1988 was the year of international celebration of the life and works of Bavarian-born Sir Hubert von Herkomer RA, who lived and worked in Bushey for most of his life.

Herkomerfest!

LAST YEAR was quite a year for Sir Hubert. Not since he died in 1914 has there been such a revival of interest in this remarkable man. 1988 saw what was probably one of the biggest exhibitions of his works ever held and marks the beginning of a reappraisal of Herkomer in the history of art both here and in Germany.

Many countries contributed to the International Herkomer Exhibition which opened in Landsberg, Bavaria at the beginning of July and ran for over two months. A party from Bushey attended the private view (see pages 2 to 5) and were received with great hospitality and warmth. In late September the bulk of the exhibition transferred to England and was divided between Church House, Bushey and Watford Museum where it ran for the month of October.

Bushey Museum Trust and Hertsmere together had the great pleasure of welcoming a party from Landsberg to the private view of the Exhibition at Church House on Friday 30th September. Our German friends spent a ‘whirlwind’ weekend with us, an account of which appears on page 5.

The Exhibition was a unique opportunity to see a truly representative selection of Herkomer’s works. These ranged from his impressive and well-crafted portraits of late Victorian and Edwardian notables (from which he derived his fame and wealth), to his important works of ‘social realism’ which can be said to form the basis of his true stature as an artist.

Apart from these two principal categories of his work, the Exhibition also included examples of his watercolours, drawings and sketches as well as metalwork and some powerful symbolist pictures of his later period, some of which were executed as enamel paintings.

A full review of the Exhibition will appear in the next issue of the Journal. It is a measure of its achievement that Herkomer’s twin passions for England and Germany have at last been fulfilled in the personal contacts and friendships made during 1988 between the people of his two home towns of Bushey and Landsberg.

The cost of staging the Exhibition in Bushey and Watford was well beyond the unaided financial resources of Bushey Museum Trust. Fortunately, Hertsmere, Landsberg and Watford Councils each contributed to the cost and we are indebted to them all for their support.

That the Exhibition was held at all was Continued on Page 11

Enjoying the private view of the International Herkomer Exhibition in Landsberg are: l to r Grace Dorey, June Wood and Sibylle Neunzert. June Wood originated the idea of last summer’s Bushey visit to Landsberg and organised all the travel arrangements. The Trust would need to match this with timely conservation and documentation work to provide the curator with an appointment of a curator and the conversion of the Rudolph Road Offices. He envisaged that such a plan might span two or three years.

Continued on Page 11
Bushey goes to Landsberg

Last summer a joint party from Bushey and Hertsmere (including the Mayor and Mayoress) flew out to Bavaria for the Private View in Landsberg of the International Herkomer Exhibition. Among the party were Anne Blessley and Michael Pritchard and in the following pages they recall their personal experiences of an enjoyable and unforgettable weekend spent in the warmth and hospitality of the people of Herkomer’s ‘second home’.

Thursday 30 June – Sunday 3 July

THIS TRIP started with June Wood’s suggestion that it would be fun to attend the opening of the Herkomer Exhibition in Landsberg and turned into a more formal party, headed by the Mayor and Mayoress of Hertsmere, Councillors Michael and Miki Colne, to discuss the twinning of Bushey and Landsberg. Other members of the party included Philippa Burrell (Louise Burrell’s daughter), Nick Browne, Grant Longman, Philip and Kate Morgan and Graham and Lesley White.

The journey was by coach to Gatwick and a flight to Munich. There we were met by Sibylle Neunzert with another coach for the forty or so miles to Landsberg. The journey ended in a very warm reception in the Rathaus (Town Hall) with a welcoming speech from the Oberbürgermeister Herr Rößle, an enchanting zither recital by school children of Herkomer’s music and ended with a first private viewing of the Herkomer Exhibition. We were then taken to the Hotel Gogl, almost opposite the Rathaus, where we spent three nights.

A full programme had been arranged for our visit and this started on Friday morning in the Parish Centre, a recently renovated medieval building, with the Official Opening of the Herkomer Exhibition. Speeches were made by the Oberbürgermeister of Landsberg, the Mayor of Bushey, the Bavarian State Secretary for Science and Art and Hartfried Neunzert, Curator of the Neues Stadtmuseum (New Town Museum) and Organiser of the Herkomer Exhibition.

... a complete medieval walled town with its walls, gates and most of its buildings intact ...

They spoke of Sir Hubert’s life, work and importance, the links forged through his work between Bushey and Landsberg, and the setting up of a Herkomer Cultural Prize to be awarded annually in Landsberg for achievement in the arts.

A social gathering followed where we met more local people and then had a more leisurely visit to the Herkomer Exhibition. There is no need here to comment on the exhibits since most of them were seen in Bushey or Watford in October, except for the two group portraits on opposite walls of the Council Chamber and part of its decoration, showing the Town Council and Magistrates in session. The former showed the same view out of the windows behind the figures as could be seen out of the actual windows today, a fascinating comment on Landsberg as well as the veracity of Herkomer’s depiction.

In the afternoon we had a guided tour of the town which is a complete medieval walled town with its walls, gates and most of its buildings intact, situated on the right bank of the river Lech a tributary of the Danube. The river adds greatly to its charm, being shallow but fast running, thundering over a huge weir near the main bridge which was being rebuilt to accommodate the variable flow of water from the melting snow in the nearby mountains. Within the walls there are colour washed houses with high decorated gable ends fronting the cobbled streets, now mostly with modern shop fronts built in at ground level. The churches are decorated in South German rococo style with exuberant stucco work, painted walls and ceilings, gilded statues and huge altarpieces incorporating all three art forms. The gem was a small chapel dedicated to St John the Baptist by Dominikus Zimmermann, a native of Landsberg. It was an oval-domed church in which architecture, painting, sculpture and light combine to create a tableau of Christ’s Baptism in a dynamic spatial environment.

The highlight of the afternoon was a conducted tour of the Mutterturm, the tower built a hundred years ago by Sir Hubert in his mother’s memory. The Mutterturm stands on a high bank in wooded surroundings on the opposite side of the river, seemingly isolated but in fact only a few yards from a main road. It is built of tufa, a rough grey pitted stone of volcanic origin, and rises in an irregular shape as a stairwell and balcony jut out from the single circular room on each floor to a golden tiled conical roof. Inside is a Herkomer Museum, with superbly crafted built in cupboards, benches and fireplaces and original printed wall hangings. Some artefacts came from Lululauand. In the first floor room, originally Sir Hubert’s studio, was a display of his medals and decorations. From the top floor there is a splendid view of the town.

That evening there was an official dinner at the Hotel Gogl, each English guest being placed next to a Landsberg citizen who had an interest in the twinning and this was an occasion for our Mayor to present a cut glass vase to the Oberbürgermeister. There followed a concert in the Music School, part of a former convent in the centre of town, given largely by children on zithers, and

The Mutterturm (Mother Tower) built in Landsberg by Herkomer in memory of his mother. The Exhibition commemorated the centenary of its completion in 1888.
the evening ended informally and cordially at a Gasthof (tavern) in the square.

On Saturday, a bright sunny day, the coach took us to nearby Waal, Herkomer's birthplace, where the Bürgermeister, Herr Pauli, welcomed us in the Rathaus and then took us on a tour of this small town. Herkomer's birthplace is commemorated by a plaque, the original house having been demolished some years ago. But Waal had a surprise for us. Like Oberammergau it has a Passion Play, performed by local people every ten years as a thank-offering for deliverance from a seventeenth-century plague. We were shown round the theatre, especially built and used only for this play, and two others based on the lives of St Paul and St Francis.

Finally we were generously entertained to lunch at the Gasthof Post and a short journey then took us to Frau Keim's house where we enjoyed her gracious home and hospitality. The sun shone kindly, but not too fiercely, on us whilst we enjoyed the garden which she had created in two years to complement the eighteenth century house which she had restored. The afternoon finished in Landsberg with a tour of the Jesuit church, dedicated to the Holy Cross. We were all intrigued by a ceiling painting in which the perspective painting of the Cross made it apparently move to face you wherever you stood in the church. Hartfrid Neunzert was our guide there and also in the Neues Stadt museum in the former Jesuit School opposite the church.

The creation of this museum had been a labour of love for Hartfrid and he gave us a lively commentary on the exhibits which included paintings by local artists and from local churches, some superb small religious sculptures, objects d'art and artefacts relating to life in the town.

Saturday evening — and our time in Landsberg — finished with a party at the Neunzerts' home when some local friends joined us for a most enjoyable evening, during which the Oberbürgermeister announced that the twinning would go ahead. Our hosts entertained us with a rendering of herkomer's Idyl, Hartfrid singing and Sibylle accompanying him. Kate Morgan is now trying to persuade Hartfrid to sing with the Bushey Festival Choir.

The following morning we left Landsberg with warm farewells, feeling that we were leaving friends behind, en route for a day in Munich, once more with Hartfrid as guide, starting with the Alte und Neue Pinakothek (Old and New Picture Galleries). We were then entertained to lunch in the fifteenth floor restaurant of the Hotel Austrotel. Sadly the view was lost because of poor visibility but we certainly enjoyed a splendid and protracted meal.

The planned afternoon walkabout had to be abandoned because of the rain but another delight was substituted at obviously short notice — a visit to Hartfrid's sister and brother-in-law. Here again we were warmly welcomed, cheered by a log fire and enjoyed more hospitality and a relaxing couple of hours in gracious surroundings with a charming family.

A final short drive brought us to Munich Airport and the journey home after what seemed like much more than four days away. We had set out on a journey into the unknown. We returned overwhelmed by the warmth of our reception and especially the delight of spending time in people's homes.

Our thanks must go to all those who helped to make our visit memorable, to the Oberbürgermeister of Landsberg Herr Rossie, the Bürgermeister of Waal Herr Pauli, and especially to Hartfrid and Sibylle Neunzert who put in so much time and energy as our guides and hosts. We must also thank June Wood who originated the idea of the trip and who organised the travel for us and generally acted as courier.

Anne Blessley

Michael Pritchard writes...

Background
It is likely that until two years ago very few Bushey residents had ever heard of Landsberg am Lech, a small medieval town in Bavaria, Southern Germany. At the end of June and beginning of July last year a party of eighteen members of the Friends, members of the Trust and representatives from Hersmores Borough Council including the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillors Michael and Miki Colne, spent four days there.

There were several reasons for going.

The prime reason from the Friends' and Trust's point of view was the German opening of the International Herkomer Exhibition. The Council representatives were using the trip to renew contacts made earlier in Bushey and to pursue the twinning of Bushey and Landsberg in addition to visiting the exhibition.

Landsberg's link with Bushey goes back to the last century and Sir Hubert von Herkomer. Herkomer had been born in 1849 in Waal, a small village close to Landsberg. His family emigrated to the United States and later moved to England settling in Southamptom.

Herkomer moved to Bushey in 1872 bringing his family with him. Having made many return visits to his native Bavaria since 1871, Herkomer eventually adopted Landsberg as his second home and spent long periods there every year. He built the Mutterturm as a memorial to his mother and donated to the town two enormous pictures of the town council in session. He was made a Freeman of the town.

With Herkomer's death in 1914 the Landsberg/Bushey connection became progressively less active and the separation was sadly compounded by the two world wars.

In the early 1970s local historians in both Bushey and Landsberg 'rediscovered' the link and the wealth of Herkomer effects in Landsberg. The link was developed further two years ago when Hartfrid Neunzert, Landsberg's museum curator, Hanns Hamburer, the then Lord Mayor, and a small party from Landsberg visited Bushey as a first step towards a possible twinning. With the centenary of the Mutterturm approaching it was suggested that an International Herkomer Exhibition be held to commemorate the fact.

Plans for the exhibition were finally confirmed at the beginning of last year and arrangements made for the borrowing of pictures from Britain. In the spring, June Wood made an announcement at a Friends' meeting and telephoned likely participants about making a visit to the opening of the Exhibition in Landsberg. June made all the travelling arrangements and thanks are due to her.

THE VISIT

Thursday 30th June

Eighteen members of the Friends and others including Trustees Grant Longman and Nick Browne, the Mayor and Mayoress of Hersmores, Councillors Michael and Miki Colne, Hersmores Principal Leisure Officer Derrick Shapland and his wife, Rector of St James' Philip Morgan and Kate Morgan (then still in the midst of organising the Bushey Festival, and special guest Philippa Burrell, daughter of the Herkomer student Louie Burrell, gathered on Bushey village green at 1pm.

Transport was by a suitably vintage motor coach supplied by Chapmans which at times left us wondering whether we would actually make Gatwick at all. Roadworks on the M25 similarly caused some worrying moments. Arrival and check-in for the 4.25pm Dan-Air flight was however quickly accomplished, June and I waited at the check-in desk for Graham and Lesley White who had arranged to come direct to Gatwick. Just as we were about to give them up for lost and rejoin the main party, an anxious couple arrived with minutes to
Friday 1st July
Most of us were up early to look around Landsberg and to take breakfast. Our first meal was unlike one’s idea of a continental breakfast with hams, cheese, cereals, breads and various drinks abounding. Our programme for the weekend had been arranged by Hartfrid and we had little to think about except where to be next and at what time.

Our first appointment was at 11am for the official opening ceremony of the exhibition. The ceremony was formal with speeches and music. Landsberg’s Oberbürgermeister Franz Rösle made the first speech. He discussed the background to Herkomer and his connection with Landsberg and announced that the town was to endow a Herkomer Cultural prize to be awarded to young artistic talent and that a town twinning scheme with Bushley was to be pursued.

Next came the Bavarian minister for Science and Art, Dr. Thomas Goppel, Dr. Goppel put Herkomer and the exhibition into a national context. The Exhibition, he said, showed that Landsberg was an outward-looking town and had a heritage to be proud of. Herkomer, he continued, also set an example as a model for liberty and freedom.

At this stage Hartfrid introduced Michael Colne who bravely and successfully spoke to the assembled crowd in German and received rapturous applause for it. Hartfrid then followed and spoke in English of Herkomer as an artist and ended on a hopeful note that the exhibition and Herkomer’s ideals presented ‘the chance to promote understanding between people and to make use of everything but use it peacefully.’

We then proceeded to drinks and canapés on the lawn outside. The Landsberg town guide, Iris Kern, showed the party around Landsberg and we finally arrived at the Mutterturn where Hartfrid met us.

The Mutterturn is an impressive building, very little altered from Herkomer’s time. We saw Herkomer’s pictures and engravings and even wallpaper designed by him and at the top an impressive view across the river Lech of Landsberg itself.

On the way back to the hotel we were shown one of the interesting churches with stucco decoration by Zimmermann which makes the church look almost like a wedding cake decoration. In Germany the style works well and is beautiful; in Bushley the effect might not be so charming! Our evening meal at the Hotel Goggl was taken with various dignitaries of Landsberg: the Mayor, political leaders, the head of tourism, the head of the twinning committee and other notables. Our Bushley Mayor presented an official gift of crystal to Landsberg. Most of the party then proceeded to another concert of music by Herkomer and his contemporaries given by a local music school.

Saturday 2nd July
The Bushy group was driven by coach to Waal, Herkomer’s birthplace. We were welcomed by Bürgermeister Peter Pauli who told us about Waal, its resident Prince and the Herkomer connection. In bright sunlight we were led around the village stopping at the war memorial, designed by Herkomer, the house where Herkomer was born (commemorated by a plaque) and the church of Santa Anna, its altar piece carved by Herkomer’s father. The village’s theatre regularly stages a passion play and from the interest shown this could have potential for a visit in 1989.

Lunch was served in a cheerful restaurant, Hartfrid joining us and after eating, we proceeded by coach to the home of one of the lenders to the exhibition. We were lavishly entertained with coffee and cake (again!), in a splendid garden and fine house. After all the eating and drinking we climbed more slowly onto the coach and returned to Landsberg and Hartfrid’s new museum. The museum had only just been opened and displayed pictures and religious artefacts. Further galleries are due to open in the near future. We saw Hartfrid’s working room on the top floor still in the midst of the Herkomer exhibition organisation with pictures and photographs and even some books from Bushley. The room provided another view over Landsberg looking back towards the Mutterturn.

Our last evening in Landsberg was spent at the home of Hartfrid and Sybillie in the company of some of the people we had met during our stay. The evening was very informal and the Neuernzets had provided a delicious buffet for their guests. Despite the language barrier we were all conversing and enjoying each other’s company. None of us went early to bed!

The Bushy group gather by the Mutterturn entrance steps in a restaging of a photograph taken almost 100 years before. Apart from the people, little has changed but the steps have worn! See page 7.
Sunday 3rd July
After three days of fine (albeit changeable) weather, Sunday morning dawned damp with some drizzle. We took our leave of Landsberg with farewells to some of the people we had met. Hartfrid and our guide Iris, accompanied us to Munich where we looked at the main picture galleries there: the Alte and Neue Pinakothek. In such a short space of time it was hard to take in much and the overwhelming impression was one of seeing pictures normally seen only as book illustrations.

Lunch was at the Hotel Austrotel the top floor of which provided panoramic views of Munich — in the light rain we saw little except the immediate vicinity. The coach again conveyed us out of Munich towards the airport but we stopped off at Hartfrid’s sister’s house where again we were provided with coffee and cake.

Finally, we left with thanks and reached Munich airport. We said our final farewells to Hartfrid, each promising to write and visit again. Our flight left after a short delay and soon we had arrived back at Gatwick and finally home to Bushey. We had completed a journey Herkomer had made earlier this century using different transport and with a different aim, although in a sense our visit to Landsberg had been as much a homing as Herkomer’s had been.

Michael Pritchard

Obituary
Mrs Lulu Herkomer
Just five weeks before her death on 8th December, I had spent a short time in conversation with Mrs Lulu Herkomer. It was the first of what was to have been a series of recorded interviews with the delightful lady who although in her nineties was still very alert and interested in all that was going on. She was the widow of Sir Hubert Herkomer’s younger son Lorenz, who died tragically in 1922 during an operation for appendicitis.

Mrs Herkomer had lived since that time in Melbourne Road, where she was a keen gardener, and was proud to say that she allowed no weeds to grow there!

For many years she had rarely left the house and consequently few Bushey people knew her well. She had, however, visited the recent Herkomer Exhibition in Church House at the end of October and it was a happy coincidence that she had this opportunity to see the paintings — some of them, amazingly, for the first time. She really enjoyed her visit to the Exhibition, but I think she might have been even more excited by being taken out in the dark! She had not experienced that for many years.

I am sorry that I shall not be able to complete my recordings with her, but I shall keep a very vivid memory of this kindly nonagenarian with a twinkle in her eye.

It is a mark of the close link between Bushey and Landsberg in Bavaria that among the small congregation attending

Visitors from Landsberg
Return visit to Bushey by a party from Landsberg for the opening of the International Herkomer Exhibition in Bushey and Watford
Friday 30 September — Sunday 2 October

The Mayor and Mayoress of Hertsmere, Cllrs Michael and Miki Colne were delighted to welcome to Bushey a party of twenty-eight people from Landsberg, including the Oberbürgermeister, Herr Franz Rösle and his wife, Herr Hartfrid and Frau Sibylle Neunzert and others whom we had met in Landsberg.

Their visit was even briefer than ours to Landsberg. They arrived on Friday evening for the private view of the Herkomer Exhibition in the Lucy Kemp-Welch Memorial Gallery and saw a number of works which had not been shown in Landsberg including a group of small late landscapes and the enamels. The self portrait in enamel

‘The weather was superb, warm with brilliant sunshine—autumnal England at its best’

was especially admired as being a lifelike rendering in a very difficult medium. Much of the graphic work was also new to them.

The weather for Saturday and Sunday was superb, warm with brilliant sunshine—autumnal England at its very best and Bushey village looked very attractive for the morning Village Trail. This began in the Sacred Heart church, moved on to St James’ church and Herkomer’s grave which was embellished with a floral arrangement, took in the Council Offices in Rudolph Road to see the exhibition in the Council chamber there of works relating to Herkomer and his school, and a walk down Melbourne Road to view the site of Luluald and all the buildings associated with Herkomer i.e. Herkomer House, erstwhile home of the art printing works, the film studio, the workshop and servants’ houses.

The climax for the Trail was the ceremonial planting of roses in the Rose Garden — looking very woebegone during renovations. Cllr Colne and Herr Rösle each planted a climbing rose and Herr Rösle’s speech alluded to the fact that on departing from Landsberg each lady had been given a symbolic cut rose which couldn’t last; but today’s roses would grow and flourish as the friendship between our two towns would also grow.

Coffee at Church House was followed by a visit to the International University’s chapel to see the Herkomer carvings from Luluald now installed there and then the party went to see the other part of the her funeral were the Mayor of Hertsmere Cllr Michael Colne and Hartfrid Neunzert, Curator of the Herkomer Museum in Landsberg, who had come to Bushey specially for the occasion.

Jenny Just
Herkomer Exhibition in Watford Museum where they were welcomed by the Mayor of Watford, Cllr Alastair Allan and entertained by Hertsmere to a buffet lunch. Amongst works on view in Watford but not shown in Landsberg were Herkomer’s famous portrait of John Ruskin from the National Portrait Gallery and his famous painting ‘Our Village’, sadly too large to be shown in Bushey.

The tour continued to St Albans with a visit to Verulamium Museum. The party then split, going either by the park or Fishpool Street before making an impromptu visit to that singular institution, the English pub, before reassembling at the Cathedral where they heard the end of Evensong and another English institution, the choir of adult and child voices, and had a brief look around the Cathedral and Shrine.

In the evening Hertsmere entertained the visitors to dinner in the Egerton Gallery in Bushey where the largest Herkomer painting was hanging. The Mayor and Oberbürgermeister arrived late as they had attended a Chamber of Commerce dinner but their appearance signalled the presentation of gifts. Herr Rösle presented Cllr Colne with an unglazed ceramic tile with a symbolic figure on it, a replica of the glazed ones by Herkomer on the Kachelofen (Bavarian tiled stove) in the Landsberg Rathaus — the type can be seen on the Watford Museum greeting card of Herkomer’s ‘Weary’, and Cllr Colne at once gave it to Bushey Museum Trust for safe keeping. Herr Neunzert presented Bushey Museum Trust with an unglazed replica of a Herkomer tile inscribed Hope.

On Sunday morning, en route for Gatwick, the party had a lightning tour of Highgate Village, the City and Westminster — all enlivened by Beryl Weaver’s commentary and anecdotes, which were translated by Gerald Kellner, and including St Paul’s Cathedral, the Tower, Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace and ended with lunch at the Russell Hotel Carvery. The Mayor and Mayoress of Hertsmere, Cllrs Michael and Miki Colne and Derrick Shapland, Hertsmere’s Principal Leisure Officer were amongst those who saw the party off at Gatwick airport on Sunday afternoon.

Our thanks must go to the Mayor and Mayoress, Derrick Shapland and BMT Trustees, Grant Longden, Nick Brown and Bryn Wood who, between them all, organised the events and provided the entertainment for a most enjoyable time with new friends who helped us see Bushey with new eyes. Our thanks also to Gerald Kellner from Landsberg who acted as interpreter when needed. 

Anne Blessley
Doris Phillipe, now living in France, writes of her memories of war-time years as a Land Girl on what was then Bushey's Coldharbour Farm.

The sound of distant barking echoes down the valley of the Céle in South-west France where I sit before a pile of little black plums. They have to be de-pipped before I can use them but it was a shame to leave them by the roadside to be crushed by the traffic. So many fruit trees grow wild along the roads and no-one stops to reap their harvest. I suppose the war made me conscious of economy and I always enjoy anything that is home-made. As I start to tackle this blue/black heap I let my mind wander back over the years, back to 1941 to the days when I became a Land Girl and lived at Coldharbour Farm until the end of the war.

At that time it was still possible to choose either the Forces, War Work or the Land Army. Marching up and down in uniform or making bombs didn't appeal to me. Leaving a stuffy office for an open air life was a much better idea. After a spell at an agricultural college in Plumptre, Sussex, I was sent to Bushey, mainly because my parents lived in Barnet at the time and my boyfriend worked in Stanmore so I had asked to be posted within travelling distance.

I went to the farm for an interview on a lovely sunny day in Spring and was disappointed to find it surrounded by houses. I had imagined it in a more rural setting but I was about 20 years too late for that. Up the long garden path with sheep grazing in the orchard on one side and a potato patch on the other, to a thatched summer-house where a large cream held a fair-haired sleeping child.

Janet Thomas was my first introduction to the household of Mr Charles Green, Farmer. I met Mrs Green, her daughter Dorothy and Dorothy's husband Glyn Thomas. Mr Green himself was ill in bed with pneumonia but he insisted that I go up to see him. As I crossed the road to sit beside his bed I had a strange sensation. The floor had a distinct downward slope, confirmed when I noticed the blocks under the legs of the bed on one side. Mr Green's outline under the bedclothes showed a small man and the only visible part was his bony little face, bright darting eyes and traces of sandy hair amongst the grey. These first impressions stay clear in my mind. I think the family had debated whether to have a POW or a Land Girl but they really wanted someone to live in and be part of the farm which was not possible with POWs. Certainly I fell short of sheer physical strength but I hope I made up for it in other ways. So I became one of seven living in the house.

I had a room overlooking the yard which was very snug despite the fact that the walls consisted of canvas stretched over the beams and papered so that on a windy day the canvas moved in and out like bellows.

The Ministry of Agriculture deemed it necessary to put all unproductive fields under the plough, and rightly so as England was going to have to feed itself during the next four years. Thus a purely dairy farm became mixed, growing wheat and barley but the thirty-odd cows also had to be catered for and their pasture stretched far over to land held by the Masonic Schools. Beyond the paddock was the Most Field and I dimly remember wondering about the uneven ground near the most pond. Could I have been stepping over grass covered foundations of the manor house of Bournhall? It seems strange that the farm's past history never became a subject for discussion. Everyone was always too busy with the present to worry about the past. For me the Most Field will always mean the place where poor Prince, one of the two great carthorses, met his end. He was big and black with a white stripe from ears to the tip of his pink nose. He was getting old and I found him early one morning lying on his side, half submerged in the pond, too weak to have struggled free.

My hours were from 7am to 6pm, give or take an hour but if a cow decided to calve in the early hours, who was counting? When it was haymaking time double summertime enabled us to work until 10 o'clock at night. Summer was also a time when cows were turned out to pasture which reduced the cleaning of cowsheds, all done with pails of water from a tank. Milking machines and hosepipes were still an extravagance. There were four of us to do the milking, Mr Green, Sid Bone the head cowman who had a cottage overlooking the yard, Percy Rounding and myself, Glyn would also help if he finished the morning milkround in time. Then the milk would flow freely once his deep voice was heard singing his lovely Welsh songs.

I mustn't forget little Willie Cusack who lived in Herne Road. He was still at school but all his spare time was spent on the farm. He was such a help and nothing seemed to daunt him. Where are you now Willie? There was also another Land Girl, Vera Thacker, who lived with her mother in Coldharbour Lane near the farm. She and Glyn split the milk round between them. The washing and bottling was done by hand, a far cry from today's automated dairies, and delivery was by horse-drawn cart, the van or milk float.

Winter was horrible. Mud everywhere and cows in the sheds all day and night except when they were turned out into the yard whilst we cleaned the sheds. After
that the yard had to be cleared, so the dungheap soon outgrew its allotted place and went the only way it could – up. Eventually boards had to be laid down all the way to the top and it became a circus act to take a full barrow up them without going off the boards and meeting a fate worse than death. Willie was particularly good at this, rushing at it with a yell and reaching the top with a flourish. Winter evenings in the living room were very cozy with its low ceiling, bright fire and dark red curtains keeping out the cold. Harry Hedges sometimes came over for a chat with Mr Green and Mrs Green would grumble that he would probably come in his dirty boots and put them on her polished brass fender. I very often went in with a great bundle of L.A. socks which needed mending and everyone would laugh for they knew I would fall asleep before I had repaired one small hole.

After two years I returned over from the yard to the milk round, releasing Glyn to the yard and Mr Green to a well earned rest. So started a two girl team delivering the meagre half-pint to Bushhey’s customers.

A policeman’s lot...

TW Hedges, late father of Norman Hedges of the Friends, told the following amusing story in a letter he wrote in the early 60s.

The Horse & Chains was the most popular port of call for chain horses up Clay Hill... the charge [for hauling up a cart by chains] was sixpence.

I remember a very amusing incident there. In those days the horded Royal Mail passed through Bushhey in the early evenings and had to mount Clay Hill at reduced speed. My brother and his friend Harry Whitehead used to hang on to the rear of the van as it proceeded up the hill. (Incidentally, Whitehead senior was one of the Bushhey craftsmen who helped to fashion Herkomer’s ‘Lululaund’, now, alas, only a ruin.)

This practice of free-riding became too well-known to be favoured by authority, so it was decided to stop it. Bushhey then had a ‘horse-policeman’. The animal was stabled at the rear of the station on Clay Hill. The old stable and coach house is now the rest room for the present day officers. The mounted constable was named Sunman, a terror to small boys, including myself!

Sunman caught the riders in the act, hitched his horse in the Horse and Chains’ yard and gave chase [on foot]. At the top of the hill the boys dismounted and ran back followed by the now somewhat exhausted constable. They were unhitched the horse and the noble animal at once made for home with the unhorser Sunman following as best he could! Unfortunately the officer was churlish enough to take his defeat in questionable humour and spilled the beans to the parents concerned, and each of the lads received an appropriate rocket!

Sunman delivered his protest in person up to the back door of our cottage in Bournhall Road, mounted on his grey charger in full uniform with sword and sword-stick complete.

This apparition scared my mother very badly, from which she did not recover until next day.

Herkomer (3rd from left) in a carefully posed photograph taken c.1895, a few years after the completion of the Mutterurn (Mother Tower) which he built in Landsberg in memory of his mother who died there in 1885. The others in the picture are his third wife, Margaret Griffiths, and probably some art students from Bushey including William Bennett(?) (far left). The boy standing is probably Herkomer’s younger son, Lawrence.
Looking forward with hope...

Text of the speech by Franz Rössle, the Oberbürgermeister of Landsberg at the dinner given by Hertsmere Borough Council in honour of our German friends when they visited Bushey last year for the private view of the International Herkomer Exhibition.

"Dear Mayor Colne, Borough Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen

IN THE name of the town council of Landsberg am Lech I wish to convey to you, the Borough of Hertsmere and especially the town of Bushey our kindest regards.

Mr Mayor, since your visit to Landsberg with an impressive group of representatives of your town only a few months have passed. I still remember the touching farewell.

That's why I am especially happy to be your guest in Bushey today with a group of citizens of Landsberg, town councillors and contributors to the exhibition and wish to further thank you for inviting all those present.

I consider it to be a unique gesture of friendship and honour showing, as a motive on your invitation card, the Mutterturm* (Mother Tower) in Landsberg. In Landsberg more than 7000 people have seen the Herkomer Exhibition on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the building of the Mutterturm.

The exhibition has been appreciated in a very positive way even beyond the boundaries of Landsberg and has achieved that the name of Hubert von Herkomer has become revived in cultural circles in Germany.

Some of the pictures from Landsberg are now on view here. And as you can see, we have followed those pictures and we are looking forward to viewing and appreciating some more of Herkomer's paintings, to visit his grave and in his film studios.

On this occasion we hope to take the opportunity of furthering our friendly relationship.

It will be my pleasure to do something to further the cultural connections between our towns. The Dominicus Zimmermann grammar school is considering the possibilities to arrange a school twinning with Hertsmere-Bushey. I hope this effort will be successful. I believe that the contact between schools - students, namely young people, will be the best basis for a cultural relationship between our two towns. Should this be successful, further contacts will grow by themselves. A friendship and partnership will grow without the necessity of signing an official paper immediately, I say this with apology and ask you for your patience, because Landsberg, considering its size, has entered many twinnings with various towns in the last couple of years.

The town council of Landsberg therefore, I believe, needs a little more time to consider the commitments and responsibility which arise from the connection between Bushey and Landsberg through Hubert von Herkomer.

But even without any officialdom the first essential steps have already been made through these exhibitions and the contacts between the town officials, all those interested in art, the Dominicus Zimmermann grammar school and, last but not least, the persons involved in the town twinning with Failsworth*.

The fame of Hubert von Herkomer has suffered through the estrangement of our two nations as a consequence of the two world wars. This common connection of Herkomer's works is now the bridge of friendship and contacts which we all desire and which I am sure will lead to enrichment and better understanding between our two towns.

May I ask you to accept this gift which is a replica of a tile from one of Hubert von Herkomer's designed dutch-tiled stoves in the town hall of Landsberg and a further small piece of a tile on which the English word "hope" is imprinted.

I am not only presenting this piece of art to supplement your collection but the word "hope" on the tile shall express the desire that the relationship between our two towns will continue to flourish.

I wish you the same success for your exhibitions as we have had in Landsberg. This will help us all to continue with our work successfully."

Marion Cox, a member of the Bushey party who flew out to Landsberg last year, studies her catalogue in the Herkomersaal, the building housing the International Herkomer Exhibition during its showing in Landsberg.

*Landsberg has an existing town-twinning arrangement with Failsworth near Manchester based on sporting links.

Editor's note: The above text was kindly made available to us by Herr Rössle before he returned to Germany and is printed verbatim.

Franz Rössle (right), Landsberg's Oberbürgermeister, chats with fellow Bavarians and Michael Colne (2nd from right), Hertsmere's Mayor, at the Private View of the Exhibition in Landsberg, attended by a party from Bushey and Hertsmere. See Page 2.
End of the School
After twenty-one years Herkomer, who was working incessantly and at characteristic high pressure, got tired of the School and could not be persuaded to carry on. Miss Kemp-Welch, who had been teaching some time, followed with a school for animal and figure painting, which she conducted with great success for twenty years, giving it up when the 1914-18 war broke out. Since then there has been no attempt at revival. The famous School is now only a memory.

I confess I have not the competence to assess Herkomer's place in the history of British art; to say which of his works will pass the test of time. Many famous men sat to him for portraits — Tennyson, Ruskin (whom he succeeded as Slade professor at Oxford), Wagner, Kitchener, Roberts, Joseph Chamberlain, Jameson ('Dr. Jim'), Archbishop Temple, Lord Fisher, and Father Vaughan. He did an enamel portrait of the late Kaiser, a gorgeous work, ablaze with gold and crimson and jewels. This marvellous of decorative effect apparently did not please his royal mightiness; and Herkomer afterwards smashed it up with a hammer. He depicted Bushey High Street (when the site of the green in front of the Parish Church was occupied by the five Twycyhel cottages) in 'Our Village', with characters still remembered by the older inhabitants. 'The Foster Mother', another pastoral, was the scene in a meadow behind the Red Lion. In 'The Chapel of the Charterhouse' (now in the Tate Gallery)

F H Barnes was a local historian who wrote a series of articles called 'Herkomer's Bushey' in the Watford Observer in 1941.
This is the second one and appeared on 10 October of that year. It includes some rare and fascinating first-hand recollections of the great man.

Herkomer included portraits of Dr Adams Clarke, of Bushey, Mr Simpson Noakes, a neighbour (who was the model for Tenniel's 'John Bull'), and Herkomer's father and uncle.

A Popular Masterpiece
'The Last Muster', a study of Chelsea pensioners in the charity house of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, is undoubtedly the artist's most popular masterpiece. It was originally purchased for £1,200 by Mr C.E. Fry, of Watford, who was one of the artist's earliest patrons. It caused a sensation when exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1875, and aroused enthusiasm at the Paris International Exhibition three years later, when Herkomer was awarded a medal of honour, being placed first by the international jury. About this noble work Miss Kemp-Welch, familiar with all the Herkomer masterpieces, was enthusiastic.

Much could be written of the artist's watercolours, etchings, metal work, lithographs, and enamels. In the annals of British art a more gifted and many-sided artist has never lived.

Chairman of Council
Some forty-five years ago [i.e. around 1896—Ed.] Herkomer was elected chairman of Bushey Parish Council. What first induced him to take part in public life in the village was, if I remember aright, a scheme to run a railway from Edgware to Watford, which he strongly opposed, as he feared it would destroy the rural amenities of the neighbourhood. The Council met in one of his studios. I have a vivid recollection of attending those meetings, of groping in the dark to find a ladder which led to the room selected, of going past machines on which the Professor (as he was called before his Knighthood) was printing and experimenting in lithography. When the Council were assembled — the late Mr W. Doery was then clerk — Herkomer would hurriedly enter. He would leave the other members gaping by the rapidity with which he ran through the business. Generally, in a few minutes all was over. I have heard him lecturing on art in the Clarendon Hall, Watford, to a crowded audience.

Though his ancestry was Bavarian, Herkomer had nothing of the typical German in personal appearance. He was dark and spare, almost ascetic-looking. In his latter years he was clean shaven. He had an abundance of hair, which he parted in the centre. He was vitally alive and never seemed to rest for a moment. In the spring of 1914, though his health had broken, he insisted on motoring to Devonshire. At Budleigh Salterton he took to his bed and passed away from pneumonia. He was buried in Bushey Churchyard in the same tomb as his father and his second wife 'Lulu'.

Since then his third wife, his eldest son Siegfried, and his daughter Elsa have been buried nearby. On the tomb Herkomer is described simply as 'Painter and Teacher', and the last line of the inscription reads 'Artium Magister'. He was indeed a Master of Arts — such a Master as Bushey will never see again.

*Herkomer was called 'Professor' following his appointment as Slade Professor of Fine Art at Oxford, a position he held from 1885 to 1894.
†Present-day equivalent would be almost £500,000, a sizeable sum bearing in mind that Bushey's population c.1895 was only 6000!

The Journal editor is Alec Just and he can be contacted during evenings and weekends on 01-950 2857. Suggestions, comments, letters, articles, ideas etc are all welcome at 22 King George Avenue, Bushey WD2 3NT.
LOCAL STUDIES CENTRE RESEARCH PROJECT

Georgian Bushey: a versatile village

Trustee Bryen Wood contributes an introduction to the following article by Hugh Prince on Bushey’s Militia Lists from the Eighteenth Century.

AT THE TIME we opened the Local Studies Centre we tried to look round Hertfordshire for any projects in which we might take part. One we came across had been set up by David Short of the Ashwell Field Studies Centre which had as its ultimate objective the countywide transcription onto computer of the Herts Militia Lists to contribute to a local history database for schools.

David Short got copies for us of the Lists for Bushey from the County Record Office and some of the members of our Sunday indexing team have been interpreting eighteenth century handwriting onto data entry sheets. We also decided to make a card index for our own use. We have now completed both sheets and cards, the latter being available to Friends and others.

A more recent development has been a decision by the Herts Family & Population History Society to attempt to collate, edit and publish the Herts Militia Lists for a wider audience and we have agreed that our data can be used for this project also.

Hugh Prince is a stalwart of the Sunday indexing team and has written this interesting account of the Militia Lists in general and Bushey’s in particular.

THE MOST valuable source for personal names and the occupations of men in the second half of the eighteenth century is a series of Militia Lists. The Militia Act of 1757 authorised the enlistment of a militia militia force so that regular soldiers and sailors could be released from duties at home bases and be drafted overseas to fight the French in the Seven Years War. The militia were to be trained to serve for up to three years in a part-time home defence force to guard the country against foreign invaders and internal rebels. Hertfordshire was called upon to raise and maintain a force of 560 militiamen. While stationed in Essex and Suffolk some of these men married local girls at Little Warley, Dovercourt, Rayleigh, Maldon and Ipswich.

Lists of men between the ages of eighteen and fifty were compiled by the

parish constable or constables around Michaelmas each year. Apprentices, clergymen and university graduates were not normally enlisted but in Bushey the lists included names of several gentlemen, an attorney and servants who later became craftsmen. The completed lists were submitted to Berkhamsted where a Deputy Lieutenant of the County heard appeals and deleted the names of men who had already served for more than two years in the militia or in the regular army or navy; those supporting three or more dependant children; and those unfit for service because of lameness (a common disability among Bushey men), deafness or other infirmity.

From lists collected from all parishes in Hertfordshire, names were drawn by lot and those selected were called up for military training. Service in the militia earned a man exemption from overseas military service, freedom from conscription by press gangs and exemption from forced labour on roadworks. It was also permissible for a man who had been selected to find a substitute to take his place. The Militia Lists for Bushey cover nineteen years from 1758 to 1786 and all Bushey lists record the occupations as well as personal names of those enlisted.

Well-known Bushey cyclist and ex-chairman of the Friends Alan Pritchard, apprehended for alleged speeding by PC Ken Moxley of Bushey Police. The ‘vehicle in question’ was having its first outing (leading the procession to mark the opening of the 1988 Bushey Festival) after being beautifully restored for the Trust by John Carr of Bournehall Road. The cost of restoration was met by an anonymous donor.

In the second half of the eighteenth century, Bushey was more than a simple rural community dominated by farming. Many non-agricultural activities were recorded amongst the occupations of adult men. The presence of a dozen brick-makers, bricklayers, sawyers and carpenters suggests that building was active during these years. The road from London to Watford not only supported the livelihoods of several innkeepers, victuallers and a brewer, but also provided work for wheelwrights, blacksmiths, a news carrier and an excise man. A few families in Georgian Bushey were engaged in shoemaking and tailoring but the lists record no tanners, no weavers and no cloth makers. Among professional occupations were an attorney, a surgeon and a schoolmaster. Did these men practise in the village or journey to office, surgery and school elsewhere?

Whilst farmers, labourers and farm servants together formed the largest single occupational group in the village in the late eighteenth century, they were outnumbered by the tradesmen pursuing a diversity of occupations in other post offices.

As the Militia Lists span a period of twenty-eight years, fathers, brothers, sons, nephews and also grandsons are recorded under the same family names. When different generations have been sorted out it will be possible to learn how far sons followed in their fathers’ footsteps. My first impression is that a significant proportion of family businesses in Bushey passed from father to son and that a significant proportion of labourers and servants who did not take up family trades and crafts disappeared from later lists. Their absence may suggest that some young men moved away from Bushey. A glance through a sequence of lists brings to light examples of upward mobility within the same families – servants becoming farmers, tradesmen becoming wheelwrights – but it provides no evidence for geographical mobility – that of men moving away in search of work or of those coming to Bushey to set up shop.

Far and away the most important items recorded in the Militia Lists are personal names. In the nineteen surviving lists, over 1700 surnames are recorded. I don’t know sufficient about the histories of Bushey families to say how many of these surnames persisted in the locality from the eighteenth through the nineteenth, into the twentieth century. But in conjunction with full lists of names abstracted from the mid-nineteenth century census enumerators’ books, from baptismal, burial and marriage registers and from other lists of names it will eventually be possible to trace lineages back over two and a quarter centuries. Meanwhile, it is interesting to note that John, William, Thomas, Henry, George, James, Charles, Richard, Joseph, Francis and Samuel were among the most frequently listed male Christian names. In that respect, tastes have not changed greatly.

Hugh Prince

Launch of ‘200’ Club

LAST AUTUMN the Friends’ Committee decided to set up a ‘200’ Club as a useful way of raising funds for the Trust and creating some harmless fun in the process. Many local voluntary organisations run such clubs which all operate in a similar way. A limit (usually 100 – 500) is placed on the number of ‘shares’ that will be issued. A subscription is fixed for the ‘shares’ and the pool of money contributed is then divided between the subscribers or ‘members’ and the local organisation usually in roughly equal proportions. The members’ portion is returned by means of annual and monthly draws – in our case, as described in the advertisement on the back cover.

Our ‘200’ Club is being run by Committee member Christopher Jordan of 2 Titan Avenue, Bushey and a copy of the rules and application forms can be obtained from him.

As far as practicable the ten monthly draws will take place at public meetings of the Friends and the annual draws will take place at the AGM each November.

As membership of the Club is not restricted to Friends of Bushey Museum Trust, it was decided to produce a smart certificate of membership which would make a nice gift idea with the added bonus of a much better chance of winning than with Premium Bonds! But please note that no-one under 16 can participate.

Continued from Page 1

museum progress

orderly and professional basis from which to start. The Trust would also need to make plans with the Friends’ organisation about the extent of voluntary work that could realistically be offered to support the museum. All these elements need now to be planned to converge to a successful launching of the Bushey Museum. G.L.

On 29 July last year, a party from Waal, Herkomer’s birthplace, visited Bushey and were entertained by Hertsmere in the Council Chamber in Rudolph Road. In the picture the Mayor, Cllr Colne, makes a presentation to the Bürgermeister of Waal, Herr Peter Pauli. Looking on are Gawan Vesey, chairman of the Friends and Brigitte Moloney who kindly acted as interpreter.

Herkomerfest!
due largely to the inspiration of Hartfrid Neunzert, the Curator of the Herkomer Museums in Landsberg combined with the determination of our BMT Trustees not to be thwarted by a thousand-and-one logistical problems which almost certainly would have defeated lesser men! A.J.

Continued from Page 1

Dates for your Diary

All meetings and exhibitions take place in Church House, St James, High Street, Bushey, unless otherwise stated

Tuesday 21 February 1989 at 8pm
THE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
A speaker from the International University in Bushey will talk to the Friends about the University, its organisation and work.

Tuesday 23 March 1989 at 8pm
MEMBERS’ EVENING
If you have something of interest that you would like to talk about, please let the Meetings Secretary know (Anne Blessley – Telephone 950 3240).

Tuesday 18 April 1989 at 8pm
CHURCHES’ TELEVISION CENTRE
The Reverend Paul Wigfield from the Churches’ Television Centre (CTVC) at Hillside, Merryhill Road will talk to us about the work which goes on at the Centre. CTVC hopes to have an Open Day next summer but this has not yet been definitely arranged.

Tuesday 16 May 1989 at 8pm
HARROW MUSEUM AND HERITAGE CENTRE
Peter Hamill, Manager of the Harrow Museum and Heritage Centre will give a talk with slides about the Museum which may well give us ideas for our own museum.

Sunday 18 June 1989
HARROW MUSEUM & HERITAGE CENTRE – A GUIDED TOUR
An afternoon visit with guided tour.

8 July – 6 August 1989
FESTIVAL ART EXHIBITION
‘The Art of Louie Burrell and the Herkomer Art School in Bushey’ is the title of Bushey Museum Trust’s contribution to the 1989 Bushey Festival. See Chris Jordan’s article on Page 3 of Journal no. 1 (Summer 1988) for background. Exhibition to be shown in the Gallery in Church House. Details later.
33 CASH PRIZES TO BE WON IN 1989

‘200’ CLUB

For only £10 subscription you can buy a share in the Friends’ ‘200’ Club and stand to win from 33 prizes as well as benefit Bushey Museum Trust, a registered charity.

🌟 £300 First Prize 🌟 £200 Second Prize 🌟 £100 Third Prize
plus prizes of £20, £10 and £5 to be won each month for ten months starting in March.

- Our ‘200’ Club will hold a monthly Draw (except in January and February) of all share numbers issued at the time of each Draw (no more than 200 shares will be issued).

- At each of the monthly Draws prizes of £20, £10 and £5 will be won. If fewer than 200 shares are issued at the time of a Draw then the prizes will be proportionately less but the chances of winning will be correspondingly greater — so it balances out.

- The Club is open to anyone over 16 whether a member of the Friends or not. So tell your friends!

- The annual subscription of £10 can also be paid (by bankers order) in two instalments of £5.

- In November of each year there will be a Grand Annual Draw (in addition to the monthly Draw that month) when prizes of £300, £200 and £100 will be won.

- Each shareholder will have 33 chances per year of winning a prize if joining before March.

- Gift memberships (with a handsome presentation certificate) available.

- You can hold (or give as a gift) more than one share if you wish.

- Our ‘200’ Club is registered with Hertsmere Borough Council under the Lotteries & Amusements Act.

- Phone Christopher Jordan on 01-950 6424 (evenings/weekends) for an application form or use the form enclosed.

YOU COULD WIN ONE OF THE BIG PRIZES!