

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our summer newsletter and the formal launch of our tenth anniversary celebrations; or FORCE 10 as we have titled it! This newsletter sets out some of our plans for FORCE 10, starting with our tenth annual Open Day on 15<sup>th</sup> September. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

### **FORCE Annual Open Day at Kneller Gardens on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September**

The day will start at 12 noon with the official opening of Meadway Orchard by the Deputy Mayor and will be followed by the annual dog show with family entertainments continuing throughout the afternoon, culminating around 5pm with the second running of the Crane Duck Race. Donations of raffle prizes and/or cakes would be very welcome – please e-mail with any offers.

### **Crane Conference at the RFU on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October**

This conference is being organised by London Wildlife Trust, in conjunction with the Crane Valley partnership. It will assess the existing value of the River Crane and help to identify opportunities for investment and improvement over the next five years, gathering together expertise from across London and the UK. FORCE will be speaking at the event and our members are welcome to attend.

On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October FORCE will be leading two river walks, linked to the conference. We shall be going upstream along the Crane and downstream on the DNR, leaving from Kneller Gardens at 10am, and ending with an optional pub lunch at The Sussex Arms and London Apprentice pubs respectively, around 1pm. Registration for these free events should be made direct to LWT at [alex.robb@wildlondon.org.uk](mailto:alex.robb@wildlondon.org.uk)

### **Funding for Improvements**

The October Conference will be the venue for the launch of the £400,000 Thames Water fund, agreed following the October 2011 pollution event. This fund will be managed through the Crane Valley Partnership and will be spent on improvements to the river below the pollution site; a project officer is now in post and we have already held several meetings with her. The Crane Valley Partnership has also been successful in raising £150,000 for the River Crane from the GLA's Big Green Fund. One of the main objectives of the Conference will be to consider the options for investing these and other potential funds in the best interests of the river corridor. NB: the date for the Court Case re: the October 2011 pollution is not known – although latest information is that it will be towards the end of this year.

### **Post Office Sorting Office site and Twickenham Rough**

FORCE attended the planning committee meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> August which approved the creation of a new pathway through the Twickenham Rough, linking the old post office site and Twickenham Station with Craneford Fields and Crane Park to the west. The re-development of the main site was also approved at this meeting and will provide, in addition to new housing, restaurants and an arts community building, a new riverside piazza next to the London Road bridge.

This development will transfer Twickenham Junction Rough into public ownership and secure its long term future as an environmental resource. In addition, it will provide a new entrance into the lower Crane Valley, linking it to the station and central Twickenham.

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### **Mayday Genealogy**

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FORCE secured agreement by the committee for an advisory group to help with the design and long term management of the Rough. One of its first tasks of this group will be to consider the width and routing of the pathway. Design work will start imminently with construction likely to follow on next year.

### College Field Village Green application

The Local Inquiry scheduled for July has been postponed until 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> December and will be held at York House in Twickenham.



### Crane Park Use Surveys

Volunteers undertook the second annual round of park use surveys on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July. Around 1500 people used the Meadway entrance to Crane Park (similar numbers to last year) and over 500 the Dragonfly Terrace adjacent to Butts Farm estate (a third more than last year). There were also many more cyclists this year (30% more at Meadway and 45% more at Dragonfly Terrace) with three quarters continuing to or from Kneller Gardens compared with only half last year.

The results show just how many residents enjoy the river corridor, and that more visitors are choosing to travel along the linked corridor, particularly by bike. The increased use of the Hounslow side of the park is particularly heartening.



### Volunteering

Our new season of Volunteer Days has been finalised and the schedule accompanies this newsletter.

We also helped to run a successful series of weekday volunteering events in the lower Crane valley with The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) this summer and we are looking to secure funding to continue these days, twice per month, over the next year and starting in October. These events are particularly targeted at adults looking for training in practical outdoor skills.

Everyone is very welcome to attend these events – joining in for an hour or the whole day. Working clothes and boots or stout shoes are recommended. Hot and cold drinks are provided but bring lunch if staying the day.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Gray".

Rob Gray, Chair of FORCE

### FORCE Volunteer Days

Date	Location	Activities
13 <sup>th</sup> October	Rifle Club	Maintenance of the Rifle Club site, triangle and the west field; possible hedge laying along Marsh Farm Lane. Also at this event we will be holding the FORCE 10 barbecue. All existing and previous volunteers are invited to attend
10 <sup>th</sup> November	Crane Park Butts Farm	Maintenance of the orchard and planting
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Crane Park Island	Regular day with LWT – willow coppicing and island maintenance
12 <sup>th</sup> January	Meadway Orchard and Crane Park	Orchard and hedgerow maintenance – followed by the opening of a new FORCE carved bench. The likely location is close to the Meadway entrance of Crane Park
9 <sup>th</sup> February	Mereway Nature Park	General maintenance and wild flower planting
9 <sup>th</sup> March	Pevensey Road	Wetland planting of the new ponds and maintenance at Feltham Circles ("Graffiti art" centre)
13 <sup>th</sup> April	Crane Park Mill Road	Maintain hedgerow and scrapes
11 <sup>th</sup> May	Silverhall Park	Annual project day
8 <sup>th</sup> June	Balsam Bash	Repeat of the 2013 joint event with all our partners

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