

Newsletter

April 2019



SPOTLIGHT ON HERBS: preparation is underway for June's big event, run by Friends of Stuart House key organiser Eileen Crouch writes:

Preparations for this exhibition are taking place behind the scenes. Lots of plants are being potted in gardens - not only herbs, but many of our herbaceous flowering plants too are getting ready to make their way to our sales tables.

Remember, these flowers attract the pollinating bees and butterflies on which herbs also depend. So, although the herbs are the Stars of this exhibition, they are also backed up by a supporting cast of 'hundreds'. You are invited to **donate any plants** that are surplus to your garden's requirements.

The exhibition will also exhibit and sell **herb-related art and crafts**. Entry is free for these exhibits – but financial donations to the Trust are very welcome.

Our House-Manager Sioux has Entry Forms. We

do need to know in advance what is being brought in so that we can plan ahead.

The Gallery and Surgery will need **stewarding** so help by committing to a half-day in either room is welcomed. Again, Sioux will have stewarding lists in the office.

The Jane Room will have displays which Bob is preparing and will be setting up. His 'did you know....?' challenges are already intriguing us - we wonder what else he will find to entertain visitors.

During the exhibition, there will be a concert (with music appropriate to herbs, the season and gardens) by **Ilow Splann**. This will be on a weekday evening, date to be confirmed.

We would like to hear from all potential exhibitors by Saturday, 1st June – so that we can make plans enabling us to set up the rooms speedily on Sunday, 9th June.



Our garden with the magnolia and the big new herb planters – not yet in situ or planted up.

Sue's News

Have you spotted our deliberate mistake?

I hope that got your attention! We all still call ourselves 'Trustees'.....since we became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) the six of us, namely Bob, Tony, Rachel, Dave, John and myself are in fact all directors of the CIO which is responsible for the running of Stuart House. So although we are technically not trustees, we will continue to refer to ourselves as such – after all we are in a position of trust insofar as Stuart House is concerned!

Now that I have your attention I must voice a plea for urgent specialist volunteer assistance. I hope there is someone out there – either one of our Friends or maybe a contact or relative of one of our Friends – who has sufficient expertise and experience to help us with the following:



- Updating and running our website
- Maintaining our social media (at present just Facebook)
- Publicity

We are looking for an enthusiastic and reliable volunteer (or persons) who can work either from their own home or office, or from Stuart House and is (or are) able to work at the direction of the trustees. **Can you help?**

You will all recollect that for part of last year our garden was adversely affected by the erection of scaffolding to enable repairs to be made to the Library. Whilst there is a legal right for others to enter our garden for that purpose, last year, unfortunately, no notice was given to us and the first we knew about it was when scaffolders had turned up unannounced and at a busy time. We need to ensure that never happens again. Please all note that access is to be denied to anyone seeking to enter our garden for that purpose unless the trustees have given prior approval. In the past there has been correspondence with third parties on the subject and clear lines of responsibility were laid down in writing, with a clear programme and method statement. On this occasion there was nothing in writing. I am setting this out for the benefit of our volunteers who sometimes assist with reception duties. When access is required in future, and once we have agreed the basis on which it can be agreed, then everyone will be told.

Sue Glencross, Hon. Sec.



The March Meeting of the South-East Cornwall Museums Forum.

Stuart House is an active member of this Forum, with trustee Dave being our representative, and the editor being support and secretary.

Of the nine members, four, including Stuart House, are not actually accredited museums, but the Forum is a great way of sharing ideas and of taking up training opportunities run by the Museums Development services. Recently, we have attended sessions on display presentation, on forward business planning and on volunteers.

SECMF runs the annual **FAMILY HISTORY and HERITAGE DAY** in Liskeard. This year's – the 4th - is on June 15th in the Public Hall.

EVENTS in the HOUSE in the PAST MONTH



The **Henry Rice permanent exhibition** was re-located from the Rowse Room down to the Gallery for March, and some of **Jane Wood's** excellent drawings of Henry Rice buildings in Liskeard were added. Eileen, one of the original Henry Rice project team, also added some more information about the project, particularly about the late George Vaughan-Ellis's role. Comments in the Visitors' Book showed how much the new focus on the exhibition was appreciated.



March saw the Surgery hosting another **Friends of Stuart House Craft sale**, with new volunteer Tracey stewarding here.

The **March Artist of the Month**, whose work is on the walls, was **Jude Kellaway**. The Cornish artist is inspired by the textures, colour and movement of nature. Layers of gesso, paint, paper, dried grasses and seed-heads on recycled canvas create her work.

The **CRAFT CLUB** meets every Thursday and new members are welcome. Several of the crafters sell their work in the House.



Our Garden Overseer's Thoughts for April



How very different the seasons can be from each other. The record-breaking temperatures of February this year triggered the Magnolia tree to burst into flower, a full month earlier than usual – unlike last year when the very cold March held flowering back until mid-April. The tree is of course on the other side of our wall, but it frames the Stuart House garden so perfectly that it's considered an integral feature – as indeed it was before the line dividing the properties was

drawn up when next door became a garage. Because March has been colder than balmy February, the flowers have lasted much longer, well over a month, which is also very unusual for this tree. Magnolias, by the way, were amongst the first plants to reproduce using flowers pollinated by insects. The hardy trees grown in this country derive from specimens sent from China to Kew around 1780, and the genus was named after Pierre Magnol, Louis XIV's doctor and professor of botany at the University of Montpellier.



The Hellebores have put on an abundant show this Spring. There are several plants of two different sorts in the garden: one has very dark petals, inside and out, whilst the other has dark red petals on the



outside but inside it's very different – much lighter and beautifully patterned. It's a shame that the blooms of these plants hide their beauty by always staring at the ground. Hellebores well illustrate a problem to consider when choosing plants for public flower beds. On dull dark days, or on sunny days when shade falls upon them, they're hardly noticed by visitors, especially those who are older and whose sight may not be as good as it once was. (The NHS website alarmingly tells us that when we are in our 60's we need three times more light to read easily than when we were in our twenties!)

For this reason, when selecting flowers – for my own garden and for community gardens - I prefer to use light colours: whites, yellows, pinks. Also to consider is that taller flowering plants often fall over in summer rain and wind without support, and staking is a very time-consuming and tedious business. Very small dwarf plants don't do this but are easily swamped by more vigorous companions. Added to these factors is that one also wants flowers that repay one's efforts in time and cost, which means they'll put up with whatever Mother Nature throws at them, and which withstand attack by diseases or chomping creatures.

Elizabethan gardeners well understood this, and in his book "The Renaissance Garden in Britain" John Antony tells us that a William Harrison, Dean of Windsor (1534 – 93) wrote of the increasing skills of gardeners in breeding flowers with bigger and double blooms. Fruit trees and vegetables, too, began to be greatly improved. I wonder what they would have made of the incredible range of big bright long-lasting blooms we have today, especially begonias (both fibrous rooted and corm sorts) and Tidal Wave petunias. Not, though, those over-gaudy, over-sized primroses with such flimsy tissue-paper petals that one sees everywhere nowadays. Now, these are certainly *not* an improvement from the native wild sort!



Visitors to the garden have commented on the calendulas that have been in flower since early new Year in the containers. Those with a spreading multiplicity of small blooms are *Calendula Winter*



Sun, while the larger blooms are *Calypso* and *Funky Stuff* cultivars – all grown from seed sown last summer and brought on in pots in a cold-frame. There are some excellent new sorts of these seeds now available that fulfil the necessary criteria – light colours, stocky so they don't fall over, and very resistant to deluge, drought and disease. Calendula, or English Marigold, is said to have gained its name in Anglo-Saxon times. It was the Virgin Mary's gold, as it could easily be brought into flower in every month and used to decorate church altars. It's often called "pot marigold" after its assumed use in being added to cooking pots in the Middle Ages. However, I recently came across a different possible derivation. Shakespeare wrote of it in *The Winter's Tale*: "The marigold that goes to bed with the sun/ And with him rises weeping." Hence, Poet's Marigold. Yes, *Calendula* marigolds of all sorts do still close at night and awaken in the morning, but always with faces that look straight and happily up at you!

Malcolm Mort

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Bo Foaks Memorial Walk - Saturday 13th April

Iain Rowe with Brian Oldham will lead the annual walk. Bo Foaks was a longstanding supporter of Stuart House, a folk musician himself and a great encourager of music by young people. He loved Bodmin Moor.

Meet at Stuart House at 9am to walk to Treworgey, Highwood and the Liskeard & Caradon Railway.

A soup lunch at Stuart House can be ordered for your return.

ALL WELCOME

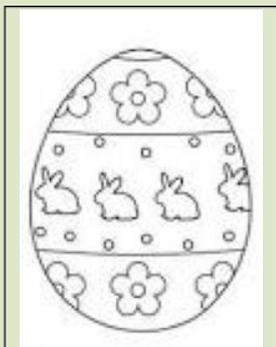
April's **Old Cornwall Society talk** is on Friday 12th April at 2.30pm in Liskeard's Public Hall complex and will be **Mark Camp, talking about Polperro's Writers and Artists.**

The Liskeard Old Cornwall Society's room on the top floor of Stuart House continues to be open on Wednesdays.

Events coming in April

EASTER CRAFTS SALE

In the Max Lock Gallery



Monday 1st to Saturday 20th April



Sunday 28th April
2.30pm



at
STUART HOUSE ARTS & HERITAGE CENTRE

A SUNDAY AFTERNOON of SONG

Rosemary Ball (soprano)
with

Chris Howarth (piano)

Tessa Lewis (mezzo soprano)

Petra Stephenson (viola)



including music by

Schubert

Brahms

Fauré

Gurney

Monteverdi



tickets £7 from the House or at the door



Beeswax Food Wrap Workshop

5th April 10am -12pm
Stuart House, Jane Room
Barras Street, Liskeard, PL14 6AB

£14 per person including all materials

Beeswax re-usable food wraps are an alternative to single use clingfilm and tin foil. The wraps are made from 100% cotton and beeswax, a natural product that is re-usable, washable and at the end of life compostable.

To book a place:

Facebook: tamar crafting workshops and go to our events listing.

email: toni@tamarcrafting.co.uk

or phone Toni on 07863 117630

The House is hosting two workshops in April. Please book places directly, and tell anyone who may be interested.

Lampshade Making Workshop



12th April at Stuart House, Liskeard
10am-12pm, £20 per person

Spend a fun couple of hours making a personalised lamp shade in a fabric of your choice. The price includes for a 20cm drum shade either for a table lamp or hanging pendant. For a small additional charge you could size up to a 30cm shade. Bring along piece of cotton/linen fabric or we will have a selection available on the day.

To book a place:

Go to FB Tamar Crafting Workshops and message us

Email: toni@tamarcrafting.co.uk

or phone Toni on 07863 117630

OTHER EVENTS COMING SOON

The Stuart House 2019 Concert Series begins in May, although we do host other concerts during the year. The full programme for our Series will be available soon

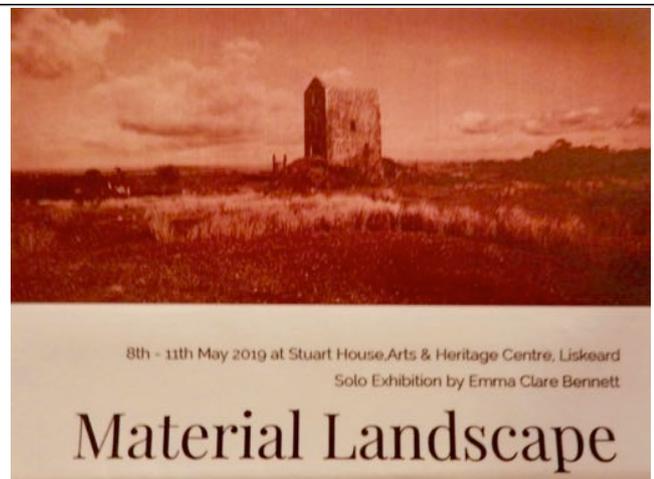


On Sunday 12th May at 2.30pm we shall again welcome **Ilow Splann**, who will be playing mainly early music with the possible inclusion of Cornish folk tunes and Baroque pieces. Instruments are likely to include recorders of varying sizes, violin, cornamusen, bouzouki and bodhran, and they will also be singing some duets.

FAKE or FORTUNE

Remember that Richard Hamm of Bearnes, Hampton & Littlewood is in Stuart House one morning each month – the day of the week varies. Valuation of and information about objects is free – and who knows

From 8th to 11th May, Cornish artist **Emma Clare Bennett** will exhibit in the Max Lock Gallery. More detail of what is to come will be in the next Newsletter, but we look forward to this 'exploration of the very essence of the Cornish Moors and the experience of landscape through a combination of site specific materials included in the work'.



Our House Manager Sioux is currently dealing with Gallery bookings. Space is still available during 2019, although new bookings are coming in and others being confirmed.

We are already looking forward to

- * Emma Clare Bennett, artist 8th-11th May
- * West Country Embroiderers 13th-16th May
- * North Hill Art Group 3rd-8th June
- * Spotlight on Herbs (see p.1) 10-22 June
- * Rose Gibbon & Jude Kellaway, artists
- * Laurie Scott, artist
- * Val Moore & Friends (art and craft and plants) 15th-20th July
- * Alan Kingwell, artist 29th July – 10th August
- * Railway Exhibition
- * Several Craft Sales
- * Our Coved Room Art Students' (students of Linda Maynard) exhibition 23rd-28th Sept
- * Liskeard Unlocked lead-up exhibition (probably of Liskeard buildings' date stones)

and there will be **MUCH MORE**

Diary of Events

April 2019



Monday 1 st to Saturday 20 th	Easter Arts and Crafts in the Gallery
Tuesdays 2 nd , 16 th	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4.30 pm
Every Thursday	Craft Club: all welcome 12 noon to 3pm (see p.2)
Friday 5 th	Beeswax Food Wrap Workshop 10am to 12 noon (see p.6)
Monday 8 th	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4 to 6.30pm
Friday 12 th	Lampshade Making workshop 10am – 12 noon (see p.6)
Saturday 13 th	Bo Foaks Memorial Walk (see p.5)
Monday 15 th	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnese, Hampton & Littlewood. 10am to 12 noon
Friday 19 th & Monday 22 nd	House shut, but open on Easter Saturday
Friday 26 th April	WEA Lip-Reading class (first of 10 weeks) 10am – 12 noon (information available from the House)
Sunday 28 th	'Music for a Sunday Afternoon' : Rosemary Ball, soprano (see p.6)
Events coming in May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emma Bennett Art Exhibition 8th - 11th (see p.7) • Ilow Splann in concert 12th (see p.7) • West Country Embroiderers 13th – 16th • Fake or Fortune 22nd

The House, Garden, Old Kitchen Café and (but check first) Computer Research Facility are normally 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 25th of the month for inclusion in the next newsletter. Leave with Sioux in the Office or email to rachelpbennett59@gmail.com