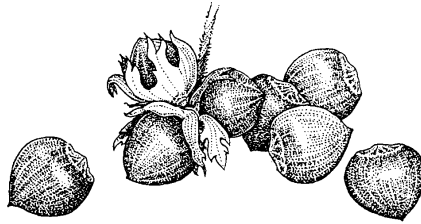


In a Nutshell

THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE FRIENDS OF STANDEN ESTATE:

NUTS ABOUT STANDEN!



No 66 January 2023

In this edition of In a Nutshell

QUIZ TIME

THE SEASONS COME AND GO

FISH AND CHIPS

AGM REMINDER

QUARANTINE GREENHOUSE

HEDGING AND SQUELCHING

GOODBYE TO AN OLD FRIEND

NEWS FROM THE WOODS GROUP

AND FINALLY...

FoSE Calendar

Quiz - 29th March

AGM - 24th May

Yes - it's definitely going to happen

After a decidedly rocky start to FoSE's attempts to re-instigate its social calendar after the pandemic, we are determined that the **FoSE Quiz**, scheduled for **29th March** will definitely go ahead. The quiz will take place in the **Barn Café**, arrival from 7 for a prompt 7.30 start to the quizzing. Teams can be up to 6 people, and as there is an 80 person limit on seating in the barn it will be first come, first served. Tickets are £5 per person, and we hope you will bring refreshments of your choice and some extra cash to buy a raffle ticket or two as well. Enquiries regarding reservation of spaces can come to newsletter@fose.org.uk. You don't need to pay up front, but we do need to know how many are coming. Questions are being generated by a variety of people, so hopefully there will be something for everyone. Prizes will be won.

We are currently raising funds to replace the fruit cage in the vegetable garden. It has done good service for 14 years, but now runs the risk of becoming a danger to passing visitors, despite



sterling efforts by the Kitchen Garden volunteers to stabilise it. So it is now in urgent need of replacement. Please, therefore, do invite friends and family to come and help us to support Standen.

Autumn to winter



It seems a long time ago now, but the usual annual leaf clear-up seemed to go on much longer than normal. Maybe, after such a dry summer, the trees were relishing the wet weather and so reluctant to let their leaves drop.

Of course, when they did, they became a soggy mush, much harder to clear. Add to that the fact that it was so mild that the grass was still growing and

clearing leaves from around and on Goose Green became a marathon.

After all that wet, the snow and cold almost came as a treat, and certainly made the Christmas decorations at Standen that little bit more festive-looking.

All the mild weather has meant that signs of spring are already showing, with snowdrops and early narcissus already in flower, not to mention leaf buds already showing on the trees.



An annual tradition

Before Covid, the Thursday Garden Group always had a slap-up fish and chip lunch on the last working day before Christmas (other group's celebrations were of course also available!). Last year, because of social distancing restrictions, it was just a select few who gathered outside in the stableyard for the event. So, it was a great delight to be able to extend the event to volunteers from Tuesday and Wednesday groups this time.



The weather was cold, and snow still lying meant that no gardening could be done in the morning, but the Harbour Fish Bar served us royally, boxing up our orders with names written on the outside so that there was no confusion. It was quite a tight fit to get us all into the stable tea-room, but at least that kept us warm. And the fish and chips were delicious.

Another date for your diary

It's a long way off, but please do put the date for the AGM in your diary. It will take place in the Barn Café on 24th May, which is a Wednesday at 7 p.m. James will be showing some pictures which will highlight how much Standen gardens have changed over the years - with your help. Remember this, for example?

We are also still keen to recruit new committee members, preferably from other than the Thursday Garden Group. I'm not sure why so many of the committee come from that original group, but we would like others to become involved and bid for their own pet projects.



Greenhouse to go!

Some months ago, Standen was given a small greenhouse which is to be used in the new quarantine area of the nursery. To begin with, the area wasn't ready to have a greenhouse erected on it. Then, the frame went up, but a vital piece - the roof light frame - apparently went awol. It eventually turned up amongst the glass panes which had been stacked separately from the frame.



Then, other priorities took over, and work in

the nursery stopped for a few months. So it was, that the team was delighted to be able to start glazing the greenhouse this month. There are still a few panes to go in, but once



they are fitted, the whole will have a good wash down - the glass has gone rather mucky while it has been waiting - and James will be able to start using it. So once again, thank you, Diana, for your generosity.



A lesson in Hedge-laying

A starting point might be: Don't do it in the wet!

However, nothing daunted, the volunteers planted slips all along the edge of the field behind the car park where bonfires are held. James had chosen a selection from the RSPB named *Approved Ultimate Bird-Friendly Bundles*. So, between a couple of Malus 'Profusion' Crab Apple, the following species were planted:



Alnus glutinosa - Black alder
Crataegus Monogyna - Hawthorn
Viburnum opulus - Guelder rose
Acer campestre - Field maple
Prunus padus - Bird cherry
Euonymus europaeus - Spindle
Amelanchier lamarckii -
 Juneberry
Ligustrum vulgare - Wild Privet
Prunus spinosa - Blackthorn
Prunus avium - Wild cherry

There were 25 of each species, making a total of 500 in all to plant. At the lower end of the area, slip trenches filled with water as they were created. The hedging certainly didn't need watering in, but I hope it doesn't mind having to swim. Let's hope the local birds appreciate the efforts made on their behalf.



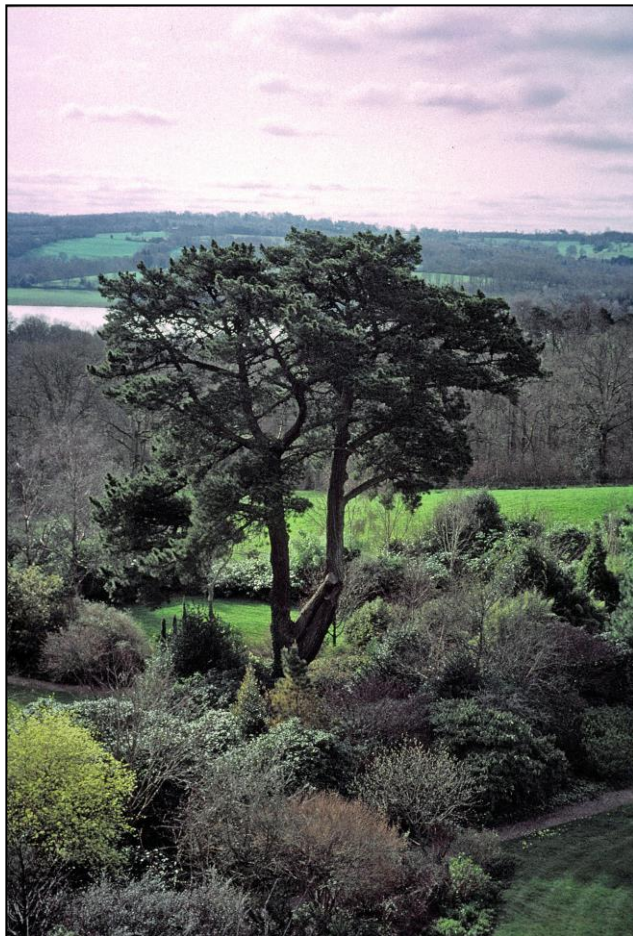
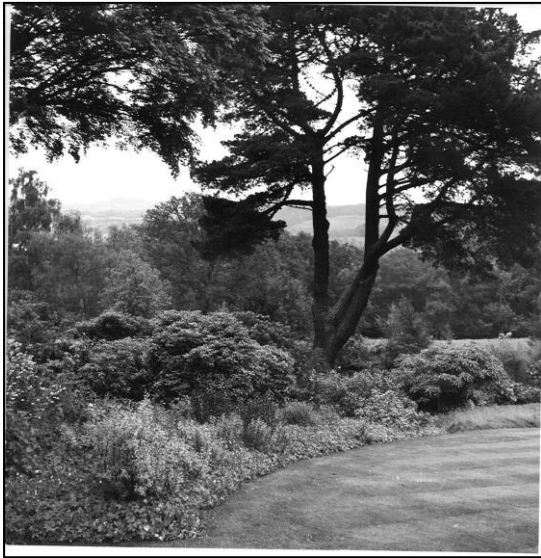
No more Monterey

The Monterey Pine on the Farm Track, planted by the Beales, has been a feature of the garden for many, years. It was planted in 1896 and just managed to exceed its allotted 120-year life span. Although it still looked good, it was found to be diseased and had to come down before it became a hazard. Tree surgeons worked on it for around two weeks, taking it back to the main trunk branch by branch. Fortunately, another Monterey was planted in 1994 and although it hasn't yet started to spread out into the classic shape, it is healthy and hopefully will achieve the grandeur of its predecessor in the fullness of time.



In the meantime, there is a huge pile of logs stored in the corner of the bonfire field, so if anyone is interested in taking home a souvenir or acquiring a few logs for wood-turning, James would be very happy for you to help yourself. The logs are this size or larger, and the pile has grown considerably since this picture was taken.

What follows is a selection of photos, taken by James, of the Monterey Pine in its heyday.





The process of bringing the tree down has also provoked a flurry of photos.



The cherry picker is clearly visible in the close-up photos but can also just be seen on the left-hand side of the picture taken from the entrance to the Kitchen Garden.



And you'd certainly need a head for heights for this one and the next.



Soon, there was just a stump left and the moody sky adds a poignancy to the scene.



'Ohlson's Weave'

It is good to get news from other areas of the estate. So here is a quick 'stop press' from John Allen in the Woods Group.

The Woodlands Team were tasked recently with tidying up the lower hedge by the volunteers' carpark which was laid a couple of years ago. Normally this means cutting the growth at the level of the original top line.

However when Roger (Ohlson) saw the length of the growth he decided to weave this back into the hedge rather than cut it off. The results are shown on the attached pictures.

Roger's helpers were Mike Funnell, Dave Evans and myself.

The finish is unique (I believe) and should be patented as "Ohlson Weave" hedge-laying !

Sounds like Roger should patent it.



And finally....

Waste not, want not.

We all laughed when Anne said she was taking the left-over chips from the lunch home for the crows, but they clearly enjoyed them.

This one is definitely looking for seconds.



