



Friends Of the River Crane Environment

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the summer 2009 edition of our newsletter. Particular thanks to the many of you who have renewed their memberships. As always, it is very gratifying to have such a high renewal rate. If you have not yet renewed but intend to then this is a gentle reminder.

As always, we have been very busy, developing the proposals for Crane Valley Park, and our plans for the Open Day, among a number of other projects. More information on all of these is provided below.

Crane Valley Park Feasibility Study

This project started around two years ago, considering the feasibility of improving and expanding the existing Crane Park to create a new park along the river of around three times current size and linking Twickenham Station with Hounslow Heath. The **final report** has now been completed and can be seen on the FORCE web site. We welcome comments and suggestions from our members on the findings of the project. You can e-mail the Trustees or talk to us at one of the upcoming events.

We shall be presenting the findings to **two meetings**, one in **Hounslow** borough and the other in **Richmond upon Thames**, and FORCE members as well as councillors and council officers are welcome. The Richmond borough meeting is booked for 7-30pm on **Tuesday 22nd September** in York House in Twickenham. There will also be an opportunity to discuss the proposals at the forthcoming FORCE Open Day.

The feasibility study **steering group**, which includes officers and councillors from the two boroughs as well as representatives from FORCE and London Wildlife Trust, has remained in place to implement the project. The group will have an overseeing role on **various projects** linked to **improving and expanding Crane Park** and some of these are discussed further below.

Mayor's Priority Parks project

The first project meeting was held in June and Portia Baker has been appointed by the steering committee as the full time project manager for the next couple of years. Portia works with Richmond Council parks department and has recently completed the improvements of Terrace Gardens in Richmond. The **steering group** will oversee the project, under the chairmanship of Councillor Linda Nakamura, who is also chair of West Area of Hounslow Borough.

The group, along with Portia, is considering the priorities for investment over the summer and we would be grateful for inputs and **suggestions from our members**. FORCE helped to organise several **focus groups** earlier this summer and we shall also be gathering thoughts and suggestions at the two public meetings and at our open day in September.

Other Major Projects

The BIFFAward project started in spring this year and Sarah Woodcock, London Wildlife Trust, is the project manager. Sarah is developing priorities for environmental and **biodiversity improvements** of Crane Park as one of three project areas along the Crane valley. Her initial work is focussed on identifying and **improving water vole habitat** along the lower Crane corridor. If you would like more information on the BIFFAward project, please contact Sarah at swoodcock@wildlondon.org.uk.

Richmond council, funded by central government, will be investing in **natural play areas** for older children in both Kneller Gardens and Crane Park over the next couple of years. We are in discussion with council officers on this and hope to be able to give more details soon.

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

FORCE is currently developing its response to the proposals by **Airtrack** to develop a large part of **Feltham marshalling yards** as railway stabling as part of the Heathrow T5 rail link. The yards cover some 35 hectares, and are protected as a **Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation**. The loss of this large wildlife site would be a major blow for the environmental value of the Crane valley and we are currently in discussions with Hounslow council and others to decide the best means of responding to the proposal.

FORCE Open Day

This will be held on **Sunday 13th September** and start around 1:30pm with a **dog show** at Kneller Gardens before continuing at Craneford Fields, Twickenham Rifle Club and Marsh Farm Allotments through the afternoon. All the usual activities and entertainments will be provided, along with new events such as a display of **birds of prey** on the field and an opportunity to **try yoga** – all welcome!

Support in the form of **raffle prizes** and cakes for the **cake stall** are always welcome, as well as help on the morning and during the event itself. **Let us know in advance if you can help** with any aspects of the day's events and we look forward to seeing you there!

Kneller Gardens and Mereway Nature Park

We are hopeful that the refurbishment of the pavilion at Kneller will be completed this year – contracts have apparently been let and the work should be starting in the autumn. The new **cycle route** through Kneller Gardens – including a **new bridge** over the Duke of Northumberland's River and a pathway through Mereway Nature Park – may be completed even sooner, being scheduled for September. The bridge was named after a selection from pupils at Trafalgar and Archdeacon Cambridge Schools, and the successful name was **Kingfisher Bridge**.

FORCE has started a major project with local primary schools to develop **outdoor teaching** resources based on these two sites. The initial fieldwork was completed last term and we are very excited about the opportunities for local children to **learn from their environment** – not just in geography and science but also maths, English, poetry – in fact every part of the curriculum.

Volunteer Days

The next season of volunteer days are as follows:

Sunday 11th October	Twickenham Rifle Club and Craneford Fields <i>Management of the hedges, paths and meadow areas – and removal of graffiti from the rifle club.</i>
Sunday 8th November	Crane Park <i>Continuing with the hedge planting started last year</i>
Sunday 13th December	Crane Park Island <i>Our annual visit to Crane Park Island to manage the willows.</i>

As always, you are all welcome for an hour or the whole day.

AGM

Finally, our AGM will be on **Wednesday 21st October** at All Hallows starting at 8pm. Formal documentation should be enclosed with this newsletter. After the formal business, we shall have a talk by a guest speaker.

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