

Newsletter

September 2021

STUART HOUSE OPENS AGAIN!



As announced in last month's Newsletter, Stuart House is open again. House Manger Sioux writes "We are sticking to opening hours of Monday to Thursday 09.30am - 3.30pm for the moment, plus 2 Saturdays a month to fit in with gallery events. The cafe is keeping with coffee and cake for the foreseeable future. Watch this space for any development!"

The photo. shows the familiar events banners up again, this time linked to the Celtic Celebration Exhibition (see p.2) and the linked Ilow Splann concert (see p.5).

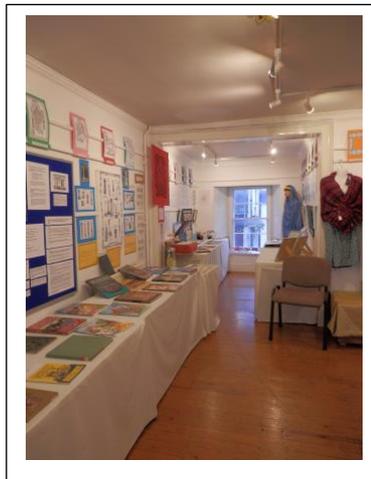
WELCOME BACK GET-TOGETHER for FRIENDS and their GUESTS!



Sunday 12th September
from 3pm

bring your own food – drinks are on the House
ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED

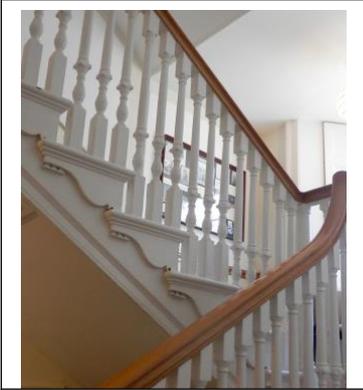
Please let Sioux know if you hope to attend



The House open again in August – the Old Kitchen Café, Celtic Celebration, and Kingwell family exhibition

Hon. Sec. Sue Glencross' More Memories from the Minutes

At the meeting held on 14th October 1998 Eileen Crouch's 'usual thoroughness' was acknowledged in relation to draft details of a 'Members' Art & Craft Exhibition' which she had prepared. The Fire Prevention Officer's report was awaited following his recent visit to the House. No grants for roof insulation were available for non-domestic properties. Discussions were held with a local builder in relation to the shelling of plaster from the toilet walls. The railings were in place as was a bench form Mrs Maudie Crouch. A picture of Elizabeth I had been donated by Mr & Mrs Crane. A quotation for carpet to the stair and first floor corridor



The fine c.1740 staircase is an integral part of the House, but is sometimes taken for granted.

The first-floor corridor was created when the rooms on that floor were subdivided in the late 18th century, when it seems possible that the House was divided into two residences.

had been received and this amounted to £1400. Tony Wood was attending to locks and keys and Eileen had obtained a quotation for a donation box in the sum of £30. Tony Wood had contacted Maxine MacCarthy and Tom Wood about 'Science & Technology Week'. Vernon Williams would provide entertainment on 31st October and at Christmas Liskeard Male Voice Choir would perform. It was resolved to acquire a fire basket for the Parlour.

The next meeting was on 11th November. Mrs Harvey had spent some considerable time including work to the front door. There were two leaks in the roof which would be repaired and it was hoped to include the cost in the Lottery Grant payment. Mr Wood had entered the restoration in the Cornish Buildings Group Annual Award Scheme. Some of the fire alarms had been reinstated. The pest control officer had been called to the House following the sightings of a rodent. Mr Purvis was making a cupboard for the office. The suggestion of a Members' Art & Craft Exhibition was thought to be generally a good idea and Eileen would contact people who would sell their manufactured items such as cards. The volume and nature of catering would have to be controlled. The Vernon Williams talk had realized £60. Jenny Martin and Nicky Walker were to combine to give a talk. In February. Andrew Langdon would speak on Cornish Crosses. Tony Wood had met with Robert Elford to discuss a standard design concept about

which he had subsequently received cost estimates. These would be considered when the Trust's financial status was consistent. A telephone installation was resolved in the same way. Eileen's work on the details of the Celtic exhibition was continuing. **to be continued**

The Celtic Celebration 9th to 21st August 2021 (see also p. 1 and 5)



Eileen Crouch, who initiated this exhibition, originally for 2020 to mark the 20th anniversary of the exhibition mentioned often in the current 'Memories from the Minutes', writes:

"Having been postponed due to the pandemic, "**Celtic Celebration**" finally took place as soon as the House re-opened at the beginning of August. Sioux and Gaby transformed the Gallery into a lovely showcase where visitors showed their appreciation by purchasing items on display.

Good to see some souvenirs of **Celtic Art 2000** – one of our Millennium events and a reminder of our early days.

On Sunday, the 15th, the duo Ilow Splann (Carlton Crouch and Maggie Willmott) made a welcome return to play an interesting and varied programme of Celtic music in the garden. Despite a drop of rain the audience stayed on, sheltered by our nice big umbrellas, (see also p.5) and enjoyed some lovely cakes (made by Maggie) and tea, served by Sioux in the cafe." Thanks from all to everyone for making the re-opening of Stuart House so enjoyable."

EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

The Kingwell Family Exhibition

House Manager Sioux writes: Alan Kingwell, along with Mags and Amber are holding their family exhibition 23rd August - 4th September. The Kingwell family exhibitions are always fabulous events, and it is such a joy to see the stunning collection of art and crafts, and to hear the music

Alan adds that the exhibition includes the latest oil paintings by Alan, silk paintings and craftwork by Mags and hand painted cards and knitted hats by Amber .



Nothing to See
A Photography Exhibition by Matt Thornhill LRPS

Wednesday 29th
Thursday 30th
September 2021
0930-1530

FREE ENTRY
Stuart House,
Barras St.
Liskeard

Stuart House Trust
Arts & Heritage Centre, Liskeard

Matt Thornhill
LRPS Licentiate 2019

Monday 20th to Saturday 25th
September

Val Moore

ART EXHIBITION

Monday Sept. 27th to Thursday Oct. 7th



**'OUR WEDDING'
EXHIBITION**

The "Our Wedding" exhibition is all down to you - our friends. Could those of you who have offered items for inclusion please bring them in the week of 20th - 23rd September so we can work out the 'running order'. Any of you who have not considered joining in so far but might like to, please give Sioux a call in Reception, or just pop in of course!

Nothing to See: a photography exhibition 29th & 30th of September

The purpose of the 2 day exhibition is to say thank you to my sitters and friends who helped me through the process of achieving my Licentiate with the Royal Photographic Society hopefully provide inspiration to other photographers.

By showcasing the photographs that were assessed by the RPS, plus some additional ones that I considered for presentation but didn't make the final cut, it will be a 2 day exhibition of some of my finest work to date. **DON'T MISS IT!**

Matt, exhibited his truly inspiring iphone photographs in the House in 2019. (ed.)

September's Thoughts from our Garden's Overseer



Montbretia. Photo by Malcolm, as are the other garden ones and the view on p.6.

It's third time lucky for the wood pigeons in the bay bush. Two eggs hatched, and the fledglings (squabs) are being carefully looked after by the attentive parents. How they don't fall out of the untidy nest is a mystery, as they constantly wriggle around. Wood pigeons are among a very small number of birds which produce 'crop milk', a substance similar to mammalian milk, in the cells of the crop, the sac-like structure normally used for storing food. This milk starts to be produced during the final few days of the incubation period and nourishes the chicks for the first few weeks of life. They stay in the nest for three to four weeks before

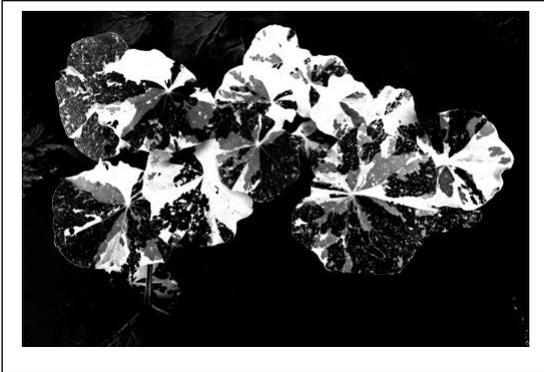
clambering out and learn to peck around for seeds. Let's hope they keep safe from the ever-present gulls and rats, as well as from the hedgehog that had been living under our garden shed, as they also prey on birds' eggs and young chicks. (This hedgehog was last seen in June when it was returned to the garden in a cardboard box after having climbed onto the balcony of the next door pub.)

On the theme of what birds like to eat, I've mentioned previously how difficult it is to have early primroses blooming in the Stuart House garden because the flowers are torn to shreds and eaten by the hungry sparrows emerging from their winter roosts under the surrounding roof fascias. In my own garden this summer, for the first time, I've faced a total crop failure of my runner beans because of sparrows. They've been absent for the last several years, so I was glad to see them back as they can be very amusing to watch, especially when engaging in dust bowl bathing. I noticed them around the bean poles and thought that they were trying to pull off pieces of twine to line their nests. But later I discovered the truth – they had pulled off and eaten **every one** of the developing flower buds. For next season, therefore, dwarf runner beans and French beans will be grown as these can be easily netted. A few days later I read that bullfinches have developed a taste for the flower buds of pear trees. Oh dear! I wonder how mediaeval gardeners coped with such behaviours? We do know from records of those times that children were used to "stone the crows" which raided their crops. How did they try to control slugs and snails, caterpillars and all the other creatures and diseases that for ever frustrate our horticultural efforts?

The new window boxes on the windowsills looking onto the garden are wonderfully colourful, the flowers visible also from inside the café. Before the old garage next door was demolished, the view from the window next to the fireplace was of wild woodland - mostly buddleias and goat willows - busy establishing itself. However, the present day scene is rather bleak, and Sioux asked if a window box could be placed there too. So plants have been added, including a flowering fuchsia and a crab apple tree, grown from a pip (see photo.). What a wonderful difference!



In order to give an inviting look to the new brick wall between our garden and next door, over the last few years I've grown trees in pots to act as a green cover and to complement the adjacent flower planters. A shrub that looks quite beautiful and has grown surprisingly well in a small container is a variegated privet. Jeff and I thought we would move this to brighten up the bed at the end of the garden near the shed, but then we found out why it was doing so well where it was: it has grown through its pot and is now firmly rooted into the gravel below. Since it seems quite at home there, its plastic pot has been cut off and a planter built around it.



The question of why plants become variegated is intriguing because such leaves do not contain chlorophyll in the green-free places and therefore are not so efficient. Genetic mutations cause this effect in many plants, most of which die out as they tend to be weaker, but many are selected and propagated by gardeners. A recent article in *New Scientist* suggested that variegated leaves can offer protection to the plant because they can baffle nibbling animals who are less able to see the leaves properly as they look like dabbled shade. Can this be true? The

Nasturtium variety Alaska – a few plants are growing in the herb planter at the moment - have beautifully variegated leaves which come true from seed (*see photo.*). The flowers are held above the foliage too, and they last for long time, so this is a good sort for pots and planters. Nasturtiums are found growing naturally in Mexico and Peru where all parts of the plant are eaten. They were brought to Europe in the 16th century and have been popular with gardeners ever since. The flowers (high in vitamin C apparently) can be added to salads, and the seeds pickled. Herbals state that nasturtium leaves have many medicinal properties: they can be ground into an ointment to treat cuts and skin irritations and steeped in hot water to make a tea for alleviating respiratory and urinary tract infections. I wonder if Dr Hammond who ran a surgery from Stuart House from 1895 knew this?

Mort

Malcolm

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ILOW SPLANN played in the garden on Sunday 15th August, as part of the Celtic



Celtic Celebration. Further to Eileen's reflections on p.2, House Manager Sioux writes:

"The Celtic Celebration" 9th-21st August went really well. Thank you to all of you who supported the event, it was greatly appreciated. We were lucky enough to have Maggie and Carlton as Ilow Splann perform in the garden on Sunday 15th. Although we had rain during the performances 18 hardy souls enjoyed an open air concert with the protection of the parasols. The performers, were not so lucky, although they had a gazebo over them, the sides were open to the odd

trickle. Maggie's cake was greatly appreciated, along with biscuits, tea and coffee. The Gallery was open for viewing after the concert and several sales were made.

Carlton adds: "we also have two videos of the music which are here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqUsKHfuPNQ>

and here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kANbCGWUqrM>

Follow Ilow Splann on Facebook or website at: www.ilowsplann.co.uk

Another Liskeard snippet from Brian Oldham, President of the Liskeard Old Cornwall Society, who have their base in the Trecarrel Room, on the top floor of Stuart House.



Edwin Mayell was born in Bridport, Dorset in 1814 and at the age of 27 had established a Watchmaking business on Bodmin Hill, Lostwithiel. He first appears in the Liskeard Trade Directory in 1844 as a Watch & Clockmaker and Jeweller on Tavern Hill (now Pike Street). The location of Edwin's premises is confirmed in a plan prepared for him by local Architect, Henry Rice, in 1849.

The Mayell family in 1851 consisted of Edwin (37), Honor (47), Louisa (16), William E (12), Ellen (9) and Emma (6). William E Mayell later became an Inland Revenue Excise Officer at the age of 23, living in Leicester.

It wasn't until the 1861 census that Edwin added Photographer Master to his previously declared occupations; Master indicates that he had 1 or more apprentices working for him. The only glass plate photograph by him that we have available was reproduced, with kind permission of the Royal Institute of Cornwall, in the Liskeard & District Museum publication "Looking Glass". Remarkably, it captures the scene of Firemen fighting a shop fire in 1860 just a few doors down Pike Street from Edwin's own premises.



Later photographs of Pike Street, from the 1900s and 2000s, show that there has been little change from Rice's plan of 1849. Edwin Mayell was only 55 when he died in 1868; his Widow Honor continued in the Pike Street shop, but as a Grocer and Confectioner, with her youngest daughter Emma to assist.

Susan Carthew lived in Stuart House from before 1841 to her death, aged 84, in 1876, so she would have known Edwin Mayell's business and premises well. She lived with a handful of female servants and was renowned for her kindness of heart and charitable work. (ed.)



LISKEARD UNLOCKED 2021

Liskeard Unlocked 2021

Lyskerrys Dialwedh

Friday 10th to Saturday 18th September

This September LISKEARD UNLOCKED will again be mostly outside and online - to safely share the town's stories - with walks, talks, exhibitions and the chance to see behind doors which are usually closed. The national theme for Heritage Open Days this year is FOOD and many of our events reflect that. The events will run in line with covid guidelines at the time.

For more details ask at the Liskeard Tourist Information Centre on Pike Street - ☎ 01579 559567 - or look online at www.visitliskeard.co.uk

Facebook: @LiskeardTownCouncil and @LiskeardTIC
Twitter: @LiskeardTIC

VISIT LISKEARD FOR THE DISCOVERER IN YOU

Liskeard Unlocked - Friday 10th - Saturday 18th September 2021

To join the walks you must book with the Tourist Information Centre before noon on 10th September. ☎ 01579 559567

Friday 10th September

BEEES AND BEEKEEPING 2.30pm, The Public Hall 1
Illustrated Talk by local beekeeper and honey producer Dale Wood, hosted by the Liskeard Old Cornwall Society.

Saturday 11th September

FOOD MARKET AND DISPLAY 10am - 1pm, Cattle Market events space 2
Shop safely for local food and find out about the history and future of the Cattle Market site. Learn about life and food in the old workhouse. There will be a Food Bank collection - please bring along long-life food.

PENDEAN HOUSE Open 10am-1pm 3
A fully restored Victorian home with unusual wood carvings and interesting gardens. Its history includes being a Dental Surgery and a Children's Home.

THE PIPE WELL Gates Open 10am-2pm 4
Once the principal water source for the town centre, the well is fed by four springs. The iron gates, normally locked to protect the well (and the magic stone it contains), will be open so that visitors can see the full extent of the water source.

St. MARTIN'S CHURCH Open 10am - 1pm 5
Explore St Martin's Church, seeing the history behind the building and how it has been a place of Christian worship for over 800 years.

WESTBOURNE HOUSE Open 2pm-5pm 6
A rare opportunity to visit this substantial Grade 2 listed town centre building. New leaseholders Wildanet are undertaking a complete restoration. Visitors will be able to see their progress, and read and hear the house's history dating back to 1816.

METHODIST CHURCH Open on Saturday 11th & Monday 13th from 10am-1pm 7
Liskeard Methodist Church, an interesting Grade 2 listed building, invites you to come and see our displays based around spices and some of the famous meals in the Bible. The Church will also be decorated for our Harvest Celebrations.

LISKEARD AND DISTRICT MUSEUM Saturdays 10am-1pm; weekdays 10am-4pm 8
Visit the Museum to see the food outlets of Liskeard in times gone by, and take a look at what was being prepared in the kitchen from the 1950s & 60s. Free entry and fun for all the family. Follow the 'Teddy Trail' and learn about the history of Liskeard, local people, trades and industry. Understand the geology of the area and the impact of mining. Evoke memories in the 50s & 60s Exhibition.

Sunday 12th September

STROLL AROUND FOOD SHOPS AND EATERIES FROM WAY BACK 10am - Meet in the Cattle Market events space 2
A gentle circular walk with Brian Oldham to hear the stories of buildings which were food shops or eateries in times gone by. Book at the Tourist Information Centre.

SELECTED STONEMASONRY STORIES 2pm - Meet in the Cattle Market events space 2
Join geologist Calum Beeson to examine the source, quality and workmanship of the stonework of five of Liskeard's prominent 19th century buildings.

Stuart House usually plays a full part in the annual 'Liskeard Unlocked' events, being open (sometimes including access to the 'Secret Passage' under the stairs), hosting an exhibition inviting visitors to test what they know about features in the town - so far, its doors, windows and date-stones and the original intention for 2021 was roof features. There was also to be a Zoom talk on eating and food at Stuart House through the ages, including its kitchens, dining rooms, furnishings and tableware, but 2021 circumstances have prevented this (ed.)

Saturday 18th September

TEA TREAT CELEBRATION 2-5pm - Castle Park 9
Echoing traditional Cornish "tea treats", join us for food and activities including: a teddy bear's picnic with a prize for the best dressed teddy (judging 3pm); tea-time treats from The Real Junk Food Project; games with the Curious School of the Wild; a self-guided nature trail; nature displays, and food displays and demonstrations. Find out more about community gardening and free local cookery classes. Supported by Making Space for Nature, Liskeard Together, Cornwall Housing, Liskeard Foodbank, Liskeard Hive and the Caradon Orchard Group.

CHECK THE VISIT LISKEARD website www.visitliskeard.co.uk for UPDATES on other events.

ONLINE EVENTS AND VIDEOS

Friday 10th September 7-8pm
A LOOK IN LISKEARD'S LARDERS IN TIMES GONE BY
Online talk by Brian Oldham from the Liskeard Old Cornwall Society, looking at food and drink available through Liskeard's history.
Go to <https://bit.ly/36tV6EK> to access Eventbrite booking area or register for the Zoom link via Liskeard Tourist Information Centre.

ONLINE TOURS AND DEMONSTRATIONS
Available from 5pm on Friday 10 September on the Visit Liskeard website - (no need to register)

- Tour of Trehawke House (old Nat West bank building) with Nigel Eadie
- Cooking demonstrations with Liskeard Together. Learn how to make tasty, easy and cheap meals with food from local shops in this series of videos. Liskeard Together Project helps those not in paid work to take a step towards training, online courses, work or connecting with a local community project. Check our Facebook page, ☎ 07837 432044 or email: Jemma.warburton@cornwallhousing.org.uk

Resources to Unlock Liskeard - at any time

To explore Liskeard and its stories at any time why not try:

LISKEARD TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE (which welcomes locals too!). With the Museum in Foresters Hall, Pike Street ☎ 01579 559567. Lots of local information including free leaflets:
• Liskeard Heritage Walk leaflet • Circular walks leaflets • Accessible walks in the area

VISIT LISKEARD WEBSITE, including pages on walks in and around Liskeard, mining heritage and history of Liskeard.

LISKEARD AND DISTRICT MUSEUM (entry free) has fun for all the family. It is home to the largest collection of toys in Cornwall! Follow the Teddy Trail and learn about the history of Liskeard and local people, trades, crafts and the important mining heritage. Family history and local history research by appointment.

STUART HOUSE ARTS AND HERITAGE CENTRE (entry free) has arts and crafts exhibitions and sales, tasty refreshments, lectures, music recitals and heritage exhibitions. The garden to the rear of the House has been laid out as a 17th century Gentleman's Garden.

LISKEARD OLD CORNWALL SOCIETY preserves local history and current affairs in their archive in Stuart House. The archive is open 10am - 1pm on Wednesdays. Guest speakers talk on Cornish subjects and traditional Cornish events are kept alive. Follow our Facebook page or email the President at contactbrian@btinternet.com

Lots of interesting historical information is posted on social media:
 Facebook: Liskeard Old Pictures and Videos
 Facebook: Liskeard Old Cornwall Society
 Facebook: Liskeard and District Museum

Liskeard has many **GRADE II LISTED BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS** - you can find out more about them on the listings page at www.historicengland.org.uk. Many of the entries have been updated during lockdown. Just search for Liskeard or the specific site you are interested in.

Diary of Events

September 2021



Continuing to September 4 th	Kingwell family Art and Craft Exhibition (see p. 1 & 3)
Every Thursday	Craft Club: all welcome 12 noon to 3pm.
Monday 6 th	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnese, Hampton & Littlewood. 10am. to 12 noon
10 th to 18 th	Liskeard Unlocked (see p.7)
Sunday 12 th	Welcome Back Get-Together for Friends and their Guests, from 3pm (see p.1)
Monday 13 th	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4pm to 6.30pm.
Monday 20 th to Saturday 25 th	Val Moore Art Exhibition
Monday 27 th to Thursday 7 th October	'Our Wedding' : an exhibition of all things wedding – compiled from the Friends of Stuart House (see p.3)
Wed. 29 th to Thursday 30 th	'Nothing to See' Photography Exhibition by Matt Thornhill (see p.3)
Coming in October	October 25 th to Saturday 30 th – Liskeard Camera Club Exhibition

In the current circumstances, the House, Garden and Old Kitchen Café are open 9.30am – 3.30pm Monday to Thursday. There may 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