

In a Nutshell

THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE FRIENDS OF STANDEN ESTATE:

NUTS ABOUT STANDEN!



No 9 March 2011

In this edition of In a Nutshell: a date with the barn opening ceremony, the East Grinstead May Fair, date for the FOSE AGM, edited highlights from the Introductory Talks for volunteers, the 2011 FOSE calendar and Marsh Heritage Awards.

NICHOLAS SOAMES, MP, OPENS THE BARN IN HOLLYBUSH WOOD FRIDAY 13 MAY AT 10:15 - BE THERE!

The Mid-Sussex MP and NT supporter will declare the Barn open at a ceremony starting at 10.15am. Others attending include local councillors, the mayor of East Grinstead, the NT regional chairman, and of course, **YOU**. So come along and show your support. Bring a friend. Any one can come: you don't need to be a woodland volunteer.

GETTING US KNOWN:

EAST GRINSTEAD MAY FAIR BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY

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. ***Each pot needs to be labelled with the variety plus any other helpful description like 'dwarf' or 'likes shade', even if it's obvious to you.*** Quarantine arrangements and lack of space mean that it is difficult to store your plants at Standen. So please bring them to our stall in East Grinstead High Street on the day.

Offers of help on the day are very much appreciated. Contact [James](#), [Susan Hodgson](#), [Carolyn Hibbert](#).

The May Fair is a valuable opportunity to make us known, attract visitors, to interest new volunteers and to raise some money from plant sales.

EAST GRINSTEAD LIFE SHOW SATURDAY 2ND APRIL

This health and well-being event takes place in the Jubilee Hall, Charlwood Road between 10 and 1. All about keeping active so where better than to have a FOSE stall to promote volunteering in the gardens and house at Standen. All are invited to come along and visit the show and support our stall.

STANDEN'S BARN BUILDING TEAM SHORT LISTED FOR MARSH HERITAGE AWARDS, 2011

Every year, together with the Marsh Christian Trust, National Trust recognises the contribution made by volunteer groups or teams and by volunteer managers. These groups and individuals have thought differently about volunteer involvement, inspired others and added value. The 2010 group award was won by the Caribbean Herb Garden team at Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton .

For 2011, the Standen Woods Group Barn Building Team was in a short list of 7 from the 25 entries. The winning nominations were 1st - Purbeck Cider making, 2nd - Rebuilding of the Victorian Greenhouse at Oxburgh Hall and Joint 3rd - Longshaw Kitchen Garden and Seaton Delaval Halls Volunteer Management team. To quote from the award notification "The winning nominations all provided exceptional evidence on how they met the criteria of adding value; making a difference and being an inspiration".

SPREADING THE WORD: STANDEN EVENTS IN 2011:

If you know somewhere where Standen leaflets can be displayed (one of those racks of tourist and other local information in libraries, doctors' surgeries and so on), please take bundle from the box in the stable yard tea room.

Most events are included but look out for additional events not fixed at the time this booklet went to press, www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-standen.

There are also some opportunities for stewarding these events.

FOSE ANNUAL MEETING THURSDAY 12TH MAY AT 19:30 IN THE BARN RESTAURANT

James will review the last year and look forward to the next. Sheila, our treasurer, presents the accounts and you vote for the officers and committee members. Any Other Business provides an opportunity for anyone to raise questions.

We are always looking for new committee members and new ideas for projects and fund raising. We want to make sure that each of our volunteer groups continues to be represented. So don't be surprised if James or one of the committee gives you a nudge. We normally meet in the convivial surroundings of the Old Mill at Dunnings.

STANDEN IN 2011 AND BEYOND: EDITED HIGHLIGHTS FROM INTRODUCTORY TALKS FOR THE 2011 SEASON

2010 saw some significant changes in both in National Trust organisation (Going Local) and how properties are presented to the public. This year the volunteers' talks were followed by a tour of the house to see how visitors were to be made to feel less like spectators and more like guests of the Beales. This is an on-going and evolving process. In the shop, Going Local provides an opportunity to offer something distinctive on the arts and crafts theme and introduce foods and crafts local to the area.

Some of you have been involved with work in the Plantation will open it up for children's activities. Facilities will include rocks to climb on a composting toilet. The new Strawberry Thief Club (named after the William Morris wallpaper) aims to encourage repeat visits.

Looking further ahead, the plan is to open to visitors more parts of the house and also the stable yard. More greenhouse space will allow us to grow more of the plants in the garden and to make some of these available through the shop. For all this to happen the existing offices and shop and the present stable yard activities will need to be relocated. Meanwhile the house is to be re-serviced, ie, re-wired and a new heating system with a biomass boiler.

FOSE CALENDAR 2012

After the success of the first FOSE calendar for 2011, we are already thinking about next year's. We aim to get it printed and on sale earlier. James has some photos in mind. You can view them at <https://picasaweb.google.com/JMGardener/StandenCalendar2012?feat=directlink>. You can then sign in to 'like' particular photos using this link following underneath each photo <Sign in to like this photo>. NB this 'sign in' link may not work on all browsers. For me it worked in Safari but not in Google Chrome. If you have photos to add please e mail them to James.Masters@nationaltrust.org.uk.

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