

Newsletter

August 2019

The Stuart House Garden has been a joy this past month, and looks set to continue to be.



It was the venue for the Jazz Tapas concert on Sunday 30th June, attended by many people who are not 'regulars' at the House (for more on the concert see p.3)

Although we did not enter 'Liskeard in Bloom' in our own right this year, our Garden (including the front garden behind the railings) was part of what the town has to offer, and the judges spent time here on 17th July on their walkabout. Sioux provided



lunchtime sandwiches and drinks for them, and the splendid flowery cake was made and donated by Olive & Co.

The garden is, of course, a place of relaxation and taking refreshment, and we thank our café volunteers who keep an eye on the customers outside, as well as inside.

As a garden full of plants it continues to give delight, and we thank Malcolm



for his continued oversight and work, and for the regular articles and



exquisite photographs he provides for our Newsletter (see pp. 4-5). Malcolm asks if anyone knows the name of this mauve rose. We thank Lynette too, and Malcolm would welcome more volunteers, particularly for bind-weed duty!

Our own Garden Club, run by Valerie Moore, has a month off from its usual meetings.



Leaflet Sponsored by Coodes
 Honorary Solicitors to Stuart House Trust

Jazz Tapas Sunday 30th June 2019.



A sizeable audience was enraptured by the amazing performance of **Jazz Tapas** in the garden at Stuart House. It was a beautiful summer afternoon and the acoustics were perfect, in fact enhanced by the additional reflective wall of the King Doniert building next door.

Jazz Tapas is mainly a White family group – husband John, wife Helen and John's son Pete – plus friend Steve Ayre who plays the trumpet. Helen sang in a variety of languages and also played the violin and various wind instruments. John

played the guitar, accordion and provided percussion at times on the cajon which is a complete drum kit in the shape of a box which you sit on. Pete played guitar and Steve played the trumpet.

They covered a wide range of Jazz and Latin styles, sharing the introductions to each piece, including instrumentals as well as songs. The audience was delighted and there was not only a very positive response from Weatherspoons next door but also from the local bird population. A blackbird, in particular, was determined to try and prove that he could sing as wide a variety of pieces at much greater volume to



prove that the garden was really his territory and no-one else's. By half way through the afternoon, however, he became exhausted and had to perch quietly and enjoy the music instead. Seagulls and pigeons did their best to compete before they, too, realised the music was much better than them.

Helen White delighted the audience with her crystal clear vocal lines and diction, violin riffs and harmonies. Steve Ayre's trumpet improvisations added rhythm, vitality and pace to so many of the pieces. Astor Piazzolla's nostalgic tangos from Argentina were performed by John White playing the accordion and Helen the violin. The group's diversity of music and array of instruments kept the audience enraptured.

After the performance people were delighted to have tea and refreshments in the garden and to chat with the performers. Jazz Tapas is a group that we will definitely invite again next year.

Angela Wunnam, concert series co-ordinator



The Stuart House Concert Series takes a break in August. On Sunday September 15th, We shall welcome the return of **Diabel Cissokho** with West African kora and songs.

August's Thoughts from our Garden's Overseer



This time last year I sowed some hollyhock seeds, then in late autumn planted one of the young plants in the far bed opposite the Stuart House café door. At the time of writing (mid July) this had reached about 9ft and has single yellow flowers, creating a bright point of focus in that area. If hollyhocks are cut back to almost ground level after flowering, they should regrow and bloom again later in the autumn, returning for several more years. There are two species of garden hollyhock: the most common is *Alcea acaulis*; the other *Alcea ficifolia*, with leaves pronouncedly fig-shaped. This is also called the Antwerp hollyhock - our giant plant is one of these. In some years, Hollyhocks can suffer badly from "rust", a fungal disease that covers the leaves in a plethora of orange spots and causes them to shrivel. Turn the leaves over and you'll find a mass of fruiting bodies, each capable of releasing a myriad of spores. The Antwerp holly has a degree of resistance to fungal attack, and so far our plant is largely unaffected. This fungus is one of the *Puccinia* genus, of which there are some 4000 species, which cause havoc to grain crops.

June and July are the main rose months in the garden, and for the many who have asked for the name of the rose with yellow semi-double flowers edged with red, this is Birthday Girl. It's a floribunda rose, which means it has many flowers per stem and can repeat-flower until late autumn.



Causing a problem under the roses and in the garden generally are the dead-nettles (they don't sting), which spread rapidly by seed and fast-growing rooting stems just under the soil. The golden variegated sort, *Lamium galeobdolon*, has yellow flowers. *Lamium purpureum*, a common weed, is upright, has purple flowers and its leaves have a most unpleasant smell. Many cultivated *Lamium*s are available, some with very attractive silvery leaves, but they're best grown in shade where little else will flourish....



Also a nightmare in the garden is bindweed. In the last few years, it has wound its woeful ways around vegetation against the far wall near the shed, but interestingly this year there's very little in that area. Instead, it has transferred its attention to strangling the shrubs along the opposite library wall, and the



Purple (garden weed)
lamium

Kerrier shrub certainly hasn't liked it, losing all its leaves. Bindweed spreads in the same way as Lamium, though worse, and it's impossible to dig or pull out the wretched runners as they're brittle and break easily. All one can reasonable do is to regularly snip off the sinewy stems at ground level which should in theory weaken the plants as they will be prevented from building up food stores in their roots. But, no matter how hard one tries, there are always stems missed.

Luckily, these problems did not seem to bother the Britain in Bloom judges who called into the garden on 17th July for lunch and a quiet break from their task of judging Liskeard's excellent floral displays. (Liskeard in Bloom and town traders – thank you!). They seemed highly impressed by our peaceful, serene and welcoming garden. This year, the Stuart House garden is not being judged on its own but included in the wider floral and horticultural efforts of the town.

The herb planters look excellent against the new wall, and the plants are flourishing. The cranesbill geraniums around the lawn have given their long and reliable delightful display through the hot dry weather but the beds have baked hard and the plants will soon need cutting back. Hopefully, downpours in August should see a second flush of flowers in the autumn.

There's just time left to scatter honesty seeds in your garden for flowering next April – give the soil a good soaking first if necessary. Forget-me-nots, Field Marigolds and Calendula can be treated the same way for cheery blooms next Spring and early Summer, and all for very little expense and effort.

Malcolm Mort

An Exhibition of
Landscapes & Seascapes
in Oils by
Alan Kingwell
with silk paintings and craft by Mags and Amber.

At Stuart House, Liskeard
29th July until 10th August 2019

www.alankingwellworkshopsandtutorials.co.uk
www.alankingwell.co.uk
Email: alan.kingwell@googlemail.com

AUGUST EVENTS

Alan Kingwell's exhibition which began at the end of July continues until August 10th.

Alan has sent a link to his youtube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBO9shcBzZM>
about the exhibition and it makes a fascinating watch (ed.)

SUMMER in CORNWALL

craft exhibition and sale
in the Gallery

**Monday 12th to Saturday 31st
August.**

a changing group of talented local
craftspeople, organized by our House
Manager Sioux.

EVENTS in the PAST MONTH



Rose Gibbon's exhibition Art in Cornwall

ran in the Max Lock Gallery from Monday 8th to Saturday 13th. Rose (pictured here among her own work) was joined by fellow-artists Jude Kellaway (recently an 'Artist of the Month' in the Surgery) with Nicky Stone and Richard Bradley, and the result was a powerful mixture of media, styles and images.

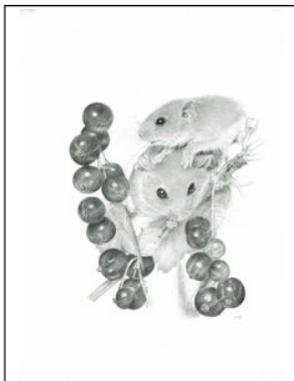
Rose moved over to the Jane Room for a further week, where she showed some of her own highly individual, imaginative and varied art and craft work.

Rose plans to return to the Jane Room for another week around St Matthew's Fair Day at the end of September.

Valerie Moore and Friends

held an exhibition - Val's first - in the Max Lock Gallery from Monday 15th to Saturday 20th. Valerie's own work, including water-colours and drawings, Derek Norman's jigsaw pieces, Clair Poole's fish pictures and painted pebbles and Paul Rance's atmospheric photographs in reclaimed wood frames, together with Eileen Crouch's poetry books, photographs, Ilow Splann music recordings and copies of 'Henry the Hedgehog' made for an effective and varied display.

Val would like to thank everyone who helped and gave their time, and especially Eileen, Dave and Linda.

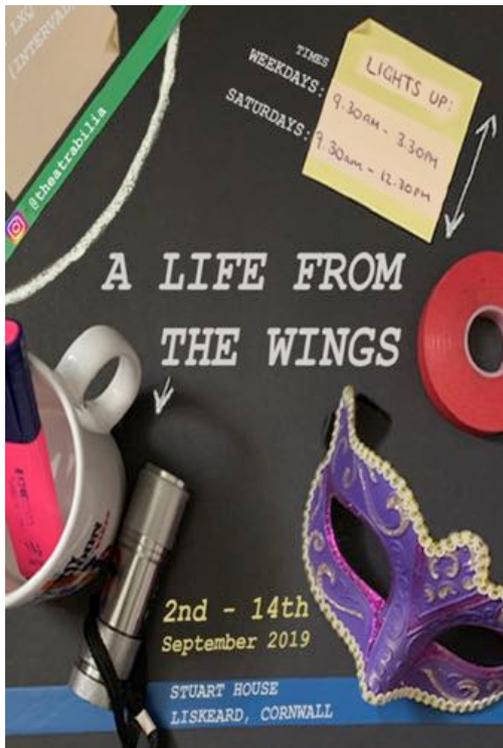


Chrissie Rivers was Artist of the Month in the Surgery in July, and her detailed drawing of landscapes, buildings – and mice – was much appreciated.

Don't forget all the 'USUAL' things that happened in July, and every month in the House: the Writers, the Poets, the Craft Club, Fake or Fortune, the Garden Club and the Old Cornwall Society, as well as the welcome in the café and garden. **July also saw the start of a Craft Shop in the Surgery, which will continue until the end of August.**

COMING IN EARLY SEPTEMBER

September will be a busy month in the House, with a great range of exhibitions to look forward to and some special events – see ‘What’s On’ on the back page. Advance notice of two exhibitions at the start of September :



Tim Norman writes

Theatrabilia's second exhibition brings a slice of London's glittering West End to Cornwall this September.

A showcase of programmes, prompt books, set models and other theatrical delights, ‘*A Life in the Wings*’ takes us through stage door and beyond.

“What does a deputy stage manager do in rehearsals? How does a play go from page to stage?” Discover how a production is brought to life as we chart the history of this magical, creative and compelling industry.

We remember Tim's wonderful first exhibition in Stuart House, about Shakespeare. It is Tim who we now have to thank for getting Stuart House's Facebook page running so effectively. (ed.)



Discover Dates

From 2nd to 15th September – the run-up to ‘Liskeard Unlocked’ (Heritage open Days) 2019 (see p.2) - the editor is mounting a collection of photographs of datestones on buildings around Liskeard. Using clues, see if you can identify where these are – it’s even more of a challenge than the Doors and Windows of previous years!

The exhibition may remain for the week after the main Open Day on 15th, when it will be joined by material being brought in from other Liskeard buildings not usually open to the public.

AND A DATE FOR THE DIARY: we plan that **Sunday September 22nd** will see a PARTY for Friends of, Volunteers at, and Exhibitors in, Stuart House. You'll receive more details!

Diary of Events

August 2019



continuing until 10 th	Alan Kingwell Seascapes and Landscapes in oil, with silk painting and craft by Mags and Amber (see p.5)
continuing until the end of August	Arts and Crafts shop in the Surgery
every Thursday	Craft Club: all welcome 12 noon to 3pm.
Tuesdays 6 th , 20 th	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4.30 pm.
Monday 12 th to Saturday 31 st	'Summer in Cornwall' : craft exhibition and sale in the Max Lock Gallery
Monday 12 th	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4 to 6.30pm.
Monday 26 th	August Bank Holiday – House closed
Events coming in September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discover Liskeard Buildings' Date-stones exhibition' – part of 'Liskeard Unlocked. 2nd to 16th (see p.2 & 7) • 'A Life from the Wings'; theatre exhibition 2nd to 16th (see p.7) • Diabel Cissokho concert Sunday 15th (see p.3) • Liskeard Unlocked exhibitions w/b Monday 16th (see p.7) • Fake or Fortune. Monday 16th • Friends', Volunteers' and Exhibitors' Party. Sunday 22nd (look out for details) • Students of Stuart House's Coved Room (Linda Maynard's classes). 23rd to 28th • Beeswax food wrap making with Toni Dunmow t.b.c. Friday 27th • St Matthews Fair Day on Saturday 28th. Rose Gibbon Art in the Jane Room and other exhibitions and events, including Town Criers t.b.c. • Laurie Scott Originals 'Naturally Inspired' Art Exhibition from 30th.

The House, Garden, Old Kitchen Café and (check first) Computer Research Facility 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.

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