

NEWS

DECEMBER 2016



**Gift to
Nature**



TO MOW OR NOT TO MOW

Following our recent work at several of our sites some people have contacted us concerned that we have been removing trees and scrub—about the timing and why we do it. We have a delicate balance to strike every year when we choose what time to cut the grass and hedges. It's important this gets done because otherwise our wonderful flower-rich grassland would all soon turn to scrub.

If we do it too soon, there might be a late brood of birds, and the seeds won't have set from the seed heads, whereas if we do it too late, it's so wet on many of our sites that we sink into the ground and make a mess. And on some sites, such as One Horse Field in Totland, and Pan Country Park, we have to be especially careful to ensure we don't harm slow worms.

We do agree it looks a bit severe at first, but please do bear with us. In the spring the benefits of this work should really start to show when the plants start to come back - better for the birds and insects too.

Swanmore Meadows looked a bit sorry back in October, but as these photos taken at the end of November by Gift To Nature supporter Liz Giles show, it has already started to green-up.



DODNOR DEALINGS

Our article in last month's newsletters about the cement kilns went viral—largely thanks to IW Radio, and we even saw retweets from Australia. Thanks to the massive interest, and also to Vestas, we will be holding a walk / talk of the site in January. Details will be in the January newsletter.



SWANMORE SNIPPETS

We raised £10,000 from Tesco Bags of Help for access improvements and we have also been speaking to local people with sight and hearing difficulties to find out how we could improve the site for them. Details of the new site name will be in the January newsletter.



TESCO Bags of Help



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



**island
2000**
TRUST

AND MEET OUR NEW TEAM MEMBER...

Vanessa Langley heads our Fund-Raising efforts—which are going to need to be huge given the number of sites we now manage. Vanessa has worked as Event Coordinator for the fundraising arm of the RSPB as well as organising the award winning Lewes Farmers market in Sussex for over 5 years.

She is also the owner of The Blue Fox Gallery in Ryde. She is hoping to expand our supporter scheme and deliver lots of exciting events on some of our sites across 2017. There are already some big plans in the pipeline so watch this space



Our first event of 2017 will be a repeat of the successful Gala Dinner which again will be held on 25th February. More details to follow but if you would like to get involved by either donating an auction item or buying a ticket for the fabulous feast and live entertainment then drop Vanessa an email on Vanessa.langley@giftonature.org.uk or call the office. Vanessa is hoping there may be one or two of you who are talented when it comes to making rooms look nice, and could volunteer your time to help.

And three ideas for Christmas:

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for Gift to Nature? There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/giftonature/> and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Gift to Nature will be really grateful for your donations.

Don't forget the Gift To Nature hedgehogs, available from Shide Meadows Centre (ring first to make sure we are in) from **Paul Critchley at Diamond Isle** at Arreton Barns and now from Vanessa's Gallery!



And this is Gift To Nature honey made from Honey Bee Central at Shide Meadows Centre. Those Nice people at **Bunbury Bees** who own the hives and make our honey are also offering Bee Keeping Experience Days—you can buy a voucher as a gift. Contact them through Facebook or their website <http://www.bunburybees.co.uk/>

Merry Christmas!



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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