



Love the Lea News

April 2014



Love the Lea – leading the way in protecting the river

There is an increasing range of projects now taking place under the Love the Lea umbrella. This was the aim from the outset – show the problem, develop the strong message and get the funding.

We held a ‘think tank’ with close supporters back in February which was great for identifying more ways that people can get involved and help work for healthy rivers.

A key part of Thames21’s Love the Lea campaign is to inspire others to act to save London’s second largest river. We cannot do it all, nor should we. We will only get a healthy river if enough people want it.

We aim to show that it is possible to make fundamental changes in the way the city treats a river at a local level, not to get stuck at the pilot scheme stage.

Theo Thomas

‘This is Your River’ Week at the Museum of London Docklands

Thames21 and Museum of London Docklands are excited to announce our ‘This is your River’ education week for primary schools this July. We are inviting classes to join us for a half day of river discovery as part of the Fixing Broken Rivers Project. Through facilitated workshops and museum exploration pupils will learn how the water quality of our rivers has changed over time, what caused pollution in the past? What are our rivers like today? Pupils will leave armed with the facts and inspiration they need to be able to make positive changes for the future of our rivers.

For more information or to book: Please phone the Museum of London Docklands Schools Programme Manager on 020 7001 9835

HSBC staff volunteer events begin

HSBC volunteers trade their desks for wellies as part of the Fixing Broken Rivers Project

In addition to funding our Fixing Broken Rivers Project, over 2000 HSBC staff volunteers will be donating their time to improve the rivers of East London. These events began in March with a day of reedbed building at Cody Dock on the tidal Lea. Dry stone walling, harvesting reeds, and bundling harvested reeds for thatching were all on the agenda.



Future events include installing a boom to protect the Three Mills reedbed and re-vegetating the Tottenham floating islands.

A rain garden for Haringey

The first rain garden as part of Love the Lea's Fixing Broken Rivers project will be installed in partnership with the London Borough of Haringey over the next few months. The Boyton Road Rain Garden will be taking run-off from the road and allow it to soak naturally into the ground- reducing flood risk and protecting our rivers.



Eel Monitoring at Bow

We're teaming up with the Zoological Society of London again this year to monitor the migration of eels into the Thames catchment. Monitoring runs from April to September and we need volunteers to check the eel trap, count and measure the eels and then upload the data onto the ZSL website. There is a free training session later this month. To join in or for more information, contact Aimee aimee.felus@thames21.org.uk

Monitoring the Moselle

Water quality data from the last three months shows why we need Love the Lea. Our interns Elle and Jamie have been regularly testing the water quality of the Moselle River from the source at Queens Wood, Lordship Lane and also at Markfield Park before the Moselle joins the Lea. Their data so far is showing that the source of the river is in a healthy state. However the picture their data paints is much grimmer the closer the Moselle gets to the Lea. Levels of dissolved oxygen consistently decrease as you go downstream which correlates to an increase in ammonia, while the presence of copper and zinc increases. Elle and Jamie are continuing to monitor the Moselle, stay tuned for future updates.



Glenbrook and Grovelands SuDS underway

After a long time of planning work will soon be underway to create the water cleansing Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) at Grovelands Park and the Glenbrook. These SuDS will intercept dirty water from surrounding streets and divert it into wetlands for cleaning. Work will commence at the Glenbrook on 6th May, and Grovelands Park SuDS will be in place over the coming weeks. Following the creation of the wetland basins there will have volunteer events to plant them with species that



are good for cleaning water and attracting wildlife. We will also have a celebration event to let the water flow into the first SuDS! For more information or to sign up for regular updates from the Salmons Brook Healthy River Challenge contact aimee.felus@thames21.org.uk

Green Wall Watch

Our green walls are doing amazingly well as they enter spring 2014. Many of them are even beginning to naturally self-seed. We're not sure with what exactly, but watch this space.



Come and see us

The Love the Lea – Fixing Broken Rivers stall will be at the following events

- Wireless Festival, Finsbury Park
- Lea Regatta
- Countryside Live
- And more

What you can do

- If you see pollution call 0800 80 70 60 and tell the Environment Agency where, what and when. Ask to be called back.
- If you see pollution and can take a photo email it to theo.thomas@thames21.org.uk
- [Pledge to Love the Lea](#) – we need more people to show they care about their river.
- Talk to your local councillor and ask them to work towards making the authority a [river friendly council](#)