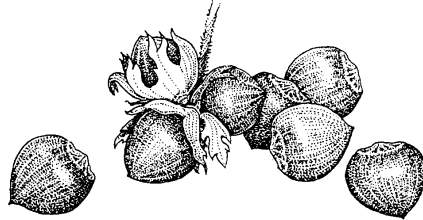


In a Nutshell

THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE FRIENDS OF STANDEN ESTATE:

NUTS ABOUT STANDEN!



No 38 May 2017

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AND FINALLY...

Keep abreast of events

There's always a lot going on at Standen - and no doubt in all our busy lives as well, so I thought I'd put a few important dates at the start of this newsletter, where they hopefully can't be missed. First up is our **AGM**, which will be held in the **Barn Café on Thursday 18th May at 6.30**. Business will be brief, and then we are happy to be able to welcome **Ethan Greenwood** from the **Wealden Iron Research Group** who will give a talk on his current research project. Some of you will already have met Ethan, along with the huge chunk of iron slag he unearthed in the woods when he visited Standen. For those of you who don't know, the Ashdown Forest was an important industrial iron production area in both Roman times and the Middle Ages and Tudor eras. Henry VII had arms for his Scottish war made at Newbridge, just down the road. For those of you who would like to do some homework ahead of the day, take a look at <http://www.wealdeniron.org.uk/>. Ethan is on a PhD



Studentship with the WIRG from the Department of Archaeology at Exeter University, and his talk promises some fascinating insights into our local history.

The next date to note is the End of Restoration Project BBQ, which will take place on **Saturday 8th July**. Jo Grange will be sending out invitations, but make a note of the date now.

Finally, **Saturday 29th July** sees FoSE's **Murder Mystery** evening. I was delighted at the speed of ticket sales as soon as the event was publicised. Many people contacted me saying they had been to similar events and were keen to repeat the experience - which personal recommendation is better publicity than I could dream up. There are a few tickets left, but don't leave it too long. To book, please email newsletter@fose.org.uk. Tickets are £25 for a three-course meal and a good evening's entertainment. Bring your family and friends.

Membership reminder

If you don't like reading the newsletter, this may not be much of a threat. Membership fees - an enormous £2 - were due by the end of April, but there are still some who haven't got round to renewing. If we haven't received your renewal by the end of May, your email address will be removed from the distribution list. This may look like throwing our toys out of the pram, and I know people don't like filling in forms, but it does make Roy's life very difficult if he has to spend a lot of time checking whether people want to renew or not. If you don't want to stay with us, a courtesy email to membership@fose.org.uk would probably be appreciated, though we shall miss your support.

Standen's newest permanent gardener

Most of you will know Andy by now, as he's just completed his first year on the Standen garden team, but as his position has just been made permanent, it seemed like a good time to get him to tell us a little bit about himself. Being an obliging kind of a guy, he responded to my request in full measure.

When Pam asked me to write a short introduction of myself I was initially uncertain. "Short", I thought, "that could be difficult!" Those of you that know me, even a little, already, might agree. But, I'm usually up for a challenge, so I thought I'd give it a go...

I suppose the main reason for me writing this is that I've recently been successful in securing a Full Time Permanent contract in the Garden Team at Standen, although I initially joined the team in May 2016 on a fixed-term contract.

Before that, I ran my own garden care and landscaping business called The Green Bean, based in Lewes, where I live with my wife & 2 kids. I endeavoured to keep a mix of regular clients where I got to know the gardens very well, alongside larger one-off landscaping projects. I had some success, but ultimately self-employment across hard winters when work was hard to come by, meant I needed to change direction. Within a couple of weeks of making that decision, the job came up at Standen, and with genuinely no real hope of success, I decided to have a punt with an application.

I obviously got the job, and the next few months seemed to fly past, as I tried to settle in, learn as much as possible and try to prove myself worthy of staying permanently. It was a huge change to be honest: from self-employment to part of a close knit team for example, but all hugely positive.

And, so here I am. I fell in love with Standen very quickly and if I can get my way I'll be here for many years to come. The garden gets under your skin: it's small enough for me to get to know it well, but big enough to bring fresh challenges on a regular basis. But you all know that already don't you?

Finally, I've been made to feel very welcome at Standen. So Thank You FOSE! It matters and I appreciate it...Let's do some great work in the garden!

Let's hope Andy gets his way and is part of the Standen team for a long time.

Up and running



The 'new' greenhouses have actually been in use for a whole 18 months now, and look very much part of the



landscape. Although they are already full of plants, Elaine is still refining how they operate. She has acquired an automatic indoor irrigation system and Ben is installing a higher pressure water supply so that watering can be carried out efficiently on warm days.

To keep the glass looking spick and span, she has also bought - with FoSE money - a long-reach window washer system. She has said that if the Kitchen Garden group is very good, they can borrow it for their greenhouse too.

Clearly this Spring's seedlings like their new home.

Anyone for charcoal?

Who would have thought Standen charcoal could have such a delightful storage facility?

At the bottom of the drive, by the car park, is a little building which would not look out of place in Hobbiton in the Shire. It has been beautifully crafted out of Standen wood by Ben Wiles, who seems these days to be able to turn his hand to anything.

I think Will Shannon could have a rival.



Standen does it again



Once again Standen held its head high against all comers at the RHS show held at Savill Garden, Windsor on 8th April, taking prizes at all levels. Of 24 entries Standen achieved 12 places; a great success rate.

First place

Camellia Class 3 (japonica spray): Camellia japonica unknown cultivar

Camellia Class 17(japonica double): Camellia japonica 'Brushfield's Yellow' (see left, 3 yellow Camellias)

Camellia Class 33 (japonica yellow cultivar): Camellia japonica 'Brushfield's Yellow'

Spring Ornamental Class 8 (conifer foliage):
Cephalotaxus harringtonia **Original Margaret Beale plant**

Second place

Camellia Class 3: Camellia japonica, unknown cultivar (spray)

Camellia Class 20 (japonica, rose formed or formal double): Camellia japonica 'Coquettii'

Camellia Class 24 (x williamsii): Camellia x williamsii 'Mary Christian' **Original Margaret Beale plant** (see above, single flowered pink Camellia)

Camellia Class 25 (x williamsii semi-double): Camellia x williamsii 'Only Red'



Spring Ornamental Class 6 (variegated foliage): Original variegated shrub **Original Margaret Beale plant**

Third place

Camellia Class 21 (3 doubles not japonica cultivars): 3 unknown Camellia cultivars

Spring Ornamental Class 20 (magnolia): Magnolia 'Heaven Scent' (see right)

Fourth place

Spring Ornamental Class 4 (pieris): Pieris taiwaniana **Original Margaret Beale plant.**

Congratulations to all who helped Standen's plants make such an impact.



James' favoured font

Some time ago, I reported that the FoSE website was to be revamped. Unfortunately, the package which looked so promising turned out ultimately not to be viable. However, Carolyn has begun a 'tidy up and rationalise' process, and is in the process of changing the font to a more modern-looking Century Gothic. So do take a look.

And finally...

I was privileged to get a sneak preview of the Garden Exhibition as it was being set up. Jo Grange has put an enormous amount of work into this, even driving to the Record Office in Chichester to borrow letters and diaries belonging to Margaret Beale. The exhibition describes how the discovery of steps to the swimming pond, hidden under the invasive bamboo, triggered the rediscovery of a lost garden, and James is quoted as being:

...immensely proud of all the hard work the team has put into this project...

He is now inspired to add more new planting with rare and unusual varieties, and has further plans for restoration work. Will you vote for restoring the wind pump, the farm track, or for reinstating the greenhouses along the wall beside the drive?