



COVE BROOK GREENWAY GROUP

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Dorothy Toynbee
90 years young
(Centre)
at one of our
Workparties

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER—*Hilda Anscombe*

For the first time in ages I missed a work-party: For once I put my family before CBGG and, in August, I spent a week holidaying with my daughter and granddaughter in Portugal. However, I soon got over the guilty feeling and enjoyed a week relaxing with family.

At the end of August we said a final sad goodbye to Jim Clarke, who sadly passed away. (See article on page 4)

September 17th saw Mary and Bob Yeldham and myself setting up our stand at the Mayfield Community Sports Festival and Fun Event. In addition to advertising our Group we showed young people how to make spiders from pipe-cleaners and oddments of wool.

Sadly, Hampshire no longer host websites for volunteer groups, so we are in the process of setting up our own site. **Watch this space!**

YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD

In September one of our members, Dorothy Toynbee, celebrated her 90th birthday.

Believe it or not, Dorothy is one of our regular Work Party members and can be found cutting back hedges, picking up litter, baking cakes for our regular Open Evenings or helping children make spiders, dream catchers and butterflies at various events around the Borough and beyond.

Not everyone is lucky enough to be as healthy as Dorothy, but there are so many ways our volunteers can help, e.g. delivering newsletters, writing articles, litter picking, and, of course, making tea and coffee for the other volunteers.

We are a very friendly group and there are work party tasks for all abilities. Everyone works to the best of their abilities, from 3-year olds "helping" parents to collect litter up to the "grown ups" cutting back hedges, nettle bashing, pruning trees, cutting grass, planting wildflowers, among others. There is always a Work Party leader to help you with any skills you need

If you think you would like to join us, come along to one of our work parties, e-mail us on www.covebrookgg@yahoo.com or you can call or text 07510881939.

WORK PARTY REPORT

Sat 13th Aug

Hedge cutting at Birchbrook Reserve. 15 members including some of our new members made a concerted attack on overgrown hedges and trees.

Mon 15th Aug

An extra Work Party to cut back overhanging bushes from paths. Hopefully more usage will keep them clear. Thanks to Bob and Mary for supplying us with teas and coffees.

Thurs 18th Aug

A group of Blackwater Valley volunteers cut and raked the rough grass near Glebe Road and Paul and Mike cleared the Giffard Drive path.

Mon 22nd Aug

Hilda, Mike & Paul cleared the path between Hawley Lane and the M3 bridge to prepare for the September work party.

September Work Party — Due to unforeseen circumstances, this work party had to be cancelled.

Tues 4th October

A Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership Work Party at Birchbrook Reserve. Bindweed removal, hedge trimming, pushing back bramble, digging out roots and clearing rubbish..

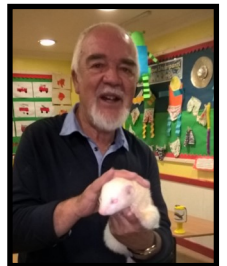
Sat 8th Oct

A dozen people met at Hazel Avenue and carried out a range of jobs: Improving the pathways in the woodland behind Cove Road; clearing and digging up the brambles and planting flower seeds, on the triangle of land by the notice board. Clearing the vegetation at the entrance to the Greenway at the south end of Hazel Avenue; removing 1-2 year old saplings from the grass bank of the Causeway to keep an open aspect and, of course, the inevitable litter picking. At least the rain held off until 12.40!

FERRETS

On August 9th we had an Open Evening along with our Annual General Meeting. David and Joan, members of the Hants & Berks Ferret Rescue, brought along their pet ferrets and kept us enthralled with anecdotes of their mischievous behaviour, as well as telling us about the history of ferret breeding in England.

In earlier times, ferrets were often used by poachers or game keepers, to flush rabbits from their burrows, in order to supply the main ingredient for Rabbit Pie. However, nowadays they are more often kept as pets.



Ferret babies are called kits and an bit of additional entertainment was unexpectedly provided, when a young member of the audience brought along her own two ferret-kittens

However, ferrets need a great deal of time and space. Sadly, when the novelty wears off and people realise how much time, space and patience is needed to look after them properly, they need to be rehomed. The lucky ones end up in rescue centres such as the one run by the Hants & Berks Ferret Club, where they try to find new homes for them.

Did you know that ferrets can be raced. They move like lightening and are fascinating to watch. If you fancy watching this sport or may be interested in having a ferret yourself, why not go along to one of their racing days. *(The next one will be held on 23rd October from 9am to 5 pm.)*

**For more details contact the Hants & Berks Ferret Club on their website
or contact them by e-mail webmaster@hbferretclub.co.uk**

KOI IN THE BROOK *by Joy Cross*

Earlier in the year we were taking a walk close to the stream that runs from Hawley Lake to the Cove Brook.

As we went over the stream at Guillemont School/Sandy Lane, I looked down into the water, at the point where a pipe crosses the stream, where rather nasty looking rusty liquid drips into the Brook. To our complete amazement, there was a large fish – a golden Koi Carp!!

It appeared to be happy swimming in and out, under the retaining wall of the bank. Even when a group of inquisitive Mallards came to see if food was on offer and churned the water into a murky soup: it still seemed to be happy.



Koi Carp in the

It was still there when we returned later in the day to feed it with peas and sweet corn.

We made many more trips on “Koi-watch” in the following weeks. Google suggested a plethora of different things to try feeding it. We were a bit uncertain about the Cheerios, but we tried them anyway!

No doubt other people had seen the Koi. I drive along Sandy Lane twice a day and frequently saw others hanging over the wall watching it. Eventually the fish was rescued by the RSPCA, but it had proved an interesting diversion for a few months!

Talking to other members of the CBGG this is not the first time a Koi has been found in or near the Brook. One of our members recalled the time her daughter asked for a large pickle jar so she could rescue a goldfish from the Brook and returned with a large Golden Koi in it, folded almost in half.

BROOK CLEARANCE—*by Mary Yelland*

The Environment Agency have started to clear reeds from the centre of Cove Brook, In early September they were in the area near the Wooden Bridge and working their way towards Hawley Lane.

The two gentlemen from the EA worked hard, in very hot weather. We did think that being in water would keep them cool, but alas, no. Apparently, the sun reflects off the water and that, combined with the hard physical work they were carrying out, made it very hot work.

At last sighting they were working along Anglesey Avenue, towards Cheyne Way, This means that, at last, we can see water; mainly from the bridges, but clear water is visible and swans, ducks and moorhens can now swim freely up and down the Brook.



The EA clearing reeds from the channel

Thank you Environment Agency, your work is very much appreciated.

We would also like to thank also to Councillor Mark Staplehurst, for cutting back some of the nettles along the edge of Cove Brook.. It makes the water a little more visible



FAREWELL TO JIM

Jim Clark was a member of Cove Brook Greenway Group for many years.

A regular member of our Work Parties, he could be recognised by his trademark blue overalls, working hard to help to keep the area around the Brook looking good. You always knew that, if Jim was asked to do anything, the work would be carried out well.

Cove Brook was only one of the voluntary groups he was involved with but, sadly, he became ill a couple of years ago and was no longer strong enough to join our work parties. He was a true gentleman and we will miss his quiet presence

**ALL EVENTS ARE HELD AT
BLUNDEN HALL, BLUNDEN RD, COVE. GU14 8QP**

*Volunteers welcome at all Work Parties.
(Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.)
PLEASE CHECK WEB SITE FOR CONFIRMATION*

CONTACT DETAILS

Web site

[New web site coming soon](#)

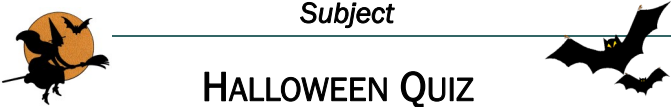
E-mail

covebrookgg@yahoo.co.uk

Telephone:

07510 881939

TALKS, MEETINGS & EVENTS

Date	Time	Subject
Tues 25 th Oct	7.30 pm	 <p>HALLOWEEN QUIZ Our Annual Quiz complete with spooky cakes & biscuits Tea ,Coffee or Squash Teams of 4 needed to answer our fiendishly clever quiz</p>

WORK PARTY DIARY

Sat 12 th Nov	10.00 am	<p>LITTER PICKING Tidying up Cheyne Woodland Meet at: <i>Curly Bridge, off Cheyne Way, Cove, GU14 8S</i></p>
Sat 10 th Dec	10.00 am	<p>CHRISTMAS SPARKLE Lets make the area look good for Christmas and! € mince pies and mulled wine as a reward Meet at: <i>Blunden Hall, Blunden Road, Cove, GU14 8QP</i></p> 
Sat 14 th Jan 2017	10.00 am	<p>WOODLAND MANAGEMENT Meet at: <i>Grasmere Road Car Park , Cove, GU14 0LE</i> OR <i>At the barrier at the North end of Hazel Avenue</i></p>
Sat 17 th Feb 2017	10.00 am	<p>BRAMBLE CONTROL, ETC IN BIRCHBROOK RESERVE Meet at: <i>Blunden Hall, Blunden Road, Cove, GU14 0DW</i></p>

COMMITTEE

Chairman

Hilda Anscombe

Secretary

Volunteer needed

Work Parties

Paul Sanders

Newsletter

Kathy Pitcher

Mike Burns

Treasurer

Mary Harris