

In a Nutshell

THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE FRIENDS OF STANDEN ESTATE:

NUTS ABOUT STANDEN!



No 67 March 2023

In this edition of In a Nutshell

FoSE Calendar

NOW YOU SEE IT -

AGM - 24th May

AGM REMINDER

MEMORIAL TO THE GARDEN RESTORATION

SCRUB-BASHING

A NEW SET OF WHEELS

NEW BOOTS FOR OLD

QUIZ NIGHT

AND FINALLY...

Now you don't

We knew the Monterrey Pine was big, and mourned its demise, but the stump which has been left behind is still an imposing feature. Could it be holding two fingers up to the workmen who demolished it?

The Pine is not the only thing to have disappeared recently. The Kitchen Garden volunteers have now demolished and removed the aged and dangerous fruit cage frame in the first stage of what is going to be a long-term and probably expensive project.



This is what it looked like until recently. And then the team got to work.



Ladders were engaged, along with plenty of people power.



And finally, there was the fruit bed, ready for the next step in the renovation.

Glynn Jones, Kitchen Garden volunteer sent in these photos:

Us volunteers have been busy dismantling the old cage and were pleased to see our temporary



and free repairs have held the whole thing up over the winter. Trying to work around the currant and berry bushes not to mention the rhubarb just beginning to grow without damage has been a challenge and we will maintain that no harm was done to the stock to anyone who asks. We may even post a YouTube video of how to do it all without injuring anyone.

We are going to need to raise a lot of money to complete the project, so if you have any brainwaves for social events FoSE could organise to help reach our target, please let a committee member know about it.

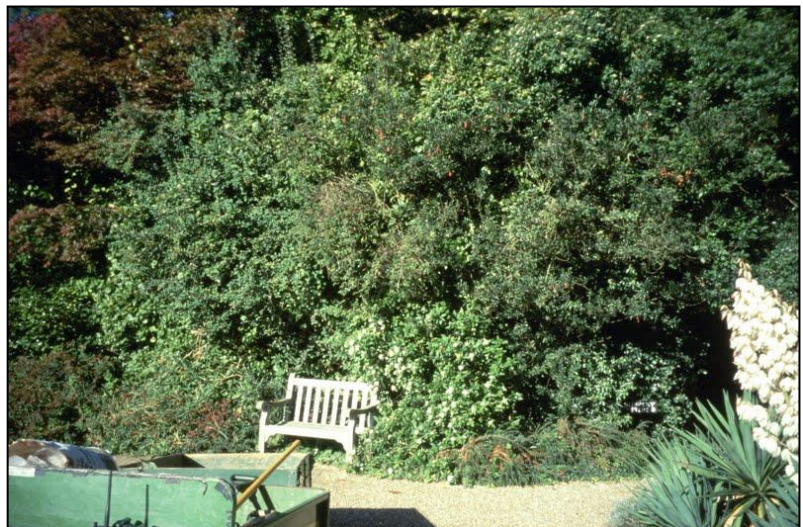
It's on 24th May



Our AGM will be held in the Barn Café at 7 p.m. on Wednesday 24th May, before the next newsletter comes out, so please put the date in your diary now. It is always somewhat dispiriting when the committee is only just outnumbered by the audience. We would really like to encourage as many people to attend as possible, and from **as many**

different volunteer groups as possible.

If you are a 'friend of' as James likes to refer to FoSE, we would really like to see **you** there. One of the downsides of having different groups on different days is that we don't get to meet each other very often.



As usual, the business part of the meeting will be very brief, but James has plans to get you thinking. He is putting together a series of photos collected over the years and is challenging all of us to be able to say where in the garden they were taken.

As a teaser before the event, here are six photos taken in various parts of the garden.

I think I might actually know where this one is!

How many can you identify?



Answers are at the end of the newsletter, but no cheating. See if you can work them out first.

Have I sat on this seat, I wonder?

Standen has certainly seen some changes over the years.

Do come along and join the fun. Last year's AGM, with it's 'Guess the volunteer' photo presentation, caused much laughter and happy reminiscence.



The plaque is in place

You may recall that our damaged glass sculpture has been restored and re-erected in a safer venue on the Top Terrace.

It now sports a plaque explaining what it is there for. Many of the staff and volunteers who were part of the restoration were photographed beside it once it was in situ. Hopefully, visitors will pause to read it.



A good day's work

The bank behind the car park was planted up with rhododendrons some years back, but during Covid and with fewer volunteers and staff in the aftermath, it had become seriously overgrown. A few weeks back there was an all-out effort to clear the bank of brambles and other scrub and see what was left of the rhododendrons. Many had perished, but those which had survived can now see the light of day.



It was a case of all hands on deck, with Garvin repeatedly driving trailer-loads of weeds, leaves and brambles to add to the bonfire in the lower field, James using the digger to scrape up mud and debris from the edge of the carpark and the rest of the volunteers and staff ranged along the bank and its edge, clearing as they went. Even Joe Wheelan spent a morning fighting the Standen brambles. Several photos have already been published in the Standen and Nymans newsletter, but in the interests of propriety I will reprint one here with the rider that what Martin is actually doing is throwing a bramble onto the pile to his left - not making improper advances to another volunteer.



By the end of the day most of the bank was looking quite respectable, and the volunteers were all looking very tired!



During the course of the day, Claire got to drive the electric buggy on loan from a local John Deere supplier. However, Standen won't be buying as it's a bit too big for what is required at the moment. And I'm not sure how Martin managed to blag himself a lift back up the hill. Who said 'Noddy and Big Ears'?



Standen has also recently received a gift from Nymans in the shape of a John Deere tractor mower, which will hopefully help keep the lawns looking trim.

Bootiful Birdboxes

New volunteer Kevin Laver is clearly a man of talent. Spotting all the wellies around the garden for the half-term trail, he hit on the idea of turning some of them into bird-boxes. So far he has created three which now are in situ at Standen, grouped round the new VR area at the bottom of the drive. This is a



sample of his handiwork. I'm sure the Standen birdlife will be impressed.

And the winner is....



The Barn Café was full to capacity last night as FoSE held its first fundraising event since Covid. Our quiz master was the very suitably attired Martin Tasker while Roger Ohison kept the scores. The questions, provided by the committee, were varied, and

caused much scratching of heads from time to time, but there were whoops of delight when people discovered that they had got the answer to a particularly tricky one right.



The winning team was headed by Margaret Collard, always a fervent supporter of FoSE events, and each of the winners went home with their own Easter egg.

Support of the raffle was generous, and so, between that and the entrance fee, FoSE raised just over £500. This will go

towards getting the first stage of replacing the Kitchen Garden fruit cages off the ground, so to speak. Our thanks to all those who attended and in particular to Martin for being M.C.

And finally...

Here are the answers to the picture teasers:

In order they are

1 - Shelterbelt

2 - House Terrace

3 - Rosery (Bamboo Garden at the time)

4 - Tenants' Garden - (Now part of the Kitchen Garden)

5 - Orchard

6 - Top Terrace