



Love the Lea News

November 2014



Love the Lea – leading the way in protecting the river

It has been a busy time for the Love the Lea team; we've installed Sustainable Drainage Systems in Enfield, expanded our water quality testing capacity and reach in the Lower Lea Catchment, massively expanded our outreach programme and even held our own festival on Walthamstow Marshes. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Love the Lea team and Thames21 for all of their hard work and dedication, without them, none of this would have been possible. Some of you may be aware that I have taken the decision to leave Thames21 after 13 years. I am sad to be leaving but I know that the Love the Lea team are well equipped to keep the campaign moving forward. I would like to introduce my successor, John Bryden who joins us from the Environment Agency. We're very fortunate to have John on the team, John has worked with us on many projects before and is no stranger to Love the Lea.

Theo Thomas



Vote for Cody Wilds

Our friends at Gasworks Dock are through to the final stages of a major high profile funding bid to create an amazing riverside space on the River Lea. There will be wildflowers, habitats for wildlife, and riparian vegetation in this area of the River Lea.

This space would be open for all to enjoy, with hands-on volunteering opportunities, new bird watching spaces and areas to enjoy the river.

The final stage is a public vote! Please could you take 20 seconds to vote for this unique opportunity for East London <http://www.vote.growwilduk.com>

read more about it [here](#)

Thames21 are delivery partners on Cody Wilds. You can

Salmons Brook Healthy River Challenge



Our SuDS in Grovelands Park and the Glenbrook are now complete. We're monitoring the sites as at the moment not all the systems are operational and we do not want to overwhelm the younger plants with too much water. Unfortunately these SuDS are still suffering from pollution from people's homes.

If your plumbing is misconnected then your are very likely to be polluting your local stream or river with the effluent from your appliances and your bathrooms. Thames Water are doing surveys and the results of these surveys are

vital to improving the health of your local waterway. While most people cooperate, there are still a small number of households who do not, and it is very likely that these are the polluters of your local stream.

We're very excited to announce that the Salmons Brook Healthy River Challenge project has been extended to at least March 2016. The extension of the project is being kindly funded by Thames Water. This new phase will enable more monitoring of the existing SuDS and more and enhanced community and education work. If you would like more information please contact Elle von Benzon at Elena.VonBenzon@thames21.org.uk

Learning from our American friends



Our Fixing Broken Rivers Project Manager Ben has just returned from a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust funded trip to Seattle and Portland researching sustainable drainage. Ben had a hectic few weeks of meetings, site visits and tours, and will be producing a full report of his findings; his photos will also be available on the [Thames21 Flickr page](#).

Lessons learnt from this trip will inspire our future work in the UK. Portland, Oregon has over 1,600 'Green Streets' these roadside sustainable drainage systems take polluted road run off from roads. These have improved water quality of the local rivers and saved the city millions of dollars. New York and Philadelphia are now following Portland's example and installing their own roadside SuDS.

Love the Lea is installing SuDS throughout the Lea Catchment, and educating young people why SuDS are important for London.

Educating the Lower Lea



The Love the Lea education team have been busy running interactive educational sessions at a wide range of events across the catchment, including Enfield Town Show, Haringey Green Fair, Big Bang Near Me in Tower Hamlets, Disco Loco in Hackney, Countryside Live in Waltham Forest, and Technopop in Newham!

The coming months are set to be just as busy so if you would like us to bring river education to your event or school in these boroughs please get in touch with Edel to book us in. We can run a mix of activities focusing on the pollution issues affecting the Lower Lea catchment and the solutions needed to tackle them. You can reach Edel Fingleton Education Officer on edel.fingleton@thames21.org.uk

Time to take a closer look at your brook



Thames21 are about to launch a brand new community outfall monitoring programme! This project, starting in the new year, will enable valuable evidence to be gathered about the type and frequency of pollution entering the Salmons Brook and the streams which feed it. The outfall monitoring programme will follow the success of community water quality monitoring along the Salmons Brook which has led to polluters being challenged.

This project will run from February until July 2015 during which time you can get involved by completing quick and easy outfall surveys to help improve our knowledge of urban river pollution in the catchment. The community outfall monitoring programme would best suit people who are walking nearby the river regularly.

The outfall monitoring training sessions will be held in January. Please contact Francesca on francesca.campagnoli@thames21.org.uk if you are interested in getting involved.

Eels!

The number of eels found in the eel trap this year has been an amazing 413 which is a massive increase from previous years. There has been an increase across most sites, which could be an indication that environmental factors have been particularly favourable for the eel lifecycle.

There have been several complications that have rendered the trap unusable, which was always rectified as soon as possible reducing any impact on loss of data. The piping at the end of the trap fell off into the canal quite early on in the season, which was replaced. Another problem encountered happened towards the end of the season with reduced water flow through the trap being reported, this was rectified by the good old trick of “turning it off and then back on again”! Previously the trap has been left in place over the winter but it has been discussed that the trap will be removed and stored indoors to prevent weather damage.

All in all this has been a very successful season, which has been attributed to the hard work of all the volunteers, staff at Thames 21 and Joe Pecorelli.

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 victoria.paternoster@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](#)