

Newsletter

July 2022



The Garden in mid June - green, tranquil and welcoming



The Old Cornwall Society's Platinum Jubilee exhibition in June (see p.2)



The Stuart House table at the Family and Local History Day on June 18th (see p.6)

COMING IN JULY - JUBILEE STAMP EXHIBITION

A major exhibition of 70 years of British stamps – and an appeal for stewards! (see p.3&4)

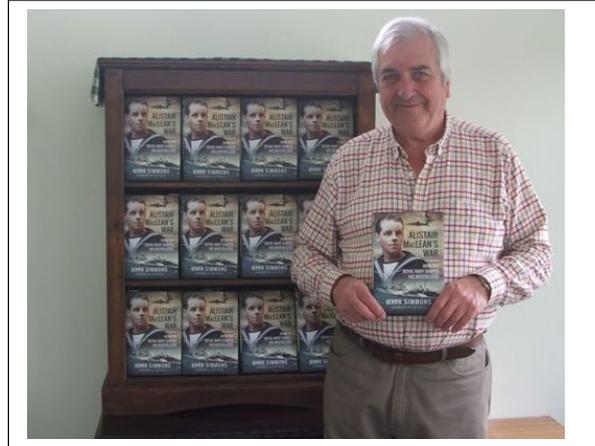


*Leaflet Sponsored by Coodes
Honorary Solicitors to Stuart House Trust*

EVENTS IN THE PAST MONTH

BOOK SALE – and news of a return!

'Mark Simmons would like to thank everyone who came to the recent book sale in June at Stuart House and showed interest in his work. It was good to meet you all and Mark will be back for a week from 7 November 2022.'



The Old Cornwall Society's exhibition 'In Celebration of a Seventy Year Reign'

which ran until 11th June attracted a great deal of interest. There was both local and national context and the items from the Queen's Picnic at Buckingham Palace in 2012 were fascinating as, in a very different way, was the knitted and crocheted tea party of 2022! (see p.1)



House Manager Sioux writes:

The garden is really coming into its own now, with the tables being in constant use over the last couple of weeks. It is so lovely to feel the atmosphere at present.

Thank you to those of you that brought in goods for our fund-raising sale. We have so far raised £314.15 with money still coming in. (see p.3)

Room bookings are now coming in again, with a couple of people so pleased with how events have gone for them that they've rebooked!

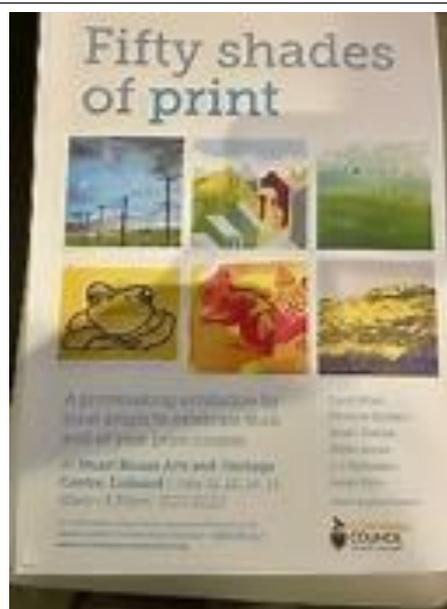
We have accumulated various craft materials over the years to be made up into saleable items for House funds. We now need volunteers to make items from this stash. If you have the time and would like to come along and join in the process please get in touch. I hope to have enough items for a dedicated sale.

EVENTS CONTINUING into and BEGINNING in JULY

Items from the **Fund-Raising Sale** (see Sioux's note p.2) have now been moved to the Surgery where there's still lots to buy!



The Craft Fair in the Max Lock Gallery began on 20th June and continues until July 9th. There are crafting materials for sale, as well as beautifully made items.



Fifty Shades of Print: this exhibition running from 11th to 16th July (not Wednesday) is of printmaking from the Adult Education course and promises some top-quality exhibits. *(apologies for the quality of the photo of the poster, ed.)*

Celebrating The Platinum Jubilee
The Queen's Stamps
An Exhibition of Seventy Years of Royal Mail Stamps
1952 - 2022
Stuart House
21st July - 13th August
10.00am - 3.00pm
Free Admission

For more on the Queen's Stamps exhibition, see p.4

*Celebrating The Platinum
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1952 - 2022

Stuart House

21st July - 13th August

10.00am - 3.00pm

The Stamps Exhibition – Stewards Wanted!

The Stamps Exhibition, which runs from Thursday 21st July until 13th August, will take up three rooms in the House - the Jane Room, the King's Room and the Gallery. Ideally we would like to have two stewards present at all times in order to ensure proper supervision of both the exhibits and our visitors. If any of our newsletter readers could help steward the Exhibition, be it for one or two hours or more, could you contact Sioux, our House Manager, or Bob, our Chairman, who promises a constant supply of tea and coffee to any helper!

Sioux: 01579-347347 or at Stuart House

Bob: 07760781087 or
bobhollingdale@hotmail.co.uk



Bob Hollingdale (Chairman and stamp collector) writes: Although the principal national Platinum Jubilee celebrations have come and gone Stuart House continues to mark such an historical landmark. From Wednesday 21st July until Saturday 13th August there will be a major exhibition in the House featuring the Royal Mail stamps issued during the seventy years of the Queen's reign. Over seven thousand stamps (all part of our Chairman's private collection) will be on display together with snippets of information and explanation and more. For example, one stamp has the picture of someone born, bred and raised in Liskeard – to find out who, visit the exhibition! The exhibition will be in three rooms; the Jane Room, the King's Room and the Gallery which gives the opportunity to spread the exhibits for better viewing.

The displays include all definitive stamps (including regional issues), postage due stamps, commemorative or special issues, and miniature sheets together with some Post and Go stamps and Stamp Booklets. The definitive issues give a sharp reminder of how much postage used to cost and what it costs today! The commemorative/special issues give a picture of so much that has happened during the Queen's reign in addition to people, events and achievements over hundreds of years.

Although the exhibition gives an introduction into the rather complex world of philately it especially allows the visitor to have numerous reminders of the seventy year reign of the Queen.

July's Thoughts from our Garden's Overseer

The garden these last few months has been wonderful: verdant and gently colourful.



At the moment it's the return of the cranesbill geraniums which now fully surround the lawn, the arum lilies next to the wall pond, foxgloves, and roses galore. The Duchess of Cornwall roses in the front garden appeared in great abundance exactly in time for the Platinum Jubilee festivities, peering through the front railings, as is their wont. I feel almost sorry for them, out there in Barras Street, having to put up with endless traffic clamour. They'll never know the peace and sudden stillness of the rear garden: another world, quite mesmerising!

I was greeted the other morning by quite unusual goings on at the pond fountain. This is an important feature for the multitude of sparrows who live nearby, blackbirds, and pigeons, all of whom visit to drink. In hot weather, the sparrows will leap around in the top bowl for a wash and to cool down, but the pigeons tend to stay away when the fountain is running, because, I presumed, they don't like getting their feathers wet. However, that morning I was amazed to see four of them taking turns to dive into the water, floating with their wings spread out, and enjoying the cascading power shower. Then they would flap out, perch on the pool side, and fluff their wings high in the sunshine to dry out. Well!



A holidaying Dutch couple who found their way into the garden proved enjoyable conversationalists. The lady lived in an apartment with a very productive balcony. She half-filled her several planters with kitchen green waste, topping up with some rotted compost. Plants do wonderfully, she said, especially trailing courgettes. Compost making in situ, no need

for a heap with all that wretched turning and forking. Her companion had an allotment, but grew only fruit: currants, berries of all sorts, as well as apples, pears and plums. Much easier and far more profitable than growing vegetables, he said. No seed sowing, no weeding or watering, just some winter pruning and shaping. The main problem is green parakeets. As in London, they have developed established communities in urban settings and they love apples. More familiar to us in Liskeard are the problems of codling moth, canker, and woolly apple aphid. Luckily, the two old trees in the Stuart House garden stay remarkably free of these diseases.



Another visitor to the garden asked about the red beetles crawling over her lilies and laying eggs beneath the leaves from which emerge little slug-like larvae which strip the plant. These are Lily bugs, native to parts of Europe, but which have now become an invasive, destructive species in many countries, carried about on imported lily bulbs. They have rapidly spread throughout the United Kingdom since the 1980's, particularly on those giant lilies that have recently become garden favourites. Fritillaries are also afflicted. Sadly, the best thing is to give up growing lilies, which is a shame since I really like tiger lilies, especially the one in Alice in Wonderland that chats so cheekily and wittily.



Yet another visitor asked why her Aquilegia plants were yellow, stunted and dying. This is caused by a very tedious mildew fungus that started on the rampage five or six years ago, causing havoc everywhere, including at the National Collection where most plants succumbed. However, in my own garden, many self-sown plants appear to have developed immunity, growing very well this year and flowering in a wide variety of colours. Aquilegia plants seed profusely, and I have

recently gathered many thousands, some of which will be scattered in the Stuart House garden. Other plants that also grow very readily, especially in gravel paths and cracks, from scattered seed are foxgloves and feverfew. July is an ideal time to do such scattering: no need for all that palaver of seed trays and pricking out. Success guaranteed, with such little effort. I'm sure the Dutch couple would greatly approve!

Malcolm Mort

Seeds of honesty, aquilegia, foxgloves (including the white sort) and feverfew (a large double type) will be available in the café in the near future.

All the photographs – the roses, bathing pigeons, arum lily near the wall pond, containers seen through the rear porch and garden view (p.1) are by Malcolm.

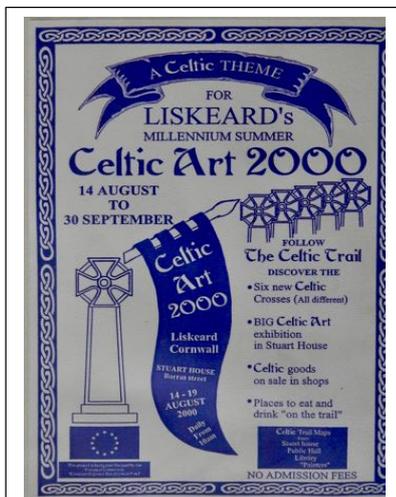
STUART HOUSE GARDEN CLUB

No news at the time of going to press about the date of the next meeting, but do enquire at the House or contact Val Moore on 01579 228518



The 5th Grand Family and Local History Day, run by the South-East Cornwall Museums' Forum (of which Stuart House is an active member) was held in the Public Hall on June 18th, with 20 organizations represented. It was a great day, with a lot of interested visitors, including to the Stuart House stand (see p.1)

More Memories from the Minutes by Sue Glencross, Hon. Sec.



The wonderful Celtic Art exhibition, organised by Eileen Crouch, which readers will have been reminded of in recent 'memories' had taken place.

November 2000 continued ... Phyllis Head resigned as Press Secretary and Maggie Jackson was elected to the post. There was £365 in the current account and £4,236 in the deposit account. It was reported that I had 'encountered and overcome a number of logistical problems in mounting the modern art exhibition and undertaking the catering'. (*With the passage of time I have no idea what the problems were! I do, however, recollect pushing my hostess trolley from Westbourne car park to the House. It contained the food I had made at home for the supper club – at the time there was no cooker in the kitchen*). Maggie Jackson had arranged an Apple Day event in conjunction with Cotehele House. Jo Mattingley would speak at the next supper club event. Tony Croft of Liskeard/Looe Canal Group had been approached about giving a talk. Painters were to give up taking bookings. Coodes had offered to take on the task which was gratefully accepted and Sue would in future represent the Trust at Chamber of Commerce meetings. Eileen had produced a comprehensive discussion paper on plans for the future of the House and provided all present with a copy.

There was no meeting in December and on 10th January 2001 it was minuted that the application to SW Arts for a grant to pay for a part time administrator had not been successful. An application would be made to the Esme Fairbairn Trust. The subject of catering and equipment needed to be looked into. The Treasurer would investigate the question of better returns from a deposit account and £3,000 of the £4,744 then held in an 'ordinary' deposit account would be transferred to a high interest easy access account. During the year 2000 the Trust had roughly 'broken even'. The work to the rear lateral chimney stack



The King's Room fireback

had been started, front notice boards were being made, fire backs and metalwork were in place and the Max Lock Gallery was being decorated by members. There was still a very damp atmosphere in the Surgery. Tony Wood and Mr Pearce would be standing down at the AGM on 11th April. The possibility of two administrators was mooted. This and the changing of Trustees would be discussed with Coodes. A copy of the Constitution would be kept in the House. A Cheese & Wine party would be held on 13th January and would be followed by the Supper Club talk 'Tools of Yesteryear' on 17th and Sunday afternoon music and tea on the 21st. Jean Wills' local history evening was a success and would be repeated in 6 months. I was

to co-ordinate the Supper Club programme. Coodes' offer to act as Honorary Solicitors to the Trust was accepted. The retirement party for Bob Foulkes at the House was very successful and it was hoped that the House might be used for similar occasions in the future. (*I cannot let this go by without telling a very funny tale. There were many guests at Bob's retirement party and I could not place one of those guests – I had never seen him before but he seemed very pleasant and convivial and went around filling peoples' glasses (and his own of course) and then was collecting plates, cutlery and glasses and did all the washing up. I asked Bob who he was. Bob did not know him! He had assumed it was someone I knew and I had assumed it was one of his guests! What we had was a very pleasant and useful gate-crasher who happened to be passing and 'just popped in'. Anyway we sent him on his way with a bottle for all his troubles!)*

to be continued.....



The supper club tried to guess the purpose of old tools.

Note: In the Rowse Room are albums of archive photographs taken and donated by Eileen Crouch which you are welcome to browse through. ed.

EARLY NOTICE - COMING IN AUGUST

Mothers of the Military August 22nd to September 3rd

On her journey from working at The Barracks Rame to Stuart House Liskeard, artist Gabby Schooling will continue her exploration into the relationships between mothers and their children who have chosen to become part of the military.

The personal work is currently developing into the reflection of shared experiences by other women who have unintentionally become part of another world.

Gabby will be working in the upstairs gallery at Stuart House each day and will welcome contributions to this developing work.

Please do come and have a look or have your say. You will be most welcome.

Another 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 – open to visitors on Tuesdays.

The Bardic Ceremony of the Awen



The Awen Ceremony of the Gorsedd of the Bards of Cornwall took place within the centre circle of The Hurlers on Bodmin Moor on Father's Day June 19th. Attended by many interested onlookers, around forty blue robed Bards made their way along the moorland track from the overflowing Car Park at Minions village. Led by a piper and the Gorsedd banner-bearers they were accompanied by the excellent Canoryon Lowen choir from St Neot and two each of elders and children of the community.

The ceremony of the Awen is a short, less formal, event in the calendar of Cornish Gorsedd.

During the ceremony two elders of the community are invited to hand over to two children of the community the lime wood carved 'Book of Life', representing the passing of wisdom from one generation to another. Spoken in the ancient language of Cornish the Grand Bard, as Master of Ceremonies, extolls the Bardic ideology of Wisdom, Knowledge, Truth, Love and Peace.



He then walks around the circle of Bards showing them the immaculately carved 'Book of Life'. When his circle is completed he passes it to the two elders who in turn pass it to the two children, all of which all takes place in the centre of the circle.

The ceremony continues with singing in Cornish by Canoryon Lowen, including Old Land of our Fathers. The last act is the Cry of Peace; Grand Bard: "Eus Kres?" (is there peace?) All Bards: "Kres" (peace), repeated three times.

Two members of Liskeard Old Cornwall Society, Jackie Jenkins and Brian Oldham, were honoured to have been invited by the Bards to take the part of the two elders, and the two children were delighted to receive certificates from the Grand Bard to take home to St Neot.

LISKEARD UNLOCKED 2022

September 9th to 18th, focussing on the weekends, especially 10th & 11th.

Plans are coming together for the 2022 Liskeard Unlocked days, which are part of the national Heritage Open Days. The theme this year is 'Astounding Inventions' (although this will be taken broadly!)

Stuart House is again playing a part, with an exhibition about Michael Loam, credited with inventing the Man Engine (which saved hours of ladder climbing for miners). We also hope for a trail discovering inventions (which we may now take for granted) in Stuart House, and this will be alongside the Kingwell Family Art & Craft exhibition and (t.b.c.) an exciting photographic exhibition – more to come!

Diary of Events

July 2022



Continuing until Saturday 9 th	Craft Fair in the Gallery – a varied selection of lovely items and materials for sale (see p.3)
Monday 4 th to Saturday 30 th	Arts, crafts and gift shop in the surgery, with a changing selection of things to buy
Tuesdays 5 th & 19 th	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4.30 pm.
every Thursday	Craft Club: all welcome 12 noon to 3pm.
Monday 11 th	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4 to 6.30pm.
Monday 11 th to Saturday 16 th	Fifty Shades of Print: Adult Education Printmaking. Coursework exhibition (see p.3)
Tuesday 12 th	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnese, Hampton & Littlewood. 10am. to 12 noon
Thursday 21 st to Saturday 13 th August	Royal Mail Stamp Exhibition recognizing the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (see p. 4)
Coming in August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The shop in the Surgery and Stamp Exhibition continue • From 22nd 'Mothers of the Military' art exhibition (see p.8)
The Coved Room Stitchery continues to be open on the top floor, with Gaby taking classes and giving advice – more information in the House.	

*The House, Garden, Old Kitchen Café and (check first) Computer Research Facility are open
9.30am – 3.30pm on Monday Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
(other days too – often Saturday morning - if there is a special exhibition on)*

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