Summer 2020



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**RIVER TIMES** 

YOUR UPDATE ON LONDON'S SUPER SEWER

Trio of milestones following project restart Page 4



This is the latest issue of Tideway's regular 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 other exciting things happening in your area.

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08000 30 80 80
helpdesk@tideway.london
www.tideway.london
(0) f @TidewayLondon



## WELCOME MESSAGE FROM CHRIS DARTON

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

Everyone reading this will be very aware that we are living through an unprecedented period. Many people have been compelled to stay at home, daily routines have altered dramatically, and the vast majority of companies have had to adapt in any number of ways. Tideway is no exception.

We are still encouraging those who can operate from home to do so, but much of our work cannot be carried out remotely; the development of the Thames Tideway Tunnel requires workers to be located on our sites across London, but rest assured that everyone is very aware of the government's regulations. We have introduced strict social distancing rules, increased the number of handwashing stations, and encouraged all staff to avoid using public transport at peak times if possible.

However, though we have only recently started operating again, we have already hit a number of important milestones. Ursula, one of the project's six tunnel boring machines, has resumed its journey towards Chambers Wharf in Bermondsey, and interception chambers have been completed at both Albert Embankment and Chelsea Embankment. Also, just prior to the lockdown, a crucial piece in the project's development—a connection culvert at Falconbrook in Battersea—also reached completion.

I would also like to take a moment to say how proud I am of the employees that have been volunteering their time to make a positive difference during this difficult time. If you have any questions about the work we are currently doing, how we are dealing with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, or simply fancy getting in touch, please do so. I hope that you and your family are safe and well.

**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, 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.





# LOCAL NEWS

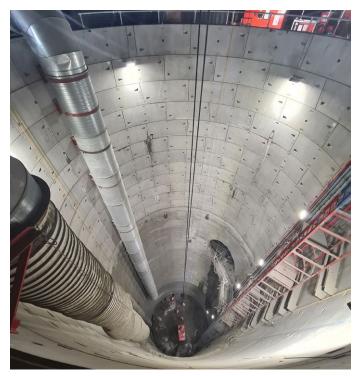
For the latest updates visit www.tideway.london/news



# TRIO OF MILESTONES FOLLOWING PROJECT RESTART

Tideway is delighted to have achieved three impressive milestones just weeks after works restarted following the coronavirus-related shutdown.

At Falconbrook Pumping Station, located in Battersea, the final advance of the combined sewer overflow (CSO) shaft has now been completed. The shaft is now at a depth of 43 metres. The team has sustained a good production rate as staff have had to adapt to new working procedures. The next steps at Falconbrook will be the construction of a base slab and connection tunnel portal.





Meanwhile, at Heathwall, the site team has completed the spraying of the portal at the base of the CSO shaft. This marks the conclusion of the primary lining, base slab and portal works in this particular shaft, which is a huge milestone to reach amid challenging working conditions.

At Cremorne Wharf Depot, located near Chelsea Harbour, the team has completed the spray concrete lining of the shaft. They have also managed to finish the temporary sheet piles and bracing for the air treatment unit chamber (ATU). These are the first ATU works to be complete on the entire project, and have been implemented despite encountering tricky ground, various obstructions and being located very close to the Thames Water Lots Road pumping station.

# LOCAL NEWS

## **1,000 BARGES FROM KIRTLING STREET**



The 1,000th barge removing excavated tunnel material from Tideway's Kirtling Street has departed from the site in Battersea.

Two tunnel boring machines (TBMs), Millicent and Ursula, were launched from the bottom of the Kirtling Street shaft to dig the central section of the new super sewer.

The two TBMs have excavated over 1.4 million tonnes of tunnel spoil in total, all of which has been transported from site by barge as part of Tideway's 'More by River' strategy, which has to date removed the need for approximately 74,000 on-road vehicle movements.

The spoil from Kirtling Street's tunnels is taken along the river to Ingrebourne Valley's Tilbury Ash Disposal site and Rainham for beneficial reuse.

Millicent, the westbound machine, finished her 5km drive in November 2019, while TBM Ursula has travelled approximately 5.2km on her eastbound journey deep below the River Thames. Ursula is expected to reach her final destination— Chambers Wharf in Bermondsey—at the tail end of 2020.

### MAKING CONNECTIONS AT FALCONBROOK

A 15m-long tunnel connecting the shaft and interception chamber at Tideway's Falconbrook Pumping Station site has been excavated 20m underground.

The team used an excavator to dig the 2m-wide tunnel, using sprayed concrete as the primary lining for the structure.

Once the super sewer is complete, the tunnel will transport the pumping station's sewage from an interception chamber to the drop shaft, through which it descends to 40m below the ground. From this level, a 220m connection tunnel will transport it to the main super sewer tunnel which continues to be constructed beneath the River Thames.

With the tunnel excavated, the team will continue digging down within the shaft to a final depth of 40m.



# **NEWS IN BRIEF**

# A WILD GOOSE CASE

The team at Heathwall Pumping Station recently found themselves tasked with an unusual mission.

The site recently opened again and one of the first tasks was to rescue a goose that had managed to get itself trapped on site.



Site operative Dave Kay acted quickly to fill the pile with water, allowing the goose to float to the top and subsequently fly away.



Ursula, Tideway's eastbound tunnel boring machine (TBM) launched from Kirtling Street, has resumed her journey towards Bermondsey.

She had been safely stopped at Blackfriars Bridge Foreshore since February. The planned stoppage allowed the team to reconfigure the machine and prepare for different ground conditions below London.

# TIDEWAY NEWS

## SOCIAL DISTANCING ON OUR SITES

Tideway has restarted tunnelling work after all but essential and safety-critical activities were put on hold at the start of the COVID-19 lockdown.

The reopening of sites across the project has only been possible after a series of comprehensive safety reviews enabled Tideway and the main works contractors to implement measures to protect workers and the wider community.

"It was absolutely right that we paused our activity at the start of the pandemic," CEO Andy Mitchell said, in an official statement released as works began to resume across the project.



'Green zones' have been introduced to indicate areas where people can easily work while adhering to social distancing guidelines, while red areas require people to be closer than two metres apart. An increased number of handwashing facilities have been introduced, additional hand sanitiser products have been delivered to all sites, and numerous signs have been put up to reinforce the need for social distancing compliance.

Thorough assessments have been made to make sure staff can work as safely as possible with hygiene arrangements in place and the provision of additional PPE.

# INTERCEPTION CHAMBERS IN FULL SHAPE AT ALBERT AND CHELSEA EMBANKMENTS

Two deep interception chambers – located at Albert and Chelsea Embankments – have been completed, marking two key construction milestones for the Tideway project since works restarted.

The role of these chambers is to intercept sewage—which would otherwise end up being dumped directly into the Thames—from the existing sewer system. The sewage will instead be redirected into the main super sewer.

To construct the interception chambers, the teams have been digging each level, casting a concrete slab, and then repeating the process as they progress further down. The different levels will help control the flow of sewage to reduce the impact on the overall system. In advance of small teams returning to sites, a series of detailed safety reviews led Tideway and its contractors to implement measures to protect its workers and the wider community. The measures fit within the Construction Leadership Council's guidance and include social distancing and personal travel plans.



## **TIDEWAY STAFF EMBRACE VOLUNTEERING INITIATIVE**

People from across the Tideway project have been donating their time and resources to help those most at risk during the COVID-19 crisis.

Sarah Linney, Tideway Public Affairs Lead, has been volunteering for a charity called Brixton People's Kitchen, which supplies food packages to people in need.

Speaking about her efforts, Sarah said: "About 300 boxes of food are sent out each day from the Brixton hub. It is a staggering amount that is going to people in need in just one London borough. It has really opened my eyes to the problem."

Rebecca Oyibo, a Community Relations Officer, previously worked for Public Health England as a Business Engagement Officer, and has been providing her own telephone support service to NHS staff working on the frontline.

Elsewhere, Major Dave Richmond, a Tideway Logistics and Traffic Manager and Major in the 3rd Battalion the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment, formed part of the team that helped convert Headley Court in Surrey into a temporary hospital to treat patients suffering with COVID-19.



# **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 <u>www.tideway.london/</u> <u>careers</u>

# **MEET THE APPRENTICE**



### **TANISHA HOOD**

Associate Project Manager Apprentice Kirtling Street

#### What have you learned at Tideway?

One of the key things I have learned is the practical aspects of Health Safety and Wellbeing, such as inspections, reporting, and how the associated risks are managed on the project. I am responsible for producing the weekly HSW report for Central, coordinating safety leadership tours, and tracking notable incidents project-wide.

#### What have you enjoyed about being on Tideway? More women are being encouraged to become part of the industry and I am part of that change. I love the fact that everyone is given an equal opportunity on the project. I have enjoyed the freedom and flexibility of my role, and I love being on site to see development as they happen.

#### What are your aspirations for the future?

I would love to continue building my career within the construction industry. One of my aims is to achieve Chartered Project Professional status through the Association for Project Management. Opportunities for individual growth and progress are endless within the industry.

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

08000 30 80 80 www.tideway.london helpdesk@tideway.london





