



Bracknell
in Bloom

50 YEARS
RHS BRITAIN IN BLOOM



Finalist 2014

Itinerary and Map

RHS Thames and Chilterns in Bloom Regional Judging,

Thursday, 24th July 2014

&

RHS Britain in Bloom UK National Judging,

Tuesday, 29th July 2014



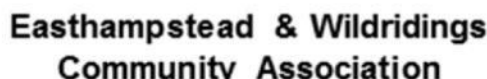
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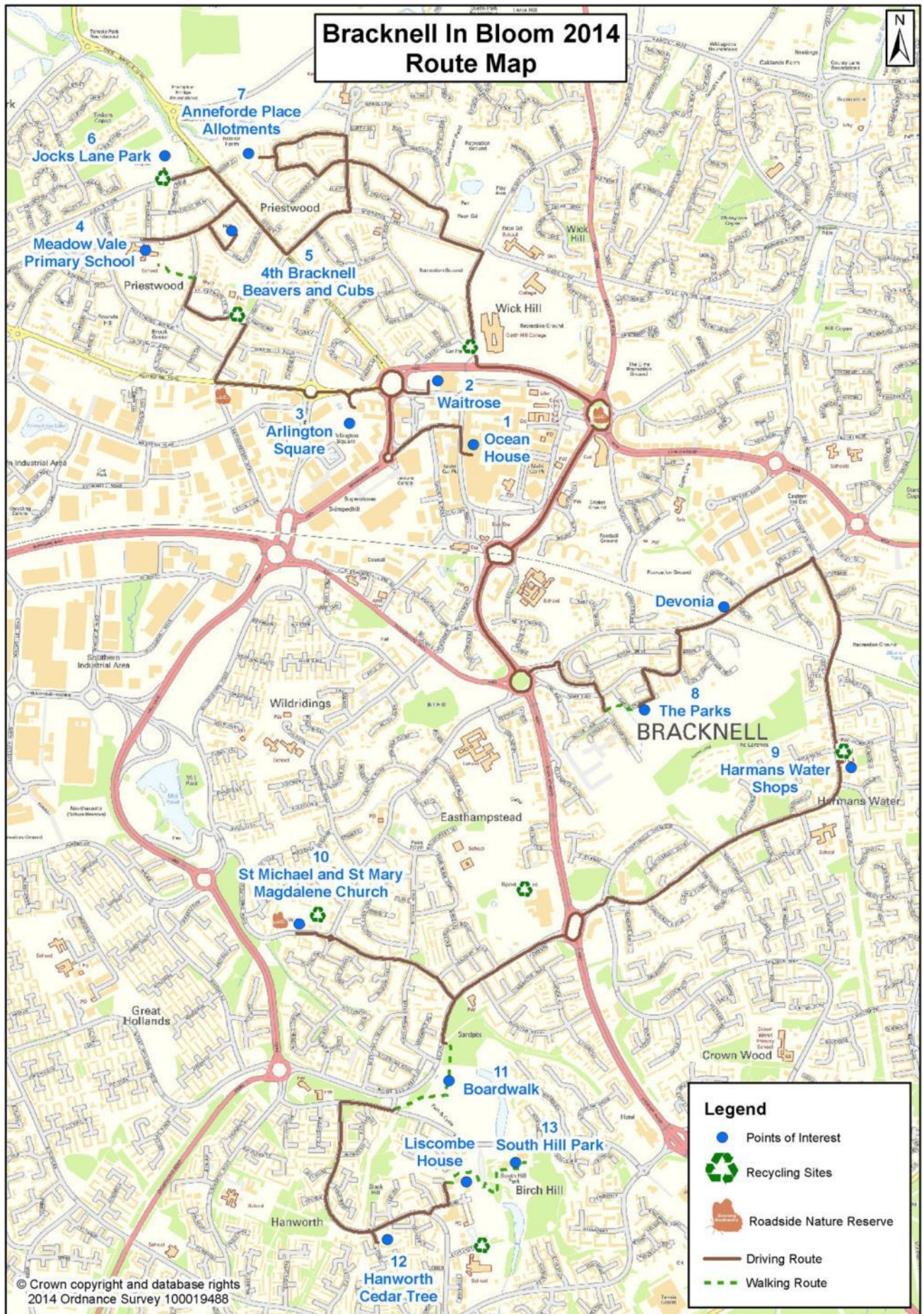


BRACKNELL
REGENERATION



The Weather Vane

Bracknell In Bloom 2014 Route Map



Legend

- Points of Interest
- Recycling Sites
- Roadside Nature Reserve
- Driving Route
- - - Walking Route

1. Presentation

Ocean House, Bracknell Town Centre
(15 minutes)



Evidencing year-round work and plans for future development.

The presentation will take place on the top floor of Ocean House where there are spectacular views of Bracknell.

Marking Sections: C1, C2, C3, C4, C5

Notes

History of Bracknell

During the Second World War, London was badly bombed and many houses and factories were destroyed. Rather than just rebuilding in London, Sir Patrick Abercrombie's Greater London Plan of 1944, recommended that satellite towns should be sited around London, beyond the Green Belt. In 1949 the Bracknell Development Corporation (BDC) was set up to develop Bracknell as a New Town. The BDC wanted Bracknell to be a self-contained country town which incorporated the amenities of town life with the benefits of green open spaces. The majority of homes built in Bracknell by the BDC were for rent and were built in neighbourhoods. Initially Bracknell was going to consist of four neighbourhoods, Priestwood, Easthampstead, Bullbrook and Harmans Water, two industrial areas the Western and Eastern Industrial Areas, the town centre and an area where people could buy plots of land to build their own homes (Wick Hill).

In 1957 it was decided to extend Bracknell, and the neighbourhoods of Wildridings, Great Hollands, Hanworth, Birch Hill and Crown Wood were built. A new industrial area was built (the Southern Industrial Area).

Bracknell Town Centre was redeveloped in the 1960s. The line of the original High Street, with a few old buildings, still exists, with Charles Square and Stanley Walk built to the south, and Crossway and Broadway (now demolished as part the town centre regeneration) to the north. High Street was part of the old turnpike road running from Virginia Water to Reading, with a toll house on the eastern and western edges of what is now Bracknell Forest Borough. The Red Lion public house was the centre of the attention for local inhabitants in 1845, when the coach containing Queen Victoria stopped to change horses. Over two hundred years earlier, Henry VIII is said to have watched bull baiting outside The Bull public house.

Start of Tour (3 hours)

Pick up the minibus and drive to Waitrose Supermarket on the northern edge of the town centre passing the Honeywell sponsored roundabout.

2. Waitrose Supermarket



Green roof by Jeff Lawrence



Car charging point



Living Wall

Waitrose supermarket was opened in autumn 2011 and is one of the retailer's "greenest" stores. It incorporates pioneering environmental features including: - a living wall, a green roof, bug hotel, free electric car charging points, outside furniture made from recycled shopping bags and light wells providing light from the roof to the checkout area in the store. Last spring, Waitrose branched out into the horticulture market. Outside the store is a "Waitrose Flower Garden" an outdoor gardening area selling plants and gardening accessories.

Marking Sections: A1, A2, A4, B1, B2

Notes

Historical Note: Waitrose has had a presence in Bracknell since 1972 when its UK central warehouse and head office were opened on the Southern Industrial Estate..

Pick up the minibus and drive to the northern edge of Arlington Square Business Park.

3. Arlington Square Business Park



Arlington Square is a 22 acre business park close to Bracknell town centre. Originally designed to reflect the proportions of Mayfair's St James Square, the park has been extensively landscaped to provide a quality environment. Features include: - a central square with a lake, fountain and seating areas, and a pleasant footpath linking Bracknell's Peel Shopping Centre to the north of the town.

Marking Sections: A1, A2, A4, B3

Notes

Historical Note: With extensive beds of clay to the north of Bracknell, several brickworks opened around the town after the railway arrived in 1856. Arlington Square was the site of one of them. Bracknell bricks were used for the building of Westminster Cathedral and The Royal Holloway College at Egham.

Later, the site was occupied by Sperry Gyroscope, the town's largest employer. In the mid 1960s Sperry dramatically increased the size of their factory in Bracknell. Housing for the new workforce was urgently needed so the neighbourhood of Great Hollands was built faster than originally intended, to accommodate them.

At the end of the eighties Arlington acquired the site which consisted of a brown field site and the Honeywell building on the south east corner. The rest of the site was cleared for construction of the Business Park. The first office block was completed in 1992 along with the main infrastructure for the Park.

Board the minibus and drive to Priestwood shops to the north of Bracknell passing the Sperry Gyroscope sponsored roundabout. Disembark at the shops and walk to Meadow Vale Primary School.

Heritage Talk

by Andrew Radgick, Chairman of The Bracknell Forest Society

The Bracknell Forest Society, started in 2007 and is one of the thousand civic societies in England that encourage residents to feel pride in their towns.

4. Meadow Vale Primary School

Silver medal winners in last year's Bracknell Your Gardens competition



The Bracknell Your Gardens silver award is presented by Bracknell town mayor Alvin Finch with Allan Moffat and Meadow Vale staff Sandra Hatley and Rachael Evans. bk20139028.
Picture by Peter Bloodworth.

'We'll be growing for gold'

PUPILS received a silver medal in the Bracknell Your Gardens competition.

Bracknell town mayor Councillor Alvin Finch and Bracknell in Bloom committee members visited Meadow Vale Primary School in Moordale Avenue to present a certificate and prizes on Monday, November 25.

Allan Moffat, chair of Bracknell in Bloom and recreational facilities manager at Bracknell Town Council, said: "Meadow Vale Primary School has done exceptionally well seeing this is the first time they've entered the Your Gardens

competition.

"The Your Gardens judges were impressed with the wide variety of produce being grown, including salad crops that were going to be sold by the Gardening Club – wonderful to see the children are developing their entrepreneurial skills as well as their horticultural expertise."

Because of building work being done at the school, the gardening areas are new, meaning all the gardens have been set up from scratch, including a memorial garden to remember former staff member Julie Quinn.

Rachael Evans said: "We

are absolutely thrilled to receive the silver award. The children have loved redesigning the memorial garden and took great pride in presenting it to Julie's family earlier in the term.

"They have thoroughly enjoyed growing their crops and thanks to the wonderful weather, and tremendous support from Sandra Hatley and Karen Brunswick, have been lucky enough to take lots of potatoes, lettuce and tomatoes home to eat with their families.

"We'll definitely enter next year's competition and look forward to striving towards that gold."

Meadow Vale Primary School is currently being extended and there are lots of gardening and wildlife areas tucked around the site. Pupils do gardening classroom projects and Flower Rangers (members of the school's gardening club that meet after school) also have their own gardening areas. It is the Eco Club's responsibility to water the plants. This year the children are growing most of their planting from seed.

Marking Sections: A2, A3, B2, C2

Notes

Courtesy of The Bracknell Times, 5 Dec 2013

Historical Note: Priestwood was the first neighbourhood to be built in Bracknell. Residents moved into their homes in 1951. In 1953 trees were planted near Meadow Vale Primary School to mark the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

Pick up the minibus outside the school and drive to 4th Bracknell Beavers and Cubs Scout Hut in Priestwood.

5. 4th Bracknell Beavers and Cubs

Winner of the Young Gardener category and Gold medal winners in last year's Bracknell Your Gardens competition., 4th Bracknell Beavers and Cubs have entered RHS It's Your Neighbourhood for the first time this year.



The 4th Bracknell Cubs and Beavers collected their certificates from Allan Moffat, chairman of Bracknell in Bloom, and the town mayor, Cllr Alvin Finch. *bk20138802.* Picture by Steve Smyth.

Scouts grow for gold

YOUNG gardeners have been rewarded for their contributions to Bracknell in Bloom.

Cubs and Beavers from 4th Bracknell group were presented with certificates and prizes on Wednesday, November 6, after winning the young gardeners category in the Your Gardens competition.

Highly commended in the same category, Sandy Lane Primary School pupils received their certificates and prizes last Tuesday.

Allan Moffat, chair of Bracknell in Bloom and recreational facilities manager at Bracknell Town Council, said: "4th Bracknell Cubs and Beavers won the best young gardener category as they were growing an extensive range of plants and vegetables."

"Sandy Lane Primary

School has done amazingly well this year. This is a wonderful achievement, considering extensive building works have only recently been completed at the school."

Both groups were awarded gold in the competition.

Peter Minchin, 4th Bracknell Cubs and Beavers Scout leader, said: "Winning the young gardener category and getting a gold medal is magic."

Ali Hatherley, teacher and gardening team leader at Sandy Lane Primary School, added: "The children have worked hard throughout the year in difficult growing conditions and should be proud of their achievements."



Sandy Lane Primary School pupils Lucy Cameron, Anya Porter, Tegan Stewart, Liam Berryman and Liam Ross. *bk20138904.*

Picture by Peter Bloodworth.

The Cubs and Beavers have created a wonderful little oasis in the middle of a housing estate. They are committed to conservation and the garden encourages wildlife. There is an allotment area where the children learn how to grow vegetables. The leaders work extremely hard to encourage the Cubs and Beavers in their horticultural efforts and the garden is enjoyed by everyone including the children's parents.

Marking Sections:

A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, C3

Notes

Courtesy of The Bracknell Times, 14 Nov 2013

From the Scout Hut drive to Jocks Lane Recreation Ground on the edge of Priestwood.

6. Jocks Lane Recreation Ground

Green Flag award winner and winner of a Platinum Loo of the Year Award 2013



Jocks Lane Recreation Ground is a popular twelve acre family park offering extensive recreational facilities including play areas, sports facilities, woodland walks and a large pavilion. The park is used for annual community events, two of the most popular being the teddy bears' picnic in June and a woodland crafts event held in February. There is a recycling centre in the car park. **Marking Sections: A5, B1, B2, C3**

This year's Bracknell in Bloom "Growing for Gold" launch was held at the recreation ground.

Let's get this blooming started

THIS year's Bracknell in Bloom entry got off to a good start with a planting event to inspire young gardeners.

At Tuesday's launch, town mayor Councillor Alvin Finch, borough mayor Cllr Jan Angel and volunteers from Jealott's Hill Community Landshare helped children get involved by planting a sunflower seed to take home and grow.

The 2014 theme is Growing for Gold to celebrate Britain in Bloom's golden anniversary.

The Bracknell in Bloom committee aims to win a fifth consecutive gold medal in the RHS Thames & Chilterns in Bloom regional competition and its first gold in the RHS Britain in Bloom national finals.

Allan Moffat, chair of Bracknell in Bloom, said: "The RHS gave us some free sunflower seeds and we wanted Bracknell's young people to benefit.

"They really enjoyed planting their sunflowers and who knows, one may win this year's tallest sunflower competition."

More than 200 children took part in a hunt for animal pictures around Jocks Lane Recreation Ground, in Binfield Road, as well as enjoying face painting, a pocket money stall from Alexander



Mayor Jan Angell joins in the planting session. BK201410456.

Picture by Katie Lamb.

Devine Children's Hospice Service and a tombola in aid of Bracknell in Bloom.

Visitors were able to buy plants and homemade chutneys from Bracknell Horticultural Association, and speak to Bracknell Forest Family Information Service and volunteers organising this year's Bracknell Your Gardens

competition.

Helen Barnett, marketing manager at Bracknell Regeneration Partnership which organised the launch, said: "We were delighted by the number of people who came along to support Bracknell in Bloom."

For more information about Bracknell in Bloom visit www.facebook.com/BracknellinBloom.

Courtesy of The Bracknell Times, 10 Apr 2014

Notes

Historical Note: The Cut, a small, natural waterway, flows along the north east boundry of the recreation ground. The Cut rises in North Ascot and flows for about 14 miles joining the River Thames near Maidenhead. The river gets it's name as it originally flowed eastwards into the River Loddon near Twyford, but has subsequently been re-routed several times.

Pick up the minibus from the car park and drive to Anneforde Place allotments in Priestwood.

7. Anneforde Place Allotments

Two allotment holders on this site were winners in last year's Bracknell Your Gardens competition: - Ted Love won the Best Kept Allotment prize and a Gold medal and Jenni and Jack Jones won a highly commended award for the Most Creative Allotments Newcomer and a Silver Gilt medal.



Ted Love's 2013 allotment



Jenni and Jack Jones' 2013 allotment

This allotment site is managed by Bracknell Town Council and has ten full-sized plots and twelve half-sized plots. Judges will meet Ted Love, one of Bracknell's most environmentally friendly allotment holders. He believes in wasting nothing and recycling everything and has a spectacular water harvesting system. Ted grows an extensive variety of fruit and vegetables in raised beds and also has a wildflower garden.

Marking Sections: A2, A3, B2, C3

Notes

Pick up the minibus from outside the allotment site and drive to The Parks housing estate, Harmans Water, to the south east of the town centre.

8. The Parks

Two residents were winners in the front garden category of last year's Bracknell Your Gardens competition: - Adam Young won a highly commended award for the Best Newcomer and a Silver Gilt medal and Terry Wright won a highly commended award for the Best Wildlife Garden and a Silver medal.

"Lysander Drive Front Gardens" have entered RHS It's Your Neighbourhood for the first time this year.



View from the parkland area in the development



Adam Young's front garden in summer 2013

This new residential housing development is located in a parkland setting. The housing estate was designed to retain much of the original vegetation including some magnificent trees. Judges will meet Adam Young who has been working with his neighbours to make their street a place to be proud of. They have entered the new Street Gardens category in this year's Bracknell Your Gardens competition and have also entered RHS It's Your Neighbourhood.

Marking Sections: A1, A2, A3, A5, B3, C3

Notes

Historical Note: The Parks stands on the site formerly occupied by the RAF Staff Training College, later to become the Joint Services Staff Training College. Part of the planning for D-Day was carried out in Ramslade House (see page 12 of the portfolio for more information).

Pick up the minibus from near Terry Wright's wildlife garden and drive through The Parks passing the park and Ramslade House. Drive to Harmans Water shops passing Devonian a National Gardens Scheme garden.

Resource Management Talk

at the recycling centre by Cllr Mrs Dorothy, Hayes MBE, Executive Member for the Environment, Bracknell Forest Council and Claire Pike, Waste & Recycling Manager, Bracknell Forest Council

9. Harmans Water Shops

Earlier in the year, the raised beds outside the shops were transformed by Bracknell in Bloom with help from volunteers. Shopowners and workers are now helping with the maintenance of the re-designed beds and hanging baskets.

Marking Sections: A1, A2, A4, B2, B5, C3, C5

Digging for garden glory

» Britain in Bloom target

By JENNIE SLEVIN

KEEN gardeners have been digging for victory in a bid to go for gold in the borough's entry for Britain in Bloom.

Councillors, shop workers, community groups and the Bracknell in Bloom committee have worked tirelessly to brighten up the flowerbeds in the Harmans Water shopping area.

Over the last few months the beds in The Square have been replanted with colourful flowers and shrubs to be enjoyed by shoppers and the Royal Horticultural Society's in Bloom regional and national judges who will visit on Thursday, July 24 and Tuesday, July 29.

The planters, designed by Bracknell in Bloom committee member Linsey Evans, have been filled with gold flowers to coincide with this year's competition theme, Growing for Gold.

Ms Evans said: "All the plants have been carefully selected to ensure they are suitable to the location and purpose of the border.

"The herbaceous plants are all highly attractive to bees and other pollinators as well as being decorative.

"The scheme blends leaf textures, colours, and different outline forms to provide structure and interest and improve the look of the area."

Councillors Trevor Kensall, Shelagh Pile and Chris Turrell, who all represent Harmans Water,

funded the work with their share of Bracknell Forest Council's Member's Initiative Fund.

The scheme gives councillors the opportunity to spend up to £10,000 each in their ward.

Cllr Turrell said: "The planting looks excellent – a job well done.

"The centre is important to residents, and it's good to have it playing a key role in Bracknell's in Bloom entry. Fingers crossed as we go for gold!"

Volunteers from Bracknell-based pharmaceutical company Boehringer Ingelheim and Bracknell Forest's Transition Scheme provided the labour to dig up the old plants and get the beds ready.

Shops in The Square including Eden bookmakers, Martin's Newsagents and Fish'n'Chick'n also helped with the makeover and will help to keep the area looking good.

Allan Moffat, chair of Bracknell in Bloom and recreational facilities manager at Bracknell Town Council said: "I'd like to thank everyone who's been involved in transforming the shopping square.

"The Square is going to be on this year's three-hour tour the Royal Horticultural Society's regional and national judges are taken on.

"I'm sure they will be impressed with the new beds and the partnership work involved in creating them."

The committee is hoping for a fifth consecutive gold medal in the regional competition.



Pictures by Jeff Lawrence, Bracknell Camera Club

Notes

Courtesy of The Bracknell Times, 26 Jun 2014

Historical Note: Harmans Water used to be a shallow lake in Windsor Forest. When Bracknell New Town was developed, the housing for this neighbourhood was built in the 1960s. Fortunately the developers retained many of the trees which makes the neighbourhood so attractive.

Pick up the minibus and drive to St Michael & St Mary Magdalene Church, Easthampstead.

10. St Michael & St Mary Magdalene Churchyard



The churchyard in April 2014



One of the interpretation boards obtained in 2007 using grant funding from the Historic Churches Trust

The churchyard is one of the few unchanged natural sites left since the development of Bracknell new town in the 1950's. At the entrance is an ancient yew tree which has probably been a feature for over one thousand years. Some of the grass is kept long and cut in rotation to encourage a biodiversity of plant and wildlife. Volunteers from the Easthampstead Living Churchyard group monitor plant and animal life and helped install bird boxes and bat roosts sited in the trees. The churchyard is home to the rare devil's bit scabious as well as cowslips, holly, butterflies and stag beetles.

Marking Sections: A3, B1, B2, B3, B5, C3

Notes

Historical Note: Easthampstead (or Lachenstede) was mentioned in the Domesday Book, while the site of the church may have been used for worship at least 300 years earlier. A hunting lodge had been built in the west of the parish in about 1350, and Catherine of Aragon is said to have lived there while waiting for her divorce from Henry VIII. The small village of Easthampstead became the local municipal authority with the establishment of a workhouse in 1834.

Pick up the minibus from the front of the church and drive to South Hill Road play area, South Hill Park.

11. Boardwalk, South Hill Park



From the Boardwalk in February



The Boardwalk in June

The South Hill Road play area was ungraded and the boardwalk was built with money from the £2.3 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund awarded to restore South Hill Park (see 13. South Hill Park, later in the itinerary). The 200m boardwalk, completed in 2011, allows the public to enjoy views over the reed marsh. The reed beds were put in to purify the household waste water from South Hill Park Mansion before it entered the local watercourses.

Marking Sections: A5, B1, B3, B4, B5

Notes

12. Hanworth Cedar Tree

The Transformation



About four years ago a cedar tree in Hanworth was struck by lightning and had to be cut down to 12ft. Local community stalwart Pat Kennewell of Birch Hill Community Association was keen to turn the stump into a play area for children. She secured £6,000 of Big Lottery Fund money as well as £3,500 from Bracknell Forest Homes, Bracknell Town Council, Bracknell Forest Council, Councillor Chas Baily and Liscombe House sheltered housing to fund the revamp. Greenspace woodcarvers turned the stump into a stunning piece of artwork featuring animals, birds and a hidey hole for local children to play in.

Marking Sections: A5, B3, B5, C3

Notes



Board the minibus and drive to Liscombe House sheltered housing complex in Birch Hill, managed by Bracknell Forest Homes housing association.

13. South Hill Park

Green Flag award winner



Walk from Liscombe House into South Hill Park. Walk along the Yew Walk and along the Terrace into the Italian Garden where the tour finishes.



Picture by Jeff Lawrence

South Hill Park is attractive, historic parkland of landscaped gardens, lakes and woodland, all of which surround a Grade II listed building which is used as an arts centre. The park has recently been restored back to its former glory, thanks to a £2.3 million grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund. Restored original features include a Yew Walk and Italian Garden. .

Marking Sections: A1, A2, A5, B1, B3, B5, C3

Notes



RHS Britain in Bloom UK Finalists Judging, July 2013



Historical Note: The original mansion was built in 1760, but the current building dates from 1891. Previous owners have included nobility, a former Prime Minister, the BBC, and The Royal Sea Bathing Hospital from Margate! In July 2012 Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, opened the restored grounds.

Press Call (15 minutes)

In the Italian Garden, South Hill Park.

Other Places of Interest on the Tour

Sponsored Roundabouts

Honeywell roundabout maintained by Bracknell Forest Council.



There is a sculpture of a gyroscope by Philip Bentham in the centre of the Sperry Gyroscope roundabout, maintained by Arlington Square Business Park.

Devonia

Devonia opens to the public under the National Gardens Scheme. It is a third of an acre plantsman and plantaholic's garden designed for all seasons and planted to require minimal watering. The garden has over 1300 different shrubs, climbers, perennials, bulbs and alpenes.



Liscombe House



Liscombe house is a sheltered housing complex managed by Bracknell Forest Homes housing association. It has lovely communal gardens which are greatly enjoyed by residents and visitors.