

October 2016

The Members' and Guests' Garden Party



Members and guests attending the Garden Party on Sunday, 28th August were greeted with a lovely summer drink (alcoholic or not) and a wonderful cream tea, with a table full of sandwiches, savouries and cakes, as well as the mouth-watering cream scones – all provided by

Bob and Liz Hollingdale as a 'thank you' to members for their support during his Chairmanship. The morning showers gave way to sunshine in the afternoon, and the children – along with some of the Big Kids – enjoyed playing the

games chairman Bob had provided for the day – he showed his skill at quoits while the children enjoyed knocking down skittles. Diablo and shove-ha'penny evoked memories for some

of us of past summers' and brought out the

competitiveness of players. (Regular availability of garden games could catch on!) On behalf of members and guests, (*and the trustees too – ed.*) a big THANK YOU!

Eileen Crouch – thanks too to Eileen for the photos (ed.)



George Vaughan-Ellis 1926 – 2016 page 3



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Honorary Solicitors to Stuart House Trust

Sue's News of the Committee Meeting of 19th September

Selective news this month : proposals to get our Gallery in use much more often.



The Gallery : no exhibition or event, limited interest, no revenue : what we hope to avoid!

In the last newsletter I reported that Treasurer Tony would like to see an increase in revenue from room hire. Historically that revenue was the prime source of income for the House. This began to change a few years ago when gradually (and rather bravely!) the decision was made by successive committees of trustees to create permanent exhibitions in some of the rooms. These are excellent for exploring the historical context of Stuart House, but mean that we now have fewer 'letting' rooms than ever before.

The trustees were pleased to welcome Nancy Briggs to their September meeting as she had kindly offered to put together a programme of events for the Gallery. Nancy

has prepared a very comprehensive and impressive list of future hopefuls – comprising a cross-section of suggestions which include existing and new contacts and an eclectic range of subjects to include art and craft, hobbies, workshops and heritage. In other words - something for old and young, professionals and amateurs and community and school groups. There will also be some special surprises!

Putting together such a varied programme will take time and effort and we are very grateful to Nancy for helping us to raise our image and increase revenue whilst at the same time providing permanent interest in the Gallery. We want visitors to come regularly and to see a variety of events and displays. An empty Gallery is not likely to tempt people back.

The trustees are very conscious that some of you may well wish to book an event for 2017. To avoid disappointment, would any person/group wishing to organize an event in the Gallery for 2017 please contact Nancy to arrange a firm booking by no later than 30th November. Contact should be made by telephoning her on 01822 833946. There is an answerphone if she is not available and she will always call you back.

Nancy proposes leaving the second week in every month free from bookings at present to enable other 'in house' events to be presented.

Nancy and Sioux will, of course, be liaising with each other to ensure that other hirings do not clash or conflict with any in the Gallery. It is essential, however, that bookings for the Gallery are, in the first place, made with Nancy.

We look forward to raising a smile on our Treasurer's face, as well as to making our Gallery a 'happening' space for all our members and visitors. Proof of the pudding and all that.....

Sue Glencross

George Vaughan-Ellis 1926 – 2016



We are very sad to report the death of George Vaughan-Ellis whose 90th birthday was celebrated on 4th September with friends from business, public life, the churches and Stuart House, and his family. George suffered a bout of pneumonia only two weeks after his birthday which brought his health down to a point from which he could not recover.

George was a founder member of Stuart House Trust and remained a very active member of its Heritage section until going into Beech Lawn nursing home, and even from his sick bed he gave help for the recent 'Man Engine' exhibition. His principal contribution was, without doubt, his promotion of Henry Rice. George set out to make Liskeard aware of what a huge contribution Rice made to the appearance of the town and what an outstanding architect he was. George, himself an architect who gave us the Lake Lane estate amongst many buildings elsewhere in Cornwall, bought the old Rice practice in 1951 and so inherited Rice's drawings, which he so much admired both in scope and detail. He researched Rice's life and, under the Stuart House Heritage Group umbrella, arranged the restoration of Rice's grave in Lanchard cemetery, created the Henry Rice Trail Map and, with Eileen Crouch and John Rapson, produced the excellent Henry Rice Album which has sold so well from Reception. Again working with Eileen and with Jo Hoskin, he put together the permanent display about Rice's work in the Rowse Room on the top floor. George was also one of the team which prepared the Heritage Trail map and designed the finger posts which guide visitors around the town.



*The Henry Rice Team
(photo by David Hambly)*



George researched a number of local architects and engineers: his 19th century 'Heroes' as he called them. Amongst these was Joseph Thomas who, as a boy, helped his father during the construction of Looe Bridge and later developed the Hannafore West Estate, designed the Banjo pier to prevent silting-up, and designed the railway line to connect the Looe line to the main line railway at Liskeard. George's other heroes included Robert Coad, Surveyor; his son, Richard Coad who designed the rebuild of Lanhydrock after the fire; and Sir John Coode who designed harbours around the world. George, despite his loss of hearing from the age of eight, gave meticulously prepared and well illustrated lectures on all these people and always for the benefit of the Trust. His interest was not confined to architects and engineers as he also promoted the work and reputation of the 19th century Cornish poet John Harris. George's research is archived in Stuart House, the Museum and the Cornwall Record office.

Being created a Bard ('Penser') of Kernow Gorsedd and recently becoming an Honoured Burgess of Liskeard, are public acknowledgments of his services to the community which are also applauded by his many friends.

Tony Wood

This month's thoughts from our Garden's Overseer.

A pleasant consequence of being a gardener is that all plants everywhere become interesting. Not only those in other people's gardens, but those growing in parks, hedgerows, in pavement cracks and stone walls, in woodland and on wild moors, along the seashore, in floral displays around the town, and of course in places open to the public such as Stuart House garden. So if you feel in need of ideas then



just look around at what's doing well elsewhere. At this time of year many gardens begin to look tired, but if you call at Stuart House you'll see that the Schizostylis (Kaffir Lilies) and Japanese Anemones have faithfully returned to brighten up the garden. Many of the roses, too, will continue to flower as long as they are deadheaded and the weather is kind. Other guaranteed late-season flowers are sedums (a bee paradise), rudbekias, dahlias, June-sown calendula, and hydrangeas (especially those with open white panicles). The tall fluffy spikes of *Actaea simplex atropurpurea* are quite dramatic (you'll need a lot of room for this one) and of course begonias of all sorts will continue in bloom until the end of October. The white fibrous plants in the 4" pots on the outside tables at Stuart House have flowered continuously since May, and will carry into the winter if taken indoors in November and kept slightly warm.

Colour through the winter can be provided by bulbs and flowing shrubs, but an excellent way of brightening up indoors in the dark months is to use everlasting flowers. The many books available on drying and preserving flowers can confuse newcomers to this subject. Therefore the quickest and easiest way is to grow plants that do it all by themselves, magically turning ordinary blooms into remarkable, beautifully-crafted, paper-like sculptures.



Most readers will be familiar with the magnificent dried flower garland hung in the Great Hall at Cotehele House each mid-winter. The flowers from which it is constructed are grown in the cutting garden and can be seen in their different stages throughout the summer. The very easiest ones to grow from seed are *Helichrysum* (known popularly as strawflower) and *Limonium* (usually called Statice).

When the blooms begin to open, cut with stems about 6", twist some thin gardening wire around say half a dozen stems, and hang upside down in a dry place. I line mine along a bookcase, with the wire ends tucked under books to hold them. With a bit of searching through catalogues one can usually find *Acroclinium*, *Helipterum*, *Rhodanthe*, and *Xeranthemum*. Look out also for *Limonium suworowii* (Russian Pink Poker Statice), quite different from the usual sort.

A particularly good everlasting flower is *Xerochrysum bracteatum* (Dargan Hill) which grows wild in Australia where it is known as the Golden Everlasting flower, and which has large, dramatic yellow flowers 2" in diameter. This plant can be difficult to find, but if anyone would like to grow it I have some seeds and will probably also have some rooted cuttings next Spring. (This plant is a half-hardy perennial.)



All these are very easy to grow and dry using the upside down hanging method. To these dried blooms one can readily add the seedheads of poppies, Honesty, Sea Holly (very prickly, take care!), *Nigella* (Love in the Mist), and Teasel, as well as attractive grasses such as Quaking grass and Hair Tailed grass.

Tied carefully to twiggy branches at Christmas, everlasting flowers are like colourful stars, an excellent reminder of warm summer days and promise of the growing season to come. Look out for some around Stuart House this winter.

Topical tip.

The beginning of October is a good time to sow sweet peas in pots in a cold frame or cold greenhouse. They'll germinate quickly and will grow slowly throughout the winter for planting out in March, giving strong plants and early flowers. The same technique also works well for other hardy annuals, especially calendula. Protect from marauding molluscs.

Malcolm Mort



A message from our trustee i/c plant sales, Valerie Moore:

I would like to thank all members and friends who have brought in such a wide variety of plants for sale at Stuart House. They all help to raise money, as well as bringing joy to both propagators and purchasers. If anyone still has cuttings or maybe potted up pieces of divided herbaceous plants appropriate for sale at this time of year they will be very gratefully received.

Thanks again to Malcolm for the photographs on p.4 and 5 : Kaffir lillies in Stuart House garden, the begonias in pots on the tables which have been flowering for months, visitors still enjoying teas in the garden in mid-September, and Japanese anemones in the garden. (ed.)

MUSIC in OCTOBER at STUART HOUSE

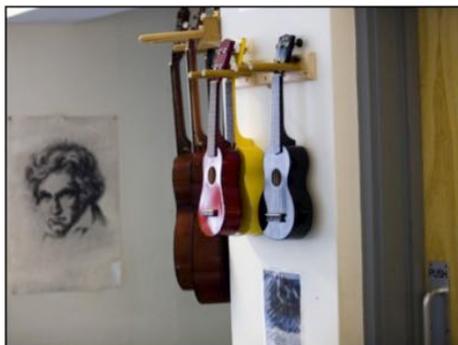
Stuart House Concert Series

Sunday 16th October

2.30pm. £7, including refreshments.

Liskeard Community College Music Department supported by the Heads of Music Jane Warwick and Judy Whitlock

Once again we welcome talented and enthusiastic students from Liskeard Community College. Past performances have been an absolute joy, with a variety of instruments and voices, and different combinations of performers.



An extra concert, which should be a delight....

Sunday 23rd October

2.30 pm. £7 including refreshments.

"Ilow Splann"

"Ilow Splann" (Cornish for "Music Bright/Splendid/Shining") consists of two multi-instrumentalists: Maggie Willmott on violin and recorders and Carlton Crouch on saxophone, recorders and guitar. The duo primarily play their arrangements of Cornish folk tunes.

Maggie Willmott plays in the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra and teaches music. Carlton Crouch (a member of Stuart House) plays a variety of musical styles, is busy recording and recently played with six piece band "Kesson", representing Cornwall at the "Festival Interceltique Lorient".

November's Stuart House Concert :

Senegalese musician

Diabel Cissokho,

Sunday 20th November, 2.30pm.

We apologise that the concert by Gareth and Annie scheduled for 11th September was cancelled at short notice.

ART at STUART HOUSE

The annual exhibition of the work of the members of Stuart House's Coved Room Studio



was held in late August (too late for a review in the September Newsletter). We hope that the change of title didn't confuse anyone – the Coved Room is the studio on the top floor of the House where artist-in-residence Linda Maynard works and holds classes. It is open to visitors when artists are at work.

Although the footfall was a bit down on last year, there was, as usual, a great atmosphere and some sales were made and enquiries were received about

classes. Appreciative comments in the visitors' book included 'great variety : lovely exhibition' and 'inspiring'.

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The Painters Exhibition : Louise Kidd and her students held an exhibition in the Gallery from 12th to 17th September which was very well received. Our own artist-in-residence thought it to be one of the best exhibitions she has seen in the Gallery.



The Big Draw 2016

Saturday 8th October 10am-1pm Stuart House

Admission FREE. Materials provided.

Everyone welcome, regardless of age or ability, solo or in a group

Across the UK, this year's theme is **STEAM**

Do you get steamed up at the very thought of technology? Or are you wedded to your mobile? Uniting **Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths**, STEAM covers every kind of innovation that started as a drawing.

Artistic and creative thinking is universal – and Liskeard is no exception. Look around you. The chair you're sitting in, the computer you're using, the building you occupy, the vehicle that carries you, all began as lines on paper. As did the railway that Brunel designed to stop at Liskeard and the mine engine houses on Bodmin Moor: these innovations drove Liskeard's boom years in the age of steam.

Love 'em or loathe 'em, the gadgets that shape our lives are hard to ignore. Whether to vent your frustrations or indulge your passions, come to Stuart House on 8th October and do your own thing between 10am and 1pm.

Our efforts will be displayed in the Gallery during the following week. Thanks in advance to Perry and Tristram Besterman for all the organisation (*ed.*).

The Second Stuart House Sewing Bee underway until Saturday 7th October.



Before and after in the Gallery, the hub of events extending through much of the House

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.

!! Check in the House for events at the end of September if your Newsletter arrives early!!

- Saturday 1st** Drop-In Workshops – FREE
Monday 3rd Warping your Loom (am.) , Tapestry Weaving (pm) (Woolly Workshop Events) £12 per session.
Tuesday 4th Beaded Baubles £7
Wednesday 5th Tote Bags £7
Thursday 6th Brooches am. £7. Wild Weaving (a W.W. event) pm. £14
Friday 7th Drop-In Workshops – FREE

Then more Woolly Workshops events in Stuart House

Sunday 9th Polymer Clay Stitch Markers (am),
Polymer Clay crochet hook handles
(pm). £18 per session

Monday 10th Mini Socks (all day) £24

Tuesday 11th Jumbo Crotchet bowl (until 2pm.) £40

Thursday 13th Free Form Knitting (all day) £20



For more information on the whole Three Bags Full event and all Woolly Workshops held in Stuart House and also, **until 15th October** in the Liskerrett Centre, the Public Hall and Olive & Co., see the website

www.3bagsfull.org , or enquire and book in person at the Tourist Information Centre on Pike Street.

The Liskeard Spinners

‘Fleece to Jumper’

are in Stuart House to 7th Oct.

Watch, ask and learn!

All Things Vintage

Continues in Stuart House until Saturday 15th.

Jewellery, clothing, kitchenalia, objects d’art

Do call into the Doctors Surgery in Stuart House,
and the staircase! Lots to see and to buy.

STUART HOUSE FUN and FUND-RAISING EVENT
 Thursday 27th October. 7.30pm. Gallery

WOULD I LIE TO YOU?

The Stuart House version of the popular TV programme
 Everyone can take part (if they want to!!)
 Light refreshments included.

Tickets available from Sioux Dunster in Reception or from Bob Hollingdale
 (07760781087 or bobhollingdale@hotmail.co.uk)

Tickets £5, Members £3.50.

STERTS THEATRE Autumn at Sterts

<p>Croft & Pearce 30th September at 7.30pm TICKETS £12/10 Hilarious comedy sketches from Hannah Croft and Fiona Pearce, stars of BBC Radio 4's 'The Croft & Pearce Show'.</p> 	<p>Mark Sidey & Friends 7th October at 7.30pm TICKETS £7/5 An evening celebrating the highs and lows of love and friendship through the world of cabaret and musical theatre song.</p> 
<p>Blood Brothers 15th October at 7.30pm TICKETS £8/6 The Masterclass of Looe Youth Theatre present this stage play version of the acclaimed West End musical.</p> 	<p>The School for Scandal 21st/22nd October at 7.30pm TICKETS £8/6 Ever popular Menierot based CAMP theatre take on Sheridan's classic comedy of manners.</p> 

Sterts Annual Christmas Craft Fair.
 27th November. 10am - 4pm. Tables £10.
 Contact Ruth 01579 347462 for details.

Sterts Autumn season is on sale now.
www.sterts.co.uk or 01579 362382
 or Box Office 10am-4pm weekdays.
 Sterts, Upton Cross Liskeard PL14 5AZ
 Café open for all shows. Booking 07866 292414.



Sealed Knot will be in Stuart House Garden on St Matthew's Fair Day Saturday 1st October.

Diary of Events

October 2016



Continuing until Saturday 7th	Stuart House Sewing Bee (see p.8)
Continuing until Saturday 7th	Liskeard Spinners (see p.8)
Continuing until Saturday 15th	All Things Vintage – sale of jewellery, kitchenalia, clothing in the Doctor's Surgery (see p.8) and Workshops linked to the Woolly Workshops (see p.8)
Saturday 1st	St Matthew's Fair – Sealed Knot (Civil War re-enactment group) demonstrations in the garden. House and café open all day. (see p.9)
Tuesday 4 th & Tuesday 18 th	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4 pm.
Every Thursday	Knit 'n' Knatter meet from 10.30 am. to 1.30 pm. All welcome.
Saturday 8 th to Saturday 15th	The Big Draw (see p.7) on 8 th , then a display of the artwork in the Gallery
Monday 10th	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4-6 pm.
Sunday 16th	Concert in the Gallery. Liskeard School and Community College. 2.30pm. Tickets £7 from reception. (see p.6)
Sunday 23rd	Concert in the Gallery. Ilow Splann : Carlton Crouch and Maggie Willmott 2.30 pm. Tickets from reception. (see p.6)
Wednesday 26 th	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnes, Hampton & Littlewood. 10 am. to 12 noon.
Monday 31 st to Sat. 5 th Nov.	Rummage Returns – sale in the Doctor's Surgery downstairs.
Coming in November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liskeard and the Great War 1916. The third of the yearly exhibitions of the part played in wartime by the people of Liskeard. • Rose Gibbon – 'Poppy Moon' art exhibition around the House • Table-top sale with Terri Alcock • Stuart House Arts, Crafts and Gift shop and Nancy's 'Christmas is Coming' craft sale.

*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