

## GARDEN NOTES

### LEWISHAM

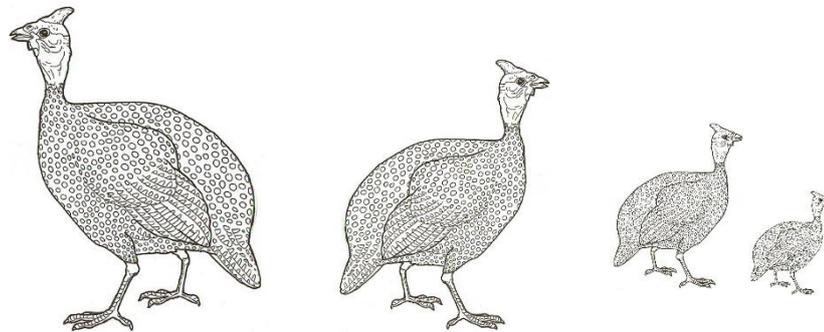
In 1987, the former owner purchased the land for Lewisham to build a house and garden, which she designed as a total concept in the romantic image of Victorian Gothic.

The garden took in a lot of planning as much of the land was pure clay whilst one side was very swampy. Once correct levels were determined the site was excavated and the lakes were formed. Later, many truckloads of topsoil were brought in to establish garden beds.

In late 1999, the current owners acquired Lewisham and continued with what has become a 'labour of love'. The garden, which had suffered considerably through drought and water restrictions, took a great deal of work to remove dead and dying trees. Many of the garden beds were overgrown and needed much in the way of 'tender loving care' to restore them to some sort of order. The lakes had to be dredged as 'duck weed' had taken over. Blackberries posed a continuing problem, as they still do today, growing rampant in many parts of the district.

The last twelve months have been particularly challenging in Macedon Ranges with horrific storms which decimated many areas. Lewisham has had its share of storm damage with several large trees falling, crushing our beautiful aviary, tennis court and our picket fence. Fortunately, everything was able to be repaired or replaced!

When visiting the garden please look out for our family of guinea fowl. They are very friendly and will greet you with loud chatter and possibly follow you!



We also have geese, ducks and chooks. The new aviary is also in place.

The Crabapple trees which are dotted around the garden are a highlight at Lewisham in Spring, with every shade of pink and red blossom. They grow particularly well in our garden and look stunning at this time of the year. Also look out for the wisteria walk which is pink and grows rampant over three arbours.

Please take your time while visiting Lewisham, we have many seats from which to view the garden and to watch the bird life. Enjoy!

**Maxine & Ron Yates**