

# Knoll Gardens Foundation

Late summer newsletter 2018

## Butterfly bonanza

It's a record breaking year for butterflies at Knoll Gardens, with the recording of two new species and the highest weekly count since records began.

It is nine years since formal butterfly surveys began in the garden and we are hugely grateful to the work that our butterfly expert, Keith Powrie puts in. His weekly visits, wonderful photographs and comprehensive records, which are also held on the national database, are helping us to form a better picture of the wildlife activity in the garden and understand more about its relationship to our style of planting.

### New species

Initially spotted by the water, Knoll's first recorded White Admiral was later found at the top of the garden feeding on *Itea illicifolia*. Two weeks earlier Knoll's first Marbled White was sighted on the Lower Lawn. A grassland species Knoll's lush borders may well have seemed more attractive than the parched heathland created by this summer's heatwave.

Other sightings of note include above average numbers of Brown Argus and the oak reliant Purple Hairstreak seen unusually, resting on a lily pad on the pond.



*A White Admiral, recorded at Knoll Gardens for the first time this year, enjoying the flowers of Itea illicifolia. The drooping racemes of honey-scented, small, whitish-green flowers have also been identified as veritable moth magnets in evening surveys at Knoll.*



*Brown Argus at Knoll Gardens*

*Keith Powrie also surveys Knoll's dragonflies and damselflies and has recorded another new species in the garden this year - a male dragonfly, the Keeled Skimmer (*Orthetrum coerulescens*)*



**INSIDE: This year's events**

**Planning for the future: the first step to providing a permanent base for our educational programme**

# Current events and ...



## August

### Annual Garden Wildlife Survey

Tuesday 7 August 10am - 3pm

Join wildlife experts and volunteers from Dorset Wildlife Trust together with Knoll Garden Foundation's resident experts to discover more about wildlife as you help out on our annual survey. Suitable for all ages - experts and beginners alike. Normal garden admission price will be divided between the charities involved. No booking required.



### National Garden Scheme Open Day

Friday 7 September 10am - 5pm

The NGS is the most significant charitable funder of nursing charities in the country, having donated over £50m to date. Your visit will help its work. Normal admission price, no booking required.

### Ornamental Grass Masterclass

Thursday 13 September, 2pm - 4.30pm

Spend the afternoon with Neil Lucas, Knoll's owner, and the UK's leading authority on ornamental grasses as he shares his knowledge and draws on the garden's stunning autumn display to provide practical advice from maintenance to design. £35, booking essential.



## September

### Better Plant & Garden Photography Workshop

Saturday 15 September, 6.30am - 12.30pm

Join renowned photographer Philip Smith, founder of the International Garden Photographer of the Year competition and RPS tutor, for this special workshop benefiting from the magic of the soft morning light in the garden. £ 70 to include coffee and cake. Very limited numbers so booking essential.



## October

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Thursday 13 September, 2pm - 4.30pm

Spend the afternoon with Neil Lucas, Knoll's owner, and the UK's leading authority on ornamental grasses as he shares his knowledge and draws on the garden's stunning autumn display to provide practical advice from maintenance to design. £35, booking essential.



## December

### Festive Wreath Making Workshop with Tracy Standish

Saturday 1 December, 10.30am - 1pm

Embrace the festive season as you learn simple willow weaving techniques, and then dress your wreath with greenery and spices for that delicious smell of Christmas. £30, booking essential.

*For further details of all 2018 events pick up a copy of our green event leaflet - or look online.*

# ...exciting future plans

## Building for the future

The Knoll Gardens Foundation has recently applied for planning permission to build a single-story, 10x7 metre timber classroom to replace our long-serving, but definitely not year-round, marquee.

### Plans for a new classroom

Timber built, the classroom has been especially designed to have minimal impact on its immediate environment and will feature a sustainable grass-and-perennial-mix roof, rainwater collection in a new soakaway pond, and roosting boxes to encourage bats.

We believe the creation of this permanent base for our activities will significantly enhance our ability to promote environmentally responsible gardening and its potential to contribute to biodiversity.

The new building will allow us to offer a year-round programme of events, provide a base for people attending horticulture and wildlife workshops, and facilities for a curriculum-linked education programme for local primary schools. It will also offer secure storage for wildlife survey equipment, enable us to display the results of our work and, overall, enhance our ability to meet our charitable objectives.

### How you can help

We are a small charity and this is a major project. Once permission is granted, the work of scheduling the development and raising the significant sums needed to achieve our aims will begin. We'd love you to get involved.

You can help us by:

- visiting [knollgardensfoundation.org](http://knollgardensfoundation.org) for progress reports
- volunteering to help with the fundraising programme
- registering as a Friend of the Foundation via the website
- Making a donation - and please do 'Gift Aid' if you can!

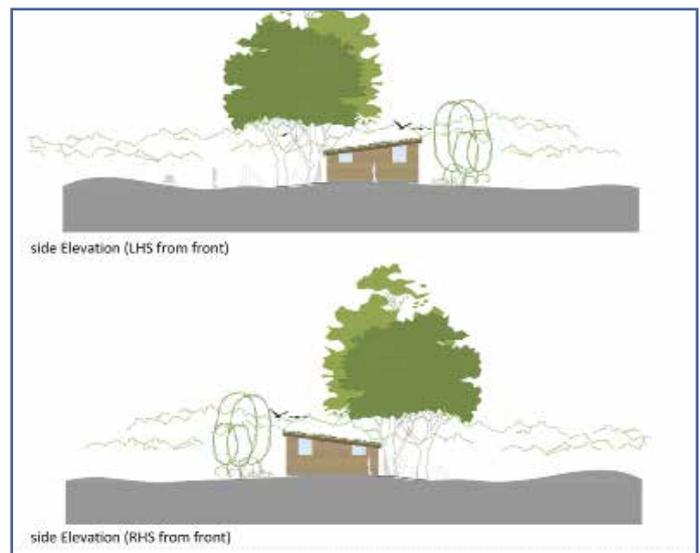
Thank you

## OUT WITH THE OLD . . .



## . . . AND IN WITH THE NEW

### Side elevations



### Front and rear elevations





## Regular events



### Bugs and Buds

Our popular monthly Saturday morning toddler club, Bugs and Buds books up very quickly. Running from 10.30am til noon on the last Saturday of each month, the club aims to inspire a love of nature from a young age.

To check availability email Tracy Standish at [education@knollgardens.co.uk](mailto:education@knollgardens.co.uk)

### Early morning yoga

Our outdoor yoga sessions run from 9 - 10am on Thursday mornings in September. Offering an unusual way to experience the tranquillity of the garden before it opens to the public, each session costs £8. To book call Jackie Hayfield on 07955 587772 or email [jackie.hayfield@sky.com](mailto:jackie.hayfield@sky.com)

### Community Open Days

As part of our programme of special community open days we welcome photography clubs, artist groups, wildlife and horticultural organisations to the garden. More details of these special days can be found online.

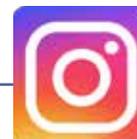
## Wild & Wonderful fundraising

Huge thanks are due to everyone taking part in Wild and Wonderful Bees - our experts, stall holders, prize donors and all those helping out behind the scenes. As well as telling everyone who came about these amazing creatures we also raised nearly £1000 for the charity - thank you all so much!

## Can you help?

We are always interested in talking to potential volunteers. Currently we are particularly interested in recruiting someone who can help us take our message out to local events and meetings; a dedicated fundraiser to help us provide a new building for year-round events; a computer savvy individual to keep our website up-to-date; and someone to help with our growing educational programme. If you can help do get in touch.

You will find more information and volunteer application forms online or Email [foundation@knollgardens.co.uk](mailto:foundation@knollgardens.co.uk)



Facebook: [@knollgardensfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/knollgardensfoundation)

Instagram: [@knollgardensfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/knollgardensfoundation)

Twitter: [@knollfoundation](https://twitter.com/knollfoundation)

[www.knollgardensfoundation.org](http://www.knollgardensfoundation.org)

# The Knoll Gardens Foundation

**Contact us:** Email: [foundation@knollgardens.co.uk](mailto:foundation@knollgardens.co.uk) • Telephone: 01202 873931

**Garden opening times:** The garden is currently open from 10am - 5pm 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 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, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 7ND

