

October 2017



LISKEARD UNLOCKED : Heritage Open Days.

These days were a great success for both the town and for Stuart House. We opened our Secret Passage (as we did in 2015), and over the Friday and Saturday a total of 218 visitors, including 26



children, came to have a look and to hear information and speculation about who might have used it and why. The Old Cornwall Society on the top floor was very busy too. We had to keep the garden shut



because of dust and debris from the building work next door, which was a pity, but even so the café did a roaring trade. The editor's 'Discover Liskeard's Doors' exhibition in the lead up to the Open Days seemed to have whetted people's interest too.

(We did let Hon. Sec. Sue out of the Secret passage!)

WEATHERSPOON'S BEGINS BUILDING!

After years of uncertainty, our new next-door neighbours, have begun work on their site. Occasionally Stuart House has shuddered with the impact of the machinery, especially when the petrol tanks were being removed. One morning they cut our water pipe – luckily the coffee and the water urn were already on in the café, so we (justifiably) trusted those on-site to sort it out and stayed open. Pictures on p.2.



Leaflet Sponsored by Coodes
 Honorary Solicitors to Stuart House Trust

Sue's News

We are currently concentrating on reviewing our Health & Safety Policy, which includes Fire safety. This and other essential policies (including the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults and the Equal Opportunities policy) will be finalised at our October meeting and will then immediately be implemented. Copies will be placed in a folder in the Steward's Reception Room and will be available to be read by anyone at any time.

We continually strive to ensure the wellbeing and safety not only of our members, but also, of course, of other visitors to the House.

I have received communications over the past few weeks in which some have voiced concern on some matters. Rest assured that if you put concerns in writing (no matter what they are) they will be dealt with and you will receive a reply. One Lifetime Member asked what would happen to his Lifetime Membership on our conversion to a CIO and I was able to reassure him that he would then simply be a Lifetime 'Friend'. No subscription will be sought from Lifetime Members and transfer will be automatic.

The same correspondent also asked if the Max Lock Gallery was now simply called 'The Gallery'. The use of the word 'Gallery' when we refer to it is simply a generic word. The Gallery is and always will be The Max Lock Gallery and indeed there is a nameplate on the door. None of us should ever forget the generosity of those whose legacies enabled the development of House to become the Arts & Heritage Centre which we all now enjoy. Many of you will aware of the reasons behind the naming of the various rooms in the House but for the benefit of new members we will be giving an explanation. Trustee Dave Howard is currently researching the subject.

Sometimes we have to deal with complaints. Occasionally we find someone has an issue which makes them unhappy or uncomfortable. Tell us in writing and we will do our best to solve the problem. In short - as I keep stressing to you - our future policy will be to have more open meetings and to encourage transparency. We are here to make your Stuart House experience an enjoyable and safe one. We wish to encourage mutual friendship and respectful discussion.

A great part of this month's meeting centred around re-organisation both within the building itself and in the way that our meetings are conducted. There is now so much going on that we are set to delegate decision making on various aspects to individual trustees or groups of trustees. Those individuals or groups will then simply report electronically prior to our meetings so that the meetings themselves can feature important administrative matters which need to be put in place and strategic matters which require all trustees' input. We are all encompassing the electronic age! We are also striving to become paperless.

Sue Glencross, Hon. Sec.



Look at our South Wall while you can.



Little wonder the neighbours get dusty!

Ilow Splann's Mediaeval Night on Saturday 16th September.



An appreciative audience of approaching 30 thoroughly enjoyed this evening both musically and socially. Doors opened at six, with the coming and going throughout the evening producing the intended relaxed atmosphere. People listened in the Gallery while the three sets of music were performed, chatted between pieces, or moved to the Jane

Room (where the 'Discover Liskeard's Doors' exhibition was re-hung for the night) for more conversation.

The Gallery was laid out to suit the occasion with exhibitions, including a specially created panel of photographs of Tintagel and Restormel Castles and books referring to the mediaeval period (some purchased specially) for browsing. A clavichord

(unfortunately in need of repair) was brought in as of possible interest to early music enthusiasts. Musicians and revelers (including Sarah and Zac) in medieval costume added to the colourful sense of occasion. Victor baked very tasty flans and tarts from old recipes (with modern ingredients), Maggie also prepared food including an excellent variety of sweet and buttery cakes,

peppered ginger bread and tarts, and Eileen provided wine (and the photographs of the event).

Ilow Splann had researched and arranged early music and re-arranged Cornish dance tunes to suit the mediaeval and early music atmosphere. Maggie's use of gut violin strings enhanced the early music sound as did the addition of her drum and Carlton's cornmussen and bouzouki playing. Jan helped with some extra drumming. The event started with a fanfaresque bagpipe and recorder duet "Horses Brawl" The first two sets of music mixed mediaeval music with Cornish folk tunes before heading to the Elizabethan era and then to 18th-century Morval in the third set.

Carlton thanks those who put in so much skill and effort in various ways, and hopes there will be support for other such events in the future. We thank Carlton for his initiative and continued enthusiasm after the cancellation of the original Mediaeval Feast, and, of course, for the musical pleasure that Ilow Splann performances bring.

Another chance to hear Ilow Splann in concert at Stuart House

Sunday 29th October 2.30pm

Tickets £7 from the House or Tourist Information Office

Some of the pieces from the Mediaeval Night can be heard again, but there will be different material too. Dressing up is welcome, and there will be some more baking from old recipes to sample.

🎵 Liskeard School concert - Sunday 15th October 2.30 pm see p. 5 🎵

October's Thoughts from Our Garden's Overseer



I called into the garden after a week away to find it transformed. It looked brighter and whiter. The disappearance of the buildings next door is allowing in extra light, whilst a patina of gritty white mortar dust covered everything – plants, pots, tables, chairs, mirror - like an early eerie hoar frost. Many of the doves and pigeons that had for years roosted in the now demolished structures were perched on Stuart House roof, seeming dazed and perplexed.

The magnolia tree over the fence which, in these past few years has extended its reach into the Stuart House garden is protected by a Tree Preservation Order so cannot be touched. Also next door near the fence is a self-sown Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*). These are good colonisers and in just six years or so the tree has grown to be as tall as the magnolia. The Woodland Trust say: "Goat

Willow foliage is eaten by the caterpillars of a number of moths, including the Sallow Kitten, Sallow Clearwing, Dusky Clearwing and Lunar Hornet Clearwing. It is also the main food plant for the Purple Emperor butterfly. Catkins provide an important early source of pollen and nectar for bees and other insects, and birds use Goat Willow to forage for caterpillars and other insects." It is a very common tree in Cornwall and widely used for coppicing. It's made a fine contribution in screening out the old garage buildings. Will it stay?



Despite all the palaver going on next door, the garden still looks summery. Colour continues to be provided by *Schizostylis* (Kaffir lilies), perennial rudbekias, and Japanese anemones. For those who want a brightly coloured autumn garden, these last two mentioned are excellent choices: add *heliopsis* for more yellow. Cut them all down after flowering and they'll return the following August, carrying on well into October. Still going strong at the end of the season are the begonias and fuchsias including those in pots on the tables. The dainty orange flowers on the café windowsills are begonia "*Sutherlandii*" introduced here in 1860 from Tanzania. They like warmth and dampness so must have felt quite at home this summer. All the flowers mentioned above are, thankfully, ignored by slugs and snails.

The Duchess of Cornwall roses in the front garden produced a September flush of blooms. These look quite different from the dense pink flowers of high summer, now having a looser structure and a more apricot colour.



The yellow rambling thornless rose over the rear porch has grown like Topsy this summer and has thrown out a large number of long waving laterals. My grandson Ethan (12) suggested that a few of these be pulled down and tied to the porch post as an experiment – training down rather than up. The tips will forever want to grow upwards I told him. ‘Well keep tying those down’ he replied. Will they flower next year? We’ll

see! The remaining laterals over the porch roof will be trimmed off and rooting attempted – they take twelve months to form new plants. If anyone would like one next year, please leave a request in the office.

Many thanks to all who have, this summer, brought in plants to sell or to bed out in the garden. Also thanks to those who have sent in suggestions about slug-proof plants. A winter newsletter article will be devoted to just this topic.

Topical Tip. A long-lasting winter window box or tub can be made up as follows: one or two dwarf conifers, some trailing variegated ivy plus violas or dwarf cyclamen. Add a few dwarf daffodil bulbs (Tête-à-Tête) or crocus corms for promise in the New Year. Gardeners in Shakespearean times, we are told, planted boxes just like these, using viola Johnny-jump-up which can still be bought as seeds, together with a few herbs and calendulas. Stuart House pots will this year feature some of the new Winter Sun calendulas I have coming along. It will be interesting indeed to find out if they live up to their seed packet promise of continuing to flower all winter long.

Malcolm Mort

DAVID WILCOCKS : 1935-2017

It is with sadness we report that David has passed away; his funeral took place at Glynn Valley on Monday, 18th September.

David was a long-time member of Stuart House; an especially keen supporter of our Heritage Group, and regularly met with friends in the House until recent times when he became a resident at Hillside in Looe. As a member of the Old Cornwall Society and supporter of the Museum, his presence and contribution to the town and district heritage has been welcomed and appreciated. He will be missed by us all.

We send our sincere condolences to Barbara and family.

Eileen Crouch

STUART HOUSE Sunday afternoon CONCERT SERIES 2017-8

Our first concert will be the regular visit of musical students from Liskeard School – always varied, fun, and very musical.

Look out for details of further concerts: on **November 19th** we shall again be welcoming **Alison Smith**, classical guitarist.

MAX LOCK GALLERY EVENTS in SEPTEMBER

The Summer Crafts Exhibition was still continuing at the start of the month and was a busy and lively success, with demonstrations as well as exhibition and sales.



Carol (who made the wonderful rug pictured) has since held the first meeting of the **Crafters' Club**. For more details about this group, please ask in the House.

The first meeting of the Crafters was held in the Gallery, which was also in use for the **50p BOOK SALE**, which Nancy organized to fill an unexpected cancellation.

It attracted a steady stream of browsers and buyers, and stocks of books had frequently to be replenished.

'Ruins' ran for two weeks from 4th to 16th of September in both the Gallery and the Jane Room. The pinhole (and some digital) photographs by Graham Warren and the large mixed charcoal, pastel, gouache and water-colour works of Duncan Rice were stunning, and attracted many appreciative visitors - and buyers. Some called in as part of their 'Liskeard Unlocked' visit to the House, and found that the powerful and atmospheric images of mining ruins – many very local – added to their experience. Comments in the Visitors Book reflected the very special nature of this exhibition and the impact that it made on other artists, as well as more general visitors.



Liskeard Camera Club is holding an exhibition at the time of going to



print, with a great mix of subjects and techniques.

They hope to return to our Gallery again from time to time.

EVENTS in the MAX LOCK GALLERY IN OCTOBER

The Autumn Crafts Show

September 30th - October 7th

Pat's Art Box with Linoshed

returns from 16th to 21st
October

The West Country Embroiderers Wednesday October 25th to Saturday October 28th

Includes exhibition, sale of work, traders and a raffle.

We are delighted to welcome back the West Country Embroiderers after a year's absence, for what will be their 20th Anniversary exhibition. Their exhibition and sale of beautifully executed pieces is in the Gallery, the Jane Room and the Doctor's Surgery ('the shop') downstairs.

The group has 31 members, three being founder members . They meet on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Wednesday of the month at Wesley Church Hall and usually have a workshop once a month. They are happy to welcome new stitchers, whether beginners or more experienced.

Come and draw at Stuart House



*All ages and skills welcome
Free entry and materials
Exhibition the following week*

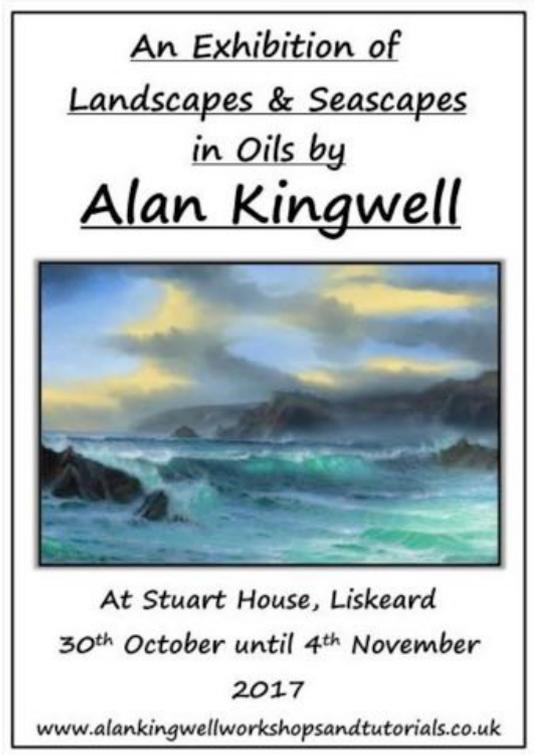
*St Matthew's Fair Day
Saturday 30 September 2017
10am to 3pm*

while the Sealed Knot are in the garden

STUART HOUSE Barras Street 01579 347347
Arts and Heritage Centre Liskeard info@stuarthouse.org.uk
PL14 6AB www.stuarthouse.org.uk

The work from the 'Come and Draw' event on St Matthew's Fair Day will be on display in the Jane Room for the first week of October.

Will YOU, or your family and friends, have your creative work on exhibition!?!



Also in OCTOBER

Alan writes:

I became a professional artist in 1985. Prior to this I worked for the Forestry Commission and during my years working for them, I had the opportunity to experience the forest and moorlands in their many different moods throughout the year and, although in that period I had little time to paint, I still draw today on the images I recall and the feelings they invoke.

One of the highlights of my career so far has been having a painting shortlisted as one of 200 out of 15,000 entries in the Daily Mail 'NOT The Turner Prize' This painting was entitled 'Moonlight' and it was the first painting that I completed after nearly losing my right arm in a fall on Dartmoor. It was exhibited and sold in The

Mall Galleries in London.

Over the last few years I have endeavoured to share the techniques that I have developed over many years by holding regular Oil Painting Workshops for very small groups, teaching people of all abilities.

I also do one to one tuition and 3 Day Art Courses throughout the year. These have proved to be very popular, and I always ensure that a pupil goes home with a painting that they can be proud of.

www.alankingwellworkshopsandtutorials.co.uk

07790893175

The SEPSIS AWARENESS EVENT held on Sunday 24th September



Despite an error about the day in the original feature article in the local paper (corrected the next week), many people turned up to this event which our Gallery organiser Nancy - who twice almost died from sepsis - and her husband, our vice-chairman Victor, organized. UK Sepsis Trust campaigner Melissa Mead,

whose one year old son William died from sepsis, was there to talk with people. Awareness was certainly raised, and there has been phone-call follow-up with Nancy and Victor via the House since. The event itself raised £78 for the charity.

**The GEORGE VAUGHAN ELLIS
Memorial Talk and Dinner
Saturday 16th November
7.30 pm.**



Paul Holden, House and Collections Manager for the National Trust at Lanhydrock House will speak on

‘ Researching the Cornish Country House’

Paul has been at Lanhydrock since 1999 and has published widely on architectural history and curatorial issues. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Antiquaries in 2011.



Dinner Menu



Tomato and basil soup



Roast chicken with roast potatoes and fresh seasonal vegetables

or

Vegetarian option (please make your wish known when you book)



Blackberry & Apple Crumble with custard or cream



Tea or Coffee

Please bring your own alcoholic drinks if required.



Tickets £20 from the House

**LISKEARD & DISTRICT
MUSEUM**

**LOCAL HISTORY ILLUSTRATED
TALKS 2017**

By Brian Oldham

Free (*but donations gratefully received*)

Event starts at **7.30pm** at Liskeard Museum

Includes a chance to view the Tin, Toys & Tales
Exhibition

12th October 2017

Talk: Past and Present scenes and
tales of Lower & Higher Lux Streets,
Lux Cross and Greenbank Road,
among others.

Places are limited so please book at the Tourist
Information Centre. Tel. No: 01579 349148

Liskeard Museum, Pike Street, Liskeard, PL14 3JE Tel: 01579 349148

contact@liskeardmuseum.co.uk



Some October events run by our
partners

**LISKEARD OLD CORNWALL
SOCIETY**

Friday 13th October
2.30pm. Long Room of the Public Hall
AGM and talk

**Alan and Ann Cox
Cornwall's Lighthouses**

STERTS THEATRE

We are sorry that we've not got a flier
to include, but do check their website
for October events, even though the
main season is over.

www.sterts.co.uk

Diary of Events

October 2017



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| Continuing until 7 th | Exhibition from the 'Come and Draw' event on St Matthew's Fair Day. In the Jane Room (see p.7) |
| Monday 2 nd | Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnas, Hampton & Littlewood. 10 am. to 12 noon |
| Monday 2 nd to Saturday 14 th | Autumn Crafts Show; sales and exhibition |
| Tuesday 3 rd Tuesday 17 th | Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2-4 pm. |
| Monday 9 th | Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4-6 pm. |
| Sunday 15 th | Stuart House Concert Series: Liskeard School. Gallery 2.30 pm. Tickets £7 from reception include refreshments (see p. 5) |
| Monday 16 th to Saturday 21 st | Pat's Art Box with LinoShed - art exhibition and sales |
| Monday 23 rd to Saturday 28 th | West Country Embroiderers' Exhibition (see p.7) |
| Sunday 29 th | Ilow Splann – 'Brighten Up an October Afternoon' Concert in the Gallery 2.30 pm. Tickets £7 from reception include refreshments (see p.3) |
| Monday 30 th to Saturday 4 th Nov. | Alan Kiingwell Art Exhibition (see p.8) |
| Coming in November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Inspire': creative textiles exhibition (7th to 11th) • Sale of Christmas Cards and Decorations (13th to 18th) • George Vaughan-Ellis Memorial talk and dinner (see p.9) • Stuart House Concert Series – Alison Smith, classical guitar (19th) • Carnival of the Imagination – mixed media arts: Mark Gregory and friends return (20th to 25th) • Pat's Art Box with LinoShed. (27th to 2nd Dec.) |

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