



Friends Of the River Crane Environment

Newsletter Fourteen – Summer 2006

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter, providing you with a regular update on our activities. We are now three months into our new membership year and we are pleased to report that some 70 per cent of our members have renewed their membership, along with a healthy number of new members. Membership numbers are very important for us. Last year, for every £1.00 of membership subscription, we raised approximately £3.00 of further sponsorship, so of course we appreciate your subscriptions. These allow us to undertake some of our project work, but more than this we benefit greatly from knowing you support our work and we always quote our numbers when dealing with other parties as it helps considerably in getting others to listen and negotiate.

Green Chain Walk

Thanks to everyone who came on our second **Green Chain Walk** on 2nd April, when we walked from Ruislip Gardens for some 18 miles through to Twickenham, along an almost continuous green corridor. This was a great success, with around 30 walkers for some or all of the route, in a full range of English weather. The walk provided inspiration for copying some of the good ideas we saw, warnings regarding what can happen in terms of fly tipping and land degradation, and encouragement for promoting further links between different parts of the Green Chain (of which more later). A full report on the walk can be found on our web-site.

FORCE Open Day on 17th September

The fourth annual **FORCE Open Day** will take place on **Sunday 17th September** from 2pm. We shall have activities on all the main sites (Craneford Playing Fields, Mereway, Marsh Farm Allotments and the Rifle Club) and we are very pleased that this year the **Friends of Kneller Gardens** will be joining us with entertainments in the Gardens. As usual there will be lots to do for children and adults alike, with the added incentive this year of a beer tent, and it's all free (except the beer of course). We are also looking for members to help us with preparations or on the day – no particular skills necessary, just enthusiasm, so please get in touch if you can spare a few hours.

Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 20th September

This is formal notification of our third **Annual General Meeting**, to be held at All Hallows Church Hall at the end of Erncroft Way in Twickenham, starting at 8pm. All the Executive and Trustees will be standing for re-election and all members are welcome to put themselves forward for election as Chair, Secretary, Treasurer or Trustee. To do so, please either e-mail FORCE at the address below, or write to our Secretary, Frances Bennett at 41 May Road TWICKENHAM, TW2 6RJ with your name and contact details.

Local Projects

We have continued with small-scale improvement works in the local area over the last few months. The one that seems to have caught the most attention has been the **fox bench in Mereway Nature Park**, constructed with support from the Council's **Civic Pride** scheme. The success of this has been such that we are considering applying for further grant money to do others in a similar vein elsewhere.

This Newsletter is funded for FORCE by:-



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Volunteer Day Programme

The programme for the first half of our new season of volunteer days is as follows:

Sunday 10th September	Craneford Playing Fields and Mereway Nature Park <i>Tidying and preparation work for the Open Day.</i>
Saturday 14th October:	Moormead Park <i>Held on a Saturday, in a break with tradition, so as to run a joint volunteer event with the Friends of Moormead Park, planting bulbs and making the park more environmentally friendly</i>
Sunday 12th November:	Rifle Club and Triangle <i>Planting and maintenance, followed by the annual BBQ at 5pm – all welcome.</i>
Sunday 10th December:	Crane Park Island <i>Our traditional December visit to the island to coppice willows. Note that all the coppiced pieces will be available afterwards for willow weaving, bean poles, flower displays etc.</i>

Larger Projects

We are continuing to develop our plans for an improved and enlarged Crane Park, to be known as “**Crane Riverside Park**”. We have received support from Richmond and Hounslow Council for our outline plans (which can be seen on our web-site) and we are currently investigating funding options with London Wildlife Trust and others.

In May this year the Environment Agency launched the **North London Rivers Restoration Strategy**, which proposes an ambitious programme of improvements and restorations to urban rivers including the Crane. We are already in discussions with the Agency on options for improvement of our river.

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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