



Winter 2019/2020



Tideway

BERMONDSEY • DEPTFORD • GREENWICH • SHADWELL • ROTHERHITHE

# RIVER TIMES

**YOUR UPDATE ON LONDON'S SUPER SEWER**



*Brightening up winter  
at Rotherhithe*

*Page 4*



# Tideway



VINCI  
CONSTRUCTION GRANDS PROJETS



**This is the latest issue of Tideway's regular community newsletter, produced especially for our neighbours in the east section of the project.**

This newsletter will feature up-to-date news on our events, our progress and other exciting things happening in your area.

## GET IN TOUCH



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## WELCOME MESSAGE FROM NICOLAS WORINGER

**Just like that, we find ourselves not only at the end of the year, but also at the end of the decade. Where has the time gone?**

Though the days, weeks and months have flown by in 2019, we are delighted to be able to report numerous Tideway success stories. There's still a lot left to do, but we're making tangible gains and hitting a lot of key milestones.

That's one of the key reasons why Rebecca Pow, Minister for the Environment, took the time to visit our Chambers Wharf site at the end of October. She praised the Tideway project, describing it as a way to 'rekindle our love affair with the Thames'.

As our cover story showcases, we are also doing far more than simply building a sewer beneath the Thames; we are determined to leave a lasting legacy.

Illuminate Rotherhithe is an annual light-based parade designed to shine a spotlight on the importance of the River Thames to the area's development. It is one of the many river-themed events supported by Tideway.

We've also taken time to work with children from a nearby art school (page 4) to emphasise the necessity of taking care when near building sites, sent a group of volunteers down the River Lea (page 5) to pick up litter and make our waterways that little bit healthier, and taken part in a huge bottle count with our friends at Thames21 (page 7).

We're looking forward to a busy and productive 2020, but until then I would like to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year from everyone at Tideway.

**Nicolas Woringer**  
Project Director

# ABOUT US

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.

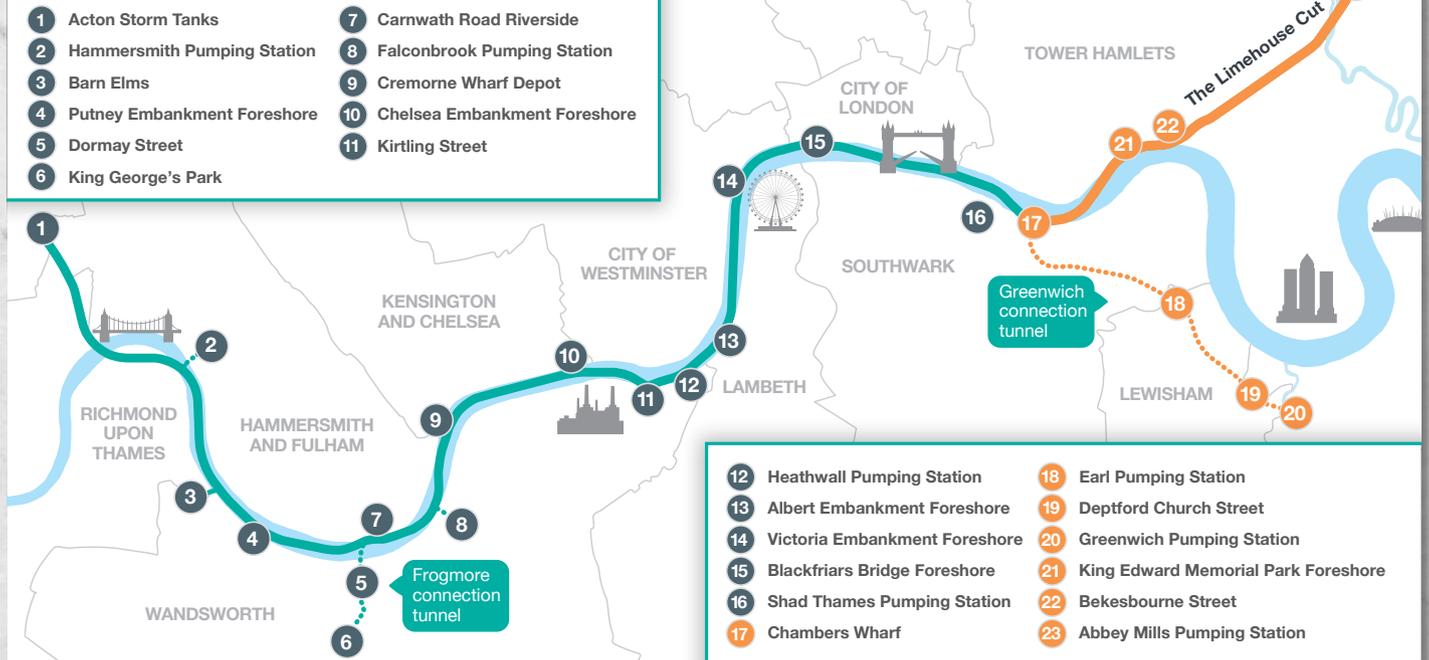
## *That's where we come in...*

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.



## TIDEWAY ROUTE MAP





## TIDEWAY TEAM SPRUCES UP YOUTH CLUB

**At the beginning of October a team of 35 Tideway volunteers headed to Downside Fisher Youth Club to help staff refresh and redecorate the public spaces within the centre.** As part of the day those involved cleaned and sanded the walls before giving them a well needed lick of paint.

Downside Fisher Youth Club supports socially excluded children and young people from Bermondsey and its neighbouring areas, helping them to fulfil their potential through a program of sporting, educational, artistic and recreational activities.

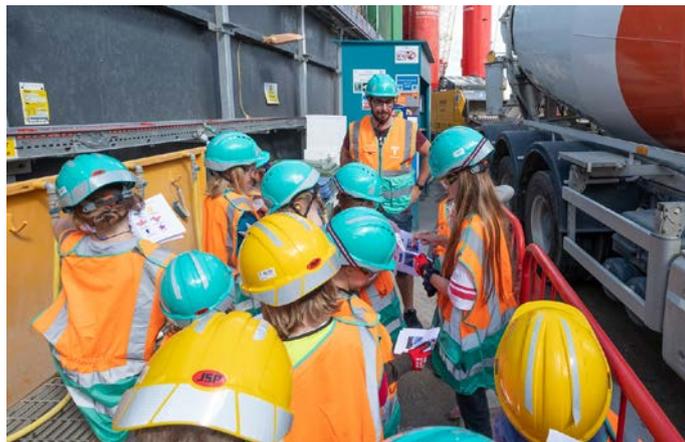
The Club is focused on inspiring young people to develop the skills they will need to succeed in later life, and also to give them the confidence required to make their own decisions as they move into adulthood.

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## ART CLUB SWAPS HIGHLIGHTERS FOR HARD HATS

**Children from Lemon ArtLab recently ventured outside of the classroom to get a first-hand look at a working construction site during a visit to King Edward Memorial Park.**

The site team took 30 inquisitive guests aged between 7 and 11 on a tour of the site, allowing them to understand what the Tideway project is aiming to achieve.



The group met staff on the nearby foreshore to discover more about the Thames, its importance to the city of London, and how the Tideway project is cleaning up the river for the benefit of future generations.

Martin Griffiths, Senior Community Relations Manager, said: “It’s important that children understand they should never go unsupervised onto construction sites. The fun day was a good way to communicate that message, and it also enabled us to help the children learn more about our industry and the Tideway project.”

Susana Cortés, founder of the Lemon ArtLab, added: “We all appreciate the effort the site team put into this to make it work. Thank you to all the staff involved.”

### SEEING THE LIGHT

The last Friday of November saw the streets of Rotherhithe aglow with lights thanks to the stellar efforts of local residents and Tideway volunteers.



The annual Illuminate Rotherhithe event is a free festival designed to showcase the history of the Thames and celebrate the fact that the river has played a vital role in the area's development.

Now in its third year, the event aims to shine a spotlight on the area's past and showcase how the river is still influencing the community to this day. Residents are encouraged to share stories – particularly those related to the Mayflower –, come to lantern-making workshops, and then take part in a procession which ends at St James's Church in Bermondsey.

This year's lantern procession was bigger than ever and concluded with free pizza and hot chocolate handed out to all those involved. Next year's event will mark 400 years since the Mayflower set sail for the New World.

### VOLUNTEERING ON THE RIVER LEA

A team of volunteers from Tideway headed to east London to pick plastic, cans, buckets and crisp packets out of the River Lea.

After a few minutes of attempting to figure out how to manoeuvre efficiently, team members ventured into hidden recesses and tucked-away crevices—sometimes more by accident than design—to remove pieces of garbage that could otherwise pollute the water or directly harm wildlife.

Georgia Boyd, organiser of the event, said: "Having run a similar event back in 2017 I was pleasantly surprised at just how much cleaner the river was. It just goes to show what a difference people volunteering their time can do, and how much of a positive impact they can have on our environments."

In total the team managed to fill six bin bags with litter.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### SWAN FOR ALL

Towards the end of August two animal-loving employees based in Greenwich managed to stop a swan from becoming fox food.

Katarzyna Pegowska found the swan looking stressed, harried and hurt. She contacted a colleague, and together they managed to shelter the shaken bird. The swan was given bread and water to calm it down until RSPCA assistance arrived.



The swan was eventually returned to the Deptford Creek, which runs next to Greenwich Pumping Station.

### SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS SCALE OF SEWAGE PROBLEM

The results of a survey commissioned by Tideway reveal that there is a widespread lack of knowledge around London's sewage.

The research found that over half (56%) of people didn't know that raw sewage enters the River Thames every year. However, more positively, 94% of respondents said that they see London's river as an 'important' feature of the city.

## TIDEWAY NEWS

### FIRST PROJECT BREAKTHROUGH HAPPENS AT KING GEORGE'S PARK



**Tideway has hit a huge project milestone after Charlotte, the tunnel boring machine (TBM) named after suffragist Charlotte Despard, 'broke through' at King George's Park at the end of October.**

Charlotte is tasked with creating a 1.1km tunnel—known as the Frogmore Connection Tunnel—that will connect King George's Park with the main Tideway sewer at Fulham.

Sally Cox, Project Director for the west section of the project, said: "This breakthrough, marks another key step toward a cleaner, healthier River Thames.

"Charlotte is creating vital infrastructure that will benefit Londoners and the River Thames for many years to come."

Charlotte will soon be lifted from the shaft and taken back to Dormay Street where she will be placed back into the ground to tunnel 600 metres north to Fulham.

## HEAD ABOVE WATER SCULPTURE HIGHLIGHTS COMMITMENT TO MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

A large wooden sculpture designed to raise awareness of mental health has been erected at Northfleet, the most easterly Tideway site.

The artwork is named Head Above Water and was designed by furniture maker and sculptor Steuart Padwick. It is gender, age and ethnicity neutral, and is intended to stand as a symbol of hope, bravery, compassion and positivity for people who have come through—or are currently confronting—mental health issues.



## AHOY! CAMPAIGN ENCOURAGES GREATER AWARENESS OF WATER SAFETY



Tideway's Ahoy! Campaign, designed to inform people about the changing shape of the River Thames and the increased number of barges working on the water, has gone live.

Huge banners now adorn a number of Tideway's sites and barges, while leaflets and posters have also been created to spread the message. Adam Smith, Tideway Creative Lead, said: "We wanted a message that was big and bold, so keep your eyes open if you're along the River Thames!"

## BIG BOTTLE COUNT HIGHLIGHTS EXTENT OF THAMES LITTER PROBLEM

London's largest census of river plastic, the annual Big Bottle Count, has found that around 27,000 single-use plastic bottles have been removed from the Thames in the last year.

The latest count, organised by charity Thames21 and carried out by a group of dedicated volunteers, means that over 85,000 bottles have been removed from the capital's river since 2016.

The Big Bottle Count forms part of an ongoing monitoring programme run by Thames21 and took place at sites including Woolwich and Erith.



# OPPORTUNITIES

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/careers](http://www.tideway.london/careers)



# MEET THE APPRENTICE



## LENKA PRISTROM

Apprentice Civil Engineer  
*Chambers Wharf*

### What have you learned at Tideway?

When I joined in September I had just left sixth form, and so I had no experience within the construction industry. From the very first day at Tideway I've learned so much; from initial designs to their completion to actual maintenance of a sewage tunnel. I've also learned how to create drawings and 2D and 3D models using AECOsim, meaning I'm now already able to help out the tunnelling team at Greenwich.

### What have you enjoyed about being on Tideway?

I really like that I'm able to learn something new every day from professionals in the construction industry. It's also great that I'm given the opportunity to fully understand how my work and the work of my team links with the bigger picture of the construction of the tunnel. Something else I've enjoyed is taking part in the apprenticeship information event as part of my volunteering.

### What are your aspirations for the future?

I'd like to complete my Level 6 apprenticeship and become a Chartered Civil Engineer. In the future I'd be interested in working in the renewable energy field or in wastewater management.

For more information about Tideway, our language interpretation service or for Braille and large print:

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#SuperSewer



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