



# Tower Habitats Newsflash

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

October 2019

**New Local Biodiversity Action Plan launched** – a new Tower Hamlets Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) was approved by the Mayor in Cabinet in July, and launched by the Mayor planting a Black Poplar in Victoria Park at the beginning of October. The new plan will run to September 2024. [Download the new LBAP here](#), and [read more about the launch](#).

**Terns breed successfully** – after three blank years, Common Terns have nested successfully in Tower Hamlets this summer. Two pairs hatched young, one at East India Dock Basin and the other at Blackwall Basin. While the East India pair failed to fledge any young, one young tern flew from Blackwall Basin. [Read more about the terns](#).

**Greening Tom Thumb's Arch** – Malmesbury Residents Association have planted lots of wildlife-friendly perennials and shrubs around Tom Thumb's Arch on the Malmesbury Estate, with help from the Council's Green team and Parks Service. [Read all about the planting day, with lots of photos](#).

**Green Flags galore!** – the Lower Regents Coalition retained its Green Flag Award for the section of the Regent's Canal between Limehouse and Mile End. [Read more about the Lower Regents Coalition](#). The Council's parks won a record 12 Green Flag Awards, with Sir John McDougall Gardens winning an award for the first time, and the other 11 Green Flags all retained. [Read more about the Council's Green Flag Awards](#).

**Stebon School grow-as-you-learn** – Stebon Primary School transformed two underused areas of its playground into an allotment area of nectar-rich planters, and a woodland garden for Forest School. [Read more about Stebon School's greening project](#).

**More beetles added to Cemetery Park list** – another seven species have been added to Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park's ever-growing beetle list, taking the list to a very impressive 443 species. The additions include one Red Data Book species, the ground beetle *Ophonus strictus*, which has a very limited distribution in southern England. [Read more about these beetles and see photos](#).

**A wildlife-friendly playground** – EastendHomes and the Holland Estate Management Board have planted a native hedge and nectar-rich perennials around a new playground. [Read more about the planting](#).

**Bee page added to Tower Habitats website** – a [new page on bees in Tower Hamlets](#) has been added to the Tower Habitats website. It provides information on the different types of bees in the borough, the threats they face and how residents can help them.

**Going batty in Swedenborg Gardens** – a bat walk in Swedenborg Gardens recorded several Common Pipistrelles, including one in broad daylight, confirming the presence of bats in this part of Shadwell. [Read more and see a photo of the day-flying pipistrelle](#).

**Gardening in Tarling West** – the Tarling West TRA's gardening group has introduced lots of new planting around the estate. [Read about the history of the gardening group, and how they've benefitted wildlife and estate residents](#).

**Tower Habitats Biodiversity Grants** – this grant scheme run by the Tower Hill Trust funded four of the above projects – Malmesbury RA, Stebon School, EastendHomes and Tarling West TRA. The scheme provides grants to schools and community groups for biodiversity enhancements which contribute to Local Biodiversity Action Plan objectives. [See full details of the grant scheme](#).

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