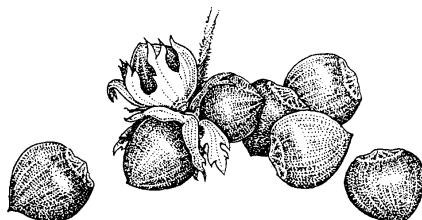


The Lockdown Lighthouse

THE INTERIM NEWSLETTER FROM THE FRIENDS OF STANDEN ESTATE:

NUTS ABOUT STANDEN
and missing it loads



No 20 – 5th November 2020

In this edition of The Lockdown Lighthouse:

NEWS FROM A FOSE SUPPORTER
APPEAL UPDATE
KEEPING FIT IN LOCKDOWN
COMEDY CORNER
AUTUMN GLORY
MEMBERSHIP
A NEAT LITTLE PARCEL
AND FINALLY...

[Lockdown Garden Projects](#)

This delightful article was sent to me by Roy, whose friend David Sharratt has been a staunch supporter of FoSE over the years. It is a masterclass on how to turn a crisis into opportunity, so thank you, David.



Although I don't work or volunteer at Standen, I have been a member of the Friends of Standen for several years and, having read the Newsletter with interest over the last months, I thought I would share some of my activities during this very strange period of time. Lockdown gave me the inspiration to get on with projects that I had had

in mind for a while and I have managed to complete 4 so far:

Project 1: A Cold Frame. Size 2.5 m length x 1 m deep

I built this in single brick incorporating weep holes between the concrete foundations and the first course of brickwork to release any water excess. I used 100 x 50 treated softwood for the main frame and bridle-jointed the corners.

I put in 3 opening lights which were made from 75 x 50 treated softwood and glazed with 6mm Perspex into the framework. Now all ready for my seeds and plants to grow.

Project 2: An Auricular Theatre

To my mind, one of the most beautiful flowers on the planet is the auricular. Over the years, we have always successfully grown the Polyanthus Plant (a member of the Auricular family). The Auricular I have seen displayed at the height of the growing season in springtime at Wisley and other shows, have always made me take a step backwards and just admire.



The serious way to display these plants is in what is called an Auricular Theatre, which is basically a decorative outside cabinet with shelves and sited in a shady cool part of the garden.

I decided to construct such a cabinet ready for next February to grow my plants from seed, which I understand is very unpredictable and difficult. With the cabinet now made and the terracotta pots in place, I await the start of the season to try my luck!!! Fingers Crossed.

I made the carcass and shelves from 150 mm x 25 mm Softwood (joinery quality) and the back from 100 mm x 9 mm tongue & grooved match boarding.

Project 3: A Dove Cote.

Always an Inspirational architectural feature of a garden is a dove cote, but in this case, as much as we encourage wild life into our garden, this particular project was not built to encourage doves or other birds to take refuge in. I sealed the entrance doorways with harmless wire netting to ensure that none entered. So, sorry bird lovers, the sole idea was for this to be built just as a decorative garden feature. It is now in situ for us to enjoy.



The cote was made in three sections bottom/middle and roof. The construction was all made from 9mm external plywood. Marine ply would have been my first choice, but marine ply is considerably more expensive.

Finally the three components were screwed and glued together, then given two coats of primer undercoat, rubbed down between coats with wet and dry paper. The bottom and middle sections were painted in white gloss and the roof finished with an eye catching orange/yellow paint.



Project 4: A Garden Seat.

Hidden away behind the old garden shed we discovered a forgotten, sad, old, neglected garden seat.

The question now was should we burn it or take to the refuse dump..... However, upon inspection, it appeared structurally sound and just in need of some TLC. In the shed we had some Nitromors paint remover so, together with paint scraper/paint brush/ sandpaper, I set to work. My first task was to give a liberal coating of the Nitromors and wait for the old paint to bubble. I then proceeded to scrape it off. However, a further treatment of the Nitromors was necessary after which the hard work began with sanding down to the bare wood ready for the first coat of primer and undercoat. I needed to use a light sanding of wet and dry between two coats of paint.



*Now the big decision
.....colour.....something
different.....something to brighten
the garden, we thought. So we
plumped for a gloss top coat of
Saccadic Blue. It has certainly
brightened up the garden!!!!
Time for me to relax and enjoy all my
hard work!!!*

Wow! I stand in awe of this man's skill - inspirational. Good luck with the auricular germination, and thanks again.

Standen Boardwalk Appeal

We have been really delighted at the alacrity with which people have responded to the appeal I sent out a couple of weeks back. So far, we have raised over £1,200, which is fantastic. This leads me to hope that we will be able to reach our target of £2,000 before too long. The money is desperately needed, as the pictures of the damaged boardwalk show. It must be heart-breaking for both staff and volunteers

to see the parlous state the lovingly constructed boardwalk in Hollybush Wood has been reduced to.



Although I'm not a regular walker in that part of Standen estate, I make a point of visiting when the bluebells are out, and have also taken my grandson round the boardwalk on several occasions. He delights in trying to scare the trolls, which, he insists, are hiding under the raised areas of the boardwalk. I'm sure he's not the only small child who finds this area magical.



If you have not had a chance yet to donate to the appeal, may I remind you of how to do it? The name of the bank account is **Friends of Standen Estate**. If you wish to donate through on-line banking, the Lloyds Bank sort code is **30-92-92**, and the account number **01856808**. Please add the reference **BW Fund** followed by your **surname**. Otherwise, either please leave your donation in an envelope in the FoSE tray in the Stable Tearoom or send it to me. If you email newsletter@fose.org.uk I will send you my address. You can also see details of the appeal on the FoSE website at <http://www.fose.org.uk/fundraising/standen-boardwalk-appeal/>. Please continue to spread the word. I know that several 'friends' of *Friends* have contributed. Do pass on our heartfelt thanks to them.

Walking and wildlife

Uploading my most recent walk onto Viewranger recently, I noted that since acquiring this app in April, I have logged walking just over 200 miles, cumulating in 4 whole days and 20,419' of ascent. The time is not very accurate, as I regularly forget to put the app on pause when we stop for lunch, and sometimes also at the end of the walk. On the other hand the mileage is under-reported, as I only measure the substantial or newer walks, not the ones I have repeated locally on numerous occasions this year - and will no doubt be revisiting in the coming weeks.

I am obviously not the only one to have been walking more this year, as this account from Anne Scutt shows.

Before Covid arrived I was an active person. The only way lockdown affected me was that I couldn't play badminton, go to Standen, or join in on my Friday walks. I could still garden and work on our allotments which kept me busy. I didn't go out much on the hour's walk we were allowed as Pete has a bad knee and finds it painful to walk. I did walk around the local streets a few times but pounding the pavements is very boring. Most of the people in my walking group had been out walking with their partners, so I was worried that when we started walking again I would be the numpty who was unfit and out of practice.

So when Boris said that we could meet outside with up to five others from different households I thought Yippee! I can go walking again. I emailed my friend Kev, who is a walk leader, and on the next Friday morning four of us went off for a walk in the country. That first walk was so liberating. It was lovely to be out walking again in the country, chatting and joking with friends. We walked through fields with sheep, fields with cows and a field with cows and sheep.



After a couple of weeks we asked another two friends to join us to make up the six. After another couple of weeks we decided that while none of us were doing anything else, we would walk on

Monday mornings as well.

When people became a bit more confident about being outside two more walking friends asked if they could join us. So now each Monday and Friday morning six of us go out walking. We take it in turns to drop out so we keep to the six. It is so nice to be out walking again. We walk all over the local area; Rusper, Staplefield, Slaugham, Bolney, Cuckfield and sometimes stop at a pub for a drink afterwards.



While we were walking near Rusper we crossed a field with two Shetland ponies. The lady in the next field said that they were the most photographed ponies in Sussex. So we felt obliged to take a photo. What

makes these more interesting is seeing Jim feeding them with a carrot. I have known Jim for years and he is not an animal lover. So we were really surprised that he fed this pony and had to take a photo.

While I enjoy the walks, they are always with the same people. It is lovely to be with them but conversation is a bit limited as no one goes anywhere or does anything interesting to chat about. The men mostly talk about football, which I am not interested in and know nothing about. So I will be glad when all this is over and we can go back to walking in a large group again. Having said that there are advantages to being in a small group, as we see more wildlife.

A good dose of laughter...

...is just what we all need at the moment. So here is a selection generously donated, as often, by Martin and Anne. The second one came with the comment: 'Not sure who's going to do this if we get caught'. Most of the following ones are probably golden oldies - in more ways than one, but the last two are bang up to date.

**I DON'T HAVE AN
ATTITUDE I HAVE A
PERSONALITY YOU
CAN'T HANDLE**

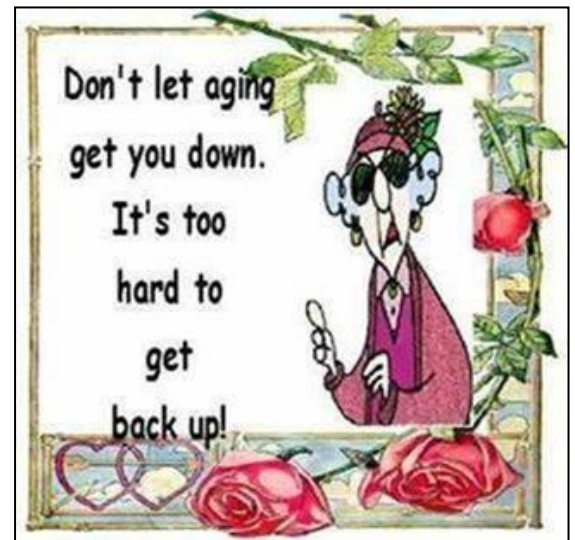


When you've got 7 people around for Christmas dinner and the police knock on the door...

20 THINGS YOUR MUM USED TO SAY TO YOU...



In addition to the visual gag, take a look at www.facebook.com/BrutNews/videos/donald-trump-vs-world-history/1173968626316088/. It's very clear that Donald wasn't paying attention in history classes. Thanks for both Anne and Tim for alerting me to this one. There are also a couple of video attachments with this newsletter, which will hopefully raise a smile. One features a clip from *Open All Hours* and the other the incomparable Nigel Hawthorne in a scene from *Yes Prime Minister* - don't be fooled by the opening sequence.



My Living Will

Last night, my kids and I were sitting in the living room and I said to them,

'I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug.'

They got up, unplugged the computer and threw out my wine!!

The little bastards.

Geezer Planet

Secrets to a long happy marriage



A old woman was sipping on a glass of wine, while sitting on the patio with her husband, and she says, "I love you so much, I don't know how I could ever live without you"... Her husband asks, "Is that you, or the wine talking?"... She replies, "It's me... talking to the wine."

You put your household in
Your children out
Eat out, Help out,
Spread it all about

You do the Covid-Okie
And U-turn around
What the hell is
this all about?

Oh, the Covid-Kokie
What a Covid-Jokie
Oh, the Covid-Kokie
Masks on
Spaced out

Ra, Ra, Ra

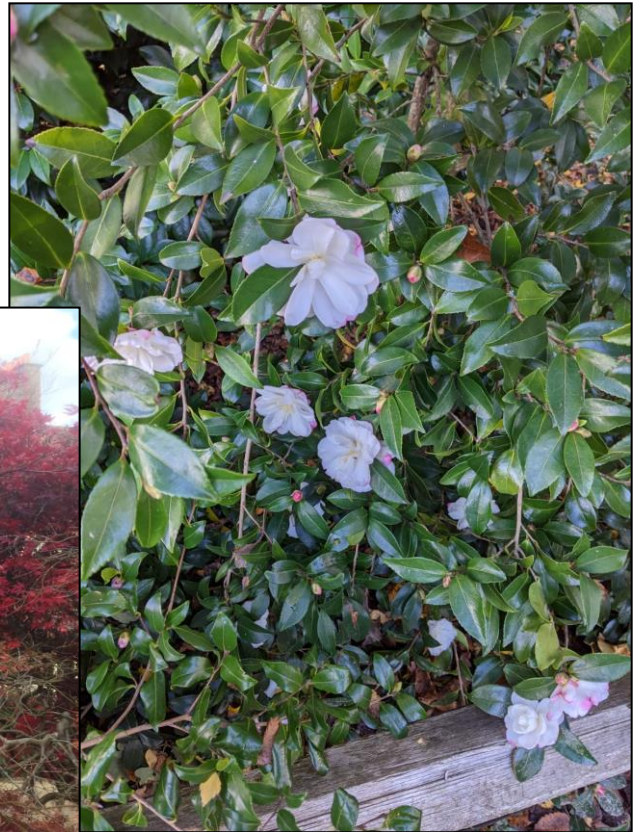
Donald

Donald

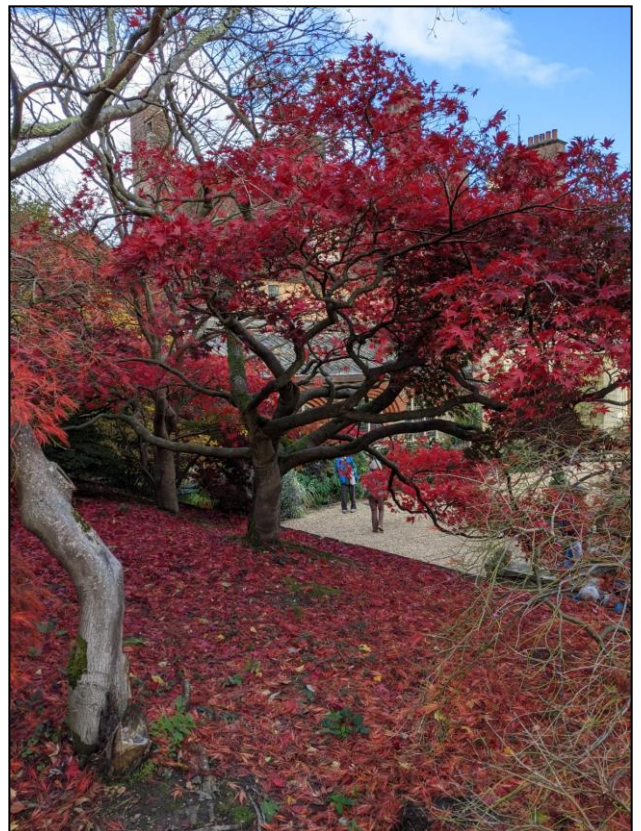
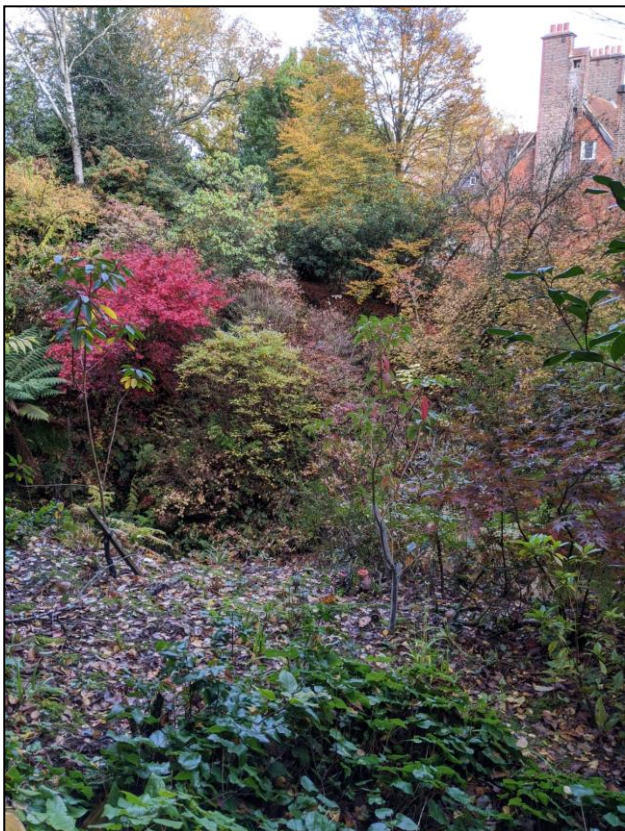
**Who knew that if
you turned Donald
Duck upside down
you get the other
Donald?**

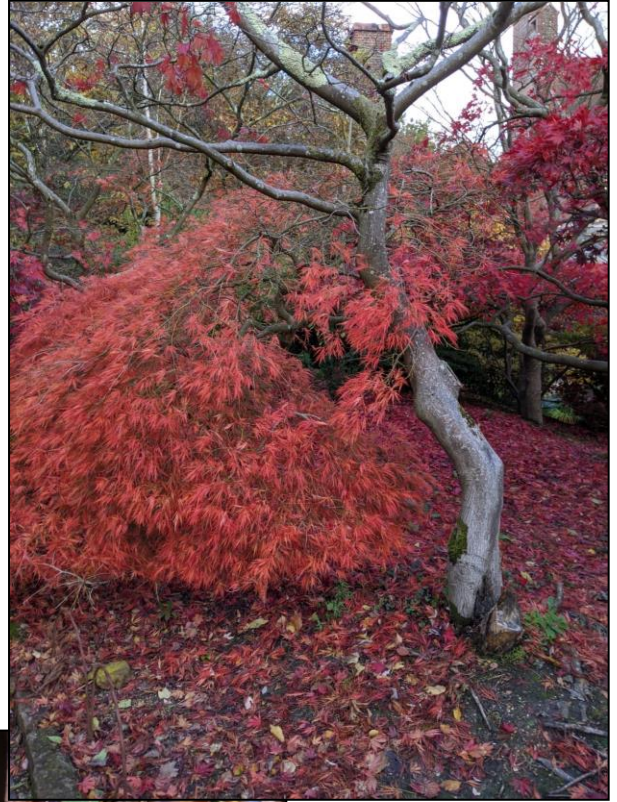
Nature's bounty at Standen

Martin Tasker recently visited Standen and sent in some glorious pictures of the Autumn colour on show.



I will let the photos speak for themselves.





Another thank you to our supporters

Roy Page, FoSE membership secretary, has reported that our membership now stands at 100 for this year. That's a fair bit down on last year, but given the complications of communication at the moment, is a testament to the commitment of those who care about Standen. Thanks to all who have worked on the principle that, 'The mail must get through'.

One size fits all

I arrived home one day to find an enormous cardboard box had been delivered to my doorstep. I staggered through the house with it and, somewhat curious, opened it up. Inside, lurking at the bottom of the box, was the tulip order I had made a few weeks earlier. I couldn't help wondering if the size of the box was some kind of ironic comment on the meagreness of my order, as all the tulips fitted quite happily into the lid.



And finally...

Roy's story in the last edition, of meeting his erstwhile Art teacher in Devon, and mine of meeting stray relatives sparked the following reminiscence from Anthony Fisher.

Your story of meeting a relative on holiday has uncanny parallels with us.

When the children were small we holidayed in South Wales. On a day visit to St David's Cathedral we took the very narrow coastal path, and our dog was ahead for safety. Coming the opposite way was my Uncle Ron from Kent. We had no prior knowledge of them being there but could only have a short conversation for fear of losing track of the dog.!!!