



Tower Habitats Newsflash

Latest news on nature conservation and wildlife in Tower Hamlets

September 2014

Community & school biodiversity grants – grants of between £50 and £1000 are available to schools and community groups in Tower Hamlets for biodiversity enhancements to school grounds, community gardens and housing estates, thanks to funding from Tower Hamlets Homes and the Tower Hill Trust. For more details and an application form, [e-mail](#) or write to Andy Clark, Wyn Garrett Residents Resource Centre, Raynham House, Massingham Street E1 4EB. Closing date for applications is 14 November.

Bee survey update – the Tower Hamlets Bee Survey has got off to a good start, with 34 volunteers and 32 sites registered. Up to early September, 818 bees of 15 species had been recorded, including the nationally rare Brown-banded Carder Bee at two sites. Please consider signing up to count bees next year. Find out how to register [here](#).

Cuckoo leads unusual sightings – unusual passage migrant birds in early September included a juvenile Cuckoo in Victoria Park (a very scarce sighting in inner London), several Spotted Flycatchers in Victoria and Cemetery Parks, and a Yellow Wagtail over East India Dock Basin. Other interesting birds included a Woodcock at Mudchute in July, and nesting Collared Doves at Bow Church DLR station. Butterfly highlights were Cemetery Park's first ever Marbled White, several Silver-washed Fritillaries there, and a Clouded Yellow at East India Dock Basin. Moths included Hummingbird Hawk-moths in Cemetery Park in early July, and Gypsy Moths on the Isle of Dogs and in Bow during July and August. See the latest Tower Hamlets wildlife sightings [here](#).

Weavers Fields Woodland Walk to get a makeover – habitat enhancements and new features for visitors are planned at the second largest woodland in the borough. Read more [here](#).

A good year for terns – Common Terns had their best breeding season for years at East India Dock Basin, with at least 11 pairs fledging up to 15 young. Read more [here](#).

London in Bloom gold for Tower Hamlets – Tower Hamlets Parks won a coveted Gold Award in this year's London in Bloom awards, the first time for 14 years the borough has achieved this accolade. Read more [here](#).

Stop Press: another award for Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park – the Friends have just heard that they have won the Wild Organisation award in the 2014 Octavia Hill Awards, organised by the National Trust, the Wild Network and BBC Countryfile Magazine to celebrate people and organisations who help children and young people connect with wildlife and the outdoors. Read more about the Octavia Hill Awards [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