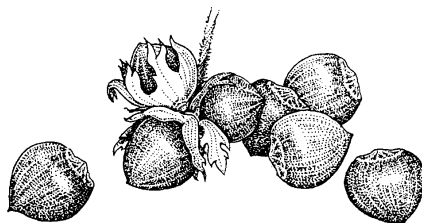


In a Nutshell

THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE FRIENDS OF STANDEN ESTATE:

NUTS ABOUT STANDEN!



No 80 May 2025

In this edition of In a Nutshell
MEMORIES OF TIMES PAST
FOSE BOUGHT A SHED
AGM NEWS
AND FINALLY...

FoSE calendar

What Fose has done - a retrospective

Given that there has been little to report recently, I thought this would be a good time to remind the membership of some of the many projects FoSE has undertaken over the years. Below is a series of clippings from past editions of *In a Nutshell*.

FoSE to fund woodland pond restoration



runs into Hollybush Wood. At the upper edge of the trees, the stream that runs through Hollybush Wood starts, either as a spring or underground seepage from

Between the lower orchard in the garden at Standen and the field where the picnic tables are, is a strip of woodland that



the Secret Pond. At some time the stream was dammed, a pond formed and an ornamental metal fence placed around it. Over the years this area has fallen into a state of disrepair, but if restored it would be a delight and would create a special place and safe haven for wetland flora and fauna.

Matthew from the High Weald Unit visited Standen to inspect the area and with his encouragement FoSE has applied for a grant from them to buy materials to re-fence the area, and to build two gates for access from the lower car-park. We also want to build a dipping platform on the edge of the pond for local schools to use.
In a Nutshell - Oct 2012

Brains of Britain united

Around 80 people packed into the Barn Café on the evening of 13th November for FoSE's first ever quiz night. The event proved to be a great success, with sounds of laughter dominating and the occasional groan filling the air as people realised they had missed an answer they had known all the time really. Our thanks go to Keith and Caroline Rogers for being such an excellent question-master and scores-person respectively, and to all members of the committee who helped to set up and clear and provide goodies for the interval. The event raised **£228.75** towards the Greenhouse Fund. We are planning another quiz for the summer and will no doubt all want to be on Dinu's team after its convincing win. *In a Nutshell* - Jan 2014

Thank you, thank you

to all those who collected Waitrose tokens for FoSE. We were up against some stiff opposition, but after a lull in the middle of the month, when we were no doubt still broke and eating leftovers after Christmas, things picked up and we netted a quarter share of Waitrose's bounty. The cheque is due to arrive mid-March, and will add £250 to the greenhouse fund. Well done, everyone. *In a Nutshell* - Mar 2014

Pennies from Heaven

One of the projects James has had in mind for a while concerns Hilltop Shaw, the stretch of woodland which runs down beside the drive. The Trust has been in negotiation with St. Anthony's Trust, which currently owns the land, but is prepared to hand it over to Standen provided it is cleared and properly maintained.

For a long time, it has been a magnet for fly tippers, and many of the original Beale trees along the path have become unhealthy or downright dangerous. The outdoor team at Standen has agreed to create and maintain a new path, which



will make a safe and pleasant walk from the bus stop at the end of the drive (which may also be moved to a safer spot) down towards the main gate.

Before this can be achieved, a lot of rubbish will need to be cleared, and the contractors responsible paid. It will cost around £1,500 to create the path, and, following an application by FoSE to the East Grinstead Common Good Trust, we have just been awarded that exact sum. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly say a big thank you to Christopher Russell and his team of trustees for their sympathetic and very generous response to our application. We are now just waiting for the lawyers to tie up the loose ends, and then hopefully, work can begin. *In a Nutshell* - Jan 2015

Where the money goes



As usual, FoSE has funded and is funding a number of initiatives this year, as well as buying the tools outlined above. The greenhouses - the biggest item of expenditure - are up and running and Elaine has dipped into the greenhouse fund to invest in a pair of mini-greenhouses which have been set up inside to give an extra boost of warmth to the annuals seedlings she is nurturing. These will be used to make a colourful early summer display in the Rosery Garden in time for the Midsummer Festival in June. She is also about to buy a pair of large bowsers which will collect rainwater from the

greenhouse roofs and make irrigation 'back-stage' easier and more efficient. There is other equipment to buy once prices have been agreed, but soon we'll be able to say, 'Job well done' and focus on something new.

FoSE is also paying for new metal bins for waste, compost and recycling to be placed in the stableyard, and for materials to make an 'airlock' area in front of the door to the stable tea-room so that we all stay warm and cosy at lunchtime. The sponsored slim raised enough to buy the pagoda on the croquet lawn, and we have also bought a number of plants, notably a range of camellias. Featured here are pictures of



Camellia sasanqua 'Paradise Belinda' and Camellia hiemalis 'Dazzler'. More prizes from Wisley in the future maybe.

In a Nutshell - Mar 2016

Let there be light

Following the successful dismantling and reconstruction of the pony shelter as a potting shed for the Nursery, it became apparent that although the structure provided the sheltered area for working that was needed.... it was a bit dark! Repotting should not be done by guesswork! What we needed was lighting and although there is electricity in the greenhouses it was decided that solar powered lighting was the way forward. This would mean that, apart from the initial cost of the system, it would be free to run. So, following a successful fundraising quiz last month, a solar powered lighting system was purchased from Sunshine Solar. Tim and Bob spent a happy day sorting out the siting of the panel for maximum sunlight and running the wires across to the potting shed. And, hey presto! Light! A very illuminating experience! *In a Nutshell - Nov '18*



Thank you Sussex Lund

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....

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, Trudie 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.

Trudie 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. *In a Nutshell* - Nov '21

Fruit cage in action



The recently erected fruit cage in the kitchen garden [funded by FoSE] is now being planted up. Chicken wire has been fitted as an added deterrent to Standen's population of munching bunnies, who would no doubt like to get in to sample the strawberries and other fruit bushes now in evidence. They will have to watch the fruit ripen from afar. *In a Nutshell* - May '24

And our latest purchase for 2025...

...is a shed to store the mower. This has been erected behind the quarantine area in the nursery and will make the mean machine far more accessible when it is needed, as well as protecting it from the elements.

Once again, it was FoSE who researched, ordered and paid for the shed while it was the volunteers who erected it, a process which involved a lot of head-scratching to work out which bit went where. Don't you just love impenetrable instruction leaflets!





However, it is now up and good to go.

AGM attendance was up!

After last year's desultory turn out, it was good to see a few more souls at Wednesday's AGM. Gareth, as Chair, reported the more positive approach from management to our contributions, and in fact Amanda has asked several times what she can do to support FoSE. There were several useful contributions from the floor, including the suggestion that we make it much clearer what kinds of skills sets we need to support the work of the *Friends*. Some of these areas include a person with good IT skills to run the website, someone who could do some admin, a minutes secretary, a publicity guru, and a newsletter editor. I have done it for 13 years - which is probably enough! We will be canvassing those we know have skills we could use shortly.

It was made very clear at the meeting that all the committee members will stand down at the next AGM unless we get some new members to support our work. Inevitably, that would mean the end of FoSE as an organisation after a 20-year success story.

So, finally

Please be a friend to Standen Estate and come and help.

