

November 2017

**Garden rated outstanding
In South West Awards (p. 5)**



**Sealed Knot at the Fair
St Matthews Fair (p. 3)**



**Weatherspoons next door
work in progress.**



**George Vaughan-Ellis
Memorial Lecture and Dinner**

Thursday 16th November 7.30pm.

Paul Holden

**House and Collections Manager at Lanhydrock
'Researching the Cornish Country House'**

More details and tickets £20 from the House
Soup, roast chicken with roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables or vegetarian option, fruit crumble,
tea or coffee



Leaflet Sponsored by Coodes
Honorary Solicitors to Stuart House Trust

Sue's News of October's Trustees' Meeting: Policies & Procedures!

We met with a storm outside, to the sound of parts of the loosened hoarding next door rattling in the wind: all reported, but we were very relieved indeed when workers returned to secure it safely.

Our own Health & Safety Policy, Safeguarding Policy, and Equality & Diversity Policy have now been adopted. Conspicuous by its absence is the section in our Health & Safety Policy which deals purely with fire risk, evacuation etc. That is because it is still work in progress pending updating of our fire risk assessment and professional advice on our current firefighting equipment. Do rest assured, however, that there are currently alarms and an evacuation procedure in place. Please do ask Sioux to let you see the policies which are in a folder in the reception room. In due course volunteers will receive an induction on Health & Safety matters. More about that in due course.

Can I please remind everyone of the fact that no one is permitted to bring electrical items to remain in the House unless they have been PAT tested (Portable Appliance Testing). A list is being compiled of all electrical items currently in the House and we are arranging their testing. The testing rules also include extension leads. Once that has been done, any electrical item which appears which does not bear the appropriate labelling will unfortunately have to be removed.

During the Christmas closure, the trustees will be meeting to remove all unnecessary items and clutter from the House. As you will all know, storage is very limited and space at a premium. The House is now used much more than ever before and we are conscious of the fact that some items either present an obstacle or are in themselves a health and safety risk. If you have left any item in the House then I would ask you please to remove it prior to Christmas close-down. It very often happens that with the best will in the world, items will be donated to us and simply left. If any items come to light which do not belong to the House and are extraneous to our needs, unfortunately we will have to remove them.

I am aware of the fact that very often what I have to report may seem to be over-cautious: it is the way of the world these days I am afraid. We have to be safety conscious and also have to comply with all the requirements of our insurers. Happy Days!

Sue Glencross, Hon. Sec.

Awards for Carole Vivian

We are delighted to share this news with our readers.

Carole Vivian, one of the Founder Members of the Stuart House Trust, was this year awarded the Richard Trant Memorial award of the Cornwall Heritage Trust. This is awarded to an 'unsung hero or heroine who gives time and energy in a voluntary capacity, making a significant contribution to Cornwall's Heritage'. Specifically, Carole's award was for 'establishing and organising the Cornwall Association of Local Historians (CALH) as well as presenting talks and tours all over the county'.



Carol is current Chairman of the CALH, which some Stuart House members might not know much about and would be interested in finding out more. The website is www.calh.co.uk

Last year Carole was awarded the St Piran Cross by Bishop Tim Thornton, which is for service to church, parish or wider community.

More news of our associated organisations

- **Liskeard Old Cornwall Society** 'The Lighter Side of the First World War' – talk by Di Lawer. Friday 10th November 2.30pm, Long Room, Public Hall.
- **Caradon Heritage Project** AGM with talk before by Brian Oldham 'Historic Tales of Liskeard's Buildings'. Thursday 30th November 7.30pm, Long Room, Public Hall.
- **Sterts Theatre** – we have no flier for this edition, but do check their website for evens ; www.sterts.co.uk

Stuart House on St Matthew's Fair Day



On Liskeard's St Matthew's Fair Day, Saturday 30th September (too late in the month for coverage in the last Newsletter) the House welcomed many visitors and was full of life. Chairman Bob sold his own marmalade and pickled onions, raising a significant amount of money for the House. House Manager Sioux donned Stuart dress and oversaw all practical



arrangements, as ever. The café was buzzing and the Shop did a good trade and we thank all the volunteers who stayed all day. The Camera Club's ongoing exhibition in the Gallery attracted interest.



The Sealed Knot Society
in the Garden



gave demonstrations of crafts and cooking, as well as impressively loud and co-ordinated musket fire.

In the Jane and King's Rooms, the **'Come and Draw' event** attracted confident and less-confident artists of all ages, including family groups, and we thank artist Perry for her organization and encouragement.



The Stuart House Garden : 'OUTSTANDING'

We were thrilled to hear that the Garden had been given 'Outstanding' (the highest possible award!) in the South West in Bloom Awards presented in Torquay in October. Liskeard achieved highly too for its town centre and Fore Street Traders displays, and we are proud to be part of a town with such an active and successful 'Liskeard in Bloom' team.

To quote from the Judges' Report

"Liskeard should be proud of its heritage and Stuart House is a good example of the Town's Heritage. It is a real hidden gem and Malcolm should be congratulated on the work that he carries out in maintaining the garden to such a high standard; it was a delight to visit."



Malcolm with the great team of volunteers: Lynette, Judith, Gill and Liz (Wendy and David could not be there) were congratulated by the trustees at a special celebration.

October's Thoughts from our Garden's Overseer

Small changes can transform places, as the before and after photographs show. The attractive Goat Willow tree that had grown up so quickly the other side of the rear fence at Stuart House garden, together with the dense buddleia that had provided such embracing shade and cosiness in the summer, have been felled to make way for the new building. So at the moment the garden feels open and exposed. The only plant next door now is the earth moving sort. Plus, of course, the magnolia tree which thankfully is surrounded by temporary protective screens. We are promised a brick wall, 2m (7ft) high between our garden and the new neighbours. This will not belong to Stuart House, but hopefully we will be allowed to attach a trellis for a thornless rose or an evergreen climber. (There are some good sorts on various walls at Lanhydrock and Cotehele which will be investigated.) Or, we could plant a tree to create a taller screen, such as a Sorbus or crab apple. Something that has a good shape, doesn't get out of hand, that has flowers, berries and interesting leaves that turn red and gold in the autumn. Suggestions from readers are still sought.

Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*) is similar to Buddleia, Hypericum and Lycesteria in that it has a habit of popping up on vacant ground or between cracks anywhere, even when there have been no signs of any parents in the neighbourhood. These are true pioneer plants eager to return the world to a woody, biodiverse tangle. Goat willow is commonly called the "great willow", whilst its related cousin, the Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*) is the "common willow". Both species are also called "pussy willow" as their silky grey female flowers resemble cats' paws. These trees can be quite difficult to identify because they are polymorphic. This means they readily hybridise with each other (and with other willow species), and can vary hugely in their size, some being tall trees, some bushes. Leaf shape and hue can be quite variable too. Although they prefer damp locations, they'll also grow in scrubby places.



Before and after the removal of the buddleia and goat willow on the boundary

They seem to be colonising all sides of the Dobwalls bypass, and some are even thriving in fissures in the rock face at Moorswater created when the road was widened. Their trunks, although slender, can be very tough, producing wood suitable for making clothes pegs. The bark of all willows contains salicylic acid which is used for making aspirin. Goat willow is traditionally grown for goats. This means they are probably headache-free, though their grazing habits often cause environmental headaches.

The Duchess of Cornwall shrub roses in the front garden are supposed to have a maximum height of about a metre (40”), but two of them seem to want to turn into ramblers. In recent weeks they have produced stems which have shot skyward, even producing flowers at their tips. These are not coming from the rootstock on which the plants were originally grafted, but from the rose itself. I am told that these are called “water shoots”. However, an internet trawl tells us that such shoots are usually thin and spindly, quite the opposite from the strong thrusting stems coming from the roses.

In the quest to compile a definitive list of plants that are not touched by slugs and snails, someone asked me what those plants have that makes them unpalatable. Well, prickly or hairy leaves seem to act as a deterrent, but one would have thought that the succulent begonia leaves would be a real treat – yet they are left quite alone. Do they have chemicals that are toxic to molluscs that we don’t know about? And how would *they* know? Ah, “instinct” I hear you say. But I’ve never understood this phenomena or how it is transmitted. Anyway, do please keep sending in suggestions of plants in your garden that you find have remained uneaten at the end of this damp growing season. Michaelmas daisies are also said to be immune to attack. These are autumn flowers that would look good at Stuart House, so if anyone has plants to spare (modern sorts that have larger flowers and which don’t grow too tall), they would be most welcome indeed.

Malcolm Mort



A message from Val Moore

The next meeting of the
GARDENING CLUB
will be Monday 13th
November 11am. to 1pm.

Liskeard School and Community College Music Department at Stuart House, Sunday 15th October, 2017. Our Stuart House Concert Series co-ordinator, Angela Wunnam writes



The hoped-for photograph of the young performers has not materialised (blame half-term?!) so this is another of Malcolm's photographs – maybe readers can work out their own link! (ed.)

A capacity audience enjoyed the magnificent performances by 17 students, aged from 11 to 17, facilitated by the joint Heads of Department: Jane Warwick and Mark Bond. Mark has just joined the team this term. As always there is clearly a fantastic relationship between the students and teachers. The musical styles ranged from jazz to rock to classical and much in between.

The performance started with the Jazz Group accompanied by Jane Warwick, with audience shouts of '**Tequila**' at the right point. Harry Nicholls played guitar, Aislinn Maslen flute, Abi Gubbin saxophone, Rudi Harrison-Ward cornet, Maddy Edge clarinet and Abigail Jones (her first year and after just two rehearsals) cornet. For their second piece they played **We Built this City**, showing a great ability to listen to each other and play musically and rhythmically.

The programme was full of contrasts. The next performer was Harry Edwards on keyboard playing a piece by Einaudi, the popular modern composer. He played confidently and sensitively, capturing the essence of the piece.

Willow Prizeman, a GCSE student who loves writing songs, performed her own song, **Pick me up**, which she had recorded in a studio with full instrumental accompaniment. Today Jane was her sole accompanist. As Jane said 'You always know a good song when it sticks in your mind.'

Next came by Jamie Shaftoe, who is learning classical guitar. He played **Song of the Mountains** with a lovely tone and very good right-hand technique. A first ever public performance is often quite daunting, but he played very well indeed with no sign of nerves.

The next great contrast was Tom Young, Cameron May and Alfie Phillips who have formed a rock band with one bass guitar and two electric guitars. They played **Master of Puppets** and gracefully agreed to reduce their normal volume level for Stuart House! They clearly demonstrated great technique and ability to play together and enhance their joint musicality.

Another GCSE student, Aislinn Maslen, then created a further magical contrast by beautifully playing **Sicilienne** on the flute, accompanied by Jane Warwick.

Maddy Edge, who has played clarinet in the Jazz Group, sang a sophisticated song, **New Life**, from the musical **Jekyll and Hyde** with great professionalism and musicality.

Rudi Harrison-Ward, Natasha Humphries, Georgie Butler and Plum Butler performed a song from the coming School and Community College musical, **School of Rock**. Andrew Lloyd Webber has recently released this for performance by schools without paying royalties.

Josh Bevan jumped up to play the keyboard, telling us he did not come from Cornwall and was a risk-taker. He had written out the titles of pieces he could play, either by memory or by improvising and asked one of the audience to shuffle the papers and show the titles to him one-by-one when they felt he should change tunes! Josh rose to the challenge

and gave a great performance. As he returned to his place he could be heard saying, 'That's the last time I do that!'

The Jazz Group then returned, accompanied by Jane Warwick, to perform a difficult piece called ***Funk Out***, especially demanding on Rudi Harrison-Ward the cornet player, with so many high and fast notes. He demonstrated his ability by superbly rising to the challenge.

Josh Conway who plays the piano, violin and cello already, came and beautifully sang ***Somewhere over the Rainbow***, demonstrating excellent singing skills. He was accompanied by Jane on the keyboard, the Jazz Group and Harry Nicholls on glockenspiel.

Moving towards the finale of the afternoon, Ethan Willett on guitar accompanied Rosie Ugalde who sang some amazing songs. Rosie has recently won through to semi-finals of the UK Open Mic competition.

The end of the splendid afternoon was Josh Conway on the keyboard playing some amazing and advanced jazz, complete with runs and spectacular improvisations, very ably accompanied by Ethan Willett on electric guitar. They continued to play the audience out of the room and down to the refreshments below.

The House hummed with delight having experienced the remarkable abilities of the Music Department. We thank all involved at the School and Community College for all the hard work and preparation that went into giving us this superb afternoon.

Angela Wunnam



STUART HOUSE CONCERT SERIES

Alison Smith, classical guitar

Sunday 19th November, 2.30pm. £7

We are excited to welcome Alison back to Stuart House. Her programme includes works by Chopin, Weiss, Mertz, Barrios, Lovelady and George Shearing. Alison has performed nationwide and in Europe, produced two acclaimed CD albums, *Recuerdos* and *Incandescent*, and has exciting plans for future recordings.

www.alisonsmithguitar.com

"enthralling ... sheer virtuosity ... superb technique and sensitivity ... a masterclass played with friendly charm and sublime expertise"

International Guitar Festival of Great Britain.

You may read this in time to remember

Brighten Up an October Afternoon

Ilow Splann in concert - Sunday 29th October 2.30pm. £7

The musical duo of Carlton Crouch and Maggie Wilmott perform early music and traditional Cornish music. Some repeats from their 'Mediaeval Night' which was such a joy last month, and some new material.

Complementary refreshments include 'olde cake'!

Events in the Max Lock Gallery in October



Carol's **Craft Club** is now meeting regularly in the House, although the room used may vary. All are welcome.



Pat's Art Box with LinoShed returned for a week in October. New works on exhibition and for sale include more wintery scenes – snowfalls on beaches and on Exeter Cathedral are the subject of two to the paintings shown here. Hanging was ready for the Liskeard School Concert, and much appreciated by the audience. Pat returns for another week at the end of November into December.

The West Country Embroiderers had just begun their exhibition when this Newsletter went to press (so more to come in the next one). **It runs until Saturday 28th October.** The photograph shows beautiful pieces made to commemorate very different events of the past 20 years, as 2017 marks the 20th anniversary of the W.C.Es.



NEW WEEKLY:

CRAFT CLUB

AT STUART HOUSE
BEGINNING ON THURSDAY 21ST
SEPTEMBER 2017,
OPEN FROM NOON TO 3PM

(ANY AND EVERY TYPE OF CRAFTER/MAKER OF STUFF WELCOME: SEWING, CARDMAKING, DECOUPAGE, BEADWORK, PYROGRAPHY, RUGMAKING ETC., WHATEVER YOU MAKE, COME AND SHARE IT WITH US.)

ALL CRAFTERS WELCOME, ALL LEVELS FROM BEGINNER TO EXPERT, THE MORE THE MERRIER!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL CAROL ON: 0758 592 0126



EVENTS COMING TO THE GALLERY IN NOVEMBER

An Exhibition of
Landscapes & Seascapes
in Oils by
Alan Kingwell



At Stuart House, Liskeard
30th October until 4th November
2017
www.alankingwellworkshopsandtutorials.co.uk

Alan Kingwell's exhibition will continue until 4th November. He will also be giving demonstrations of oil-painting techniques. As the article in the last Newsletter said, Alan, who has been a professional artist since 1985, holds regular oil painting workshops.



INSPIRE
... we are a group of enthusiastic textile artists mentored by Nina Humphreys

Creative Textile Exhibition

Tuesday 7th - Saturday 11th
November 2017
at
Stuart House, Liskeard

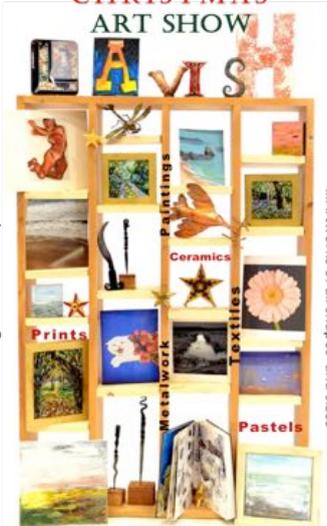
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
10am - 4pm
Late night Friday 10am - 7pm
Saturday 10am - 12noon

.... come and have a little look and get inspired yourself

Pat's Art Box with LinoShed returns from November 27th to December 2nd (see p.8)

Nancy's Sale of Christmas Cards and Decorations will be in the Max Lock Gallery from November 13th to 18th - a great opportunity for getting ready for Christmas!

Carnival of the Imagination presents a
LAVISH CHRISTMAS ART SHOW



Beautiful and original Christmas presents...
...Artworks of all shapes and sizes

Prints
Ceramics
Textiles
Metalwork
Pastels

At Stuart House, Barras St., Liskeard
20th - 24th November 9.30-3.30 + Saturday 25th 9.30-12.30
ADMISSION FREE...CAFÉ  L lavish Christmas Art Show

Carnival of the Imagination return after their superb exhibition earlier in the year. Textiles, Ceramics, Prints, Metalwork, Paintings and Pastels. Beautiful and original Christmas presents and artworks of all shapes and sizes .. a
Lavish Christmas Art Show

The George Vaughan-Ellis memorial dinner and lecture will be in the Gallery on Thursday 16th November (see front page)

Diary of Events

November 2017



Continuing until Saturday 4th	Alan Kingwell Art Exhibition (see p.9)
Monday 6 th to Saturday 11th	'Inspire' textiles exhibition (see p.9)
Tuesday 7 th Tuesday 21 th	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4 pm.
Monday 13 th to Saturday 18th	Christmas Cards and Decorations sale.
Monday 13th	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4-6 pm.
Thursday 16th	George Vaughan-Ellis Memorial talk and dinner (see p.1)
Sunday 19th	Alison Smith, classical guitar. Concert in the Gallery 2.30 pm. Tickets £7 from reception, include refreshments and a chance to talk with the performer afterwards (see p.7)
Monday 20 th to Saturday 25th	Carnival of the Imagination: a "lavish" Christmas exhibition (see p.9)
Wednesday 22nd	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnes, Hampton & Littlewood. 10 am. to 12 noon.
Monday 27 th to Saturday 2 nd December	Pat's Art Box with LinoShed: art exhibition and sales (see p.8)
Coming in December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Fair, with the House decorated for Christmas, including for Liskeard Lights Up and the Cornish Christmas (Nadelik Lyskerrys) events • House shut from 21st December to January 15th

*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

!!! The next edition of the Newsletter will cover both December 2017 and January 2018. !!!
Copy for both months to the editor on or before 24th November, please.