

In a Nutshell

THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE FRIENDS OF STANDEN ESTATE:

NUTS ABOUT STANDEN!



No 65 November 2022

In this edition of In a Nutshell

WAITROSE BOUNTY
SPRING QUIZ
GOOD NEWS FOR THE COMMITTEE
STANDEN AWASH
SCULPTURE IN SITU
AND FINALLY...

New trees for Standen

Waitrose's new charity scheme certainly is complicated to negotiate, but thanks to the lovely lady in Waitrose who is co-



ordinating it in the East Grinstead store, Anne Scutt and I were able to go to the store recently and pick up a cheque for £500. It seemed

highly appropriate that they chose to photograph us in front of a sign saying Flowers and Plants!

Anne has now banked the cheque (a more normal-sized version) and we are now urgently hunting for a mature *Acer davidii* or Snake-bark acer to grace the gardens at Standen once again.



Fortunately, it doesn't look as if it will use the whole of Waitrose's gift, so we are also looking to purchase three *Prunus Serrula* - the Tibetan cherry with the lovely red, shiny bark.

A FoSE event at last!

Hopefully! We seem to have been all promises recently as regards FoSE social events, but we are determined to do better in 2023. So, please put **Wednesday 29th March 2023** in your diaries as the date of a FoSE Quiz. It will be held in the Barn Café and your quiz master will be our own Martin Tasker. Each member of the committee will produce a round of questions on different topics, so hopefully there will be something to appeal to everyone. Posters giving details of timing and cost will appear in the New Year, but in the meantime, please mark the date and think about which friends and family might help you to make up a team.

New blood!

We are delighted to announce that the FoSE committee now has two new members. Gareth Rees has only been at Standen since April, just over six months, volunteering with the Garden Group on a Thursday. However, he has already shown himself to be an invaluable volunteer, a hard worker who will tackle anything. After a career as a Civil Servant with the National Crime Agency, commuting to London every day, he decided he wanted to do something outdoors in the fresh air. Standen is lucky to have him for a whole day; the Compass Garden and the Town Council garden volunteers only get his services for half a day each.

Ian Wright has been at Standen for three years now, after spending 20 years as a house husband. He began this when he became a Dad, but the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome suffered by his daughter meant that his stint at home lasted much

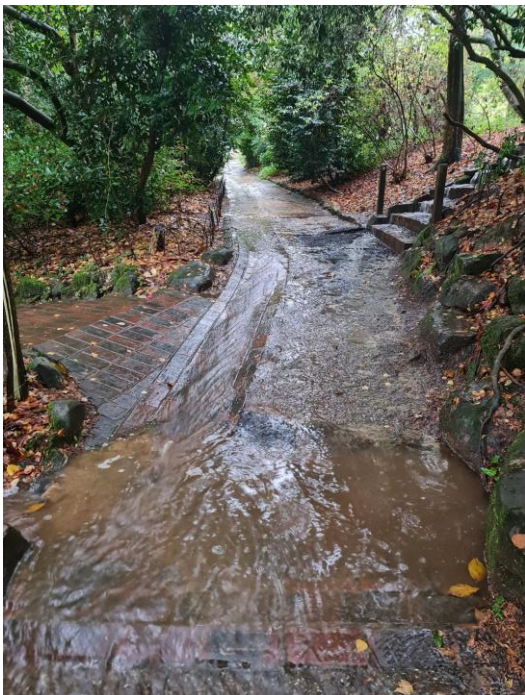
longer than expected. Now his daughter is well enough not to need him full time, and he, too, decided that working outside was for him. He has worked in the main garden, especially in the Rosery, and was giving two days of his time in the Kitchen Garden. Now, he does one day there as a garden steward but is hoping that plans to create a small volunteer group to nurture the Rosery will come to fruition. (Carolyn has plans to plant more roses there, but not in the central bed, which she would like to use to grow gourds.) Ian is currently working on his RHS level 2 at Hever one day a week and will take his exams in February.

We are so pleased to have new people on the committee, but still feel it has become something of a cartel (if that's the right word) as all but one of its members volunteer on a Thursday. So, if you volunteer in any of the other groups, or on other days, and would like to join the committee, please get in touch at newsletter@fose.org.uk as we would love to welcome you to the not very onerous role of committee member.

Rain, rain, go away....

...but it seems determined at the moment to 'come again another day', and another. I suspect many of us have flood stories to tell about November '22, and Standen is no exception. Here are some pictures James took at the height of the inundation.



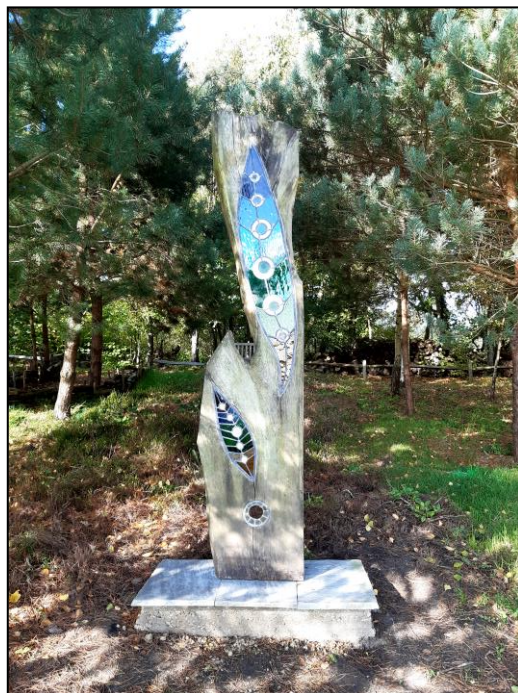


I am constantly amazed by the resilience of plant life. The autumn colour is still lovely, and plants are still flowering despite their soaking.

Stunning sculpture

I am pleased to announce that Standen's glass sculpture is now in situ amongst the Scots Pines on the Top Terrace. Here's hoping it stays safe for staff, volunteers and visitors to enjoy for years to come. The light is constantly changing, making it a mecca for photographers. James caught it at such a magical moment one morning recently that I actually wondered if he had been using Photoshop.





And here it is in mist and midday sunshine. It doesn't look bad from the other side, either!



And finally....

The Potting shed has had a makeover. For some time it had been quite a cluttered space as there was not enough room to store everything properly.

However, James bought two new shelving systems; Martin and Gareth cleared space for them and Garvin, Martin and Gareth put them up. At the moment, the

potting shed fulfils the adage: 'a place for everything, and everything in its place'.

It's just a pity that there are still so many pots to wash!

