



# Tower Habitats Newsflash

*Latest news on nature conservation and wildlife in Tower Hamlets*

November 2012

**Look out for Ash Dieback** – this fungal disease, which has recently been found in Britain, is a serious threat to our Ash trees. It's not been found in Tower Hamlets, but we should look out for signs of it. To find out more, including what the Council and Tower Hamlets Homes are doing to stop the spread of this disease and how you can help, click [here](#).

**A boost for Mudchute's "dragons"** – Mudchute's amphibian habitats are set to be improved thanks to charity Froglife's "Dragon Finder" project. Lottery funding will provide at least 2 new permanent ponds and possibly restoration of a short section of the famous "Newtie" ditch. More news soon....

**Portuguese ducks back again** – the two Tufted Ducks, marked in Portugal with red nasal saddles, returned to East India Dock Basin in September. The male was seen from 6 to 19 September, the female from 17 to 26 September and again from 12 November, having been south of the river at Thamesmere in between times. Read more [here](#).

**Revamped Mudchute website** – Mudchute Park & Farm's [website](#) has been revamped, with a new blog which will include monthly suggestions about what wildlife to look for. Read November's *Wildlife to Watch* [here](#).

**Porpoises in the Thames** – one or two Harbour Porpoises swimming slowly upriver, with the O2 Arena in the background, were an unusual sight off East India Dock Basin at lunchtime on 14 September. See the latest wildlife sightings [here](#).

**Woodland playscape for Lansbury Lawrence Primary School** – thanks to a grant from Tesco Charity Trust, Trees for Cities will be creating an exciting and innovative playscape themed on trees and woodlands. Read more [here](#).

**Volunteering at East India Dock Basin** – volunteers from across Lee Valley Park cut and raked two sections of reed bed and picked litter from the shoreline in September. This vital work helps to keep the reed bed healthy. If you would like to volunteer on this special site, please contact David Hutley on 01992 709879 or e-mail [volunteers@leevalleypark.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@leevalleypark.org.uk).

**Goldcrests prominent among autumn migrants** – unusually high numbers of Britain's smallest bird, the Goldcrest, have been seen around Tower Hamlets this autumn. Other interesting birds this autumn include a very late Lesser Whitethroat at Poplar Dock on 6 November and the first ever Wigeon on East India Dock Basin on 23 October. Read more on Goldcrests [here](#) and see all the latest wildlife sightings [here](#).

For more information on these and other stories, see [www.towerhabitats.org](http://www.towerhabitats.org)

If you have news on wildlife or biodiversity conservation, please e-mail the Biodiversity Officer [john.archer@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:john.archer@towerhamlets.gov.uk) or phone 020 7364 7478