



Tower Habitats Newsflash

Latest news on nature conservation and wildlife in Tower Hamlets

June 2014

Bee monitors wanted – please join our citizen-science survey to monitor bees in Tower Hamlets. All you need to do is count bees for 15 minutes, once a month, at a site near your home. All volunteers receive a free bee identification chart. To register for the survey, contact the Biodiversity Officer by [e-mail](#) or on 020 7364 7478. Read more [here](#).

Bringing the poplar back to Poplar – the Council has planted five Black Poplars, Britain's rarest native timber tree, in parks in Poplar this spring. The tree used to be common on the Thames marshes, and gave its name to Poplar district. Mayor Lutfur Rahman planted one of the trees in Trinity Gardens, and the others were planted in Poplar Park. Read more [here](#).

Estonian Cormorant leaves for the summer – the Cormorant bearing an Estonian colour-ring was last seen at East India Dock Basin on 13 March. It has presumably departed to its breeding grounds. It would be fascinating to know whether it returns to eastern Europe or nests in Britain, perhaps as close as Walthamstow Reservoirs. It will also be interesting to see if it returns in the autumn. Read more [here](#).

Phytology launched in Bethnal Green NR – “Phytology”, a project at Bethnal Green Nature Reserve highlighting the medicinal properties of common wild flowers, is now open on Fridays and Saturdays until 14 September. Read more [here](#).

New dead wood habitats at Mudchute – habitat enhancements at Mudchute continue. Following last winter's new ponds and orchard and the grassland restoration, a new dead hedge and loggery have been created in the area around the new ponds. Read more [here](#).

Partridge leads unusual sightings – there have been some exciting wildlife reports across the borough this spring. Most bizarre was a Red-legged Partridge walking down the road in Tredegar Square E3 on 26 May – whether this was a visitor from the Essex countryside or an escape from captivity is anyone's guess! Other interesting sightings include East India Dock Basin's first-ever Green Sandpiper on 6 May, a brood of Shelduck ducklings on Bow Creek in June, the first record of Lesser Stag Beetle for Tower Hamlets (sadly dead) outside Island Gardens DLR on 16 June, an Elephant Hawk-moth in Cemetery Park on 23 May, three Pyramidal Orchids at East India Dock Basin in June, and three separate Red Kites over East India Dock Basin in March and May. See all the latest wildlife sightings in Tower Hamlets [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