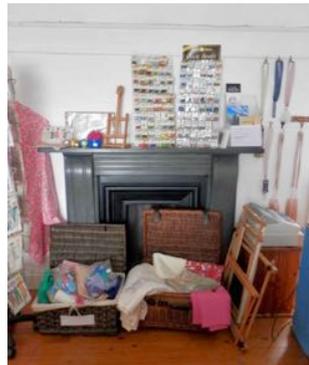


Newsletter

November 2018

A Feast of Fireplaces!

Our fireplaces have a focal place in many of our rooms, reminding us that Stuart House is just that: a House. All these photographs were taken during October.



From top left, clockwise.....

The Surgery, as set up by October Artist Friend of the Month Phillippa Gregory

The Max Lock Gallery, with Sewing Event wares for sale

The Gallery again, in the Mixed Crafts Sale, with beautifully made items

The Jane Room, with the temporary Susan Carthew display

Reception – the great original fireplace of the House, now with the CCTV above!

The Old Kitchen Café – a welcome, great refreshments, and a place to meet

(No space here for the King's, Tudor, Trecarrel or Coved Rooms!)

Stuart House news....

News of the Trustees' Meeting in October..

Hon. Sec. Sue was unavoidably prevented from this meeting, and a couple of other trustees had had to give apologies (but exchanged reports, as we all do a week before a meeting). Even so, we covered a great deal of necessary practical decision making. Relevant words included plumbing, guttering, signage, food hygiene courses, fire safety, window-cleaning, nappy changing, the state of the side passage, events particular and general, and much more besides! (*ed.*)

A lovely grandfather clock generously given to the House by John Rapson of the Old Cornwall Society, Friend of Stuart House, and photographic chronicler of Liskeard has been put in the Surgery, where it goes beautifully.



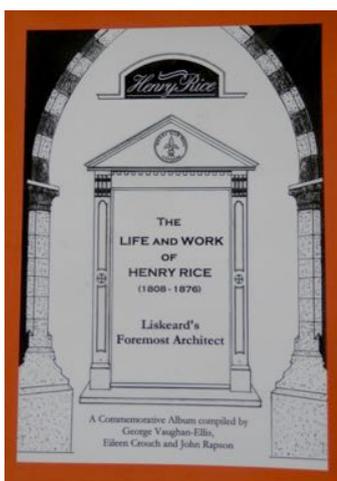
The Friends of Stuart House

next meeting
Thursday 22nd November at 3pm

ALL FRIENDS ARE VERY WELCOME

please come and share your ideas and support

Eileen Crouch (left, talking to Alison) gave a talk ***'Stuart House Connections'*** to the Inner Wheel at the end of September. 26 ladies met at Tapenades where the talk was very well received, with one member commenting that especially as she was new to Liskeard it was all fascinating information. Each member of the audience was given a voucher for a free tea or coffee in the House, as another way of encouraging them to visit.



Eileen is currently working on a new edition of the Henry Rice Album. We have very few copies left of the old one (£8 from Reception).

It will include a tribute to the late George Vaughan-Ellis, one of Eileen's fellow-compilers of the album, information about the new use of some of the buildings and new interior photographs of some of the buildings. Some of these were taken on the Heritage Open Days: 'Lizard Unlocked' in mid-September, when several Henry Rice houses were open including 3 Greenbank, Trewithen House, and Pendean.

Sponsorship for the new edition will need to be considered, and we hope for enthusiastic support.

The windy weather did some damage to (non-growing!) items in our garden. One of the new parasols has been repaired and they are all safely strapped up. Boards with some of Eileen's poetry relating to the House had become loose, with rotten fixings – Eileen is very grateful to our Garden's overseer, Malcolm, for spotting this and repairing them.

Events in the House in the past month

The Stuart House Sewing Event

ran in the Gallery and Jane Room for the first fortnight of October. Key organiser Sioux Dunster writes:

The sewing event had a great start but was quieter in the second week. We had £100.00 from crafters hiring tables, £426.05 in sales with £142.00 coming to Stuart House and £12.50 from the Donation box in the Gallery. A total of almost £250 for the House over for the two weeks. This was not as much as in previous years, but not to be sneezed at. Gaby and I have decided this is the last year we will be repeating this event, but we plan to work out some sort of workshop/working day programme for 2019.

Sioux thanks her fellow-organisers, Lyn, and Gaby, for the tremendous amount of work she did setting up and supervising, and we thank Sioux too.



Another **Mixed Craft Sale** ran in the Gallery from 15th to 20th, followed from 22nd to 27th by **Christmas Cards and Decorations** Both generated lots of interest, and began a feeling of preparation for Christmas! Here, organiser Nancy stewards with helpers (this – and next – Summers' railway exhibition organisers!) Chris and William. **The Christmas Arts Show** was being set up as we went to print – varied crafts (many by new crafters to the House), and a lot of paintings and prints too. Please come and see!

St Matthew's Fair Day was a lower-key event in the House this year, as the Society of the Sealed Knot could not attend after all. However, Chairman Bob sold marmalade and pickled onions outside the House again, making an impressive amount of money for the House. Onions are all gone, but there is still marmalade for sale in Reception.

Phillippa Hodge was the much appreciated Friend Artist of the Month in the Surgery in October. The room was beautifully set up. (see p.1), and the paintings – from door handles to dogs (via lots more!), were wonderful.



The Gallery was packed on Sunday 21st, when some 35 people listened to Carole Vivian in conversation with Dr. Todd Gray. **The 'Desert Island Documents'** was a lovely and unusual way of linking involvement with and interest in historical research with life story and types of documents. It was organized by the Devon and Cornwall Record Society. Carole also spoke of her Stuart House Trust involvement in it's early days.

November's Thoughts from our Garden's Overseer

It's that time of year again when leaves litter the Stuart House garden, eddying into colourful collections in all the corners. What to do with them and those sorry-looking old flower stems? There's a trend these days to leave things as they are and clear up in the Spring. Seed heads and plant material provide winter food for birds and shelter for invertebrates. However, a formal garden such as ours looks best kept on the neat side, so leaves are gathered and spread under the shrubs where they provide creature cover, protect the soil and gently turn into nourishing humus.



The work of solitary leaf-cutting bees on rose leaves in the garden. They're particularly fond of roses. They cut pieces to seal their single egg nests for the winter.

Recent research shows that in quite ordinary gardens there can be over two thousand different species of insects, as well as hundreds of types of spiders, millipedes, worms etc., all busying themselves in curious and interdependent ways. And then there are the vast networks of fungi mycelium interacting with plant roots, and the roots themselves communicating with each other about what's going on above ground. Gardens seethe with activity about which the casual observer or even the seasoned gardener can hardly guess. (Excellent reading: *No Nettles Required, The Reassuring Truth About Wildlife Gardening*, Dr Ken Thompson, Eden Project Books.)

Mellow autumn days are times for thoughtful reflection, but Stuart House garden is a place for quiet contemplation throughout the year. Many regular visitors say that they come for just that. Of interest therefore (although not for Stuart House itself) is The Quiet Garden Trust, a non-profit organisation established in 1992. It encourages the setting up of peace and remembrance gardens for contemplation, prayer and renewal. (<https://quietgarden.org/>)

What are the common features of such gardens? Humans have a psychological need for shelter, a sense of belonging and quietness in natural settings. Peaceful gardens have trees, together with walls, arches and gazebos clothed in plants where one can sit quietly. Gardens of regular shape, neatly kept, give a sense that things are under control, and add to a sense of security. The garden at Stuart House has all these attributes.

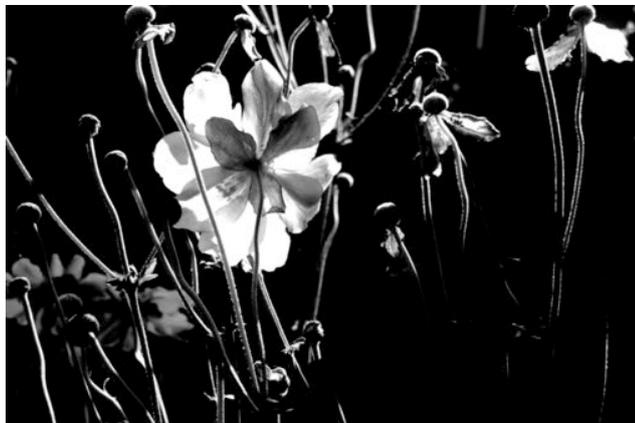


Schizostylis bloomed magnificently in the garden borders throughout October.

Garden historians tell us that starting in the Middle East, and through Ancient Greek and Roman times, gardens were rectangular, enclosed and sheltered, and usually featured water. They usually contained plants, but Japanese and Buddhist gardens often featured just gravel or sand in flowing forms. Such courtyard designs evolved into the cloisters of mediaeval monasteries: places primarily intended for peaceful meditation.

Such gardens, however, can take unexpected forms. I'll never forget the time when I accidentally strayed onto a metal fire-escape at the back of a London office block. There was a sudden stillness. Sunlight fell in traceried patterns through the wrought ironwork of the stairs onto the platform. Someone was growing a few tomato plants in large pots, whilst in another there was a sunflower together with velvety deep-blue blooms of Ipomoea (Morning Glory) weaving around the framework. Just those, set against a background of dark brick buildings, was so inexplicably beautiful.

In October's article, I described how seeds and berries can be sown now in trays of compost (cover with garden grit) and left in a quiet sheltered place in the garden under a sheet of glass to germinate in Spring. You can do the same with apple pips, and although they never breed true the resulting fruit will probably be fine. You may even get something exceptional. Spare seedlings, once they're big enough, can be planted into hedgerows.



Japanese Anemones – flowers and seed heads

Malcolm Mort

Malcolm also reports: When I called into SH this morning (*mid - October*) there was (I'm pretty sure) a hummingbird hawk moth flitting furiously around in the hallway by the entrance to the secret passage. It had obviously flown in from the garden. Then it shot up the stairs to the half-landing and tried in vain to get out of the window. I ran down to get a glass to safely capture it, but when I returned it had disappeared, probably gone further up the stairs and into one of the rooms. They are quite large, about 2" long and 2" wingspan. They migrate over from Southern Europe in the summer but apparently they don't survive or breed here if it gets too cold. If you see it, maybe you'll have better luck returning it outdoors - who knows, we might indeed have a balmy winter!

Stuart House Garden Club

The final meeting of 2018 will be

Monday 26th November from 11.30am to 1.30pm.

Contact Val Moore (01579 228518) for more information

ADVANCE NOTICE

The next edition of the Newsletter will cover December 2018 and January 2019. Please get any copy, photographs or information to the editor (address on p.10) by 24th November at the latest. Thank you!

Liskeard School and Community College Music Department at Stuart House Sunday 14th October 2018

A large number of enthusiastic and committed students gave their Sunday afternoon to showcase talent, skills and diversity from Liskeard School's Music Department. They performed to a very positive and appreciative audience and were facilitated and supported by the Joint Heads of Department, Jane Warwick (who accompanied some of the students on keyboard) and Mark Bond.



Members of the Jazz Band in rehearsal at school. We're sorry that we've not got pictures of all the performers.

The concert opened with the **Jazz Band**, which included students and past students, members of staff and parents. Jane announced that they would be starting with their noisiest number of the afternoon, appropriately named *Maniac*. While the audience clearly enjoyed the volume, rhythm and fun, just one member – a newly born baby – let it be known that it was just a trifle too loud! Fortunately, the second number, *Send in the Clowns*, was somewhat quieter and beautifully melodic.

This set the scene for the variety and quality of the music to follow.

Isabel Lees bravely came to do her first ever solo, a song called *Hallelujah*. It was clear to see why, following auditions at school, she was chosen to do her melodic and emotional piece. We hope, she will be encouraged to develop her solo performing following this debut.

Josh Bevan showed confidence, in arriving not having decided exactly which of his compositions he would be performing on the keyboard. He accompanied himself with a thoughtful song about how to handle difficult situations showing how he could not only sing but also compose and accompany.

The **Year 8 Singers** followed with *Somewhere Only We Know*, a thoughtful and emotional song with excellent solos. They were then joined by **Minnie Bauer** and **Melissa Zallick** singing a haunting song **together with** beautiful harmonies, accompanied by Melissa on acoustic guitar and **Lily - Beth** on bass guitar.

Then **Sam Durneen** and **Rudi Harrison-Ward** performed a beautiful and poignant song, *So it Goes*, written by Sam and accompanied by both of them on acoustic guitar. There was a noticeable theme this year that many of the students performed, and often composed, very thoughtful and emotive songs.

As a contrast, however, the next performers, **Tom Young** (electric guitar), **Cameron May** (electric guitar) and **Alfie Philips** (bass guitar), played as the group **Imperium**. No doubt

they would much have preferred a vastly greater volume to show their skill and togetherness with their fantastic rhythm and delightfully 'distorted' electric guitar sounds. The audience clearly greatly enjoyed it.

Ellie Brunt then performed a beautiful solo song *Stitches* accompanied by a pre-recorded backing track, again thoughtful and emotional.

Minnie Bauer returned, this time as a solo flautist to play *Tambourin* by Jean Phillippe Rameau. This difficult, classical piece was a contrast to all the preceding performances.

She was followed by **Ethan Willet** playing two solos on his electric guitar. Mark Bond, on introducing him, commented that Ethan had played at every Stuart House performance by the Music Department (a period of six years). Mark described Ethan as an 'outstanding guitarist' which was indeed demonstrated.

The next performer was **Natasha Humphries**, singing solo a beautiful song *She Used to be Mine*. She was then joined by the **Year Ten Singers** and the **Jazz Band** to play *Can You Feel the Love?* together.

Melissa returned with **Emily** and played an unaccompanied flute duet, Vivaldi's *Autumn*, really capturing the mood of the piece.

Finally, **Rosie Ugalde** and **Joel Cherrington** performed a song written by Rosie and accompanied by them both on acoustic guitar. They are using their duo as the ensemble part of their GCSE exam requirement. Some of the audience members remembered Rosie from last year when she had just entered a national singing competition: she managed to get all the way to the final.

We are most grateful to all performers, staff and helpers, and must not forget the hours of practice not to mention the hard and unglamorous work of carrying in and out, and setting up everything.

The proceeds from the gig are shared equally between Stuart House and the Music Department and will be put towards a much needed new keyboard there.

Angela Wunnam, Concert Series co-ordinator



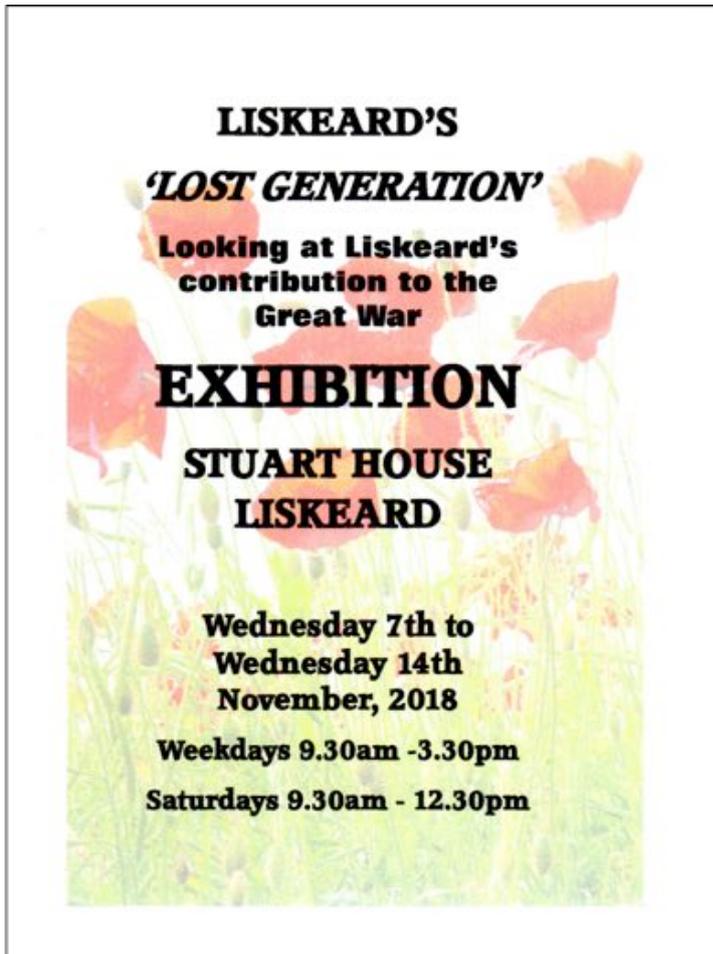
Sunday 18th November at 2.30pm.

Jude and Jane Entertain

The final concert of the 2018 series will be on **18th November**. **Jane Warwick** will be returning to perform with **Jude Whitlock**. They worked together for many years and have a great togetherness and shared love of music when they play together. This time, **Jude and Jane Entertain** will be performing music in a range of genres on vocals, piano, double bass and flute. Don't miss an opportunity to come and hear these two brilliant and fun performers as the grand finale to this year's music series.

Tickets £7 to include refreshments and a chance to meet the performers.

EVENTS COMING IN NOVEMBER



LISKEARD'S
'LOST GENERATION'
Looking at Liskeard's
contribution to the
Great War
EXHIBITION
STUART HOUSE
LISKEARD

Wednesday 7th to
Wednesday 14th
November, 2018

Weekdays 9.30am - 3.30pm
Saturdays 9.30am - 12.30pm

The final exhibition in the 2014-18 series **Liskeard's 'Lost Generation'** co-ordinated by Tony Ball, marking the centenary of each year of the First World War as it affected the people of Liskeard, will be open from Wednesday to Wednesday across Armistice Day.

There will be a 'Poppy Wall' too, which the Thursday crafters (all welcome) and others have been working on.

We shall also display again the ceramic poppy from the 2014 Tower of London installation which Tony Wood bought in 2015 memory of Frank Morcom, who lived in Stuart House and died in action on 8th May 1917. There is also information. The poppy was presented to the House in February 2015, with members of the Morcom family present.

In addition, we have just (late October) received news of a deeply moving letter and photograph which Mrs Morcom at Stuart House wrote back to Lieutenant Frank Orchard, who had written to tell her of her son Frank's death. These will be on display, and we thank Mrs Orchard, whose husband was the grandson of Lieut. Orchard, for getting in touch and arranging for these to be donated to the House.



MIXED CRAFT SALE **In the Gallery**

Monday 19th November
to
Saturday 1st December

Another of the varied and tempting sales organized by Nancy. There will be a Cornish themes, linking in with the lead-up to Nadelik Lyskerrys

ARTIST of the MONTH

The Friend exhibiting in the Surgery in November
Is

Martin Clark

(There is no Artist of the Month in December, as the **Crafter Friends' Shop** will be in the Surgery from 3rd to 25th.)

MORE EVENTS IN NOVEMBER



Visitors to Stuart House may remember Laurie Scott's wonderful, thought-provoking and inspiring Art Exhibition in our Gallery in May. In addition to her large-scale works there were also some of the sort of material coming to the **Jane Room 3rd to 8th December**

Laurie writes:

During the first week of December, the Jane Room in Stuart House, Liskeard will be filled with cats & churches, the illustrative work of Laurie Scott Originals. There will be book signing & reading sessions, also an opportunity to meet personally and to see the artist at work. There will be lots of lovely Christmas offers running for the books, limited edition signed prints will be available and a competition too.

A great place to find those last minute stocking fillers! www.becauseiamacat.com -

It's a free event, don't miss it!!!

Thursday 22nd to Saturday 24th November

Jenny Braund and Jo March

Art Exhibition and Sale in the Jane Room

We are delighted to host these two well-known artists. Jo will be showing mainly framed and mounted prints, with possibly a few originals. Jenny is showing mostly originals, with some framed prints. There will be a range of cards – both general and for Christmas – from both artists. Only three days – don't miss it!



Liskeard is coming together again with Golden Tree (the 'Man Engine' people) for the second **Nadelik Lyskerrys**. Details of all the events can be found on the Visit Liskeard website.

Stuart House is again the starting point for the **Family Christmas Trail** on 1st December.

We plan to stay open that day while the 'Lights Up' procession goes past.

Our **Craft Sale** (until 1st) and **Christmas Fair** (3rd to 21st December) and some of our signage will support the Cornish Language theme, and we shall be traditionally decorated for Christmas, with greenery outside and inside the House.

Blisland School (working with artist Mark Gregory, who has exhibited with us) will be decorating our Reception Window and its window-seat.

Diary of Events

November 2018



Continuing to 3rd	Christmas Arts Show in the Gallery Acorn Academy Exhibition in the Jane Room
Thursdays 1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th	Craft Club: all welcome 12 noon to 3pm. (see p.8)
Wednesday 7 th to Wednesday 14 th	Liskeard's Lost Generation; Liskeard Remembered 1918 (see p.8) Poppy Wall
Tuesdays 6 th , 20 th	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 to 4.30 pm.
Monday 12 th	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4 to 6.30pm.
Tuesday 13 th	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnes, Hampton & Littlewood. 10am. to 12 noon.
Sunday 14 th	Concert in the Gallery - 'Jude and Jane Entertain'. (see p.7) 2.30pm. Tickets £7 including refreshments and a chance to meet the performers.
Monday 19 th to 1 st December	Mixed Craft sale and exhibition in the Gallery (see p.8)
Thursday 22 nd to Saturday 24 th	Jenny Braund and Jo March Art Exhibition in the Jane Room (see p.9)
Thursday 22 nd	Friends of Stuart House Meeting 3pm. All welcome.
Monday 26 th	Stuart House Garden Club 11.30am to 1.30pm
coming in December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The House will be decorated for Christmas • Nadelik Lyskerrys events (see p.9) • Stuart House Christmas Fair (3rd -21st) • Laurie Scott Book signing (3rd to 8th) (see p.9) • Crafter Friends' Christmas Shop in the Surgery (3rd – 15th) • Closedown 22nd until Monday January 14th

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