

In a Nutshell

THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE FRIENDS OF STANDEN ESTATE:

NUTS ABOUT STANDEN!



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In this edition of In a Nutshell:
STANDEN'S EXOTIC BED
KEEPING MOLES AT BAY
CAKE MONEY
NEWS FROM ROCKINHILL WOOD
TESTIMONIALS FOR FOSE
FROM CAROLYN'S WINDOW
AND FINALLY...

A vision realised

It has long been a dream of James' to extend the exotic bed below the Acers. Back in October, garden staff and volunteers worked to prune the Indian Bean Tree and shape it both to set itself off and allow glimpses of the Acers behind. At the same time turf was lifted around the tree and compost applied to make a bed for planting. In the following weeks, Pat Felgate and several other volunteers spent time lifting and dividing plants in the existing exotic bed. Next year should see the newly enlarged bed in all its hot-coloured glory.



Turfed out

For some years, moles have defaced the sloping lawn by leaving molehills dotted about. James has tried a number of ways of deterring them but the latest version involves flattening the hills and then either seeding or turfing over them.



Turfed stripped to make the exotic bed was recycled to try and keep the little rascals at bay.



When the turf ran out, the remaining flattened hills were seeded, as it was still warm enough for grass seed to germinate.

Roy, Roger and Tim all helped to persuade the moles to go elsewhere.



Strapped for cash

It has long been the policy to put 20p into the cake money pot in payment for a piece of Standen cake. These days, though, many of us carry little in the way of cash and finding the exact money can be difficult. James has suggested that it would be fine to put £1 in the pot once every five slices if that is easier for people. All moneys

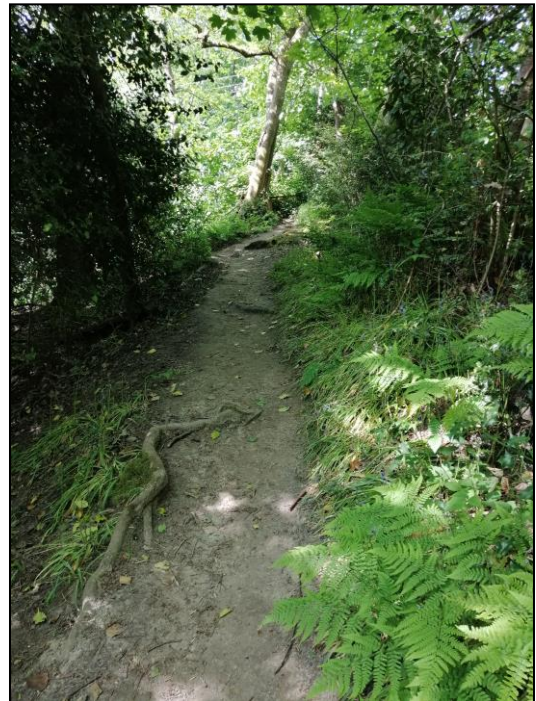
raised will go to supplement the azaleas on the slope outside the stable yard.

Thank you Sussex Lund

Sussex Lund is a charity founded by Peter Baldwin and Lisbet Rausing. Its aim is to support,

'small-scale, practical projects that improve the ecology and landscape of the High Weald'

FoSE was granted funding by this charity to start work just before the first lockdown in March 2020. We had requested support to repair the entrance footpath to Rockinghill Wood, which had become quite hazardous, and provide better access for the bench halfway down the path.



The pictures above show how things used to look - trip hazards galore.

Sussex Lund not only agreed to give us a grant of £1,300, but were very patient when it was impossible to start the work because of lockdown. With the return of the volunteers, Trudy and the Woods Group have been



able to complete this work and the path and bench are both much more user-friendly as a consequence. Unfortunately the cost of the materials has gone up by about 20% since the original costing so the project required a slight redesign to meet the budget.



Trudy summed it all up as follows:

We have finally been able to finish the entrance path and seat step into Rockinghill Wood.

It has taken nearly three years since we were given a grant by the Sussex Lund Fund which bought the materials, e.g. dressing for the path surface and wood. The fund has been so helpful in allowing us to continue with the project despite the wait due to staff being furloughed etc.

All the labour was done by Standen estate staff and the woods volunteers who worked extra days to complete the task before the winter weather arrives.

We must give thanks to the FOSE team past and present for their time and expertise in making this happen.

It all certainly looks a lot smarter and safer than it did.



Can you help to promote FoSE and volunteering at Standen?

For some time, there have been testimonials on our website from volunteers about their experiences working at Standen. Many of these are way out of date now, especially in view of the high turnover after the lock-downs. The old ones have been taken down, but we would like some new ones to replace them. Please think about writing a short paragraph about what you enjoy about volunteering at Standen. Send it either to me at newsletter@fose.org.uk or to Carloyn using the

contact form on the website at <http://www.fose.org.uk/contact/> Who knows, your experiences might encourage more volunteers to come and join in.

Views from a window not far away

Many of you will know that Carolyn has recently moved house. There were, of course, teething problems aplenty, but the view from her window clearly helps to make up for all the hassle. Here are pictures of a beautiful sunrise, and a local blue-tit visiting the bird



feeder. Definitely worth getting up in the morning for.

And finally....

Good news that the Trust has appointed someone as Head of Gardens and Parks, recognising the importance of the outdoor spaces in their properties. We hope that Andy Jasper will come and visit Standen soon.