

COVE BROOK GREENWAY GROUP



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Peter (centre) with Sybil (right) and, of course, Pi

FUN FOR ALL AT MOOR ROAD

Given the dire weather we'd had during the previous week, we were beginning to wonder if the Fun Day would go ahead. But Lady Luck smiled and the weather on Sunday 17th June was pretty good.

Gazebos were erected and the various attractions arrived. There were seemingly never ending queues to ride on the cart pulled round the field by the heavy horse, this time a pair of beautiful Suffolk Punches courtesy of Daniel Brown in Woking,. Falcon High brought their beautiful birds of prey, which fascinated many. The lucky ones were even able to hold a bird of prey on their arm, or even drag a lure behind them and see a beautiful, powerful bird swoop down and grab it.

Rushmoor Healthy Living, Brickfields and Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership, were just a few of the local groups which supplied interesting activities and information. Our face painter, Fabadabadoo was a great hit, creating beautiful pictures of kingfishers, butterflies, frogs and even spiders (*which, surprisingly, were very popular*) as well as the more usual designs.

The children had fun with the Treasure Hunt, colouring as well as making masks and dream catchers. (*Even the Mums enjoyed making the dream catchers.*) It was lovely to see such a wonderful cross section of the local community enjoying themselves.

Organising this sort of event needs financing and, sadly, this is not so easy to come by these days. However thanks to sponsorship from BAe Systems and Rushmoor Borough Council, together with the remains of our funds, we made it. Our thanks to everyone involved, especially to our wonderful band of volunteers, without whom such events would not be possible.

FAREWELL TO PI

Sadly, this issue's, Pi's Perspective, is likely to be his last, as he is moving down to Dorset. We're really going to miss him and his interesting observations, and we'll miss his human carers, Peter and Sybil Godden even more. Many of you will know them as the witch and wizard who organise our legendary Halloween Quizzes. But they have done so much more for the group.

Peter, also known as "Daft Wader" after a rather wet first use of the group's waders, has been a dedicated work party member for many years and has also given excellent service on our Committee, first as Treasurer and then as Chairman

Sybil has also been a hard working member of the committee, Her main contribution has been organising the distribution of the newsletters. She is also a wonder when it comes to sourcing, gazebos, sound systems, stationery and numerous other things, as well as helping Pi to formulate his Perspectives.

We all wish them luck in their new home. Cove's loss will be Dorset's gain.

WORK PARTY UPDATE

Sat 14th April

On a fine day we had the Rushmoor Spring Clean centred around the footbridge by the Curly Bridge. Over fifty people helped collect a lorry load of litter from the brook and woodland around the scout hut and all around the playing field. A big thank you to the 6th Farnborough Scouts for providing much needed refreshments.

Sat 12th May

As has become our habit the May event was a walk. This time 10 of us walked from Blunden Hall along the brook to the Curly Bridge before turning into Hawley Woods and on to the Lake. We returned via The Potteries M3 underpass and into the churchyard of St John's, before following the track by the railway back to the brook. A distance of just over 6 miles taking us a leisurely two and a half hours.

Sat 6th June

This entailed preparations for the Fun Day at Moor Road Recreation Ground. Six of us litter picked the playing fields and the scrub and bramble area around Farnborough football club. Once again We also cut the bramble and willow encroaching onto the paths.

Tues 11th July

A contingent of BVCP volunteers cut back the vegetation which had encroached onto the path between Giffard Drive and the brook as well as cutting a swathe of grass, where we had planted wild flowers last year.

WOODLAND DRUMMERS—Part 2

Greater Spotted Woodpecker—Text and drawing by Franc Hall

At 9" (2.5 cm) this Blackbird sized Woodpecker is the larger of the two black and white drummers resident in the UK. It can be recognised by its mainly black and white head, back and wings, i.e. mainly black with large white wing patches. The underside is predominantly creamy white with a distinctive red patch under its tail coverts. The face and neck are black with prominent white cheek and throat patches and a black moustache connecting the black crown and neck. The adult male is decorated with a red patch at the nape of the neck, this is absent in the female. The upper parts are almost wholly black, relieved by large white scapular patches and white striped primary feathers. The juveniles have a predominant red crown (lost after the first year) and nape with less distinctive barring on the wings, they have a plain black back and tail, lacking the red patch beneath the tail.



Note the reddish feathering on underside of tail and legs and small red patch on nape

The flight is typically undulating, with the wings folded back at the bottom of each "bound". It can be identified by broad white patches on short black wings, large shoulder patches and spotted under wings plus the red tail patch. Vocally, its presence is noted by the loud drumming on tree trunks, which is not only heard during feeding, but also by the males, to attract a mate. Its main vocal call is an explosive "tchik, tchik" alarm call, usually emitted in flight, followed by a churring note, similar to a Mistle Thrush, but there is no real song.

This bird can be found throughout Europe, into Asia and North Africa (there are regional differences) the exceptions being Northern Scotland, North Scandinavia and Ireland. It frequents all types of wooded areas, both coniferous and deciduous, which includes local parks and gardens where, in winter, they can be seen at bird tables. Apart from this, outside the breeding season, they are solitary.

Food: Mainly insects and grubs, some seed and occasional birds eggs and hatchlings. As for all woodpeckers, they are not much liked by bee keepers, due to their habit of raiding bee hives. They have also been known to drill holes in telegraph poles in search of food.

Nest and Eggs: In a hole in a tree, usually above 10' and up to 8" Deep, lined with a few wood chips. They will nest in garden nest boxes. Four to seven eggs are laid in April to June, but only one clutch per year

UP WITH THE LARK

Those early birds start very early indeed - it's thought that they sing at dawn to mark their territories before predators are about.

We met at 3.45 at Eelmoor Bridge, on the Basingstoke Canal with Farnborough airfield on one side, and heath and woods near by: a good spot for hearing birds from different habitats. As always, our bird expert Chris Jones was there to identify them. First up (literally) were the skylarks, singing as they soared and dropped like yo-yos above the airfield. Song thrushes gradually joined in from all directions, followed by blackbirds. Meanwhile a woodcock flew by, a nightjar gave its whirring call (*like a wavering distant motorbike*), cuckoos “cuckooed”, and warblers called and sang: chiffchaff, blackcap, willow warbler and whitethroat were also heard.



Skylark

By the canal, we saw a heron, coots and swans in the dawn mist. The sun popped up above the runway, and the daylight gave us good views of goldfinches and several warblers busying about in the scrub. Bluetit, coal tit, great tit and long-tailed tits turned up in the taller trees, and finally we heard a robin - it was a late riser in this setting, but in towns you can hear them at all times of night, because of the streetlights.

BEAVERING ABOUT THE BROOK



The weather didn't stop these eager Beavers

On a damp evening in July a group of children from the 3rd Farnborough Beavers, together with their leaders and volunteers joined four members of Cove Brook Greenway Group to learn about Cove Brook.

We walked down to the dipping area near Moor Green Recreation Ground but sadly, owing to the heavy rain the previous over the previous days, we were unable to do any Brook dipping to see what we could find in the water, as we had hoped.

However, undaunted and armed with litter pickers, the Beavers enthusiastically set to and

did a marvelous job of ridding the area of litter. There is so much bad press about the younger generation, but, with children like these, I think our view of the future should be much more positive. **Well done Beavers!**

ALL ABOUT COVE

For the last 18 months we have working with Cove School on a new illustrated board for the entrance to Cove village. It illustrates a brief history of Cove, looking back over a thousand years, based on themes suggested by pupils at the school.

The board is positioned by Cove Road bridge, where there is also a new plaque to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Both of them were unveiled in a ceremony on 25th June, by the Deputy Mayor, accompanied by local and county councillors, and the Head Teacher and pupils from Cove School.



This is the latest stage in the work by Hampshire County Council and Rushmoor to brighten up Cove village.

Megan Davies-Jones, Head of Cove School at the unveiling of the new information board



**Cove
Brook**
GREENWAY



Hi,
I'm
Pi

**CONTACT
DETAILS**

Chairman

Hilda Anscombe
(For enquiries)
Tel: 01276 512109
e-mail: l.anscombe@sky.com

Secretary

Antonia Hebbert

Work Parties

Paul Sanders
(When, where & what we are doing)
Tel: 01276 32173
e-mail: paulsanders@talk21.com

Newsletter

Kathy Pitcher
(Editor)
Tel: 01252 651147
e-mail: kathy@verati.co.uk

(Distribution)

**NEW DISTRIBUTOR NEEDED
CAN YOU HELP?**

PI'S PERSPECTIVE

Wasn't the Fun Day fun? We had lovely sunshine and I had a loooooong sleep between the gazebos and lots of attention, plus tit-bits of ice cream & burger: Bliss! There were fun smells too, and funny animals, but they were boring, and didn't run about for me to chase. I helped my mum make dream catchers and a Nepalese lady joined in too, I think she enjoyed the communal activity and a gossip, though we had to get her grandson to interpret.

A couple of weeks ago my mum was really boring. She spent ages and ages leaning over the bridge in Houseman Road with her camera, then my dad joined her. They were watching half a dozen very large chub that were gambolling in the shallows. They were there a long time, but have not returned since. Perhaps they were spawning? Fortunately they were not about when the fishermen turned up. Also there were some big black & white ducks, which my mum took photos of to prove to my dad that they were on the brook. Did you see them?

The moorhens have four chicks, but we've not seen many ducklings, however there are plenty of places for them to hide. With the warm wet weather the greenery has shot up. Some of the wild flower plantings are doing really well. In amongst the many types of grasses we can see patches of red, white and pink. Well done all of those that cleared areas and planted them earlier this year.

I'm off to the seaside soon; forever. My mum keeps trying to get me into that moving water there: I don't like it and it takes no notice of my telling it to go away! The CBBG will need a new Head of Distribution for the Newsletter now, but more on that next quarter.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

TALKS, MEETINGS & EVENTS		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Tues 14 th Aug	7.30 pm	HART WILDLIFE RESCUE —An illustrated talk about a local animal rescue group Followed by our Annual General Meeting <i>All welcome—Anyone interested in putting their name down for the committee would be very welcome, but no pressure to do so.</i> Meet at: Blunden Hall, Blunden Road, Cove, GU14 8QP
Tues 30 th Oct	7.30 pm	HALLOWEEN QUIZ —Our now legendary annual event Our annual event where you can test your knowledge whilst enjoying great company and our delicious homemade cakes Meet at: Blunden Hall, Blunden Road, Cove, GU14 8QP
WORK PARTIES		
Sat 11 th Aug	10.00 am	GRASS CUTTING AND PATH EDGING Meet at: Grasmere Road Car Park, Cove, GU14 0LE
Sat 8 th Sep	10.00 am	GRASS CUTTING AND HEDGE TRIMMING Meet at: Blunden Hall, Blunden Road, Cove, GU14 8QP
Sat 13 th Oct	10.00 am	LITTER PICKING Meet at: Cheyne Way nr Curly Bridge, Cove GU14 8SA
Sat 10 th Nov	10.00 am	LITTER PICKING Meet at Mayfield Road, Cove,

CBGG FUN DAY

July 2012



Suffolk Punch Horses



Making bird boxes



Ready for take-off



Making Dream Catchers



Willow Weaving



Face painting



Our wonderful band of volunteers