



FAMILY FUN DAY



COVE BROOK GREENWAY GROUP FUN DAY

Sunday 18th June 2017 10.30am to 3.30pm

Blunden Green, Cove GU14 8QP (next to Blunden Hall)

All welcome to this family friendly event.

Entrance is 10p – accompanied children are free.

There will be plenty to see and do for all ages including Sweep the Sheepdog herding geese, horse and cart rides, ferrets to stroke, pond water dipping, a beekeeping display and woodturning demonstration, a choir, and a fire engine to inspect; plus lots, lots more. Come along and enjoy some time locally in the open air. Why not try your luck at the Giant Tombola, enjoy the Scouts BBQ, take a rest with Tea and Cakes, or maybe you fancy an ice cream!

We look forward to seeing you there whatever the weather – although of course we've arranged for it to be fine!

Please come on foot, by bicycle or on the bus if you can.

Parking is limited to those with a Blue Badge.



CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER - *Hilda Anscombe*

At the time of writing, we're enjoying a beautiful spring. Everything is looking fresh and clean, the birds are singing and the butterflies are flitting.



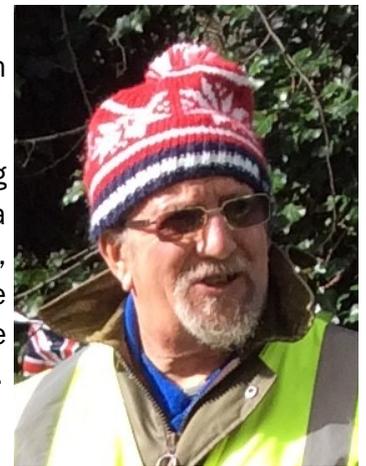
It really lifts our spirits when we know that our efforts are appreciated. After "Keep Britain Tidy" at Southwood Meadows, we put up a few notices saying that volunteers had cleared the area and asking people to keep the area clean. Several people contacted us to thank us for our efforts. One lady told us that every Sunday, as she walks home from church along the brook path to Southwood, she picks up two bags of litter.

If you regularly help to keep the greenway path tidy when you are out, do let us know. Wouldn't it be lovely if more people took responsibility for the area of the brook where they live: and thank you to all those who already do.

BOB YELDHAM

No matter what the time of year, sad events always hit us hard; on 16 March Bob Yeldham, one of our stalwarts, died.

We will always remember Bob's calm good sense, dedication and unfailing sense of humour, on the committee and at practical work parties. Bob was a seasoned traveller, who crossed the world in his work as an electrical engineer, and in retirement still went on farflung holidays and family visits with his wife Mary. He was a keen gardener and competitor in Britain in Bloom, and gave generously of his time and experience to the local community and other causes.



We are proud to have known Bob.

SOUTHWOOD MEADOWS

People and wildlife alike enjoy the open grassland and woods of Southwood Meadows, by the brook south of Cove Road. Left to its own devices the area would soon become overgrown, which would be less inviting and less helpful for many species. We've had to give up our dream of having cattle grazing the site, but are very pleased to announce a structured management plan for the area which includes:

- keeping the paths clear and open
- conserving grassland and wildlife by annual haycutting of selected areas
- annual removal of encroaching scrub.

Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership will be helping us, as this is a large site. As always, volunteers will be very welcome. Our next work party on the meadows will be on Saturday 8th July, when we will be clearing the paths - all helpers welcome!



WORK PARTIES – *Paul Sanders*

February 11th

In the week previous to our work party the BVCP had held a task together with Blooming Marvellous and ourselves to cut and lay a section of the boundary hedge in Birchbrook Reserve. This went very well and on a snowy morning twelve of us met back at Birchbrook Reserve. This time we used all the arisings and previously unwanted off-cuts to make a dead hedge to enclose a quiet area for birds to nest, and where we can plant wild flowers which hopefully won't be disturbed.

After a cup of tea we turned our attention to the thick mass of bramble encroaching from the old allotment area and invading the grass land near Blunden Hall. We cut back a large amount but more remains to be done.

March 10th

We joined in the Keep Britain Tidy spring clean. Ten of us met at the closed section of Hazel Avenue to clean up the rubbish on the road, bund and along the brook. Very quickly over 30 sacks of assorted detritus were collected. After a couple of hours it was pleasing to see the colour emerging from the grassland and woods was due to spring wild flowers and not, as previously, crisp packets!

April 8th

Our work party was part of the Rushmoor Spring Clean. Over 50 people came along to lend a hand on a bright sunny morning, and it was encouraging to see some very enthusiastic youngsters getting involved. We cleared rubbish in and along the brook from Hawley Lane to Mayfield Road, plus Cheyne Wood and around Curly Bridge, but as I report every year, the worst litter is found outside the Farnborough Football Club ground. We removed many sacks of rubbish from the car park and from under the new stand. A similar large amount was found beside the walls and in the bramble on the other side of the ground. Maybe one day the club will help us to fight this problem!



All volunteers were rewarded with refreshments supplied by the Sixth Farnborough Scouts, and all the rubbish was loaded onto an RBC truck and removed before 1pm. Many thanks to all.

A SURPRISE FIND – *Kathy Pitcher*

Although we feel it is a job worth doing, the litter we collect is normally the usual dog poo bags, cans, bottles, etc. However, occasionally we find something which makes us realise the reason we do it.

Whilst trying to retrieve some cans, one of our members saw something bright red in amongst a pile of wood. On closer inspection, it was found to be a beautiful red fungus, growing on a piece of dead wood. At the time, none of us could identify it but, following some research, we think it is either a Scarlet Elfcup (*Sarcoscypha austriaca*) or Ruby Elfcup (*Sarcoscypha coccinea*).

If any of our readers are fungi experts, we would love to find out which one it is and perhaps learn a bit more about local fungi.



Kathy Pitcher has designed and edited our newsletter for so long we have lost count, and is now taking a well earned rest. Kathy has given many, many hours to chasing up copy and pictures, and has transformed the newsletter's appearance. Thank you Kathy.



Cove Brook

GREENWAY GROUP



OUR NEW WEBSITE

You can now keep up to date with Cove Brook news, events and work parties on www.covebrookgreenwaygroup.co.uk. If you would like to send in your news, photos and sightings we would be very pleased to hear from you. We'd like to thank Mary Harris and Matt Weet for putting the site together, and welcome suggestions of how it can be improved, as it is still in development.

CONTACT DETAILS



www.covebrookgreenwaygroup.co.uk



covebrookgg@yahoo.co.uk



Find us on Facebook



07510 881939 Please leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

TALKS, MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Sunday 7th May	3.45am	DAWN CHORUS Catch the early birds with an expert to identify their songs. Please note early start, wrap up very warm and bring binoculars if you have them. Hot drinks and pastries at around 5am. More information on 07802 288 984 Meet At Eelmoor Bridge, signed AAIB off the A322 near Norris Bridge
Sunday 18th June	10.30am to 3.30pm	COVE BROOK GREENWAY GROUP FAMILY FUN DAY See front page! By the brook at Blunden Hall, Blunden Road, GU14 8QP. Parking is very limited – please walk or cycle if you can.
Tuesday 8th August	7.30pm	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Speaker (to be announced), the usual AGM business, and a chance to chat over refreshments. Blunden Hall, Blunden Road GU14 8QP

WORK PARTIES

Work parties are usually on the second Saturday of the month. Volunteers are welcome. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. We provide gloves, tools and refreshments. Please dress for rough ground and brambles.

Wildlife is easily disturbed in late spring/summer, so for the next few months we are mainly keeping paths clear of bramble and other growth.

Sat 13 th May	10.00 am	CHEYNE WOOD Meet at: Curly Bridge Cheyne Way, Cove GU14 8SA
Sat 17th June	10.00 am	LITTER PICK AND GENERAL TIDY UP FOR NEXT DAY'S FUN DAY Meet at: Blunden Hall GU14 8QP Please note: this work party is the third Saturday of the month
Sat 8th July	10.00 am	SOUTHWOOD MEADOWS Meet at: the gate at the north end of Hazel Avenue, GU14 0HB
Sat 12th August	10.00 am	BIRCHBROOK Meet at: Blunden Hall, Blunden Road GU14 8QP, or at Birchbrook (near Houseman Road footbridge)