



walks, talks & events

Life is better outdoors

PROGRAMME
Winter/Spring 2008/09

Welcome to the 2008-09 Walks, Talks and Events programme, packed with countryside events and activities for Bromley.

These events and activities are designed to help you discover Bromley's beautiful countryside and open spaces, and reveal the wide diversity of its wildlife. Join experienced leaders and experts, who will introduce you to new topics and answer your questions.

Joining In

Most of the walks are gentle strolls, and are suitable for all the family. Please remember paths may be muddy and uneven, so wear suitable footwear, bring waterproof clothing and plenty to drink. In case of bad weather, the leader will always aim to start the walk, although they may need to cancel in the interest of safety.

All walks are graded using the system below:

Grade 1: Very easy walk, generally on flatter surfaces.

Grade 2: Easy walk in the countryside, with gentle hills, there may be some stiles.

Grade 3: Typical country walk with some steeper hills.

Grade 4: Longer walks, more difficult with steep hills.

Marked E: Evening walks



Look out for this logo indicating events are wheelchair accessible. For further accessibility information please ring 01689 862815.

You may bring your dog on a walk, unless otherwise stated. Dogs must be kept on a lead, and be well behaved. All dog waste must be removed and disposed of appropriately.

Please note that you attend a guided walk at your own risk, Bromley Council accepts no liability for any accident or loss.

Charges

There is a small charge for some events, which are indicated with the individual event details. Unless otherwise stated, charges are payable on the day, by cash or cheque only (cheques payable to The London Borough of Bromley). Reduced rates apply to children under 16 years, and persons aged 60+. There may be an extra cost for some craft events to cover the cost of materials. All income from events will be used to directly improve Bromley's Parks and Open Spaces.

Booking is essential for some events, please check the individual event details for further information.

Useful contacts for Events Leaders:

Bromley Countryside & Parks Service (BCP)

☎ 01689 862 815

www.countryside&parcs@bromley.gov.uk

EnBro

Environment Bromley (Pat Mansfield)

☎ 020 8658 6953

RSPB

Local Walks (Derek McWalter)

☎ 020 8402 9286

Scadbury

Friends of Scadbury Park (Keith Burns)

☎ 01689 826 535

Jubilee

Friends of Jubilee Country Park (Jennie Randall)

☎ 07840 542261

As well as those listed in this leaflet, other events are held in Crystal Palace Park, run by the Crystal Palace Park Rangers. For further details please contact them at the information centre on 020 8778 9496.

High Elms Country Park

BEECHE

Bromley's Environmental Education Centre at High Elms

BEECHE has been built using innovative techniques to provide an environmentally friendly visitor and education centre and a flagship building for the borough. The building has a timber frame (sourced from Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) certified timber), with lime rendered straw bale walls and a sedum roof. It has many other energy saving features including sun pipes and automatic lighting. Materials such as straw bales and hazel stakes were sourced locally.

It is a community resource open to everyone with a regular programme of fun and educational activities involving wildlife and the natural environment. Look out for our monthly changing displays for information on a wide range of biodiversity and nature conservation issues.

The centre is open to the public every weekend from 11.00am-4.00pm and during school holidays, on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 1.30pm-4.00pm. The café provides hot and cold refreshments daily and the Countryside Officers will be available to help you get the most from your visit.

BEECHE is also now the focus for environmental education in the borough. The new centre has two large classrooms, with toilet and cloakroom facilities and is fully accessible.

The Environmental Education caters for pre-school groups through to Primary and Secondary aged groups. Although courses are Science or Geography based, all are cross-curricular and fit in with the National Curriculum at all Key Stages. They are designed and lead by qualified teachers, with specialist expertise in ecology and environmental science.

There is a wide variety of courses on offer, from pond dipping and habitat comparisons, to discovering plants and becoming soil detectives. With notice, courses can be tailor-made to suit the school, especially when it comes to 'A' level field work requirements. All activities are practical, sensory and involve hands-on participation in the natural environment of High Elms Country Park. Inset training is also offered for teaching staff either at **BEECHE** or within the school site. These courses train and encourage teaching staff to use the outdoor environment as a teaching resource, and also provide advice on setting up and maintaining a wildlife area within school sites.

To make a school booking please phone **020 8302 7496** or email: environmental.education@bromley.gov.uk.

DARWIN at Downe

Darwin at Downe is the United Kingdom's 2009 nomination for World Heritage Status, which will be submitted to UNESCO by the Government early next year. Led by the London Borough of Bromley, the bid is supported by a wide partnership of local and national organisations. The area covers 10sq kms of historic countryside on the rolling Kent North Downs and was the open-air laboratory in which Darwin developed his theory of evolution by natural selection. It incorporates his home, garden and grounds at Down House, the neighbouring villages of Downe and Cudham, and the surrounding countryside including High Elms Country Park and Keston Common.

We are now looking forward to celebrating Darwin's bicentenary in 2009 and also 150 years since 'On The Origin of Species' was published. Worldwide celebrations will take place including a focus on community and educational activities and events.

Look out for local celebrations, including community festivals, educational packs and activities and events in and around Downe throughout 2009. There are many events planned in Darwin's countryside, look for those highlighted in blue in this leaflet. For further information, events, walks and trails highlighting key sites important to Darwin and his work visit: www.darwinatdowne.co.uk.

Are you interested in local natural history? Why not join the Orpington Field Club, who organise walks and field trips throughout Bromley and Kent. Events look at all aspects of the natural world, and members meet every Saturday. For more details call Gary Cliffe on 01689 855913 or Margaret Willis on 01689 821225.

Bromley Museum

Did you know that John Lubbock, who lived at High Elms, was passionate about Zoology and Botany, and kept a pet wasp? Drop into Bromley Museum to discover more about the many interests of this fascinating Victorian and friend of Darwin. Look out also for our free fun events for children during the school holidays. For more information, contact bromley.museum@Bromley.gov.uk or phone 01689 873826.

Biodiversity

in Bromley

The term 'biodiversity' means 'the variety of living things'. At the Rio Summit of 1992, countries which signed the 'Rio Convention' agreed to protect the variety of life within their boundaries. In the UK, implementation has been achieved through Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs). The London Borough of Bromley has Action Plans for 9 species and 7 habitats.

During the winter, when many plants and animals are either dormant or hibernating (e.g. bats, hedgehogs) and little is growing or breeding, much of the work needed to look after Bromley's habitats is carried out. Work at this time of year minimises disturbance to plants and animals. Bromley's wildlife habitats are looked after with the aim of providing food and shelter for the maximum possible variety of plants and animals typical of that habitat.



Look out for events celebrating Bromley's woodland, hedgerow, farmland and wetland BAPs this winter (highlighted in green). To find out more about Bromley's Biodiversity Action Plan, logon to www.bromleybiodiversity.co.uk To help Bromley's habitats and the wildlife they support, use this time of year to do work on your garden or come along to one of our winter workdays as a volunteer.

Volunteer

Opportunities

If you would like to be involved in improving Bromley's biodiversity why not become a volunteer and help with practical conservation tasks, wildlife surveys or events. The Countryside and Parks Service, based at High Elms, focuses its work on Borough-owned nature conservation sites, but there are also opportunities to help on privately owned land and council owned farmland, enhancing the landscape for wildlife and improving access to the wider countryside.

To find out more, phone 01689 862815 or email: countryside&parcs@bromley.gov.uk.

Some of the countryside sites, parks, woodlands and open spaces have 'Friends Groups' which meet regularly and are involved in promoting positive use, enjoyment and improvements of their local open space. These include:-

High Elms Volunteer Ranger Service: Contact Sarah Adams on 01689 862815 or e-mail countryside&parcs@bromley.gov.uk.

Scadbury Friends Group: Contact Keith Burns on 01689 826535 or e-mail b2rnskh@btinternet.com.

Friends of Jubilee Country Park: workdays every Monday. Find out more from Jennie Randall on 07840 542261 or log on to www.aboutmyarea.co.uk/br5/friendsofjubileecountrypark.

Friends of Keston Common (including Padmall Wood and Ravensbourne Open Space) Contact Sarah Adams 01689 862815.

Friends of Darrick and Newstead Woods & Common: contact Judith John on 01689 862815.

Friends of Bromley Town Parks have walks every other Wed please contact Jeff on 020 8290 5510 or log on to www.Bromleytownparks.org.uk.

There are now over 30 Friends Groups in the borough so if you want to find out more about Friends Groups in the other parks, contact the Partnership Officers on 020 8313 4471 or e-mail landscape.helpdesk@bromley.gov.uk.

Visit www.bromleybiodiversity.co.uk and look under 'Getting Involved' where you can find a listing of conservation groups active in your area.



walks, talks & events

October

Thurs 2nd High Elms Autumn Walk

10.00am. Meet at BEECHE. Come for a wander through High Elms Estate looking at the fruits and colours in the woodland at this time of year. Led by BCP. Distance 2 miles. **Grade 2**. Charge: Adults £1.50, Child & 60+ £1.00.

Sat 4th Autumn Necklaces

Drop in to BEECHE anytime between 11.00am - 2.00pm to make your very own seasonal jewellery out of natural materials.
£2.00 per child.

Sun 5th Tiny Tots Wildlife Walk

11.00am. Meet at BEECHE. A short walk for the under 5's and their parents to discover the colours and smells of the woodland, then decorate your own wooden badge to take home. Led by BCP. Distance under 1 mile. **Grade 2**. Charge: Adults £1.50, Child & 60+ £1.00. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

Wed 8th Bromley Town Centre Walks

11.00am. Meet at the Lodge, Church House Gardens, Church House Road, Bromley for a conducted walk around Bromley Town Centre parks looking at the changing trees, plants and birds as well as learning about the history of these public green spaces. All walking on made up paths. Led by Friends of Bromley Town Parks & Gardens. Distance 1 mile. **Grade 1**.

Thurs 9th Scadbury Park Local Bird Walk

9.30am. Meet at Old Perry Street entrance for a walk looking at and listening for birdlife around Scadbury. **NO DOGS PLEASE**. Led by RSPB Bromley. Distance 1-2miles. **Grade 2**.

Sun 12th Hedgerow Harvest

2.00pm - 4.00pm. Meet at BEECHE for a walk around part of the Cudham Circular Walk looking at hedgerows in autumn, their importance for wildlife and the studies of Charles Darwin. Led by BCP. Distance 3 miles. **Grade 3**. Charge: Adults £1.50, Child & 60+ £1.00.

Tues 14th Studded with Rural Jewels

2.30pm. Meet at Cudham recreation ground, Cudham Lane North. A walk around Cudham looking at the fruit, seeds and nuts that bedeck the autumn landscape. Led by BCP. Distance 2-3 miles. **Grade 3**. Charge: Adults £1.50, Child & 60+ £1.00. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

Sat 18th Pole Lathe Demonstration Day at High Elms

Drop in to the garden outside BEECHE anytime between 11.00am - 3.00pm to find out about the pole lathe, which has probably been in use for over 2500 years. Come and see how well this ancient technology works, see some of the work produced and learn about its history.

Sat 18th Woodland for Wildlife!

10.00am. Meet at the TrEE centre in Scadbury park, Chislehurst, to help with the management of a small section of semi-natural ancient woodland known as Little Wood.

Wed 22nd Bromley Town Centre Walks

11.00am. Meet at the Lodge, Church House Gardens, Church House Road, Bromley for a conducted walk around Bromley Town Centre parks looking at the changing trees, plants and birds and learning about the history of these public green spaces. All walking on made up paths. Led by Friends of Bromley Town Parks & Gardens. Distance 1 mile. **Grade 1**.

Sat 25th Feed the Birds Day

11.00am - 1.00pm. Come to BEECHE and get messy whilst making a bird feeder for your garden birds. Please bring your own yogurt pot or coconut shell if possible and take home what you make. Charge: £2.00 per child. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

Sat 25th The Sky at Night

6.00pm. Meet at BEECHE. Join members of Orpington Astronomical Society on one of their observing evenings. Catch a glimpse of Venus setting, observe Jupiter and its moons, look at double stars, galaxies and other fascinating objects in our night skies. Suitable for children. Please wear warm clothes and shoes. There will be a longer talk if the weather is cloudy. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

Sun 26th Apple Day Celebrations

11.30am - 4.00pm. High Elms Country Park (BEECHE). National Apple Day promotes the traditional orchard and local apple varieties. Join in the celebrations at High Elms with a range of different apple themed events and activities. Taste apples and juices from local orchards and take part in the longest peel competition.

Mon 27th Brilliant Bats!

10.00am - 12noon. Meet at BEECHE to find out what happens to Britain's only flying mammals during the winter. Test your knowledge with our quiz and make bat hats to take home for Halloween. Charge £2.00 per child. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

Tues 28th Pumpkin Party

2.00pm - 4.00pm Meet at BEECHE. Bring a pumpkin to carve and take away a small candle to make it glow in the dark. Charge: £2.00 per child. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

Wed 29th Halloween Fun and Games

2.00pm - 4.00pm. Come to BEECHE for an afternoon of spooky fun and games. Charge: £2 per child. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

Thurs 30th Halloween Craft

Drop in to BEECHE anytime between 10.00am - 12.00noon to discover why nature makes us think of ghosts and spooky characters at this time of year, and make a collage from natural materials. Charge: £2 per child.

Thurs 30th Halloween walk

6.00pm. Meet at BEECHE for a spooky walk around High Elms. All ghosts, goblins, wizards and witches welcome!!! Family event suitable for all children aged 5 and upwards. NO DOGS PLEASE. Led by BCP. Distance 1 mile. **Grade 3E**. Charge: £3 per person. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815 – Admission by ticket only.

Fri 31st Find out about Fungi!

10.30am - 3.30pm. Meet at BEECHE for a free training event to learn about these fascinating organisms with a local expert. The day will include a fungal foray around part of High Elms and examining your findings indoors. Please bring along any interesting fungi you have found and a packed lunch. NO DOGS PLEASE. Distance 2 miles.

Grade 2. Booking essential, please call 01689 862815.



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November

Sat 1st Nature Detectives

Drop in to BEECHE anytime between 11.00am - 2.00pm to pick up your clues, set off around the estate looking for all the items on the list, then come back to claim your prize. This is a self-guided event. Charge: £2.00 per sheet.

Sun 2nd Hedgerow Heritage

10.00am - 12noon. Meet at Broadwater Gardens, opposite Hayle Close, for a walk looking at the natural and historical heritage of hedgerows at Darrick Wood. Led by BCP. Distance 2 miles. **Grade 2**. Charge: Adults £1.50, Child & 60+ £1.00.

Wed 5th Bromley Town Centre Walks

11.00am. Meet at the Lodge, Church House Gardens, Church House Road, Bromley for a conducted walk around Bromley Town Centre parks looking at the changing trees, plants and birds and learning about the history of these public green spaces. All walking on made up paths. Led by Friends of Bromley Town Parks & Gardens. Distance 1 mile. **Grade 1**.

Sat 8th Charcoal Burning Demonstration at High Elms

Call in anytime between 11.00am - 3.00pm and follow directions from the main car park, off High Elms Road, to the charcoal burner. Watch a demonstration and find out how charcoal is made, what uses it can be put to and how it changed our history and landscape.

Sun 9th Painting Insect Homes

11.00am. Meet at BEECHE. Insects need a warm home to hibernate in over winter. Come and decorate an insect home to take away for your own garden. Charge: £4.00 per home. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

Sat 15th Tree Planting Event

10.00am. Meet at the Old Perry Street car park entrance to Scadbury Park to help plant young English native broadleaf trees in Scadbury Park Local Nature Reserve and learn of their value from your Woodlands Officer.

Sat 15th Jubilee Country Park: Its History and Heritage

10.00am - 12 noon. Meet at Thornet Wood Road car park, Bickley, to join the Friends of Jubilee Country Park and discover more about the history of this beautiful Local Nature Reserve. NO DOGS PLEASE. Distance 2 miles. **Grade 2.**

Sun 16th Furry Friends at High Elms

9.00am. Meet at BEECHE to find out which small mammals use the nature conservation garden and how they are adapted to survive there. We will be opening humane traps and releasing the animals unharmed. NO DOGS PLEASE. Led by BCP. Charge: Adults £1.50, Child & 60+ £1.00. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

Wed 19th Autumn Wildlife Stroll

10.00am. Meet at the Old Perry Street car park entrance to Scadbury Park for a stroll around the Acorn Trail with the Friends of Scadbury Park, looking for bugs, fungi etc. Distance 2 miles. **Grade 2.**

Wed 19th Bromley Town Centre Walks

11.00am. Meet at the Lodge, Church House Gardens, Church House Road, Bromley for a conducted walk around Bromley Town Centre parks looking at the changing trees, plants and birds and learning about the history of these public green spaces. All walking on made up paths. Led by Friends of Bromley Town Parks & Gardens. Distance 1 mile. **Grade 1.**

Sat 22nd Walking Stick Workshop

10.00am - 4.00pm. High Elms Country Park. Learn how to steam bend a chestnut walking stick, and make a two part Market stick, carving the handle from a block of timber, then join it to a hazel shaft to take home at the end of the day. All materials plus tea and coffee are provided. Please bring a packed lunch. **Booking essential.** For more information and to book, please call 01689 862815. Charge: £45.

Sun 23rd Build a Broom

2.00pm. Meet at BEECHE. Get ready for National Tree Week. A family craft session to make seasonal brooms from natural materials gathered from Bromley's woodlands. Charge: £4.00 per broom. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

Thurs 27th Trees in Winter

10.00am - 12noon. Meet outside BEECHE for a walk around High Elms to find out more about trees in winter. Part of National Tree week. Led by BCP. Distance 2 miles. **Grade 2**. Charge: Adults £1.50, Child & 60+ £1.00.

Sun 30th Victorian Christmas Cards

11.00am - 3.00pm. Many families in Victorian times made their own Christmas cards. The Lubbocks of High Elms and the nearby Darwins had big families and were no exception. Carry on the tradition at this drop in craft session. Charge: £2 per person.

Sun 30th Hayes Common Local Bird Walk

9.30am. Meet outside Hayes Railway Station. NO DOGS PLEASE. Led by Bromley RSPB. Distance 1-2 miles. **Grade 2**.



walks, talks & events

December

Wed 3rd Bromley Town Centre Walks

11.00am. Meet at the Lodge, Church House Gardens, Church House Road, Bromley for a conducted walk around Bromley Town Centre parks looking at the changing trees, plants and birds and learning about the history of these public green spaces. All walking on made up paths. Led by Friends of Bromley Town Parks & Gardens. Distance 1 mile. **Grade 1.**

Thurs 4th Moon Watch

6.00pm. Meet at BEECHE. Join members of Orpington Astronomical Society for a short talk to learn more about Earth's only natural satellite, followed by looking at the Moon through telescopes. Suitable for children. Please wear warm clothes and shoes and bring a digital camera to take pictures through the telescope. There will be a longer talk if the weather is cloudy and some child friendly experiments to show how the moon formed. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

Sat 6th Tree Dressing Day

Drop in to BEECHE anytime between 11.00am - 2.00pm to make your very own tree decoration as part of National Tree week. Hang it on our tree outside before you go. Charge £2 per child.

Sat 6th Seasonal Cheer for Scadbury!

10.00am. Meet at Old Perry Street car park entrance to Scadbury Park to help the Friends of Scadbury remove invasive cherry laurel from the woodlands and allow native flora to flourish, and enjoy a mince pie and mulled wine. Part of National Tree Week.

Sun 7th Christmas Decoration Workshop

2.00pm - 4.00pm. Meet at BEECHE for a walk looking for natural materials then come back to the centre to make a traditional Christmas decoration. Led by BCP. Distance 1 mile. Grade 2. Charge: £2 per decoration. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

Mon 8th Hedgehog Talk

7.30pm. Meet in the Garden Room, St. Augustine's Church, Southborough Lane, Bickley for a talk about these delightful mammals by a local expert arranged by the Friends of Jubilee Country Park. All welcome.

Thurs 11th Kelsey Park Local Bird Walk

9.30am. Meet at Kelsey Park Road entrance. NO DOGS PLEASE. Led by Bromley RSPB. Distance 1-2 miles **Grade 1**.

Sun 14th Christmas Poems and Riddles

2.00pm. Meet at BEECHE. A chance for children to get creative with words as we make our own winter poems, riddles and rhymes. There will be poems and a story to finish. Charge: £2 per child. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

Tues 16th Mince Pies for Dog Walkers

9.00am - 10.00am. High Elms Country Park: main car park, off High Elms Road. Join the Countryside Officers for a bit of festive cheer, as we promote the 'responsible dog ownership' campaign.

Wed 17th Bromley Town Centre Walks

11.00am. Meet at the Lodge, Church House Gardens, Church House Road, Bromley for a conducted walk around Bromley Town Centre parks looking at the changing trees, plants and birds and learn about the history of these public green spaces. All walking on made up paths. Led by Friends of Bromley Town Parks & Gardens. Distance 1 mile. **Grade 1**.

Sat 20th Christmas Crafts

2.00pm - 4.00pm. Meet at BEECHE. Get creative this Christmas with your chance to make some festive tree decorations with recycled and natural materials. Charge £2.00 per child.



Tues 23rd Woodland Stories

5.30pm. Meet at BEECHE. Come for a walk in the woods, listening to stories as you go. Back to the centre afterwards to warm up with hot blackcurrant and cookies. Distance 1 mile. **Grade 3E**. Charge £2 per person.

Booking essential, please call 01689 862815.

Wed 24th Christmas Folklore and Mince Pies

11.00am. Meet at BEECHE to join one of the Countryside Officers for a stroll around the estate learning about the connections between nature and folklore at this time of year. Back to BEECHE for a seasonal treat! Led by BCP. Distance 2 miles. **Grade 2**. Charge: Adults £1.50, Child & 60+ £1.00.

Booking essential, please call 01689 862815.

Thurs 25th Christmas Day Stroll

10.30am. Meet at the junction of Kelsey Park Road and Manor Way, Beckenham to join others for a short walk around Kelsey Park and give you an appetite for your Christmas dinner! Led by EnBro. Distance 1 mile. **Grade 1**.



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January

Fri 2nd Walking into January

2.00pm. Meet at Leaves Green car park. Start the year as you mean to go on with a brisk, afternoon walk in and around Leaves Green to admire the tree skeletons and landscape of winter. Find out about the health benefits of walking and the opportunities you have in the London Borough of Bromley's green spaces to stretch your legs throughout the year. Led by BCP.

Distance 2-3 miles. **Grade 3**. Charge: Adults £1.50, Child & 60+ £1.00.

Booking essential, please call 01689 862815.

Sun 4th Hedgelaying Demonstration

Drop in to the garden around BEECHE anytime between 11.00am - 2.00pm to watch a demonstration of this ancient tradition.

Sun 11th Hedge-Laying Demonstration at Jubilee Country Park

Drop in to Jubilee Country Park (entrance opposite the Harvester, Southborough Lane) anytime between 10.30am - 2.00pm and follow the signposts to find out more about this traditional activity. Please wear sturdy footwear as it will be muddy, and old clothes if you wish to join in.

Sun 11th A Seasonal Stroll around Scadbury

10.00am. Meet at the Old Perry Street Car park entrance to Scadbury Park for a brisk walk around the Acorn Trail with the Friends of Scadbury Park. Distance 2 miles. **Grade 2**.

Wed 14th Bromley Town Centre Walks

11.00am. Meet at the Lodge, Church House Gardens, Church House Road, Bromley for a conducted walk around Bromley Town Centre parks looking at the changing trees, plants and birds and learn about the history of these public green spaces. All walking on made up paths. Led by Friends of Bromley Town Parks & Gardens. Distance 1 mile. **Grade 1**.

Thurs 15th Jubilee Country Park Local Walk

9.30am. Meet at Blackbrook Lane entrance. NO DOGS PLEASE.

Led by Bromley RSPB. Distance 1-2 miles. **Grade 2**.

Sat 17th The Big Sleep

2.00pm - 4.00pm. Meet at BEECHE to learn about how, why and which animals sleep through the winter. Followed by a craft event. Charge: £2.00 per child.

Booking essential, please call 01689 862815.

Sat 17th Wonderful Wetland!

10.00am. Meet at the Tree Centre in Scadbury Park to help with the management of ponds and their surroundings and learn about the amphibian wildlife they support.



Sun 18th Learn about Lichens

10.00am - 12.30pm. Meet at BEECHE to find out more about these fascinating organisms with a local expert. This event includes a short walk near the centre. NO DOGS PLEASE. Distance 1 mile. **Grade 2**.

Booking essential, please phone 01689 862815.

Thurs 22nd Farmland Finches and others

9.30am. Meet opposite the Change of Horses pub, Farnborough High Street, for a walk across fields, hedgerows and woodland looking for farmland birds. NO DOGS PLEASE. Led by BCP. Distance 2 miles. **Grade 3**. Charge: Adults £1.50, Child & 60+ £1.00. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

Sat 24th - Sun 25th Big Garden Birdwatch

Help take part in the world's biggest bird survey. There's no need to be an expert – you just need to enjoy spotting birds in your garden. Spend an hour spying on our feathered friends and send the results to the RSPB. To find out more, log on to www.rspb.org.uk.

Sat 24th Feed the Birds

11.30am. Meet at BEECHE to make a wild bird feeder for your garden and help our bird friends through the winter. Please bring your own yogurt pot or coconut shell if possible. Charge: £2.00 per child. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

Sun 25th Bird Ringing Demonstration

9.00am - 11.00am. Meet at BEECHE. Join Bromley RSPB as we get up close and personal to Bromley's garden birds in the conservation garden. **NO DOGS PLEASE**. Craft session available, £1 per child.

Wed 28th Bromley Town Centre Walks

11.00am. Meet at the Lodge, Church House Gardens, Church House Road, Bromley for a conducted walk around Bromley Town Centre parks looking at the changing trees, plants and birds and learn about the history of these public green spaces. All walking on made up paths. Led by Friends of Bromley Town Parks & Gardens. Distance 1 mile. **Grade 1**.

Sat 31st High Elms Winter Challenge

Pick up a challenge sheet from BEECHE, anytime between 11.00am -2.00pm, set off around the High Elms Nature Trail to find the answers and return to collect your prize.

This is a self-guided event. Distance 2 miles. **Grade 3**. Charge: £2.00 per sheet.



walks, talks & events

February

Sun 1st High Elms Winter Challenge

Pick up a challenge sheet from BEECHE, anytime between 11.00am - 2.00pm, set off around the High Elms Nature Trail to find the answers and return to collect your prize. This is a self-guided event. Distance 2 miles. **Grade 3**. Charge: £2.00 per sheet.

Sat 7th Charcoal Burn

Call in anytime between 11.00am - 3.00pm and follow directions from the main car park, off High Elms Road to the charcoal burner. Watch a demonstration and find out how charcoal is made, what uses it can be put to and how it changed our history and landscape.

Wed 11th Bromley Town Centre Walks

11.00am. Meet at the Lodge, Church House Gardens, Church House Road, Bromley for a conducted walk around Bromley Town Centre parks looking at the changing trees, plants and birds and learning about the history of these public green spaces. All walking on made up paths. Led by Friends of Bromley Town Parks & Gardens. Distance 1 mile. **Grade 1**.

Thurs 12th Magical Mistletoe in Darwin's Downe

2.00pm. Meet at Downe Orchard off North End Lane, Downe to celebrate the bicentenary of Charles Darwin's birth with a walk around Downe looking at places familiar to him and checking the development of mistletoe (planted in 2006) whose adaptations for survival he found so fascinating. Led by BCP. Distance 2 miles. **Grade 2**. Charge: Adults £1.50, Child & 60+ £1.00.

Booking essential, please call 01689 862815.

Fri 13th Healthy Hearts for Valentines

11.00am. Meet at BEECHE to join one of the Countryside Officers for a brisk walk to really get your heart going this valentines!!! NO DOGS PLEASE. Led by BCP. Distance 2-3 miles. **Grade 3**. Charge: Adults £1.50, Child & 60+ £1.00.

Booking essential, please call 01689 862815.

Sat 14th Cudham area Local Walk

9.30am. Meet at Cudham recreation ground, Cudham Lane North. NO DOGS PLEASE. Led by Bromley RSPB. Distance 1-2 miles. **Grade 2**.

Tues 17th Storytelling workshop

10.00am - 12.00noon. Meet at BEECHE. Hear some tall tales and short stories and get ideas to write your own. Suitable for families (children 7 and over). Charge: £2 per child. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

Wed 18th Brilliant Badgers

11.00am. Meet at BEECHE for an illustrated talk about these fascinating nocturnal mammals. Led by Dave Witherspoon of West Kent Badger Group. This talk is aimed at families with children over 7 for the half term week. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

Wed 18th An Early Spring Stroll at Scadbury

10.00am. Meet at the Old Perry Street car park entrance to Scadbury Park for a stroll around the Acorn Trail with the Friends of Scadbury Park, looking for signs of early spring in the woodlands. Distance 2 miles. **Grade 2**.

Thurs 19th Owls About That Then!

10.00am - 12.00noon. Meet at BEECHE. What do you know about the owls that live in Bromley? A chance to look at pellets, and discover where owls live. Charge: £2 per child. **Booking essential**, please ring 01689 862815.

Thurs 19th Conservation Talk

7.30pm. Meet at The Garden Room, St Augustine's Church, Southborough Lane, Bickley. Join the friends of Jubilee Country Park to hear a talk by a speaker from the Orangutan Foundation. Discover more about this endangered species and the work being done through conservation, research and education to protect them. Free admission. Donations to the Orangutan Foundation welcome.

Fri 20th Stag beetle mania

2.00pm - 4.00pm. Meet at BEECHE to learn about these amazing creatures, then take part in a beetle drive. Charge: £2.00 per child. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

Sat 21st Bird box making

11.00am - 1.00pm. Come to BEECHE to make your very own bird box for your garden. Materials and guidance provided. Charge: £4.00 per box. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

Sat 21st The Veteran Trees of Scadbury

10.00am. Meet at the Old Perry Street car park entrance to Scadbury Park to find out more about the ancient trees of Scadbury, their importance for wildlife and help with their management.

Sun 22nd Small mammals of Darrick and Newstead Woods

9.00am. Meet at the junction of Rusland and Crofton Avenues to find out which small mammals live in the woodland and meadow when we check our humane traps and release the animals unharmed.

NO DOGS PLEASE. Led by BCP. Distance

1 mile. **Grade 2**. Charge: Adults £1.50,

Child & 60+ £1.00. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

Wed 25th Bromley Town Centre Walks

11.00am. Meet at the Lodge, Church House Gardens, Church House Road, Bromley for a conducted walk around Bromley Town Centre parks looking at the changing trees, plants and birds and learning about the history of these public green spaces. All walking on made up paths. Led by Friends of Bromley Town Parks & Gardens. Distance 1 mile. **Grade 1**.



walks, talks & events

March

Sat 7th Bird walk at Jubilee Country Park

9.30am. Meet in the car park off Blackbrook Lane, Bickley to join Bob Land, Friend of Jubilee Country Park and RSPB expert, for a bird walk. Please bring binoculars if you have them. NO DOGS PLEASE. Distance 2 miles. **Grade 2.**

Sun 8th Painting Wildflower Pots

Drop in to BEECHE anytime between 11.00am - 3.00pm to decorate your own flower pot and plant it with wildflowers to take home. Charge: £3 per pot.

Wed 11th Bromley Town Centre Walks

11.00am. Meet at the Lodge, Church House Gardens, Church House Road, Bromley for a conducted walk around Bromley Town Centre parks looking at the changing trees, plants and birds and learning about the history of these public green spaces. All walking on made up paths. Led by Friends of Bromley Town Parks & Gardens. Distance 1 mile. **Grade 1.**

Sat 14th History of High Elms

11.30am. Meet at BEECHE for a walk around the estate with one of the Countryside Officers to learn about the history of High Elms and its surroundings. Led by BCP. Distance 2 miles. **Grade 2.** Charge: Adults £1.50, Child & 60+ £1.00. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

Sun 15th Amphibian Antics

2.00pm - 4.00pm. Meet at BEECHE to find out more about our cold blooded neighbours in the nature garden, see if any have returned to the pond, then make a frog mask to take home. NO DOGS PLEASE. Led by BCP. Charge: £2.00 per child. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

Sun 15th A Walk Around Scadbury

10.00am. Meet at the Old Perry Street car park entrance to Scadbury Park for a brisk walk around the Acorn Trail with the Friends of Scadbury Park.

Distance 2 miles. **Grade 2.**

Thurs 19th Skylark Walk

9.30am. Meet at the entrance to St.Giles Church, Farnborough High Street.

A walk to listen and hopefully watch these amazing song birds! NO DOGS PLEASE. Led by BCP. Distance 2 miles. **Grade 3.** Charge: Adults £1.50, Child & 60+ £1.00. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

Sat 21st Wildflowers for White Webbs Way!

10.00am. Meet at White Webbs Way entrance to Scadbury Park, off Midfield Road, to help sow wildflower seeds in the newly created glade.

Sun 22nd Family Ramble

11.00am. Meet at BEECHE. A walk for the whole family, following the circular route to see the best of the High Elms estate. Return to the Green Roof café just in time for lunch. Distance 2 miles. **Grade 3.** Charge: Adults £1.50, Child & 60+ £1.00.

Wed 25th Bromley Town Centre Walks

11.00am. Meet at the Lodge, Church House Gardens, Church House Road, Bromley for a conducted walk around Bromley Town Centre parks looking at the changing trees, plants and birds and learning about the history of these public green spaces. All walking on made up paths. Led by Friends of Bromley Town Parks & Gardens. Distance 1 mile. **Grade 1.**

Fri 27th Primroses Galore

10.00am. Explore some of the countryside's yellow fields of spring, with a walk around Cudham and Downe. Find out more about these flowers and the sites on which they grow and why Darwin was so interested in them. Distance 2-3 miles. **Grade 3.** Charge: Adults £1.50, Child & 60+ £1.00. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815. Meeting place given on booking.

Sat 28th Rustic Furniture Workshop

10.00am - 4.00pm. High Elms Country Park. Make a unique piece of garden furniture to take home, using small branch wood from our winter woodland work. The course will enable you to build your own work of art for your garden. Using basic nailed construction and a bit of imagination you can create something for the garden to impress friends and neighbours!

Tea and coffee provided, please bring a packed lunch. **Booking Essential.** For more information and to book, please call 01689 862815. Charge: £45.

Sun 29th Spring Walk at Jubilee Country Park

2.00pm - 4.00pm. Meet at Thornet Wood Road car park, Bickley to look for signs of spring in the woodland and meadows of this beautiful Local Nature Reserve. Led by BCP. Distance 2 miles. **Grade 2.** Charge: Adults £1.50, child & 60+ £1.00.

Look out for our Easter Buzz activities that will be running from the new BEECHE centre, High Elms Country Park. Programmes will be available from libraries and local leisure centres soon.

walks, talks & events

CONTACTS

Bromley Countryside & Parks Service & BEECHE

(Including enquiries on private land/
farms)

High Elms Country Park

Shire Lane

Farnborough

Kent. BR6 7JH

☎ 01689 862 815

Bromley's Woodland Officer

Andrew Wright

☎ 020 8313 4200

Bromley Rights of Way Officer

Andrew King

☎ 020 8313 4828

World Heritage Site Information

☎ 020 8313 4665

Traveline number for Public Transport

☎ 020 7222 1234