

Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership – Achievements January –December 2023

Achievements

January – March 2023



Outputs for the quarter:

Lewisham Biodiversity partners carried out **172 events** (43 environmental education, 118 volunteering events and 11 walks and presentations). **1378 adults** and 99 **children** were engaged in activities in this quarter.

There were **17 surveys** carried out.

72m hedgerow were planted!

26 bird boxes installed.

Highlights for the quarter:

Many of you know that James Newton conducted a year-long bird survey covering the whole of Lewisham in 2022. He recorded 63 species.

Thank you to all who was involved in the works at the Secondary Channel at Ladywell Fields. As a result of their hard work the river is flowing through the channel again!

Buzzard, red kite and kestrel were seen along the Forest Hill to New Cross railway corridor while a pair of buzzards are regularly seen in Chinbrook Meadows.

Two projects in Lewisham were successful in securing funding from the [GLA's Rewild London Fund Round 2](#):

- The Green Line – Nature's Railway – Hedgelaying and orchard restoration (Fourth Reserve Foundation)*
- Forster Park Ancient Woodland Restoration (LBL, F/O Forster Memorial Park).*

April - June 2023



At our quarterly Partnership meeting in June, we agreed on the 2023 projects that will receive funding from the Kenneth White Legacy Award. Thank you for everyone who applied and who voted on the applications. We received 12 applications (for total £3,592.15) and 13 votes. One application was withdrawn, one got funded from other funding and one will receive equipment donated by Mike Keogh (thanks!) so at the end we were able to fully fund 7 applications this year, totalling £2,588! The following groups' projects will be funded:

Friends of River Pool
Sydenham Garden
Crofton Park Railway Garden
Ladywell Fields User Group
Chinbrook Community Orchard
Sydenham Wells Park Improvement Group
Friends of Silverdale Enclosure
+ Friends of Garthorne Road Nature Reserve (from other funding), and Exford Road Allotments (receive donated wildlife camera).

Congratulations!

The selected projects will help monitor and enhance Lewisham's biodiversity by surveying potential habitats for water voles; installing 4 wildlife cameras and several bird and invertebrate boxes; planting 180 tree saplings and over 100 other plants. Some of the groups will receive education resources and tools to help their environmental education and volunteering sessions.

Speaking of grants and funding, a big thank you to the **Friends of Beckenham Place Park** for their generous donation for future Kenneth White Award round(s) to allow more biodiversity projects to be funded. The group got dissolved recently, and the members kindly offered remaining funds to be used by the Kenneth White Legacy Award. So we will have additional funding for the next year (or years, depending on the applications received). Thank you.

Outputs:

Lewisham Biodiversity partners carried out **259 events** (74 environmental education, 158 volunteering events and 27 walks and presentations). **2642 adults** and **1530 children** were engaged in activities in this quarter. Over 2700 hours' worth of volunteering!

There were **48 surveys** carried out.

20 bird boxes and **20** bat boxes installed.

Highlights for the quarter:

The annual 3 Rivers Clean Up went ahead in June/July with 13 events. A total of 218 people participated pulling over 4000 invasive Himalayan balsam plants and collecting 96 bags of litter. Some of the unusual items collected were 5 suitcases, a Lime bike battery, an Iphone, a scooter and a wheelchair.

Lots of butterfly sightings this quarter including some unusual ones such as the below Green hairstreak, Clouded yellow and White admiral.

July – September 2023 Achievements

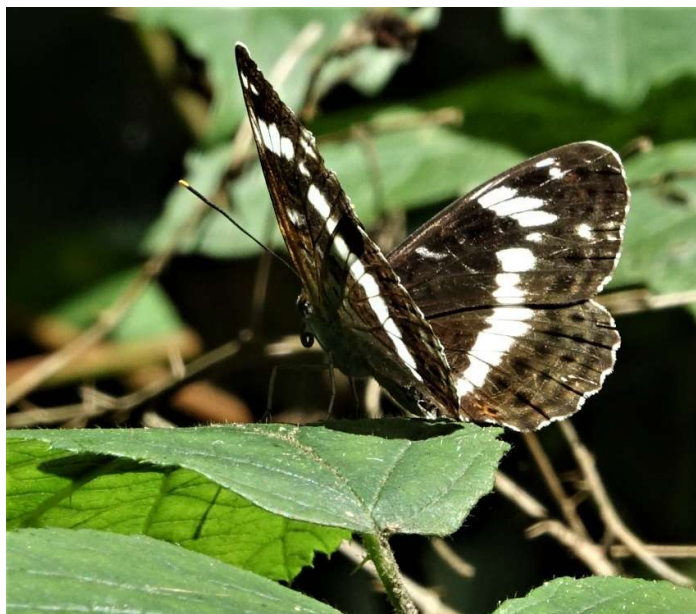


Photo thanks to Ernie Thomason from the Friends of Garthorne Road.

Outputs:

Lewisham Biodiversity partners carried out **130 events** (8 environmental education, 108 volunteering events and 14 walks and presentations). **1092 adults** and **320 children** were engaged in activities in this quarter. **760 hours** of volunteering work was carried out.

There were **53 surveys** carried out.

Highlights for the quarter:



The bridge over the River Ravensbourne between Lewisham Hospital and Ladywell Fields was named after Ken White with a naming ceremony on the day that would have been Ken's 100th birthday. Thank you to Mike Keogh for organising the sign and the event!

The endangered small-flowered catchfly was recorded in Creekside during the quarter (see photo). Other sightings include five species of bats – Common and Soprano Pipistrelle,

Serotine, Leisler's and Noctule bats –, house martins, mistle thrushes in Beckenham Place Park, and hedgehogs, common lizards, lots of froglets and toadlets elsewhere in the Borough.

London in Bloom Awards, including Gold for Beckenham Place Park, Forester Memorial Park and Devonshire Road NR. Devonshire Road also won Best Small Nature Conservation Area.

October – December 2023 Achievements



Lewisham Biodiversity partners carried out **218 events** (60 environmental education, 125 volunteering events and 33 walks and presentations). **1549 adults** and **534 children** were engaged in activities in this quarter. **2514.5 hours** of volunteering work was carried out.

The Partnership's outputs for 2022 are very impressive! Partnership members delivered last year. Members engaged over **10,000 individuals** via **778 events** and delivered over **13,000 volunteer hours** which represent a **value over £174,000** (LLW 2023-24)! We are also aware that even more amazing work is being done by Partnership members than what we were able to capture so these figures are underrepresenting the actual achievements.

Highlights for the quarter:

Ladywell Fields User Group planted 200 additional trees to extend the Tiny Forest planted in the park in 2022. Their project, which was funded by the Kenneth White Legacy Award, featured in the [Sunday Times](#) in December! (photo by Akira Suemori for the Sunday Times).

An unusual, scalariform, brown lipped snail was spotted in Dacres Wood Nature Reserve (scalariform originates from the Latin word 'scala', meaning staircase) - See above

The Friends of the River Pool installed an aquatic mammal platform in the river and check it regularly to see if water voles or the invasive American minks live in the area (the platform was also funded by the Kenneth White Legacy Award).

The 2023 year in summary.

	EDUCATION				VOLUNTEER				ENGAGEMENT			
	Events	Adults	Children	Schools engaged	Events	Adults	Children	Hours	Events	Adults	Children	Awards
Totals for 2023												
January - March	43	345	919	5	118	754	6	6257	11	279	74	1
April-June	74	185	1235	7	158	911	33	2766	27	1546	262	0
July-September	8	87	237	2	108	297	8	1706	14	708	75	6
October - November	60	108	407	6	143	833	50	2514	33	608	77	0
Total	185	725	2798	20	509	3173	97	13244	84	3179	496	7