

From: Knepp Wilding safaris@knepp.co.uk
Subject: 🔥 Knepp news: 20 years of rewilding, beavers cleaning water & Burns Night
Date: January 16, 2026 at 11:20 am
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In this edition of News from Knepp: what **two decades of rewilding** can do; **Burns Night** at Wilding Kitchen; **hundreds of redwings** home in on Knepp; bring home the healing power of nature from **Prof Kathy Willis' author supper**; beaver solutions to water pollution in the **Wilding Podcast: Treat a Friend: Sunday Roasts**. and **Team**

water pollution in the Rhine, Canada, Korea, and Japan.
Away Days.

Nature roars back after *two decades of rewilding*



Perhaps you heard Isabella Tree on BBC Radio 4 this week talking about the 20-year review of nature at Knepp? Our ecologists looked at data and found that since rewilding began, breeding birds at Knepp have increased by 900% and nightingales by 500%, with butterflies, dragonflies and many other species flourishing too.

Rare and endangered species like turtle doves and purple emperor butterflies have returned: proof of what can happen when wildlife is given space to thrive. The story was covered widely in newspapers and online too.

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)

Burns Night at Wilding Kitchen

See off the winter blues as Rabbie Burns would!

On Saturday 24 January, our MICHELIN-rated restaurant will be embracing the Scottish spirit.

We're partnering with Nc'nean, Scotland's first fully organic whisky distillery, to host an evening of piper music, roaring fires and a Knepp twist on Burns Night supper. We'll be cooking up a storm with produce from Knepp's Market Garden and venison from the rewilding project.





Book Burns Night

Remarkable numbers of *redwings at Knepp*



The migratory redwing is the UK's smallest true thrush and this year visitors and volunteers are seeing them in great numbers as the tiny birds escape the cold spell across the North Sea. Our ecology team has counted up to 250 in one day.

But these numbers are not reflected elsewhere in the Southeast. There have been only 40 sightings in the whole of Surrey so far this year.

So why are redwings attracted to Knepp? It's our scrubland. This extensive thorny habitat provides them with nocturnal roosting sites and an abundance of sloes, hawthorn and rosehips – this year in particular abundance.

Enjoy the spectacle – but, as always, when walking at Knepp, please stay on the footpaths and keep dogs under control. Disturbance for birds, particularly in freezing weather, uses up precious calories. Every time a bird is flushed into the air impacts its chances of survival.

Visit Knepp

Next author supper with *Prof Kathy Willis*

Who knew the scent of roses reduces road rage, or smelling lemon peel lowers inflammation, or that the colour green makes people more creative, and a view of trees from a hospital window speeds patient recovery?

These are some of the insights, scientifically proven, in Kathy Willis' remarkable and brilliantly readable book *Good Nature*. As Professor of Biodiversity at University of Oxford, Kathy Willis explains how these influences work on our bodies, gut biome and nervous system, how they can change mood, alleviate depression and keep us resilient and healthy.

Come to her author supper on

Thursday 10th May 7.30pm - 9.30pm

'A game-changer ... Beautifully written, masterfully explained
Isabella Tree, bestselling author of Wilding

good
nature

The New Science
of How Nature
Improves Our Health

Thursday 19 February and pick up some simple tips about how to bring the healing power of nature into your everyday life, your home, office, classroom and even your car.

Hosted by Isabella Tree, the evening will kick off with a glass of bubbly, author talk and book signing – with plenty of time for audience Q&A – and conclude with a delicious three course meal at the Knepp Wilding Kitchen.

KATHY WILLIS

PROFESSOR OF BIODIVERSITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

BLOOMSBURY

Book Kathy Willis' author
supper, 19 February



Author suppers at Knepp Wilding Kitchen:



Michael Bond,
26 March



Lottie Delamain,
23 April



Andris
Fagelviskare,
30 April

Is England Beaver Ready? *January's podcast*



As outrage about the state of our rivers rages on, this month's Knepp Wilding Podcast discusses an obvious solution. Beavers. Mark Elliot, one of England's top beaver experts visits the new dams and wetlands created in the last few months at Knepp. He explains to Isabella Tree how these hydrological engineers effectively neutralise water pollution and provide substantial new stores of clean water.

With serious river pollution incidents surging 60% in 2025, according to Water Unite, and water resources at an all-time low, why isn't the government working more urgently for the release of beavers into the wider countryside?

Find out why the government is dragging its feet, how water companies are missing a trick, and what could be done to smooth the way for beavers to return to our rivers.

Listen to the 'Is England Beaver Ready' podcast

The return of our wild *Sunday roasts*

This weekend sees the return of a favourite at the Wilding Kitchen: the traditional Sunday roast.

We're serving dry-aged old English longhorn beef from the rewilding project and delicious vegetable dishes from our Market Garden, alongside crispy roast potatoes, Yorkshire Puddings and all the trimmings. A wonderful winter celebration of good things, and the perfect way to warm up after a rewilding walk.





Book Knepp Wilding Kitchen

Treat a Friend offer is back

TREAT A FRIEND
TO LUNCH ON US





Reserve your table with our code to claim the weekday offer for two meals for the price of one. T & Cs apply

GET THE CODE

Get the Treat a Friend code

Rewild your *company spirit*



Take the reins off and unleash your team's potential at Knepp. We host team building days where groups can reconnect with nature and learn how to think like rewilders, embracing the unexpected, allowing change to unlock opportunity and trigger new energy. Appreciate the transformations that come from thinking holistically and letting go.

This is a wonderful and refreshing way to build team spirit through the inspiring lessons of trusting in nature.

Find out about Team Away Days

The safari calendar *is open*



Book a garden visit



Book a safari

Join the community



Discover more

[BOOK A TABLE](#)

[BUTCHERY](#)

[STAY](#)

[SAFARI](#)

[GARDEN](#)

Credits: winter image at Knepp, Colette Holloway; redwing, RSPB.



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