

Newsletter

August 2018

The Old and the New : Hon. Sec. Sue's News

This month presents a rare opportunity for me not to have to bore you all with admin matters! As a quick aside, however, thanks to all who have returned their GDPR forms, and a gentle reminder to those who have not.

(ed's. note – House Manager Sioux reports receipt of 24 forms – so c.130 still to come!)



July has seen near completion of the 'new' upstairs office which is now available for use by the House Manager as well as providing an additional letting room. The splendid arrangement in the fire place was provided by The Flower Gallery and the architectural and modern approach to silk flower arranging proves that old and new can co-exist in peaceful harmony. Once the room had been painted white, the walls looked bland. To the

rescue came our in-house artist Linda Maynard whose fantastic work adorns what was formerly the blank wall to the left of the fireplace. What would we do without you, Linda? We are grateful to you. Bob's son-in-law Garin patiently listened to our vision of what was required of a blind for the window and has come up with the goods. The opening of Wetherspoons and the proximity of their fire escape had meant the loss of privacy for anyone working in the office – be it one of us or a hirer. Thanks to everyone involved in the 'office project' which (if proof were ever needed) was a working example of how team-work can bring together the result that we now see before us.

Loss of privacy and a less than good view also now applies to the first floor corridor window overlooking our new neighbours. Hence – another blind! To complete the corridor and the office all that is now needed is simple window seating.

So – the pub is now open for business. Our garden wall is complete. Work has to be undertaken by Wetherspoons to the drainage of the adjoining ground following which a new door will be fitted. Gravel will be spread on the ground on 'our' side of the wall. Our windows will be cleaned. Once all that is done we can pay attention to the area in our garden immediately in front of the new fire exit. It has to be safe and suitable for disabled and wheelchair use. We need to ensure that the alleyway on both sides is kept free at all times. The railings at the front of the House will also be painted.

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It cannot have escaped anyone's notice that the new garden furniture has arrived and is in situ. The new parasols complete the picture. We need to make sure all our café's customers have somewhere to sit and enjoy the garden whilst partaking of their refreshment.

We have a never-ending spreadsheet of 'things to be done' and my next task will be to remove those which have been done and (no doubt!) add more. Certainly at top of the list will be completion of the reception room and modernisation of both toilets. **Sue Glencross, Hon.Sec.**



The new tables and benches (which were just a little tricky to put together!), are of recycled plastic, and should need no maintenance. The metal corner seating replaces the increasingly rickety wooden furniture.

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BILL HALL

An attachment to July's Newsletter told Friends of the death of Bill Hall on Sunday 17th June, and included a tribute to him from Tony Wood.

The picture shows Bill and his late wife Sally, also a long-term active supporter of Stuart House, in the Old Kitchen Café.

Friends are reminded of the Memorial Service to be held at **2.30 pm on Monday 30th July at Herodsfoot Church.**



Friends of Stuart House Meeting

Thursday 19th July

Much of the 'business' part of this meeting was linked with ideas for the **HERB FESTIVAL** which will run from **10th to 22nd June 2019** and aims high: all sorts of events, displays and sales, and a lot of whole-town involvement too. Some grant-funding and sponsorship is being looked into.



Eileen and Jac are overall organisers, and Val's Garden Club will be very involved. More Friends are invited to make specific offers – big or small – to help make this an inclusive, happy fortnight (following the build up to it) bringing Friends together and putting Stuart House in the centre of an interesting community event.



Currently, a list of possible activities is being compiled. These will then be timetabled and roomed (or gardened!) in the House over the fortnight. **Eileen and Jac are looking for Friends who would like to oversee an aspect of the event.**

Ideas so far include

- Growing herbs and flowers to go into garlands for decoration and to sell - Jac has seeds to give out
- Collecting suitable bottles for herb oils and/or vinegars
- Workshops such as pot-pourri and pomander making, flower arranging, culinary use, pressing flowers
- Talks and presentations by professionals and/or knowledgeable enthusiastic amateurs
- Jams, marmalades and biscuits
- Cards and other stationery
- Textiles, including lavender bags & herb pillows
- Photographs and art work (maybe a competition)
- Exhibition and sales in the Gallery
- Plants for sale in the garden
- Activities for children
- Herbal drinks and snacks in the Old Kitchen Cafe



Could you please put your name next to any of these as an organiser or contributor, and return to Eileen or Jac.?

A FRIENDS' EVENTS' ORGANISER IS NEEDED! Friends also raised other ideas for events, including heritage talks, a presence at the Liskeard Show and a Garden Party (planned for September). However a Friend (or two!) is needed to oversee the programme of events. If you are at all interested, **please contact Chairman Bob.**

'Arts & Crafts Trail leading to Stuart House'

To round off the meeting, Eileen gave a short, interesting talk about her own journey towards her involvement at Stuart House: a journey from an active interest in craft and art to the restored Stuart House, where her interests, including heritage and poetry, were utilized to organize exhibitions and events to build up our Arts and Heritage Centre. She was an enthusiastic member of the Committee, which she chaired for several years, after which she chaired the Heritage Group (following from its founder, Tony Wood). Highlights of those years were welcoming Prince Charles to the House and Princess Anne to Cothele, where we staged an exhibition. Friends felt that Eileen's journey and involvement, together with that of others, could be printed and made available for interest and inspiration to Friends old and new.

The next meeting will be on Thursday !6th August at 3pm.

August's Thoughts from our Garden's Overseer

What a taxing year this is proving for gardeners. January and February were mild months, encouraging plants to venture forth early. The March 'Beast from the East' soon put a stop to that, killing the new growth. April onwards has seen exceptionally high temperatures and very little rain. One casualty in the Stuart House garden has been the summer flowering jasmine that covers the arch near the rose bed: it's completely given up. The honeysuckle that grows along with it is thriving, thankfully, so this summer will be allowed to clamber to its heart's content.



The roses in back and front gardens bloomed magnificently in May and June but suddenly shuddered to a standstill. The hot dry conditions caused the blooms to frizzle and fade quite quickly and dead-heading has not yet produced new flower buds. Roses will survive drought conditions, but to do their best they need cool moist soil in summer which at present they don't have. Even the relatively

shaded rose bed in the back garden is baked hard and bone dry. The lawn is looking sad and parched, the twisted willow is shedding its leaves, and the borders around the lawn are bereft of flowers. The hardy geraniums, a mainstay of the summer display, finished flowering quickly and are in need of a good trimming back (and a deluge of rain) to enable them to produce new growth to flower again later in the summer. The continued dry weather has brought one small garden benefit though – the snails are hiding well away!



Dry times provide opportunities to observe plants that shrug off a lack of rain. One such shrub is Lavatera Barnsley mallow in the front garden which has been in full bloom for a good month now and shows no sign of stopping. For those who'd like easy-to-look after plants **that don't need watering** and which bloom for ages, here are some guaranteed suggestions. Anthemis tinctoria, hollyhocks (grow the oak leaf sorts

which don't succumb to leaf fungal attack), verbena (especially the tall, fashionable bonariensis), the lavenders, the feverfew family, field marigolds, Eschscholzia (Californian poppy), Perovskia "Blue Spire" (the Russian sage), Salvia nemorosa, Geranium "Rozanne", and the wonderful Mexican daisy, Erigeron karvinskianus. Other suggestions welcomed. (A note about the highly floriferous hanging baskets and tubs around the town this summer: they look wonderful, but they need to be constantly watered and fed.)

Here's a request for readers: if you're visiting the garden and the top bowl of the fountain has no water (it's used by birds), or if any plants in pots or containers look parched, your help will be greatly appreciated – the watering cans are kept near the tap.

Let's hope we won't have a recurrence of the two-year catastrophic Great Tudor Drought, 1540 – 41 which affected all of Europe.



From February 1540 until October 1541 there was hardly any rain, and the summers were reported to have been blisteringly hot. Rivers and aquifers dried up, the Seine in Paris ran dry, harvests failed and there was wide-spread starvation. Weather can be so unexpectedly variable.

A useful tip recently shared by James Wong in The Observer is that plants in pots greatly benefit from aspirin – five 300g soluble tablets to a 2 gallon can of water. Aspirin, salicylic acid, is a plant hormone and helps regulate responses to environmental stress. Dilute solutions have been shown to make plants more resilient to drought, heat and cold, and to pests and diseases.

It's remarkable, though, in the dust dry area of the Stuart House garden, near the new wall where there is hardly any soil to speak of, a multitude of seeds have germinated and are already intent to make that area their own. There are brambles and buddleia, valerian, feverfew, willow herb and toad flax to name but a few. The plant world, thankfully, is so determined!



Malcolm Mort

The stunning flower photographs are Malcolm's, the bird in the fountain is the ed's.

STUART HOUSE GARDEN CLUB
next meeting



Monday 20th August
11.30 am to 1.30pm.



The Stuart House notice board in Westbourne car-park, which we had 'borrowed' from the Council, seems to have rusted through. Negotiations are underway about its repair.

Events in STUART HOUSE in JULY



The King Doniert Exhibition in the Jane Room continued its three week run until 7th July, attracting many visitors, with 'interesting' being the most frequent word in the visitor's book. The editor (and organiser) apologises that thanks were not given to Jackie Jenkins by name in the hard-copy of July's Newsletter – the research on the role of the Old Cornwall Society in archaeological investigation and building the enclosure around the stones was all thanks to her. Other comments in the Visitors' Book included "Long Live Doniarth, Down with Saxons!!"

The Art and Craft Exhibition and Sale, organized by Linda Losty in the Gallery from July 2nd to 14th, had some exhibitors new to Stuart House, and was much appreciated.



We thank, as always, all those who steward in the Gallery.



The North Hill Art Group's exhibition and sale from 16th to 21st was extended for a further week, due to an unavoidable cancellation.

North Hill artists, together with local author Madeline Orrick, provided a lovely selection of work in different media, and a wide selection of cards. The group welcomes visitors and new members – anyone interested should contact Phyllis Harrison on 01579 362970.

Comments in the Visitors' Book included 'great talent', 'lovely mix of styles', 'it's good to wander/wonder' and 'a great achievement'.



New Arrivals at the Old Kitchen Cafe

It had been the intention to do a feature on our café for this month's Newsletter, but the editor regrets that she's been unable to take photographs of all the volunteers yet. For the time, the photo is of the New Coffee Machine – soon to be joined by the New Dishwasher!

We thank all our Café volunteers, including trustee Victor who organises and oversees it too. The recent comment in our Visitors' Book '*best tea in Liskeard*' says it all!

We hope too that Gallery organizer Nancy feels much better soon.

The CRAFT CLUB meets each Thursday from 12 noon to about 3pm. The group currently numbers between about five and seven, and new crafters (who can work seated at a table!) are welcome. The cost is currently £2 a session, to cover room hire. These photographs (thanks to Mags), show the variety and quality of the work, which includes beading, crochet, knitting, weaving, loom knitting, embroidery, rug making, needle-felting, wet felting, printing and stamping, silk painting, quilting and sewing. Members' work can be bought at the Arts and Crafts shows organised by Nancy. The crafters are currently working towards a large display of poppies in all media to be displayed for Remembrance week in November.



COMING to the MAX LOCK GALLERY in AUGUST

*A Solo Exhibition of
Landscapes & Seascapes
in Oils by
Alan Kingwell*



*At Stuart House, Liskeard
30th July until 4th August 2018
www.alankingwellworkshopsandtutorials.co.uk
www.alankingwell.co.uk
email: alan.kingwell@googlemail.com*

Following on the success of last year's exhibition, Alan is again exhibiting and demonstrating, this year on a LARGE bluebell painting.

**PATS' ART BOX
and
FRIENDS**

6th to 18th August
and
27th August 8th September

*Pat Thuysbaert
Richard Jenkins
Alan Kingwell
Suzy Billing-Mountain*



**RAILWAY
EXHIBITION**

Monday 20th -Saturday 25th
August

come and explore!



Diary of Events

August 2018



Continuing until Saturday 4th	Alan Kingwell solo exhibition and demonstrations: Landscapes and Seascapes (see p.7)
Thursdays 2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd , 30 th	Craft Club: all welcome 12 noon to 3pm (see p.7)
Monday 6 th to Saturday 18 th	Pat's Art Box and Friends (see p.7)
Monday 6 th to Saturday 18 th	Friends' Craft Shop in the Surgery There will also be a display by the Artist of the Month Friend (t.b.c.)
Tuesdays 7 th , 21 st	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4.30 pm
Monday 13 th	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4 to 6.30pm
Thursday 16th	Friends of Stuart House 3pm in the Surgery, refreshments available (see p.3)
Monday 20 th Saturday 25 th	Railway Exhibition (see p.7)
Monday 20 th	Stuart House Garden Club 11.30am to 1.30pm
Monday 27 th to Sat. 8 th September	Pat's Art Box and Friends (see p.7)
Coming in September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discover Liskeard's Windows exhibition (3rd to 15th, Jane Room), prelude to • ... Liskeard Unlocked – Our Secret Passage will be open plus a small exhibition on Susan Carthew, and more (in the town too) (14th and 15th) <i>Stewards still needed please!</i> • Mixed Crafts Sale and Exhibition (10th to 15th) • Concert – Oli Doney, counter-tenor with recorders (Sunday 16th) • Liskeard School 40th Anniversary exhibition (17th to 29th) • St Matthews' Fair Day - Sealed Knot Civil War re-enactment in the garden and Come & Draw too (Saturday 29th)

1st to 13th October: Stuart House Sewing Event.

Donations of fabrics, notions etc. are welcome - to Sioux in Reception, please

The House, Garden, Old Kitchen Café and Computer Research Suite 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.

Reception is usually open every weekday until at least 2pm.

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