

*July 2015*

## *INVITATION*

ANNUAL MEMBERS' GARDEN PARTY

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July

12.30pm

Please bring a plate of food to share

Tickets £2

### **Visitors from all over the world come to Stuart House..**

**Especially in the summer months, our café volunteers report on the number of people visiting the House from outside the local area. The visitors' book for Eileen Crouch's June exhibition (see p.3) bore this out. She writes...**

It was rewarding to welcome 267 visitors to the POETRY AND ART exhibition over two weeks. They had come from far and near. Our Visitor Book records those from *France, Germany, Hong Kong, U.S.A. and Australia (Melbourne and Adelaide); and from all over the U.K. including Sussex, Berkshire, Midlothian, Caerphilly, Yorkshire, Worcestershire, Henley-on-Thames, Bristol, Cheshire, Leicester, Southampton, Winchester, Grantham, Staffordshire, Nottingham, Sutton Coldfield, Birkenhead, Devon, as well as from Liskeard and other places in Cornwall.*



**Leaflet Sponsored by Coodes**

Honorary Solicitors to Stuart House Trust

## Sue's News of the Committee Meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> June

The main focus of our discussions this month concerned the plans submitted by Wetherspoons for their new public house. Many of you will have viewed those plans either on line or in the House where they were displayed. Some will have made comments. Some of you will have seen the observations expressed by Historic England (formerly English Heritage).

A couple of weeks ago Bruce, myself and the Trust's architect Richard Church met with three representatives from Wetherspoons and we were able to put forward our own immediate concerns with certain aspects of their plans. Briefly, the matters discussed were

- Our right of way to the rear garden would have been blocked by the proposed dividing fence
- The division should be a wall, not a fence as the latter would not be in keeping
- There should be a separate locked gate to our rear
- We would prefer the wall to be a height of 2.1 metres
- Their bin area was too close to our kitchen – but it may be impossible for it to be sited elsewhere
- Would our upstairs windows be overlooked? We were told not as their terrace would be bounded by a parapet with obscure glass on top

At our trustees' meeting the above points were discussed and it was agreed that a letter of objection be sent to Cornwall Council. The letter of objection endorsed the views of Historic England but rather felt a contemporary design on this prominent site would complement the varied buildings in Barras Street.

On asking about timing, we were told that, subject to planning, a mid-July start was envisaged with full contingent on site mid-

August. A 24-week build time was anticipated and after that time to finalize the interior with a view to opening February 2016. Let us see what transpires!

The secondary focus of our meeting was the gable-end wall project which nears completion. We were concerned about the discovery of woodworm in the Tudor Room but are pleased to say that Heritage Cornwall have dealt with it.

The King's Room floor will be tackled by our contractors once they have finished the work to the gable-end wall. The painter will then paint the windows on that side of the House.

All we want to do now is to see the House put back to normal with all rooms open and functioning.

*Sue Glencross, Hon. Sec.*

The Trustees would like to express the tremendous gratitude they owe to Chairman Bruce and Hon. Sec. Sue for the thorough and challenging work which they, together with our architect, Richard Church, have done and will certainly continue to do in liaising with Wetherspoons and preparing our stated reaction to the planning application. It was minuted – Sue is too modest to include it!

*ed.*

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE**

For decorating and sorting the rooms now coming back into use after the repairs .....

For helping in the Café, Shop and garden, for stewarding exhibitions, putting on exhibitions .....

**Eileen Crouch's 'Poetry and Art' Exhibition** which ran from June 1<sup>st</sup> to June 13<sup>th</sup> attracted many visitors (see p.1). It also formed a lovely backdrop to the concert in the Gallery on June 6<sup>th</sup>. We are so grateful to Eileen for this highly original initiative, as well as for writing the poetry. Copies of her books of poems - including "Painting with Words in Cornwall" are available in Stuart House. Eileen writes....

Comments were favourable, including

*"...evocative ... inspiring concept ... glad we saw this ... interesting & enjoyable ... an amazing find ... good to see collaboration between branches of the arts ... etc "*

My thanks to the artists, photographers and authors who provided such a lovely variety of pictures and albums illustrating some of poems in "Painting with Words in Cornwall", creating an attractive display which was viewed to the accompaniment of specially arranged and recorded Cornish music.

Participants in the exhibition were: Barbara Willcocks, Carlton Crouch, Evangeline Coomber, Geoffrey Cox, George Vaughan-Ellis, Gill Bowden, Jackie Jenkins, Jane Wood, John Batey, Linda Maynard, Margaret Hawken, Michelle Fedrick, Patricia Gamblin, Penelope Wheeler, Sheila Holland, Valerie Moore and Tony Wood.



*photo by Carlton Crouch*

Drenched by a very severe rain storm, a good number of guests arrived at the Preview evening on 1<sup>st</sup> June to launch the event. Thanks to all who came. Being looked after by Sioux and her team with teas and coffees throughout the two weeks was appreciated by those stewarding the exhibition.

*Eileen Crouch*

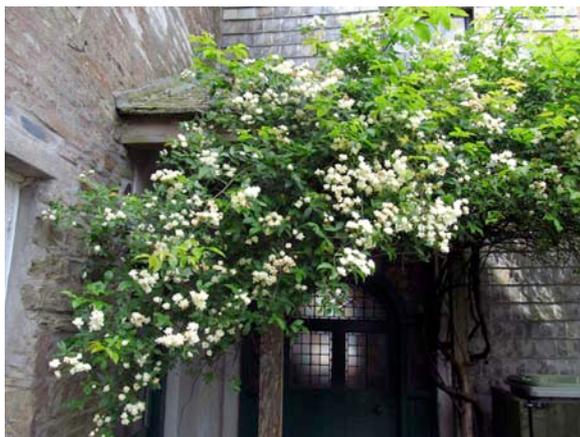
On Thursday afternoon, 18<sup>th</sup> June, Eileen gave a repeat of her talk about the Great Evacuation of the Second World War, including her own experiences as an evacuee in Canada (see the report in the last Newsletter). It inspired a lot of discussion afterwards about the different experiences of others – including some of the visitors. Thank you Eileen, for making the opportunity available to more of us. *ed.*



**Rose Gibbon's** late June exhibition of her paintings (more to come on this in the next Newsletter) was a joy, and the influences she spoke of, including Japanese prints, deco ceramics, dreams, stories and the Cornish land and seascape made for a fascinatingly varied range of images. The Looe Valley Singers (who include Rose and would welcome new members) sang, surrounded by her paintings, on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## Thoughts for July from our garden's overseer

When is a rose not a rose? Well, that's the question that's been puzzling a few of the Stuart House gardening team these last few weeks in connection with the climbing plant that has recently been flowering profusely over the porch leading to the garden. Following its rather severe prune in the winter, it has sprung back to life with huge enthusiasm, producing a galaxy of blooms which are smallish (about 1½" diameter), whitish (tinged with yellow), and with a mild perfume.



What is so wonderful about this plant is that it



grows so well in the shade, never seems to suffer any disease, and is completely thornless. I've trawled the internet to find its name, but without any real success. The most similar match is a variety called Snowgoose, yet this is described as more of a large bush rose, which ours most definitely isn't. A helpful person then suggested that this plant might not be a rose after all, but some other sort of climbing shrub. However, I don't think that this is right: the plant has all the characteristics of a rambler rose to me. Unfortunately, there's no

mention of it on the original planting scheme for the garden, so if any rose expert is reading this, please do send in your thoughts. By the way, rambler roses usually flower only once (mostly in June), whilst climbers are usually repeat flowering.

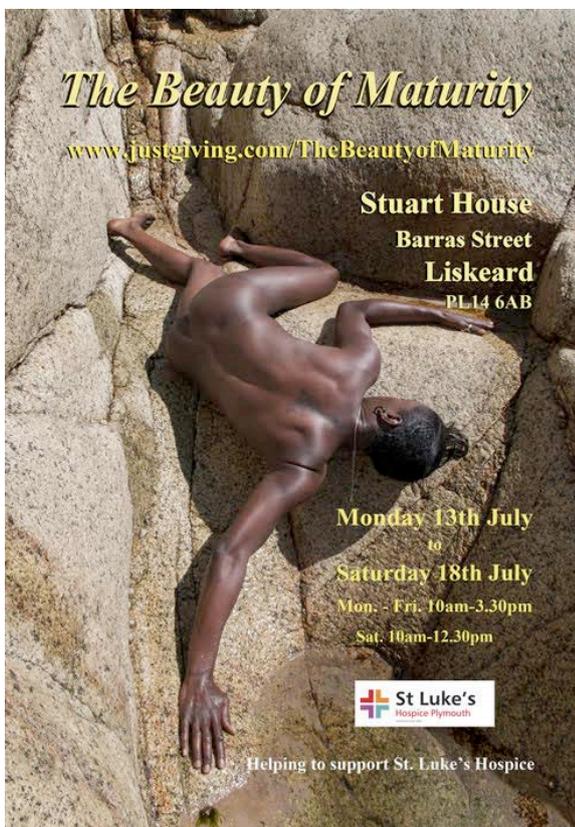
I've heard gardeners (the TV sort) talk recently about the "June Gap", meaning the flowering gap between the ending of spring bulbs and the start of the summer bedding. Well, I don't think that Elizabethan gardeners ever had this problem. Many herbs come into flower at this time, along with a wide range of perennials, biennials and autumn sown annuals, following neatly on from the bulbs, primroses, wallflowers and forget-me-nots. For example, there's sweet william, poppies of all sorts, sweet rocket, aquilegia, foxgloves, hardy geraniums, campanula, yellow loosestrife (*Lysimachia*), cornflower, geum, calendula, to list but a tiny few, and all well known in centuries past. To my mind, there can be more of a problem in July when these herbaceous plants start to go to seed and look scruffy, yet are firmly determined to carry on occupying the space needed for the annuals, by now desperate to get out of their seed trays. (That's another reason for delaying sowing annuals – later sown seed will produce plants that flower well into the autumn.)

Speaking of hardy geraniums, which are mostly blue and derived from the British wildflower (*geranium pratense*), these are very reliable, drought resistant, and an excellent early summer flower. Cut them back nearly to the ground when they finish flowering and they'll produce a second flowering display later in the season. The Stuart House jewel border relies on them. (However, be careful that self-sown offspring and spreading roots don't take over.)

Readers will know of the current planning application by Wetherspoons to build on the garage site next door and many will have made comments about the proposals. We hope that the peace and tranquillity of the Stuart House garden is recognised and respected in a noisy little town, a place that provides a sense of solace and well-being.

*Malcolm Mort*

We have some new garden furniture, thanks to generous donations and money-raising events. It's all wood now although if we have lots of people in the garden, we may still need to bring out the plastic! So maybe you'll see both at the Members' Garden Party!



## The Beauty of Maturity 13<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

This photographic exhibition features the work of Maureen Douglas-Green and Howard Nowlan. Taking inspiration from the beauty of land and seascapes, they have explored the often overlooked beauty of the older female nude form. All of the models featured in the exhibition were in their 40s, 50s and 60s when the images were taken. The photographers felt that it was very important to raise awareness of the natural mature form to show that personality, grace and femininity outweigh the stereotypical concept of the female model. Each of the models had their own reason for wanting to work with the photographers, but each has given permission for their images to be used in order to raise funds for St. Luke's Hospice. Although St. Luke's is Plymouth based, many residents of South East Cornwall also benefit from its valuable work. Come along, support St. Luke's and enjoy a beautiful and unusual visual experience.

## Double Bill of sublime musical excellence at Stuart House in June 2015.

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June **Rebekka Hartmann** came with **Caroline Bergius** to play '*Baroque Masterworks*' on the Stradivarius violin and bespoke harpsichord. They played works by Corelli, Handel, Biber, Pisendel and Bach. The Max Lock Gallery at Stuart House offers the perfect acoustic for the harpsichord. It was possible to hear the whole range of notes, especially the bass, as deep, rich sounds, which can be lost in larger venues. It almost sounded as though there were a sustaining pedal, the harpsichord resonated so fully. There is an incredible synergy between Caroline and Rebekka as they have known each other since Rebekka was a young girl. We were very privileged to have these consummate musicians come to Stuart House and it is not very often possible to be so close to the magnificent and full sound of a Stradivarius violin played by such a virtuoso. Although Rebekka's first love in Baroque music is Bach, she is always looking for other composers who can demonstrate the whole range of Baroque sound and invention. Caroline and Rebekka love the musical adventure of discovering and playing these composers as well, although clearly it requires virtuosic ability to play them. They both played stunning solos. Caroline played Handel's Suite in D minor, which sounded magnificent in the resonant acoustic. Rebekka played a dazzling Sonata in A minor by the violin virtuoso, composer and teacher Pisendel. It was certainly an evening to be remembered for a long time. We are indeed fortunate that these world-class musicians so love Cornwall that they are prepared to come and play here. We hope they will return to Stuart House again next year.



Then on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June the **Two Jonathans** returned to offer us a stunning performance of Schubert's extraordinary Song Cycle, *Der Winterreise – The Winter Journey*. It is hard to fit the Schubert we heard yesterday with others of his better-known and much lighter pieces. The **Winter Journey** was a bleak and dark one of a soul in torture, despair and desperation. Schubert, at a very young age, was dying of syphilis and he poured all his anguish at his life slipping painfully away into this remarkable song cycle. It makes the utmost demands on both the pianist and singer, to which the Jonathans rose magnificently.

Although it might have seemed slightly bizarre to have this bleak journey on the longest day of the year, it was in fact a relief that there were birds singing, sunlight and even warmth outside. It saved us perhaps from being drawn too far into the depth of Schubert's gloom. Tony Hazzard greatly enhanced the experience by giving a brief précis in English of each of the 24 songs, before they were performed. Jonathan Lewsey's excellent diction meant that German speakers were able to follow the words of the poems.

Thanks to Jonathan's explanations and Tony's translations, the whole audience had a real concept of the poetry.

Jonathan Delbridge accompanied on the keyboard with great sensitivity and feeling for the mood of each song, making the complexity of the music appear effortless. This song cycle is particularly noted for the equality of the two parts. Both performers made excellent use of dynamics, staccato and legato to produce a range of colours appropriate to the mood of each of the 24 songs. The songs, some of which were very short, expressed passion and pathos, sadness and lyricism and philosophical reflection and despair. Schubert's utter dejection has left us with some of his deepest and most sublime music.

It was altogether a memorable and professional performance of this little-known but exceptional song cycle. The audience was captivated and enraptured. At the end it was very comforting to go downstairs for tea and refreshments in the beautiful Stuart House garden bursting with colour and life!

The next Sunday afternoon concert will be in September when Judy Whitlock returns with the brilliant pianist, Noelle Boucherat. October sees the annual return of Liskeard Secondary School and Community College Music Department. Finally the year ends triumphantly with Jonathan Delbridge returning to give us a solo performance in November. Keep an eye out for the dates and publicity.

Report by **Angela Wunnam**, organizer of the Stuart House Concert Series.

*We are so grateful to Angela for all she does in providing such memorable musical experiences in Stuart House. (ed)*

## ART EXHIBITIONS IN AUGUST

More detail to follow in the next Newsletter.

**3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> – Geoff Cox**

"Sentinals" ; works in acrylic reflecting the stark beauty of trees, many in the moorland landscape

**10<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> – Jayne Wackett**

"From Veryan to Venice" through the medium of water-colour: exploration of an endless fascination with all aspects of the world around us

**17<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> – Jayanthi Warburton**

Painting in acrylics inspired by the expansive skylscapes and pristine purity of light that Cornwall offers.

**24<sup>th</sup> to September 5<sup>th</sup> – Linda Maynard**  
artist-in-residence at Stuart House  
**and her students**



### Monday August 10<sup>th</sup> 2015 SILK RIBBON WORKSHOP

Hand embroidery tutor Shelley Cox, who qualified at the Royal School of Needlework in 1998, is running a whole-day workshop at which participants will work towards completing the above design, 'Forever Lucky' which is about 4" square.

Cost is £20, plus £19.50 for the kit of all materials in a choice of 4 colour-ways. An 8" or 10" ring frame with clamp attachment will be needed – but we hope that these may be borrowed - Details from the House. All welcome.

## Activities of our partner organizations.

Please support the Phoenix 100 events – Stuart House is involved as a member of the Caradon Heritage Partnership, and we will run an information stall at the event on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.



Remember that Stuart House is part of the dynamic **Caradon Heritage Partnership** which is the legacy group formed from the Caradon Hill Area Heritage Project (CHAHP) which concluded last year. Consult their website at <http://chp.caradon.org.uk> for details of the organization and of all sorts of local events run by the different member groups.

# PHOENIX 100

## Celebrating our Heritage

A programme of free events to complement Liskeard Lions Carnival Week

**Bearah Tor Quarry**  
 A talk by Ian Piper on working the granite at the quarry on Bearah Tor. Liskeard Methodist Church 7.30pm Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June

**Lanhydrock History**  
 An illustrated talk by Lanhydrock volunteer Brian Oldham, looking at the Robartes family links with the Liskeard and Caradon area over the centuries. Liskeard Methodist Church 7.30 pm Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June

**Ross Poldark's View of the Moor**  
 A 3.5 mile circular walk led by Brian Oldham of Walkers Are Welcome. Sorry, but no dogs on this walk. Meet at the Hurlers Car Park, Minions at 1.15pm for a 1.30pm start, Thursday 2nd July 2015

**The Discovery of Kober**  
 A Phoenix 100 Project, an evening of drama, music and dance telling the story of copper mining on Caradon Hill! It'll consist of comedy sketches, high drama, Cornish dancing and music. A performance featuring Caradon Hill Area Primary schoolchildren, Scoots Kernow and Play It Again Theatre Company. Displays and refreshments from 6pm performance 7pm The Public Hall, West Street, Liskeard on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

**Mines of the Liskeard & Caradon District**  
 Follow the tin and copper lodes and learn about the Victorian mining boom and the machines which drove it. Sorry but no dogs on this walk. A 4 mile circular walk led by Iain Rowe of Caradon Archaeology. Meet outside Minions Post Office at 10am on Saturday 4th July

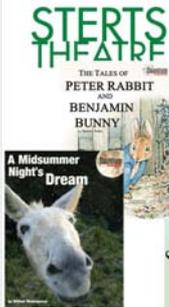
**Wildflower Walk**  
 Last year Colin's walk discovered two previously unrecorded plants. What will they find this year? With Colin French. Meet Minions Interpretive Centre Car Park 2pm on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July

*Please come and join in the events. There are no charges but there will be a collection at each event to help cover the costs so that we can run similar events again next year!*






## STERTS THEATRE Summer 2015 at Sterts





**Sterts Summer Season of Visiting Acts**

Roche Brass with Sterts Singers. Sat 11th July 7.30pm  
 Sweetness & Light a new play on a pre-Edinburgh Festival preview  
 Monday 13th July 7.30 in the Studio 16+ recommended  
 GB Theatre with a Shakespeare double bill.  
 Much Ado about Nothing. Thursday 16th July. 7.30pm  
 Twelfth Night. Friday 17th July. 7.30pm  
 Quantum Theatre double bill.  
 Peter Rabbit & Benjamin Bunny. Weds 29th July 2.00pm  
 A Midsummer Night's Dream. Weds 29th July 7.30pm

Full details of all shows. [www.sterts.co.uk](http://www.sterts.co.uk)  
 01579 362382  
 Box Office 10am-4pm weekdays 10am-1pm Saturdays.  
 Sterts, Upton Cross Liskeard PL14 5AZ

## STERTS THEATRE Summer 2015 at Sterts





**Sterts Summer Repertory Season of In-house Shows**

Top Girls. Friday 10th July 7.30pm  
 The Ladykillers. Sat 18th, Mon/Tues 27th/28th July 7.30pm  
 The Addams Family. Fri/Sat 3rd/4th July, 7.30pm  
 Saturday 25th July, (2 shows 2.00pm/7.30pm)  
 Sitting Pretty. Weds/Thurs 8th/9th July, Thurs 30th July 7.30pm  
 Some Enchanted Evening - The Magic of the Musicals. Thurs 23rd/  
 Fri 24th July 7.30pm  
 Tickets £10/8/6 on the door or 50p off each for advance booking

Full details of all shows. [www.sterts.co.uk](http://www.sterts.co.uk)  
 01579 362382  
 Box Office 10am-4pm weekdays 10am-1pm Saturdays.  
 Sterts, Upton Cross Liskeard PL14 5AZ  
 Sterts Kitchen bookings 07866 292414

# Diary of Events

## July 2015



The House should be back to normal after the repairs. The permanent exhibitions are open, and the Stuart House Art and Craft shop will be back in the ground-floor Doctor's Surgery.	
Every Thursday	Knit n' Knatter meet from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm. All welcome.
Until Saturday 11th	"Summer Madness" sale with Victor and Nancy
Thursday 2nd	'The Discovery of Kober' - event at the Public Hall 7pm (free) . Music, dance, drama. Refreshments, and displays of the activities of the Caradon Heritage Partnership members, including Stuart House from 6pm. (see p.8)
Saturday 4th	Liskeard Carnival – see also the Phoenix 100 Events which link in (see p.8)
Thursday 9th	Caradon Archaeology Group AGM
Thursday 9th	10am to 12 noon. Antiques Valuation Day with Richard Hamm from Bearnas, Hampton & Littlewood.
Saturday 11th	Liskeard Show at Merrymeet
Monday 13th	Poetry Group meet in the café
Sunday 19th	12.30pm. Members' Garden Party. Please bring a plate to share. Tickets £2. (see p.1)
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday 18th	'The Beauty of Maturity' photographic exhibition and sale with Maureen Douglas-Green and Howard Nolan. (see p. 5)
Tuesday 21st	Meeting of South-East Cornwall Museums Forum.
<b>COMING IN AUGUST</b> (see p. 7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art Exhibition with Geoff Cox</li> <li>• Art Exhibition and sale with Jayne Wackett</li> <li>• Silk Ribbon Workshop with Shelley Cox</li> <li>• Art Exhibition and sale with Jayanthi Warburton</li> <li>• Art Exhibition and sale of work by resident artist Linda Maynard and her students</li> </ul>

*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 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