



# Tower Habitats *Newsflash*

*Latest news on nature conservation and wildlife in Tower Hamlets*

March 2014

**A new orchard at Mudchute** – with help from the London Orchard Project and local schools, a community orchard has been planted at Mudchute, with apple, pear and plum trees. Read more [here](#).

**More free wildflower seeds** – packets of wildflower seeds to attract bees and butterflies are available again free to Tower Hamlets residents and schools. The seeds will be available from Idea Stores until the end of May 2014, or you can order them by contacting the Biodiversity Officer by [e-mail](#) or on 020 7364 7478. Read more [here](#).

**Estonian Cormorant still at East India Dock Basin (but no Portuguese ducks)** – the [Cormorant bearing an Estonian colour-ring](#), reported in the last *Newsflash*, is still visiting the pier by East India Dock Basin. But there has been no sign of either of the [Portuguese Tufted Ducks](#) this winter.

**Mild weather brings an early spring** – many spring flowers have appeared up to 6 weeks early this year due to the mild winter. Fine displays of flowering bulbs can be seen at Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park and on the Manchester Estate, where more than 10,000 bulbs were planted in 2012 by corporate volunteers. Read more [here](#).

**Funding available for trees!** – two schemes providing trees for schools and community groups have recently been announced: the Tree Council's Orchard Windfalls Fund 2014 and the Woodland Trust's free tree packs. Read more [here](#).

**A chance to explore Mudchute's new ponds** – Froglife will be leading pond-dipping and other activities at Mudchute's wonderful new wetland habitats on Thursday 17 April. Read more [here](#).

**Blooming marvellous Tower Hamlets** – the prizes for the 2013 Tower Hamlets in Bloom awards were presented at a reception in the Ecology Pavilion in Mile End Park in January. The competition attracted over 100 entries. The best wildlife garden awards were won by Cable Street Community Garden for community wildlife gardens, and Gary Howes and Andrew Wibley, who won best individual wildlife garden for the third year running, as well as the overall best individual garden. Read more [here](#).

**Reviewing the Biodiversity Action Plan** – the review of the Tower Hamlets Local Biodiversity Action Plan continues. If you have ideas on what should be in the LBAP, please let us 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