

Newsletter

April 2022



The magnolia dominates the garden in March-April. Although now in the grounds of Wetherspoons next door, when it was planted it was in Stuart House's garden, which extended over that land.



Great to see the café so busy after 3.30pm on Tuesday 22nd! See p.2



The Ancient Egyptians are coming to Stuart House. See p.3



Leaflet Sponsored by Coodes
 Honorary Solicitors to Stuart House Trust

EVENTS OVER THE PAST MONTH

ART and CRAFT SALE



The Spring Craft Fair, originally planned for the Gallery, has instead been in the Surgery. Sales have been steady and we look forward to this continuing until Friday 22nd April.



Ivybridge U3A had a tour round Liskeard on 22nd March with Brian Oldham (in front of the notice board, left), ending with tea at Stuart House (the garden was a bit too chilly!) where the ed. gave them a 10 minute gallop through the House's history

The Cornwall Museums' Development Officer, Steph Clemens, was shown round the House in March by the ed. It was her first visit and she really liked it and the way it is presented, with a lack of ropes and barriers. We look forward to her suggestions about the best ways for further development.

News from House Manager Sioux

I hope you have all had your sun cream out this last week or so. The weather has been gorgeous, and it has been a joy to see the garden here being used by customers with their drink and cakes. Let's hope the sun is here for a little while. With Easter just around the corner we will be reintroducing our Cream Teas to the menu.

Our Easter Art Crafts and Gift shop will now continue to be open until Friday 22nd April and there will be more to follow during the year. Many thanks to all the volunteer stewards – do please get in touch if there are more volunteers!

The Liskeard Old Cornwall Society will be exhibiting in the Jane Room for the Platinum Jubilee from Monday 30th May to Saturday 11th June. The Stuart House Craft Group (Thursdays, all welcome) have been knitting away, and we will have a very unusual Tea Party!! We look forward to what promises to be, an informative, fun exhibition.

We're really looking forward to the Ancient Egyptians Exhibition in April, and thank organisers Jean and Jenny so much for taking on the House's website and social media roles too.

EVENTS COMING IN APRIL and LATER



Ancient Egyptians Coming to Stuart House

Monday April 4th – Saturday April 23rd

Open From 9.30 – 3.30

Closed Wednesdays, Good Friday and Easter Monday

An exhibition that explains simply everything you need to know about mummies and pyramids, gods and pharaohs and much, much more.

Free entry. Come and enjoy.



Egyptian Craft Sessions

Thursday 14th and Thursday 21st April

10.30 to 12.30

for children aged 7-11 years

£2.50 and includes a drink and a biscuit

Parents can take the opportunity to look around Stuart House and Garden and visit the café for homemade cakes.

Limited places available so please book to guarantee a place at Reception or by phone: 01579 347347

THE EASTER CRAFT SHOP

in the SURGERY

CONTINUES

until Friday 22nd April

South East Cornwall Museums Forum
In our 5th year - present our

Grand Family History & Local History Day

Liskeard Public Hall
West Street, Liskeard
Saturday 18th June 2022
Welcome 10.0am - 3.00pm

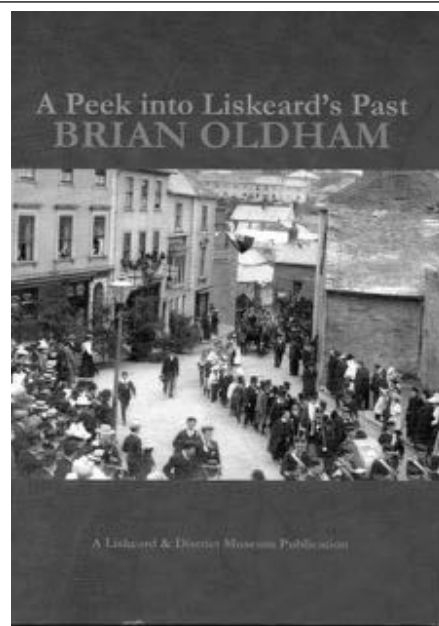
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	Saltash Heritage Museum & Local History Centre
Cornwall Family History Society	Saltash U3a Genealogy
Liskeard & District Museum	Callington Archives
Old Cornwall Society	Old Guildhall & Gaol East Looe
National Maritime Museum	Cornwall online Parish Clerks
The Bartlett	Torpoint Archives
Lawrence House, Launceston	Devon Family History Society
Linkinhorne History & Community Archive	Elliot's Store T.P.S. Saltash
Lostwithiel Museum	Lostwithiel U3a, Local History Group
Stuart House, Liskeard	

FREE Day - open to all

NAAF CANTEN
Home made refreshments
Info - 01752 847300

Stuart House will again have a table at the Grand Family and Local History Day, which returns after an enforced two-year break. It is organised by the South East Cornwall Museums Forum, of which Stuart House is an active member.

If anyone could help with setting up and 'manning' the table, please contact the ed.



Saturday 9th April 9.30am to 12.30pm in the Surgery: one day only pop-up exhibition

Liskeard Old Cornwall Society will be displaying an array of photographs of old Liskeard and District. from the OCS archive.

The exhibition, entitled 'A Peek into Liskeard's Past' will complement a book signing morning by local author and President of Liskeard OCS, Brian Oldham. His recently launched book, also entitled 'A Peek into Liskeard's Past', contains forty true stories of the struggles and successes of some of Liskeard's little-known residents, with over eighty images.

The book is available in the Stuart House shop for £9.99, helping to raise funds towards the running of the House, and Brian will be available to discuss the background to the stories and sign your copy. The garden and café will be open on the day, with the added attraction of the Easter Craft Fair.

April's Thoughts from our Garden's Overseer



In last month's garden article, the rival colour schemes for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee were discussed: should flower combinations be lilac and silver, or red, white and blue? But how unimportant such thoughts now seem when set against the horrors in Ukraine. So perhaps the flower choice this summer should also feature sky blue and golden yellow, in recognition of the two broad bands of these colours making up the Ukrainian flag of independence. Blue symbolises the wide open skies of the

Ukrainian steppe, portraying a sense of freedom and calm. Yellow represents the golden summer grasslands, the ripening wheat, and the vibrant, joyful, sunflower fields. Throughout history, sunflowers have been used as a symbol of peace, unity and hope.

In the Stuart House garden, we could have two large matching pots featuring blue and yellow. Suitable plants would need to be long-flowering and about the same height. Sky blue Lobelia together with short-stemmed yellow Calendula or French marigold would suit. Growing sunflowers in our garden is tricky because they are so readily eaten by slugs and snails. Therefore we will try growing them in pots using grease bands to stop the molluscs from climbing up, together with pieces of bramble stems laid around the base of the plants. This method worked fairly well, with sweet peas last year. It's probably best to grow the newer, shorter, sunflower cultivars, which have multi-branching flower stems and a longer flowering period than the more usual tall sort – though we might have a couple of those as well trained against the wall. Seeds for all these will be started off at the beginning of April.



In my researches, I discovered that two other plants favoured in Ukrainian folklore also grow at Stuart House. The first is Vinca, the periwinkle. I've mentioned this in recent newsletters because its tangled mats of rooting stems have gained a fierce hold on the left-hand front garden bed. In Ukraine it is favoured for the way its leaves survive the harshest of winters and under deep snow. It is therefore seen as a symbol of hope, of love and of the immortal soul. Periwinkle's strong, long, creeping vines are woven into hair, and its blue flowers placed on the top of wedding cakes.

The second is Viburnum, a symbol of home. This is a genus of plants which are also extremely tough and hardy. Evergreen Viburnum tinus grows in our front garden along with the Vinca, and has flowers in all months of the year that contain the letter 'r'. It is happy growing in any soil or in a pot, never complaining. It can be kept dwarf or left to grow into a tall bush. The species favoured in Ukraine is Viburnum opulus, the snowball tree or Guelder rose. When a son became an adult and left home, his mother would bless him with sprig of Viburnum. At Stuart House this sort grows in the rear garden against the library wall, on the left of the wall pond. In Eastern Europe it is also known as the European Cranberry, although it is not related to the cranberry we know. However, it does produce masses of red berries, and the seeds inside are said to be heart shaped. This must be investigated!



The winter colour of the Stuart House Garden is comfortingly green, composed of a mixture of plants that include holly, spotted laurel, bay, box, golden privet, camellia, and conifers. And as soon as February arrives, leaves of bluebells, hardy geraniums and montbretia quickly show through. The weather this past winter has been relatively mild, thus favouring the ever-expanding clump of Bears Breeches (*Acanthus mollis*): there is already a dense jungle of large glossy leaves. Two other smaller clumps have appeared in the garden in the last few years, spread there, no doubt, via seed. This summer all seed heads that appear will be gathered, so if anyone would like some to grow a plant of their own from seed, then please do ask. Like many perennials, it's probably best to sow the seeds as soon as they ripen, before they go into hibernation mode.

Only a very few roses keep their leaves in winter, these being old-type ramblers. The vigorous (and gladly thornless) *Rosa banksiae* which grows around the porch entrance to the rear garden is one of these. A rooted cutting of this planted three years ago alongside the metal arch near the office window has romped away, sending out many shoots to the top of the structure. Jeff has interwoven these into the framework struts to replace the jasmine that met its end at the hands of the bitter Siberian "Beast from the East" in Spring, 2018.

The large magnolia that dominates the end of the garden isn't evergreen. However, throughout winter its branches carry a massed collection of soft, fur-clad flower buds that reliably burst open in mid-March, clothing the tree for three to four weeks in warm pink blossom. This adds hugely to the sense of peace and serenity in the Stuart House garden, and is especially welcome in these traumatic times.

Malcolm Mort



A poppy appearing in the front rose bed (left) and Tete a Tete daffodils and Crescendo polyanthus (right). All photos. by Malcolm.



The return of the
STUART HOUSE GARDEN CLUB



Friday 22nd April
11am to 1pm
all welcome



Contact Val Moore 01579 228518 or via the House

The Coved Room Stitchery

Readers will have been aware of this new venture. Here Gaby explains the idea and how the room has been created. She is usually in the House every day it is open (except Saturday), so do drop in and see how she might be able to help.

I have been stitching for most of my life and have worked in theatres, sewing studios and ran a sewing room from home for several years. Although my approach to life is informal and relaxed my sewing work and all that it entails must be executed to the highest possible standard that I can achieve

I can advise you on all your sewing project problems, from putting in a zip to teaching you how to make a roman blind or a hand-made curtain heading. If you fancy revamping an old jumper by reshaping and adding beads, trims or applique, making a patchwork quilt, a bag, a pair of trousers, an evening dress or just a simple top I can help you through all the decisions and techniques to help you achieve your goal.

Find "The Coved Room Stitchery" on Instagram and soon to be on Facebook.

Contact me for prices and for booking sessions.

Mobile: 07502606080

Email: thecovedroomstitchery@gmail.com

Creating The Coved Room Stitchery

The Coved Room, on the third floor of Stuart House, Liskeard, has had several uses over the years. The last was a studio for the resident artist who gave lessons and where I spent many a happy hour puddling in paint!

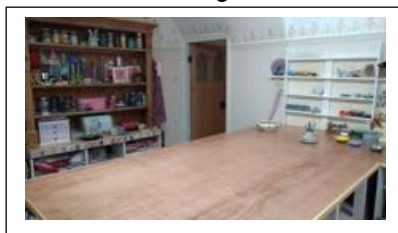
My very dear friend Sioux, the Stuart House manager, helped me clear the room and together we carted the carpet tiles down three flights of stairs. There was about 100 of them, surprisingly heavy and our backs and legs were aching by the end of it!

A few years ago, I found some vintage Laura Ashley wall transfers in a car boot sale. I had no idea at the time what I might use them for but bought the lot. After painting the ceiling and walls I realised I could use them to create a frieze and with a bit of cutting and bodging I had just enough the go round the room. I also gave in to the girlie within and added a lot of twinkles!



My lovely friend Kay lent her husband Simon to help me lay hardboard and the lino for the floor. As it turned out he did most of the work and found my "help" very funny!

I used B&Q kitchen units for the base of the cutting table and 18mm ply for the top, cut to size for me by Richards Builders Merchant, Doublebois. The units were easy enough to put together single handedly, though Sioux helped me turn them over to prevent the legs popping off. Unfortunately, most of the units were damaged as the packaging wasn't up to much. I gave the ply top several coats of varnish and Mum helped me add an edge trim to prevent fabrics snagging on it. Another base unit and ply top make the pressing station. I padded the top with several layers of cotton interlining and made a removable washable cover from layers of cotton sheeting.



Mum and Dad gave me the dresser top which they'd found in the cellar of a house they'd bought years ago, it's moved with them ever since. I love it and it has pride of place in the Stitchery. I want to make a quilt design wall which will roll down from the top of the dresser. Made of a wool suiting fabric with a 10cm grid pattern woven through it, that, once taut, cotton patchwork pieces will stick to it without pins, the grid guidelines making designing a layout easy.



At the far end of the room the boiler is hidden by a fabric covered room divider and I hope to cover another for the opposite corner next to the dresser top to use as a changing room.



I have a sewing studio at home, but its size has prevented me from taking on larger commissions. That's now possible with the advent of the Stitchery.

Memories from the Minutes by Hon. Sec. Sue Glencross

February 2000 continuedThe Chairman and Secretary had attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting about the Celtic Art Exhibition. Louise Kidd was designing a banner for the front of the building. Sue Harris had offered to provide pewter door name plates at a cost of approx. £25 to cover materials and her generosity in providing her time in their manufacture free of charge was recorded. Eileen had designed a new publicity leaflet and the meeting expressed thanks and agreed to obtain 1000 copies at an approximate cost of £70. Concerns had been expressed regarding the use of the House by a particular religious organisation and it was agreed by all present that it was probably undesirable to accommodate any political or religious acts. A trip to the Eden project was scheduled for May. Proposals for the House were considered and prioritised – bed curtains, roping and mattress for the King’s Room; repointing of the south wall and repairing of guttering; display board for the porch.



Contact would be made with various bodies such as Old Cornwall Society and the Town Council suggesting that they put forward representatives for co-option to the Trust’s Council at the AGM. A board listing patrons, sponsors and supporters was proposed and agreed.

On 8th March it was recorded that an order for work to the South Wall had been placed with Peter Andrew. The noticeboard had been ordered and would cost about £90. A list of names for inclusion had been compiled by the Chairman. OCS and Town Council representatives had visited the House. After receipt of all grant moneys the Trust was left with £4,141. The recent concert had made £160. There were only a few art exhibitions in the pipeline. An odd job man was required as there were frequently a number of small jobs to be undertaken about the House. The wall in the toilet would be distempered. Judith Markes had agreed to be nominated to serve on the Council of the Trust.

The April meeting consisted of the AGM which was held on 12th April 2000. It was the 16th AGM of the Trust and the work which had been undertaken during the previous year was reported to those present. It had been a year of change with greater use being made of the House by all sorts of organisations including WEA, and Red Cross. Regular events such as monthly craft sales were being integrated alongside established favourites such as plant sales run by Mr & Mrs Martin. There were regular planned events for the future which included Sunday afternoon recitals. The Trust’s website was fully operational and able to take bookings. Eileen had been busy during the year addressing the Chamber of Commerce, negotiating publicity with magazines and newspapers, and pursuing art and educational grants. Phyllis Head had continued to produce reports for the local press, but some inaccuracies had occurred when they had left her hands and gone to press.

A short-term loan had been taken from the District Council in view of the tardiness of HLF in paying grant funds. Income from subscriptions and rental were up but there were now cleaning and heating bills to balance. New ideas for income were invited. An ideal minimum bank balance would be between £3,500 and £4,000. Eileen Crouch was proposed for Chair and that was agreed unanimously. All those serving as officers and committee members were re-elected with the additional of Judith Markes. Tony Wood would act as temporary secretary. Tony & Jane Wood were afforded a special vote of thanks for the great contribution made to the Trust since its formation.



Malcolm’s photograph taken this March, but the magnolia was there 22 years ago!

to be continued

Diary of Events

April 2022



Continuing to Friday 22 nd	Art and Craft Gift Shop in the Surgery
Monday 4 th to Friday 22 nd	Ancient Egyptians Exhibition (see p.3)
Tuesdays 5 th & 19 th	Liskeard Writers' Group meet 2 – 4.30pm
Thursday 7 th	Fake or Fortune – antiques valuation with Richard Hamm of Bearnes, Hampton & Littlewood. 10am to 12 noon
every Thursday	Craft Club: all welcome 12 noon to 3pm
Saturday 9 th	Book signing and Old Cornwall Society Pop-Up Exhibition (see p.3)
Monday 11 th	Liskeard Poetry Group meet 4 to 6.30pm
Thursdays 14 th and 21 st	Egyptian Craft Sessions 10.30am to 12.30pm (see p.3)
Friday 15 th and Monday 18 th	House shut for Easter week-end
Friday 22 nd	Garden Club 11am to 1pm (see p.5)
Coming in May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the usual events • 16th – 21st t.b.c. - sale raising funds for the House. • 30th to June 11th – Old Cornwall Society Platinum Jubilee Exhibition



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

*9.30am – 3.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
(closed Wednesday and Saturday unless there is a special exhibition or event 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