

Spring 2021

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Tideway

# RIVER TIMES

YOUR UPDATE ON LONDON'S SUPER SEWER



*Tideway collaborates with  
East London musician Professor Green*

*Page 4*



# Tideway



VINCI  
CONSTRUCTION GRANDS PROJETS



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

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

## GET IN TOUCH



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www.tideway.london



@TidewayLondon



## WELCOME MESSAGE FROM NICOLAS WORINGER

The last 12 months have been full of uncertainty and change, upheaval and confusion, with everyone forced to adapt to the 'new normal'. Despite these most challenging of circumstances, the Tideway project has continued to progress, and the east section is moving forward apace.

We have hit huge milestones, often by utilising completely bespoke methods and approaches, and we are making great progress when it comes to tunnelling.

As well as continuing our work beneath the river, Tideway has also been busy at ground level. We donated 10,000 face coverings to help volunteers who distribute food to London's homeless and the capital's key workers, we published research findings showcasing that most Londoners aren't aware of how dirty the River Thames is, and we also launched a YouTube channel designed to provide more information about the work Tideway is doing.

In other news, Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) Selina was recently the star of a TV episode hosted by screen royalty, Sir Tony Robinson, Tideway employees pitched in to help with Project Hope, and future engineering apprentices were given a virtual taste of what working for Tideway is like.

I hope you find this edition of the River Times both interesting and informative. If you'd like to get in touch, our contact information can be seen to the left.

On behalf of everyone across the Tideway project, I hope you and those closest to you are keeping safe and well.

**Nicolas Woringer,**  
**Project Director at Tideway East**

# 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.

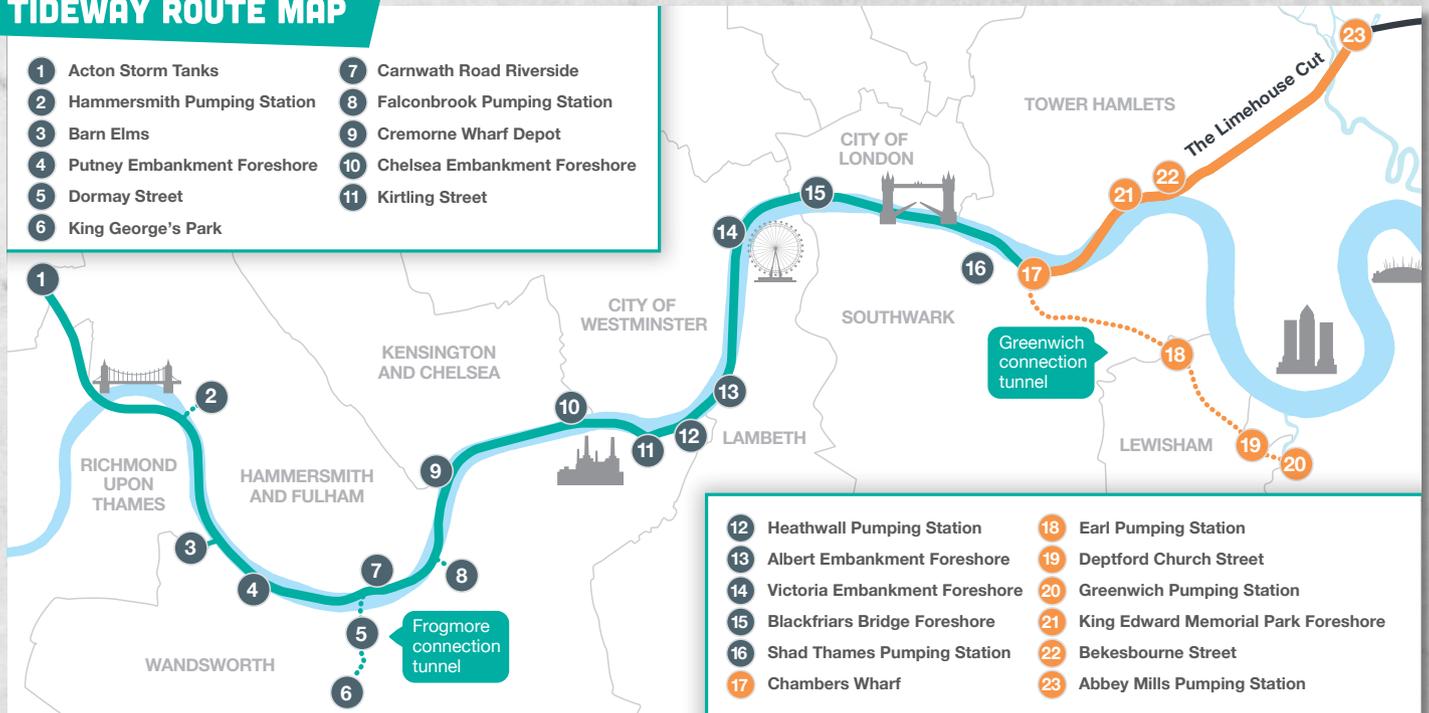
*That's where we come in...*

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.



## TIDEWAY ROUTE MAP





## PROFESSOR GREEN HEADS EAST

Tideway has teamed up with East London musician Professor Green to promote 2021's biggest underground duo—a case of one breakthrough artist discovering another.

The two 'breakthrough artists' that have been causing a buzz on social media of late are Tideway's tunnel boring machines (TBMs), Ursula and Selina, which are working to create the central and east sections of the super sewer.

Speaking about the Tideway project, Professor Green said: "I've worked with some underground artists in my time, but none as big as this. It was very exciting to virtually travel underground to see what the duo have been up to.



"Ursula has been tunnelling under the Thames from Battersea to nearly two years and has now reached Bermondsey. It is here that Selina picks up the baton to start the final stage of the tunnel—through my neck of the woods in East London.

"Very few Londoners will get to experience what I have, but all of us will reap huge benefits from a cleaner River Thames."

## LOCAL NEWS

# TBM SELINA'S THAMES JOURNEY HITS TV SCREEN

Tunnel boring machine (TBM) Selina, which is currently creating the final stretch of London's new super sewer, has featured on a Channel 5 show hosted by TV royalty Sir Tony Robinson.

The Secret Life of the Thames, which started airing in January 2021, is a show dedicated to shining a spotlight on some of the lesser-known aspects of London's primary waterway, and in episode 4 it focused heavily on Selina, one of the six TBMs being used to create the super sewer.

Sir Tony spoke to several experts to better understand the difficulties associated with transporting such a colossal piece of machinery up a tidal river and was on hand to see Selina complete her epic journey at Chambers Wharf in Bermondsey.

The show is currently available to watch on My5, Channel 5's on-demand video service.



## TIDEWAY EMPLOYEES GO ONLINE TO SUPPORT NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK



**Members of the Tideway team supported National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) by attending virtual events, giving advice to would-be apprentices and highlighting the benefits of hands-on learning in the workplace.**

Rhian Lawton, Employment and Skills Co-ordinator for Tideway East, attended a virtual event organised by the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) and Southwark College.

Over 90 people joined the call to hear from a range of local employers who shared information about their respective apprenticeship offers and later joined a panel discussion chaired by a DWP spokesperson. The event was recorded and will be shared with local job coaches.

Tideway employees also participated in the Southwark Works Virtual Apprenticeship event where local employers shared case studies of apprentices within their business, outlined their vacancies, and answered questions from over 50 local residents.

## NEWS IN BRIEF



London is one step closer to a cleaner River Thames after tunnelling on the central section of the super sewer was completed. More than four-fifths of the tunnelling across the entire project has now taken place.

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Tunnel boring machine (TBM) Annie is making great progress on her tunnelling journey beneath the Thames. The giant TBM is creating the 4.5km connection tunnel between Greenwich Pumping Station and the main super sewer at Chambers Wharf.

## TIDEWAY NEWS



### TIDEWAY'S 'MAKE A DIFFERENCE' CAMPAIGN RAISES £20,000

Tideway's 'Make a Difference' campaign, designed to support a variety of charities facing financial difficulties due to the coronavirus pandemic, has managed to raise over £20,000.

Staff working on the super sewer took up the challenge and embarked on a range of fundraising and volunteering initiatives to benefit almost 60 different organisations. Those involved spent a combined total of 600 hours participating in an array of fundraising events and challenges that, due to coronavirus restrictions, either took place virtually or at home.

One of the charities to benefit will be Endometriosis UK, which has announced that with the money raised on its behalf by Tideway employees Andeep Gehlot and Ama Addison, it will be able to pay for up to 23 helpline volunteers to support the growing number of women suffering from the condition.

Other charities supported include Thames21, South London Cares, Macmillan Cancer Support, Drive Forward Foundation, London Youth Rowing and Trinity Homeless Projects.

# TIDEWAY EMPLOYEES JOIN FORCES FOR PROJECT HOPE

In January a joint letter from the leaders of the Royal Borough of Greenwich, and Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust asked residents and local businesses to support NHS staff.

The initiative, called Project Hope, was set up to relieve pressure on the NHS while simultaneously showing its staff how valued they are by all in the local community.

The appeal called specifically for individually packaged food and beverages, essential toiletries and accommodation. Tideway employees were only too happy to help, with Chambers Wharf Traffic Marshal Supervisor, Keith Tracy and Tideway's Events Officer, Ama Addison, among



others, organising, packing up and delivering the essential items needed.

Ama said: "Queen Elizabeth will be the local hospital for many of our staff, residents and stakeholders. It's easy to take our NHS for granted but this small gesture is one way that we can show our thanks."

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## TIDEWAY DONATES 10,000 FACE COVERINGS

Teams from the East section of the Tideway project have responded to a plea for spare face coverings from Nigerian Diaspora Connect (NDC).

The Tideway team dispatched 10,000 face coverings to help volunteers who distribute food to London's homeless and the capital's key workers, who are working long hours despite the ongoing lockdown restrictions.

These masks will ensure they can continue their valuable volunteer service. NDC is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to meet the needs of black and ethnic minority young adults and women.

Rebecca Oyibo, Community Relations Officer for the Eastern section of Tideway, said: "We were delighted to be able to make this donation because

we are committed to supporting the wellbeing of our communities, especially at this time."



## GO BEHIND THE SCENES

Tunnel Vision is an ongoing web video series from Tideway that will take a closer than ever look at the two dozen construction sites that make up the project, its amazing engineering and the people dedicated to cleaning up the River Thames.

**TUNNEL  
VISION**

Watch Tunnel Vision on our  
YouTube channel  
[www.youtube.com/  
tidewaylondon](http://www.youtube.com/tidewaylondon)



## MEET THE APPRENTICE



### ERIC AMPONSAH

**Tunnelling Apprentice**  
*East*

#### **What have you learned at Tideway?**

I spent five years in the army before beginning my Tideway journey. Following the birth of my son, I was committed to developing a sustainable career and believed an apprenticeship was an ideal pathway to learn and earn at the same time. I have no regrets about taking up this opportunity, it has enhanced my career prospects dramatically.

#### **What have you enjoyed about being on Tideway?**

I love being part of Tideway, and it'll be amazing being able to tell my son that I helped clean up the River Thames, and did my bit to make London a better place to live.

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

Moving forward, I am interested in joining the STP team at Chambers Wharf and continuing to develop in more specialised areas of tunnelling.

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

08000 30 80 80

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**#SuperSewer**



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