

# Newsletter

September 2019

## Liskeard Town Events: Stuart House plays a role

Stuart House always tries to support community events in Liskeard which bring visitors and residents alike into the town. There are two such events coming in September.

**Liskeard Unlocked 2019**  
Lyskerrys Dialwedh  
Friday 13th to Sunday 15th September  
- and Saturday 21st September



This September LISKEARD UNLOCKED will again share the town's stories - with walks, talks, exhibitions and a promenade play - and the chance to see behind doors which are usually closed. For more details ask at the Liskeard Tourist Information Centre or look online at [www.visitliskeard.co.uk](http://www.visitliskeard.co.uk)

@LiskeardTownCouncil and @LiskeardTIC

## St Matthews Fair Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September

This event is run by Liskeard Lions and there will be stalls and events in the town.

This year, the Town Crier competition is being run again and Stuart House is delighted to be doing some of the hosting.



The House will have an exhibition of photographs of some of Liskeard's buildings' date-stones – come and see which you can identify (see p.6). The 'A Life from the Wings' Exhibition will also be running (see p.6) during Liskeard Unlocked.

We plan to be open on Saturday afternoon too for St Matthews Fair Day – there will be the Coved Room Art Exhibition running (see p.7) and more – and you might meet a town crier!

Friends, volunteers and exhibitors  
are invited to

## *A GREAT GATHERING*

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September  
3-6pm

(see your invitation for details)

## ADVANCE NOTICE!

A big in-house exhibition for  
August 2020 is planned on

## CELTIC ART

Please start thinking - and  
creating Preliminary enquiries  
to Sioux. More in October.



Leaflet Sponsored by Coodes  
Honorary Solicitors to Stuart House Trust

## Sue's News

### 'IS ANYBODY THERE?'

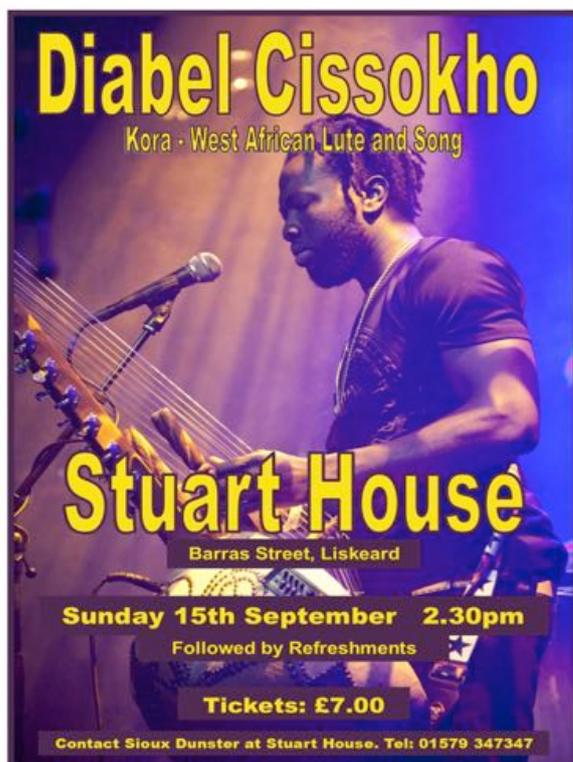
Does anyone have time on their hands? The discussions at our August meeting featured largely on the difficulty which is being encountered on a daily basis in keeping the House open and fully functioning. Many years ago at the inception of the Trust there were numerous volunteers ready and willing to perform all sorts of tasks. It was easier in those days: the House was not open 5½ days a week but would only be open when there were exhibitions or sales. When little jobs had to be done there were always lots of willing people to perform those tasks. There were frequent painting days when teams of people would work together to spruce up the rooms, and also odd jobs would be undertaken by members. Nowadays many of those 'odd jobs' have to be performed by skilled tradespeople on a formal basis. However, on a less formal basis we would welcome an 'Odd Job Person' or even better 'Persons' who could be called upon to carry out minor jobs. Are there any 'Friends of Stuart House' who can extend that friendship by helping? Any budding 'Odd Job Enthusiast' please make yourself/yourselves known. You will not be asked to perform any duty which puts you at risk, or indeed puts the House at risk! Swinging from an aerial rope above the staircase and landing is not on the agenda!

There is now a need to use the Surgery again as a functioning 'letting' room. It will in future be used for frequent craft sales and indeed for any other reasonable use which manifests itself. For details of rates please apply to Sioux. Let's try to ensure that that room makes money for us every week of the year. It should do: it is now the only easily accessible 'letting' room in the building and we have to bear in mind that some of our visitors are unable to access the upper floors.

The pressures of keeping the House open and fully functioning fall on Sioux's shoulders. She cannot be in two (or more) places at once. We are delighted that new volunteers have come forward, and we thank all our volunteers deeply – but a lot more are needed. There is no longer that large pool of helpers falling over each other to help and certainly the number who can be called upon to assist in an emergency has dwindled significantly.

REMEMBER – YOUR HOUSE NEEDS YOU!

*Sue Glencross, Hon. Sec.*



### **Diabel Cissokho**

West African kora player and singer

**returns to the Stuart House  
Concert Series**

on  
**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September  
2.30 pm**

Tickets £7, including complimentary refreshments

Tickets in advance (which could be advisable) from Reception

## THE GALLERY in the PAST MONTH



The **Kingwell family** put on a wonderful exhibition from 29<sup>th</sup> July until 10<sup>th</sup> August.

Alan's '**Landscapes and Seascapes in Oils**' together with prints, cards and other smaller artworks were glorious, and the oil painting in progress was fascinating. Mags' **silk paintings** glowed with colour and strong design. Amber's **craft** – loom-knitted hats and bags were colourful and sold very well too. It was great having the family in the Gallery so much of the time to greet visitors and talk about their work.

We look forward to a return visit at the same time next year.

.....

### 'Summer in Cornwall'

The craft sale organized by our House-Manager Sioux ran from 12<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> August. There was a good range of craft items for sale, from knitters, embroiderers, painters, lampshade makers, jewellery makers, needleworkers, printers, woodworkers, glass workers and others too. We thank all the crafters who did their turn stewarding too.



**The Arts and Crafts Shop in the Surgery** continued throughout the whole of August, with a lovely range of items for sale. Sioux plans to organize more of these (*see Sue's News' p.2*). We do need volunteers to steward though – we cannot open the room without them.

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



Gardens in September are full of those miraculous, tiny reproductive capsules of genetic information otherwise known as seeds. In the Stuart House garden, the giant yellow Antwerp Hollyhock (the leaf-rust resistant type) has produced thousands of seeds some of which I will save and package for sale in the cafe. Seed heads themselves are intricate pictures of wonder: the photograph shows about a hundred hollyhock seeds exquisitely arranged in a beautiful compact circle. Also producing

seed heads at present are the Acanthus (Bear's Breeches). Fruits are formed in the hooded spiky sepals along the tall stems, containing several white seeds, and again I'll save some. More questions were asked by visitors this summer about this imposing plant than of any others in the garden!



A flower that produced far too many seeds at the expense of flowers was Calendula, a plant that would have been found widely in Tudor and Stuart gardens for edible and medicinal uses, as well as for decoration. As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, I thought it would be a good idea to grow a selection of the newer sorts which are said to hold their flowers much longer. Alas, the dry warm weather of early summer encouraged them to run quickly to seed, making them unsuitable as a long-lasting summer bedding plant. However, if seed is sown from July to September the plants will often start to flower in October and continue right through until the following June. At the railway station bed which I look after, one seed that found its way into a crack on the platform grew with no help whatsoever, producing prolific numbers of yellow blooms for ten months. I've collected seed from this plant and hope they will replicate at Stuart House the outstanding flower power of their parent.



Mediaeval gardeners had only a relatively few of the bedding plants we use nowadays. They would have been familiar with wall-flowers, sweet William, violas, roses and lavender but by the time John Gerard published his extensive *Herball, or Generall Historie of Plantes* in 1597 many of today's familiar plants such as Nasturtium, Impatiens and Nicotiana were recognised, brought back from more tropical areas. There are still relatively few floral types that will reliably flower right throughout the summer, which is why we rely so heavily on petunias, fuchsias, busy

lizzies, verbenas, lobelias and bacopa and the like. I've written previously about the extraordinary flowering properties of begonias.

Those in the Stuart House garden flower from May to November whatever the weather and with no dead-heading needed: the smaller fibrous sort in pots on the tables and the more exuberant corm type in the planters. Along the café windowsill this year I've jumbled together pots of common flowering plants, and although they have no direct sun this arrangement has worked really well. All potted plants benefit from regular feeding: I'm not sure what special concoctions Mediaeval gardeners used, but today's tomato food has just right balance of nutrients.



I wonder too, how gardeners-of-old coped with rose bud “balling”. Cool wet weather can saturate the outer petals which fuse together into a tight, papery shell, preventing the bloom from opening, though these can sometimes be gently peeled back when the weather turns drier. We’ve lost many flowers this summer in the rear rose bed because of this though interestingly the Duchess of Cornwall blooms in the front border are not much affected.



Stuart House’s gravel paths provide an ever-attractive area for many seeds to germinate and grow – it’s amazing how little soil they often need. So if you have an area of gravel (which is not laid on plastic membrane) or poor soil that could do with



brightening up with hardly any effort, now’s the time to scatter around seeds of forget-me-nots, feverfew, Mexican daisy (Erigeron karvinskianus), Welsh poppy, purple honesty, Verbena bonariensis, calendula, yellow field marigold, and primrose. There’s no need to do anything else – they’ll bide their time throughout the winter and surprise you next year!

*Malcolm Mort*

## STUART HOUSE GARDEN CLUB

next meeting

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

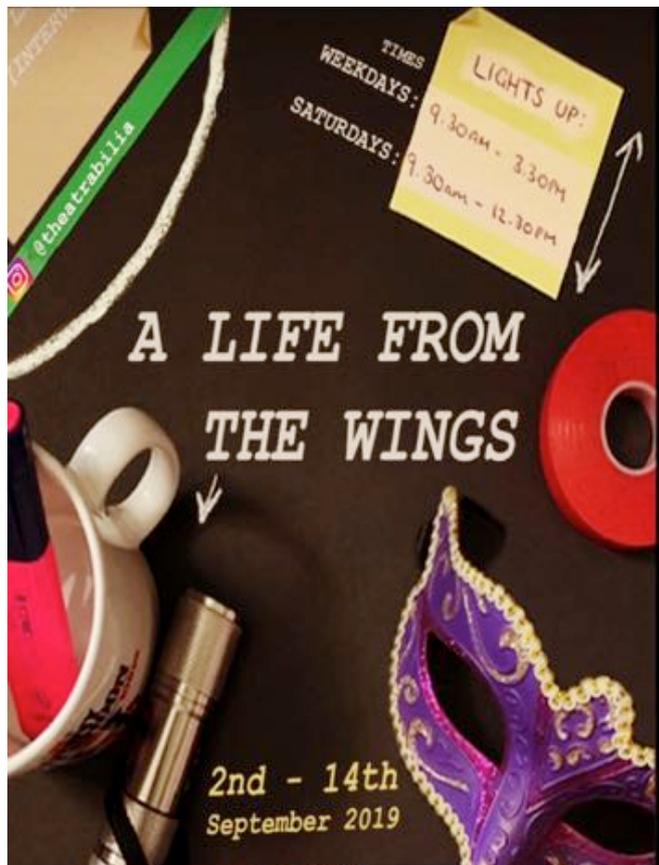
11.30am to 1.30pm.

New members welcome – please contact Val Moore on 01579 228518



Our Garden Club had a visit to Moyclare Garden on Lodge Hill, Liskeard on 6<sup>th</sup> August. The party was welcomed and shown round by owner Elizabeth Henslowe. It is a beautiful acre garden, established in 1927 by Moira Reid. The group are looking forward to a return visit next year,

## EVENTS COMING IN SEPTEMBER



Organiser Tim Norman writes:

**Theatrabilia's** second exhibition brings a slice of London's glittering West End to Cornwall this September.

A showcase of programmes, prompt books, set models and other theatrical delights, **'A Life from the Wings'** takes us through stage door and beyond.

*"What does a deputy stage manager do in rehearsals? How does a play go from page to stage?"* Discover how a production is brought to life as we chart the history of this magical, creative and compelling industry.

.....

Tim will be in the Gallery to talk to visitors about the exhibition. We remember with great appreciation his 'Discovering Shakespeare Piece by Piece' exhibition, and are really looking forward to this one. (ed.)

This exhibition, in the Jane Room, is in the fortnight leading up to 'Liskeard Unlocked' (see p.1).. In previous years, visitors have been invited to look at photographs of Liskeard's doors and windows, and to see whether they can identify them, and learn a little about the buildings. This year it is the turn of **date-stones**.

In the week following 'Liskeard Unlocked', some material from some of the other buildings in the town not usually open to the public will be brought into Stuart House.

### Tamar Crafting Workshops return in September

**Beeswax Food Wrap Workshop**  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 10am to 12 pm  
£15 per person including materials

**Pom Pom Bunting Workshop**  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 12.30 to 2.30  
£10 per person including materials

[toni@tamarcrafting.co.uk](mailto:toni@tamarcrafting.co.uk)  
07863 117630



**STUART HOUSE**  
Arts and Heritage Centre

Barras Street 01579 347347  
Liskeard  
PL14 6AB  
[info@stuarthouse.org.uk](mailto:info@stuarthouse.org.uk)  
[www.stuarthouse.org.uk](http://www.stuarthouse.org.uk)  
Stuart House Trust, Charity No. 1178402



## DISCOVER LISKEARD'S DATE-STONES

see something of the variety of date-stones on Liskeard's buildings and test your observation and knowledge

an introduction to 'Liskeard Unlocked' Heritage Open Days 2019  
for more information ask in the Tourist Information Centre or visit [www.visitliskeard.co.uk](http://www.visitliskeard.co.uk)

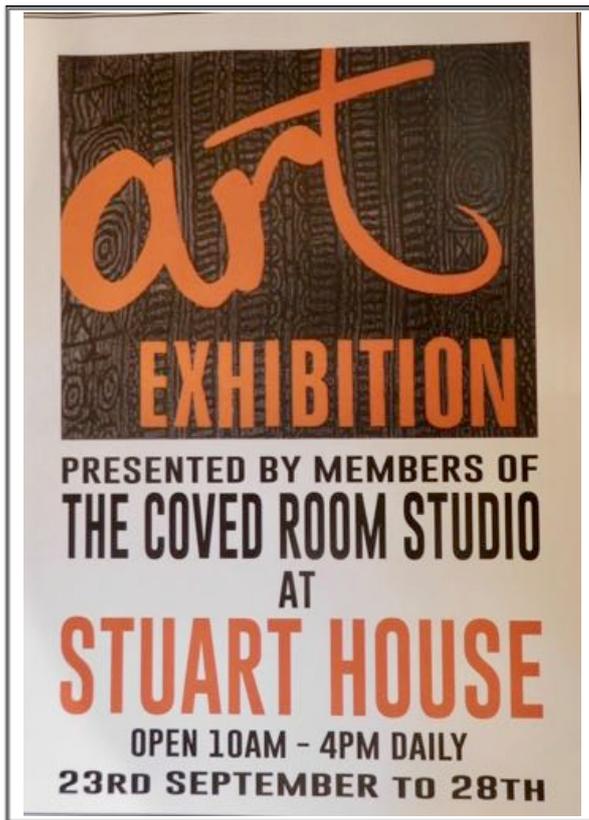
**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

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

**FREE ENTRY**

**and MORE EVENTS in SEPTEMBER ....**

(for music, see p.2)



After a break last year, we are delighted to be welcoming another exhibition by members of the **Coved Room Studio**.

The Coved Room is where our artist-in-residence, Linda Maynard, has her studio and gives classes. It is on the top floor of Stuart House, through the interesting door in the Trussed Room.





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.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SALLY O'SHAUGHNESSY







FREE ENTRY  
30 SEP - 05 OCT 2019  
STUART HOUSE LISKEARD

This will be the third visit by artist **Laurie Scott** to Stuart House. Friends may remember her exhibition in May 2018 which included the six-panel 'Space Junk', and also her Exhibition last December 'Because I Am A Cat'. We look forward to further exploration, and to the collaboration with photographer **Sally O'Shaughnessy**

We have not yet had confirmation of another possible exhibition in the Jane Room around St Matthew's Fair Day, but the Coved Room exhibition will anyway be in the Gallery and the Town Criers will be in the House. (see p. 1)

# Diary of Events

September 2019



Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Discover Date-stones on Liskeard's Buildings in the run-up to the 'Liskeard Unlocked' weekend on 13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> (see p.6)
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> to Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	'A Life from the Wings' Theatrabilia exhibition (see p.6)
Tuesdays 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup>	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4.30 pm
Every Thursday	Craft Club: all welcome 12 noon to 3pm
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4 to 6.30pm.
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Diabel Cissokho – Stuart House Concert Series, 2.30pm £7 (see p.2)
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Date-stones exhibition joined by material from properties open for "Liskeard Unlocked" (see p.6)
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnas, Hampton & Littlewood. 10am to 12 noon
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	PARTY for Friends, Volunteers and Exhibitors (see p.1)
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Gardening Club 11.30am to 1.30pm (see p.5)
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> to Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Art Exhibition by members of the Coved Room Studio (see p.7)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Beeswax food wrap and PomPom making workshops with Toni Dunmow of Tamar Crafting (see p.7)
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Liskeard's St Matthew's Fair Day – including the Town Criers at Stuart House (see pp.1 and 7)
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>	"Naturally Inspired" : exhibition in paint and photography with Laurie Scott Originals and Sally O'Shaughnessy, photographer (see p.7)
<b>Coming in October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liskeard School Concert (Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>)</li> <li>• Liskeard Arts Society – Young Artists' award exhibition – showcasing the work of Year 10 &amp;11 GCSE students at Callington, Liskeard, Looe, Saltash and Torpoint schools (21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>)</li> <li>• and more</li> </ul>

*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 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)