

Newsletter

May 2018

The Bo Foaks Memorial Walk on Saturday 21st April



Around 30 people attended this year's walk which remembered the contribution Bo Foaks gave to the Stuart House Music Programme (and buying a new cooker for the kitchen) in the months leading up to his untimely death. Fittingly the plum tree planted in his memory in the garden was in bloom as we set off for a walk from Stuart House around Moorswater and back. On



the way a crack team of litter pickers produced a haul of fly-tipped and discarded rubbish at the top of the Mass Path (well done team!), This was later collected by Biffa. We then walked around the former place of pilgrimage at Ladye Park, then ticked off canal basins, railway goods yards, engine sheds, a lost village, china clay works, paper mill, iron foundry, corn mills, wool mills, railway stations (x2), lime kilns (x3), a granite finishing yard, canal locks (x4), viaducts (x2) the houses of Liskeard's gentry (x2), a lost chapel and

a former pub. Bo as a keen industrial archaeologist would have loved all of that, as did (so we were told) the walkers who joined us. Many thanks go to Brian Oldham and Peter Murnaghan for helping me out with the walk planning and their valuable input on the day. On our return Victor and the team had our pre-ordered soup and rolls all ready for us which rounded off a perfect event - Bo would have approved! We also collected over £50 from those who attended to go towards the Stuart House Music Programme in Bo's name. Many thanks to all those who contributed, and see you next year!

Iain Rowe

Many Thanks to Iain too, of course. ed.

	<p><i>Leaflet Sponsored by Coodes</i> Honorary Solicitors to Stuart House Trust</p>
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Sue's News of the April Committee Meeting

The journey through life always proceeds on a 'one step forward one step back' basis and that phrase has never been more true this month at Stuart House.



Conspicuous by its absence at one point was the garden wall being constructed by the contractors to JD Wetherspoons – just as it was getting to the point of being build-complete. The surveyor was not happy with it – it has now been demolished and a new wall is being built to replace it, this time to the correct specification.

We are grateful to the contractors for allowing our contractor to use their scaffolding for the purposes of installing a flue for our new central heating boiler. Unfortunately our contractor never managed to drill through the external wall which was far too deep. The new flue will therefore have to be through the roof. We are fortunate to have as knowledgeable a trustee as John who is able to oversee and understand all the problems and explain them in lay terms to the remainder of us.

In the near future Victor will be 'test-driving' a new coffee machine. We have resisted using modern coffee-making equipment in the kitchen but now feel the time has come. We wait with baited breath and with anticipation as to how simple the machine is to work and the taste of the coffee. Watch this space!

In the background a great deal of thought and effort has gone into the clearing of the upstairs office and its use as an office rather than a space for storing things which we do not need to keep. The task is very much work in progress and I hope to report positively on our achievements in the next month's newsletter.

Our reception room is gradually taking shape and the office end of the room will be simplified so that anyone stewarding can have easy access to equipment and necessary paperwork and stationery. By the time this goes to Press, a splendid new office chair should be in situ. A new desk is envisaged but that will be the last item and its specification will be carefully considered once other alterations to the working area are completed.

Sue Glencross, Hon. Sec.

If anyone is interested in volunteering with helping to steward in Reception, while House Manager Sioux is undertaking administrative work in the upstairs office, **please** let Sioux know. Training will be given. It's a lovely job, involving welcoming people to the House - and you'll get to use the new chair! (*ed.*)



Our next-door neighbour to the South proceeds apace. Opening is now in later June. We plan a 'King Doniert' based heritage exhibition to coincide.

Plans for the Library - Hon. Sec. Sue Glencross writes

No doubt our Friends will have seen the publicity attached to the proposed re-development of the Library. This is of course only a 'pre-planning application' which, put simply, is a 'testing of the waters' to see the reaction of planners to a proposal in advance of putting together a formal application. Many of you may have taken the trouble to go on line to the Cornwall Council Planning Portal and will have read the Design and Access Statement. On page 6 there is a paragraph commencing 'By arrangement with Stuart House new window openings will be created in the southern external wall so users can enjoy the light and space'. Reference is later made to a door. This could be construed in two ways and could imply that the Trustees have consented to this. They have not. The privacy and seclusion of our garden has to be protected and maintained. Our 'Hidden Gem' should not be compromised. We had already been in correspondence with RIO stressing our responsibilities as Trustees to maintain the status quo of Stuart House.

A strong letter of protest at the possible misrepresentation of the facts was sent to both Liskeard Town Council and Cornwall Council. That letter requested Cornwall Council to record the true situation in the portal.

Liskeard's Town Clerk indicated that representatives of Stuart House could attend the planning meeting of the Council on Tuesday 17th April. Rachel and myself therefore attended. Before the meeting, Chair Councillor Tony Powell confirmed that our letter had been received and circulated to all members of the planning committee. I was then asked by Councillor Powell to say a few words and limited what I said at the meeting to the facts contained in our letter – namely that the wrong impression could be gleaned from the Design & Access statement. Councillor Powell resolved that any decision concerning the pre-application would be deferred to a full Council meeting the following week and it may well be that there will be reports in the Press or decisions made at local level subsequent to this article being written. It may well be that the Cornwall Council planning portal is or will be amended subsequent to the production of this article (19th April).

We are pleased to report that the effect of all this is that Bob has received a letter from RIO

confirming that it would not be applying for planning permission to add any new windows or doors in the library walls that overlook the Stuart House Garden. An apology was given for the ambiguity of the paragraph in the Design & Access Statement. RIO further said that at no time had it ever considered applying for changes to the fabric of the building that do not accord with the wishes of Stuart House trustees. The letter continued to say that as RIO is now clear that any new openings in 'that wall' are against the wishes of Stuart House Trustees, that element of the pre-app would be withdrawn and the Chair of the Planning Authority would be informed.

Rest assured that if a formal planning application is made, we will call a meeting so that Friends can view plans and make their own comments direct to Cornwall Council on the matter if those plans contain anything of concern to the Trust. Furthermore, the Trustees had already resolved to take available pro bono professional advice so that their advisor could make objections **on planning grounds** on behalf of the Trustees to any proposal which is considered to be unacceptable and not in the interests of the Trust. This would be in addition to any individual protestations. Having said all this, in principle we totally support the redevelopment of the Library but it seems there are at present many points under consideration in relation to the effect on businesses and the actual continuity of library services. So far as any window and door proposals are concerned it is a case of 'not in my back yard' ! We will not be re-visiting this subject unless and until a formal planning application is made.



May's Thoughts from our Garden's Overseer.



One can tell that Spring has finally arrived by seeing that the snails are crawling around. However, most of the daffodils and tulips in the Stuart House garden have stubbornly refused to appear. Photographs of the garden taken in early April last year (*left*) show it ablaze with tulips, forget-me-nots, narcissi, and bluebells, but this year at the same time the jewel beds around the lawn still looked forlorn and colourless, with everything at least a month behind, even the magnolia. It's usually tulips that are the fussy ones, lasting only one or two years unless properly pampered, and although some of the newly planted bulbs are in flower, the older ones have vanished. Quite mysteriously, so too have most of the established narcissi and daffodils. These can suffer both from viruses and from the dreaded narcissi fly whose larvae eat into the

bulbs. This pest can also attack snowdrops, which haven't appeared this year either.

It is now known that plants have an acute awareness of what's going on in their surroundings, but the lack of appearance of the Spring bulbs can't be because of the constant clanging and banging that's been going on all winter from the building site next door, can it? No, it must surely be something to do with that bitterly cold and snowy March which caused such a shock to so many plants already venturing forth. (Twice the pipe to the outside tap burst, a previously unknown occurrence.) Then again, maybe the daffodils and tulips have been squeezed out or poisoned by the bluebells and *Schizostylis* (kaffir lilies) which are currently battling each other for control of the beds. It's now also known that plants can attack each other through root secretions, and I wouldn't at all put it past the kaffir lilies to do this. Don't ever plant the common pink sort in an herbaceous bed or border – it's guaranteed to spread everywhere, including between paving stones, creating a dismal interlocking mat of roots and bulbs, silently strangling everything in its path.



The Bear's Breeches are only now daring to send forth new shoots to replace the luxurious growth they'd made in February. The Latin name is *Acanthus mollis*, acanthus meaning prickly (the leaf edges) and mollis smooth (the glossy leaf surface). It's a native of the Mediterranean basin from Portugal to Croatia, and of the North African coast, where it's often found growing along the roadsides and on wasteland. It has very thick deep roots and can survive baking heat or cold down to about -20°C . The Greeks cultivated this plant and modelled the decorated tops of their Corinthian columns on the flower spikes. The flowers, too, are interesting as their shape allows only bees (usually larger bumble bees) to enter to pollinate them.

However, primroses can always be relied upon, and this year are quite spectacular in gardens and roadside banks everywhere. They readily seed themselves, and display a marked range of variations, including petal and leaf colour shade, vigour, and



shape and crinkliness of leaves. So called “true” primroses have their flowers on single stalks coming from the base of the plant, whereas the polyanthus type have the several flowers springing from one longer stalk. If you have them in your garden, never dead-head them, just let them die back naturally. The seeds will be mature towards the end of June. Let them get blown around, or sprinkle them about the garden. You can also sow the fresh seed straight away in a seed tray in shaded place. They’ll germinate quickly and the seedlings can then be planted out into a little nursery bed to grow on and be planted out in the autumn. The word primrose is also derived from Latin, Prima Rosa, the first rose of the year, although it is not closely related. Flowers have two forms to avoid self-pollination. In one form, the stamen (with the pollen) is prominent. These are called Thrum types. In the other, the so-called Pin type only the female pistil is visible.

The new (old-look) wall between Stuart House garden and Wetherspoons is coming on apace, and luckily our shed was spared. The wall is built on rather wide foundations which means that planting anything against it won’t be easy as roots will soon find only a thick layer of concrete. Although the new building is quite tall it seems no windows will overlook our garden, so preserving a sense of privacy. Thankfully, the pigeons which took up their messy residence on the windowsills of Stuart House throughout the winter, have returned to what they regard is their rightful home next door, far preferring to perch on the scaffolding and new blockwork.



An update on some of the plant donations gratefully received last autumn. The Tree Peony has been planted in the border by the shed, and the Michaelmas daisies in the bed near the Jasmine arch. The Clematis montana *Elizabeth* donated by Tony Wood two years ago has paid no heed at all to frozen March, and is now scaling the wires on the library wall with wild abandon. This is an excellent, vigorous, very easy-to-grow sort that will rapidly cover fences or pergolas in no time at all.

Two Rosa banksia Lutea plants are available, rooted from cuttings taken a year ago from the specimen that covers the rear porch of Stuart House. This is a thornless rambler, disease-free and very dependable. If you’d like one then please contact me or let Sioux in the office know.

Malcolm Mort

(Flower studies by Malcom, other photos, including the barren land and dusty daffodils by the new wall, above, by the ed.)

Stuart House Garden Club - Monday 21th May from 11.30 am. to 1.30pm.
 Look out too for **Garden Week in the Gallery in June.**
 Any enquiries to Val Moore, please, via the House.

THE FRIENDS of STUART HOUSE

Make YOUR voice heard! What would YOU like to see and do? We're not just a fund raising group!

The first open meetings of the Friends of Stuart House were held, as publicized, on Thursday 19th of April.

We held two sessions, one from 3.30pm to 4.30pm and one from 7 to 8pm, hoping to suit Friends with different commitments. Attendance was disappointing – PLEASE let us know if you have other suggestions of how and when to meet. There are currently 164 of us (including, of course, the Trustees, who are also paid-up Friends! There must be more Friends who would like, and be able, to take an active role in the life of Stuart House.

Of course many Friends do already support Stuart House, giving freely of their time and supporting events, but are not able to be part of an organizing group, and those Friends are warmly thanked.

The enthusiastic, if small, groups discussed ideas that were raised, including

- Terminology – ‘team Stuart House’, for example
- Whether to have a single ‘committee’ or several groups with a co-ordinator
- Attracting, using and training volunteers
- With sufficient support, the Surgery could become an attractive Friends’ Room, providing somewhere for informal discussions between Friends.
- Ideas for events, including a Garden Party, Herb Festival, Fish suppers through the ages and more!

There is a form included with this Newsletter, and we would appreciate any returns, or written comments. Please return them to the House for the attention of Eileen Crouch, either hard copies or electronically.

The next meetings are planned for
Thursday 17th May, again at 3.30pm and 7pm.

The next meeting with trustees will be on
Monday June 18th at 7pm, with refreshments.

We look forward to seeing you and/or hearing from you.

Eileen Crouch – Friends’ Liaison.

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The 2017 accounts

£ £ £ £ £

As I mentioned at the AGM the Trust had a good year financially in 2017, adding £10,401 to the bank balance, demonstrating that my forecast of £2,800 shortfall was very wide of the mark.

In large part this was due to a much better result than anticipated in the café which alone achieved £6,250 over forecast. Donations and room hire both exceeded expectations by some £1,675 and £1,679 respectively.

Expenditure on various running and admin. costs (telecoms, gas, electricity & water, gardens, repairs) all were less than expected. The only area where expenditure was greater than forecast was on equipment, due in large part to the purchase of a new computer and printer.

The current year started well with a net cash inflow of around £2,250 in the first two months but I am still erring on the cautious side with a forecast of £1,400 shortfall for the year. Let’s hope I’m wrong again.

A copy of the audited 2017 Report & Accounts is available for inspection at reception.

Tony Britton, treasurer

MUSIC at STUART HOUSE

Ilow Splann Sunday 15th April, 2018.

Our Concert Series Organiser, Angela Wunnam, writes

A sizeable and enthusiastic audience came to listen to Carlton Crouch and Maggie Willmott performing as **Ilow Splann**. Carlton and Maggie had prepared a varied programme of Cornish traditional music, both old and modern, played on a number of different instruments. There were dance tunes played as recorder duets, a waltz (played in 4/4 time!), and **Boscastle Breakdown** to name but a few. Maggie played some lively fiddle pieces with Carlton on the recorder and the guitar.



They explained the origin of each piece and it was very interesting to realise what a wide tradition Cornwall has of folk music. They further varied the programme by including songs and inviting the audience to join in with the choruses, which they did with gusto.

Carlton also included pieces on the saxophone, accompanied by Maggie on the keyboard and the bodhran drum. They found an ingenious way of surprising the audience with a subtle and brief chord change leading into something modern and even outlandish such as Dave Brubeck's **Take Five**, the themes from **Telstar** and **Dr. Who**. There was certainly no chance of finding their performance too predictable! The only indication was the fleeting smile on their faces as the unexpected was about to be heard.

The afternoon raced by as it was suddenly time for afternoon tea and cake. Maggie had especially baked and brought a variety of delicious cakes, enough for everybody to eat as many as they would like.

If you would like to hear more of them, not only playing Cornish but also Tudor and Baroque music, then please look at their website, www.ilowsplann.co.uk.

**Ilow Splann may be performing again before too long in Stuart House
Look out for news!**

Sunday 20th May 2.30pm : Peter Joe Bennett, classical guitar



PJ is a British guitarist and guitar teacher currently based in London. He is another local (Devon/Cornwall) virtuoso, starting playing at the age of 7 in Brentor. He went on to study at the prestigious Chetham's School of Music in Manchester. Following this, he completed an undergraduate degree in Classical Guitar Performance at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music studying with renowned guitarist Graham Devine. At Trinity he was recognised as a prize winning student and performer and received the coveted Montagu Cleeve Prize in 2015. The following year, he won the Alison Stephens Competition and has since performed in recitals in the U.K, France, Norway and Spain. Aside from being a prolific classical

guitar performer, PJ is also a devoted chamber musician and an accomplished electric guitar player! This performance, though, will be PJ on the classical guitar.

JAVA 5 whose concert planned for Stuart House on Sunday 18th March was cancelled because of snow, will return on **Sunday 24th June at 2.30pm.**

STUART HOUSE EVENTS in the PAST MONTH

Pat's Art Box and Friends continued in the Gallery during the first week of April. Comments in the Visitors' Book again showed how much the vibrancy and variety of the work of these artists is appreciated. We were glad to see Pat and Ed (with Mia, of course) again, and also Richard Jenkins' range of lino-cuts. Alan Kingwell is also a familiar artist to us, It was the first time in Stuart house for Suzy Billing-Mountain, and her demonstrations, as well as paintings and cards, attracted much interest.



Pat and Friends return to our Gallery from 29th May to 9th June.



The MIXED CRAFT sale in the Gallery ran for two weeks from 9th April and, as always, sales were good and interest high. Nancy is organizing **another Mixed Craft Sale** in May, from 14th to 19th.

MORE EVENTS DURING APRIL

David and Wendy Vincent's furniture recycling and restoration show and sale



was still running as this Newsletter went to press. Pieces were being sold even while they were setting up, and again there was a great deal of interest. Again, Gallery organiser Nancy (left) gave full support.



Discovering Shakespeare

Piece by Piece was a superb exhibition in the Jane Room from 23rd to 28th April. Tim Norman, displayed, beautifully, his extensive and fascinating collection of theatre programmes, memorabilia, documents, posters, information and so much more.

A notice on the doorway explained 'This exhibition is dedicated to my grandfather, George Williams. He was dedicated to sharing his knowledge and collections with all

who knew him, and I am delighted to have the opportunity to present my own Shakespeare collection in this very special building'.



The newly formed **SEPSIS TRUST**, organised by Victor and by Nancy (who has twice suffered sepsis) met, with eleven past sufferers or friends/relations of past patients. The meeting was informal but led by Larry, a specialist intensive care nurse now employed by the Sepsis Trust UK and Helen Winn a specialist sepsis nurse from the Royal Cornwall Hospital. Participants talked

about their experience with the illness and the trauma experienced during recovery that can be protracted, often over several years.

The meeting was a useful learning curve for all and both Larry and Helen were very pleased with what they felt was a great success for all concerned. Communication has continued since the meeting, and there will be regular future meetings, the next on Thursday 31st June from 3pm to 7pm. All are welcome.

We shall miss Lyn (second left, above) who has moved up country. She was a regular volunteer in the café, often coming in at short notice and staying on late. We wish her well for the future, and thank her for her time at Stuart house.

EVENTS COMING in MAY

THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF NEEDLEWORK

are now setting up on Wednesday 2nd May and staying until Thursday 10th. There's been a lot going on for them, with a Royal Wedding to prepare for.

No detailed information on the exhibition is available yet, but it should be a display of wonderful, inspiring work.

Look out for possible evening and extra week-end opening too



As part of the Open Studios event, **Chris Moulder** will hold an exhibition of current work in both watercolour and mixed media, with a selection of cards and prints, in the Jane Room at Stuart House.

Mixed Craft Show and Exhibition and Pat's Art Box & Friends are coming too – see p. 8

Monday 21st to Saturday 26th
Max Lock Gallery

Laurie Scott Originals

This exhibition will explore the subject of CHANGE: a powerful visual awareness of Space Junk, Earth Trash and the future, with plenty of symbolic references and lots of local treasures captured on recycled panels.



Remember, our own **artist in residence, Linda Maynard**, has an Open Studio. Look for the 'Open' sign on the gothic door of the Coved Room, which leads off the Trussed Room on the top floor. Linda has had a lot of clearing up to do with the new boiler installation in the room. (see p.2)

More to Come – and HELP NEEDED!



The **Artist of the Month** in the Surgery in April was Jayne Wackett. In May it will be Chrissie Rivers.

South East Cornwall Museums Forum

Family History Discovery Day

DISCOVER YOUR ANCESTORS YOUR HERITAGE & YOUR ROOTS

Liskeard Public Hall, West Street, Liskeard
Saturday 2nd June 2018 10.0am-3.0pm

FREE Advice and Assistance will be available from the following:-

Kresen Kernow & Cornish Studies	National Maritime Museum
Cornwall Family History Society	Tamar Protection Society
Devon Family History Society	Liskeard Museum
Cornwall On Line Parish Clerks	Stuart House
The Old Cornwall Society	Looe Museum
Cornwall's Regimental Museum	Callington Museum
Polperro Family History Group	Bodmin Museum
Liskeard Library	Cornwall USA's -Genealogy
Saltash Heritage Museum & LHC	Calstock Archives
Mevagissey Museum	Ivybridge Heritage & AG
Devonport Naval HC	Fowey Museum
Linkinhorne History & CA	& more
Stoke Climsland FHG	

Refreshments available **FREE ENTRY**

Further info from Chair. 01752 847800

This will be the third **Family History Day** that the South East Cornwall Museums Forum has organized. Stuart House is one of the 9 active SECMF members (even though we are not an accredited museum). We have a table at the event, and take the computer from the Research Hub in the Rowse Room and demonstrate the Cornish Times and other archives on it. We also talk to visitors about what Stuart House has to offer in terms of Heritage awareness and information, and more. It's a great occasion for finding out more about different museums and group.

Anyone who is interested in helping with the Stuart House table (or with refreshments), please contact the editor.

ADVANCE NOTICE!

'**Liskeard Unlocked**' is happening again during some of the week-end of 13th - 15th September. Stuart House and its secret tunnel will again be open as part of this, and there will be a linked 'building parts' exhibition in the Jane Room (as the 'Doors' exhibition was last year). This year, the national theme links with women who have made a difference. Anyone interested in putting together something on this linked with Stuart House, or helping on the days, please contact the editor.

Diary of Events

May 2018



Continuing until Thursday 10th	Royal School of Needlework
Tuesdays 1 st , 15th	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4.30 pm.
Thursdays 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th , 24th, 31 st	Craft Club: all welcome 12 noon to 3pm.
Monday 14 th to Saturday 19th	Mixed Crafts in the Gallery
Monday 14th	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4 to 6.30pm.
Thursday 17th	Friends of Stuart House –meeting 3.30 to 4.30pm. and another chance 7 to 8 pm. in the Surgery. Refreshments available (see p.6)
Friday 18th	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnes, Hampton & Littlewood. 10am to 12 noon
Sunday 20th	Peter Joe Bennett (classical guitar) concert in the Gallery 2.30 pm. Tickets £7 from reception, include refreshments and a chance to talk with the performer afterwards (see p.7)
Monday 21st to Saturday 26 th	Laurie Scott Originals : art exhibition (see p.10)
Monday 21st to Saturday 26 th	.Chris Moulder, artist – Open Studio in the Jane Room (see p.10)
Monday 21 st	Stuart House Garden Club 11.30am to 1.30pm
Monday 28th	BANK HOLIDAY – House shut
Tuesday 29 th to Sat 9 th June	Pat's Art Box and Friends (see p.8)
Thursday 31 st	Sepsis Trust 3-7pm in the Surgery (see p.9)
Coming in June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden Week • Crafters' Shop in the Surgery • David Beer Art Exhibition • Trustees & Friends meeting • Java 5 • King Doniert Exhibition • Photographic Memories : 'The Final Frame', exhibition

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 25th of the month for inclusion in the next newsletter. Leave with Sioux in the Office or email to rachelpbennett59@gmail.com