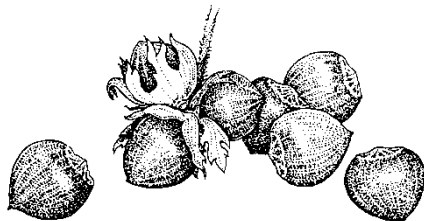


In a Nutshell

THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE FRIENDS OF STANDEN ESTATE:

NUTS ABOUT STANDEN!



No 14 May 2013

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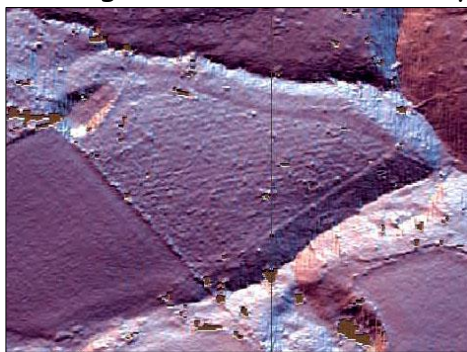
After more years as a volunteer that even he probably cares to remember, Ben Wiles has finally got a 'proper job' with his well-deserved appointment as Estate Assistant at Standen. What this means is that he will still be working his boots off five days a week, but will now be paid for it. Looks like the drinks are on him. Now he is a fully-fledged member of staff he's allowed to pick a plant of the week, and his first choice is **Arum Maculatum** - also known as Cuckoo Pint or Lords and Ladies. At Standen this grows commonly in Rockinghill and Hollybush Woods.



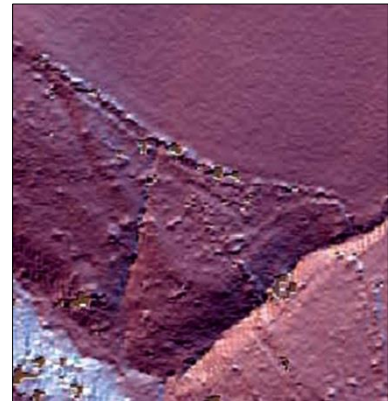
If you go down in the woods today....

Lesley Goodwin, one of our woodland volunteers, has contributed the following piece about Matt Pitt's visit, which really allows us to feel that we were there too. If reading this whets your appetite, remember that Matt Pitt will be speaking at the **FOSE AGM on 9th May at 7.30 in the Barn Café.**

Phil Marsden sent me these two Lidar images (**LI**ght **D**etection **A**nd **R**anging) from the day, one showing earlier boundaries and one evidence of old ridge and furrow shapes, and told me that one of the old saw pits is by the barn. It's on fairly level ground and at the edge of the wood with easy access to the track.



There is another one on the edge of the Farm Track. The



jury is still out, though, as to whether what was discovered at the end of Hollybush was a bloomery - a furnace for smelting iron. Between the barn and the reservoir is further evidence of field boundaries, showing that Hollybush Wood

has expanded over the years. The visitors also spotted evidence of quarrying in the wood, maybe from the time that Standen House was built.

There was a larger than expected group for the Woodland Archaeology visit by Matt Pitts, Woodland and Landscape Officer from High Weald AONB, and Vivienne Blandford, landscape archaeologist. We met in the barn and were given an introduction to woodland archaeology in general. Clues to the history of our surroundings can come from old place names, clumps of vegetation, ancient trees, hollows and dips in the ground, sunken track-ways, ponds, banks and ditches, amongst many others.

Matt and Vivienne had printed LIDAR images of Hollybush Wood. These are maps of the land surface taken by pulsed laser beams that can reveal features in the landscape that are otherwise difficult to detect by normal aerial photography, often being obscured by trees and general vegetation. During 2009 and 2010 the High Weald Forest Ridge area was mapped in this way and can be viewed at www.highweald.org/lidar-images.

We were shown the image of Hollybush Wood and were able to see some places that we recognised immediately but as we looked closer we could see shapes, shadows and lines that we had not realised existed on the ground. An aerial map of the area from 1947 and maps from 1875, 1891/1912 were compared with the current maps and images to see how the woodland, paths and field boundaries may have changed. Transparent maps of the area were overlaid onto the images to

enable us to orientate ourselves and we set out from the barn along the boardwalk. We could see a line on the Lidar image, just a shadow, below the existing fence line. When we looked at the ground in front of us at that spot we could see the ground was raised in a distinct line - the old field boundary running at an angle away from the current one. As we progressed and got accustomed to looking at vague humps and bumps in the ground we could relate features on the Lidar images that could have been old pathways, boundaries long gone, quarries and possible sites of old sawpits.

Just below Chestnut Corner there are many parallel lines on the Lidar images. Standing on that spot you can see the ridges in the ground. There was much speculation as to what might have caused these. They may be too regular to be ridge and furrow, perhaps made by machine rather than by hand, and they are not a consistent width. Were they for drainage, tree planting or some other use? We need to consult the estate records to see if we can find any clues in the recent past.

We had noticed a distinct line on the image, running down the centre of the field above the barn that suggested that the field may once have been split. As we returned to the barn we looked closer but really didn't see much more than our normal path that we use each week. No one could remember the field being two fields previously. Matt and Vivienne had a copy of a tithe map from 1840, and sure enough, there was the hedge line running down the field just where the shadow on the image was.

We have accessed the images for the rest of the estate and one of the woodland group has done fantastic job of overlaying the current OS map onto these images for us to delve further. We aren't Time Team yet but who knows what we might discover!

It was a fascinating day and will make us think twice about that ditch we just fell into.

Phil Marsden was the one who overlaid the images onto a section of the Ordnance Survaey Map, as you can see here.



Botany lesson time



Here are some more plants to identify and hopefully learn. At the end of February Nick was obviously attracted by the same **Cyclamen coum** - flowering under the holly at the edge of the croquet lawn - which had earlier caught Hannah's eye. For a little plant it evidently packs a big punch. James found a patch of



Winter Heliotrope - Petasites Fragrans (and yes, James, we wish the Latin names tripped off our tongues as easily as they seem to roll off yours.)



This was found growing along the verge between the Drive and Jack and Tommy Field, and as its Latin name suggests, has a delightful scent.



Carolyn's most recent choice, the **Pygmy Daffodil** - *Narcissus asturiensis* - which seems to have stems far too slender to hold up its flower heads, makes its home in the Quarry Garden. **Dog's Mercury** - *Mercurialis Perennis*, a woodland plant, was Trudie's choice. This attractive but muted little plant is poisonous, so needs treating with respect. It derives its name from the legend that its medicinal virtues were revealed by the Greek god Mercury.



Pulmonaria officinalis, known also as Lungwort, Mary's or Our Lady's Milk Drops, or Soldiers and Sailors. The first common name presumably refers to the fact that the leaves are supposed to be good for coughs and catarrh, though may stem from a perceived similarity between the leaves and the appearance of human lungs. **Primula Denticulata**





was Elaine's choice, the Drumhead Primula, which has been planted out in the Lower Terrace Border.

This edition's final plant of the week is the magnificent **Magnolia x loebneri 'Leonard Messel'**, chosen by Nick, and flowering its heart out at the top of the steps up from the courtyard. This one is far too elegant to have a common name!

Freebies from the Woods Group

The Woods volunteers make the most of the environment they work in, providing pea sticks and bean poles for the kitchen garden as well as fence posts and charcoal. More information about what they are up to and a photo of two hard-working volunteers can be seen, courtesy of Elaine, on the *My Volunteering* website at: <https://www.my-volunteering.org.uk/yourplace/pages/listknowledge.aspx?c=9&ct=Nature%20%26%20outdoors>

In memory of Dan

Dan Goddard, who joined the Woodland Group 10 years ago died recently. Before joining the Standen team he had been a volunteer at Batemans. In this picture from 2005 he is standing on the left with other volunteers and the bench made by the Woodland Group in memory of one of their number - Derek Gee. To



commemorate Dan's contribution to Standen a willow tree has been planted above the dipping ponds. Trudie and Mark are seen below making the finishing touches.

James Masters, who knew him well, summed him up as follows:



Dan was an inspiration to many of our younger volunteers, being one of the oldest, and yet also one of the fittest and most willing to help. I remember him digging out a whole hazel tree by himself, and also the day he told me he was sorry that he was no longer able to carry a railway sleeper on his own! (I later saw him wheeling two sleepers in a barrow instead!) His dog Bryn was always with him and so well behaved. We really do all

miss him and not having him around for the last few months since he told us he would no longer be able to come has been has made the group poorer.

Grandfather's Walk in all weathers

Restoration work of all kinds is moving at a great pace, with planting taking place in all sorts of areas. The recent task which has seemed most iconic in terms of the Garden Revival, though, must be the



planting of the Limes on Grandfather's Walk. Many of you will have seen the picture on line of the snow wave which settled

one Tuesday in the middle of March, when, after a brief flirtation with spring, the weather returned to wintry

conditions and Grandfather's Walk disappeared completely. Undeterred, two days later, James decided it was time to plant the Lime trees which had been heeled in on the drive all winter as they needed to be in their permanent locations before bud-break.

A group of hardy volunteers and gardeners set to and cleared the snow round the marker canes and then dug planting holes. As the sun



was shining, the snow began to melt, draining rapidly into the newly dug pits. On several occasions the workers were reduced to bailing out with a plastic jug or watering can before placing the trees. However, by the end of the day, the trees were planted - in a completely straight line - and the metal rings for the flower beds were in place on the ground, giving an idea of what the space would look like once planting conditions

improved. It was so wet that it's hard to believe that two weeks later the path was dry enough for the sandstone edging to be installed. Jo has now spread topsoil ready for seeding.

A nice mug of tea?

On the Thursday before Mothers' Day, Veronica Inglis, a member of the Garden Group, turned up with a box of delights - primroses and narcissi planted into mugs as simple Mothers' Day gifts. These were soon snapped up by volunteers in house and garden alike and raised £61.43 to add to the FoSE coffers. Many thanks to Veronica for making an extra effort to raise funds for Standen.

Calling all volunteers

Do you know anyone with a few hours to spare who would like to join Standen's burgeoning bevy of volunteers? If so, perhaps you could pass on this message from Peter Smith of the Volunteer Support Team:

You will be well aware of the need for extra helpers in the garden and kitchen garden to enable James and his team to develop the Standen Revival programme which is already off to a flying start. We also have a great demand for extra volunteers within more visitor facing roles such as Room Guiding and Garden Tour Guiding.

We are approaching the need for extra volunteer time in three ways. First we have an active recruitment programme which has recruited 64 new volunteers so far this year which is a good way towards achieving our target of 160 recruits for 2013, but we still need more volunteer hours. The second way is to ask you as our best ambassadors for recruitment, to help with recommending volunteering at Standen to friends and family (see the latest issue of Our Standen for more details). The third way in which we can get more volunteer help is to ask you to give us some extra time if you can spare it. For visitor support volunteers this is especially important in the peak period from May to September.

If you have a friend or relative who might be interested in volunteering at Standen then please ask them to get in touch with Bleau Hudson our Standen Volunteer Coordinator. Bleau can be contacted on the Standen office number 01342 323029 or email volunteer4standen@nationaltrust.org.uk.

Thank you for what you contribute to Standen already and many more thanks for anything extra you can offer.

It would be good if we could help Standen reach its target.

Wisley Winners

Nick and Elaine were so excited by their wins at the RHS show at Wisley that they almost couldn't remember what they were. Once Elaine had calmed



down enough to think straight she was able to tell me that Standen had taken 3rd prize in the Early Rhododendron and Camellia Show with spray of **Camellia japonica 'nobilissima'** -

Nick's plant of the week a while back - while in the Spring Ornamental Show the Conifer **Cephalotaxus harringtonia** and **Pieris taiwanensis** had both taken a 2nd; the Four Ornamental Shrubs entry was placed

3rd and featured **Daphne laureola**, **Pieris japonica**, **Ribes sanguineum** and **Camellia japonica 'nobilissima'**.



Given Standen's success in the Rhododendron and Camellia Show, FoSE is planning a set of cards to celebrate these lovely plants. Should you happen to take a good photo of one of these in bloom, and be willing to share it, please send a copy to support@fose.org.uk



Many of the items entered by Standen were original Mrs Beale plants, which proves both what good choices she made and what good care they have had since. James plans to frame the certificates and hang them in the Potting Shed - the beginning of a trend, which may well see the walls being covered in years to come, I suspect. Everyone who had a hand in growing such super plants deserves congratulation.



And it's goodnight from her...

Susan Hodgson is stepping down as Chair of FoSE after an energetic and action-packed four years. I am sure we would all like to thank her for her sterling contribution to the role during that period. I would like to think she might find time to relax, but know that she will still be wrestling with weeds in the flower beds, wowing visitors on garden and tower tours and looking for ways to promote Standen both on and off the premises just as she always has. Her own farewell message is printed below and she must be very proud of the way FoSE has developed over the past 7 years.

Some of you will know that I am stepping down as Chairman this AGM after 4 years in the role and 3 years as Vice-Chairman. I am still staying on the FoSE Committee and will continue my liaison with East Grinstead Council for Voluntary Services, amongst other things.

When I look back I remember clearly how 7 years ago a small group of Garden volunteers first talked in the Stable-yard Tearoom one morning, and wondered how we could best support James and all the exciting plans he had for Standen. The idea of Friends of Standen Estate was born and I know we can all be proud of what we've achieved in that time.

There are many highlights, from the building of the Barn to the completion of the boardwalk though Hollybush Wood. Of course we fund many smaller projects too from plants and tools to reference books. We have also created our website and Facebook page, and are becoming well known, both locally and to a wider audience.

I'm certain we'll go from strength to strength in the future and James need never doubt that FoSE are behind him 100% of the way!

Barbecue treats

This year the weather was kinder to us, and more than 100 people attended the Bluebell Barbecue at Hollybush Barn on a day which dawned bright and sunny. It was a treat to be dry underfoot after last year's downpour, and even when it clouded over later it was still pleasant to be outside, and in such a lovely setting. The atmosphere was upbeat and congenial all day as people tucked into burgers or sausages, and sampled a variety of homemade cakes as they chatted to their friends. Our thanks go to Roy, Anthony, Keith and Caroline for their barbecuing skills, Tim and Sally for organising the tea and coffee, Elaine for manning the plant stall, Anne for taking FoSE-wear orders, Linda and Keith for the Tombola and Trudie and Carolyn for the craft stall, and of course to James for ferrying all the heavy items around. Also, thanks to everyone who came along and helped the event to go with a swing. It was heartening to see some house volunteers on the day as well as FoSE members and their guests. Hopefully, next year we will see more of them.

All in all, it was a successful day in terms of fundraising as well, raising a grand total of £694.50 for FoSE funds, so once again, a big thank you to everybody for their generous contributions.

For those of you who like to be organised well ahead, you might like to note the last Sunday in April 2014 in your diary as the date for the next Bluebell Barbecue. Who knows, the bluebells might even be in flower!

...and finally... Introducing Bodger Bear

For those of you who have not yet been met him, here is a picture of the latest recruit to the Woodland Volunteer Group, looking a little tired and emotional after a hard day's coppicing. He was apparently found abandoned in the woods, but has been adopted and very much taken to heart - to the point that, while he continued to wear the same soulful expression, he was soon bathed and provided with a brand-new pair of warm bootees, kindly knitted by Trudie.



Bodger attended the Bluebell Barbecue and was caught on camera looking far more happy and relaxed and trying to sample the cakes. Rumour has it, he's now about to go on his travels; Darkest Peru, I assume.

