



Knoll Gardens Foundation

Autumn 2017

Annual Garden Wildlife Survey Brings Results

Experts and volunteer helpers at our Annual Garden Wildlife Survey recorded over 140 species in the garden despite an horrendously wet August day keeping many flying insects away from the limelight. A full species list will be on the Foundation website very soon, but one of the more interesting finds was the Maiden's Blush moth.

Unusual markings

Mark Spencer, President of the Bournemouth Natural Science Society has been surveying the moths at Knoll regularly this year. He noticed that all the Maiden's Blush moths he found had distinct marked blotchings on their forewings not present in the most common typical forms. This was seen again at the garden wildlife survey. It means that Knoll could be home to a local variant. Mark has kindly offered to continue to monitor the species and see if this can be confirmed.

Thanks to all who helped out

Our thanks are due to all who helped out: Mark Spencer; Keith Powrie, KGF resident butterfly and dragonfly expert; Stuart Roberts, Chair of BWARS; the RSPB; Tracy Standish, KGF education volunteer; and the Dorset Wildlife Trust whose team not only helped to find a huge number of species but also to identify all the finds and create our full species list.

Thank you all - we couldn't do it without you!



Above: Stuart Roberts Chair of BWARS, helps with bee identification.

Right: Knoll's unusual Maiden's Blush moth



Building for the future

With the weather soon to get cooler our event programme is also less busy, mainly because we still lack an all weather classroom. Work is going on behind the scenes to finally achieve that goal and allow us to offer workshops and courses throughout the year. It is still early days but we now have a biodiversity report, and both an architect and structural engineer on board who understand our aims and our ethos and want to help us make this work. We hope to apply for planning permission in the next few months.

autumn events & garden news inside . . .

2017 autumn event highlights



Join Neil's autumn masterclass

SEPTEMBER

Ornamental Grass Masterclass with Neil Lucas

Thursday 14 September, 2pm until 4.30pm, £35, limited numbers

All you need to know about grasses and how to use them in a garden setting, this Masterclass with Knoll's owner Neil Lucas, covers everything from maintenance to design.

Booking essential. Book online or in the nursery.

Hedgerow Workshop - with Kate Scott

Saturday 16 September, 10.30am until 1pm, very limited numbers

Join medical herbalist Kate Scott as she reveals the secret of the autumn hedgerows. Booking essential, call 07969 882439 or email kscott703@btinternet.com

RSPB Open Day - Members and Volunteers

Friday 22 September, 10am until 4pm

Encourage wild birds to your garden this winter with the right food to meet their needs. The RSPB will be bringing their own blends of seed to Knoll on this special day together with a lot of ideas and some discount offers to help you help your birds! For RSPB Members and Volunteers Knoll is also offering free garden entry on 22 September: the perfect opportunity to see our beautiful wildlife-friendly environment at first-hand.

No pre-booking required, proof of membership or volunteering status must be shown for free admission.

OCTOBER

Ornamental Grass Masterclass with Neil Lucas

Thursday 5 October, 2pm until 4.30pm, £35, limited numbers

All you need to know about grasses and how to use them in a garden setting, this Masterclass with Knoll's owner Neil Lucas, covers everything from maintenance to design.

Booking essential. Book online or in the nursery.

Bat Walk with Jan Freeborn

Friday 27 October, from 5.30pm, normal garden admission price which will be split between the charities involved.

Part of Wild About Gardens Week, join bat expert Jan Freeborn on an evening stroll identifying the bats of Knoll before attempting to attract them down with a sonic lure for a closer look.

Booking essential. Book online or in the nursery.

Other visitors to the garden this autumn...

Alongside our 'public' events we are also welcoming local groups and societies to the garden this autumn including:

- 1 September - Art Groups
- 8 September - Camera Clubs
- 15 September - Cottage Garden Society
- 29 September - Horticultural Groups
- 10 November - Camera Clubs



Choose the right food for your birds



Pipistrelle Bat
(Amy Lewis)



Hedgerow Workshop



Join our volunteers!

A huge 'thank you' is due to our many volunteers whose help in looking after our visitors and providing answers to their many questions is so essential and genuinely valued. Without them it would be impossible to run such an interesting programme of events.

2018 in the garden at Knoll



Neil Lucas with the honey-scented *Itea illicifolia* - described as a 'moth magnet'

Two year project

This winter we will be beginning work on a major project which we expect to take two years to complete: we are redesigning the eucalyptus lawn.

Some of the old, and not very special, trees will be removed this winter and if you visit the garden you will see already that our nursery compost is being piled up here in readiness to improve the soil. Some of the increasingly large mound of compost from our own garden compound will also be used here. The whole area will be relandscaped and then replanted in our developing meadow style. We hope the replanting will happen in the winter of 2018, assuming the nursery has space and time to grow the plants for the project!

Clear water

The water garden has recently benefitted from the addition of extra soil and new water plants. We are now working to clear more of the water's surface to further encourage dragonflies. We will also be adding a small pump to provide a gentle amount of circulation to benefit the riverine species, and a fresh school of rudd will be introduced early next year to help keep the duck weed in check!

Lawn replacement

At the bottom section of the Summer Garden, the 'lawn' is being replaced with a small 'meadow' of *Carex remota* that should find the increasingly shady conditions more to its liking.

We are still deciding whether to re-lay the remaining lawn with wildflower turf, but whilst that remains uncertain we will definitely be widening the planting area of what is now known as the 'bamboo bank', adding shrubs to make better use of the space, and allowing us to better display some of the larger giant reeds to further increase the interest in this area.



Female Emperor dragonfly egg-laying in the Dragon Pond

Our volunteers

A huge thank you is due to all our volunteers. Whether they help in the garden, provide administration support, undertake surveys, get involved in work with the local community, support our education programme or offer a friendly smile to our many visitors, our volunteers are a huge part of our success as a charity and will continue to be so as we move into the future. Do get in touch if you would like to get involved.

Neil Lucas



Autumn Bugs and Buds

Our monthly Saturday toddler club, Bugs and Buds is continuing to thrive with some regular local families attending as well as new ones coming along all the time. Created especially for youngsters aged 2 - 5, its aim is to inspire a love of nature from a young age, and we are really delighted it is proving to be so successful.

Bugs and Buds normally takes place on the last Saturday of the month, runs from 10.30am - 12 noon and costs £4.50 per child.

This autumn sees a couple of date changes so club dates will be:

Saturdays 30 September, 28 October, 18 November and 16 December.

To check availability and book on to a session email education@knollgardens.co.uk or call the nursery on 01202 873931.

Our first art exhibition

The beginning of October will see Knoll's first ever art exhibition take place.

Our Artist in Residence, Inga Street, will have been working in the garden for three months and will be revealing the results of her work to the public on Tuesday and Wednesday, 3 and 4 October.

You may have spotted Inga sketching in the garden, or carrying off (with Neil's permission!) some waterlily leaves for further work in her studio. With a Fine Arts Degree from Central St Martin's, her work is now in private collections in both the UK and internationally. The exhibition will showcase her work to date - for the first time offering a new way of seeing Knoll Gardens through the eyes of an artist.

Help spread the word

As someone who understands the importance of the work we are doing at Knoll Gardens we'd really appreciate it if you could help us to spread the word.

If you have received this by email perhaps you could forward a copy to your friends! We'd be happy to add them to our mailing list for future bulletins - just let us know.

And don't forget to mention volunteering opportunities! More information and application forms can be found on the KGF website.

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.

The Knoll Gardens Foundation



Contact us: Email: foundation@knollgardens.co.uk

Website: www.knollgardensfoundation.org Telephone: 01202 873931

Garden opening times

The gardens open from 10am - 5pm Tuesday to Saturday and Bank Holiday Mondays - just follow the brown signs. More details at www.knollgardens.co.uk

The Knoll Gardens Foundation, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 7ND