

September 2016



'Pigeons Gazing into Stuart House'
(photo by Malcolm Mort)

August has been a busy month in the House, for people too. The pigeons may have witnessed some of the busiest days that we have ever had in the cafe! The 'Original Man Engine' exhibition was extended for 3 weeks, and many summer visitors, as well as local people, seemed very interested.

There are also several key events happening in late August, after this newsletter has gone to print – reports will follow next time, but we are sure that the Members' Garden Party on Sunday 28th, and the Art Exhibition by members of Stuart House's Coved Room Studio will have been a great success.

Editorial apologies for some presentational problems in the electronic version of the August Newsletter, which only showed once it was mailed, and for any shortcomings in presentation and/or content of this edition, as the editor has had to work on it from outside Liskeard.



Leaflet Sponsored by Coodes
Honorary Solicitors to Stuart House Trust

Sue's News of August's Committee Meeting ...

Bob is sweeping through the House.... Chairman Bob is setting his sights high this year and amongst his aims and objectives are his plans to improve what is currently the office area. The intention is ultimately to separate the pure administration and to re-create what always used to be an office in the upstairs storeroom next to the King's Room. That room will be the House Manager's office and will not be open to the public. It will also enable the ubiquitous Sioux to have a permanent base. What is now the downstairs office can then be simply a reception and greeting area. This will have the desired effect of liberating the features in the downstairs room so that they can be seen and appreciated. Bob also wants to highlight all the 'Hidden Treasures' in the House.

Victor is planning some menu changes! All will soon be revealed on the 'Specials' board in the café Should we nominate him for the 'Great British Bake-Off'? He has become our very own Mary Berry.

Dave and Rachel have ideas for future Exhibitions and Nancy is putting together a programme of Art displays

John continues to advise on all building matters and is a source of valuable practical help and assistance.

Each month Tony prepares an informative report for the Trustees. He would very much like to see an increase in the revenue from room hire which has a long way to go to meet forecast.

As for me? The usual boring behind-the-scenes work. The draft CIO is now with Bob, Tony and Victor for detailed consideration before we proceed further.

Sue Glencross, Hon. Sec.



The Sealed Knot return to Stuart House on St. Matthew's Fair Day, Saturday October 1st.

Join them in our garden to see displays with swords, muskets (loud!), and 17th century foods and handicrafts.

Free entry, and a lot more to see in the House, including the permanent exhibitions which tell of the life it saw during the Civil War.

ART AT STUART HOUSE

The 2016 Exhibition by Members of the Coved Room Studio August 22nd - 29th

Linda Maynard is artist-in-residence at Stuart House. She wrote at the start of the 2016 Exhibition in the Max Lock Gallery



With a few flowers to bring an extra splash of colour, The Max Locke Gallery prepared to host another Exhibition for members of the Coved Room Studio.

The 2016 Exhibition is, as usual, an eclectic mix of subject matter, medium choice, and interest.

Although this year's Exhibition was loosely based around a 'themed' choice of subject matter, namely, I dared to suggest, 'Windows' and 'Beaches',...(!?) you would probably be surprised by how these can be interpreted by the individual! Designed to 'stretch the imagination', I was reminded, with some amusement, of an old, personal, observation - 'there is just one rule in Art : there are NO rules!' ...and THAT is just as it should be.

Linda Maynard.



We hope you know that the Coved Room Studio, where Linda paints and holds art classes, is open to visitors (when Linda is there), on the top floor of the House, leading off the Trussed Room. (ed.)

**Monday 12th – Saturday 17th
September**

PAINTERS EXHIBITION
The art work of Louise Kidd and
her students

*sorry - no details available at the time of going to
print (see p.1), but this promises to be a wonderful
exhibition. All those who know Liskeard will know
Painters Art and Craft Shop on Fore Street. ed.*

**CRAFT EXHIBITION
and
SALE**

co-ordinated by Nancy and
Victor continues in the Gallery
until 10th September.

THE BIG DRAW

Comes to Stuart House again !
**'The Steam Powered Big
Draw Festival' 8th – 15th
October**
Look out for details.

Thoughts from our Garden's overseer

It's late summer already. Glimpses of autumn occur as leaves begin to curl and flutter down, and as greens mature from their earlier vividness to reflective pastels. Colour in the Stuart House garden continues also in gentler hues: the whites and mauves of the Japanese anemones and dwarf nicotiana, and yellows and oranges of achillea and montbretia. The cranesbill geraniums which were given the severe shears treatment after their June flowering have made a rapid recovery and hopefully will bloom again this month.

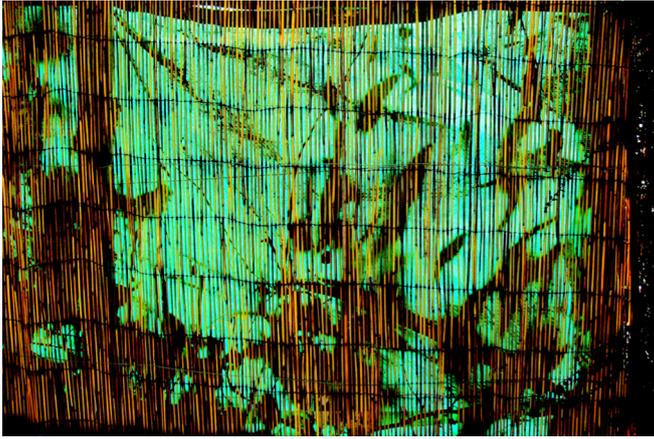
Large white bindweed flowers (it pains to say that they are quite attractive) stare out brazenly between the shrubs. Several attempts have been made during the season to tame this infernal pest, but once it has got a hold it's incredibly difficult to control because of its extensive and brittle root network, impossible to pull up. In mediaeval times boiling water was applied to the shoots as often as they appeared. These days, the standard treatments include: (i) clearing and digging over infected ground for three years; (ii) covering with weed suppressant material; (iii) spraying with weedkiller (with the likelihood of killing the shrubs entwined). In the Stuart House garden I suppose we'll just have to try and live with it, though with some weeds there is no compromise. "Give it an inch and it will take a mile" sums it up perfectly.

Montbretia crocosmia is also one of those plants that refuses to stay in its allotted space, spreading roots and corms far and wide. The Crocosmia species originate from dry grasslands in East and South Africa: montbretia is a deliberate 17th century hybrid between two sorts. Unbelievably, its seed is sterile, but that doesn't stop its colonising abilities. Through late summer and autumn it's reliably floriferous of course, but if you are tempted to have it in your garden then do try to restrain it within a defined area using stone barriers, otherwise it is certain to lead you a merry dance. Or grow other sorts which are far less invasive.



This season, too, the common Buddleia davidii growing prolifically in the old garage site next door has made a determined effort to look over the fence and see what's going on in the Stuart House garden. The flower panicles have added colour and shade to that part of the garden, and the insects have loved them. But it's another very invasive plant, of course, scourge of railway tracks, and again not introduced to this country from China until the 18th C, courtesy of Dr Alan Buddle, rector and botanist. At least its seedlings are easily recognised ...

In the last newsletter I mentioned that in the Plymouth Elizabethan garden and also at Lanhydrock House begonias fill the geometric spaces of the box-hedged knot gardens. A recent visit to Mount Edgcumbe revealed that their knot garden, too, is bursting fashionably full of them! Rest assured : this is **not** a trend that will be followed at Stuart House.



Malcolm's gloriously mysterious picture of the screen between our garden and the Wetherspoon's site. Nothing more to report on the latter. (ed)

In mentioning other gardens I have to say how wonderful the flower displays have been around Liskeard town centre this summer. So thanks to the Town Council for The Parade beds which have included for originality bold combinations of fennel, chives, chard and parsley mixed with argyranthemum and salvias. Thanks also to the Liskeard Traders for the planters and baskets brimming with a wide range of flowers and shrubs all thriving from regular TLC which have made Fore Street so picturesque and relaxing.

Lesson: if one could choose only one plant for a container, it would have to be Begonia illumination, yellow!

Topical tips. Hydrangeas are very fashionable again, especially the lace-caps, now in full flower everywhere. Cuttings from non-flowering stems (about 4" long below a node) will root quite readily in a glass of water. Transfer the rooted cuttings to small pots, keep cool but frost-free through the winter and they'll romp away next Spring. Also sow rocket, chard and winter lettuce in a cold greenhouse or frame after the tomatoes have been cleared out for salad leaves through the winter.

Malcolm Mort

Our partner,

**STARTS
THEATRE**

has a great programme of events continuing in September, but the editor is afraid that she hasn't got details of it at the time of going to press.

Do look on their website.

'FAKE or FORTUNE'

Richard Hamm writes...

Bearnes Hampton & Littlewood, South-West's largest fine art valuers and auctioneers return to Stuart House on **Thursday 8th September from 10am-12noon**. This will be an opportunity for a free valuation and identification of any attic treasures and family heirlooms.

Richard Hamm is the Cornwall representative of Bearnes Hampton & Littlewood, he has over 40 years experience as a fine art valuer and together with a team of 10 specialists based at Bearnes Exeter salerooms, covers jewellery, silver, paintings & prints, oriental art and ceramics, maritime artefacts, sporting items, furniture, books and works of art.

Recently Bearnes hit the headlines with being asked to sell the Pardoe Collection of Diver's Helmet and Equipment, one of the world's largest collection with individual helmets selling up to £16,000 each.

MUSIC AT STUART HOUSE

Charlotte Jones at Stuart House 14th August 2016

**with guest artist, Adam Curtis.
Accompanied by Chris Howarth.**



This was the second concert in the new *Menheniot and Liskeard Young Performers' Concerts* series. Charlotte performed to an enthusiastic audience on Sunday 14th August. She set the scene with a relatively unknown song called '*Taylor the Latte Boy*'. Straight away she showed her ability to get right inside the part, with her absolutely clear diction, and the range of her voice. It was an inspired choice to start with such a song: the amusing account of the love affair between a Costa Coffee barista and a young girl, the conclusion to which was a triple latte on the house! Charlotte used the prop of a Costa Coffee cup perfectly, demonstrating her excellent acting ability. The audience was instantly drawn in to her performance. The rest of the afternoon was a

delight, with songs from a variety of shows both new and old.

Adam joined her for the '*Anything you can do, I can do better*' song from *Annie get your Gun*. They both sang,, talked and acted with flawless American accents - so much so that one member of the audience thought that they were, in fact, American.

Both performers have clearly worked extremely hard on their voices, as required for singing in musical theatre. Indeed, Charlotte already has a Diploma in Musical Theatre from Falmouth University and Adam has a Degree in Musical Theatre from Bath Spa University. Charlotte has beautiful harmonics in her upper voice and a considerable range. Adam's smooth and mellifluous voice shows just how much practice is required to sing at this level.

We wish them both well in their very promising futures and are most grateful to Chris Howarth for finding such talented local young performers.

Angela Wunnam

Sunday September 11th at 2.30 pm sees the opening concert of the Stuart House Autumn Series with **Gareth Lee and Annie Baylis**, the very popular Cornish folk duo. They have been busy both on tour and writing material for an album, but they so enjoyed coming to Stuart House last year that they asked to come back! They write all their own material, so do come and enjoy their music.



🎵 **The other concerts in the Autumn Series are :-**
16th October : Students from Liskeard Community College Music Department
20th November : Diabel Cissokho, Senegalese musician.

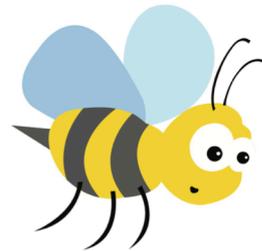
The Second Stuart House Sewing Bee Monday 26th September – Saturday 7th October

Fabrics, threads and trimmings for sale.
Workshops for all skill levels

Class times 10.30am – 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm.
DROP IN Days FREE!

come and make something for Stuart House to sell or chat over tea or coffee.

Monday 26th : Lavender Girls workshop. £10 all materials included
Tuesday 27th : Drop-In Day FREE.
Wednesday 27th : Lined Drawstring Bag. £8. All materials included
Thursday 29th : Quilt – Learn the wonderful art of Quilting. £10
Friday 30th : Headbands and Fascinators. £7
Saturday 1st : Drop-In Workshops – FREE
Monday 3rd : Warping your Loom, tapestry weaving
Tuesday 4th : Beaded Baubles £7
Wednesday 5th : Tote Bags £7
Thursday 6th : Brooches £7
Friday 7th : Drop-In Workshops - FREE



“SHEEP TO JUMPER”

Liskeard-Wide

Woolly Workshops

Monday 26th September into
October

Some taking place in Stuart
House

For more information, check the
website www.3bagsfull.org.uk

Monday 10th – Mini socks

Tuesday 11th - Jumbo Crotchet

Thursday 13th - Free Form Knitting

ALL THINGS

VINTAGE

Monday 26th September to
Saturday 7th October

A treasure trove and a step back in
timejewellery, kitchenalia,
clothing, objects d'arte

Diary of Events

September 2016



Every Thursday	Knit 'n' Knatter meet from 10.30 am. to 1.30 pm. All welcome.
Continuing until Saturday 10th	Arts and Craft Sale with Nancy and Victor
Tuesday 6 th Tuesday 20 th	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4 pm.
Tuesdays 6 th , 13 th , 20 th	Needlework Classes with Gaby – enquire for more details
Thursday 8th	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnas, Hampton & Littlewood. 10 am. To 12 noon.
Monday 12th	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4-6 pm.
Sunday 11th	Concert in the Gallery. Gareth Lee and Annie Bayliss, Cornish Folk Duo. 2.30pm. £7 including tea and biscuits and a chance to meet the performers (see p.6)
Monday 12th – Saturday 17th	Painters Art Exhibition : Louise Kidd and students (see p.3)
Monday 26 th – Saturday 8 th October	The Second Stuart House Sewing Bee (see p.7) and All Things Vintage : jewellery, clothing, kitchenalia, objects d'art etc. – a proper treasure trove, and a step back in time.
Coming in October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Matthew's Fair (see p.2) • Woolly Workshops continue (see p.7) • Big Draw and Exhibition (see p.3) • Liskeard School Concert (see p.6) • Table-top sale and 'Rummage Returns'.

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