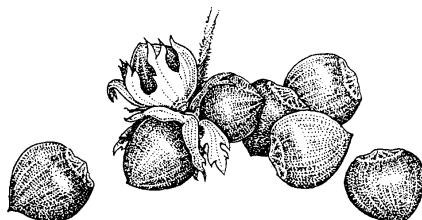


In a Nutshell

THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE FRIENDS OF STANDEN ESTATE:

NUTS ABOUT STANDEN!



No 62 May 2022

In this edition of In a Nutshell:
FOND FAREWELLS
DINU'S POEM
NEWS OF THE COMMITTEE
NAME THAT VOLUNTEER
EASY-FUNDRAISING
POLITE REMINDER
AND FINALLY...

Two sad goodbyes

Well, sad for us, maybe, but new beginning for them. Thursday 21st April was originally envisioned as a leaving do for Amy Page, gardener, and then ranger Trudie Jacobs threw in the towel, so it turned out to be a dual event. A large number of volunteers, along with James, Carolyn and Jamie, gathered round a bonfire and barbecue to say farewell to these two much-loved staff.





Trudie has been Ranger at Standen for about 10 years and run both her areas of the estate and the Woods group with panache. Passionate about wildlife, she has been in charge of an ecology group, taken a course in handling dormice and overseen the

placing of a number of nesting boxes of all kinds in Hollybush Wood. She did consider retiring, but never one to sit still, she has found a number of projects to keep her busy, including work at Leonardslee with former Standen gardener Andy Gorman-Strong.



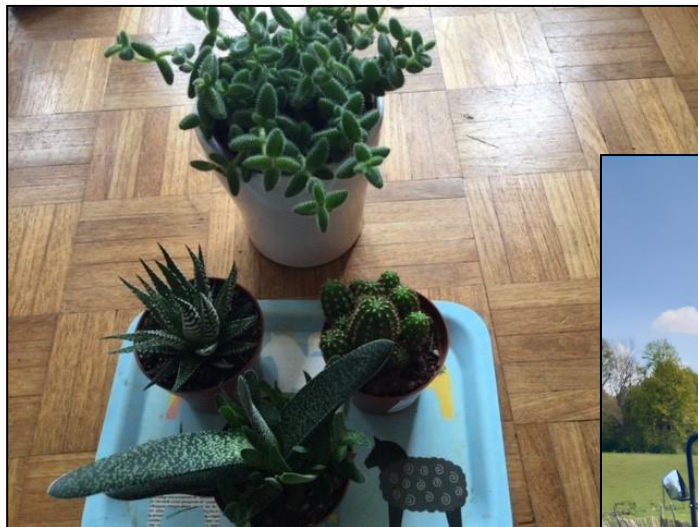
Amy's plans have taken her in a different direction, literally. She is now in Kentucky, preparing for her wedding and a new life in America. Amy spent 5 years at Standen, first as a volunteer and then as a paid employee with responsibility for keeping the garden volunteers under control

and gainfully occupied, a role she carried out with great efficiency and empathy. Like Trudie, she will be very much missed.

At the leaving do, James made a short speech, and presented both with gifts. For Amy nothing physical which would take up



valuable suitcase space, but the wherewithal to buy something to remember Standen by in her new home when she is settled in.



One of Trudie's gifts was a polished stick and she also received a voucher from the

Woods volunteers with which she brought a selection of plants.

Dinu wrote and recited a poem in Trudie's honour, and Carolyn presented Amy with a very cute, look-alike crocheted doll.





Amy is no doubt high on wedding plans, but Trudie is taking a more down-to-earth approach to retirement!

Anyone in need of a plumber?

Maybe Dinu would have penned a different poem if he'd seen this beforehand.

Trudie Jacobs - Standen Ranger

This is dedicated to Trudie, the Woodlanders' boss
Whose leaving Standen will be such a sad loss
She kept us all under benign control
While ensuring that work standards did not fall

She did all this without cracking the whip
Yet she always ran an efficient ship
At the beginning of each session she would say
Whatever the plans were for that day

And at the end of which, all the work was done
Yet we still managed to have so much fun
I am aware that having fun is only a must
As long as it benefits the National Trust

So I'd like to end this sad poetic attempt

By wishing Trudie a happy and fruitful retirement

With apologies to William McGonagle,
Dundee's most famous son.

Known and appreciated by not everyone.

We'll keep you posted

We are sorry that we had to postpone the FoSE BBQ scheduled for 15th May, but Roy, our chief chef, suffered a mild heart attack a few days before, and was hospitalised. Given that two other committee members were on holiday, and that Nancy had also been admitted to hospital, we had no option but to put our plans on hold. As soon as we are in a position to reconvene, we will let you know.

Roy, I am pleased to report, is now home and on the mend. However, all I know about Nancy is that she is very unwell and still in hospital. Cards have been sent to both of them, and we wish them both well.

Committee update

Our AGM took place face to face for the first time since 2019, although the turnout was disappointingly small. Angela Hogman, who has served on the committee for most of its existence, stood down, as did Nancy. As Chair for the last three years, I was no longer eligible for the role, but as no-one else was willing to stand, the committee is now running on a rolling programme, with a different committee member chairing each meeting. Tim agreed to re-join the committee, but we are still short-handed. So, if there is anyone out there who would be willing to come and support the committee by becoming a member of it, please let one of us know.

As it stands, the personnel is as follows:

James Masters - President
Jackie Apps
Bob Fielden
Pam Griffiths - Secretary
Roger Ohison
Roy Page - Membership
Tim Roberson
Anne Scutt - Treasurer
Martin Tasker

So, if you want to know anything more about what a FoSE committee member does - and it's not much of a commitment - please do speak to any one of us. We would hate to see FoSE become yet another victim of the pandemic.

Volunteers past and present

James put together a slide show of photos of volunteers going back over more than 20 years to entertain us at the AGM. He began with the most recent pictures, where most of us could identify the individuals at work, especially after James realised he could zoom in on the faces, though some characters were immediately identifiable by other parts of their anatomy! As the years rolled back, it became harder to remember names though there was great glee when someone suddenly said, 'Oh wasn't that?' And then there were animated discussions about where that particular person was now and what they were doing. When it got to the very earliest pictures, even James couldn't put a name to all the faces, but all in all it was a very enjoyable trip down memory lane, and a reminder of all that generations of volunteers have done to make the woods and gardens at Standen what they are today.

Donation Reminder

I learnt something new at the AGM about *Easy-fundraising*. I knew there was a way of setting up a reminder but hadn't bothered to do so. However, if you do, when you google an item you wish to buy, it will tell you which companies selling it will make a donation on your behalf to your chosen charity. Then you can pick the one which allows you to donate to Standen - should you so wish. The *Easy-fundraising* website shows you how to go about it and can be accessed by the Friends of Standen Estate webpage at www.fose.org.uk :

Our FREE Donation Reminder is the easiest way to raise your first donation. Get our Donation Reminder and we'll let you know when a donation is available as you shop on your laptop or computer like normal. Then all it takes is one quick click to raise.
--

It's that time of year again.

Thank you so much to those FoSE members who have renewed already this year. There are very few outstanding subscriptions. However, if one of them is yours, please note that at the end of May the distribution list for the FoSE newsletter will be updated, and if you haven't paid, you will be removed from the list. There are also one or two people who have paid but not submitted a form. Again, if that's you, please do complete the boring paperwork for us.

And finally...

She's back! At least I assume it's the same hen blackbird who nested in the metal shed in the nursery area last year. This year, unable to return to the previous site as the doors have been mended, she has chosen to nest in the potting shed. She was initially a little wary of this strange human creature in her space but was soon flying in and out with mouthfuls of goodies for her hungry chicks.



Recent work in the nursery was accompanied by a chorus of chirrupings from the fledglings, and a flurry of activity and cheeping whenever Mum flew back with a meal.