

COVE BROOK GREENWAY GROUP



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**Halloween
Quiz Night**



**Tuesday 25th October
7.30 pm prompt
Blunden Hall
Blunden Rd, Cove**



COVE PATH OPENING

The new multi-user path running alongside the brook will have its official opening. We look forward to welcoming not only the representatives of the various entities who have contributed to the success of this project, but also local people who will benefit from this all weather surface.

Why not come along to Blunden Hall at 12:30 ready for the 1.00 ceremony on Saturday 15th October. Hopefully the press will be there. We would really like to illustrate that the path is for everyone, so are hoping that we get a real cross section showing the range of users. Walkers, cyclists, Mums with buggies, wheelchair or buggy users, in fact the more the merrier. In short, anyone from pensioners, to small children, who use this new highway to get to school or work, to walk their dog or to go jogging to keep fit. We want to demonstrate that this is a multi-user path.

We'll supply the drinks and, if the weather's nice, why not bring a picnic? We look forward to seeing you.

CAN YOU HELP?

Most of our Newsletters are now sent by e-mail, but there are still some who either do not have the Internet or who prefer to receive a paper copy. To enable us to do this, we need more people who are kind enough to deliver them.

Could this be you? If you think you could take a little time to put a few of our Newsletters through some doors we would love to hear from you. Perhaps you could do it whilst walking your dog, or maybe it would give you a reason to get out and get some fresh air and exercise.

If you can help deliver the Newsletters, just call or e-mail our Newsletter Distributor, Sybil whose contact details are on the back page.

HALLOWEEN QUIZ

Yes, it's that time of year again and our annual event will be taking place at Blunden Hall on Tuesday 25th October. (See *Dates for your Diary on the back page for further info.*) *Nothing too deep and meaningful, but something to get you thinking.*

We are delighted that, once again we will have our resident wizard, Peter, and his lovely and efficient assistant, Sybil, together with the ever present Pi, of "Pi's Perspective" fame, to present the quiz.

Yet again there will be tea, coffee and our famous cakes, which are included in the entry fee of a mere £3.50. Where else would you get such value? We are looking forward to seeing our regular patrons, together with some new faces, to create a great evening.

WORK PARTY UPDATE

13th August

This month's task was cutting and raking grass at Southwood. We also used the ride-on mower to cut other paths through the woodland on either side of the brook. As usual many sacks of rubbish were collected. We also said farewell to Duncan who has worked enthusiastically and cheerfully with us for the last year as part of his D of E award. We wish him well at university.

Returning the kit to Ash Lock I discovered I'd lost the key to the mower, which gave me a problem of how to get the mower off the trailer and into garage until I discovered a small screwdriver worked fine! Many thanks to Nick W who subsequently found the key and allowed me to collect it.

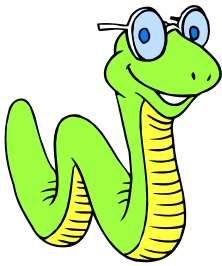
10th September

Seven of us cut and raked an area of grass in Birchbrook reserve. A male slow-worm was seen and moved out of harms way. These legless lizards like warmth and was probably enjoying that fine sunny morning - the rain arrived just after we had finished. Many sacks of litter were collected and items recycled where possible. One of the children's trail marker posts had been vandalised, we'll try to re-fix it next time we are there.



Slow Worm

Not a snake, but a legless lizard.



Don't forget to book your plot!



WHAT A CHARMING IDEA

- ◆ Did you know there are 27 species of earthworm in the UK?
- ◆ Would you know how to tell the difference?
- ◆ Or what each one does that makes it so unique?

Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust is running an Earthworm Day on Saturday 1st October, at which you can learn the answers to all of the above questions and even try your hand at 'worm charming'.

If, like me, you have absolutely no chance of ever being an Olympic champion, don't despair. Anyone and everyone can have a go at worm charming and the great thing is that experience is unnecessary, just a willingness to sing, dance, chant and generally do everything possible to entice the worms out of the soil.

Everyone who enters will be allocated a plot of ground. Teams can enter but only two people are allowed on the plot at any one time, the charmer and a gillie so teams must take it in turns to come on to the plot. The winner is the person/team who has 'charmed' the most worms out of the soil after 30 minutes. Worms respond to vibration, so the most popular approach is to play music or create vibrations using a garden fork. Dancing has been known to work too.

So why not try your hand at worm charming and enter the competition, with the possibility of becoming the South of England Champion. There is a trophy at stake, together with the opportunity to enter the World Worm Championships next year. What are you waiting for? Plots cost £5 each with the money going to the Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust.

If you want to learn about the role worms play in the balance of nature, The Earthworm Society of Britain are running a free workshop – although places must be pre-booked in advance.

The event will be held at King's International College, Watchetts Drive, Camberley, Surrey GU15 2PQ from 10am until 1pm.

To find out more about Earthworm Day visit the Blackwater Valley Countryside website at www.blackwater-valley.org.uk or call them on 01252 331353.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Have you ever noticed the strange names of some of our wild flowers ?

After the small wildflower survey we carried out at Southwood Meadows in summer I was fascinated by some of these strange names. Goosegrass, Cranesbill, Cat's Ear, Selfheal, Sneezewort, Fleabane and Dogwood are just some of these, so I have decided to try to find out a bit more about them, the first one I investigated was Goosegrass.

Gallium aparine, to give its species name is known by different names such as Stickywilly or Sweethearts and children have delighted in draping swathes of this plant onto the clothing of unsuspecting friends or parents, since time immemorial. Its leaves and seeds are covered in tiny hooks, enabling it to adhere to rough surfaces such as skin or fabrics, in the same way as Velcro does. (*The word "aparine" comes from the Greek word meaning "to seize".*)

In the past it has been used as a diuretic, and its roots were used to produce a red dye. Apparently the plant is related to Arabian coffee and the roasted seeds are said to be an excellent substitute for coffee.

I was once told that it was used to feed goslings, as it was nutritious and easily digested, which could explain the name Goosegrass, however I have no concrete evidence to substantiate this.

Who would have thought that this insignificant looking plant could be so interesting?

WILD FLOWERS, AGAIN

Following our earlier attempt to clear nettles and plant wild flower plug plants, we have recently tried a new technique. With the recent run of dry springs, experts have advised that seeds should be sown in late summer to early autumn; after all that is when wild flowers shed their seeds, which then bloom in the following year. So, with the help of volunteers from the Blackwater Valley Country Partnership, we planted seed in the meadow areas between Blunden Hall and West Heath Road.

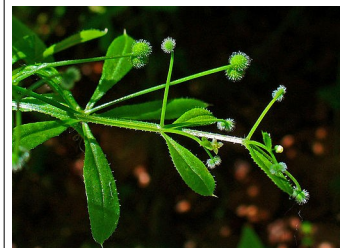
The long grass was cut and raked off and, to give the seeds a chance, 9 strips were cleared of vegetation, roots and all. (*Someone commented that the patches looked like graves.*) The loose earth was levelled and the seeds, together with a few plug plants we had previously grown from seed, were spread over the prepared ground and watered in.

Four days later, when we returned to the area to water the seeds, surprise, surprise, after several days of sun, the plug plants were thriving. Since then there has been ample rain, so all we need to do now is watch and wait. Hopefully, next year, if we are successful, we will be able to see purple clover, vetch, knapweed, scabious, etc, where once there were only rough tussocks of coarse grass.

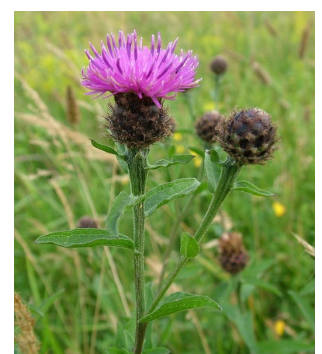
Watch this space — or should I say, watch these plots.



*Goslings and
Goosegrass*



Scabious and Knapweed





Cove Brook

GREENWAY



Hi,
I'm
Pi

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PI'S PERSPECTIVE

It wasn't much of a summer, but I enjoyed playing in the brook. I have several friends that join me, and Mum doesn't mind if I keep out of the mud. There are plans afoot to refurbish the shallows opposite Blunden Hall, so that will give me another dipping area. I had a lovely time one sunny Sunday afternoon, playing in the shallows by Curly Bridge. Lots of children there too, it was great fun.

My Dad is overjoyed! At last, he has seen the Kingfisher that frequents the brook downstream from West Heath Road. (*I've seen it lots of times.*) We also watched a big branch break off from one of the weeping willows fall into the brook. There was a big cracking noise, then a crash and it just fell off!! Scary.

My humans say the blackberries have been good this year. It's so boring waiting for them to fill a box.; it's not as if they're edible. There are also plums, elderberries and windfall apples they collect. Dad seems very pleased with Mum's crumbles and pies. Even I quite like them if covered in cream or custard, so I suppose it's worth it.


I often join my humans when they deliver the Newsletters; between them they do four rounds. They could do with some help. It's not hard and usually only 15 to 20 houses, fairly close.

CBGG are planning another Halloween Quiz. I'll be there, will you?

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All talks are **FREE**, followed by meetings, and are held at **BLUNDEN HALL**, Blunden Rd, Cove. GU14 8QP All welcome, refreshments provided. Donations are appreciated. All volunteers welcome at Work Parties. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

TALKS, MEETINGS & EVENTS

Date	Time	Subject
Sat 15th Oct	12.30 for 1.00 pm start	PATH OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY Come and be part of the Opening Ceremony. Drinks provided <i>If the weather is fine, why not bring a picnic.</i>
 Tues 25th Oct	7.30 pm	HALLOWEEN QUIZ NIGHT Have some fun and test your knowledge. Try your luck in th Raffle. Coffee, tea and homemade cakes included in price., <i>Come alone, or with friends, to make up teams of 4.</i> <i>Call Hilda /Kathy to book or just take a chance and turn up</i> Entry £3.50 per person All Welcome

WORK PARTIES (Held on 2nd Saturday of each month)

Sat 8th Oct	10.00 am	LITTER PICKING <i>Meet at: Cheyne Way, nr Curly Bridge</i>
Sat 12th Nov	10.00 am	LITTER PICKING <i>Meet at: Mayfield Road Footbridge</i>
Sat 10th 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: Blunden Hall, Cove GU14 8QP</i>
Sat 9th Jan & 12th Feb	10.00 am	SCRUB CLEARANCE <i>Meet at: Grasmere Road or on site at the overgrown side of the golf practice area</i>



