

Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership

Full Partnership meeting

Date and time: 9 July 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			
AS	Anne Slater – F/O Chinbrook Meadows, Lewisham Green Spaces Forum	GT	Geoffrey Thurley – F/O Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries
CA	Cash Aspeek – F/O Brookmill Park	JAI	James Allen – LBL
CC	Caroline Cupitt – Ladywell Fields User Group	JAn	Jorella Andrews – Albion Millennium Green
EM	Emily Millhouse - Glendale	JK	Jessica Kyle – LBL
ET	Ernest Thomason – F/O Garthorne Road NR	MK	Mike Keogh – Chair of Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership/QWAG/Ladywell Society
EWD	Eszter Wainwright-Deri – LBL	RA	Roman Aspeek Bloor – F/O Brookmill Park
DD	Dona Davies - F/O River Pool	TW	Theresa Webb – Kitchen Buddy, F/O Forster Memorial Park
DF	David Ford – Urban National Park Ranger		

ACTIONS:

- All to contact Mike or Tobie if interested to get involved in the AHRC funded ‘More-Than-Human Community Toolkit’ project – ongoing
- 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

Upcoming events:

- **13 July 11am - 4:30pm**, Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries, **Open day with nature walks at 12.30 and 15.30**
- **19 July 2-5pm**, Garthorne Road Nature Reserve, **Open day**
- **Albion Millennium Green**, monthly workdays on **2nd Thursday** of month between 10:30am and 2pm
- **8 August**, Forster Memorial Park, **Orchard session** with Caroline Cupitt – TBC
- **13 September**, Plough Bridge pocket park, **opening event** by QWAG

1. Welcome/Introductions/Apologies

Apologies: Maggie Leharne – Chinbrook Allotment Orchard; Alona Sheridan – F/O Mayow Park

2. Minutes and matters arising

- a. 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
- b. 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 – ongoing
- c. Emily to send around FIT count methodology – will send if hasn’t already
- d. Anyone who has design experience and would be able to help the foraging wheel project to contact Teresa (via EWD/JK) – talking to graphic designer tomorrow

- e. All to let Maggie know if you have plant pots to donate or drop off at Chinbrook Allotments

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. Case study on duckweed removal – Friends of Brookmill Park

- a. Over the past few years, 'The Ponderers' of F/O Brookmill Park experimented with different methods to remove duckweed from the pond in the park (also funded by Kenneth White Award in 2024)
- b. Methods tried:
 - i. pond dipping net (too small)
 - ii. net curtain (very heavy)
 - iii. scaffolding netting (better but still heavy)
 - iv. fishing net (didn't bear the weight, but good method for one person)
 - v. removing duckweed with ice in winter (good but heavy work)
 - vi. pumping the top level of water with the duckweed with a hose (did not really work, worse than nets)
 - vii. skim the surface with a pump hose to gather the duckweed into one side of the pond and remove from there – best solution so far
- c. Also trying to address the reasons behind the proliferation of the duckweed – e.g. remove nutrient richness by dredging, not top up with tap water, creating natural banks and a bog area. Now the pond water levels fluctuate and the pond has a more natural bank and more species (e.g. amphibians).
- d. Please see the attached slides for photos and more details.

4. Kenneth White Legacy Award 2025

- a. Thank you for everyone who applied and who voted on the applications! We received **16** applications and **17** votes. The total amount asked for was **£12,224.69** (+ the Albion Millennium Green application that was postponed to this year). The available funding was **£5,591.84** thanks to the ex-Friends of Beckenham Place Park.
- b. LBL proposed to increase the council's contribution to be able to fund all projects that received 5 or more votes (12 projects) for a total **£6,417.69**
- c. The Partnership agreed to **fund 12 projects this year. Congratulations!**

Organisation	Project	Amount	Votes
Albion Millennium Green Trust	Pond Repair and Refurbishment (pondliner, plants, barley straw)	£1,129.00	2024 round
Baring Trust	Improving Sydenham Cottages NR for biodiversity (bat boxes, wildflower seeds)	£220.04	8

Rivers and People, Ladywell Fields User Group	Restoring the Ladywell Hub area – Phase 2 (scrub clearance, planting water edge and wildflowers, bee hotel)	£617.80	8
Friends of Garthorne Road	Bat detectors to support engagement activities and allow bat surveys	£440.95	8
Friends of Brookmill Park	Enhancing biodiversity in Brookmill Park by creating habitats for solitary bees, amphibians, and other invertebrates, while also increasing community awareness and engagement (bee bank, sign, bog habitat)	£651.00	7
Nature's Gym	Expert-led conservation training sessions for Nature's Gym volunteers to equip them with new conservation skills and ecological knowledge	£600.00	6
The Verdant Lane Wildlife Community Garden	Wildlife and Gardening Activities for families living in Lewisham to enable them to discover more about the wildlife in this garden (tools, foraging items, art materials, seeds, posters)	£384.58	6
Friends of Blythe Hill Fields	Creating a hazel coppice and additional 'shrub blocks' in Blythe Hill fields (whips, fencing materials)	£543.39	5
F/O Chinbrook Meadows	Supporting bat and amphibian surveys and the management of the new wetland (bat detector, torch and duckweed equipment)	£404	5
Chinbrook Community Orchard	Supporting environmental education activities and hedgehog monitoring (bulbs, grafting tools, hedgehog house)	£171.94	5
Friends of Silverdale Enclosure	Additional plants for the Silverdale Enclosure	£497	5
Friends of Forster Memorial Park	Rainwater harvesting for the Sensory Garden to make it more sustainable and promote the use of rainwater.	£757.99	5
Friends of Blythe Hill Fields	Creating a hazel coppice and additional 'shrub blocks' in Blythe Hill fields (whips, fencing materials)	£543.39	5
Total funded		£6,417.69	

NOT FUNDED			
Buckthorne Road	Meadow creation and invertebrate survey	£2,000.00	<5
Creekside Education Trust	Running 3 nature conservation workshops for Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership members	£900.00	<5
F/O Dacres Wood LNR	Installing benches in the nature reserve	£400.00	<5
Deptford Railway Meadow Association	Diversifying the flowering plant species in the meadow and training for volunteers	£806.00	<5
St. Johns Society	“Reviving St Johns Garden”: to restore a neglected small site for biodiversity and the local community	£2,830.00	<5
Total applied for		£6,936	

5. **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!

6. Problems/issues raised

- Albion Millennium Green – fly-tipped green waste. Discussed and recommended to either write a polite note to neighbours or put on the notice board regarding the impacts of garden waste on natural habitats.
- Crofton Park Station Community Garden – planter with native climber was removed due to fire risk; discussion via email list

7. Partner updates and discussion

- GT (F/O Ladywell and Brockley Cemeteries)**
 - Open day on 13th July, 11am - 4:30pm
- CC (LFUG)**
 - 8 August, Orchard session in Forster Memorial Park – TBC
 - Park user survey for Ladywell Fields has just closed with nearly 400 responses. It shows that the number one reason people come to the park is for contact with nature.
- MK (LewBP chair, Ladywell Society, QWAG)**
 - 13th September event Plough Bridge
 - Decrease in amount of disposable vapes since ban
 - Many bats fly around in Riverdale Sculpture Park
- JAn (Albion Millennium Green)**
 - Monthly workday on 2nd Thursday 10:30am – 2pm

- ii. Working with Surfers Against Sewage and the Forest Hill Society on community litter picks along the Network Rail Railway Path part of which is adjacent to the Green. Logging brands and worst litter offenders

e. ET (F/O Garthorne Road NR)

- i. Next open day on 19th July 2-5pm (3rd Saturday of each month)
- ii. Swifts and stag beetle on Blackheath, ruddy duck in Beckenham Place Park and in Peter Pan Pond probably escapee

f. CA (F/O Brookmill Park)

- i. Did audiomoth bat survey in park last year and still waiting for results
- ii. Museum of London exhibition on litter from parks

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

a. JK updates (LBL):

- i. Nature's Gym and school sessions ongoing
- ii. 3RCU started with a lovely walk on 21st June
- iii. More Green Flag judging
- iv. Visit to wetlands in Lewisham with Sam from Ealing
- v. NLHF bid results due by next week

b. EM updates (Glendale):

- i. 14 conservation sessions (Nature's Gym and Rivers & People)
 - Bat nights in Blythe Hill Fields
 - PlasticBlitz wades – international programme, brands are made accountable
 - 3RCU
- ii. 166 school children engaged
- iii. Nature Conservation work experience student
- iv. Survey's going well- increase in birds of prey, swifts on Blackheath, butterfly pops, and we've heard a treecreeper in Ladywell Fields!

c. JAI updates (LBL - BPP):

- i. Community Day was well attended and lots of good engagement and involvement from ecologically focussed partners Thames21, Environment Agency, Field Studies Council, BDP Landscape Architects, and three nature based learning providers as well as community stalls.
- ii. Hosted DEFRA on an EA/Thames21 Ravensbourne Catchment Water Blitz.
- iii. Welcomed two work experience students to the park one of which is actively seeking work in countryside management.

d. EWD updates (LBL):

- i. **Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)**
 - Public consultation starts soon (delayed), online with webinars and engagement sessions.
- ii. **Green Roots Programme (GLA)** launched on 23 June
 - implementation and enabling projects to create and improve green and blue infrastructure in London
 - between £10k and £500k

- deadline is 21 August at 2pm
- £12M over 5 rounds between now and 2027
- Project delivery over 2 years
- 1 organisation can only lead 1 bid but can partner on multiple
- Priority for this round: Clean and healthy waterways
- <https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/environment-and-climate-change/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/green-roots-fund>

iii. Candy Blackham's Green Greenwich book released in June

9. AOB

- a. British Library exhibition on gardening and food growing and CoCo Collective is included in the exhibition
- b. London Plan consultation happened in June but will be future rounds. EWD will send around link when next round of consultation happens.
- c. Consultation on Biodiversity Net Gain for small and medium size developments are open until 24th July:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-the-implementation-of-biodiversity-net-gain-for-minor-medium-and-brownfield-development>

10.Next meeting: 15th October **2025 at 4pm** (MS Teams) – **TBC!**