

# Newsletter

*June 2023*



Our South-east Cornwall Member of Parliament, Sheryll Murray, and her husband Bob Davidson were welcome visitors to the 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. Sheryl Murray and her husband (see p.1).



5th May 2023 Very well done to all of the volunteers + thank you. Sheryl Murray MP.  
5th May 23 A fantastic display to get visitors in the mood for the coronation. Well done to all concerned Seb Davidson



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

At the 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

*to be continued*



## EVENTS COMING IN JUNE

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2.30pm  
in the historic setting of  
Stuart House, Liskeard



Ilow Splann

(‘bright, beautiful, splendid music’)

will perform music from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>  
century on recorders and spinet,  
their own arrangements of  
Cornish Folk music,  
and their own original compositions on  
guitar and violin.

Entrance £7,  
including tea, coffee and cake

### South East Cornwall Museums Forum In our 6<sup>th</sup> year **Grand Family History & Local History Day** **Saturday 17th June 2023**

Would you like to know more about your ancestry, how they  
lived, where they lived, what they did for a living.  
What was their house like, what did they earn. What was  
life like in their village or town. **FIND OUT-VISIT US**

**10.0am - 3.0pm**

**Liskeard Public Hall, West Street, Liskeard**  
**Here to help you**

Liskeard Old Cornwall Society	Cornwall Family History Soc.
Commonwealth War Graves	Saltash Heritage Museum
Commission	Old Guildhall & Gaol Looe
Lostwithiel Museum	Callington Heritage Centre
Milestone Society	Elliotts Store, Saltash
Cornwall Association of Local	Stuart House - Liskeard
Historians	Torpoint Archives
Lawrence House Museum	Bodmin Keep
Emily Hobhouse	Cornwall online Parish Clerks
Saltash U3a Genealogy	Lostwithiel U3a Genealogy

**FREE ENTRY** **All day refreshments**

Further info - 01752847800

**BOOK SALE: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> Grand Family and Local  
History Day in the Public Hall on 17<sup>th</sup> June.

## **SUMMER ART & CRAFT SALE**     **June 26<sup>th</sup> – July 15<sup>th</sup> 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  
all 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 in  
Liskeard and photos.  
and books to browse.





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



Good heavens, just 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 our 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. Its seeds itself everywhere crazy 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 tranquillity. 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 bee-line 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 wet.

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)**



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 70<sup>th</sup> 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 eight-bell quarter-chime grandfather clock.



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

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

Before his marriage to Ellen Mathison of Chelsea, on July 30<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup>	Ilow Splann in concert. 2.30pm. (see p.3)
Tuesdays 6 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup>	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4.30 pm.
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnese, Hampton & Littlewood. 10am. to 12 noon
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>	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 <sup>th</sup>	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4 to 6.30pm.
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Art and Craft Summer Sale in the Max Lock Gallery
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Mark Simmons' Book Sale (see p.3)
<b>Coming in July</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art &amp; Craft Sale continues</li> <li>• Fake &amp; Fortune 10<sup>th</sup> 1.30-3.30</li> <li>• Adult Education Art &amp; Craft Exhibition 17<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>)</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)