



Tower Habitats Newsflash

Latest news on nature conservation and wildlife in Tower Hamlets

December 2014

New Local Biodiversity Action Plan adopted – the new Tower Hamlets LBAP for 2014-19 was adopted by the Mayor on 1 October. The plan identifies priority habitats and species, and sets objectives and targets for their conservation over the next five years. Read more [here](#).

Firecrests return to Cemetery Park – after a 3-year absence, a Firecrest has been present in Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park since 26 September, with three birds for a few days in mid-November. Firecrests were regular winter visitors to Cemetery Park for several years, until [this article](#) on the Tower Habitats website, saying it's one of the best sites in London to see this super little bird, seemed to put a hex on further appearances.

Approach Gardens' wildlife makeover – residents have added several new features for wildlife in Approach Gardens. These include a new meadow, a "wilderness area", bee boxes, a bug hotel and bird feeders. Read more [here](#).

Greening the Regent's Canal – Thanks to a grant from the Tower Hill Trust, the Lower Regents Coalition has been leading a series of volunteer clean-ups to remove rubbish from the Regent's canal while the lower section is drained. This will be followed by habitat creation opposite the Ragged School Museum. Read more [here](#).

More awards for Tower Hamlets places and people! – Victoria Park was voted the nation's favourite park for the second time in three years in the Green Flag People's Choice Award 2014 (more [here](#)) and Swedenborg Square Orchard received the runner up award in the Pollinators section of the BIG Challenge 2014 awards (more [here](#)). Meanwhile, Tom Glead, the inspiration behind the Greening Brownfield Community Garden, won Green Tenant of the Year at the national Sustainable Housing Awards (more [here](#)), and Terry Lyle, vice-chair of the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park and acknowledged biodiversity guru in Tower Hamlets, won the environmental award in the STAR in the Community Awards for the work he's carried out on his Swan Housing estate in Stepney.

Kingfisher thrills Wapping residents – a Kingfisher has taken up temporary residence on the Wapping Canal, much to the delight of local residents and visitors to the area. First seen on 17 October, it has been seen regularly through most of November near Tobacco Dock, gaining local celebrity status. See photos and video [here](#). Kingfishers have also been seen this autumn at Victoria Park, East India Dock Basin, the Limehouse Cut, Regent's Canal and the River Lea.

Keep up with news from Cemetery Park – the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park's monthly e-newsletter is an easy way to keep up-to-date with all of their new developments and news, whilst informing you of their upcoming events and activities, so you never miss out. It's really simple to sign up, just click [this link](#).

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