



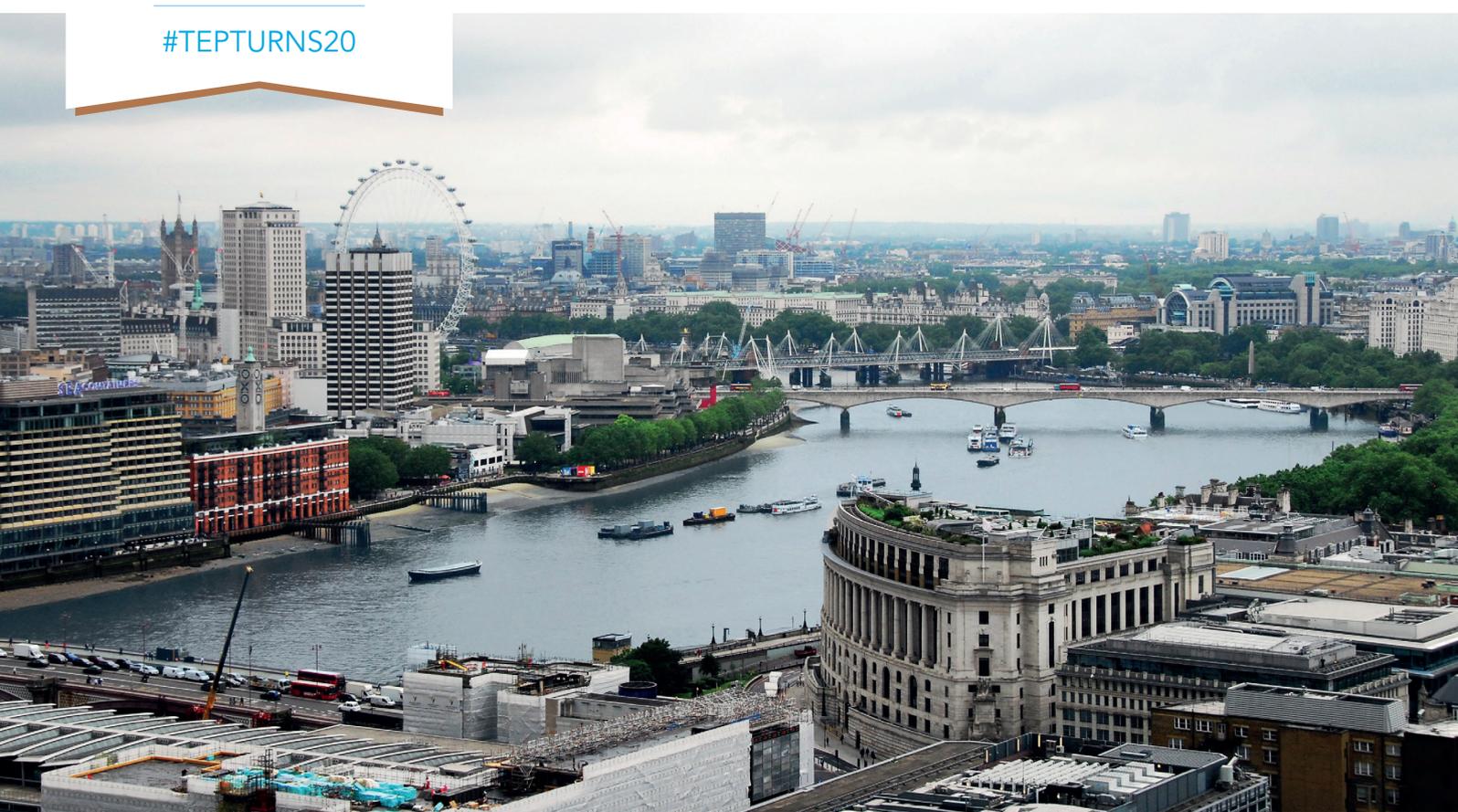
THAMES ESTUARY
PARTNERSHIP

20th Anniversary
Edition

#TEPTURNS20

TALK OF THE THAMES

Summer 2019



Celebrating 20 years
of preserving the
Thames Estuary

Interview with
Thames Estuary Partnership
Fellow Lyn Carpenter

Insight into the making
of our Award Winning
Film 'The Living Thames'

WELCOME

TALK OF THE THAMES - SUMMER 2019



ANUSHA SHAH
Chair
Thames Estuary Partnership

Amy Pryor promoted to Technical Director and the appointment of a dedicated Events & Communications Officer, as well as a Finance Officer. As always we are supported by the core work of our passionate project officers and by our volunteers.

It gives me pleasure to announce that TEP's third Honorary Fellowship will go to Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive of Thurrock Council, for her exceptional contribution to the sustainability aspects of the Thames.

I am delighted that our film 'The Living Thames' won the charity film award. It is being screened both in the UK and internationally, find out more in the next few pages. This issue of Talk of the Thames throws a spotlight on not just our members, but also our passionate team who enable TEP to punch above its weight.

Last but not the least, a big thank you to all our members, funders, major support organisations and University College London for enabling TEP to undertake our meaningful work on the Thames. We aim to strengthen our partnerships and address climate crisis through maintaining the natural landscape, creating new blue-green infrastructure and setting an example for the country, and indeed globally, on how to work with the river, nature and build climate resilient places.

I look forward to celebrating 20 years of TEP with you on the banks of the beautiful Thames!

This year is special for the Thames Estuary Partnership (TEP) as we celebrate our 20th anniversary. It's a great time to celebrate the present, remember the past and look to change the future in every positive way.

TEP is going from strength to strength; we have in place a strong core team, with Heather Hilburn having joined us as our Executive Director,

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NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HEATHER HILBURN

I am delighted to have joined the Thames Estuary Partnership as Executive Director at such a pivotal moment, as we celebrate 20 years of achievement.

We are proud to be able to pause and reflect on the significant change in the Thames Estuary to date, in no small measure thanks to the regular support we continue to receive from our members and stakeholders. We have established a network 5,000 strong and have taken the lead in collaborating with our partners to implement effective and long lasting measures to continually improve the sustainable management of the Thames.

Looking forward to the next 20 years, our priorities will be shaped by our partnering approach and our areas of focus will remain similar to what they have been in the past: climate change, biodiversity, renewable energies and blue and green infrastructure.

We will be looking for opportunities to work together strategically and early on in the process. It's been made clear that there is much to be done with very few resources available, with a focus on investment from the private sector. For this reason we need to start the conversation sooner, share our knowledge and resist working in silos. Together we need to work to improve the decision making process for the good of the Thames through leadership, policy-making and joint working arrangements.

We also have plans to expand our engagement to include more diverse audiences including young people who may ask, why is the Thames relevant to me?

We aim to engage with the many communities who live along the Thames Estuary, ensure that they are informed on the importance of long-term sustainability, and also how they can get involved in making change. We aim to tackle these disparities and encourage communities to feel empowered enough to take action.



Heather Hilburn, TEP Executive Director

We receive core funding and support from:



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THE THAMES ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP MEMBERSHIP CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SUCCESS

The Thames Estuary Partnership membership is an essential part of our work and is central to our mission in connecting people, ideas and the Thames landscape to drive long-lasting improvement to the Thames Estuary. With a strong network of over 5,000 stakeholders, we provide advice on delivering best practice and provide stakeholders with opportunities for knowledge sharing, networking and integrating approaches.

Our members are significant Thames stakeholders including the Corporation of London, University College London, the Environment Agency, the Port of London Authority, Natural England, Thames Water, Tideway, Jacobs and Essex County Council. We are proud to have achieved such great results in the last 20 years thanks to our members and have plans to relaunch our membership this year in celebration of our 20th anniversary. We will be providing opportunities for regular networking, corporate volunteer days for organisations, specialist workshops, a matchmaking scheme for members and much more!

For more information on joining the Thames Estuary Partnership membership, email: tep@thamesestuarypartnership.org



Kyle Haughton, City Cruises CEO

Spotlight on our Silver Member - Kyle Haughton, CEO of City Cruises

City Cruises became a member of TEP during the early inception of the organisation. As a company that has been operating on the Thames since 1976, it has always been important to us to communicate and collaborate with partners who use the same stretch of water.

The Thames is vital to our business; without it City Cruises would not exist in London. We see it as our responsibility to give tourists and locals a great experience on the river, and make them aware of its great value as a recreational space that is at the heart of this great city!

A key objective for City Cruises is to make the Thames accessible to local communities, London residents & tourists. We want our guests to have a fun time on board but at the same time educate and showcase a different view of London that only the Thames can offer.

By engaging tourists, and especially local communities, we hope that they will join us in wanting to preserve the river. As a company we are placing a greater focus on sustainability with the first steps already taken to reduce waste and recycling onboard, and through working with TEP, we have further ambitions and plans to extend our sustainability agenda.

citycruises *Bespoke*

Spotlight on our Bronze Member - Kat Evans, Business Development Manager at The Ecology Consultancy

Having been based in London for 20 years, The Ecology Consultancy has worked on many projects along the Thames. The reason we are, and continue to be, a member of TEP is simple – its projects and programme of events allow us to continue learning as an organisation, help educate others and build relationships with other members.

The Thames will always facilitate and drive social and environmental change, and we hope that through our involvement with TEP we can inspire our clients to live by our vision; 'Make places better for people and wildlife'.

The Thames is vital for biodiversity, as well as having important Blue Green infrastructure functions. The river gives London its identity, is steeped in history, and undoubtedly plays a significant role in London's daily life.

We are lucky enough to have our head office right on the Thames in Bermondsey, so it is where we work, and play! Getting more people involved with the Thames is vital to help readdress the balance between development and the environment, helping to ensure that the gap between them doesn't become too wide.

Increased engagement with people living and working near development projects in the Thames corridor will create opportunities to share knowledge, ensure the development is welcomed by the local community and perhaps even inspire a new wave of citizen scientists. Rivers are an important element of almost all cultures and focusing activities around the Thames may also increase the engagement and support of all sectors of London's rich and diverse population.

We hope that TEP can enable a joined-up approach to developments and other activities along the Thames – possibly through relationship mapping or events exploring opportunities for landscape scale Biodiversity Net Gains. We are also interested in the wider catchment area and look forward to exploring what Blue Green Infrastructure is able to deliver, potentially through river restoration projects.

We also hope to continue to be inspired by campaigns such as #OneLess, more opportunities to enjoy the Thames and get closer to the water, and events on beaches or boats!



The Ecology Consultancy

Kat Evans, Business Development Manager, The Ecology Consultancy



20th Anniversary

#TEPTURNS20

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO BE CELEBRATING OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR!

Beginning as the Thames Estuary Project in 1993 as part of Natural England's Estuaries Initiative, we subsequently worked with various organisations to produce the Thames Estuary Management Plan. This evolved into Management Guidance for the Thames, leading to a 15 Year Action Plan and the official creation of the Thames Estuary Partnership.

9th July 1999

Establishment of Thames Estuary Partnership, which was officially launched in October 1999.



2000

Thames Action Groups established. TEP forms 11 issue-based Action Groups to facilitate joint working and ensure all relevant expertise and viewpoints are brought to bear on the management of the estuary.



2003

TEP lead in creating the Tidal Thames Habitat Action Plan. This is the first time Thames habitats are audited.



2008

Thames Strategy East is published. A 100-year vision for the Gateway, which is subsequently embedded in the London Plan as one of three Joint Thames Strategies.

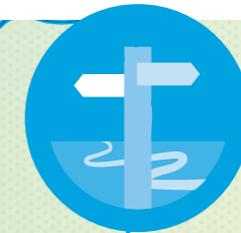
2008

Introduction of Estuary Edges. Launch of the guide on how to design softer edges of the river, to increase habitat in urban estuaries thus increasing biodiversity.



2008

Thames Estuary Path Survey. A preferred path route is developed in partnership and led by Sustrans. In 2019, we are now working with Natural England on the designation of the continuous English Coastal Path driven by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.



2005

State of the Thames Estuary Report launched. A benchmark for monitoring and assessing the health of the Thames Estuary overseen by the Thames Estuary Research Forum.



100yrs

2008–2011

Thames Discovery Programme developed.

Through this Heritage Lottery funded initiative, thousands of children and adults have been trained in foreshore archaeology surveys. It continues through the Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) to this day.



2011–2015

Greater Thames Marshes Nature Improvement Area established

to address the issues of habitat fragmentation. A number of projects looking to create more, bigger, better and joined habitats were initiated with partners.



2015 – Present

TEP joins the Marine CoLABoration.

An innovative collaboration of organisations seeking to improve the way we communicate about the ocean and accelerate positive action to improve ocean health through an experimental and systems change approach.



2015 – 2020

North Thames Fisheries Local Action Group.

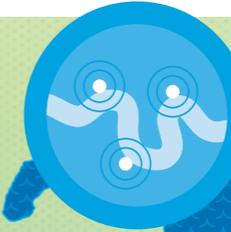
European Maritime and Fisheries Fund bid for the South Essex area to be awarded FLAG status successful, and £800K awarded to develop and deliver initiatives to enable a more sustainable fishing industry with a focus on the 1000-year-old port of Leigh-On-Sea.



2017 – 2019

Estuary Edges guidance updated.

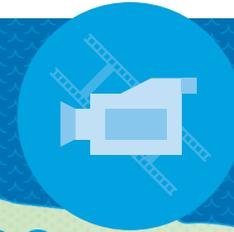
Working alongside the Environment Agency, Port of London Authority, Tideway, Jacobs and the Institute of Fisheries Management, the 2008 guidance has been updated, building upon lessons learned. Ecological surveys were conducted for the first time and continue through legacy projects at TEP.



2019

The Living Thames documentary created

through the passion of the Thames community rallied from across TEP's network; from Tideway, to school children in Greenwich. The film won the Best Long Form category at the Charity Film Awards 2019, and has enabled us to reach new audiences with the message of partnership working for a thriving river. It will be a resource and legacy for years to come.



2009–2012

Balanced Seas Marine Conservation Zones Project.

TEP enables the engagement of fishers and other stakeholders in London, Kent and Essex through hosting a Liaison Officer. Data collation and socio-economic discussions were made possible through long-standing relationships.



2012 – Present

TEP and Thames21 co-host the tidal Thames Catchment Partnership, Your Tidal Thames,

which aims to engage people in river restoration and water pollution challenges to achieve the water quality standards of the EU Water Framework Directive. Focus to date has been upon unflushables, fats, oils and greases and litter.



2016 – Present

TEP elected to Chair the national Coastal Partnerships Network,

a volunteer led network dedicated to sharing best practice amongst the 50 Coastal Partnerships in existence around the UK and giving a national voice to coastal issues.



2018 – Present

Working with data.

The Thames is data rich but free, public access to it is fragmented and poor. To understand how we can address this long-standing issue we have four data projects in house - the Fish Migration Roadmap, Thames Citizen Fish, the Thames Environmental Data Project and the Thames Monitoring Project (led by UCL).



INSIGHT FROM THAMES ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP FELLOW 2019

LYN CARPENTER

Lyn Carpenter was appointed as Chief Executive in September 2015, joining Thurrock from her joint role in the boroughs of Hammersmith & Fulham and the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, where she was the Bi-Borough Executive Director of Environment, Leisure and Residents Services. She has over 25 years of local government service experience. We are delighted to award Lyn Carpenter with the Thames Estuary Partnership Fellowship this year due to her astounding work in contributing to the long-term sustainability of the Thames. Get an insight into Lyn's interesting perspective and connection to the Thames below.

"Secundum Tamesim Quovis Gentium – By the Thames to all Peoples of the World. This is the motto of Thurrock Council and is engraved on my Thurrock Council's coat of arms. There are probably few places in the world that cannot be accessed through Thurrock and the Thames so the river is, and has always been, a critically important feature of the history of the place. The Thames is also the site of historically important events such as



Lyn Carpenter, TEP Fellow 2019

Queen Elizabeth I fighting off the Spanish Armada in 1588 from the shore of Tilbury!

Upon reflection, my life has been intertwined with the River Thames. My dad, born in Fulham in 1931, spent his early years playing in the grounds of Fulham Palace and along the old beach that existed in Victorian times. Fast forward to 2009 and I took up the role of Executive Director for both Hammersmith & Fulham Council and Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, both councils are synonymous with the river and the land alongside it. Every part of my life has been touched by the 215-mile long historic waterway which is the Thames, the lifeblood for the greatest capital city in the world (in my opinion!).

The Thames Estuary 2050 Vision, in my view, sets the scene to how the right collaboration and working relationships can and must deliver potential along the corridor. It importantly and rightly identifies that the banks of the River Thames are individual and demonstrates that one size really does not fit all. Success will be determined by the energy and drive committed by both local government and business sectors working together with a clarity of vision and outcome.

Time is of the essence, all partners need to commit to making this unique tipping point in history work well and work now, less talk, more action!"

THE MAKING OF OUR AWARD-WINNING FILM 'THE LIVING THAMES'

INSIGHT FROM PRODUCER AND FILM MAKER DOROTHY LEIPER!

Three years ago, I made a documentary, *Gardening is Good*, with the East London Garden Society, a not-for-profit organisation that works to promote urban gardening. Presented by chairman Geoffrey Juden, the film was an odyssey around East London, showing how gardening can fix almost everything, from climate change to loneliness.

One odyssey inspires another!

Geoffrey suggested, 'Why not film an odyssey down the tidal Thames? No such film exists.' I thought this was a great idea and decided to go ahead. Through his community work, Geoffrey knew the Thames Estuary Partnership. I was introduced to the Thames Estuary Partnerships' Technical Director, Amy Pryor, who was as equally enthusiastic as myself.

Amy and I shaped the core message of the film – working in partnership across sectors and interests to enhance the river, driven by the passion of the people involved. Through Amy's contacts on the river, I was introduced to numerous people, including conservationists, water quality experts and research scientists. Over several months I also met and talked to individuals, community members, activists and organisations working on the Thames. Drawing on our conversations I wrote the film's treatment, which

served as its backbone. Thames Estuary Partnership's honorary President Chris Baines joined as presenter. Sir David Attenborough, in his capacity as patron of the Thames Landscape Strategy Weybridge to Kew, agreed to introduce the film.

Production for the film was entirely organic and relied on our passion and teamwork with key individuals, organisations and communities, who work or live along the Thames. Funding for the film relied heavily on support from the public and our partners who gave both money and

resources to make it happen. We ran several crowdfunding campaigns and organised boat trips along the Thames to raise funds. The making of the film reflects that this film is truly a community project, which we hope will inspire young Londoners in the future to get involved with our work in maintaining the long-term sustainability of the Thames Estuary.

My aim for the film visually was to portray the river's wonder, beauty and diversity. To convey the river's motion, we shot on moving craft, including a hydrographic ►



The Living Thames filming crew with David Attenborough

vessel, tourist vessel and cockle boat. Capturing the sheer scale of the tidal Thames could only be done through aerial drone filming. As constraints of time and money limited the number of flights we could make, we chose a range of different stretches: upstream in leafy Kew, east Central London, Crossness Pumping Station on the Erith marshes and the Outer Estuary, shot from a cockle boat.

I am beyond excited with our recent win in April at the Charity Film Awards under the Best Long Form category. I hope that this film will inspire young people to take action in ensuring continued improvement for the benefit of all! We have plans to screen the film at schools throughout London, Essex and Kent and will start a crowdfunding campaign this Autumn to raise funds. Please show us your support and keep an eye out for the launch in TEP's newsletters.

Public screenings of the film have taken place all over the UK and internationally at various festivals and community events. Coming up is a screening of the film as part of the National Park City Festival in London on the 21st July 2019 – the Thames is London's largest open space and the beating heart of our National Park City! We will also be screening the film at various locations in Europe, including Spain and Germany in the Autumn.

For full details on screenings of our film and to watch the film online, check out TEP's website at: thamesestuarypartnership.org/TheLivingThames.



Top: Filming on location. Bottom: Heather Hilburn, Amy Pryor, Chris Baines, Dorothy Leiper and Anusha Shah collecting the award.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

PERSPECTIVE FROM OUR TECHNICAL DIRECTOR AMY PRYOR



The Thames Estuary Partnership was born out of a European initiative looking at integrated management of estuaries and coasts. It was recognised that such complex systems with competing interests from across different sectors needed a more integrated, partnership approach to management if the opportunities for growth were to be realised whilst improving or maintaining environmental health.

After a three-year project bringing the different key stakeholders and river users together, a report was published in 1999 - the Management Guidance for the Thames Estuary - which described the different environments, interests and challenges along the tidal Thames. It recommended that to bring about a balanced approach to management, an 'honest broker' was needed; a neutral

organisation that could achieve the Vision of 'an estuary which is valued and appreciated as a place to live, work and relax, an environmental asset and a focus for economic growth'. A progressive Vision for the time! TEP was tasked with stimulating co-operation and catalyzing action to find an appropriate balance between competing demands placed on the Thames Estuary.

For 20 years, we have been the 'go to' organisation for this approach and continue to connect people and the landscape through information sharing; creating a culture of openness and communication. We are trusted to enable the constructive discussions needed to work in partnership for the benefit of the Thames and her communities. From our most active and longest standing

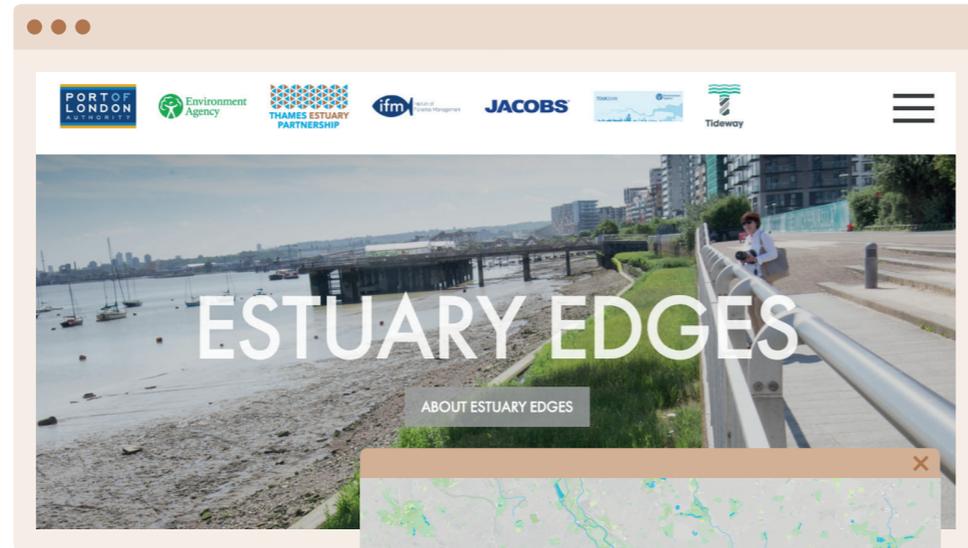
Dredging Liaison Group to our most recent Thames Litter Forum, we listen to our stakeholders and members, join the dots, find the gaps and connect across expertise; working to bring balance to and greater understanding of the Thames so we can all make better decisions together.

The wording of our Vision and the extent of the charitable area has changed over the years but many of the core challenges remain the same - water quality, flood risk, habitat fragmentation across land and water, fast paced development and social disconnection from London's blue heart. However, industry, business, Government and funders have developed a greater understanding of the value and power of partnership approaches and collaborative action. It is understood that by taking a more integrated ►



ESTUARY EDGES

NEW GUIDANCE LAUNCHED



We are proud to announce the launch of updated guidance for developers - Estuary Edges 2018.

Replacing brick, concrete, and metal tidal walls with a variety of habitats is what the Estuary Edges project is about. Thanks to the generous support of partners the Port of London Authority, the guidance is now an online resource. This Estuary Edges website is a 'how to' guide on ecological design for softening these 'edges' to encourage wildlife into urban estuaries. In our case study estuary, the

Thames, only around 2% of the edges are natural. Increasing the habitat along the edges will have a significant positive ecological impact on plants, invertebrates, fish and birds. Get in touch if you'd like to find out about our events and work linked to this exciting project.

www.estuaryedges.co.uk

approach, any project can catalyse and deliver multiple benefits reaching far beyond the scope of a single, isolated endeavour and resonate across diverse communities. Now they are going beyond Corporate Social Responsibility and actively seeking out this approach. For me, this is the biggest change I have witnessed in the time I have worked on the Thames and it is welcomed by all.

Of course, we've had many improvements - but there's always room for more! The Thames is an exemplar of environmental recovery and this has only come about through the hard work of the regulatory authorities and charities along the river. Water quality may still be an issue, but the Tideway Tunnel, once operational, will transform it. They are also driving community connection through recreation and environmental initiatives and habitat creation with a new Estuary Edge at Wandsworth Riverside Quarter. The 100-year flood defence blueprint of TE2100 is an adaptable and integrated approach designed to work with catchments and, where possible, with natural processes. Recognition by Government of the need to enhance the environment by working with industry is occurring through the 25 Year Environment Plan and natural capital. Planning processes for our marine and estuarine environments are underway, aiming to link with land planning to ensure a balance across interests. Lastly, health and wellbeing has risen up the agenda politically and commercially, recognising the role our green and blue spaces play in ensuring healthy bodies and minds.

In the future, we envisage that health and wellbeing will play an even bigger role in the economy. As we face an uncertain future with the recognised Climate Crisis, partnership and collaboration will be ever more important. TEP will be here to do our part.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

We have a diverse range of ongoing projects here at Thames Estuary Partnership, learn more about the role of each member of our project staff over the next few pages.



Our Fish Migration Roadmap Officer - **Wanda Bodnar**

"I started as a volunteer at TEP in October 2016 working on pulling together fish survey data and out of curiosity, I also started to map these datasets along with any others TEP held or had access to. This allowed me to progress into becoming a Project Officer, and in January 2018 I started to work on the 'Greater Thames Estuary Fish Migration Roadmap' project.

The Roadmap project is designed to collate data on barriers to fish migration, freshwater and marine intertidal habitat opportunity areas, development opportunity areas and flood mitigation areas together in one place, and categorise the migratory routes as roads to identify

'Highways', 'A-roads' and 'B-roads' that fish would use if there were no barriers preventing them. I am heavily utilising spatial analysis and a visualisation approach, indicating river fragmentation and connectivity. We hope that the completed roadmap will provide a useful platform to prioritise where fish passes are needed, and to identify river restoration and habitat creation opportunities.

Whilst the project is still very much in progress, in the last 18 months it has been presented at a few conferences, was featured in the Institute of Fisheries Management's FISH magazine and we also held several workshops with relevant stakeholders. I established a working relationship with the AMBER (Adaptive Management of Barriers in European Rivers) project which seeks to apply adaptive management to the operation of dams and barriers in European rivers. Furthermore, with the input of other TEP project officers, I also successfully liaised with EMODnet (European Marine Observation and Data Network) to become an Associated Partner. With this step our intention is to link the Thames with other estuaries across Europe to share knowledge and best practice, increase successful monitoring and conservation. For this summer we have also rolled out a web-based application (fishroadmap.london) to collect information on barriers, and we hope this will be utilised by partners and members of the public to yield useful data to add to or hone the map.

Before I started at TEP, I was mainly working as a marine environmental consultant offshore and in coastal waters in the renewable energy sector and admittedly only had limited knowledge

about the River Thames. Thus, learning more about the Thames and its ecology, its tributaries and working together with the organisations who are involved in improving the health of the river has been really fascinating. I have also been able to fine-tune my GIS, coding and website development skills, and have always received support to develop ideas and see them through to further the project.

One of the most attractive things about Thames Estuary Partnership for me is that it advocates for partnership work, and subsequently all of the projects are focused on what is missing, trying to fill in the gaps in knowledge whilst pulling together all the relevant partners to get the best possible input and result. This is a huge task for such a small organisation, but very exciting and appealing as we can engage with many different people from various sectors and learn a lot in the process."

For more information contact Wanda at w.bodnar@ucl.ac.uk

Supported by:



European Maritime & Fisheries Fund



SPOTLIGHT ON...



Our National Coastal Partnerships Officer
- **Alice Watts**



"I am the National Coastal Partnerships Officer for the Coastal Partnerships Network (CPN), based here at the Thames Estuary Partnership since June 2018.

The CPN exists to encourage information exchange between Coastal (including Estuary) Partnerships and aims to provide them with a coordinated national voice. The network was established in 2006, then as the Coastal Partnerships Working Group, and consists of a voluntary committee of nine Coastal Partnership Officers including a Network Chair (currently Amy Pryor at TEP) and one additional Coordinating Officer (myself). The CPN aims to strengthen the 50 Coastal Partnerships (CPs) around the UK coast by encouraging the exchange of information and debate between Coastal Partnerships and establishing links with other coastal stakeholders. It

seeks to offer increased opportunities for learning, collaboration and influence, strengthening and supporting CPs and encouraging stronger representation of the value of their work. It also forms a central point of contact for organisations with a national remit to employ CPs to aid the local delivery of statutory plans (e.g. the Marine Management Organisation and the English Marine Plans). In order to forward the integrated approach to coastal management that is needed for environmental, economic and social sustainability, we have close connections with the Coastal Communities Alliance or CCA (which connects the Coastal Community Teams nationally) and the Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group (LGA Coastal SIG), which is a voluntary SIG representing 65 Local Authorities with coastline to manage.

After initial funding from English Nature (now Natural England) in the 1990s, austerity and changes in the policy landscape – the establishment of the Water Framework Directive, Catchment Based Approach and River Catchment Partnerships, Marine Planning, Coastal Community Teams (and the creation of local economic plans and strategies) and Landscape Partnerships - have left the future role of our Coastal Partnerships somewhat uncertain. Coastal Partnerships vary greatly in organisational set up and the work they do, as they have evolved to serve local need – this inconsistency, although necessary for delivering work in unique areas according to what is needed locally, causes issues in terms of being engaged nationally. They are, however, invaluable repositories of local knowledge and well respected within their communities. They have engendered local trust and built solid reputations through years of work

to encourage and facilitate partnership working for the good of their unique coastal areas. Over the last year, I have conducted a Ten Year Review of the Partnerships in the network, interviewing CP Officers about their Partnerships and the challenges, successes and future opportunities they see. Despite a challenging external environment, particularly when it comes to funding, Coastal Partnership activity has seen a net increase over the last two years, displaying that there is still a strong need for the existence of the Partnerships and the delivery of their projects and services.

I coordinate the Network, organising our annual calendar of events which consists of the English Coastal Challenge Summit (in partnership with the CCA and LGA Coastal SIG); the CPN Annual Forum and an Estuaries and Coasts Workshop (in partnership with the EA and Rivers Trust). I am responsible for daily communications, writing our newsletters and developing the CPN as a stronger learning network and knowledge exchange platform. As part of this, I am currently revamping the CPN website to allow for increased showcasing of CP projects nationally and a discussion forum. I represent the CPN at many national events and conferences, disseminating relevant information back through the network. A programme of webinars on topics that have been highlighted by CPs as of interest is due to be scheduled this year."

Find out more about the Coastal Partnerships Network by emailing Alice at alice.watts.16@ucl.ac.uk

Supported by:

**John Ellerman
Foundation**



Our North Thames Fisheries Local Action Group Project Animateur - **Anna Patel**

"I am the project animateur for the North Thames Fisheries Local Action Group. A 'FLAG' is an EU funded initiative for community local led development (CLLD) around fishing and maritime communities with a ring-fenced pot of funding for a designated area. An 'animateur' is the role defined for EU CLLD programmes - an on-the-ground officer who engages with their local community.

FLAGS are funded by European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (part of European Structural Investment Funds), they are across all EU member states and there are six in England. The North Thames FLAG area stretches from Thurrock to Shoeburyness but focusses on the Port in Leigh-on-Sea as most of the local vessels are based there. The FLAG has brought together a partnership of local and regional organisations to steer the direction of the funding and approve or adapt projects to fund. The group consists of Leigh Port Partnership, Southend on Sea Borough Council, Port

of London Authority, Leigh Society, local fishermen and cocklers, the Cultural Engine and Thames Estuary Partnership.

The funding for projects was open for two years and closed in March 2019, with the remaining projects being delivered throughout 2019. The suite of projects covers a range of themes and topics that were identified as the key drivers for a sustainable port and industry in the area of the North Thames, especially around the port of Leigh-on-Sea. In total, the North Thames FLAG has funded 19 projects, which include a Leigh Fishing Film, sustainability certifications, education projects, a spatial plan and much more!

Thames Estuary Partnership were approached in 2015 via the TEP Fisheries Action Group to discuss setting up a FLAG for the area. Due to TEP's previous role convening and supporting the fishing industries along the Thames and Greater Thames, they were the perfectly placed to set up this partnership. My role at TEP has been to work with the local partners and applicants to bid into the FLAG for funding



and then follow through with the applicant to finish their project. I also convene the board meetings and submit funding proposals for the fishing industry and local coastal community in Leigh-on-Sea.

The North Thames FLAG has brought together a partnership in Leigh-on-Sea that had not existed for several years and brought about action on long term challenges. It brings key players to the table to discuss vital economic development projects and spotlights an undervalued industry. TEP excel at convening and partnership working and I'm delighted to represent them throughout the North Thames FLAG programme."

More information on the North Thames FLAG is available by contacting Anna at anna@culturalengine.org.uk

Supported by:



SPOTLIGHT ON...



Our Thames Citizen Fish Officer - **Eve Sanders**

"I joined the TEP team as an intern and quickly became the Thames Citizen Fish Officer in September 2018. My work focuses on the Estuary Edges: the intertidal terraces and reedbeds built as part of the planning and riverside development process (e.g. O2 Reedbeds). These were surveyed both ecologically and structurally for the first time since the first ones were built nearly 20 years ago, in 2017. TEP, in partnership with the Port of London Authority (PLA) and the Environment Agency (EA) amongst other partners, produced a set of guidance documents back in 2008 to help developers and consultants understand the design principles when building intertidal terraces as part of riverside development, as well as highlight the importance of intertidal habitats for biodiversity.

My project builds on the Estuary Edges survey work by bringing together Thames science, citizen science and community engagement experts to develop and trial a student and citizen science fish, plant and invertebrate survey programme on the Estuary Edges sites and raise public

awareness around the wildlife of the Thames in general - I love it! The surveys focus on the 17 Estuary Edges sites, with the aim of providing evidence of increased ecological biodiversity on the terraces (fish, invertebrates and flora have colonised and are using the sites) and therefore encourage more Estuary Edges sites.

Other aims of Citizen Fish include; encouraging engagement between developers with Estuary Edges principles, advocating for more intertidal enhancement potentially linked to landward Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) and crucially, enabling a sustainable long-term monitoring programme to build the evidence base further.

To make this happen, we are working in partnership with many great organisations around the Thames including Thames21 (leading the litter surveys), Zoological Society London (fish surveys), Institute of Fisheries Management (fish surveys), University College London, Environment Agency, and Museum of London Archaeology (foreshore archaeology surveys), to name just a few! We are also linking with a FLAG funded project in the South Essex Marshes led by the Essex Wildlife Trust, replicating the approach and sharing learning.



Some of the project milestones thus far have been embedding the monitoring into the UCL Aquatic Sciences Masters (students will be monitoring a few of the sites annually as part of their fieldwork) and starting to design and create a Thames Wildlife Guide, something I'm hugely excited about and thrilled to have the opportunity to produce.

This summer is all about trialling the methodologies for the monitoring. After completing site visits, we have identified West Barking Creek, Deptford Creek, Greenwich Peninsula, Point Wharf and Battersea as the best sites to kick start the trials. This gives us an even spread of lower, mid and upper Estuary Edges sites. We will be completing the trials with undergraduate Earth Sciences students from University College London and masters students from Queen Mary University London.

In terms of future goals, we are working with the Institute of Fisheries Management to create an accredited training programme for interested citizen scientists. This will help them gain skills in fish, plant and invertebrate identification, along with foreshore health and safety. We hope that the ambition of a Citizen Science Network where all Thames based charities can share knowledge and capacity for better understanding of the river, will be realised in the future."

For more information contact Eve at eve.sanders@ucl.ac.uk

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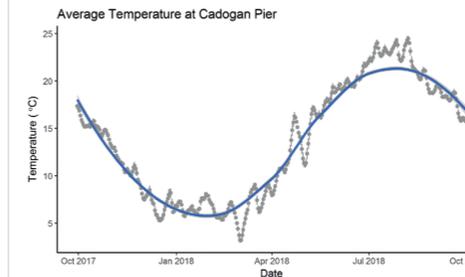


Our Data Officer - **Julia Lanoue**

"My name is Julia Lanoue, and I am the Greater Thames Data Officer at TEP on an EMFF funded project to interrogate Thames environmental data over the last 25 years. I have been at TEP since September 2018, and my role focuses on research along the Thames.

The Thames has a long history of environmental, economic, and historical significance to London and the surrounding areas. The River Thames has been essential in London's growth as a centre of commerce and development. The Thames provided water for taps, fish for local consumption, and ports for trade. Its long history has made it a focal point for numerous research studies as well as environmental and conservation efforts. The tidal extent of the Thames starts in Teddington, runs through central London, eventually spilling into the North Sea, connecting rural to urban to seaside landscapes. This interconnectivity makes the Thames a highly complex system which requires an interdisciplinary and multifaceted approach in research.

Taking a computational approach, my research at TEP focuses on environmental



change in the Thames. I investigate change in three ways: the physical environment, fish populations, and perceptions of local fishers. Though often studied separately, these three aspects of the Thames are interdependent, with each aspect influencing the others. An important aspect of my work is data collation and standardisation. Many different organisations collect data and monitor activities along the Thames, often with little communication or data sharing. Part of this project is locating who the data holders are and bringing together data from various sources. From this, I can not only identify trends but also observe any gaps where monitoring is lacking.

The biological aspects of the Thames, such as fish populations, are highly dependent on the physical environment. Estuaries are known for their role as nursery grounds for juvenile fish and their importance as feeding grounds for migratory fish species, such as salmon, smelt, and eel. These biological functions, however, are dependent on environmental cues like shifts in temperature and salinity. Fish populations react to changes in their physical environment. Therefore shifts in temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, or turbidity can have significant repercussions for local biodiversity. By

investigating changes in the physical environment, it will be possible to interpret patterns in the data for fish populations.

The most unique aspect of this project is its inclusion of fishers' perspectives on environmental change. Fishers are greatly invested in the continued health of the Thames. Their constant interaction with the resource creates an in-depth knowledge of short and long-term fluxes that are often not captured in monitoring data. Through this study, I will be linking the trends noted from the physical and biological data with the trends the fishers have observed over time. By doing this, it will be possible to collect local knowledge of the River Thames and Thames Estuary as well as noting discrepancies between local observation and monitoring data. By applying local knowledge to this project, I aim to determine if the monitoring scheme currently in place captures the observations noted by fishers and environmental shifts already felt due to climate change."

For more information contact Julia at j.lanoue@ucl.ac.uk

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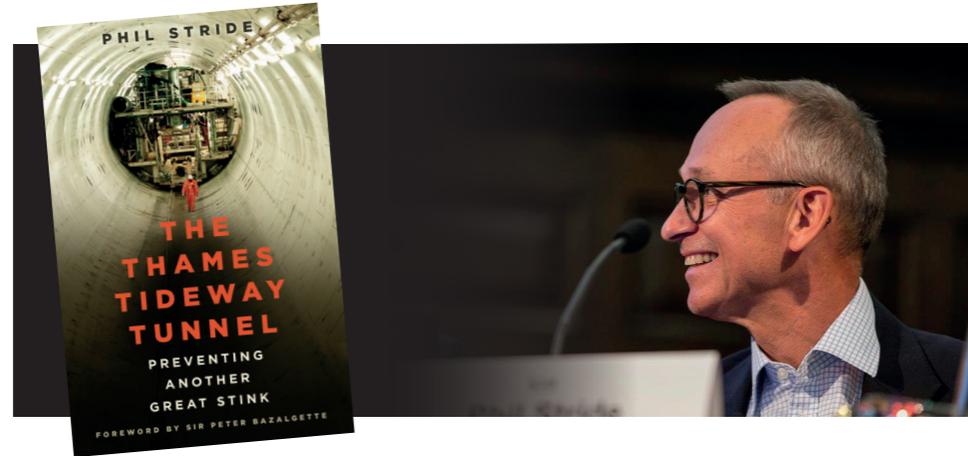
European Maritime & Fisheries Fund



THE THAMES TIDEWAY TUNNEL: PREVENTING ANOTHER GREAT STINK

BY TEP VICE CHAIRMAN PHIL STRIDE

A new book documenting the history of the Thames Tideway Tunnel project was released in March after years of work by the Vice Chairman of TEP Phil Stride. Phil was Head of Thames Tideway Tunnel between 2008 and 2015, and is now Strategic Projects Director at Tideway.



The Thames Tideway Tunnel: Preventing Another Great Stink' tells a first-person account of the story of the project from the very start, to breaking ground and all the steps along the way, including the many and varied challenges.

Speaking to the Talk of The Thames, Phil said: "In April 2016 I was set an objective to write a book documenting the development and planning phases of the project. The key objective is to support Tideway's legacy. It's really a record of the project for future generations to learn from the project team's experiences."

With the help of an award-winning author, Phil has spent countless hours over the last two years pulling together all the key moments into a single narrative that seeks as much to entertain as it does to inform.

"This records what actually happened between 2008 and 2016," he said. "Although it's written as a memoir, a massive amount of effort has gone in to ensuring that all the facts are correct. But it's written to be enjoyed;

it doesn't assume knowledge. You really can enjoy reading it without knowing anything about the project."

Sir Peter Bazalgette (Executive Chairman of ITV and great-great-grandson of Sir Joseph Bazalgette) has written a foreword for the book, and Putney MP Justine Greening and Victoria Borwick, former Deputy Mayor of London, have provided very positive quotes for the back cover.

Phil said: "It's not a textbook, but it tells you all about the engineering; it tells you about the route of the tunnel, the tunnel drive strategy, the site selection methodology, why we chose the sites, the tunnel design, the vortexes – all in an interesting way. It also majors on the consultation and planning processes which resulted in Tideway obtaining a Development Consent Order"

He added: "I am really proud of the final product, a good read especially

for anyone who's got a technical background or an interest in London."

In Phil's view, the greatest challenge facing the Thames Estuary is the current pollution caused by the overflows from the existing sewerage system. On average 39 million tonnes of untreated sewage is discharged into the tidal river every year together with thousands of tonnes of sewage derived litter, including vast amounts of plastics. When completed in 2024, the Thames Tideway Tunnel will have a transformational effect on the river water quality in the Thames Estuary.

Having worked for over 40 years in the water industry on scores of projects to improve river water quality in the River Thames, Phil is passionate about the health and wellbeing of the Thames Estuary. He is also very proud to be the Vice Chairman of the Thames Estuary Partnership.

A NOTE FROM TEP SPONSORSHIP PARTNER - JACOBS

PROVIDING SOLUTIONS FOR A MORE CONNECTED, SUSTAINABLE WORLD

Jacobs is delighted to continue our sponsorship of the Thames Estuary Partnership, building on our rich relationship developed over many years through our work in London and along the River Thames. We recognise the great work carried out by TEP, and how it wholly aligns to our aspirations of creating solutions to deliver a more connected, sustainable world.

Jacobs' work in London

We work with our clients to tackle some of the biggest sustainability, environmental and resilience challenges facing London, always believing there could be a better way. We help our clients understand their environmental impacts and sustainability challenges and support them to engage with communities and understand what really matters.

We are proud of our programme portfolio across London, including here at the Houses of Parliament, down-river at the Lower Thames Crossing, and underneath London on Thames Tideway Tunnel. Once complete, the Thames Tideway Tunnel will create a cleaner, healthier River Thames and enable the sewer

system to continue to serve London for at least the next 100 years. On TEAM2100, we manage the Environment Agency's assets from Teddington to the estuary, including the Thames Barrier and other flood barriers and walls which protect millions of Londoners.

The future

We are increasingly looking to see how we can play a more influential role in shaping the future to help our clients and partners with some of their biggest challenges. We want to continue to contribute to the sustainable development of the Thames and London as a whole, balancing benefits for people, prosperity and place identity.

Our goal is to plan beyond today for a sustainable future for everyone. For us, this means social and economic progress while protecting our environment and improving resilience.

If you would like to know more, visit us at www.jacobs.com.

JACOBS

TEP BECOMES FIRST NGO PARTNER WITH IMarEST

The IMarEST is an international membership body and learned society that brings marine engineers, marine scientists and marine technologists together into one multi-disciplinary professional body. Earlier this year IMarEST launched a new scheme to offer support and partnership to non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and we're proud to be the first charity to become an NGO partner with IMarEST! This gives our staff complimentary Affiliate Membership and our volunteers a complimentary 12-month Affiliate Membership trial to support further professional development.

To find out more go to www.imarest.org



WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE OCEAN!

INSIGHT FROM CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION

A healthy ocean is vital for supporting life as we know it. But growing pressures on our ecosystem's 'blue heart' are threatening marine life and human health and prosperity.

At the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (UK Branch), our Valuing the Ocean programme is working towards the conservation and sustainable management of the ocean for the wellbeing of people now and in the future. Initial research published by the Foundation in 2013 suggested that the marine conservation sector tended to work in siloes and there was limited cross-sector working. That's why we are supporting collaboration across the marine conservation sector and increasing the sector's capacity to communicate why a healthy ocean matters.

We believe that collaboration can help organisations achieve more than the sum of their parts. But we recognise that it isn't always easy. In 2015 we set up the Marine CoLABoration, of which the Thames Estuary Partnership is a Steering Group member. The idea was to provide the necessary time and resources needed for the marine conservation sector to reflect on what works, share learning, and develop tools and approaches which have the potential to bring about beneficial change. The Marine CoLAB brings together experts from diverse fields with a breadth of skills and experience. Some of the organisations focus specifically on marine and coastal conservation, while others, like TEP, contribute expertise in collaboration,



communications, law, economics and/or systemic change. The group's vision is of an 'ocean friendly' society, which values the contribution the ocean makes to our wellbeing and acts to safeguard this value.

One initiative to emerge from this group is the #OneLess campaign, which aims to combat ocean plastic and establish a refill revolution in London. TEP is one of the Marine CoLAB members leading this campaign, along with ZSL, Forum for the Future, and the International Programme on the State of the Ocean.

The average adult Londoner throws away 175 single-use plastic water bottles a year, with many of these ending up in the Thames. Bottles that enter our rivers often end up in the ocean where they kill marine creatures, spoil coastlines and threaten livelihoods. The campaign re-frames the city as 'London-on-sea',

highlighting the link to the ocean via the tidal River Thames. It emphasises the everyday connections between Londoners and the ocean, through weather, climate and the oxygen they breathe. In doing so, the campaign uses a values based approach - a method tested by the Marine CoLAB to put what people value at the heart of shaping solutions.

Other than joint working through the CoLAB, we have also worked with TEP to support its film *The Living Thames* which we were delighted to see has been selected as a finalist for the Charity Film Awards. Over the past six years, we have learned a lot from TEP's networked and collaborative approach to working with people across all kinds of sectors and disciplines and we at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation would like to wish everyone at TEP a happy 20th birthday!

GET INVOLVED

Membership

Join the Thames Estuary Partnership and gain access to exclusive events, regular networking opportunities, specialist workshops, research, partnership funding bids, matchmaking schemes with our projects and much more!

Fundraise

Help us raise funds to ensure the long term sustainability of the Thames by taking part in a challenge event or organising your own miniature fundraising event or campaign. We have limited spaces available for this year's first Regatta taking place in September across the London Thames - participants will have the opportunity to paddleboard along the river! We are also selling tickets for our fun and informative annual boat trip along the Thames! See the adverts below for dates and contact us for more information.

Volunteer

Volunteers are the heartbeat of our organisation. Many of our staff members started as volunteers. We have opportunities available for volunteers with a variety of skills.

If you are interested in talking to us about how to get involved, email us at tep@thamesestuarypartnership.org

GET IN TOUCH

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YOUR FEEDBACK

We welcome readers' feedback on *Talk of the Thames*, including suggested topics for articles and content contributions. Please email your feedback to editor@thamesestuarypartnership.org

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Two promotional posters are shown. The left poster is for 'SUP, CANOE OR KAYAK 12 MILES ALONG THE RIVER THAMES' and features a blue background with white and yellow text. It includes the text 'THAMES ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP NEEDS YOU!', 'We have spaces for Regatta London - London's newest challenge event taking place on Sunday 29th September 2019', and 'FUNDRAISING TARGET: £400 Registration deadline: 16th July 2019'. The right poster is for 'TOTALLY THAMES FESTIVAL 2019' and features a background image of a large, modern building with a curved facade. It includes the text 'Contact us to book your tickets for TEP's annual boat trip', '28.09.2019', 'TOTALLY THAMES FESTIVAL 2019', and 'EXPLORE THE TIDAL THAMES'.

Providing solutions for a more connected sustainable world



TEAM2100: THAMES ESTUARY ASSET MANAGEMENT



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