



THAMES21

Thames Day 2024



The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Michael and Elisabeth Mainelli, joined Thames21 on a walk-and-talk and led a clean-up at Queenhithe on World Rivers Day, 22nd September. Credit City of London Corporation / Tim Whitby Photography

About Thames21

Thames21 is an environmental charity that works with communities to restore and look after rivers, water and nature across London and the Thames Basin.

The charity works in partnership across all sectors to improve climate resilience across London and the Thames basin, as outlined in its Five-Year Plan: https://www.thames21.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Thames21_5_Year_Plan.pdf

Thames21 presents some of its key projects and achievements in 2024.

Impacts

Thames21 is proud of its impacts for 2023-2024, notably **increases in volunteer numbers to 12,392** from 9,944 in 2022-3 and **in kilometres of river restored 4.5km** from 2.96km.



Volunteers

Thames21's effectiveness is multiplied by the energy and enthusiasm of its volunteers, who work together to:

- **Help restore over 4.5km of rivers** per year and **plant thousands of trees**
- **Pull thousands of tonnes of waste**, including plastic and wet wipes out of rivers
- **Train as citizen scientists** to collect valuable data on river health
- **Connect with each other and work together**
- **Learn** about the environment and **gain practical skills** so that they can look after and speak up for their local rivers!

[Click](#) to hear citizen scientist Janet Laban talk about what being a citizen scientist on the EMPOWER Rivers project means to her.



Thames Day 2024

On World Rivers Day, 22nd September, the City of London held a Thames Day as part of the Totally Thames Festival. Thames21 and other organisations ran activities and stalls on the Thames Path near London Bridge to celebrate the River Thames. Thames21's activities included asking visitors a sticker on the river nearest to where they live on a giant map of London's rivers, and asking adults and children to write a 'Message in a bottle' about their wishes for the River Thames.

Thames21 also ran a walk and talk and a litter pick, led by the **Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Michael and Elisabeth Mainelli**, on the Thames foreshore at Queenhithe. As they explored the foreshore, participants heard from Thames21 about our work with citizen scientists and volunteers to monitor and clear plastic pollution on the Thames foreshore, and the challenges facing the Thames and other rivers. They also heard from **Anna Warrillow**, an art historian and London guide, who spoke about the history and culture of the Thames at Queenhithe, and from **Maarina Budd**, a Thames21 volunteer and Event Support Officer, who talked about her other great passion – mudlarking.

'All elements were interesting, but I particularly enjoyed the history of the river talk. How we must really look after the river and not take it for granted.'

'I enjoyed learning about the connection between the history of London and its connection to the Thames. I'll keep a look out for additional opportunities to do river clean ups.'

'Great work Thames 21!!'



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Lord Mayor Michael Mainelli examines Thames21's map of London's Rivers at Thames21's stall at Thames Day on World Rivers Day, 22nd September, as part of the Totally Thames Festival.



Anna Warrillow (far r) with participants including the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, and Thames21 staff on Thames Day 2024

Thank you for your support of Thames21!



**Thames21 Limited Registered Charity No: 1103997 Registered Office: Port of London Authority
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