



BUSHEY MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY



## Bushey Festival

Celebrating 40 years  
in the community

1983-2023

### Self-Guided Bushey Arts and Crafts Trail: Four miles in total

Points A to B around 90 minutes, and Points B to C around an hour.

**A.** Start at The Red Lion (park in Kemp Place)

Go down the High Street (towards Watford) and turn right down Falconer Road. On your left hand side opposite no. 20, peek through the school gate to see: East Lodge, Falconer Road One of two lodges built as part of the Royal Masonic Junior School campus in about 1926. The lodge has a simple square plan with two large roof gables.

Continue down Falconer Road to the mini-roundabout. Just opposite find: 1 Finch Lane This house occupies a prominent position at the junction with Falconer Road and Herkomer Road. It was built as a three-bedroomed cottage in about 1907, but was extended to its present more generous dimensions in about 1920, maintaining the original style of unusual 'Arts and Crafts' door and window latches, and elaborately carved barge boards on the gables. As well as a gabled roof, it has three large decorated chimney stacks. There is a small oval widow in the front wall of the extension, echoing the oval window in the front door.

Turn left down Finch Lane and find: *Turrets*, 11 Finch Lane

*Turrets* has a large central gable, emphasised by a central projecting porch.

An unusual hexagonal bay, with a flat roof and carved cornice, occupies the south side of the entrance, no doubt designed to attract the sun. The house dates from about 1905.

And then: *Finch Cottage*, 13 Finch Lane

*Finch Cottage* dates from about 1903, with a gabled roof and a large chimney stack. During the 1960s it became home to actors Rex Edwards and Hilda Fenemore. Hilda in particular

was a familiar face to television audiences playing “friends, neighbours, mothers and passers-by” as *The Stage* put it when she died in 2004, aged 92.

The current owners write: “The house was built in the style of the architect Voysey and so very Arts and Crafts, based around two chimney stacks inside and a completely wooden structure. When we bought it in 2006, it had barely been touched in over fifty years and had wallpaper dating back to the 1920s. The lighting was all original Bakelite and it had no central heating, but relied on coal fires. We have kept the servant bells etc. - We spent much time in its restoration, modernising it without losing the many original features. The internal doors are all made from solid elm, including some that are literally from one single piece. Each door has a beautiful and individual brass knocker. The wooden floors were also kept. Unfortunately, the leaded windows were too far gone to keep, but we had wooden replacements made as close to the original that we could from Wales”.

Turn left down the Avenue, at Grange Road turn left and find: Avalon, Grange Road  
*Avalon*, named after the fabled island which featured in the legend of King Arthur, was built in c1907 to the design of Herbert Washington Broome.

Broome (b 1860) was a friend and associate of William Morris and an adherent of the Arts and Crafts movement. His daughter Myrtle (1888-1978), who also lived at *Avalon*, was an artist and designer with a special interest in Egyptology. Washington and Myrtle contributed various carved furnishings and painted decorations to the carefully-designed interior. Washington also laid out the garden, with its walls and terraces, in the 1920s. After Washington's death, Myrtle donated the house to the Abbeyfield Society, but continued to live there herself until her death at the age of 90. *Avalon* is now privately owned. The builder of *Avalon* was George Jaggard, who at that time had premises in Aldenham Road, on the corner of Vale Road. He built his own house, which he named Kelmscott, further up Aldenham Road on the corner of Silverdale Road. Like Tilehurst, it has an asymmetric roof and gables.

Then just past Heathfield Road find: 27 and 29 Grange Road

These houses were both built in 1908 by local builder George Jaggard and share a similar design dominated by a central external chimney breast. The first owner of No.27 was Mrs Edith Harwood, who paid £172 and ten shillings for her new home. Only three families have lived in this house in its 110-year history.

*At this point you could go on down Grange Road to No. 32 Tilehurst, and save the next nine buildings for a separate stroll.*

Turn down Woodlands Road, cross Aldenham Road to Bushey Grove Road.

At the corner find: 80abc Bushey Grove Road.

The building was constructed as part of the Victorian suburban expansion of Bushey along Aldenham Road from the 1890s. Built in 1909 in the Arts & Crafts style, which is the predominant character of domestic buildings in the west Bushey area. Pargetting includes the date, 1909 AD, to the centre which is thought to be the date of construction. Doorway with door and two flush side lights next to a projecting external chimney stack and a flush single window beyond with leaded-effect lights.

Across Bushey Grove Road you will see: *Went House*, 105 Bushey Grove Road

Occupying a corner site at the junction with Aldenham Road, *Went House* has an asymmetrical façade dominated by a large decorated chimney stack. It was built in about

1910 and was originally surrounded by a large garden, which is now occupied by a modern block of apartments.

At Bushey Hall Road turn right and find: St Paul's Church, Bushey Hall Road  
This church was built in 1904 to serve the burgeoning community growing up around Bushey Grove and Aldenham Road. It cost £1,614 to build and is a single-storey building in a simple Arts and Crafts style.

Return along Bushey Grove Road, and turn right along Vernon Road. Find: 18-24 Vernon Road.

The building was built in c1907 in the Arts & Crafts. It is the best surviving local example of an Arts & Crafts cottage-style row with retained small front gardens. Four jettied gabled bays with oversailing bracketed timber work to the apex and moulded bargeboards that rest on large braced timber posts and a brick plinth forming the covered approach to the doorway with turned balustrade railings. The balustrade railings remaining to numbers 18 and 20 are turned slightly differently to one another.

At Beechcroft Road turn left and note: 1a Beechcroft Road

The building was constructed in 1925 in the Arts & Crafts style, Rectangular plan with a projecting front wing. Ground floor bay, divided into seven parts, with transom and mullion metal framed casement windows with leaded-effect lights and a sloping tile roof above. Two first floor windows; one flush metal framed casement window under the gable divided into four parts with leaded-effect lights; one flush metal framed casement window divided into three parts with leaded-effect lights. Tiled kneelers to the gable end with a central, black painted, gothic-style plaque dated 1925 above the first floor window. Internal front porch with an oak-style panelled and studded door.

And find: 92 and 92a Aldenham Road

These two adjoining houses are on the corner of Aldenham Road and Beechcroft Road. They were built in around 1910.

Turn left along Aldenham Road and see: *Kelmescott*, 103 Aldenham Road

*Kelmescott*, on the corner of Aldenham Road and Silverdale Road, was built in 1909 by local builder George Jaggard for his own occupation. At that time Jaggard had business premises down the road on the corner of Vale Road. The house was presumably named after Kelmescott, a village in Oxfordshire where William Morris had his country home, Kelmescott Manor.

And then find: 106a Aldenham Road

This house, on the corner of Aldenham Road and Belmont Road, was built in about 1910 and designed by John Harold Kennard (1883-1926), an acknowledged Arts and Crafts architect based in Amersham. The house has been known over the years as 'The Dargle' and 'Dargle Studio' (the Dargle is a river in Ireland). It was later known as 'Lavender Lodge' and painted to match, but the present owners have reverted to a more neutral colour scheme. The first owner was the artist Ella Frances Griffin (died 1953), who lived there until about 1922. The house incorporated a single-storey studio to the rear.

Turn right along Belmont Road and note: 46 Belmont Road

This house was built in about 1925. It is dominated by a large central gable with a side wing and a striking chimney stack.

At Grange Road turn right and find: Tilehurst, Grange Road.

*Tilehurst* was built in 1903-4 by the St Albans building firm of C Miskin to the design of Charles Voysey (1857-1941). As with *Myholme*, it was commissioned by Edith Somers. *Tilehurst* is one of Voysey's smaller houses, but pleasingly proportioned. It has a steeply-pitched roof, prominent chimney and stone surrounds to the cottage-style leaded windows. Many of the original details, including the ceramic nameplate, remain.

Then at the corner of Hillside Road find: Voysey Cottage

Voysey Cottage is just round the corner from the Voysey house *Tilehurst*, and was built in about 1907 by the same builder, C. Miskin. It has borrowed several Voysey design details, notably the stone window surrounds and leaded lights.

**B.** Return to the Red Lion by continuing along Grange road to London road, then turn left. Take the London-bound 142 or 258 to Merry Hill Road (next stop after the library) and turn left into Merry Hill Road.

Stop just before the sharp bend to see: Myholme, Merryhill Road

This house started life as a boys' convalescent home, commissioned by Edith Somers and designed by Charles Voysey. In 1911, Miss Somers re-engaged Voysey to convert it into a domestic house. The two-storey, rectangular design reflects the building's previous history, and it is notable that the bedroom windows are all south-facing to benefit from the maximum hours of health-giving sunlight.

Edith was a single lady who lived with her brother, Captain John Somers, in Sparrows Herne. Both siblings were members of St Peter's Church and involved themselves in local committees and organisations. They were both generous benefactors to local causes. It is not known why Edith commissioned Voysey to design two houses for her (*Tilehurst* as well as *Myholme*), and there is no evidence that she lived in either. Voysey's architectural practice was well-established by the early 1900s, and Edith must have had considerable private means to afford his services. Sadly, she did not live long to enjoy her properties, because she died in 1915, aged only 44.

Retrace your steps to Sparrows Herne, walk downhill to: Bushey Sorting Office, High Street  
An unusual example of the Arts and Crafts style used in a commercial context.  
The sorting office was built by the Royal Mail in 1927, with a plentiful allocation of gables, and is still used for its original purpose today.

Continue downhill to Melbourne Road,

turn right into Melbourne Road and find: 18-20 Melbourne Road.

These houses, and the adjoining pair at Nos. 22-24, date from about 1905 and were built to house servants and staff working at *Lululaund*, the home of Sir Hubert von Herkomer. The designer was Adrian Gilbert Scott (1882-1963), a member of the distinguished family of architects. It must have been a very early commission, because Scott went on to be best known for his ecclesiastical buildings, many built in the art deco style. A local example is the Roman Catholic Church of St Joseph in Harrow. Lulu von Herkomer, Sir Hubert's niece, lived for a time at No.20.

Retrace your steps to Bushey High Street and turn right to reach: The Rose Garden, High Street

Bushey's Rose Garden was designed by Thomas Mawson (1861-1933), reputedly in exchange for a portrait by the Garden's owner, Sir Hubert von Herkomer (1849-1914). The garden suffered from neglect and vandalism as the 20<sup>th</sup> century drew to a close, but was restored

with the assistance of a Heritage Lottery Fund grant and was reopened to the public in 2010. The Summer House and the Pergola, both in an elegant Arts and Crafts style, were among the features which were painstakingly refurbished. It is Grade 2 listed.

C. Continue downhill to the Red Lion.