

## **BACKGROUND.....**

BHPC wish to promote the beauty and interest of Buckhurst Hill to its residents and visitors by way of walks around the Parish. The 'Monks Way Walk' is the second of several walks to be published.

Our second published walk takes approximately one hour, is not arduous and is suitable for all age groups to enjoy.

## **KNIGHTON WOOD AND LORDS BUSHES.....**

Lords Bushes and Knighton Wood in all cover some 53 hectares of mature woodland and is managed by the Corporation of London. Monkham Lane, an ancient trackway that follows an old Anglo-Saxon boundary between the Manors of Chigwell and Woodford, cuts through the woodland - with Lords Bushes on one side and Knighton Wood on the other.

Monkham Lane is Buckhurst Hill's most historic carriageway - in fact up until the 1960s it was a legal right of way for carts and motors. Today it is designated as a footpath. There are traces of an old pack-horse road through Lords Bushes, along Squirrels Lane, across the water meadows to the foot-bridge over the River Roding. There is so much history to this beautiful woodland it is hard to know where to start.

Earliest recorded mention of the wooded area is in a charter of 1135 where references suggest it provided excellent food for the local pigs. Perhaps the more poetic amongst us could wonder if the name

Monkham (originally Munkoms) had something to do with monks driving their pigs to the woodland to feed from its lushness.

There is a mighty old oak tree thought to be over 400 years old called the Pulpit Oak which can be found on the boundary of Epping Forest District and the London Borough of Redbridge. It is thought to have been a rallying point for commoners to fight (eventually unsuccessfully) against attempts by Lords to enclose Knighton Wood - in 1572, 1670 and 1781.

Interestingly in 1873 a trial run of a steam tram was held in Lords Bushes, but that is another story.

There is a fine display of rhododendron bushes which we are lucky enough to inherit from when part of the woodland was on the estate of the Buxton family. Following the death of Forest Verderer Edward North Buxton in 1928 the estate was sold. In 1930 Knighton Wood joined Lords Bushes which had been secured for the public in 1878.

This woodland is without doubt one of Buckhurst Hill's treasures and is a must to be enjoyed by walkers of all ages and interests. Marvel in the history, the beauty and the flora and fauna which includes more than 35 species of trees and shrubs and the creatures of the ponds.

## **WHEN USING FOOTPATHS.....**

- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work
- Keep to the waymarked paths
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Keep dogs under control and clean up after them
- Make no unnecessary noise
- Take your litter home
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone
- Guard against all risks of fire
- Use gates and stiles
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees
- Help to keep all water clean
- Wear sensible boots or shoes

*THE WALK...through the mosaic of delightful  
Buckhurst Hill*

1. We begin this walk at the Corporation of London Car Park at the entrance to the wonderful Knighton Wood (and Lords Bushes) in Knighton Lane. Please see our narrative above for some historic facts about this truly beautiful area. The Corporation of London information board details this area if you wish to take a detour from Monks Way Walk. The public footpath starts at the gate in the car park and continues downhill through these woods. Again, the car park notice board describes the flora and fauna found here.
2. This path ends where it meets the road. Opposite is a sign saying Monkshams Lane which is to the right of the sign. Turn left where this road becomes Farm Way. As you walk along Farm Way enjoy the well tended gardens and the varied foliage. Carry straight on across the junction with Forest Edge. Take great care here as it is a heavily used junction.
3. On the other side of the junction the road becomes Station Way. Carry straight on over the bridge which crosses the Central Line. Roding Valley Station is set back on the right (this is on the Central Line junction to Hainault). Keep on past the shops on the right with Roding Valley Hall and The Monkshams Public House on the left. The railway line cuts through Buckhurst Hill from north to south giving us the East and West Wards of Buckhurst Hill. You are now in the East Ward.
4. Being very careful of the traffic cross over Buckhurst Way into Chestnut Avenue and then into Hornbeam Road. Take a moment to admire the magnificent willow trees from which the flats on the right take their name.
5. At the end of 'The Willows' there is a lamp post and a bridleway marker. Turn right into the tarmac lane (known locally as Squirrels Lane) which is marked Loughton Rugby Football Club. Follow this lane to the end where it becomes a car park. Follow the bridleway signs around the car park, along the line of trees at the back of the rugby field. Do watch out for low flying rugby balls! (This car park is an alternative start for the Monks Way Walk)
6. Continue to follow the bridleway to the corner of the field. The bridleway actually continues under the viaduct and over the bridge. However, for the Monks Way Walk turn left at the corner of the field along the rugby field edge with the banks of the River Roding to your right. Where the field comes to an end look for the waymarker where you will see a paved footpath with wire fencing and foliage either side including lots of brambles that will be good for blackberry picking. Continue along this footpath to the end.
7. At the end of this footpath it is tempting to carry on along a grassy path but do not be tempted and follow the Monks Way Walk between the garages looking for the footpath post on the green triangle of grass. Turn right into the alley.
8. Slip between the metal barriers and carry straight on past the village-like houses of Cascade Close and look for the footpath sign.
9. Follow the sign along the tarmac footpath which will bring you to a road signed to the right Albert Road and to the left Buckhurst Way. Cross carefully following the footpath directly across the road.
10. This tarmac footpath will take you to a bridge over the Central Line. Cross over the bridge and continue along the footpath to the road which is Forest Edge.
11. At this point you have a choice. You can wend your way through the forest opposite (Lords Bushes) back to the car park or make your way to the delights of the Queens Road shops and Buckhurst Hill station, or continue the Monks Way Walk.
12. To continue our walk turn right at Forest Edge, cross over the road and turn left into Princes Road. Continue to the top of Princes Road admiring the delightful array of mostly well tended houses. Pass the few shops at the top of Princes Road and turn left into Queens Road. Take the first left which is Knighton Lane and continue back to the car park.

*We hope you have enjoyed  
our walk and the glimpse of the  
diversity that make Buckhurst Hill the  
interesting and delightful  
community that it is today.*



RODING VALLEY STATION (Central line)  
BUCKHURST HILL STATION (Central line)



**BUS ROUTES**

Nos. 20, 167, 397 & 549 (not Sunday)  
Nos. 200 & 201 (Sundays & Bank Holiday Mondays only)  
No. 204 (school days only)



**REFRESHMENTS**

Toby Carvery (*The Bald Faced Stag*) High Road  
The Monkams Public House - Station Way  
The Three Colts Public House - Kings Place  
Various cafés etc in Queens Road



**PARKING**

For further travel information contact  
Travel Line - 0870 6082608  
www.traveline.org.uk



*Entrance to Monkams Lane*

For further details please contact:  
Buckhurst Hill Parish Council  
Information Centre  
62-64 Queens Road  
Buckhurst Hill IG9 5BY  
Monday to Friday 10.00am - 4.00pm  
Tel: 020 8498 9933  
info@buckhursthillpc.gov.uk

This leaflet is available in large print, Braille,  
audio tape and disc.  
Contact: Tel: 01245 437649

This publication is supported by the Parish Paths Partnership, (logo) which is an initiative funded by Essex County Council



*Monkams Lane*

**MONKS WAY WALK**

*Total distance of Walk 5.2 km  
(almost 3¼ miles)  
Approximate time 60 minutes*

Printed August 2005

