

Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership

Full Partnership meeting

Date and time: 30 April 2025, 16:00-18:00

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	JK	Jessica Kyle – LBL
CC	Caroline Cupitt – Ladywell Fields User Group	LR	Louise Rondel – Goldsmiths and Brunel University
DF	David Ford – Urban National Park Ranger	MK	Mike Keogh – Chair of Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership/QWAG/Ladywell Society
EJ	Emma Jackson - LSE	MR	Martin Ryan – LBL Housing
EM	Emily Millhouse - Glendale	TW	Theresa Webb – Kitchen Buddy, Forster Memorial Park
EWD	Eszter Wainwright-Deri – LBL		
FA	Felicity Arkell – Gilmore	ML	Maggie Leharne – Chinbrook Allotment Orchard
GT	Geoffrey Thurley – F/O Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries	MT	Michael Thompson – Goldsmiths University
JA	Jorella Andrews – Albion Millennium Green		

ACTIONS:

- All to contact Mike or Tobie if interested to get involved in the AHRC funded 'More-Than-Human Community Toolkit' project.
- All interested to contact Eszter or Anna-Maria about encroachment along railway.
- All to send What3Words locations and basic details of bird/bat/other boxes in their sites to EM/EWD/JK to be added to the Lewisham database
- Emily to send around FIT count methodology
- Anyone who has design experience and would be able to help the foraging wheel project to contact Teresa (via EWD/JK)
- All to let Maggie know if you have plant pots to donate
- All interested to add your activities to GiGL's [Connecting London's Green Actions](#) map

Upcoming events:

- **3 May 11-1:30pm**, Albion Millennium Green, [World Labyrinth Day](#)
- **10 May 11-1pm**, Brookmill Park and Brookmill Nature Reserve, **Guided Railway Walk**
- **22 May 11am**, Hillcrest Wood Pond, planting day with Froglife
- **22 May 9-10pm**, bat walk on Blythe Hill Fields, meet by tiny forest
- **31 May 1-4pm**, Chinbrook Meadows Wetlands, **London Rivers Week event**
- **31 May 11-4pm**, Beckenham Place Park, [Love BPP Community Day](#)
- **31 May 2-4pm**, Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries, **Guided tour, part of Brockley Max**

- **31 May 11-3pm**, Sue Godfrey Nature Park, [Sue Godfrey Nature Park Fete](#)
- **1 June**, Gilmore Road Park, **public meeting to establish Friends group**
- **1 June**, Verdant Lane Community Garden, **vegetable growing session**
- **2 June**, Petts Wood, [Tales from the Kyd Brook – A story-sharing workshop](#), London Rivers Week event
- **7-8 June**, [Forest Hill Walking Festival](#), including a Nature Reserve challenge walk visiting the reserves along the railway
- **13 July**, Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries, **Open day with nature walk(s)**
- **21 June – 12 July**, **3 Rivers Cleanup**, various sessions, dates and locations on the [3RCU website](#), **please remember to book!**

Festivals

- May: [Giftival 2025](#), including events in Dacres Wood NR
- May: [London Walking Festival 2025](#)
- 10-18 May: [Urban Tree Festival](#)
- 30 May – 8 June: [London Rivers Week](#)
- June: [30 Days Wild](#)
- 7-15 June: [Great Big Green Week 2025](#)

1. Welcome/Introductions/Apologies

Apologies: Alona Sheridan – F/O Mayow Park; Anna-Maria Cahalane – Fourth Reserve; Jo Hatton – Horniman Museum; Ernie Thomason – F/O Garthorne NR, JA – LBL Beckenham Place Park, Donna Davis – F/O River Pool; Monika Mitchell – Sydenham Wells Park Improvement Group

2. Minutes and matters arising

- All to contact Mike (mthom019@gold.ac.uk) or Tobie (T.Kerridge@gold.ac.uk) if interested to get involved in the AHRC funded 'More-Than-Human Community Toolkit' project - ongoing
- EM to ask CT about new hedge in Manor Park and tree species choice - DONE
- JK to speak with AED about tasks on site – to discuss closer to autumn/winter Nature's Gym sessions

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.

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. [“Place Making and the Rivers of Lewisham”](#) project update and discussion – Louise Rondel and Emma Jackson:

- Louise and Emma summarised achievements from the project (e.g. report, podcast, policy briefing) and shared the good news that the British Academy selected their project to showcase their work. The title of the paper is **‘Learning from small urban rivers and the people who steward them: How grassroots expertise can inform policy and the intersection of nature recovery and planning’**.
- There will be workshops and other events (e.g. in Petts Wood see above), and they would like to highlight the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership and the 3 Rivers Cleanup as best practice.

Next steps

Commissioned by the British Academy to write 'Learning from small urban rivers and the people who steward them: How grassroots expertise can inform policy at the intersection of nature recovery and planning'.

Responding to a call for policy-oriented papers on the topic of place-sensitive understandings of nature recovery in the UK.

Case studies: 1. Stewardship and care; 2. Advocacy and scrutiny; 3. Partnership working.

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

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

5. Problems/issues raised

- a. **Fourth Reserve, Buckthorne Cutting NR:** I think encroachment and habitat destruction along railway embankment sites is a huge problem that is not being managed and if it's happening in plain sight along nature reserve boundaries then it will also be happening along areas that aren't managed - on google maps you can see areas of land taken or inappropriately used by residents all the way down to Brockley Station. If you look at all the encroachments collectively they probably do just as much damage to habitats as property development does. I think that it would be well worth us having an **action plan** that all the rail side groups feed into and I think we should then request a **joint meeting** with the railway to discuss.

ACTION: All interested to contact EWD or Anna-Maria about this.

6. Partner updates and discussion

- a. **MK (LewBP chair, Ladywell Society)**
- i. Informative on living roofs for planning applications but would be good to request this not just as informative.
- b. **JA (Albion Millennium Green)**
- i. World Labyrinth Day on 3rd May
- c. **FA (Gilmore Road Park)**
- i. In the process to set up a Friends group for the park, organising public meeting on 1 June to help with this
 - ii. Lewisham Housing team did litter clearance and vegetation management
- d. **AED (Hillcrest Woods)**
- i. Planting day for the new pond in Hillcrest 22 May at 11am
 - ii. Kestrel sightings in Hillcrest Woods and potentially nesting on one of the tower blocks

- e. **GT (F/O Ladywell and Brockley Cemeteries)**
 - i. There will be an event in the cemeteries as part of Brockley Max on 31 May at 2 pm, nature walk
 - ii. 13 July open day, 1 or 2 nature walks by Tom Moulton
 - iii. Local beekeeper is using the old toilets in LBC
- f. **TW (Forster Memorial Park, Kitchen Buddy)**
 - i. Litter picking series is starting on Saturday 11:45 Bellingham entrance, 1h session
 - ii. [Verdant Lane Community Garden](#), vegetable growing session, 1 June
- g. **Alona Sheridan (Mayow Park) – sent in writing**
 - i. Lesser spotted woodpecker seen in Mayow Park
- h. **Anne Slater (Chinbrook Meadows) – sent in writing (in attachment)**
 - i. Chinbrook Meadows wetlands project successfully finished, see attached summary of the project and the video about it: [Chinbrook Meadows Wetlands – Lewisham, southeast London](#)

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

- a. **EWD updates:**
 - i. **Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)**
 - Public consultation starts at May/June, online with webinars and engagement sessions. Hard copy to display somewhere in Lewisham, maybe shopping centre
 - Publish LNRS in September
 - Draft document was sent to LAs for pre-consultation, impressive
 - ii. [London Invasive Species Inventory \(LISI\)](#) update in 2025
 - iii. First case of onsite significant BNG in Lewisham
 - iv. Northbrook Park Wetlands: works completed, school and vol sessions, launch event in summer, frogspawn and newts and other wildlife already
 - v. **Kenneth White** funding call coming soon, decision at July meeting
 - vi. GLA new funding: the Green Roots Programme will launch in 2025, between £10k and £500k
 - vii. GiGL's [Connecting London's Green Actions](#) map – add your activities
- b. **JK updates:**
 - i. Lewisham Council have put in a bid to the **NLHF Nature Towns and Cities** grant. The bid is for £840,000 and is for capacity funding only. Our bid is based on three pillars which we hope will shape the new Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and help us have a better understanding of why people don't use our parks and open spaces and what they would like to see. This will be done through creative engagement and providing small grants for user groups to help them run events to encourage people to visit their local green space. We hope this will go beyond Lewisham controlled land and include that managed by our housing providers. There will be three pillars as follows:

- Pillar 1 aim: Increase access and reduce inequality to green and blue spaces for all residents, in particular black, African and Caribbean communities and people living with disabilities.
- Pillar 2 aim: Encourage local action and community engagement in the conservation and management of local green and blue spaces
- Pillar 3 aim: Strengthen connections between people and green and blue infrastructure by collaborating with strategic partners

We will be looking for a lead partner for each pillar who will help us deliver the outcomes and outputs.

- ii. Nature's Gym and school sessions ongoing
- iii. Fun session with students from Capel Manor
- iv. Green Flag judging has begun (thanks David and Maggie 😊)
- v. Meeting about Lewisham's Forest School Policy with other Boroughs
- vi. Dog behaviour training
- vii. Meeting with SLAM - information exchange/support

c. EM updates (Glendale):

- i. 14 conservation sessions (Nature's Gym and Rivers & People)
 - Restoring ponds
 - Reinstating pathways
 - Already pulling Himalayan Balsam!
- ii. Amphibian survey season – 17 ponds in Lewisham surveyed
- iii. Delivered talks about NC to groups in the borough
- iv. Green Flag applications in!
- v. 173 school children engaged
- vi. New bird & bat boxes installed, recording locations of existing boxes and it would be great if local groups could send in the locations and basic details (e.g. material, type of box -bird/bat/bug/bee, condition)

ACTION: All to send What3Word locations boxes of their own parks to EWD/JK/EM

- vii. Starting pollinator surveys soon – FIT Count

ACTION: EM to send around FIT count methodology

- viii. Water vole survey still ongoing, some promising signs

8. AOB

- a. [Natural England Happier Outdoors Festival London](#), 10 days of events in April, worth adding events on the website next year
- b. Potential Red kite call in Hillcrest
- c. Used plant pots (e.g. remaining after planting sessions) can be donated to someone who is using it at Age Concern events.

ACTION: Let ML know if you have plant pots to donate.

- d. TW is developing wild foraging wheel (what to forage when), if anyone has experience with design tools or suggestions please get in touch with TW.
- e. Discussion about issues of harvesting all fruit from community orchards

9. Next meeting: 9th July 2025 at 5pm (MS Teams) – TBC!