

In a Nutshell

THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE FRIENDS OF STANDEN ESTATE:

NUTS ABOUT STANDEN!



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In this edition of In a Nutshell:

THE GARDEN RESTORATION PROJECT

THE WOODLAND POND

WEST HOATHLY SCHOOL VISITS STANDEN

Standen Garden Restoration Project is now underway!

Finally, after six years of planning, endless raised expectations and dashed hopes, and months of being chained to a desk completing paperwork when he'd rather have been digging, James has finally received a definitive 'yes' regarding the Garden Restoration.

Almost half a million pounds has been allocated to Standen's garden over the next 4½ years, finishing in February 2017. **This will be one of the biggest projects in the whole of The National Trust** and garden staff and volunteers will all be working very hard for the next 54 months to bring it to fruition.

Virtually every part of the garden is covered by the project, the only exceptions being the bottom half of the original kitchen garden and the secret pond. The work has been phased to give a constant stream of new projects and finished areas that can be shown off. Before the end of February 2013 electricity will be installed around the garden, and work needs to be completed on the Drive, Goose Green (including the tea garden) and Grandfather's Walk. Being an eternal optimist, James has begun some of this work already, but now, with the official go-ahead we can really make a start!

The aim of the project is to restore the layout and quality of the garden as it was in the 1920's whilst allowing for some new plants and planting, hopefully much as Margaret Beale would have done had she still been here. Paths, steps

and the bamboo garden pond will be restored; walls will be rebuilt; edges reinstated, and drains and irrigation improved.

If you want to find out more, there will be leaflets available to help keep people informed, but more importantly the information room next to the restaurant will soon be transformed into a **Garden Restoration Display** room. The website will also be updated regularly to show progress.

During October James will be producing some detailed information on the phasing of the project, which he will ensure everyone has access to. All volunteers and volunteer groups will be involved in the restoration to a greater or lesser extent. He asks:

'If anyone would like to be more involved in any way, be it with physical work on the ground, or helping with the interpretation, please do get in touch with me: james.masters@nationaltrust.org.uk and I will let you know what you can do!

Let's get busy!

I get a feeling that purchases of *Muscle Soak* are about to go up for staff and volunteers alike.

It is a tribute to James' creativity, hard work, tenaciousness, vision and ability to keep his cool while jumping through endless hoops that Standen has finally been awarded this prestigious project. Congratulations and well done, James!

FoSE to fund woodland pond restoration



Between the lower orchard in the garden at Standen and the field where the picnic tables are, is a strip of woodland that runs into Hollybush Wood. At the upper edge of the trees, the stream that runs through Hollybush Wood starts, either as a spring or underground seepage from the Secret Pond. At some time the stream was dammed, a pond formed and an ornamental metal fence placed around

it. Over the years this area has fallen into a state of disrepair, but if restored it would be a delight and would create a special place and safe haven for wetland flora and fauna.

Matthew from the High Weald Unit visited Standen to inspect the area and with his encouragement FoSE has applied for a grant from them to buy

materials to re-fence the area, and to build two gates for access from the lower car-park. We also want to build a dipping platform on the edge of the pond for local schools to use.



As we keep being told, money is tight, and even if we are successful FoSE will only get 50% of what is needed. There is some money in the kitty, so this is a plea to continue to support FoSE by buying calendars and cards. Christmas cards, from a new set of beautiful photos, are about to go to print and will be ready for sale before long.

Susan is happy to arrange a couple of visits to this area, so if you are interested in seeing it please email her at Susanhodgson16@aol.com

West Hoathly School visits Standen

The entire West Hoathly school population spent the day at Standen on Tuesday 25th September and gave every indication of enjoying every minute. James had spent hours organising the visit to ensure that every child had a stimulating and educational day. Each child planted daffodil bulbs in the car park garden (clever move, James) and a hyacinth bulb in a pot to take home. They heard stories of plant collector Earnest "Chinese" Wilson and became plant hunters themselves around the garden. They looked at artefacts found in the pump house, did woodland art work in the barn, and toured the house.

One of the volunteers who assisted on the day described the children setting off eagerly under blue sky and sunshine to Rockinghill Wood, 'Story Sticks' in hand, while accompanying guide Trudie pointed out the site of a badger sett and a tree showing squirrel damage. Trekking through the wood the children happily and busily collected a miscellany of 'treasures'; leaves, seeds, lichen, moss and feathers, securing them with elastic bands along their sticks. Most were so absorbed with their finds they seemed oblivious of rain on the walk back!

They went home happy and contented, and were probably ready for bed by 6 o'clock, having all worked so hard and learned so much!

.. and finally - don't forget to buy your FoSE calendars and Christmas Cards