



Friends Of the River Crane Environment

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our **Summer 2008 newsletter**. Many thanks to all who have renewed your membership for this year (2008-2009). We are pleased to say that our annual renewal rates are very healthy at over 80 per cent and we take great 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. Also – please don't forget the **Gift Aid**. Last year we raised some £400 by this means, it doesn't cost you anything and you only need to be paying more tax than your Gift Aid total over the year to be eligible.

FORCE Open Day

Our Annual Open Day is on **Sunday 7th September** and we hope you all have it in your diaries. The day will start with a **dog show in Kneller Gardens** from 12-30pm and all dogs and owners are welcome to enter on the day. Activities will continue across our sites from 2pm in **Mereway Nature Park** and **CraneFord Fields** with information, herb walks and food tasting for adults; **story telling**, face painting and **lots of fun activities for children**. The Rifle Club will be open for **shooting practice** and tea & cakes and there will be exhibitions of produce on **Marsh Farm Allotments**. Come along, bring a picnic and meet your neighbours- and enjoy a pint of locally brewed Crane Sundancer from **Twickenham Fine Ales**.

FORCE volunteers will be preparing the sites on Saturday 6th September and we'll be on site from 9-30 on the Sunday to set up the stalls. The success of this event is very dependent on having enough volunteers, particularly on the **Sunday morning**, to erect tents, gazebos, etc. So, if it is at all possible for you to spare some time to help it would be **very much appreciated**. Also any donations of cakes, etc. for the tea stall would be welcomed.

FORCE AGM

The AGM will be held on **Wednesday 24th September** at All Hallows church from 7pm. Forms are enclosed for anyone who would like to be put forward for **nomination to the Committee** of FORCE at the AGM or propose a resolution to the AGM. We welcome interest from any prospective Trustees and will be happy to meet and talk about the work we do and your potential role and responsibilities. There will be short presentations on the main achievements of the previous year and a discussion on the objectives for 2008-09. This will be followed by a talk from **Dr Anne Todd of London Wildlife Trust** on her work as a historian of the River Crane corridor.

Volunteer Days

We have completed another season of volunteer days and we're taking a well earned rest before the **next season starts in October**. For the last couple of volunteer days we were joined by offenders on the Community Payback Scheme in re-painting the underpass on the Duke of Northumberland's River and installing posts to restrict parking on Mereway Nature Park. They proved to be an energetic and hard working group and we are planning to repeat the exercise next season. Many thanks to the **South Twickenham Safer Neighbourhood Team** for organising this for us.

The new season is set out below. As usual, they are 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

89 Third Cross Road, TWICKENHAM, TW2 5DY
Telephone: 020 8894 0488
Info@maydaygenealogy.co.uk
www.maydaygenealogy.co.uk

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FORCE is a registered charity No.: 1108542

Website: www.force.org.uk

E-mail: info@force.org.uk



Friends Of the River Crane Environment

Volunteer Days

Sunday 12 th October	Craneford Fields <i>Path maintenance through the triangle and meadow cutting.</i>
Sunday 9 th November	Rifle Club <i>Graffiti removal, hedge management and starting work on a kingfisher bank.</i>
Sunday 14 th December	Crane Park Island <i>Our annual visit to the Island to manage the willows. This is also an opportunity for volunteers to collect lengths of willow.</i>
Sunday 11 th January	Mereway Nature Park & Kneller Gardens <i>Maintenance of these two important sites</i>
Sunday 8 th February	Crane Park - Hospital Bridge Rd <i>Site improvement project – subject to funding</i>
Sunday 8 th March	As Above <i>As above</i>
Sunday 12 th April	[To Be Decided]

Note that the venue for April is not yet confirmed – we will be happy to consider proposals from our members at any time for this and future volunteer days

Crane Riverside Park

The **interim report** for this project has been released and is available on our web-site along with an Executive Summary. The report has been well received in presentations to **Richmond and Hounslow Councils** as well as the **GLA**. We are hopeful that a new park, incorporating many of the areas along the Crane including the existing Crane Park, can be created in the relatively near future and be provided with **Metropolitan Park status**. The project is continuing and we expect to have the final report by the end of 2008.

Development proposals at Mogden Sewage Works and Richmond College

FORCE has submitted a formal response to the planning application to increase substantially the capacity of **Mogden Sewage Treatment Works** and we are meeting with Thames Water to **discuss our concerns** in the near future. FORCE is currently submitting a response to the draft **Development Brief** for the proposed Richmond Upon Thames College **re-development**. Both these responses will be posted on our web-site.

Kneller Gardens Pavilion

We are pleased to say that the Council has given the **go-ahead**, subject to planning permission, to renovate the **pavilion at Kneller Gardens**, complete with public toilets and a kiosk. Many thanks are due to the **Friends of Kneller Gardens** for their work on this project. The building work is due to be completed by the end of March 2009. The design plans for the proposed renovations will be available for park users to view at the Dog Show in Kneller Gardens on 7th September.

Thanks for your support over another year and we look forward to seeing many of you at our Open Day and AGM,

Kind regards,
Rob Gray (Chair of FORCE)

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