



Love the Lea
Campaign Update



The Love the Lea campaign has been going from strength to strength this year with new projects taking off, SuDS on the verge of completion and a surge in the number of people who get the message and want to take action.

We still have a long way to go before we can say that the rivers in the Lower Lea Catchment are healthy, but every person we reach is a small step to achieving this. We can't do it all by ourselves; we need your help to spread the word and take action for our sick rivers.

Theo Thomas August 2014

Love the Lea Festival Sunday 17th August

We're excited to announce our Love the Lea festival on Walthamstow Marshes on Sunday 17th August from 11am – 5pm.

Join us in the beautiful picnic area across the Lea Navigation opposite Springfield Park for an array of river themed activities including boat trips, sound recording walks, pond dipping and live music. Bring your picnic! Help us spread the word and download our poster [here](#)

Volunteers dig deep with 3900 wetland plants for water quality



39 fabulous volunteers dug deep in hot weather to plant 3900 wetland flowers, grasses and reeds in our rainscapes at Grovelands Park and Glenbrook. The Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) at Grovelands are now complete! Two more wetland basins will be planted at Glenbrook on Lonsdale Drive. Once the plants have had a little time to establish we will 'turn on' the systems in a Streams and SuDS celebration event.

Wetland plants and bacteria are the key factor in SuDS for water quality improvements. As the water passes through swales and is held in wetlands, the plants are able to productively use excess nutrients such as phosphates and nitrates, which would otherwise become pollutants in a stream. Bacteria in the

roots and soil can also break down oils left on roads by vehicles. In a traditional piped drainage system these would wash straight into the nearest watercourse.

The final planting day for Glenbrook will be held on Sat 30th August from 10am – 1.30pm. Check out our Facebook page for more details nearer the time, or contact Aimee on aimee.felus@thames21.org.uk or 07554 402 727

Thames21 to host Lower Lee South Catchment Partnership

Thames21's 'Love the Lea' campaign continues to lead and deliver innovative work which is making a real improvement to rivers. Thanks to this experience in the Lower Lea Valley, Thames21 is now hosting the Lower Lee catchment partnership.

We would like to include your views on the challenges and solutions for your rivers. We'll be talking to people at Love the Lea Festival and at other events in the Lower Lea Valley. You can also share your interests and views of the Lower Lea catchment by writing to francesca.campagnoli@thames21.org.uk

SuDS for Haringey

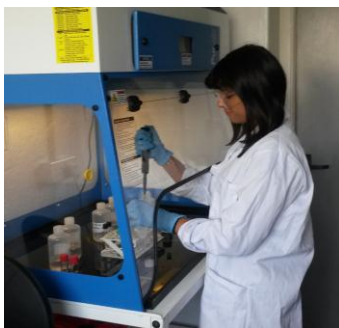
The [Greenstreets@Haringey](#) project is all about raising awareness of the River Moselle and ways in which we can make this poor river better. One of the solutions to improving the health of the Moselle is SuDS.

Greenstreets Project Officer Vicki Paternoster has been out and about looking for potential sites where we could install SuDS. These SuDS will catch and filter road runoff before releasing the clean water into the Moselle River; we are also trying to reduce the risk of flooding. What many people do not realise is that SuDS are also great for holding onto water so we do not overwhelm our drainage system when it's raining heavily. This will help to reduce the risk of surface water flooding.

We're working mainly in the Muswell Hill, Crouch End and Hornsey areas where the London Borough of Haringey has already identified areas at risk of flooding in the event of a severe rainstorm.

If you would like more information or would like to get involved, get in touch with Vicki on victoria.paternoster@thames21.org.uk or 07501 697 096

New Look Laboratory



We were very excited to open our shiny new water quality testing laboratory at Bow Locks this week. We've been testing the water quality of the rivers in the Lower Lea Catchment for several years now. Thames21 are now in the position to increase our capacity for further water quality testing on the Lea and its tributaries.

Record numbers of eels at Bow

We're in our third year of eel monitoring with ZSL. We have seen an impressive increase in volunteers and the return of many familiar faces.

In terms of eel numbers there has been an increase from previous years with eels being found in the trap most checks. On the 14th July a record number of 140 eels were collected from the trap, hats off to the volunteers that had to count and measure them all!

There have been several periods when the trap has been turned off due to technical problems which were rectified as soon as possible to prevent minimal missing data. There was some uncertainty when the Canal and River Trust needed to repair the footbridge, thankfully we have been granted access to get to the trap preventing the season from being cut short.

Hopefully the rest of the season will continue to be as successful and the results from all the sites will be discussed at the Zoological Society of London in October, which all volunteers will be invited.

All that can be left to be said is a massive 'thank you' to all volunteers that make this project possible.

'This Is Your River' at the Museum of London Docklands.



Over 500 pupils from schools across London joined Thames21 at the Museum of London Docklands to learn about how we are polluting our rivers and what harm it's causing. As part of our Fixing Broken Rivers Project funded by the HSBC Water Programme, pupils undertook water quality tests to discover what 'invisible' pollution lurks in our rivers, and investigated the impacts caused by microplastics from disintegrating litter.

Love the Lea on the festival circuit

The Love the Lea stall has been popping up at festivals across London this summer. The team have been chatting to festival goers about water pollution and how they can make changes to help reduce this. The young people we met shared their concerns for our rivers health and pledged to action to do their bit to help improve it! Have you seen us at a festival? Tweet, Instagram or Flickr any photos you have with #lovethelea

You can keep up to date with river news and actions people are taking by following the Fixing Broken Rivers Project on Twitter: @thisisyourriver

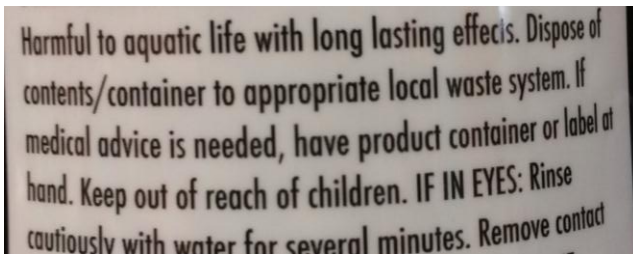
Love the Lea goes Stateside



Ben Fenton, the Fixing Broken Rivers Project Manager has been awarded a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship to visit North West America to research 'Sustainable Drainage Solutions for London'. Whilst London is fairly new to sustainable drainage, this area of the USA has been using SuDS to reduce water pollution for 20 years. Ben will undertake a research project with the aim of informing our work back in London. The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust

funds individuals to travel with the aim of enhancing the life of the community upon their return. The applications for 2015 are now open.

Love the Lea says check the labels!



There are many threats to our rivers lurking on the supermarket shelves near you. This new product comes with a river health warning – 'Harmful to aquatic life with long lasting effects'. A stark reminder to us all to check out the labels on the products we buy and

ensure they're not harming our precious waterways and the creatures which inhabit them. Choose products which naturally biodegrade into harmless substances instead. There is lots of choice these days, an internet search can help you to find out more.