

*June 2017*

## **Au Revoir to Jane and Tony**



Jane and Tony left Liskeard on May 17th for Okehampton. We reported on their Downsizing Sale in the last Newsletter and, before that, on the thanks and presentation which our chairman gave at the AGM in March, but it still seems unbelievable that they have actually gone. We shall miss them both more than we can put into words, and look forward

to them keeping in touch, and visiting us.

Many Stuart House members and friends were so pleased to join in with May 14<sup>th</sup>'s Sunday tea organized by Hella from the museum at the Eliot Hotel.  
*continued on p.2*

## **The George Vaughan-Ellis Memorial Trophy presented to Eileen Crouch**



At the splendid civic occasion of the Mayor's Choosing on May 17<sup>th</sup>, Mark Vaughan-Ellis presented Eileen with the first of what will become an annual award for outstanding contribution to the architecture, research and/or heritage of Liskeard. Our Chairman and the editor were proud to support her. *continued on p.2*



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



*cont. from p. 1*

Tony and Jane's extraordinary vision, determination, skill and effort were instrumental from the very start in Stuart House being bought by a Trust and becoming an Arts and Heritage Centre, in re-creating the garden, in organising the

*Just some of the friends at the Eliot House tea - spot Tony and Jane!*

local Civil War displays in the Trussed Room and the 'birth of a Baby' presentation now in the Tudor Room. Physically, they sanded floors, painted, cooked and baked, and worded and liaised over the presentation of the information boards and the signage throughout the House. Tony arranged and himself presented many talks, events and exhibitions. He has written the History of the House and the History of Liskeard which are on sale. Photographs of Tony and Jane as part of the Henry Rice 'team' are in our permanent exhibition in the Rowse Room. Jane did drawings of Henry Rice buildings. Her artwork, including i-pad drawings, has been exhibited in the House and her cards are for sale ..... We owe them so much.

The Farewell was all a bit last minute, as Tony had suddenly been taken poorly the week before - very soon after their moving date came through - so a hoped-for event in Stuart House was cancelled. But the tea was a lovely occasions when friends of Tony and Jane from so many sides of their lives in Liskeard came together to wish them well for the future and to look forward to keeping in touch.

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*cont. from p. 1*



The presentation to Eileen was Jane Pascoe's last act as Mayor. Eileen, as members, friends and Newsletter readers will know, has done a great deal, with George and in her own right, in presenting exhibitions and talks at Stuart House, and continues to do so.

Her exhibition on Luxstowe House, past, present and future (an updating of an exhibition she and George staged some years ago), will be in our Gallery and Jane Room in June, and Eileen will give a talk on the evening of Wednesday July 7th evening, with guest Sally Hawken from the Council speaking on possible future developments. **(see p.3)**

Eileen is also due to have a key role in one of the ways the Friends of Stuart House (as members will be once our move to becoming a CIO is finalised) can get their views and ideas known.

## Sue's News of the May Committee Meeting

I was reminded at our May meeting of the amount of teamwork and networking which goes on behind the scenes.

Rachel and Dave attend the Museums' Forum meetings and are able to give us very valuable feedback not only insofar as future events are concerned, but also we glean a lot of useful information on various aspects of our management. We are by our nature very much a stand-alone organisation so do so much appreciate being able to further our knowledge in this way.

There could never be enough meetings in the month to cover everything that we have to do to keep the wheels of the Trust well-oiled and moving in the right direction. For that reason although each of us as trustees have our own role to perform, we link with others to form small sub-groups who can then report back to the main monthly meeting

Tony, Rachel and Sioux have been the driving force in forging the way forward towards completion of the Stewards' (Reception) Room, and a paper was presented to the May meeting which identified issues to be discussed. Although we are all anxious to see finalisation of the project, each step has to be carefully considered when such a major change is taking place. It is only as gradual changes occur that we can reflect on additional ways in which the Steward's Room can be improved towards the final overall effect (and function!). Budgets have to be considered and decisions in relation to expenditure agreed by the trustees. Patience will be rewarded!

Bob and Victor are planning two very exciting dinners and details will soon be revealed. The events will be ticketed and places will be limited. Once information is in print friends will be encouraged to book early to avoid disappointment!

Our Annual Return has been made to the Charities' Commission. Tony and I are meeting to finalize the application for a CIO which entails a great deal of information about our activities. A draft of The Friends of Stuart House Constitution has been prepared and is currently with Eileen for consideration. It has not yet been presented to the full committee of trustees. It is hoped that it will be finalized in time to present to the trustees at our July meeting and will, after ratification, be published in the Newsletter.

John continues to oversee the maintenance of the House, and the purchase of a new toaster for the kitchen should alleviate one of the causes of a tripping switch! The remaining culprit (and a continual one at the moment) is the fountain. We hope the source of the problem can be found.

Val promises that June will see her plant sales take off and is keen to show financial success. Please support her in her efforts and also support her in the formation of a gardening club. Ask her for details (see p.5, ed. ).

Sue Glencross, Hon. Secretary

**Stuart House**  
Arts & Heritage Centre  
**HERITAGE EXHIBITION**  
*19<sup>th</sup> Century*  
**“LUXSTOWE  
HOUSE”**  
*Transition*  
*from*  
*Prestigious Family Home*  
*to*  
*Offices serving the Community*

in Stuart House's GALLERY  
**Monday 5 June – Saturday 10 June 2017**  
in Stuart House's JANE ROOM  
**Monday 12 June – Saturday 17 June 2017**  
9.30-3.30 Monday-Friday : until noon Saturdays

**TALK & REFRESHMENTS**  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 7.00 for 7.30p.m. £4  
Eileen Crouch & guest speaker Councillor Sally Hawken

**TALK & REFRESHMENTS : Wed 7<sup>th</sup> June**  
Stuart House Trust, Barras Street, Liskeard PL14 6AB  
T.01579 347347. E.info@stuarthouse.org.uk www.stuarthouse.org.uk

← Eileen's exhibition and talk (see p.2)

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



During April's long succession of sunny days, the garden was ablaze with tulips, narcissi, primroses, bluebells and forget-me-nots. How quickly they have vanished, replaced almost instantly by a colourful array of aquilegia (columbine, granny's bonnet) splashed randomly but effectively around.

Aquilegia flowers have the same self-effacing trait as hellebores – they look down

at the ground, but are no less beautiful for that. (Try photographing them framed against the sky.) Our native plant is *Aquilegia vulgaris* (meaning common, not vulgar) and cultivars would have been well-known to mediaeval gardeners but only as decorative plants – leaves, seeds and deep roots (which makes them well suited for growing in dry areas) are toxic. Even slugs and snails avoid them. *Aquilegia* is derived from the Latin word for eagle (*aquila*): the shape of the flower petals are said to resemble an eagle's claw. There are some seventy different species of *Aquilegia* which are readily inter-fertile thus providing endless possibilities for breeding new forms and colours. *Aquilegias* produce copious quantities of seed and will readily spread themselves around the garden. However, of great concern is the unexpected appearance three years ago of a downy mildew specific to these plants which causes yellowing of the foliage and stunted growth. Affected plants should be immediately removed.

Regular visitors to Stuart House garden will have noticed that the fountains have not been running for a while. This is because the new electronic fuse box (now called a "consumer unit" for some reason) fitted inside the house is highly sensitive to very small current fluctuations produced by the pond pumps and causes power to trip off in the kitchen. Hopefully this will be soon be remedied. The top bowl of the central fountain is used by the garden sparrows, doves and blackbirds to drink from and also to have a good splash around, so the dry Spring weather meant daily manual replenishment. If you are visiting and notice that the bowl is empty, then please do use the water in the cans nearby to fill it up!



Those who know the garden may have notice that one of the four columnar conifers in front of the shed, the one nearest to the boundary, has died. Maybe it didn't like being overshadowed so much by the magnolia? (Firs are very sensitive to this sort of thing.) Luckily, there is a bay tree very close that will easily grow into the space vacated. (cont. p. 5)

(cont. from p.4) More disruption will be caused when the building work next door gets underway and the wild mixed woodland that has sprung up the other side of the fence will sadly be cleared. I for one will really miss the verdant sheltering effect of these trees, and although we are promised a new wall - which will be handy for training climbing plants - my own view is that I would like a tree there to provide a degree of peace and privacy from the new pub. *Sorbus aria* Lutescens, a variety of the common Whitebeam, might be ideal. This is a small-medium sized tree native to Britain and Europe with distinctive silvery-green leaves. Scented white flowers in May are followed by bunches of orange-red fruits, popular with the birds. The trunk would be bare to the top of the wall thus allowing under-planting of flowering shrubs and bulbs. Other suggestions greatly welcomed.



The wisteria over the far arch is now flowering. Sitting with a coffee and a book at the little table in that corner is just, well, perfect!

**Topical tip.** Anna Pavord in her book *The Curious Gardener* offers the following excellent general advice to those perennially perplexed by the mystery of pruning. Shrubs that flower in the first half of the year (for example Forsythia) do so on growth made the previous year, so prune after flowering to encourage new flowering wood for the following year and to create the shape you want. Shrubs that flower from June onwards usually do so on new wood made in the current year, so prune in later winter (autumn pruning risks new growth being damaged by winter weather).

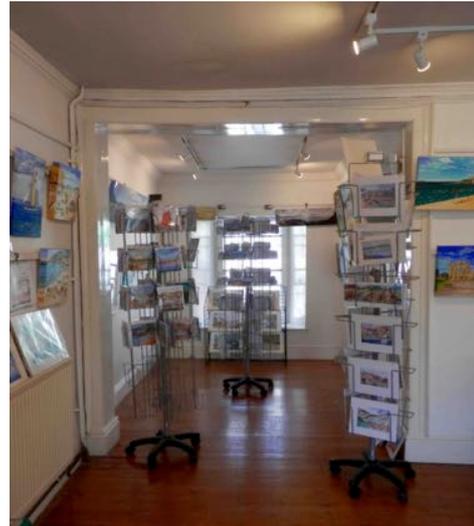
Malcolm Mort ( photos: flower studies by Malcolm, views by ed.)



**The Garden Club:** Val has raised this idea in earlier Newsletters, and hopes to hold the first meeting (see end of Sue's report p.3) in June. Ring her for details (01579 228518). Seed swaps, garden talk, advice ..... and who knows what will grow! Val also wishes to thank those who have brought in plants for sale and those who have bought – all donations continue to be welcome.

We shall miss our friend **Frank Boxall** as a volunteer in our café on Tuesdays and Fridays, and thank him so much for all the service he has given. We look forward to seeing him at events – especially musical ones – in the House. (ed.)

## LAST MONTH'S EVENTS IN THE GALLERY



**The Sewing Bee** ran for three weeks in the Gallery, finishing on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Many people called in and some £467 in profit came to the House. We thank Sioux, Lyn and Gaby for all their efforts. Gaby continues to offer advice and classes (see above). Plans are underway for this year's second Sewing Bee, in September, which will be run in a rather different way.

**Pat's Art Box** returned, together with Richard Jenkins's linocuts and also photographs. There is now a great range of cards and different sorts of prints in the exhibition and for sale, as well as originals. At last the weather is beginning to match the lovely holiday spirit of Pat (Thuysbaert's) beach scenes. Pat will be with us again from 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June, and twice in July.



**Victor and Nancy's Craft Exhibition and Sale** ran for two weeks in May. Some of the exhibitors, including David with his furniture restoration techniques, will be part of the coming "Furniture Week".



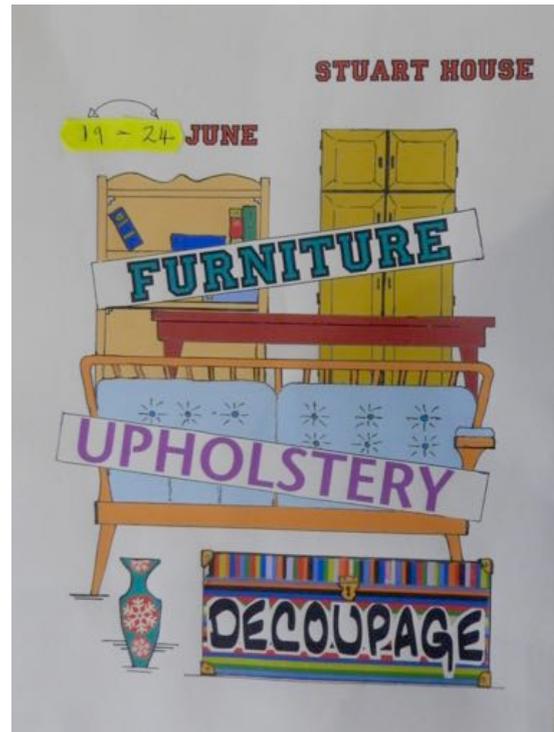
Meanwhile, Victor produced his extraordinary booklet 'Culinary Art of Stuart Times', now on sale for £3.

## COMING TO THE STUART HOUSE GALLERY IN JUNE



ADMISSION FREE **Stuart House, Barras St, Liskeard PL14 6AB** CAFÉ  
30<sup>th</sup> May-3<sup>rd</sup> June: 9.30-3.30 (Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>: 9.30-12.30)  
FACEBOOK Carnival of the Imagination

↑ An exhibition of a glorious variety of art media from artists all from this part of Cornwall. There may well be music too, in the garden or Gallery.



↑ Specialists David, Joanne and Carole will be on hand throughout the week to show their work, give demonstrations and offer 'hands on' opportunities.

## Art and Soul

### A visual arts competition and exhibition

of subjects in the landscape and towns of Southeast Cornwall that have a spiritual significance for the artist.

**Stuart House, Liskeard**  
**June 26<sup>th</sup> – July 1<sup>st</sup> 2017**

Entry classes for young people and adults; painting, sculpture, photography

Full details and entry forms are available from:



Reception at Stuart House,  
Barras Street  
Liskeard

St. Martin's Church Office  
Church Street, Liskeard  
or on-line from  
office@smartchurchliskeard.co.uk



In aid of the reordering of St. Martin's Church Liskeard as a community resource.

← The spiritual element in visual artwork is revealed by the artist who sees through their work to other dimensions, states of existence, words, personalities or ideas, maybe known only to them, but which they can share through their art. This competition encourages this sharing, through any visual medium: painting, drawing, sculpture or photography showing an object or scene from anywhere in South East Cornwall. It is open to all. Closing dates June 12<sup>th</sup> (works for sale) or 19<sup>th</sup> for others. Details and entry forms from Stuart House or St. Martin's Church Office.

### Remember the other events in June:

- **Heritage Exhibition on Luxstowe House** (see pp.2&3),
- **Pat's Art Box** (see p.6)
- **Diabel Cissokho's concert** on 25<sup>th</sup> June (see p. )



STUART HOUSE  
SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT  
SERIES  
JUNE CONCERT

**Diabel Cissokho,**  
Senegalese kora player and singer  
returns to Stuart House.  
**Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**2.30pm.**

Tickets, including refreshments and a chance to meet the performer, £7, available from Stuart House Reception.

Following the capacity audience last November, we strongly advise getting tickets in advance.

**Coming in early July: the North Hill Art Group write:** For the first time ever the North Hill Art & Craft Group are holding an exhibition from July 3rd until July 8th. We are lucky enough to have been able to hire the gallery at Stuart House, a really lovely venue. Of course 25% of sales will be donated to the trust. The group are finding organising an exhibition quite daunting but also very exciting and really looking forward to the experience.

We are a small group of amateur artists who have lovely, friendly meetings fortnightly held in North Hill village hall. We have the occasional demonstrators and workshops, and sometimes have outdoor sessions, usually quite local. We always welcome friends and family to our group sessions and welcome new members. For further information please contact, Phyllis Harrison ( Secretary ) 01579 362970.

Angela Bob  
Eileen Frank  
Jackie Jane  
John G  
Linda G  
Linda M Liz  
Lynn C  
Malcolm  
Mary Mavis  
Norma  
Peter  
Rosa Sarah  
Terri Tony  
Tony W  
Vanessa  
(The ed.  
got all the  
current

**SHOWCASE**

**for volunteers, trustees and members.**

More details to come, but this event is planned for 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Volunteers, trustees and members can offer their products (artistic, edible, practical ....) for sale, partly to help raise money for the House (proceeds can be shared!) and to show what they can do! We can talk about the varied joys of volunteering, and encourage others to join us. There may be over 50 of us, but a lot more are needed, for many different roles.

Do feel able to ask about volunteering now.

**There is an urgent need in the café on Fridays.**

David Deb Doris  
Gaby Gill  
Jo John  
Judith Kelvin  
Linda L  
Lynn Lynn B  
Lynette  
Margaret  
Nancy  
Patricia Perry  
Rachel Roger  
Sioux Sue  
Be Tony Br  
Tristram Val  
Victor.  
hopes she's  
names of our  
volunteers.)

South East Cornwall Museums Forum

# Family History Discovery Day

DISCOVER YOUR ANCESTORS YOUR HERITAGE & YOUR ROOTS

**Liskeard Public Hall, West Street, Liskeard**  
**Saturday 3rd June 2017 10.0am-3.0pm**

FREE Advice and Assistance will be available from the following:-

Plymouth & West Devon Record Office	Torpoint Archives
Cornwall Family History Society	Tamar Protection Society
Devon Family History Society	Liskeard Museum
Cornwall On Line Parish Clerks	Stuart House
Kresen Kernow Archives & Cornish Studies Service	Looe Museum
The Old Cornwall Society	Launceston Museum
Cornwall's Regimental Museum	Callington Museum
Polperro Family History Group	Bodmin Museum
Liskeard Library	Lostwithiel Museum
Saltash Heritage Museum & Local History Centre	Cornwall USA's - Family History Studies

Refreshments available **FREE ENTRY**

Further info from Chair. 01752 847800

← Stuart House is represented at this event, run by the South East Cornwall Museums' Forum, which we are part of. Please drop in!

## 'Fake or Fortune?'

### Antiques Valuation

FREE Valuation and identification of your treasures



**Tuesday 6th June 10am-12noon**

## LISKEARD

### Stuart House

By **Barnes Hampton & Littlewood**  
 Fine Art Valuers & Auctioneers

For Home appointments contact  
 Richard Hamm on 01208 813593

← Do drop in to the Antiques Valuation sessions held regularly at the House.

**WHAT'S ON**

## STERTS THEATRE Summer at Sterts

<p><b>Into the Woods – Stagekids</b></p> <p>1st &amp; 2nd June times vary        TICKETS £8/£6</p> <p>The magical musical with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by James Lapin. Guaranteed to make you laugh, cry and have you humming the tunes for days after.</p>	<p><b>Roche Brass – Film and Theatre</b></p> <p>3rd June 7.30pm        TICKETS £12/£10/£6</p> <p>Join us for toe tapping, brass band fun! Local favourites, Roche Brass return to play some wonderful music.</p>
<p><b>Richard Digance</b></p> <p>4th June 5.00pm        TICKETS £12/£10</p> <p>Join Richard for a celebration of his 50 years of songs and stories that led to a BAFTA Nomination and The British Academy of Composers Gold Award. He is supported by acoustic duo The Broadside Boys.</p>	<p><b>Keith James sings Leonard Cohen</b></p> <p>9th June 7.30pm        TICKETS £12/£10/£6</p> <p>Enjoy a concert of Cohen's amazing material, given in the most intimate and sensitive way imaginable, exposing the solitary inner strength of his greatest songs in their original perfect form.</p>
<p><b>African Sanctus</b></p> <p>10th June 7.30pm        TICKETS £10/£6</p> <p>This local choir directed by Chris Howarth performs David Fanshawe's work African Sanctus, a brilliant blend of the latin mass and traditional African Music.</p>	

Sterts Summer season is on sale now.  
[www.sterts.co.uk](http://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 07778 496092.

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**NEWS**

## STERTS THEATRE Summer at Sterts

<p><b>Restormel Concert Band</b></p> <p>11th June 5.30pm        TICKETS £12/£10/£8</p> <p>This versatile 40 piece wind band, directed by David Hendy, plays a variety of music guaranteed to satisfy all tastes.</p>	<p><b>Chorus of Choirs Festival – Sterts Singers &amp; Friends</b></p> <p>17th June 7.30pm        TICKETS £12/£10/£6</p> <p>Come and join a varied group of choirs as we celebrate the diversity of choral singing with an exciting climax of all participants singing</p>
<p><b>Orchestral Greats - PSO</b></p> <p>18th June 5.30pm        TICKETS £10/£8/£6</p> <p>In this programme we travel through a collection of some of the most impressive, popular and recognisable orchestral works of the 19th and 20th centuries.</p>	
<p><b>Midsummer Dance</b></p>	
<p><b>Heather Walrod: The Rising</b></p> <p>24th June 7.30pm        TICKETS £9/£6</p> <p>The first part of the evening features local dance companies in a variety of short performance pieces. In the second half we are very proud to welcome the amazing Heather Walrod Dance Company who will perform The Rising a piece inspired by Fijian dance forms and culture.</p>	<p><b>Youth Dance</b></p> <p>25th June 3.00pm        TICKETS £5/        CHILDREN FOC</p> <p>A showcase of exciting new dance in the South West in SEDANCE – youth platform. Young people from all over arrive to practice their different styles from ballet to contemporary to street dance.</p>

Sterts Summer season is on sale now.  
[www.sterts.co.uk](http://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 07778 496092.

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# Diary of Events

## June 2017



continuing to Saturday 3 June	Carnival of the Imagination : multi-media Art Exhibition (see p.7)
Saturday 3rd	Family History Discovery Day: family, heritage and roots. Public Hall 10am to 3pm. Free, (see p.9)
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday 17th	Luxstowe House Heritage Exhibition. In the gallery the first week, then a selection moving to the Jane Room for a further week. (see pp.2&3)
Wednesday 7th	Talk: 'Transition" - Eileen Crouch with Cllr. Sally Hawken will talk about Luxstowe House, past, present and potentially. (see pp.2&3)
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4 pm.
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnes, Hampton & Littlewood. 10 am. to 12 noon. (see p.9)
Monday 12th	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4-6 pm.
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday 17th	Pat's Art Box (see p.6)
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday 24th	Furniture Week : varnishing, waxing, upholstery, decoupage decorative techniques (see p.7)
Sunday 25th	Concert in the Gallery 2.30 pm. Diabel Cissokho. Tickets £7 from reception, very advisable to get them in advance, include refreshments and a chance to talk with the performer afterwards. (see p. 8)
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Art and Soul exhibition in the Gallery (see p.7)
<b>Coming in July</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cliff Top (North Hill) Art Group exhibition (see p.8)</li> <li>• Pat's Art Box (two separate weeks)</li> <li>• Showcase for trustees, volunteers and members of Stuart House (see p.8)</li> <li>• Toys and Musical Instruments by John Moses</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)