

COVE BROOK GREENWAY GROUP

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A farewell to two of our Members (See back page)



**Dora Deacon
at a Fun Day**



**Clive Andrews
Litter Picking**

IT'S OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY!

WORK PARTY REPORT - *Paul Sanders*

9th January

On a rainy morning twelve of us met at Southwood Meadows. Two willow trees on the edge of the brook had fallen into the grassland area near the concrete bridge. We cut them up with loppers and hand saws and burnt it all despite the rain and everything being damp. A very satisfying task.

We also completed our creation of paths forming a nature trail in the scrub behind the cricket club area. It is encouraging to see how well used the paths are that we had made previously. We arranged for the council to remove some trolleys and furniture dumped at the entrance to the woodland by the surgery in Cove Road.

8th February

Having noticed a recent build up of rubbish along the brook and especially under the Curly Bridge five of us met in Cheyne Way for an extra litter pick. Although we were only there for a couple of hours we collected twelve full sacks of rubbish and other items which we took to the dump.

13th February

This time we were in Birchbrook Reserve to push back encroaching bramble and to clear up the mess left behind after the council had broken up a tree house. We also created a new path through the bramble to enhance the existing nature trail in the reserve.

6th March

We took part in the nationwide litter pick "Clean for the Queen". Although only a small crowd took part we collected over thirty sacks of rubbish from along the closed part of Hazel Avenue and the banks of the brook. We also found many trolleys, old computer parts and road bollards and several really disgusting items. We can only hope these will not reappear!

13th March

We went to Southwood Meadows to cut back growth on path edges. We also changed the course of one path to keep it out of a wet area. We tidied up the area of woodland near the Cove Road surgery and, thanks to Joy and David, removed the accumulated mess from the site. We also cut the bramble on the triangle between paths near the noticeboard, which still bears the result of the latest vandalism. Hopefully opening up this area may deter repeat performances.

9th April

This was the Rushmoor Spring Clean, over fifty sacks of rubbish were collected from along the brook and around the Farnborough football stadium. The litter may have been lighter than previous years along the brook, but it was worse at the football ground where it is always a disgrace. Here again the removal of the brambles may stop people hiding there and leaving such a mess, but we would need help to do so.

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER - *Hilda Anscombe*

Recently, I've been looking back at old newsletters. So much has happened along the Brook since the inauguration of Cove Brook Greenway Group in 1996. Enthusiasm was high and over 40 people gathered for the first "Survey Walk", to ascertain what needed to be done to improve the area.

Originally it was a real challenge to clean up the area and regular litter picking work parties were introduced. They were faced with the perennial problem of shopping trolleys and general litter, as well as larger items, such as burnt out cars!

Since then a huge amount of work has been carried out by our wonderful volunteers. Some of our efforts are shown in the photographs below. If you recognise anyone in the photos or have more information about days gone by, we would love to hear from you



The inaugural walk



Removing motorcycle from the Brook



Renovating the pond at Cheyne Wood



Southwood Meadows



Clearing the area near Curly Bridge



Local Radio interview

It's 20 years since Cove Brook Greenway Group was set up and we plan to celebrate the occasion!

If you have any memories or photos from these years we would love to include them in our 'Anniversary Special' Newsletter.

Details of where to send them are on the back page.



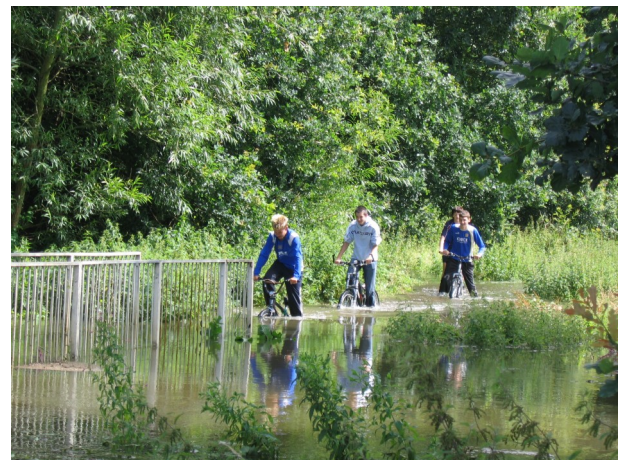
Who's car was this?



Launch of HCC River Study Pack



Moor Road School children planting saplings



Flooding at Southwood Meadows



Insect survey



Family Fun Day at Blunden Green



**Cove
Brook**
GREENWAY

CONTACT DETAILS

Web site

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COMMITTEE

Chairman

Hilda Anscombe

Secretary

Joy Cross

Work Parties

Paul Sanders

Newsletter

Kathy Pitcher
Mike Burns

Treasurer

Mary Harris

OBITUARIES

DORA DEACON and her husband Bill had already retired by the time the group began. Dora had worked as a GP practice nurse and helped to found one of the local playgroups. They were both still busy in groups such as the Residents' Association and were much-loved governors at Grange Infants School. When the Local and County Councils got together with Hampshire Wildlife Trust to suggest a local group for Cove Brook, Dora and Bill immediately joined in. They were at all the work parties, hosted meetings and contributed practicality and good sense, as well as humour and hospitality. Eventually, Dora became our second Chairman.

Dora continued to take an interest in Cove Brook and the group after Bill's death, until her own failing health meant she could not play an active part. She is very fondly remembered by friends, children and grandchildren.

DR CLIVE ANDREWS was a stalwart of the local community. He was a physicist and computer scientist by profession and brought analytical skills to committee work for Cove Brook Greenway Group, the Farnborough Society, and many others.

He was a great believer in making things better for local people, and acted on his beliefs. He put in many hours at our conservation work parties, meetings and events, and was a hardworking campaigner for many other causes. Clive also became a walk leader for Rushmoor Healthy Living, and is very affectionately remembered for his endless patience and encouragement for walkers of all levels of confidence. Appropriately, Clive's funeral began with a walk, giving well-wishers a chance to reminisce and share good memories of a great local character.

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

TALKS, MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Time	Subject
Tues 31st May	7.30 pm	ALL ABOUT THE BASINGSTOKE CANAL A Talk by Roger Camsdale At Blunden Hall, Blunden Road Cove, GU14 8QP

WORK PARTIES

Sat 14 th May	10.00 am	Work along the Brook & Birchbrook Reserve <i>Meet at:</i> Blunden Hall, GU14 8QP
Sat 11 th June	10.00 am	Woodland Management at Cheyne Wood <i>Meet at:</i> near Curly Bridge at the end of Cheyne Way, GU14 8RZ
Sat 9 th July	10.00 am	Meadow Management at Southwood <i>Meet at:</i> Hazel Avenue, GU14 0DW
Sat 13 th Aug	10.00 am	Grass Cutting & Hedge Trimming at Birchbook <i>Meet at:</i> Blunden Hall, GU14 8QP