



# walks, talks & events

*Life is better outdoors*

PROGRAMME  
*Spring/Summer 2008*



THE LONDON BOROUGH  
[www.bromley.gov.uk](http://www.bromley.gov.uk)

# walks, talks & events 2008

Welcome to the 2008 programme of countryside events and activities in the London Borough of Bromley, many of which will be held at our new centre, BEECHE. See page 4 to find out more.

The 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, in a varied programme which includes walks, talks, training opportunities, and fun for all the family.

## 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, and 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 issues please ring 01689 862815.

You may bring your dog on a walk, unless otherwise stated (No dogs in Ice Well please). 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 London Borough of Bromley). Reduced rates apply to children aged 4-16 years, and persons aged 60+. Children under 4 years are free on all activities. 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)**

At High Elms Country Park.

☎ 01689 862815

### **EnBro**

Environment Bromley (Pat Mansfield)

☎ 020 8658 6953

### **RSPB**

Local Walks (Derek McWalter)

☎ 020 8402 9286

As well as the events listed in this leaflet, others are held in Crystal Palace Park, run by the Crystal Palace Park Rangers. They run walks and talks for school groups, monthly guided bird walks, and specialist Nature and Dinosaur clubs for 7 to 11 year olds (one Saturday each month starting in April). For further details, contact them at the Information Centre on 020 8778 9496.



## High Elms Country Park

# BEECHE

Bromley's Environmental Education Centre at High Elms

**To celebrate the completion of BEECHE you are invited to our opening events over the Easter weekend. From Fri 21st to Mon 24th March we are providing a range of free activities for all the family. There are all sorts of things on offer and you can also join tours of the building when our officers will tell you how it was constructed, how it will be used and answer any questions. Some activities have to be booked in advance so take a look at our programme on page 10 to make your selection.**

If you can't attend the opening weekend don't worry; BEECHE is a community resource open to everyone and a regular programme of fun and educational activities will be arranged each month. The centre will be open to the public every weekend and the café will provide hot and cold refreshments daily. The countryside rangers will be available to help you get the most from your visit and hear your ideas for the constant development of BEECHE and to promote greener thinking for a greener life.

BEECHE has been built using innovative techniques, to provide an environmentally friendly visitor and education centre, which is 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.



We hope that Sir John Lubbock, Lord Avebury one time owner of High Elms, lifelong friend of Charles Darwin and like-minded supporter of educational and other 'progressive' causes, would approve of our new centre. His great grandson, Lyulph Lubbock commented,

*“Our ancestor, Sir John Lubbock, spent most of his life here. It is due to his foresight that High Elms is as beautiful as it is today. He would be pleased to know that the borough is providing educational opportunities at BEECHE that will encourage people to conserve this environment. We look forward to seeing the centre well-used by the local community.”*

The building comprises a café and 2 multi-functional rooms (Darwin & Lubbock) which will be used for environmental education during term time and for talks, events and activities for all ages during the evenings, weekends and school holidays. To find out more about room hire at BEECHE, associated equipment and support available from officers, contact us on **01689 862815**.

# High Elms Country Park

## BEECHE

Bromley's Environmental Education Centre at High Elms

### Environmental education for schools

**BEECHE is now the focus for environmental education in the borough, instead of Bromley Field Studies Centre at Scadbury Park. The new centre has two large classrooms, with toilet and cloakroom facilities and is fully accessible.**

The Environmental Education on offer 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 huge variety of courses on offer from pond dipping and habitat comparisons through to discovering plants and becoming soil detectives. With notice, courses can be tailored 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 continue to phone the old field centre number on **020 8302 7496**, however for further information or to speak to one of the teachers please contact Sue Houghton or Katie Scanlan on **01689 862 815** at High Elms.

## Exploring in DARWIN'S Footsteps



Find out more about the proposed World Heritage Site, Charles Darwin and his work in the area. Why was his work around Downe so important? Come to some of the events highlighted in pale blue, or try a walk using one of the self-guided Darwin Trails, downloadable from [www.darwinatdowne.co.uk](http://www.darwinatdowne.co.uk) or available from your library, Bromley Civic Centre or High Elms Country Park.

We are looking forward to 2009 when celebrations will take place in Bromley, the UK and all over the world to celebrate 200 years since Darwin's birth and the bicentenary of the publication of 'The Origin of Species'. Watch out for these upcoming events and celebrations.

### 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 most Saturdays. For more details call Gary Cliffe on 01689 855 913 or Margaret Willis on 01689 821225.

### Orpington 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 fun events for children this summer! Contact [www.bromley.gov.uk](http://www.bromley.gov.uk), 01689 873826.



# Biodiversity in Bromley

Bromley has a great variety of wildlife (biodiversity) and everyone in the Borough can do their bit to help species and habitats important to the area. The Bromley Biodiversity Action Plan (BBAP) contains 9 species and 7 habitats that need our special attention. To find out more about these and what you can do, visit [www.bromleybiodiversity.co.uk](http://www.bromleybiodiversity.co.uk) or why not come along and see a display about the BBAP at BEECHE during April.

This summer we are asking you to look out for hedgehogs and let us know if you see any. All your records are important because they help us to better target habitat improvements for hedgehogs in the areas they live as part of our Hedgehog Species Action Plan. A survey of hedgerows in parts of the green belt countryside is being organised as part of the Hedgerow Habitat Action Plan (see events highlighted in yellow) and we are joining forces with other Boroughs to present a 'London Chalk Grassland Festival' that aims to promote the value and importance of chalk grasslands in south London to those who have never visited them before (events highlighted in green). For the full listing of London Chalk Festival Events visit [www.bromleybiodiversity.co.uk](http://www.bromleybiodiversity.co.uk)

In addition to the BBAP events, why not learn more about moths this summer at our events highlighted in pink.

# 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 farm land, enhancing the landscape for wildlife and improving access to the wider countryside. To find out more, phone 01689 862815 or email: [countrysideandparks@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:countrysideandparks@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 Alison Bolt on 01689 862815 or e-mail [countrysideandparks@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:countrysideandparks@bromley.gov.uk)

**Scadbury Friends Group:** workdays 3rd Saturday of every month. Meet 10am Scadbury TrEE Centre. Contact Keith Burns on 01689 826535 or e-mail [b2rnskh@btinternet.com](mailto: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](http://www.aboutmyarea.co.uk/br5/friendsofjubileecountrypark)

**Friends of Keston Common** (including Padmall Wood and Ravensbourne Open Space) Contact Nick Hopkins 01689 862815

It is hoped to form a '**Friends of Darrick Wood**' group: 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](http://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 email [landscape.helpdesk@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:landscape.helpdesk@bromley.gov.uk)

# March

## **Easter Weekend** in Bromley Environmental Education Centre at High Elms!

**Come and join in a weekend of celebration now our new centre is open! Face painting, tours, quizzes, craft sessions and animals to meet! All these family events are free and start at BEECHE.**

### **Fri 21st**

- 10.00am–12.00pm. **Birds of Prey.** Get close to some magnificent birds and find out about them with the head falconer from Countrywide Falconry. Please wear old clothes. **Booking essential** 01689 862815.
- 10.30am and 2.00pm. Join a **Tour around our new centre.**
- 10.00am–3.00pm **Wildlife crafts** drop-in session.
- 1.00–4.00pm Wildlife themed **Face painting.**

### **Sat 22nd**

- 10.00am–12.00pm **Wildlife Rescue**  
Find out how Willow Wildlife Rescue looks after injured wildlife and perhaps meet a few of their patients! Craft session included. Please wear old clothes.  
**Booking essential** 01689 862815.
- 10.30am and 2.00pm. Join a **Tour around our new centre.**
- 11.00am–3.00pm **Green wood craft Demonstration: Walking Stick Making.** We will be demonstrating steam bending and straightening of sticks, as well as the carving of ornamental stick handles.
- 2.00pm **High Elms Trail.** Meet at BEECHE to take a wildlife walk and spot early signs of spring. Distance 2 mile **Grade 2**
- pm Meet **Orpington Beekeepers and their charges.**
- 1.00–4.00pm Wildlife themed **Face painting.**

### **Sun 23rd**

- 10.00–12.00pm. **Make an Easter Wildlife Bonnet to wear home.**
- 10.30am and 2.00pm. Join a **Tour around our new centre.**
- 11.00am–3.00pm. **High Elms Easter Egg Challenge.** Meet at BEECHE to pick up your quiz sheet, find the 'egg-y' clues around the park and return to collect your prize. A self guided event. Distance 1 mile **Grade 2**
- 1.30pm–4.00pm **Flower pot painting.** Paint a flower pot and plant it up at this drop-in session.
- 1.00–4.00pm Wildlife themed **Face painting**

### **Mon 24th**

- 10.00am–12.00pm. **Garden Bird Watch.** Look for birds in our garden with experts from the RSPB and decorate bird silhouettes for a collage to decorate the centre.
- 10.30am & 2.00pm **Tours around the new centre.**
- 2.00pm – 4.00pm **Exotic Animals.** Get close to a gecko, horned frog, lizard and snakes. Find out where they come from and how they live. With an expert from Reptile Razzmatazz. **Booking essential** 01689 862815.
- 11.00am–3.00pm. **High Elms Easter Egg Challenge.** Pick up your quiz sheet, find the 'egg-y' clues around the park and return to BEECHE to collect your prize. A self guided event. Distance 1 mile **Grade 2**
- 1.00–3.00pm **Wild Poetry Read** ,write and listen to poetry with a wildlife theme and join in poetry games
- 10.00am–4.00pm Wildlife themed **Face painting**

### **Fri 28th BEECHE & garden habitat trail tour.**

1.00pm Meet at BEECHE to have a look round our new centre and spot early signs of spring on the habitat trail around the conservation garden. Led by BCP. **Grade 1**

### **Sun 30th Woodland Day**

11.00am to 4.00pm. High Elms Country Park. A chance to see some country crafts demonstrated by the Countryside Officers and volunteers. Pole lathe turning, walking stick making, spoon carving, basket making, rustic furniture plus crafts for the children to have a go at, such as mini hurdles and mini besom brooms.

# April

## April Displays in BEECHE

### > Action Stations for the BBAP

Find out more about Bromley's wildlife and what we are doing to help threatened species and habitats in the borough.

### > Hedge Benefits

A display about hedgerows, their value and management.

> **Spring at High Elms** Find out about the wildlife of this beautiful Local Nature Reserve and what to look for on a spring day.

### Sat 5th BEECHE Community Pond Life Collage

10.00am – 2.00pm Drop in to our nature display room at BEECHE and create your own pond creature using recycled materials to add to our giant pond life collage which will be displayed at BEECHE for everyone to see. A family craft event. Charge: £2 per child.

### Sat 5th-Sun 6th Heron watch

11.00am – 4.00pm. Join in the fun at the main lake Kelsey Park, Beckenham, where you can watch Grey Herons and their chicks nesting on the island. Look through telescopes with local RSPB members and the Friends of Kelsey Park to get a really close view of the herons. A great family activity with lots of different things for children to do. **Grade 1** For further details contact 01689 862815.

### Sun 6th Seed Sowing on Sunday

10.30am-12.30pm Meet at BEECHE for a short walk to look for signs of spring, then help plant wildflower seeds for summer in the flowerbed in front of our centre. Take some home for your own garden or window box. A family event. **Grade 1** Charge: £2 per child.

### Mon 7th Build a Minibeast

An Eco-Buzz event at BEECHE for children aged 5-11 and their parents (see centre pages for more details).

### Tues 8th Wildlife Rescue

An Eco-Buzz event at BEECHE for children aged 8-11 (see centre pages for more details).

### Wed 9th Mini Mammals

09.00am Meet at BEECHE to find out what goes squeak in the undergrowth. We will be using humane mammal traps to check how the mammals are doing in the nature garden and then release them unharmed. Family event. **Booking essential.**

please phone 01689 862815. **Grade 1**

Charge: £2 per child.

### Thurs 10th Painted Eggs & Egg Games

An Eco-Buzz event at BEECHE for children aged 8-11 (see centre pages for more details).

### Fri 11th 'The State of British Birds'

7.30pm Meet in the Upper Rooms of Beckenham Methodist Church, Bromley Road, Beckenham for a talk by Bromley RSPB at the Friends of Kelsey Park Spring Meeting. Open to all. Free, but donations for the RSPB welcome.

### Sat 12th Ruxley Gravel Pits Bird Walk

9.30am. Meet at main entrance gate off the Sidcup bypass, between Crittalls corner roundabout and Tesco's, for a walk looking at the birdlife of this amazing and beautiful SSSI. Led by Bromley RSPB Distance 1-2 miles. **Grade 1.**

### Sat 12th Solar Astronomy at High Elms

2:30pm Meet at BEECHE to join members of Orpington Astronomical Society for a short talk followed by looking at the Sun through a specially adapted telescope. See sunspots and watch prominences as they actually occur. Suitable for families. Bring a digital camera to take pictures through the telescope.

**Booking essential**, please phone 01689 862815.

### Sat 12th Moon Watch at High Elms

7:00pm Meet at BEECHE and join members of Orpington Astronomical Society for a short talk followed by looking at the moon through a telescope. Suitable for families. Please wear warm clothes and shoes and bring a digital camera to take pictures through the telescope. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

### Mon 14th Spring Tree Walk at Kelsey Park

2.00pm Meet at The Information Centre for a stroll around Kelsey Park looking at the trees. No Dogs Please.

### Wed 16th Natural Boundaries

2.00pm Meet at BEECHE for a talk about the historic, landscape and wildlife benefits of local hedgerows and plans for a survey during 2008. For more information and to book ring 01689 862815

### 14th–25th Beck Corridor Display at Beckenham Library

Find out more about the Beck Corridor which stretches from the Green Chain Walk in Beckenham to the London Outer Orbital Path in West Wickham. Free leaflets available, including 'Explore the Beck Corridor'.

### Tues 15th Easter Egg Hunt

An Eco-Buzz event at BEECHE for children aged 8-11 (see centre pages for more details).

### Thurs 17th Chelsfield Circular Walk

10.00am Meet at Goddington Park car park, Orpington for a walk looking at wildlife and historic buildings along the way. 5.5 miles. Stiles, steep and sometimes muddy paths. Not suitable for pushchairs. **Grade 3**. (Duration 3.5 hours) Led by BCP. Charge: Adults £1.50 Children & 60+ £1.

### Thurs 17th Junior Ranger Easter Spectacular

An Eco-Buzz event at BEECHE for children aged 8-11 (see centre pages for more details).

### Fri 18th Pond Workshop at High Elms

10.30am-1.00pm Meet at BEECHE. Want to build a new pond or look after an existing pond sensitively? A talk, question session and site visit looking at the management and creation of wildlife ponds. To book, ring 01689 862815.

### Fri 18th Bat Walk at Keston

7.45pm. Meet at Westerham Road car park, Keston, for a walk looking and listening for bats. Please bring a torch.

Led by a local bat expert. Distance: 1½ miles. **Grade 1E**.

**Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

### Sat 19th Demonstration Day at BEECHE – Pole Lathe

11.00am-3.00pm. The pole lathe 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. Led by BCP. Free

### Sun 20th Dawn Chorus Walk at Kelsey Park

6.00am Meet at the Park entrance in Manor Way, next to the post box. Discover what all the noise is about on this gentle stroll around the park. Please bring binoculars if you have them. Distance: Less than 1 mile. **Grade 1** Led by BCP.

Charge: Adults £1.50 Children & 60+ £1. NO DOGS PLEASE.

### Sat 26th Demonstration Day at High Elms - Charcoal Burn.

11.00am-3.00pm. Follow directions from the car park to the Charcoal Burner.

Watch a demonstration by BCP and find out how charcoal is made, what uses it can be put to and how it changed our history and landscape. Free

### Sun 27th Darrick Woods in Spring

10.00am-12.00pm. Meet at Norman Close

entrance for a walk through the ancient woods at Darrick looking at wildlife in spring. Distance 2 miles. **Grade 1** Charge: Adults £1 50. Children & 60+ £1.

# Eco-Buzz

## Events for 2008

**This year we welcome you back to High Elms  
'The home of ECO-BUZZ' as the venue for our  
popular programme of children's activities  
dating back to the early 1990's.**



Come along and join in the fun during  
Easter & Summer school holidays, in a series of childrens' events from  
(See individual events for date and age limits).

Booking is essential for these events, booking forms are in the  
Easter & Summer Buzzword magazines which will be available from schools, libraries &  
leisure centres across the London Borough of Bromley.

Most Eco - Buzz events will be held at BEECHE 'Bromley's Environmental Education Centre  
at High Elms'. See magazine listings for full details.

# Easter

## **Build a Beast (a mini one)**

**Mon 7th April**

Age 5-11 years

Learn about minibeasts and then invent your own using natural and recycled materials. Wear old clothes. Parents must stay for this event.

## **Wildlife Rescue**

**Tues 8th April**

Age 8-11 years

Find out how Willow Wildlife Rescue look after injured wildlife and perhaps meet a few of their patients. Craft session included. Wear old clothes.

## **Painted Eggs & Egg Games**

**Thurs 10th April**

Age 8-11 years

Try your hand at traditional egg decorating and play eggy team games. Wear old clothes.

## **Easter Egg Hunt**

**Tuesday 15th April**

Age 8-11 years

Come along and join in the fun. Become an egg detective and find the clues hidden on our Easter trail to collect a prize at the end. Wear old clothes.

## **Junior Ranger Easter Spectacular**

**Thurs 17th April**

Age 8-11 years

Come and explore the wild side of High Elms Country Park. Join in with games, team challenges and an Easter quiz. Wear old clothes.

# Summer

## **Fantastic Flyers**

**Tues 29th July**

Age 8-11 years

Meet the minibeasts that took to the skies long before us and decorate an insect home to take away. Wear old clothes.

## **Reptile Ramble**

**Thurs 31st July**

Age 8-11 years.

Help us look for reptiles at Keston and meet some of these secretive animals. Wear old clothes.

## **Floating Boats**

**Tues 5th August**

Age 8-11 years.

Design a miniature boat using recycled materials. Will it float? Try it out on our pond. Wear old clothes.

## **Bug and Beast Hunt**

**Thurs 7th August**

Age 8-11 years.

Meet the minibeasts that live out of sight from predators, either by using cunning camouflage or hiding.

## **Brilliant Badgers**

**Tues 12th August**

Age 8-11 years.

Explore the woods to discover the secrets of this wonderful mammal. Wear old clothes.

# Summer

## Ranger Games

**Thurs 14th August.**

Age 8-11 years.

Have fun testing your ranger skills. Wear old clothes.

## Hedgehog Rescue

**Tues 19th August.**

Age 8-11 years.

Find out how sick and injured hedgehogs are cared for at Prickles Hedgehog Haven, meet some of the patients and learn how to help them. Wear old clothes.

## Wildlife Adventure Trail

**Thurs 21st August.**

Age 8-11 years.

Explore woods and meadows and find out what life would be like if you were the size of a grasshopper. Wear old clothes.

## Pond Dipping

**Tues 26th August.**

Age 8-11 years.

Try out your sweep net skills to discover the creatures of this watery habitat. Craft session included. Wear old clothes.

walks, talks & events

# May

## Displays in BEECHE

### > Walking in Bromley

Find out more about the health benefits of walking and the joy of watching biodiversity on the way. This display highlights a number of walking routes and initiatives in the Borough, including the new 'Explore the Beck Corridor' walk pack.

### > Floristic Meadows

A display and leaflets highlighting the variety of species relying on the well-managed chalk grassland of Bromley and Greater London. For further details please ring 01689 862815.

### > Greening your garden

Find out how to make your garden more of a haven for wildlife or just more environmentally friendly.

## Anerley Library: BBAP display

### Fri 2nd Hedge Training & Monitoring

Help us find out more about the quality and condition of our species-rich hedgerows as part of the BBAP and feed into a national database. Come and find out what's involved and go out on site to monitor some local hedgerows; tree identification skills would be an advantage but not essential. Meeting point to be confirmed. For more details and to book ring 01689 862815.

### Sun 4th Breakfast with the Birds on International Dawn Chorus Day

6.00am Meet in the main car park, High Elms Country Park, off High Elms Road. We will be walking through woodlands, orchards and grasslands looking and listening for songbirds. Led by BCP. Distance 1 mile **Grade 3** Charge: Adults £1.50 Children & 60+ £1.

### Sun 4th-Sat 10th Compost Awareness Week

Have you ever thought about getting a compost bin for your garden? See our Greening Gardens display and collect some helpful leaflets. For more information, please contact the Green Team Call: 020 8313 4989 or email: [green.team@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:green.team@bromley.gov.uk)

### **Tue 6th The Sun, Moon & Planets at High Elms**

6:00pm Meet at BEECHE to join members of Orpington Astronomical Society on one of their observing evenings. Watch the Sun set through a special Solar telescope and then the Moon and planets Mercury, Saturn and Mars as they rise into the evening. Suitable for families. Please wear warm clothes and shoes and bring a digital camera to take pictures through the telescope. **Booking essential**, please phone 01689 862815.

### **Sat 10th Jubilee Country Park: Its History & Heritage**

10.00am-12.00 noon. Meet at Thornet Wood car park, Bickley to join the Friends of Jubilee Country Park and discover more about the history of this beautiful nature reserve. NO DOGS PLEASE. Distance 2 miles. **Grade 2**.

### **10th–23rd Chalk Grassland Display**

Bromley Civic Centre Main Reception. Find out why chalk grasslands are so special and which places are best to visit to see them in their full glory.

### **Sun 11th Ice Well Guided Tours**

2.00–4.00pm High Elms Country Park. Meet at the entrance to the Ice Well to visit this amazing subterranean Victorian structure. Free, donations welcome.

**Sun 11th** 2.00–4.00pm &

**Tues 13th** 11.30am –1.30pm

### **Box Clever**

Help wildlife in the Beck Corridor by erecting a bird box in your garden or workplace. Free from Kelsey Park Information Centre; one per property while stocks last. Boxes may only be issued to residents of the Beck Corridor area; addresses are required and will be held on a database.

### **Tues 13th Beck Corridor Walk**

10.00am–12.30pm Meet on the steps at Beckenham Green, by St. Georges Church, Beckenham. Discover some of Beckenham's species and habitats in this guided walk along part of the new Beck Corridor Trail. Distance 1½ miles **Grade 2** Charge: Adults £1 50 Children & 60+ £1 Led by BCP.

### **Thurs 15th Birds of Sydenham Hill Woods**

09.30am. Meet outside The Dulwich Wood House Pub, Sydenham Hill for a walk around the woods. Led by RSPB Bromley. Distance: 1–2 miles **Grade 3**.

### **Sat 17th Spring Flower Walk at High Elms**

10.00am Meet at BEECHE. Look for seasonal flora of the chalk meadows and woodland along the High Elms trail. No dogs please. Distance 2 – 3 miles.

**Grade 2**. Charge: Adults £1 50 Children & 60+ £1 Led by BCP.

### **Mon 19th The Delights of Chalk Grassland**

2.00pm. A talk at BEECHE highlighting some of the specialities and issues surrounding chalk grassland conservation and management. To book, phone 01689 862815.

### **Tues 20th Hedge Training & Monitoring**

An opportunity to investigate our hedgerow network with other new surveyors! Tree identification skills an advantage but not essential.

Meeting place to be confirmed. For more information and to book ring 01689 862815.

### **Wed 21st Butterflies and Bugs of Scadbury Park**

10.00am–2.00pm. Meet at car park off Old Perry Street, Chislehurst, for a leisurely look for butterflies, bugs and other wildlife in this lovely Local Nature Reserve. Led by the Friends of Scadbury Park. Distance 1–2 miles. **Grade 2**.

### **Thurs 22nd Teddy Bears Picnic at High Elms**

10.00am. Meet at BEECHE for a fun walk in the woods and stay for a picnic on the lawns. A walk for the under fives, their parents and a favourite teddy. Some steep slopes and steps. Please bring your own picnic. Distance 1 mile. **Grade 2**. Charge: £2.00 per person – Admission by ticket only. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

### **Sat 24th Rustic Furniture Course**

09.30am–4.00pm. At High Elms Country Park. Learn how to construct a bent wood rustic chair which you can take home. Tools and materials provided; the wood comes from our winter coppice work and so is sustainable. Bring a packed lunch; tea and coffee will be provided. Some basic DIY skills are an advantage (use of hammer and saw). Charge £45. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

### **Sun 25th Ice Well Guided Tours**

2.00–4.00pm High Elms Country Park. Meet at the entrance to the Ice Well for a short tour of this amazing subterranean Victorian structure. Free, donations welcome.

### Thurs 29th Pond dipping

2.00pm A family event for half term week. Meet in the main car park, High Elms Country Park, off High Elms Road. Discover what lurks beneath the surface in our new pond. Led by BCP. Charge: £2 per child. **Booking essential.** Please call 01689 862815.

### Sat 31st Butterflies for Beginners at High Elms.

9.30am-12.30pm. Meet at BEECHE for an illustrated talk, then (weather permitting) we will go out into the woodlands and meadows to spot these colourful insects. Improve your identification skills and feel more confident about sending us your future butterfly records. No dogs please. **Booking essential**, please phone 01689 862815. *Grade 2.*

walks, talks & events

# June

### Displays in BEECHE

> **Chalking Up London's Downs Display**

> **Bromley's Orchids**

> **Volunteer Display**

1-7th Volunteers Week

### 2nd-8th June. Recycling now week

### Anerley Library Greening your garden display

### Tues 3rd Hedge Training & Monitoring

Continuing the investigation of our hedgerow network through a network of new surveyors! See 2nd May for more details. Tree identification skills would be an advantage but not essential. Meeting point to be confirmed. For more information and to book ring 01689 862815.

### Thurs 5th World Environment Day

Join with a local volunteer group to get involved with a borough-wide community litter pick and responsible dog ownership campaign as we focus on improving our parks, woodlands and open spaces. Training, tools and materials are provided. Contact 020 8313 4471 for more information.

### Sat 7th National Moth Night at Downe Orchard

9.00pm Meet at Downe village by the Church for a short walk to Downe Orchard where moth experts will identify the moths flying in. To find out more, log on to [www.nationalmothnight.info](http://www.nationalmothnight.info)

### Sun 8th Dragons and Damsels at Scadbury

11.00am Meet at Scadbury TrEE centre for a talk about these amazing insects followed by a walk around some of Scadbury's ponds. Led by a local expert. Please bring a packed lunch. Numbers limited, so **booking essential** phone 01689 862815.

### Sun 8th Ice Well Guided Tours

2.00-4.00pm High Elms Country Park. Meet at the entrance to the Ice Well for a short tour of this amazing subterranean Victorian structure. Free, donations welcome.

### Thurs 12th The Birds of Keston

09.30am. Meet at Westerham Road car park, Keston, for a walk looking at and listening for the birdlife around Keston Ponds. Led by RSPB Bromley. Distance 1-2 miles. **Grade 2.**

### Fri 13th High Elms Orchid Walk

10.00am -12.00 Meet at Cuckoo Wood Car Park, High Elms Road. Through the course of the year we can have 11 species of orchid at High Elms. See how many we can find on this walk, during which we will also be looking at the flora of the chalk meadows and woodland. No dogs please. Distance 2 miles **Grade 2**  
Charge: Adults £1.50. Children & 60+ £1

### Sat 14th High Elms Minibeast Hunt

2.00pm Meet at BEECHE to find out where minibeasts hide around the conservation garden and how you can encourage them into your garden. Grade 1. Please wear suitable clothing and shoes. Family event. Charge: £2 per child.  
**Booking essential**, phone 01689 862815.

### Sun 15th Fantastic Father's day

12.30pm - 3.30pm Meet at BEECHE, High Elms. Bring your Dad along to do our special father's day nature challenge around the conservation garden. Collect your quiz sheet from the centre. Prizes for all who take part. Why not finish your afternoon with some refreshments in the BEECHE café? **Grade 1** Charge: £1 per sheet.

### Tues 17th Plateau to Valley Walk

1.30pm-4.00pm Meet at Cudham Recreation Ground car park (by the Blacksmiths Arms pub), Cudham. Guided walk crossing 2 valleys in the London Borough of Bromley, where chalk grassland is being created and managed for the benefit of flowers, insects and people. Led by BCP. Please book on 01689 862815. No dogs please. Distance 3 miles **Grade 3.**

### Wed 18th Butterflies and Bugs of Scadbury Park

10.00Am. Meet at car park off Old Perry St, Chislehurst to join the Friends of Scadbury Park for a leisurely look at the butterflies, bugs and other wildlife of the Park. Distance 1-2 miles. **Grade 2.**

### Fri 20th Hedge Training & Monitoring

Progressing the investigation of our hedgerow network through a network of new surveyors! See 2nd May for more details. Tree identification skills would be an advantage but not essential. Meeting point to be confirmed. For more information and to book ring 01689 862815.

### 23rd-29th National insect week

### Sun 22nd Amazing Moths at High Elms

9.00am Meet experts at BEECHE for a short talk about moths and how to identify them, then have a look in our moth trap to see what has flown in during the night.

### Sun 22nd Ice Well Guided Tours

2.00-4.00pm High Elms Country Park. Meet at the entrance to the Ice Well for a short tour of this amazing subterranean Victorian structure. Free, donations welcome.

### Sat 28th Wildflower Walk at Jubilee Country Park

10.00am-12.00pm Meet Thornet Wood car park, Thornet Wood Road, Bickley for a walk in the meadows with a local wildflower expert. Distance 1-2 miles **Grade 2.**

### Sat 28th. Hunt for Glow worms 1

10.00pm start. Meeting place given on booking. A dry evening in June or July is the ideal time to look for Glow-worms. Bring a torch and join the Countryside Officers to look for the magical glow of these fantastic insects.

Take home a fact sheet and survey form to record any sightings in your local area. Not suitable for push chairs. No dogs please. Distance 2 miles. **Grade 2E.** Charge: Adults £1.50. Children & 60+ £1. **Booking essential**, please phone 01689 862815.

### Sun 29th Marvellous Meadows

10.00-12.00pm. Meet at BEECHE for a walk to explore the wildflower meadows of chalk grassland, then back to help us make a collage of the beautiful plants and insects that live there to put up in our centre. A family event. Part of National Insect Week and London's Chalk Grassland Festival. Distance 1 mile, **Grade 2.**

### Sunday 29th Butterflies and Bugs of Scadbury Park

2.00pm, meet at the Scadbury Park car park in Old Perry Street, Chislehurst, to join the Friends of Scadbury Park for a leisurely look at the butterflies, bugs and insects in Scadbury Park. Distance 1-2 miles **Grade 2** Duration: about 2 hours.

## Displays in BEECHE

### > Reptilian Revelations

Discover the range of reptiles found in a number of BBAP habitats including our local grasslands, heathland, gardens and allotments and what can be done to help them. Leaflets available.

### > Glow worms

How do they glow? How much do you know? Try our fact-finding quiz.

### > Beautiful Butterflies

## Anerley Library Display: Hedgerows

### Tues 1st. Hewitts Chalk Bank Wander

11.00am–12.45pm. Meet at junction of Broke Farm Drive and Stonehouse Road, Pratts Bottom. A chance to explore this Kent Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve; a site combining plants of chalk grassland and gardens. Distance less than 1 mile **Grade 2**. Led by BCP. Please book on 01689 862815. No dogs please.

### Fri 4th Hedge Training & Monitoring

Progressing the investigation of our hedgerow network through a network of new surveyors! See 2nd May for more details. Tree identification skills would be an advantage but not essential. Meeting point to be confirmed. For more information and to book ring 01689 862815.

### Sun 6th Keston Countryside Day

2.00pm – 5.00pm Commonsides, Keston. Visit this popular countryside show which features craft stalls, wildlife information displays, bee keeping, farm equipment and lots of fun things to do and see. Bromley's Countryside Officers will be there with many others. Contact Ray Garwood of CPRE on 01689 855770 for details.

### Thurs 10th Hay Meadows of Darrick and Newstead

10.00am Meet at entrance to Tubbenden Recreation Ground. A walk through the meadows looking at this increasingly rare habitat and the wildlife it supports. Distance 1.5miles **Grade 2**. Charge: Adults £1.50, Children & 60+ £1

### Sat 12th Walking with Butterflies at Jubilee Country Park

1.30pm Meet in Tent Peg Lane Car Park for a casual walk with the Friends of the Park, looking at these colourful insects known as the "Jewels of the Air". 26 species have been recorded here so we should see a few. The ground may be uneven in parts. Distance 2 miles **Grade 2**.

### Sun 13th Moth morning at High Elms

10.00am Meet at BEECHE to discover what species of moths have flown into our moth trap overnight before we release them.

### Sun 13th The Secret life of Keston Ponds

2.00–4.00pm Meet at Westerham Road car park, Keston and explore the world beneath the water with a Natural History Museum expert. Ground may be muddy. No dogs please. Distance less than 1 mile, **Grade 2**

### Sun 13th Ice Well Guided Tours

2.00–4.00pm High Elms Country Park. Meet at the entrance to the Ice Well for a short tour of this amazing subterranean Victorian structure. Free, donations welcome.

### Wed 16th Butterflies and Bugs of Scadbury Park

10.00am Meet at car park off Old Perry St, Chislehurst to join the Friends of Scadbury Park for a leisurely look at the butterflies, bugs and other wildlife of the Park. Distance 1–2 miles. **Grade 2**.

### Sat 19th Woodworking Workshop

9.30am–4.00pm Meet at High Elms Countryside Office/workshop. Make a solid wood garden bench or stool. Some woodworking skills needed. Please bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee provided. Charge: £45 **Booking essential**. Please call 01689 862815.

### Sat 19th Hunt for Glow worms 2

10.00pm start. Meeting place given on booking. A dry evening in June or July is the ideal time to look for Glow-worms. Bring a torch and join the Countryside Officers to look for the magical glow of these fantastic insects. Take home a fact sheet and survey form to record any sightings in your local area. Not suitable for push chairs. No dogs please. Distance 2 miles. **Grade 2E**. Charge: Adults £1.50. Children & 60+ £1. **Booking essential**, please phone 01689 862815.

### Thurs 24th Scadbury Park: History and Heritage

7.00pm Meet at car park off Old Perry St, Chislehurst. A walk through Scadbury Park to the Tree Centre to find out more about the sometimes turbulent history of Scadbury Park and its owners. Led by Friends of Scadbury Park. Distance 2 miles Grade 2.

### Sun 20th F.O.A.L Farm Country Festival

11.00am-5.00pm. Join the Bromley Countryside and Parks Service at this popular annual event, celebrating the work done by this animal rescue centre. F.O.A.L Farm is off Jail Lane, Biggin Hill.

### Fri 25th Dusk Patrol at Downe Bank

8.00pm till late. Meet at Downe Village for an evening visit to KWT's Downe Bank Nature Reserve with Kent Wildlife Trust's voluntary wardens, and discover who wakes up when the lights go down. **Grade 3E.**

**Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815

### Sat 26th Admirals and Emperors

10.00am Meet at BEECHE. A walk around the conservation garden, old mansion site and grounds at High Elms looking for butterflies and dragonflies. Bring binoculars if you have them. Some steps and steep and sometimes muddy paths. No dogs please. Approximately 2 hours. Distance 1 mile **Grade 2.** Led by BCP. Charge Adults £1.50 Children and 60+: £1

### Sun 27th Ice Well Guided Tours

2.00-4.00pm High Elms Country Park. Visit this amazing subterranean Victorian structure. Meet at the entrance to the Ice Well for a short tour. Free, donations welcome.

### Sun 27th Heather and Hay meadows.

2.00pm Meet at car park, off Commonside, Keston for a stroll across Hayes Common to discover the rare wildlife of the special habitats here. Led by BCP. Distance 1 mile. **Grade 2.** Charge: Adults £1.50 Children & 60+ £1

### Tues 29th Fantastic Flyers

An Eco-Buzz event at BEECHE for children aged 8-11 years (see centre pages for more details)

### Thurs 31st Reptile Ramble

An Eco-Buzz event at BEECHE for children aged 8-11 years (see centre pages for more details).

walks, talks & events

# August

## Displays in BEECHE

> **Happy Hedgehogs**

> **Heathland**

## Anerley Library Display: Butterflies

### Fri 1st Solar Eclipse (High Elms)

9:30am Meet at BEECHE. The UK experiences a partial eclipse of the Sun today. Join members of Orpington Astronomical Society for a short talk followed by looking at the Sun through a special telescope. Watch the eclipse as it actually occurs and see sunspots and prominences on its surface. Suitable for families. Bring a digital camera to take pictures through the telescope. **Booking essential**, please phone 01689 862815

### Sat 2nd Butterflies for Beginners (High Elms)

9.30am-12.30pm. Meet at BEECHE for an illustrated talk, then (weather permitting) we will go out into the woodlands and meadows to spot these colourful insects. Improve your identification skills and feel more confident about sending us your future butterfly records. Tea and coffee provided. No dogs please. **Booking essential**, please phone 01689 862815. **Grade 2.**

### Sun 3rd A Ravensbourne Ramble

2.00pm Meet in the car park, off Westerham Road, near Keston Ponds. A guided walk past the ponds, through wet meadows and ancient woodland, discovering the rare wildlife that lives here. Distance 2 miles. **Grade 3** No dogs please. Led by BCP. Charge: £1.50 Adults. Children & 60+ £1

### Tues 5th Floating Boats

An Eco-Buzz event at BEECHE for children aged 8-11 years (see centre pages for more details)

### Thurs 7th Bug and Beast Hunt

An Eco-Buzz event at BEECHE for children aged 8-11 years (see centre pages for more details)

### Thurs 7th Mini Wildlife Walk

2.00pm Meet at BEECHE for a short walk around the conservation garden with tips on habitat creation and how to encourage wildlife into your garden. Charge: £1 per person

### Sat 9th Twilight World.

9.30pm Meet at the first car park in High Elms Road from Shire Lane, Farnborough. Join the Countryside Officers at High Elms for a walk in the dark and find out about the creatures of the night shift. Bring a torch. No dogs please. Distance 2 miles. **Grade 2E**. Charge: Adults £1.50. Children & 60+ £1.

**Booking essential**, phone 01689 862815.

### Sun 10th Moth morning at High Elms

10.00am Meet at BEECHE to discover what species of moths have flown into our moth trap overnight before we release them.

### Sun 10th Ice Well Guided Tours

2.00–4.00pm High Elms Country Park. Meet at the entrance to the Ice Well for a short tour of this amazing subterranean Victorian structure. Free, donations welcome.

### Tues 12th Brilliant Badgers

An Eco-Buzz event at BEECHE for children aged 8–11 years (see centre pages for more details).

### Thurs 14th Ranger Games

An Eco-Buzz event at BEECHE for children aged 8–11 years (see centre pages for more details)

### Thurs 14th Mini Wildlife Walk

2.00pm Meet at BEECHE for a short walk around the conservation garden with tips on habitat creation and how to encourage wildlife into your garden.

Charge: £1 per person

### Thurs 14th A Bat Walk at Scadbury

8.00pm Meet at the car park in Old Perry Street, Chislehurst for an evening walk looking and listening for the bats of Scadbury Park. Please bring a torch. Distance 1–2 miles **Grade 2E**. Duration about 1½ hours.

### Tues 19th Hedgehog Rescue

An Eco-Buzz event at BEECHE for children aged 8–11 years (see centre pages for more details)

### Wed 20th Butterflies and Bugs of Scadbury Park

10.00am. Meet at Old Perry St car park, Chislehurst to join the Friends of Scadbury Park for a leisurely look at the butterflies, bugs and other wildlife of the Park. Distance 1–2 miles. **Grade 2**.

### Thurs 21st Wildlife Adventure Trail

An Eco-Buzz event at BEECHE for children aged 8–11 years (see centre pages for more details).

### Thurs 21st Mini Wildlife Walk

2.00pm Meet at BEECHE for a short walk around the conservation garden with tips on habitat creation and how to encourage wildlife into your garden. Charge £1 per person.

### Sun 24th Ice Well Guided Tours

2.00–4.00pm High Elms Country Park. Meet at the entrance to the Ice Well for a short tour of this amazing subterranean Victorian structure. Free, donations welcome.

### Tues 26th Pond Dipping

An Eco-Buzz event at BEECHE for children aged 8–11 years (see centre pages for more details).

### Thurs 28th Mini Wildlife Walk

2.00pm Meet at BEECHE for a short walk around the conservation garden with tips on habitat creation and how to encourage wildlife into your garden. Charge £1 /person.

### Fri 29th Bat Walk at Kelsey Park

7.30pm. Meet at the entrance in Manor Way next to the post box to look and listen for bats with a local bat expert. Please bring a torch. Distance: 1 mile, **Grade 1E**. **Booking essential**, please phone 01689 862815. NO DOGS PLEASE.

### Sun 31st High Elms Open Day

12.00 – 4.00pm Join the Countryside Officers at High Elms alongside other stall holders on this day that aims to showcase traditional woodland craft, local produce and countryside information. Quizzes, games & fun activities for all the family.

# September

## Displays in BEECHE

### > Made to Measure

A display about buildings and box structures designed to benefit wildlife with reference to local examples, including BEECHE itself. Pick up leaflets on how to create some of these at home.

### > Beautiful Bats

## Anerley Library Display: Happy Hedgehogs

### Fri 5th Resurrecting the Rustic Walks

9.30am Meet at the junction of the High Street and Church Road, Farnborough for a walk following part of a route from an Edwardian book called 'Rustic Walking Routes in the London Vicinity' For more details and to book ring 01689 862815. Distance 4.5 miles **Grade 4**. Led by BCP. Charge: £1.50 Adults. Children & 60+ £1

### Sun 7th Moth morning at High Elms

10.00am Meet at BEECHE to discover what species of moths have flown into our moth trap overnight before we release them.

### Sunday 7th The Lubbocks and the Darwins

2.00–4.00pm. Meet at the main High Elms car park to discover more about the work and life of John Lubbock and his connections with the Darwins. A walk around part of High Elms Estate with historian Lyulph Lubbock. Distance: 2 miles, **Grade 2**. **Booking essential**, please call 01689 862815.

### Sat 6th & Sun 7th Scadbury Open Days.

2.00–4.30pm Find out more about the history and heritage of Scadbury Park with Orpington and District Archaeological Society during the open weekend at their excavation of the ancient moated manor. For more information and how to get there logon to [www.odas.org.uk](http://www.odas.org.uk)

### Sat 13th A Cut Above the Rest

10am–1.00pm Meet at Cudham Recreation Ground car park (beside the Blacksmith's Arms pub), Cudham. An event that combines a walk around some of Bromley's finest chalk grasslands in the Cudham Valley with a chance to help them in a practical way by raking hay. For more details and to book ring 01689 862815. No dogs please.

### Sun 14th Ice Well Guided Tours

2.00–4.00pm High Elms Country Park. Meet at the entrance to the Ice Well for a short tour of this amazing subterranean Victorian structure. Free, donations welcome.

### Wed 17th Butterflies and Bugs of Scadbury Park

10.00am. Meet at the car park off Old Perry St, Chislehurst to join the Friends of Scadbury Park for a leisurely look at the butterflies, bugs and other wildlife of the Park. Distance 1–2 miles. **Grade 2**.

### Sat 20th Petts Wood Circular Walk.

10.00am Meet in Tent Peg Lane car park, off Crest View Drive, Petts Wood. Join a Countryside Officer on this diverse walk looking at summer wildlife and picturesque landscape. Crossing three stepped railway bridges, also some slopes and uneven ground. Well behaved dogs on leads welcome. Distance 4 miles. **Grade 3**. Charge Adults £1.50 Children & 60+ £1.

### Sun 21st Heritage Hunt at High Elms

11.00am–3.00pm. To join in, collect your first clue at BEECHE, anytime from 11.00am and return to collect your prize when you have completed the puzzle. Self led, family event. Distance: 1 mile. **Grade 2**. Charge: £2.00 per entry.

### Sun 28th Ice Well Guided Tours

2.00pm–4.00pm High Elms Country Park. Meet at the entrance to the Ice Well for a short tour of this amazing subterranean Victorian structure. Free, donations welcome.

walks, talks & events

# CONTACTS

## Bromley Countryside & Parks Service

(Including enquiries about 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 (proposed)

Information

☎ 020 8461 7646?

## Traveline number for Public Transport

☎ 020 7222 1234

