

Lewisham Biodiversity Group

Full Partnership meeting

Date and time: 27th April 2022, 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 Wood	JK	Jessica Kyle – LBL
DD	Donna Davis – F/O River Pool	JM	James MacDaid – GoParks London, CPRE
DF	David Ford - Lee Forum, London National Park City Rangers	JW	Judith Watling – Glendale
ET	Ernie Thomason-Garthorne Nature Reserve	LBC	Lawrence Beale Collins – QWAG, Healthy Rivers project
EWD	Eszter Wainwright-Deri – LBL	LWM	Lucy Walker-Mitchell – LBL
FR	Francis Rowe-Albion Millennium Green	ML	Maggie Leharne – Chinbrook Allotment Community Orchard
GT	Geoffrey Thurley – F/O Brockley and Ladywell Cemetery (BLC)	MK	Mike Keogh – LewBP Chair, QWAG
JF	John Farr – F/O Dacres Wood NR	MM	Monika Mitchell - F/O Sydenham Wells Park
JH	Jo Hatton-Horniman Museum		

ACTIONS

- 1. ALL-Lewisham volunteering Facebook page has been set up by LBC for nature volunteering in Lewisham and it is going well. Please continue to post news, events etc. there!** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1645622559109140/>
- 2. ALL- if you would like to attend the Butterfly ID and recording workshop at BPP on 12th July you can register here:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/butterfly-identification-and-recording-workshop-tickets-325673005727>
- 3. JW to check about mowing and wildflower meadow in Sydenham Wells Park**
- 4. EWD to circulate 2022 call for Kenneth White Legacy Award applications – Done**
- 5. EWD to circulate Doodle poll for Hillcrest Woods walk**

1. Welcome/Introductions/Apologies

Apologies: James Newton-Forster Memorial Park, Alona Sheridan- Mayow Park, Marie-Claire Denyer – Street Trees for Living, Philly Nicholls-Thames21, Carole Destre – Horniman Museum.

2. Laura Collins-Go Parks London

Presentation

[Go Park London](#) is about promoting green spaces, volunteering in parks and getting underused spaces more used. Laura gave a tour of the website, showed the map of parks for London and the map for Lewisham parks. Showed details of what is in the parks, facilities, toilets etc, description and history of the park. There are links to London Gardens Trust and Gigl. James MacDaid explained he is trying to make the website more interactive and promoting volunteer groups. Groups can send pictures to be put on social media platforms. Friends groups can

register and create a page for their park. They would like to do an event to promote friends groups in Lewisham. Laura's email: laura@cprelondon.org.uk

Q&A

MM asked is it free?

It is free as it is already funded by charitable trusts.

GT asked can you upload videos?

Not yet-it may be possible in the future

3. Minutes and matters arising-All actions completed or ongoing from last meeting, updates provided below

4. Biodiversity Partnership Summary Report and Highlights (JK)

Outputs-still engaging lots of people, almost 1500 adults. Environmental education quite low but is picking up now after covid. Lots of trees have been planted, especially at Durham Hill. Lots of surveys taking place. Crested Caracara Falcon escaped from a zoo appeared in Mayow Park. Sparrowhawk seen in Brookmill. Lots of frog spawn seen in various areas.

5. Lewisham updates:

LWM-

There are lots of Bluebells coming up in the woods, best display in years, areas that have been cut back have sprouted bluebells and wood anemone. Found a newt in the community garden, doing regular surveys in the park, free butterfly ID and recording workshop from Big City Butterflies, **Tuesday 12th July 10.30-1pm**, Love BPP Community Day **30th April**-RSPB and bat conservation trust coming, **flower show 31st July**.

DF commented- he visited BPP, thinks the mound needs some work, found some nice fungi and the park is looking really good.

If anyone would like to attend the butterfly workshop:

Free Butterfly Identification& recording workshop - gain skills & knowledge in identifying and recording butterflies to help establish more recording across Lewisham. **Tuesday 12th July 10.30-13.00pm** at Beckenham Place Park Mansion, Beckenham Hill Road, BR3 1SY. Slide presentation followed by walk around the Park with Steve from Big City Butterflies Project

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/butterfly-identification-and-recording-workshop-tickets-325673005727>

JW-

Rivers and People-

We have been working on the backwaters in the Ladywell south and middle fields and the pond at Chinbrook Meadows.

We have finished the bee bank at Ladywell near the secondary channel.

Nature's Gym-

We have been working on the Eastern Road entrance at Hilly Fields, clearing back brambles and weeding the fruiting hedges.

Cleared brambles from the meadow area at Mountsfield Park ready for the wildflowers to come up this summer.

Bird surveys-

•Ladywell Fields- Kingfisher, Greater spotted woodpeckers creating a nest, little egret, 2 regular mandarin ducks.

•Hilly Fields- RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch event at Hilly Fields in January, it was well attended, and we saw a variety of birds including goldcrests, redwing, nuthatches, long tailed tits and chaffinches.

•High numbers of butterflies this spring-brimstones, whites, peacocks, commas, red admirals, holly blues, gatekeepers, speckled woods.

Habitat Management Training-

Glendale staff attended training to better manage meadows in parks for butterflies with Big City Butterflies project officer Steve Bolton.

Green Flag judging-

Taking place in June at Brookmill, Ladywell, Chinbrook, Northbrook, Sydenham and Telegraph Hill.

Questions-

AED-can the mowing be relaxed at Sydenham Wells and what is happening with the proposed meadow area-JW to check.

DF-the classroom is looking untidy at Manor Park.

JW-it has all been tidied up a couple of weeks ago. All the rubbish the closed café left behind has been cleared out.

Jess-

Has renewed forest school licenses. Working on a project at Waldron Centre.

Got the money for bell green pond restoration and dipping platform from Rewild London. Will do some surveys round the pond as well.

3 rivers clean up 11th-June to 9th July

Lewisham Cleaner and greener **30th May-24th August** to clean up local area.

Eszter-

Pictures been sent for Kenneth White Fund projects. Will be open for new applications in a few weeks. Also £200 available for bee projects.

Planted the tiny forest in Durham Hill

City Nature Challenge this weekend-international citizen science project to record sightings

Barratt Homes Community Grant-up to £1000 available for Lewisham groups

Ladywell Playtower refurbishment-will try to maximise biodiversity, native hedges and green roofs.

6. Partner updates:

JH-

Planted a micro forest. Held easter fair over the weekend. Launched forest schools initiative, 4 people trained for forest school. Participating in borough of culture. In January awarded heritage lottery funding Big Nature Project, connecting people with nature. Developing different areas of the museum and gardens, creating a winter garden and sustainable gardening, improve access to the nature trail, developing an adventure zone, creating an action zone about climate change and humans impact on natural world with activities for children.

MM-

Treescape grant gave 10 trees to the park. Would like a bat walk this year. Put up a new bat box from FR.

AED-

Ivy has been cut on Vigilant Close. Mowing regimes could be relaxed more as it encourages wildflowers and bluebells have come up where mowing has been relaxed. Large population of crows on Hillcrest, seen woodpeckers, common lizards, low song thrush numbers.

DF-

Has relocated the bird box on the fallen tree. Visited grove park and noticed black rubbish bags being left on trees and has removed them.

DD-

Wetland has lost its source of water-seems to have dried up. Been building berms. Saw a cormorant. Done a borough of culture bid to have a mini festival and paintings on the railway bridge.

ET-

Workdays once a month not well attended, a couple of volunteers, doing some dead hedging, also wildlife surveys and butterfly transects. Open days are going ahead and successful (50-70 people)

FR-

First ever Big Garden Bird Watch-saw 15 species including a Redwing. Trying to increase butterflies and leave grass edges longer. New volunteer standing for local elections. Preschool children still visiting.

GT-

Wildflower walk on Sunday-few butterflies, saw a green veined white. Heard blackcaps, green woodpeckers, robins, had a nature's gym session in February. Got another work session on 19th June.

MK-

QWAG is busy with Outfall Safari
3 Rivers Cleanup is coming up

AOBs

MK-Peoples Day coming up on 16th July, QWAG will have a stall

EWD- As quarterly meetings stay online it would be good to organise an in person walk from Lower Sydenham to Catford or another site if there is interest. Members were in agreement and suggested a visit to Hillcrest Wood as a first walk. **AP – EWD to send out doodle poll to find suitable date for the walk.**

ET-

[National Amphibian and Reptile Monitoring Programme \(arc-trust.org\)](http://arc-trust.org) are collecting data about these species and the condition of the ponds. Also the Field Studies Council are doing a free **Biolinks invertebrates recorder day** at Lesnes Abbey Wood in Bexley on Friday [Lesnes Abbey Wood Field Recorder Day – Field Studies Council \(field-studies-council.org\)](http://field-studies-council.org) maybe a suggestion since FSC is based at Beckenham Place Park is for them maybe do a course at the site to record the species there?.

The London Wildlife Trust are doing a couple of events at **New Cross Gate Cutting**

Saturday 7th May 5:00am – 6:30am [Dawn Chorus Walk at New Cross Gate Cutting | London Wildlife Trust \(wildlondon.org.uk\)](http://wildlondon.org.uk) (Booking required)

Saturday 7th May 8:00am – 9:30am [Family Bird Walk at New Cross Gate Cutting | London Wildlife Trust \(wildlondon.org.uk\)](http://wildlondon.org.uk) (Booking required)

Sydenham Hill Wood Spring event

Sunday 8th May 11:00am – 3:00pm [Spring in the Wood | London Wildlife Trust \(wildlondon.org.uk\)](http://wildlondon.org.uk) No booking required

Next Partnership meeting: 13th July 4pm (Teams)