

August 2015

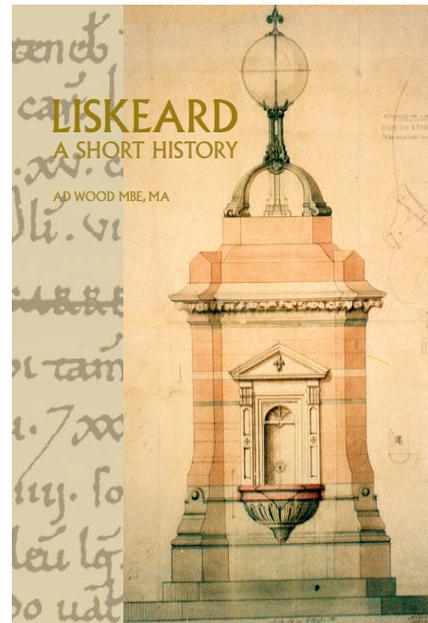
Launch of Tony Wood's "Liskeard : a Short History"

A roomful of people gathered happily in the Stuart House Gallery on the evening of Thursday 23rd July to celebrate the launch of Tony Wood's new book. This replaces and updates his 1999 book (now out of print) and has a far greater selection of photographs, mostly in glorious colour.

Tony gave a short address, thanking in particular Jo Hoskin, who was instrumental in the design and production of the volume, Tony Piper, who took many of the photographs to order, and also John Rapson for his photographic archive and Eileen Crouch for photographs from the publication on the buildings of Henry Rice.

Tony spoke of his purpose in writing the history : to promote the town, a unique place with a particular character and history. He stressed the importance of optimism and a long-term perspective when considering the growth and development of Liskeard over time.

Profits from the sale of the book will go to Stuart House, where it is on sale for £4.99. The Chairman of the Stuart House Trustees, Bruce Hawken, thanked Tony for this.



Tony Wood and Tony Piper at the book launch.

Sue's News of the Committee Meeting of July 20th 2015

Various matters were under discussion at our July meeting, not least of which was the proposed Wetherspoons' development. It is understood that following various representations being made, JDW are now adjusting their original plans so all we can do for now is to sit back and await further news.

We are pleased to announce that, apart from weatherproofing, the gable end wall project is complete. Advantage was taken of the scaffolding to have the windows and sills on that side refurbished where necessary and painted.

The floor in the King's Room will be the next subject of attention and remedial work is soon to be undertaken. The full extent of the work required is not yet known and will not be known until the job commences. Fingers crossed!

The guttering to the Look Out had come adrift so that had to be attended to.

The trustees are now looking seriously at the coffee room and kitchen walls but no decision has yet been made as to exactly

what work is required and when it will be undertaken. We are also aware of the state of the remaining windows in the House. Another grant application maybe? With a strict eye on the finances and taking into account future expenditure, it is proposed to increase the price of a hot drink from £1 to £1.20 and the cost of a sandwich from £3.45. to £3.50. Every little helps! We continue to be indebted to members who provide home-baked sponges, cakes, scones and bread for our café and to the volunteers who run it so successfully.

We are fortunate indeed to have an ally on our side to fight the continuing battle with BT, who this month actually invented a new account for us!! Every month Bob Hollingdale keeps us *au fait* and entertained with his ceaseless telephone conversations with them. We all wonder how many organisations and individuals are billed for services which either have not been provided or which relate to someone else. Thank you Bob!

Sue Glencross, Hon. Sec.



Stuart House returns to normal : the scaffolding is now down, showing the South wall repaired and its windows painted. The 'Birth of a Baby' exhibition in the Tudor Room on the top floor is being restored although Tony and Victor experienced some confusion over the bed-hangings!

The 26th June was the first National Cream Tea day and Stuart House joined the fun with a Vintage Cream Tea offer. Denise and Margaret donned their 'Nippy' outfits and Denise lent her vintage china and embroidered tablecloths to create a vintage tea room for the day. A three tier cream tea special was on the menu with freshly baked scones, lemon drizzle cake, brownies and cucumber sandwiches to go with tea or coffee. Special thanks go to Denise, who took time away from her own business for the day and for the vintage china which helped to make it such a successful event for Stuart House. Both regular customers and visitors to the town enjoyed the great atmosphere. Hopefully we will be able to enjoy the event again next year. Make your reservation early!

Bruce Hawken

Photo : George and Eileen – to whom Stuart House owes so much of its heritage activity – enjoying a cream tea.



The Members' Annual Garden Party was held on Sunday 19th July. Contrary to the forecast, the sun shone throughout and the garden looked glorious, thanks to the hard work of Malcolm and all volunteers. Many thanks to all who brought delicious food to share and to those who helped sort, serve, and clear up - particularly, as always, Sioux.

The Doctor's Surgery on the ground floor is now back in use – the first event being a general art and craft sale to raise money for the House, here stewarded by volunteer Vanessa. The Stuart House Arts, Crafts and Gift Shop will re-open here on Monday 3rd August and run through until St Matthew's Fair Day in early October.



Thoughts for August from our garden's overseer...

Despite what you might have heard, the age of plastic is finally over. Well it is at least as far as the Stuart House garden furniture is concerned. Gone are the remaining plastic green chairs and those wobbly tables with the drop-off legs. Now everything is of wood reassuringly labelled as responsibly and sustainably produced, so that's all right then. The new items match well with the existing chairs and tables, and the overall effect contributes to the serenity of the garden.

In my July article, I had wondered about the name of the rampant thornless rambler rose that covers the rear porch door to the garden, and which in May had gladdened us all with its wonderful display of whitish yellow flowers (*reminder below – ed.*). All my researches had drawn blanks, but then one day in the garden a rather extraordinary thing happened. Whilst commencing the annual oxalis battle, I overheard two couples discussing the roses, one of the women sounding very knowledgeable. Joining in the conversation, I found that she had worked for many years at David Austin Roses and was an expert. "So what is the rose over the porch?" I asked, describing it. "Oh, that's Rosa Banksiae, variety Lutea." I rushed home and Googled it – and there it was, the yellow Banksian rose, just as she had said. A label will be made for it.



Avid readers of this page might be waiting for an update on the effect of bundling barley straw into the two ponds to try to put a stop to the dreadful gloopy algae sheets that so rapidly appear. Well it really works. The water is very much clearer this summer, and although it's necessary to trawl some of the stuff out now and again, it's nothing like the quantity as previously. As the straw gradually decomposes, it releases chemicals into the water that slow or prevent algae growth. **Topical Tip.** If you try this, remember that even wet straw floats, so pack it into a heavy clay flower-pot or weigh it down with a heavy stone or bricks.

Last month, too, I mentioned my fear of an impending July "Gap", caused when the early summer perennials and biennials finish flowering, but leave little space or time for the annuals to get going quickly enough, which then fall prey to the armies of snails that sally forth each evening from their haunts around the old stone walls. Luckily, the roses have been blooming profusely, and the astilbes are coming into flower, both untouched by snails. (Lanhydrock has a wonderful display of astilbes at this time of year, as well as perennial phlox, so that's something to remember for the Stuart House planting scheme.) Nicotiana plants, also slug proof, are providing additional colour at the present time. Interestingly, begonias were grown in Elizabethan times and these, too, are untouched by molluscs. I'm not sure if the bedding versions had been developed then, but the small white specimens planted singly in pots on the tables look perfect, following on well from the beautiful frilly pansies that lasted a good two months.

The gardening team have recently lost their box and bay-tree trimmer (thank you so much Barbara for all your work on these), and the lawn mower (thanks Peter). Additional volunteer(s) are sought for these tasks! *Malcolm Mort*



Ann Robinson has written the piece below as a thank-you to all her fellow U3A garden volunteers.

It seems a good opportunity to thank ALL our volunteers, without whom Stuart House simply could not function. As you can see, its FUN and very rewarding. PLEASE talk to Sioux in the Office, any of the current volunteers or any of the committee, if you feel you could help in the garden, the café, or with stewarding - in the shop, at other sales or during exhibitions.

Photos of volunteers at work and any written reflections are always welcome for the Newsletter! (ed.)

SECRET GARDENERS

Have you seen them? Have you heard them?

They come in all shapes and sizes and are often hidden amongst the foliage and flowers.

You have to be quick or you'll miss them.

You never know when they'll appear as they come and go like the summer rain and sunshine; sometimes

fleetingly.

Sometimes shy, and quietly working; sometimes laughing; but if you catch their eye they're always ready for a chat.

You will know they've been - roses will have been dead-headed, the jewelled border tended, the bay trimmed and new plants will emerge.

Stuart House Garden is a little oasis in the centre of the town and altho' they've gardens of their own to tend these secret gardeners love to come and "do a bit" as and when they can.

Ann Robinson



Four Art Exhibitions in August at Stuart House's Max Lock Gallery

SENTINELS



Exhibition of paintings by
Geoff Cox BA (Hons)
In Stuart House
Mon 3rd Aug - Sat 8th Aug
Opening Hours 9:30 - 15:30

Stuart House Trust
Art & Heritage Centre, Liskeard

From Veryan to Venice
an art exhibition
by
Jayne Wackett
Stuart House, Liskeard
12-22 August, 2015



EXHIBITION by Stuart House artist-in-residence Linda Maynard and her students

24th August to 5th September
weekdays until 5pm, Saturdays until 3 pm.



Linda's Open Studio on the top floor of Stuart House (through the King's Room)

*Public Exhibition of Paintings
by Local Artist*



*Stuart House
17th to 22nd August 2015*

*All Sale Proceeds Donated to
British Red Cross – Nepal
Earthquake Appeal*

Places are still available for the Ribbon Embroidery Workshop to be held by Shelley Cox (Royal School of Needlework qualified) on August 10th. Please ask for details.



Linda Maynard writes ..

At the end of June, Stuart House was pleased to welcome **Rose Gibbon** back to the Max Lock Gallery. Her Exhibition Preview on the 23rd was enhanced by a charming performance from the Looe Valley Singers, of whom Rose is an active member. Not only does this lady paint, she also sings!

Presenting an ongoing variety of subjects, Rose continues to explore and experiment with different painting techniques in order to express her ideas: a necessary 'journey' for any Artist to pursue, in search of excellence. We look forward with interest to seeing Rose back in the Gallery with more of her work in the future.

Rose is exhibiting again from September 28th.

STERTS THEATRE Summer 2015 at Sterts



Sterts Summer Repertory Season of In-house Shows

01/05/14/24/28 August. Some Enchanted Evening 19:30
 03/08/10 August. The Ladykillers 19:30
 04/17 August. Top Girls 19:30
 06/11/26 August. Sitting Pretty 19:30
 19/25/29/31 August. The Addams Family 19:30
 31 August. The Addams Family 14:00

Tickets £10/8/6 on the door or 50p off each for advance booking

Full details of all shows. www.sterts.co.uk
 01579 362382

Box Office 10am-4pm weekdays 10am-1pm Saturdays.
 Sterts, Upton Cross Liskeard PL14 5AZ
 Sterts Kitchen bookings 07866 292414

STERTS THEATRE Summer 2015 at Sterts



Sterts Summer Season of Visiting Acts

August
 Sat 01 An afternoon with Anita Harris - Beyond Eternity 14:00
 Sun 02 Summer Serenade - Duchy Opera 17:30
 Wed 05 Marks Ark Animal Encounter 14:00:00
 Fri 07 Frank Sinatra the Centennial Celebration - The Dave Hankin Band 19:30
 Tue 11 The Tempest in a Teacup - Umbrella Arts 14:00
 Wed 12 The Taming of the Shrew - Ilyria 19:30
 Thu 13 The 39 Steps - Fourthwall Contemporary Theatre 19:30
 Sat 15 The Magic of the Beatles - Easytheatres 19:30
 Tue 18 As You Like It - Festival Players 19:30
 Thu 20 Iolanthe - Ilyria 19:30
 Fri 21 Robin Hood the Musical - Cambridge Touring Theatre 19:30
 Sat 22 The Magnificent Three - Miracle Theatre 19:30
 Wed 26 Monkey - Puppetcraft 14:00
 Thu 27 The Three Musketeers - Ilyria 19:30

Full details of all shows. www.sterts.co.uk 01579 362382
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STOP PRESS! The 'Beauty of Maturity' photographic exhibition in July attracted nearly 200 visitors and raised c. £275 for St Lukes!



Caradon Heritage Partnership

Stuart House mounted a small publicity display at the recent Phoenix 100 'Story of Kober' event at the Public Hall, along with other members of the Caradon Heritage Partnership.

Do check the CHP website for details of many different events run locally by its member organizations, including walks, talks, exhibitions, theatre, natural history, archaeology....

If anyone wants to borrow the 'travelling exhibition' for another event, please ask Sioux. It is always amazing how many local people say that they didn't know what Stuart House has to offer – and that it's free!

Diary of Events

August 2015



Monday 3 rd onwards	The Arts, Crafts and Gift Shop re-opens in the Doctor's Surgery : an exciting range of products from ten local contributors.
Monday 3 rd – Saturday 8 th	Art Exhibition : Geoff Cox 'Sentinals' – acrylics reflecting the stark beauty of trees, many in the moorland landscape.
Monday 10 th	Poetry Group meet in the café.
Monday 10 th – Saturday 22 nd	Art Exhibition and Sale : Jayne Wackett 'From Veryan to Venice' – watercolours exploring an endless fascination with the world around us.
Monday 10 th	Silk Ribbon Workshop with Shelley Cox of the Royal School of Needlework. £20 plus £19.50 for the kit – please ask for details.
Tuesday 11 th	Antiques Valuation Day with Richard Hamm from Bearnes, Hampton & Littlewood. 10am to 12 noon.
Monday 17 th – Saturday 22 nd	Art Exhibition and Sale : Jayanthi Warburton – acrylics inspired by the expansive skylscapes and pristine purity of light that Cornwall offers.
Monday 24 th – Saturday 5 th September	Art Exhibition and Sale by Stuart House Artist-in-Residence Linda Maynard and her students. Open until 5pm week-days and 3pm Saturdays.
Monday 31 st	Stuart House closed for the Bank Holiday.
COMING IN SEPTEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts and Crafts Sale with Victor and Nancy • Acorn Academy Students' Work and presentations • Adult Education Textiles Exhibition • Concert in the Gallery by Judy Whitlock • Rose Gibbon Art Exhibition • Woollen Exhibition and workshops

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 please (who must reserve the right to edit as necessary) before 25th of the month for inclusion in the next newsletter. Leave with Sioux in the Office or email to rachelpbennett59@gmail.com