

# Newsletter

*September 2018*



## The Old Kitchen CAFÉ

Stuart House owes so much to the team of café volunteers, led by café-manager trustee Victor (above). Nicky, Kelvin, John, Doris, Margaret and Bryony (clockwise from top right), together with Friday volunteer Iris, and others who step in as needed, especially House Manager Sioux, do so much to create a welcoming atmosphere as well as lovely food and drink. Our café brings a lot of much-needed money into the House.



Could you join the team, or do you know anyone who might? Tuesday volunteers especially needed. Please contact Victor for information.



**Leaflet Sponsored by Coodes**  
Honorary Solicitors to Stuart House Trust

## News of the Committee Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> August 2018

No 'Sue's News' this month as she has been away, but rest assured that the trustees had their usual two-plus hours of formal monthly meeting as well as a lot of other communication! Our individual reports to update what we have been doing and raise queries (including those passed to us from Friends and other visitors) are always circulated prior to the agenda being drawn up.

Some of the things covered at last meeting (in no particular order) were the work which Wetherspoons still has to undertake on the door in the wall, the joy of again having a regular cleaner, window-seat cushions, insurance matters, Fire Risk policy, Land Registry matters, ideas for future events, signage, communication, links with events in the town, social media, a dishwasher, safeguarding procedures and more! We had the usual Treasurer's report, of course, including the receipt of Gift Aid on Friends' donations and the ongoing splendid receipts from the café as well as expenditure! We are also considering the need for addition to the trustee body, and of course need to draw up specific requirements in terms of trustees' roles, one of which is publicity, including social media. As always, we talked about ways to support involvement of the Friends of Stuart House, recognizing that different Friends want to be involved in different ways.

Our next meeting, on September 17<sup>th</sup>, will include the quarterly meeting (7pm.) to which Friends are warmly invited to discuss openly all ideas (including, but not only, the Herb Festival) and concerns, and have social time together with refreshments!

*(ed., as a trustee)*



**The Friend's Craft Shop** in the Friends' Room (Surgery) was open for one of its four-times-a-year sales from 6<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> August. Here, crafter Gaby stewards. It is Gaby who has now taken on the job of cleaning in the House. She is also currently working with House Manager Sioux on preparation for the Stuart House Sewing Event (see p.9)

It is House Manager Sioux who organises the Friends' Craft shop. We thank her so much for doing the cleaning, in addition to everything else she does, for the last couple of months.

**Liskeard Old Cornwall Society** members Brian Oldham (President), Paula Arthur (Recorder) and Jackie Jenkins (Archivist), who are all Friends of Stuart House too, spent time this summer clearing and cleaning the grave of Liskeard architect (and Inspector of Nuisances and Borough Surveyor) Henry Rice (1808-1876) and his wife Jane in Lanchard Cemetery, Station Road.

The tablet added when the grave was restored by the Stuart House Heritage group in 2004, when the original inscription became illegible, was also cleaned. The Henry Rice project produced the permanent exhibition of his work in the Rowse Room of Stuart House, and the Commemorative Album, which we hope to reprint (with updates) before too long.



# The Friends of Stuart House

Eileen Crouch (Friend's Liaison) writes.....

As Summer holidays and visitors become memories, we look forward to welcoming more Stuart House Friends to the meetings being arranged for the purpose of giving everyone an opportunity to discuss and/or contribute to the Stuart House programme.

The most recent meeting, as advertised, took place on 16<sup>th</sup> August, with a small enthusiastic group.

Much talk concerned planning for the Herb festival 10-22 June 2019, including what to call it (in preparation for a publicity drive and seeking sponsorship)



We need a catchy but clear title. Suggestions included 'Herb Celebration', 'Herbal Inspiration', 'Miraculous Herbs' & 'B-Natural Herbs'. Please tell us your ideas and thoughts before 13<sup>th</sup> Sept. for decision at the meeting with trustees on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Sept.

A separate sheet of details of ideas so far, and a request for help of any kind, is included with this Newsletter.

We also discussed – largely with huge approval – the new garden furniture, as well as the challenge of publicity (including the need to use Social Media), and encouraging Gift Aid.

To finish the meeting, Eileen gave a fascinating short talk 'The Movies and Me', about her time working in the film industry! Lots of famous names mentioned, and wonderful descriptions of the huge sets at Denham and Beaconsfield Film Studios. This led to some interesting conversation about the unexpected things that some people we think we know well have done!

## **The next Friends' meeting is Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm.**

This is one of the quarterly meetings with Friends and Trustees together, which gives opportunity to share ideas and concerns directly.

It would be great to have a good turn-out.

Refreshments will be provided

## **Invitation to a barbeque Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

Friends of Stuart House are invited to the following event, which is part of the celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> birthday of Liskeard Comprehensive School, whose first Head-teacher, Tony Wood, is well know to us for his tremendous work with the Stuart House Trust since its inception in the 1980s. There will be staff and pupils of the school present too. All Friends and their families are vey welcome.

At Stuart House from 11.30am (until about 3pm): A "drop-in" family event. No charge but donations to Stuart House are welcomed. The exhibition in the Gallery will also be open.

For any further information or enquiry contact our chairman (and the event organizer) Bob Hollingdale [bob-liskeard40@outlook.com](mailto:bob-liskeard40@outlook.com) or phone 07760781087.

For more details of the celebrations, see p.8.

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



Suddenly it's the end of summer and of that endlessly hot, dry weather. Cooler, damper conditions have returned, and the Stuart House garden is calm and peaceful again, especially welcome after all those months of restless building work next door. Unlike the gloriously psychedelic floral displays throughout the town, our garden

this summer has comprised mostly shades and shadows of green, with pockets of colour contributed by montbretia, cranesbill *geraniums* (right below), heliopsis, yellow



achillea (yarrow), verbena bonariensis (left), and Japanese anemones. The fuchsias, laurentia (blue starry flowers) and tuberous begonias in the tubs (semi-shaded) rear garden have also provided reliable splashes of long-lasting colour.



Green gardens composed of trees, bushes and climbers over pergolas have a lot to be said for them. There's no need to worry about watering, and dappled or even heavy shade in the summers such as we've just had is readily provided. Add a sprinkling of colour here and there. A bench and little table of the right sort in the right place with a view out from a cosy secret hideaway: what could be better? In damp shady areas, ferns of all sorts come in on their own.

Parts of the Stuart House garden are like this, especially the "woodland area" in the far corner, underneath the wisteria arch and ancient apple tree. Such gardens need occasional shaping, pruning and trimming of course, but there are not the constant demands of floral beds (especially the perennial sorts) and of battling weeds. Gather up the leaves in the autumn and spread them under the trees and bushes to create shelter for wildlife and to provide mulch and replenishment for the soil.



One recently planted dwarf shrub that has taken to our garden and looks just right is the *Hydrangea paniculata* "Phantom" in the far bed opposite the café door. It has flowered continuously throughout July and August and looks as if it will carry on until October. (continued p.5)



These types of hydrangea are quite unlike the usual ball or lace-cap sorts. Their flower heads are almost conical in shape, opening white, tinged green, before becoming totally white and then eventually turning soft pink. Pruning couldn't be easier as they flower on the current year's growth, so they can be cut to about 18" in late winter.

In gardening, like in everything else, one constantly learns from what goes right

and especially by what doesn't. A few of this season's lessons:

1. Lobelias frizzle quickly in hot prolonged sunshine no matter how much water they're given, but by contrast the new sorts of petunias seem to thrive wherever they're put.
2. Antirrhinum plants flowered for the second year in the lawn borders. They are marketed as half-hardy annuals, but this shows that some strains can cope with the coldest of winters, claim their space amongst determined jostlers, and flower for a second season.

*Malcolm Mort*

### **Stuart House Garden Club**

The next meeting is due to take place on  
**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September 11.30am to 1.30pm./**  
Contact Val Moore (01579 228518) for more information



## **STUART HOUSE CONCERT SERIES**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2.30pm.**

Tickets £7

including refreshments and opportunity to talk to the musicians

**Oli Doney** (counter-tenor)

**Oliver Padel** ('cello)

**Chris Howarth** (harpsichord/organ)

**♪ Music by Henry Purcell (1659-1695) ♪**

**Oli Doney** discovered singing by accident, being obliged to sing in a choir to make up some university credits, but didn't find his niche until he found the lofty territory of the male alto! He has performed solos with various local choirs, and spent ten months as a choral scholar at Truro Cathedral. He deputises for lay clerks in Buckfast Abbey's professional choir and joins Voces in their occasional appearances at services and concerts there. His ambition is to sing the transcendent alto solos of Bach's St. Matthew Passion, but for now he concentrates on becoming a 'real' singer!

**Oliver Padel** is an amateur cellist and singer, who lives in St Neot and has been playing the cello for more years than it would be gallant to record here. His particular interest is in chamber music, especially string quartets of the Classical and Romantic periods, so in playing Purcell he is happy to be stretched outside his zone of greatest familiarity.

**Chris Howarth** gained a music degree at Exeter University and studied the organ at the Cathedral. He trained as a music teacher at Bretton Hall, Yorkshire and after 20 years in the classroom, he left to work first as a music teacher-trainer for the Open University and an A-level music examiner and then a National Coordinator for the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust. Chris has been director of music at several churches and is now organist and choir director of St Martin's Liskeard. He also conducts the East Cornwall Bach Choir.

## Events in the Max Lock Gallery in August



**Alan Kingwell's exhibition of Landscapes and Seascapes** continued until Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>. Visitors admired the technique, and appreciated the demonstration painting in progress, and the power and atmosphere of the paintings. Cards, magnets and other small goods for sale using his artwork were appreciated too.

**Pat's Art Box and Friends** were in the Gallery from 6<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> of August and again from 27<sup>th</sup>, continuing until 8<sup>th</sup> September. The work of Pat Thuysbaert, Richard Jenkins, Suzy Billing-Mountain (pictured here) and Alan Kingwell continued to delight visitors old and new.



**The Railway Exhibition** which ran (literally!) from 20<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> August was a very different sort of enjoyment, and we thank William Howse and Chris Sutton for all the enthusiasm and effort that went into presenting it. A great collection of photographs – many by Chris and William and others, with permission, by Trevor Hammond - hung on the walls, the model railway layout (seven working sets changed daily) was fascinating to those with both general and particular interests, and the sound effects were great fun too! They plan to be back – even bigger - next year.

Running alongside the Railway exhibition, in the Jane Room, was an **exhibition and sale of craftwork**, including Dave and Wendy



Vincent's restored and recycled Furniture.



## Events coming in September

### Pat's Art Box and Friends

continues in the Gallery  
until **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>** (see p.6)

### MIXED CRAFTS SALE

Another of Gallery Organiser Nancy's varied, beautifully presented and much appreciated exhibitions and sales in the Gallery runs from **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>**



Barrae Street  
Liskeard  
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info@stuarthouse.org.uk  
www.stuarthouse.org.uk

01579 347347

## DISCOVER LISKEARDS' WINDOWS



See something of the variety of Liskeard's windows and test your observation and knowledge!

*An introduction to the town's "Liskeard Unlocked" Heritage Open Days 2018*



**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**Stuart House Jane Room**  
Mondays to Fridays 9.30am to 3.30pm  
Saturdays to 12.30pm

**FREE ENTRY**

Stuart House is playing a full role in the 2018

**'Liskeard Unlocked' (Heritage Open Days)** event.

Our **'Windows'** exhibition (like the 'Doors' one last year) gives you a chance to appreciate the tremendous variety of buildings and architecture we have in Liskeard, and to test your observation too!

On the Open Days themselves (Friday 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>) our (now blocked!) **Secret Passage**, purported to lead to the Pipe Well should again be open. There will also be a small display about **Susan Carthew**, who lived in Stuart House for 30 years until her death in 1876, linked with the 'extraordinary Women' theme of this year's days.

On the Saturday we are also hosting a drop-in **Hat Making workshop** (in the Friends' Room downstairs), linked to Liskeard's bonnet makers and a 'hats off to women workers' theme.

For more information about the events in Liskeard, visit [www.visitliskeard.co.uk](http://www.visitliskeard.co.uk)

# Liskeard School 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

(please spread the word!)

Our Chairman, Bob Hollingdale, is an organiser of the celebrations marking the 40<sup>th</sup> birthday of our comprehensive school – now Liskeard School Community College. Many of us will have some connection with the School. Tony Wood, who has played such a pivotal role in the creation of our Arts and Heritage Centre, was its first Headmaster, appointed as head of the Grammar School in 1977 and head designate of the new comprehensive, formed by the amalgamation of this and the Secondary Modern School .

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

**Stuart House Gallery**

**An Exhibition of School Memorabilia, Photos, etc. with contributed written memories**

The first Head-teacher



The old Grammar School, which became the Lower School of the Comprehensive until it went onto a single site



**APPEAL for CONTRIBUTIONS!** .....

Bob writes: We need as many bits and pieces of memorabilia as possible, from photos to old uniforms, to old school reports. Anything!

We would like to have as many special memories as possible. Can you recall a particular incident, amusing or otherwise. Perhaps memories of a school trip or other event or moment? Put it in writing and we will print and display.

We need volunteers to help steward the exhibition. Could that be you?!

Contact me [bob-liskeard40@outlook.com](mailto:bob-liskeard40@outlook.com) or phone 07760781087.

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm** Old School Hall. A concert featuring pupils and staff past and present. Tickets £5 Adult, £2.50 child.

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> 11am to 3pm** School Community Fayre, organised by the PTA

**Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup> 2-4pm** An informal gathering in the Old Hall of former pupils and staff to catch up with old friends and acquaintances. It will include tours of the school, an opportunity to contribute to the Tree of Dreams, a light tea and a suggestion! Partners/families welcome.

**Sat.22<sup>nd</sup> from 7.30pm** Pupil reunion trail around town, Barley Sheaf, Albion, Ivy. Turn up and join in! Partners welcome.

**Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> 7.30pm** An informal get-together for all who have worked, or who are working, at the school at The Eliot House Hotel. The evening includes a buffet and a special toast. Partners welcome. Entry by ticket (£15pp) in advance only. At 7.30pm. (\* 6.30pm for those who were there in September 1978). For tickets contact Bob (as above) or Reception at Liskeard School .

**Friends of Stuart House are invited to the Barbeque on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11.30am– see p.3**

## Coming at the end of September and into October .....



### **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September St Matthew's Fair Day**

Stuart House hopes to host the **Society of the Sealed Knot** again. The Civil War re-enactment society demonstrate mid-seventeenth-century weaponry, costume, food and crafts in a place which King Charles visited in 1644!

Sorry, we heard at the very last minute before mailing that Sealed Knot are not coming!



## **STUART HOUSE SEWING AND FABRIC EVENT**

*One of the organisers, our House Manager Sioux Dunster, writes .....*

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> to Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October** sees our revamped "Sewing Event"

There will be fabrics, threads, notions, books, patterns etc. for sale, with all proceeds to Stuart House. There will also be a couple of tables for crafters to rent for the two weeks, with sewing and knitting related items.

This year the Jane Room will be used as a work room, where we will have a couple of workshops, and be encouraging people to come in with "projects" they would like help with.

The time will also be used to make items for Stuart House, either for use within the House, or for sale in the shop. Anyone is welcome to come if they have a spare bit of time to help out. We will be cutting down and edging bath towels to make into 4-5 smaller towels for use in the kitchen and adding lace to squares of cotton/linen to make handkerchiefs or doilies, amongst other things.

We are always happy to receive items for re-use or sale, so if you are having a clear out and want to find a good home for some of your surplus stash please bring it in to the House. If you know anyone who is downsizing, or stash sorting, please mention this event to them.

# Diary of Events

September 2018



Continuing until Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Pat's Art Box with Friends : Pat Thuysbaert, Richard Jenkins, Alan Kingwell & Suzy Billing-Mountain (see p.6)
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> to Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Discover Liskeard's Windows (see p.7)
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnas, Hampton & Littlewood. 10am. to 12 noon
Tuesdays 4 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup>	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4.30 pm.
Thursdays 6 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup>	Craft Club: all welcome 12 noon to 3pm.
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Mixed Crafts Sale and Exhibition in the Gallery
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4.00 to 6.30pm.
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> and Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Liskeard Unlocked : Heritage Open Days, theme of extraordinary women. Stuart House is joining in this event Windows Exhibition running in Jane Room. Secret Passage open. Small Exhibition about Susan Carthew in the Friends' Room (see p.7) 'Drop in and make a hat' workshop on Saturday
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Oli Doney , concert in the Gallery 2.30 pm. Tickets £7, from reception, include refreshments and a chance to talk with the performers afterwards (see p.5)
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Friends' Meeting with Trustees. 7pm (see p.3)
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Liskeard School 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary exhibition (see pp.3 and 8)
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Barbeque for Friends of Stuart House and those associated with Liskeard School through time (see p.3)
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Stuart House Garden Club 11.30am to 1.30pm
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup>	St Matthew's Fair. <del>Sealed Knot in the Garden (see p.9)</del>
<b>Coming in October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stuart House Sewing Event 1<sup>st</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> (see p.9)</li> <li>• Liskeard School Concert (14<sup>th</sup>)</li> <li>• Mixed Crafts (15<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>)</li> <li>• "Desert Island Documents" Carole Vivian in conversation (21st)</li> <li>• Christmas Cards and Decorations Sale (22<sup>nd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>)</li> <li>• Mark Gregory and Bidy Lloyd Art Exhibition (29<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov.)</li> <li>• Phillippa Hodge is Artist of the Month in the Friends' Room</li> </ul>

*The House, Garden, Old Kitchen Café and Computer Research Suite 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)

## **Friends of Stuart House**

**Friends are invited to become part of the planning group for the  
HERB FESTIVAL, June 10<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019,  
which is to be part of our future programme.**

In support of plans already made, it has been agreed with the Trustees that Friends may use three rooms in Stuart House next year, from 10<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> June, to stage a Herb Festival (this is a working title – an Event Title will be decided at the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September).

Leading this project are Jac Heagerty and Eileen Crouch, who will welcome others to the early planning and possibly to take on certain aspects of the event.

For your guidance, here are some of the things being discussed:-

- Growing herbs and flowers to go into garlands for decoration and to sell
- Collecting suitable bottles for herb oils and/or vinegars
- Workshops for pot-pourri and pomander making, flower arranging, culinary use, pressing flowers
- Talks and presentations by professionals and/or knowledgeable enthusiastic amateurs
- Jams, marmalades and biscuits
- Cards and other stationery for sale
- Textiles, including lavender bags & herb pillows
- Photographs and art work for sale and/or competition
- Exhibition and sales in the Gallery
- Plants for sale
- Activities for children
- Herbal drinks and snacks in the Old Kitchen Café
- **OTHER?**

**Please speak to Jac or Eileen, or leave a message in Reception for them so that they can contact you, if you have specific ideas. Otherwise come to the Friends meetings (noted in the Newsletter and Events Guides) to find out how you can become involved.**

Eileen Crouch