

March 2015

Stuart House A.G.M.

Message from Sue Glencross,
Hon. Sec.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on 16th March 2015 at 7:30 p.m. We would like as many members as possible to be present. If you are not able to attend, apologies please to Sioux in the office and she will relay them to me before the meeting commences.

Part of the business to be conducted at the meeting will be the election of Trustees for the coming year. Most of the current Trustees have agreed to make themselves available for re-election. We will be very sorry indeed to see Tony Wood stand down but know that he will remain steadfastly in the background where we can seek his wise counsel when needed.

In view of the fact that our Constitution permits us to have 12 Trustees, if any member would like to nominate an individual for election to our merry little band, then please let Sioux know. Obviously it has to be on the basis that the individual concerned would consent to act if elected! On a similar vein a member may like to put himself or herself forward for election.



On Thursday 19th February, members and friends of the Stuart House, Trust, The British Legion and the Morcom family gathered to mark the dedication of a clay poppy from the 2014 *Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red* installation at the Tower of London, to the memory of Frank Morcom. He and his family lived in Stuart House in the early 20th Century and Frank, a volunteer for service in the First World War, was killed in action on 8th May 1917.

Tony Wood (2nd right above), gave a short talk on the context of his initiative and expressed his gratitude to Tony Ball (right above) for his painstaking research, and to the Morcom family.

The poppy, photograph and information will be on permanent display in Stuart House.

Café News

We are so sorry to be losing, for different reasons, three of our regular café volunteers, but we so hope to see them again in Stuart House whenever possible.

John Batey and **Peter Maslen** have formed a wonderful Thursday Team, sometimes moving into their 'Java Five' roles and entertaining customers with song. John was Chairman of the Stuart House Trust when the café moved, thanks to his vision and drive, into a different gear altogether, with longer hours and staffed entirely by volunteers. He – and Peter too – have done so much else for the House too over the years, which will be acknowledged much more fully.

Sioux writes that we have been very lucky over the last 18-24 months to have a young lady from Liskeard School and Community College volunteering in our cafe on Saturday mornings. **Hannah Graham** came on board initially to help her with her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award for 12 months. At the end of her award she asked if she could stay with us, at which point we bit her hand off! She has proved to be a great ray of sunshine and it has been lovely to see her blossom over this time. I think all who have been in on a Saturday morning have enjoyed the quiet way she went about her duties with her ever-ready smile. Sadly time moves on, and Hannah is setting her sights on University for the autumn and is leaving us to join the new B+M store to help fund this as much as she can. I would like to thank her for all the effort she has put in, and I am sure you will all join me, in wishing her every success in her chosen path. I hope she will keep in contact and keep us up to date on her progress.

HOWEVER - we will still have a young volunteer. Towards the end of 2014 **Erin Kearns** joined our merry band. Many of you who were at our New Year 'bash' in January will have met Erin then, and I am pleased to say she would like to remain with us, so welcome on board Erin - we hope you enjoy your time with us as much as we enjoy your company.



As always, we remind members and supporters of Stuart House that we welcome volunteers, most obviously in the café but for other roles too (such as stewarding) – please contact Sioux if you think you may be interested.

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Remember that Stuart House is part of the dynamic **Caradon Heritage Partnership** which is the legacy group formed from the Caradon Hill Area Heritage Project (CHAHP) which concluded early last year. Consult their website at <http://chp.caradon.org.uk> for details of the organization and of all sorts of different local events run by the different member groups.

SOUTH WALL REPAIRS – ongoing news

Again, we express our great gratitude to the SITA Cornwall Trust through the Landfill Communities Fund for their Funding Boost of £10,000.

As our Chairman, Bruce Hawken, explained in the last Newsletter, this,

together with small grants and expressions of support from Cornwall Councillors, the Town Council and Town Forum and the £21,000 from our insurance, enables us to undertake the vital repair and prevention of further deterioration work on the South Wall and also the King's Room floor.

Some preparatory work will begin on March 16th, but the major work has to wait until all danger of frost has passed.

We shall, of course, keep members and users of Stuart House informed of progress and of any closure or other disruption to any parts of Stuart House.



Tony Wood's new booklet on the History of Stuart House is selling well. £3.50, available from Stuart House

The Bo Foaks Memorial Walk and Lunch Saturday 4th April

We are pleased to announce our Bo Foaks Memorial Walk and Lunch. This year come and join us on a circular walk leaving Stuart House, Barras Street, Liskeard at 10am on Saturday 4th April (Easter Saturday) in remembrance of Bo Foaks, who generously supported the Trust. This will be circular walk which will take in Ladye Park, Moorswater, Coombe etc. and was an area Bo was particularly interested in. There will be some very steep ups and downs and it will be muddy, so good walking footwear and suitable clothing will be a must. There will also be an unique opportunity for you to have a light lunch back in Stuart House after the walk (approx. 1pm), but you will need to book this in advance please with Sioux. Call 01579 347347 or email her on: info@stuarthouse.org.uk If you wish to come on the walk, but avoid the trek down and back, please meet us under the A38 overpass in Moorswater at 10:30am, you will though still need good clothing and footwear and need to book your lunch with Sioux please.

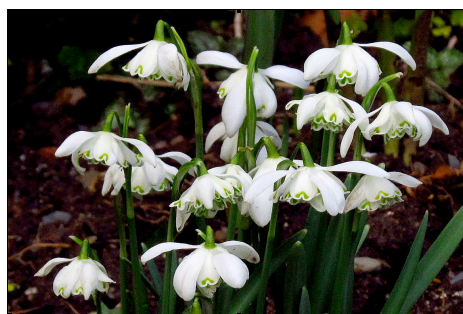


The Garden Report from its Overseer ..

March, and Spring at last. Growing up in Swansea, on March 1st - St David's Day - we had a choice of turning up at school wearing either a leek or daffodil pinned to our chests. I was reminded of this recently on hearing that supermarkets had been told to move cut daffodils away from spring onions in case people get confused and eat the wrong thing (all parts of the daffodil are said to be poisonous). No such warning was given to us Welsh primary school children though: nibbling flower stems never occurred to us. The same news report stated that folk have started to confuse the bulbs of these plant families, a very good example of that strange saying about not knowing your onions.

I have often wondered how people first learned what plants were safe, nutritious, and medicinal to eat, and which were to be avoided at all costs, for example foxglove, nightshade, laburnum. All this was mostly sorted out by Tudor times, no doubt by constant trial and error. So it was interesting to read another recent news story about how very nutritious dahlia tubers are: they can be used as a substitute for potatoes, whether steamed, boiled, mashed or roasted. Dahlias came to this country from Central America as a food crop (they were a staple crop of the Aztecs), but the Elizabethans preferred to grow them for their flowers.

Life in the Middle Ages must have been a miserable affair in many ways: constant hard graft and daily doses of dastardly deeds. However, one of the more positive outcomes of the dissolution of the monasteries was that much of the land they owned (one sixth of the kingdom) passed to the gentry and monied middle classes. It was during this time, too, that international trade and exploration were bringing back seeds and cuttings from all over the world, and a wide selection of plants became available, with flower and vegetable gardens taking on separate identities. Apparently this was when the first gardening craze started, which no doubt included such conversations as: "Darling, shall we try one of those new knot gardens this year, with some fancy rose arches, and espalier pears?" Many of the flowers that continue to delight us arrived around this time, for example spring crocus, pinks, hyacinth, and Canterbury bells. There is debate about whether the snowdrop was imported. It grows naturally in Southern Europe, but some say it is also native in SW England and the Welsh borders. It is the reliable appearance of the snowdrop, of course, that is often taken as the first real harbinger of Spring: those at Stuart House are up and flowering: faithful, delicate, and as beautiful as ever.



On a related native / non-native theme, the monthly weed is Speedwell - the one with the tiny, innocent-looking, blue flowers. There are actually several (mostly annual) species of this pest, which all look very similar: Common, Germander, Field (only here since 1820 from Asia), Thyme-leaved, and Slender (from the Caucasus). It's hard to tell them apart, but they all have the same basic attribute: they rampage absolutely everywhere, delighting in overwhelming one's precious seedlings and young plants.

The band of keen Stuart House volunteer gardeners met recently and eagerly drew up a long list of tasks for the start of the growing season. The healing garden near the shed will be combined with the herb garden, and the space vacated planted with flowers, thus surrounding the seating area in colour. The climbing roses and jasmine have been tamed (for now), and new gravel on the paths gives the garden a fresh

and bright look: thank you, Tony. Thanks also to John Batey who has mowed the lawn for the last fifteen years, and has now handed over this merry task to others.

There was animated discussion on the possibility of providing bird nesting boxes, and a new plant stand. Donated plants are always welcome but need to be good quality, potted properly, labelled and priced. Thanks to everyone who has donated tools – these are greatly appreciated. (A couple more long handled hoes would be welcomed.)

March Topical Garden Tip: it's time to tidy and get ready to grow. Mend what needs mending, clear coldframes, wash greenhouses, sort pots and trays, get in seeds and labels, and buy a plastic box with lid for keeping seeds – adding cardboard dividers inside makes categorising easy. Modern primroses have become too gaudy for my liking, but the viola varieties now available are wonderful. The look good when grouped together in a largish bowl outside, and would, I'm sure, have greatly appealed to Elizabethan gardeners.

Malcolm Mort



Remember that we are trying to raise funds for replacing some of the garden furniture. Many thanks for all donations received so far.

Nancy Briggs and Val Moore are organizing a 'Plants and Books' sale in the week beginning Monday 2nd to raise money for this. Plant donations and purchasers WELCOME!

PAST TIMES (see the introduction in the last Newsletter ...)

Hon. Sec. Sue Glencross's notes from the minutes of the first meeting of 2002 (9th January) – 13 years ago - there have been so many changes since....

The first meeting of 2002 took place on 9th January. Draft accounts for the year ended 31st December 2001 were produced and the Trustees were delighted to see that coffee room receipts (for the entire year!) amounted to what was then perceived to be the magnificent sum of £1295. Expenses (purchases of coffee, sugar & milk) amounted to £253, the net surplus therefore amounting to just over £1,000.

The coffee room was 'members' only' and was only opened on a Saturday morning, being manned by volunteers. It takes no great mathematician to work out that net coffee receipts were £20 a week. In November 2001 a revolutionary decision had been made – and that was to offer filter coffee at forthcoming supper clubs, which had to be paid for if required. Instant coffee, however, would be provided free of charge.

The coffee room was, however, available for hire to other organisations so that they could fund-raise – e.g. Liskeard Old Cornwall, Save the Children.

Sunday 22nd March, 2.30pm at Stuart House.

ALISON SMITH, CLASSICAL GUITAR

Plymouth born Alison Smith has been described as one of the most exciting and lyrical guitarists to emerge in recent years and we are thrilled to welcome her to Stuart House.

In 1995 Alison graduated with honours from Trinity College of Music, London. She was awarded the Grace Wylie Thesis Prize, a college scholarship and a scholarship from the Mary Datchelor Trust to enable her to pursue her Post-Graduate studies. She studied the Guitar with Gilbert Biberian and Nicola Hall and Piano with Raymond Banning.

Alison taught guitar and coached chamber music at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (now The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland) from 2002-2008 and has recently been appointed Plymouth University Classical Guitar tutor for the BAHons music course.

She delights audiences with her fluid technique and expressive playing, performing nationwide and in Europe at a wide range of prestigious venues and guitar festivals. Her CD Album titled *Recuerdos* has been highly successful and she has just released a new exciting Album titled *Incandescent*. Alison

recently signed a contract with Launch Music International Ltd for both CDs to be taken on for physical and digital distribution worldwide. She will include some music from these in the Stuart House concert, where composers will include Bach, Giuliani, Mertz, Tarrega, Ryan and Lovelady.

www.alisonsmithguitar.com



Tickets £7 from Stuart House include complimentary tea and biscuits and the opportunity to meet Alison after the concert.

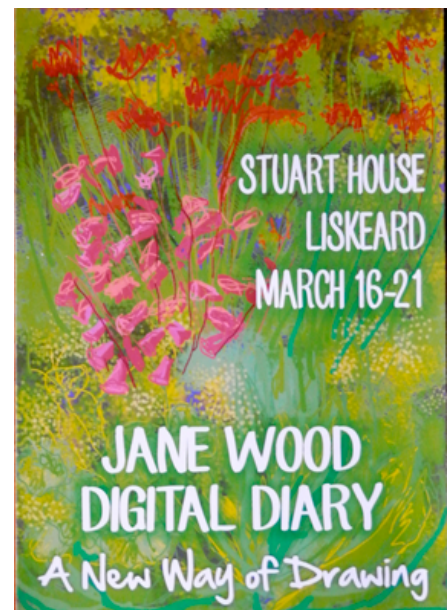
**JANE WOOD.
DIGITAL DIARY.**

A new way of drawing. March 16 -21

Jane Wood's forthcoming exhibition in the Gallery will be devoted to an interest she has been pursuing ever since she became the "unsure" owner of an iPad in 2011!

With an ingenious App called Brushes, it is possible to draw directly on to the touch screen of the tablet. Jane has used this medium as her sketchbook for the past year or so. She has then had some of these images printed for display; some of them have been made into cards. The show records a random series of images that have taken her eye: seasons, places, events and a few people.

Some of you may have seen David Hockney's use of this new medium in his blockbuster exhibition at the Royal Academy in 2012 " A Bigger Picture ". This was the starting point for this "new way of drawing" for Jane and the golden wedding gift of an iPad from her 3 sons was an inspired one!



This pikeman now guards the entrance to the Trussed Room ...

... behind which is the studio where Stuart House Artist in Residence **Linda Maynard** works and teaches. Visitors are very welcome, and we look forward to future exhibitions.



... wherein is a door ...



The new pikeman's creator, Tony Piper, notes that this pike is 12 feet long – but still 4 feet shorter than standard.

Other concerts in the Stuart House Spring Series

26th April : Gareth Lee and Annie Baylis – Cornish Folk Duo

21st June : Jonathan Lewsey and Jonathan Delbridge – voice and piano, performing Schubert's *Winterreise*.

The Summer and Autumn Series concerts will be on

July 19th
September 27th
October 18th
November 22ⁿ

Some other news in brief.....

Thanks to Victor Briggs for painting the front door in 'House Blue' – the garden door will be done soon too.

The Liskeard Poetry Group who meet in the House on the second Monday of the month is changing its name to reflect the fact that although it meets in Liskeard, it welcomes people from a wider area.

Knit n' Knatter (some of the regulars seen right) extend their welcome each Thursday.



Diary of Events

March 2015



ALL MONTH	Do call into the House to revisit the permanent exhibitions including the Henry Rice exhibition on the top floor. Why not investigate the Research Suite there too? And do you know where our Artist in Residence is based? (see p.7)
Every Thursday	Knit n' Knatter 10.30am – 1.30pm
Monday 2 nd to Saturday 7 th	Plants and Books Sale with Nancy and Val. (see p.5) Plant donations welcome.
Monday 9 th – Saturday 14 th	Arts and Crafts exhibition and sale with Vanessa Nutbean
Monday 9 th	Liskeard Poetry Group meet in the cafe
Monday 16 th	Stuart House A.G.M. 7.30pm. (see p.1)
Monday 16 th – Saturday 21 st	Digital Diary : a New Way of Drawing. Exhibition in the Max Lock Gallery by Jane Wood. See p.6
Monday 16 th – Saturday 21 st	Easter 'Eggstravaganza' : craft sale with Nancy and David
Sunday 22 nd	Concert in the Gallery 2.30 pm. Tickets £7 from the House. Alison Smith, renowned classical guitarist. (see p.6) Tea and biscuits and opportunity to meet Alison afterwards.
Monday 23 rd – Saturday 4 th April	Stuart House Arts, Crafts and Gift Shop will open for two weeks leading up to Easter Saturday
Coming in APRIL	Much more, including the Gareth Lee and Annie Bayliss concert (see p.7) and the Bo Foaks Walk and Lunch (see p.3)

The House, Garden, Old Kitchen Café and Computer Research Suite are open 9.30 am – 3.0 pm each weekday and until 12.30 pm (Café 12 noon) on Saturdays. The House is open at these times for all events unless stated otherwise. The Office is open every weekday until at least 2 pm.

Articles, information, notices and photographs for the Stuart House Newsletter to the editor (who must reserve the right to edit as necessary) please, by 25th of the month for inclusion in the next newsletter. Leave with Sioux in the Office or email to rachelpbennett59@gmail.com

STERTS STUDIO in March



STERTS
THEATRE



Play Writing Workshop.

Saturday 7th March 10.30-4.00pm

Caryl Churchill, Graham Linehan and Amy Rosenthal will have their work featured at Sterts this summer. This workshop could be the first step to joining them?

The session will be led by Simon Parker, playwright, novelist and journalist with Jenny Cole, driving force behind Sterts One Act Play Competition supporting him. There will only be 12 places offered. Fee is £15. Lunch can be booked for £5 extra. Fee includes entry to the 2015 Sterts One Act Play Competition.

Sterts Studio. For more details or to book a place
www.sterts.co.uk or phone 01579 362382

Writer's Workshop

Ever fancied turning your hand to play writing? Do you have an idea or even half a play that you need help developing? If so this is the chance for you. The fee for this workshop will include a free entry to the Sterts One Act Play Competition 2015.

Saturday 7th March Sterts Studio. 10.30 – 4.00pm.

Tickets £15 or £20 to include buffet lunch.



The Autumn of Han - Red dragonfly & Grist to the Mill Production.

The Autumn of Han

Red Dragonfly and Grist to the Mill.

After being sent to the Palace of Han, to be viewed as a concubine in the court of Emperor Yuan, Zhao Jun refuses to bribe the greedy minister Mao Yanshao, who retorts by cruelly altering her portrait. A tragic tale of love and corruption in the Imperial Court.

Supported by Venue Cornwall.

14th March 7.30pm. Sterts Studio.

Tickets £8.00/6.00

Harper's Bizarre & Con Brio Date: **Sat 28th March 2015 7.30pm**

Harper's Bizarre perform pieces especially arranged for up to eight harps. **Con Brio** are the cream of Cornish acapella groups.

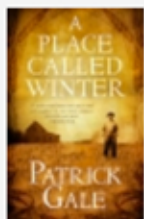
Come and join them for an evening of Music and Song.



ADVANCE NOTICE

Saturday 4th April 6.30pm

Patrick Gale talks about his new novel
"A PLACE CALLED WINTER"



For more information www.sterts.co.uk e.mail office2@stertsarts.org or 01579 362382

For café bookings book online or call Sally on 07866292414

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