

Knoll Gardens Foundation

Summer Newsletter 2015

Welcome!

New Administrator

Hi. My name is Bryan Walker. I have taken over from Tracy Standish as the Foundation Administrator and I will be keeping you up to date with all of the exciting developments in the garden and the work of the Foundation. Tracy will now bring her environmental education expertise to bear on promoting Knoll's wildlife-friendly approach to gardening to children and adults. You can read more about the new education programme inside.

Late season

It has been a wonderfully sunny spring, but cold nights with temperatures almost down to freezing made it a very late season this year. The nursery had its busiest spring for 21 years leading to a shortage of paper in which to wrap the plants ready for despatch! An emergency appeal for newspapers helped to overcome the packaging problem, but more are needed. So if you want to recycle your old newspapers, drop them off at the nursery cabin where a grateful team will be only too pleased to take them off your hands!

Great events

We have some great events lined up for the next few months, including a walk and workshop led by medical herbalist Rachel Heathcote looking at how common herbs can be used to treat common ailments. More information on this and the rest of our events programme inside.

Finally, our free, volunteer-led garden tours, included in the garden admission price, continue on most Friday mornings. Just ask at the nursery when you arrive, or call 01202 873931.

Bryan Walker

Foundation Administrator



Coming soon

This year's event programme is proving very popular - check out what 's happening in the next few months and don't forget to book early to guarantee your place.



Guided Walk: Beautiful Butterflies

Friday 17 July, 11am - 12 noon. Free, but booking essential

Join Keith Powrie as he helps you to identify the many butterflies to be found in the garden. Keith has been recording butterfly sightings at Knoll for many years and brings an infectious enthusiasm to any guided walk.

Plant Medicine Walk & Workshop

Saturday 18 July, 10.30am - 1pm, £35

Medical herbalist Rachel Heathcote opens Knoll's natural medical chest and identifies the natural herbs you can use at home to treat common ailments. Learn how to harvest and prepare your own remedies and take home some samples. Very limited numbers so booking is essential. Book on 07968 169064 or email: heathcoteherbs@gmail.com



Great Heath Garden Wildlife Survey

Wednesday 5 August, 10am - 3pm, normal admission charges apply

What will The Great Heath volunteers of Dorset Wildlife Trust discover as they survey the wildlife of Knoll Gardens? The Great Heath partnership consists of voluntary organisations, local authorities, businesses and communities working together to create a living landscape in which people and wildlife can prosper. Suitable for all ages, beginners and experts alike.



Specialist Nurseries of East Dorset Plant Fair

Saturday 12 September, 10am - 4pm, plant fair free, normal admission cost to garden

Locally-grown top-quality camellias, blueberries, azaleas, ferns and heathers will all be available alongside Knoll's own multiple award winning grasses including some not available online.



Wild about Gardens

Friday 30 October, 10am - 4pm, normal admission charges apply (Garden tour included in admission price before 12.30pm)

Celebrate the RHS Gardening for Wildlife initiative with the Dorset Wildlife Trust and find out how we can all invite wildlife to share our gardens. If you are wild about gardens this event will encourage you to be equally enthusiastic about our many garden visitors.



RSPB Guided Walk - The Garden in Winter

Monday 30 November, 8.30 - 10am, £5

Join the RSPB before Knoll opens to the general public to see the beautiful birds that live in this wildlife friendly garden. Later, the RSPB will show visitors how to make bird feeders (£1 to take home) from lard and seed and chat about the birds in the garden. Call the RSPB on 01929 556651 to book.



Cuttings

Educating Tomorrow's Gardeners

Tracy Standish has been hard at work developing an education programme for local primary schools. She is inviting teachers to bring groups of children to Knoll so that they can interact with the natural world and gain a better understanding of environmental science through sowing seeds, caring for plants and discovering the creatures that inhabit our gardens. Tracy plans to hold pilot sessions with local schools in autumn so that the full programme can be implemented next year and the next generation can be encouraged to garden and care for the environment.



Keeping Track of Knoll's Plants

The volunteer role of **Curatorial Assistant** has been taken up by Malcolm Storey who is organising and updating the database of plants that can be found in Knoll. It's a long-term task but Malcolm has made a great start cataloguing the woody plants.

Can You Help Spread the Word?

We produce a range of leaflets and posters publicising the events we hold at Knoll and we are always looking for new ways to distribute them. If you can display a poster or some leaflets please email foundation@knollgardens.co.uk or call 01202 873931. Even if you don't have any display space, please tell your friends!

We still have some vacancies for volunteers interested in organising events and fundraising. Details are on the Foundation website.

Fundraising day, 4 September

Sainsbury's Ferndown store has allocated the Foundation a slot on Friday 4 September to hold a fundraising event. Volunteers will be on hand at the entrance to the store to promote the work of the Foundation – and of course collect much-needed funds! Why not drop in to say hello?

Neil's Notes

Remarkably, the fallen eucalyptus has successfully rooted in its new recumbent position and will soon be reshaped to ensure that it continues to thrive. ■ Work will begin in winter to create a new wetland environment for water-loving plants by infilling part of the current water garden. ■ The pittosporums at the top of the summer garden will soon be replaced with a camellia walk with shade-loving underplanting. ■ New vistas are being opened up by removing some hedges around the Dragon Garden. ■ Despite having their favourite branch lopped off, the woodpeckers returned to the woodpecker tree to nest in the stump! ■ Thanks to the volunteers who have created beds of early spring colour. This ties in with my plan to have something in flower on every day of the year so these spring beds will encourage early-season pollinators.



In the last few months . . .

As a Royal Horticultural Society Council member, Neil had the honour of escorting Prince and Princess Michael of Kent around the Royal Hospital showground at this year's Chelsea Flower Show in May.



The old Knoll tractor has finally been retired to be replaced by a shiny new John Deere!

The nursery team has been joined by Cathy Williamson in a front-of-house role while David Monk has joined the potting team. There are still vacancies for front-of-house staff and recruitment adverts will be appearing soon.



Belgian TV has screened the show they made following their 2014 visit. This was their equivalent of Gardeners World and congratulations are due to Volunteer Coordinator Judy Stansmore for doing a fantastic job promoting the gardens.



Jeffrey the Knoll cat finds office paperwork particularly taxing



The Knoll Gardens Foundation

The Knoll Gardens Foundation is dedicated to refining and promoting a wildlife friendly naturalistic gardening style, using the garden at Knoll as a practical example and base for experimentation. The Foundation relies on donations, legacies, fundraising events and grants to finance its work and welcomes contributions from those who share a passion for gardening and wildlife.

The Knoll Gardens Foundation is Registered as a charity in England and Wales: 1159390.

Board of trustees

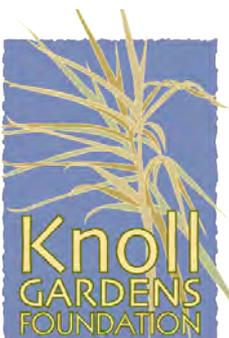
Bob Sweet (Chairman); Neil Lucas;
Amanda Walker; Ross Humphrey;
Colin Clark; Andrea Flude; Peter Gear.

Contact us

E-mail: foundation@knollgardens.co.uk

Website: www.knollgardensfoundation.org

Telephone: 01202 873931



Garden opening times

The gardens are currently open Tuesday to Saturday 10am - 5pm with last entry five minutes before closing. Please note that we close on Sundays and Mondays, with the exception of Bank Holiday Mondays.

The Knoll Gardens Foundation, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 7ND