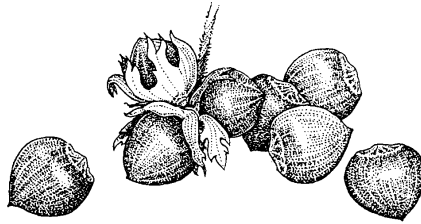


The Lockdown Lighthouse

THE INTERIM NEWSLETTER FROM THE FRIENDS OF STANDEN ESTATE:

NUTS ABOUT STANDEN
and missing it loads



No 29 - 4th March 2021

In this edition of The Lockdown Lighthouse:

TOP TERRACE TRANSFORMATION

A NEW PANDEMIC?

ODE TO GOLF

MORE ART WORK

BRAIN TEASER

GREEN FINGERS AT HOME

TIME FOR A GIGGLE

ANOTHER HIDDEN TALENT

BLEAU THE GARDENER

KEEPING THE SPARROWS AT BAY

STANDEN GOLD

AND FINALLY....

A vision becomes reality

No doubt many of us will remember the picture James brought into the tea room many years ago of Scots Pine trees with an enchanting view beyond them. This was the inspiration for his plans for the Top Terrace. So it was that, in a chilly week in February 2014, he managed to rope nearly everyone connected to Standen into planting Scots Pine and Silver Birch slips along the plot of land between the path to



the summerhouse and the one above it.

Over the intervening years, the trees have put on tremendous growth, to the point where the reservoir beyond was almost totally obscured. With a small, stalwart band of volunteers, Amy has set to work to bring James' vision to fruition, working in what have sometimes been quite challenging conditions. They have removed a quarter of the trees, raised the branches and cleared the brambles from underneath.

The result is, that already the view has opened up, creating a lovely frame for ever-changing views as you progress along the path. That's not all, though. There is a path already



under construction, which will allow visitors to meander through the trees.



The views of the reservoir are lovely, and will be enjoyed by all, I'm sure.

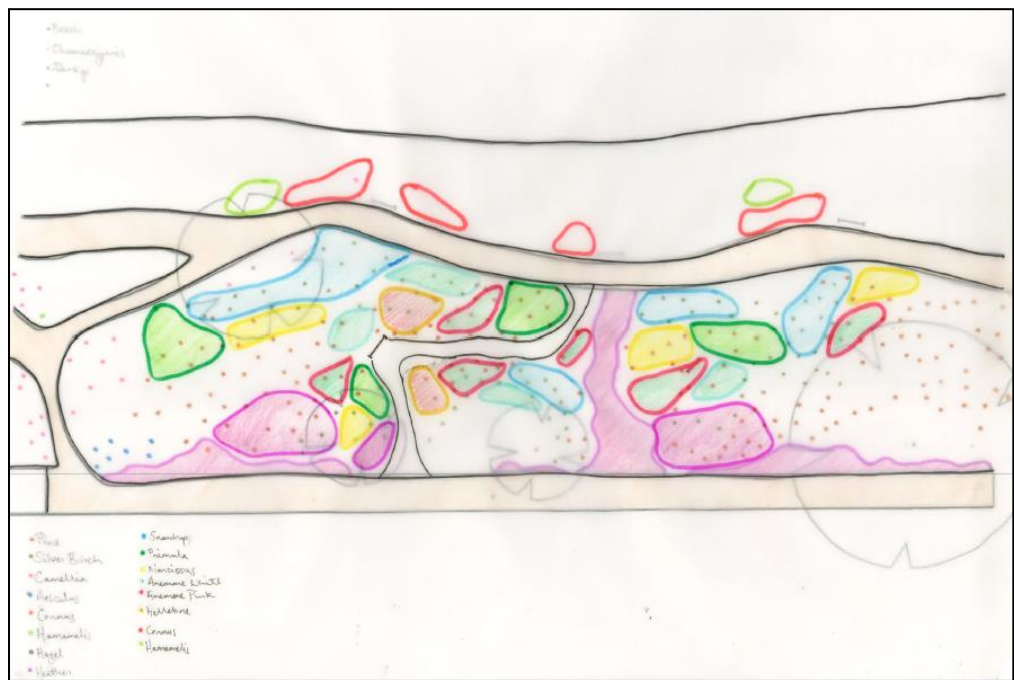


There are plans afoot for further planting. The area will eventually be ablaze in spring with snowdrops, primula, narcissus, pink and white anemone and hellebore; all this in addition to the winter-flowering heathers and camellias already established.

Amy has drafted a plan of how the planting will look, although it's still open to adjustment and the aim is to

create something which will look naturalised long-term.

One of the bigger items to be planted will be Cornus. So Amy is sending out a plea that if anyone has full red or full green Cornus that they're cutting down soon please keep the cuttings so



they can use them. She's happy to talk propagation techniques for these if anyone is interested or needs advice.

So finally, a medley of what we can look forward to:



Anyone else have trouble with emails?

We're still battling 🦠 COVID-19 🦠, and the next thing is here already.

The *NILE Virus, type C*

Virologists have identified a new Nile virus - type C.

It appears to target those who were born between 1940 & 1970

Symptoms:

1. Causes you to send the same message twice.
2. Causes you to send a blank message
3. Causes you to send a message to the wrong person.
4. Causes you to send it back to the person who sent it to you.
5. Causes you to forget to attach the attachment.
6. Causes you to hit SEND before you've finished.
7. Causes you to hit DELETE instead of SEND.
8. Causes you to SEND when you should DELETE.

It is called the *C-NILE* virus!

And if you can't admit to doing the above, you've obviously caught the mutated strain —

The *D-NILE* virus.



I have most definitely done all of these, along with the trick of closing Outlook down instead of hitting Send, and then finding my email in Drafts some time later.

A good golf poem...

...For any golfing enthusiasts out there.

In My Hand I Hold A Ball,
White And Dimpled, And Rather Small.
Oh, How Bland It Does Appear,
This Harmless Looking Little Sphere.

By Its Size I Could Not Guess
The Awesome Strength It Does Possess.
But Since I Fell Beneath Its Spell,
I've Wandered Through The Fires Of Hell.

My Life Has Not Been Quite The Same
Since I Chose To Play This Stupid Game.
It Rules My Mind For Hours On End;
A Fortune It Has Made Me Spend.

It Has Made Me Curse
And Made Me Cry,
And Hate Myself And Want To Die.

It Promises Me A Thing Called Par,
If I Hit It Straight And Far.

To Master Such A Tiny Ball,
Should Not Be Very Hard At All.
But My Desires The Ball Refuses,
And Does Exactly As It Chooses.

It Hooks And Slices, Dribbles And Dies,
And Disappears Before My Eyes
Often It Will Have A Whim,
To Hit A Tree Or Take A Swim.

With Miles Of Grass On Which To Land,
It Finds A Tiny Patch Of Sand.
Then Has Me Offering Up My Soul,
If Only It Would Find The Hole.

It's Made Me Whimper Like A Pup,
And Swear That I Will Give It Up.
And Take To Drink To Ease My Sorrow,
But The Ball Knows .. I'll Be Back Tomorrow.

Stand proud you noble swingers of clubs
And losers of balls!

A recent study found that the average golfer walks about 900 miles a year.
Another study found that golfers drink, on average, 22 gallons of alcohol a year.
This means that, on average, golfers get about 41 miles to the gallon!

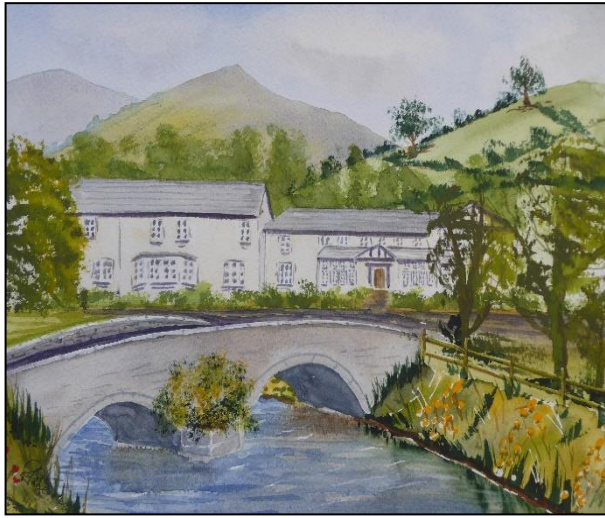
Kind of makes you proud. Almost makes you feel like a hybrid.

[More art work from Roy's palette](#)

History has told us that Monet's blue period was tied to eye problems. Monet told his physician in 1924, a year and a half after he had cataracts removed from his right eye, "I no longer see red or yellow".

Monet was not pleased with the blue paintings he created during this period. He eventually overcame the colour difficulties by using glasses with tinted lenses, and lived to finish a major series of paintings for the French government.

I am not comparing myself to such a great artist, but in the last few weeks of Lockdown 3, I believe I am going through my "bridge period" of painting, included in this issue are two more Dartmoor bridges in watercolour.



Two Bridges is very close to Widecombe in the Moor. The Two Bridges Hotel sits on the bank of the West Dart River. The West Dart River is one of two main tributaries of the River Dart. Its source is about 2 km north of Rough Tor on north Dartmoor. It flows south to Two Bridges, then south east past Hexworthy to meet the East Dart River at Dartmeet.

Scenes from the Steven Spielberg film the War Horse 2011, based on the novel by Michael Morpurgo were shot in the surrounding locations on the moor.

This hamlet on Dartmoor lies just north of Walkhampton on the River Walkham. On the moorland above the village is Walkhampton Common, which contains many archaeological sites including at least eight stone rows, many calms, cists, hut circles and reaves dating from the Bronze Age.

The River Walkham rises in the wide gap between Roos Tor and Great Mis Tor on Dartmoor and flows almost due south for approximately 3 miles on to Horrabridge and eventually to Tavistock where it joins the River Tavy.



Whatever period Roy is going through, his paintings are balm to the soul.

Tree quiz challenge

Roy also sent in the following brain teaser to keep us occupied. The answers will appear in the next edition.

Can you solve the emojis below to work out the names of the trees? You might need to use your imagination and be creative in some of them.

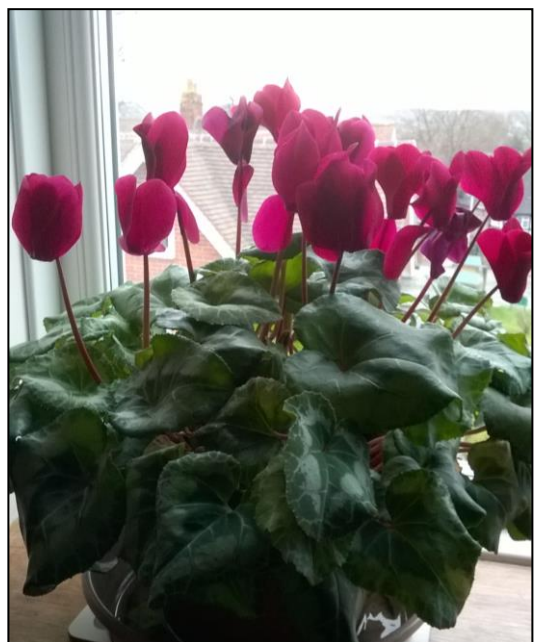




Still going strong

Some volunteers who have not been able to get out and weed at Standen have taken up indoor gardening. Pat Jilks has been using her green finger talents on this cyclamen. A present for her birthday in September, it has flowered constantly ever since - a full six months now. She must be doing something right. I don't know if this is the regime she is following - I suspect Pat just talks to hers - but a gardening website advises the following:

Cyclamen care starts with the correct temperature. In nature, cyclamens grow in cool, humid environments. If the temperature of your house is over 68 F. (20 C.) during the



day and 50 F. (10 C.) at night, your cyclamen will start to die slowly. Temperatures that are too high will cause the plant to begin to yellow, and the flowers will fade rapidly.

The next essential part of taking care of a cyclamen is to make sure that it's properly watered. Cyclamen are sensitive to both over and under watering. Make sure the plant has excellent drainage with a potting medium that holds water well. Water your cyclamen plant only when the soil is dry to the touch, but do not leave the plant in this dry state so long that it shows visible signs of not being watered, such as droopy leaves and flowers. Water from below the leaves so that the water doesn't touch stems or leaves. Soak the soil thoroughly and let any excess water drain away. The next part of cyclamen plant care is fertilizer. Only fertilize once every one to two months with water soluble fertilizer mixed at half strength.

To tickle your fancy

Those of you who have dogs which are unreliable around others' food will appreciate this video clip Anne received.

<https://twitter.com/weekendgundog/status/1363945262822096905?s=20>

Also worth a watch, although from a while back, is this clip of Pam Ayres on know-it-all husbands: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4oydSZTAns>

I always remember James Naughtie getting into a pickle when reading Jeremy Hunt's name on Radio 4's flagship *Today* programme, and nearly choking himself trying not to laugh out loud on air at what he'd said. Even the most prestigious amongst us can be unwittingly rude it seems. Here are twelve of the finest (unintentional) double-entendres ever aired on TV and radio:

1. Ted Walsh - Horse Racing Commentator - 'This is really a lovely horse. I once rode her mother.'
2. New Zealand Rugby Commentator - 'Andrew Mehrtens loves it when Daryl Gibson comes inside of him.'
3. Pat Glenn, weightlifting commentator - 'And this is Gregoriava from Bulgaria . I saw her snatch this morning and it was amazing!'
4. Harry Carpenter at the Oxford-Cambridge boat race 1977 - 'Ah, isn't that nice. The wife of the Cambridge President is kissing the Cox of the Oxford crew.'
5. US PGA Commentator - 'One of the reasons Arnie (Arnold Palmer) is playing so well is that, before each tee shot, his wife takes out his balls and kisses them. Oh my god !! What have I just said??'

6. Carezza Lewis about finding food in the Middle Ages on 'Time Team Live' said: 'You'd eat beaver if you could get it.'

7. A female news anchor who, the day after it was supposed to have snowed and didn't, turned to the weatherman and asked, 'So Bob, where's that eight inches you promised me last night?' Not only did HE have to leave the set, but half the crew did too, because they were laughing so hard!

8. Steve Ryder covering the US Masters: 'Ballesteros felt much better today after a 69 yesterday.'

9. Clair Frisby talking about a jumbo hot dog on 'Look North' said: 'There's nothing like a big hot sausage inside you on a cold night like this.'

10 Mike Hallett discussing missed snooker shots on 'Sky Sports': 'Stephen Hendry jumps on Steve Davis's misses every chance he gets.'

11. Michael Buerk on watching Philippa Forrester cuddle up to a male astronomer for warmth during BBC1's UK eclipse coverage remarked: 'They seem cold out there. They're rubbing each other and he's only come in his shorts.'

12. Ken Brown commentating on golfer Nick Faldo and his caddie Fanny Sunneson lining-up shots at the Scottish Open: 'Some weeks Nick likes to use Fanny; other weeks he prefers to do it by himself.'

And another bit of wordplay from Martin:

A frog goes into a bank and approaches the clerk. He can see from her nameplate that her name is Patty Whack.

'Miss Whack, I'd like to get a £30,000 loan to take a holiday.'

Patty looks at the frog in disbelief and asks his name. The frog says his name is Kermit Jagger, his dad is Mick Jagger, and that it's OK, he knows the bank manager. Patty explains that he will need to secure the loan with some collateral.

The frog says, 'Sure, I have this,' and produces a tiny porcelain elephant, about an inch tall, bright pink and perfectly formed. Very confused, Patty explains that she will have to consult the bank manager and disappears into the back office.

She finds the manager and says, 'There's a frog called Kermit Jagger out there who claims to know you and wants to borrow £30,000, and he wants to use this as collateral. She holds up the tiny pink elephant. 'I mean, what in the world is this?'

The bank manager looks at her and says, 'It's a knick-knack, Patty Whack. Give the frog a loan. His old man's a Rolling Stone.'

Stunning Craft work

Another FoSE member who has not been sitting idle during lockdown is Margaret May of the Woods Group. She has crafted this lovely basket out of pine needles. It must have taken her hours of painstaking work with nimble fingers.



Fingers crossed

Generally, I love birds, but last year, I decidedly went off sparrows. For over 40 years, the wisteria round my house has bloomed beautifully, giving pleasure to eye and nose to both me and passers-by. Although they are supposedly an endangered species, the sparrows in my neck of the woods have bred successfully in recent years to such an extent that they have reached plague proportions. Last year, they ate all but 11 of the buds on my wisteria, so instead of branches full of lovely racemes in spring, I

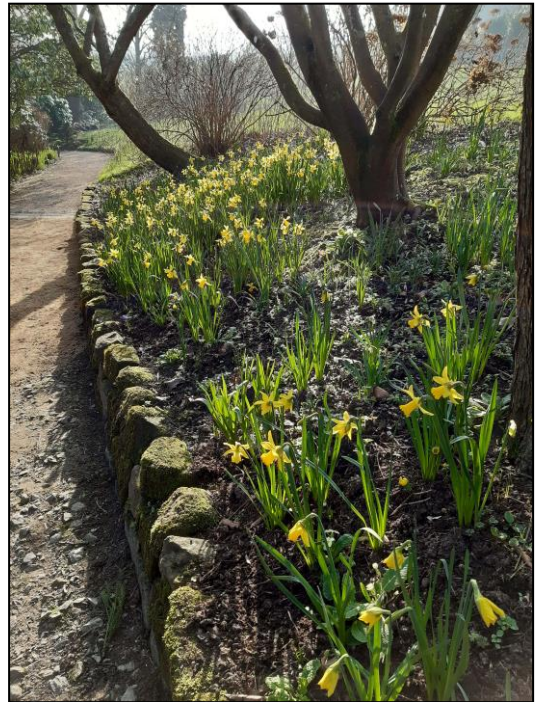


had to wait for a sparser flowering in July.

In an attempt at keeping the little blighters at bay, and encouraging them to go elsewhere for breakfast, my house is now decorated with numerous reflective owls and sparkly 'icicles'. So I'm hoping for a few more blooms this year. I'll keep you posted!

Daffodil delight

Bursts of golden sunshine are appearing all over Standen as Spring gets into its stride. The swathe of daffodils on Hydrangea Walk was particularly beautiful this week.



Also show-stopping were the displays above the courtyard in the Little Orchard and adjacent bed.



Playing in the garden

It looks like Bleau has discovered - and is loving - gardening. We've seen her swimming, and wielding a sledge hammer, but in this blog, we see her getting down and dirty, and enjoying the spring sunshine.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2hElpFx2Do&t=22s>

And finally

Many thanks to those of you who have already paid your FoSE subs. Now we are into March, may I remind the rest of you to renew? I am attaching a renewal form to this newsletter. For BACs transfer the account details are: Friends of Standen Estate, Lloyds Bank: sort code 30-92-92, account number 01856808. Please add the reference 'Subs' followed by your name. If you are not happy with internet banking, email me at newsletter@fose.org.uk with a request for an address to which to send a cheque and form by post. Or, if you do make it to Standen as the restrictions ease, please leave your form and money in the FoSE tray in the tearoom.