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# Lettsom Gardens Newsletter

**May 2025**

Hello Members,

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter!

We have a few things to update you on, including our upcoming hack back and the date for our annual Lettsom Gardens Summer Party.

## Lettsom Gardens Hack Back

In March we had our first hack back of the year and it was a huge success! Over thirty people turned up to lend a hand and twelve new members collected their keys. During the winter months lots of vegetation had dropped and was starting to break down. We managed to chop, rake and sweep a good portion of this up and added it to our compost heap, which helped redefine the edges of the sports pitch and the walkways. We also collected a lot of litter, including countless Nerf bullets, glass bottles, plastic wrappers and rubber balls.



We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that helped on the day. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces as well as many new faces!

**Our next hack back will be on Sunday 11th May 2025, 10am to 12pm.**

Please bring any gardening tools you have. There will also be some tools ready and waiting on the day. Everyone is welcome and all gardening abilities are encouraged!

The hack back is also a great opportunity for new members to collect their keys, meet others in the community and receive an introduction to Lettsom Gardens. If you have any questions regarding your membership or collecting your keys, you can contact [membershiplettsom@gmail.com](mailto:membershiplettsom@gmail.com)

## What's happening in Lettsom Gardens?

Lettsom Gardens was once part of a large, abandoned Victorian garden, before it was taken on by the community in 1980. Since then, it has remained a safe green space for children and adults to enjoy, and a place for plants and animals to thrive.

Much of Lettsom Gardens wildlife has evolved naturally overtime, and the Lettsom Gardens Association strongly encourages this. We want to let plants self-seed and for the woodlands to feel as wild and as natural as possible.

Occasionally, we will make small interventions to enhance what already exists there, and we thought it might be nice to let you know what some of these things are:



A few years ago, we planted some wild garlic, primroses and bluebells in the lower wood. We are delighted with the progress that we have seen in this area and hope to plant even more in the autumn.



Each year we re-seed the patch of grass where we have the annual bonfire, which is then temporarily cordoned off to let the grass establish. We are already starting to see new growth come through.



A few years ago, we introduced a number of bat boxes into the woodlands. Now that the warmer weather has returned, many have been spotted since early spring. Bats are best to spot at sunset when they are flitting about and foraging for insects. Have you seen one? We would love to know.



We also introduced some bird boxes to help provide safe nesting spaces. Lettsom Gardens is home to many species, including robins, great spotted woodpeckers, wrens, jays, great tits and blue tits. Have you spotted anything else? Message us on Instagram!



In the same area that we planted the wild garlic; we have cordoned off this area to create a habitat for stag beetles. They rely on undisturbed decaying wood, both to feed on as larvae and to lay their eggs.

## Summer in Lettsom Gardens

As we head into the warmer months, we hope that more and more people use the gardens. With this, we would also like to gently remind people of the Garden Rules.

- No dogs (the gardens are a quiet green space for adults, children and other animals to enjoy safely)
- No BBQs or fires
- No live music or loud speakers
- Take all litter home (there are no bins in the gardens)
- Observe the opening times (6.30am to 10.30pm)
- Keep the gates closed and do not prop them open

It is also worth noting that there are no toilets in the gardens. Further information can be found here [www.lettsomgardens.org.uk/garden-rules](http://www.lettsomgardens.org.uk/garden-rules)

## Lettsom Gardens Spring Noticeboard

A few years ago, one of our trustees saw an opportunity to engage with the protective fencing by introducing a seasonal noticeboard, addressing what might be happening in nature during that time to get us engaged with the current season. We have received some lovely feedback.

***“To whoever is planning, preparing and displaying those amazing posters - thank you. Our boys (and us) love reading them.”***

We know that some of you may be wondering if there is an update regarding the wall. We can confirm that we are still in conversation with Southwark Council and hope to know and share more soon. We appreciate your patience and understanding with this matter.







## The Lettsom Gardens Summer Party

As many of you will know we host an annual Summer Party for our members, their friends and family. It is a great way for everyone to get together and enjoy the gardens with their local community. The party is free to attend and open to all. There are drinks and food on offer, and we often have live performances from local bands or children in local schools.

All the money raised on the day goes back into our charity, which is dedicated to maintaining Lettsom Gardens. It also helps to facilitate other future events, such as our annual Lettsom Bonfire in early November.

**The date for this year's Summer Party is Saturday 5th July 2025.**

If you have any questions or you would like to get involved and support with the running of the day, please contact [lettsomgardens@gmail.com](mailto:lettsomgardens@gmail.com)

## Lettsom Gardens Association Aims

The Lettsom Gardens Association helps to govern the gardens by using a set of key aims. We want to maintain the beauty and wildness of the garden and encourage local residents to use and enjoy the space. Another key aim is to ensure that Lettsom Gardens is a safe play and learning space for our local nurseries and schools.

We are pleased to announce that Lyndhurst Primary School have joined our Institutional Membership, which is aimed at schools and nurseries. Following the COVID19 lockdowns, all local schools and nurseries were offered this, and we are really pleased to see so many continue to utilise and engage with the space.

Welcome to Lyndhurst Primary School!

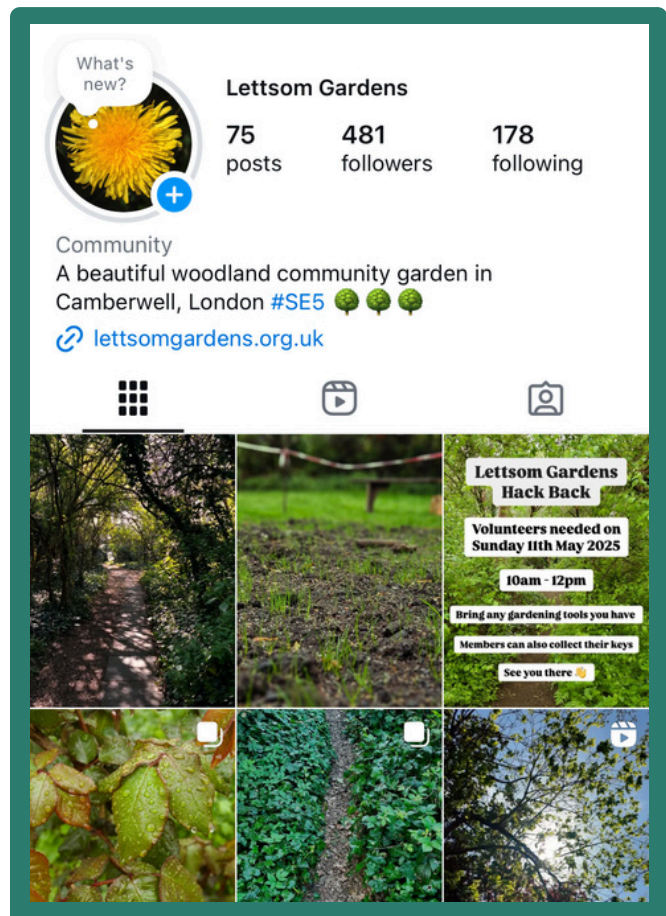


## Staying Connected

We have had a Lettsom Gardens Instagram account for a number of years now, but we have recently started sharing more posts over there. You can find us at **@lettsomgardens**

We would love for you to follow. It's a great way to get reminders and stay up to date with what's happening in the gardens and how you can get involved.

We also love seeing your photos, so please tag us! **@lettsomgardens**  
**#LettsomGardens**



## Thank you for taking the time to read our latest updates

### CONTACT US

For general enquiries, you can email us at [lettsomgardens@gmail.com](mailto:lettsomgardens@gmail.com)

For membership queries, you can email us at [membershiplettsom@gmail.com](mailto:membershiplettsom@gmail.com)

### OPENING HOURS

The opening hours for the gardens are **06.30am - 10.30pm**

### FOLLOW US



**@lettsomgardens**



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