

COVE BROOK GREENWAY GROUP



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HALLOWEEN QUIZ NIGHT

Following the success of last year's quiz, we have decided on a repeat performance. So, come and join us for a General Knowledge Quiz Night, on Tuesday 27th October, at Blunden Hall, starting at 7.30 pm. All are welcome.

You don't need to be Brain of Britain: just come along and have fun. Come with friends or on your own, and join others to make up teams of four. There will be a raffle and entry is a mere £2.50 per person, including refreshments. Great value and a fun evening. Don't miss it! It's got to be better than staying at home watching Television.

Please e-mail or call to book if possible, 07802 288 984 or take a chance and just turn up on the night.

A BOUQUET FOR THE EA - *by Una Simpkin*

Whilst at the last Cove Brook Greenway meeting on Tuesday August 4th, we picked up the leaflet entitled '*What is being done to Manage the Cove Brook?*', which gave us information on various brook related subjects, including who to contact regarding problems.

At 9.30 am on Wednesday morning we phoned the Environment Agency to report that a branch of a willow tree had fallen across the brook, and were given a Reference Number.

Half an hour later we had a phone call from Rich, the local Team Leader, who came out and assessed the problem. This included an island, which had grown up round another piece of willow rooted in the water. Rich thought he could have someone there that afternoon or the following day (*which suited us better*). On Thursday morning he phoned at 8.30 am to say they would arrive at 9 o'clock, which they did.

The two man team worked from 9 am to 12 noon in chest deep water, which had risen another foot from the previous day, and removed all the immediate obstructions, saying that they would probably be back in 2 or 3 weeks to work on other trees in the area.

WELL DONE THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY!

NB *Copies of the free 'What is being done to Manage the Cove Brook?' leaflet can be obtained either from Rushmoor Council offices.*



**Halloween
Quiz Night**



Tuesday 27th October
7.30 pm
Blunden Hall
Blunden Rd, Cove



WORK PARTY UPDATE - by Paul Saunders

Sat 16th May

To cover as much of the brook as possible during the year, we ran an extra litter picking event from West Heath Road to Kingsley Road. Seven of us soon collected a large amount of rubbish, which was taken away by RBC.

Sat 13th June

We prepared the area at Southwood Meadows in readiness for our open event on the Sunday. This included clearing paths, marking out areas for the various stalls and cutting lengths of willow for the willow weaving demonstrations.

Sat 11th July

Some grassland on Southwood Meadows was cut and raked, including just over half of an abandoned golf tee, to see how that area progresses compared to the uncut portion.

Sat 8th Aug

This time we went to Birchbrook Reserve to cut the grass and hedge. It was good to see the Greater Burnett patch had increased in size this year. Many blackberries were either consumed or collected, as were some raspberries from long abandoned plants in the Reserve.

Sat 12th Sept

We were back at Southwood to re-cut the areas we'd previously cut in April. This time we used a ride-on mower and nearly everyone tried using it, with increasing amounts of confidence! As always, we removed many sacks of rubbish from the grassland and wooded areas and we even re-united a dog with its lost teddy bear.



Cutting willow



The ride-on mower



Sam with his Chub

For more information
try www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure

FISHING FOR TREASURE - by Anne Mayne (with help from Sam & Joe)

Many people have discovered the hidden treasures along the banks of Cove Brook, but what lurks beneath the turbid waters? Well, surprise, surprise, some very beautiful and healthy fish. As you walk by, it is teeming with life just below the surface.

My boys, Sam and Joe have been fishing in Cove Brook for several years and have had lots of success. Much to the surprise of passers-by, who regularly comment, 'you won't catch anything in there - well, only the odd shopping trolley, perhaps!'

They fish the stretch of Brook between West Heath Bridge and Houseman Bridge. And it doesn't take much to persuade Dad to take them.

My little fishing experts tell that you need to find the right spot - deepish, with a bit of vegetation each side, and it doesn't matter how narrow the brook is.

They recommend a bit of cheese or bread (*apparently this stops the hook snagging*) and to 'trot' the float down the flow of the stream. They also comment that Cove Brook fish seem to be quite clever fish - once you have caught one you will need to move along, as you won't catch it again in the same spot. They are also quite strong fish, probably due to living in moving water.

The boys have caught several different species: Chub, Perch and Roach, and have seen, but never caught, Pike. The largest fish they have landed was a Chub, between about 1 and 3 lb. Only last evening, Joe quickly caught a lively little perch and then a ½ lb Roach. So Joe came home with yet another fisherman's tale.

They are convinced that one day they will catch 'the big one' that lurks there. Like all fisherman, they can dream.

NB Please remember: fish have feelings too! Children should ONLY go fishing with an experienced adult who can show them how to treat fish correctly. Any fish caught MUST be returned carefully to the brook. You must have a current rod licence (from fishing shops) etc.

A HELPING HAND

There has been increased activity on the Meadows this summer. A new community group from Southwood Woodlands has been augmenting the regular work done by Cove Brook Greenway's volunteers led by their regular Work Party Leader, Paul. (See *Work Party Update* opposite.)

The Southwood Woodlands group was formed, earlier this year, to help improve the newly opened woodland site at the west end of Southwood Golf Course, on Kennel Lane, and is led by Stuart, a ranger from Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership, who works with Rushmoor Borough Council to promote and support them.

As there is not a lot of work to do in the Woodlands in the summer months, the group has been helping with the hay cutting, litter picking and cutting back of overhanging branches and brambles along the paths at Southwood Meadows. Even a group of students from Henry Tyndale School, whom Stuart had brought on a wildlife walk, took time to help with some of the work. The path clearing has been especially popular with local people, some of whom felt it had become too enclosed and had not felt particularly safe there. We still have more work to do, but really appreciate the help that Stuart and his team have given us. **Thanks Southwood Woodlands.**

Cove Brook Greenway Group meets on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 10.00 am and details of where to meet and what tasks are to be carried out can be found on the back page of our Newsletter.

Southwood Woodlands Group meet on the 4th Sunday of the month, at 10:30 am. The next task is on Sunday 25th October, where they will be opening up access to one of the woodland glades. They meet by the gateway at the 'dead end' of Kennels Lane, just west of the golf course. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give Stuart a call on 01252 331353

BRITAIN'S SMALLEST BIRDS —by Franc Hall

A few hints to help you distinguish between our smallest resident and its predominantly winter visiting cousin.

At 9 cm (3.5 inches) these birds are similar in size, shape and appearance. Both frequent similar habitats: the Goldcrest is a resident throughout the UK and the Firecrest is predominantly a winter visitor across Southern England, but, since 1961, nesting has been recorded in Hampshire. The females of both species are similar to the males.

The Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*) - The upper parts and wings appear a dull olive green with white wing bars. The face, forehead and undersides are a slightly paler olive, darkening at the flanks and displaying a black crown patch with a yellow/gold inner stripe –this is less bright in the female. The “song” or call notes are a repeated “see-see” or rapid “seedi-ee”.

The Firecrest (*Regulus igncaillus*) - Similar to the Goldcrest but brighter green above and almost white under parts with slightly bronze/yellow cheek patches. The facial markings are more distinct having a black eye stripe and white bands above and below the eye. The crown is similar black crown patch with a deeper, almost orange, centre – the female's crest is a more lemon yellow. The “song” or call sounds like a high pitched “zi, zi” or a rapid “zee, zee”, less rhythmic than the Goldcrest.

Sadly, we have been unable to produce Franc's beautiful paintings of these birds in the Newsletter but, eventually, we are hoping to produce notelets from them.

PS Don't forget, you can get the Newsletter by e-mail **in colour**.



some areas were becoming overgrown and dark



Work Party Volunteers from both groups



Goldcrest



Firecrest



Cove Brook

GREENWAY



CONTACT DETAILS

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS
covebrookgg@yahoo.co.uk

Chairman

Antonia Hebbert

(For enquiries)

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Work Parties

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(When, where & what we are doing)

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ON THE BANKS OF THE BROOK—Hilda Anscombe

Earlier this year, at the request of local people, wild flower plugs were planted alongside the Brook in the Cheyne Way area. It was never going to be easy to get the plants established, but with the co-operation of the Council, led by Nicola Simms, several narrow strips on the edge of the grass were given a basic weeding before indigenous plants, including Birds Foot Trefoil, Bladder Campion, Centaury, Ox-Eye Daisy, Red Campion, Vervain, Bugle and Wild Carrot were planted up. Council grass cutters were made aware of the planting and, on the whole, avoided them.



We hope that local people would keep an eye on these patches; watering and removing weeds such as dock and nettles. Yes, they are wild flowers and, as such, will eventually look after themselves, but they need a little TLC to get them established. Mary & Bob Yeldham managed to look after a couple of areas and, many of the plants have even survived neglect in difficult conditions. The new wild flowers are near Wren Way and Cheyne Way: if you would like to help look after them next year, contact (See below)

Many people comment that the nettles along the bank are getting out of hand. The Environment Agency is currently working its way down the brook, clearing some of the vegetation and we plan to carry out some control work on the nettles and to plant more wild flower plugs next year. We will, however, need more volunteers to enable us to carry out the work.

JUST A THOUGHT

Those of us who are part of the community living around the Brook like to see it looking good. We often hear people say "Someone should do something about it." But, who is this elusive "Somebody"? We are all somebody, aren't we?

In order to get more work done, we need more people to join our work parties, but there are many other ways in which to help. Why not, write an article for the Newsletter or volunteer to deliver some of them, pick up litter or make the tea and coffee for those who attend our meetings. There are numerous other tasks you can help with.

Come and join us, we are a friendly group and would love to see you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All Meetings are FREE, and are held at BLUNDEN HALL, Blunden Rd, Cove. All welcome, refreshments provided. Donations are appreciated. All volunteers welcome

TALKS & MEETINGS

Date	Time	Subject
Tues 27 th Oct	7.30 pm	HALLOWEEN QUIZ NIGHT Have some fun and test your knowledge at our Quiz Night. Free coffee, tea and homemade cakes plus a Raffle. <i>Come alone, or with friends to make up teams of 4. If possible please phone 07802 288 984 to book or just take a chance and turn up</i> Entry £2.50 per person All Welcome



WORK PARTIES

Sat 10 th Oct	10.00 am	LITTER PICK <i>Meet at:</i> Cheyne Way footbridge
Sat 14 th Nov	10.00 am	RUBBISH CLEARANCE <i>Meet at:</i> Mayfield Road bridge
 Sat 12 th Dec	10.00 am	CHRISTMAS SPARKLE LITTER PICK The last push of the year to get the Brook looking really good. Don't miss the hot drinks and mince pies. <i>Meet at:</i> Houseman Rd footbridge, off Giffard Drive
Sat 9 Jan & Sat 12 th Feb	10.00 am	SCRUB CLEARANCE <i>Meet at:</i> Grasmere Road or on site at the overgrown side of the golf practice area

