



# Tower Habitats Newsflash

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

May 2018

**Open Garden Squares Weekend 2018** – Open Garden Squares Weekend, on 9-10 June 2018, is an opportunity to feed your curiosity and explore over 230 private, secret and little-known gardens all over London. Gardens range from the historic and traditional to the new and experimental, and include private gardens, roof gardens, community allotments, gardens belonging to historic buildings, institutions, cafés, schools and shops. [Find out which gardens in Tower Hamlets are taking part](#). One ticket gives access to numerous gardens across the weekend. For more information and tickets see the [Open Garden Squares website](#).

**Avocets visit East India Dock Basin** – three Avocets visited East India Dock Basin Nature Reserve in mid-March. This was the first ever record of these elegant, black-and-white birds in Tower Hamlets, and they attracted quite a few birdwatchers to the Basin during their four-day stay. [Read more about this exciting record](#). Another unusual record of a wader was a Common Snipe over Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park on 13 April.

**Kingfisher bank gets a makeover** – the Kingfisher nesting bank beside the Regent's Canal at Brunton Wharf in Limehouse has received an artistic makeover. Local artist Curtis Hylton has transformed its stark concrete appearance with a camouflage pattern made up of kingfisher silhouettes in various colours. While this will make no difference to any Kingfishers which choose to nest here, it makes it much more interesting and attractive to people walking along the tow-path. [Read more and see photos](#).

**Create a Plot for Pollinators** – the charity Butterfly Conservation is asking people to help to reverse the declines of butterflies, moths and other pollinating insects. Setting aside just one square metre of outdoor space and filling it with nectar-rich flowers will feed hundreds of insects. The initiative is supported by top TV gardener Alan Titchmarsh. Plots created in Tower Hamlets will contribute to our Local Biodiversity Action Plan, which has an objective to increase the amount of nectar-rich flowers available for bumblebees and other pollinators. [Read more about Plots for Pollinators and sign up for a free guide](#).

**Canary Wharf wildlife photo competition** – celebrate the diversity of flora and fauna on the Canary Wharf Estate by entering the Wildlife Photography Competition for the chance to win up to £1,000 of Canary Wharf Gift Cards. All you need to do is find any of the numerous plant species, birds, fish, insects and mammals which have made Canary Wharf their home, and photograph it using your smartphone or camera. The competition is open until 28 September 2018. [Find out more about the categories, prizes and how to enter](#).

**Greening the Limehouse Cut: have your say** – Thames 21 has secured funding to install 280 metres of floating reed beds along the Limehouse Cut, and wants local people to have a say in whereabouts the vegetation should go. To see the options and provide your views, visit the [Greening the Limehouse Cut survey page on SurveyMonkey](#). The survey is open for comments until Friday 1 June. Thames21 would like to thank the Mayor of London's Greener Cities Fund, Tower Hill Trust, Poplar HARCA and the Environment Agency for their generous contributions to fund this project.

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 in Tower Hamlets, please e-mail the Biodiversity Officer [john.archer@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:john.archer@towerhamlets.gov.uk) or phone 020 7364 7478