

Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership

Full Partnership meeting

Date and time: 22 January 2025, 17:00-19:00

Location: MS Teams

Purpose: Strategically plan, share, support, monitor and promote biodiversity protection/enhancement and nature conservation volunteering in Lewisham

ATTENDEES			
AED	Annette Elliott-Dunn, F/O Hillcrest Woods	GT	Geoffrey Thurley – F/O Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries
ASh	Alona Sheridan – F/O Mayow Park	JA	James Allen – LBL BPP
ASI	Anne Slater - F/O Chinbrook Meadows, Greenspace Forum, Chinbrook Allotment Orchard	JK	Jessica Kyle – LBL
DD	Donna Davies – F/O River Pool	KS	Kelvin Shewry - Creekside Education Centre
DF	David Ford – Urban National Park Ranger	LBC	Lawrence Beale Collins – Healthy Rivers
EM	Emily Millhouse - Glendale	MM	Monika Mitchell - Sydenham Wells Park Improvement Group (SWPIG)
ET	Ernest Thomason - F/O Garthorne Road NR	TK	Tobie Kerridge – Goldsmiths, UoL
EWD	Eszter Wainwright-Deri – LBL	TR	Tony Rich - Ladywell Fields User Group (LFUG)

ACTIONS:

- All to contact TK (or other project leads) if interested to get involved in the 'More-Than-Human Community Toolkit' project
- EM to ask CT about new hedge in Manor Park and tree species choice
- JK to speak with AED about tasks on site

Upcoming events:

- 26 Jan 10:30am, Hilly Fields, **Big Garden Birdwatch**
- 28 Jan 7-8pm, online, Butterfly Conservation, [Butterflies of London](#)
- 31 Jan 12pm-2pm, Blythe Hill Fields, [Orchard Planting session](#)
- 8 Feb, 4-5.30pm, Blythe Hill Fields, [Wassail](#)
- 16 and 26th Feb 10:30am-12.30pm, Creekside Discovery Centre, [Bird Survey](#)
- 19 Feb 10:30am-12.30pm, Creekside Discovery Centre, [Slimewatch Algae investigation family event](#)
- 22 Feb, Brookmill Park, **River clean up organised by LBC**
- 8 Mar, Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries, **International Women's Day walk**
- 27 Mar, Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries, **Bat walk**
- 8 Apr, Manor Park, **Riverfly training led by Thames21**
- 13 Apr, Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries, **Nature walk**

1. Welcome/Introductions/Apologies

Apologies: Mike Keogh – Chair of Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership/QWAG; Mike Fewes – Albion Millennium Green; Joel Wigfield - Thames21; Julia Webb - Bell Green Neighbourhood Forum; Theresa Webb – F/O Forster Memorial Park; Maggie Leharne – Chinbrook Allotment Orchard

2. Minutes and matters arising

- a. DF will reach out to EM if further information is needed about the Manor Park building.
- b. **Google group reminder:** Feel free to share information with the whole partnership (e.g. events, questions) via the lewishambiodiversitypartnership@googlegroups.com email. Please note, if you reply all to an email your response will go to the **whole group** so please **check the recipients** of your email carefully to avoid sending unintended emails to the group.
- c. **Facebook group reminder:** Please remember to advertise your volunteering or other events in the '**Nature volunteering in Lewisham**' Facebook group here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1645622559109140>

3. 'The more-than-human community Toolkit' project – Tobie Kerridge (Goldsmiths):

- a. Project working with the community and invites them to design and share tools and activities that use low-cost imaging and acoustic technology, to empower communities as agents for environmental change.
- b. Partners: Phoenix, Natural History Museum, Arts and Humanities Research Council
- c. Project runs between 1 Feb and 31 Oct 2025
- d. Call for involvement:



ACTION: All interested to contact TK, Mike or Michael (see details on slides)

- e. Please see further details on the slides attached.

Discussion:

- f. Recommendation for Goldsmiths to join existing events, some of which are advertised on the [Nature Volunteering in Lewisham](#) Facebook page.

4. Biodiversity Partnership Annual Summary Report and Highlights – see BARS excel and slides attached.

Please note these numbers likely change slightly as we are still waiting for data.

	EDUCATION			VOLUNTEERS				EVENTS			
	Events	Adults	Children	Events	Adults	Children	Hours	Events	Adults	Children	Awards
Totals for 2023	185	725	2,798	509	3,173	97	13,244.35	84	3,179	496	7
Totals for 2024	88	313	2,723	662	3,311	111	11,854.75	98	3,917	630	16*
Trend	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑

Nature Conservation Website				
YEAR/SITE	Views	Visits	Posts	Trend
Nature Conservation Lewisham 2023	11,517	6,483	19	↑
Nature Conservation Lewisham 2024	14,721	8230	19	
Rivers and People 2023	2,643	1,338	19	↑
Rivers and People 2024	3,019	1,491	22	

Planning applications reviewed	Number
Totals for 2023	190
Totals for 2024	182
Trend	↓

* Rewild London – 3;
London in Bloom – 3;
Green flag – 4; TCV
Chestnut Fund, Tree
Council, CPRE
Hedgerow Heroes, Top
Picker at Plasticblitz,
EA, Duke of Edinburgh

Surveys	Number
Totals for 2023	151
Totals for 2024	161
Trend	↑



	Hedge (m)	Loggery	Bird Box	Bat box	Bug hotel	Trees	Pond	Living roof (m2)
NC 2023	72	20	46	21	17	273	0	0
NC 2024	402	28	6	23	13	3,674	10	0
Planning 2023	468	2	39	26	4	16	0	5,042.5
Planning 2024	778	14	113	84	21	317	0	2626
Totals 2023	540	22	85	47	21	289	0	5,042.5
Totals 2024	1,180	42	119	107	34	3,991	10	2,626
Trend	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓

Please continue to send in your records so we can add them to our summary statistics! Thanks!

5. Problems/issues raised - None

6. Partner updates and discussion

a. MM (Sydenham Wells Park)

- Owl box is up, hoping they will nest in the park
- Blue Chain dredged the small pond
- Sydenham Ridge Forum is being set up

b. ET (F/O Garthorne Road NR)

- Workdays continue but with low numbers
- Planted a native hedge
- Buzzard in the area
- Planning bat walk for local scouts, but no date yet

c. LBC (Healthy Rivers, Riverfly) – sent in writing due to connection issues

- Julia Grollman is leaving Riverfly end of march and Donna is stepped BG up to help run project with me.
- Riverfly training is on April 8th at Manor Park, Thames21 (Jack Beard) will be running the day. This is open to all with primary goal to find new Riverfly people for Ladywell, Manor Park and Brookmill as Julia, Tom and Alex are leaving.
- Two clean ups in Dec and Jan were cancelled due to weather.

- iv. we have a clean up event at Brookmill on 22/2/25 10.30-1.00, booking details to follow.
- v. Lastly, we do 5 sampling events in Lewisham a month, every month.

d. KS (Creekside Discovery Centre)

- i. Port of London Authority funding- series of fish surveys monthly from April onwards (6 sessions). Open to the public.
- ii. Researching invertebrate species management in Creek

e. ASH (F/O Mayow Park)

- i. NG volunteer sessions were fantastic, nature area restored, c100m hedge, new pond near the orchard
- ii. adding new bat/ bird boxes from KW fund, waiting on Glendale infrastructure team for installation
- iii. bat walks upcoming, no dates set yet - AS will promote from friends of group

f. ASI (Chinbrook Community Orchards & Chinbrook Meadows)

- i. successful Chinbrook Allotment Orchard Wassail
- ii. volunteer sessions in the new wetlands and in the park, including creating a dead hedge to prevent dog poaching
- iii. EA visited the park and are keen to remove a concrete bit from the river
- iv. Sparrowhawks, buzzards, little egrets, grey wagtails are settling back in the new wetlands

g. AED (Hillcrest Woods)

- i. new pond at Hillcrest, already filling up, positive mention for Froglife and contractor
- ii. request for NG session there to help with planting and conservation day-

ACTION: JK to speak with AED about tasks on site

- iii. some trees overgrown (3) and possibly damaging existing wall there, asking tree officers for assistance
- iv. AED would like key for regular access to monitor site
- v. ET adding that there are bat boxes on site, AED mentions access to the boxes is hard as no key to get in. hopes that pond will help local bat population

h. TR (Ladywell Fields User Group)

- i. successful from tree council bid- 70m conservation hedgerow in N field volunteer sessions this weekend 10-12.
- ii. new fruit tree planting in the orchard, quince and other spp. (also some silver birch have been planted in wrong places)
- iii. did a successful batwalk, via eventbrite.

i. GT (F/O Ladywell and Brockley Cemeteries)

- i. 1 February: Nature's Gym session
- ii. 8 March: international Womens day walk
- iii. 27 March: bat walk, trying to get permission for it and considering using Eventbrite for the event
- iv. 13 April: Nature walk led by Tom and Peter

- j. **DF (National Park City ranger, Lee Green Society)**
 - i. sighting of Great Spotted Woodpecker in Manor Park, will send pictures to EWD & JK
 - ii. new hedge planted near Manor Park - interesting selection of species, yew trees?
 - iii. Heronry in Manor House Gardens, many Grey Herons spotted on the island
- k. **DD (F/O River Pool)**
 - i. potential sighting of water vole in the Linear Park
 - ii. Planted a lot of trees, including 5 black poplars (3 male, 2 female) from Caroline
 - iii. Plans for a new pond in the Vineries area, discussion with Thames21

7. Lewisham updates (see some photos on the slides)

- a. **EWD updates:**
 - i. **London Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS):** Public consultation likely from May 2025, adoption in autumn 2025
 - ii. Northbrook Park wetlands project (Rewild London) is progressing well, only finishing touches and volunteer/education sessions remain
- b. **JK updates:**
 - i. Nature's Gym and school sessions still ongoing in winter.
 - ii. Jess and Emily to run taster sessions in Mountsfield Park in partnership with SLAM/Lewisham Adult Social Care for those who might be struggling with their mental health.
 - iii. Green Flag Applications started.
 - iv. Potential partnership with Capel Manor to get students sessions in Grove Park NR

ACTION: JK to put ASI in contact? Or mention to Capel Manor about Chinbrook opportunity?

- c. **EM updates (Glendale):**
 - i. 17 conservation sessions (Nature's Gym and Rivers & People)
 - Continuing the Mayow Park Wildlife area
 - Hare & Billet management
 - Orchard Maintenance Training with The Orchard Project
 - Coppicing & Deadhedges
 - ii. Ongoing Bird Surveys
 - iii. Mountsfield Park has a pond!
 - iv. Will hope to be working with All Saints PS to spread seeds out on the bunds this spring.
- d. **JA updates (BPP):**
 - i. Bluebells appearing already
 - ii. Since the start of Winter volunteers have been working in the woodland on our long-term management aims of reducing holly and bramble cover.

- iii. Thames21 have now completed the planned interventions in our stretch of the Ravensbourne, and the flood management work in the park is mostly complete.
- iv. This year the park will be trialling a new mowing regime in the parkland area and mowing round tree canopies for the regular cutting. This is linked to issues with Oak Processionary Moth

8. AOB

- a. None

9. Next meeting: 30 April 2025 at 4pm (MS Teams) – TBC!