

*May 2015*

### **Repair work**

Progress is now underway on the South Wall repairs, coinciding with the first stages of Wetherspoons' re-development of the site next door. See p.4 for more details.

This has meant that parts of the House have been, and still are, out of action, but it has been lovely to have lots of people coming into the House anyway, using the café and garden and the parts of the House that are still accessible.



### **The BBC mentions Stuart House.....**

The 16<sup>th</sup> April edition of 'Escape to the Country' was set in South East Cornwall and spoke of ... "the popular market town of Liskeard ... its buildings are testament to its rich past.... on the Parade is Stuart House where Charles I lodged in 1644 when his forces were chasing the parliamentarians ... it is now used as a community building for Art and Heritage ". There was a good shot of the House and a clear (if brief!) close-up of the permanent sign boards outside too.

## May's Thoughts from our Garden's Overseer

The transition from Winter to Spring, to the warm sunshine and longer days of April and May always seems surprisingly sudden, and the seasonal response of plants, with their rapid growth spurt and flower appearance is always very reassuring. The garden is looking neat and colourful, and has a lovely peaceful feel. The bulbs planted in November are flowering well, though many of the older narcissi and tulips in the bed around the lawn seem to have disappeared – new plantings will take place this coming autumn.

By the second week of April, the Stuart House Magnolia tree is always in full flower. Actually, the trunk of this magnificent tree grows in the land of the old garage next door, but a Tree Preservation Order in place will preserve it from any future developments (recently begun) on that side of the wall. Some interesting facts about Magnolia: this large genus of some two hundred species is named after the French botanist Pierre Magnol (1638–1715), and is found naturally in parts of Asia and the south-eastern United States. Mississippi is Magnolia state, and the magnolia its state flower. Magnolia is an ancient genus as determined by the unique flower structures and fossil finds, appearing before bees were around – apparently, the flowers evolved so that beetles could pollinate them. They much prefer acidic soils, and are propagated from semi-ripe wood-cuttings taken in the summer.

The bin screens are at last finished and in place, with the wood dyed green so they blend with the garden. Although it was I who made them, I venture to say that I'm very pleased with how they've turned out: they certainly tidy up that area of the garden and soften the view from the café windows and outdoor sitting area.



For the outside tables, two more garden parasols have recently been donated (many thanks to Elaine McCagen and David Vincent). These have transformed this area, making it feel very sheltered and cosy indeed, and providing very welcome shade.



With some loving care, the wooden tables and chairs outside will probably last a few more seasons, but the two plastic tables in the garden corners need replacing to better suit the surroundings: small, round wooden or metal tables each with two chairs are being sought.

Recently in the news was a report that two professors at the Berkeley Food Institute, University of California, were advising poor people to go foraging for weeds in urban sprawls rich with dandelions, chickweed, mallow, sowthistle, oxalis, docks, plantain and the like. Whatever the ethics of this, I was intrigued – these are the very same plants that we commonly see growing so well in cracks and crannies, seemingly without soil or any care. Of course, weeds have been important throughout the ages, and medieval gardeners actively encouraged them in the vegetable plots (Thomas Fromond in 1525 made a list of these). In Spring, sprouting weeds were highly important in bridging the “hungry gap” between the end of the winter stores and the new season’s crops, as well as providing cover and nectar for

beneficial pollinating and parasitic insects. Gardeners of previous centuries had an excellent understanding of the importance of soil and plant husbandry, and interactions with the natural world – more about this another time.

Topical Garden tip: tender annuals can be sown now in a cold-frame or greenhouse and they'll romp away. Beetroot can be difficult to get going if sown directly outside, but easy if you put two seeds into seed-trays insert modules (40/tray). Beetroot seed usually produce up to three seedlings each, but others none, so carefully thin and transfer seedling so each module section has one. Kept in a coldframe, the seeds germinate rapidly and the small plants can be set out in a few weeks time – scrape around the module with a plastic plant label to loosen the root ball.

Malcolm Mort

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**The Bo Foaks  
Memorial Walk and  
Lunch on 4<sup>th</sup> April,**

took in Ladye Park, Moorswater and Coombe (an area which Bo was especially interested in) and was a very happy occasion. The walk, which was just over 4 miles long, with an informative and enjoyable commentary from Iain Rowe and reliable back-marking from Brian Oldham, was followed by a scrumptious lunch of soup and cakes provided back at Stuart House by Sioux, appreciated by all.

*Thanks to Peter Murnaghan for the report and pictures.*



EILEEN CROUCH is giving a talk at Stuart House on  
Wednesda7 6<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm.  
**“The Evacuation of England’s Children’**  
about her experiences as an evacuee during the second World War.  
Tickets £4, including refreshments. Everyone is very welcome

## Notes from Sue Glencross (Hon. Sec.) on the Committee Meeting of April 20<sup>th</sup> .

I did so appreciate all your concern – the domestic plumbing emergency is no longer, thanks to my plumber, my insurers and SWWA! Glencross Towers lives to fight another day!

So now to business - this month, as you may well imagine, **the south gable end wall project** was once more under discussion. It has transpired that there are more voids in the wall than expected which has made the insertion of the lead trays above the lintels more awkward and time consuming. Unexpected finds like this naturally only manifest themselves during the course of the remedial work.

Our Chairman Bruce is liaising with the architect and builder in connection with the gable end wall project, and has also recently met with **Wetherspoons'** Party Wall Act Surveyor for a discussion on our **other** gable end linking to the archway through to the rear of the old garage site. Rest assured we will all make sure that the Trust's interests are protected once demolition of the 'archway' takes place. Wetherspoons are already making progress in clearing the former garage site and I am sure we all agree that the new hoardings are a welcome substitute for the old ones which we had to suffer for so long.

Detailed plans of the proposed development are not yet available: once they are they will be displayed in the House so that members can see them and voice any comments through the Trustees. It is hoped that the new public house will not only bring increased footfall to our Town but also to Stuart House.

Watch this Newsletter for future news to impart from Bob Hollingdale who will be IC the **Bo Foaks Festival of Youth Music** this year and who is currently working hard with the Liskeard Community Co-operative Learning Trust. The Stuart House Trustees certainly support that project and looks forward to forging links with the Schools and schoolchildren.

Support too has been pledged to our editor Rachel Bennett in respect of the proposed forming of a CIC to help take forward the **Caradon Heritage Partnership's** hopes.

This month's meeting also discussed (amongst other things!) the **café**, the **garden furniture** (£591 is now put aside for replacements) ; another **electrical problem**; and **damp** in the downstairs w.c.

### PAST TIMES – from Sue's archive...

At the Committee Meeting in February 2002 the trustees discussed having a 'steward's station' at the foot of the stairs and designs were being sought. The reason for what now seems to be a very odd consideration is because the Trust derived most of its income from the hire of rooms and the trustees were very nervous of using one room as a reception area with the resultant decrease in income. With the passage of time, the number of rooms available for hire have been considerably depleted and each time a decision was made to use a room for a permanent exhibition, a great deal of soul-searching and financial pondering had to take place.

## The Stuart House Sunday Afternoon Concert Series: 26<sup>th</sup> April Gareth Lee and Annie Baylis, Folk Duo

Gareth Lee and Annie Baylis performed to a large and enthusiastic audience on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April. They are a folk duo who have been playing together for just over a year with great success. They write all their own material, developing it as a synergy between them. Gareth plays the acoustic (Martin) guitar using it for accompaniment and melody, both amplified and non-amplified. It has the beautiful, mellow tonality of the Martin guitar and goes perfectly with their voices. Annie plays the keyboard, violin and accordion as well as singing. This combination of instruments brought great variety to their performance. Their voices went perfectly together and captured the atmosphere and meaning of the deep and, at times, plaintive and poignant lyrics. Gareth is aware of the hard knocks that form part of life's journey life as well as the easier and fun side. He turns his subtle observation of people and his own experiences into lyrics which touch the heart. His stories about each song and how he and Annie have developed their playing and song-writing, meant that there was a deep connection with the audience.



They are in demand widely across the whole country in a variety of venues. We wish them continued success and recognition for their special partnership.

*Angela Wunnam,  
(concert series organizer)*

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### COMING CONCERTS:

**NB: Please note that there is no Sunday afternoon concert in May.**



The next Sunday afternoon concert is on 21<sup>st</sup> June with Jonathan Delbridge and Jonathan Lewsey performing the powerful *Winterreise* song cycle by Schubert. This is a wonderful piece with songs that will take us on a journey through poetry of fire, snow, torrent, ice, burning and frozen tears – and all on the longest day of the year!

Also please note in your diary the **special evening concert on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June** with the world renowned violinist, Rebekka Hartmann and famous harpsichordist, Caroline Bergius. This will start at 7.30pm and be a full performance with an interval when refreshments will be served.  
(see also p.7)



## SOME COMING EVENTS

### **SILK RIBBON WORKSHOP**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2015

Early notice – places are limited and you might be needing to make arrangements for the Summer already. Please spread word of this great opportunity to anyone you think may be interested.

This will be held in Stuart House from 10am to 4pm with a 45 minute break for lunch from 12.20pm. It will be run by Shelley Cox who is a freelance specialist hand embroidery tutor, who qualified on the Apprenticeship from the Royal School of Needlework in 1998.

Participants (who need no previous experience) will work towards completing a small horseshoe design, about 4" square, called Forever Lucky. All the ribbon embroidery techniques needed will be covered, together with some surface stitches and pearls. Shelley will supply all necessary ribbons, threads, the fabric (ivory coloured Duchesse Satin) with the design on it, needles and pearls – all in a kit for £19.50. She is sorry that because of the complexity of the kit and limited time available, participants on this occasion will not be able to use their own ribbons and threads.

Shelley will make up kits in 6 of each colourways (pink/purple, blue, turquoise/jade and yellow/orange) so there should be plenty of choice. Participants will need to bring a 10" or 8" ring frame with a seat, floor or clamp attachment, which Shelley can bring for sale if required, and their own embroidery scissors, thimbles and magnifiers if needed.

Shelley can only accommodate ten participants on this occasion. Please get in touch with Shelley, via Stuart House, if you would like more information, or to book a place.



### **ROSE GIBBON ART EXHIBITION**

Local artist Rose Gibbon, who held a very successful exhibition last year, is holding the first of her two 2015 Exhibitions in the Max Lock Gallery from 22<sup>nd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> June. More information to come in the next Newsletter.

### *Fund-raising event for Stuart House*

## **POETRY & ART Exhibition : 1-13 June 2015**

*INFO FOR EXHIBITORS*

### **Invitation**

to Artists, Photographers, Crafters, Needleworkers, Musicians, etc.

Eileen Crouch welcomes you all to use your talents to illustrate some of the poetry in a new book of her collected poems

**PAINTING WITH WORDS IN CORNWALL.**

Exhibits to be appropriately presented for sale, with a modest commission payable to Stuart House for its Garden Fund – to purchase new garden furniture.

Looseleaf copies of the poems, from which to choose, are in the Cafe. Please take your chosen poem, and make a note on the sheet provided of your name, title of poem and the medium you will be using. Eileen will provide a copy of the relevant poem to exhibit beside each entry.

Entry Form should be completed, well before 1<sup>st</sup> June, and handed to the House Manager together with entry fee of £2.00. The entry fee will cover the main exhibit plus any cards or related items for sale (on commission).

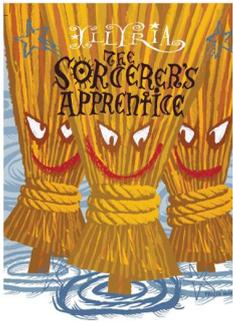
**→ → → Exhibits to be handed in prior to 1<sup>st</sup> June. Exhibition to be hung on 31<sup>st</sup> May. ← ← ←**

There will be a preview on Monday evening, 1<sup>st</sup> June.

*The poems include inspirational Cornwall, Liskeard's heritage and events, gardens and the weather, so you may already have work that will relate to one.*

**STARTS  
THEATRE**

## Summer 2015 at Starts



**Starts Summer Season opens 23rd May 2015 with  
The Sorcerer's Apprentice by Starts favourites Illyria.**

The Sorcerer's Apprentice. 23rd May 6.00pm Tickets £10/8/6

Oliver! 27th and 28th May 2.00pm and 7.00pm. Tickets £7/4

Bodmin Moor Poetry Festival. The Art of Losing. 29-31 May.  
Events all weekend; contact Starts for details

Other shows coming soon...

Faustus from Plymouth based Actor's Wheel on 4th June

Top Girls, the first Starts Theatre Company show opens 12th June

Plymouth Symphony Orchestra on 14th June

Full details of all shows. [www.starts.co.uk](http://www.starts.co.uk)  
01579 362382

Box Office 10am-4pm weekdays 10am-1pm Saturdays.  
Starts, Upton Cross Liskeard PL14 5AZ

Stuart House is part of  
the  
**Caradon  
Heritage  
Partnership  
(CHP)**

which is the legacy  
group formed after the  
Caradon Hill Area  
Heritage Project  
(CHAHP) concluded  
last year. Consult  
their website at

<http://chp.caradon.org.uk>

for details of the  
organization, minutes  
of meetings, and  
information about all  
sorts of events run by  
different member  
groups



♪ **STUART HOUSE** ♪

**Special Music Event: Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30pm**

Harpsichordist Caroline Bergius returns to Stuart House  
with the world renowned violinist, Rebekka Hartmann and her  
Stradivarius.

Their programme will include works from Corelli, Handel, Biber  
and Bach.

# Diary of Events

## May 2015



For several weeks parts of the House will be closed for repairs to the South Wall	HOWEVER, the House – including the café and garden, the permanent Henry Rice exhibition and the Research Hub and Linda Maynard’s Art studio off the King’s Room - remains OPEN.
every Thursday	Knit n’ Knatter meet from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm. All welcome.
Monday 4th	The House is closed for the Bank Holiday
Wednesday 6th	7.30pm. <b>‘The Evacuation of England’s Children’</b> : a talk by Eileen Crouch about her experiences as an evacuee during the Second World War. Tickets £4 including refreshments.
Monday 11th	Poetry Group meet in the café
Thursday 21st	10.30am to 1.30pm. ‘Fake or Fortune’ antiques valuation.
Monday 25th	“The House is closed for the Bank Holiday
Tuesday 28th	Bipolar support meeting 1pm to 3pm. Open to anyone affected in any way.
<b>COMING IN JUNE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reopening of the Arts, Crafts and Gift Shop a.s.a.p.</li> <li>• Exhibition ‘Portraying Poems with Art’ (see p.6)</li> <li>• Harpsichord and violin concert in the Gallery (see pp.5&amp;7)</li> <li>• Schubert’s ‘Winterreise’ with the Two Jonathans (see p.5)</li> <li>• Rose Gibbon’s Art Exhibition (see p.6)</li> <li>• ‘Summer Madness’ sale</li> </ul>

*The House, Garden, Old Kitchen Café and Computer Research Suite are open 9.30 am – 3.30 pm each weekday and until 12.30 pm (Café 12 noon) on Saturdays.*

*The House is open at these times for all events unless stated otherwise.*

*The Office is open every weekday until at least 2 pm.*

Articles, information, notices and photographs for the Stuart House Newsletter to the editor (who must reserve the right to edit as necessary) please, by 25<sup>th</sup> of the month for inclusion in the next newsletter. Leave with Sioux in the Office or email to [rachelpbennett59@gmail.com](mailto:rachelpbennett59@gmail.com)