

Newsletter

October 2023



Town Criers assembled in the garden on 23rd September for their 2023 competition. They plan to return in 2025. Liskeard's Jenny and Chris Smirthwaite are 4th and 5th from the left.

(photograph by Malcolm Mort, also see p.3).

Stuart House also hosted a lunch in the garden for the Quimperle town-twinning group on Saturday 16th September, which was the second week-end of 'Liskeard Unlocked' (see p.3).



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INVITATION REMINDER

from our Chairman, Bob Hollingdale:

Monday 16th October 6pm

The Trustees would very much like to give Friends the opportunity to meet them and hear about plans for the future, and to have a chance to ask questions in general about the running of the House.

Hence this invitation to join the Trustees in the House immediately after their monthly meeting on Monday 16th October at 6pm for an informal gathering with tea and cakes.

We hope you will be able to join us!

If possible, please let Sioux know in advance for catering purposes.



Leaflet sponsored by Coodes Solicitors
Honorary Solicitors to Stuart House Trust

EVENTS IN THE PAST MONTH



The Kingwell Family Art and Craft exhibition 4th to 16th September was a great success as always, with many visitors old and new, and we thank Alan, Mags and Amber for all that they produced and for being present to make visitors welcome and to explain creative processes. Some items have since been moved downstairs to the Surgery Shop for sale.



The 'Decorative Liskeard – guess where?' exhibition run by Rachel Bennett was part of the 'Liskeard Unlocked' event beginning on 4th September and continuing after 16th. Comments in the Visitors' Book showed enjoyment and some surprise, and lots of copies of the associated Town Trail 'I Spy' were taken.



‘Celebrating the Valley : Change and Continuity Moor to Sea was in the gallery on 18th and 19th September. There was fascinating information about the valley from Moorswater to Looe and oral history to hear, with Project manager Stephen Horscroft and others present to explain more about what has been done and is planned, including the Moorswater Trail and other creative and community links.

Details of the project can be found on moortosea.org.uk

For a while on the Monday, Ilow Splann (Carlton Crouch and Maggie Willmott) provided evocative music too.



In September, Stuart House hosted two significant events in the garden. We thank House-Manager Sioux for all her work in making this possible. Sioux writes about them here



On Saturday 16th we were honoured to host a Civic Reception for Liskeard's Mayor and his counterpart and party from Quimperle.

The weather was kind with rain holding off for most of the afternoon, so the 30+ were able to use the garden without having to cram into the cafe. They seemed to enjoy the day and it will go some way to re igniting the twinning of our towns.



We were pleased to host the Town Criers' competition on Saturday 23rd. Again, the garden was a resplendent backdrop for this wonderful occasion and the weather held out for us. Once the competition was over and prizes awarded, it was upstairs for warming soup with speciality breads and salad, cheeseboard and cold meats, followed by two stunning vegan friendly cakes and fruit salad.

(see also p.1)



Above is the splendid spread which Sioux produced for the Town Criers and supporters, who came from as far as Calne in Wiltshire, although most were Cornish. (ed.)

October's Thoughts from our Garden's Overseer



What to do with a large pile of mostly rotting apples? Last year, despite the long hot summer drought, the Bramley apple tree in the far corner of the Stuart House garden produced a massive crop of fine apples; no rot or codling moth damage (the moth grub that gets inside and makes such a mess). They were large and perfect, and were sold or used in the kitchen. This year's crop is very different though. The tree has again

produced numerous fruit, but they are smaller, have fallen off earlier, and most have patches of damaged, rotting skin. This condition is called brown rot which is especially prevalent if the summer weather is warm and damp – just as we had throughout July and August. Several fungi cause this, and there's nothing to be done about it really. Commercially, fruit trees are sprayed with chemicals several times in the growing season, but home gardeners cannot do this. (I recommend taking off the peel from shop-bought fruit and throwing it away to avoid eating the many chemical residues.) Nearly all of the Stuart House fruit this year has therefore ended up in the green waste bins. In any case, it's never a good idea to leave fallen fruit, whether diseased or not, lying around as it attracts wasps, mice and rats. Excess windfalls (but not rotten fruit) can be gathered and buried in large hole if you have space. I've never found composting to work - those rats again. So it's best to send or take them to the big green waste skip at the recycling tip.



This summer's weather has been excellent for the rest of the garden, though. Everything has grown abundantly. The cranesbill geraniums in the lawn borders, cut right back at the end of July, quickly and vigorously sprouted up again, creating dense attractive edging. The pink and white Japanese anemones always make a totally reliable appearance in early autumn, as do the clumps of yellow dahlias which have now become firmly established – they look just right rising above the cranesbill leaves. The dahlia tubers remained in the ground all winter, surviving the frosts; and although getting severely nibbled by slugs and snails earlier in the summer they rapidly shoot up and overpower them by August.



The Rosa lutea rambler roses around the rear porch and trellis arch have also grown wildly, throwing out very long arching stems far and wide. The bay trees, too, have proved rather difficult to keep under control. If one is ever tempted to grow one at home, don't plant it in the garden as it will become completely ungovernable. However, it won't mind spending its life in a largish pot. Bays are very drought resistant, but if pot grown give an occasional feed in the growing season.

Also wild and totally out of control this year is bindweed. It's twisting around everything: through all the shrubs, roses, and thoroughly smothering the clematis. If any dear reader would like the summertime (volunteer) post of Bindweed Remover, I'd be very grateful



The first weeks of October are the ideal time to sow sweet peas for early blooms next year. We've tried many times to grow them at Stuart House but always fail because of the slaughtering they get by the snail armies that emerge at night when no-one is about. However, if you'd like to try them at home, soak the seed overnight in tepid water, then scatter into a seed tray. Keep in a cool sheltered place outside, and during November transfer the seedlings to 3" pots (two plants in each). Some people use special long root trainers or cardboard loo roll tubes, but pots work well too.

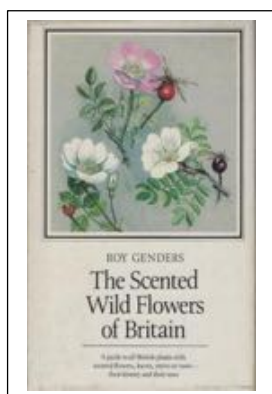
Keep them over the winter in a cold frame, cold greenhouse, or even under a plastic storage container – they are very tough. Pinch out the stems in January, then plant out in March. Sweet peas like rich moist soil and cooler locations. Other hardy annuals can be treated in the same way. There's just time, too, to sow winter lettuce, leaf beet, rocket and mizuna in a cold greenhouse for winter salad leaves. *Malcolm Mort*



Malcolm took all the garden photographs except the 'snail army'-eaten flag!

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

Marjorie Netta Blamey M.B.E. (1918-2019)



Marjorie Blamey grew up on the Isle of Wight and, after WWII, ran a dairy farm with her husband Phillip near Liskeard for 20 years. She had previously trained as an actress, then as a photographer, but eventually, in 1965, retired from farming to concentrate on her passion for painting birds and wild flowers. Exhibitions of her work were displayed in the Liskeard Public Hall, at her studio in East Looe, the Athenaeum Theatre Lounge in Plymouth, the Royal Cornwall Museum in Truro, and the Cornwall Garden Society.



Marjorie was awarded the M.B.E. in 2007 for her illustrations in two books published by Collins, selling over one million copies: 'The Scented Wild Flowers of Britain' by Roy Genders in 1971 and 'Wild Flowers of Britain and Ireland' by Richard and Alistair Fitter in 2003. Her reputation across Europe was as 'the finest living botanical illustrator'

Her half page obituary in the Cornish Times on September 13th 2019 was headed 'Artist Marjorie dies at 101', and added that she was awarded three gold medals by the Royal Horticultural Society, and two by the Alpine Garden Society.

EVENTS COMING IN OCTOBER



Liskeard and District Camera Club return for another exhibition in the Gallery

2nd to 7th October



BACK IN THE FIELD AGAIN!

16th – 20th October

Phillippa Hodge, mixed media artist from Launceston, had taken a break from painting but is now returning with some new creations!

Having lived in Cornwall for 14 years, the natural beauty of the county's landscape and her love of people and animals has become fundamental in all of her work.

Phillippa has shown her work in Bideford, Tavistock and Truro and is a member of the Grattons Art Group.

She greatly admires a local artist, Jacquie Perkins, who has given her the confidence to share her work.

Come Aboard Me



Hearties!

All about Pirates and Smuggling in Cornwall

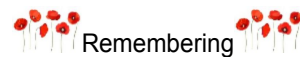


A bit of fun during half term for all ages

Monday 23rd, Tuesday 24th, Thursday 26th, Friday 27th October

Treasure Hunt, Pirate Joke competition, Games,
Face Painting, Photo Board and more!

More details coming soon.



Remembering

WWII: The Home Front



Find out about how Cornwall coped during the war
with:

Bombing

Evacuees

Rationing

Dig for Victory and more



Exhibition runs from October 30th till November 11th

MORE EVENTS IN OCTOBER



Monday 30th October to Saturday 11th
November

MATT THOMAS

returns to Stuart House's Max Lock
Gallery with more of his colourful,
original works.

This is not a public event but reminds us that Stuart House acts as an Arts and Heritage Centre in many different ways.

Tim Norman writes:

'Local playwright Tim Norman, a long-term supporter of Stuart House, will be using the Jane Room in early October to meet with Renske Mann, author of *The Girl in the Green Jumper: My Life with artist Cyril Mann*. Tim is currently writing a stage adaptation of the autobiography which focusses on Renske's life with the London figurative artist. He hopes the tranquil setting of Stuart House will prove a beautiful backdrop to develop the first draft alongside Renske and Penny Norman. He has fond memories of curating the 2018 Shakespeare exhibition in the Jane Room and is excited to return to such a precious venue.'

House-Manager Sioux writes:

Pet Portraits by Betsy Bragger!

Betsy does stunning animal portraits and would like to raise funds for Stuart House. £15 for a pastel portrait supplied with a mount and wrapped in cellophane, with £10 to Stuart House funds. What a generous offer. I look forward to seeing the various animal portraits as they arrive.

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

The November 2002 minutes confirmed the success of the Henry Rice Drawing competition which had attracted over 70 entries, and thanks were recorded to George Vaughan-Ellis for the many hours he devoted to the project.

The Lions Club had agreed to allow us to borrow the stage extension for the 'Gala Jubilee Concert' in response for which they asked to be allowed to hold their craft fayre at Stuart House on the occasion of St Matthews Fair (this was approved). The Lions Club were also willing to erect and dismantle the stage extension.

October visitor numbers were 859.

to be continued

Note: September's 'Liskeard Unlocked' event, using the national Heritage Open Days' 2023 theme of 'Creativity Unwrapped', involved many references to Henry Rice and his architecture and we sold several copies of the *Album of his buildings in Liskeard*. (ed.)





The new kneeler, currently on display beside the bed in the Tudor Room on the top floor, was made by Linda Losty and Sioux Dunster.

Diary of Events

October 2023



Monday 2 nd to Saturday 7 th	Liskeard Camera Club Exhibition in the Gallery	
Tuesdays 3 rd & 17 th	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4.30 pm.	
every Thursday	Craft Club: all welcome 12 noon to 3pm (Rowse Room)	
Monday 9 th	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4 to 6.30pm.	
Monday 16 th to Saturday 20 th	Art Exhibition 'Back in the Field Again' by Phillippa Hodge in the Gallery (see p.6)	
Tuesday 17 th	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnes, Hampton & Littlewood. 10am. to 12 noon	
Monday 23 rd to Friday 27 th	Come Aboard Me Hearties': a pirates and smuggling event for half term in the Gallery (see p.6)	
Monday 30 th to Saturday 11 th November	Remembering World War II: The Home Front Exhibition in the Jane Room (see p.6)	
Mon. 30 th to Sat. 11 th November	Art Exhibition by Matt Thomas in the Gallery (see p.7)	
Coming in November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Textiles Exhibition. 14th – 18th • Christmas Fair from 27th November 	

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
(and 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 25th of the month for inclusion in the next newsletter. Leave with Sioux in the Office or email to rachelpbennett59@gmail.com