

Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership

Full Partnership meeting

Date and time: 7 October 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			
AS	Anne Slater – F/O Chinbrook Meadows, Lewisham Green Spaces Forum	MK	Mike Keogh – Chair of Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership, QWAG
CC	Caroline Cupitt - Ladywell Fields User Group (LFUG)	JK	Jess Kyle – LBL
DF	David Ford – Urban National Park Ranger, QWAG	MC	Mark Cridge - London National Park City
EM	Emily Millhouse – Glendale	MM	Monika Mitchell – Sydenham Wells Park Improvement Group
EWD	Eszter Wainwright-Deri – LBL	NS	Noah Stommel - Creekside Education Trust (CET)
JA	Jorella Andrews - Albion Millennium Green	SM	Sophie Mangnall - London National Park City
GT	Geoffrey Thurley – F/O Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries		

ACTIONS:

- All to share Albion Millennium Green job description for [an environment officer position](#).
- Any agenda items for the upcoming meeting of the Green Spaces Forum meeting in November to be sent to Anne.
- Ongoing actions:
 - Groups who need support with tools to get in contact with Emily.
 - 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 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
 - 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

Upcoming events:

- **17 October**, Churchill Gardens in Pimlico, [London Urban National Park Ranger Festival](#)
- **18 October at 2pm**, Ladywell and Brockley Cemeteries, [Guided tour](#)
- **22 October at 10:30am**, Fordham Park, [Beewalk](#) by BCT
- **22 October at 1:30pm**, Blackheath, [Beewalk and Wildflower Survey](#) by BCT
- **30 October 10am-3pm**, Ladywell Fields, [River restoration project volunteer session Thames21](#)
- **8 November 11am**, Ladywell and Brockley Cemeteries, **Remembrance event**
- **18 November 7pm**, Lewisham Civic Suite, **Lewisham Green Space Forum meeting**

- **October-November**, Forster Memorial Park/Chinbrook Meadows/Sydenham Wells Park/Mayow Park, [Fungi walks in Lewisham](#)

1. Welcome/Introductions/Apologies

Apologies: Alona Sheridan – F/O Mayow Park; David Davies – Ladywell Fields User Group, James Allen – LBL

2. Minutes and matters arising

- There were no new actions from last meeting.
- Ongoing matters/reminders – see above

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 for photos.

- Three young Peregrine falcons were seen in Northbrook Park
- Wasp spider recorded in Hilly Fields
- EA fish survey in Ladywell Fields found 7 species of fish including European Eels (82 individuals)
- Rivers and People volunteers found a Chinese stripe-necked turtle in the river, which is on the IUCN Critically Endangered list. It was taken to a rescue centre and now used for environmental education sessions.
- White letter hairstreak butterflies seen in the elm tree in Ladywell Fields
- Tawny owls recorded in Forster Memorial Park during butterfly survey.

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

4. London National Park City Rangers – Mark Cridge

- Mark introduced [London National Park City](#) (LNPC) and explained what the charity is doing to celebrate and support community groups in London (please see further details in the slides shared).
- There are 9 active urban rangers in Lewisham
- LNPC runs a **Small Project Grants**: 113 small grants for Rangers and community led projects has been awarded so far, 10 in Lewisham; the aim is to increase the number and capacity of local people to lead on community projects; the funding is flexible and the application is easy, and reporting involves a blog post and photos. **Rounds open every 3 months**, Mark will share the link with us when the next round is open so we can share with the partnership
- LNPC has a visitor centre near Oxford Circus providing information on London National Park, just like at other National Parks
- Rivers and waterways are the focus currently - new river rangers recruited, working together with Thames21
- [Ranger Festival](#) on 17 October in Pimlico, all are welcome
- London Walking Festival will happen in 2027 again, details will be shared

- h. We then had a brief discussion about Lewisham priorities e.g. climate resilience, insects, shade, rivers, and biodiversity action plan priorities.

5. Problems/issues raised and discussed

- a. Albion Millennium Green is looking for a new [voluntary environment officer position](#). Please see the role description at the link and note that all does not have to be done by one person.

ACTION: Please share the job description within your networks and contact Jorella if you know anyone who might be interested.

- b. LFUG is keeping an eye on the hospital project in the Ladywell Fields. LFUG has raised concerns several times when we thought root zones were not being respected, sediment was discharged into the river, etc. (Ladywell Fields User Group, just for FYI)
- c. Help is needed with assessing climate change related risks in management plans. Brief discussion regarding this and that it will be a topic to discuss at another Partnership meeting.
- d. Mention of Ponds in Drought Conditions contingency plan that will be prepared.

6. Partner updates and discussion

a. CC (LFUG)

- i. Citizen Zoo visited Ladywell Fields to discuss the potential of water vole reintroductions. First thoughts are that the river is too shaded at the moment so would need to remove trees as a first step to consider water voles.
- ii. Ladywell Fields Nature Recovery Plan is finalised and can be downloaded from <https://ladywellfields.blogspot.com/>
- iii. Flowering lawn trial in the middle field - near the adventure playground, in an area where the soil is very poor quality.

b. MM (SWPIG)

- i. Successful bat walk - 70 people attended, successful plant sale
- ii. Stag beetles
- iii. Pond covered in Duckweed
- iv. Fungi walk in November

c. JA (Albion Millennium Green)

- i. Nothing to report, normal monthly volunteer sessions (will advertise on the facebook group)

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

- i. Successful Bat Walk- awaiting species, will send through to group.
- ii. Sunday **8th November 11am**- upcoming event, also nature's gym joining for a session soon

e. AS (F/O Chinbrook Meadows, Chinbrook Orchard Allotments, Lewisham Green Spaces Forum)

- i. Fungi walks- mycologist led walk on **7 November**
- ii. Successful apple day - Quekett Microscopy Club joined the event and found lots of good invertebrates
- iii. Chinbrook Community Orchard- nothing to add this time

- iv. Lewisham Green Spaces Forum - upcoming November meeting with greenscene council officers - any agenda updates for that please send through to Anne

ACTION: Any agenda items for the upcoming meeting of the Green Spaces Forum meeting in November to be sent to Anne.

f. DF (Urban National Park Ranger, QWAG)

- i. Northbrook Park ponds are worked on with the local group and creating a hibernaculum, led by Clare. Next volunteer session is Friday 16 October 10-12
- ii. Manor Park Fair- 11th Oct (12-4pm)

g. NS (Creekside Education Trust)

- i. Wild tide - new project- restoring and creating new habitat along Deptford Creek (making a wildlife task force, for new or existing volunteers in the area) will be on the website soon.
- ii. Will be hosting a variety of sessions locally in the near future- will provide with more updates as the project progresses.

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

a. EM updates (Glendale):

- i. 14 conservation sessions (Nature's Gym and Rivers & People)
 - Outfall Safari completed for the catchment
 - Bioblitz session with Dr Richard Jones at Northbrook Park
 - Some interesting finds this quarter!
- ii. Beewalks over the summer
- iii. Delivered a talk about Nature Conservation projects in Lewisham
- iv. Park Survey Launched- info circulated via email: [Survey Link](#)

b. JK updates (LBL):

- i. Nature's Gym.
- ii. 3RCU a success, lots of new volunteers
- iii. New pond installed at Brookmill LNR
- iv. Session with EY and Kay Pallaris at Lee and District Allotments
- v. Took part in the Autumn Waterblitz at the Ravensbourne in Ladywell Fields.
Moderate health: Nitrates: 1-2 (mg/L); Phosphates: 0.02-0.05 (mg/L)

c. EWD updates (LBL):

- i. [Draft London Plan consultation](#), have your say until 15 October
- ii. [Sustainable Development Select Committee](#) – report on Ecological Governance and Rights to Nature
- iii. Worked on **Local Nature Recovery Action Plan** (LNRAP) template with GLA and other boroughs. Template now available and as Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) expires this year, the next plan will be an LNRAP not BAP
- iv. **Outfall safari results** are in for the Ravensbourne, 38km river surveyed, 236 outfalls identified, majority no evidence of pollution (218, 92.3%) and 18 (73.6%) scored ≥ 6 . Six outfalls scored ≥ 10 in catchment which is

immediately reported to Thames Water for investigation, two of the six in Lewisham.

Table 2, Number of outfalls and their respective scores.

Outfall Score	0	4	6	8	10	12	16
Number of outfalls	208	10	7	5	3	2	1
Percentage (%)	88.1	4.2	3.0	2.1	1.3	0.8	0.4

- v. **Long-horned Bee** (*Eucera longicornis*) update: there was a fire in Grove Park but the thermometer that Queen Mary Uni's research team installed does not show a spike of temperatures that would be higher than experienced during the heatwaves so we are hopeful that the bees survived.
- vi. **Waterblitz** at Chinbrook Meadows wetlands, good health: Phosphates <0.02; Nitrates: <0.2
- vii. **Northbrook Park wetlands** project shortlisted for the Pro Landscaper Sustainability & Biodiversity Awards 2026. Fingers crossed.
- viii. Static **bioacoustic bat and bird monitoring** in Riverdale Sculpture Park

8. AOB

- a. **London in Bloom Awards** – 7 Gold Awards, 1 Biodiversity Award and 3 Silver Gilt
- b. People's Emergency Briefing discussion at next meeting
- c. **Network Rail project in Southern Region** – see emails Jess and Eszter sent around with the survey, webinar can be found [here](#).

9. Next meeting: 13th or 20th January 2027 at 5pm(MS Teams) – TBC