

Knoll Gardens Foundation

Spring newsletter 2018

Celebrating 10 years

2018 is a special year for us. It marks the tenth year of the Knoll Gardens Foundation and the start of our biggest ever event programme. The year will also see us working in partnership with more local and national organisations than ever before, promoting our wildlife friendly naturalistic gardening style for the benefit of all.

Knoll's volunteers

Our growing team of volunteers has played an invaluable role in our development as a charity. Twenty-five volunteers are now involved, in the garden, greeting thousands of visitors, as wildlife surveyors, educators and in other crucial roles, all helping us promote our work and ensure our administration is in order. Thanks are due to them all.

Going social

The new year started with another first. Lucy Shergold volunteered her skills to get the Foundation known on social media so you will now find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Please do follow, tweet and post where you can. Along with coverage in the more traditional media we hope to use these new outlets to encourage even more visitors to the garden in 2018.



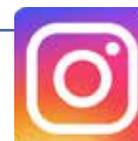
Photo courtesy of David Hendry

We hope you can keep a few special dates free to visit the garden this year.

Saturday 14 July is dedicated to the wonderful world of bees. With melittologists, guided walks and talks, and some special activities, it will be an opportunity to find out more about these important pollinators. Other highlights include our annual Garden Wildlife Survey on Tuesday 7 August, and two Volunteer Recruitment Days, on Fridays 4 May and 27 July.

New Trustee

Rowena Jecock is Knoll Gardens Foundation latest trustee. Trained in the biological sciences, starting in botany before expanding to microbiology, Rowena has also taught in the public sector as well as being involved in research. Rowena has spent the last year roaming the garden as our bee surveyor and we are delighted that she is now taking on further responsibility as a KGF trustee.



Facebook: @knollgardensfoundation

Instagram: @knollgardensfoundation

Twitter: @knollfoundation

2018 SPRING EVENTS & GARDEN NEWS INSIDE

Most comprehensive event programme

With over 50 events to look forward to this year we are aiming to encourage more local people to get involved in the wide range of activities now taking place at Knoll. Some of our spring events are listed below, but do look online for more details, www.knollgardens.co.uk

MARCH

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.



APRIL

Guided Walk - Local Landscapes, Knoll Gardens and Ferndown Common

Tuesday 24 April, 2pm, £5

Discover more about east Dorset's horticulture and wildlife as Knoll Gardens' owner Neil Lucas teams up with the Dorset Wildlife Trust for this guided walk across Ferndown Common to Knoll Gardens. Book online at dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/events.html or call DWT on 01202 692033

Bat Walk with Jan Freeborn

Thursday 26 April, 7.45pm

Enjoy a special evening stroll as you search for Knoll's most elusive night-time visitors. Using the latest technology and years of experience, Jan will help you identify the bats you see and hear. Mark Spencer of Bournemouth Natural Science Society will also be in the garden moth trapping. Normal garden admission charge which will be divided between the charities involved. Call the nursery to book on 01202 873931.



Music in the Garden with Gerauschersteller

Saturday 28 April, 2pm.

Normal garden admission charge which will be donated to the Knoll Gardens Foundation

Performing as part of Bournemouth Emerging Arts Fringe (BEAF) festival, Dorset-based musical ensemble, Gerauschersteller use amplified pods, cacti and other plant materials in this sound performance of John Cage's *Child of Tree*, and *Branches*. Listen to amplified sound through radioheadphones in this new meditative experience.



MAY

Knoll Gardens Foundation Volunteer Recruitment Open Day

Friday 4 May, 10am until 2pm, free

The Knoll Gardens Foundation is a charity set up to promote sustainable, wildlife friendly gardening. This special open day is your chance to find out about the charity and the volunteering opportunities it offers.



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.

What's happening in the garden?

Time for replanting

While the gravel garden did really very well last year, a middle section with some of the original Pennisetum Dark Desires and an American species goldenrod has become a bit messy and tired. One very specific job this spring will be to take out all the plants in this section and replant with something different; there is seemingly never a shortage of plants waiting to to find a place in the garden!



Removing the hedge in the Summer Garden has opened a large area for new planting this spring

New camellias

The old conifer hedge between the summer garden and the shady meadow was taken out before Christmas creating a wonderfully different feel. The hedge, as they so often do, took up quite a bit of space and so its removal has revealed quite an area that now needs to be replanted. Still primarily in shade, some new specimen camellias from our specialist neighbouring nursery, Trehanes will soon provide some height and early season flower. I also have it in mind to extend some of the shady meadow style planting across the path into this new area.

It had been my intention to remove the last of the summer garden lawn and replant with some more informal meadow style planting. But, as often happens, while we have completed the bottom section (and planted *Carex remota* as a soft lawn just before



Time to tidy up the Gravel Garden

Christmas), we ran out of time. This might become one of those later spring jobs that we will tackle assuming we can find the time in late spring or even early summer!

Sunny meadow

The sunny meadow continues to evolve! A lot of *deschampsia* was planted in the more shady section last autumn but it seems we will need to add a lot more fresh perennials to the most sunny section which we will do once everything is up and re-growing in spring.



Habitat for ground nesting bees to be allocated in front of the bee hotel

Solitary bees

Close to the Bug Hotel is a very dry and poor patch of ground in which many plants are finding it hard to survive. Of course some grasses are doing well but we will be making more of this section including some bare soil as home for solitary bees that like to nest in such situations!

Neil Lucas

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

As we move into our tenth year we are looking for two rather special volunteers to join us.

Firstly we'd like to talk to someone who is well known in the local community and can help us 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.

We also need a dedicated 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 or call the nursery on 01202 873931.

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.

Regular events



Bugs and Buds

Our popular monthly Saturday morning toddler club, Bugs and Buds is already booking up fast thanks to the power of social media, with some sessions already sold out. 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.

With so much interest in the club our Education Leader Tracy Standish would like to hear from anyone interested in getting involved and helping out. For more information on this voluntary role or to check availability email Tracy at education@knollgardens.co.uk

Early morning yoga

Our outdoor yoga sessions start again on Thursday 7 June, and run through June, July and September. Offering an unusual way to experience the tranquillity of the garden before it opens to the public, yoga therapist Jackie Hayfield will help you start the day in a positive, relaxed state. Running from 9 - 10am, each session costs £8 and you are welcome to stay on and spend some time in the garden once the class has finished.

To book call Jackie on 07955 587772 or email jackie.hayfield@sky.com

Community Open Days

Our programme of special community open days continues into 2018 as we welcome photography clubs, artist groups, wildlife and horticultural organisations to the garden. More details of these special days can be found online.

The Knoll Gardens Foundation



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

Website: 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

The Knoll Gardens Foundation, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 7ND