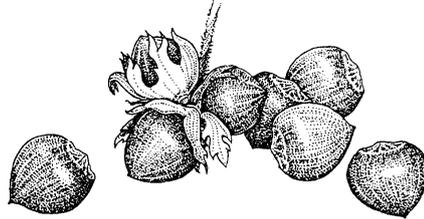


In a Nutshell

THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE FRIENDS OF STANDEN ESTATE:

NUTS ABOUT STANDEN!



No 28 September 2015

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Prestigious Visitors

Standen during the Restoration programme does seem to be making its mark. Recently, Nick (our senior gardener) played host to Stephen Lacey, the author of *Gardens of the National Trust*, who was invited to see the recent work undertaken in the gardens. This was to ensure that the latest edition of his book is up to speed with all that is going on. It was many years since Stephen had visited Standen, and was he was amazed by all the work that had been undertaken.

As if this wasn't enough, on Friday 28th August, the team from the BBC *Countryfile* programme descended on Standen for a day's filming. During the course of the day, John Craven interviewed James, Nick and Harry about the work

of the Restoration, and Nick and Ben were filmed abseiling in the quarry garden. *Very Mission Impossible.*



Harry had asked for some volunteers to provide a backdrop to filming in the Rosery, and needless to say, a number of the Restoration Group, along with a few volunteers from the Kitchen Garden, a couple of staff - and an extra sneaked in by his wife - all queued up behind Harry for their 15 minutes of fame. A clever ploy on Harry's part, it was felt, on a very close day, to get some of the more intransigent bamboos dug up, though

mud-splattered volunteers might not go down so well with the viewing public.

John Craven was clearly much smitten by Standen, and didn't leave until around 7 o'clock in the evening. The programme is due to go out on Sunday 13th September.

Date for your diary

Our very own quiz supremo, Keith Rogers, will be hosting another **FoSE Quiz Night** on **Tuesday 10th November** at **7.30** in the **Barn Café**. He has promised to make the questions easier this time, so start building your team and watch out for further details nearer the time.

Progress in the Rosery

John Craven was right in describing the Rosery as a 'transformation'. Following a plea for more volunteer hours in the area, 200 irises have now been planted on the bank under the pergola, six original Beale varieties and six modern. One nursery, Woottons of Wenhaston in Suffolk, has even gone to the trouble of propagating Iris 'Mme Chereau' - a Beale original - especially for Standen, as it is no longer on sale to the public.



Wall-building round the pond has continued, involving a lot of discussion about levels and which stones should go where from the experts involved, and although they are often critical of their own work, it is looking very good. Much weeding has been done in the tricky area behind the pond, and mattocks were to the fore as war was declared on the ever-

invasive bamboo. Hopefully, the area will soon be ready for the exotic and colourful planting planned for it.

An accolade from James: What makes Standen so Special?

I have been thinking about this quite a bit recently, and over the years we have had various 'Statements of Significance', 'Conservation Plans' and 'Spirit of Place' documents, and all of these capture part of the story, but never all of it.

In an interesting conversation at work today, we were talking about how radical the Arts & Crafts movement was, and how, when visiting Standen today, visitors may go away with the impression of a 'sweet' property - a real slice of historic rural England. And in a way, that is what we are, but it is not what the Arts & Crafts movement was all about. It was a real reaction against the norms of the time, and the way that its pioneers saw the progression of society leading people to standardised lives, and lives of less intrinsic value. It was a force for social change and you could well say that this is very relevant to today, (as is always is to a greater or lesser extent).

Anyway, I have drifted off the point somewhat, and maybe there is more that we can do in this direction, at least getting people to think about these issues and the legacy of these social reformers. However, I do think that something that makes Standen so special is the community of souls involved in it, right back to the time of James and Margaret Beale and their involvement in the local community and all the people from the local community who lived and worked here as well. This has continued in many guises through until today where we have probably the most vibrant convergence of people Standen has ever had; so many involved in their own way, skilled and dedicated in what they do. For almost everyone, it is not just a job (be they staff or volunteer) it is a passion, and something many of our visitors feel too.

It is tantalisingly undefinable, but still recognisable and the element that keeps us going through the hard times and makes us appreciate the good. We are all part of this and I am proud to have you as members of our team...

Summer Flowers

Trudie chose the dainty **Fox and Cubs - Plosella aurantiaca** as her plant of the week for July. It is also known as **Orange Hawkweed, Orange Hawkbit, Tawny Hawkweed, Devil's Paintbrush**, and the



intriguing **Grim-the-Collier**. Many of us will have admired the clumps near the gardeners' door to the stable-yard in the bed opposite the Little Orchard. The lovely bright orange multi-flowered plant is very noticeable from June to September and is a good patio pot or rockery plant. It was brought to the UK in 1620's, from the alpine regions of Europe and was recognised as an escapee by 1790's. Now naturalised in gardens and wasteland, it spread along road and railway lines. In fact it spreads so well it is considered an invasive weed in parts of Australia.

In folklore the hawk was supposed to use the plant to help it see better so medieval herbalists used it too to improve sight.



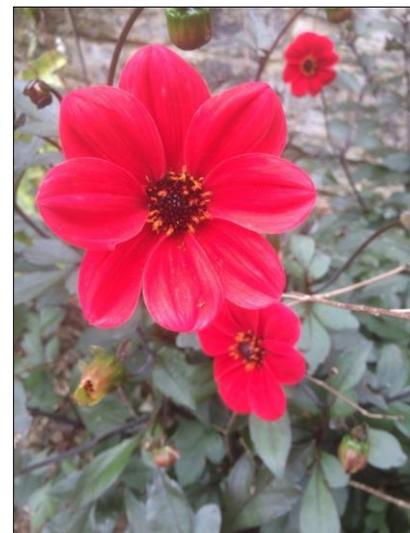
In contrast, Elaine chose **Scadoxus multiflorus** - the **Blood Lily** or **Fireball Lily**, a much showier number. This is a bulb for indoor cultivation with fleshy leaves, originating in the semi-arid regions of South Africa. The flowers consist of a mass of small flowers with prominent stamens on a head up to 10 inches across.

This bulb can be grown in normal compost with added grit. Position the plant in bright light, but shading from intense sun will prolong flowering. Water freely when in growth. *Scadoxus multiflorus* can be found in the Conservatory. Bulbs were bought at the Hampton Court Flower Show.

August is the month for dahlias, which belong to the family **Asteraceae**, and Harry chose an old favourite: **Dahlia 'Bishop of Llandaff'** and **'Bishop's Children'**. The former



is a herbaceous perennial which grows to 1m in height, with deep blackish-red foliage and semi-double brilliant red flowers.



The plant was first bred by Fred Tresedar, a Cardiff nurseryman. It was selected by and named after Pritchard Hughes, Bishop of Llandaff, in 1924 and it was awarded an AGM by the RHS in 1928.

A seed strain has been produced from this plant called 'Bishops Children' which retains the dark foliage colour but produces a mix of flower colours. You can find this plant nestled in the borders of the courtyard where its bright flowers stand out against the wall behind.

BBQ hire

There have been a number of requests to borrow the FoSE BBQs recently. We are happy to lend them out in return for a £10 donation to FoSE funds provided the equipment is returned clean and in good order. Committee Member Jackie Doherty will be in charge of BBQ hire and checking that they are properly maintained. If you wish to use them you can approach her directly, or email newsletter@fose.org.uk to have your request forwarded to her.

Full steam ahead for Hilltop Shaw



Work is continuing on Hilltop Shaw, and much clearance has already been done. Following the success of our bids to the East Grinstead Common Good Trust and Gatwick Airport Communities Trust, we have now been awarded the sum of £2,500 from the West Sussex County Council Big Society Fund. This was achieved with generous

support from John O'Brien, our local councillor, and we are eternally grateful to him for his unstinting assistance. This means that FoSE has now raised £4,700 towards the restoration of Hilltop Shaw and construction of the new path which will run from West Hoathly Road to the cottages on the drive.

Trudie needs £5,500 to complete the project, so FoSE has agreed to stump up the final £800 from proceeds from our various fund-raising activities. So thank you to all FoSE members who have helped us to raise this money by buying goods and attending events. This means there are now no obstacles to the project being completed on time, and we can all look forward to a safe and attractive walk down beside the drive in the foreseeable future.



Carolyn's Lebanese Inspired Orange, Honey and Almond cakes

At the Lebanese Evening we will be raffling a range of cakes with a Middle Eastern flavour. If you don't win a prize, you may wish to try this recipe out for yourselves. Makes 12 small (fairy) or 6 large (muffin) cakes

100g butter	25g honey
100g sugar	100g self raising flour
2 tsp orange blossom water	2 eggs, beaten
Grated zest of 1 orange	Flaked almonds (to decorate)

~ Preheat oven to 200oC, Gas Mark 6.

~ Place paper cases into tin.

Either -

~ Following the all in one method, add all the ingredients (except the flaked almonds) to a bowl and beat well with an electric mixer until well combined and glossy.

Or -

~ Beat the butter and sugar together for 2-3 minutes until pale and creamy.

~ Beat in the orange zest, orange blossom water, and honey until combined.

~ Gradually add the eggs and flour a little at a time, beating well after each addition.

~ Spoon into the cases and sprinkle with the flaked almonds.

~ Bake in the oven for 15-20 minutes until golden and well risen.

~ Place on a wire rack to cool.

Shop on-line and raise funds for Standen

Those of you who visit the FoSE website from time to time may have noticed an icon at the bottom of the page that looks like this:



If you have never explored further, you perhaps won't know that you can **shop on-line and raise money for FoSE** at the same time. Since May 2014, a few stalwarts in the know have raised nearly £75 in this way. Not much, you may say, but there have been fewer than 10 FoSE members using the system. Just think what could be achieved if all 122 members did even just a little shopping this way. Think of it as an internet shopping mall. Click on the **Easyfundraising** link and find all your favourite retail outlets in the same place: Companies like Amazon, Ebay, John Lewis and Marks and Spencer appear immediately you reach the

Easyfundraising site, but you can also easily search for your own favourites. I have it on good authority that you can book holidays, including items like cruises, hotel rooms, flights, travel insurance etc. and days out - at the theatre, Legoland, the races etc. Many clothing outlets can be reached through the site: Cotton Traders, Uniqlo, Jacques Vert, Cotswold, Coast -something for every taste and style, in fact.

Shopping this way costs you no more than going to the retail site directly through a search engine, as **the price you pay is exactly the same whichever route you take**, but it could make a huge difference to FoSE coffers. Currently, the Hibbert household is raising money this way almost single-handed (but with a lot of help from Elaine), buying such items as a hot water tank, wallpaper, flights and a hotel booking, airport parking and a new food mixer. FoSE earns £1 for everyone who signs up using this link and then makes a purchase, so please take up the invitation below as a pain-free way of raising funds for Standen.

Here's your invitation link:

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/2VMJE9/>

So, if you're buying something, just remember to visit the retailer (such as Amazon, John Lewis, M&S) via **easyfundraising.org.uk**. Once you've ordered, **the retailer makes a donation to your chosen good cause**. It's a lovely way to give something back for free!

A feature for the Croquet Lawn

As you will know from the previous newsletter, James Masters lost an impressive 3½ stone during his sponsored slim period. Through your generosity this has raised an equally impressive **£322.50**. This will be enough for James to buy a 6' high pagoda which will stand near the bottom of the steps to the Croquet Lawn both as an attractive feature and a permanent reminder of his achievement. Standen is clearly attempting to emulate Kew. And why not indeed?



And finally...

At Tuesday's Lebanese Evening, we will be auctioning a number of items as a way of raising more money for FoSE. Posters showing the items for auction will be up in both Tea Rooms. If you are not attending but would like to bid, please email

newsletter@fose.org.uk with your offer, which will be submitted on your behalf during the evening.

Highlight of the auction is this painting by Lebanese artist Mouna Bassile Sehnaoui, who has exhibited her work in the Middle East, Europe and America, and written a number of books. A very reasonable reserve of £10 has been put on this item.

