

Newsletter

March 2019

SPRING IN THE GARDEN



The first outside café customers of the season – in mid February! Café volunteer Iris cleaned the chairs especially. Our Garden's overseer, Malcolm, had put primroses on the tables. The magnificent magnolia is just coming into flower.

REMINDER – 2019 'SUBSCRIPTIONS' NOW OVERDUE!

If you have not yet paid your 2019 subscription as a Friend of Stuart House (still only £10 minimum!) please do so by the middle of March. Renewal forms are again enclosed with this Newsletter. If you don't, we shall, with sadness, have to presume that you wish to come off our mailing list and no longer receive this Newsletter.



Leaflet Sponsored by Coodes
Honorary Solicitors to Stuart House Trust

Sue's News

I attended our February Trustees' meeting whilst my mind was still in Madeira where I had spent a happy but exhausting week with two friends. I am thankful to say we did not fall off the steep sides of one of the Levadas (walking a narrow concrete 'gangplank' with a sheer drop on one side did not endear itself to me!) and managed to descend a mountain (52 hairpin bends) without disaster striking although it was very dodgy in places with a narrow path laid to cobbles and rubble - again with a sheer drop on one side.....

.....so – back to business. Much of our recent meeting was devoted to discussing with Sioux the manning of the House administration and the Café. We welcome two new volunteers, Susan Margiotta and Barbara Ford, who will join our existing valued band of café volunteers. We extend grateful thanks to all our volunteers who assist not only with the café but also with reception work and stewarding. If you are able to volunteer in any capacity please give your details to Sioux. We could not function without you.

We will shortly be meeting to discuss the appointment of one or two additional trustees – who would be expected to work with us initially with a view to later formal appointment. A full 'job description' will be published in our newsletter and we hope there will be a flood of suitably qualified applicants! Watch this space for further detail. In the meantime if you feel you have specific skills which you could offer please do let us know.

Sioux is still taking bookings for the Gallery and Jane Room, and there are slots available for this year. If you or anyone you know wants to hold an exhibition or sale please let her know.

Sue Glencross (Hon. Sec.)

The first of our 2019 four-times-a-year **Meeting of Friends of Stuart House** together with Trustees will be – with due notice - later in the Spring, when the annual accounts are all complete. Although as a CIO we no longer have a formal Annual General Meeting, we wish Friends to feel – and to be – involved in the life of the House.



A successful mixed craft sale ran in the Max Lock Gallery during February. We welcomed several crafters as stewards, including Zoe, here doing beadwork.

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday 19th
to
Saturday 30th March

Arts and Crafts made by Friends of Stuart House

sale in the Surgery,

focus on Mother's Day.

Friends and visitors who have been into the Surgery recently may have noticed this poster – forward planning for 2020!

STUART HOUSE
Arts & Heritage Centre
Barras Street, Liskeard PL14 3EP
T. 01579 347347 E. info@stuarthouse.org.uk

EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Friends of Stuart House
are planning to stage an exhibition and sale of

CELTIC ART

during the summer of 2020

This advance notice is to enable exhibitors sufficient time to make:

Quilts, Cushions, Woodwork, Craft, Paintings, Jewellery, or any other creative items.

Please leave a note with our House Manager of your interest and planned exhibit(s). Thank you. Eileen Crouch

Henry Rice descends to the Gallery!

For a few weeks, we are bringing the Henry Rice permanent exhibition from the Rowse Room on the top floor of the House down to the Max Lock Gallery.

We hope that this will enable more Friends and visitors to see, or remember, what an important figure Henry Rice was in creating the Liskeard townscape as we know it.

Eileen, one of the original Henry Rice Project team, has, with Sioux, re-hung the exhibition, and is also planning to hang some of Jane Wood's drawings of Rice buildings, which Jane so kindly left with the House.



Liskeard Old Cornwall Society

Friday 8th March 2.30pm. in the
Hobhouse Room (ie. the re-named Long
Room) of the Public Hall.

**Brian Camp will talk about Polperro
Writers and Artists.**

*The OCS Room on the top floor of Stuart
House is open on Wednesdays and other
times by arrangement.*

A WEA 10 week **Lip Reading course** has made a provisional booking from Thursday 25th April (to be confirmed if numbers are sufficient) so if anyone is interested or knows someone who might be, please spread the word – there are leaflets in the House.

Remember that we do gain essential income by letting out some of our rooms – for both regular and occasional meetings which help the community.

March's Thoughts from our Garden's Overseer



A recent visitor to Stuart House told me how well the laurels, pruned as standard lollipops, give structure and serenity to the garden. I asked if she meant the bay trees, which she did, and which she said are the “true laurels”. The garden hedge sort of laurel, she added, is not in fact a laurel at all, neither is “that so-called spotted laurel shrub growing over there in the corner”.

I went home and sought internet enlightenment: my findings are distilled

here. The Bay Tree (sometimes called Sweet Bay or Bay Laurel) is *Laurus nobilis*, native to the Mediterranean region, and brought here by the Romans. The hedging laurel is *Prunus laurocerasus*, often called the Cherry Laurel as it has large black (poisonous) cherry look-alike fruit - the stones inside germinate very easily, by the way, if sown outdoors in the autumn. The Spotted Laurel is *Aucuba japonica*, which makes a resilient, large pot plant, excellent for winter outdoors. Then, amongst others, there's the Portuguese Laurel (*Prunus lusitanica*), the Chilean Laurel, (*Laurelia sempervirens*), the Californian Laurel (*Umbellularia californica*), a tall hardwood tree with scented leaves rather like bay, and the Spurge Laurel (*Daphne laureola*), which is neither a spurge nor a laurel, but at least does provide some winter scent (it can be rather invasive though).

The botanical ancient Lauraceae family is classified by flower structure. There are an estimated 50 genera and 3000 species world-wide which prefer to live in warm temperate or tropical regions, and most are evergreen. Hence the problem: “laurel” has become a word too broad to be botanically meaningful. So maybe we should agree with the visitor and refer to *Laurus nobilis* as the true laurel.

In Ancient Greece, winning competitors in athletic tournaments were crowned with laurel wreaths. A 2nd century BC coin shows the god Apollo with such a wreath. Apollo's great love, Daphne, we're told, turned into a bay tree as he approached her, so he used some of the leaves to form a wreath and declared the plant sacred. Julius Caesar was often seen in a laurel wreath, and Napoleon revived this tradition in French revolutionary times. Nowadays, we continue to associate laurels with success. We have Nobel Laureates, Poet Laureates, and Baccalaureates, and there is the saying: “resting on one's laurels” - basking in memories of former achievements.



One valued fact about the bay is that the leaves are not poisonous, so that they're quite safe to give an infusion or flavour to dishes when cooking (although the leaves are indigestible). The Bay tree, originally

preferring warmer climes than ours, has over the centuries adapted and is now extremely hardy. If left to its own devices it'll grow into a tall, dense and rather straggly bush, spreading by suckering shoots (see *photo*). However, it is very forgiving of being regularly pruned to



whatever size and shape you chose, and is generally disease free, although in the winter the leaves can discolour and become blistered. I'm not sure if this damage is caused by caterpillars or insects - suggestions are welcomed.

It's the beginning of March, and weed seeds in the Stuart House garden, as everywhere, are sprouting profusely in cracks and crevices. So, if it's time for them to get going, it's also fine to sow hardy annual seeds. It's best to give them some protection though,

maybe in a cold frame or unheated greenhouse so that awakening snails and slugs don't feast on tempting seedlings.

Malcolm Mort



STUART HOUSE GARDEN CLUB

Monday 18th March
11.30 am. to 1.30pm.

new members welcome
contact Val Moore via the House or on 01579 228518

← The focus on Bay in this month's 'Garden Thoughts' and this poster in the Surgery in the House remind us again of the '**Spotlight on Herbs**' festival planned for June.

Chairman Bob will meet those Friends interested in further planning of this at 3pm on Monday 18th March – please do come if you are interested - it does not matter if you've not been in contact before!



Rose Gibbon was the Artist of the Month in the Surgery during February. Her poppy paintings, along with many others, attracted a lot of interest.

Diary of Events

March 2019



continuing ...	Henry Rice Exhibition now in the Gallery, with Jane Wood's drawings (see p.3)
Every Thursday	Craft Club: all welcome 12 noon to 3pm
Tuesdays 5 th , 19 th	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 to 4.30 pm
Monday 11 th	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4 to 6.30pm
Thursday 14 th	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnes, Hampton & Littlewood. 10am to 12 noon
Monday 18 th	Gardening Club 11.30 am to 1.30 pm (see p. 5)
Monday 18 th	Friends' Meeting 3pm – about plans for the Herb Festival (see p.5)
Tuesday 19 th – Saturday 30 th	Mother's Day Crafts and Gifts made by Friends - shop in the Surgery
End of the month	Look out for news of hoped-for craft workshops
Events coming in April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Easter Arts & Crafts in the Gallery (1st to 20th)• Bo Foaks Memorial Walk (Saturday 13th)• House shut on Good Friday (19th) and Easter Monday (22nd)

The House, Garden, Old Kitchen Café and (but check first) Computer Research Facility are usually 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

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