



**Gift to Nature**

# NEWS

## July 2016

We apologise for the **late arrival** of your newsletter this month. We have all been terribly busy. We are working on a three year plan of integrating and upgrading all the original Gift To Nature sites with the Isle of Wight Council sites that we now manage. We have previously told you about our success in securing funding for work in **Pan Mill Meadows** in Newport and **Swanmore Meadows** in Ryde. Work is starting on these sites and so we have switched our focus to the next batch.



To this effect we have been on site visits to **Dodnor Creek and Dickson's Copse** in Newport, **The Landslip and Nansen Hill** (both at Bonchurch), **Brading Down**, and **Sibden Hill and Batts Copse** in Shanklin. *Are any of these sites special to you? We will be developing our plans over the next few months, and would like to know what the regular users want. What is special to you, have you any stories to tell, do you record the nature, is there anything you think we should be doing?* Please let us know.

Its not been all **plain sailing** either. We have had bits of bother. A massive tree fell down at Bonchurch Landslip, right across the Coastal Path. And someone has been lighting fires in Shide Chalk Pit. Poor **Nick the Ranger** came in today having been moaned at about ragwort and grass! We do pull ragwort on our land but only when it is a threat to grazing animals. We are managing countryside sites not parks, so we don't cut the grass frequently, but we do try and keep paths clear.



So the strimmer has been out, and all over the place including Birchmore Pond, Merstone Station, Sibden Hill, Golden Hill, Blackgang Viewpoint and Brading Down. Thanks **Kevin, Charlie and Sam**—our star volunteers for your help. Thanks also to Newport Cubs who joined Nick in Dickson's Copse, and **Green Gym** and **Wildlife Warriors** who have been on the ragwort rampage.



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

Registered Charity No. 1083233



# Help needed!

Plant Positive is helping to control the spread of non-native plants along our waterways. At present a band of volunteers are pulling Himalayan Balsam along Wroxall Stream and the Eastern Yar. They really do need more help 'out on the pull' on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Are you able to come along? The next few sessions are as follows:

14th July—Wroxall Stream - Bobberstone Farm - meet at the farm (The track is found off of Lessland Lane G.R SZ551824), PO38 3AT—10 am

19th July - East Yar – Sandown Bridge Meadows - meet on Morton Brook Road off of Perowne Way, Sandown, PO36 9PZ - 9.30am

21st July – Wroxall Stream - Donkey Sanctuary - meet in car park 9.30 am

26<sup>th</sup> July – East Yar – Cycle track – Meet Alverstone Bridge – 9.30am

28<sup>th</sup> July – East Yar – Meet at Southern Water Sewage Works, East Yar Road, Sandown, PO36 9AX – 9.30am

If you come across the plant when walking in the countryside please **pull it up** before it seeds.



## Are you a tourism business?



Are you near the Red Squirrel Trail? We would like to put your details on the Red Squirrel Trail website—[www.redsquirreltrail.org.uk](http://www.redsquirreltrail.org.uk)—its all free.

Or, do you put leaflets in bedrooms? We have a range of free local leaflets that you might like. You'll need to pick them up and let us know that you are coming in advance.

**Don't forget The Big Butterfly Count** which runs from Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August. It is a nationwide survey aimed at helping assess the health of our environment. It was launched in 2010 and has rapidly become the world's biggest survey of butterflies. Over 52,000 people took part in 2015, counting over 580,000 individual butterflies and day-flying moths across the UK. There are a lot of resources to help you take part at <http://www.bigbutterflycount.org/>

You can do this at any of our sites. To start you off here's one from Shide Chalk Pit yesterday



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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