

*June 2015*

The past month has been dominated by the ongoing repairs to the South Wall (see Sue Glencross' report of the May Committee meeting on p.2) and, sooner than we expected, by the submission of a planning application by Wetherspoons for the old garage site next door to the House. The plans are displayed in Stuart House until June 9<sup>th</sup> – do come in and have a look, and record any comments on the forms provided. You can also view plans and elevations on the Cornwall Council Online Planning register, the link is:-

[Listed Building Consent for the proposed demolition of disused fuel station and associated buildings and construction of new public house development \(A4 use\) and associated works.](#)

Taylor's Garage Barras Street Liskeard Cornwall PL14 6AD

Ref. No: PA15/03888 | Validated: Thu 07 May 2015 | Status: Pending Consideration.



Councillor Rachel Brooks, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Town Centre working group who organized the exhibition of plans, and some of the many visitors on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. You can comment at the exhibition, online at the Neighbourhood Plan site [www.planliskeard.co.uk](http://www.planliskeard.co.uk), or through Cornwall Council's Planning Register.

## Sue's News from the Committee Meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> May

This month's meeting again focused on the gable end wall project. There is good news and there is bad news: The good news is that work is progressing and the exposed mortar joints are soon to be filled. The bad news is threefold:

- We anticipate that work is approximately 1 week behind schedule which in real terms means one week further away from our being able to continue with our 'normal' House activities and fund-raising.
- The windows were in a sad and sorry state so remedial and restorative work has had to be undertaken – whilst we had allowed a financial contingency, this work was outside the scope of anticipation. Our Treasurer, Tony B, is therefore not a happy bunny! (A time to mention the sterling job undertaken by Tony in maintaining a strict control on the Trust's finances. One of life's unsung heroes, the bulk of the work which he undertakes is very much behind the scenes so it is time to express our appreciation of everything which he does!)
- Joists in the Tudor Room have been exposed to allow for steel rods to be inserted through the wall. What appears to be active woodworm is present.....watch this space next month for the results of a specialist survey.....

Again on the subject of the structure of the building, we have now been served with formal Party Wall Act notices which relate to the Eastern gable end wall. Part of the archway through to the rear of the former garage site is affixed to our gable end wall on that side of the House. The service of formal notices is not of detriment to the House: the practical outcome is that we have appointed Richard Church (the architect who has overseen the restoration of the House and is currently overseeing the restoration work to the southern gable) to protect the Trust's interests once demolition of the archway takes place. The terms of the Party Wall Act are that the recipient's representative's professional fees have to be paid by the owner of the property the subject of the work. Therefore our new neighbours, Wetherspoons, will be discharging his fees.

Sue Glencross, Hon. Sec.

### → **VOLUNTEERS WANTED** ←

Can YOU help to get Stuart House 'straight' again once the builders no longer need to work from inside? This could be from the second week of June. Tidying, cleaning, decorating ..... if you might be able to help, please contact Sioux in the office.

## STERTS THEATRE

Have a full programme in June. We apologise for lack of detail here, but do check at [www.sterts.co.uk](http://www.sterts.co.uk) 01579 362382

Dr Faustus (Actors Wheel - Marjon)

Top Girls (Sterts Theatre Company)

Plymouth Symphony Orchestra

Midsummer Dance – a fabulous festival

The Ladykillers (Sterts Theatre Company)

## The story of an evacuee from London to a distant land : Eileen Crouch's talk on May 6<sup>th</sup> .... (and on June 18<sup>th</sup>!)

Eileen gave us a fascinating and informative talk on the evacuation of children out of London during the Second World War, plus her own account of being evacuated to Canada at the age of nine.

She started by giving us a well researched account of those dark days at the beginning of the war when London, where she lived, was being heavily bombed. This led to the Government's decision to start a major operation in 1939 to evacuate thousands of children out of London, and other cities.



Eileen brought those days to life with lots of interesting facts and figures, which kept us spellbound.

What an interesting story it was to hear of her own experience as an evacuee to such a distant country as Canada! The morning when she and her two brothers were taken by their father to the train station, they had no idea that this would be goodbye for five years! She told of her life in Canada, so different from England, about her life with a new family, and finally she told us of the very real difficulties fitting in when she returned back home.

Thank you Eileen, your story has touched my heart and I am sure everyone else's.

Maria Wilton. *Photo by Carlton Crouch.*

*Stuart House*  
*Art & Heritage Centre, Liskeard*

**TALK**  
by Eileen Crouch

**EVACUATION**  
OF CHILDREN  
**- ENGLAND -**  
**WW2 : 1939-1945**

**2.00pm Thursday, 18 June 2015**

Tickets £4 – including refreshments

Stuart House Trust – Reg. Charity 294384  
Barras Street, Liskeard PL14 6AB  
T.01579 347347 E.info@stuarthouse.org.uk  
www.stuarthouse.org.uk

**Missed it?** - by popular request,  
Eileen is giving us another chance!

There was a capacity audience for Eileen's talk on May 6<sup>th</sup>. This was a fund-raising event, and Eileen was able to make a donation of £50 to the Trust with the balance going to the Evacuees' Memorial Fund for a memorial that will be sited in the National Memorial Arboretum to commemorate the Great Evacuation of England's Children in World War II

Several interested people were unable to attend the talk, so we are delighted that **Eileen is doing a repeat on June 18<sup>th</sup>**, this time in the afternoon. Everyone is welcome.

## Report from our Garden's Overseer, Malcolm Mort.

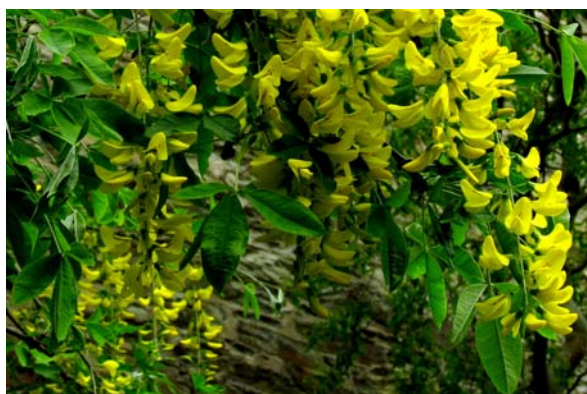
At this time of year gardens change so quickly. The plant world suddenly erupts in a huge and magical photosynthetic palette of multi-shaded green, and secateurs and shears are never far from one's hand. It is reassuring to see that the laburnum which appeared shocked last year from being trimmed back rather too hard has decided not to give up the ghost just yet, and has regaled the garden with another show of its delicate yellow leguminous racemes. Also, thankfully, the jasmine over the metal arch near the house wall has also sprung back into life after its very severe trimming in the winter, and the wisteria on the woodland arch is just about to unfurl its beautiful blue blooms.

The primroses have come and gone, but if you have any in your garden just let them seed themselves. Fresh primrose and polyanthus seed germinates very quickly, spreading along the flower beds, and into paths and grass – as indeed happens at Stuart House. (Bought seed will often have gone into hibernation and can be difficult to wake up, needing a vernalisation period of frosty weather or a spell in the freezer.) In March and April, it is yellow flowers that predominate, whereas in May and June blue takes over



– bluebells, forget-me-nots and aquilegia. (Topical Tip: Plant these in your garden and you'll never need to do so again as they reliably return each year, in ever greater numbers. Add to this list honesty, eryngium (sea holly), oxeye daisy, feverfew and its far more splendid cousin *Tanacetum niveum*, and tall *verbena bonariensis*: they'll always give return somewhere in the garden to give you colour and company.

Several people have asked the name of the bush that's been covered with yellow fluffy blooms throughout April, lighting up the dark areas near the compost heap and the woodland area opposite. This is *Kerria Japonica*, and would not have been known to Elizabethan gardeners as it did not appear in British gardens until 1834 when the Scottish plant collector, William Kerr (from whom, the plant takes its name) sent a specimen (the double flowered, *pleniflora*) to Kew from China. This is the very same plant that we grow today, and is quite happy anywhere, sun or shade, and in nearly



any sort of soil. If it starts to get out of hand (its suckers creep out gradually from its starting point) then it doesn't mind being back hard, even right down the ground.

The part of the garden that has caused most head-scratching recently is the lawn. This has become infested with many different weeds, especially dandelion and plantain, which have started to behave as if the area has been set aside especially from them. So to try to sort this, high nitrogen feed has been watered over the lawn in combination with one of those herbicides that cleverly sees off only broad-leaved weeds. To get the best from lawns, that back-breaking business of spiking and forking needs to be done now and again, a task the happy band of volunteers will need to get to grips with this later in the year. (Thanks Peter for your idea of knocking long nails through pieces of wood which are then strapped to one's

feet for a long slow walk up and down the lawn. Time maybe to put on the headphones and listen to some soothing music or an educational podcast.)

The other features that forever need attention are the ponds, as both quickly get festooned (even in winter) by thick gelatinous sheets of pondweed which forever needs to be fished out – lawn rakes are good for this. Having read about the wonderful effect barley straw has in preventing algae growth - an effect known to gardeners through the centuries - I went and got some, thinking that wet straw would sink to the bottom of the water. Alas, it floats. Stuffed inside an old net onion bag with a brick to keep it down seems a good idea to try – update next month. Apparently, as the straw decomposes it produces chemicals that inhibit algae growth.

Thanks to Eileen for the wonderful collection of plants donated to sell for proceeds to Stuart House. Plants are always greatly welcomed for sale: all we ask that they are potted up, look good, are labelled and priced. Thanks too for all the kind comments on how good the garden has been looking recently – the volunteers are always pleased to hear this, and it makes our efforts feel worthwhile!

Malcolm Mort

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## **Is Stuart House a Museum?**

Basically no it isn't : we don't hold collections of artifacts and have not been through the formal accreditation process and so we are not a Museum, despite being a historical building and having historical displays which include some original artifacts.

We do, though, feature on the 'Cornwall Museums' website where each of the more than 50 'museums' has its own web page where information and events can be posted. Take a look at the site which is at [www.museumsincornwall.org.uk](http://www.museumsincornwall.org.uk) and see what a wide variety of 'museums' there are.



We are also members of the excellent South East Cornwall Museums Forum, founded about twelve years ago (Eileen Crouch was a founder member) and Dave Howard (and now the ed. as well) attend their regular meetings every other month. This group was founded so that the small 'museums' in the area which choose to belong (for a small subscription) can share ideas about things like displays, publicity, attracting visitors, getting volunteers, applying for grants, encouraging bequests and other relevant things. Access to professionals from the county museums service – including expert advice on conservation - is available, and helpful training days are provided. Equipment belonging to the group is available for loan, and we get cut-price, or even free, equipment when possible.

At the meeting in Launceston on 18<sup>th</sup> May we collected our electronic data-logger (for regular checking of relative humidity and temperature ) and also the booklets summarising the "100 Faces 100 Stories" project (Cornish Collections illuminating the First World War), to which Stuart House contributed the Frank Morcom material - do collect one from the House, and you can find more detail at the website [www.100firstworldwarstories.co.uk](http://www.100firstworldwarstories.co.uk) .



## ROSE GIBBON B.A. : ART EXHIBITION

Monday June 22<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup>.

I have always loved to draw and paint. I use the landscapes around me, influences like Japanese prints, deco ceramics and graphics, dreams and stories .... stir them all up in my imagination, and try to create the alchemy of art.

I live in Looe, Cornwall : a lovely, friendly seaside town, surrounded by incredible land and sea views. Sun and sand filled vistas, intimate and wooded valleys, little villages and dramatic skies filed with clouds, moon drenched hillsides and blue green seas all surround me. The magic of Cornwall supplies me with light and mystery and life.

I was born in 1954, so I am no youngster, but I am still young inside, and as you will see, still a dreamer.

I hope you will come and see me and my work in June, and if you come on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> you can also listen to the Looe Valley Singers, as they are performing around 2.30pm. Stuart House is a great venue, and they have a lovely cafe and garden.



1<sup>st</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> June

## POETRY and ART EXHIBITION

Portrayal by artists and photographers of poems in Eileen Crouch's book 'Painting with Words in Cornwall'.

### News of two exhibitions coming later in the Summer

13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> July

#### 'The Beauty of Maturity'

Maureen Douglas-Green and Howard Nowlan – photographs celebrating the beauty of the mature nude female form

*(this is confirmation of the photography exhibition that we have been anticipating at the end of July (ed.))*

17<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> August

Exhibition of paintings by local artist

**Jayanthi Warburton.**

Sale proceeds will be donated to the Red Cross Nepal Earthquake Appeal

and ...remember the

#### SILK RIBBON WORKSHOP

with Shelley Cox on 10<sup>th</sup> August (see last Newsletter or ask in the House for details).



# PHOENIX 100



Phoenix 100 was formed six years ago to celebrate the centenary of the re-opening of the Phoenix mine near Minions. The group, now in combination with the Caradon Heritage Partnership (which Stuart House is a member of) is again holding a series of events complementing the Liskeard Lions Carnival Week. The programme is still being finalized – so **do check**, but should include

- June 29<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm at the Methodist Church – Ian Piper on the Bearch Tor quarry.
- June 30<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm at the Methodist Church – Brian Oldham (of Walkers Are Welcome) on the history of Lanhydrock House and its links with local copper mining
- 2<sup>nd</sup> July – Brian Oldham leads a walk “Ross Poldark’s View of the Moor”. Meet at Hurlers Cr Park 1.15pm
- 2<sup>nd</sup> July – 7.30pm in the Public Hall “The Discovery of Kober” – drama, music and dance by local primary schoolchildren, Scoots Kernow and Play It Again Theatre Company. There should also be displays from the groups belonging to the CHP., and refreshments.
- 4<sup>th</sup> July – Iain Rowe leads a walk around the mines. Meet at Minions Post Office 10am.
- 4<sup>th</sup> July – Wildflower Walk with Colin French – meet at Minions Interpretive Centre Car park 2pm.



**Rebekka Hartmann**  
Violin

Saturday 6th June  
7.30pm

Tickets £10.00  
Including light refreshments

**Stuart House**  
Barras Street, Liskeard

**Caroline Bergius**  
Harpichord

Much Acclaimed  
Harpichord and Violin Duo

Programme to include  
Bach, Correlli, Handel  
Duos and Solos

Contact Sioux Dunster at Stuart House. 01579 347347





Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2.30pm  
The last of the Spring/Summer Sunday afternoon concert series

**Jonathan Delbridge and Jonathan Lewsey performing Schubert’s song cycle *Winterreise*** ; taking us on a journey through poetry of fire, snow, torrent, ice, burning and frozen tears – and all on the longest day of the year!

Tickets £7 from the House, complimentary refreshments and a chance to talk to the performers after the concert.

🎵 There is NO Sunday afternoon concert in July. The Autumn Series begins on Sunday September 27<sup>th</sup>, with Judy Whitlock. Look out for more details of music to come!

# Diary of Events

## June 2015



Until June 9th	The House remains as open as possible whilst the repairs to the South Wall and some flooring are completed (see p.2)  Proposed plans and elevations for Wetherspoons on the site next door to the House, and invitation to comment on them (see p.1)
Every Thursday	Knit n' Knatter meet from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm. All welcome.
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> to Saturday 13th	Exhibition 'Portraying Poems with Art', with Eileen Crouch (see p. 6)
Saturday 6th	7.30 pm. Concert in the Gallery, Caroline Bergius (harpsichord) and Rebekkah Hartman (violin). Tickets £10 from the office, which includes refreshments. (see p.7)
Monday 8th	4.15 pm Poetry Group meet in the café.
Thursday 18th	2.00 pm. in the Gallery – Eileen Crouch is repeating her successful talk on evacuation in the Second World War (see p.3 )
Sunday 21st	2.30 pm. Concert in the Gallery Jonathan Delbridge and Jonathan Lewsey performing Schubert's Winterreise. Tickets £7, complimentary refreshments and opportunity to meet the performers afterwards (see p.7)
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> to Saturday 27th	Rose Gibbon's Art Exhibition in the Gallery (see p. 6 )
Saturday 27th	The Federation of Old Cornwall Societies holds its Summer Festival in Liskeard
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	'Summer Madness' arts and crafts sale with Victor and Nancy
<b>COMING IN JULY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-opening of the Arts, Crafts and Gift Shop in the Surgery</li> <li>• Liskeard Carnival on July 4<sup>th</sup> (see p.7)</li> <li>• Photographic Exhibition 'The Beauty of Maturity' (see p.6)</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