



Friends Of the River Crane Environment

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our Spring 2011 newsletter. Once again, there is a lot going on in the Crane Valley this spring and, while this can be disruptive to those of us that use Crane Park regularly, we believe that much of this work will have positive results in the long run, and encourage more to use this wonderful asset. Further details about these projects are included in this newsletter.

Membership renewal

This is **annual renewal** time for our members and, for those members not already renewing by standing order, then renewal forms as well as Standing Order and Gift Aid forms should be included with this newsletter. Gift Aid was worth around £400 to us last year so we would urge you to sign up to this scheme. We are very pleased that once again our membership renewal rate was over 90 per cent last year and that our membership has reached a new high of **450 members** - this provides encouragement we are doing things our members want to support.

Crane Valley Park

Over the last few months there has been progress on the Mayor's **Priority Parks** project, with several components of the project implemented, including improvements to the entrances in both boroughs. New **carved benches** depicting a water vole, the life cycle of a dragonfly and oak leaves were recently installed in the park. Hounslow Council, funded through Transport for London, is currently installing a new cycle path through the Hounslow side of Crane Park, and a new playground is being constructed on Butts Farm field, adjacent to the cycle path. Plans for a playground in the Richmond side of Crane Park are under review currently.

There have been several consultations and discussions over other components of the project, most notably the proposal for a bridge linking the two sides of Crane Park. FORCE, along with other members of the project steering group, has made representations in favour of the proposals and we are currently awaiting the final decision from the GLA as to whether this part of the project will go ahead.

My River Crane – Exhibition

This exhibition was launched in March 2010 and has been on tour ever since. We were invited back to Feltham Library as part of the **Feltham Arts Festival**, and for this we added a new component to the exhibition looking at Feltham Marshalling Yards. This part of the exhibition has a selection of photographs and maps relating to the history and wildlife of this important area of the Crane Corridor. The exhibition is at **Bedfont Lakes Park Visitors' Centre** for the next few weeks and then will form part of the FORCE stall at the Twickenham Green May Fair and other Fairs over the summer. Details are given below.

We are very grateful to Keith Martin, FORCE Trustee, and Richard Clemence, a local photographer, for their stunning photographic contributions to this exhibition. We would urge members to contribute their own photographs to the online exhibition where anyone can upload photos and images of the Crane valley. Find it at www.flickr.com/groups/myrivercrane/

Crane Park - Hospital Bridge Road to Meadway, Twickenham

FORCE volunteers have been working on this stretch of the park in recent months, as have BTCV volunteers. The **native hedge** now stretches from the Whitton school boundary fence to Meadway in a continuous line. Replacement fruit trees have been included where previous trees were vandalised. In the autumn, we created new wetland areas in some of the wetter patches of grass along this stretch, transplanting plants from an upstream wetland site at **Green Lanes** in Hounslow and planting more plants and seeds at the last volunteer day in March.

This Newsletter is funded for FORCE by: -



Mayday Genealogy

Family History & Genealogy Research Services
89 Third Cross Road, TWICKENHAM, TW2 5DY
Telephone: 020 8894 0488
Info@maydaygenealogy.co.uk
www.maydaygenealogy.co.uk

© Copyright Friends Of the River Crane Environment
FORCE is a registered charity No.: 1108542
Website: www.force.org.uk
E-mail: info@force.org.uk



Friends Of the River Crane Environment

We have been very pleased to see that the new **backwater channel** in the area of reeds at Hospital Bridge Road has been successful. We hope that in time the channel will help wetland species prevail against bramble encroachment and provide more **habitat for the water voles** that are increasingly re-colonising the lower Crane. It should also reduce public access to the reed bed area and consequent disturbance of wildlife.

The **wildflower meadows** at the junction of Hospital Bridge Road and the Chertsey Road planted by Richmond council last year will be reseeded again this year and we hope that they will be as successful.

FORCE Outdoor Classroom

Over the last couple of years, FORCE has been developing **teaching resources** for local primary schools to use in the outdoor setting of Kneller Gardens and Mereway Nature Park. These cross-curricular resources have been trialled over the last few months and we have held 3 successful training sessions for teachers from local schools. Once the resources are complete we plan for them to be made available via our website, and local participating schools will be given their own copy. We look forward to seeing more local schoolchildren using the park as a learning resource over the next few months.

Public consultations

In recent months, FORCE has responded to a number of public consultations and these are available via our website www.force.org.uk. They have included responses to the Twickenham Station redevelopment plans and the West London Waste disposal plans. Both responses consider the potential impact of the development proposals on the River Crane corridor. We also made representations over 3 days at a public inquiry into the RFU proposals for the development of their North car park. The Inspector granted permission for the scheme and this was made subject to funding of **£95000 for environmental and footpath improvements** along the Duke of Northumberland’s River. These improvements will be managed by Richmond Council and FORCE will be engaged in the process. We had also hoped to persuade the RFU of the need to move back the fence line in order to create a wider footpath and, whilst this was not successful, we were able to raise the awareness of the public, the council and the RFU of the community and environmental value of this part of the DNR corridor.

Shot Tower

FORCE volunteers open the Shot Tower in Crane Park every month on the **1st Sunday of the month** from 1.30pm to 4.30pm in order to allow park users to visit this unique building. We are currently looking for further volunteers to assist us with this duty. If you are interested in helping out please contact info@force.org.uk

Calendar of activities

Date	Location	Activities
May 30 th	Hands May Fair Twickenham Green	FORCE stall. Photo exhibition and competition
July 16 th	St Margaret’s Fair Moornmead Park	FORCE stall. Photo exhibition and other activities
July 31 st	Butts Farm Fun day	FORCE stall. Photo exhibition and other activities
September 11 th	Force Open Day and Friends of Kneller Gardens Dog Show	To be confirmed

Volunteer Days

As always all volunteer days are the second Sunday of the month and everyone is welcome for the day or an hour (or just to say hello and meet some other members). Look on the website for details of future dates.

Kind Regards,

Rob Gray (Chair of FORCE)

This Newsletter is funded for FORCE by: -



Mayday Genealogy

Family History & Genealogy Research Services
89 Third Cross Road, TWICKENHAM, TW2 5DY
Telephone: 020 8894 0488
Info@maydaygenealogy.co.uk
www.maydaygenealogy.co.uk

© Copyright Friends Of the River Crane Environment
FORCE is a registered charity No.: 1108542
Website: www.force.org.uk
E-mail: info@force.org.uk