

*September 2015*

## **Hon. Sec. Sue Glencross' News of the Committee Meeting of August 17th**

To follow up from last month - no real news on the Wetherspoon's planning other than to say it is understood their surveyor is now consulting with neighbours and they are preparing revisions to their plans. The repairs to the King's Room have been completed and the gable end wall project now concluded. Bob's continuing battle with BT is now the subject of its own Agenda item.....the latest is that they cut off our broadband (it was, however, restored again pretty quickly!). New lighting for the King's Room is now planned.

August is a time for much 'behind the scenes' administrative work.

*The central part of Sue's report is on p.2 (ed.)*

Plans are now afoot for fund-raising events suggested by Nancy (who, I am told, selflessly and valiantly volunteered Victor for the steering work!) and Rachel will reveal details. (see p.5 and 8)

The café continues to yield a very successful revenue and Bruce, Tony and Victor continue to monitor costs. We stayed open very successfully on Saturday 15th with cheesecakes as an appropriate speciality to support Liskeard's Ploughman's Fayre being held that day.

*concluded on p.2*

Author Richard Hoskin, who was brought up in Liskeard, visited Stuart House on 24<sup>th</sup> July when he was in the town to speak about his novel 'The Miner and the Viscount'.

(photo below taken by Eileen Crouch - more on p. 3)



The table above is bare – but the group were soon to be served by some of the café's wonderful, but VERY SMALL, team of volunteers.

We appeal again – with real concern – for more volunteers to help run the café. It is not only a vital source of income for Stuart House, but also provides a place where so many people – local and visitors alike – feel welcomed.

**PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN**

Sue's Report continued from p.1 .....

The Annual Return has been made to the Charity Commission which maintains up-to-date records of our Charity and our Trustees. Our Annual Accounts have been filed - we were well ahead of the October deadline. Every year the list of on-line questions is more and more comprehensive and a quiet time has to be set aside to make the Return with a well-deserved glass of something at the end of it all...but maybe a glass at the beginning would have made the whole process more endurable!

Our insurance renewal notice has been received and (despite our claim in respect of damage to the gable end wall) the premium is in line with that of last year. An important point to note is that the insurers were obviously content that we were not under-insured. It is a little known fact that should a property be covered for less than the re-build value then, in the event of a claim, only a percentage of the sum claimed will be paid. By way of example - if your home should be

insured for a re-build cost of £250,000 but you have only insured for £125,000 and you are claiming for total loss, you would only receive 50% of £125,000 as you only insured for half the re-building cost. So - £62,500 as against a possible £250,000? I hope reading this does not make you all dust off the insurance policy nestling somewhere amongst your paperwork at home! Fortunately we did not have to dust ours off when our claim was made. Many years ago Peter Hooper of Kivells provided a *pro bono* valuation for insurance purposes. The computation of the figure arrived at was agreed with loss adjustors because of the fact that the House is a listed building and the cost of re-build would be much higher than normal. It was those same loss-adjustors who were involved in settling the insurance claim.

Sue Glencross, Hon.Sec.

*(thanks to Sue for pointing out the bit about insurance which I certainly didn't realise! ed.)*



Photos of the visit of author Richard Hoskin and his daughter (see *Eileen's article on p.3*). Left - Richard with Eileen and chairman Bruce with John Rapson looking over! Right – OCS researcher Jackie with Richard and his daughter Sarah and the ed., all in the Old Cornwall Society's Room on the top floor of the House.

## July 24<sup>th</sup>: VISIT OF AUTHOR, RICHARD HOSKIN

Eileen Crouch writes -

Richard, with his daughter Sarah - visited Cornwall from the U.S.A. where they now live, to promote his new novel THE MINER AND THE VISCOUNT which is set in Cornwall in the late eighteenth century. (For more information see [www.theminerandtheviscount.com](http://www.theminerandtheviscount.com)).

Richard was brought up in Liskeard. He lived in Manley Terrace and was delighted to see this as part of our Henry Rice exhibition. He was educated at Liskeard Grammar School and so was able to meet members of his family and old acquaintances during his time in the town.) He went on to Clifton College and The Queen's College Oxford. He moved to America with Proctor and Gamble and is now settled in Kentucky.

Talking after his book-launch at Liskeard's Bookshop, Richard expressed an interest in visiting Stuart House, and he was able to do this before his engagement to talk about his book in Liskeard Library.

Remembering Stuart House – and the Garage (then known as Truscotts), the visitors enjoyed a tour of the house, admiring the restoration work and the garden. Jackie Jenkins was in the Old Cornwall Society's room to welcome them and let them see the extent of the OCS archives. Over lunch in the Old Kitchen Cafe, our chairman, Bruce Hawken, enjoyed an exchange of Liskeard memories with Richard.

(see pictures on p.1 and p.2 )

### Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September

Stuart House will be open until 3pm for



## Liskeard Heritage Open Day

a part of the nationwide Heritage Open Days

together with many shops and properties in the town

Details on facebook, website and posters.

At Stuart House, Tony Wood (*who better? – copies of his book 'The History of Stuart House' continue to sell well and are only available from the House ed.*) will be available to explain how the building has developed over time, and to direct visitors to where the secret passage ran – reputedly down to the Pipe Well. We also hope to open the Old Cornwall Society's room on the top floor – so visitors can see what lies behind that wonderfully ill-fitting door within the Rowse Room.



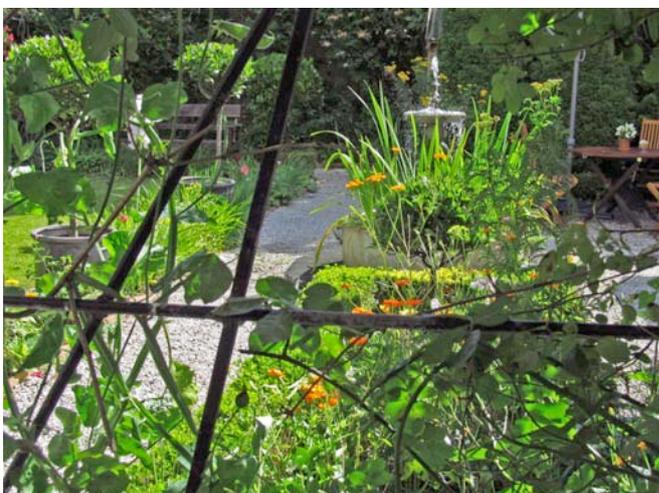
## September's thoughts from our Garden's Overseer

In August and September, the Stuart House garden settles into a contented peacefulness. Much of the earlier colour of flowers, roses and shrubs has come and gone, replaced by subtleties of green. This is punctuated however by the occasional orange sparkles of calendula (ever-faithful) and montbretia, and the yellow tones of achillea and antirrhinum. Yellow interest is also provided this year by corn marigold *Chrysanthemum Segetum* (recently reclassified as *Glebionis Segetum*). Apparently this was a serious weed in 13<sup>th</sup> Century Scotland, giving rise to a law which stated that should a farmer allow just one single plant to produce seed in amongst his crops, he would be fined one sheep. Well, this could be a much more pleasant and colourful competitor against the hooligan alkanet, creeping strawberry, deadnettle, enchanter's nightshade and oxalis that seem to regard Stuart House garden as a place meant just for them.



A certain TV gardener (Mr A.T.), once advised us (whilst lying back in sun-lounger with a long drink) that at this time of year we should just relax and enjoy the garden in return for all our earlier gardening efforts. Well that's all very fine if you have a merry band of assistants beavering away off-screen, or if you happen to be a medieval feudal landlord. One of the most useful pieces of gardening advice I've heard, and which I gladly share with you as **this month's topical tip**, is that no matter how messy your garden has become, just make sure the lawn is mowed and the edges are straight, then your visitors will somehow be mesmerised into not noticing the straggly areas. Stuart House's volunteer gardeners (highly dedicated) manage to do much more than that, of course, forever weeding, tidying, trimming and planting.

In the May newsletter I wrote about the American professors who had advised poor people to improve the health of body and wallet by eating the array of nutritious weeds



that miraculously and effortlessly proliferate in pavement cracks and on waste land. Oh, if only those slugs and snails would take this advice and concentrate on the weeds, instead of chomping voraciously through the tagetes, coreopsis and rudbekias when no-one is looking (sad events in the garden this season).

Nowadays it's very easy to find out what gardeners of Tudor / Elizabethan / Stuart times grew – a quick Google search yields a plethora of plant lists. But what Stuart House garden needs are

plants of that era that can also be relied on not to get eaten, to be flowerful over a longish period of time (thus overcoming those colour gaps that sometimes occur), and are tough without being invasive. Lavender fits these criteria, as do foxgloves,

aquilegia, valerian (that marvellous flower that just loves to grow in places where there's absolutely no soil at all), achillea, ammi (re-discovered at Chelsea this year), nicotiana, creeping campanula, and golden rod. Other suggestions are greatly welcomed from readers, but definitely not the once popular Monkshood / Wolf's Bane, *aconitum napellus*, with its tantalisingly beautiful deep blue flowers. Curiously it is still sold by some nurseries, but is potentially lethal to the touch, and certainly totally lethal if the parsnip look-alike roots are ever confused with the real thing. Thought: what effect does this plant have on munching molluscs? Poisonous plants of yore: more on this another time.

Malcolm Mort

## COMING SOON – IF WE HELP!!

### The Stuart House Cookery Books

Nancy and Victor Briggs plan to co-ordinate two of these and to get them ready well before Christmas. They will be sold to provide funds for the House – and to provide a challenge and opportunity for more members to contribute!

#### A Historical Cookery Book

Victor has almost finished compiling this. It will have recipes from times past for dishes which those people living in and knowing Stuart House - particularly in Stuart times - might have eaten.

He hopes also to include information about how the herbs grown in the past – several of which are grown today in our garden - have been used through time.



#### The Stuart House Members' Cookery Book

YOUR OPPORTUNITY – please send in your recipes and also any handy hints, tips, thoughts, quotes, illustrations (black and white) .... which you think will interest us members and the visitors to the House

Please use the form with this Newsletter, so that Nancy and Victor have a phone contact, or else make sure that you have included your name and contact. Either way, please leave your contributions with Sioux in the Stuart House Office, or email them in to her.

The deadline must be October 31<sup>st</sup>!

## TWO ART EXHIBITIONS IN SEPTEMBER



**art**  
**EXHIBITION**

A Collection  
of Paintings  
By Students of  
Linda Maynard

To Be Held at  
Stuart House, Liskeard  
Open 10:00am - 4:30pm

Mon 24th Aug to  
Sat 5th Sep 2015  
Closed Bank Holiday Monday

**FREE ADMISSION**



The exhibition of works by artist-in-residence **Linda Maynard and her students** continues through the first week of September. Do call in to support them, and to be inspired by the variety of images and use of media on display. Comments in the visitors' book have been very positive. The photo shows Linda in the gallery between visitors.

**Rose Gibbon**, who ran a successful exhibition in the Gallery in June, is running another at the end of September and into October. She writes "I am looking forward to the exhibition with some new work, and hope that there may be a surprise or two in the pipeline".



**POPPY**



**MOON**

CONTEMPORARY ART  
EXHIBITION

by local artist  
**Rose Gibbon**

**28TH SEPTEMBER  
TO  
3RD OCTOBER**

[www.poppymoon.weebly.com](http://www.poppymoon.weebly.com)

## These three Art exhibitions in August had many appreciative visitors, as comments in the visitors' books show.

Please get in touch with Stuart House if you would like to make contact again with any of the artists. Liskeard is not exactly a mecca for artists, and it is so appreciated when members, as well as visitors, drop in to exhibitions.

**Geoff Cox's** own words about his 'Sentinels' exhibition helped to express our resident artist Linda Maynard's feelings about the paintings.

"those sentinals reflect in their solid trunks and delicately constructed branches, in their brokenness and stuntedness, the dramas they have seen. Although not outwardly visible, the trees contain the imprint of many lives that have passed their way".

*The illustration is 'Moorland Stream'*



**Jayne Wackett's** 'From Verman to Venice' exhibition showed a glorious variety of subjects and atmospheres, through the skilled and sensitive use of the medium of water-colour.

*The illustration is 'Sunset Sheep' and I apologise for it not doing more justice to the original, ed.*

**Jayanthi Warburton's** exhibition to raise money for the Nepal earthquake disaster was powerful and exciting.

*The photo shows Jayanthy with her exhibition in the Jane Room.*



**The return of the 'Times Past' series of articles –  
extracts from Hon. Sec. Sue Glencross' archive of past minutes of  
the Stuart House Committee**

**The Henry Rice Project**

On 11<sup>th</sup> February 2004 Eileen reported activities on this project which was being led by George Vaughan-Ellis with assistance from Eileen and Tony Wood.

Henry Rice's tombstone in Lanchard Cemetery had subsided and had been restored thanks to a private donation. Eileen reported that a rededication ceremony would be arranged for some time in the future.

The Trail Map was with the printers and Eileen announced it would be ready in April. Funding had been provided by the Trust and the Museum who were each using their portion of HLF 'Project' funding allocated through the South East Cornwall Museum Forum (SECMF) of which both organisations were members.

SECMF was co-ordinating a project and the Trust's theme would be 'Walking the Henry Rice Trail'. Maps would be available and would continue to be available after the May event. A launch event for the Trail was being planned. All Henry Rice premises would be sent a copy of the Trail map and invited to Stuart House to an exhibition at which refreshments would be served.

Subsequently, in the final phase of the Project, George's well-researched information, together with John Rapson's photographs, were compiled into a book recording Rice's achievements, providing a valuable local archive.

We must never underestimate the work which was undertaken by George, Eileen and Tony in bringing awareness of the works of Henry Rice to the people of Liskeard.

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*Since then, of course, all this has come to pass – and more! The permanent Henry Rice exhibition has been mounted in the Rowse Room on the top floor of the house, where it attracts much interest from visitors and locals alike. The Henry Rice trail is still selling at 50p in the shop. Members of Stuart House have been actively involved in questions about the future of several Henry Rice buildings in the town. We are still trying to establish his family links, through research on the Rice family and the family of his wife, Jane Vian – and it would be so wonderful if we found a picture of him. There will be more..... (ed.)*



Photo of the 'Summer Madness' sale which ran in July, co-ordinated by Victor and Nancy. They are running another event in September (and something even bigger next summer – look out for more information!).

Nancy has family links with and a lot of information about the Vian family, so we are all hoping for a Henry Rice connection (see above)!

**CONCERT**  
**STUART HOUSE GALLERY**  
**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2.30pm**

**Judy Whitlock – voice and double bass**  
**Noelle Boucherat – keyboard and percussion**

*Angela Wunnam, concert co-ordinator writes -*

Judy Whitlock is well known to local audiences for her virtuosic performance, whether as singer or bassist in classical, jazz or Latin music. She plays in a variety of ensembles as well as leading the double-bass section of the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra. Not only can she play and sing sublimely but she can also compose brilliantly. Today she will be joined by the equally virtuosic pianist, keyboard player and percussionist, Noelle Boucherat. Both perform widely across the south west .

Today they perform a range of music from classical to Latin, jazz and world music. Come and be beguiled by their wonderful ability to communicate their love of the music they play.

Tickets £7 from the office, complimentary refreshments and a chance to meet the performers afterwards.



**STERTS THEATRE** Summer 2015 at Sterts



**Sterts Summer Season of Shows**  
**September**

01 September. Curious Creatures. 14.00  
 01/02 September. Sitting Pretty 19.30  
 03/09/10 September. Top Girls 19:30  
 04/05 September. Some Enchanted Evening 19:30  
 11 September. Josh Widdicombe 19:30 SOLD OUT  
 12 September. The Last Night of the Proms 19:30

Full details of all shows. [www.sterts.co.uk](http://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

**STUART HOUSE 2015**  
**SUNDAY AFTERNOON**  
**CONCERT SERIES**

All at 2.30pm in the Gallery  
 £7, including refreshments and a  
 chance to meet the performers.

🎵 **27<sup>th</sup> September** – Judy Whitlock  
 (voice and double bass) and Noelle  
 Boucherat (keyboard and percussion)

🎵 **18<sup>th</sup> October** – students from  
 Liskeard Community College – an  
 entertaining and varied range of solo  
 and ensemble performances

🎵 **22<sup>nd</sup> November** – Jonathan  
 Delbridge on keyboard

# Diary of Events

## September 2015



every Thursday	Knit n' Knatter meet from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm. All welcome.
continuing until Sat 5th	Art Exhibition and sale by artist-in-residence Linda Maynard and her students, 10am to 5pm (3pm on Saturday) (see p.6)
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday 12th	Arts and Crafts event with Victor and Nancy (see p.8)
Wednesday 9th	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation day with Richard Hamm from Beames, Hampton & Littlewood. 10am to 12 noon.
Saturday 12th	Liskeard Heritage Open Day (see p.3)
Monday 14th	Poetry Group meet in the café, 4pm – 6pm
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday 19th	Caradon Acorn Academy – exhibition of students' work, with a presentation event on Tuesday 15th
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> – Saturday 26th	Adult Education (textiles) – exhibition of students' work
Sunday 27th	Concert in the Gallery. Judy Whitlock and Noelle Boucherat. 2.30pm. Tickets £7 from the office, complimentary refreshments and opportunity to meet the performers afterwards. (see p.9)
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct.	The last week of the Stuart House Arts, Crafts and Gift shop for this season
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct.	Art Exhibition with Rose Gibbon (see p.6)
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> to Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	“From Sheep to Jumper” – woollen exhibition and workshops at Stuart House - Wool Market in the Public Hall on Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October
<b>COMING IN OCTOBER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rose Gibbon's Art Exhibition and the 'From Sheep to Jumper' events continue</li> <li>• St Matthew's Fair Day – the Sealed Knot is at Stuart House</li> <li>• Bespoke picture framing with Glen Gorman</li> <li>• Exhibition and sale by West Country Embroiderers</li> <li>• Concert in the Gallery by Liskeard School students (see p.9)</li> <li>• Table top sales</li> <li>• Art Exhibition (oils) with Charles Summers FRSA</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 please (who must reserve the right to edit as necessary) before 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)