



Gift to Nature

NEWS

April 2016

ITS BEEN A MAD MARCH AT GIFT TO NATURE

We are still unpacking our boxes at **Shide Meadows Centre**. Loving it here, we have spotted brimstone butterflies fluttering in our laurel hedges. So far they have avoided our cameras, but they are a great distraction when sitting in meetings. We have been cutting the hedges back too. We will let them grow again, but they will be kept at a much more manageable height.

A visit from the very nice people of **Isle of Wight Beach Cleaning Volunteers** prompted us to unpack our litter –pickers. They even marked them up for us, so now they are **available** for other groups to use.



And talking of volunteers, **Wildlife Warriors** have been out clearing scrub in Little Jane Quarry whilst **Green Gym** tackled Golden Hill Country Park on the other side of the Island. Green Gym are cursed with rain when they come to our sites. If you need a drought broken, call them out.

We have launched our **new website**. There are still a few glitches, but please give it a try www.giftonature.org.uk and let us know what you think.

Thanks to a small but generous grant from Ryde Town Council we have done some initial works at **Swanmore Meadows**—more on this on the next page.

And spring seems to have finally arrived.



Gift to Nature is the flagship conservation project of Island 2000 Trust.

Registered Charity No. 1083233



Gift to Nature



SWANMORE MEADOWS

Through the urban fringes of Ryde Monkton Mead Brook is lined by the species-rich grasslands of Swanmore Meadows. These grasslands, developed over calcareous clay marls, support a great variety of wild flowers including an abundance of common century, bird's foot trefoil, agrimony and the occasional pyramidal orchid. Butterflies also abound in these meadows with marbled white, large skipper and common blue all abundant. Unfortunately, a lack of management has allowed scrub to encroach over much of the meadow grassland which is now confined to a series of open glades along the length of the public footpath. At the top of the site there is woodland and a pond.



Credit. Jonathon Cox Associates



Swanmore Meadows

Together with Ryde Town Council and the Down To the Coast programme, Gift To Nature will be working to improve access and enjoyment. Much work will now wait until the end of the summer, after the birds have nested. We would like to hear from local people and local groups that would like to be involved. You may wish to help practically—with conservation work or being our eyes and ears—or you might like to research the history. We would love someone to visit the site and record the wildlife. You may even wish to be involved in helping us to decide how to shape the site. So please get in touch with us if you would like to be involved.

Call Carol on (01983) 201563.

Coming soon..

We are leading 8 walks for this year's Isle of Wight Walking Festival. Full details will be in our next newsletter, but as it starts early in the month, here are the details of the first two:

SUNDAY 1ST MAY—EASTERN YAR WALK AND POOH STICK CHALLENGE

10.30am Newchurch C/P—the title says it all! Prizes sponsored by



MONDAY 2ND MAY—PARKHURST POOTLE

2pm Forest Car Park—short family walk to spot squirrels

Walks have a suggested donation of £2 pp. Full details in IWWF

Brochure, at

isleofwightwalkingfestival.co.uk

or gifttonature.org.uk



Gift to Nature is the flagship conservation project of the Island 2000 Trust.

Gift to Nature provides opportunities to allow residents and visitors to enjoy the natural environment by creating, enhancing and providing access to sites and activities that deliver benefit to all.

Gift to Nature is part of the Island 2000 Trust, registered charity no. 1083233.

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