

Newsletter

June 2022



The sign now on the gate draws attention to the House and tells passers-by something about it in the hope that they will return.

Jackie Jenkins is awarded the George Vaughan-Ellis Trophy for Services to Heritage in Liskeard



Jackie was awarded the George Vaughan-Ellis Memorial Trophy for Outstanding Services to the Architecture, Research and/or Heritage of Liskeard, at the Mayor's Choosing on Wednesday 25th May. She is a familiar figure in Stuart House where, alongside her Old Cornwall Society work (see also p.2), she also runs the Thursday Craft Club. The first winner, Eileen Crouch, and the second, Brian Oldham, have also got strong connections to Stuart House.



Jackie sees this award as being shared with her partner Paul Day, saying that it was he who, 42 years ago, introduced her to Cornish history and took her around to show her all sort of places of interest.

The photographs show Jackie with her trophy and with the two past winners and with Paul at the November 2018 'Liskeard's Lost Generation exhibition' – the final one of five marking the centenary of each year of the First World War - which they ran with Tony Ball. (Thanks to Carlton Crouch for the two Mayor's Choosing photos, the other is by the ed.)



Leaflet Sponsored by Coodes
Honorary Solicitors to Stuart House Trust

EVENTS LAST MONTH & CONTINUING & COMING IN JUNE



The Ancient Egyptians Exhibition remained in the Gallery for the first part of May and continued to attract much interest. We look forward to the next offering from Jenny and Jean!

The Fund-Raising Sale in the Gallery began on May 23rd and will now continue until June 6th. Thanks to Sioux for organising and all those who donated items for sale (and those who bought them!)



The Liskeard Old Cornwall Society's Jubilee Exhibition: 'In Celebration of a Seventy Year Reign' starts on May 30th in the Jane Room and continues until Saturday 11th June. There will be pictures of the Coronation and how Liskeard celebrated the day, photographs of the Queen's visit to Liskeard and other memorabilia. Here, Jackie Jenkins works on the setting-up

BOOK SALE

Monday 6th to Saturday 11th June

Liskeard Author Mark Simmons will be selling his own books together with a wide range of second-hand and collectable volumes.

CRAFT FAIR

In the Gallery
June 20th to July 9th

Once again, we look forward to an exciting range of arts and crafts for sale, organised by House Manager Sioux with Gaby of the Coved Room Stitchery.

SOME OTHER EVENTS of INTEREST in JUNE

South East Cornwall Museums Forum
In our **5th** year - present our
Grand Family History & Local History Day
Liskeard Public Hall
West Street, Liskeard
Saturday 18th June 2022
Welcome 10.0am - 3.00pm

Commonwealth War Graves Commission	Saltash Heritage Museum & Local History Centre
Cornwall Regimental Museum	Saltash U3a Genealogy
Cornwall Family History Society	Callington Archives
Liskeard & District Museum	Old Guildhall & Gaol East Looe
Emily Hobhouse History	Cornwall online Parish Clerks
Old Cornwall Society	Torpoint Archives
National Maritime Museum The Bartlett	Devon Family History Society
Lawrence House, Launceston	Elliotts Store T.P.S. Saltash
Linkinhorne History & Community Archive	Lostwithiel U3a. Local History Group
Lostwithiel Museum	Looe Harbour Heritage Centre
Stuart House, Liskeard	Yealmpton Books

FREE Day - open to all Info - 01752 847800

NAAFI CANTEN
Home made refreshments



Stuart House will have a table at this exciting day event. We don't provide support with tracing family trees, as some of the organisations do, but there is always interest at this event in the House and what it has to offer.

Rachel (in the photo from the 2018 day) would still appreciate any help in supervising the table on the day.

The Tree of Life: a wonderful textile display in St Martins Church

Several Friends of Stuart House have connections with Liskeard's parish church where, until June 7th on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9am to 12 noon, are displayed three huge stitched silk panels depicting the theme of the Tree of Life, created by artist, Jacqui Parkinson, who designed the glass screen and south door in the church. It runs from the Garden of Eden through Christ's crucifixion to the New Heaven and Earth in the Book of Revelation at the end of the Bible. More of her work can be viewed on her website at <https://www.jacqui-textile.com>

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Another snippet from Brian Oldham, President of the Liskeard Old Cornwall Society who have their base in the Trecarrel Room on the top floor of Stuart House. They are open on Tuesdays and welcome visitors.



John and Arthur Hoar were born in Liskeard and grew up in Dean Street (*left, above*) along with their 5 brothers and 2 sisters. In 1895 the brothers first went to South Africa to work in the East Rand Proprietary Mine (*left, below*) which had opened 2 years earlier in the Transvaal district. John enlisted in the Rand Rifles Mine Guards, formed to protect the goldmines from destruction. He subsequently served in Second Boer War, 1899-1902.

The brothers' futures in South Africa differed dramatically. It's unclear at what point, and for how long, Arthur was back in the UK, but he sailed back to Cape Town again, with his new family, on the P&O Line's ship 'Benella' on June 24th 1915. On board were 'Arthur Hoar, 33, Tailor, Phyliss Hoar, 27, and Thora Hoar, 3'. Arthur died on December 14th 1928 in the Transvaal District aged 47.

John's career was in mining, he re-joined the E.R.P.M., which had become one of the most successful gold mines in the World, and certainly the deepest at 3,585 metres. Sadly, John's life was cut tragically short when it was reported that 'he was working on the new headgear of the circular shaft of the Argelo Section, E.R.P.M., when he was knocked down the shaft by a piece of headgear, receiving fatal injuries. He leaves a widow and four children'.

June's Thoughts from our Garden's Overseer



How quickly things come and go. Already vanished, as if in a blink of an eye, are the bluebells, the cherry and apple tree blossom, the mass of honesty flowers near the shed door, the Clematis montana against the library wall, and the rather untidy but quite spectacular blooms of the tree peony in the far border. Usually this plant produces just a single bloom, but this year it has excelled itself and sported five. However, they last only for a few days, easily damaged by rain. Despite its name, it is not actually a tree but a deciduous shrub originating from China. Unlike the more common herbaceous peony

that dies back in winter, the tree peony is a larger version that retains its woody stem and leaves throughout the winter, growing to around 3ft.

At the time of writing (mid-May) the wisteria over the far



archway is in full flower, and this year, for the first time, I noticed that it has quite a



heady scent, at least when the air is still and the sun is shining. Soon, though, these flowers will also fade, and a multitude of rapidly growing shoots will appear, attempting to overwhelm the surrounding vegetation, including the nearby old apple tree. Wisteria is wonderful in the right place, but if you're tempted to introduce one into your garden, be aware that they do need determined summer and autumn pruning to

keep them under control and to encourage flower buds for the following year.

The wallflowers and violas in pots around the garden are still in fine form, and will soon be joined by sweet williams, the ever-reliable cranesbill geraniums in the lawn borders, and roses in front and rear gardens. Four years ago I took cuttings from the Rosa banksiae "Lutea" rambler rose that clambers over the rear porch (sections of fresh stem about 18" long, slotted into the ground a spade's depth in autumn and left until mid summer of the following year to be dug up and potted on). One of these was planted alongside the arch near the office window. It obviously enjoys this spot because it has grown very rapidly, now covers the arch, and this year has flowered! A worthy successor to the jasmine that previously occupied this position



To have a colourful display of flowers throughout the year can be a daunting task. One must get to know what plants will flower when, where they do best, and how much space, protection, feeding and cossetting to give them. There is always the need to plan ahead: for example in June it's time to sow all the biennials (especially wallflowers, sweet williams and foxgloves) together with perennials for the following year. Honesty and forget-me-nots can be trusted to seed themselves.

Only a very few species of plant will continue in flower all summer - the usual popular bedding plants. For the flower pots on the tables in the Stuart House garden, I rely on just four sorts that are tough and long lasting. From late winter to mid-Spring, it's primroses, followed by the modern violas that last well into early summer. Then it's the turn of the fibrous begonias which flower continuously until well into the autumn, followed again by violas and those hardy little cyclamen which provide colour until the New Year. The new varieties of hybrid violas such as Sorbet and Tumbola will flower well all through the winter in a sheltered spot.

On the right-hand side of the wall fountain, the delightful *Viburnum opulus* (the snowball tree) has been in flower throughout May, whilst on the left side there is another *Viburnum* that has only small, subdued clutches of blooms. I think this is *Viburnum dentatum* also known as the arrow-



wood tree, presumably because its wood was once used to make arrows. A *Viburnum* we don't have in the garden (sadly there is no room for it anyway) but which, also in May, produces a mass of wonderful white flower heads, rather like those of a lace-head hydrangea, is *V. plicatum* (meaning "pleated"). Highly recommended!



In previous articles, I have mentioned how difficult it is to propagate apple and pear trees from cuttings in the normal way – they just don't root. Neither do trees ever come true from their pips. The usual way, therefore is to graft new growth onto established rootstock. Mediaeval gardeners understood this and used the technique of air-layering by tying a pouch of rotted horse dung around a tree branch, deliberately wounded. I recently came across a modern version of this. Take a small plastic drinks bottle (the thin water sort are best), cut a slit from the opening right down the side and then a circular opening in the base to match the top opening. Choose a young stem on the tree, about the thickness of a finger, and with a sharp knife remove all the bark between two of the leaf nodes.



Rub in a little rooting hormone. Then fit the bottle around the branch, and pack it with damp compost. Tie it tightly together, before finally wrapping cling-film over it all, keeping a small gap at the top to add water if necessary. Roots should appear in a couple of months. A shoot on the old apple tree in the corner of the garden has undergone this treatment. Updates to follow!

Malcolm Mort



**STUART HOUSE
GARDEN CLUB**
next meeting t.b.c
all welcome
contact Val Moore
01579 228518 or via the House

In May, four members of the Garden Club (Margaret, Eileen and Val (*left*) with Liz who took the picture) made a visit to Tamar View Nurseries and Garden Centre at Saltash, with its wide range of healthy plants, garden equipment and other things, and café. Look out for news of the regular meeting and of more trips.

Hon. Sec. Sue Glencross' Memories from the Minutes *continued*

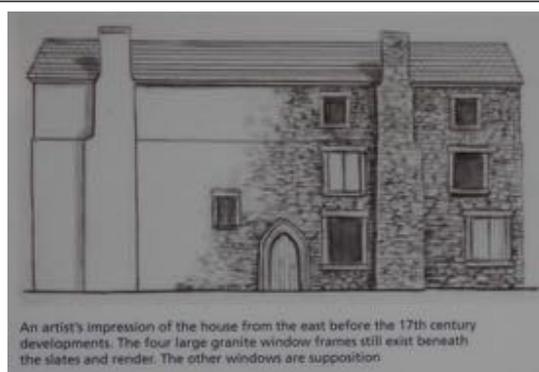
At the meeting held on 12th 2000 July Tony Wood reported he had not yet heard from CET regarding grant aid for the rebuilding of the rear lateral chimney stack. So far as finances were concerned the current account balance was £203 and the deposit account balance £4,112.

A search would be made through membership for a person with practical skills who could attend to small repairs and problems which arose from time to time. Trips had been planned to Trelawn Barton and Ince Barton. The Trust hoped to make £100 from the History exhibition and Jean Rees had been asked if the Town Council might consider a matching contribution. Celtic Art Exhibition preparations were well on target under Eileen's direction. There was to be a trade preview on August 13th where admission would be by ticket only. Suggestions for future events included talks and/or exhibitions by Len Copley, Gavin Todd (weapons) and myself – exhibition of modern art. Eileen was in touch with Tim Smit's office to resolve dates for a talk. Tony

was discussing with Nigel Matthews the bringing of his Historic Cornish Gardens Exhibition to the House. A number of wine glasses would be purchased!!!! Tony Wood offered to donate to the House an 18th century oak wardrobe which was enthusiastically received.

There was no meeting in August and I see from the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th September that I was welcomed! David Pearce said that unfortunately due to pressure of work he would not seek re-election at the next AGM. Jenny Martin too had tendered her resignation for similar reasons. I was then introduced to the meeting and said that Coodes would sponsor an exhibition for a week with brochures etc; they would give publicity to the House; they would be responsible for photocopying the newsletter – [*indeed Coodes still do photocopy the newsletter so almost 22 years of photocopying must equate to a tidy sum!*] I then became a committee member. The current account stood at £296, the deposit account £3,727. Peter Andrew's estimate for the work on the chimney had been accepted. The Drama Club had agreed to pay £50 per annum to store their costumes in the Coved Room and would help to put that room in order.

The next meeting was the October one held on the 12th. Tony had lodged a grant application with SW Arts for the funding of the post of administrator. The idea of 'roll up' ladders were discussed as a means of fire escape from the windows on the upper floors. Stewarding and internal security was discussed. Tony had identified 'Awards for All' as a potential source of funds and it could be accessed via the Town Forum. A number of items would be of use including



Originally, the 'rear' of the House (the front when it was built!) had two chimneys. No wonder the remaining one (from the Hall fireplace) needed attention 500 years later!



The view from under one of the pergolas in May 2022

venue for 'Action for Market Towns' on 21st September 2001. Science Week would be in March 2001. Maggie Jackson was introduced as a new member of the council.

to be continued

Diary of Events

June 2022



Wed.1 st to Fri. 3 rd	Closed for Jubilee Bank Holiday
continuing to Sat.11 th	Old Cornwall Society Jubilee Exhibition in the Jane Room (see p.3)
continuing to Fri. 17 th	Table-top sale in the Gallery raising funds for the House (see p.2)
Mon. 6 th to Sat 11 th	Mark Simmonds Book Sale
Tuesdays 7 th & 21 st	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4.30 pm.
every Thursday	Craft Club: all welcome 12 noon to 3pm.
Monday 13 th	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4 to 6.30pm.
Thursday 23 rd	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnas, Hampton & Littlewood. 10am. to 12 noon
Monday 20 th to July 9 th	Craft Fair in the Gallery
coming in July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adult Education print-making course• Jubilee Stamp Exhibition (from 21st)



The House, Garden, Old Kitchen Café and (check first) Computer Research Facility are open 9.30am – 3.30pm 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.

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