

About the trail

Reigate & Banstead Borough Council's Greenspaces team has teamed up with the 'Men in Sheds' project and talented local artists to create an imaginative, colourful bird box trail at Earlswood Common in the first project of its kind in the borough.

With so many people tied to their portable devices, the aim of the project is to encourage people to look up and around them while visiting the site to appreciate its wonderful flora and fauna.

The boxes will not only benefit the local bird life - the site's bat population will also be able to use the new homes as roosts.

The bird boxes were made by the Men in Sheds group based at Furnistore in Redhill. The project gives men the opportunity to socialise while developing their making skills and interests in a friendly, safe environment, as a way of combatting social isolation and improving health and wellbeing. The boxes were then decorated by local artists from Surrey Art Fairs Group and some by our Greenspaces staff.

There are 23 eye-catching, decorative bird and bat boxes to spot around the lake paths in all. See how many you can spot.

#LookUp

- How many bird boxes did you find?
- Which one is your favourite?
- How would you decorate your bird box?

Let us know and send us your pictures so we can share the best one.

  @reigatebanstead

 LoveReigateBanstead

About Earlswood Common

Earlswood Common is a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and also a Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI). The area is a haven for wildlife and its location means it is enjoyed by many local people.

Earlswood Common contains a variety of habitats including two large lakes, a number of smaller ponds, wetland corridors, scattered trees and woodland and semi-improved grassland which includes the nationally rare plant Chamomile (*Chamaemelum nobile*). The presence of Chamomile is one of the main reasons for the SNCI designation. Other species of interest include Dwarf Gorse (*Ulex minor*), acid grassland and sedges.

Evidence exists of human activity on the Common dating back thousands of years. This includes the remnants of a bowl barrow on the site and Bronze Age artefacts found in the area. In the Middle Ages, the site was used for tile making.

The Lower Lake is the older of the two lakes and is mentioned as early as 1363. It was used for swimming and skating at the end of the 19th Century, with maps of 1896 showing bathing boxes present on both lakes.

How to find us:

Earlswood Common
car park

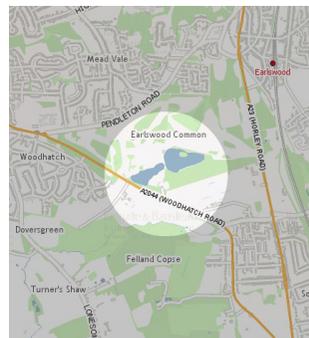
Woodhatch Road

Reigate

Surrey

RH2 7QH

www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk



Bird box trail @ Earlswood Lakes



Can you find them all?

#LookUp



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Bird box trail @ Earlswood Lakes



Tick the ones you see!

- 1 'Early Bird Cafe' Millie Attwater (www.hotfreshbright.com)
- 2 'Hickory Dickory Dock' Kirstin Wood (www.kirstinwood.co.uk)
- 3 'Robin's Nest' Alex Mills (www.etsy.com/uk/shop/oldflourhouse)
- 4 'Hanging Around' Rebecca Hibberd (www.rebeccahibberd.com)
- 5 'Mill on the Hill' Anna Clarke (www.artfinder.com/anna-clarke)
- 6 'Kome in Kestrel' Callum Ritchie
- 7 'Time for Tea' Katie Greaves (www.etsy.com/uk/shop/katiegreaves)
- 8 'Bats in the Belfry' Tracey Jane Cooper (www.traceyjanesart.co.uk)
- 9 'Home to Roost' Deborah Waters (www.facebook.com/DesirablesbyDeborah)
- 10 'Bird's Eye View' Kirstin Wood (www.kirstinwood.co.uk)
- 11 'The Love Nest' Faye Sanderson (www.faysieboostudio.co.uk)
- 12 'Birds and the Bees' Megan Heffer (www.etsy.com/uk/shop/LittleStitchOfNature)
- 13 'Batman's Batbox' Paul Ritchie
- 14 'Flight of Fancy' Flori Maisonneuve (www.squiggledotandsqueeze.co.uk)
- 15 'Hearts & Flowers' Clare Ritchie
- 16 'The Little Sparrow' Avril Jones (www.avriljonesphotography.co.uk)
- 17 'The Village Fair' Kirstin Wood (www.kirstinwood.co.uk)
- 18 'Welcome Home' Jo Clarke (www.toastedcrumpet.co.uk)
- 19 'Head of the Dead' Alan Bixby
- 20 'Dirty Pour' Alison Saunders (www.agsaundersart.com)
- 21 'The Gilded Cage' Tracey Bengelfield (www.traceybengelfieldart.com)
- 22 'Welcome to the Chapel' Simone Measday (www.etsy.com/uk/shop/RedhillConfetti)
- 23 'Blossom & Sky' Thushara Mendis (www.saatchiart.com/account/profile/672424)