

COVE BROOK GREENWAY GROUP

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Quiz & Cake



CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER - *Hilda Anscombe*

Where has the year gone! By the time you read this the leaves will be changing to their autumn colours, let's hope they give us a really good show. And the teasels will be standing majestically along the banks of the brook ready for the goldfinches to come and feast on their seeds. I really love the goldfinches they are so colourful, and chatter so delightfully as they flit about. I grow teasels in my garden and leave the old ones standing whilst the current ones grow and flower. I've been delighted to see the goldfinches even in July, not just in the winter months.



Goldfinch

In the Greenway Group we try to please as many people as possible, whilst looking after the environment. For this reason you will see that we have opened up views of the brook in some areas, whilst leaving plenty of vegetation for insects to hibernate and lay their eggs in others. Even stinging nettles, which many people dislike, are essential for the larva of some butterflies. We have, of course, left lots of seed heads for the finches, and the sparrows.

Whilst cutting back shrubbery to keep the pathways clear we are careful to leave as many berries as possible as they are a vital food supply for wildlife. Did you realise that, although ivy berries, are poisonous to humans, they are an essential food for blackbirds and other birds.

HALLOWEEN QUIZ — *Kathy Pitcher*

It's that time of the year again and we are busy getting ready for our Annual **Halloween Quiz 7.30pm on Tuesday 27th October 2015 at Blunden Hall**

Those of you who have come to one of our quizzes before will know that it is great fun: challenging, but not too difficult!

To encourage your little grey cells to get to work you will be supplied with copious amounts of tea and coffee, not to mention our now legendary homemade cakes. There will be a raffle, together with prizes for the winning team, and possibly a booby prize as a consolation for the team with the lowest score.

All this for a mere £4.00 per person. Now that's good value! Don't miss it! Book with us at any of the contact details on the back of this Newsletter or just turn up on the night and we'll make up teams of four.



WORK PARTY UPDATE - *Paul Sanders*

Sat 8th August

After cutting and tidying some damaged tree branches in the play area behind Blunden Hall, fifteen of us moved to our main purpose of the day in Birchbrook Reserve. On another very warm morning we cut and raked the long grass and cleared up a large amount of litter.

We had also been asked to clear any growth coming from the reserve into some properties in Hanover Gardens. This involved cutting our way through some thick bramble to get to the fence, which we did then cleared alongside the back gardens of four properties.

Sat 12th September



Before

Eleven of us concentrated on the path on the west of the brook between Mayfield Road and Cheyne Way.

We cut back a stretch of hedge, which had grown right over the path and also cut the lower branches of the willows, which were hanging over the path. In a few places we also cut the thick vegetation on the top of the banks. This allows views of the waterway and also makes it much easier for us to remove the accumulated litter.



After

MOOR ROAD RECREATION GROUND - *Mary Harris*



Football Field

Moor Road Recreation Ground is next to Farnborough Football Club. The area borders the Cove Brook Greenway path and includes football pitches and a play area suitable for children up to age 12 years.

Rushmoor Borough Council, who own the park, would like to improve the area and provide more facilities for local people, so they recently held a consultation event with interested groups, including the Greenway Group. Around 30 local stakeholders and residents attended the evening and, after a brief presentation, groups were formed and looked at what, given enough funding, they'd like to see on the Park.

A road cycle track was the most popular response, with a skate-park, new play area, outdoor fitness equipment and a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area with basketball) also popular.

There were also requests for seating, toilets and even a new bridge over the Cove Brook to facilitate a circular dog walking route. The same consultation exercise has since been undertaken with young people at the Gaming Zone/Creating Futures. The Prospect Youth Club will also we asked what they think.

Everyone present had good ideas and it is hoped Rushmoor may have the resources to do some improvements in the coming years. Martin Sterio the Rushmoor Health and Physical Activity Officer (Leisure Projects) is leading on this work.



Play Area

HELP FOR HEDGEHOGS - *Joy Cross*

A popular stand at the Cove Brook Summer Fun Day was Hart Wildlife Rescue and their resident hedgehog. I was shocked when I found out the hedgehog is very likely to be extinct within ten years.

In mid-August 2015, Hart Wildlife Rescue reported having sixty six hedgehogs in their care. The objective of the rescue centre being to care for them enough to be able to release them back into the wild. A good way to support Hart Wildlife Rescue is to make a purchase via their Amazon wish list; they often need kitten milk for the growing hoglets!

According to the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) a third of our hedgehogs have been lost in the UK in the last 10 years and now over 34,000 volunteers are helping to stem the decline.



Hoglets



My Hedgehog "gate"

Hedgehog Street, is a national campaign led by BHPS and the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES). In its fourth year the charities are calling on more people to help their efforts by launching **The Big Hedgehog Map** on-line, where people can record their sightings of hedgehogs (dead or alive) and pledge to make a hole in their garden fence.

There are almost half a million hectares of garden in the UK, a vast potential of resource for hedgehogs. A simple action such as creating a small hole the size of a CD case in shared garden boundaries removes physical barriers for the hedgehog. Hedgehogs typically travel about a mile a night in order to gather food and search for a mate. For more information search www.hedgehogstreet.org

WHOSE HOME IS THIS? - *by Dorothy Toynebee*

I live on the edge of Hawley Woods and have a large pine tree on my boundary.

In the spring the magpies and the crows have a fight to see who is going to build their nest in this tree. I also have lots of squirrels in the garden. The grey squirrels eat the food I put out for the birds as well as regularly attacking my garden ornament, which is in the form of a red squirrel!

When I walked down my garden a few days ago I discovered this "nest", which had apparently fallen from the pine tree. It's about the size of a dustbin lid. The outside is made up of large twigs, then there is a ring of smaller twigs, finally it is lined with moss. A really work of art.



What do you think this is?



A Squirrel's Drey

Was this the nest of crows, magpies or squirrels I wondered?

After making some enquiries I found out that it is a squirrels drey. It is wonderfully constructed, and although it looks untidy, seems to hold together well and obviously protects the squirrels.

I wonder how many other people have been lucky enough to find something like this in their garden?



**Cove
Brook**
GREENWAY

CONTACT DETAILS

Web site

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Work Parties

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

Newsletter

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Treasurer

Mary Harris



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ALL EVENTS ARE HELD AT
BLUNDEN HALL, BLUNDEN RD, COVE. GU14 8QP
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
Tues 27 th Oct	7.30 pm	 HALLOWEEN QUIZ  Our popular Halloween Quiz including tea/coffee and cakes. Book early to make sure of a place, or take a risk and just turn up. Meet at: Blunden Hall, Blunden Road, Cove, GU14 8QP
Sat 7 th Nov	2.30 pm to 4.30 pm	CONSERVATION GROUPS FAIR A chance to meet like minded people and buy some unusual Christmas presents Rowhill Field Centre, Cranmore Lane Aldershot GU11 3BD

WORK PARTIES

Sat 10 th Oct	10.00 am	GENERAL WORK ALONG THE BROOK Meet at: Blunden Hall, Blunden Road, Cove, GU14 8QP
Sat 14 th Nov	10.00 am	LITTER PICKING Meet at: Near the Curly Bridge, Cheyne Way, Cove, GU14 8RZ
Sat 12 th Dec	10.00 am	 CHRISTMAS SPARKLE LITTER PICK  Followed by mulled wine and mince pies Meet at: Blunden Hall, Blunden Road, Cove, GU14 8QP
Sat 9 th Jan 2016	10.00 am	WINTER TIDYING Meeting place to be advised