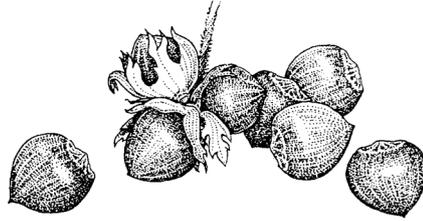


In a Nutshell

NEWSLETTER FROM THE FRIENDS OF STANDEN ESTATE:

NEWS ABOUT STANDEN



No 5 February 2009

There are four main items in this edition of In a Nutshell: a reminder about the FOSE stall at the East Grinstead May Fair, a further report from the NT's Volunteers' conferences, the renewal of your membership and the election of a new committee and officers at the Annual Meeting on Thursday 7 May.

FOSE STALL AT THE EAST GRINSTEAD MAY FAIR ON BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 4 MAY 2009

Sowing seeds? Taking cuttings? Dividing up plants that have got too big? To help us build on last year's success we need plants we can sell on our stall. If you can pot it up, we can sell in on our stall. Any plants are welcome but veg plants particularly so

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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Your current membership expires at the end of February. A form for renewal is attached with this newsletter. If you have joined in the last few weeks, your subscription also covers 2009.

ANNUAL MEETING THURSDAY 7 MAY

The AGM will be held at 7:30 pm in the Barn Restaurant. In addition to the normal business (see next item) James has agreed to put on a slide show covering about volunteering at Standen in the garden and estate, but also about what's happened in the last year .

NOMINATIONS FOR A NEW COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

The everyday business of the Friends of Standen Estate is in the hands of a committee. The Committee meets about every two months, usually on a Monday evening in the convivial

surroundings of Dunnings Mill. There is also a Fund Raising Sub Committee to look for sources of funds and put applications together.

In line with other NT supporters' groups, our constitution provides that office holders serve for no more than three years unless the annual meeting resolves otherwise.

5.3.1 Committee members hold office for a year from the end of the AGM when they are elected until the end of the next AGM. They may be re-elected to the same post two times but should retire at the end of the third AGM after they came into office. They are then ineligible for re-election for a year until the fourth AGM, unless a motion for them to continue is approved at the third AGM.

At present the committee is: James Masters (ex officio President) John Spencer (Chairman), Sheila Spencer (Treasurer) Susan Hodgson (Vice-Chairman and Membership Secretary) Tim Roberson (Secretary). Other committee members are Elaine Boot, Lynda Goacher, Caroline Heath, Colin Hickman, Margaret May, Jane Regan and Tony Tinning. Angela Hogman stood down last year because of other commitments.

So ... we are looking for volunteers to serve on the committee. Do you have particular expertise to offer or contacts to bring? In particular, John is standing down as chairman because of increasing family commitments. If you want to know more speak to James or any other member of the committee. Nominations with proposer and seconder should be made on the form provided preferably by Thursday 9 April. A reminder about nominations will be sent with the Agenda for the meeting.

REPORT BACK FROM NT VOLUNTEERS' CONFERENCES 2008

Over the winter, NT held a series of conferences for Volunteers and Supporters Groups in Watford (Boreham Wood) Swindon and Sheffield. These were an opportunity to meet other volunteers and NT staff including DG Fiona Reynolds and Mark Crosby, head of volunteering. In the last issue I gave you my own impressions. Here are some highlights from an interim report from Head Office.

While the NT volunteering experience is primarily a positive, many of those attending felt that there were several aspects that could be improved. Frustrations appeared to focus around:

- skills and experiences not being fully utilised;
- inconsistent practices;
- poor communication particularly at a property level;
- bureaucracy, and
- a lack of training.

I hasten to add that of the above only the bureaucracy applies at Standen and most of that appears to be generated at the centre! You will therefore be pleased to know that NT are reviewing their volunteer selection and induction guidance to 'ensure better consistency between properties and cut out un-necessary bureaucracy while ensuring that new volunteers skills and interests are utilised appropriately and effectively'.

The next issue of Active magazine and the Supporter Group newsletter will both contain a report on the conferences.