

Newsletter

November 2021



The garden in October: green and peaceful



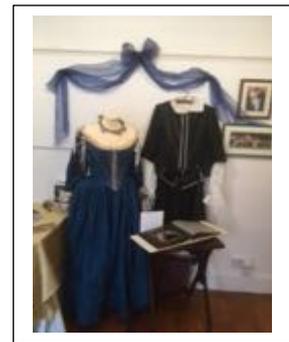
The 'OUR WEDDING' exhibition (see p.2) running through October was a joy.

Jane and Tony Wood (mentioned so often in Sue's 'Memories from the Minutes') had provided some photographs and documents, and came from Okehampton to see it.



Leaflet Sponsored by Coodes
Honorary Solicitors to Stuart House Trust

Events in the past month



“Our Wedding” – the exhibition organised

by House Manager Sioux as an opportunity for Friends of Stuart House to share something of their wedding day, was a great success and extended, in the Jane Room, well beyond the anticipated two weeks. It was both moving and fascinating to see pictures of people we might know now as rather older, and see changes in fashions and costs and much more. (ed.)

Liskeard Camera Club Exhibition

The exhibition, running in the last week of October, was a joy, with a great range of inspiring photographs and friendly and encouraging stewards too.

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Tony looking at ed. Rachel's exhibition 'Stuart House and its Next-door Neighbours' in 2018.

Tony Bennett 1951-2021

The Trustees and Friends were extremely saddened to learn of the death of Tony who in recent times had become a familiar figure in the House, supporting many of the events taking place and always offering a helpful hand, particularly in Reception, whenever it was needed. Tony, amongst other things, had a wonderful interest in music; he was a musician who could teach, sing, play and compose; he was a performer who took to “the stage” with enthusiasm and much ability. His enjoyment of what he was doing was clear for all to see and share. Those of us who knew Tony however will remember him most as Rachel's husband and to her we extend our heartfelt condolences at this time.

Bob Hollingdale

Sue Glencross' 'Memories from the Minutes' continued



Ferns in the slate hanging (photograph by Malcolm Mort). Can anyone think of a link with the work of the trustees through time?! (ed.)

By the time the meeting of 10th February 1999 had taken place the door colour had been selected. Illness of the architect had delayed attention to various repairs. There remained an ongoing damp problem in some ground floor walls [the same situation prevails today!]. Following Tony Wood's delivery of a long list of work to be done to the structure and garden and various other items of expenditure, it was decided to proceed with repairs to the external joinery, instruct the architect to design a glazed screen for the cross passage, and lay vinyl to all WC floors. A sub-committee would be formed to discuss lighting. A decision on carpeting the stairs would be delayed. Approximately £200 was being spent on items for the garden.

A Table-Top Sale scheme would be launched after the AGM. Eileen had put a great deal of organisation into the SET99 exhibition. The Leader 2 Organisation had advised the secretary to allow an additional £150 for advertising for the Celtic Art 2000 Exhibition.

It was suggested that the Jane Room be used also as a Members' room for informal meetings, etc. It was hoped that a programme of continuous exhibitions would ultimately be staged in the House.

The Minutes of the meeting of 10th March recorded that although the lighting sub-committee had not yet had the opportunity to meet, a discussion on lighting and power points took place and concluded in favour of standard lamps and additional power sockets. Internal decoration was almost complete. The external doors were all painted. The cross passage and new floors had all been treated. Various repairs such as window fittings and glass door-knobs (kindly donated by Liam Carey) had been carried out and installed. A lot of work had been undertaken in the garden and plans were outlined for further operations. Eileen, Wendy, Tony and Jane had thoroughly cleaned the House prior to the SET exhibition, in respect of which Eileen had managed to fill the House. She had also distributed 'Millenium Bug' tickets. The Celtic Art Exhibition would run from 14.8.2000 until the following Saturday. A grant had been promised from Leader 2 of up to £1225 (with matched funding) and £300 had been received from the Town Council with £150 being awarded by the District Council.

The next meeting was held on 21st April when Eileen reported on the success of the SET99 week and the benefits which had been brought and opportunities presented for the promotion of Stuart House outside the town. The Sign Shop had donated an 'Exhibition Now On' banner. There had been an offer from an exhibitor to clean the House windows free of charge. The proprietors of 'Painters' had offered to act as a booking office for the Trust during opening hours with an answerphone service after hours and charging only the cost of telephone calls and postage. They were also interested in hiring the Gallery for their 6-weekly meeting of about 30-40 people. Caradon DC had donated a compost bin valued at £12.50. Pictures of the House would be used at the Daphne du Maurier Festival at Fowey. All these benefits resulted from the SET99 exhibition and Eileen and her helpers were appropriately thanked. The side door to the Surgery had been vandalised. It had been reported to the Police and the work was to be undertaken by Peter Andrew as it would not have warranted an insurance claim.

to be continued

November's Thoughts from our Garden's Overseer



It's falling leaf time again. The paths and lawn of the Stuart House garden quickly become carpeted with a mass of thin curly leaves from the twisted willow tree, and large ovate magnolia leaves. For the last few years we've simply spread them under the rose bushes and shrubs. Leaves are precious. They protect the soil from winter rains and

mineral leaching, suppress weeds, and provide winter quarters to a multitude of overwintering insects that we rarely see but are told by experts are there. As leaves rot, worms draw them into the soil and by early summer they have almost disappeared, enriching the soil. This year we'll try the technique of first spreading them on the lawn and shredding them with the mower before using them as winter mulch. This is a good technique to use if one intends adding them to a compost heap. Sadly, we don't have a heap at Stuart House. There's no room, really, and previous attempts to establish small heaps secreted in corners have only resulted in an impossible tangled mass of bindweed, montbretia and jasmine roots. Therefore, most green waste goes for recycling. What a pity that in Cornwall one can buy back the resulting compost only in minimum one tonne quantities!

I see that gardeners are now being recommended to keep a degree of wildness in their winter gardens so that creatures can feed on seeds and hibernate in bare stems. Grasses, teasels, verbascums, poppies and honesty are recommended for this purpose. Well, that's fine if you have a specific wild garden area set aside, but I can't see it working in Stuart House's formal garden, though the beds against the library and post office walls are a bit of a jungle throughout the winter, so maybe that counts. About ten years ago I tried the teasel option – I grew just one plant near my back door at home, and, yes, the flowers do prove very popular with many small flying insects. However, a multitude of seeds were scattered everywhere. Teasels (like so many other plants) hedge their survival bets by spreading germination of their offspring over many years: they are still coming up in cracks round the place.



Nevertheless, we all ought to be aware of the very alarming report, released by scientists at London's Natural History Museum ahead of the recent UN biodiversity conference. This stated that the UK has lost nearly 50% of its biodiversity, and ranks in the bottom 10% in the world. This is attributed to the Industrial Revolution and to farming practices. At the report launch, Mr Attenborough warned that "a less wild world is a less stable world: continued global biodiversity loss will lead to an irreversible ecological crisis".

So we all have to play our part. It is interesting to watch how many pollinating insects visit different flowers. and that is true to a certain extent if a specific inter-dependence has evolved.



But the majority of our flowering garden plants are from foreign climes (including *all* of the more gaudy half-hardy bedding plants) but thankfully most are visited by our insects. The only flowers they avoid – presumably because they can't get near them - are those with big double blooms such cultivars of dahlias, French and African marigolds, and petunias. Very pretty to us, yes, but not so good if you want to get inside for some nectar. Flowers with an open structure are the best. Incidentally, if seeds of the simple form of *Calendula officinalis* (English pot

marigold) are scattered around one's garden in early – mid July (they're happy anywhere including gravel, cracks, path edges) the resultant plants will start flowering in October and continue well into the winter and again in the Spring. Ideal, therefore, for late and early insects.

The tall old apple tree in the far corner of the garden has produced a remarkable crop of large, green Bramley-type cooking apples this year, the best for many years. The tree was given a hardish prune last winter, and much of the growth from the surrounding shrubs cut back. Fruit trees need a good amount of light in order to form their fruit buds, otherwise they will produce upward stems and many leaves to try to outgrow the competition. This is known as apical dominance: hormones from the upward growth suppress the fruit buds. For this reason, fruit trees are often grown as fans



and espaliers with their shoots bent into various shapes. Apical dominance is therefore broken and more fruiting buds form. The gardeners of the Middle Ages did not know about biochemical processes, but they were aware of the benefits of restricting upward growth. Early gardening books mention gently snapping (without breaking) skyward branches and bending them down to encourage flowering. No doubt the trees looked a complete mess, but the method does work, apparently. They also knew how to deal with canker, that fungal disease that gets under the bark of apple and pear trees with often fatal consequences. The advice was to cut out the diseased areas with a sharp knife and then to use "the dunge of oxes" to cover over the wound to prevent further infection. They were aware too of the infuriating codling moth, whose larvae climb up the tree, burrow into the growing fruit (making such a ghastly mess), staying there munching away until the apple falls. In Spring, they hatch out as adult moths, mate, live for a few days, and lay their eggs around the lower tree bark to start the process again. Gardeners of those times used tar to stop the larvae climbing, and garlic spray (not sure about that). Arsenic and mercury were also tried against garden pests – a very bad idea!



I mentioned a few articles ago how sparrows had eaten every one of my runner bean flowers (= total crop failure) and how in the Stuart House garden they reliably shred early primroses. I recently came across an observation on how they prefer red and yellow flowers, but leave white ones alone. Well, next summer I shall try white flowered runner beans (though I'm not too hopeful). And this Spring I'll experiment at Stuart House with pots of all the difference colours of primroses available these days. That should be interesting, I'll report back.

Photographs by Malcolm all taken in October: Garden (also the photo. on p.1), Raindrops, Schizostylis (Kaffir Lily), Senecio cineraria SilverDust, Japanese Anemones, Begonia display

COMING IN NOVEMBER

We Remember...



**Come and see our
Remembrance Poppy
Exhibition**

Today

We think there might be some surprises



Why the poppy?

Who had the idea?

When?

How has it been used?

And so much more!

There will also be some hand painted poppy glasses on sale.

The profits will be shared between Stuart House and The Royal British Legion.



...Lest We Forget



Cornish Abstract is the collaboration of two Cornish pals coming together to share their passion for abstract art. Janine Ward and Hannah Whale have known each other for over 35 years and more recently they have indulged each other in their love of colourful and nonrepresentational work that both they and others produce. They are influenced by artists past and present as well as their own surroundings and lives. Janine's family have a long history of fishing, an industry still prevalent in her hometown of Looe. Hannah's ancestors on both sides were miners, her Great Grandfather mining at Caradon whilst her Mum's family mined further down west in areas around St Just.

Transferring their individual thoughts and ideas to canvas or paper Janine and Hannah use various mediums and collage in their work, engaging a variety of brushes and tools, professional and handmade, to create the gestural marks, forms and shapes that make up their individual works. Janine and Hannah have their own unique styles thus appealing to the wider audience and different tastes that make you, the viewer, individual.

Some of you may be familiar with Hannah and her work as she had both The Bohwne Yard and Studio 10 in the Cattle Market for several years. She has a diverse body of work, a lot of which will be on show: ceramics, jewellery, original paintings, textiles, homewares and much more.



**STUART HOUSE
CHRISTMAS FAYRE**
arts, crafts and more
from Monday 29th November

Diary of Events

November 2021



Monday 1 st	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnese, Hampton & Littlewood. 10am. to 12 noon
Tuesdays 2 nd & tbc.	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4.30 pm.
every Thursday	Craft Club: all welcome 12 noon to 3pm.
Wednesday 3 rd to Saturday 13 th	'We Remember' exhibition on the use of the poppy for Remembrance Sunday (see p.6)
Monday 8 th	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4 to 6.30pm.
Monday 8 th to Saturday 13 th	Cornish Abstract art exhibition (see p.6)
Sunday 14 th to Saturday 20 th	Marina Paints exhibition and sale (see p.6)
Monday 29 th to Saturday 4 th Dec,	Christmas arts, crafts and gifts Shop in the Surgery
From Monday 29 th	Christmas Fair in the Gallery
Coming in December and January	The Christmas Fair continues Tilly and Maisie Vintage Emporium Pop-Up Shop and more

In the current circumstances, the House, Garden and Old Kitchen Café are open from 9.30am – 3.30pm Monday to Thursday. There will be longer opening hours to coincide with particular exhibitions and events. Please check.

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