Princess Royal visits east London’s ‘Cathedral of Sewage’

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Hello and welcome to the latest edition of the River Times, your update on London’s new super sewer.

We’re making excellent progress on our sites in the eastern section of the project ahead of the arrival of our first tunnel boring machine (TBM) next year.

Our cover image for this edition shows Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal on a visit to Abbey Mills Pumping Station in Stratford to learn more about the biggest expansion of London’s sewerage network since the Victorian era – read the full story on page 7.

Inside this edition, you can read on page 6 about the completion of the shaft walls at our site on Deptford Church Street, a key milestone for the team.

We’ve also moved a collection of boats downstream in Deptford Creek to enable us to move more material by river, keeping lorries off local roads (more on page 5).

While on page 4, we’ve got news of the Tideway project’s 100th apprentice, who has begun work as an apprentice civil engineer with us at Chambers Wharf.

All this plus news of our acoustic enclosure in Bermondsey (page 7), innovative lorries coming to our sites (page 4), and another of our staff volunteer riverbank litter-picks (page 6).

I hope you enjoy this edition of the River Times and, as ever, if you have any comments or feedback, we’d love to hear from you so please get in touch!

Mike Sawyer, Project Director
London relies on a 150-year-old sewer system built for a population less than half its current size.

As a result, millions of tonnes of raw sewage overflow the system each year and end up in the River Thames.

*That’s where we come in...*

We’re building a 25km ‘super sewer’ under the Thames to intercept those nasty overflows and clean up our river.

The project has also created thousands of new jobs and is building new public space, creating a better environment for Londoners.
A budding engineer has become the 100th person to take up an apprenticeship on the Tideway project.

Callum Davis, 18, has started his civil engineering apprenticeship at Chambers Wharf in Bermondsey.

One in 50 jobs on the project is an apprenticeship, and since work started in 2014, apprenticeships have been offered in areas ranging from civil engineering to construction, boatmasters, business administration and digital engineering.

Callum, from Bishop’s Stortford in Hertfordshire, said: “The apprenticeship route is definitely a life-changing career pathway. Learning while working alongside colleagues is really valuable experience, as they can pass on key site knowledge and terminology.

“The Tideway project has provided me with the opportunity to develop and enhance my knowledge and skills rapidly and I am learning something new every day.”

Fifteen new LEC (low entry cab) trucks began delivering to Tideway’s sites on the eastern section of the project this summer.

With bigger windows on the cab, drivers are able to see vulnerable road users like cyclists and pedestrians more clearly.

The vehicles’ engines also meet the tough Euro 6 emissions standard – in line with the Mayor of London’s target for HGVs in the capital.
Local News

New Public Space Being Created in Shadwell Park

New images that offer a vision of how the River Thames could look in the future, including of King Edward Memorial Park in Shadwell (pictured), have been released.

As part of the Tideway project, seven new areas of public land are being built, reclaiming land from the Thames.

Sir Joseph Bazalgette, who designed London’s original sewer system over 150 years ago, built out onto the river creating the Victoria, Albert and Chelsea Embankments. Tideway will be honouring that legacy by also building out onto the river.

Roger Bailey, Tideway’s Chief Technical Officer, said: “The construction of London’s new super sewer will create three acres of new public space designed to reconnect the capital’s residents and visitors with the River Thames.”

To see more pictures of the new public spaces being created on the River Thames, go to tideway.london/news

Work Begins in Deptford Creek

Work in Deptford Creek by Greenwich Pumping Station is underway after a collection of boats known as the ‘Minesweeper Collective’ was moved 25 metres downstream.

The team at Greenwich is installing 73 ‘sheet piles’ to support the existing river wall before dredging begins.

All this is to prepare for Tideway’s ‘More by River’ strategy, which will see as much material as possible taken to and from site on barges to reduce traffic on London’s streets.

The team has undertaken surveys in the area to check for unexploded WWII bombs. Fortunately, none were found.
GOOD PROGRESS BEING MADE AT DEPTFORD

Work on London’s new super sewer in Deptford came a step closer to completion this summer as the team finished building the walls of the shaft.

A giant machine called a ‘hydrofraise’ (pictured) was used to excavate the ground and create each of the 26 shaft wall panels to a depth of more than 60 metres.

The machine has so far undertaken work at Chambers Wharf in Bermondsey, Greenwich and Deptford – and has now moved on to Earl Pumping Station.

THOUSANDS OF BOTTLES COLLECTED FROM THAMES

Volunteers from the eastern section of the Tideway project joined others on the foreshore at Thamesmead to record and collect plastic litter as part of Thames21’s Big Bottle Count.

The environmental charity has collected more than 36,000 plastic bottles from riverbanks in London in the last six months.

Martin Griffiths and Charley Whitelock, who both work at all Tideway sites on the eastern section of the project, led a team of volunteers from Gatwick Airport, Network Rail, Pepsico and others to collect litter as part of the initiative.

Across the 18 sites in London that comprise the Big Bottle Count, a total of 3,249 were collected with more found at Thamesmead than at any other site.

Staff from Tideway East have picked up more than 1,600 plastic bottles – and filled more than 350 bags with rubbish – from the banks of the River Thames in the last 18 months.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

You are invited to Tideway’s Christmas Carol Service at the Old Royal Naval College Chapel in Greenwich on 5 December. All are welcome, so if you’re interested in attending please join us from 6pm.
ACOUSTIC ENCLOSURE TO KEEP NOISE DOWN

Work to build an ‘acoustic enclosure’ at Chambers Wharf in Bermondsey is well underway.

The enclosure is one part of a raft of measures Tideway is implementing across the project to reduce the impact of our work on our neighbours.

At 23 metres tall, the enclosure will limit dust and noise pollution in the local area – and allow our teams to work around the clock, therefore bringing the completion date forward.

Other measures Tideway has undertaken to limit our impact include using electrically-powered machinery and river barges to move material to and from site, keeping lorries off the roads.

TIDEWAY WELCOMES THE PRINCESS ROYAL

Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal visited east London’s ‘Cathedral of Sewage’ this autumn to learn about the Tideway project.

Princess Anne descended into the sewers at Abbey Mills Pumping Station to learn about the biggest expansion of London’s sewerage network in more than 150 years.

She was shown around the iconic pumping station by Tideway CEO Andy Mitchell and Thames Water’s Chief Operating Officer Lawrence Gosden.

Andy said: “We were honoured to welcome Her Royal Highness to Abbey Mills today. With construction across London progressing well, our team is buoyed by the interest in their work.”

Abbey Mills pumping station was built by Victorian engineer Sir Joseph Bazalgette in 1868 as part of his network of underground sewers.

“We all feel very passionately about our mission to clean up London’s river, so to get the Royal seal of approval is very special.”

For more information about the work going on near you, go to tideway.london/the-tunnel/construction-sites
At Tideway, we’re always on the lookout for new people to join our team and are committed to recruiting from the boroughs in which we work.

Whether you’re looking for work on site or in an office, we regularly have a wide variety of roles to fill, ranging from site operatives to traffic marshals.

If you’re interested in working with us, get in touch and lookout for a Tideway jobs fair in your area.

To apply, and for the latest jobs in your area, go to www.tideway.london/about-us/jobs

MEET THE APPRENTICE

One in 50 of the 4,000 jobs the Tideway project will create will be an apprenticeship.

ZAINAB VAID

Apprentice Design Engineer
Chambers Wharf, Bermondsey

Learned at Tideway
Coming into ‘nine to five’ life direct from school has given me the opportunity to work with industry professionals. I’ve soaked up their advice and in-depth knowledge, which has given me confidence in my ability to draw 2D/3D models on new software. I’ve also gained an appreciation of how design and construction merge together.

Enjoyed at Tideway
I love the fact that every day is different. There’s always a new problem with a new solution to figure out; as a design engineer, I’m constantly trying to resolve issues effectively - always aiming to get it right first time. It’s all about practice and development. The fact I’m studying for a degree and getting real-project experience at the same time is amazing! I have the opportunity to develop in the construction industry and practice the theory behind civil engineering.

Future aspirations
Once I complete my degree, I would like to work on becoming a chartered Civil Engineer. I would also like to work on international projects, preferably in the Middle East; because I love the desert and working there would feel like a holiday!