

Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership

Full Partnership meeting

Date and time: 13 May 2026, 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			
AC	Andrew Cocoran – Glendale	FS2	Dr Freddy Sarathchandra - enstic
CR	Catriona Ross - LBL	JA	Jorella Andrews – Albion Millennium Green
CC	Caroline Cupitt – Ladywell Fields User Group	JK	Jess Kyle – LBL
DF	David Ford – Urban National Park Ranger	GT	Geoffrey Thurley – F/O Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries
EM	Emily Millhouse - Glendale	MK	Mike Keogh – Chair of Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership, QWAG
EWD	Eszter Wainwright-Deri – LBL	TW	Theresa Webb – F/O Forster Memorial Park, Kitchen Buddy
FK	Fowsia Kadiye - LBL	MM	Monika Mitchell – Sydenham Wells Park Improvement Group
FS1	Francisca Sconce – Royal Entomological Society		

ACTIONS:

- If you or your group organise an event for Insect Week please submit your event(s) via the [Insect Week](#) website.
- Anyone interested in working with Freddy e.g. at events, to get in contact with him via hello@enstic.com
- Groups who need support with tools to get in contact with Emily.
- If any group would like to have a stall at the Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries open day on 12 July to email Geoffrey at geoffrey@fobl.org.uk
- Anyone interested in getting involved with Bee Walks in Fordham Park or Blackheath to contact Emily to link with the Buzzing in the East End team
- Anyone interested in getting involved with the [Environmental Visual Evaluation \(EVE\) Tool](#) project, contact Emily
- All who received Kenneth White funding in 2025 and haven't yet sent a report to send JK/EWD a brief report on the project as soon as possible.

Upcoming events:

- 16 May, Ladywell Fields, [Tree walk](#) as part of the Urban Tree Festival
- 22 May 3.30-5.30pm, Forster Memorial Park, **Girls Design Workshop (9-16 yrs)**
- 23-31 May, [London's River Week](#)
- 25 May 7pm, Science talk at Brookmill Pub, [Uninvited guests: How invasive species, plastic and contaminants travel down our local rivers](#) by Lawrence Beale Collins
- 27 May 6-8pm, Ladywell Fields, [London Rivers Week 2026: Twilight Elver Watch](#), Thames 21
- 31 May 10-4, Sydenham Wells Park, [Summer fair and Dog show](#)

- **14 June 11-2**, Sydenham Wells Park, [Plant sale](#)
- **22-28 June**, various events and locations, [Insect Week](#)
- **25 June**, Upper Pepys Park, Nature's Gym Insect session with Bugman Jones (book in with Jess)
- **27 June – 17 July**, various locations, [3 Rivers Cleanup](#) (booking needed)
- **27 June**, Catford Bridge, Catford Festival
- **4-5 July**, Riverdale Sculpture Park, Festival
- **12 July 9am - 5pm**, Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries, [F/O BLC Annual Open Day](#)
- **6 August**, Sydenham Wells Park, **Bat walk**

1. Welcome/Introductions/Apologies

Apologies: Donna Davies – F/O River Pool; Viv Lund – F/O Dacres Wood LNR; James Allen – LBL; Alona Sheridan – F/O Mayow Park; Maggie Leharne – Chinbrook Allotment Orchard; Anne Slater – F/O Chinbrook Meadows

2. Minutes and matters arising

- 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
- All to email AS via greenspaceslewisham@hotmail.com if you want to be added to the mailing list and/or Whatsapp for the Green Spaces Forum - ongoing
- Let EM know if you would like your organisation to be linked on the Rivers & People website - ongoing

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. Biodiversity Partnership Highlights – see BARS excel and slides attached.

- 236** events, **2,196** adults and **1,181** children engaged, and **2,154.25** volunteer hours delivered
- Also, frog spotted in pond at Folkestone Gardens which is good sign that works helped
- Little egrets on River Pool
- Lots of frogspawn/tadpoles in newly restored pond in Albion Millennium Green
- Swifts arrived back in April, sightings across the borough
- Hedgehog seen in Charlottenburg Park and Grove Park Cemetery
- Ermine moths in Hilly Fields

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

4. Engaging with Insect week – Francisca Sconce, Royal Entomological Society (RES)

- Francisca introduced RES, and gave a brief introduction to UK insect groups (see slides below) and the threats/challenges, and some conservation successes, including the Large Blue butterfly, Wart biter cricket and Pine hoverfly

- b. Francisca also provided some examples of what people can do at home to help insects
- c. [Insect Week](#) is happening between **22-28 June 2026** and co-ordinated by RES
- d. Anyone could organise various activities to participate in Insect Week, e.g. FIT count (EM will send methodology around), bug hunt, bug walk, art or photography activity, dress up as an insect event/party

ACTION: If you are able to organise an event please submit your event via the [Insect Week](#) website.

The largest groups of insects...



beetles



true flies



true bugs



bees, wasps, ants and sawflies⁶



butterflies & moths

Small orders...



cockroaches



earwigs



stoneflies



mayflies



mantis



scorpionflies



alderflies



lacewings



lice



stick insects



dragonflies



grasshoppers



thrips



flea



caddisflies

5. Bioacoustics monitoring for insects – Dr Freddy Sarathchandra, Enstic

- a. Freddy introduced his project and how to use the sound of an insect to identify the species

- b. Focusing on disease vectors, crop pests, invasive species, pollinating insects and beneficial insects currently
- c. Projects are ongoing in Luxemburg and London to record sounds of wild bees to be able to identify species by their sound with the small acoustic monitoring tool Freddy created.
- d. He also developed a small, outdoor microscope which can take good quality photos from all angles, so the species can be identified later.

ACTION: Anyone interested in working with Freddy e.g. at events get in contact with him via hello@enstic.com.

6. Problems/issues raised and discussed

- a. **CC: Lewisham Orchard Network**
 - i. CC raised the idea of creating a Lewisham Orchard Network to link up our community orchards so that we can share expertise, volunteers, tools etc
 - ii. Council officers are looking into this to secure funding and a lead organisation with potential interest from Lewisham Local.
 - iii. Glendale launched a **community tools initiative** to provide tools to borrow for local groups for events or activities that can support the network once set up or other groups in Lewisham.

ACTION: Groups who need support with tools to get in contact with Emily.

7. Partner updates and discussion

- a. **CC (LFUG)**
 - i. Urban Tree Festival this week, tree walk in Ladywell Fields on 16th May
 - ii. Working on preparing a Ladywell Fields Local Nature Recovery Plan
- b. **MM (SWPIG)**
 - i. Summer Fair and Dog Show on **31 May 10-4**
 - ii. Plant sale on **14 Jun 11-2**
 - iii. Bat walk **6 Aug from 8.15pm**
- c. **TW (F/O Forster Memorial Park)**
 - i. Won the Green Flag 'Best of the Best' [award for UK Best Women and Girls Initiative 2025](#)
 - ii. 22 May **Forster Park Girl Design Workshop**
- d. **GT (F/O Ladywell and Brockley Cemeteries)**
 - i. 30 May meeting to look at current war memorial works
 - ii. 12 July, [Annual Open Day](#)

ACTION: if any group would like to have a stall at the open day, email Geoffrey at geoffrey@fobl.org.uk

- e. **FK/CR (LBL – Nature Towns and Cities)**
 - i. FK and CR started in April and still settling in, will be in touch soon and provide updates at next Partnership meeting
 - ii. 27 June attending the Catford Festival event at Catford Bridge, it is also start day of 3 Rivers Cleanup
 - iii. 23-31 May London Rivers Week

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

- a. **EM updates (Glendale):**

- i. 16 conservation sessions (Nature's Gym and Rivers & People)
 - Pond Management- marginal clearance and planting in new ponds
 - Woodland Management, coppicing and hedging!
- ii. 42 ponds in the borough: surveyed 22 for spawn and 14 amphibian survey, waterblitz (water quality test)
- iii. Supporting various projects in the borough - bumblebees, birds and more. Lots of opportunities coming up too

ACTION: Anyone interested in getting involved with Bee Walks in Fordham Park or Blackheath contact Emily to link with the Buzzing in the East End team.

- iv. Family pond dipping day in Northbrook Park
- v. Green Flag judging ongoing
- vi. Working on the implementation of the EVE Tool ([Environmental Visual Evaluation Tool](#)) and organising walks

ACTION: if you are interested in getting involved with the EVE Tool project, contact Emily.

b. JK updates (LBL):

- i. Nature Towns and Cities staff in post
- ii. Meeting to discuss a potential new pond in Brookmill LNR as part of the Blue Chain Project with Froglife.
- iii. Fun Nature's Gym session in a new site – Hillcrest Woods
- iv. Working (small input) on a funding bid with UCL to complement the NTC bid – Urban Urgencies Fund
- v. 3 Rivers Clean Up **27th June – 17th July**
- vi. Lots of school sessions and more to come
- vii. Reminder that if you have received Kenneth White funding to send us a brief report – as we have mentioned in the application, failure to send in a report may mean your group can't apply the following year.

ACTION: If you have received Kenneth White funding to send JK/EWD a brief report on the project.

c. EWD updates (LBL):

- i. [Local Nature Recovery Strategy \(LNRS\)](#)
 - LNRS was published in March
 - Discussions about Local Nature Recovery Plans (LNRRPs) which is a recommendation of the LNRS
- ii. Lewisham's **Statutory Biodiversity Duty** report published in March
- iii. [Ladywell Fields river restoration and BNG project](#) started
- iv. **Climate Staff Network** planted bulbs and plug plants by Laurence House and Town Hall
- v. [B.E.E. project \(BCT\)](#) – Blackheath is a new flagship site, ID course, hedge planting in Fordham Park in February
- vi. **Northbrook Park** – T21 project ended, new River Action Group (RAG) set up
- vii. New **BNG** exemptions from July, e.g. 0.2ha sites will be exempt
- viii. Waterblitz, Outfall Safari, White-letter and Brown hairstreak surveys

d. JA updates (LBL - BPP):

- i. Worked on another off-patch bit of hedgelaying, this time in Mountsfield Park
- ii. Supported Butterfly Conservation's Brown Hairstreak egg count, subsequently cut a new blackthorn scallop to improve habitat for next year.
- iii. Hosted two kids engagement activities over Easter, one making bird feeders and the other kick sampling in the river (with support from FSC)

9. AOB

- a. Kenneth White call for applications are coming soon, decision on successful applications will be made at July meeting
- b. Swifts: call recording is available on the [Brockley Society website](#) that can be used to play for new swift boxes
- c. The pond by Riverdale House has been improved by the Pond Guys
- d. Brookmill Pub talk coming up by Lawrence Beale Collins on **25 May** on invasive species

10. Next meeting: 15 July 2026 at 5pm (MS Teams) – TBC!