

NEWS REVIEW

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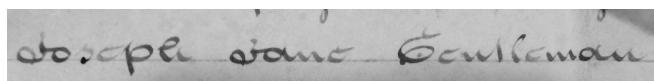
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Stuart House Trust, Charity No. 294384

August 2017

Jane Relatives Visit Stuart House



The name of Joseph Jane appears on an indenture of 1799 relating to the sale of

Stuart House. It was Joseph Jane - a staunch Royalist - who hosted King Charles I at Stuart House for five days in 1644, during the Civil War.

Joseph Jane's ten-times-great-granddaughters visited the House during July. Sisters Judith and Frances are shown here in the Tudor Room with its 'Birth of a Baby' (to the Jane family during the Civil War) exhibition. They were in our area on holiday and called into the House, which they knew well as

children, when they played with the children of the family who lived in it then.

July 17th-22nd Volunteers' Trustees' and Members' Showcase and the Enquirers' Evening

were a great success, and we thank Nancy and Victor for the organization and refreshments. The exhibition displayed, as intended, an eclectic mixture of things aimed at showing something of the varied interests of the people involved with Stuart House. There were photographs, craft, archives (including the indenture mentioned above), past committee minutes, extracts from past heritage and other exhibitions, paintings, photographs from the Old Cornwall Society, plants, a Tony Hancock display ... and more! We are thrilled that ten new volunteers have come forward – but it's never too late to enquire!



Leaflet Sponsored by Coodes

Honorary Solicitors to Stuart House Trust

Sue's News of July's Committee Meeting

Hot off the Press this month is news that the Wetherspoons' build on the site of the former Taylors' Garage site would appear to be imminent. The Trust has received formal Party Wall Act Notices which repeats the process made many months ago when the project was first due to commence. The Notices were sent to Richard Church with a request that he represent Stuart House in dealing with the formalities. A response was received today from Richard to say that he has now retired: we wish him well in his retirement and are grateful to him for the very many years of professional help which we were privileged to receive. He has recommended that one of his colleagues acts for us and we hope that a meeting can soon be arranged between our new architect, a representative of JD Wetherspoons and Chairman Bob and Trustee John. John's assistance and expertise on all House maintenance and repair matters is indeed valuable. If he cannot undertake things himself, then he inevitably knows a man who can! Our architect's fees for acting in connection with the Notice procedure and for overseeing the work to be carried out in the vicinity of Stuart House will be paid by Wetherspoons, which is standard procedure. I am sure we all await the outcome of the development with eager interest.

Last month I mentioned our review of fire safety procedures and this is ongoing and will be due for discussion again at our August meeting.

I record thanks to our Treasurer Tony who spent some time with me amending and finalising the draft application to the Charity Commission in respect of the CIO. We hope it will not be too long before Charity Commission approval is granted.

I am pleased to report that the House continues to prosper. The finances are looking good and thanks again to Tony for providing us with our half-yearly summary. The Trust owes its good fortune to the hard work of volunteers and the patronage of members and the public. Long may it continue!

Sue Glencross, Hon. Sec.



This scene may become a thing of the past!



Some of us from Stuart House attended a whistle-stop photoshoot visit on Saturday July 22nd arranged by Excess Energy Communications, when Will Coleman of Golden Tree presented a model engine to Liskeard's Mayor, to thank Liskeard for its help during the great mechanical Man-Engine's visit to the town as part of its journey through the World Heritage Mining Site a year ago. We remembered too Stuart House's 'Original Man Engine' heritage exhibition, which ran during this period.

Music at Stuart House

Stuart House Concert Series: Sunday 25th June 2017

Diabel Cissokho

The organiser of the series, Angela Wunnam, writes:



A large and appreciative audience was delighted by the Sunday afternoon Concert of West African music performed on the kora by Diabel Cissokho. He had just returned from a prolonged stay in Senegal where he was reconnecting with his family and other musicians as well as audiences, so he came with an even wider repertoire of traditional music and songs.

Diabel's family comes from a long line of musicians, story tellers and oral historians from Senegal. He played the 23 strings of the kora, the West African harp, with passion and great virtuosity. His songs, which he sang in numerous languages and local dialects, conveyed the history and folk lore of indigenous Senegalese tribes.

One song retold the fable of the hippopotamus who acted as a living bridge to help the tribesmen to cross a deep and dangerous river. Sadly, when the European explorers arrived they were afraid of this animal which they perceived to be dangerous. They shot him dead and thus neither they nor anyone else could cross the wild river.

Another song was dedicated to women. Diabel said that without women bearing babies and giving birth none of us would be here!

Diabel performs as a soloist and in a band of other West African musicians. He tours widely in Europe and the UK, and has appeared in World Music programmes on BBC Radio 3. He is also a regular performer at the WOMAD Festival. (World of Music and Dance)

Diabel's virtuosic kora playing and singing captures the mood, rhythm and vitality of West Africa and communicates directly to the heart and soul of the listener. Stuart House was highly privileged to host such a talented musician.

Future Concerts in our Series at 2.30pm on Sunday afternoons

September 17th: there may be no concert, but do check up.

October 15th: Liskeard School Musicians give their annual concert.

November 19th: Alison Smith, classical guitarist, makes a return visit.

and remember **Sunday 29th October: Ilow Splann**, the duo of Carlton Crouch and Maggie Wilmott, will make a welcome return visit to Stuart House, with their multi-instrumental mix of tunes and songs Cornish and historical.

August's Thoughts from our Garden's Overseer

No one this summer can have failed to have noticed the glorious cascades of colour erupting from the multitude of hanging baskets and boxes around the town. The plants in these are mostly annuals (very well fed) made far more floriferous in recent times by advanced plant breeding.



At Stuart House, the gardens are composed of perennials, and colour gaps can occur. In very large gardens this is not so much of a problem, as wide herbaceous borders allow for continual patches of colour. Stuart House's planting areas are quite small though, and there are major constraints including trees and shrubs, aggressive weeds and an off-the-scale snail population. The

garden also needs to feel peaceful and sedate, and to reflect earlier times.

By mid-summer, aquilegia, sweet rocket, purple toadflax, forget-me-nots and sweet william have finished their flowering, the first flush of roses has subsided, and the mauve cranesbill geraniums in the lawn beds start to look gently unkempt and in need of cutting back.

Suitable plants need to be added to fill the spaces and maintain colour and interest. Finding what snails will leave alone is a constant trial. Rudbekias, with their hairy leaves are said by some to be slug resistant: alas, those planted at Stuart House were eaten virtually overnight. However, the antirrhinums have been left quite alone and have come into flower, as have the calendula. Nicotiana, both dwarf and taller types, are untouched, as is the statice, not a nibble (yet). Astilbes appear unpalatable, as are dianthus (all types) London pride, lady's mantle, the cranesbills, fuchsias, euphorbia, achillea, montbretia, Japanese anemones and schizostylis, these last three providing the mainstay of colour in the garden during later summer and autumn. Sadly, the many weeds that you may see in the garden are also ignored.

During the summer, *Campanula poshaskyana* threads its bells of blue through the box hedge underneath the café window. This plant, a semi-evergreen trailing perennial, is native to the Dinaric Alps (which span the countries of the former Yugoslavia) and although it is found widely naturalised in this country, enjoying damp nooks and crannies, it is reported to be a very recent introduction, escaping from gardens only in the 1930's. Interestingly, most campanula species are avoided by slugs and snails.



The Duchess of Cornwall roses in the front garden were spectacular during June and much admired, but they were only as good as the fine weather lasted: rain soon turned the blooms and buds to mush. They have been given a good dead-heading and liquid feed, so let's hope they flower again later in the season. The feverfew that set them off so well have been replaced by white mallow and cosmos.



One plant left quite alone by the slugs and a total nuisance in the garden is convolvulus (bindweed). It is impossible to control: it cannot be sprayed without damaging the host plants it spirals around, and then even when you think you've pulled out all the stems suddenly you see the large white bells grinning at you from high up in the wisteria. (Why does this plant grow so rampantly when Ipomoea, morning glory, which is so similar in

habit and appearance and which has such wonderfully attractive blue bells, is so much more difficult to coax along, preferring life in a warm conservatory?)

Several visitors to the garden have asked about the attractive tree between the pond and the herb bed. This is Salix matsudana (sometimes also called Salix babylonica) *Tortuosa*, commonly known as the Chinese Twisted or Corkscrew Willow. It has a usual height of about 50ft: ours is at least this and still growing. They are also reported to have a "short" life-span, though this is nowhere defined. Reassuringly, it's exceedingly healthy at the time of writing.

A topical request. Please let us know what definitely does not get eaten by slugs and snails in your garden. A useful list will then be compiled. *Malcolm Mort*

Wilt Thoust Cometh To Dine With Me?

Deare friende,

Thise missive to thee is of special note and hast the authority of the king himselfe.

To thee and your guests I bid welcome to a feast of wondrous proportion to be enjoyed on the Sixteenth Day, being a Saturday, of the month of September in the year of our Lord one thousand, five hundred and seventeen. The sumptuous meal commenceth at seven of the even in the Greate House situate in Pricke Street in the habitant knowne as Liskerret.

The faire at table that thou must consume is prepared by the chiefe cooke to the Royal Household, Victor of Gunnislake. Suche is the pleasure it shall give thee that surely thoust shall neede to offer response immediately.

I remain your obediente servant,

Robert ap Gwent

In Layman's Terms! Do join us for the **Medieval Banquet on 16th September 2017**.

We can accommodate forty.

Once we have your name we can give you lots more information.

Contact Sioux at the House or Bob on 07760781087.

EVENTS IN THE GALLERY and JANE ROOM IN JULY

Art and Soul Exhibition

This exhibition and competition to raise awareness of and money for the re-ordering of Liskeard's Parish Church of St Martin, which ran at the start of the month, went well, said organiser (and Stuart House past Chairman) Tony Piper. The photographs and paintings submitted were a moving mixture of places of spiritual significance to individuals, which it was a privilege to share.

It was fascinating to see the photographic manipulation which produced 'before' and hoped for 'after' pictures of the interior of the Church.



The North Hill (Cliff Top) Art and Craft Group's Exhibition



It was a joy to welcome the North Hill Art and Craft Group to the Gallery from 3rd to 8th of July. Their secretary, Phyllis Harrison, reports on what was said at their first group meeting after the exhibition: "We all agreed that the exhibition was a great success, the venue was absolutely first class, the facilities perfect and everyone so kind and helpful every day. We had some lovely, positive comments from visitors. It certainly inspired our members. With the sales we made we will be making a donation of £112 to the Stuart House Trust."

The group hopes to return to our Gallery next year. The photo shows one of the artists from the group, and the exhibition included painting, calligraphy, photography, silk scarves, ceramics and more.

Carnival Week Sale and Exhibition

Thanks again to Nancy for covering an unexpected cancellation in the Gallery with another successful book sale, with some craft goods too plus the continuation of some of Eileen Crouch's exhibition on the History of Luxstowe House (see last Newsletter) which gained yet more appreciative comments.

MORE EVENTS IN JULY

Pat's Art Box



From 10th to 15th, and 24th to 29th July we again welcomed Pat's Art Box with the Linoshed. Many holiday visitors, including those who know Looe where Pat is based, as well as local residents are coming to view and, increasingly, to buy.

We shall next host Pat's Art Box from 21st to 26th of August.



Jane Austen Exhibition

Iris Williams, with her grandson Tim, mounted a fascinating exhibition in the Jane Room to mark the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's death. Over 80 visitors called in, many staying for a long time, and the comments in the visitors' book reflect their appreciation of and interest in the great variety of information, photographs, books, links with films and much more. There were also remarks on how well the exhibition suited the room. Iris mounted the exhibition as a tribute to her husband George, who died last December. George had held several exhibitions in Stuart House, including ones on Lawrence of Arabia, Stanley Gibbons and the Impressionists. He travelled widely with Iris, following up his interests and loved to share things, and Iris felt that he would have been very pleased with how this exhibition was received.

WHAT'S ON		WHAT'S ON	
STERTS THEATRE Summer at Sterts		STERTS THEATRE Summer at Sterts	
Macbeth Sterts Theatre Company 1st, 7th, 8th & 9th Aug 7.30pm TICKETS: £12/£10/£8 Macbeth, the Scottish general, receives a prophecy from a trio of witches that one day will become King of Scotland. A bloody civil war swiftly takes Macbeth and Lady Macbeth into the realms of madness and death. Directed by Okunma Wainwright	My Fair Lady Sterts Theatre Company 10th & 11th Aug 7.30pm TICKETS: £12/£10/£8 Toured by some as "the best musical" it reflects the early days of English society, and perhaps still exists, within English society. Eliza Doolittle, a scatty cockney flower seller as Covent Garden is transformed into the pride of London society through a magical transformation of phonetics. Henry Higgins and his friend Colonel Pickering, But what becomes of Higgins, what's to become of Eliza...? Directed by Mark Sibley. Musical Direction Jane Warwick	Wennie & Jago's Giant Adventure Little Tringian 8th Aug 2.00pm TICKETS: £6 The Giants of old folklore have been unleashed into modern-day Cornwall and are creating havoc.	Wind in the Willows Boatmen 9th Aug 5.30pm TICKETS: £12/£10/£8 Join us for an evening of exciting family theatre and enjoy this classic British story.
Arsenic & Old Lace Sterts Theatre Company 8th, 14th August 7.30pm TICKETS: £12/£10/£8 Everyone is entitled to a hobby, especially during the twilight years of life, but the Brewster sisters certainly have a novel way of pursuing theirs. Through a full of gory humour, these dear sweet ladies have a very dark secret that will, inevitably, come to light. Directed by Ian Marshall	The Third Policeman Miracle Theatre 2nd Aug 7.30pm TICKETS: £12/£10/£8 Irene O'Briain's soaring with and delicious turn of phrase, combined with Miracle's delight in physical comedy and absurdity make this an evening not-to-miss.	The Magic of the Bee Gees Festival Players 12th Aug 7.30pm TICKETS: £16/£14 It's the Bee Gees entire glittering career wrapped up in one spectacular live concert.	Merry Wives of Windsor Festival Players 13th Aug 7.30pm TICKETS: £14/£12 An hilarious and colourful comedy in an all-male, fast-paced, costumed production - a summer feast of farce!
Squashbox The Sea Show 3rd Aug 2.00pm TICKETS: £6 Tales from the Trees 22nd Aug 2.00pm TICKETS: £6 Storytelling with puppets and puppets for families with young children. A Sterts family favourite.	The Lost World Ilyria 17th Aug 7.30pm TICKETS: £12/£10/£8 Previously the monster budgets and star-size dimensions abounded in the most new show of the summer.	Jim Causley Trio CAMP Theatre 18th Aug 7.30pm TICKETS: £12/£10/£8 Enjoy a night of music on one of the most well-loved and respected figures of today's contemporary roots and folk music scene.	Quartet CAMP Theatre 21st & 23rd Aug 7.30pm TICKETS: £12/£10/£8 A heart-warming musical comedy featuring four award-winning opera singers in a care home which inspired the very successful film.
Mikado Ilyria 7th & 8th Aug 7.30pm TICKETS: £12/£10/£8 Bizarre yet witty a comic opera set in Japan, but with setting breathtakingly relevant to many political landscapes. An opportunity to put a silly smile on your face and a song in your heart!	Billionaire Boy Heartbreak 25th Aug 6.00pm TICKETS: £12/£10/£8 Be part of the fun at Heartbreak's adaptation of David Walliams' best-selling book. This charming tale tells how Mr Spud and his son, Bertie Billion and his dog, Gertie became the millionaire boy in the world.	The Princess and the Pig Folky Theatre 26th Aug 1.00pm TICKETS: £12/£10/£8 An exciting new show for friends and family, filled with music and prophecy.	Sterts Summer season is on sale now. www.sterts.co.uk or 01579 342382 or Box Office 10am-4pm weekdays. Sterts, Upton Cross, Liskeard PL14 5AZ Café open for all shows. Booking 07778 496092.

EVENTS COMING IN AUGUST

Musical Instruments and Toys: 31st July to 5th August

John Moses writes:



Nancy suggested this theme as she knew that I had an interest in and had made various obscure musical instruments and that Jill had used Cornish Knitting patterns to make an assortment of dolls' clothes. Nancy and her brother have a collection of old toys. The musical instruments are mainly stringed and can be played by visitors - plucked and bowed psalteries, harp, dulcimer and others.

There will be some sales tables including cards of children's games past and present and games for grown-ups still played today, as well as other toys for sale.

We hope that this slightly bizarre mixture will attract visitors!

'Journeys' 7th to 12th August An exhibition of art and craft from Cornwall Adult Education students.

This exhibition will extend into not only the Gallery, but also the Jane Room and other parts of the house. Those who have visited previous exhibitions will remember the amazing quality and originality of the pieces, and we really look forward to this year's show.



Journeys 7th-12th August

A collaborative exhibition of Art & Craft

This exhibition celebrates the success of Cornwall Adult Education learners who have completed textile, print, art and photography courses

Stuart House Arts & Heritage Centre, Liskeard PL14 6AB
Monday-Friday 9.30-3.30 Saturday 9.30-12.30
Free Admission



We regret that it will not be possible, this year, to stage an exhibition of the work of the **Students of Stuart House's Coved Room Studio**, under their tutor, Linda Maynard. We look forward to next year even more!
Do remember that the studio, on the top floor of the House (off the Trussed Room) is open to visitors – please knock if the 'Open' sign is on the door.

MORE EVENTS COMING IN AUGUST

Liskeard Old Cornwall Society Exhibition 14th–19th August. The OCS

MEMORIES OF LISKEARD
A look into the Archives of the Liskeard Old Cornwall Society

An Exhibition of photographs, posters, memories, and recently donated photographs



To be held 14th – 19th August 2017
At Stuart House, Liskeard

is based in the Trecarrel Room on the top floor of Stuart House (off the Rowse Room), and is holding an exhibition in the Gallery. There will be documents, photographs and other archival material, and staff will be on hand to explain and answer questions and enquiries. The OCS is open regularly on a Wednesday, and looks forward to sharing what it has to offer even more widely.



Liskeard Doors: Exhibition of photographs

from 21st August. This small exhibition links with the **Heritage Open Days (“Liskeard Unlocked”) on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th September** when buildings (or parts of buildings) not usually open to the public will be open. This exhibition will show the doors that can be walked through on one or both of those days, as well as other doors in Liskeard – see how many you can identify!

Buildings open for ‘Liskeard Unlocked’ will include

The Masonic Hall

St Martin’s Church Tower

Pendean

The Old Cornwall Society

Stuart House’s ‘Secret Passage’

and more!

look out for details around the town and on the Visit Liskeard website. There will be a linked walk on the Thursday Evening, led by Brian Oldham of ‘Walkers Are Welcome’ and Liskeard Museum.



RUINS
(& Monuments)
*Relics of
Cornish Mining*
*Mixed Media
Images*
Duncan Rice
*Pin-Hole &
Digital
Photographs*
Graham Warren
**STUART HOUSE
LISKEARD**
**Sept. 3-16
2017**



The ‘**Ruins**’ **Exhibition** will run for two weeks from **3rd September**, and be on during the Heritage Open Days.

Duncan Rice is an artist/landscape designer who lives on the edge of Dartmoor and has, in recent years, been seeking out relics of the tin and copper mining industry as subject matter, exploring the difference between ‘ruin’ and ‘monument’. Works are mixed media and made on location.

Graham Warren is a photographer with a wish to get away from digital trickery. He uses a pinhole camera, producing black and white images of ruins, hand printed on silver based multigrade art paper.

Diary of Events

August 2017



Continuing until 5th	Musical Instruments and Toys exhibition (see p.8)
Tuesday 1st Tuesday 15th	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4 pm.
Monday 7 th to Saturday 12th	Liskeard Adult Education Textiles Exhibition (see p.8)
Monday 14th	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4-6 pm.
Monday 14 th to Saturday 19th	Old Cornwall Society Exhibition (see p.9)
Saturday 19th	Liskeard Ploughman's Fair (on the Parade in the morning, at Westbourne Gardens in the afternoon). Stuart House will be open both morning and afternoon
Monday 21 st to Saturday 26th	Pat's Art Box with Linoshed (see p.7)
Monday 21 st into September	Liskeard Doors – photographs linked to the 'Liskeard Unlocked' Heritage Open Days in September (see p.9)
Monday 28 th to September 2nd	Something in the Gallery – TBA
Coming in September	Ruins of Albion.... (see p.9) Liskeard Unlocked (see p.9) Medieval Banquet on 16 th September (see p.5) Stuart House Sewing Bee St Matthew's Fair with Sealed Knot (30 th September) 'Come and Draw' on St Matthew's Fair Day.

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