

PETE DAVIES

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## Recipe to enjoy a visit to The Shire Country Park

Take a strip of traffic-free cycle path  
Add a dollop of inquisitive nature sleuths  
Infuse with the River Cole's low burble  
Dust with the fragrance of wild garlic.

Next, take the song of the chiff-chaff  
Add an azure flash of kingfisher  
Arrange on a generous carpet of wood anemones  
Baste with the hazel's green catkins.

Add the bread-baking aroma from Sarehole Mill  
Spring's first butterflies' hues  
The happy laughter of Tolkien Weekends long past  
Top with fecund fungal fruiting bodies.

Finally, garnish with viridian tree-mosses  
A sprinkle of mistle-thrush eggs and  
The susurrations of tall summer grasses  
Serve warm or cold, The Shire is a dish for all seasons.