



RECONNECTING LONDON WITH THE RIVER THAMES DELIVERING A LASTING LEGACY

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2018

The Tideway project will clean up the River Thames for generations to come by building a 25km tunnel to intercept millions of tonnes of raw sewage that pollute the river every year. As well as building the tunnel, Tideway aims to deliver a wider legacy for London, maximising the benefits the project can offer and supporting the company's vision to 'reconnect London with the River Thames'. This has been outlined in the project's public [Legacy Statement](#).

A key part of its legacy is investing in local communities, supporting community groups near sites and developing long-term partnerships with pan-London organisations to bring people from different parts of London together around river activities.

Tideway partners with environmental charity **Thames21** on Thames River Watch, a 'citizen science' programme which trains volunteers to collect data about litter and water quality. This data is used to create reports about the issues and helps Thames21 lobby for policy change.



Thames River Watch volunteers show their haul of litter at a Thames foreshore clean-up

In 2018 the programme engaged 959 people and 592 community volunteers, held 31 foreshore clean-ups and trained 79 people to run clean-ups or carry out surveys. Tideway volunteers from across the project held a further 19 clean-ups themselves.

More than 36,000 plastic bottles were collected in year to September 2018 and at the annual Big Count event, in which volunteers collect litter across multiple sites on the same day, a total of 3,249 plastic bottles were collected. A total of 40% were water bottles.



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Tideway also partners with youth engagement charity **London Youth Rowing (LYR)** on its Active Row programme, also funded by Sport England. The programme, which began in September 2017, aims to get 8,000 young people – 50% male / female and 60% BAME – active through indoor and on-water rowing in four years. By the end of 2018 Active Row was well ahead of its target, with 4,500 young people engaged in its first 16 months.

The first year of the programme culminated in two on-water ‘Beginners’ Regattas’ in fixed seat boats held on the Thames at Shadwell and Putney. Luke Lachezar Bayrev, a Year 10 pupil from St Matthew Academy in Lewisham, said: “The Active Row Regatta was absolutely incredible - it was fun, challenging and built up our teamwork skills in the boat.”



London Youth Rowing’s Active Row programme got 4,500 children active, on and off the water, in its first 16 months

Tideway is removing 90% of its excavated material by barge and river safety is a critical priority, and in 2018 Tideway began a two-year partnership with **RNLI London**. The Tower and Chiswick Lifeboat stations are the charity’s busiest in the country, and Tideway funded new kit for the Tower crew which is lighter, more comfortable and, for the first time, has been designed for female volunteers. Tideway’s own volunteers also supported the RNLI’s youth engagement programme, giving water safety talks to large groups of schoolchildren.



RNLI London volunteers at Tower Lifeboat Station wearing new, improved kit funded by Tideway



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The Tideway project is writing a new chapter in the rich history of the Thames and our partnership with the **Museum of London Archaeology (MoLA)** funds their Thames Discovery Programme to create a new generation of enthusiasts in foreshore heritage, building on MoLA's successful FROGs (Foreshore Recorder and Observer Groups).

A group of 30 young people, aged 8 to 18 - the 'Tadpoles' - began training in 2016 and 18 of them achieved their 'Heritage Skills Passport' in 2018. The TDP programme received a great accolade at the end of the year when one of the Tadpoles, 13-year-old Rosie O'Toole, was named young Archaeologist of the Year by the Young Archaeologists' Club.



The Thames
Discovery
Programme
'Tadpoles' at
Greenwich (left) and
Tadpole Rosie
O'Toole, named
2018 Young
Archaeologist of the
Year (Right)

Tideway is also determined to leave a skills legacy in construction and in 2018 we seed funded the **Construction Youth Trust (CYT)** to begin its Schools Partnership Programme in London to attract new, diverse talent into the sector. The CYT works with schools with a high proportion of disadvantaged students and in 2018 the programme engaged with 40 London schools and 7,000 young people, taking 300 of them onto 'world of work' programmes.

Among those supported by the CYT is Nawaal Abdalla Omar, who attended a CYT Budding Brunels workshop, followed by a work placement. She is now a Civil Engineering Apprentice with Tideway East.



Tideway East apprentice Nawaal Abdalla Omar: "*When my work placement ended, I felt incredibly motivated and eager to do all that's necessary to work in this field of work in the near future. Construction Youth Trust not only gave me my first exposure to construction, but also continued to support and guide me into the industry.*".



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Tideway's staff made a major contribution to the project's community programme in 2018 through **volunteering**. Giving time through volunteering to support the local community is one of Tideway's specific legacy commitments and in 2018 Alliance staff volunteered for the huge total of 10,142 hours. This includes 7,000 hours volunteered by Main Works Contractor staff and 3,000 by the Client team.



Tideway volunteering in 2018 (clockwise from top right): the East team mentoring students from Southwark; The West team renovating a scout hut in Acton; the Client team helping older neighbours in Blackfriars; and a Central team foreshore clean-up in Battersea.

Tideway staff also raised significant sums through **charity fundraising**. The biggest event in May as the 'Oarsome Challenge', which involved 16 crews from across the Alliance rowing 10 miles through central London, raising more than £35,000 to pay for a new fundraising post at Shadwell Basin Outdoor Activity Centre, in Tower Hamlets.



Tideway Alliance staff rowed 10 miles through central London in the 'Oarsome Challenge' and raised more than £35,000



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Tideway aims to support innovation, whether in engineering, construction or environmental sustainability. In 2018 we partnered with environmental charity Hubbub and Starbucks to launch a **new community boat** made from 99% recycled plastic. The boat, moored in Richmond, is only the second of its type in the world and in 2019 will take local schoolchildren on educational 'plastic fishing' trips on the Thames.



Tideway supported the launch of PET Project, a boat made of 99% recycled plastic and which will give schoolchildren educational trips down the River Thames from its moorings in Richmond.

Tideway gained significant **external recognition** for its community investment work in 2018. In June it was named Corporate Citizen of the Year at the Evening Standard Business Awards for its partnership with Thames21. Thames River Watch also won the Community Partnership of the Year at the City of London Lord Mayor's Dragon Awards, and Tideway was shortlisted in the community categories of the Responsible Business Awards, run by Business In The Community, and the Business Charity Awards.

Tideway came in the top 10 UK companies in the 2018 GivX Community Investment index and received praise from corporate CSR specialists London Benchmarking Group, who said: "*Tideway's strategic community investment for social welfare and environment are significant areas where it stands out from its peers.*"



Tideway won two prestigious awards and was shortlisted in two more for its community programme in 2018. It was also in the top 10 UK companies in the GivX community index.