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News from Knepp

Friday 30 May



Our purple emperors are getting ready to emerge

The colonisation of Knepp by the magnificent purple emperor butterfly has been one of the highlights of the rewilding project. Knepp now supports the largest population in the UK, thanks to emerging groves of sallow, its food plant.

It's always difficult to predict what numbers will be like in any given year, though our purple emperor expert, Matthew Oates, has spotted record numbers of larvae this May because of the warm, dry spring. Purple emperor safaris kick off on 24 June when the butterflies are due to emerge and we're crossing our fingers for spectacular sightings.

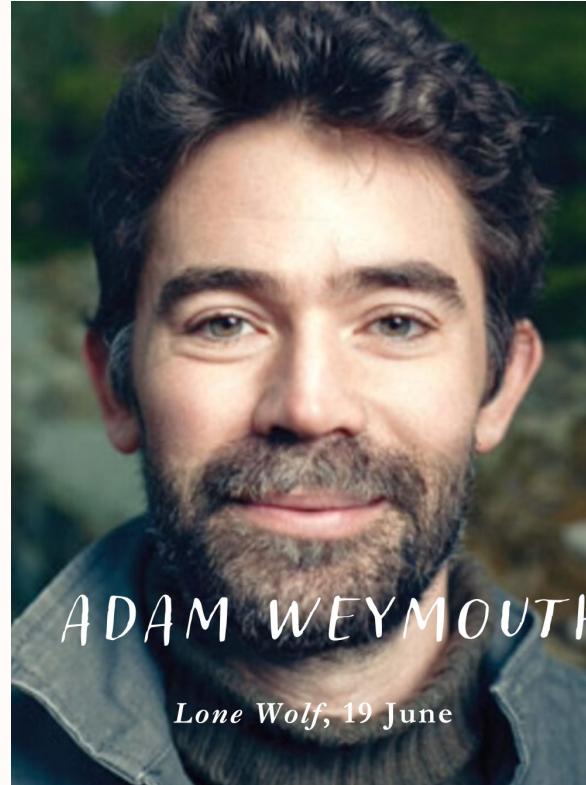
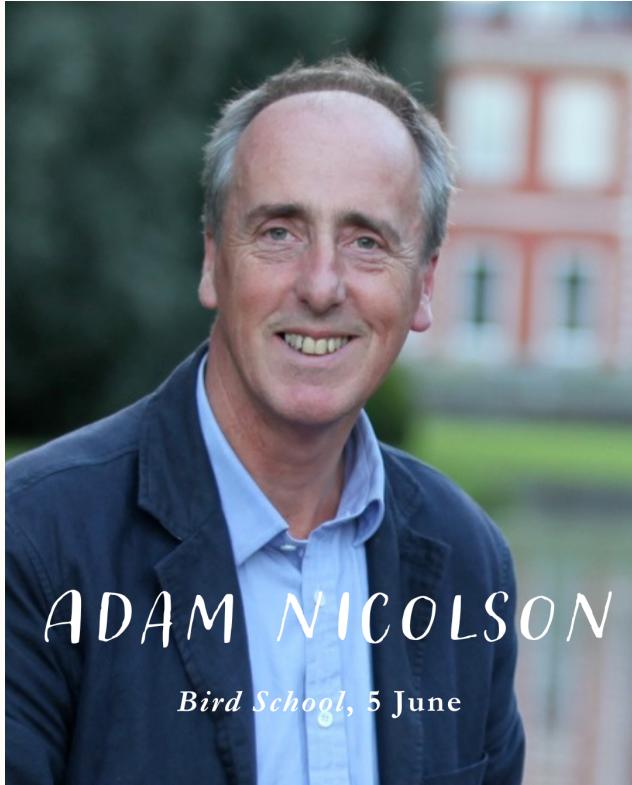


Meanwhile a host of other butterflies, including this common blue and speckled wood, and day-time moths, like this ragwort-feeding cinnabar, are out in full splendour and will feature in our butterfly safaris starting on 19 June.





Author suppers in June



We're really excited to be joined by multi-prize-winning author Adam Nicolson on [Thursday 5 June](#). His new book *Bird School* is a joyous, surprising, heart-lifting, eye-opening account of encounters with birds at his home in Sussex. You'll never look a common garden birds the same way again.

Adam Weymouth – winner of the *Sunday Times* Young Writer of the Year Award – will join us on [Thursday 19 June](#) to talk about *Lone Wolf*. His book is a wonder – charting his epic journey across Europe in the footsteps of a pioneering wolf. It's a tale of human-animal relations, love and hate, and the forces of nature destruction and restoration.

The evenings, hosted by Knepp's Isabella Tree and Charlie Burrell, kick off with a glass of bubbly, before delving into the talk, followed by audience Q&A, and ending with a delicious three course meal at Knepp Wilding Kitchen.

[Book an author event at Wilding Kitchen](#)



Our summer [Friday evening barbecues](#) in the courtyard at the Wilding Kitchen are also in full swing and the restaurant is now open for dinner on [Saturday evenings](#).

[Make a reservation](#)

Podcast with the Queen of the Flies



Did you know we wouldn't have



chocolate if we didn't have flies?

In our latest Knepp Wildland podcast, prepare to have everything you thought you knew about flies turned upside down.

Penny Green meets Erica McAlister, senior curator at the Natural History Museum and caretaker of the Museum's collection of 2.5 million flies.

To say Erica is obsessed is an understatement.

She takes Penny on a rollercoaster ride of twerking flies, egg-bombing flies, migratory flies, cheesy flies, desiccating flies and cryofreezing flies and persuades her to fall in love with these maligned and misunderstood creatures, vital to the planet's ecosystem and our own existence.

[Listen to the latest episode of the Knepp Wildland Podcast](#)

Weekend openings for the rewilded Walled Garden





Due to popular demand, we're opening our rewilded Walled Garden for [self-guided tours](#) over some weekends this summer.

Amble at your own leisure with a map and QR codes and explore a new way of thinking about gardening. Inspired by what we've learned from the wider rewilding project, we're experimenting with how a garden can function as a sustainable ecosystem that is wonderful for wildlife and also a beautiful, calm space for us to enjoy.

[Explore all of our Garden Tours & Events](#)

White storks star on Countryfile





We were thrilled to host BBC Countryfile at Knepp two weeks ago to film our storks and the first ever Stork Festival held in our neighbouring village Storrington. With amazing footage of stork chicks – and piglets - the programme, which aired on Sunday 25 May, is available to see again on BBC iPlayer.

To meet the flurry of interest, and with the stork chicks now almost fully grown and getting ready to fledge from their nests in the top of our oak trees, we're putting on more [white stork safaris](#). Experts from the White Stork Project will take you to the hub of our white stork colony and show how the project has supported this beautiful, emblematic creature, helping it return to UK skies after hundreds of years' absence.

[Book a white stork safari](#)

Don't miss our upcoming events:





ALL EVENTS

Work with us

We're looking for a few brilliant individuals to join our team. See if we have the perfect role for you.

We value diversity in our team as much as we do in our landscape and encourage applicants from all backgrounds to apply.

LEARN MORE & APPLY

Join the community



Discover more

BOOK A TABLE

BUTCHERY

STAY

SAFARI

GARDEN

Photo credits: Main purple emperor image by Neil Hulme. Purple emperor larvae by Matthew Oates. Common blue and cinnabar moth by Pippa Reay. Speckled wood butterfly by Steven Norris.



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