

# COVE BROOK GREENWAY GROUP



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Whitethroat



Blackcap

## CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER - *Hilda Anscombe*

We had a lovely surprise recently when, following our Work Party's hard work to clear the path through the copse alongside the Cricket Pitch on Southwood Meadows, we had a phone call from a lady who thanked us for our hard work. Apparently it had made her walk with her dog much more pleasant. It makes such a lovely change to have some positive feedback and will encourage us to work even harder to improve our area.

Earlier this year Lawrence, my husband, was volunteering on the golf course and had reason to cut down a tree. Whilst sawing it into logs he found a hollow piece with a 2.5" x 3" hole in it, presumably a woodpecker's hole. He brought it home to show me, as he thought it might be useful for Greenway Group. He stood it near the back door and a pair of great tits took an interest. We moved it on to the lawn and the great tits followed, taking moss into the cavity. We had to move it again and inadvertently separated the two pieces of log, exposing the moss. The first two locations were near the ground and, as at least 3 cats roam our garden, we put the log on a stack of bricks on a low wall. There must be a shortage of nest sites round here as the great tits came back and raised a couple of chicks!



Mobile Home for  
Great Tits?

The blue tits have again used the nest box at the bottom of the garden and we now have a flock of at least 6 of them, eating the insects on the Silver Birch tree and other plants. The blackbird and robin have nested in the ivy hedge and reared a couple of youngsters and the squabbling starlings brood of 5 youngsters arrive every time I put out food.

## DAWN CHORUS - *Antonia Hebbert*

Our annual dawn chorus walk always starts at a challenging 3.45 am at Eelmoor Bridge, next to the canal and the airfield. In previous years we've been rewarded with the song of skylarks as we arrive, followed by a spectacular sun rise over the runway. This year was cold and windy. Even the skylarks had a lie-in and the sun didn't show up: the clouds just became a lighter shade of grey. At 4.15 am a Hedge Sparrow piped up, with its repetitive, squeaky-bicycle-wheel song. A few minutes later the Skylarks finally took off, singing spectacularly above the airfield in their vertical, up-and-down flight. As every year, our bird expert Chris could pick out the sound of a reed bunting down by the canal. Over the next couple of hours we heard a succession of lovely songs from song thrushes, blackcaps, blackbirds, whitethroat, robins and a goldfinch, very close by, but unusually we didn't hear any nightjars or cuckoos. Many thanks to Chris Jones for leading this walk and helping us to sort out our whitethroats and blackcaps.

## PLEASE TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

We are asking local people about our proposal to have cattle grazing on Southwood Meadows. Leaflets have been distributed to hundreds of homes around the meadows:

If you haven't yet had one, please email [covebrookgg@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:covebrookgg@yahoo.co.uk) or ring 07510 881 939 and leave a message.

## WORK PARTY UPDATE – *Paul Sanders*

### 8<sup>th</sup> March 2014

Eight of us cut back overhanging bramble off the paths through the trees and grassland near the Curly Bridge. We also cleared the fence line along the path by the Junior School but ran out of time to finish this, so we hope to complete this task later in the year

### 12<sup>th</sup> April 2014

As usual in April we had the RBC Spring Clean along the brook and surrounding areas. Over 50 people helped us to collect enough rubbish to fill the large Rushmoor truck which came to take it all away. We cleared the brook from the Hawley Road to Kingsley Road but, as usual, the area close to the Farnborough Football Club was the worst and required the majority of volunteers to clear it. It would be good to cut and clear the brambles around the ground to allow easier access to retrieve this continually occurring mess. Maybe a task for later in the year.



Some of the volunteers with the litter collected in just 3 hours!

### 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Some old paths in the wooded area of Southwood Meadows had become overgrown and trees had fallen across them. The rain held off just long enough for us to reopen this path and clear the area of all litter.

## SO, WHAT ELSE DO WE DO?

I was thinking recently that many people know Cove Brook Greenway Group as a group of volunteers who look after the environment in and around Cove Brook and who also arrange talks on various subjects, which we hope our local people will be interested in. All that is true, but we are involved in many more activities in conjunction with other groups and communities

This summer we have a busy programme. Starting on 7<sup>th</sup> June, we have organised a community volunteering project for the 10<sup>th</sup> Farnborough Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and, a week later, we have an environmental evening for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cove Cubs.

At the end of June, we are taking part in an Environmental Safety Day for school children in the Mayfield area and holding two events in Southwood, to introduce the proposed grazing project to local people. On the evening of Tues 24<sup>th</sup> June we will be at Southwood Golf Club; and on Sat 28<sup>th</sup> June we will be on Southwood Meadows meeting some of the people who regularly go there.

In July we start with a litter pick involving the 4<sup>th</sup> Cove Brownies. Two days later we will be manning a stall at Brickfields Fun Day, where we will encourage recycling, by demonstrating how to make flowers from used carrier bags, whilst promoting Cove Brook Greenway Group.

Sadly, our current funds don't run to another Fun Day this year, but maybe next year. So, as you can see, we are much more than just litter pickers!



Flowers made from old plastic bags

## MORE INFORMATION ON OLD COVE— *Joy Cross*

Recently, I was doing some research into Old Cove, trying to find a picture, photo or painting of the Manor House. It was demolished in the very early 60's. I have a recollection of watching it being pulled down, whilst I was sitting in the chair of the school dentist!

Despite a fruitless search I did find an article relating to Cove Brook - from Arthur E. Lunn's book **Cove A Village at War** which mentioned that "Ken Knight recalls how one night a 'stick' of incendiaries straddled across the meadows of Blunden's West Heath Farm. Falling, as a German bomber flew north, on both sides of Cove Brook in a line from near West Heath railway bridge, parallel with Fernhill Road, to Mr Richard Yeoman's North Farm behind the Fox Inn. Dick Yeoman as Chief Air Raid Warden went round collecting most of the incendiaries that had failed to burn."

At that time this was, fortunately, all empty farm land and water meadows. Many of the incendiaries failed to ignite, those that did gave a splendid fireworks display, especially when falling into Cove Brook. The outer case, made of magnesium metal burnt more fiercely when submerged in water. That was why fire watchers' equipment included "a bucket of sand and a scoop". He must have done a good job as, over the many years we have been litter picking and clearing overgrown areas, we have never come across any.

## VISITORS FROM AUSTRALIA - *Hilda Anscombe*

In the Autumn edition of the Newsletter, we ran an article about an Australian gentleman who was coming to Farnborough in an attempt to find out where some of his ancestors, whose surname was Murrell, had lived and worked.

Raoul and his wife Jan, (*who came to England at the end of April this year*) spent a lovely afternoon exploring the area with Antonia and I. We had lunch at the Monkey Puzzle, where we spent time looking at old maps between mouthfuls of food. The Monkey Puzzle was an ideal venue as it was once Southwood Farm, and was easy to find from the M3.



**Raoul & Jan Walsh**



**At the Control Tower**

After lunch we had a look at Southwood Meadows so that Raoul and Jan, who have a large cattle farm in Australia, could get an idea of the type of vegetation etc. in the area. Then, armed with our passports, (*and yes, even Antonia and I needed our passports to prove our identity*) we met up with Miles Thomas of TAG, who had very kindly agreed to take us up the Control Tower at the airport, to enable them to get a bird's eye view of the whole area. Raoul's ancestors had a farm around the area where the airport is now and they were able to see more or less where it had been situated.

When I came to Farnborough In 1965, I bought an Ordnance Survey map of the area. At that time, military establishments and airfields were not shown on maps, in case "The Enemy" could make use of the information. That being the case, the map still showed Cove Common and the location of Cove Reservoir where the airport is now. From the top of the Control Tower we were able to estimate the location of the reservoir. It was very near to where the Control Tower is today and, amazingly, there is now a reed bed pond in almost the same location (*NB Run off from the runway is fed into the reed bed pond where the reeds breakdown antifreeze and any fuel into harmless substances before the water is allowed to enter Cove Brook.*)

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who responded to our request for information about the Murrell family and also Miles Thomas from TAG for allowing us to visit the Control Tower .

## MINDLESS VANDALISM

We'd like to say thank you to a concerned local resident who notified Rushmoor Borough Council that a bridge across the brook had yet again been vandalised.

This time all the foot boards had been removed and thrown into the brook to float away. How selfish can people get! This action causes so much inconvenience, as it means that others cannot cross the brook into the Meadow and anyone who tried to could fall and have a nasty accident. Then there is the £350 cost of repairing the bridge; money which we all provide via our Council Tax and which could be better spent elsewhere.

If you witness such an incident in the future then please ring 101 as this is criminal damage and the perpetrators need to be stopped before their actions lead to something more than unnecessary cost.



**Vandalised Bridge**



# Cove Brook

## GREENWAY



### CONTACT DETAILS

#### Web site

[www.covebrook.hampshire.org.uk](http://www.covebrook.hampshire.org.uk)

#### E-mail

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#### Telephone:

07510 881939

#### Chairman

Hilda Anscombe  
(For enquiries)

#### Secretary

Joy Cross

#### Work Parties

Paul Sanders  
(When, where & what we are doing)

#### Newsletter

Kathy Pitcher  
(Editor)

Mike Burns  
(Distribution)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All talks are **FREE** and are held at  
**BLUNDEN HALL, Blunden Rd, Cove. GU14 8QP**  
All welcome, refreshments provided. Donations are appreciated.  
Volunteers welcome at all Work Parties.

(Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.)

**NB: ALL INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE PLEASE CHECK WEB SITE FOR CONFIRMATION**

### TALKS, MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Time	Subject
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> June	10 pm	<b>GLOW WORM SURVEY with BVCP</b> at Southwood Meadows <i>Meet at Kennels Lane entrance to Southwood Meadows. Off Ively Road, Farnborough</i>
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> July	11 am to 4 pm	<b>BRICKFIELDS COUNTRY PARK FUN DAY</b> CBGG has a stall promoting our Group <i>Boxalls Lane, Aldershot, GU11 3QJ</i>
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	9.30pm	<b>GLOW WORM SURVEY with BVCP</b> at Southwood Meadows <i>Meet at Kennels Lane entrance to Southwood Meadows. Off Ively Road, Farnborough</i>
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> Aug	7.30 pm	<b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b> Followed by <b>HISTORIC WORK ON COVE BROOK</b> A talk by Ryan Oakley of the Environment Agency <i>Meet at: Blunden Hall, Blunden Road, Cove, GU14 8QP</i>
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct	7.30 pm	<b>HALLOWEEN QUIZ</b> Our popular Halloween Quiz including tea/coffee and cakes. Book early to make sure of a place, or just turn up! <i>Meet at: Blunden Hall, Blunden Road, Cove, GU14 8QP</i>

### WORK PARTIES— Held on 2nd Saturday of each month

Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> July	10:00 am	<b>GENERAL WORK ALONG THE BROOK</b> <i>Meet at: Blunden Hall, Blunden Road, Cove, GU14 8QP</i>
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	10:30 am To 3.00 pm	<b>HAY CUTTING WITH BLACKWATER VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE PARTNERSHIP</b> Please bring a jacket and boots, if you have them. Tea/Coffee provided but bring packed lunch if needed. <b>NO NUTS PLEASE</b> as the Work Party Leader has a <b>serious allergy to nuts</b> <i>Meet at: Blunden Hall, Blunden Road, Cove, GU14 8QP</i>
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> Aug	10:00 am	<b>RENOVATING DIPPING AREAS</b> Working with the Environment Agency to enable access to the Brook for educational purposes at selected areas. <i>Meet at: Blunden Hall, Blunden Road, Cove, GU14 8QP</i>
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	10:00 am	<b>WORK ON SOUTHWOOD MEADOWS</b> General work including Litter Picking after the Air Show <i>Meet at: Grasmere Road Car Park, Cove, GU14 0LE</i>
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	10:00 am	<b>LITTER PICKING</b> <i>Meet at: Curly Bridge, Cheyne Way, Cove, GU14 8RZ</i>