



# Knoll Gardens Foundation

Winter

## A packed year draws to a close and a new one begins

A packed year of events concluded with a bat walk. Its success was confirmed by the simple fact that it not only sold out but also ran a substantial waiting list. Our thanks go to all the wonderful individuals and organisations who have given their time and expertise over the year to help us promote our style of gardening and its benefits to wildlife. You'll find more of the year's highlights inside.

### Abundant wildlife

With finds ranging from the Great Spotted Woodpecker to the Lesser Water Boatman, this year's Annual Garden Wildlife Survey was hugely successful and despite poor weather over 146 species were recorded, a slight increase on 2016. The survey's positive results are a real endorsement of Knoll's naturalistic gardening style, which is designed to be beneficial to wildlife as well as creating beautiful outdoor spaces. Again our thanks to all who helped out, with an honourable mention to DWT who since the survey's inception have not only turned out in force on the day but also identified and collated our finds.



*The Marmalade Hoverfly is one of the many beneficial species found during this year's survey. Frequently thought a pest, its larvae do wonderful work gobbling up aphids. Photo by N Hoar, DWT.*

### A very special evening



*Above l – r: Peter Gear, Chairman Knoll Gardens Foundation; Derek Burt, Chairman East Dorset District Council; Neil Lucas, owner Knoll Gardens; Inga Street, artist in residence Knoll Gardens; Deputy Mayor of Ferndown and East Dorset District Councillor, Steven Lugg; Mayor of Ferndown, Cllr Cathy Lugg; Mayor of Wimborne, Cllr Terry Wheeler; High Sheriff of Dorset, John Young MC JP DL*

In October we hosted an exhibition of artist-in-residence Inga Street's work. A private viewing was attended by many local dignitaries as well as art lovers, marking the culmination of Inga's initial three month residency at Knoll Gardens. A stunning selection of abstract landscapes were on show with many featuring the multi-layered reflections found on the pool in Knoll's distinctive Dragon Garden.

[more wildlife reports & 2018 events inside](#)

# Looking ahead to 2018 . . . . .

## New for 2018



New events for next year include wildlife discovery walks for adults and older children. Aimed at helping you reconnect with nature, activities could include looking for nectaring insects on the flowering perennials, opening a moth trap to reveal the garden's night time

visitors, enjoying bird song and even pond dipping. We hope you'll leave knowing more about garden wildlife and how to encourage it into your own garden.

We are also hosting a rather special Bee Day in July, where the focus will be very much on all the benefits these wonderful creatures bring to the garden and our whole ecosystem - a well of course as the better known product of the honey bee.

Other new events in 2018 include stone sculpture courses, a festive wreath workshop and a new 'beginners guide' to gardening with grasses.

**A taster of our spring events follows and full details of all events with booking information will be online on the Foundation website at [www.knollgardens.co.uk](http://www.knollgardens.co.uk)**

## Spring 2018 event tasters

### MARCH 2018

#### Preparing for Spring with Neil Lucas

**Saturday 17 March, 10.30am until 12 noon, £15, limited numbers**

To cut or not to cut? This practical mini-masterclass will not only answer the most-asked question at Knoll's nursery but also help you ensure your own grasses are ready to produce the 'wow factor' this summer. Booking essential. Book online or in the nursery.

#### Willow workshop with Tracy Standish

**Saturday 24 March, 10.30am until 1pm, £30, very limited numbers**

Learn simple willow weaving techniques as you create your own plant support to use in your garden this spring.

Booking essential. Book online or in the nursery.

#### Bugs and Buds

**Saturday 31 March, 10.30am until noon, £4.50**

The first session of the year for our monthly Saturday morning toddler club. Its aim is to inspire a love of nature from a young age, encouraging interaction with the garden's many wildlife inhabitants as well as its trees and flowers.

To check availability and book email [education@knollgardens.co.uk](mailto:education@knollgardens.co.uk)

*A huge 'thank you' is due to all our 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.*



## .some 2017 highlights



Silver-washed Fritillary made a welcome return to Knoll in 2017

### On the wing

*Our in-house butterfly and dragonfly expert, Keith Powrie has continued his regular survey work this year, and despite poor summer weather achieved good results as reported below.*

#### Butterflies

While the dismal summer brought very low numbers, higher counts early and late in the season lifted the final figures above the annual average. Best performers were the Speckled Wood, with at least one being seen every week, Red Admiral, Meadow Brown and Comma. The Silver-washed Fritillary made a welcome return while Orange Tips and Large Skippers did well.

#### Dragonflies / damselflies

The warmer spells in late spring meant that both dragonflies and damselflies appeared earlier than in 2016 and numbers exceeded last year's count. Three uncommon species, not seen last year, made a welcome reappearance in the Gardens; Beautiful Demoiselle (*Calopteryx virgo*), Emperor Dragonfly (*Anax imperator*) and Golden-ringed Dragonfly (*Cordulegaster boltonii*). The disappearance of the Four-spotted Chaser (*Libellula quadrimaculata*) this year meant that the total number of species in the garden was 15.

You can read Keith's full report on the Foundation website.

#### Moths

Mark Spencer, President of the Bournemouth Natural Science Society has also been at Knoll regular this year surveying our moths. His observations have included the discovery of a local variant of the Maiden's Blush moth with distinct marked blotchings on the forewings not present in the most common typical forms. We are delighted that Mark has agreed to continue to monitor this species and the other moths of Knoll in 2018.



Local variant of the Maiden's Blush moth found at Knoll

#### Birds, bees and bats

We have also been monitoring other flying garden wildlife.

We are lucky to have the support of the RSPB who, along with Chair of Trustees, Peter Gear have kept a record of our garden birds, whilst bat expert Jan Freenborn has been checking up on our bats.

Our own volunteer bumblebee surveyor, Rowena Jecock has also been hard at work, coming to grips with identifying our bees and beginning to work out their garden preferences.

Throughout the year our many visitors have joined wildlife events, discovered how to encourage wildlife into their own gardens and learn from our experts. We are looking forward to running even more events in 2018.

## Can you help us? Do you know someone who could add value to the work we do?

We are now recruiting for some rather special volunteers to join us.

2018 looks to be an interesting year for the Foundation and we would like to recruit three volunteers with some specific skills to help us move forward.

Firstly we are looking for someone who is well known in the local community to take our message out to local events and meetings. A natural extrovert with a love of the natural world, we need you to communicate our message and forge strong links with other organisations to help the Foundation grow.

Secondly we would like to find someone with social media skills who can help us spread the word a bit further afield. This newsletter provides a glimpse into the work



we are doing. It would be wonderful to be able to share so much more with the wider world.

Our third key person is a fundraiser. We now have several good projects up and running and the potential of a new building for year-round events very shortly. Help from someone with fundraising experience would make it so much easier to take the crucial next steps.

If you can help, or know of anyone who would be interested, do get in touch. Email [foundation@knollgardens.co.uk](mailto:foundation@knollgardens.co.uk) or call the nursery on 01202 873931.

### 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](mailto:foundation@knollgardens.co.uk)

Website: [www.knollgardensfoundation.org](http://www.knollgardensfoundation.org) Telephone: 01202 873931

### Garden opening times

The garden is currently open from 10am - 4pm Tuesday to Saturday and Bank Holiday Mondays - just follow the brown signs. More details at [www.knollgardens.co.uk](http://www.knollgardens.co.uk)

The Knoll Gardens Foundation, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 7ND