

May 2017

Call My Stuart House Bluff!

Our fund-raising and entertainment evening on 6th April was a very happy success, with tables laden with substantial nibbles in the Gallery and several teams struggling to identify the correct meanings of a lot of Tudor and Stuart words which our host, chairman Bob Hollingdale, had found. He managed not only to come up with alternative definitions which sounded plausible, but also made the true definition sound implausible – a worrying talent!



The winners were Jane and Tony Wood with Gill Bowman, shown here receiving their prize.

A good evening was had by all, and we look forward to the next entertainment evening, when we hope for even more of a roomful of members (or post-CIO friends!).

The Downsizing Sale which Jane and Tony held towards the end of April went well, with many people coming into the Jane Room not just to browse and buy, but to wish them well for their move to Okehampton. They will be much missed, but we look forward to frequent visits, and to them keeping in touch with the House (with its garden) for which they have done a truly amazing amount, from the very start of its history as an Arts and Heritage Centre. Without Tony and Jane, it simply could not have happened as it did. We hope too to see more of Jane's lovely artwork – including her i-pad pieces - before too long.

There is a lot going on in the House, and the garden is looking beautiful. Donations are, of course, welcome, but entrance is always free. Do call into the shop and pop up to see what is going on the Gallery. At this time of change, we welcome friends old and new, and their constructive ideas and support, and if you can join our 55 volunteers (more information in the next Newsletter!), that would be wonderful. (*ed.*)



Leaflet Sponsored by Coodes
Honorary Solicitors to Stuart House Trust

Sue's News. In the March edition of our newsletter I mentioned the setting up of a formal structure for 'Friends of Stuart House'. That is still very much work in progress. Those of you who are currently 'members' of Stuart House Trust will automatically have that membership transferred to the 'Friends' organisation. There will be an annual subscription as hitherto and I confirm that those of you who are Lifetime or Honorary members will retain that status when the transfer is made. I stress that greater transparency is intended and I do hope that the 'Friends' will voice their opinions on matters concerning the running of the House to the Trustees. To enable an exchange of views, it is proposed to hold a certain number of open meetings throughout the year (following restructuring to CIO). We hope that this will enable Friends to be more closely involved in the running of the House.

Our April meeting was held a week earlier than usual due to Easter Monday being on our usual third Monday of the month. It largely featured the re-organisation of the new Stewards' Reception area and the upstairs office. Behind the scenes exploration has been undertaken to ensure that WiFi reception is available in both areas and that there is telephone communication between the two. The next task is to source a suitable desk – preferably in keeping with the House, but that is difficult as up-to-date office equipment has to be accommodated.



Our Treasurer is pleased with the outcome of the first quarter of 2017. Fingers crossed that the same level of income can be forthcoming for the next three quarters. Thanks are due to John Gliddon for instituting an annual programme of maintenance which makes essential repairs much more manageable to fund. *(photo shows window-checks underway. ed.)*

Sue Glencross, Hon. Sec.

Treasurer Tony Britton's Report to our AGM on 20th March was really quite upbeat, although not at all complacent. Full details are available in the House, and include all the usual outgoings, such as insurance, heating and repairs and maintenance.

2016 saw an inflow of over £3,000, including a gift of £1,000 from the family of Jean Sneyd, over £550 from the collection at George Vaughan-Ellis' memorial service, and well over £1,000 in other donations. Although income from room hiring was down, events held in the House raised money, with the Sewing Bees alone raising over £1,400, and concerts bringing in nearly £700. The shop made well over £1,000, and the sales of books, particularly from the generous arrangement for the sale of Tony Wood's 'Liskeard' and 'History of Stuart House' were pleasing. The generous grant of almost £33,000 from Viridor was essential in allowing necessary repairs and lighting improvements to go ahead. Our café continues to bring in a pleasing income, despite being shut in January 2016.

The forecast for the coming year was tentative; there will be so many events with unpredictable results, but one thing is certain – the part played by our volunteers is unquantifiable: simply enormous.

	Reserved (set aside) funds	Unreserved funds	Building projects	Total funds
Opening balance	£1,125	£16,062	£654	£17,841
Movement in year	- £500	+ £4,309	- £654	+ £3,155
Closing balance	£625	£20,371	nil	£20,996

GALLERY EVENTS in STUART HOUSE LAST MONTH

The Grand Book Sale ran for a week in April and raised £179 in donations for Stuart House. We thank Nancy, our Gallery Events Organiser, for arranging – and doing a lot of the stewarding of - the sale at short notice to fill in an unexpected gap in Gallery events.



Pat's Art Box returned to the Gallery for a week at the start of April, and will be back with us from May 8th to 13th. The exhibition formed a joyful background to other events in the Gallery, such as the 'Call My Stuart House Bluff'.

The Sewing Bee began on 18th April and will continue until 6th May. This time, it has focused on sales of textiles and haberdashery, and has attracted many visitors (and purchasers) – including several new people – into the Gallery. Plans are underway for another Sewing Bee in September, with some differences in arrangements.



'Fake or Fortune?'
Antiques Valuation
 FREE Valuation and identification of your treasures



Mystery object - What is it?
Monday 8th May 10am-12noon
LISKEARD
Stuart House
 By **Bearnes Hampton & Littlewood**
Fine Art Valuers & Auctioneers
 For Home appointments contact
Richard Hamm on 01208 813593

STERTS THEATRE Spring at Sterts

Sterts Singers Showcase
 6th May 7.30pm
 TICKETS £8/£6

School for Scandal - CAMP
 19th & 20th May 7.30pm
 TICKETS £8/£6
 Postponed in Autumn but back in Spring! Ever popular Menheniot based CAMP theatre take on Sheridan's classic comedy of manners.

A packed show led by the Sterts choir joined by their special guests. This is also the first chance to see a preview of songs from the Sterts summer shows: My Fair Lady and Buggy Malone - not to be missed!

Book SUMMER SHOW

New Website now live

Sterts Summer season is on sale now.
www.sterts.co.uk or 01579 342382
 or Box Office 10am-1pm weekdays.
 Sterts, Upton Cross Liskeard PL14 5AZ
 Café open for most shows. Booking
 0778496092.

May's Thoughts from our Garden's Overseer. The unusually dry

and warm April weather catalysed the Stuart House garden into becoming an instant vivid tapestry of colours, almost as if an artist had stood in the middle of the lawn and whirled pots of paint around. It seems hardly a moment ago that the shrubs were just silent skeletons, but at this time of year they transform almost as we watch, so magically yet reassuringly in a world seemingly gone quite mad. A recent visitor to Stuart House who stepped though the door into the garden was so taken aback by the immediate and intense contrast with the colourless street outside with its ever-tiresome traffic and was heard to gasp: "A little corner of Heaven!"



However, all this soothing prettiness does have hidden downsides. The swathes of peaceful blue are from the bluebells which in their native woodland setting rush to complete their growth and reproductive cycle before the leaf canopy closes over. But in an open garden they can't believe their good fortune and start to behave as if it's all theirs, rapidly spreading everywhere by copious seed production, bulb multiplication and wandering roots. There will be a concerted effort this year to remove all seed heads as soon as they appear, and to dig out plants from the other beds whilst they are still in leaf and their positions can be seen.

The wild primroses have seeded themselves around too but we don't mind that even when they appear in the lawn: they are gently removed to the borders. The tulips have been wonderful this year too. About a hundred "mixed colours and sorts" were planted in the autumn and what a rich variety they have turned out to be. However, unlike daffodils that will faithfully return each year, tulips are much more erratic, being prone to attacks by fungi, bacteria and nematodes, especially if the summer is damp, and so are often treated as annuals.



The history of the tulip is intriguing. There are 75 species found naturally in a geographical band that extends either side of the Mediterranean, through the Middle East and on into Mongolia. (They really do prefer dry summers.) Garden historians tell us that hybridisation began in Persia in the 10th century and that tulips began to be grown more widely in Europe gardens in the second half of the 16th Century. At that time, viruses caused streaking and mottling of the flowers which mesmerised the Dutch into competing for the rarest bulbs as status symbols. In 1634, tulips were traded as "futures", the rarest costing as much as six times the annual average wage. But flower designs caused by viruses cannot be predicted. Prices fell, panic selling ensued and by 1637 the tulip bubble was over, and many faced financial ruin. Viruses have been mostly eradicated from today's cultivated tulips, and the petal patterns are the result of breeding.

Tulips are called "lale" in Turkish (and previously Persian) and share the same Arabic letters as "Allah". The flower was a holy symbol, being widely used in decorative motifs in the Ottoman Empire and worn on turbans – possibly giving rise to the name "tulip" when after several language translations it found its way into European gardens.

This season I intended to keep planting restricted to just a few flower sorts (mostly Calendula varieties) to make growing easier in cold frames at home, but I see that already sown are cosmos, rudbekia, cornflower, dahlia, nicotiana, honesty, helichrysum (several sorts) to name but just a few. That's the problem with gardening: too much delicious choice, and a need to have a good selection of species so that something will thrive whatever the weather, mollusc or insect predations. So let's see: the season awaits!



A pleasant surprise in the garden this Spring is that the fan-trained cherry tree planted against the library wall has flowered for the first time. This tree is in memory of the late Bo Foaks who supported the Trust with concerts and who also left a bequest for the garden.

Malcolm Mort



Away from the garden – Malcolm with Kate and Jo at the 'Call My Stuart House Bluff' event.

→
Stuart House, as an active member of the South East Cornwall Museums Forum, will have a table at the Family History Discovery Day in Liskeard's Public Hall on Saturday 3rd June. We will show off the facilities normally in our Research Hub in the Rowse Room, and raise awareness of what The House has to offer to visitors locally and from a wider area. Everyone is very welcome.

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

EVENTS COMING THIS MONTH

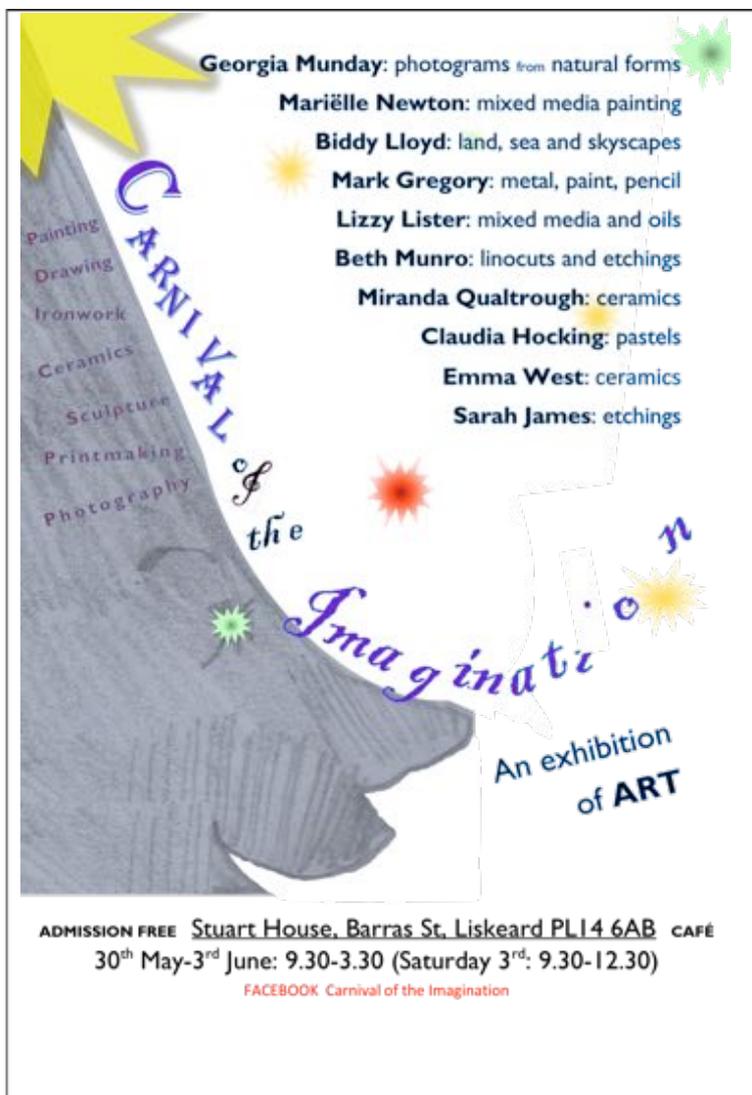
PAT'S ART BOX

May 8th to 13th
(see p. 3)

ART and CRAFT SHOW

May 15th to 27th

Victor and Nancy present their usual quality show in the Gallery, with a great variety of work by artists and craftspeople.



The poster features a stylized elephant silhouette in shades of grey and blue. A yellow starburst is in the top left, and a green starburst is in the top right. A list of artists and their mediums is on the right. The title 'CARNIVAL of the Imagination' is written in a playful, multi-colored font across the elephant's back. Below the elephant, it says 'An exhibition of ART'. At the bottom, there is text about admission, location, and dates.

Georgia Munday: photograms from natural forms
Mariëlle Newton: mixed media painting
Biddy Lloyd: land, sea and skylscapes
Mark Gregory: metal, paint, pencil
Lizzy Lister: mixed media and oils
Beth Munro: linocuts and etchings
Miranda Qualtrough: ceramics
Claudia Hocking: pastels
Emma West: ceramics
Sarah James: etchings

Painting
Drawing
Ironwork
Ceramics
Sculpture
Printmaking
Photography

CARNIVAL of the Imagination

An exhibition of ART

ADMISSION FREE Stuart House, Barras St. Liskeard PL14 6AB CAFÉ
30th May-3rd June: 9.30-3.30 (Saturday 3rd: 9.30-12.30)
FACEBOOK [Carnival of the Imagination](#)



CARNIVAL of the IMAGINATION

This new exhibition at Stuart House, running for a week from 30th May, promises different and exciting works. All the artists are from this part of Cornwall, and the hope is to form even more of an artistic community here.

MUSIC in STUART HOUSE



We have no formal concert in May, although there might be some music around!

Diabel Cissokho, the Senegalese kora player and singer, returns on Sunday afternoon, June 25th.

COMING in JUNE

Stuart House
Arts & Heritage Centre

HERITAGE EXHIBITION

19th Century

“LUXSTOWE HOUSE”

*Transition
from
Prestigious Family Home
to
Offices serving the Community*

In Stuart House Gallery
Monday, 5th June – Saturday, 11th June 2017
9.30-3.30 Monday – Friday
until 12.30 – Saturday

Free Entry – Donations to Stuart House welcome

First of a series of Heritage exhibitions
– further details in Events Guides –

Stuart House Trust, Barras Street, Liskeard PL14 6AB
T:01579 347347. E:info@stuarthouse.org.uk www.stuarthouse.org.uk



Eileen Crouch, who recently organised the George-Vaughan-Ellis Tribute exhibition, will present a display from the Stuart House exhibition archives, brought up to date.

There may be a talk linking with the exhibition – more details to come.

We hope to mount more exhibitions inspired by our archives, perhaps in the Jane Room, in the future.

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 26th – July 1st 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.

Devised originally as a fund raiser for the reordering of St. Martin's Church, this event is now seen as having wider significance for the community, like the reordering itself. Entries are invited in any visual medium: painting and drawing, sculpture and photography, that show an object or scene from anywhere in Southeast Cornwall which has some spiritual significance for the artist.



All visual art presents its subject in a form or mood that takes it out of the ordinary, and may even prompt the viewer to see it in a way not predicted by the artist. The spiritual element in a piece is revealed by the artist who sees through their work to other dimensions, states of existence, worlds, personalities or ideas, maybe known only to them but which they can share through their art. It is this sharing that the competition seeks to encourage, and each piece of work will be accompanied by a few words about its significance. It is open to all ages, and the exhibition will be on view in Stuart House from June 26th to July 1st. Viewing, as usual, is free. Entry details and forms are available from the reception at Stuart House, St. Martin's Church Office, or on line from office@smartchurchliskeard.co.uk. Closing date for entries is June 19th or June 12th if the work is for sale.

Diary of Events

May 2017



Monday 1st	House shut on Bank Holiday Monday
Until Saturday 6th	Sewing Bee – sales of fabrics and haberdashery in the Gallery (see p.3)
Tuesday 2nd Tuesday 16 th	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4 pm.
Monday 8th – Saturday 13th	Pat's Art Box: art exhibition and sales (see p.3)
Monday 8th	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnese, Hampton & Littlewood. 10 am. To 12 noon (see p.3)
Monday 15th	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4-6 pm.
Monday 15 th – Saturday 27th	Arts and Crafts Show with Nancy and Victor (see p.6)
Tuesday 30 th – Saturday June 3rd	Art Exhibition 'Carnival of the Imagination' (see p.6) (it is worth checking whether the House is open on BH Monday too)
Coming in June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family History Discovery Day in the Public Hall (see p.5) • Heritage Exhibition on Luxstowe House (see p.7) • Furniture Week ('hands on' techniques and demonstrations) • Pat's Art Box • Diabel Cissokho in concert (Sunday 25th) • Art and Soul exhibition (see p.7)

*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