

# Newsletter

*October 2018*

## Liskeard School 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Exhibition



This ran from 17<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> September. Well over 100 visitors came in the first week, some spending a long time looking at the splendid collection of photographs and other memorabilia, and listening and watching the performances of past school musicals, which Chairman Bob (in a different capacity then!) directed. Comments in the Visitors' Book showed what happy memories were brought to those associated with the school in different ways. We thank the stewards, including Gwyneth (below) – a past teacher and a Friend of Stuart House.



We were delighted to see Tony and Jane Wood in town for the celebratory week-end which Bob organised, along with the exhibition. Now living in Okehampton, they both played an extraordinary role in the foundation and development of Stuart House as an Arts and Heritage Centre, and Tony was, of course, the first head-teacher of the Comprehensive School.

# FRIENDS OF STUART HOUSE

Hello Friends. Who hasn't thought "I wonder why *THEY* don't ....."?  
Change "*THEY*" to "*WE*" ... and make your thoughts known at our Friends' meetings.

At the most recent quarterly meeting between Friends and Trustees, on 17<sup>th</sup> September, despite the small number in attendance, a lot was covered. These meetings are where we can meet each other to exchange ideas and it is hoped that all Friends will realise that this is their opportunity to express their ideas and to help create the future for Stuart House.

Redecoration of the Surgery was discussed and it was decided to paint it the same colour as the Reception Hall - "Couscous" – and it will be professionally painted. Other furnishings and character of the room to be considered later.

We were reminded that any sales events taking place here needed to be stewarded – by users or volunteers (other than the House Manager). If you would like to steward, please let Sioux know.

Friends' major project for next year is SPOTLIGHT ON HERBS, an exhibition that will cover a multitude of uses for herbs. Some sponsorship has already been promised and, in expectation of more support from the community, as well as from our Friends, we plan a significant event for the two weeks **10-22 JULY 2019** in three rooms of Stuart House.

We cannot do it alone, so JAC HEAGERTY and I would like to hear from all who would like to support this event. Please make contact as soon as possible, through the House.



The subject of Gift Aid had been brought up and we were assured that this already is, and can continue to be, collected on donations made to Stuart House.

My role as 'liaison' between Friends and Trustees evolved because of my long association with the House. However, although I have helped to get the ball rolling, we do need someone else to take on the challenge of leading the Friends to create a varied programme of events in collaboration with all that is in place. Are you that person? To find out what it entails, please arrange to meet me (Eileen) in the House to have a chat.

The next meeting of Stuart House Friends will be at  
**3 p.m. on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October.**

*Eileen Crouch*

## News of the Trustees' Meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> September

Not 'Sue's News' this time, as she was away for last meeting – we missed her! Lots of 'housekeeping' – dishwasher, some final 'tidying up' liaison with Wetherspoons, disappointment that Sealed Knot could not come for St Matthew's Fair day and our preliminary hopes for next year, yet more cleaning out (thanks, Sioux and Gaby), and other things including those taken through to the meeting with Friends which followed.

(ed.)

## The Music of Henry Purcell with Oli Doney, Chris Howarth and Oliver Padel. Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018.



*In rehearsal. (photo. by ed.)*

A large and appreciative audience enjoyed a concert of the music of Henry Purcell given by Oli Doney (countertenor), accompanied and complemented by Chris Howarth (harpsichord and organ) and Oliver Padel ('cello). The gallery was a perfect venue and

acoustic for this music. Purcell was composing contemporaneously with the early history of Stuart House! Indeed, he was born in 1659, just 15 years after King Charles I lodged in the House.

It is unusual to have a whole concert devoted to the works of just one composer and it gave an opportunity to experience the breadth of Purcell's work. The three performers brought out different aspects of Purcell's incredible range of melodies, harmonies and moods.

It was also a rare opportunity to hear a countertenor and certainly Oli Doney well demonstrated the soaring notes of his high range and the mellow tones of his lower register. Contrary to what many of us may assume, singing countertenor is not 'merely' a man singing falsetto but a whole and demanding technique in its own right.

Oli related very well to the audience, drawing them in, not only with his singing but also with his interesting explanations about the various songs and the different possible interpretations.

As always, Chris Howarth was the perfect accompanist and Oliver Padel provided a resonant and beautiful bass line on the 'cello to complement the higher melodies of the voice. Their solos added variety to the performance.

The lovely harpsichord and baroque organ sounds were provided by Oli's unusual specialist digital Roland electronic instrument. Altogether the audience was captivated by an amazing musical experience.



The next concert in this year's series, on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October**, is provided by the **Liskeard School and Community College Music Department**. Their performance is always stunning and it is a delight to see the rapport that the students have with their extremely committed teachers.



The final concert this year will be given by Judy Whitlock and Jane Warwick on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November**, entitled **Jude and Jane Entertain**. As many people already know they are both extraordinarily versatile musicians and performers. Don't miss this opportunity to see and hear them again.

**Angela Wunnam, Stuart House concert series organiser.**

## October's thoughts from our Garden's Overseer



One of the old fashioned (very thorny) bush roses in the rear garden has single, flimsy, short-lasting, rather scentless white flowers during the summer but makes up for these faults with a plentiful crop of large, bright red rosehips packed full of seeds, at this time of year (see photograph.) A visitor to the garden recently asked if these could be made into rosehip syrup. Yes there's no reason why not, but the efforts

needed are highly time-consuming and messy, and a great many hips are needed. A typical recipe advises adding 2 lbs of hips (that's a great many) and 1½ lb of sugar to half a gallon of water, simmering the mix down to 1½ pints, straining it at least twice through muslin cloth to remove seeds, hairs and pulp, boiling again, then decanting into sterile bottles with sterile corks, storing in a cool dark cupboard and consuming within three months.

*Editor's note – we do have a Friend who hopes to make Crab-Apple jelly from our garden's fruit this year!*

Dozens of seeds cascade out of each of these hips, so perhaps a more profitable experiment would be to sow them and see what happens. Readers are welcome to take a hip or two to try this out. Before winter arrives, spread the seeds on compost in a seed tray and keep in a sheltered shady position outside or in a cold frame. It's probably best to add a thin layer of horticultural grit or vermiculite and cover with a sheet of glass to help prevent the growth of moss and the first stages of fern life. In March and April some should germinate. Who knows, there might be something new and wonderful, especially as these roses will probably have been pollinated by insects which have already visited the nearby bushes (much more flowery and scented).

The seeds of many other hardy perennials, trees and shrubs, raspberries and strawberries also respond to this technique, as do Japanese anemones. Again, visitors to the garden are invited to take a few of the fluffy anemone seed balls October - the plants in the lawn border near the large pond are an attractive double sort.



Just spread the cottony fluff over the compost and treat it just like the rose hips. They'll begin to grow in late March. Against the new wall near the fire door is a tree grown from a crab apple seed sown in this way. One longs to know what the flowers and fruit will be like. Last year I gathered and sowed several of the berries that had fallen from the cultivated Rowan trees outside Webbs House, and many germinated in Spring.



Plants that grow very well in the Stuart House garden are begonias. They are enormously forgiving flowers, putting up with all sorts of weather and location, only really disliking relentlessly hot, dry situations. The fibrous rooted sort in the table pots (white flowers, bronze leaves) has been in flower for some six months, and the tuberous types in the tubs are constantly flamboyant. What is fascinating about these flowers is that

separate male and female flowers occur close together on the same plant, the former often being bigger and boastful, yet which topple off quite quickly in their over-exuberance. A comparison of the flowers in the photograph shows the ovary below the female form. Seed is like pepper dust and needs to be treated quite differently from the method described above - sow it on the surface of a little compost in a heated propagator in January and kept warm for months - it is very slow growing and it's best just to buy plants in May. The tuberous sort is much easier: start off the tubers in February / March, indoors in a warm damp place - wrapping them in damp newspaper in a plastic bag in the airing cupboard works well.

That's the thing about gardening: the constant setbacks and challenges can provide very interesting lessons, and there's always the promise contained in those tiny, totally magical seeds of getting it right next time and of maybe discovering something quite unexpected.

**Malcolm Mort**

### **Stuart House Garden Club**

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 11.30am to 1.30pm.**

Contact Val Moore (01579 228518) for more information



You may have noticed the new board at the Pipe well. It includes the information about the story of maids from Stuart House using our 'Secret Tunnel' to go to meet their young men there. The entrance was open for 'Liskeard Unlocked' (see p. 7)

## Other Events in the past month

### **Liskeard Unlocked**

Stuart House fully supported Liskeard's excellent 'Liskeard Unlocked' (Heritage Open Days) 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> September. Our Secret Tunnel was open (see p.5) and attracted 127 adults and 23 children to explore it over the Friday and Saturday. We also hosted a hat-making workshop on the Saturday.



The editor's 'Discover Liskeard's Windows' exhibition was in the Jane Room for the fortnight leading to the town's events, and formed an introduction to them. Like the 'Doors' exhibition last year, it was very well received, with a lot of visitors, and comments about enjoying the challenge of trying to

identify the buildings from the photographs and clues. There were also several comments about how visitors had been encouraged to look up at Liskeard's great variety of buildings, rather than focus only on the shop fronts.

In keeping with the national theme of Women who made a difference, the editor mounted a small exhibition about Susan Carthew, who lived in the House for over thirty years, until her death in 1876. Her obituary spoke of the great charitable work which she did for the town and more widely. The display board is now temporarily in the Jane Room, but for the 'Unlocked' weekend it was on the stairs – stairs put in the House in about 1740, so Susan Carthew would have known them well.



**Pat's Art Box and Friends** were in the Gallery again (their last visit of 2018) at the start of the month, until 8<sup>th</sup> September. Again, the work of Pat Thuysbaert with Richard Jenkins. Suzy Billing-Mountain and Alan Kingwell were much appreciated. Suzy then became the **Artist Friend of the Month** in the Surgery. Some of the work of these artists is often to be seen (and bought!) at the **Mixed Craft shows** (like the one following this exhibition), which Nancy runs in our Gallery. Again, we thank the stewards, like Kitty (shown).

## EVENTS COMING in OCTOBER

### **The Stuart House Sewing and Fabric Event 1<sup>st</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October.**

This promises to be a rewarding event, with the Jane Room as a work-room, welcoming people to drop in with projects which they would like help with, and there may be some workshops too – do ask in the House for details. Crafters will also be making items for use, or sale in Stuart House. There will be lots of fabrics, threads, patterns and notions for sale too. All profits will go to Stuart House.

The photograph shows our House Manager Sioux, one of the key organisers of the Sewing and Fabric Event. She and the editor attended a training event in September run by the South-East Cornwall Museums' Forum, of which Stuart House is an active member. We learnt a lot about making fabric, wire and perspex mounts for all sorts of objects, and about dangers inherent in 'shortsighted' display and storage.

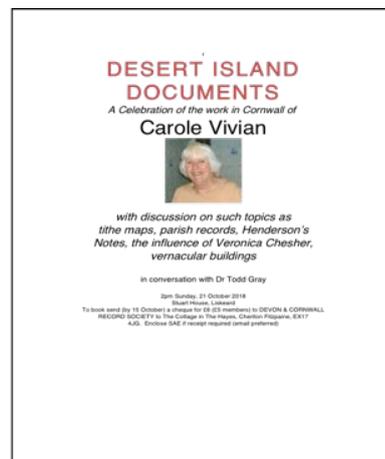


There are several **Art and Craft events** later in September, including one organized rather late in the day by the seemingly unflappable Nancy (our Gallery organizer), when a planned exhibitor had to pull out.

- **15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October: Mixed Crafts** (the photograph shows a September Mixed Craft event – always very popular, and never the same twice!
- **22<sup>nd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> October: Christmas cards and decorations**
- **29<sup>th</sup> October to 3<sup>rd</sup> November: Christmas Art Show.** This will include work by artists old and new to Stuart House, and, we hope, Acorn Academy.

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2pm** →  
**Carole Vivian** in conversation with Dr Todd Gray, about her work as a historian in Cornwall, covering different sorts of records and architecture too. £6. Booking essential, via the Devon and Cornwall Record Society

Artist of the Month Friend in the Surgery in October is  
**Phillippa Hodge**



# Diary of Events

October 2018



|  |   |
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| Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> to Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup>                                | Stuart House Sewing Event (see p.7)   |
| Tuesdays 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup>  | Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4.30 pm.   |
| Thursdays 4 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup> | Craft Club: all welcome 12 noon to 3pm.   |
| Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>   | Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4 to 6.30pm.   |
| Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>                               | Mixed Crafts in the Gallery (see p.7)   |
| Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>  | Concert in the Gallery : Liskeard School musicians, 2.30pm. £7 including refreshments. (see p.3)  |
| Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>  | Friends of Stuart House Meeting 3pm (see p.2)   |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>  | Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnas, Hampton & Littlewood. 10am. to 12 noon   |
| Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>  | “Desert Island Documents” Carole Vivian in conversation 2pm. Tickets £6 in advance from the Devon and Cornwall Record Society (see p.7)   |
| Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>  | Stuart House Garden Club 11.30am to 1.30pm (see p.5)  |
| Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> to Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup>                               | Christmas Cards and Decorations Sale. (see p.7)   |
| Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup> November                              | Christmas Arts Show (see p.7)<br>The Acorn Academy also plan to exhibit again in the House.   |
| <b>Coming in November</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1918 remembered (4<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>)</li> <li>• Fake and Fortune (13<sup>th</sup>)</li> <li>• Concert: Judy Whitlock and Jane Warwick (18<sup>th</sup>)</li> <li>• Mixed Crafts (19<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup>)</li> <li>• Jenny Bruand and Jo March – art exhibition in the Jane Room (22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>)</li> <li>• Phillippa Hodge as Artist Friend of the Month in the Surgery</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)