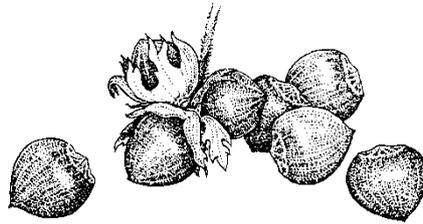


In a Nutshell

THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE FRIENDS OF STANDEN ESTATE:

NUTS ABOUT STANDEN!



No 12 December 2012

In this edition of In a Nutshell:

THE GARDEN RESTORATION

QUARRY GARDEN GRANT

POND RESTORATION IN HOLLYBUSH WOOD

FOSE BIKE RIDE

MESSAGE FROM BLEAU

FOSE BUYS

Restoration program takes off

Having been away for a mere three weeks I was astonished at how much has changed, especially along the drive. First impressions to visitors turning off the West Hoathly Road are being dramatically improved. Cherry trees will be planted, a new noticeboard designed, and Tarmac will be replaced with gravel chips. Kerbstones and white lines will go and there will



be a more rural feel to the property entrance. Already a huge expanse of rock has been exposed, allowing the house and its complementary colours to be seen from the approach. The Beales fell in love with the view from the drive and this was what inspired them to build their home here. Below the rocks the first of the new plants have gone in - five Silver Birch trees which will be under-planted with white winter flowering heather. When planting conditions are suitable the



area beneath the rocks will be worked on ready for spring opening in February. Sandstone walls along the drive are being rebuilt by volunteers and will give way to sandstone edging towards the stable, where Rosa Rugosa will be planted in the raised area adjacent to the stable wall. Volunteers have already planted Hollies in Jack and Tommy Field to screen the car park.

In the garden, channels have been dug for electricity cables, water and drainage pipes to make garden maintenance easier. For example, eventually, power in the Bamboo Garden will enable the pond to be pumped. Dramatic changes are also taking place along Grandfather's Walk. The 'Box Balls' have been dug up and replacement Lime trees have arrived on site, to be planted with a circular bed around the base of each tree. Giving Goose Green a more rural feel, and making it a safer area for pedestrians, will be the next priority.

Fiona Fisher, our Communications and Engagement Officer, will be working closely with the Gardener and Visitor Experience Teams to ensure that progress and plans are shared with visitors, staff, volunteers and the wider community. She is busy transforming the Information Room into a 1920s Gardeners' potting



shed to display news about the Garden Restoration project. She would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to get involved or who has any 1920s garden tools, flowerpots, or gardening books which are no longer required.



Volunteers from all groups are flocking to help with the work, creating new friendships amongst people who've never met before because they've been at Standen on different days. Even those employed by the Trust, whose workload must have increased since the project began, are mucking in. Carolyn Hibbert, Kitchen Gardener, said:

I joined the Garden Restoration Volunteer Group as I wanted to work in other areas of the garden again and be able to say, 'I helped do that!' when talking to people about the garden restoration.

If you haven't yet taken part in a Restoration Volunteer Group session, I urge you to come and join in the fun.

Surprise windfall for Quarry Garden

Susan Hodgson, FoSE Chair, and Ben Dale, the House Manager, were invited to speak about Standen at the Mid-Sussex National Trust Supporters' Group meeting recently. Every year properties have the opportunity to add an item to a National Trust 'Wish List' and the supporter groups can then choose to donate money towards something from this list. It has been a while since Standen received a grant, so Susan was surprised and very pleased to be told that the property had been awarded £1,000 for the Quarry Garden. As she had been busy in the Quarry Garden that very morning, she was able to include an update on it in her speech.

James Masters was also surprised, as he put the Quarry Garden on his wish list well before he got to work on the garden restoration plans. However, he, Susan and Nick Delves have decided to use this windfall to buy some interesting and exotic ferns. When the Quarry Garden was created, ferns - from various countries including New Zealand - were a real feature and one of which Margaret Beale was very proud. Nick is hoping to buy some tree ferns, although they can be very expensive, as much as £300 a time. Susan said:

When the ferns are planted in the spring, I'll certainly invite the Mid-Sussex group to the garden and we can think about what else James can put on the list!

Pond Restoration and Gate-craft in Hollybush Wood

As undergrowth and overgrown trees and shrubs have been cleared by the Woodland Volunteers it is apparent that in fact there are two ponds and a poorly drained hollow, which can be developed into a lower pond with dipping platform, a second shallow pond and a natural woodland bog garden. An eleven foot Standen-pattern, softwood, five-bar gate has been constructed and fitted just below the lower car park, and work has started on re-fencing the woodland using sweet chestnut cut as part of the winter coppicing programme. During the next few months work will continue to complete the fencing, construct a smaller 'Standen'-style gate - this time in oak - build the dipping platform and a bridge to allow public access over the small stream. If you are walking in Hollybush Wood please feel free to visit and check on progress.

FoSE Bike Ride

If you are a keen cyclist, you may be interested in a charity bike ride Andrew Hibbert is thinking of organising sometime early in Autumn 2013. The aim is for a limited number of cyclists to ride a circuit of something over 100 miles which takes in several National Trust properties in the area. The route is on disused railway lines wherever possible, but would include some road riding. As well as participants, such a scheme would also need a number of 'helpers' in a variety of roles. If you think you might be interested, in any capacity, please contact Andrew at support@fose.org.uk

Message from Bleau

Looking back over the past few months since I started my role as Assistant Administrator/Volunteer Champion, I cannot believe how fast the time has gone, how much I have learnt and the many great things we have all achieved at Standen. When volunteering for Standen before joining the team of staff back in March, I knew very little about FoSE and the extent to which our volunteers help us especially within the garden and woods. Since meeting Susan Hodgson this year and getting to know more of the outdoor team, my eyes have become wide open to the fantastic work volunteers undertake and all the achievements that have taken place. Hollybush Wood barn for instance is an inspiring and magical place to be in and a great resource to be used for years to come. I feel it is really important for all volunteers to be aware of the variety of roles we have on offer at Standen and how they and FoSE help us achieve the great things that make Standen what it is. As a FoSE member now, I intend to encourage all volunteers to find out more and get involved. As I continue my role into 2013 I hope to meet more of the team and join in on work you are doing in the garden, woods and garden restoration.

FoSE Buys

The Friends of Standen Estate spend the money they raise in a variety of ways. This year Nick has received Sweet Pea seeds while Elaine Boote has had Pelargonium plants and a variety of other seeds. Up-to-date gardening books (and bookplates) which can be used by anyone in the garden team, have been bought, along with tools storage boxes and a variety of bits and pieces for the workshop - again to everyone's benefit. The Woods Group has received knives and chisels, timber for the gate into Hollybush Wood, and for handrails, along with wood and fixings for extending the Boardwalk.

Obviously, we need to keep the money coming in. One way to achieve this is by doing your Christmas - or any other online shopping - through *Spend and Raise*. You can do this simply by going to: <http://www.spendandraise.com/fose/> . If you know which shop you want to buy from, click on the **Retailer A-Z** tab. In addition, FoSE Christmas Cards are on sale in the Tea Room and committee members will happily take your money for these. If you have any photos of Standen suitable for a Spring set of cards or for next year's calendar, please send these to support@fose.org.uk . James has put a selection of second-hand books for sale in the Tea Room. Do have a look; there are some real bargains.

Don't forget to visit our FoSE website periodically at <http://www.fose.org.uk/>



*...and finally, the committee would like to wish
all volunteers and staff
a very happy Christmas*