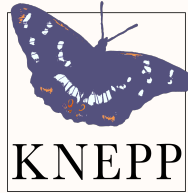


**From:** Knepp Wilding safaris@knepp.co.uk  
**Subject:** 🎵 Knepp news: nightingales in full song & BBQs return  
**Date:** April 24, 2026 at 11:36 am  
**To:** maryannsteggles@icloud.com

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In this edition of *News from Knepp*: **nightingales have arrived** and are singing their hearts out; **Friday evening BBQs** at Knepp Wilding Kitchen are back; bestselling author **Dave Goulson on saving nature** through the food on our plates; the remarkable story of **Savaan. the cuckoo. back at Knepp** for the third year running:

... remarkable story, or say, say, the eagles, each at a drop for the time, year, planning, going **wild for National Gardening Week**; and the **White Stork Project** taking part in the Big Give.

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## *Nightingales* in full song

Hearing the first nightingales of spring is a wonderful moment and this year is looking to be another good one for these enchanting long-distance migrants.

The males are already taking up prime nesting spots and singing, day and night, to attract females following them from Africa. We've even heard one trilling over the Wilding Kitchen courtyard – possibly the same one as last year.



We counted 60 singing males in 2025 - up from 48 the year before. Will we have even more this year?

The wet winter, followed by warm, sunny weather is creating lush spring vegetation which is encouraging masses of insects – food for nightingales and other returning songbirds. The omens look good.

Songs in Nightingale Season,  
Saturday 9 May

Book a Nightingale Safari and  
Supper

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## Friday evening *BBQs are back!*



Our popular Friday barbeque evenings at the Wilding Kitchen return from 1 May.

With live music, the courtyard bathed in golden evening light, and a seasonal menu featuring grilled Knepp Wild Range meat and delicious vegetable skewers from our Market Garden, this is a glorious way to celebrate the return of early summer evenings. If the weather turns, we move everything inside, to continue the party in our lovely, candlelit barn with cosy wood burner.

Book your place at a Friday BBQ, from Friday 1 May

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*Eat the Planet Well* - Dave Goulson's author

supper,  
Thursday 4 June, 6 - 9pm



This week, as war in the Middle East continues to flare, experts flagged how vulnerable the UK food industry is to geopolitical tensions. Industrial farming relies on imports of artificial fertiliser from places like Ukraine and the Arab States. Complex supply chains leave us critically exposed.

What if there was another way to eat? A healthier, safer, sustainable way to grow food?

Dave Goulson, bestselling author and professor of biology at the University of Sussex, will be talking about his latest book *Eat the Planet Well*, tackling the problems of industrial food production head on. How can we eat in a way that sustains us – and the planet? What do we do with information overload and all the baffling choices that confront us?

Join him, Isabella Tree and Charlie Burrell for a conversation full of rascinating insights, good humour, pragmatism and hope.

Enjoy a glass of bubbly on arrival, followed by Dave's talk, plenty of time for questions from the audience, book signing and a delicious (sustainable) three-course dinner at the award-winning Wilding Kitchen.

Book 'Eat the Planet Well' author supper, 4 June

## *Other author suppers at the Wilding Kitchen*



Book Andris Fagelvikare  
author supper, 30 April



Book Stephen Moss's author  
supper, 16 July

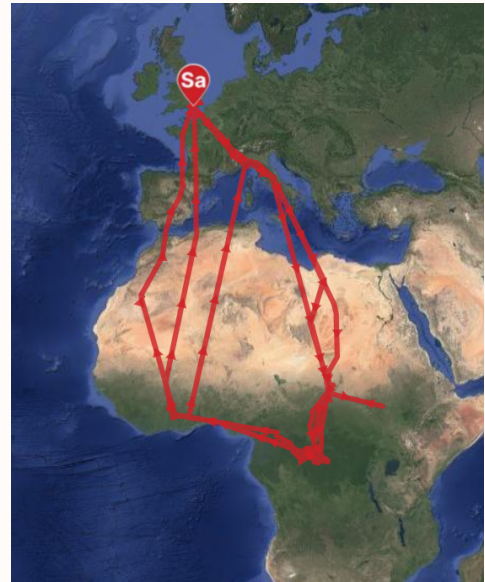
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Sayaan, the cuckoo tagged at Knepp, *returns*

## *from Africa*

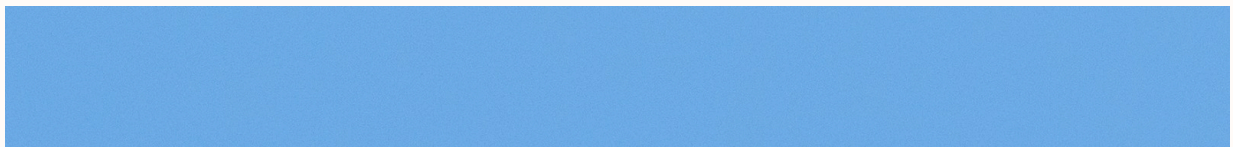
Three years ago, we tagged a cuckoo at Knepp as part of the British Trust for Ornithology's cuckoo tracking project. His name is Sayaan and we've followed his remarkable migrations ever since. Sayaan is now back at Knepp for the third summer in a row. At least four years old, he's already outlasted a cuckoo's normal lifespan.

Sayaan started his journey from his overwintering grounds in the Congo in January, pausing in a gorilla-packed nature reserve before flying on to Cameroon in February. March found him crossing Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, refuelling on insects before heading off in April across the Sahara desert, Algeria, Ibiza and into the Pyrenees. From there, he made the heroic 1000 km sprint to Knepp, landing here this week.



Somehow, yet again, Sayaan has managed to avoid storms and poachers' traps along a migration route that becomes more hazardous every year with habitat loss and climate change. The sound of the cuckoo in the UK in spring is the sound of triumph and we're so happy that Knepp is providing a haven for Sayaan and the other cuckoos that find us every year.

Most UK cuckoos start heading back to Africa in June, so for a good chance of hearing one, come soon!





Join a Walk on the Wild Side Safari

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## Unleash your inner beaver for *National Gardening Week*

National Gardening Week kicks off on Monday 27 April, inviting everyone 'to embrace curiosity in their gardens by slowing down, looking closer and discovering the small wonders that bring outdoor spaces to life'.

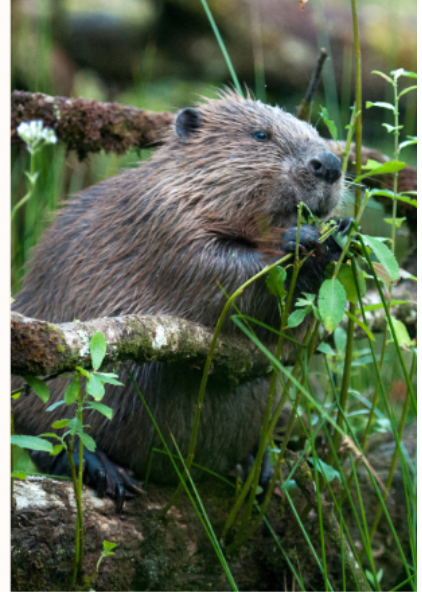
Inspired by Erica McAlister, queen of the flies, we'll be looking at the unexpected insect life in our Rewilded Walled Garden – creatures that indicate happy soils and sustain a healthy garden ecosystem.

We'll be reflecting, too, on Lottie Delamain's wonderful book *Gardens That Can Save The World*, featuring gardens around the globe – including ours - that show the huge potential of small outdoor spaces to help climate, wildlife and ourselves.

If you'd like to learn how to think like a beaver, a bison, an ant or an earthworm in

If you'd like to learn how to think like a beaver, a bison, an ant or an earthworm in your garden, join one of our Rewilded Walled Garden Tours or Workshops, or explore new ways of rewilding yourself at your own pace on a Self-Guided Tour.

[See all garden tours and workshops](#)



[Book the Designing a Wilder Garden workshop](#)

[Book the Gardening a Wilder Garden workshop](#)

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## White Stork Project joins the Big Give's 'Earth Raise' campaign

We often feature the white storks in our newsletter and you may have enjoyed watching Bartek and Greta tending their chicks on our live webcam - amongst the first storks to breed in the UK for around 600 years

...storks to breed in the UK for around 600 years.

The White Stork Project is taking part in the Big Give's Earth Raise campaign. Until 29 April, donations to the White Stork Project will be doubled. The team use the funds to track the storks on migration, helping them to understand the perilous route the birds take, and to educate young people about the power of reintroducing lost species.

Across the Wildland, we've counted 85 white stork eggs this year. We can't wait to see more of the next generation of wild storks hatch. If you feel you can contribute to the Big Give, we'd love you to be part of the story - a story of rebirth and hope



Donate to the White Stork Project's Earth Raise campaign

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*Safari, tour and stay*





Book a  
garden visit



Book a  
safari



Glamping  
& camping

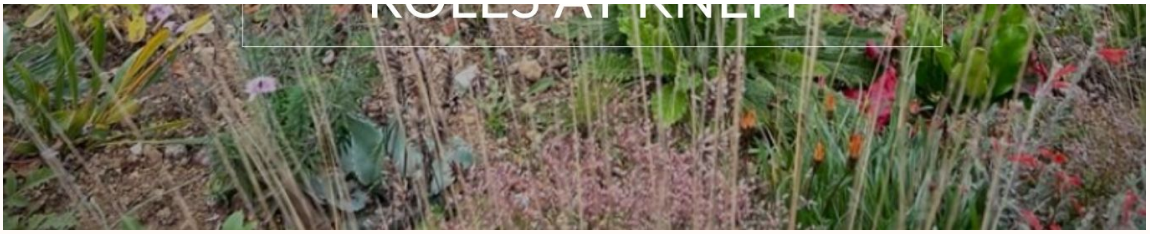
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## *Work with us*

We're recruiting for some exciting roles across the estate.



ROLES AT KNEPP



Find roles at Knepp

Photo credits: Main image of nightingale by Charlie Burrell; juvenile nightingale by Matt Phelps; orange tip butterfly by Jennifer Orgill; beaver by David Plummer; cuckoo by Matt Phelps; Sayaan's route thanks to BTO; white storks by Gary Franklin.

### Join the community



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### Discover more

BOOK A TABLE

BUTCHERY

STAY

SAFARI

GARDEN





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