

October 2015

Stuart House and Liskeard Heritage Open Day

On Saturday 12th September, Stuart House was proud to be part of the first Liskeard Heritage Open Day. The whole town had a buzz about it – and plenty of pink and blue balloons - as visitors explored the shops and buildings which took part.

Stuart House, as we reported in the last Newsletter, offered guided access to its ‘Secret Passage’ entrance, with Tony Wood as the expert guide.

Tony – to whom we are so grateful - writes

“ John Hesketh arranged this day : a series of visits to little known places in Liskeard each with its own piece of heritage interest. Although the story of Stuart House’s tunnel is based mainly on tradition with only two bits of recorded accounts of its existence, it was



Kate Mort emerging from the entrance to the blocked up Secret Tunnel

too good an attraction to let pass. Actually it

is available to view by the public at any time. However, over 50 people came to have a look and hear what I could tell them. Essentially all we know is that an old lady came into the house one coffee morning in 1985 and said that she had been a maid in the house when very young during the First World War. She said that

the older maids went down the tunnel to meet their boy-friends at the Pipe Well. The other scrap is that Arthur Morcom told me that when

he was a boy living in the house in the 1930s, he could remember a man coming to brick up the entrance because it was no longer safe.

The Trust has never explored it, - the mess and disruption would be considerable!!! ”

Liskeard Old Cornwall Society volunteers, including Stuart House trustee Dave Howard, kept open their room with its photographs and archives, and reported a stream of interested visitors making their way up to the top floor of the House. Again, we are so very grateful to them.

Our café stayed open all day, as did the shop, and we thank house administrator Sioux, Nancy and Victor who made this possible. We look forward to next year!



The House bedecked with balloons for Liskeard Open Day

Peggy Stewart

We are all sad to report the death of one of our oldest and most active members, Peggy Stewart MBE who died recently just short of her 92nd birthday. Peggy was a leading, possibly the leading local embroiderer and it is her large, impressive and very attractive piece of work of scenes of Liskeard, which graces the wall of the Cross Passage and in front of which many visitors stand to study and admire. Peggy embroidered that, unasked, for the House as her contribution to the celebration of the 750th anniversary of Liskeard's first charter, in 1990. It sat, almost neglected whilst the restoration went on through the next ten years, before it was framed and got pride of place in the entrance passage.



Peggy in 1998 presenting the quilt she had made for the King's bed



Peggy's beautiful embroidery in the entrance passage

Peggy has actively supported the Trust since then, providing us most recently with the lovely small quilts which sell so well in the Craft Shop. Her needle never stopped. She was a prolific quilter and embroiderer and personally made a quilt for each bed in the Children's Hospice South-West. She was awarded her MBE for supporting so many charities through the sale of her work. She taught quilting in classes over many years and the local quilters and embroiderers held her in great esteem.

Some years ago, she was persuaded to give a really interesting and unusual talk in the House one evening about her experiences as a prisoner of the Japanese in China during the Second World War. She had been a teenager at that time and had been allowed a measure of liberty compared with the adults but suffered the same privations and disrespect.

We will all miss Peggy's bird-like presence, small, but with bright, sharp eyes, full of smiles and enthusiasm. She declined in health in recent months but had a quiet and peaceful departure at the end.

Tony Wood. Sept. 2015

Sue's News of the Committee Meeting of 21st September

It is some time now since the 'Stuart House Public Presentation Project', as a result of which new external noticeboards were provided with grant funding. This triggered the modernisation of the internal signage in the front porch and throughout the House. New stationary was designed and put into use, but the Trust's publicity leaflets were not changed because the Trustees, being frugal as usual, made a decision to use up all the supplies of the existing leaflets before going to the expense of having new ones printed. The original supply has now been exhausted and Tony Wood produced updated text and new committee member Jo Hoskin has produced a draft of a replacement which is under consideration by the trustees. Once we have all given our comments, Jo will edit as necessary and prepare for printing. Our newsletter editor, Rachel, will be assisting her in the production of the final copy. Stand by to be impressed! It is hoped to roll out these new leaflets soon.

An informal survey of the House has resulted in a specification of essential work being prepared. Works which should now be undertaken in order to preserve the fabric of the House include repairs to windows; dealing with damp-proofing issues in the coffee room, kitchen and Surgery and re-plastering; overhaul & replacing defective vertical slates on East side of House; inspection/repair/replacement of guttering; replacement of fillets to external kitchen door. Once estimates have been obtained then it is proposed to lodge yet another application for grant funding. It is never-ending is it not?

Sue Glencross, Hon. Sec.

STOP PRESS – Wetherspoon's Revised Plans have just been submitted to County Planning. Deadline for public comments is **16th October**. Check the Council's on-line planning applications site. ref. PA15/03887



THE STUART HOUSE COOKERY BOOKS

Tireless trustee and volunteer Victor Briggs (seen top left before trying out his recipes, bottom left afterwards) has finished the **Historical Cookery Book**, containing recipes which those living in Stuart House in the past – particularly in Stuart Times – might have eaten.

MORE CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED!

Nancy Briggs would like to thank all those who have so far offered favourite recipes, hints, stories, black and white pictures and such-like for the **Stuart House Cookery Book**. Lots more contributions would be very welcome – please send in or leave with Sioux in the office (with your contact details) or use the form available there, or email to Stuart House.

Deadline must be October 31st

October's Thoughts from our Garden's Overseer

Gardening is perennially hard work. I'm often reminded of a conversation I once had with a young woman who had become exasperated with her first garden. "Just think if you always had to keep mowing the carpet", she said, "or coming downstairs in the morning and finding that the legs of your table and chairs had been chewed off. No-one would put up with that." Yes, I understood totally, and is a good example of why I think we should always try to make things as easy as possible for ourselves by applying a concept I learned long ago called Good Enough (GE).

Take the Stuart House lawn for instance. It wouldn't gain many marks in a best-kept lawn competition if inspected closely as it's full of weeds, especially the wily sort that keep their heads well down when they see the mower approaching. But from a distance it looks fine, especially if (as I remarked last time) the grass is kept short and the edges trimmed neatly. Earlier this year I was advised by a purist that the lawn needed to be dug up and replanted. Gosh, no! Over the years, I've found the best ways to keep a lawn in GE order is to water it a few times in the Spring with magical selective weed killer, followed by a few more waterings of high nitrogen feed. Also when mowing, forget the grass box: rake up any large clumps of cut grass, but just brush the rest of the clippings around evenly. In a couple of days it has all disappeared, adding to the fertility of the soil, encouraging worms and drainage – so no need for that tiresome autumn spiking. This is the approach taken with the Stuart House lawn this season. The weeds that persist make an interesting collection: more about them another time.



Interestingly, Wikipedia tells us that Elizabethan gardeners didn't have lawns. Apparently this word came from the Celtic *lan/llan/laun* meaning enclosure, especially around a place of worship, where the constant nibbling by sheep, rabbits and horses created the lawn effect. Similarly, the old French word *launde* means barren land or clearing.

Mowing machines weren't invented until 1830, so ornamental lawns, a symbol of status of the gentry, were comprised of meadow plants such as camomile, a particular favourite (and no, we're not doing that at Stuart House). They showed that the owner could afford to have an ornamental or social area in the garden not used for a building or food production. Cutting had to be done by hand, but labour was plentiful. It wasn't until the 18th Century when the fashion by the aristocracy for landscape gardening took hold (led by designers such as Lancelot "Capability" Brown), that the concept of expansive, trimmed grass lawns became established. These could only work, of course, in the mild, damp maritime climate of Western Europe.

The GE approach also means growing flowers that are not easily eaten, which are not intimidated or strangled by their other plant neighbours, which carry on blooming for ages, and which themselves do not get out of control. This sounds like the subject of a good (but yet undiscovered) book. Lessons learned over the years show that some things are just not worth growing, such as dahlias from seed (young plants have huge attraction to slugs) or delphiniums. Other plants, though, (some of which I mentioned in the previous newsletter) are totally avoided by molluscs, and to those

can be added the hardy cranesbill geranium. There are some excellent varieties of this, some of which comprise the mainstay of the early summer flower display in the Stuart House borders. However, they do have the irritating habit of slowly and surely creeping and weedly seeding themselves everywhere. Poppies don't get eaten either, but sadly their majestic blooms are over and gone in a flash, though their seed heads look stately for a long time afterwards (whilst simultaneously scattering millions of seeds everywhere). Luckily many common herbs seem to be untouched by slugs and snails, as those who have recently viewed the herb bed can vouch for.



Perennial golden oregano (marjoram) has spread more wonderfully than could be imagined, and could even be queuing up for a mention in the Troublesome category of that imagined book.

White and pink Japanese Anemones fit all the desired categories, and at this late point in the flowering calendar several examples reliably return to brighten the garden and to scatter a few offspring around. An easy way to multiply these is to wait until those delicate cotton wool seed heads form and go brownish, then immediately spread the woolly stuff over compost in a seed tray, lightly cover, top up with a little vermiculite (to help stop moss colonising the surface during the winter), cover with glass or stiff plastic, and leave in a shaded cold greenhouse or frame over winter. In March and April you'll be rewarded with a cast of thousands!

Malcolm Mort

ST MATTHEW'S FAIR DAY
Saturday October 3rd.

Sealed Knot in the Garden!

As usual, Stuart House will be open all day and is hosting the Sealed Knot, who will give exciting and fascinating demonstrations of weaponry together with gentler (and quieter!) aspects of Civil War life.



ART AT STUART HOUSE

Between August 24th and September 5th the Max Lock Gallery in Stuart House saw an Art Exhibition by the **students of Linda Maynard** (our artist-in-residence), which included work by Linda herself. Comments in the Visitors' Book (*editor's selection, but Linda can show you them all!*) show how well it was received.

"Exceptionally fabulous works of art!
Thoroughly enjoyed the experience!
Thank you for the chat too! If I was
local, I'd be a pupil!"

"Lovely to see the variety of skills and
media"

"What a delightful exhibition - it made me
want to get out my paints"

"Really appreciated the variety of artistic
styles on show. Good to see such a high
standard of work too. Good to see."

"Good to be part of a very creative bunch
of people"

"Just popped in on the spur of the
moment. But what a truly delightful
exhibition. You should all be
congratulated"



Remember that
Linda's studio on the
top floor of the
House (off the
Trussed Room) is
open to visitors.
She runs her art
classes from it –
enquire for details.



Rose Gibbon's second exhibition this year began at the end of September and continues until 3rd October. It was hung in time for the concert on September 27th when the audience really appreciated the imagery, colour and variety of work around the whole gallery.



ART EXHIBITIONS TO COME IN OCTOBER

STUART HOUSE an ART & HERITAGE CENTRE

See where King Charles 1 stayed during the Civil War in 1640s. Secret tunnel... Henry Rice's Architecture. Delightful Garden.

There is so much to see and learn.

STUART HOUSE
Stone Mill, Colindale, U.K. 9 4 8
<http://stuarthouse.org.uk>
0203 2548 0000
0203 2548 0000
9.00-5.00 PM M-F
9.00-10.00 PM Sat

19TH TO 24TH OCT 15

WALL ART WITH A TWIST...

Firstly, I am delighted to be exhibiting my art at Stuart House. Art for me is to lift the mood & spirit with colour & design so you can add your own thoughts to the composition and have fun in the process. So do pop in and have a look and give me your feedback, look forward to seeing you soon.

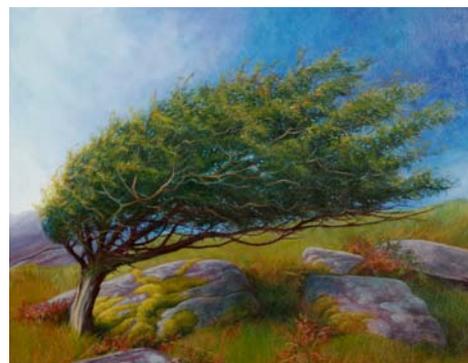
Enjoy *Jilly Honey*

Preview evening Sunday 18th at 7pm-8pm

Local artist **Jilly Honey** is holding her first exhibition in the Gallery from 19th to 24th of October. Some of her paintings have already hung there during the recent 'Summer Madness' craft sale, shown below. She writes that the aim of her art is to lift the mood and spirit with colour and design so you can add your own thoughts to the composition and have fun in the process.



Charles Summers FRSA, will be holding his first eagerly anticipated exhibition of oil paintings in the Stuart House Gallery between October 26th and 31st.



Forward notice

Jack Carberry-Todd will be returning to our Gallery with an exhibition and sale of seascapes from 30th November to 5th December.

MUSIC AT STUART HOUSE

Judy Whitlock and Noelle Boucherat on 27th September

'Summertime' was just the right piece to begin this delightful concert on a beautiful late September afternoon. We listened to a varied programme of music for combinations of piano, double-bass, flute, voice and cajon (a box-like drum originating in Peru, doubling up as a piano stool!). The pieces were introduced to the appreciative audience with approachable and infectious enthusiasm. We learned, among other things, that The Beatles performed 'Besame', the third song we heard, at the audition for their first recording deal.

The songs were from Greece – the plaintive 'Nefelis', from Cuba - the joyful 'Guajira' and Gozo mi Mambo with its syncopated rhythms, and in English - Nina Simone's 'My Baby Just Cares for Me', and 'The Girl from Ipenema'.

In contrast, we heard Bach's First Prelude in C played by Noelle on piano and then with Gounod's 'Ave Maria' superimposed by Judy on flute. A piano duet by Graham Fitkin was engrossing with its repetition and subtle developments and the Berceuse from Fauré's Dolly Suite brought back, to many of us, memories of sitting comfortably for Listen with Mother. Judy and Noelle finished as a piano duet (with cajon!), playing Dave Brubeck's exciting 7/8- time Unsquare Dance. The audience were delighted with their encore 'Misty' by Erroll Garner.

Judy and Noelle joined the audience for tea and biscuits afterwards, and the buzz of happy conversation about their music was, like the concert, uplifting.

Rachel Bennett



The next concert in the autumn Sunday afternoon series is
Sunday 18th October at 2.30pm
STUDENTS OF LISKEARD SCHOOL

Angela Wunnam, concert co-ordinator, writes:-

Talented students from Liskeard Community College's Music Department are returning to Stuart House, following their extremely successful performances in the last two years. Their abilities are amazing and it is well worth coming to hear their entertaining and varied programme, whether or not you are a parent or relative. They play a range of solos and ensembles ranging from classical to many other genres. As usual they will be supported and facilitated by the joint Heads of the Music Department, Judy Whitlock and Jane Warwick.

Liskeard School and Community College
Sunday 18th October 2.30pm
Followed by Tea and biscuits
Tickets: £7.00
at
Stuart House
Solos duets contemporary jazz classical
Contact Sioux Dunster at Stuart House, Tel: 01579 347347

🎵
The final concert for 2015 is
Sunday 22nd November 2.30pm
when we are delighted to
welcome back
pianist
Jonathan Delbridge

OTHER EVENTS COMING TO STUART HOUSE SOON



The 'From Sheep to Jumper' exhibitions and workshops are being held until 10th October at Stuart House, the Liskerrett Centre and the Public Hall.

They include Continental Knitting, Rag Rugs, Wet Felted Pictures, Simple Weaving, Make Art with Knitting, Crotchet Earth Pots, Vikkel Braid, Crotchet Granny Squares, Tapestry Weaving, Wire Jewellery, Steeking

Details of all the workshops and booking at www.3bagsfull.org

or in person at Stuart House.

Friday October 2nd is the Wool Market in the Public Hall

HERITAGE EXHIBITIONS IN EARLY NOVEMBER

1st to 14th November sees the second of Tony Ball's exhibitions about **Local People in the First World War**. His first exhibition last year, focusing on 1915, contained a wealth of information and illustrations, fascinating to so many. Part 2 covers **1916**.

2nd to 28th November, Dave Howard is mounting an exhibition on **Female Poets and Nurses in the First World War**, focusing on Dorothy Foster, Eva Dobel and Vera Britten.

These exhibitions link with the showing of "Testament of Youth" at the Public Hall on Friday 6th November. There will also be displays there showing Liskeard's commemoration of the Great War, including a Stuart House contribution.

News of our partner, Sterts Theatre →

West Country Embroiderers

- Liskeard Group -

2015 Exhibition of Embroidery Textiles & Mixed Media

@

Stuart House, Barras Street, Liskeard PL14 6AB

on

13th - 17th October 2015
(Tues - Fri 10am - 3pm / Sat 10am - 1pm)

To include Sale of Work, Traders and Raffle

Free Admission

Wheelchair access to ground floor traders only.

What's On and When

Friday 25th September 7.30pm in the Studio
Esperanto. Spanish Guitar Duo

Friday 2nd/Saturday 3rd October. 7.30 pm in the Theatre
Dracula the Kiss. Scary Little Girls Theatre Company

Friday 9th October. 7.30pm in the Theatre
Hands up for Johnny Wilkinson's Right Boot. Live Wire Theatre

Saturday 31st October. 6.00pm in the Theatre
The Addams Family Halloween Special. Sterts Theatre Co

Friday 6th November 7.30pm in the Studio
Camp Theatre One Act Plays Double Bill

Friday 13th November 7.30pm in the Studio
Tin - The Movie. Miracle

Saturday 14th November 7.00pm in the Studio
Supper & Song with Colin Davey & Jane Warwick

Friday 20th November. 7.30pm. In the Studio
Tony Hazzard singer songwriter

Saturday 5th December 7.30pm in the Studio
Sterts One Act Play Competition Winners Night

Tuesday 22nd December 7.00pm in the Theatre
Sterts Singers Christmas Concert

Sterts Theatre & Studio. Upton Cross. Liskeard
Cornwall PL 14 5AZ 01579 362382 www.sterts.co.uk
Café bookings 07866 292414

Diary of Events

October 2015



every Thursday	Knit n' Knatter meet from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm. All welcome.
Continuing to 3rd October	Rose Gibbon 'Poppy Moon' Art Exhibition in the Gallery (see p.6)
Continuing to 10 th October	"From Sheep to Jumper" ; Woolly Workshops and exhibition (see p.9)
Saturday 3rd	St Matthew's Fair Day – Sealed Knot at Stuart House (see p.5)
Monday 5 th to Saturday 10 th	Bespoke picture framing with Glen Gorman
Monday 12 th	Poetry Group meet in the café 4pm to 6pm
Monday 12 th to Saturday 17 th	West Country Embroiderers Exhibitions and Sale (see p.9)
Sunday 18 th	Concert in the Gallery. Liskeard School musicians. 2.30pm Tickets from reception - £7 with complimentary refreshments (see p.8)
Monday 19 th to Saturday 24 th	Jilly Honey Art Exhibition (see p.7)
Monday 19 th to Saturday 24 th	Table-top sale with Julie Ann Howland
Monday 19 th	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm from Bearnes, Hampton & Littlewood. 10 am to 12 noon.
Monday 26 th to Saturday 31 st	Charles Summers FRSA Art Exhibition (see p.7)
Monday 26 th to Saturday 31 st	'Rummage Returns' sale with John Early
COMING IN NOVEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibition - First World War and Liskeard People, Part 2 :1916 (see p.9) • Exhibition - Women as poets and nurses in the First World War (see p.9) • Concert with Jonathan Delbridge • Craft and table-top sales

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