Winter 2023

# BERMONDSEY · DEPTFORD · GREENWICH ROVER TIMES Tideway YOUR UPDATE ON LONDON'S SUPER SEWER

King Edward Memorial Park site in Wapping

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

This newsletter features up-todate news on our events, our progress and other exciting things happening in your area.

#### **GET IN TOUCH**

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#### WELCOME MESSAGE FROM ROGER MEARS

Welcome to the latest edition of The River Times – an update for people who live and work near the construction sites for London's new 'super sewer.' We are on track to make the new system 'live' in 2024, which is when it will start to protect the Thames for the first time. When the project is fully complete in 2025, it will prevent 95 per cent of sewage spills entering the river – making a huge difference to the environment.

On the eastern sites, we have made substantial progress underground as the team have achieved completion of the secondary lining, an inner lining on the tunnel - finishing off the construction of the sewer tunnel in its entirety. The team at King Edward Memorial Park Foreshore have also added on the first tunnel lid in the eastern section, otherwise known as 'capping off' the shaft. Find all of this on pages 4 and 5.

Elsewhere, you can read about Tideway's work to create apprenticeships, invest in community projects, and deliver environmental benefits, as summarised in our latest sustainability report; and on page 6 you'll see a feature on 'Loo Gardens', a surprising art installation deep in the super sewer to highlight the environmental benefits Tideway will bring to a rejuvenated Thames.

Finally, we would like to get your views to help us as we complete remaining work. Please do share your feedback with us by filling out the survey and posting it to us, or filling out the online survey via the QR Code on the front of the form.

We're excited at the progress we're making as we move closer to delivering this new infrastructure for London. We hope you enjoy reading this edition and finding out about what we've been doing as we step ever closer to protecting the River Thames.

Roger Mears Delivery Manager

#### **ABOUT US**

#### Works progressing at Abbey Mills Pumping Station in Stratford

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 has provided thousands of new jobs, and is also creating new public spaces along the riverside for Londoners to enjoy.





### LOCAL NEWS

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



## TUNNEL LID SHOWS OFF EXTENT OF NEW PARK AREA

Another shaft has been capped off on the super sewer at King Edward Memorial Park Foreshore in Wapping- the first on the eastern section of the project.

The concrete cover slab signals the end of the main underground works within the shaft at the site in Wapping and marks more progress on the super sewer.

Work continues above ground including within the Combined Sewer Overflow chamber and towards completion of one of seven public spaces along the River Thames to be left behind once the tunnel is operational.

King Edward Memorial Park will be extended by eight per cent - or 2600 square metres - with new areas allowing visitors to get closer to the river. The park is the location of one of the most polluting sewer overflows in London, which currently overflows the equivalent of more than 300 Olympic sized swimming pools into the Thames each year.



# LONDON'S HEAVIEST DRAIN COVER READY TO INSTALL

An impressive-sized slab of concrete that will act as a drain cover to London's super sewer has been manufactured in Stratford.

The 1,250 tonne slab, which will sit on top of the tunnel at its end point in Abbey Mills, has taken three months to build and is so big, it had to be made on site ready for installation.

The team responsible will now have to use a specialist crane to move it into place, using extrastrong cables and wheels either side to move it back and forward.

Once positioned in spring next year, it will be one of the final pieces of work before the tunnel is put into operation for testing. The slab even has a pre-built cabin on top to house the electrical cables needed to operate the super sewer.



### LOCAL NEWS

## **UNDERGROUND TUNNEL COMPLETE!**



London's new super sewer hits another milestone following the completion of the final section of secondary lining.

Tideway's tunnel boring machines finished excavating the main tunnel in the spring of 2022, but a secondary concrete lining was required to give added strength and durability.

With the most eastern section of the tunnel between Bermondsey and Stratford finished, secondary lining is now complete on all 25km of the super sewer.

This brings the Tideway project one step closer to delivery, as it looks ahead to activating the tunnel next year – diverting sewage away from the Thames and into the tunnel for the first time.

Gareth Howells, Tideway's Project Manager for the tunnelling works in the eastern section of the project, said: "Completing the secondary lining is a key construction milestone for this project, but more than that, it's an important moment for London as we look toward a cleaner healthier River Thames."



# OUR COMMUNITY

Tideway's community legacy commitment was to suport the communities in which we work through community partnerships, volunteering and charitable donations.

Our community investment programme has aimed to support communities along the tunnel route and a series of partnerships has helped Londoners to reconnect with the River Thames and to green their local communities.

Scan the QR code below and click on the icons to get more information on the work Tideway has done in East London like the Cody Dock community centre and more.

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Did you know the tidal River Thames supports 115 species of fish and five species of shark? These are just some of the facts included in Tideway's latest Sustainability Report, which summarises the company's progress in delivering against 54 commitments, such as creating jobs and apprenticeships; boosting skills; investing in community projects; and delivering environmental benefits. Highlights include the creation of new spaces to encourage biodiversity, covering an area equivalent to three tennis courts: as well as the creation of what is thought to be London's largest bug hotel, in Barn Elms in west London. The report also details Tideway's approach of reducing the number of lorries needed to deliver the project, by making use of boats and barges to move materials and equipment. Scan the QR Code below to read the full report:



#### TIDEWAY NEWS

#### SUBTERRANEAN GARDEN REVEALED



In July, Tideway unveiled 'Loo Gardens' - a magical subterranean installation – nested within the super sewer, created to symbolise the healthier future of the River Thames. The unique underground oasis, featuring a playful, river-inspired experience, payed homage to the positive environmental impact the super sewer will have on London by preventing millions of tonnes of raw sewage entering the river every year.

Andy Mitchell, CEO of Tideway, said: "The garden points to a cleaner, greener future, and an example of the longlasting legacy the tunnel will leave, far outlasting its construction."

Tideway also offered a chance for London residents to win an opportunity to visit Loo Gardens. One resident who got the chance to see the exhibition said: "It's blown me away. The size of the tunnel is massive, I can't quite get over it."

Check out the 'Loo Gardens' video feature by scanning the QR code above.

# TREKKING AND ROWING FOR CHARITY

Tideway teams have recently trekked and rowed their way along the Thames to raise thousands for our charity partners.

In September, a group of project staff completed the Thames Bridges Trek, a 25km walk along the river – on the hottest day of the year – and raised more than  $\pounds2,600$  for staff charity partners Time and Talents and The Felix Project.

The mercury hit 33C as the committed participants completed the walk from Bishop's Park in Putney to Southwark Park.

In July, seven project crews took part in a 16-mile rowing challenge in an event and raised  $\pounds10,000$  for our partner London Youth Rowing.

The 'Oarsome Challenge' saw a total of 23 crews, many in fancy dress, row between Greenwich and Chiswick to help young people have access to rowing and improve their physical, social and mental wellbeing.

If you're keen to take part, the Thames Bridges Trek in September 2024 is already booking for charity places online.



## TIDEWAY ON TOUR AT EAST LONDON'S BRUNEL MUSEUM

London's super sewer is featuring in a brand new exhibition taking place at the Brunel Museum in Rotherhithe until early 2024.

The 'Tunnelling Today' exhibition is a familyfriendly showcase where people of all ages can learn about London's history and the 'Great Stink', interesting facts about the Tideway project, how its progressing and why the new sewer is needed to make London a cleaner and more resilient city. Also within the exhibit visitors will find a model of one of Tideway's Tunnel Boring Machines, used to create the 25km tunnel that will transfer sewage all the way to Beckton to be treated.

The Brunel Museum is an educational charity

and tells the story of one of the world's great engineering dynasties.

Scan the QR code below to learn more about the exhibition and the Brunel Museum.



# **TRANSFORMING SITES IN EAST**

New aerial photography, taken high above London from a helicopter, showcases the scale of work and progress at our Chambers Wharf site in Bermondsey and Deptford Church Street site.



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

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**#SuperSewer** 

