



Tower Habitats Newsflash

Latest news on nature conservation and wildlife in Tower Hamlets

May 2013

Have you seen a Hedgehog? – We want to find out if we still have hedgehogs in Tower Hamlets and, if so, where. This will help focus conservation efforts. If you've seen one, please [e-mail the Biodiversity Officer](#), saying when and where. Read more [here](#).

Best Garden in East London competition 2013 – the East London Garden Society is launching its annual competition to find the best individual, community and container gardens in East London. Entry is free, closing date is 8 June. Read more [here](#).

Spring at last! – 15 April saw a huge arrival of migrant birds all over London. The highlight in Tower Hamlets was a Nightingale singing by Poplar Dock, but most impressive were the numbers of Willow Warblers, Chiffchaffs, Blackcaps and Whitethroats. Read more [here](#).

New tree health survey – OPAL, the education project based at the Natural History Museum, is launching a new survey of tree health, aimed at children, schools and nature groups. Read more [here](#).

Managing Development Document adopted – On 17 April, Tower Hamlets Council adopted this important part of the Local Development Framework, which sets out the policies by which planning applications will be assessed. Policy DM11 protects biodiversity and requires enhancements such as green roofs. A new Proposals Map, including the revised Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, has also been adopted. Read more [here](#).

Another new spider – Mile End Park's amazing run of rare spiders continues, with a new species for London, the tiny money spider *Mermessus trilobatus*. This follows two new species for Britain recorded from the park in recent years. Read more [here](#).

More greening on the Glamis Estate – Trees for Cities and EastendHomes ran a community planting event on Elf Green on 23 February. About 50 people, including Mayor Lutfur Rahman, braved freezing conditions to plant trees, a hedge, and herb beds. Read more [here](#).

Bees in Mile End Park – a new beehive has been installed in the Arts Park. The bees will be the focus of curriculum projects with young people, in partnership with the Council's Youth Offending Team.

Portuguese ducks update – the female Tufted Duck "Red-1", was back on East India Dock Basin on 26 February and 17 March, at Millwall Docks on 28 March, and East India Dock Basin from 10 April till at least 9 May. No sign of the male in Tower Hamlets so far this spring. 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