

RVPS Members' Meeting – 1st November 2018

BPP Update

Liz Logan is our representative on the Nature History and Interpretation forum and has provided much of this information

The other 2 forums for Arts and Activities and Events have merged and a separate Flower Show meeting has been set up to organise the show for next year as this year's event proved so popular.

Completed Events

Recent events have included:

- a successful (if a little soggy) Open House event;
- the highly popular Bromley Family Film Festival;
- the open-air bicycle powered screening of ET (attended by about 500 happy people);
- regular volunteering working on the straw bale garden and woodland management;
- monthly Saturday volunteering doing a range of gardening and tidying tasks;
- planning and delivering activities for children in school holidays;
- leading guided bike rides for children and families;
- helping run the Lewisham BMX club;
- tending the sensory garden;
- organising the weekly BPP Parkrun;
- weekly food markets (now finished for the year).

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 11 November – Remembrance day run

This annual charity event is being organised by Beckenham Running Club. Visit <http://www.beckenhamrunning.co.uk/races/trail> for more details and to book.

Saturday 1 December, 12-5pm – Festival of Lights at the Mansion

A celebration of the change of the seasons and the start of the festive season at the Mansion. Come along for music, crafty workshops, food and drink, and the lighting up of the Mansion (at 4:30pm), amongst other things. Suitable for all ages.

Every Sunday, Lewisham BMX club meets from 12-3pm on the track by the Old Bromley Road entrance. There are bikes and safety equipment that can be borrowed during the club sessions, and no previous experience is required. Why not give it a go? First session free, suggested donation of £3 per week after that.

BMXercise – Women's beginner BMX sessions **Tuesdays 10:30-11:30am**. Suitable for women of all levels of fitness. No BMX experience required. First session free, £5 after that. No need to book and all equipment and qualified coaches provided. Meet by the BMX track by the Old Bromley Road entrance.

Other possible events being considered are: a Bat walk; an event with Bromley RSPB; a Georgian themed event. All these events should appear on the Lewisham website or with the Friends of BPP group.

Any event can be suggested to head of parks at Lewisham Council who will decide if it is possible.

Volunteering opportunities:

Please contact lucy.mitchell@lewisham.gov.uk if you are interested.

Regular volunteering on Wednesdays, 10am-1pm. Meet outside the café at the Mansion. We will particularly be carrying out woodland management tasks during the Autumn and winter. This is good fitness! Tools, tea, coffee and biscuits provided! *Note: no session on Wednesday 24 October.*

Christmas decoration making workshops and dressing the Mansion for Christmas:

Saturday 24 November, 10am – 1pm

Tuesday 27 November, 6:30-8:30pm

Wednesday 28 November 10am-1pm

We'll make wreaths, decorate the mantelpieces and generally get creative with natural leaves and branches from the park and lights. Come to the Mansion's Drawing /dining rooms. Everyone of all ages welcome for one/all/part of one session!

Helping out at the Festival of Lights on Saturday 1 December, 12-5pm. There will be lots of roles including stewarding and helping supervise workshops. The event wouldn't be able to run without the help of volunteers, and you can do a shorter shift rather than the whole event if you prefer. Help will be needed setting up in the morning too (from about 9am). Please express interest and more details will come in due course.

Sunday 2 December – Community tree planting event, 10am – 3pm

Join us and Trees for Cities to plant about 3000 trees on Crab Hill. For more details and to sign up, visit: <https://www.treesforcities.org/beckenham>
Free lunch and all tools will be provided. The more the merrier!

Become a park forum or committee member

Following the success of the inaugural flower show and art show in June 2018, we are beginning to plan for next year's flower show. If you are interested in being part of the committee to plan and organise this, please contact me. We had a first committee meeting last week and would welcome more members!

We have two park forums: Arts and Events forum, and Nature, History and Interpretation. The forums meet one evening every 3 months to discuss issues relating to the park and to plan future events, usage, interpretation etc. Please ask for more details

Gardening with the Friends of BPP in the Sensory garden. Saturday 10 November, 10am – 12pm. Meet in the Sensory Garden and ask for Mal. All tools provided.

Help run Lewisham BMX club. Club sessions are Sundays 12-3pm. The club is looking for people to help at these, with cycling and other more coordination/admin roles (eg counting kit in and out, collecting subs). Please go along to the track by the Old Bromley Road entrance if interested or contact tess.cinamonduffield@accesssport.co.uk

Help set up and organise a Junior Parkrun at BPP (on Sundays). If interested, please contact beckenhamplaceoffice@parkrun.com

Join **Nature's Gym** in Beckenham Place Park (and other green spaces in Lewisham) on Thursdays in December – details here: <https://natureconservationlewisham.co.uk/how-to/natures-gym-2/>

Works in Park

The park is full of earth-moving equipment for the Car park; in-filling and levelling the bunker sandpits and seeding The areas are fully screened off for the landscaping and not a pretty site. IDverde the contractors claim to be on target to complete by June 2019.

Excavation of the lake is almost finished. The asbestos has been taken away and an (orange) permeable geotextile liner has been laid over the treated contaminated soil. The liner should last over 150 years. 30cm of soil has been laid to cover the liner and finally imported sand to allow drainage. At the deepest point the lake is 3.5m and will take 2 months to fill with water, starting after Christmas. A drainage ditch will be modified and swales and scrapes to allow for the rainwater to collect from the road, and reedbeds will be planted towards the woods and filter water to the lake in channels. A borehole was dug to hold water in a chamber and a pump installed to top-up water in hotter weather.

The landscape contractors are restoring the natural contours of the land in front of the Mansion and are beginning to lay paths in the new pleasure grounds. Work on the garden will start in January 2019.

There is a new path leading to the Foxgrove and Summerhouse Hill Wood from Beckenham Place Park Road. This will be of particular help as the ground becomes wetter over the winter.

Restoration of the stableyard, with its homestead building (dating to the 1770s) and the stableyard cottages, is on track to be completed in May. The newly created clock tower is now on the roof, faithfully recreating a historic feature in the landscape. The original clock was found but is too badly damaged to restore. The builders are painstakingly restoring the homesteads, even to the extent of matching the original Georgian mortar! We were also delighted to find some original flooring intact, which we will keep. In the cottages some original 60's style wallpaper was found but not enough to keep. They all now have new roofing. The tea-hut was rotten, so removed, and a Pergola will be added.

The Mound is still being considered, together with ice-well, and flint fire-pit.

A new utility sub-station will be set up to the right of the stableyard for electricity and water.

Pond

Juliet Chalk is looking for funding streams to regenerate the pond in the Stumps Hill area of the park. It needs dredging at a large cost but she has been in touch with Froglife and other companies & plans to get a pond consultant to discuss further. There is no deadline for this. She has suggested crowd-funding also. Friends of BPP members have photos showing the pond over 10 years ago as being quite deep. Ideally some of the shape and planting from that can be copied when it gets to the design stage. Any ideas for this contact julietchalk@btinternet.com