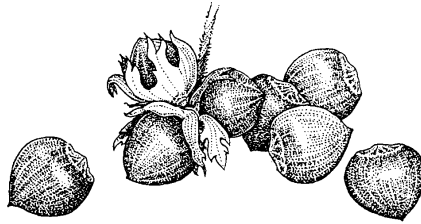


In a Nutshell

THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE FRIENDS OF STANDEN ESTATE:

NUTS ABOUT STANDEN!



No 82 September 2025

In this edition of In a Nutshell
MORE THAN FIVE GOLD RINGS
NEATLY FENCED
LEVELLING OFF
WRECKING CREW
AND FINALLY...

FoSE calendar

Wreathed in smiles

Long ago, in an office far, far away - or more likely in an office at Standen - a decision was made about this year's Christmas tree. It would be decorated in-house. Excellent, came the response. And then the word went out: the Woods group were to be asked to make a large quantity of willow wreath bases, in varying sizes, which could then be adorned in various ways to decorate the Christmas tree destined to stand in the courtyard during the festive season.

Much discussion ensued. Where was the willow to come from? There was not enough available on the estate. Here, Tina Waghorn stepped in as the hero of the hour. She knew of a source at her place of employment where there was a lot of willow grown to hide the bins, and it was in desperate need of a trim. Kindly, she offered to do the pruning, and the resulting willow clippings were crammed into her car and transported to Standen.

So it is, that for a number of Wednesdays, the Woods Group has been employed making wreath bases: some at 60, some at 45 and some at 25 cms diameter. It was, I suspect, a steep learning curve. Nevertheless, the Woods Group has come up trumps. The pictures which follow chart their progress.

From the outset, it was clearly a precision operation, but the team got stuck in with a will:



Do I detect a desire to hoola-hoop?

Anthony seems pleased with the outcome, or is he just counting?





The team is rightly proud of its handiwork, but the effort didn't end there. Someone decided it would be good to have a giant version on Goose Green, so undeterred, the creative members of the Woods Group set to and built a mega-wreath, measuring carefully yet again:



No wonder they look pleased with their achievement.



The print on the yellow background may not show up clearly on the page, but reads, 'Ultimate'. Sounds about right to me.



Thanks to all the Woods Group members involved in helping Standen to look festive come the winter, and for sharing the pictures of their hard work.

Elegant protection

The picture below did provoke a couple of 'How many ... does it take to change a light bulb?' type comments, but these things do take a degree of consultation if they are to be done right!



Come spring, there is always a lovely show of bulbs around the Plane trees on Goose Green. However, they are vulnerable to the heavy-footed as the space is such a popular one with visitors. For some years, the area has been cordoned off with metal hoops, an

effective, but not necessarily pretty solution. Roger Ohison has now devoted many hours to making over 70 eye-catching mini-hurdles to enclose the area, and very smart they look. Definitely in keeping with the Arts and Crafts ethos of Standen.

TLC for the Main Lawn



It's those moles again! Well, to be fair, not just the moles. Over time, the main lawn has become very uneven in places, so the volunteers were tasked with ironing out the main dips by spreading compost and then re-seeding the covered area. Hopefully, the September weather will help the grass to germinate quickly.

Standen compost was used to do the job, and although the volunteers - and garden staff - worked on it for a whole day, using about 10% of the available compost, there's still a large area untreated. Nevertheless, as the photos show, quite a big area was covered, running all the way up the side of the ha-ha to the summerhouse at the end of Grandfather's Walk. I'm not sure if the camera angle is responsible for the apparent lean of the personnel, or whether it was the result of a day's shovelling and raking.



A bit of a tidy-up

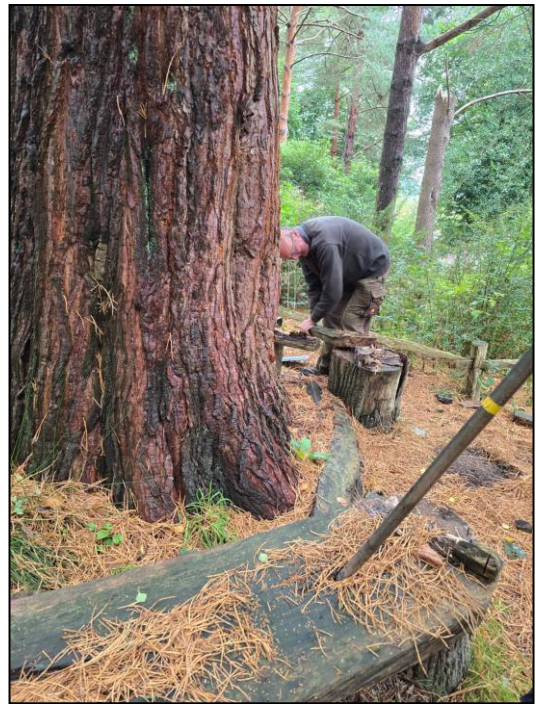
One of the volunteers was heard saying that they 'like wrecking things' as they volunteered to be part of the team tasked with removing the rotten seating area around one of the trees in the Winter Walk area above the house.

Now you see it. Now you don't! Apparently, it was one of those jobs James said would only take half an hour or so but proved somewhat more challenging and took a large part of the morning.

However, that's an area which had become a bit of an eyesore looking much better now.

And finally...

It may have escaped your notice, but Lauren really doesn't like wasps - or bees, or indeed any kind of insect which wants to buzz round her.



Following the cleaning out of the honey spinner in the stable yard a few weeks ago, all things buzzy made a bee-line (pardon the pun) for the drain in the centre of the yard, where some sweet remnants clearly remained.

The volunteers that day chose to lunch at the far end of the yard, away from the drain, but one persistent wasp insisted on following Lauren, who immediately

left her seat and took refuge behind the truck. Here James followed her, and so the management had their own, designated, sunny, lunch spot for the day, while the rest of the volunteers languished in the shade.