

In a Nutshell

NEWSLETTER FROM THE FRIENDS OF STANDEN ESTATE:

NUTS ABOUT STANDEN!



No 8 August 2010

In this edition of *In a Nutshell: 2011 Calendar*, getting ourselves known, what's going on in the garden and the woods, livestock news and new committee members.

FOSE Calendar

The 2011 calendar is being printed and will be on sale to all volunteers at £6. It has scenes from Standen appropriate to each month. It is not too soon to be thinking about photos for the 2012 calendar. Photos should be 4 x 3 format & in landscape. Also of a high resolution. Please email any suitable photos to James

Getting ourselves known in East Grinstead

EAST GRINSTEAD MAY FAIR BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 2011

This is another successful annual event that both raises money and attracts new volunteers. In 2010 our stall raised £443.82 from plant sales

Sewing seeds? Pricking out seedlings? Put it in a pot and we can sell it. Best sellers in previous years were veg plants - especially tomatoes and beans.

Know what we are selling. Each pot needs to be labelled, preferably with the variety, even if it looks obvious to you.

Save your **spare carrier bags**. This year we ran out!

EGCVS DROP IN SESSION TO MEET OTHER VOLUNTEERS

East Grinstead Council for Voluntary Services is holding a Drop-In event on Tuesday October 5th, 10am -4pm, in the East Grinstead Museum. It would be good if anyone who lives locally to Standen could drop in.

Two new members for the FOSE Committee

Following the FOSE annual meeting on 13th May, Anthony Fisher and Karen Newman have joined the committee. This maintains representation across all the woods and garden groups. Thanks to Margaret May and Stuart Dickenson who stood down. The rest of the committee are: James Masters (President) Susan Hodgson (Chairman) Elaine Boot (Vice Chairman), Sheila Spencer (Treasurer), Tim Roberson (Secretary), Lynda Goacher, Roy

Page (Garden Group), Keith Rogers (Woods), Carolyn Hibbert (Kitchen Garden), Andrew Hibbert (web site).

What's going on in the garden and the woods

There is always a tendency to think that everyone else's group is more interesting. Nearly every outdoor volunteer has been involved in at least one power half hour at the beginning of the day pulling bracken or clearing ragwort from Jack and Tommy field.

WOODS GROUP

The Badger Hide in Rockinghill Wood is now complete and a fixed ladder installed.

The coppicing in Hollybush and Rockinghill Woods has shown visible results with lots of bluebells and the hazel now beginning to sprout again.

The Barn in Hollybush Wood was up to roof level by the end of April. Tile battens have been bought and tiles have been sorted. The scaffolding is due to be erected on the 6th September and the following week commencing the 13th September work begins to complete the roof.

In the Stable Yard the workshop has a new workbench built and will then undergo a complete tidy-up.

The Tool Trailer is now built and painted and is now ready to be fitted out inside with all of the tools the woods group regularly uses.

The Tea Room has a new insulated ceiling installed as well as storage benches around the room. Outside, the wash area will be refurbished with new worktops, plywood cupboards and a separate sink for hand washing with an array of hand care products in dispensers.

Trudie Jacobs (newly appointed as Assistant Warden) has surveyed each of the woodlands and identified those areas that need immediate action. To date quite a bit of old barbed wire, remains of previous boardwalks, dead branches and brambles overhanging footpaths have been recovered. At the lower pond in Rockinghill Wood the unsafe boardwalk around the edge has been removed along with redundant posts and barbed wire.

The Woods Group visited Nymans, particularly to look at charcoal burning.

NORTH SUSSEX VOLUNTEERS

Main work has been in and around the Plantation, including installing the observation instrument for the weather station. The observations are being relayed to the Stable Yard and will go online. Other work included pollarding trees in Jack and Tommy field.

GARDEN GROUP

With the dry weather watering of recently planted shrubs and trees has been a major activity. The Court Yard garden is a major project involving repairs to the stone work and replanting. As preparation the Group removed all the existing vegetation in the borders, climbing up the walls and along the tops of the walls.

Another major piece of garden restoration is in the Bamboo Garden. So far this has involved clearing overgrown areas, replacing fence posts to keep out the cows, repairing steps and preparatory work on the pond. Over the winter we will be starting to reline the pond and feed in an electricity supply to power a cascade. Some of the group have been working with the propagation team (Elaine and Darielle), and bailing hay for the ponies.

Needless to say planting and weeding is an ongoing activity in all parts of the garden.

KITCHEN GARDEN GROUP

In summer the team is in full harvesting mode. So far £850 has been raised from sales to visitors and the restaurant. The first honey (25 x 450g jars) has been extracted from the hive in the Kitchen Garden.

Kitchen Garden Day was Saturday 14 August. Apart from selling the produce, there was a cookery demonstration, a demonstration showing how to get the best out of composting and a display on bee keeping. All of this attracted a lot of interest. For local press coverage see www.thisissussex.co.uk/eastgrinstead/Edwardian-garden

As part of the garden restoration plan, the cultivated area is being extended. The wall along the car park once marked the northern boundary of the kitchen garden. Gradually it is being cleared of creeper and redundant trees. Starting between the barn and the propagating area we are planting fan trained cherries. The fig trees have been pruned and tied back.

Two polytunnels are to be installed in the area downhill from the existing kitchen garden, one to produce cut flowers for the house and another for propagation.

The Kitchen Garden Group visited West Dean College principally to see their kitchen garden.

Livestock at Standen

BEES

The bee colonies are looking good and creating much interest amongst our visitors. To date we have extracted over 25 pounds of honey from "Lavender", the BBC hive in the kitchen garden, and from "Apple" in the orchard. The other colonies either "Pear" or "Quince" were established late in the season so there will not be any honey available this year.

All of the four colonies have recently been inspected by the local DEFRA Bee inspector, who gave them all a clean bill of health. There is plenty of foraging to satisfy all of the colonies and there is scope for 4 or 5 more hives in the Orchard.

THE PONIES

To provide some home grown winter feed, hay has been cut wherever the grass is suitable and baled with the hand baler made by the woods group from a design on the Internet. With the rocketing price of hay every little helps. All that weed pulling in Jack and Tommy field was for the ponies' benefit.

SHEEP - COMING SOON

Getting a few sheep to graze in the orchard is no longer the simple process it once was.

New volunteer manager at Standen to be appointed

This is a new post to manage ALL volunteers at Standen. More when the appointment has been made.

.. and finally ...Remember you donate to FOSE whenever you shop on line at

www.buy.at/fose

Keep up to date with all the news at www.fose.org.uk

30 August 2010