Deptford shaft complete
Welcome message
from Jim Avant

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

We’ve had a busy few months across the east section of the project: a giant shaft 50m deep has now been completed at our Deptford site and at Chambers Wharf a successful concrete pour into the base of the shaft took us a step closer to building the super sewer.

On page 7 you can read about the Greenwich team’s preparations for the arrival of Annie, the tunnel boring machine that will form the connection tunnel linking the pumping station with the main tunnel in Bermondsey.

There have also been lots of community events over the past few months. In July residents of Chambers Wharf were able to join a team of archaeologists for a walk along the foreshore—you can read about this on page 6.

If you or anyone you know is interested in routes into the construction industry, turn to the back cover to hear how one of our Apprentice Digital Engineers is finding his role on the project and what he hopes to achieve in the future.

On page 4, you’ll find details of how to get involved in the upcoming Regatta London, an event that promises to be a huge spectacle on the river.

I hope you enjoy reading about all of this, and for further information on each of our sites, go to tideway.london/locations. If you have any further questions or would like to discuss anything relating to the project, we’re always available.

Jim Avant,
Delivery Manager
London relies on a 150-year-old sewer system built for a population less than half its current size.

As a result, tens of 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 spills and clean up our river.

The project will also bring thousands of new jobs, as well as new public space, creating a better environment for Londoners.
Barges better than lorries for London’s air quality, study finds

Tideway is the first major infrastructure project to develop comprehensive data demonstrating the reduced impact on air quality of moving material by river instead of road.

We’re moving as much material as possible using barges on the River Thames, and kept an average of 200 lorries off the road each day last year. This has clear benefits for congestion, pedestrians and cyclists, as well as our neighbours.

But new figures reveal that when compared to the road equivalent, barges have a much reduced impact on air quality, producing 90 per cent less CO₂, 95 per cent less CO and 86 per cent less NO₂.

Tideway used an independent analyst for the research, which also concluded that emissions from lorries often became ‘trapped’ between buildings. Barges in the Thames don’t have that problem.

Air quality is a big issue in London, but Tideway is spearheading new approaches to freight movement in the capital. To date, we’ve moved more than a million tonnes of material by river, keeping more than 100,000 lorries off London’s roads.

River Thames to host London’s biggest paddle event

Regatta London is planned to take place on Sunday, 29 September 2019, inviting paddleboarders, kayakers, canoers and rowers to take part in a 12-mile journey through central London.

The Tideway-founded event will see the River Thames closed to all other marine traffic, raising money for a number of charities—including London Youth Rowing, Mates in Mind and Thames21.

Event organiser Andy Triggs Hodge, triple Olympic-gold-medallist, said: “This is a unique opportunity for people to experience the River Thames and to see one of the greatest cities in the world from a different angle.”

Go to www.regatta.london for more information
200th Tree Planted in Deptford Park

Deptford Folk, a local community volunteer group, has planted the 200th tree in Pepys Park as part of the Evelyn200 challenge.

Trees were also planted with the help of Tideway’s east team in Deptford Park, which was once a market garden of the Evelyn family estate, renowned for its onions, celery and asparagus. Deptford Folk committed to planting 200 trees locally in celebration of the first publication of John Evelyn’s diaries 200 years ago. Twenty of these trees have been funded by Tideway, the first back in November, with the 200th tree planted on 13 April 2019.

Sarmanjit Singh, a carpenter on the project said: “It was good to take time out to plant the tree—it’s a very nice thing to do. I look forward to bringing my grandchildren here to show them the trees we planted.”

Deptford Folk Chair, Trina Lysnkey added: “It’s thanks to Tideway and other contributors that we have been able to plant hundreds of trees for the children from our local schools and the wider community.”

55-million-year-old Shark Tooth Found

A 55 million-year-old tooth belonging to a relative of the modern-day goblin shark (the ugliest shark in the sea) has been discovered in material excavated at Chambers Wharf.

Gail Dickerson, a local artist, has been using excavated material of different soil types for the latest piece she is working on.

She found the tooth in one of the sample bags of material taken from a depth of around 13 metres within the shaft.

Archaeologists from the Museum of London Archaeology (MoLA) believe the fossilised shark tooth is most likely from the Eocene—an epoch lasting from 56 to 33.9 million years ago in the London Clay geological deposit.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WALKS RECOUNT HISTORY

In July Tideway arranged for the arts organisation, Clayground Collective and a Thames archaeologist to hold two foreshore walks on the Bermondsey beach, which local residents of Chambers Wharf were invited to participate in.

During the visits, the residents were told about the vital role the Thames played in the development of London, including its potteries and distribution of wares worldwide.

Around 20 local residents attended the walks at low tide and were able to trace Bermondsey’s history by discovering artefacts uncovered by the river and having them assessed by the archaeologist.

Interesting artefacts found included fragments of pottery, various ship remains and section of animal antler which, on initial inspection, could date back to prehistoric times.

4KM OF TUNNEL BUILT

Tideway has now built more than 4km of tunnel across the project and has kept an average of 200 lorries off the road per day, as a result of our use of barges on the River Thames.

ON YOUR MARKS, SET, GO!

The super sewer is a step closer after the team at Chambers Wharf successfully completed a concrete pour in the shaft on site. The concrete will form a strong platform on which Selina, the tunnel boring machine, will sit before tunnelling the eastern section within the next year.

Fifty people from across the Tideway project took part in London’s biggest and most diverse Pride yet. Over a million people took to the streets of Central London in support of LGBT+ rights and to cheer those marching in the parade.

PRIDE IN LONDON

TIDEWAY NEWS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pride in London

NEWS IN BRIEF
SHAFT AT DEPTFORD NOW COMPLETE

A giant shaft, about the same dimensions as the leaning tower of Pisa (but completely straight) has been completed at Tideway’s Deptford site.

The shaft, which is around 50 metres deep and 17 metres in diameter, is a key part of Tideway’s work in east London to clean up the River Thames.

Meanwhile at the nearby Greenwich site the team is busy preparing for the arrival of a giant tunnel boring machine. The machine is named after Annie Scott Dill Russell (1868–1947), the first female scientist to work at the Greenwich Observatory.

Annie will create a tunnel linking Greenwich Pumping Station to the main tunnel in Bermondsey.

OARSOME CHALLENGE RAISES OVER £34,000

Sixteen teams from across the Tideway project took part in this year’s Oarsome Challenge—raising more than £34,000 for London Youth Rowing and three other London charities.

Now in its third year, the challenge sees teams of eight rowers donning fancy dress and rowing a 13-mile stretch of the River Thames from Shadwell to Chiswick.

Commenting, participant Louise Walsh said: “The challenge was fantastic—lots of aching body parts now, but all well worth it! Taking part in the Oarsome Challenge enabled us to enjoy a truly unforgettable experience which we all loved.”

Part of the money raised by the Oarsome Challenge will be used to purchase a new fixed seat rowing boat which will be operated by London Youth Rowing and other charities and used to encourage disadvantaged communities in the Fulham and Wandsworth areas to take up rowing.

The rest will go towards South London Cares, Single Homeless Project and Drive Forward Foundation.
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 communications officers.

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