

Newsletter

October 2019



DOUBLE VISION

(see p.5)

we can never see too much of our lovely garden



The Great Gathering: Sunday 22nd September.

Friends, Volunteers and Exhibitors came together for an afternoon of meeting, talking, playing shove-ha'penny and quoits, eating and drinking and previewing the Coved Room Art Exhibition

(see p.7).



We were lucky that the rain more-or-less held off. It was a relaxed and happy occasion. We thank Chairman Bob (not really berating us - see *left*) and Hon. Sec. Sue for the organisation and welcome, with immeasurable help from House Manager Sioux with our cleaner-and-so-much-more Gaby (see above – with more photos on p.3).



Leaflet Sponsored by Coodes
 Honorary Solicitors to Stuart House Trust

SUE's NEWS

This month's meeting concentrated on health and safety matters. Our Insurers sent a very useful leaflet which comprised a guide to 'Making risk management simple'.



As trustees we are charged with maintaining a safe and risk-free environment for employees, volunteers, and members of the public. The footfall to the House is greater than it ever has been in the past and we have to be forever vigilant when it comes to potential hazards in the House.

Fortunately the uses to which the House is put do not, per se, create any unusual risk over and above those relevant to a property of this age and structure. That does not mean to say we can just sit on our laurels and let everything happen around us. The main area of concern for us is the fact that there are uneven floors and multiple levels and these are facts of life in Stuart House and there is nothing we can do about it other than to make visitors aware.

(see the new red 'please mind the step' notice at the entrance to the Trussed Room. ed.)

We have implemented, for some time now, a pro forma which Sioux uses every month when she reports to us and she uses this to list any health and safety issues or areas of concern and potential accidents. Using that system we can then act as responsible trustees and deal with any point which needs specific attention.

You are our Friends – I would urge you to be visually aware and report to Sioux any areas of concern which you may have. Please be vigilant at all times and let us know if you feel there is something of which we should have knowledge.

We are aware that the walls in the café need re-painting (again). Those of you who have been involved with Stuart House for a great number of years will know that this is a recurring problem and is due to the salts within the wall. All we can do is keep using the dehumidifier and keep painting. There is no other solution. It will soon be time for there to be a visual check of the House and for any areas which need it to be painted. We will then be fresh and clean again all ready for the wretched salts to re-commence their workings of deterioration!

We are still looking for more volunteers.....if you have any particular skills which you think we can use – please, please, let us know. Practical skills are not the only ones needed: there is always stewarding, and plenty of other things to do!

Sue Glencross, Hon. Sec. to Trustees

"A Huge Thank You"

As Chairman I normally let our secretary, Sue, do all the "talking" for the newsletter but on this occasion I also must have my say.

It was with enormous regret that my fellow trustees and myself learned of Rachel's decision to resign as a trustee. In the years that she has served in that position she has devoted countless hours to all manner of House affairs, never failing to contribute wisely and honestly in discussion. As Chairman I have found her advice and support absolutely invaluable. I know I am not alone in saying that she has given so much to the House, and the Trustees were absolutely delighted (and relieved!) to know that she will continue as a Friend and volunteer with particular emphasis on the newsletter of which she is the editor and involvement in all heritage aspects.

Thank you Rachel for all you have done as a trustee.

Bob (Hollingdale)

Activites with FRIENDS in the past month and to come



After the success of June's Herb Festival, which she organized with Jac (in pink, above) and chairman Bob, Friend and ex-chair of the Trust Eileen Crouch (hiding behind the roses, above), has initiated another Celtic Art Exhibition – 20 years after she organized the first.



The Liskeard Old Cornwall Society is running an exhibition in the Max Lock Gallery from 11th – 23rd

November 'What Does the LOCS DO?'

Remember, the LOCS's room on the top floor of Stuart House is open on Wednesdays. The LOCS next meets on **Friday 11th October at 2.30pm** in the Emily Hobhouse Room of the Public Hall, when Terry Faull will talk about Agricultural Workers' Riots of 1830, following a short AGM. All welcome.

On Wednesday 23rd October, the editor (Rachel Bennett) is giving an illustrated talk to Linkinhorne History Group about the History of Stuart House. 7.30pm in the Parish Hall, Upton Cross, all welcome (visitors £3).

More pictures from the 'Great Gathering' (see also p.1). Spot volunteers Nicky, Doris and David, Frank, Christine, Malcolm, Jac and Eileen, crafter Amber, musician Carlton, and other Friends – and there were many others indoors or out-of-shot. (ed.)

EXHIBITION CELTIC ART 2020

Start making your exhibits NOW so that they are ready for our Celtic Art exhibition in AUGUST 2020.

Please let our House Manager, Sioux Dunster, know of your interest and the sort of exhibits you propose to enter.

Need ideas? Our archive photo albums have pictures from our Celtic Art 2000 event. There are also books available by request.

Would you be interested in attending a few workshops to learn how to draw Celtic Knotwork?

Incorporating history of the Celts will be of interest – have you something to contribute?

With lots of enthusiasm and combined talents, let's make this a major attraction for SUMMER 2020.



October's News from our Garden's Overseer

We welcome to the garden a new and very enthusiastic volunteer, Jeff Thorogood. He's been a great help already in dealing with the bindweed, tackling the overgrown corner on the left of the wall pond, and trimming the box hedges and "lollipop" bays. This work is greatly appreciated. Many thanks, too, to Maggie and Phil for bringing in a selection of perennial plants for the borders. These have included *Campanula lactifolia*, day lilies for flowering next year, and sedums for this autumn.

Keen observers will have noticed the sad demise to the two Kerrier japonica bushes, which for many years have brightened up the garden in Spring with an exuberance of fluffy yellow blooms. Alas, all over the country this species has succumbed to a fungus which originated in the US and has very rapidly spread through the UK too. This dire fungal strain is specific to Kerrier, causing extensive leaf and stem die-back. There is currently no treatment available to the home gardener, but thankfully (so far) it does not attack any other garden plants. Dead shrubs should be grubbed up and disposed of. Such destructive fungal diseases can very suddenly and unexpectedly appear, often attacking one specific species, as happened in 2013 with the sort that in the course of a season caused havoc to one of the mainstays of summer bedding, Busy Lizzies (*Impatiens*). In this case, breeders rapidly began to create new resistant strains by advanced techniques such as genetic mapping, but it seems that we'll have to say goodbye to Kerrier, for the moment at least.



(For example, see the anemone photo.) To achieve this effect, photograph the bloom against the sun (shield the lens to prevent flare), using a telephoto lens (or telephoto setting on a digital pocket camera), and make sure the subject is photographed against a background deep in shade. That's all really: there's no need for any special set up. This technique can make flowers appear painted works of art!

The Japanese anemone are very floriferous at present in the garden. The white sorts shine out from the far borders, whilst around the lawn there's a welcome stand of a dwarfer, sturdier cultivar that is dark pink and has almost double flowers. This is an uncommon type, and an internet search indicates that it might be strain called 'Fantasy Pocahontas'. Whatever, it's good to see that it is gently spreading and holding its own. I shall gather seed when they become viable later in the autumn which will be available in the office for those who'd like to try grow some on. The fluffy cotton-wool type seeds will need sowing straight away on the surface of gritty compost, lightly covered with more fine grit or vermiculite) and left in a coldframe overwinter, protected by a sheet of glass. They should then germinate the following Spring. Some honesty seeds will also be available, saved from plants in the garden.

I often get asked how, in my photographs, I get flowers to stand out against a dark background.



Cameras can also see views that we sometimes miss or take for granted. Visitors to Stuart House will often remark how attractive the doorway from the hall in to the garden looks, but if it is viewed from a certain angle there appear to be two doors: the usual one, and another leading off into a mirror garden world. If you've not noticed this, try to find it. However, if you can't then all will be revealed next time. The effect also works in the other direction, by the way!



Malcolm Mort

(see also p.1 for the double view into the garden. All photographs by Malcolm, including the anemones and the honesty seeds on p.4. ed.)

After lively monthly meetings and a growing membership, the
STUART HOUSE GARDEN CLUB

is now dormant until February.
Plans for 2020 include visits to private gardens and active plant sales.

Any ideas and offers, please contact Val Moore on 01597 228518

Fake or Fortune

Richard Hamm of Bearnes, Hampton & Littlewood comes in for a morning (10am to 12 noon) most months, with the day of the week varying. People come in from a wide area – and Richard says that he has had some very interesting and valuable objects brought in, and welcomes all enquirers.



He is usually in the Jane Room, but in September was based in the Gallery, where the panels from private houses open for Liskeard Unlocked were on display. (see p.6).

EVENTS in the PAST MONTH

'Liskeard Unlocked'



Stuart House was proud to be part of 'Liskeard Unlocked' again this year. Although we did not open our 'Secret Passage' again, the editor organized the 'Discover Liskeard's Date-stones' exhibition (following Doors in 2017 and Windows in 2018) which ran in the Jane Room from 2nd September until the Liskeard Unlocked weekend centering on Saturday 14th September. It moved to the Gallery for a further week, together with the display boards from three private houses (Pendean,

Trewithan House and Greenback House) open on the Saturday (see photo p.5). Statistics are a wonderful thing – almost a third of the entries in the Visitors' Book were from people outside Cornwall, and all said how interesting and challenging they found trying to identify, even with clues, where the date-stones can be found! The editor too learned a lot, and taking the photographs was quite a challenge, and she thanks Brian Oldham for his help and suggestions.

A lot of visitors – many in the town especially for the event - came into the House on the Saturday. The café was particularly busy, and we thank Sioux and Dan for keeping it open during the afternoon.

The garden was also the venue for one of the scenes of the promenade play '**The Children's Strike**', about the strike of child miners locally in 1872. It was great to welcome members of the Wham Bam Drama Club and their supporting audience, many of whom had not been to Stuart House before.



more events in September



Tim Norman's Theatrabilia exhibition 'A Life from the Wings', in the Max Lock Gallery from 2nd to 14th of September was excellent, and many visitors returned again to take more in. It was a beautifully organized display of programmes, posters, set models, costumes, production papers and so much more, together with an extensive collection of books. Coverage ranged from Shakespeare to the Kinks and beyond.

We record again how grateful we are that Tim now deals with our Social Media publicity, which has already had an effect on visitor numbers. Our Facebook page has a film of his exhibition. (ed.)



The Exhibition by members of the Coved Room Studio was hung in time for a preview at the Gathering on 22nd, and is in the Gallery and Jane Room until 28th. Artist-in-residence Linda Maynard showed a major work: 'Heat' – a stunning and thought-provoking response to climate change and one of three planned pieces. This, together with the work of her students made an exciting, varied and inspiring exhibition – with quite a few sales too. (ed.)

MUSIC at STUART HOUSE

Diabel Cissokho 15th September, 2019



Diabel Cissokho captivated and entertained the audience in the beautiful, sunny, autumn garden of Stuart House. Diabel comes from a very special tradition in Senegal, the Griots. These are musicians whose role is to capture and convey the local oral history and culture of the country. He played the kora, an African harp, the guitar and sang his own songs about nature, the plight of the homeless, and the beauty of Mother Africa. He mainly sang in his native language of Mandinka but also other West African Languages. Diabel's rich and resonant voice was interspersed with long and plaintive

arpeggios on the harp and haunting African rhythms, which floated through the trees and shrubs of the garden into the dazzlingly bright sunshine.

The kora is made from a large dried pumpkin reinforced with cow skins, a bridge and carved wooden hand supports to hold the instrument. Diabel played the musical accompaniment with his thumbs and his two index fingers played the melody. The traditional wooden pegs have now been replaced by metal guitar tuning pegs for ease of tuning. Diabel's flowing runs were punctuated with rhythmic taps to the metal plate at the top of the gourd.

The bass notes had a sustaining hypnotic beauty transporting the listeners into the beguiling richness of this soulful and spiritual music. Diabel's unique talent and virtuosity with its messages of peace, family and kindness to one another touched every member of the audience.

Angela Wunnam,
Stuart House Concert Series co-ordinator

The next performance in the Stuart House concert series will be on
13th October at 2.30pm
when the talented students from
Liskeard School and Community College Music Department

come and perform, supported by the joint Heads of Department Mark Bond and Jane Warwick.

This year's series will end with the return of the extraordinary young classical guitarist, **Ross Morris** on 17th November.

and we welcome again **Ilow Splann**, with some things new ... →

Ilow Splann at Stuart House

Liskeard



Sunday 6th October 2.30pm Carlton Crouch and Maggie Willmott will perform a varied programme of Renaissance and Baroque instrumental music and songs, and Cornish music including Carlton's new pieces inspired by Ilow Splann's recent experience of Festival Interceltique de Lorient.

This is also the first outing for our spinet!



~ Tickets £7 to include refreshments ~

COMING IN OCTOBER (and early November)



Laurie Scott Originals

NATURALLY INSPIRED
AN EXHIBITION
PAINT & PHOTOS

Two local artists collaborating to bring their daily observations alive for everyone to enjoy.

The simplicity, also the complexity of nature, ever changing and uncovered like never before; combining both semi-abstract paintings and photography under the same roof.

FREE ENTRY

30 SEP - 05 OCT 2019

STUART HOUSE LISKEARD



PHOTOGRAPHY BY SALLY O'SHAUGHNESSY



↑ Continuing until Saturday 5th October, the third visit by **Laurie Scott Originals**, this time with photographer Sally O'Shaughnessy.



↑ **Monday 7th to Friday 11th.**
Exhibition of work by students at the **Wave Academy**.

This year, all Y11 art students have gained a BTEC in Art & Design. Tuesday evening's viewing and awards ceremony is a private event, but the exhibition is otherwise open to all.



LISKEARD ARTS

invites you to view GCSE art work created by **Year 10 and Year 11 students**

Liskeard School and Community College,
Loce Academy,
Saltash.net Community School
Torpoint Community College




STUDENT ART EXHIBITION

21ST – 25TH OCTOBER

STUART HOUSE
Barras St, Liskeard PL14 6AB

Daily 10.00am – 3.00pm

Work will be judged and 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes awarded for each age group. Viewers are also asked to select their favourite piece of art work for a **PEOPLE'S AWARD**.



small barn studios presents
Phonetography
the art of smart

an exhibition
4th to the 9th of November 2019
Stuart House, Barras Street,Liskeard



FREE ENTRY
Monday-Friday 9:30am-3:30pm
Saturday 9:30am-12:30pm
Sunday Closed

Stuart House Trust
Arts & Heritage Centre, Liskeard
Kindly supported by B&C by SMALL BARN STUDIOS
for more information: smallbarnstudios@gmail.com

↑ coming in early November
← Stuart House is delighted to be the venue for the first such exhibition.

Diary of Events

October 2019



until Saturday 5 th	"Naturally Inspired" : exhibition in paint and photography with Laurie Scott Originals and Sally O'Shaughnessy, photographer (see p.9)
Tuesdays 1 st &15 th	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4.30 pm.
every Thursday	Craft Club: all welcome 12 noon to 3pm.
Sunday 6 th	Ilow Splann in concert. 2.30pm Tickets £7 including refreshments (see p.8)
Monday 7 th to Friday 11 th	Wave Academy Art Exhibition (see p.9)
Sunday 13 th	Concert: Liskeard Community College music students. 2.30pm. Tickets £7 with complementary refreshments (see p.8)
Monday 14 th	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4 to 6.30pm.
Friday 18 th	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnes, Hampton & Littlewood. 10am. to 12 noon (see p.5)
Monday 21 st to Saturday 26 th	Liskeard Arts' Society – Young Artists' Award Exhibition (see p.9)
Coming in November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt Thornhill Phonetography 4th-9th (see p.9) • What does the Liskeard Old Cornwall Society do?: exhibition 11th – 23rd • Fake or Fortune. Tuesday 12th • Concert: Ross Morris, classical guitar. Sunday 17th • Jo March art exhibition (Jane Room) 25th–30th • Christmas Shop in the Surgery from 25th • Christmas Craft Fair from Tuesday 26th • Liskeard Lights Up : Nadelik Lyskerrys Saturday 30th

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

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