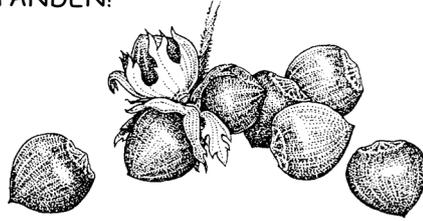


# In a Nutshell

NEWSLETTER FROM THE FRIENDS OF STANDEN ESTATE:

NUTS ABOUT STANDEN!



No 7 March 2010

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In this edition of In a Nutshell: preparing for the East Grinstead May Fair, the FOSE AGM and edited highlights from the Introductory Talks on 12/13 February and a some events during the season

## **EAST GRINSTEAD MAY FAIR BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 3RD MAY 2010**

Sewing seeds? Pricking out seedlings? Put it in a pot and we can sell it. Best sellers in previous years were veg plants - especially tomatoes and beans.

The May Fair is a valuable opportunity to make ourselves known, attract visitors, interest new volunteers and raise some money from plant sales.

Each pot needs to be labelled, preferably with the variety, even if it looks obvious to you.

Quarantine arrangements mean that it is difficult to store your plants at Standen even if we had the space. So please bring them to our stall in East Grinstead High Street on the day.

## **FOSE ANNUAL MEETING THURSDAY 13TH MAY AT 19:30 IN THE BARN RESTAURANT**

James will review the last year and look forward to the next. His 2009 report was illustrated with photo shoots of volunteers at work. Sheila, our treasurer, presents the accounts and you vote for the officers and committee members. Any Other Business provides an opportunity for anyone to raise questions.

Whilst most of the existing Committee and office holders are happy to continue more committee members and their ideas are always welcome. We want to make sure that each of our volunteer groups is represented. So don't be surprised if James or one of the committee gives you a nudge. Meeting dates are listed on the card with your outdoor volunteering dates. First scheduled meeting after the

AGM is on Monday 21 June. We normally meet in the convivial surroundings of the Old Mill at Dunnings.

## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM INTRODUCTORY TALKS FOR THE 2010 SEASON**

2010 sees some significant changes in both in how National Trust presents itself to the public and in how it is managed. For the public, our visitors, the aim is to make houses feel more lived in, brought to life, less like museums. In terms of management 'Going local' means less bureaucracy, more delegation to properties and more initiative at a local level with accompanying changes in financial control. You can read more the National Trust web site in 'Going Local' and 'Our Future - Joining in'.

At Standen, the aim is to make visitors feel like guests of the Beales. Visitors will have more contact with staff and volunteers and more opportunities to join in. In the house that will mean more access for visitors and getting fires going to make the house feel more welcoming. The apple store becomes a permanent children's activity centre.

Sustainability is a key element with the installation of a biomass boiler as part of re-servicing the house and reinstating the wind pump in the kitchen garden to provide an irrigation system across the whole garden.

The garden restoration is the main conservation project going forward. The role of the different areas will be explained to visitors. 2010 should see real progress across the garden to improve accessibility along the paths and the farm track. Other projects to go forward include the courtyard, garden the terrace, the quarry garden, planting in the conservatory and finishing the bamboo garden. Extending the glass house will provide propagation facilities to enable more cut flowers to be grown for the house and pot plants for rotation through the conservatory. Staff, garden stewards and volunteers will be available to explain the garden to visitors. The extension of the kitchen garden, the new fruit collection and the new pear tress are all part of making Standen more productive. The Plantation will form the base for children's activities centred around a Victorian childhood in the High Weald. A new warden one day per week will enable the countryside walks to be brought up to date. In the woods, the new trailer for tools, financed from the 2008 property raffle is being fitted out. Barn building tales place 26 - 30 April.

Along with visitor numbers, catering and shop sales were also up in 2009. Looking forward, the restaurant will use more kitchen garden produce. The Going Local initiative provides an opportunity to offer something distinctive on the arts and crafts theme and introduce foods and crafts local to the area.

REMEMBER YOU DONATE TO FOSE WHEN YOU SHOP ON LINE AT

[www.buy.at/fose](http://www.buy.at/fose)

**SOME OF THE EVENTS AT STANDEN IN 2010**

For more details see the property leaflet or [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-standen](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-standen)

Easter Egg trails April Fri 2-Mon 5, 11am - 3.30pm

Mid Summer Music - Meridian Voices - Traditional English folk music  
June Fri 18 & Sat 19, 6.30pm

National Gardens Scheme Day Saturday 17 July  
Kitchen Garden Day Saturday 14 August

Open Air Drama - two plays

The Secret Garden July Sat 24, 6pm

An Ideal Husband (Oscar Wilde) Aug Sat 14, 6pm

Summer school workshops July Thur 29 & Fri 30, 9.30am - 12.20pm

Make & Take: Children's craft activities on Mondays 11am - 3.30pm, during school holidays

April 12, July 26, Aug 2, 9, 16, 23, and Oct 25