

# RIVER TIMES

**Summer 2018** 

BATTERSEA • BLACKFRIARS • CHELSEA VAUXHALL • WESTMINSTER





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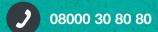
This is the latest issue of Tideway's community newsletter, produced especially for our neighbours in the central section of the project.

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

#### **GET IN TOUCH**













# **WELCOME MESSAGE**

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

It's been a busy few months since our last edition and we've made some great progress with all our sites in the Central area of the project now up and running.

At Kirtling Street, we have lowered our two giant tunnel boring machines more than 50m down the shaft and are setting them up ahead of tunnelling later this year.

This is a huge achievement and a real marker of the scale of the project (read more on page 5).

We're very proud to have named our machines after some illustrious women who lived in our locality, and Millicent's namesake Dame Millicent Fawcett was recently commemorated in the 'Suffrage Flag Relay' (also page 5) that visited our site.

In this edition you'll be able to read about the positive impact we are having on the areas we're working in, including the work that we're doing to give back to our local communities.

This includes the most visible work that we're doing to clean up the River Thames, even before the tunnel is in operation by picking plastic up from the foreshore (page 7).

We're always keen to hear from you with your thoughts about what we're doing well and what we could do even better.

And please follow us on our social media channels for the latest updates.

If you have any thoughts about how we can improve your community or your neighbourhood, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Chris Darton, Delivery Manager** 

# **ABOUT US**

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

As a result, 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 overflows 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.





# **LOCAL NEWS**

# FAMILIES AND LOCALS VISIT TIDEWAY FOR PROJECT OPEN DAY



More than 700 people visited Tideway's Kirtling Street site in Battersea in May for a unique opportunity to get up close to two of the project's tunnel boring machines (TBMs).

Named after two local women from history, Dame 'Millicent' Fawcett and Doctor Audrey 'Ursula' Smith, the two giant machines are set to construct the central part of the tunnel, one westbound, one eastbound.

Guests were also able to try a virtual reality TBM experience using 3D glasses and immersive software.

This technology allows tunnellers to become familiar with the machines in three dimensions before going underground.



### **NEW LICK OF PAINT FOR HOMELESSNESS CHARITY**

A homelessness charity was given a fresh coat of paint after a team of volunteers donated their time and resources.

A centre in Lambeth run by the Single Homeless Project (SHP), which works to prevent homlessness, was in need of sprucing up.

So a team from the central section of the Tideway project offered their services and repainted hallways, meeting rooms, and the reception area.



# **LOCAL NEWS**

# TWO TUNNELLING MACHINES LOWERED 60M DOWN SHAFT



Two tunnel boring machines (TBMs) have been lowered 60m down the shaft at Kirtling Street – the most important construction milestone on the project to date.

The twin machines, Millicent and Ursula, will be used to dig the central section of the Thames Tideway Tunnel and were lowered in June.

Each 'cutterhead' (the front part of the machine that excavates the ground) weighs around 850 tonnes and took eight hours to be lowered.

Site Manager Paul Hallows said: "The lowering of two TBMs at Kirtling Street is a massive milestone for everyone involved ahead of tunnelling later this year, and marks the culmination of two years of detailed planning, design and construction work."





Watch out for a new three-part BBC Two documentary about Tideway, 'The Five Billion Pound Super Sewer', due to air in the autumn

# SUFFRAGE FLAG VISITS TIDEWAY

A Government initiative celebrating 100 years since some women won the right to vote made its way to Tideway's Kirtling Street site in Battersea.

The initiative involves a UK tour of the 'suffrage flag', which uses purple, white and green colours to denote dignity, purity and hope.

Dozens of women working on the project met at Kirtling Street for the event and proudly waved the flag in front of one of Tideway's TBMs, Millicent, named after Millicent Fawcett, a prominent rights campaigner.

Speaking after, Project Manager Patricia Sanchez said: "Holding the flag was a remarkable occasion to remember 100 years of change and a huge step in our society."



# **NEWS IN BRIEF**



Tideway continues to work with Brixton Prison and Bounce Back, a Brixton-based charity, to offer workshops, mock interviews and job opportunities to potential candidates.

#### **'KEEPING LONDON MOVING'**

Tideway recently won the 'Keeping London Moving' prize at the London Cycling Awards for our work related to the cycle superhighway diversion at Blackfriars and Victoria. The cycle superhighway diversions went in to operation in early 2017 after intense planning with TfL and the City of London Corporation.



South London Cares, the charity that connects young and old generations, has hosted a number of sessions with Tideway staff, including one in Blackfriars to offer IT quidance and dance and music sessions.

# **TIDEWAY NEWS**

### **UPDATE FROM BLACKFRIARS**



Work is progressing well at Tideway's site next to Blackfriars Bridge, which has seen a transformation over the past few months.

Dozens of 'sheet piles' have been driven into the riverbed to create a new 'cofferdam' (or river wall) to provide space to build the vital infrastructure that will connect the existing sewer to the new tunnel.

This work has meant some short periods of piling work that has the potential to be disruptive for those close to the site. However the team at Blackfriars has worked hard to reduce this disruption as much as possible and to keep locals informed.

Project Manager Peter Rouzel said: "With thousands of commuters passing Blackfriars every day, this site is about as high-profile as engineering gets.

"I'm proud of the huge progress that has been made while also being able to protect our neighbours from unnecessary disruption.

"The next big milestone is to begin works on the shaft which will eventually intercept the harmful flow that pollutes the river at this site, and we're gearing up to take on our next exciting challenge."

### **TIDEWAY TEAM CLEARS LITTER FROM FORESHORE**

A team working at Tideway's site on Albert Embankment has been spending 15 minutes twice a week cleaning up litter that washes up on the foreshore.

They have so far cleaned up a huge amount of rubbish and created a recycling point for the materials, such as pallets, driftwood and plastic bags.

Albert Embankment Foreshore sits on a 'settlement point' on the Thames, meaning that litter floating on the river is often deposited on the foreshore.

This small initiative from the team at Albert, led by Environmental Advisor Eilidh Johnston, shows the



commitment of those working on the project to clean up the river and give back to the community and environment in which we work.

# CLAY FROM SHAFT IN SAATCHI EXHIBITION

Five tonnes of clay taken from the shaft at Tideway's Battersea site was used to create sculptures exhibited in the Saatchi Gallery.

The artist Alison Cooke used the material to create artworks to celebrate the work of Sir Joseph Bazalgette, who designed London's sewerage system, and Sir Henry Doulton, who made the clay pipes used in the system.

The pieces were exhibited as part of the Collect Open exhibition, which celebrates contemporary craft from hundreds of artists worldwide, in Chelsea in February.

Clay was extracted from the shaft at a depth of 25 metres before being pulled though tubes (in a process known as extrusion) and then fired at different temperatures to create different effects.

Alison said: "This clay's been sitting in the ground for around 50 million years, so it's very exciting to see it in a new form in the gallery."



# **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 watch out for a Tideway jobs fair in your area.



To apply, and for the latest jobs in your area, go to tideway.london/ about-us/jobs

# **MEET THE APPRENTICE**

One in 50 of the 4,000 jobs the Tideway project will create will be an apprenticeship.



#### **BIANCA WHEELER**

**Civil Engineer Apprentice**Kirtling Street, Battersea

#### **Learned at Tideway**

Being at Tideway for almost two years has taught me a lot, from how gigantic machines that build tunnels work to how to set your out of office email! But in all seriousness, Tideway has shown me the importance of resilience and teamwork and how good collaboration with the various parties involved heavily increases productivity and progress.

#### **Enjoyed at Tideway**

The thing I love about working with Tideway is the people I work with: tunnelers, planners, engineers, geologists, you name it; there is something to learn from everyone and my role here on Tideway has developed and grown into what it is today thanks to the guidance and confidence given to me by my colleagues.

#### **Future aspirations**

After finishing my Level 3 and during my Degree Apprenticeship, I will work towards my chartered membership with the ICE, getting involved with many aspects of the project and gaining the correct experience to be recognised as a chartered civil engineer. Big projects like Tideway inspire me, so I hope to be part of other large projects in the future and of a team that utilises intelligent engineering solutions to overcome the challenges that we face when constructing a large-scale job.



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