



Tower Habitats Newsflash

Latest news on nature conservation and wildlife in Tower Hamlets

August 2013

Elf Green bursts into flower – the meadow created by EastendHomes on Elf Green in the Glamis Estate produced a spectacular display of flowers in early summer. It's now finished flowering, and will be cut by hand. Read more [here](#).

Wandering duck is a borough first – a female Long-tailed Duck, which should be spending its summer in the Arctic, has instead been touring lakes in inner London. It visited East India Dock Basin on 4 July, the first ever record for Tower Hamlets. See a photo [here](#).

Medicinal plants in Bethnal Green – a meadow of native medicinal plants is being created at Bethnal Green Nature Reserve in a project called Phytology, led by arts group Nomad. The project will include the appointment of a gardener, allowing increased public access to the reserve. Read more [here](#).

Dragons and damsels aplenty – it's been a good year for dragonflies and damselflies in the borough. Victoria Park leads the way with 10 species, including a specimen of the nationally rare Red-veined Darter. The Small Red-eyed Damselfly, a recent colonist of Britain, was found at Saffron Avenue Pond last year. It is there again this year, and large numbers have also been found at Hermitage Basin and Wapping Canal. See recent sightings [here](#).

And butterflies too – two Marbled White butterflies at East India Dock Basin on 22 July were perhaps the first record for Tower Hamlets of a species which has been spreading across London in recent years. Several Ringlets were seen in Cemetery Park during July after an absence of 6 years. Keep up with latest wildlife sightings in Tower Hamlets [here](#).

New pond at Winterton House Organic Garden – a pond is the latest addition to wildlife habitats at the wonderful Winterton House Organic Garden. Find out more about the garden and when you can visit [here](#).

Have you seen a Hedgehog? – Our Hedgehog survey has been in the local press, but has so far only produced two 2011 sightings and one from 2012. If you've seen a Hedgehog in Tower Hamlets, please [e-mail the Biodiversity Officer](#), saying when and where. Read more [here](#).

Portuguese ducks update – the female Tufted Duck "Red-1" disappeared from East India Dock Basin after 28 May, but was back on 16 and 21 July. There's still no sign of the male in Tower Hamlets this year. Read more [here](#).

Reviewing the Biodiversity Action Plan – the Tower Hamlets Local Biodiversity Action Plan runs until next year, and we are starting a 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