Blooming Lambeth Awards 2019

Landor Garden Project
Lambeth Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

With an abundance of private and social housing, as well as unbelievably busy streets and pavements, you might imagine there’s no place for wildlife in Lambeth - but you’d be wrong. Lambeth provides a home or ‘habitat’ for an astonishing diversity of wild plants and animals. Places where wildlife can shelter, move about, feed and breed, including private or communal gardens, allotments, parks, ponds, trees, woodlands, school grounds, and railway linesides, to say nothing of the River Thames as it winds its way along the northern edge of Lambeth.

Despite this, our wildlife needs protecting from inappropriate development or poor management practices. All of us can create new wildlife habitats where we live, work, grow and play. The Lambeth BAP is a document designed to help everybody living and working in the borough appreciate what wildlife we have. It provides information to enable us to take action to protect Lambeth’s wildlife and how to nurture it for future generations.

The Lambeth BAP’s ‘habitat action plans’, identifies key habitat types important to the borough, along with actions to protect, maintain and improve them. Unsurprisingly Lambeth’s private and public gardens, allotments and numerous other growing spaces, are crucial to the borough’s biodiversity, providing precious spaces for wildlife to live and prosper, as well as giving the public access to nature on their doorstep.

The ‘Gardens and Growing Spaces Habitat Action Plan’ celebrates the hard work undertaken by Lambeth’s growers and gardeners to promote biodiversity. It shares good practice by individual sites and gardeners to help us understand how to promote biodiversity.

We’d welcome more gardeners and growers getting involved in promoting and improving the Lambeth BAP including telling us what kind of wildlife they have seen where they live and work, so we can record this information to help us improve the whole borough.

Download a copy of the current Lambeth BAP at www.lambeth.gov.uk/leisure-parks-and-libraries/parks/lambeth-biodiversity-action-plan
To get more involved in helping protect and improve Lambeth’s biodiversity, please contact Iain Boulton from Lambeth Landscapes on 020 7926 6209 or iboulton@lambeth.gov.uk.

Find out more about Lambeth’s wildlife and where you can experience it, through the ‘Discover London’ map, hosted by Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL, www.gigl.org.uk), London’s environmental records centre.
INTRODUCTION

At Incredible Edible Lambeth, we are so excited to have run the Blooming Lambeth Awards again this year. It's an awards scheme which is now well regarded throughout Lambeth and that's because we have so many incredible gardens, gardeners and food businesses in the borough.

Lambeth is an amazing place for food growers; each year we discover a new corner of the borough which has been transformed into a beautiful space where pollinators and other wildlife can find food, and people can find a space to enjoy being in Nature and experience the highs and lows of growing food.

There were 86 nominations across seven categories this year, from best community garden to best school garden to a food innovator - a HUGE thank you to everyone who nominated - without you, we couldn't offer these awards. We would very much like to encourage more ‘innovation’ - this can be anything from creating a drink from surplus fruit, as the winner of last year does, to making honey and byproducts from bees, as one of our winners this year does. Do you have an idea to make food in Lambeth more local? If so, why not consider becoming an IEL member and we can help promote your business.

This year, we were particularly looking for gardens that were pesticide-free. We really want our Lambeth green spaces to be havens for wildlife, which is why we're running a pesticide-free Lambeth campaign. If you've not yet pledged, go to our website and do so today! If you've not yet joined Incredible Edible Lambeth, why not consider it? Membership is free and it links you with other foodies around the borough. We hold regular events and workshops, we have created walking trails around the borough, highlighting food growing and green spaces and we can promote your site or business on our map - take a look at the website www.incrediblelambeth.org.uk

Growing our own food and setting up food businesses that utilise food grown (or wasted) in Lambeth cuts down carbon emissions, improves our health, increases our resilience in times of shortages and helps us to break away from our current food system and of course, helps build a supportive and growing neighbourhood. That’s a lot to be excited about!

Thank you for your contribution to transforming the food landscape of Lambeth.

Janie Bickersteth, Chair IEL

PLEASE NOTE:
The copy used under each Winner or Highly commended was provided by the nominators in their nomination forms, we may have cut or altered the text to keep each nomination similar in length.
I. Best community garden

Winner

Cottington Community Garden
Cottington Estate, Opal St, SE11 4HZ

We have over 10 nationalities growing food, and also cultivating our flowerbeds. Each gardener learns about growing different food from other countries as their neighbours often get seeds sent from ‘back home’. We have a productive apple orchard and grow hops to make beer with the Brixton Beer Collective. We have made a wildlife pond to allow more diversity to the garden. We have communal herb beds for use in cooking, and have events open to everyone, including a vintage tea party and a spooky halloween party along with BBQs. Local residents use the garden for family parties and quite often during warmer weekends there will be little gatherings such as a Latin fiesta or Korean cookout taking place. There is always a friendly face pottering around if people just want a chat or they can sit and listen to the wide variety of birds singing.

Winner

Landor Garden Project
53-85 Landor Rd, SW9 9RT

The Landor Garden Project grows from a transformed derelict landscape. It has been taken back by the community to provide plots of land for growing fruit and vegetables and communal gardens for all members to enjoy. The project currently has 30 plots and 44 members. We are a diverse mix of enthusiastic gardeners from in and around the surrounding area. The garden has a beehive, tool shed, compost area and children’s play area. We have also installed mains water and electricity supply. The garden is a great sense of pride for all members and has created a great sense of community. We have an annual summer party, bonfire night and other events which are open to all. The garden is now in its eighth year.
**1. Best community garden**

*Highly commended*

**Hemans Garden**
Hemans Estate, SW8 4SF

This Community Garden is looked after by the Tenants and Residents Association (TRA) volunteers who have converted a vandalized area into a food growing environment. They have also planted flowers and plants in a very beautiful space. The garden is on an estate and attracts residents from the community. Most of this has been done without any funding and volunteers have worked very hard for donations from nearby shops.

**2. Against the odds**

*Winner*

**Spurgeon Secret Garden**
Tewsham Walk, SW8 1UL

The Estate garden had been locked for 22 years, and this potential haven of tranquillity was littered with dangerous dilapidated structures and broken benches. The Big Dig Day, on 29th April removed rotting wooden posts and dug out metal stays of long-since decayed seating, with the Father Nature team helping. The long process of introducing wildflowers and grasses for pollinators has now begun, as well as a planting plan for an edible forest garden along permaculture principles. To protect the health of residents and wildlife, we have declared the garden a pesticide-free zone and the residents’ association will manage maintenance. Longer term aims are to build raised beds for fruit and vegetables, to improve accessibility to all areas, to build communal composting sites and to introduce an apiary.
2. Against the odds

Highly commended

20-21-22 Purser House
Tulse Hill, SW2 2JA

The garden is a balcony display that has been there for a while but has recently been added to and totally improved by new neighbours. Raul arrived from Ecuador (via Streatham) and asked if he could plant potatoes. I said that he could plant whatever he wanted and he added a rose and a lovely bush that now has new growth sprouting!! He also added seeds - parsley and he would like coriander. So - this week we will build a structure that will be a vertical herb garden - not done yet but - Against All Odds we offer our plan and would love to be at the event (along with our other supportive neighbours - Courtney and Sheila who live at 19 Purser House and are an active part of our Neighbours Together).

Highly commended

Vauxhall Walk street planting
Vauxhall Walk, SE11 5ER

The planters are spaced along the roads and designed to drain storm water into the ground to prevent flooding and relieve pressure on London’s sewer system, all designed to filter rain water removing heavy contaminants before it gets to the water table. the recommended planting being grasses that can cope in arid conditions. Vauxhall One took a risk in giving this work to me, a novice gardener, and I know I am blessed to be paid for what many do as volunteers. the most unexpected part of this project has been the amazing response from local people, and many who pass through the area who comment on the planting. All pruning and weeds are collected and composted in the old car park, we also collect the food waste from the Ragged Canteen this is mixed in with our weeds creating hot compost which helps extend the propagating season into early winter.
**3. Ivor Picardo best veg garden**

**Winner**

**Caldwell Gardens Estate**
Latona Court, SW9 0HH

Our young (just over two years old) communal garden is thriving. We are now starting to see the fruits of our labour; we have so much salad this year, with mizuna and radicchio ready to go, and last year’s spring onions so flavoursome. The kohlrabi has grown so quickly, the gooseberries and rhubarb are close to harvest, currants of all hues abound, and the spinach and greens are ready to be eaten. We’ll have to be more patient with our young tomato and cucumber plants, our sweet and spicy peppers, the climbing and bush beans, but judging on the flavour of our fruit last year, all will be well worth waiting for. New to our garden are butternut squash and aubergine plants, so we're looking forward to seeing these develop. We’ll be adding radishes next week for a quick crop, and some of our herbs are already becoming common additions to mealtimes.

**Highly commended**

**Loughborough Farm**
Loughborough Rd, Brixton, SW9 7EL

The Farm is a community food growing project in Loughborough Junction. Helping to regenerate the area, and the people who live, work and play there by growing, sharing, and selling organic, locally produced food. The Farm is well attended and goes from strength to strength since its launch in August 2013. We are in the process of building a network of growing spaces around Loughborough Junction on pieces of land that are currently derelict or underused. The project’s main focus is on food growing. We are currently running a Loughborough Farm stall selling our own produce on the first Saturday of each month. We provide horticultural training and encourage our volunteers to take up accredited training that could lead to employment. We grow food together rather than individual plots. Volunteers take vegetables with them after every session.
4. Best School garden

Winner

Jubilee Primary School
Tulse Hill, SW2 2JE

Over the past three years this school garden has come on in leaps and bounds and the school’s ethos along with it. They are now fully composting and have reached level 4 of the RHS campaign for school gardening. Most of this work has been done with the gardening club but in the past year they have really taken it on through more of the school and have gardening champions. The garden is used to produce food for cooking lessons as well as sharing with the school kitchen. They promote the importance of where food comes from and healthy eating and many of the classes are now aware of what food is grown on site. What is grown is chosen through voting. The yearly vote always asks for apples and strawberries top, so two years ago the school’s community worked to develop and plant an orchard that is going well, along with a wildflower meadow.

Winner

Streatham Wells Primary School
50 Palace Rd, SW2 3NJ

We use our outdoor space to grow and harvest food with children, which later we cook with them e.g. in our own home-built pizza oven. We keep our own chickens to collect eggs which we also use for cooking or selling them to our parents. Children are involved and understand in looking after the animals and plants in the school garden to make them aware of where food comes from and make informed choices about the food they eat.
4. Best School garden

Highly commended

Heathbrook Primary School
Saint Rule St, SW8 3EH

All children in all year groups (Nursery to Year 6) continue to benefit from learning opportunities in our Wildlife Garden each week. In addition, since last summer there have been a number of significant developments in the way we utilise our garden which have further enhanced our outdoor learning outcomes. In partnership with a local award-winning chef, children have cooked: - bruschetta and pitta pizza (with tomatoes from the garden) - purple cabbage & kohlrabi soup (cabbage and kohlrabi grown in garden) - leek soup (leeks from garden) and more! Raised beds contain onions, cavolo nero, Swiss chard, Jerusalem artichokes, butternut squash, marrowfat peas and much more. Lots of this has been made possible by the development of our composting system, maintained by the children, which incorporates coffee grounds from the Co-op.

Highly commended

Oasis Academy Johanna
Johanna St, Lower Marsh SE1 7RH

We are using a garden area that had fallen into disrepair to establish a thriving, accessible food-growing garden that will offer gardening opportunities to children and adults of all abilities. Existing raised beds will be utilised as well as new containers. The garden will incorporate a relaxing sensory area. Steps will be taken to encourage wildlife (including maintaining an adjacent and recently disused wildlife area) and provide teaching opportunities about wildlife and environmental issues. The garden will be used for an after-school club, class topic teaching, as well as group and individual sessions during the school day. There will be an emphasis on wellbeing and healthy eating through growing, cooking and eating vegetables, fruit and herbs.
5. Best community gardener

Winner

Andy Vassallo
Vauxhall Walk, SE11 5ER

Planting in public spaces in and around Vauxhall Walk. I live and work around Vauxhall and notice the much needed beauty that the planting brings to the area. It was months before I discovered that much of it is done by a man called Andy and eventually found him on Twitter (as Shanks Pony Gardener @andy_vauxhall). I’m really grateful to him for the hard work and love he brings to the project, which makes my walk to work, through forests of cranes, high rise buildings and heavy traffic, much more bearable.

Highly commended

Jonathan Trustram
St John’s Church, Waterloo Rd, SE1 8TY

Jonathan planted much of the garden and large trees when he worked with St Mungo’s volunteers 15 years ago. He retired two years ago, but still comes in every Wednesday to supervise and give very practical help. Jonathan knows the garden inside out, and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of horticulture which he shares with good will and joy. His practical assistance is invaluable - from cutting off dead branches from a cherry tree, to digging out the roots of old trees with a volunteer, and carrying huge concrete slabs to lay as stepping stones for the new wildlife garden, supervising and tutoring volunteers in all aspects of gardening. He will thoroughly interrogate any gardening decision because he wants the best future for any plant or planting area. He is never a man to blow his own trumpet, but the team continues to learn from him.
6. Innovation

**Winner**

**Rootcraft**  
10 Tarrington Close, SW16 1LS

Plants begin life on the kitchen table, then head to the airing cupboard or the bathroom window. Once sprouted, they move to every other window space in this house. We harden off seedlings in two plastic greenhouses. Next, to the end of the short garden and into the sun, under mini polytunnels, then exposed to the elements, raised on copper legs for protection. Once plants are stable, they are moved to one of our three other grow spaces in other neighbours’ back gardens locally. We re-use materials from an organic farm and the Lambeth Horticultural Society and we give people the opportunity to rinse and return pots to us, a bit like you would with milk bottles. We sell our herbs and plants at local markets.

**Highly commended**

**Greenhouse market stall**  
Myatt’s Fields Park, Cormont Rd, SE5 9RA

Marion Palmer and Melanie Merchan Diaz grow plants for sale in Myatt’s Fields Park weekly market. Marion is a park gardener and Melanie runs the cafe in the park with her family. They started in 2018 by salvaging surplus seedlings because they couldn’t bear to see any waste and now they run a thriving stall selling high quality, affordable fresh produce and plants every Sunday. They put in hours of volunteer work into growing and caring for the plants as well as harvesting and selling. They use recyclable cups from the cafe as pots for the plants and wooden cutlery as labels, helping to recycle waste from the park. All funds raised go back into supporting the greenhouse.
Highly commended

The Hive
Bee Urban, Kennington Park, SE11 4BE

The garden offers raised beds of perennial edibles and annual crops. It also offers a haven for wildlife and biodiversity, with a dedication to Honey bees. We have a large apiary with honey bee hives, an observation hive for visitors to view the internal area of a honey bee nest. We have a large wildlife pond, water harvesting ponds, planting on site has had a focus on food for pollinators and supporting biodiversity. There are also plenty of fruit trees on site—food for bees and us! This also helps us with the conversation around pollination and the importance of bees in our environment. The garden has been landscaped, planted and maintained by volunteers with regular volunteering opportunities for all. Honey and candles are available to buy on site.

Other awards to get involved with

Being Among the Best - Celebrate and Recognise Your Growing Space!

Have you thought about getting your site or project greater recognition for your achievements, enabling others in Lambeth, London and the UK to discover what an amazing place and community you have? Why not consider it?

London in Bloom is a regional annual award scheme (part of the larger ‘Britain in Bloom’ programme). Although people often think Britain or London in Bloom is only for public spaces, this isn’t the case; it is open to small and independent community groups with categories which aim to recognise what they are doing to make London a brighter, cleaner, happier and more sustainable place. London in Bloom runs two community, group-focused award schemes; 'It’s Your Neighbourhood', a non-competitive programme run on behalf of the Royal Horticultural Society’s Britain in Bloom Campaign, it focuses on community participation, environmental responsibility and gardening achievements. It’s free to enter, but applications must be from a group that is hands-on and actively involved in a gardening project. The second is ‘Our Community’, a more competitive awards programme carrying an application fee of £35. Awards are given in Gold, Silver-Gilt, Silver and Bronze categories and is highly sought-after. You can find out about these community award schemes at http://londoninbloom.co.uk/why-take-part/

Green Flag Community Awards

is an internationally recognised scheme that recognises the very best parks and other open spaces that the UK has to offer; and especially what local user groups have been doing with councils and other landowners to make these places safer, cleaner, greener and more welcoming. Lambeth currently boasts 16 parks, commons and open spaces that are entitled to fly a coveted Green Flag (amongst 1,500 of the very best such sites in the country). The Green Flag Award also runs a ‘Green Flag Community Award’ programme which is specifically designed to recognise what local community groups have been doing on their own initiative to make certain sites or spaces greener and more sustainable for all to visit and enjoy. Applications are free, and sites are visited by an experienced independent judge and assessed against a set of criteria; if they meet these criteria, then they are entitled to fly the privileged Green Flag! Allotments, community gardens, gardening sites and growing projects are eligible and particularly welcome to apply for a Community Award, and Lambeth wants to see the number of award-winning and holding sites it has increase above the four it presently has. We think our borough deserves more awards, and we know we have many sites and projects that should be flying the Green Flag. You can find out more about the Green Flag Community Award scheme at http://greenflagaward.org/how-it-works/judging-criteria/green-flag-community-award/

Interested in Applying?

If you or group are interested in applying for either of these awards, please get in touch with Lambeth Landscapes team, who can advise on what categories your project might be suitable for; and to assist with the application process. Contact Iain Boulton on 020 7926 6209 or iboulton@lambeth.gov.uk; who can guide you through the process for 2020.
7. Gardens in bloom

Winner

Hardy House
Poynders Gardens, SW4 8PH

A really lovely space that looks amazing throughout the whole year. The owners are really passionate about the ecosystem and take extensive care of the plants every single day.

Highly commended

Guernsey Grove
Guernsey Grove, SE24 9DE

A little bit of derelict land has been transformed over the last two years to a beautiful blooming flower garden to give joy to any one passing by the road or living on the street. No pesticides used.
7. Gardens in bloom

Highly commended

Ripley House
10 Streatham Common South, SW16 3BT

This garden is a private garden facing Streatham Common. I don’t use chemicals and it was once just brick paving. When I am working in it passers by stop and chat. It is a busy garden, densely packed, something flowers every month. All flowers are white (bar the rogue daff!! how does this happen?)
Carbon Neutral Council 2030

We have made a bold commitment to lead by example and reduce our carbon footprint to zero by 2030.

Find out more about our plans to respond to the climate crisis.

lambeth.gov.uk/carbon-neutral-council-2030
For more information or to check out what's going on in your area, please visit our website: incredibleediblelambeth.com and on