

Newsletter

October 2022

From our Chairman, Bob Hollingdale

The Late Queen: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



The funeral of the late Queen with such pageantry, wonderfully choreographed movement and full of emotion was a time of pure theatre – but of course it wasn't theatre; it was real: a moment in history that will forever live in our hearts and minds. All at Stuart House were deeply saddened at the news of Queen Elizabeth's death and shared the sorrow that accompanied it. Our sympathies were extended to the whole Royal Family as the Nation, the Commonwealth and indeed the whole world mourned the loss of one who was, as so many

have said, a constant in our lives. Her death marked the end of seventy years of selfless devotion to those that she served; we are all poorer for her passing but enriched by her life.

Having been fortunate to receive a visit from the then Prince of Wales and Duke of Cornwall in 2002, Stuart House is delighted that Charles, the new King, has a permanent place in the story of the House and naturally wish him well in his role as monarch in the unsettled and uncertain world in which we live. Maybe one day he will return to visit again; if not his successor as Prince of Wales and Duke of Cornwall will be equally welcome!



(The illustrations are the first stamp of Elizabeth II's reign from Bob's collection, exhibited at the recent exhibition of the British stamps of her 70 year reign, and Eileen Crouch greeting the then Prince of Wales at the entrance to Stuart House.



EVENTS OVER THE PAST MONTH

Sioux, our House Manager writes ..

How are we coming into the last quarter of the year already?! You can certainly feel the chill in the air now, and even the days are getting darker so quickly. We have had a great month for exhibitions with lots of visitors still around.

The Kingwell Family Exhibition was a sheer joy to see, although a little strange without Amber, now she is at college she was only able to come in on the Saturdays. It was lovely to see her. Rachel's Liskeard Unlocked exhibition and trail was brilliant and there were oohs and ahhs at the amazement that King Charles I would have if he saw the world now.

Speaking of King Charles, we as a Trust were deeply saddened by the death of Queen Elizabeth and closed the building for the day of the funeral. My heart went out to all the family, it is hard enough when a family member dies, but having to share all that with the world is such a huge thing.

Valerie and Friends needed to adjust the dates of their exhibition as a result the funeral, but are having a steady trickle of visitors.

I am looking at having a couple of Christmas themed workshops in November. Watch this space.

THE KINGWELL FAMILY EXHIBITION was held in the Gallery from 5th to 17th.



Alan and Mags worked here daily, demonstrating some of the processes involved in creating their wonderful range of paintings and craft. Alan's work in oils is so atmospheric, and the range of cards, bookmarks and prints is very tempting. All Mags' craft is beautiful: the feltwork, silk painting and so much more, and Amber's knitted hats and painted cards exude joy and creativity. Alan writes that it was another successful exhibition, and alongside many local friends, there were visitors from far afield.

The Kingwells have booked the same two weeks next year, and some of their work will also be

available in the other Craft Fayres which Sioux organises in the House.

Thanks to Alan for the photographs – the splendid panoramics and the one which includes, from left to right, Gaby (from the Coved Room stitchery), Alan, Amber, Mags and Sioux.





LISKEARD UNLOCKED

Stuart House joined in the '**Liskeard Unlocked**' event with this year's Heritage Open Days' theme of 'Astounding Inventions'. It was rather more low-key than in previous years as it fell early in the period of mourning for the Queen. However, plenty of visitors called in over the 2 week period when (editor) Rachel's exhibition '**Liskeard's Michael Loam and the Man Engine**' (model right!!) was in the Jane Room.



The '**Astounding Inventions**' trail is still available in the House, and focuses on things which would amaze King Charles I, who was Joseph Jane's guest in 1644, if he visited again now. It was fun to put together – did you know that pendulum clocks were not invented until 12 years after his visit, and although flushing toilets had been invented some 50 years before, the King was still likely to be using a close-stool (ed.)

'**Val Moore and Friends**' Exhibition was held in the Max Lock Gallery from 20th, starting a day later than intended, as Sioux says (p.2). A delightful Preview and welcome evening was held on that Tuesday evening, and sales are going well and interest and appreciation is strong.



Do remember all the 'usual' events which go on in the House, and maybe take a trip up to the top floor again if you've not been recently. **The Coved Room Stitchery** is usually open when the House is, and Gaby is increasingly busy with commissions, teaching and alterations.

The Coved Room is through the **Trussed Room**, where the South-East Cornwall Museums Forum is meeting on 27th September and will use the display cabinet there as a basis for a training session on making the best of old cabinets!

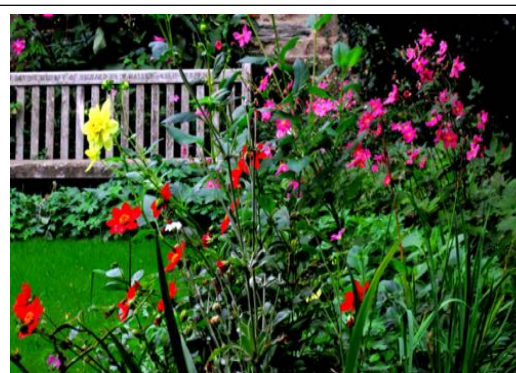
THE CRAFT FAIR CONTINUES in the GALLERY from 26th SEPT. to 8th OCT.

October's Thoughts from our Garden's Overseer and photographer



The old apple tree in the far corner has produced a magnificent crop of apples this year. They're large, light green, and slightly sour, and are probably Bramley cookers. What is interesting is that they are perfect and completely disease free: no nibbles and none spoilt by the dreaded Codling moth. The apples on my trees at

home suffer badly from this – see photograph. The little caterpillars spend the winter in bark cracks or underneath leaf litter. Come May, they emerge as little short-lived moths. After mating, the female lays clutches of eggs on branches near developing fruit. These quickly hatch, and new caterpillars make for the nearest young apples, burrowing into the core, eventually causing the fruit to stop growing and to fall prematurely. Cutting these apples open reveals tell-tale damage and occasionally the caterpillar. Usually, though, the grub will have already exited the fruit by burrowing a hole to the outside, then hiding away somewhere until the following year. Apples not affected usually stay on the tree until they are mature. Insecticides are used in commercial orchards to prevent this problem, as are pheromone traps. These mimic the scent of female moths, so the poor males are drawn to a strongly sticky pad from which there is no hope of escape. A horrid way to end life, even for a small moth, and a wide range of other insects can also be trapped. So perhaps for the home gardener having to cope with Codling moth, it's best to put up with the early damaged apples and to wait a little longer for uninfected fruit.



The roses in the front garden didn't really recover from the heat waves, despite being well-watered and fed. They flower in May and June, and usually then again in the autumn. Sadly not this year, except for the bush with light orange blooms (see front-cover photograph) next to the Stuart House sign. Several of the rose bushes in the front bed now look very weak and sickly. The problem one faces is that roses don't like being planted where another rose has previously grown. This is something to do with mycorrhizal fungi specificity. One

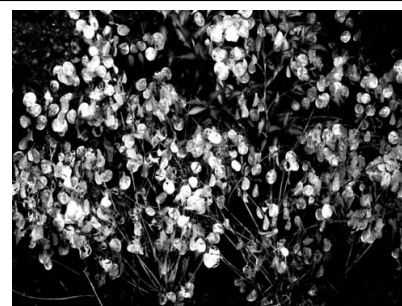
suggestion is that we plant agapanthus instead. Yes, blue and white agapanthus would be a good option. The flowers last longer than roses, and would complement the Tudor blue colour used on the front railings and some Stuart House doors.

In the last newsletter I mentioned that the twisted willow tree had lost a large number of leaves in the summer heat waves. New leaves have not regrown during the wetter weeks of September. A tree specialist who happened to be visiting the garden gave his opinion that the tree might well be coming to the end of its life (the average life span is around thirty years), and that it is probably best to take it down. A terrible thought indeed, as the tree, with its delicate structure, makes an integral contribution to the peaceful feel of the garden. The tree expert suggested a number of suitable alternatives, one being *Eucryphia* × *nymansensi*. This is a vigorous, columnar evergreen tree with glossy, dark green leaves which produces a mass of white flowers in late summer and autumn. It is low maintenance and pest and disease free (apparently), so is a possible alternative to keep in mind if the willow visibly starts to fail next year.



The blue-flowered hydrangea bush in the left front garden bloomed wonderfully through the summer. In September, though, the flower heads lose their colour, becoming a tedious grey. However, it is very easy instantly and realistically to restore their colour: gently spray them! Several people have noticed this and have asked about the paint used. It's not anything special – just a spray can of car paint of one's choice. It's so easy, and takes about a minute to return all the flower heads on a bush to their original colour. (They might need spraying again for Christmas.)

The Honesty plants that grew near the shed and which bloomed profusely in May were left to develop their moon-like seed heads for Christmas decorations in the house. The summer drought and heat wave showed how useful these plants are. They tolerate these conditions really well, and the seed heads which come to maturity in late August add sparkle to the autumn border. No watering is required whatsoever. Rubbing the seed heads with damp fingers quickly removes the dull outer layers of the three-layered heads, leaving the clean white shiny little moon. Copious quantities of seed are released which can be left where they fall or collected to be thrown elsewhere. The seed from the Stuart House plants has been separated (using a garden sieve with a mesh size to allow the seeds to fall through) and will be available in the café later in the autumn.



The begonias, both tuberous and fibrous sorts have been wonderful in the rear garden since May and are still going strong. They produce a colossal amount of seed, which is very easy to miss because it looks like such fine



dust. Most of the begonia seeds that one buys are F1 hybrid crosses, meaning that they are not supposed to reproduce true from saved seed. However, many of the plants in our pots and boxes were grown from seed saved from last year's plants, and look fine, remaining true to flower and leaf colour. That's the thing about gardening: it's full of experimentation - and hope!

Malcolm Mort

EVENTS COMING IN OCTOBER



Town Crier Competition

The Liskeard Town Crier Competition is held annually on the occasion of St. Matthews Fayre, which is **October 1st this year. 10am to 3pm.**

Sponsored principally by the Liskeard Lions Club and The Smile Centre Dental practice, the competition draws criers from all over the west country and as far afield as Wiltshire and Herefordshire.

For the second year in succession (notwithstanding the years lost to the pandemic) the 2022 competition will be held in the historic venue of Stuart House.

Ilow Splann at Stuart House
Sunday 9th October 2.30pm
Carlton and Maggie present a concert
of traditional, contemporary and
completely new Cornish music on
various instrumental combinations

Some for dancing 
 some for reflection

Entrance £7 to include tea/coffee and cake
Follow Ilow Splann on Facebook
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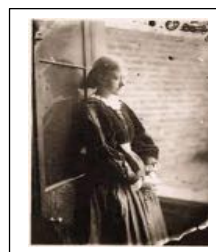
Carlton writes: "We are looking forward to returning to Stuart House for our concert on Sunday 9th October. Music is scheduled to start at 2.30 in the Gallery. Lots of brand-new music (World Premieres) for Stuart House. We hope to see you there.

As well as music we may also be projecting some images of trees and grasslands in line with some of our ecologically sensitive productions e.g.

: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z53hY7vNU5g>

October 10th – 22nd

RARE EARLY PHOTOGRAPHS



Organiser Jack Ryder tells us that these photographs, dating from 1845 to 1945, cover many subjects which can be quite challenging, including poverty in America and Britain, 19th-century agriculture, the seaside, American industry, Barnardo's and family portraits.

Photographers include Britons Lewis Carroll (his photograph of Ellen Terry above), George Ruff, Francis Frith and Julia Margaret Cameron, and Americans Dorothea Lange, Lewis Wickes Hines, Jack Delano and John Vachon.

Many of these photographs have never been seen by the public, and some not for over 100 years. It is doubtful if such a collection has ever been put together in one place before.

31st Oct. – 5th November

LILIAN OAKTREE ART EXHIBITION

in the Max Lock Gallery

COULD IT BE MAGIC ??

October 24th to 29th

An interactive exhibition all about magic, illusion and trickery! But will you spot it? Will you be able to believe your eyes? Come and see what Jenny and Jean have for us!

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

2001 continued The Mediation Service of St Austell were seeking a room for mediation meetings and had made an initial booking which would probably lead to more. Information regarding alcohol licences had been obtained and a fee of £10 would allow up to 12 occasional permits a year. Jean Wills' research on the occupants of Stuart House had led to a contact from Mrs Couch who lived in the House from 1951-1962 and the information now forms an interesting addition to the House's history. Mrs Head had previously sold raffle tickets at the plant sales but had asked to be replaced by another volunteer.

The 2001 AGM was held on 11th April but is not now summarised as the various reports presented to the meeting echoed the activities of the previous year. Nine officers were appointed and Eileen Crouch was elected as chair with Jim James as Vice Chair.

The first meeting of the new committee was held on 9th May 2001 and Tony Spiller would attend meetings as a representative of LOCS. Jean Wills' Friday openings were a great success. Jean acted as the Trust's archivist at the time. It should be borne in mind that in 2001 the House was not yet open to the public throughout the week but was only open when there was an exhibition, so it was exciting to have it open on a Friday. There had been a supper club meal with the cookery undertaken by Rosa Mashiter. Supper Clubs were a great source of income

and as there was limited availability of tickets due to the space in the coffee room, the events were always a sell out. Members were invited to bring their own bottle and dined in a very friendly and comfortable environment. Bear in mind there were no 'proper' cooking facilities in the kitchen in those days so most of the food preparation had to be done at home. The Trust did consider a liquor licence but this was later deemed to be impractical. Forthcoming events were to include a Medieval feast and garden party. The open exhibition on the theme of 'Liskeard, Market Town' was discussed following the announcement of the Market Towns' Convention.

At the June meeting, congratulations were recorded to Tony Wood who had been made a Burgess of Liskeard. Jean Wills was thanked for opening the House on Fridays and for her work in tidying the office. The House would be available for the Henry Rice Exhibition free of charge and donations would be for the Church which would provide its own stewards. A newly-elected committee member, Kate Theophilus of Coodes, announced her plans on behalf of the Gilbert and Sullivan Fellowship to hold a concert at the Public Hall at the end of October with proceeds to Stuart House. This was warmly received and the committee confirmed that the Trust would meet the cost of hiring the Public Hall which was expected to be less than £100.

to be continued.....

Another local snippet from Brian Oldham, President of Liskeard's Old Cornwall Society who have their base in the Trecarrel Room on the top floor of the House, open on Tuesdays.



A new publication by Roy Starkey, 'Making it Mine-Sir Arthur Russell and his Mineral Collection', includes a section involving Richard Hawke and William Sargent, both of Westbourne House, West Street. When Sir Arthur heard that Hawke's mineral collection had passed to Sargent on the death of Hawke's widow in 1904, he made this brief entry in his notebook, 'Wm Sargent of Liskeard has the collection of Richard Hawke'.

Sir Arthur visited Sargent at Westbourne House in February 1926 and made another notebook entry, 'Saw his collection formerly the

property of Barber Hawke contained in glass fronted cabinet on landing. Contains a large number of Wheal Wrey twin calcites and slender prisms, many of them very fine and well preserved. There is a very fine and large group under a glass shade in upstairs room, also several South Caradon native copper and cuprite. The cabinet also contains one or two nice chalcopyrites probably Caradon, also a good many small fair cuprites.'

Sir Arthur acquired two specimens for his own collection, both Calcite from Wheal Wrey, St Ive, which are currently housed in the Natural History Museum. Sargent donated the rest of the 'collection of Richard Hawke' to the Royal Institute of Cornwall Museum, Truro, in 1930.

In the 1920s, Stuart House was lived in by the Morcom family, respected local merchants. It is quite likely that many local people had an interest in geology. (ed)

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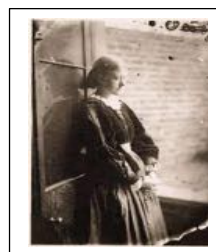
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Diary of Events

October 2022



Continuing until October 8 th	Craft Fair in the Gallery
Saturday 1 st	Town Criers Competition. 10am – 3pm. (see p.6)
Tuesdays 4 th & 18 th	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4.30 pm.
every Thursday	Craft Club: all welcome 12 noon to 3pm.
Sunday 9 th	Ilow Splann in concert. 2.30pm. £7. (see p.6)
Monday 10 th	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4 to 6.30pm.
Monday 10 th to Saturday 22 nd	Jack Ryder – Exhibition of rare photographs (see p.6)
Monday 24 th	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnese, Hampton & Littlewood. 10am. to 12 noon
Monday 24 th to Saturday 29 th	Could it be Magic? Interactive exhibition with Jenny and Jean (see p,6)
Monday 31 st to Saturday 5 th Nov.	Exhibition of Art by Lilian Oaktree
Coming in NOVEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7th to 12th - Mark Simmons' Book Sale • 7th to 12th - Remembrance Exhibition

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 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