

# NEWS

## NOVEMBER 2016



**Gift to  
Nature**

### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Since we have been working at Swanmore Meadows people have been stopping us and questioning its name. To be honest, we are not really sure where 'Swanmore Meadows' comes from, but we now know that the nature reserve south of Quarry Lane, Ryde has various names, and people have told us they want to have a say in what we call it in the future. So now's your chance to tell us what you call that beautiful bit of countryside. The successful name will be going on signboards and maps on the nature reserve. Here's our on-line poll. You will need to get a move on as it closes 25 November <https://pinkeye.typeform.com/to/JV6GQZ> . We will tell you the new name in next month's newsletter.



### ARE YOU A TESCO SHOPPER?

Both *Swanmore Meadows* and *Cockleton Meadows* are 'up for the vote' as part of Tesco's Bags of Help grant programme. Please vote for one or both at their Ryde and Lake between **31 October and 13 November**.

**TESCO** Bags of Help

### A BIG THANK YOU TO WALKING FESTIVAL WALK LEADERS...

Who have supported us over the years. Many thanks to Keith Wendes and Howard Duffus who both led two walks during this Autumn's festival. Visit Isle of Wight would like to hear from any walk leaders. Please can you email your details to [zoe@visitwight.org.uk](mailto:zoe@visitwight.org.uk)



**Gift to  
Nature**

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

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## DOWN AT DODNOR...

In 1840 Charles Francis of the White Cement Company of London, opened the Medina Cement Works around the old tide mill on the western bank of the River Medina. The site was used in the development and manufacture of an improved type of Roman cement called "Medina Cement" using chamber kilns and other pioneering techniques during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Cement made on this site is reputed to have been used in the construction of Osbourne House for Queen Victoria. In the 1870's the Works were converted to produce Portland cement.



The majority of the structures on the site were demolished in the mid 2000's and the only surviving above ground structures are the most southerly of the Chamber kilns at Dodnor and the old mill pond to the south. These kilns are on the Gift To Nature managed site, but not accessible by the public. They have become overgrown and are barely visible. We want to apply for a grant to clear the vegetation, record them and open up to view, from a safe distance. Are there any of you who are budding archaeologists

who would like to be involved in this? If so, please email [carol.flux@naturalenterprise.co.uk](mailto:carol.flux@naturalenterprise.co.uk) . We are also interested to hear from anyone who would like to be involved in conservation activities on the main reserve.

## AND A CHANCE TO GET DIRTY ...

The Plant Positive Balsam Team have asked to carry on with practical conservation tasks through the winter, along the Island's water-courses. Thanks to funding from Down To The Coast, this is possible. If anyone would like to come along on our fortnightly tasks, please contact [carol.flux@naturalenterprise.co.uk](mailto:carol.flux@naturalenterprise.co.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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