

Newsletter

August 2022



‘The Queen’s Stamps’ exhibition began on July 21st with a preview on 20th. Here, Geoff Wigham, founder member of the Trust who played a key role in the purchase and restoration of the House, together with Liz, study some of the stamps in the Gallery. (see also pp. 2,3 and 4)

Legacy from John Rapson gratefully received

Hon. Sec. Sue Glencross writes “The Trust is very grateful to the late John Rapson for the generous legacy which he left in his Will. This has now been received and will prove to be a timely addition to our funds.

Although bookings and footfall are improving, we are not yet back to the financially self-sufficient position we enjoyed prior to Covid lockdown. Legacies and donations, regardless of amount, are immensely valuable to Stuart House and are greatly appreciated.”

NOW Update from House-Manager Sioux

We have been so lucky with the weather over this last month. I hope you were all able to cope with "The Hottest Day of the Year". I must admit it took it out of me. But the garden and House seemed to enjoy the company that sought refuge in our little oasis.



Photographed in Stuart House garden by Malcolm Mort are John Hesketh and John Crumpton (Liskeard in Bloom's stalwart organisers), Simon Cassidy (Liskeard Town Mayor), Jackie Orange (Liskeard Town Council, everything to do with the town's plants, trees, displays, wildlife projects), Tony Moore (Southwest in Bloom judge), David Purkiss (another judge), Jane Pascoe (Town and County councillor).

We were honoured to host the judges from the Royal Horticultural Society for the **Liskeard In Bloom** event. They seemed to appreciate a brief respite before walking around the town looking at the good work from the LIB volunteers. They then returned here for a cold buffet lunch and enjoyed the tranquility of the garden. As we do not currently open to the public on Wednesdays it worked well. I look forward to hearing the results in October.

The House is again full of things going on, with Bob's extensive "**Queen's Stamps**" exhibition taking over all three exhibition rooms on the first floor. My word, there are so many from her 70 year reign. The ground floor Surgery has the **Arts, Crafts and gift shop** again. This will be the case for the next couple of months, with changing goodies each month. Are you a crafter or artist that has maybe not yet dipped a toe into exhibiting/selling? If so, do pop in and see me, so we can add you to our happy band.

The Coved Room Stitchery is seeing a lot of action, with Gaby having both tutoring and commissions, including alterations. Gaby is in the

House during opening hours.

Our merry band of **volunteers** is slowly increasing, which is wonderful, but we would welcome more – if you would like more information about volunteer roles please pop in and see me, or ring Reception, The answering machine is now working again, so if I do happen to be on cafe duty, or stewarding somewhere, leave your name and phone number, and I will call you back as soon as I am back behind the desk.

As I mentioned last month we are looking to make items from the crafting materials which we have accumulated over the years, (including an extensive stash donated by a regular hirer of the building) : aprons, both for use by kitchen volunteers and to sell as souvenirs, bags, cards, gifts the sky is the limit!

We are always open to suggestions about uses of the building and actively encourage ideas. so please do come forward.

THENMore Memories from the Minutes by Hon. Sec. Sue Glencoss

It is now February 2001 (more than 20 years to go yet!). It was reported that the title deeds to the House and the Constitution had been handed to Coodes for safe custody. *(the deeds were later returned to the House and Dave Howard kindly had one of the 'Indentures' framed and it is displayed in Reception)*. Wendy Lindesay reported funds held amounted to £5,404 in the deposit account and £960 in the current account. The biggest outgoings had been £138 for electricity and £70 for decorating materials. *(Fortunately prior to the energy crisis our Treasurer had managed to 'fix' the cost of electricity so we are shielded from the massive increases for the moment)*.

Tony Wood reported completion of many 'House' items including the rear lateral chimney stack, repair of the cross passage skirting board, the Max Lock Gallery decoration, the feather mattress, positioning of Peggy's quilt and decoration of the Coved Room. The drama group had moved their property into the Coved Room. The subject of elections for the 2001 AGM was raised – needed were a secretary, vice-chair, press secretary and assistant treasurer.

The number of events in the House had grown substantially and one of the consequences was an increase in membership. It was estimated that with revenue for the coming year anticipated at £3,600 from events and £3,590 from other sources there should be a surplus of £2,000 over estimated running costs. Tony would represent the Trust on the newly formed 'Local Development Group' which would be handling 'Objective One' funds locally. Jean Wills continued with work on the archives which was throwing up a number of questions and a great deal of interest.

to be continued

EVENTS LAST MONTH



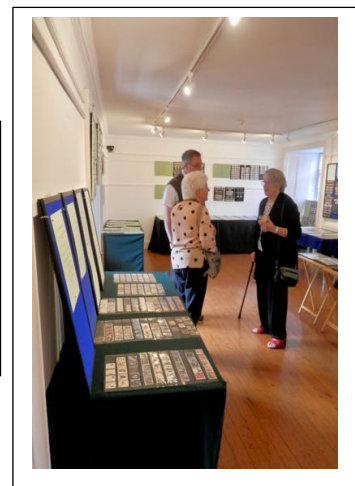
The CRAFT FAIR continued in the Max Lock Gallery until July 9th, with an impressive and unusual range of items. The Autumn Craft Fair begins on 26th September.

Items from the Craft Fair are included in the goods for sale in the Surgery on the ground floor, which has continued all summer and will run through August.

We thank the crafters (and welcome more, see p.2) and volunteer stewards, and House Manager Sioux for all the organisation involved.



Fifty Shades of Print – an exhibition of print-making from the Adult Education course - ran in the Gallery from 11th to 16th July. Not only was the art-work very impressive, but the stewards (who were also exhibitors) were able to explain the different printing processes involved and why the resulting print may be a surprise to the creator– fascinating and inspiring!



‘Fake or Fortune’: Richard Hamm of Bearnese, Hampton and Littlewood is in Stuart House one morning each month offering free valuations of antiques.

The Queen’s Stamps is an extraordinary exhibition covering stamps – three rooms’ worth – from the 70 years of the reign of Elizabeth II. The pictures on p.1, above and p.4 were taken at the preview evening – above are trustees Sue Glencross and Kevin George with Eileen Crouch.

EVENTS CONTINUING INTO AND COMING IN AUGUST

*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



This unique exhibition from the collection of our Chairman, Bob Hollingdale, continues until 13th August (see also pp.1 & 3). Over 7,000 stamps including all definitive stamps, regional issues, postage due, commemorative and special issues, miniature sheets and more, give a reminder of people, places, events and achievements as well as design and costs – and a Liskeard connection!



Abstract Art: Thursday 18th & Friday 19th August

Nick Gilbert writes: 'I am a 3rd year BA (Hons) Painting, Drawing and Printmaking student at Arts University of Plymouth, currently living in Pensilva.

I mainly paint abstract art using oil on canvas as I like to feel the oil and canvas connect.

This exhibition is to show my paintings and, I hope, to receive feedback from viewers.

My aim is for the viewer to not just see the paintings, but LOOK at them, allowing the mind to create its own thoughts on the images.



22nd August to 3rd September

Mothers of the Military : sculptures, photography and installation work informed by work completed at The Barracks, Maker, Rame, Easter 2022.

On her journey from working at The Barracks, Rame to Stuart House, 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 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.



August's Thoughts from our Garden's Overseer



Many thanks to all those who have given such warm and positive feedback about the garden; and especially to the person who said that it was her Sanctuary in such a chaotic world. Yes, this year the garden has seemed more welcoming and enveloping than ever. Perhaps it's the many pots and window boxes of begonias so generously coated in white blooms that have helped, together with the white and pastel blue lace-cap hydrangeas newly nestled into the shrub beds. They do seem to knit the garden edges together. Special thanks also to Jeff who has spent many hours lovingly tending the

lawn. Wild, untidy gardens (the sort that won at Chelsea this year) can exude a sense of peace and comfort, but so also do gardens set out in simple symmetry, such as ours. However, the "modern contemporary garden" style with polished marble paving, rattan furniture and barbeque usually has quite the opposite effect!

The Sweet Williams in the wall planters flowered throughout June and July and have now been replaced by more of those sparkling white begonias. These should continue until late autumn or even early winter. There is still time (early August) to start off Sweet William seed for flowering next year. Sow in a row in the garden, leave, and then dig out clumps to plant out during winter or spring. They are very forgiving plants, not minding at all being transplanted. By bridging the gap between spring and summer flowers, they allow later flowering summer and autumn bedding plants to be sown in a cold frame during April, ready to take over when the Sweet William finish.



A garden visitor asked about how to take cuttings of a much loved camellia. In Spring or early summer, choose a few shoots about 6" long produced the previous year, trim at the point just below where they began growing, then cut above a node three to four inches higher up the stem, leaving a single leaf and a new bud. Push the cutting into gritty compost to the point where the leaf and bud are at the surface. Fit several around the edge of a 4" pot, and leave in a shady spot all summer. It usually takes about six months for roots to appear through the pot base. Another way is to root-layer a low-lying branch. Scrape off some of the bark between two nodes, then bury it in the soil, holding it down with bent wires or stones.

A further visitor asked about my piece in the June newsletter regarding air-layering apple branchlets, using a split plastic bottle packed with compost and wrapped tightly in clingfilm. She asked: when this rooted section is cut from the tree, how high will it grow?

(continued p.6)



This is an interesting question because the fruit trees available commercially are always grafted on rootstocks to govern the final tree height of the tree. For example M26 rootstock will produce a very dwarf tree, M27 one that is tall and vigorous. (M stands for Malling, the plant institute that attempted to bring consistency to rootstock classification early last century.) So how are these rootstocks obtained and how do they work? Grown from pips, the size, shape, colour and taste of the resulting apples will vary enormously, as will the heights of the trees. Over generations, trees have been selected for their shape and disease resistance, then propagated vegetatively. This is done by cutting parent rootstocks to the ground; the rooted shoots that later appear are the rootstocks onto which named apples (Cox, Gala, etc) are grafted. With our air-layer cutting, the ultimate height of the tree cannot be predicted. However, it is quite easy to make a tall tree smaller: just keep trimming it to size and shape!

The roses in the front garden have benefitted from watering and seaweed feeding. However, two appear to be very unwell and so will be replaced. Suggestions welcome of varieties that are vigorous, fairly compact, will flower most of the summer, and are fragrant. The soil in those locations will be replaced to avoid rose sickness.



Sadly the sweet peas, also growing in the Sweet William tub, were almost completely eaten by slugs and snails. Whenever a pot or tray or planter in the garden is examined, there they are, sleeping and hiding. What to do with them? Some people throw them in a bucket of salt water, some drown them in a bowl of beer, and then of course there are the little blue pellets, now "wildlife friendly", except to molluscs that is. The more one studies animals, even the tiniest creatures, the more one realises that they all have a degree of sentience, conscious

awareness. Just before writing this, I read a new report on the intelligence of bees, who appear to have emotions, can plan and imagine, and recognise so much. Birds certainly appear to be constantly engaged in thinking – watching the pigeons around the garden fountain is fascinating! So we have to assume that slugs and snails have sentience, too. After all, they have eyes, and tentacles for feeling and tasting; and snails are able to find their way home after foraging or being displaced. So probably the best thing is to grow only those plants they don't like. Last year all my runner bean flowers were eaten by sparrows, and I was recommended to give them a spray with Dettol disinfectant to ward them off. I wonder if it has the same effect on slugs!

Malcolm Mort

In the article, I've referred to new research showing how intelligent bees are. Here's the link

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/jul/16/bees-are-really-highly-intelligent-the-insect-iq-tests-causing-a-buzz-among-scientists?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other

- All garden photographs are by Malcolm: the garden with café customers (p.1), Liskeard in Bloom judging (p.2), the back garden, Sweet Williams and white lychnis, hydrangea, and hydrangea leaf eaten by leaf-cutter bees (p.5), new plantings in pots outside the back door (p.6) and pigeons in the fountain(p.7).
- Malcolm would like to thank Mark at the Pipewell re-used furnishings for the donation of a dozen large plant pots.
- The Liskeard in Bloom judges (p.2) were entranced by the Stuart House garden and thought that it should have been entered again!
- **Malcolm has been given a Liskeard Community Champion Award for his services to gardening around the town including at Stuart House (since 2014) as well as the railway station and other places – richly deserved and we congratulate and thank him.**

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 (through the Rowse Room) which is open on Tuesdays.

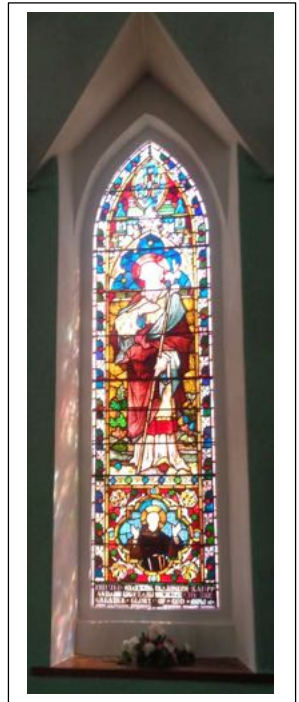
In the 7th Dec. 1872 issue of the Cornish Times, Francis Joseph Kaupp placed an advertisement for an extensive range of products, including musical boxes and spectacles, available from his new premises in Higher Lux Street. He felt it necessary to add the following 'F.J.K. begs to add that he has no connection with his former workmen C. Volk and E. Floessel'. In the same column of the Cornish Times these two gentlemen had placed an advertisement of their own, starting with 'Crispin Volk and Eugene Floessel (formerly with Mr F.J. Kaupp) Practical Watch and Clock Makers beg to announce that they have OPENED BUSINESS at a shop in Fore Street, Liskeard'.

These three skilled Craftsmen were all born in the Black Forest area of West Germany, but from their advertisements there appears to have been a falling-out. Kaupp traded in Liskeard for around 30 years, his lasting memorial is a beautiful stained glass lancet window in Our Lady and St Neot Catholic Church in West St., the central figure is St Joseph, with St Francis of Assisi below. It bears the inscription 'Erected by Francis Joseph Kaupp and Bridget, his wife, to the greater glory of God, 1886'.

After an entry in a Liskeard Trade Directory of 1873 there is no further record of Floessel in the U.K., but Volk continued to trade solely for many years at what is now 15 Fore St., on the corner with the passage leading to Pipe Well. The business appears to have been a success as by 1883 he had moved from a small cottage in Thorn Terrace, to a ten roomed house

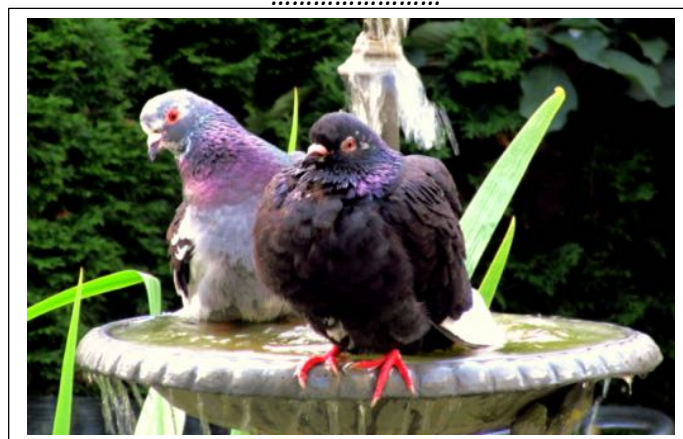


on Barras Street where he and his wife Mary Josephine, also from the Black Forest area, raised seven children. When Crispin Volk died on 24th Feb. 1915, his son Hermann continued the Fore Street business concentrating on Watch and Clock repairs, adding an agency for Passenger Shipping, until about 1950. Having no children, Hermann and his wife Florence lived above the shop. Hermann was a Liskeard Town Councillor from 1931 to 1946, at age 18 he was playing football for the Cornwall County team, was a founder



member of Liskeard F.C. and became their first secretary, while also being organist at Our Lady and St Neot Catholic Church for sixty years.

ed.'s note: Stuart House was tenanted by an architect, Charles Clifden, for three years (at £55 a year) after Susan Carthew, who had lived in it for over 35 years, died in 1876. After changing hands several time in the 1880s, in the 1890s it was rented, then bought, by surgeon William Hammond, who made improvements, including installing some stained glass. Brian suggests that Crispin Volk may have lived in a house on the site of the present Co-op, so straight opposite Stuart House. By 1946, the House was part of Truscott's garage.



Cooling off
in the
fountain!

Diary of Events

August 2022



Continuing till Saturday 13 th	The Queen's Stamps (see pp. 1,2,3 and 4)
Continuing throughout August	Arts, Crafts and Gifts Shop in the Surgery (see p.2)
Tuesdays 2 nd & 16 th	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4.30 pm.
every Thursday	Craft Club: all welcome 12 noon to 3pm.
Monday 8 th	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4 to 6.30pm. (t.b.c)
Monday 15 th	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnas, Hampton & Littlewood. 10am. to 12 noon (see p.3)
Thursday 18 th & Friday 19 th	Exhibition 'Abstract Art' by Nick Gilbert (see p.4)
Monday 22 nd to Saturday September 3 rd	'Mothers of the Military' – Art exhibition with Gabby Schooling as artist-in-residence (see p. 4)
Monday 29 th	House Shut on Bank Holiday
Coming in September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kingwell Family Art & Crat exhibition and sale. 5th – 17th • Michael Loam and the Man Engine exhibition – a great invention for 'Liskeard Unlocked' Heritage Open Days. 5th - 17th • Val Moore and Friends Art exhibition and sale 19th – 24th • Craft Fair 26th to 8th October

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, as possible, 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