



# 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](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