

# NEWS

## OCTOBER 2016



**Gift to  
Nature**

### A VERY BUSY AUTUMN

We are now into our busy time of year. A lot of our work needs to be done outside of the nesting season, so between late August and February. On some sites our window is narrowed even more because they become too wet in winter. So, taking a very quick tour of the Isle of Wight. In Ryde:

**Swanmore Meadows** has had a meadow cut and coppicing. This looks quite drastic at the moment, but you will thank us next spring when the flowers re-appear. Nick has been putting a crossing in over the stream and Green Gym are there again next week to do a bit of fine tuning. If you would like to know how to get involved in its restoration please join us on **Thursday 13th October at 5.30 pm** for a tour of the site. Meet at Quarry Road entrance.



**STOP PRESS:** Vote for Swanmore Meadows at Tesco's in Ryde and Lake between 31 October and 13 November. Monies raised will go towards a Boardwalk



And moving round the Island we reach **Sandown Community Orchard**. This was the venue of a very prestigious event (Himalayan Balsam Volunteer Party) and in preparation received a thorough trim and tidy up. There are lots of apples on the trees—please help yourselves.

Across to Freshwater and Nick's been very busy at Golden Hill Fort where he has cut the dog violet area and trimmed around the pond. At Afton Marsh we have started treating the Japanese Knotweed and we are formulating a more extensive plan next year.



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## And moving around the coast to Gurnard:



**Green Gym** have also been busy in **Cockleton Meadow** making compost bins, raking the meadow, planting trees, and clearing dead wood from the orchard area. Please feel free to pick the fruit here too. Some has been harvested for the Community Crush. Yellow rattle seeds were sown to help suppress the vigorous grass.

**STOP PRESS:** Vote for Cockleton Meadow in Tesco's in Ryde and Lake between 31 October and 13 November. Monies raised will go towards site improvements

**Meanwhile in Pan Country Park** a new arts trail is being created; the 'Pollen Trail' is funded by monies made available as part of the planning conditions for Pan/Bluebell Meadows development. The trail includes a series of carved wooden benches, which have already been installed and feature butterflies, dormice and the bullhead fish. The benches were carved by local chainsaw artist Paul Sivell. More sculptures are to follow.



**And over at Birchmore Pond** those very busy people from Green Gym worked to remove willow whips, pollard some willow, trim paths and create some scallops. Amazingly it didn't rain. It always rains when Green Gym visit.



**And finally...** Congratulations to **Plant Positive**, the **Himalayan Balsam Volunteers** who chalked up over 1500 hours of pulling and removed the equivalent of the weight of 36 elephants!



Red-backed shrike spotted on Sandown Levels by Jim Baldwin



**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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