



Friends Of the River Crane Environment

Dear Friends,

We have changed our newsletters slightly so that they reflect the seasons and we hope that by the time you read this **spring newsletter** the weather has done likewise. Another small change you may notice is that we have received **sponsorship** from **Mayday Genealogy**, covering the production and delivery costs of the Newsletter. Mike Day, our membership secretary, runs this small “family tree” consultancy. Contact details are provided at the bottom of the page.

We have been pushing on with our monthly volunteer days over the winter as well as managing projects supported by recent grant awards. In the last few weeks we have also been putting together our programme for this summer. The big event over the next few weeks though is our second **Green Chain Walk**. News on all these activities is provided below

### Green Chain Walk on 2<sup>nd</sup> April

The Green Chain Walk will cover **15 miles** from Ruislip Gardens in north west London, down the Yeading Brook, Grand Union Canal and River Crane to Twickenham Station and passing along the way **five nature reserves**, two major airports, Cranford Park, Hounslow Heath and Crane Park. We will be leaving from Twickenham Station at 7:15am and anyone wishing to join us should contact FORCE to book transport. Alternatively, meet us at the **Crane Pub at Bulls Bridge** between 12:30pm and 1:30pm for the second half, or the **Shot Tower** around 4:30pm for the last couple of miles. This is the best way to see the beauty and fragility of the West London green Chain and all are welcome. For more information and a **map of the route**, please visit the FORCE website at [www.force.org.uk](http://www.force.org.uk). Walking boots are strongly recommended.

### Marsh Farm Lane, the West Field and “The Triangle”

The second stage of our work has been completed, with the installation of an **opening and footpath** from Marsh Farm Lane through the triangle woodland of wild plum, blackthorn and some newly planted hawthorn to Cranford Playing Field West. The work was done with the support of the council’s **Civic Pride** scheme. You may also have noticed the Council has planted some **18 new trees** on the playing field and is in the process of **removing the old fencing** from around the field. If you would like to adopt any of the trees under the council’s Adopt a Tree scheme, call the council on 020 8891 7808 or go to the council website at [www.richmond.gov.uk/trees](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/trees). We also hope to see the fruits of an arrangement with the council contractors in the summer which will allow a fringe of longer grass to grow up around the field which in time can be seeded with **wild flowers**. Later this year the Council will also be upgrading the children’s play area.

### Shot Tower Volunteers Needed

FORCE volunteers are now opening the **Crane Park Shot Tower** to the public on the **first Sunday** afternoon of each month. Anyone willing to give up a few hours of a Sunday afternoon to welcome visitors to the tower should get in touch with **Keith Martin (0208 755 2091 borsuk@clara.co.uk)**.

This Newsletter is funded for FORCE by: -



**Mayday Genealogy**

Family History & Genealogy Research Services

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FORCE is a registered charity No.: 1108542

Website: [www.force.org.uk](http://www.force.org.uk)

E-mail: [info@force.org.uk](mailto:info@force.org.uk)



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## Environment Agency Testing

You may have noticed that the Environment Agency has been carrying out **some test excavations and boreholes** on the banks of the River Crane. This is all part of a survey of the integrity of the concrete banks. This is due to carry on throughout the year. We hope to receive the results of these tests and review and comment on any implications on its completion.

## Mereway Nature Park

We continue to make progress on this site and installed the basics of **an outdoor classroom** at our January volunteer day, along with a new footpath through to the Duke of Northumberland's River. The design and construction of the outdoor classroom was done in conjunction with **Trafalgar Junior School**, and many of their pupils were there on the day with their families. This volunteer day was held in collaboration with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (**BTCV**) and was very successful attracting **over fifty people** including a large number of younger volunteers. We are always pleased to see young people attending our volunteer day provided that a responsible adult carefully supervises them.

In the next few months we hope to see a **sculpted bench** placed in the centre of the meadow area, the bench has been funded by a Civic Pride grant and the design is based on designs suggested by the children of **6S at Trafalgar School**.

## A Vision for Crane Park

Along with **London Wildlife Trust**, we are currently drafting, a new "**Vision for Crane Park**". This document will discuss improved management of the existing parts of the park in both Richmond and Hounslow as well as the potential to extend the park boundaries to Hounslow Heath in the west and Twickenham Station in the east. Following endorsement by the councils, we will look to raise funds for a programme of work to make this into a reality.

## FORCE Annual Open Day 17<sup>th</sup> September

We are looking for **ideas and suggestions** for activities, competitions, fund raising, etc. for our **annual open day** in September. We are also looking for **volunteers** to help us with the open day. There are a variety of tasks we need help with including helping to set up or take down stalls, running a stall or activity, delivering leaflets to promote the open day, making cakes for the teas, face painting, etc. If you have any ideas for activities or you would like to get involved please let us know. If you are able to help please contact **Trudi Morgan** on **020 8892 2492**.

## FORCE Volunteer Days

As always we welcome all ages for our volunteer days, (see Diary Dates for details). Come for the whole day or just for an hour or so. Come and find us on the site. We provide tools and gloves and recommend old clothes and stout shoes. The days start at 10:30am and go through until 4:30pm. For further information call **Rob Gray** on **020 8892 9518**.

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## Diary Dates

- Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April:** Green Chain Walk:- See newsletter above for details.
- Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April:** London Wildlife Trust (LWT) Frog Day at Crane Park Island.
- Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April:** **FORCE Volunteer Day: - Mereway Nature Park.**  
Rubbish clearance, laying of wood-chippings on paths, meadow maintenance, etc.
- Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May:** FORCE at the Shot Tower – 1:30pm-4:00pm.
- Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May:** **FORCE Volunteer Day: - Marsh Farm Lane & Twickenham Rifle Club.**  
The last volunteer day of the season. Litter Pick and Graffiti Blitz.
- Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May:** Bank Holiday:- FORCE will have a stand at the May Fair on Twickenham Green.
- Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June:** FORCE at the Shot Tower – 1:30pm-4:00pm.
- Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July:** FORCE at the Shot Tower – 1:30pm-4:00pm.
- Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July:** FORCE will have a stand at the St. Margaret's Fair on Moormead Park.
- Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July:** Tidal Crane Association: - River Crane clearing day in the tidal section. All volunteers welcome. Contact Hilary Thomson for more information on 020 8892 6276 or by e-mail at hilarythomson@aol.com.
- Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August:** FORCE at the Shot Tower – 1:30pm-4:00pm.
- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September:** FORCE at the Shot Tower – 1:30pm-4:00pm.
- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September:** **FORCE Volunteer Day: - The first volunteer day of the Autumn season. Some of the activity will be preparation for the open day, which follows a week later.**
- Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September:** FORCE's fourth annual open day: - See newsletter above for details. 2:00pm-5:00pm.
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September:** The third FORCE Annual General Meeting (AGM).

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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