



Tower Habitats Newsflash

Latest news on nature conservation and wildlife in Tower Hamlets

June 2015

Greening the Regent's Canal – The Lower Regents Coalition has completed the first phase of the “Greening the Regents” project. With Support from the Canal & River Trust and Thames21, and funding from the Tower Hill Trust, volunteers planted reeds and other wetland vegetation in gabion baskets along 110 metres of the canal opposite the Ragged School Museum. Read more [here](#).

New woodland planted in Jolly's Green – Tower Hamlets Council's Green Team has planted 1200 small native trees on Jolly's Green Open Space, to create about half a hectare of new woodland. This means the target for new native woodland in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan has been passed less than six months after the adoption of the LBAP. Find out more [here](#).

More wildlife training at Cemetery Park – the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park have lots more training courses this summer, aimed at land managers, gardeners and people with an interest in wildlife. Many are free, others have a small cost. Subjects range from creating a wildlife pond to learning about urban butterflies and grassland wildflowers. Find out more [here](#).

New hedge at Matilda House – Tower Hamlets Homes have created a new hedge along the edge of the Matilda House estate. A rather straggly treeline along Thomas More Road and St Katharine's Way was probably originally intended to be a hedge but has never been managed as one. Some work to the existing trees, and planting 350 small native trees and shrubs, will ensure that, in a few years' time, this hedge will be an excellent wildlife habitat and an attractive boundary feature for the estate. Read more [here](#).

Unusual wildlife records in Cemetery Park – local spider expert Edward Milner found a male Long-legged Cellar Spider (*Psilochorus simoni*) in Lockhart Field in Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park. This tiny spider is rather scarce in Britain, and almost always found in buildings. It is very unusual to find it outside buildings, and this may be the first British record from grassland. Find out more [here](#). Other surprises in Cemetery Park this spring included the first Cuckoo in the park for 25 years on 3 May, and an unseasonal Hummingbird Hawkmoth (usually a late summer and autumn migrant in Britain) on 12 March. Find out about all recent wildlife sightings in the borough [here](#).

Six new wildlife-friendly gardens on EastendHomes estates – a new wildlife-friendly community garden has been created in the St Georges Estate. Cable Gardens, as the new garden is known, was designed for EastendHomes by Trees for Cities, and planted at a community planting day on 21 March. It includes native trees, nectar-rich flowers, and a grove of hazel. Read more [here](#). Five more small wildlife-friendly gardens, aimed at providing lots of nectar for bumblebees and other pollinators, were created for EastendHomes by the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park during last winter at Derwent House, Ennerdale House, Buttermere House, Bickley House and Tracy House.

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