



Tower Habitats Newsflash

Latest news on nature conservation and wildlife in Tower Hamlets

August 2018

Hedgehog seen in Stepney, but none in Victoria Park – a Hedgehog visited a house and garden in Stepney in May and June, the first confirmed sighting in Tower Hamlets since 2013. [Read more about this unexpected prickly visitor](#). What might well have been the same Hedgehog was later reported to the [London Wildlife Trust's Urban Urchins project](#) in early July, and another was filmed by a camera trap in Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, probably one of five rescue Hedgehogs released there in 2015. On a much less positive note, a [footprint tunnel survey in Victoria Park](#) failed to record any hedgehogs.

A Green Flag for the Regent's Canal – the Lower Regents Coalition has received a Green Flag Community Award for the first time, for its maintenance of the section of the Regent's Canal between Limehouse Basin and Mile End Road. The Coalition has run regular litter-licks for several years, as well as creating new reed beds and meadows. [Read more about this prestigious award](#).

Rare clover in Mile End Park – a group from the London Natural History Society recording plants in Mile End Park in April found Subterranean Clover near the Arts Pavilion. This is probably the first record ever for Tower Hamlets and the first for inner London since at least 1930. [Read more about this strange little clover](#).

Lots more wetland vegetation in the Wapping Canal – back in the spring the Council, thanks to generous funding from the Williams Charitable Trust and the Tower Hill Trust, installed floating vegetated islands in the Wapping Ornamental Canal. This has created a green edge along 200 metres of the canal at Spirit Quay, as well as adding to the vegetation around Tobacco Dock. This provides new wildlife habits, softens the stark appearance of the canal, and will help to improve water quality. [Read more about these Wapping Canal enhancements](#).

Canary Wharf Biodiversity Action Plan updated – the Canary Wharf Group has updated its Biodiversity Action Plan, to include some innovative and challenging targets for the next ten years. Also published is an interactive biodiversity map, showing where to find interesting species and habitats on the estate. The action plan and map, produced with assistance from Greengage Environmental Ltd, were highly commended in the Innovation category in the Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management's annual In Practice Awards. [Find out more about the Canary Wharf BAP and biodiversity maps](#).

Two new spiders in Cemetery Park – local spider expert Edward Milner has found two spider new to Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park. These are *Anyphaena sabina*, the first British record of which was in Mile End Park in 2011, and *Mangora acalypha*. [Find out more about these spiders](#).

A boost for biodiversity in the Flowerpot Garden – with the help of a Tower Habitats biodiversity grant from the Tower Hill Trust, Poplar HARCA and local residents have planted a mixed native hedge and lots of wildflower seeds in the Flowerpot Garden on the Teviot Estate. [Find out more and see photos](#).

Free training courses – the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park are running two free six-week training courses as part of their "Nature and Us" community engagement projects during September and October 2018. These are "Neighbourhood Nature" for people who live, work or study in the Mile End and Stepney area, and "City Wildlife Gardening" for people who live, work or study in the Aldgate East, Whitechapel or Shadwell area [See full details and how to book](#).

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

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