



Tower Habitats Newsflash

Latest news on nature conservation and wildlife in Tower Hamlets

March 2015

Bringing back the Black Poplar – The Council and Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park have planted 17 small Black Poplars this winter, in Victoria Park, Meath Gardens, Weavers Woodland Walk and Cemetery Park. Now Britain's rarest timber tree, the Black Poplar was once so numerous in wet pastures along the Thames that it gave its name to Poplar district. Read more [here](#).

Join the Tower Hamlets Bee Survey – after a successful first year, in which 11 volunteers counted more than 900 bees on 15 sites, our Bee Survey will restart as soon as it's warm enough for good numbers of bees to be on the wing, and we're looking for more bee counters. It only takes 15 minutes of your time once a month, so please consider counting bees at your local green space. Find out more [here](#), or [e-mail the Biodiversity Officer](#). Training will be available.

Wildlife training at Cemetery Park – the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park are running a programme of training courses, aimed at land managers, gardeners and people with an interest in wildlife. Subjects range from creating a wildlife pond to identifying trees and planting bulbs to attract wildlife. Find out more [here](#).

Blooming marvellous – Tower Hamlets in Bloom 2014 showcased lots of super gardens, with over 100 entries. Cable Street Community Garden was the best community wildlife garden again, while Gary Howes and Andrew Whibley won the individual wildlife garden award for the fourth year running. Read more [here](#).

Firecrest delights birdwatchers – the Firecrest reported in the last issue of *Newsflash* remained in Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park throughout the winter, attracting birdwatchers from all over London. It was briefly joined by a second bird just before its departure in early March. Well-known London birder David Darrell-Lambert managed to get some super photos of this lovely bird, one of which is now the header on the [Tower Habitats "latest wildlife reports" page](#) and another appears below. Another Firecrest was seen in Victoria Park on 22 March.

New homes for birds – volunteers at Cable Street Community Garden have installed ten new nest boxes in time for the spring. Read more [here](#). The Council is about to install six new nest boxes and four bat boxes in Island Gardens.

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

