



Tower Habitats Newsflash

Latest news on nature conservation and wildlife in Tower Hamlets

December 2013

Mile End Park upgraded – Mile End Park has been recognised as a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation. Read more [here](#).

Limehouse Cut and Basin enhanced – the habitat enhancement carried out by the Canal & River Trust in the Limehouse Cut south of Bow Common Road last winter proved a spectacular success this summer. Floating vegetated rafts have also been installed in Limehouse Basin. Read more [here](#).

Bee monitors wanted – we intend to start a bee monitoring scheme in Tower Hamlets next spring. Interested residents will be asked to count bees in a local garden or open space for 15 minutes at least once a month. Training and an identification guide will be provided. If you are interested in taking part, please [e-mail the Biodiversity Officer](#).

Visitors from the east – a Cormorant bearing a blue colour-ring, seen on the pier beside East India Dock Basin intermittently from 19 September into December, was ringed in Estonia. Read more [here](#). Also, a Lesser Whitethroat at Cemetery Park on the very late date of 29 October showed characters of one of the eastern races, perhaps originating in central Asia.

Lots of habitat work at Mudchute – there's a lot of wildlife habitat enhancement happening at Mudchute this winter, including pond restoration through Froglife's *Dragon Finder* project, a new pond-dipping platform, restoration of flower-rich grassland, and a new community orchard. There'll much be more about all this on the Tower Habitats website soon, but you can see photos from a volunteer pond clearance day on the [Mudchute blog](#).

An insect hotel for Matilda House – Tower Hamlets Homes, with help from residents, installed an insect hotel at Matilda House. Read more [here](#).

Hedgehog update – we have received one definite report of a Hedgehog seen at Mudchute this year, with an unconfirmed sighting in Cemetery Park, so they are not extinct in Tower Hamlets. If you see a Hedgehog in Tower Hamlets, please [e-mail the Biodiversity Officer](#), saying when and where.

Fungus fun in Cemetery Park – the Friends led their annual fungus foray in late October. The mild, wet weather was ideal, and this was the best in a long time for fungi. Highlights included Fly Agaric, Veiled Oyster, Old Bleeding Rosette, Ugly Milk Cap, Stubble Rosegill and Red Lead Roundhead.

Reviewing the Biodiversity Action Plan – the Tower Hamlets Local Biodiversity Action Plan is under review. If you'd like to help review the priorities for wildlife in the borough for 2014-19, please let John Archer know by [e-mail](#) or on 020 7364 7478.

For more information on these and other stories, see www.towerhabitats.org

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