

# COVE BROOK GREENWAY GROUP



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**Halloween  
Quiz Night**



**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October  
7.30 pm prompt  
Blunden Hall  
Blunden Rd, Cove**

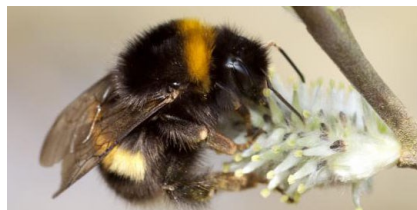


## CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER - *Hilda Anscombe*



**Purple Teasel**

The late spring had many of us gardeners and vegetable growers worried about our seedlings. I for one had a greenhouse burgeoning with plants too tender to plant out and that was after I'd sown the seeds later than usual. Then almost in the blink of an eye we were scorching in the July heat-wave, and we gardeners were watering our growing vegetables to stop them from shrivelling up. However, the wild flowers I'd grown from seed last autumn flourished. The foxgloves flowered majestically colourful in the flower border, then the pink campion had a mass of flowers for almost 6 weeks; the knapweed came into flower a little later, but at the end of July they were still flowering profusely. The purple teasels, stand high above all the other flowers, waving in the wind and all these flowers have been a magnet for insects, especially bees.



**White Tailed Bumble Bee**

We are told that bees are in decline, especially this year, so I'm feeling really smug about the bumble bees in my garden, I've spotted the common carder, the garden, and the white tailed; that's just 3 of the 24 different types that can be found in the UK. If you'd like more information about bumble bees go on the internet to:-

<http://bumblebeeconservation.org/about-bees/identification/top-tips-for-bee-id>

I'm feeling pretty smug about butterflies too. The green veined white is my current favourite. In flight it looks rather like any other white butterfly, but when it settles on a flower and folds its wings together it's a beautiful glowing pale green. Other butterflies in my garden this summer have been Peacocks, Commas, Holly Blues, Gatekeepers, and Large Whites. It seems that the wild flowers not only look good but attract beautiful insects as well, so we will continue to try to get more wild flowers along the brook.



**Green Veined White**

## WORK PARTY UPDATE – *Paul Sanders*

### Sat 12<sup>th</sup> May

With the decline in British Bees continuing, we tried to do our part and ten of us went to Birchbrook Reserve and removed an area of bramble including their roots and planted some wild flowers as well as some seeds and bulbs. We also planted in other places in the reserve and in an area of grassland outside the reserve and on the brook edge. Apparently bees prefer blue purple and yellow flowers so we hope the Forget Me Nots, Foxgloves and Greater Celandines, amongst others, will help the bee cause.

### Sat 8<sup>th</sup> June

In place of our usual work party activities, sixteen of us had a walk from Blunden Hall to Fleet Pond. We took a circular route from Blunden Hall, following the brook to Southwood Meadows, then crossing Ively Road to follow the paths to Southwood Woodland. We then crossed into the MoD area and followed the Gelvert Stream to Fleet Pond. After refreshments at Sandy Bay we crossed the Fleet Road to return through Great Bramshot Meadow and back to Blunden Hall, via Nightingale Close and Broomhill Road. In total this was just less than 8 miles and introduced some people to areas they had never visited before.

### Sat 13<sup>th</sup> July

On the hottest day of the year three of us cleared the vegetation from the fence line all the way from the footbridge in Cheyne Way to the Curly Bridge.

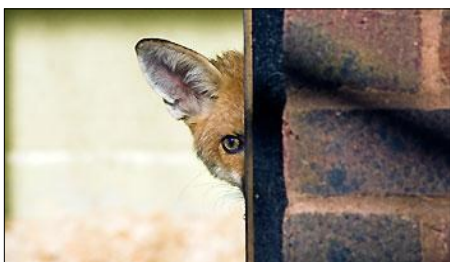
We also removed several head height branches from the path beside the brook on the playing field side. As usual a lot of litter was removed from around the footbridge.

It was pleasing to see that our previous efforts to remove bramble from the far end of the scout hut woodland had been rewarded with an excellent display of Rosebay Willowherb. There were also fine displays of Purple Loosestrife and Greater Spearwort in the brook now litter free!



Rosebay Willowherb

## URBAN FOXES – *by Mary Harris*



No-one living in the area is surprised these days when they see a fox loitering in their garden or running down the street ahead of them. Some are lucky enough to see fox clubs playing in their gardens while others are unhappy to have been woken at night by their harsh screeching. A number of high profile cases have led some to question whether 'urban foxes' are dangerous; but are they really any different from their rural cousins and is the population really 'exploding'?

There is actually no difference between an urban and a rural fox, it's largely a question of postcode! Many foxes move between town and country, and most urban foxes are, in fact, suburban. Generally speaking, a fox is a fox: incidents in which foxes attack humans are very rare. Foxes will only attack out of fear and tend to shy away from or avoid humans and larger animals. Occasionally, they are a little bolder and will enter gardens in broad daylight to search for a quiet place to rest, look for food scraps or just because they are curious. This boldness isn't a sign of aggression - a healthy fox will only attack a person if provoked. Despite perceptions, urban foxes are no bigger than rural foxes and, generally, they don't eat out of bins. The main reason they go near houses is because people feed them! They do however eat a lot of rats.

The life expectancy of a fox is less than two years and there is no hard evidence that their population is exploding – the last estimate put the urban population at 33,000. The consensus among experts is that there has been no significant increase since; largely because populations are still recovering from a mange epidemic. Some have advocated culls, but these don't work as new foxes move straight into unoccupied territory, and they breed too rapidly to make extermination effective. Fox populations are remarkably self-regulating. They tend to live in small family groups, especially during the breeding season (December to January). A family consists of a male fox (dog) and a female (vixen) producing one litter of approximately four cubs each year. Only pairs

## URBAN FOXES *(Cont'd) - by Mary Harris*

with an established territory will breed, so fox numbers are limited by availability of food and the amount of space in the territory.

You are most likely to encounter them between dawn and dusk, when they are most active. It is very rare for foxes to venture indoors, but inexperienced juveniles may come in if they see an open door or a bowl of pet food - an easy meal. If you are concerned about foxes in your area, please consider these simple precautions. Do not leave windows and doors open, making it easy for foxes to enter properties; Do not encourage foxes into your garden by feeding them. Deter foxes from entering your garden and reduce the availability and attractiveness of den sites.



If a fox is cornered, it may attempt to bite in self-defence. If you find a fox trapped in an outbuilding or similar do not approach it or try to pick it up. Leave it an escape route and it will move away as soon as it feels safe enough to do so. Many people get great pleasure from watching foxes in their garden, but it's important to remember they're wild animals that could carry disease, therefore, you shouldn't try to touch or tame them.

For more information try RSPCA website [www.rspca.org.uk](http://www.rspca.org.uk) and search for Living with Foxes

## WALKING, A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE *by Dr Clive Andrews*

Although I have spent some time living in the West Country and South Wales, I have spent most of my life in Hampshire and for the past 30 years resided mainly in Farnborough. Hampshire is a country which has much diversity and beauty. It has historic cities, forests, coastland and regions of open chalk down-land - but it is also a county which has been subjected to considerable change and development in recent years, especially locally, and in the areas around Southampton and Portsmouth.



During the time I have lived locally I have come to understand and value the countryside on our doorstep. Although we may go further afield when on vacation or on the longer weekend, it is the countryside just down the road which we most often choose for our odd evening or Sunday walks. For those who seek them out, we have some really nice places on our doorstep including Fleet Pond, the Basingstoke Canal, and Hawley Lake. I am sure those of us who attended our summer walk in June, lead by Paul Sanders, learnt a little more of the pleasant countryside in our neighbourhood.

The delights of walking, both as a relaxing way of enjoying the country side and as a healthy form of mild exercise, is a lifelong passion, brought about by the influence of my parents. During my youth we lived at Totton, which is a small town (then still a village) situated just across the Test from Southampton, but more important only a few miles east of the New Forest. I still fondly remember our family walks and picnics, the open areas of boggy heathland, the traditional woods of oak and beech, as well as the dense coniferous plantations created by the Forestry Commission. Before the war my mother was keen on horse riding and used to tell us about the annual rounding up of the New Forest ponies for, although they appear wild, they still all have an owner. I also remember that in the 1950's they still wandered around Totton and occasionally needed to be chased out of the garden!

I always encourage others to spend time walking, not only for the healthy benefits so derived, but as a relaxing way of noticing and taking in all that is around us - the perfect way to be in tune with our surroundings.





**Cove  
Brook**  
**GREENWAY**



**CONTACT  
DETAILS**

**Web site**

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

**E-mail**

[covebrookgg@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:covebrookgg@yahoo.co.uk)

**Telephone:**

07510 881939

**Chairman**

Hilda Anscombe  
(For enquiries)

**Secretary**

Joy Hope

**Work Parties**

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

**Newsletter**

Kathy Pitcher  
(Editor)

Mike Burns  
(Distribution)

**DRAGONFLY MAKING AT GO GREEN**



The Rushmoor Go Green event held in Aldershot on 7th September is one of the many events we attend over the year. We promote awareness of Cove Brook and encourage more people to join our band of volunteers whilst entertaining the children with craft projects.

This time we were making dragonflies from recycled cardboard, wool, and the oak twigs we had collected, to make the body.



As usual, it was a great success. However, we are never quite sure who enjoys creating things most, the children or the adults.

**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.)*

**TALKS, MEETINGS & EVENTS**

Date	Time	Subject
Tues 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct	7:30 pm	<b>HALLOWEEN QUIZ</b> Our now legendary annual event ,where you can test your knowledge, whilst enjoying great company and our delicious homemade cakes . <i>Meet at: Blunden Hall, Blunden Road, Cove, GU14 8QP</i>



**WORK PARTIES - Held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month**

14 <sup>th</sup> Sep	10.00 am	<b>GRASS CUTTING AT SOUTHWOOD</b> Grass cutting and raking to encourage wild flower growth. <i>Meet at: Grasmere Road Car Park, adjacent to Southwood Football Field, Cove GU14 0LE</i>
12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	10.00 am	<b>LITTER PICKING</b> <i>Meet at: Cheyne Way, nr Curly Bridge, GU14 8SA</i>
9 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10.00 am	<b>LITTER PICKING</b> <i>Meet at: Mayfield Road Footbridge, Cove, GU14 8SE</i>
14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.00 am	<b>CHRISTMAS SPARKLE LITTER PICK</b> The last push of the year to get the Brook looking really good. <i>Don't miss the hot drinks and mince pies.</i> <i>Meet at: Blunden Hall, Cove GU14 8QP</i>
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan & 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10.00 am	<b>SCRUB CLEARANCE</b> Working on site on the overgrown side of the golf practice area. <i>Meet at: Grasmere Road Car Park, Southwood, GU14 1LE</i>