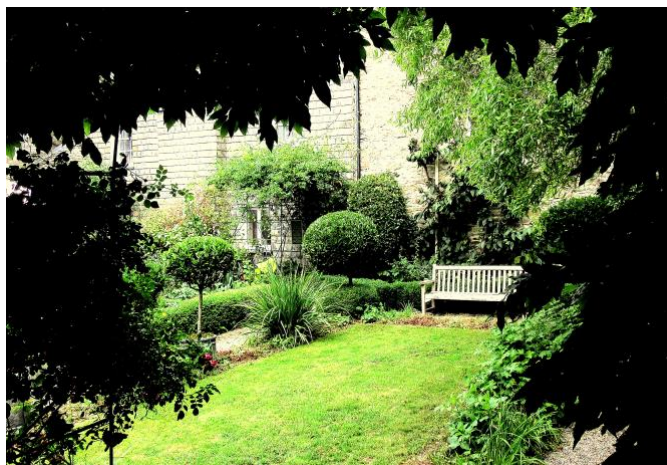


# Newsletter

August 2023



## An Update from our Trustees

The Trustees continue to meet monthly, although there will be no August meeting this year due to holiday commitments. Whilst a lot of business is transacted by email communication in between meetings, there is always a full Agenda of items to go through and to discuss at our meetings.

Under discussion for the past few months has been our new brochure. The print run of the existing brochure has now run out and it is out of date. It has been re-vamped and Sioux, Jean and Jenny have been liaising in relation to its content. The revised brochure has now been agreed and is about to be printed. We will then have 1,000 copies to hand out/distribute as required.

RIO continue with the works to the former Public Library and Kevin is looking after the Trust's interests in relation thereto.

Bob is in charge of our revised Fire Risk Assessment and it will be available in its final draft form for a final discussion at the Trustees' September meeting. It will then be implemented. In the meantime our security and fire alarm systems are

routinely checked and any recommendations are put into place.

Tony continues to look after the Trust's finances and provides monthly figures for our digestion. After the first six months of 2023 there has been an excess of income over expenditure amounting to £1,638 but that is only due to a generous donation of £2682 which was made earlier in the year following the disbanding of Phoenix 100 Group. Our 2022 accounts have been audited and will be filed with the Charity Commission.

At every meeting there is a brainstorming session with ideas for future fund-raising events. It is a shame we cannot open for more concerts and for possible evening events as those would provide an increased income stream. Sioux works as many hours as she can – both on a paid and volunteer basis – and it is not possible for her to give any more time to Stuart House. We remain grateful to her and to Gaby for everything they do. We are grateful to our volunteers whose numbers are gradually increasing – but we could always use more! If you can volunteer in any capacity, or if you know anyone who can, then please give details to Sioux. Anyone out there who is willing to unlock/lock up for a Sunday or evening event?

John's knowledge is essential in relation to maintenance/repair of the House and if there is something which he cannot do – then he knows a person who can!

As for me – well I am pretty much 'behind the scenes' but pop up every now and then to break cover!

We all hope you, our Friends, will have an enjoyable Summer and thank you for your continued support without which we would be in dire straits.

*Sue Glencross, Hon. Sec.*



Leaflet sponsored by Coodes Solicitors  
Honorary Solicitors to Stuart House Trust

## EVENTS in the PAST MONTH

### 'The Art of Crafts'

July 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>

This inspiring exhibition of the work of Level 1&2 Adult Education students' work covered Printmaking, Jewellery and Creative Textiles, which stewards were on hand to explain. Prints included

linocuts, lino reduction, lino print & chine collé, intaglio and collagraph prints. Textile work included fabric books, 3D studies using heat-sensitive materials and a varied 'make do and mend' classification including patchwork and construction – for example some colourful containers made of washing lines!



### Art Exhibition for local artists

from 24<sup>th</sup> July continuing to 5<sup>th</sup> August

This exhibition, arranged by trustee Jean Glynn, shows work by some young local artists including wonderful pencil drawings of horses by Rhiannon Smith, strong graphic images by Bethany Smith and a varied montage by 16-year-old Keira Pascoe. More work may be added as the exhibition continues. The photograph left shows Lucy talking with Jean about the possibility of exhibiting. There is also work by some talented adult local artists, including Anita Plume and Anna Corns.



### BOOK SALE

Over time, many books have accumulated in the House and there is a sale in the Jane Room



### MEET the TRUSTEES

Further to the news from our trustees on p.1, an opportunity for Friends to meet and share ideas with them is being planned – more to come in the next Newsletter.



## EVENTS COMING IN AUGUST



**Stuart House**  
Arts and Heritage Centre  
Art Exhibition for local talented artists  
**Bethany Smith**  
**Rhiannon Smith**  
**Keira Pascoe**



**Stuart House**  
Art Exhibition for local talented artists  
starts on the 24<sup>th</sup> July  
Come and see their amazing work.



Explore the house and garden during your visit.



Coffee, tea and homemade cakes available from the cafe.  
(see menu in the cafe)

### ART EXHIBITION MATT THOMAS P.A.

STUART HOUSE  
LISKEARD  
7<sup>TH</sup>-19<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2023  
OPEN 10:30-15:30  
CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY  
ALL WELCOME!  
MEMBER OF FINE ART  
TRADE GUILD



Matt Thomas  
exhibited in the  
Max Lock Gallery  
in February

The exhibition of the work of  
young and other local artists  
continues until 5<sup>th</sup> (see p.2)

### COMING IN EARLY SEPTEMBER

linked with the  
'Liskeard Unlocked'  
theme 'Creativity Unwrapped'  
(see p.7)

4<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September

**KINGWELL FAMILY  
ART & CRAFT  
EXHIBITION and SALE**  
In the Max Lock Gallery

### DECORATIVE LISKEARD

-guess where-  
photographs of decorative  
details on Liskeard's buildings  
with clues to help viewers with  
identification in the Jane  
Room, and a linked town trail



### HERBS REVISITED



An exhibition focussing on the wonderful range of herbs  
organised by our chairman, Bob Hollingdale

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023



The garden will have colour and beauty in August

## August's Thoughts from our Garden's Overseer



So many people this year have stopped to sniff the roses. The Duchess of Cornwall bushes at the front, so floriferous during early summer, have fragile flowers which quickly fall like confetti. They have disappointing fragrance, too. The scent of the various sorts in the rear rose garden varies, though the most prolific bloomer, Birthday Girl, has hardly any. This reminds me of Alice in Wonderland: "What's the use of a book without

pictures or conversation?" History books tell us that Henry VIII was a very keen gardener. I can envisage him wandering through the extensive grounds of Whitehall Palace (completely destroyed by fire in 1698)) or Hampton Court and stopping to admire a newly introduced rose. His reaction when discovering it had only a pitiful fragrance might have been rather fearful. Again, I am reminded of the frequent shouts of Alice's Red Queen: "Off with their heads!" (hopefully the roses not the gardeners).

The same disappointment greets us when we munch into a supermarket tomato. We all know the delicious taste of home-grown tomatoes. But the supermarket sorts are usually completely tasteless. It can't be the fault of the breeders whose aim would surely never be to develop an utterly tasteless variety. Tomatoes end up like this because they are grown in water with added minerals (hydroponics), picked green and cold stored. They never get a chance to develop tasty compounds and sugars. Then at the required time, they are blasted with ethylene gas to make the skin and flesh turn red, but this does not allow development of taste. Henry VIII would have been appalled and enraged, I'm sure, to be presented with such a tasteless red ball although he probably didn't get to try a tomato as they weren't introduced to Britain until 1590, some forty years after his death. However, as tomatoes begun to be available in Spain from around 1520, it is possible that they may have been served to him during his European visits.

As an experiment, I recently saved and sowed seeds from a most terrible tasteless tomato to discover what the real taste might be. No doubt the variety is a hybrid, seeds from which are said not to grow true. However tomatoes are self-fertile and readily breed to type. I pricked out the best plant which is now growing well in my greenhouse. Results will be reported later in the summer.

In July, various plants in the Stuart House garden begin to display the characteristics semi-circular artwork of the patchwork leaf-cutter bee. These are small, solitary creatures which nest in holes in plant stems, dead wood or old walls. They cut and glue leaf pieces together with saliva in order to seal the small cells in which they have deposited eggs. The larvae hatch, develop by digesting the sealing material, and fly away.





Bird life has been plentiful in the garden of late too. A seagull chick rolled from its nest on the roof soon after it hatched, landing in the garden without injury. The parents have been feeding it, which has included teaching it bad habits of begging at the garden tables for cake pieces – and then jumping onto the tables as soon as visitors have left to scavenge for crumbs. It quickly learned to drink water from the dog bowl, and then to sit in it. Blackbirds made a nest in the clematis and are sometimes be seen on the lawn cracking open a snail shell and devouring the contents – all very grisly. The woodpigeon egg in the bay tree nest hatched but the fledging didn't survive very long, for some reason found deceased on the path nearby. It was removed to the bird graveyard in the far corner. I have buried about a dozen birds there over the last few years, including several pigeons. Perhaps they were afflicted with the dreaded bird flu or some other illness. In captivity, pigeons can live for fifteen years or more, but around towns and cities they rarely, sadly, last longer than about three. The sparrows are a constant and amusing joy.



Astonishing was the recent news that the highly intelligent crows and magpies have learned to tear off anti-bird spikes which they then use to weave into nests, the spikes also serving to guard against intruders. Several such nests have been seen throughout the Netherlands and Belgium, and two in Glasgow. It's very interesting, too, how the habit and skill has developed and spread so quickly.

Astonishing was the recent news that the highly intelligent crows and magpies have learned to tear off anti-bird spikes which they then use to weave into nests, the spikes also serving to guard against intruders. Several such nests have been seen throughout the Netherlands and Belgium, and two in Glasgow. It's very interesting, too, how the habit and skill has developed and spread so quickly.



The double feverfew flowers are a product of my selection programme. For a long time I've grown feverfews (drought resistant) from seed saved year to year, then one day a really nice double form appeared. So now I'm quite ruthless, throwing out singles when they appear and saving seed only from the doubles. They breed fairly truly (about 90%).

The recent welcome rains have greatly revitalised the garden. The bays, box hedges and grass continually need keeping in check (thanks Jeff) to maintain the garden's neat, formal appearance. The cranesbill geraniums edging the lawn were

trimmed almost to the ground in mid-July after flowering for two months. They should be blooming again in mid-August and throughout the autumn. Wisteria winding shoots need cutting back in August to about 40cm (18"). A second trim will be needed in February.

*Malcolm Mort (Malcolm also took all the garden photographs)*



## STUART HOUSE GARDEN CLUB

**hopes to resume regular meetings.**

Anyone interested, please get in touch with Val Moore 01579 228518.

On 21<sup>st</sup> July, some club members enjoyed a trip to the beautiful Ken-Caro gardens near St Ive.

The photographs of Liz and Margaret and of a Red Admiral butterfly are by Eileen Crouch.



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

Continued .....There was no August meeting in 2002 so the Committee met on 11<sup>th</sup> September to continue with its business. Consideration was to be given to splitting the day into three sessions for hiring purposes to maximise income. 22 tickets had been sold so far



*Today's kitchen and excellent coffee-maker*

in respect of the forthcoming Supper Club event. Disabled access was again discussed but no conclusion could be reached in view of the nature of the building. It was suggested a 'DIY' coffee maker be obtained from Cornwall Coffee to provide drinks for members and visitors. The cartridges would be sold and the House Stewards would look after supplies. The machine was free and the minimum order of cassettes would be £245 over 12 months and the sale of just that minimum amount would make a profit in the region of £1K. One subscription renewal date was suggested instead of various renewals throughout the year, which would make for easier administration. There was to be a fund-raising sale of 'Posh Frocks' and it was hoped that this would be a major event. A manual visitors' counter was now in operation and there was a total of 948 visitors in August. A drawing competition 'Drawn to Henry Rice' would be held as part of the National Big Draw Week. Prizes were being sponsored by Kivells. Each drawing had

to feature only one of the numbered categories or a part of one. The categories included The Guildhall, Goldworthy's Shop, The New Museum, Barclays Bank, the Fountain monument, Lloyds TSB Bank, Liskeard Methodist Church, Rosedean Surgery, and some private houses.

Unfortunately there had been a complaint as to how places in the House were allocated on the occasion of the then Prince Charles' visit. It was explained that originally the Chair had been told that no-one could be in the House prior to his arrival, on the grounds of security. A few days before the visit the rules had changed and security did agree that a few people could be allowed in the Hall. There had been no time for wide consultation or discussion.

..... to be continued .....

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



### St Cuby's Well

Due to the tiny space in which to work, on July 5<sup>th</sup> just two members of Liskeard Old Cornwall Society, at the request of the local Church Warden, visited St Cuby's Well in Duloe to give it a long overdue tidy up. St Cuby was born in Cornwall in the fifth century AD, trained for the priesthood in Ireland, and established churches in Wales and Cornwall. The inner chamber of the Well is of ancient date and the steps down into the water appear to mark it as a baptismal well. Writing in 1894 the Quiller-Couch sisters made no mention of a well-house, so the present one is thought to

be a later addition. They do, however, mention the local tradition that dire misfortune would fall upon any person attempting to remove the stone basin which was carved with griffin and fish. In fact, they tell of how 'a ruthless fellow once went with a team of oxen for the purpose of removing the basin; on reaching the spot one of the oxen fell down dead, which so alarmed the man that he desisted from the attempt'. Despite this, due to the cutting of a new road, the stone basin was removed to nearby St Cuby's Church, where it can still be seen today. The Well is protected by a Grade II listing; the entrance chamber and its bench have evidence of plug and feather granite splitting, so must be from the 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The inner chamber is 2m square with steps down to a trough, with walls of rebuilt and mortared rubble.

*A direct link with Stuart House is hard to find this time, but we do have the 'secret passage' reputed to extend to Liskeard's Pipe Well, and we are a Grade II\* listed building! (ed.)*



# LISKEARD UNLOCKED 2023

Once again, Stuart House is playing a part in Liskeard's wonderfully co-ordinated approach to the national Heritage Open Days, which this year have the theme 'Creativity Unwrapped'. Not only do we have a special 'Decorative Liskeard – guess where' photographic exhibition, but we shall host the Kingwell Family Art and Craft exhibition. In addition, the architecture of the House and the design and upkeep of the garden fit the 'creativity' theme splendidly.

Friday 15th - Sunday 17th September

## OPEN STUDIOS ARTS TRAIL

Liskeard Market Makers, established in 2021 and reorganised in 2023, exists to promote the brilliant arts and crafts talent of our artists who live in or near to Liskeard. Their developing skills are now wide-ranging and Liskeard Unlocked is the ideal opportunity for our artists to showcase their "creativity unwrapped".

Find our Open Studios at:

**HOMESTEAD**, Looedown, Liskeard PL14 6RD  
(What3Words: dispenser.privately.cheer)

Open 15th - 17th September, 10.00 am - 4.00pm

**WOODHILL STUDIOS**, Woodhill Manor, Liskeard PL14 6RD (What3Words: chained.stealing.meatballs)

Open 15th Sept, 12 noon - 5.00pm;

16th - 17th Sept 10am - 5pm

**LISKEARD MUSEUM**, 1 Pike St, Liskeard PL14 3JE - Open 16th Sept, 10am - 4pm

**DAK ART STUDIO**, The Old Brewery, 23 Bay Tree Hill, Liskeard, PL14 3EE

Open 15th - 17th September, 10am - 4pm

See the separate ARTS TRAIL leaflet for more details about our Open Studios.



Saturday 16th September - 10am - 4pm

## CREATIVE JAM

at Liskerrett Community & Arts Centre 2

- Tasters in a variety of art forms to unwrap Liskeard's creativity! Try something new - from dance, music, art, printmaking, photography and writing workshops linked to our town's heritage.



## ONLINE RESOURCES:

You can also find a self-guided walk around Liskeard; film and talks about local places of interest and history, and **cooking demonstrations** online at the Visit Liskeard website - <https://www.visitliskeard.co.uk>



LISKEARD OLD CORNWALL SOCIETY



LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL  
WOLVERHAMPTON

# Liskeard Unlocked 2023

## LYSKERRYS DIALHWEDH

Friday 8th to Sunday 17th September



This September LISKEARD UNLOCKED will again be sharing the town's stories - with walks, talks, displays and the chance to see behind doors which are usually closed. The national theme for Heritage Open Days this year is **Creativity Unwrapped** and, as well as celebrating past and present creativity, we're giving adults and children opportunities to explore their own creativity.



VISIT LISKEARD  
FOR THE EXPLORER IN YOU

For more details and to book, contact the Liskeard Tourist Information Centre on Pike Street - 01579 349148 email: [tourism@liskeard.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@liskeard.gov.uk) or look online at <http://bit.ly/liskeardunlocked>

@LiskeardTownCouncil and @LiskeardTIC



## Liskeard Unlocked - Friday 8th - Sunday 17th September 2023

**LISKEARD AND DISTRICT MUSEUM 12** - Exhibition celebrating local creators and ever-popular Tremar Pottery. Weekdays: 10am - 4pm; Sat. 9th: 10am - 1pm; Sat. 16th: 10am - 4pm Make air dry pottery and watch a display from a local potter on how to throw pottery on a wheel. Saturday 16th 10.30am - 3.30pm:

Monday 4th - Saturday 16th September

Stuart House 8

**DECORATIVE LISKEARD - GUESS WHERE?** - Exhibition of photographs of decorative details of Liskeard's buildings with clues to help identify them. I-spy Trail map. Also Kingwell Family Art and Craft sale in the Gallery. 9.30am - 3.30pm, not Wed. or Sun.

Friday 8th September

Public Hall, West Street 4

**J.K. BROAD B.W.S. (Artist & Recorder of Life in Liskeard)** - An illustrated talk by Brian Oldham of the Old Cornwall Society on the life and works John Kerkin Broad (1869-1947), a member of the British Watercolour Society and recorder of a lifetime in Liskeard. 2.30pm

Friday 8th - Saturday 16th Sept. **Church of Impact (formerly Greenbank Community Ch)** 10

**CHURCH OF IMPACT** - View this historic building, one of the first of many Methodist Chapels designed by Henry Rice. Opened for worship in 1838, now being lovingly restored as an Assemblies of God Church, Church of Impact. Chat with the current Pastors and leadership team. 1pm - 4pm (Closed Sun, but open for Worship 10.30am-12.30pm)

Friday 8th - Sunday 17th September Each end of Fore St 15 & on The Parade 5

**FRAME THE TOWN** - look out for bright pink empty frames which you can hold up and look through. The frames help us look at buildings or decorative details with fresh eyes. If you like the view, take a photo and post on social media #LiskeardUnlocked daylight hours

Saturday 9th September

**THE PIPE WELL 14** - See the Pipewell with the gates open to view the lovely stonework and the water source. Hosts will tell visitors about the building and the slate tank where the spring water is channelled. 10am - 1pm

**THE MASONIC HALL 6**

Awaiting details

**WESTBOURNE HOUSE 1** - A rare chance to view the progress of creating high-tech offices while preserving architectural features in a Georgian building. 12.30pm - 4pm Tours at 1pm, History talk at 2pm, final building tour at 3pm

**OPEN CHURCH & DISPLAYS** - The Catholic Church of Our Lady & St Neot 3 will be open with displays including hand-embroidered vestments and church plate, there will be light refreshments too. 10am - 3pm

**LISKEARD LIBRARY 7** - **LOCAL COMMUNITY FIRST PEEK** - Join us on a tour of the library whilst it's being refurbished. Be one of the first to see inside before its official opening! 11am - 2pm **BOOKING ESSENTIAL** - Details on Visit Liskeard event page

**LOCAL PRODUCE MARKET** - in the new covered events space in the former Cattle Market 9 with a selection of local food and drinks; also stalls selling arts & crafts produced by local artists and a local artisan quarter. 10am - 3pm

**THE WORKSHED OPEN DAY** - for this new high tech working space in the former Cattle Market 9 12 noon - 2pm

**TREWITHAN HOUSE 11 & Have a go at Hand-bell Ringing** - A privately-owned Victorian family residence undergoing major restoration. Experienced hand-bell ringers will offer advice and invite visitors to have a go. 1pm - 4pm

## Saturday 9th September (Continued)

**TOURS OF THE GUILDHALL 13** - Constructed in 1858, the Grade 2\* Guildhall consists of a 'loggia': the ground floor occupied by local shops and a hall, and office and balcony on the first floor, formerly used as Council Offices and Magistrates Court. 2pm - 4pm

**Booking essential. 12 people per tour only; book via the Tourist Information Centre.**

Booking opens 18th August 10am, 7th September 12 noon

Saturday 9th September; Mon 18th Sept & Tues 19th Liskerrett Centre 8

**MOOR TO SEA - CELEBRATING THE VALLEY: Continuity & Change from Moor to Sea** - From the industrial history of Moorswater to the natural environments of the Looe Valley, this exhibition celebrates the spaces in between the moor and sea and tells the story of continuity and change in the valley over the last 200 years. 10am - 4pm

Sunday 10th September

**UNCOVERING THE ARTISTIC ARCHITECTURE OF LISKEARD** - A 2 hour (but only 2 mile) guided circular stroll with Calum Beeson around the town centre, viewing and learning about examples of the artistic features on Liskeard buildings. 2pm - 4pm

**Booking essential (opens 18th Aug. 10am, closes 7th Sept. 12 noon) via the Tourist Information Centre**

Tuesday 12th September

Public Hall, West Street 4

**MUSIC IN ART** (Liskeard Arts Talk - FREE for Liskeard Unlocked) - Talk by Sophie Matthews, who will show ancient instruments depicted in period paintings and then play the replicas she has made herself, to show the sounds they originally made. 7.00pm Talk starts 7.30pm

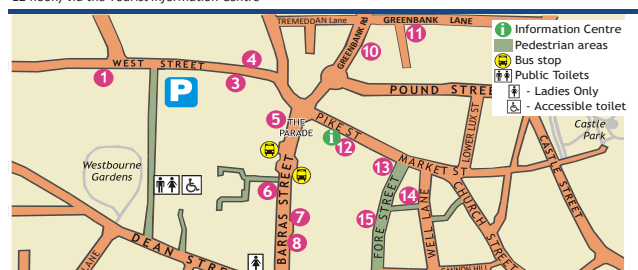
Saturday 16th September

**ST MARTIN'S CHURCH AND BELLS 17** - Explore St Martin's Church, see the history behind the building and how it has been a place of Christian worship for over 800 years, you can even have a go at ringing one of the bells. 10am - 2pm

**Moor to Sea - Celebrating the Valley... POETRY JAM** - open mic night at the Liskerrett Centre 2 for people to share words and music inspired by Liskeard & the valley. 7 - 9.30pm

Sunday 17th September

**WHERE LISKEARD ARTISANS AND ARTISTS HONED THEIR SKILLS IN DAYS GONE BY** - A 2 hour (but only 2 mile) guided circular stroll around Liskeard town centre, stopping at the premises of the many who earned their living from their own skills, and hearing a little of their history. 2pm - 4pm - **Booking essential** (opens: 18th Aug 10am, closes: 15th Sept 12 noon) via the Tourist Information Centre



# Diary of Events

August 2023



continues until at least 10 <sup>th</sup>	Book sale in the Jane Room ( <i>see p.2</i> )
continues until 5 <sup>th</sup>	Liskeard Young Artists Exhibition ( <i>see p.2</i> )
Tuesdays 1st & 15 <sup>th</sup>	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4.30pm.
every Thursday	Craft Club: all welcome 12 noon to 3pm.
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Art Exhibition by Matt Thomas P.A. ( <i>see p.3</i> )
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Beames, Hampton & Littlewood. 10am. to 12 noon
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4 to 6.30pm.
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> to Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup>	'Herbs Revisited' : an exhibition focusing on the wonderful range of herbs ( <i>see p.3</i> )
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup>	HOUSE CLOSED for Bank Holiday
<b>Coming in September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kingwell Family Arts and craft exhibition (<i>see p.3</i>)</li> <li>• Decorative Liskeard – Guess Where? Photographic exhibition for Liskeard Unlocked (<i>see pp.3 &amp; 7</i>)</li> <li>• Celebrating the Valley (Liskeard to Looe local history project)</li> </ul>

*The House, Garden, Old Kitchen Café and (check first) Computer Research Facility are open*

*9.30am – 3.30pm on Monday Tuesday, Thursday and Friday*

*9.30am – 12.30pm on Saturday when possible*

*(occasional Wednesdays 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 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)