



January 2022 Winchester City Council Report

Vicki Weston 01329 835161 Vweston@winchester.gov.uk

Happy New Year

Covid continues to disrupt our lives with daily number of infections over 100,000 nationally and while there does not seem to be any let up. I hope that by the time this goes to print it will be on the decline. The current chat that 'everyone will get it at some point' might be true but this does not prevent us continuing being careful to help protect vulnerable friends and relatives and our hard-pressed health service.

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL NEWS

Small Grants – Applications Open This scheme aims to make small grants easily available to local voluntary and community groups. Grants are quick and easy to apply up to £500 and are available for one-off pieces of expenditure on projects, equipment and other items which will help your organisation to do more, to reach more people, to provide better services or to try something different. Should you require any further assistance with voluntary sector grants, you can contact grants@winchester.gov.uk or Tel 01962 848256

Winchester Regeneration (CWR) area. Council gives green light to securing a single development partner for major city center transformation - councilors questioned if History is repeating itself?

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK NEWS

New Miles Without Stiles routes, led by Hampshire County Council

Creating a stile-free route covering the parishes Twyford, Itchen Valley, Chilcomb and Itchen Stoke and Ovington, as well as a "southern gateway" to the National Park covering the parishes of Soberton, Hambledon, Horndean, and Rowlands Castle. Routes are ideal for families, mobility scooters and walkers with limited mobility. £53,008. **Read more by following the link below.**

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/funding-boost-of-1-5m-for-south-downs-communities/>

Mayor of Winchester launches Community Awards

The annual Mayor of Winchester's Community Awards launches today, Wednesday 12 January 2022.

To nominate a person or organisation, complete the online form at winchester.gov.uk/mayors-awards with the details of your nominee(s) or contact your district or local parish council and they can make a submission on your behalf.

The closing date for nominations is 18 February 2022.



OUR RIVERS

Our Rivers Raw sewage, microplastics and slurry are coursing through all of England's rivers, putting health and nature at risk, a parliamentary report concludes. Read a very interesting article by following this link ['Chemical cocktail' polluting English rivers - MPs warn - BBC News](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-59955624)<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-59955624>

Song Thrushes

This month we had the pleasure of hearing a song thrush here in Newtown but sadly, the song thrush population has been in decline for decades with approximately 54% fewer birds now than in 1969. The biggest decline is on areas of heavily farmed arable land. The figures are worrying enough that the BTO have Red Listed the song thrush, there is a serious conservation concern.



Can the Decline of the Thrush be Stopped?

There are always ways to help the number of song thrushes increase, whether or not we can halt their decline can only be seen.

Initial measures seem to be in the hands of farmers, with Government initiatives offering grants for planting they choose to undertake.

1. Be sympathetic with hedgerows, leave them in situ and let them grow tall, thick, and lush.
- Woodland areas attract the thrush, cash injections are available to plant wooded areas on areas not used for crops.
- The thrush loves leafy clover and prefers to eat in its shade or close by. Plant lots of clovers and wild seed mixtures to grow a bird dining extravaganza. Red millet, dwarf sunflower, linseed, mustard, spring wheat, and barley are just some of the most enticing seeds.
- Irrigation methods that keep the soil damp and full of earthworms have great success. Thrushes will steer clear of soil that has been allowed to dry out during the summer.

Bats and the Impact of Light Pollution

JAN 20

Thursday 19:00

Gilbert White Field Studies Centre

Join Zoology graduate and bat-enthusiast Millie Gillard for a talk about the impacts of light pollution, with a focus on bat species close to home.

Date

JAN 20 Thursday 19:00

JAN 20 Thursday 21:00



January 20th 2022 at 19:00 - January 20th 2022 at 21:00

Event details

Address: Gilbert White's House & Gardens
High Street
Selborne

Postcode: GU34 3JH

Website: https://gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk/talk-light-pollution-impact-bats-british-wildlife/?event_date=2022-01-20

Tickets: £5

Contact Information: 01420 511275

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GilbertWhiteHouseandGardens/>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/gilbertwhites>

Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/gilbertwhiteoc>

Description

Join Zoology graduate and bat-enthusiast Millie Gillard for a talk about the impacts of light pollution, with a focus on bat species close to home. The talk will broadly consider global research into the effect of light pollution on varying bat species, before looking at impacts on local bats and other British wildlife. The talk will also highlight the importance of Dark Sky Reserves, like that of the South Downs National Park.