

# Newsletter

May 2022

## Our Chairman, Bob Hollingdale, gives some updates from Trustees

Among the agenda items at our recent meeting were several which we would particularly like to share.



The fascinating exhibition about the ancient Egyptians, with items for sale (see p.2)

Firstly, congratulations and thank you to Jenny and Jean for the wonderful Egyptians exhibition and to Brian Oldham and OCS for their 'pop up' display in reception.

Both events have received well-deserved "rave reviews".

If you haven't yet bought a copy of Brian's book "A Peek into Liskeard's Past" then we



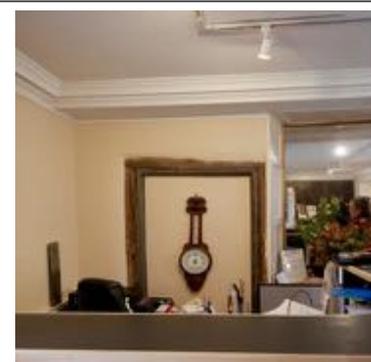
Reception transformed into display space on April 9<sup>th</sup> (see p.2)

heartily recommend you get one. Available at Stuart House!

At present the House is closed on a Wednesday and some Saturdays. We would very much like to open on a Wednesday but this can only happen if we have volunteer help. If you think this could be you please get in touch with Sioux, our House Manager.

On behalf of the House we were pleased to receive from the family of the late David Howard - who was a Trustee for many years - a grandfather clock, a mantel clock and a barometer. All three are presently being brought back to full working condition.

As our Chairman, I recently attended a meeting concerning a Cultural Strategy for Liskeard. This brought together representatives from a number of groups and organisations who have similar interests in art, music, drama and heritage. The gist of the meeting was that various bodies should not be in competition but should look to harness ideas and not operate in isolation. A further meeting has been scheduled when it should become clearer what opportunities may be available to Stuart House.



The barometer, now in the mysterious door frame in Reception

## EVENTS IN THE PAST MONTH

The Ancient Egyptians Exhibition ran for three weeks in April. House Manager Sioux writes:



**“the Ancient Egyptians Exhibition** was a resounding success with a stream of families passing through. The two craft events were great fun with a couple of the youngsters even arriving in costume. It proved so successful that we have extended it for another week or two, for any of you that may not have had the opportunity to visit yet, with items for sale, including jewellery and the very popular bags, moved to the shop in the Surgery.”



**The Shop in the Surgery** has drawn visitors in. Our House Manager, and the organiser of the Shop, Sioux, writes:

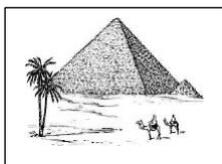
“our Easter Art Crafts and Gift shop has been well received and gives hope for the way forward after the last two years’ restrictions. The items that were on sale in the Egyptians Exhibition have now moved down to join the goodies, with different items coming in for the new month”. Several of the craftspeople have acted as stewards, including Mandy, a ceramicist.

**Liskeard Old Cornwall Society’s ‘pop up’ exhibition** worked very well in Reception as the photograph on the front page shows. This meant that Sioux did not have to move everything out of the shop in the Surgery for the Saturday morning! The collection of photographs of old Liskeard is simply fascinating, and LOCS President Brian Oldham answered a lot of questions and sold a few more copies of his book, which had already gone into a re-print!

A reminder that Liskeard’s Old Cornwall Society has its base in the Treccarrel Room on the top floor of the House. Its weekly open day for visitors is now Tuesday, as the House is currently closed on Wednesdays.



## EVENTS COMING IN MAY (and later)



### The Exhibition on the Ancient Egyptians

continues into May (see p.2)  
and .....

**advance information** – Jenny and Jean are planning further exhibitions – maybe something on optical illusions before too long and perhaps next year a return to a local theme with something on smugglers! They also hope to present another poppy themed exhibition in November.

Watch this space!

££££££

### FUND RAISING SALE

££££££

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May to Saturday 4th June**

#### Organiser and House Manager Sioux explains:

“after the last two years, our funds have been seriously depleted. We will be having a sale to raise funds for the House and I am looking for clean, good quality items, be they books, crockery, etc (no clothing please) that can be sold for the coffers.

I will also be looking for volunteers to steward the sale. At this stage it is for two weeks from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

All items should be brought into the House by Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May please. That will give us a chance to sort and price items and get them displayed in a pleasing manner. Thank you in advance for any help you can give to this venture”.

### Liskeard Old Cornwall Society Exhibition

**‘In Celebration of a Seventy Year Reign’.**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday 11th June**



The Old Cornwall Society exhibition will hold memories of the Queen’s visit to Liskeard. There will be pictures of the Queen’s coronation and how Liskeard celebrated the day, and photographs of the Queen’s Visit to Liskeard.

There will be other interesting memorabilia on show, including some from the Queen’s picnic and Buckingham Palace on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012. Stuart House crafters will contribute to the display.

House Manager Sioux adds “our Cream Teas are back on the menu, right in time for the Liskeard Old Cornwall Society’s exhibition “In Celebration of a 70 Year Reign” in the Jane Room for Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June. The Stuart House Craft Group have been knitting away, and we will have a very unusual Tea Party presentation. We look forward to what promises to be an informative, fun exhibition”.



### Book Sale

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 11th June**

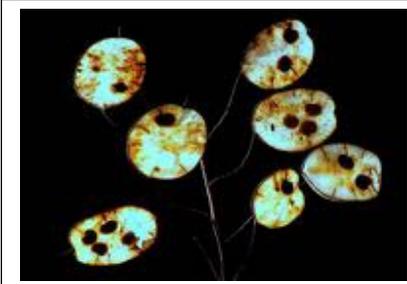


Liskeard author Mark Simmons will be selling his own books together with a wide range of second-hand and collectable books covering a number of subjects and prices.

## May's Thoughts from our Garden's Overseer



Before the first Covid lockdown, packets of Honesty seed were available in the Stuart House café, saved from plants in the garden. During the prolonged closure of the House, I scattered some of this seed in the border by the shed. Honesty seed can be relied upon to remain viable for long periods and the plants will grow under a wide range of conditions. At the moment there are about a dozen vigorous plants in that spot, which throughout April produced a wealth of mauve blooms. From May onwards these are replaced with their characteristic flat seed pods, green at first but then changing to translucent moon-like discs. This explains the Genus name: Lunaria. It can be grown as an annual from an early sowing but is far better treated as a biennial. Seed sown in June and July quickly produces plants that withstand even the most bitter winter weather without any protection. (It is a native of the Balkans and eastern Europe so is well used to coping with such conditions.) The seed pods comprise three thin papery films. The outer two dry and shrivel,



allowing the seeds to fall out, leaving the long-lasting central membrane, beloved by flower arrangers for winter decorations. Older common names include moonwort, satin flower, and money plant (the membranes also resemble silvery coins). The 16<sup>th</sup> century herbalist John Gerard wrote that "among women it is called honesty" – presumably because one can see right through the seed pods, and this is the name that has stuck. An abundance of seed should be produced this summer, packets of which will again be available on the café windowsill.

On the indoor café windowsill there's a wafty, multi-branched, succulent potted plant. I've been asked the name of this: it's *Rhipsalis cereuscula*. I took a small cutting from someone's plant some thirty years ago, and have propagated them ever since; they produce roots on their stems which are trimmed and potted, so very easy. In spring, little white flowers are produced at the ends of the growing tips. There are several *Rhipsalis* species which make excellent, unfussy, indoor plants. They are epiphytic forest cactuses from South America, therefore not hardy.

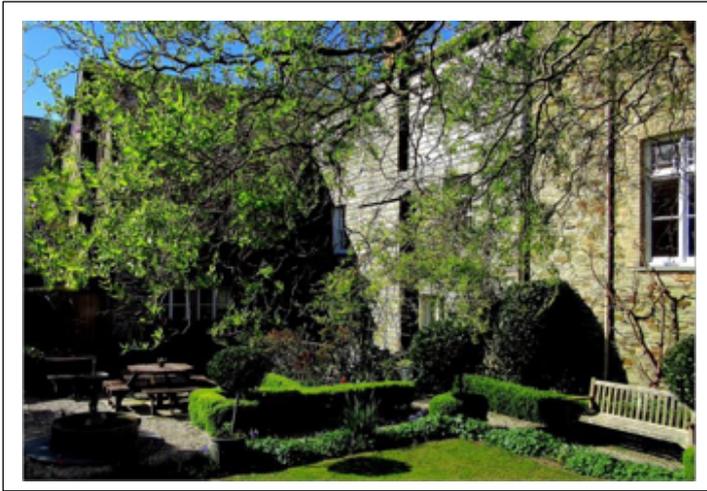


(Epiphytic means they like to grow in the nook of a tree in partially filtered sun or shade.) A suitable growing medium for pot growing is peat-free compost with a little soil and grit/perlite mixed in. There's little need to water in winter. From time to time I have a couple of young plants to spare, so if anyone would like to reserve one, please do ask. Otherwise they can be obtained from tropical plant suppliers online.



A few years ago a magnificent yellow hollyhock grew in the garden, an Antwerp "oak leaf" type that is largely resistant to that unsightly fungal rust that is so prevalent. It produced a huge quantity of seeds which were also available in the café. Rummaging through my seed box recently, I found one of the packets and sowed them in a seed tray. Within a few days, about two dozen seedlings appeared. I'll grow them on and plant some in the garden: it will be interesting to see if they breed true to colour. Hollyhocks are native to China and central Asia. Plant historians tell us that they were introduced to Britain in around 1300 by Eleanor of Castile, a keen gardener and queen to Edward I (he who invented the title of Prince of Wales).

*continued on p.5 .....*



In April and May, the Stuart House garden is often at its best, vividly green, with additional colour provided by tulips, potted violas, and the Euryops Daisy Bush. A friend of mine calls this the Magic Bush on account of its continuous display of bright yellow daisies from March until at least mid-summer. In the gravel paths, there are of course the usual plethora of self-sown plants and weed seedlings. Many foxgloves have appeared this year, which have been dug up and planted around the garden. It's always interesting to let one's gaze linger on emerging seedlings on paths, in cracks and corners (how quickly one learns to recognise them) because unusual sorts sometime appear, making one wonder how they got there. I recently found a determined little seedling that I didn't recognise at all, in the path near the shed. I carefully eked it out and potted it up. Progress will be reported.

Thank you, Linda Losty, for bringing in a clump of snowdrops from the late Dave Howard's garden. These have been planted in the rose bed, and

hopefully will reappear next Spring. The same day, I read a short news story of a Ukrainian woman who had returned home to find her house and garden wrecked. But there, near the doorway, scrambling up through a pile of rubble, were snowdrops, in flower, welcoming.

*Malcolm Mort*

*(All the photographs of the garden, including the violas on the table, below, are by Malcolm)*



## **STUART HOUSE GARDEN CLUB**

had its first meeting of the year on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, and the talking was about trees.

The next meeting, which may be linked with a visit, is on

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May from 11am until 1pm**

**ALL WELCOME**



Contact Val Moore 01579 228518 or via the House if you would like to find out more

## More Memories from the Minutes from Hon. Sec. Sue Glencross

**2000 continued** .... The next committee meeting took place on 10<sup>th</sup> May by which time the repairs to the south wall had been carried out and the notice board put up in the porch. A doorbell had been installed and was functioning. Four individual sub-committees were formed: House & Gardens; Events & Exhibition Planning; Financial; and Archives. A sub-committee would convene to review the rental rates including reduction for weekly hire.



*The King's Bed, now in the Tudor Room on the top floor, is not roped off from the public, although CCTV will capture activity! The bed itself is traditionally roped to support the mattresses - you can see this on the frame.*

It was suggested that a Garden Party be held during Museum Fortnight – probably on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Some thought would be given as to who should be invited. There would be a preview day for the Celtic Art Exhibition on 13<sup>th</sup> August. Suggestions of grants and free or reduced parking could be made to the District Council. A school textiles exhibition would be held during August. Eileen had written to PCAD suggesting the House could be used for exhibitions. It was suggested that a telephone answerphone be installed in the House as Louise Kidd (who had been responsible for taking bookings at Painters) was busier during the summer months. Posts and ropes would appear to be necessary in the King's Chamber to prevent 'over enthusiastic use of the bed' (??!!!).

Not good news at the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> June: a damp patch on the top floor was causing concern due to a leak in the lateral chimney stack on the east wall. Repairs would cost in the region of £3,000. Tony Wood had lodged an application for a grant from the County Environmental Trust for £4,000 to pay for that and sundry items of ironwork. The outcome should be known early July. Tony needed help in the garden and Mrs Powell (Liskeard Town Council) had volunteered. Jean Wills had made a start on the archives and asked for any appropriate material to be passed to her. Many events had been planned for the future by the Events sub-committee.

to be continued.....

More publicity for the Grand Family History & Local History Day on Saturday 18th June. The event is organised by the South East Cornwall Museums' Forum, of which Stuart House is an active member (editor Rachel is its secretary). It's a brilliant day, not simply for those interested in family history, but also for those interested in what other heritage centres and organisations offer.

Any help 'manning' our stall would be much appreciated – please contact Rachel (see back page)

Rachel and possibly others from the House are attending a 'Green Museums' workshop at the start of May and will bring back ideas on how Stuart House can be as 'green' as possible.

**South East Cornwall Museums Forum**  
In our 5<sup>th</sup> 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	Devon Family History Society
The Bartlett	Elliotts Store T.P.S. Saltash
Lawrence House, Launceston	Lostwithiel U3a. Local History Group
Linkinhorne History & Community Archive	Looe Harbour Heritage Centre
Lostwithiel Museum	Yealmpton Books
Stuart House, Liskeard	<b>NAAFI CANTEN</b>

**Home made refreshments**  
**FREE Day - open to all** Info - 01752 847800

# Diary of Events

## May 2022



Continuing till 20 <sup>th</sup> May (tbc)	The Egyptians Exhibition in the Gallery ( <i>see p.2</i> )
Tuesdays 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup>	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4.30 pm.
every Thursday	Craft Club: all welcome 12 noon to 3pm.
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4 to 6.30pm.
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Garden Club 11am to 1pm ( <i>arrangements t.b.c., see p.5</i> )
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnas, Hampton & Littlewood. 10am. to 12 noon
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> to Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Fund Raising Sale in the Gallery ( <i>see p.3</i> )
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> to June 11 <sup>th</sup>	'Celebration of a 70 year Reign' Liskeard Old Cornwall Society ( <i>see p.3</i> )
May 30 <sup>th</sup> onwards	Shop in the Surgery throughout June, July and August
<b>Coming in June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> : Mark Simmons Book Sale (<i>see p.3</i>)</li> <li>• 30<sup>th</sup> June to 9<sup>th</sup> July: Craft Fair in the Gallery</li> </ul>

*The House, Garden, Old Kitchen Café and (check first) Computer Research Facility  
are open  
9.30am – 3.30pm on Monday Tuesday, Thursday and Friday  
(other days too if there is a special exhibition on)*

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)