

Bushey Rose Garden



Sir Hubert Von Herkomer



Hubert Herkomer was born in 1849 in Waal, a village near Landsberg, in Bavaria. In 1851 the family emigrated to America but could not settle so they moved to Southampton,

England in 1857. The family were extremely poor and they lived off Herkomer's mother's earnings as a music teacher and concert organiser.

Herkomer was educated at home by his father and from an early age he showed

promise as an

artist. He briefly attended art schools in Southampton and South Kensington but found them uninspiring and so was largely self-taught. He became an illustrator for the Graphic magazine in 1870 but it was not until 1875 that he achieved his first critical success with "The Last Muster" at the Royal Academy. In 1873 the Herkomer family settled in Bushey.



In 1899 Herkomer was decorated by the Kaiser and became von Herkomer following an award by the Prince Regent of Bavaria. Despite being very wealthy in the early 1900s, Herkomer's grand projects forced him to take on more work and his health suffered. Herkomer was knighted by Edward VII in 1907. Sir Hubert von Herkomer died in 1914 and was buried in St James' churchyard, Bushey. You can see

paintings by Herkomer and some of his students in the Bushey Museum in Rudolph Road, only a short distance away from the garden.



The Herkomer Art School

Whilst living in Bushey, Herkomer was approached by a neighbour, Mr Eccleston Gibb to give art tuition to his ward, Annie Salter. Herkomer persuaded Gibb to take part in a much more adventurous enterprise – the founding of an art school in Bushey. In 1883 the Herkomer Art School opened on the site now occupied by the Rose Garden. In his teaching Herkomer wanted to avoid the weaknesses he experienced when he attended art school briefly at South Kensington. Herkomer claimed a number of special features for his art school including its rural setting which also meant that the artists were away from the temptations of city life; using plaster casts of real faces and body parts (including death masks) to teach from, rather than copies of antique statues; providing life classes for women students and finally, Herkomer encouraged students to develop their own individual style of painting, with no competition, rather than creating a school style.

The School became world famous and more than six hundred students attended over a span of twenty-one years. Women numbered about two thirds of the students, though more men went on to commercial success. This reflects Victorian society rather than the quality of the School. It was far from easy for a woman to be accepted as a professional artist. Herkomer insisted that women must be under 28 when they enrolled and that when they married they were no longer eligible for the School. Refusal of married women was normal practice at the time and one reason was that Herkomer wanted to encourage women as career artists.

In 1904 Herkomer gave up the Art School and Lucy Kemp-Welch opened the Bushey School of Painting in the Herkomer School premises. By 1912 Lucy Kemp-Welch vacated the Art School premises, which were demolished to make way for the Rose Garden.



Lululaund

"...Every hinge, every lock and key had been specially designed, and each showed an amazing knowledge of the best traditions of the smith's craft..."

(Thomas Mawson, 1913)



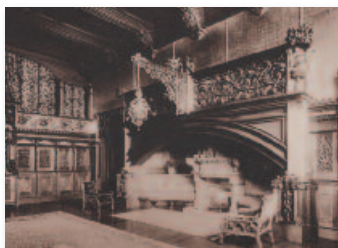
Between 1883 and 1894 Herkomer built Lululaund, an enormous Romanesque mansion in Melbourne Road, which was filled with colour and carvings and named after Herkomer's second wife, Lulu Griffiths.

Herkomer's 'castle' was built as a celebration of the artistic genius of the Herkomer family. Herkomer commissioned American architect, H H Richardson to design the exterior of the building and it was constructed of Bavarian tufa (a type of rock) and Welsh red sandstone.

The interior was covered in carvings by Herkomer's father, Lorenz and uncle, John.

After laying derelict for 15 years or so, Lululaund was offered as an arts centre to Bushey Urban District Council in 1938 but the council turned it down due to the high running costs and sadly the house was demolished. All that remains today is the main entrance porch, off Melbourne Road which is a Grade II* Listed Building.

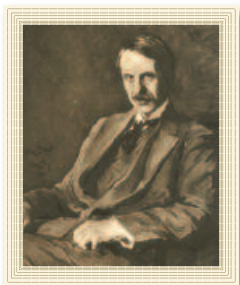
Much of the masonry from the demolition went as hardcore to build Bovingdon Airfield. Many objects from the house can be seen at Bushey Museum.



Thomas Mawson

"The stronger a man's love of art is, the more he will appreciate nature."

(Thomas Mawson)



Thomas Mawson designed the Rose Garden in 1913. Mawson was born in Scorton, near Lancaster in 1861. Like Herkomer, he came from humble beginnings, but his passion for landscape would take him far and wide, although his heart was always in the Lake District, where he lived for most of his life.

He left school at the age of 12, learnt technical drawing and worked for nurseries in London. Later he set up his own business in Windermere in the Lake District with his two brothers. From then on his family was always involved in the business.

Mawson was a popular landscape architect during Edwardian times. His contemporaries included Gertrude Jekyll, Edwin Lutyens and Harold Peto. Many examples of his gardens are in the Lake District. He not only designed gardens but also housing estates, public parks and houses.



During his career he designed over 210 gardens, 25 parks and 30 town planning projects. His projects took him around the world to America, Canada, Denmark, Germany and Greece.

He was employed by many famous people including Sir Hubert von Herkomer and Lord Leverhulme (of 'Sunlight Soap').

He became President of the Landscape Institute in 1929.

Mawson wrote many books including 'The Art and Craft of Garden Making', which was a very useful reference for us in reproducing the seating and planting you see here in the garden today.



The mystery of the Cloisters

The Cloisters, currently located in the lawn area, were originally part of the Art School. Here is a little known story about the Cloisters...



After a terrible hurricane in the 1980s, Andrew Hodges, Contracts & Environmental Manager from Veolia Water (formerly Three Valleys Water), was carrying out site inspections of all the water company's sites to record damage.

When visiting the Clay Lane pumping station site, Andrew discovered a structure of Welsh red sandstone largely intact but it had become overgrown with ivy and had been hidden by trees. Andrew approached Bryen Wood at Bushey Museum and upon seeing the structure, Bryen immediately recognised the Cloisters from the Art School. After discussions with the council and the museum, Veolia Water kindly donated the Cloisters to the Rose Garden and the structure was moved and erected in the lawn area in 1995 with new foundations also financed by Veolia Water.

No one knows how the Cloisters arrived at Clay Lane or how long they had been there. Perhaps the original owner purchased them from Herkomer? However, we are fortunate to have them back in their original home. The new arrangement of the Cloisters provides an attractive backdrop for musical and theatrical performances to be enjoyed on summer afternoons. Thank you Veolia Water!



The garden restoration

The garden was opened to the public in 1937. During the early years, local people can recall a gardener caring for the garden and would grow plants in a greenhouse. Elderly gentlemen would frequent the Summer House and play cards by the fire.

Sadly, in recent times, the garden became neglected and suffered from vandalism resulting in the Summer House being boarded up and the original yorkstone around the fountain was stolen on Christmas Eve 2005. Thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery and Big Lottery Fund 'Parks for People' programme, from Hertsmere Borough Council and additional funding from Landsberg-am-Lech and the Rotary Club, the garden received a much needed cash injection to fully restore it to its former glory between 2009 and 2010.



The garden was officially opened by the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Countess of Verulam on 23 July 2010.

Further details on the history and restoration of the garden can be found in the Summer House.



General information

Garden opening hours:

Summer (May to September) – 7am to 7pm

Winter (October to April) – 7am to 4pm

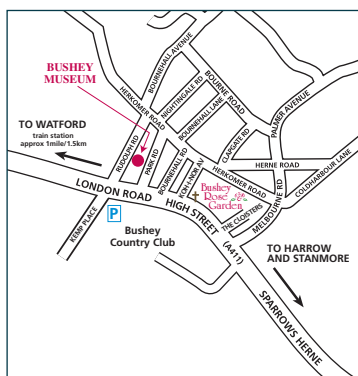
How to find us

The Bushey Rose Garden is located in the centre of Bushey just off the High Street.

By car: The Bushey Rose Garden is situated 10 minutes from junction 5 of the M1 and 20 minutes from the M25 and A1(M). Please contact us if you would like detailed directions.

Parking: There is a public car park in Kemp Place just off the High Street (WD23 1DW). Please can we ask that you respect our neighbours around the garden and not park in the surrounding roads.

By train and bus: The nearest station is Bushey main line station (operates in and out of London Euston). The garden is approx 1.5km/1 mile from the station. Both the 142 and 258 buses stop at the station and in the High Street near the garden.



Contact us

For further information about the garden please contact:

Phone: 0800 731 1810 (office hours)

Email: parcs@hertsmere.gov.uk

Website: www.hertsmere.gov.uk/busheyrosegarden
www.busheymuseum.org



Images courtesy of Bushey Museum Trust, the Thomas Mawson family, The Art & Craft of Garden Making and Hertsmere Borough Council.