

Newsletter

February 2018



NEW NEIGHBOURS and a TIME OF CHANGE

The view south from the first floor has been included in the last two post-Christmas Newsletters, with speculation about what the next year will bring. Now that the building is progressing fast, we'll soon lose the views we've got used to! Inside the House, we are implementing plans to try relocating and changing the nature of the shop, which involved a big clear-out of the Surgery over the closed period. An exhibition covering something of the development of the original Stuart House and its site over time is planned for early March (see p.7). Meanwhile, the Trust has now become a CIO (see p.2) and Members have officially become Friends. As explained in the past two Newsletters, only Friends now receive the Newsletter. We welcome more!



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

Sue's News

Stuart House CIO

A very Happy (albeit belated!) New Year to all our Friends! Yes – after the many formalities of November and December we remain 'Stuart House Trust' but are now operating under the CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) which is registered under Charity No 1175842. The merger documentation is still in the course of being finalised by the Charity Commission at the time of going to press.

1175842

Our stationery now bears the new number. We will be working through the House and various pamphlets and literature and will be changing the Charity Number. This is on-going. If any of you have left legacies in your Will to the original Charity Number you do not have to change that. As we will shortly be registered in the Register of Mergers this has the effect of ensuring that any such legacies pass in favour of the new Charity.

A Party

We will be planning a party in the not too distant future with Press publicity by way of thanking Coodes for their generous sponsorship, without which we would have to use much needed funds to pay for legal services.

AGM

In the meantime, however, I can announce that our AGM will be held on Monday 12th March at 7 p.m. in the Gallery. The AGM will be much less formal than previous AGMs but we will be presenting the usual reports and accounts. There is no longer need for election of officers. (The current trustees remain the same as those in place at the end of December. A buffet will be provided and the meeting will give all our Friends a chance to meet the Trustees and raise any points with us.

THE FRIENDS

The Friends' Constitution (a draft of which was published in September's Newsletter) has now formally been adopted and bears no amendments other than the insertion of the new Charity Number.

In the spirit of that Constitution we will be scheduling an additional three meetings during the year, again to give the opportunity to share views and ideas.

There is never an end to the hoops which we have to jump through to comply with legal requirements: new data protection legislation is due to come into force in May. This means that, unfortunately, we will have to let each one of our Friends have a new application form to complete and sign so that Friends agree to our storing their data. We will be taking the opportunity to ensure that we have up to date information for all of you. A new database is being created for that purpose. More about that later!



I know that many of you wonder exactly what we do at our monthly meetings, and I try to give you a flavour of it in this column. I can tell you that we have lots of projects in the pipeline which are currently 'Work in Progress' and will be fulfilled and completed once time (and funds) permit. Those projects include such diverse items as upgrading the downstairs loo to include modern nappy changing facilities; new garden furniture; new office equipment; membership cards and stewarding badges. These are just a few examples: the spreadsheet currently has over forty items in the task list. Happy Days! Sue Glencross, Hon. Sec.

We all thank Sue for the tremendous amount of work she has done – mostly 'behind the scenes' to progress the transfer of the Stuart House Trust to a CIO, and to ensure that necessary practice and documentation is in place and that we understand it! (ed.)

CHRISTMAS 2017 at STUART HOUSE

The House was beautifully decorated, with a lot of natural foliage and Cornish themed fabrics and bunting. We linked with the Nadelik Lyskerrys event, run by Goldentree (The Man-Engine people!), which built on the great events already going on in Liskeard (including Lights Up and the Vintage Fair) to encourage things Cornish, especially the language, but also dancing and singing. We offered mulled wind and mince-pies while waiting for the Lights Up procession, hosted the start of the children's trail, and displayed children's models of some of the beasts (labelled in Cornish) from Charles



Causley's 'The Animals' Carol' on the window-seat in Reception. We look forward to involvement with the the 2018 events!

Joe Lewis (right) from Goldentree and a Cornish Language colleague waiting for more children to come and collect the Trail sheet from Stuart House.



The Trussed Room table looked so welcoming that it had to be guarded by a pike-man! Charles I might have been bewildered by the debris of decorations in progress. We thank Sioux and Gabby for making the House look so festive. Thanks to Sioux for organizing our very successful Christmas Craft Fair too.

February's Thoughts from our Garden's Overseer



A new year: Spring and rebirth beckon. Renaissance is literally rebirth or renewal, and The Renaissance which swept across Europe in the late Middle Ages and early Modern period (often only associated with Italy) was of course a rebirth and flowering of the arts, the sciences, and design. Renaissance ideas of gardens favoured a peaceful, formal layout, ornamental in character, but which also borrowed from practical medieval gardens, so included

plants for food and medicine. Such gardens would have had hedged enclosures, featured walls and arbours. These times were punctuated by wars and religious turmoil, nevertheless the recognition that gardens were places for peaceful retreat and spiritual uplift gave rise to many spectacular creations such as those at Hampton Court, at the erstwhile palaces of Nonsuch (Surrey), and Whitehall (only the Banqueting House remains) and at Kenilworth Castle. Plant breeding and selection began in earnest at this time resulting in many of the improved strains of flowers, vegetables and fruit trees we are familiar with today.

The Stuart House garden dates back to the beginning of the 16th Century: early Tudor times. No doubt it would have incorporated some of the latest fashions in intricate ornamentation and knot hedge design prevalent then. The garden was once very much larger than it is today, extending up to where the Post Office now stands, and taking in the parking area behind. It also included the land next door which presently resounds to the clamour and cacophony of building work. Temporarily, peace has been lost from the garden. However, on looking out from the warmth of the café, the windows frame an attractive peaceful retreat in its winter form.



Colour is sparse in the garden at present. A few primroses have appeared, and a single antirrhinum stands proud in the jewel bed. These plants are listed in seed catalogues as short-lived tender perennials, yet in Cornwall they seem to



carry on, flowering through the cold dark months. Antirrhinum seed is the sort that will respond well if it is brushed into cracks in the garden in late Spring: one that found itself between kerb stones outside my house grew well and flowered continually for about a year.

One of the pots by the wall fountain is planted with Calendula Winter Sun, one of the new varieties said to flower all winter. Well, it is doing that of sorts, but the blooms, which are very like the old-fashioned pot marigold, only properly open when they detect the warmth of sunshine. They would probably do very well in say the Mediterranean biome at Eden, but for "unceasing winter colour outdoors", as the seed catalogue promised, it's probably best to give them a miss. (cont. p.5.....)

(continued from page 4)

Perhaps soon the builders next door will embark on constructing the promised 7ft high wall between the new pub and our garden. I've noticed this winter some excellent Malus crab apple trees, about 20ft high, and covered in long-lasting scarlet fruit the same size as little baubles. One planted on our side of the wall would be ideal: just the right height, the birds would appreciate the fruit, and of course the tree would be covered in Spring blossom.



Four dedicated garden volunteers, Wendy Lindsey, Liz Price, Judith Markes and Gill Bowman who have been with Stuart House garden for a combined total of around fifty years have now decided to hang up their trowels (creaking joints and all that). So, the greatest thanks from all at Stuart House for all

your dedicated efforts, and do keep popping in to see how the garden is getting on and to share ideas and suggestions.

Malcolm Mort

(thanks to Malcolm for the photographs, all taken in January – looking up through the twisted willow, antirrhinum and calendula 'Winter Sun'. He also took the picture of our four retiring garden volunteers, to whom we all – trustees, Friends and all visitors to the garden, extend our heartfelt thanks. ed.)



Hellebores in Stuart House's garden last Spring – another of Malcolm's photographs.

Stuart House Gardening Club

Organiser Val Moore reports that the club is progressing well.

The next meeting is
**Monday 26th February,
11.30am. to 1.30pm.**

There will be a discussion on hellebores and other spring plants, and a sharing of knowledge and tips for success with them.

Meetings will be monthly, and the group will consider ideas for more topics and activities. Please contact Val on 01579 228518 if you are interested.

RECENT (and some regular) EVENTS



Pat's Art Box with Linoshed

The last of their 2017 exhibitions ran from 27th November to 2nd December and was going on during the Nadelik Lyskerrys event as

DISKWEDHYANS ARTYS

i.e.

Art Exhibition (we hoped!).

Comments in the visitors' book again showed appreciation of the local subjects, the colour and detail and the vibrancy of Pat's paintings, and included "the dog was lovely, ditto the paintings". The cards and Richard's lino-prints remained very popular too.

We shall welcome Pat again in March.

"Fake or Fortune?"

Richard Hamm visits Stuart House monthly on behalf of Bearnas, Hamptom & Littlewood, offering free information and valuation of antiques. He is shown here between visitors in January, but the event always attracts interest and people from our area come to the House who might not otherwise think to visit.



The Craft Club runs every Thursday between noon and about 3pm. Several crafters were away when this photo was taken in January. Organiser Carol again stresses that all are welcome – beadwork, decoupage, sewing, card-making, knitting, rug-making, pyrography and more



Stuart House Concert Series Sunday Afternoon Music Programme 2018

The series co-ordinator **Angela Wunnam** writes

Stuart House has an exciting programme of Sunday afternoon concerts coming up. The year starts wonderfully with **Sterts Singers**, led by Jane Warwick, on 18th February. This promises to be a great way to cheer up the possible gloom of February with their musicality and skill. We are lucky that they can come as their year is very full indeed. The pleasure will be continued on 18th March with **Java Five** and their energetic *a cappella* singing of popular music, led by Jerry Hillman. On 15th April we have the return of **Ilow Splann** - Carlton Crouch and Maggi Wilmott with a mixture of traditional Cornish music and early English music. On May 20th we have a classical guitar recital by the brilliant young **Peter Joe Bennett**, also with guest flautist **Ana Estefania Rodriguez Moran**. Together they play as **Duo Villanesca**.

The Autumn will see the return of **Liskeard School and Community College Music Department**, **Oli Doney** (counter tenor) with recorder consort and **Judy Whitlock** with one of her bands.

Please make a note of these dates in your diary and look out for the leaflet giving more details. As usual all concerts will start at 2.30pm. Ticket cost is £7.00 and this includes refreshments afterwards in the café, where there is a chance to meet the performers.

STUART HOUSE and its NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOURS ❖ change and continuity



The Gallery, Stuart House, Liskeard
5th – 17th March 2018

proper poster in preparation!

Heritage exhibition in March.

Between March 5th and 17th, the editor is mounting an exhibition (with help!) about the development of Stuart House through time – from Tudor private dwelling to restored Arts & Heritage Centre. The Library was built in its northern garden and we shall explore the use of this building, projecting into the future too. The land to the south, which was once more of the House grounds with a likely entrance way, became, through time, a site for stabling, a doctor's waiting room, a garage and now Wetherspoons.

We hope to have some late-night opening too. More detail to come.

Other local Arts & Heritage events linked in some way to The House and its Friends include

- **Old Cornwall Society**. 9th Feb, 2.30pm Public Hall. Duncan Matthews speaking on John Smeaton 'Water, Wind and Tide Mills'.
- **Liskeard and District Museum** re-opens on February 12th, with a new exhibition on medicine and doctors in Liskeard, as well as the toy collection.
- **Sterts Theatre** has several plays in February, including the winners of the one-act play competition.

Diary of Events

February 2018



Continuing until 10 th February	Jewellery, Bags, Scarves and Hats – sale in the Gallery
Thursdays 1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd	Craft Club, 12 noon to c.3pm. (see p. 6)
Tuesday 6 th Tuesday 20 th	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4.30 pm
Monday 12 th to Saturday 24 th	Book sale in the Gallery
Monday 12 th	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4 - 6.30 pm
Friday 16 th	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnese, Hampton & Littlewood. 10 am. to 12 noon
Sunday 18 th	Starts Singers, led by Jane Warwick. Concert in the Gallery 2.30 pm. Tickets £7 from reception, include refreshments and a chance to talk with the performers afterwards (see p.9)
February 26 th to March 3 rd	Mixed Craft show in the Gallery
Monday 26 th	Gardening Club 11.30 am to 1.30 pm, (see p.5)
Coming in March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exhibition 'Stuart House and its Next-Door Neighbours : change and continuity' (see p.7)• Bridge Schools Art Exhibition• Pat's Art Box

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. Reception is usually 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