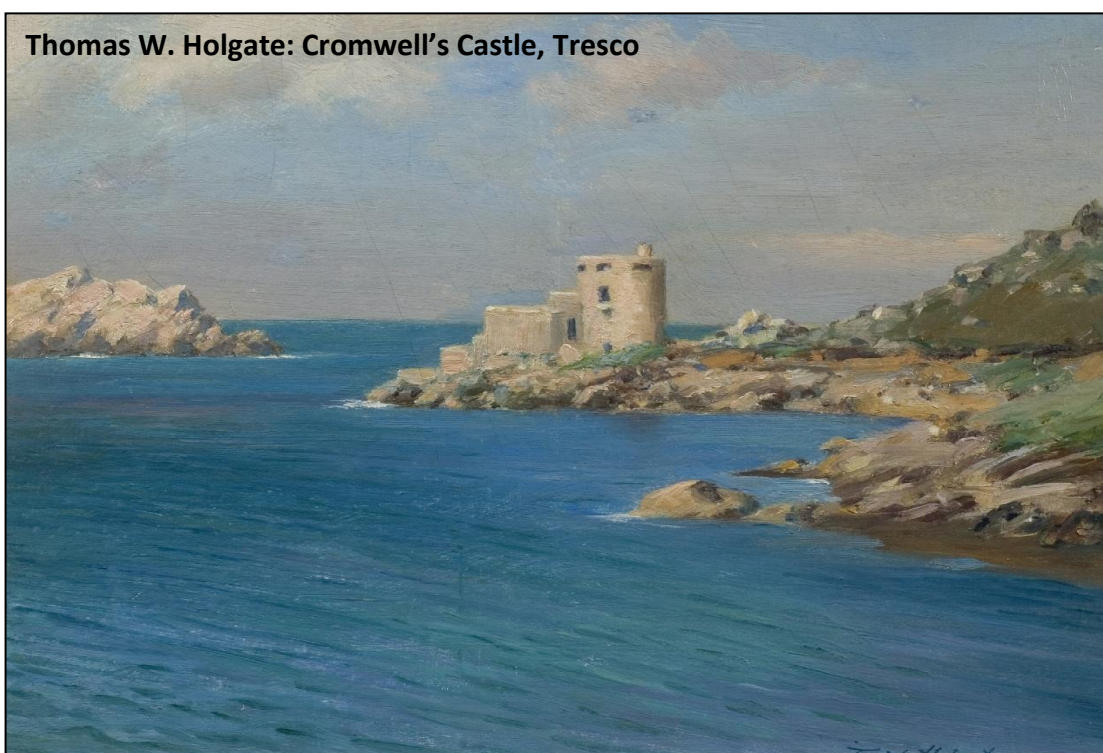
Marguerite Frobisher must have taken a few breaks from being Lucy Kemp-Welch's right-hand woman and later from running her own School of art. She was, after all, a member of the Royal Cambrian Society situated in Conwy. The two paintings chosen for *Travels with my Sketchbook* are *Loading China Clay* in Charlestown and a watercolour, *Sennen Cove*, situated at the extreme end of the peninsular at Land's End.

Anne Blessley wrote a heading: "David Tovey's List April 2007". The list is of Bushey students who lived and worked in Cornwall. David Tovey is an independent art historian, specialising in Cornish art. Among other pursuits, he contributes to the Cornish Artists Index, which is a very good resource for researchers.

Among the paintings we are considering for the Museum's exhibition are a number of artworks of Cornwall by artists not included in David Tovey's list –Marguerite Frobisher is not on the list, nor is Myrtle Broome, Katherine Wilson, Margaret Kemp-Welch. John Sutcliffe, Claude Oscar Prescott, Geoffrey Garnier, Frederick J. Widgery, Thomas Holgate, this last featured Treco, on the Scilly Isles.

These artists, among others no doubt, decided to pick up their sketchbooks and risk the train to Paddington and onwards on the steam Great Western Railway, terminating at Penzance and dramatic beaches and cliffs and fishing villages. Imagine no Lockdown!

PAT WOOLLARD



Museums Association

You may recall that in our last issue I put up a case for joining the Museums Association as an individual member for a modest fee and a regular magazine. My March/April one has arrived and it's full of good stuff. I went online [who hasn't lived online for the past year?!!] to look them up and discovered a goldmine of info.

A small group of professionals founded the world's first museums' association to foster mutual cooperation among curators and institutions. A radical idea at the time. The

inaugural meeting was in Yorkshire in 1889 hosted by the Yorkshire Philosophical Society. They started out with 11 members including Liverpool, Stockport, Sunderland and Brighton. In 1890 the first annual conference was a small affair; now it's Europe's largest event of its kind.

The first magazine came out in 1901. In 1918 they received recognition under the Education Act of that year and in 1930 ran their first training course.

There's much more on their website, so do look at it and..subscribe for a super magazine.

Barry Hyman Shop Manager [hoping to be back in business when you read this or very soon after!]

Chairman's Report 2019-2020

Although there was no AGM in November 2020, an Annual Report has to be submitted to the Charity Commission by the Chairman.

OFFICERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION

Rita Castle, Chairman

Carey Keates, Vice-Chairman

Anne Eames, Secretary

Bill Penketh, Treasurer

Judy Acornley, Janet Carr, Shirley Keates, Hugh Lewis, Diana Spencer, Brenda Stebbeds, Jackie Taslaq, Pat Woollard

CONSTITUTION

The Friends exist to educate the public by promotion, support, assistance and improvement of Bushey Museum through the activities of a group of members.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership at the year end stood at 601.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual subscriptions were increased and stand at:- Single £15 (£14 if newsletter sent by email); Family £19 (£18 if newsletter emailed); Corporate £25; Life Membership Single £150; Joint £180.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES August 2019 – July 2020

In November, following the AGM we saw a slide show photographed and produced by Patrick Forsyth showing Bushey in the past year.

There was a programme of 4 talks from September 2019 – February 2020. The talks covered such subjects as Hatfield House, the History of Heath and Heather, Stanley Spencer and Metroland.

In September 2019 a holiday to Eastbourne was organised, visiting Parham House, Bateman's (Rudyard Kipling's house), Chapel Down Vineyard, the Towner Gallery, Charleston Farm House and Nyman's House and Gardens.

A visit to Landsberg am Lech in July for the Herkomer Konkurrenz had to be cancelled because of Covid restrictions, as did a concert by the Purcell School in May.

Outings did not take place, partly through lack of interest, but also because of Covid restrictions.

FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

The 200 Lottery Club was fully subscribed and raised valuable funds. We expanded our programme of Village Trails to include a further graveyard walk in St. James' Churchyard. A combined FoBM and Reveley Lodge Garden Party was held in August 2019, the profits being shared between the two organisations. Another successful Bring & Buy Sale was held in October 2019, although we had to cancel one in March 2020. An Arts & Crafts weekend was held in November 2019 with local artisans selling their wares at the Museum. This was not a big money making event but worthwhile as it introduced new people to visit the Museum. In addition, until the end of March when lockdown restrictions were introduced, committee members manned a stall selling Museum merchandise at local festivities raising funds for the Museum shop.

OTHER SUPPORT FOR BUSHEY MUSEUM

Members continue to support the Museum by 'Time and Talent' at a high level. This covers stewarding, including manning the Museum shop at the 8 weekly sessions the Museum is open; the Museum's education activities, curating, mounting and demounting exhibitions, office work, publications including the 2 monthly newsletter and our events and outings.

Museum IT during lockdown

During lockdown very few people have had access to the computers in the Museum, but we have found ways of working around this: emails for instance are easily forwarded to volunteers' home addresses.

Jane Parker has been running the very active Museum Facebook page, and has needed images both of art works and photos. Much of our art collection can be viewed on the ArtUK.org website. We have set up a private website where she and the curators can access the rest, and we obtained a grant to replace our main digital store with a more modern one which can be viewed (to some extent) from volunteers' home computers.

Meanwhile the museum's computers have been kept running and updated remotely. Even when Hertsmere's contractors came to test the Museum's wiring, and test all our 'portable appliances', our Uninterruptible Power Supplies (that's batteries to you) have kept most things running. When our internet connection is broken the modem automatically switches to a wireless link (slower but OK for emails). So when lockdown ends the hundred or so volunteers who normally keep the place running should find a fully working system, rather than one entangled with a hundred years' of briars and cobwebs.

Patrick Forsyth

More from Facebook

Jane Parker has been continuing to post a new item every day, and they are well worth looking for.

Some of the more popular posts



gulls following the tractor.

21 March. Apparently it is officially Spring now. We thought the first day of Spring was 21 March but it seems that in 2021, the spring (also known as vernal) equinox falls on Saturday 20 March. This is the most common date for the phenomenon, although it can fall any time between the 19th and 21st of the month. Here is 'Spring Ploughing, Aldenham' by Simon Chalk, part of Bushey Museum's collection. Love the



19 March. Student life at The Herkomer Art School was not all noses to the grindstone, although Herkomer was a strong advocate of hard work. We see in one of the Journals of the Friends of Bushey Museum, Mary Sloane's memories of her student days. The article includes this photo of male and female students having fun in the snow. For the first part of Mary's

memories see our website at <https://busheymuseum.org/.../2019/12/Journal-14-2016.pdf>

6 March. Richard André, born on 6th March 1834 was a colourful character. Book illustration and the founding of the art printing firm of André and Sleigh, Bushey, which later became part of Sun Printers, were but two of his achievements. Last year when we commemorated André's birthday one of our Friends, Stephen Danzig added this information: (From



Sun Printers History - André & Sleigh Ltd.) This firm was one of the earliest process firms in Britain, producing work of very high quality. Owned by Cassell's, it was originally formed by Richard André and nephews.

2 March. Yesterday was the Feast of Saint David, the patron saint of Wales. This reminded us that two of Herkomer's wives were Welsh, Lulu and Margaret Griffith. After the death of Herkomer's first wife, Anna, in 1884, Hubert married a Welsh nurse, Lulu Griffith (1849-1885), who gave birth to a stillborn child and suddenly died herself three months later. This devastated Hubert and he never truly got over the pain of losing Lulu. His third wife was Lulu's sister, Margaret Griffiths, (1857-1934) whom he married in Bavaria in 1888. At this time by English law no one was allowed to marry their deceased wife's sister.



February. Myrtle Broome was our Artist of the Month for March. Myrtle (1888-1978) was an artist and designer with a special interest in Egyptology. She lived in the Arts and Crafts house, Avalon, Grange Road, Bushey, when she wasn't working on ancient tombs in Egypt with her friend Amice Calverley. You will be able to see more about Myrtle on our website at <https://busheymuseum.org/> You will also find there 2 jigsaws to do online based on Myrtle's paintings.



4 February. It's Global Sports Week from 1st - 5th of February. Here are two of the men from Bushey's sporting history. They were included in a small exhibition we mounted a couple of years ago. Frank Chester, who lived all his life in Bushey, overcame the disappointment of having his career as a cricketer cut short, through losing an arm in World War I. He then became a world-famous umpire.

Pat Floyd was an amateur heavyweight boxing champion of the 1930s and 40s who lived in Bushey all his adult life. In a similar way to Chester, he later turned to refereeing. He continued as a referee until 1976, and coached boxing at the Royal Masonic School in Bushey. In 1984 he was honoured to receive an award for 'Outstanding Services to Boxing' presented by the Boxing Writers' Club.

