

New partnerships blossom to keep Island fruit trees productive

The WWLP are always keen to help forge new partnerships that encourage more people to get actively involved in looking after the Island's natural and cultural heritage.

Regular readers will know that we are particularly fond of our orchards and more generally, fruit and nut trees. Moreover, it seems that plenty of others share this passion. So much so, that in early February the WWLP worked together with the IW Orchard Group, Carisbrooke Priory and Ventnor Botanic Gardens to deliver a superb pruning workshop for more than 20 hardy souls who braved the snow to learn how to better care for their stock of trees.



Chris Kidd explains the rudiments of pruning

Under the expert supervision of Chris Kidd and Irene Fletcher from the Botanic Gardens the workshop delivered double dividends, both 'skilling' up participants as well as helping give the Priory's historic orchard a much needed prune. Thanks go to all those involved but particularly to the staff of the Priory for being so trusting as to let us loose in their historic walled gardens.

Watch this space for future pruning dates in the summer.

The fastest grant in the West!

The WWLP have awarded grants to more than 50 projects under our Landscape Heritage Grants programme over the past 4 year. However, the award for the most rapid delivery of works must go to the IW Ramblers.

Even before the ink was dry on the cheque issued earlier this month the Ramblers had engaged Peter and Marcus of Clifford Matthews to construct new steps at the treacherous path leading from Hannover Point car park to Compton Beach. In seemingly the blink of an eye the work was complete. Well done to all involved.



Before



After

Free marine outreach service for schools

Dovetailing with the work of the WWLP, the Hants & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust are now offering primary schools a free marine outreach service as part of the *Making Waves* project.

The aim is to give children more opportunities to learn about local marine wildlife. Marine themed assemblies and workshops are on offer, as well as a school loans box. In a *Making Waves* assembly pupils are taken on a virtual dive beneath the waves to discover their local marine life. In the workshop, children can discover the variety of plants and animals found in the marine environment and explore items found along the seashore. The workshop also looks at how we can all look after the marine environment.



Polly Whyte giving a *Making Waves* assembly

A marine schools loans box has also been developed for Key Stage 1 and 2, which is free for schools to borrow from the Learning & Development Resource Centre in Newport. For more about *Making Waves* contact Polly Whyte at PollyW@hwt.org.uk (01489 774426) or to book the loans box, contact Helen Hiscock (helen.hiscock@iow.gov.uk, (01983 520104).

Kick the mud off your boots!

Spring is almost upon us and its time to get out and about and explore the wonderful West Wight.

To help you in your wanderings the WWLP have produced a series of walking guides highlighting some of the area's incredibly rich natural and cultural heritage. These can be picked up for a snip £2 at outlets across the Island including Waterstones.



With our friends Helen Stichbury, Alan Rowe and the Freshwater and Totland Archive Group we have also produced a number of interesting local walks that can be navigated by those with buggies. These are available to download for free at www.wwlp.co.uk.