



Tower Habitats Newsflash

Latest news on nature conservation and wildlife in Tower Hamlets

July 2016

New home for bugs on the Greenways Estate – Tower Hamlets Homes have installed an insect hotel in the wild area behind O'Brien House on the Greenways Estate. Read more [here](#).

A bad year for terns – after two very good years for nesting Common Terns in [2014](#) and [2015](#), no terns nested at East India Dock Basin this year. The reasons are not clear, though low water levels and/or bad weather at key times, growth of vegetation on the rafts, and a pair of nesting Coots on the favoured raft might all have contributed to the terns' failure to nest. Elsewhere in the borough, two pairs appeared to be nesting on the new raft on Blackwall Basin in June, but had all disappeared by early July. Again, the reason for the failure is not known. It appears that, for the first time in years, no young terns fledged in Tower Hamlets in 2016. Read more [here](#).

New habitats in the Lea Navigation – in May, Thames21 enhanced wildlife habitats along 190 metres of the Lea Navigation in Bow, as part of the [Love the Lea](#) campaign. This consisted of 130 metres of fixed reed beds by the Bow Flyover, and a 60-metre-long “floating ecosystem” raft beside the Tesco superstore. These will provide habitat for fish, birds and invertebrates. Read more [here](#).

Greening St George's Estate – Trees for Cities worked with EastendHomes and local residents to create a community garden between Hatton and Shearsmith Houses on the St George's Estate. The garden includes nectar-rich flowers to benefit pollinators. Read more [here](#). A previous collaboration between TfC and EEH on the estate, Swedenborg Square Orchard, is flourishing, as revealed by stunning photos by local photographer Tosca Yemoh, some of which can be seen [here](#).

Wildlife murals brighten Cemetery Park and Ackroyd Drive Green Link – top local artists, working with the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, have painted spectacular murals of endangered animals on the railway arches along Ackroyd Drive Green Link and on the walls of the Soanes Centre. Read more [here](#) and enjoy the Wildcat painted by Roo below (photo by Ken Greenway).



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