



Chairman's Letter



It is raining and windy on Friday 21st May. After 14 months in lockdown I enter the Museum feeling slightly anxious – why? I know not. I greet other Trustees and Friends while we wait for Oliver Dowden, our MP and Culture Secretary, to arrive and reopen the Museum. They look equally nonplussed, discombobulated and ill at ease. For a start we all look different, some thinner, some fatter, with longer and grey hair, all wearing masks. I have to keep reminding myself who is who. What is this strange place we are in? Where are all the familiar things? Snap out of it, Rita. “Cups and saucers, that is what we need”, I tell myself, in order to offer coffee to our guests. My mind is a blank as to where they are stored. “What about coffee, milk, tea and hot water jugs?” The list is endless of familiar items and actions which are quite alien. What normally takes a few minutes to prepare takes forever. I almost forget how to make tea for a group. DO I put the tea in a teapot or do I just dip the bag in a cup? I do the latter watched in dismay by Margaret Craig Gray.

Oliver Dowden arrives right on time at 11 o'clock. He looks the most at ease of everyone there. Art Curator, Pat Woollard, shows him around the new Herkomer and Anne Blessley Galleries. Pat and the volunteers have done a wonderful job of setting up the exhibits. How they did that socially distanced I do not know. By the time Oliver Dowden leaves at 12 noon to visit the Harry Potter Studios at Leavesden, we are beginning to feel “normal” and enjoy the day. Oh and I remember how to wash up!

We had 66 visitors during the first 3 days of opening – a very pleasing number after lockdown.

Rita Castle, Chairman, FoBM

Dates for Your Diary

COUNCIL CHAMBER

RECENT ARRIVALS – Additions to the Bushey Museum Collection

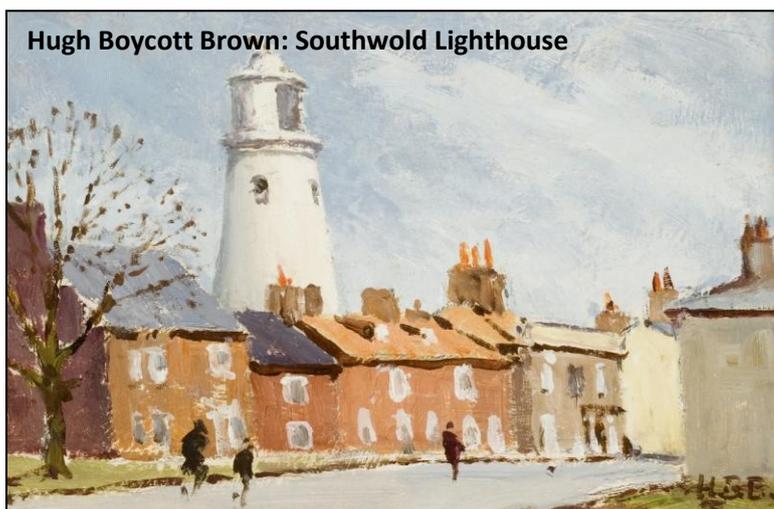
Until 20th June

Because the Museum has been closed during lockdown, this exhibition is being extended until 20th June 2021

TRAVELS WITH MY SKETCHBOOK – Beyond Bushey

3rd July 2021 – 9th January 2022

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



ANNE BLESSLEY GALLERY

THE YOUNG GENERATION – Art by and about Children

Until 31st October 2021



A good number of artworks in the Bushey Museum collection involve children: portraits of children, pictures featuring children, art specifically directed at children and art work by children. The exhibition encompasses all this, as well as children's costume and toys.

JUBILEE ROOM

BUSHEY FESTIVAL AND MUSEUM PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

From 3rd July 2021

In spite of lockdown the photographic competition is taking place and will be on display in the Jubilee Room. Please go to

tinyurl.com/busheyphoto

to download the entry form

JUBILEE ROOM

ON THE MOVE: GETTING ABOUT IN BUSHEY

From 22nd August 2021

An exhibition displaying how getting about in Bushey relied on the modes of transport available.



“When you've got friends and neighbours...

...all the World is a happier place...” So ran the first line of a 1950s song, which quite a few of us are old enough to remember, sung by the Billy Cotton Band Show (after lunch on Sunday following Two Way Family Favourites) and by Max Bygraves, Donald Peers and others. (Donald Peers - anyone got a 78 of him singing “By a Babbling Brook?”) “Friends and Neighbours” was also the title of a fairly unmemorable short TV series and a totally forgettable British B- movie.

My point? We have a 'Friends of Bushey Museum' group and soon we shall have a long overdue 'Friends of Reveley Lodge' one too. Proposals a while ago that we combine the two fell by the slimmest of majorities at a meeting, so the new group will be launched at an evening event at Reveley on Tuesday 20th July.

Publicity will begin soon and you are invited to set the date aside to come and support Reveley, a local asset of unparalleled charm and an integral twin to the Museum, whose founders saved it for us all to enjoy.

At last we can meet again soon. July 20th - in your diary, kitchen calendar, I phone, I pad NOW!

Oh, confession time - as well as my duties at the Museum, I've been 'persuaded' by Granville Taylor, Reveley Mastermind and Superchief (the bruises are fading]) into Chairing the new Friends group. So... be my friend and join us.

Barry Hyman Shop Manager - back in business.

Rudolph Road News

At last there is something positive to report! The Museum reopened to the public on 20th May, as soon as it was allowed under the government “road map”. I supposed we’ve become well-practiced at this (it was the third time we had reopened since the pandemic started) and of course we’re now all too familiar with the rules and regulations about face coverings, social distancing and so on. The Museum itself felt a bit sad and neglected after being closed for so long, but soon sprang into life again especially after our invaluable cleaner Judy Bentley had returned to work her own particular brand of magic. We also had a new art exhibition in the Anne Blessley Gallery. Everything went smoothly on the first day, and we were delighted to welcome about 30 visitors.

The next day, 21st May, we were able to entertain our local Hertsmere MP, Mr Oliver Dowden. Mr Dowden is no stranger to the Museum, but this was the first time he had come as Culture Secretary, which made it all the more special. The visit was informal and formed part of his Museums and Galleries Week: we were sandwiched in between the De Havilland Aircraft Museum at London Colney and the new Elstree film studios, while he’d been to the Tate Modern a few days earlier. We were pleased to be in such distinguished company. Our Art Curator, Pat Woollard, gave him a guided tour of the new *Young Generation* exhibition and the revamped Herkomer Room, and then we all enjoyed refreshments in the Council Chamber supplied by Rita Castle and Margaret Craig Gray. Mr Dowden asked lots of questions and seemed genuinely interested in everything we showed him.

Now we’re up and running again, we can begin to look to the future. We have a further two new exhibitions planned: the annual Photographic Exhibition in the Jubilee Room, and the intriguingly-titled *Travels with My Sketchbook*, which will appear in the Council Chamber to mark the start of the Bushey Festival.

We also hope to resume opening on Sundays. At the moment we don’t have enough active Stewards to open four days a week, but we hope this will be remedied before long. Meanwhile, we look forward to welcoming members of the Friends and their families back to the Museum very soon.

Audrey Adams, Chairman, BMT



The Green Green Grass of...the Museum!

This may look kind of rural, but it is in fact the overgrowth of weeds at the back of the Museum. Once cut back by Council but no longer. Is there a volunteer, or maybe two or three, who could undertake to cut it back every couple of months? Scythe, shears, mower, sheep?! Please contact the Museum.

200 Club Winners

April

£20 166 Mrs. J. Babbage

£15 4 Mr. S. R. Whitaker

May

£20 53 Mr J. Crawford

£15 59 Mrs S. Keates

Reveley report for Friends of Bushey Museum

I'm pleased to say that our new caretaker/facilities manager, Gary Walton, started work at the beginning of May and is living in the flat with his fiancée Romina. Please say hello to him if you see him round the garden or house. Since he started the weather has been particularly wet so it has stopped him doing various painting jobs around the house, and he has been helping Lesley in the garden.

The Reveley gardens are looking particularly splendid and are gradually changing in response to Lesley's ministrations. As I write, the rhododendrons are in full bloom and the rose buds are just starting to swell. Lesley, Gary and a full complement of volunteers are keeping the gardens very well-tended. The conservatory has got a fantastic range of plants including some impressive carnivorous specimens, and the greenhouse is stacked full of seedlings which are due to be planted out soon, now that the spring bulbs are fading. In the next week or two the vegetable garden will be guarded by a new scarecrow after the old one, Puddleglum, died of rot. My brother and I built a new wooden 'skeleton' with adjustable limbs that is being clothed by Pamela Glover. The scarecrow will guard the vegetable garden which has produced a good crop of rhubarb and the asparagus is now in full flow.

The Latte Art cafe had a very good April, but the weather in May has understandably hit visitor numbers on days when it chucked it down. Every other week, Sam a local florist, is selling bouquets of flowers outside the cafe, which have proved popular. David Hughes who runs Latte Art is planning ice creams and homemade lemonade for when the weather improves, another reason for going up the hill. Since I last wrote we have had two art exhibitions in the Stable Gallery. In April, Martin Langston had an exhibition of Pop Art, and currently the artist is Richard Wheeler who is exhibiting mainly landscapes of very high quality and well worth a visit. Martine has delayed the opening of Mabel's Vintage Tearoom's to 5th June. The Tearoom operates out of the Billiard room as you know, which is looking much smarter now that the floor has been sanded and sealed.

Much of the work by the Trustees over the last couple of months has been behind the scenes. We have taken the opportunity of the Reveley flat being empty for a month to upgrade the bathroom to modern standards. The renovations to one of the houses is proceeding reasonably well but not without some unforeseen problems such as a leak to an underfloor water pipe. These renovations take quite a lot of effort just choosing things like the type of kitchen units, appliances, layout of the kitchen, lighting, bathroom tiles, carpets etc, all within the constraints of time, cost and quality. Every month the cottage is left empty costs us not only lost rent but the rates and utility bills that fall on us.

What's not gone so well is the move out of the substation which is on hold. Apparently, UK Power have not been able to locate a particular cable underneath Elstree Road that they need to connect to - it's not where the plans say it should be. As an ex-employee of BT, cables not being where they're supposed to be is not an unknown situation. This problem has coincided with a change of contractor, further putting back its resolution.

We are beginning to restart our event programme. Katharine Whitaker has launched the Reveley Arts and Crafts Festival with a number of workshops at Reveley. These include

flower arranging, mosaics and smartphone photography. They can be booked through Ticketsource and there are links to the relevant pages from our website. The Artist Challenge is set for 10th July and we are planning a Jazz concert for 1st August, delayed from July 2020! The NGS day will be on 22nd August.

We have also been busy setting up a new organisation, Friends of Reveley Lodge. Its objectives are to support and raise awareness of Reveley, develop our volunteer base and increase community involvement and details are on our website. I'm delighted to announce its first Chairman is Barry Hyman. We will be holding our launch meeting at Reveley on Tuesday 20th July at 7:30pm. If you are thinking about becoming a member of this new Friends organisation and would like to come along on 20th July, please let me know by sending an email to reveleylodge@gmail.com. I very much hope that many of the Bushey Museum friends will also join Reveley's parallel organisation to support us in the future, just as we have supported each other in the past.

Granville Taylor, Chairman

Scarecrow skeleton and asparagus



Bushey Festival and Museum Photographic Competition

The three classes are:

Open

Working from Home

Bushey

Closing date 6th June

There are no entry fees and no restrictions as to who can enter.

Download an entry form from www.busheymuseum.org