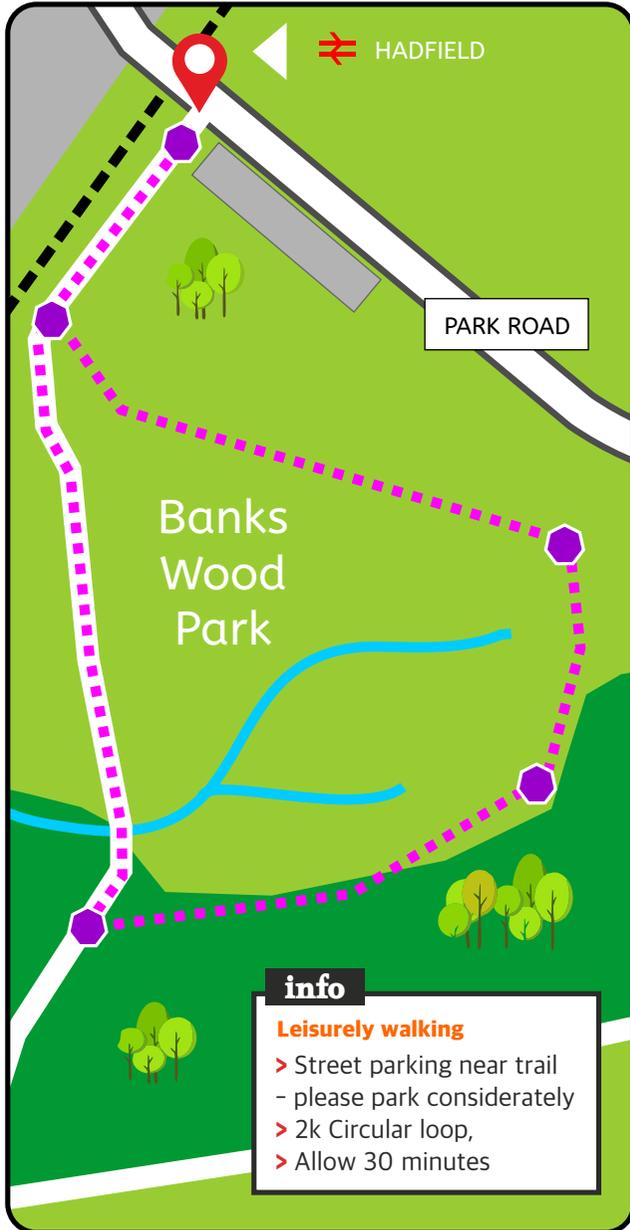


Bernie the Banks Wood Park Bee

MOVE MORE Explore your Park

STORY WALKS

No. **9**



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Greater Manchester
Walking

MOVE MORE Explore your Park

STORY WALKS

No. **9**

Bernie the Banks Wood Park Bee



By Helen Thornhill





It was a bright Spring morning when Bernie the Bankswood Park Bumblebee woke up, he stretched his legs and shook out his wings. He crawled out of the burrow where he lived with his family and friends, it

was an old dormouse burrow which had been lined with soft moss to protect the colony. As he opened his eyes to the bright but low sunshine  he could see the ground was glistening from the morning dew. Bernie smiled and thought 'What a beautiful day, I love this time of the year. All the new flowers  with their sweet nectar ready to be drunk'. (Marker 1)

Bernie opened his wings and with a buzz, he flew off doing a loop the loop as he went. He flew down the park drive towards the play area, he hummed as he went. The bronze leaves  of the copper beech bushes made a lovely crackling sound as the light breeze rustled them.

As Bernie approached the play area (Marker 2) he started to look for the snowdrops and daisies that he loved to pollinate, he could see a patch of colour on the hillside, so he flew up the hill towards the big beech tree. In amongst the grass were fresh clumps of snowdrops, they were just opening up as the sun rose higher in the sky.

Bernie flew down  and started to drink the nectar, he was really thirsty so he lapped it up very quickly.



Yummy he thought, that was quite delicious. Bernie sat for a second listening to the lovely sounds of the breeze and the buzzing of his fellow bees all looking for nectar. All of a sudden there was a screech, the noise was getting louder, Bernie spun round to see what was making such a loud noise.

Towards Bernie flew Laura the Ladybird , she was screeching, 'Help, help, help!' Behind Laura was Bobby the Blackbird, he was flying straight towards Laura looking for a nice snack.

Bernie quickly flew up into the air, he looped around Bobby the Blackbird , distracting him. Bernie shouted to Laura 'Quick hide in the long grass near the bench' (Marker 3) Laura swooped down and landed on the underside of a dock leaf, out of sight from Bobby. Laura sat panting, waiting for Bobby to pass by.

Bobby was annoyed at Bernie, 'Squark, go away' he said to Bernie, 'you lost me my snack' he said in an angry voice. Bernie danced around Bobby buzzing, he could see that Laura had escaped so he flew down to the tree. Bobby flew off to look for a nice juicy worm, they are easier to catch he thought.



Bernie sat on the bench and buzzed to Laura that it was safe to come out, Bobby had gone. Laura came slowly out, she was very cautious, looking in every direction to make sure it was safe.



'Thank you Bernie, you saved my life' she said. Bernie smiled and buzzed, 'No problem Laura, always happy to help a friend' he replied. 'Stay safe Laura  and have a nice day'.

Bernie flew off following the path to the right, into the woods area of the park, he thought he'd look for some tree flowers, they taste lovely. Bernie followed the woodland path around bearing right as he went, he crossed a stream and a fallen tree (Marker 4) it was quite muddy here, but that meant there were rhododendron plants around and their flowers are dripping with gorgeous nectar. Bernie  looked forward to the lovely pink flowers  being in bloom in the next few weeks. He continued down the path to the bottom (Marker 5) here he turned right, this would lead him back to the play area.

As he flew towards the play area, a little boy screamed! The little boy  ran to his dad, he was scared of Bernie, the dad  scooped the little boy up in his arms and pointed to Bernie, he said 'there's no need to be scared look, the bee is just looking for a flower, he won't hurt you'.

The little boy, climbed down and watched as Bernie flew down to a daisy and put his head into the glorious pollen, when he pulled his head out he was covered in orange sparkling pollen. The little boy laughed, 'look daddy the bee looks so funny with all that orange on his face'.

Bernie happily went from flower to flower collecting the nectar, his leg sacs would soon be full. Then he will return home to feed the babies in the hive with all his family and friends.