

# Newsletter

*December 2018  
&  
January 2019*

## FAREWELL

Victor Briggs has resigned as a trustee and volunteer and Nancy as a volunteer at Stuart House. They have made a tremendous contribution in so many capacities over many years - as readers of the Newsletter and visitors to the House will know - including Victor as a trustee (vice-chair since March 2016) and Café Manager, and Nancy for some two and a half years as our Gallery Manager. They have given an extraordinary amount of time and effort on behalf of the House, for which we are all extremely grateful. We wish them all well in the future, and their achievement at Stuart House will certainly not be forgotten.

## **New Year PARTY & GET-TOGETHER**

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2019  
from 5pm

**ALL FRIENDS WELCOME**  
*please bring something to  
share if you can*



The House is decorated for Christmas – come and see the stunning dried flower garland in the café (seen here behind some regular Monday morning visitors). Many thanks to Judith, Liz and Gill. The rest of the House looks lovely too (see p7).



*Leaflet Sponsored by Coodes*  
*Honorary Solicitors to Stuart House Trust*

## EVENTS IN THE PAST MONTH

**Liskeard's 'Lost Generation'**. This eagerly anticipated exhibition, the fourth and final one in a series marking the centenary of years of the First World War, ran in the Gallery from 7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> of November. It was put together by Tony Ball with Jackie Jenkins, Paul Day and other help from the Old Cornwall Society. As with the other exhibitions, this one used detailed archival research (conducted over more than ten years) to tell the stories of the people of Liskeard as the war went on. Although there was a focus on 1918, including the Spanish flu pandemic, this year's display also revisited key developments of the earlier years of the war.



*Paul, Jackie and Tony (left to right).*

*The textile 'Poppy Wall' was a great focal point and made by Thursday Craft Club members.*

The panels about Frank Morcom, resident of Stuart House, who was killed in action in 1917 were again on display, with a letter recently brought into the house from his mother to his commanding officer, thanking him for the return of her son's possessions. Copies of the accompanying booklets about the different years of the war and the individuals commemorated on Liskeard's war memorial and the board in the School, among other aspects of the war locally, are held in the Museum, the Old Cornwall Society Room (on the top floor of Stuart House, through the Rowse Room, open on Wednesdays and other times by appointment), and in Stuart House Reception. There were well over 200 visitors to the exhibition, with many returning, as there was so much to read and to talk about.

.....



A varied **Craft Sale** filled the Gallery from 19<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December, and **Martin Clark** was the Friend Artist of the Month in the Surgery. His works in pastel, paint and collage: landscapes and figures in settings, have been widely exhibited

## MORE EVENTS IN THE PAST MONTH

From 5<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> November the Jane Room held an exhibition on **Remembrance**,



where there was information and photographs about the origins of the RAF during the First World War, and attention was drawn to the red poppy, the white poppy and the purple poppy, and their origins explained. There was quiet music too, with co-organiser stewards Chris and William in uniform. More

work from the Craft Club was carefully displayed, with different media, including felting, printing, rug making and beadwork, all used to encourage thought and reflection.

The Craft Club meets every Thursday from 12 noon to 3pm. All are welcome.



Renowned local artists **Jenny Braund** and **Jo March** held an exhibition and sale in the Jane Room from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November. They loved the space (and visitors loved the work) and hope to return.



## December & January's Thoughts from our Garden's Overseer



The Stuart House garden was a graceful picture of golden green, splashed with occasional colour, right through November. The Schizostylis lilies in the lawn borders kept flowering, as did the fuchsias in the shaded bed near the café windows. Some of the roses made a final effort, too, including the bush that creates blooms looking like they're crafted from delicate pink and orange silks (see photo). This is a popular rose with visitors who often ask its name. However, I'm

afraid I don't know as its plastic label disintegrated long ago. If anyone does know, please do say. This winter, I will take cuttings to root. A good way to do this is to take stems about 12" long, trim off leaves and flowers, insert them in a pot of compost (add horticultural grit or perlite) and cover with a little tower greenhouse made from a clear plastic drinks bottle with the bottom cut off. Keep on a shaded windowsill and pot up when growth appears. Even stems of bought roses can be treated in this way.



Incidentally, cuttings of the Twisted Willow tree in the garden root very easily if casually left in water, as evidenced by twigs that had languished in the pond all last winter. By Spring they were well-rooted. So, dear reader, you're welcome to try this yourself using twigs (about 6" long) that have fallen from the tree (a regular occurrence).

A visitor recently asked me if our garden contained only plants native to the UK. Coincidentally, a few days previously, I had attended the Annual Royal Society of Biology lecture at Plymouth University where the definition of native and non-native species (plants and animals) was discussed. A native species is one that has made its own way to the place where it is now happily living, whereas non-natives have arrived by human influence, either deliberately or accidentally.

If we search the origins of most of the plants grown in our gardens (including Stuart House), we find that they're nearly all non-native, having been brought here by Neolithic wanderers, invaders (especially the Romans), and by explorers and plant hunters of the Middle Ages. It goes without saying that all our frost-tender bedding plants are from warm places. In the Stuart House garden, Box, Bay, Cupressus trees are from Southern Europe, as are tulips: the Schizostylis is from South Africa; Montbretia from East Africa; roses, apples, Hydrangeas and Magnolias are from Eastern Europe; whilst Kerria, roses, Jasmine and the Twisted Willow originate from the China and Japan.

As it's time for giving and sharing, here are a few interesting tips gleaned this year.

- To get a better crop of runner beans, spray the flowers with dilute sugar water to attract bees and pollenating insects.

- To make plants more resistant to pests and diseases, more resilient to environmental stresses such as cold, heat and drought, and to improve the taste (tomatoes, strawberries especially), spray them occasionally (not more than once a month) with a dilute aspirin solution made from half of a 300mg soluble aspirin dissolved in one litre of water. or, when feeding pots and tubs add 5 aspirins to 10 litres (2 gallons) of water. Writer and biologist James Wong highly recommends this. The benefits, he says are “significant”!
- To avoid having to worry about slug damage, just grow plants they stay away from. The list includes cranesbill geraniums, foxgloves, sedums, herbs, fennel, poppies, euphorbias, Japanese anemones and salvias. Otherwise, a spray using crushed garlic bulbs is said to work well.
- To help prevent seedlings and cuttings damping off, sprinkle some cinnamon onto the surrounding soil. A dilute infusion made from camomile is also said to work. Apparently, both have anti-fungal / anti-microbial properties.

Which only goes to show that gardening is just one long, highly interesting experiment!  
*Malcolm Mort*



## VOLUNTEERS FOR THE GARDEN NEEDED

Malcolm writes that a couple more volunteers would be very welcome. Please leave your name and contact details in Reception.

## PLASTIC FREE LISKEARD

Stuart House has joined the Plastic Free Liskeard Campaign. We shall monitor our use of single-use plastics carefully – in fact, our use is already limited (no plastic cutlery, balloons, bags, cups, straws etc.) but we shall try to be even more actively aware.

We may host an exhibition linked to this campaign too.

A gentle reminder to Friends that (unless you are a Life Member/Friend or pay by Direct Debit), **SUBSCRIPTIONS are due** at the start of January. Still only £10 minimum!

## FRIENDS of STUART HOUSE

Another constructive meeting was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

The **HERB FESTIVAL** (10<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> June) planning is underway, and organisers Bob Hollingdale with Eileen and Jac (who can all be contacted through the House) would appreciate constructive ideas and offers of help of any kind. Do join us!

Ideas about future events were raised, including a George Vaughan-Ellis memorial dinner and talk in the Spring.

Again, if Friends have ideas, we would love to hear them, but do remember that great ideas need willing people to help carry them out!

## Jude and Jane Entertain Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2018.



The final concert of the 2018 series ended spectacularly with the fantastic new duo combination of Jane Warwick and Judy Whitlock, performing as **Jude and Jane Entertain**. They have worked together at school as joint heads of music for over 20 years but have never actually performed together in their own right.

They started with a song called **Sisters**, featuring the theme of sisterly love and how that definitely comes a lowly second to sisterly competition. Judy started on her own at the keyboard and singing, apparently before Jane had had a chance to get there. Then, hastily, Jane appeared and joined in. The competition theme suddenly became abundantly clear with them both singing and playing on the keyboard. Their amazing acting and musical performance clearly showed that the words in no way applied to them as a

duo and set the scene for pieces in many different styles and combinations of instruments and singing. It was delightful to be on the receiving end of their incredible togetherness, beautiful harmonies, witty commentaries and clear pleasure at working together in this way.

Jane showed her consummate skills on the keyboard and incredible singing voice. Jude played on the keyboard, double bass and flute as well as singing jazz and Latin favourites, showing her dynamic versatility and skill.

It's hard to pick out highlights but Jane used her sensitive and beautiful voice to convey powerful emotion and sadness in the song, *Always*, written by Scott Allen for a dying friend. Later, she announced that she must prepare us for another sad song, **Let's Do It**. You may remember the comedian, Victoria Wood, singing this - her own composition. Well, if you shut your eyes, there was Victoria Wood, alive and flourishing. Jane had her voice, accent, singing and piano style off so perfectly that it was hard not to think that it actually was Victoria Wood.

Jude showed her versatility and extraordinary ability to cross many genres by singing songs such as **The Girl from Ipanema** (accompanying herself on the bass with Jane on the keyboard), **Perhaps, Perhaps, Perhaps** (made famous by Doris Day) **Ain't Misbehavin** (from Fats Wallah). She also performed flute solos and they both played a range of keyboard duets, one of which was *Homage to Baroque* – putting together a number of well-known Bach pieces. They seemed technically effortless, but also conveyed great humour in their (very non-Baroque) dynamics and swapping of who was at the top or bottom end of the keyboard.

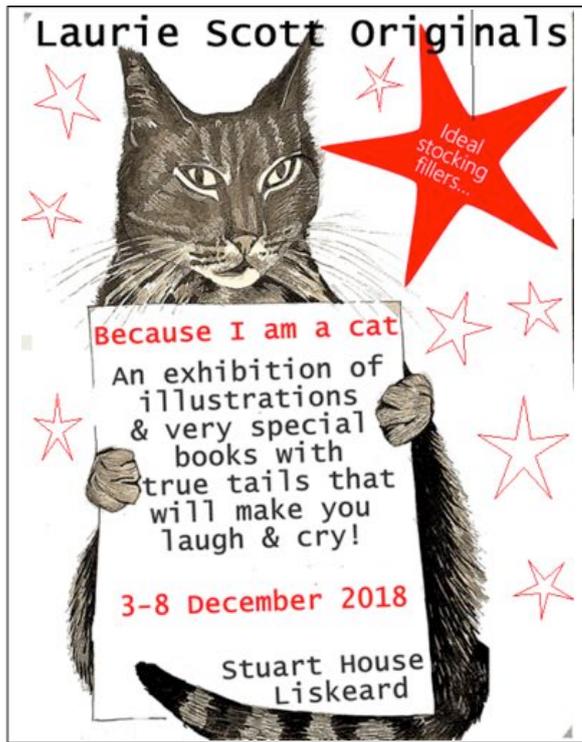
Their matching leopard-skin-themed clothes, shoes and scarves showed their togetherness and the sheer joy of working together – able to shine individually while always enhancing the overall extraordinary virtuosic duo performance. This was a fitting and joyful end to this season of Sunday afternoon concerts at Stuart House!

*Angela Wunnam, Concert Series co-ordinator*



The programme of **SPRING CONCERTS** is still being arranged – look out for information in the New Year.

# EVENTS COMING in DECEMBER and JANUARY



← During the first week of December, the Jane Room will be filled with cats & churches, the illustrative work of Laurie Scott Originals. There will be book signing & reading sessions, also an opportunity to personally meet and see the artist at work; there will be lots of lovely Christmas offers running for the books, limited edition signed prints available and a competition too. A great place to find those last minute stocking fillers

[www.becauseiamacat.com](http://www.becauseiamacat.com)



Stuart House is part of **Nadelik Lyskerrys**. The **Family Trail** will start from the House on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 11am to 1pm. There will be a display by pupils of **Blisland School**, who have been working with artist Mark Gregory, in Reception (Degemerva). The House will be open all day. You are welcome (dynnargh) to call in while waiting for the Lights Up procession!

The House is **decorated for Christmas** with traditional greenery, dried flowers (see p.1) and a Cornish theme with the use of the stag motif and some Cornish language too. Thanks to Sioux, Gaby and Lyn for decorating.

The **CHRISTMAS FAIR** in the Gallery from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> until close-down on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> will have a lot of lovely craft items for sale.

The **Friends' Craft Shop** in the Surgery on the ground floor will also be open from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>.



## HERITAGE HERITAGE!!

When we re-open in January, there will be exhibitions in the Gallery re-using some of the material from our archive of past heritage exhibitions, including display about the history of **'This Old House'**.

# Diary of Events

## December 2018/January 2019



Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Nadelik Lyskerrys & Liskeard Lights Up (see p.7) House open all day House decorated for Christmas Craft sale in the Gallery (last day)
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> to Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Stuart House Christmas Fair (see p.7)
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> to Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Laurie Scott book-signing and sale in the Jane Room (see p.7)
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> to Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Crafter Friends' Shop in the Surgery
Tuesdays 4 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup>	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4.30 pm.
Every Thursday	Craft Club: all welcome 12 noon to 3pm.
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4 to 6.30pm.
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2018 to Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2019 <b>House Closed</b> <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL</b>	
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	House re-opens
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb.	Heritage Heritage: a display of some heritage material relating to the House and local area from our archive of previous exhibitions (see p.7)
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4.30 pm. (TBC)
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnese, Hampton & Littlewood. 10am. to 12 noon
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	New Year Party/Get Together. 5pm (see p.1)

*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 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)