



Friends Of the River Crane Environment

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the summer 2007 edition of our newsletter. Many thanks to all of you that have renewed your membership for this year (2007-2008). We are pleased to say that our year on year **renewal rates are very healthy** at over 80 per cent and we take comfort in this as an indicator that we are providing a service that you value. Those of you who haven't yet renewed will have received a final reminder with this newsletter.

Particular thanks to those of you who also responded to our **questionnaire**. We are in the process of analysing the results and will report on these in our next newsletter. We shall also be in contact with those of you offering help in various areas.

Open Day

Our **Annual Open Day** is coming up on 9th September and we hope you all have it in your diaries. The day will start with a **dog show** in Kneller Gardens from 1-30pm; all types of dogs and owners are welcome and I'm told it's great fun and nothing like Crufts!! Activities will continue across our sites from 2pm with information and children's activities in **Mereway** and **CraneFord Fields**, rifle shooting and tea & cakes in the **Rifle Club** and exhibitions of produce on **Marsh Farm Allotments**. Come along, bring a picnic and meet your neighbours- this year's **beer tent** will feature Crane Sundancer from Twickenham Fine Ales.

Offers of help before the day (putting posters in windows, inviting your friends and neighbours), on the morning of the event (to set up the tents and tidy the area) and during the afternoon itself (helping with the **tea stall** – donations of cakes especially) will all be very welcome. Please drop us a line with any suggestions. A separate e-mail request for help, including a copy of the poster for the event, will be circulated in the near future.

AGM

A notice of the **4th AGM** is attached. We welcome applications from any member to stand for election as Trustee. Anyone wishing to apply should contact our Secretary, Frances Bennett frances.bennett@talk21.com and 020 8894 6522.

The AGM will include presentations on the year's events and a view of the year ahead plus a review of the annual accounts. There will also be a question and answer session and formal elections of trustees. A break for tea and cakes will be followed by a short talk from a local environmental specialist.

Volunteer Days

The new season of **volunteer days**, up until the end of the year, is shown below. Suggestions for activities on future volunteer days are, as always, welcomed.

As usual they will be held on the second Sunday of the month, and run between 10-30am and 4-30pm. Everyone is welcome, for the whole day or an hour, to join in or to see what we are up to first hand.

This Newsletter is funded for FORCE by: -



Mayday Genealogy

Family History & Genealogy Research Services

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Sunday 9th September	Craneford Fields <i>Morning preparations for the Annual Open Day in the afternoon</i>
Sunday 14th October	Kneller Gardens <i>Planting trees and bulbs plus clearing the river. This will also be a first opportunity to improve the widened path along the Duke of Northumberland's River.</i>
Sunday 11th November	Rifle Club <i>Graffiti removal, tree planting and path maintenance. We also hope to start work on a kingfisher bank in the grounds of the club.</i>
Sunday 9th December	Crane Park Island <i>Our annual visit to the Island to pollard willows. This is also an opportunity to collect lengths of willow for transplanting, fruit and vegetable poles, willow weaving, floral displays etc.</i>

Crane Park Island hold their own volunteer days on the last Sunday of the month – meeting at the shot tower from 10-30am. Again, everyone is welcome. We make a special effort to join them in October (28th October 2007) for the annual river clean-up, covering as much of the river within Crane Park as we can manage.

If you are coming to any of these days wear old clothes and stout footwear; we provide gloves and hot drinks but bring a packed lunch if you plan to stay the day.

Mereway Nature Park

FORCE has prepared a draft **Management Plan** for the site, detailing the habitats and value of the site at present and proposing how it should be managed and enhanced over the next five years. Copies of the plan are on our web-site and we welcome comments from our members. We are currently in discussions with the Council about the adoption of this plan and the implementation of a **Service Level Agreement** that would give FORCE some formal responsibility for the management of the site.

We have also recently installed five **information boards** around the site, detailing the habitats present, and two **magni-posts**, used to examine natural treasures more closely. This is all part of our policy to improve the educational value of the site. We are also lobbying the Council to close the rear entrance to the Depot, which is accessed along the central track through the site, and which compromises its value as an outdoor classroom.

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Crane Riverside Park

Plans are moving forward on this project. We have received **£5000** from Richmond Council and have been promised **£5000** from Hounslow Council. The West Area of Hounslow has also included it as one of its three key projects for the next four years. Two bids have been submitted for match funding from other sources and we propose to start the **Feasibility Study** for the project in September.

The Crane Valley Partnership covers the entire Crane catchment from Harrow to the Thames and comprises the five borough councils, Environment Agency, BAA, LWT, Thames Water, GLA and others. The Partnership have started a separate feasibility study on the valley as a whole, with Crane park as one of three focus areas. This project will investigate how local residents can be encouraged to use and value the park more, and will recommend improvements to signage and pathways as well as improving habitats for wildlife.

We shall work alongside the Partnership and foresee that the main implementation phase of our project is incorporated as a key deliverable of their larger project, for which a major lottery bid is proposed early next year.

And finally, FORCE has registered with www.everyclick.com a search engine that gives 50 per cent of its revenue to charity. The more people that register and use the engine the more FORCE will earn. It's free and early experience shows it is better for UK searches than competitors such as Google but not as good for international. More information on how to use the link is available on the news and events page of our web-site.

Looking forward to seeing many of you on **9th September**,

Regards,

Rob Gray (Chair of FORCE)

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Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 4th Annual General Meeting of the Friends Of the River Crane Environment (FORCE) will be held at Crane Community Centre, Meadway, TWICKENHAM, TW2 6PY at 8:00pm 22 October 2007 to transact the following business.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the previous meeting.

To be agreed and matters arising.

2. Reports and Accounts

To receive and consider the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2007 and the reports of the charity trustees.

3. Appointment of charity trustees

Nominations for the position of Trustee (including Office Holders - Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) must be received by the Secretary by [2 weeks prior to meeting].

Please contact The Secretary Frances Bennett Frances.Bennett@talk21.com or 020 8894 6522 for details of how to make a nomination.

4. Members proposed resolutions

Proposed resolutions should be sent to the Secretary 14 days prior to the meeting.

Please contact The Secretary Frances Bennett Frances.Bennett@talk21.com or 020 8894 6522 for details of how to propose a resolution.

5. Any other business

To deal with matters raised at the meeting.

By order of the Board of Trustees

19 August 2007

6. Formal meeting close

Tea and coffee will be served. A short talk will follow.

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