



Friends Of the River Crane Environment

Dear Friends,

Welcome to another edition of our Newsletter. Hopefully you have seen the first signs of spring in the last couple of weeks; we have been as busy as ever over the winter months and we are pleased to be able to update you with our progress.

Application for Charitable Status

We are very pleased to announce that FORCE has now achieved **full registered charity status** with the Charity Commission of England and Wales. Charitable Status will help us considerably in applications for grants.

Crane Valley Planning Guidelines

By the time you read this the **Crane Valley Planning Guidelines** should be close to being finalised and released by the Council. The purpose of the Guidelines is to act as Supplementary Planning Policy, setting out a framework for managing the Crane Valley between London Road and Kneller Gardens in Twickenham. FORCE has been closely involved in this process and we are pleased to say that the guidelines **incorporate many of our ideas** for protecting and enhancing the environment local to both the River Crane and the Duke of Northumberland's River.

Harlequins Development

You may have noticed that work has started on the **new West Stand** at the Harlequins stadium. We have held preliminary discussions with the Council and Harlequins about the related improvements proposed for the Duke of Northumberland's River path and transfer of a portion of the existing training pitch for public use and hope to see more detailed plans in the near future.

College Proposals

We are also in ongoing discussions, along with **Heatham Residents Association**, regarding development proposals at the College. A public meeting was held in January and the College are due to hold an exhibition of their latest proposals in the near future. Alistair Edwards of HRA is taking a lead on this and can be contacted on 8892 4241.

North London River Restoration Project

FORCE has recently submitted proposals for **river improvements** along the length of the River Crane in the Borough to this Project, managed by the **Environment Agency** and due for launch in April of this year. The Council has already included river improvements, such as **the removal of concrete banks** and replacement with more natural channels as one of its aspirations in the Crane Planning Guidance. Inclusion in this project will be a major step towards attracting finance sources for large scale improvements to the river.

Craneford Wall Improvements

The Council has recently approved our proposals for initial improvements to the wall adjacent to the Twickenham Rifle Club and alongside **Marsh Farm Lane**. We hope to have contractors on site for this work in the next few weeks.

Website: www.force.org.uk e-mail: info@force.org.uk

FORCE is a registered charity: (Reg. No.: 1108542)



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Latest Grant News

We are pleased to say we have received a small **grant** from BAA to provide a **sculptural seating feature** on the Mereway site. We are currently developing our thoughts on this and any ideas would be welcome. We hope to have something on the site by May this year.

Adopt-A-Tree

We are currently in discussion with the council with respect to their '**Adopt-A-Tree**' scheme. FORCE is looking to work in partnership with the council in managing the maintenance of some of the key trees in the Crane Valley area. The Adopt-A-Tree scheme is open to all. If you have a tree in a street near your home and you would like to adopt it, call the council on 020 8891 7808 or go to the council website at www.richmond.gov.uk/trees.

Membership Renewal

FORCE members will note that **renewal of membership** is due on 6th April 2005. Your continued membership is very important to FORCE and we value it highly. Your membership subscription makes a **significant contribution** to the work we do, so we urge you to renew your membership as soon as possible. In the next few days, you will receive a letter containing details of your membership and a renewal form. Please return the form as soon as you can.

Volunteer Days

Our Volunteer Days are continuing for the next couple of months, held as normal on every **second Sunday of the month**. Over the winter we have made more progress on the Mereway and the Rifle Club/Marsh Farm Triangle sites and we are progressing with our plans to introduce more wetland habitat along the river downstream of Crane Park Island Nature Reserve. The programme for the next couple of months is as follows:

Sunday 10 th April:	Crane Park	<i>Planting reed beds and other native water plants in the river.</i>
Sunday 8 th May:	Mereway	<i>To be planned</i>

As always we welcome all ages for the day or just an hour or so. Come and find us on the site. We provide tools and gloves and recommend old clothes and stout shoes. The day starts at 10:30am and goes through until 4:30pm. For further information call Rob Gray on 8892 9518.

Thank-you again for your support and we look forward to seeing you in the coming months,

Regards,

Rob Gray (Chair of FORCE)

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