



Tower Habitats Newsflash

Latest news on nature conservation and wildlife in Tower Hamlets

December 2015

Vicky Park is the nation's favourite yet again! – Victoria Park has been voted Britain's favourite park to win the People's Choice Award in the Green Flag awards. It's the second year running, and third year in the last four, that Victoria Park has won this coveted award. Read more [here](#).

Firecrests galore – it's been an exceptional end to the year for Firecrests in the borough. One or two Firecrests have been regularly seen at both Cemetery Park and Victoria Park since October. At the time of writing, at least one seems settled for the winter in each park. For all the latest wildlife sightings (and a super photo of a Firecrest in Cemetery Park), click [here](#).

New ponds in Bethnal Green Nature Reserve – four new ponds were installed in Bethnal Green Nature Reserve in November by Nomad Projects and Teesdale & Hollybush TRA. Two more ponds will follow this month. The project, which will benefit amphibians and other wildlife, was funded by the Tower Hill Trust. Read more [here](#).

Tower Hamlets Homes plant lots of wild flowers – Tower Hamlets Homes have created 21 new "annual wildflower meadows" around their estates during November. These, and the 26 annual meadows they created last year, have all been sown with a Cottage Garden Wild Flower seed mix, which will attract bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects. Read more [here](#).

More Black Poplars planted – the Council's Green Team has planted six Black Poplars in Meath Gardens. Britain's rarest native timber tree, the Black Poplar was once so common on the Thames marshes that it gave Poplar district its name. It is now a priority species in our Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Conservation of this tree is totally reliant on planting, as, it no longer reproduces naturally in Britain.

Estonian Cormorant returns – the Cormorant with a blue colour-ring marked "EBY", fitted as a nestling in Estonia in 2011, has returned to the Thames by East India Dock Basin for the third successive winter. Read more [here](#).

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



SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM TOWER HABITATS