

# Newsletter

May 2019

## The annual Bo Foaks Memorial Walk – Iain Rowe writes:



Bo Foaks a folk singer and keen walker who generously set-up and paid for the Stuart House Schools Music Programme was remembered on Saturday 13th April with the annual memorial walk run in his name. A keen easterly wind did not deter many and those that did turn up did so armed with litter pickers and gloves as the annual walk also doubles up as a litter pick. Eight bags of rubbish, plastic

pieces of silage bales and abandoned dog poo bags were collected from the pavements and lanes travelled by the walkers. The walk this year took in Treworrey Manor and the World Heritage Site Liskeard & Caradon Railway bed through Highwood (see *photo above*). The annual walk is organised by Caradon Archaeology - of which Bo was a founder member - and Walkers are Welcome and was led by Iain Rowe and Brian Oldham. Pre-ordered soups were available on return to Stuart House (see *photo right*) and a collection was made for the Trust and given in Bo's name. (This money will be used to assist young musicians performing at Stuart House. ed.)



Leaflet Sponsored by Coodes  
Honorary Solicitors to Stuart House Trust

## Sue's News of April's business

### 'Money, Money, Money'

#### INVITATION

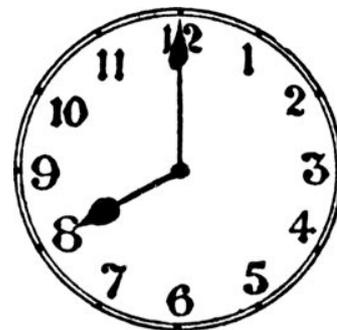
#### FRIENDS of STUART HOUSE

meet with trustees

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm

There will be a Friends' meeting 7:30 on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May when light refreshments will be served, and a copy of the 2018 accounts will be available for you to see. 2018 was a successful year, financially, but we must not sit on our laurels. We need to strenuously and continuously raise funds for the upkeep of the House. In recent months a great deal of money has been spent on a programme of redecoration and on the new garden furniture. A bespoke reception desk is on order. So although the year started on a healthy note, we do need to replenish those moneys which have been spent! Any fund-raising ideas would be welcome and if any Friends are willing to organize a fund-raising event, then that would be very much appreciated.

We are all aware of the fact that a great proportion of our income is derived from the hire of rooms, and currently room hire only takes place during the hours that the House is open. Our income could be greatly increased were it possible to hire rooms for evening use. We do not have a volunteer caretaker – any volunteers? – if there were to be evening events we would have to add a suitable amount to the charge so that we could remunerate anyone called upon to open and close and maintain security for these out-of-hours events. Does anyone have any ideas for evening use?



I am delighted to announce that following the appeal in last month's Newsletter, Tim Norman has volunteered to maintain our Facebook page and our website. Some of us do struggle with social networking so it is a considerable relief that the responsibility has been put into the domain of a young and most capable person. Please make a point of 'liking' and 'sharing' posts which are made. Comments will also be appreciated - positive ones please!!! Social networking, if used properly and sensitively, can be a tremendous asset – but improper use can also be a disaster. I dread to think what would happen if I were to be set loose on our Facebook page..... Many, many thanks to Tim who will make a tremendous contribution in our quest to generate more publicity for the House and to encourage more visitors. Welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century everyone! Better late than never!

We are fortunate to have found a new 'wave' of volunteers but still need a lot more if we are to continue with our efforts – if you can spare any time at all, in any capacity, then please let Sioux know. Without your support we could not exist. Unfortunately the administration which falls upon us is greater and greater each year, and back-up is needed at 'front of House' so to speak. That is quite aside from the excellent role which our House Manager, Sioux, plays in overseeing the day-to-day running of the House. It is a far cry from the days when the House was not open on a daily basis but only when there were events. In those days the key was kept at the former Taylors' garage and hirers would retrieve it as and when. Seems hard to believe now.

*Sue Glencross, Hon. Sec.*



## May's Thoughts from our Garden's Overseer



During April, Stuart House garden has been awash with colour, mostly from the bluebells which, despite yearly efforts to remove their seed heads and keep them under control, continue to proliferate through the garden. They're the Spanish sort and were probably planted at some time by a well-intentioned garden volunteer thinking they would stay in their allotted spot. However, through copious seed production and bulb division, they have invaded nearly all the lawn borders and have also leapt the box hedges into the other beds. By June all sign of them

will be gone, but dig down a little and there they will be massed, occupying valuable space, and intimately intertwined in a dense, knotted network with the *Hesperantha coccinea* (the new name for *Schizostylis*) which in turn are biding their time until the autumn. This year we'll have to be even more ruthless, cutting the plants right to the ground as soon as their flowers fade, to try to weaken the roots. Narcissi and tulips find the battle almost impossible and even newly planted bulbs often fail to appear – they must get strangled or even poisoned by the other brutes (yes, plants do engage in such behaviour), but at least the hardy geraniums seem to be immune, and can always be relied upon to ignore everything going on around them.



Dig down in the other beds and you'll find white stringy runners of bindweed everywhere, the stems of which, even as we read, are already rapidly twisting up, unseen, until it's too late. If someone would like to volunteer in the garden for just one task - regularly cutting bindweed stems at ground level - I'd be very grateful. This won't kill it, but continually removing top growth prevents seeding and inhibits food stores getting to the roots, so weakening reserves.

Gardening, we find, is always somewhat a battle. Do we fight back, give in, or compromise? Probably the last. The same applies to lawns. In some parts of the world, moss and herb lawns are cultivated. There's a liking now to have wild lawns, which means only mowing a path through the growing grass (to a peaceful sheltered sitting area at the end) and then cutting it down in the autumn. Lots of wild flowers soon come in, though you can add to these by scattering some meadow mix seeds sold for this purpose. Every year, one or two visitors to the garden will say that the Stuart House lawn is too weedy and needs taking up.



But cut regularly (in our formal garden this is a necessity), and with clippings brushed over to return to the soil, it keeps its state of tidy tranquillity. Besides, nature abhors uniformity, which is very bad for wildlife. There's great concern at present at the global, precipitous decline of insect species, essential for the proper functioning of ecosystems. Just as that *Convolvulus* and so many other weeds might be going about their dastardly deeds unnoticed, so also are the myriad of small and minute creatures, which require Nature's messiness, and upon which we all eventually depend.



Next to the bay tree in the “Bear Breeches” corner (which incidentally are in almost tropical luxuriousness at present) is *Viburnum x burkwoodii*, an artificially produced hybrid cross between two different species by a Mr Burkwood in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This evergreen shrub has scented balls of white flowers in February and March, very welcome to early insects such as bumblebees tempted out by early Spring sunshine. The name *Viburnum*, by the way, is Latin, and we’re told (internet search) was adopted from the pre-Roman Iron Age Etruscan culture. As a rule, shrubs that bloom in Spring need to be pruned as soon as they’ve

flowered so that the stems produced throughout the summer will bear flower buds for the following year. Shrubs that flower in the Summer are pruned in Winter or early the next year. The same sort of rule applies to seeds. Seeds produced from flowers before midsummer (for example primroses, sweet rocket, honesty) are best sown immediately because they’ll usually germinate straight away without going into hibernation, sometimes prolonged. Seeds produced on plants after mid-summer can be kept for sowing the next Spring. Seeds from trees and shrubs of all sorts (including *Viburnum*) are best sown in a sheltered cold frame as soon as they’re mature – and they’ll often reward you in great abundance.

*Malcolm Mort*

*(all garden photographs are by Malcolm, except the ‘view’, which the editor took.)*

## STUART HOUSE GARDEN CLUB

The visit to Moyclare Garden was being finalized at the time of going to press.

The next Meeting is  
**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May**  
**11.30am to 1.30pm**

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

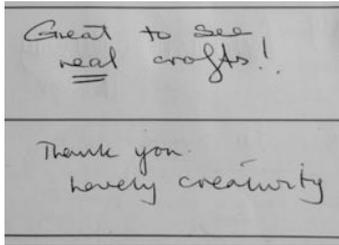


## The Easter Arts and Crafts sale

which ran in the Gallery until 20<sup>th</sup> April was a lovely success, with the variety of crafts changing over the two weeks. Many of the crafters – like Rachel here, acted as stewards.

Comments in the Visitors’ Book included:

Our next big Craft Sale is planned for 12<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> August – ‘**Summer in Cornwall**’



## MUSIC at STUART HOUSE



A SUNDAY  
AFTERNOON  
*in Song*  
ROSEMARY BALL  
SOPRANO  
CHRIS HOWARTH  
PIANO  
*with Tessa Lewis Mezzo Soprano & Petra Stephenson Viola*  
April 28th 2.30pm  
Stuart House Liskeard  
£7 from Stuart House or on the door  
Refreshments Available  
Programme to include: works by Schubert, Brahms, Fauré, Gurney, Monteverdi  
965@live.co.uk

A reminder of the news in April's Newsletter – if you receive this Newsletter electronically you'll still have time to think about going to this lovely concert on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April



**Ilow Splann**  
will be giving the first concert in the 2019 Stuart House Sunday afternoon concert series on 12th May.



*Ilow Splann at Stuart House  
Liskeard*



*Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019 2.30pm  
Carlton Crouch and Maggie Willmott  
will perform a programme of  
Early to Baroque music  
on recorders, cornamusen,  
bazouki, violin, bagpipes,  
keyboard, bodhran  
and voices*



*~ Tickets £7 to include refreshments ~*

*Telephone or call in to see Sioux Dunster, Stuart House,  
Barras Street, Liskeard. Tel: 01579 347347  
or purchase tickets on the door (subject to availability)*

## 2019 STUART HOUSE SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT SERIES

All at 2.30 on Sunday afternoon, with a chance to meet the performers afterwards.  
Tickets £7, complimentary refreshments.

May 12<sup>th</sup> **Ilow Splann** early music duo.

June 30<sup>th</sup> **Jazz Tapas** energetic jazz and Latin music

September 15<sup>th</sup> **Diabel Cissokho** West African kora and songs

October 13<sup>th</sup> **Liskeard School and Community College**

November 17<sup>th</sup> **Ross Morris** classical guitar.

## EVENTS COMING in MAY

STOP PRESS! – **Kim Northcott** is the Artist of the Month exhibiting in the Surgery



7th - 11th May 2019  
Stuart House, Arts & Heritage Centre, Liskeard, Cornwall  
Solo Exhibition by Emma Clare Bennett

### Material Landscape



**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> Emma Clare Bennett** is a practising Artist exploring the Landscape. Current investigations include the Caradon Hill district area combined with a contemporary approach to painting. This innovative exhibition constitutes the very essence of the Cornish Moors and illustrates the experience of landscape through a combination of site specific materials included in the work.

Emma's work often signifies her dedication to Cornwall having grown up and living in the local area. This body of work 'Material Landscape' offers insights of personal experience in Landscape. Her paintings challenge the physical dynamics of understanding experience

in place, as well as regarding the material forms we all immerse ourselves within. These site specific pieces not only represent the heritage of the Moors but display the material environments we all encounter.

Emma is a Fine Art Lecturer and currently studying a Masters Degree in Painting. Her passion for teaching is clear and to showcase the young talent Cornwall has to offer she has selected a student winner, the prize was to exhibit alongside her in this exhibition and in Devon.

### WCE Liskeard Textile Exhibition

Stuart House, Barras Street, Liskeard PL14 6AB

**15th to 18th May 2019**

10:00am to 4:00 pm Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

10:00am to 12:30pm Saturday

Daily Raffle and Sales Table

**Free Admittance**



No Wheelchair Access

Cafe on Site

### and at the start of June **NORTH HILL ART GROUP**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>  
June**

We look forward to welcoming the North Hill Art Group for their third annual exhibition at Stuart House. There is a wide selection of work in many media, and cards for sale too.

We are delighted again to be hosting the West Country Embroiderers, who meet regularly in Liskeard, for what promises to be another breathtaking display of embroidery, textiles and related techniques.

# Diary of Events

May 2019



All May	The Artist of the Month exhibiting in the Surgery is Kim Northcott
Tuesdays 7 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup>	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4.30 pm.
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Emma Clare Bennett 'Material Landscapes' Art Exhibition (see p.7)
Every Thursday	Craft Club: all welcome 12 noon to 3pm.
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Ilow Splann: concert in the Gallery, 2.30pm. Tickets £7 in advance or at the door. (see p.6)
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>	West Country Embroiderers (see p.7)
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Gardening Club 11.30am to 1.30pm (see p.5)
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4pm to 6.30pm.
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Friends of Stuart House Meeting with trustees 7.30pm (see p.2)
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnese, Hampton & Littlewood. 10am. to 12 noon
Events coming in June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Hill Art Group 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> (see p.7)</li> <li>• Spotlight on Herbs 10<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, with evening concert Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> (see p.3)</li> <li>• Grand Family History and Heritage Day at Liskeard Public Hall – Stuart House again has a stand.</li> <li>• Concert – Jazz Tapas Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> (see p.6)</li> </ul>

*The House, Garden, Old Kitchen Café and (but 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.*

*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)