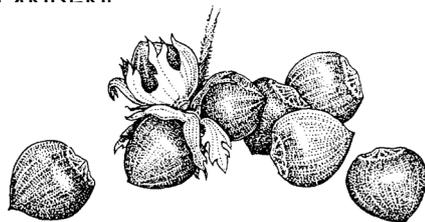


In a Nutshell

NEWSLETTER FROM THE FRIENDS OF STANDEN ESTATE:

NEWS ABOUT STANDEN



No 4 November 2008

Quite a lot has been happening in the gardens and woods at Standen so it is time to bring you up to date on recent progress and plans for the future. Some of the following first appeared in the October 2008 edition of Standen Deliver. Here we want to spell out what it means for you as volunteers.

PEOPLE

Jake Yearsley started on 10th November as a new full time gardener. Jake comes to Standen from the University Botanic Gardens, Cambridge. He has previously worked for the National Trust for Scotland at Drum Castle. His time will be divided between General Gardening, 1 day a week on the wider estate and restoring the Quarry Garden, House Terrace, Lavender Lawn & House Courtyard..

Carolyn Hibbert moved from being a seasonal gardener to a permanent Kitchen Gardener post with responsibility for the Kitchen Garden and its development. Carolyn normally works Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. She will be setting up a weekend volunteer group soon, to start in January. If you are interested, please get in touch - contact details below.

David Masters has been appointed as Gardener so as to give James more time to plan the garden and catch up with that paperwork which is the lot of Head Gardeners. David normally works Mondays and Tuesdays on activities such as grass cutting, hedge trimming and the major clearance work. Also he will have responsibility for one of the Croquet Lawn borders and organising the machinery.

Work Experience Students: Working at Standen is seen as good experience for students of horticulture and countryside management. Ben Wiles has been with us for 3 years as part of his course at Plumpton Agricultural College. As well as learning from working with us, Ben has put in some valuable work across the estate. This year he is joined by Steph Lock, plus Tom Binstead. Trudie Jacobs also worked here as part of her Plumpton course.

RESTORING THE GARDENS AT STANDEN

Rebuilding those steps leading down to the Croquet Lawn is the start of a programme repairs to walls, steps and paths across the garden. Some of the work will be for volunteers - depending on the buildings department and what they allow us to do. This is

all part of the National Trust's long-term aim of restoring the gardens at Standen. Over the winter there is more to be done in the Bamboo Garden. Here we have to complete the bottom pond, the other major job is cutting back on the farm track Both the Quarry Garden and the Courtyard Garden have become overgrown will need a lot of work from volunteers just clearing away before we get to replanting.

The Plantation will have a new seasonal member of staff from January when we will be appointing someone to oversee the development.

The **Kitchen Garden** has been a real success in attracting interest from visitors and going forward is an important part of the Trust's plans for Standen. Already the productive area has been extended, initially by enlarging the existing beds and creating two new ones. One bed will be planted up with permanent crops such as Asparagus, Rhubarb and soft fruit, and the other bed will be planted with herbs. The aim is to have more produce available for the restaurant and to sell to visitors as well as continuing to provide cut flowers for the house. Pests are a continued problem. We are installing gates and more wire netting to try to keep the rabbits and deer out. This will also allow the chickens, whose presence in the garden was welcomed by our visitors, to be let out again during the day. Any ideas about dealing with pigeons? Pigeon pie?

A new barrow from which to sell produce has been constructed by the Woods Group and is currently being painted. The barrow will be covered to keep our produce shaded and dry. Since the start of June we have made nearly £820 from the sale of our produce, so a big thank you to everyone who has supported us. The money raised from the donations will go back to the Kitchen Garden for items such as seeds for next year, materials for the new barrow, mushroom compost, and plants for the new beds. We also hope to put recipes on the barrow next year, so if you have a favourite family recipe (particularly for the more unusual crops such as Globe or Jerusalem Artichokes, Kohl Rabi, Salsify, Swiss Chard) please e-mail it to Carolyn.Hibbert@nationaltrust.org.uk or leave in her tray in the office. Remember to include your name and role at Standen if you wish it to be included.

Thanks to money from FOSE, we received our new apple press in time for **Apple Day**. We pressed our windfall apples and sold the delicious fresh juice to raise money (£76.05) for new fruit trees in the garden.

Coppicing ensures our **woodlands** are another productive part of the estate. Coppicing provides pea sticks and stakes we can use elsewhere in the woods and gardens, saving money and helping with wider environmental aims such as improving habitats for wild life. Planning permission permitting, there will be a new badger hide..

Over the winter we will be restarting work on the **barn on Hollybush Wood**, and building our **new trailer** with money from the NT raffle. Having the trailer will help us to have the right tools on site as well as keeping them safe and dry

Garden Stewards are a very small band of people, but do a grand job of helping our visitors in the Garden, and we are always after more to help out - no previous experience or knowledge necessary. Contact James.

GETTING US KNOWN: FOSE STALL AT THE EAST GRINSTEAD MAY FAIR ON BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 4 MAY 2009

We aim to build on this year's success. There is time over the winter to bring on plants we can sell on our stall. If you can pot it up, we can sell in on our stall.

EVENTS AT STANDEN IN 2009

Look out for news of events in the house and on the estate in programme leaflets in the tea room and on the Standen section of the NT web site at www.nationaltrust.org.uk

NEWS ABOUT VOLUNTEERING FROM NATIONAL TRUST HEAD OFFICE

Active and the *Supporter Group Newsletter* are both available in the stable yard tea room. An electronic copy of the newsletter is also distributed by e-mail. *Active* can also be downloaded at <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteering/>.

REPORT BACK FROM NT VOLUNTEERS' CONFERENCE 20 NOVEMBER

NT has 52,000 volunteers of whom 75 percent are in gardens, woodlands and the countryside. Over the winter, NT is holding a series of conferences for Volunteers and Supporters Groups. Tim Roberson attended an event in Watford (Boreham Wood really). This was an opportunity to meet other volunteers and NT staff including DG Fiona Reynolds. The chair for the day was Mark Crosby, head of volunteering.

Fiona spoke about the Trust Strategy for 2007 - 2010 - *Looking after special places FOR EVER FOR EVERYONE* under four headings,

- Improving conservation
- Investing in people (that includes you as volunteers)
- Financing our future
- Engaging supporters (that's practically everyone who has any sort of relationship with the NT)

Managing volunteers to get the best out of them is a big issue. Too many offers are not followed up. There is no register of talent and expertise. Not everywhere does it as well as Standen.

Caroline Sones (House Steward at Standen) ran one of the workshops on engaging supporters. Who are NT's supporters? NT's use of the word 'supporters' to cover everyone from you and me to large corporate sponsors generates evidently generates as much confusion as light. We were asked what generates positive and negative experiences. Another workshop covered supporters' groups who moaned that they did not get enough coverage regional newsletters. Most of them seemed to exist to raise money by a mark up on running trips to NT and other historic houses. Volunteer groups were not well represented - maybe they have paid work on weekdays.

At the end a Q and A session saw some penetrating questions equally insightful answers.

As with most conferences the best bits were outside the formal sessions. I will circulate the promised a write up to you all. It should be worth it just for the opening and closing poems.