

*November 2016*



**The Sealed Knot Society in  
the Stuart House Garden  
Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October:  
St Matthew's Fair Day**

Our 'Hidden Gem' garden saw rather different activity on Fair Day, when, as in previous years, the Sealed Knot Society took it over for demonstrations of Stuart crafts, food and fighting. Despite periods of pouring rain, fascinated visitors watched and asked questions and tried not to cover when muskets were fired toward the post-office wall!

Inside the House the café was busy and the exhibitions, including the Sewing Bee, Vintage Sale and the Spinners' displays attracted much interest.

We are proud to announce  
that the Stuart House  
Garden was the  
**WINNER**  
of the  
**'Hidden Gem' category**  
of the 2016  
**Caradon in Bloom Awards.**

*More on p.5*

The memorial service for our dear friend George Vaughan-Ellis will be held at Liskeard Methodist Church on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30 pm.



*Leaflet Sponsored by Coodes*  
Honorary Solicitors to Stuart House Trust

## **Sue's News : Exciting moves afoot**

There were very many items to discuss at this month's meeting, many of which continue to be 'Work in Progress' and will become apparent with the passage of time.

In our August Newsletter I told you of the proposed changes insofar as the reception area is concerned. We have indeed been fortunate to enlist the assistance of Paul Holden (Lanhydrock House) and we asked for his recommendations on how best to present what is now Sioux's office as our principal 'Meet and Greet' area. Bob, Tony Britton and Sioux met Paul at Stuart House and all trustees were very interested to hear the outcome of that get together at our October meeting.

Paul has recommended a make-over as he feels that the current blue walls do not create warmth and do not bring out the best of the features in the reception room. Colour charts are now being obtained and a suitable neutral colour will eventually be chosen. Paul also agreed that the features in the room should be briefly labelled so that visitors can understand their relevance. Basically, the room is to be cleared of all items currently for sale (the 'Doctor's Surgery' will become the selling zone) although the Trustees felt that copies of Tony Wood's recent booklet about the History of Stuart House should be an exception. Ideas were also forthcoming about the desk which is currently used by Sioux, with Paul suggesting recycling this into a settle and a separate desk for use in the room, which would be more in keeping. We

are currently investigating the cost of this work - as always we have to bear in mind that all ideas are likely to involve money!

It is anticipated that the move of office paperwork etc. from the reception area to the upstairs office will take place during the Christmas/New Year shutdown. Sioux will then have a private (and quiet!) office upstairs from which she can conduct necessary administrative work. The new office will not be open to the public. This does not mean that Sioux will spend all her days locked away in an upstairs room! Far from it!

Turning once again to the subject of money, (do we ever forget it?) the Trustees discussed having new donation boxes - see-through and permanently fixed. It is to be hoped that the transparent nature of these boxes will encourage larger donations to be made. Gift Aid envelopes will also be made available for use.

We have noticed that the refrigerator and freezer in the kitchen are nearing the end of their days so we are investigating the price of replacements. More money!

So far as the CIO is concerned, there is a lot of administrative work to be undertaken before we can actually re-structure. A target date for change-over has been set : 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017. I will shortly be communicating with you all about our proposed new Constitution.

*Sue Glencross*

### **WANTED**

#### **➔ STEWARDS for STUART HOUSE ➔**

**We shall be looking for volunteers to act as stewards, based in the newly de-cluttered Reception Hall. Visitors need a welcoming face, someone to tell them a little about the House and garden, and to point them in the right direction for exploring what we have to offer. If you think you might be interested, please have a word with Sioux or one of the committee.**

## The Big Draw at Stuart House



On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October artists of many descriptions called in to Stuart House to join in the Big Draw Event. The weather was not as good as hoped, so it proved unwise, as well as difficult, to hold any of the event outside on the hoardings next to the House as planned. However, Gallery was a lovely venue, with its long central table, other tables, and floor!



Great variations on the theme of **STEAM** emerged, from the joys of a hot bath to the power of mine engines, and much more. The art-work was displayed on the walls of the gallery during the following week.

We thank Perry and Tristram Besterman for all their effort and enthusiasm in organizing the event, and our sponsors, Coodes, for equipment



### Marking the Battle of Hastings

We thank Tony Wood for his initiative in displaying a frieze of the Bayeux Tapestry to mark the 950<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Hastings. It was an interesting juxtaposition with the art-work from the Big Draw exhibition – here, Harold's fate is overlooked by steam engines.

## This Month's Thoughts from our Garden's Overseer

The apple and pear trees in the Stuart House garden have not excelled this year. The fan-trained pear against the library wall had no fruit at all and although this is a very old plant it usually manages a dozen or so fruit each summer. Although pears and apples are of different Genera, cross-pollination to set fruit can occur if the trees flower at the same time. Maybe this didn't happen this year.



There are two apple trees in the Stuart House garden: a fan-trained tree on the wall near the pond, and a free tall-growing tree in the far corner. Both produce tart fruit best suited for cooking – last year Victor and Nancy made copious jars of apple conserve and wonderful cake. This year the tall tree has very few fruit and the tree on the wall, usually laden, has produced only very tiny

apples. The usual advice is to thin out developing fruit clusters to prevent this problem, but we've never had to do this before.

Apples originated in Kazakhstan / Western China. There are about fifty distinct species but the one called *Malus sieversii* is the only one with large apples. Trees were taken to the Middle East by early explorers where selection and breeding began. The Romans cultivated fruit and brought some good apple varieties to Britain. Apples are unusual: they are genetically "extremely heterozygous", meaning that gene expression in the pips is highly varied. No offspring will be true to the parent tree, and even pips from the same apple will grow to produce trees with form and fruit unlike each other – very advantageous if environmental changes occur.

Many well-known apple varieties were found growing as chance seedlings: the Bramley (1809, Nottinghamshire), Golden Delicious (1905 Western Virginia), Granny Smith (1868, Australia), Cox (1830, Buckinghamshire), Braeburn (1952, New Zealand). To remain true to type apple trees must be propagated vegetatively. However it is very hard to get either softwood or hardwood cuttings to root in the usual ways. Air layering can work, but this is a very fiddly process involving wounding a young branch and tying a bag of compost around the damaged site to tempt roots to form. This method was known to Tudor gardeners, who used a "pug" of dung and soil (the same sort of mix used for building houses) kept in place by wax.

Nearly always apple trees are multiplied by grafting – joining and binding a twiggy cutting to an existing tree. According to historians, this technique has been used since the start of settled communities some 10,000 years ago. The word "graft" comes from the Greek *grapheion* meaning a writing implement, referring to the pencil-sized cutting ("scion") needed. The record for grafting different varieties onto one tree currently stands at around 250!

Left to its own devices, a tree grown from a pip could end up between ten foot and forty foot tall, so growers graft onto rootstocks selected to produce trees of a final known height. Apple trees are very easy to grow from pips. Just take some fresh pips, wash the slippery coating off and wipe clean, take a sharp knife and very gently pull back the brown outercoat revealing the white seed inside. Leave in the shade on damp kitchen towel on a windowsill, cover with a tumbler, and the root will usually start growing within ten days. Pot up and grow into a full tree, or maybe after a year

or so try grafting the growing shoot onto another tree. Who knows what you might get? This is what makes gardening interesting!

Apple trees like water especially when fruits are forming, so if planted near a wall you may need to water to prevent fruit falling prematurely or becoming hard and cracked. If storing, keep apples cool, separated, shaded, and remove any that start to decay.

Frost at flowering time means no fruit, so try to cover the blossom if possible at such times. Some apples prefer to fruit properly only every other year. As for pruning, this needn't be daunting. For most trees it's fine just to trim them into shape during the winter. Alternatively, do this when the tree is flowering: you can then see which branches to leave, and you'll have flower sprays to bring indoors or give to your neighbours. For a tree trained on wires, trim shoots back also in the summer if it puts on too much growth.

The Tudors and Stuarts saw apples as having aphrodisiac properties, and dinner guests at banquets adjourned to places away from the prying eyes of servants to eat fruit at "the second table" and so prolong the party. Henry VIII filled his royal gardens with fruit trees. He sent Richard Harris, his Master of Fruiterers, to the Continent to bring back cuttings of the best apples, pears and cherries to graft, which were grown in a model orchard at Teynham in Kent, thus beginning what became known as The Garden of England.

Topical Tip. November is tulip planting time.

*Malcolm Mort*

## **WINNER : HIDDEN GEM CATEGORY, 2016 CARADON IN BLOOM AWARDS**



We were thrilled that the efforts of our wonderful team of volunteers gardeners : Lynette, David, Judith, Liz and Gill, together, of course, with Malcolm, were recognised by winning the Caradon in Bloom 2016 'Hidden Gem' award. Judith and Liz attended the presentation evening at the Hannafore Hotel on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October, which they said was a delightful occasion: well organised and very special, with awards being presented by the mayors of Looe and Liskeard. Again, last Saturday when volunteers were working in the garden, visitors spoke to them of just how lovely it is to come across. We treasure it, it brings joy to us all, and we thank those who spend so much time and care on it for all that they do. (*ed.*)

# MUSIC AT STUART HOUSE

## **Liskeard School and Community College 16<sup>th</sup> October 2016.**

On Sunday 16th October a capacity audience was enthralled and delighted by a concert of varied music: classical, jazz, modern, songs from musicals and original compositions, given by students of Liskeard School and Community College's Music Department, co-ordinated, facilitated and introduced by Judy Whitlock, the Joint Head of Department.



Ethan Willet played a piano solo by "Cold Play". Abigail Gubbin played a mellow saxophone solo, "The Friends". GCSE student Bayo Earl played the Allegretto in F by J.C.F. Bach. Chris then sang a song from the musical, "Les Miserables". Harry Edwards from Year 8 performed a piano solo "Indian Pony Ride". Garion Field played his own composition as a guitar solo. This was followed by "The Alpaca Twins", Garion and Mungo Harrison-Ward who played a duet for two guitars called "Surprize". Sally Nash and Maddy Edge then sang a haunting duet "For Good", from the musical "Wicked". Ethan Willet extemporised a guitar accompaniment while Tom played the piano piece "Primavera" by a modern Italian composer. George Rogers from Year 11 performed his own

composition, written for his grade 4 exam. Chris, Courtney, George, Bayo and Tom accompanied Sam and Alex who sang "Imagine". Sam then sang "Fat Sam's Grand Slam" from



the musical "Bugsy Malone". Hannah Pollard, playing her flute, joined the ensemble for a joyful rendering of "Takila".

Judy Whitlock thanked the audience for their support and reminded everyone



that the school will perform the musical "Bugsy Malone" on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2016.



The programme and its presentation demonstrated the enthusiasm generated in the Music Department. It is quite daunting to perform to a packed audience in a relatively small venue and the students contained any nerves to present amazingly professional performances. They appeared to be enjoying themselves equally whether they were playing alone or with others. The School is to be congratulated on the musical and presentational skills of its students.

*Joe Monks and Angela Wunnam, concert series co-ordinator.*

## ILOW SPLANN

**23<sup>rd</sup> October**



This concert was a real gem for those in the audience who already appreciated Cornish Folk music and for those that it was newer to. Carlton Crouch (border pipes, recorders, saxophone and guitar) and Maggie Willmott (violin and recorders) played a range of pieces – almost all arranged by Carlton - and, as with pieces from the Morval Song Book and ‘Liskeard Fair’, explained something of their origins and development. We heard jigs, dances in 5/4 time, tunes of joy and others more plaintive (some both) and the dialogue between the two clear instrumental lines carried us along with the music. Lovely. *Rachel Bennett*

Coming in November .....

### STUART HOUSE CONCERT SERIES

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November**

2.30pm. £7, includes refreshments and a chance to talk to the performer

## Diabel Cissokho

Senegalese kora player, percussionist and singer.



## **TEXTILE EVENTS and the VINTAGE SALE**

Our second **SEWING BEE** which began in late September for a fortnight was a great success, although there was rather less take-up for the practical classes than last time. We thank Sioux, Gaby and Vanessa for all the work and time they gave to the advance preparation for and stewarding of these events, which raised more than £680 for the House! The organisers are currently taking stock (mentally as well as materially!) and hope to plan for two such events each year.



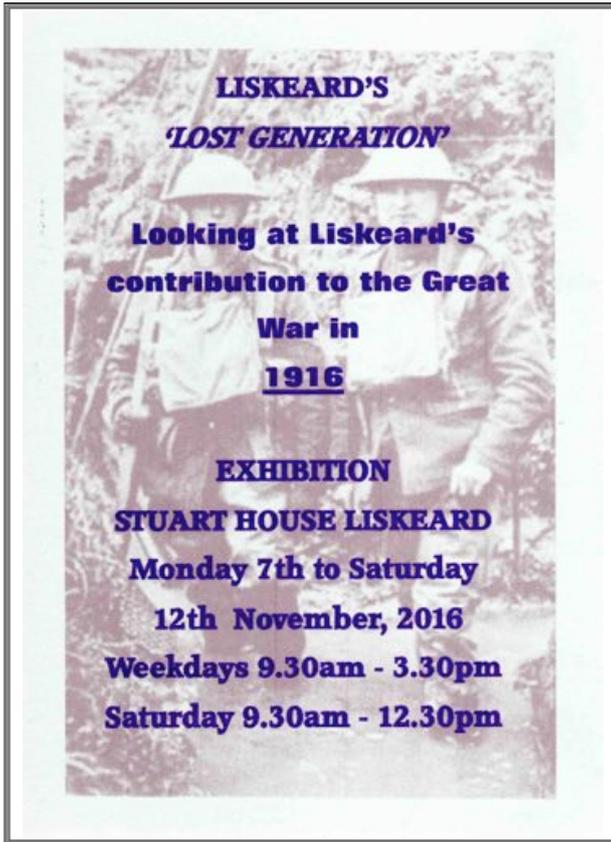
The **Liskeard Spinners** held an exhibition with regular demonstrations and have-a-go opportunities in the King's Room, which linked in with some of the Woolly Workshops held in the House and elsewhere in the town as part of the Three Bags Full event.

The **Vintage Sale** attracted much positive comment – and many sales – from its base in the 'Surgery', and its extension up the staircase. Queen Henrietta Maria seems to be eyeing up a jacket, although nothing we offered dated from her vintage!

**November sees the start of our Winter Arts, Crafts and Gifts sales. They will have different characters, so please call in and be inspired!**

- ★ Christmas in Coming with Nancy
- ★ Stuart House Winter Arts Crafts and Gift Shop
- ★ Stuart House Winter Fair
- ★ Stuart House Christmas Arts Crafts and Gift Shop





← The third of Tony Ball's exhibitions marking the role of Liskeard people in the First World War will run in the Gallery from 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> November.

This year focuses on 1916, and will concentrate on the Battles of Jutland and the Somme. Some of the display will relate to the 1/5 Devon and Cornwall Light Infantry who were one of the few Territorial Pioneer Battalions. Over 900 men in the Battalion were Cornishmen.

Tony hopes to provide some reminders of events of 1914 and 1915 (covered in the past two exhibitions), but the focus will be on 1916.

Please notice that this year the exhibition will run for one week. There will be a lots to see and to ask Tony, Jackie and Paul about.

**STERTS THEATRE Autumn at Sterts**

<p><b>Skylark</b> 12th November at 7.30pm TICKETS £8/6 Skylark explores the melodic boundaries of folk and jazz, gospel and blues with occasional forays into classical.</p> 	<p><b>Basses don't have to be Boring</b> 25th November at 7.30pm TICKETS £8/6 Live performances from Jonathan's Lewsey &amp; Delbridge with a multi-media presentation of some of the great Bass singers of the past</p> 
<p><b>Christmas Craft Fair</b> 27th November 10am to 4pm Come along and see a great selection of gift ideas and at the same time help Sterts to get backstage improvements.</p> 	<p><b>One Act Plays</b> 10th December at 7.30pm TICKETS £8/6 The climax of Sterts Theatre's project to promote and encourage new playwriting talent in the local area and beyond.</p> 

**Sterts Annual Christmas Carols**  
21st November. 7pm to 8pm in the theatre.  
Dress up warm to celebrate Christmas.

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.

← Our partner, Sterts Theatre, has events running into the winter.

Pickled onions and marmalade sold well outside the House on St Matthew's Fair Day! ↓



# Diary of Events

## November 2016



Continuing until Saturday 5th	'Rummage Returns' with John Early in the Surgery
Tuesday 1st Tuesday 15th	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4 pm
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday 12th	' <b>Liskeard's Lost Generation</b> ' : exhibition about the role of Liskeard people in the First World War – 1916. (see p.9)
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday 12th	Table-top sale with Terri Alcock in the Surgery
Monday 14th	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4-6 pm.
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday 26th	'Christmas is Coming' : annual craft sale with Nancy in the Gallery (see p.8)
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday 26th	Stuart House Winter Arts, Crafts and Gifts Shop (see p.8)
Sunday 20th	Concert in the Gallery. Diabel Cissokho. 2.30 pm. Tickets £7 from reception, to include refreshments and a chance to talk with the performer afterwards. (see p.7)
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday, December 3rd	Stuart House Winter Fair in the Gallery. The House may well be decorated for Winter too. We stay open all day for Liskeard Lights Up on 3 <sup>rd</sup> December.
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnes, Hampton & Littlewood. 10 am. to 12 noon.
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> to Wednesday December 21st	Stuart House Christmas Arts, Crafts and Gift Shop – open until the House closes to the public on 21 <sup>st</sup> December.
<b>Coming in December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>December 4<sup>th</sup> – the third Menheniot and Liskeard Young People's Concert in the Gallery at 2.30pm.</li> <li>Winter and Christmas Fairs and sales continue until 21<sup>st</sup> (see above)</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)