

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

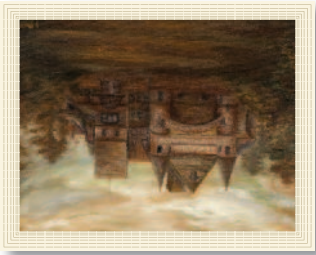
Whilst living in Bushey, Herkomer was approached by a neighbour, Mr Eccleston Gibb to give art tuition to his ward, Annie Salter. Herkomer persuaded Gibb to take part in a much more adventurous enterprise – the founding of an art school in Bushey. In 1883 the Herkomer Art School opened on the site now 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.



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.

Lululund

“...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...”



Between 1883 and 1894 Herkomer built Lululund, an enormous Romanesque mansion in Melbourn 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 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, Lululund 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 remains today is the main entrance porch, off Melbourn 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

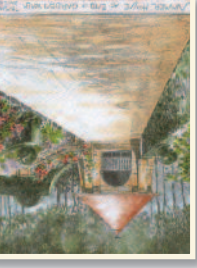
“The stronger a man's love of art is, the more he will appreciate nature.”



Thomas Mawson 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 landscapes 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 a number of 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.

Bushey Rose Garden



General information

Garden opening hours:
1 April to 30 September – 7.30am to 7pm
1 October to 31 March – 7.30am to 4pm

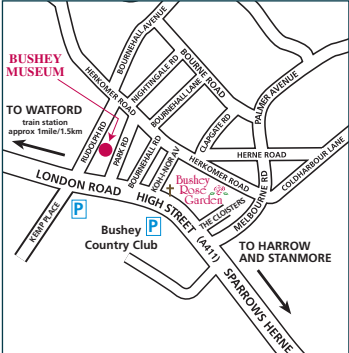
How to find us

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: Garden visitors can use the car park at the Bushey Country Club which is located in the High Street (WD23 1TT), over the road from the garden. There is an alternative 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)
or 020 8950 2186 (potting shed answer phone)
Email: parks@hertsmere.gov.uk
Website: www.hertsmere.gov.uk/busheyrosegarden
or www.busheyismuseum.org



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

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.



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!





Lawn

Thomas Mawson called this area the 'kitchen garden' but no evidence has been found to confirm this. Aerial photographs from the 1930s show a meadow or rough grass area. The lawn is a popular place for picnics and watching performances. The planting scheme mainly consists of Mawson's favourites.



Summer House

Because of vandalism this building had been boarded up for almost a decade before the restoration work. Extensive repairs had to be carried out including a new roof of handmade clay tiles, new leaded fanlights and new doors and windows. The interior has been repaired using traditional lime plaster; the original paint colours were established using microscopic analysis and have been reinstated. The Summer House contains a display about the history of the garden, Sir Hubert von Herkomer and its designer Thomas Mawson.



Sunken Garden

Mawson designed a 'panel garden' in a geometric pattern surrounding the fountain. The gravel pattern would have originally been cut grass (called a parterre). The rose pillars and seating were recreated from black and white photos as part of the restoration. This area was completely replanted except for the trees around the perimeter. The planting is mainly roses but the shrubs have been chosen for all year round interest from the early flowering cornus through to the scented Christmas box.



Paving

Each brick had to be carefully lifted and as many as possible were reused. The path has been relaid in the original 'basketweave' pattern. If you look closely, you will see that one side of the Sunken Garden has been laid with the original bricks and other the new.



High Street

The existing entrance gate was taken down and restored. New railings have been fitted on to the High Street wall.



Rose Temple

The central brick column has stood alone in this area of the Sunken Garden for decades and is constructed from the remains of the Art School. A garden historian suggested that it was once an arbour and research at the Thomas Mawson archives in Kendal gave us further clues to its original appearance. Roses will eventually cover the feature.



Rose Walk

This walkway was not part of Thomas Mawson design and was added to the garden in 1937. The gates and railings have been designed in an Art Deco style. The planting includes roses, shrubs, box balls and perennials in a repeated pattern.



The Cloisters

These were originally part of the Art School and were donated by Veolia Water to the council in the 1990s. The structure is red Welsh sandstone and has been reconstructed to form a backdrop for musical and theatrical performances.



Potting shed and toilets

This new single-storey building was designed in a similar style to the Summer House with rendering, red brickwork and handmade roof tiles. The toilets are only open during events and summer weekends when the gardener is on duty. Visitors are welcome to use the toilet facilities at the Bushey Country Club which is located over the road from the garden in the High Street.



Pergola

This structure would have originally linked the Summer House with Lululaund. The original pergola had a curved oak top which was removed many years ago but has now been reinstated based on photographs. Climbing roses and clematis have been planted which will cover the pergola in years to come.



Lululaund plaque

The original was designed by Herkomer and is believed to have come from Lululaund. The plaque was relocated to be a feature at the end of the pergola but sadly it was stolen in 1967. An artist has recreated the replacement.



Fountain

The fountain is constructed of Bavarian tufa rock and replacement pieces had to be found to repair it. The fountain had not worked for decades so it was a challenge for contractors to discover how it operated. The water is recycled on a pump system.

Please note: the fountain water is treated with chemicals and is not suitable for drinking. Please do not throw pennies into the bowls. Thank you.



ParksHerts

To find out more about this park and over a hundred flagship parks across Hertfordshire, visit www.ParksHerts.co.uk

