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Stuart House Trust, Charity No. 1175842

Newsletter

June 2023



South-east Our Cornwall Member Parliament. Sheryll Murray, and her husband Bob Davidson were welcome visitors the to Coronation Exhibition in the Max Lock Gallery (see p.2).

Two pigeons taking a bath in the fountain.



Thanks to Coodes Solicitors

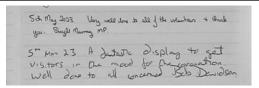
The Trustees wish to record their thanks to Coodes Solicitors. Not only have they sponsored the copying of this newsletter for upwards of 20 years, and continue to act as the Trust's Honorary Solicitors, but they also made a generous donation for the expenses of the Coronation Exhibition. Jean and Jenny are pleased to report that they have surplus funds which they will put towards expenses of a future exhibition.



THE PAST MONTH: the Coronation Exhibitions

Unforeseen circumstances meant that a couple of events planned for May could not take place, but the **Coronation Exhibitions "From a Boy to a King' and 'Crowns and Coronets'** continued, drawing in interested visitors with several returning more than once. We thank Jean and Jenny for their work in mounting this exhibition and Coodes for their sponsorship. The local visitors included our M.P. Sheryll Murray and her husband (see p.1).







Memories from the Minutes (and some observations) from Hon. Sec. Sue Glencross.

At the 12th June 2002 meeting a revolutionary suggestion was made regarding the distribution of the newsletter and the stewards were asked to compile a list of electronic addresses for that purpose. (How things have changed -although on the downside I am disappointed that so many copies of the newsletter have to be printed for circulation. Clearly in some cases Friends do not have access to email and the Trust would not for one moment consider not making hard copies available to those who need them BUT it would be appreciated if those Friends who can receive the



newsletter by electronic means would indicate that fact to Sioux. We really do need to save those trees!). All House keys (which had previously been held at Taylors' Garage) would now be retrieved and a key would be allocated by the house stewards to any hirer needing one. I had managed to press-gang my son-in-law Andrew White to act as honorary accountant to the Trust and he would audit the current year's accounts. The success of the Royal visit was reviewed, and the

photograph taken would be displayed in a frame. The artists who had exhibited – Tony Currell, his daughter Sarah, and Linda Lyford were thanked. John Rapson's photographs of past Royal visits and Dave Schoolings' photos of architecture in Liskeard had been exhibited. The stewards were thanked for putting the House in good order, as was Jane Wood for flowers. Tony, Gail, and Gail's son had made the garden immaculate for the big day. A letter of thanks had been sent to Lady Mary Holborrow and to Jeremy Harvey of Coodes for sponsoring the exhibition preview the previous Saturday night.

EVENTS COMING IN JUNE



BOOK SALE: Monday 26th June – 1st July Mark Simmons returns for another sale of books – his own, and many more.



Stuart House is an active member of the South East Cornwall Museums' Forum, who are holding their 6th Grand Family and Local History Day in the Public Hall on 17th June.

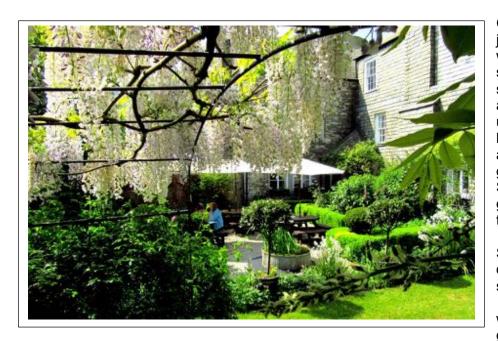
SUMMER ART & CRAFT SALE

June 26th – July 15th in the Gallery

Do call into the House and visit the things always on offer - the garden, the café, the shop in the Surgery (unless it hosts an exhibition or sale), the King's Room with the story of the House, and the permanent exhibitions on the top floor - our region in the English Civil War, the 'Tudor Room' and the Rowse Room with the exhibition of Henry Rice buildings Liskeard and photos. and books to browse.



June's Thoughts from our Garden's Overseer



Good heavens. iust as I was wondering how seedlings of ash, sycamore, ragwort and many more unwanted plants had unexpectedly appeared in the gravel paths of the Stuart House garden, I heard that the Royal Horticultural Society had declared that we should all be encouraging weeds into gardens to benefit

wildlife. Indeed, four of the twelve show gardens at this year's Chelsea Flower Show are given over to celebrating brambles, nettles, thistles, teasels and other tormentors.

These plants are now being declared "weed heroes". In fact, we are told no longer even to use the term "weed".

Somehow I don't think this will catch on. A weed is not just a plant in the wrong place, but one that is difficult to control. Weeds multiply effortlessly by scattering seeds with wild abandon and/or developing invasive complex root networks, not seen until it is too late. I feel that the bad ones take great delight in forever laughing at us as they undermine our best gardening efforts. Many people took up gardening in the Lockdown, but it is reported that their enthusiasm was quickly sapped by pest attack (especially slugs), the need for constant watering in hot summer weather, and the battle against weeds that silently suffocated their flower and vegetable seedlings.



A quick study of the paths and areas under the tables revealed forty-three different species attempting to establish themselves. Many are the usual culprits: bittercress galore, speedwells, oxalis, groundsel, thistles, sticky winding cleaver, docks, nettles,



willow-herb, brambles, dandelions, as well as grasses, ferns and primroses. These latter two I usually carefully remove and plant in a nursery bed until they are bigger. The lawn is easily invaded too by dandelions and purple Prunella (*left*). Daisies (welcomed) appear magically out of thin air; and primrose seedlings have no problem getting started there either. In the borders, there's no controlling the dreadful bindweed and alkanet (*above*). The latter has seductively blue flowers just like forget-me-nots, but the plant is stronger and much more determined. It has a long taproot that will regrow from the smallest piece, and the borage-like leaves and stems are completely covered with very sharp bristle hairs that readily stick into one's skin, are hugely irritative and can be difficult to remove. It seeds itself everywhere crazily and packets are still sold. Just don't!

All these plants compete with each other and with the plants we try to cultivate, fighting for space, water and nutrients. Yes, they are true survivors, greening the world, creating humus when they die so that eventually forests can be established. I do marvel at the many plants that grow so prolifically in cracks everywhere: they highlight how fragile and transient is our urban landscape. However, I prefer it not to happen in the Stuart House garden.

We have been advised, too, not to mow lawns so frequently. May was designated a no-mow month: see what wild flowers spring up to surprise us. Yet a formal garden such as ours needs the lawn to look well-cared for, with edges neat and straight in order to create a sense of order, peace and tranquility. So we'll keep mowing.



As for the paths, we'll remove and save any unexpected plants that look interesting, which include seedlings from garden plants such as foxgloves and Libertia (see photo). However, it's simply impossible to constantly weed by hand. Even hoeing is problematic because soil under the gravel is easily exposed, and of course buried weed seeds are grateful for that. The old adage "one year's seeds is seven year's weeds" is only partly true – some seeds lie there for very much longer. Foxglove seeds can be dormant for centuries, being one of the first to germinate if a forest is felled. Plants are ever-ready

to keep the Planet covered in a living green mantle should unexpected environmental changes or even major catastrophes occur.

Jeff and I have only a few hours a week to spend keeping the garden colourful, neat and tidy. Constantly having to spend time battling plants that simply want to create their own weedy wilderness is very tiresome. So I'm afraid we weed-kill the paths, there's no other practical way. I don't think the pollinating insects miss out because the garden is usually full of other flowering plants. Studies have shown that most such creatures make a beeline for anything going, even flowers from other parts of the world - which most of those we all commonly grow are.





Jeff and I are also in the process of repairing the pond against the library wall. It has been cleaned out thoroughly again, bitumen mastic has been pushed into all the cracks we can find, and Jeff has been busy sealing the inside surfaces with bitumen paint – several coats will be needed. The library walls, like most of the stone used in buildings around the town, is the easily fragmented sedimentary sandstone called Cornish shillet, which can be very porous when

The garden is currently looking exceptionally verdant and welcoming, helped on by the

April and May rains. The wisteria, clematis, snowball tree, tree peony and Libertia are all now in flower. The bluebells in the lawn edge beds came and went very quickly this year, overwhelmed by the very rapid growth of the cranesbill germaniums which for the next three months should be flowering profusely. These always draw a grateful host of flying insects.

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.

William Hotten Ham Huddy (1886-1968)



the Mayor Choosing Ceremony held in the Public Hall on Thursday May 18th I was asked by the current Mayor of Liskeard, Simon Cassidy, to say a few words about the last three times consecutive Mayor. Mr William Hotten Huddy. Ham Huddy, of Ham &

Huddy in Fore Street, was Mayor in 1942, 1943 & 1944 and a shorter version of my talk follows.

In 1906, aged only 20, he was awarded the Bronze Medal at the 70th exhibition of the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society for a chiming grandfather clock, the judges 'commented favourably on the revival of an old industry'. Later that year Huddy gained an Honours Certificate from the British Horological Institute for making an eightbell quarter-chime grandfather clock.



As a Fellow of the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers, he was given Freedom of the City of London on July

18th 1911, still aged only 25. Documents confirming both of these honours can be seen in the Liskeard & District Museum in Pike Street.

Before his marriage to Ellen Mathison of Chelsea, on July 30th 1913, and settling at 5 Dean Terrace, Huddy had spent all his life living above the family business at 19 Fore Street. In 1911 he shared the flat with both his parents, three siblings and a grandmother. He and his father both gave their occupation as 'Watchmaker, Jeweller and Optician' in that census. In later years Ham & Huddy also had a shop at 4 Wolborough Street, Newton Abbot.

As Mayor of Liskeard during the dark days of WWII, Huddy sat on several committees, including the Liskeard Borough Invasion Committee. The Mayoress, who was always referred to in the press as Mrs W.H.H. Huddy, lightened her husband's load by taking on the less pressing Mayoral engagements: opening the Trewidland Chapel Fete, the Red Cross Victory Garden Show, the Trelawney W.I. Group Spring Meeting and the Dobwalls Fruit, Flower & Vegetable Show, which included judging the 'Best Ankle Competition' (very racey for that time).

Away from business and civic commitments Huddy's overriding passion was philately. He was a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society and a member of several local societies. In 1960, as a guest speaker of the Taunton Stamp Club, he displayed over sixty sheets of Russian stamps from his own extensive collection. His host described him as 'one of the few experts of Russian philately in this country today'.

We can find some Stuart House links with this story!

During the years of the Second World War, the House was part of Truscott's Garage, which also covered the area now owned by Wetherspoons. Before the by-pass was built, the House was on the main road through Liskeard which had several garages, petrol stations and car sale-rooms.

There are a couple of grandfather clocks in the House.

Our Chairman, Bob Hollingdale is a keen philatelist – some of his collection was on display at our recent Coronation Exhibitions, and we remember with awe the exhibition of over 7,000 stamps from his collection last summer.

Diary of Events

June 2023



every Thursday	Craft Club: all welcome 12 noon to 3pm.
Sunday 4 th	llow Splann in concert. 2.30pm. (see p.3)
Tuesdays 6 th & 20 th	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4.30 pm.
Tuesday 6 th	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnes, Hampton & Littlewood. 10am. to 12 noon
Saturday 17 th	In the Public Hall, the South East Cornwall Museums' Forum's 6th Grand Family History and Local History Day. Stuart House has a table there (see p.3).
Monday 19 th	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4 to 6.30pm.
Monday 26 th to Saturday July 15 th	Art and Craft Summer Sale in the Max Lock Gallery
Monday 26 th to Saturday 1 st July	Mark Simmons' Book Sale (see p.3)
Coming in July	 Art & Craft Sale continues Fake & Fortune 10th 1.30-3.30 Adult Education Art & Craft Exhibition 17th -22nd)



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), <u>before</u> 25th of the month for inclusion in the next newsletter. Leave with Sioux in the Office or email to rachelpbennett59@gmail.com