

In a Nutshell

NEWSLETTER FROM THE FRIENDS OF STANDEN ESTATE: No 1 Sept 2007

NUTS ABOUT STANDEN!



Who we are: Mainly garden and woodland volunteers ... but anyone can join. FOSE is supporter group affiliated to the National Trust.

Aims: To prosper the work of the Standen Estate; provide and promote engagement; promote and develop traditional crafts; promote social activities to make volunteering more enjoyable.

How? By encouraging volunteering and by tapping sources of funds additional to those available to the National Trust to provide training, tools and materials for the volunteers.

Fund raising Achievements: What have we achieved so far? How have we raised funds? Since FOSE was set up on 4th September 2006 we have raised over £13,000. Here are some successes.

Source of funding	Grant	Project	Short description
Co-operative Community Dividend Award	£350	Pole lathe Shave horse	Initial cost of the equipment plus the setting up, associated hand tools and training for volunteers
WSCC North Mid-Sussex Committee Gatwick Community Trust	£2500 £1,500	Boardwalk	Provide better access to Hollybush Wood for all visitors and at the same time safeguard the flora and fauna. Grant covers materials.
WSCC North Mid-Sussex Committee	£132	Scroll saw	To cut plywood shapes for children to paint. Saw now set up outside the tea room in the stable yard.
The Big Lottery	£7,000	Standen Wood	Restoration and improvement to this area after many years of management that has damaged this ancient woodland site
Lewes NT Association	£250	Swimming pool	Waterproofing

Work on Jack and Tommy Field is being funded by grant of £40,000 to the National Trust.

What makes a successful grant application? How do we persuade these different organisations that we have worthwhile projects for their money? A number of themes run through these grant applications, variously: providing benefits to local residents, protecting or conserving wild life, providing educational opportunities, protecting the environment and energy conservation. We are on the lookout for other sources of funding so if you have any ideas please pass them on to members of the committee.

FOSE Secretary: Tim Roberson

We also need to spend the money. Some grants are time-limited. As Sheila, our treasurer, reminds us, we are here to spend the money we raise. That means having enough volunteers to get out there and take up the training opportunities and use the equipment and materials we buy.

What's happening on the ground? FOSE money was used to buy plants left over from Ray's Floriculture nursery. They are being planted around the Garden, especially on the Croquet Lawn northern border that was cleared last winter. The scroll saw is already in place in the stable yard and the shapes cut out have been used in the last of the children's activity days. Some of you have been on the pole-lathe training course arranged with Amberley Museum. The lathe is shortly to be set up in Hollybush Wood. The work on the Boardwalk is continuing as more materials are purchased.

Donations of plywood We would be grateful for any donations of plywood greater than 6in square - any thickness for making shapes for our children's activity days.

What next? Work is continuing in Hollybush Wood. A start has been made in Standen Wood with the removal of dangerous and invasive trees and clearing rubble, and much clearance has been done in Jack and Tommy Field to allow a new fence to be built. We have a number of grant applications awaiting decision at present. Watch for further developments. James has a long list of possible projects to bring forward: an otter holt, a wind pump, solar panels and fruit press are just some examples.

Attracting more volunteers FOSE ran a successful stall at the East Grinstead May Fair, raising some £350 mainly from plant sales and getting our work known. We are putting publicity material wherever volunteering opportunities are being publicised - such as local libraries and volunteer bureaux. We now have a FOSE leaflet to hand out as part of the visitor's pack as well as a display in the Information room. We are taking part in a Volunteers Day run by the East Grinstead Council for Voluntary Service at East Grinstead Library on 11th October and in a NT Regional conference for Supporters Groups at Wakehurst Place on 1st November.

Volunteers Day is Sunday 13 July 2008 will be a FOSE Day at Standen to show the work done by volunteers.

The FOSE Committee normally meets on a Monday evening about every two months. Next meeting 29 October. Members as at 30 September are:

James Masters (President) John Spencer (Chairman), Susan Hodgson (Vice Chair and Membership) Sheila Spencer (Treasurer) Tim Roberson (Secretary), Elaine Boot, Linda Goacher, Caroline Heath, Colin Hickman, Angela Hogman, Margaret May, Jane Regan and Tony Tinning.

Contacting FOSE Got ideas about more projects or funding? Seen somewhere we can put some publicity? Want to get your views across? Contact James in the first instance or any of the Committee.

Next edition? Apart from more on our fund raising, how about updates on what's happening in different parts of the Estate - Standen Wood, Kitchen Garden and so on? Let's hear what **you** would like to see and let's keep on making a difference at Standen.