



## Friends Of the River Crane Environment

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our winter 2010 newsletter. FORCE is busier than ever this year. Recently, we put together a list of open space related projects in the lower Crane valley and discovered there are **projects** with a confirmed funding of around **£1m in place** with potential projects of a further **£1m in the pipeline**. Many of these are mentioned in this newsletter. This list indicates both the scale of success FORCE and others have had in **raising the profile of the Crane valley** and the challenge we now face in ensuring these funds are invested to maximise the benefit for the environment and local people.

Fortunately, the group of people actively engaged in supporting this process continues to grow. FORCE Trustees appreciate the support of all our members and we will be happy to discuss any ideas and suggestions for your further active support to any of these projects.

### Crane Valley Park

The Mayor's **Priority Parks** project, funded through the GLA to the tune of **£400,000**, is now consulting on some key design issues. FORCE is actively engaged in this project, with seats on the steering group and regular meetings with the project manager. We are very keen for all our members to influence the project through this **consultation**, by filling in the questionnaire and submitting your own thoughts and suggestions. More information and the questionnaire can be found at [www.richmond.gov.uk/crane\\_park](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/crane_park) or [www.hounslow.info/parks/cranevalley/index.htm](http://www.hounslow.info/parks/cranevalley/index.htm) and hard copies will be available at your **local library**. Formal consultation closes on **28th February 2010**.

### My River Crane – Exhibition

FORCE is putting together an **exhibition** of current **photographs** and historical images from the Crane valley that will tour **Richmond and Hounslow** from **March to September** this year. We are currently collating images including **historical** ones, and would be very grateful for any information from our members. The exhibition will be launched by the leaders of the two councils (Cllr Serge Lourie and Cllr Peter Thompson) on **Monday 15th March** at Crane Park School on Norman Avenue (TW13 5LN). All our members are invited to attend and the evening will start at 7pm.

The exhibition will then **tour local schools, libraries and summer fairs** before a planned appearance at **Orleans Gallery** in the autumn. A flickr website accompanies the exhibition at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/cranevalley/collections>. This will display the exhibited images alongside space for everyone to upload their own images of the Crane valley. Please visit the website and submit **your own favourite images** of the River Crane at <http://www.flickr.com/groups/myrivercrane>. Alternatively, images can also be forwarded to [myrivercrane@force.org.uk](mailto:myrivercrane@force.org.uk) and we will include them on the website.

### Wildflower Meadows

Richmond council is to develop two areas of **wildflower meadows** in Crane Park, one on either side of **Hospital Bridge Road**. FORCE is supportive of this scheme, which is due to start this spring and should result in a profusion of wild flowers to brighten up this part of the park.

### Kneller Gardens

The work on the **pavilion** at Kneller, incorporating new public toilets and changing rooms, is due to be completed in the next couple of months and we are hopeful that the **café, to be run by Richmond Youth Partnership**, will be opening in the spring. The council is also finalising its plans for **new play equipment** for older children as part of the government funded “**Play Builders**” project and this should also be installed this spring.

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](http://www.force.org.uk)  
E-mail: [info@force.org.uk](mailto:info@force.org.uk)



**Friends Of the River Crane Environment**

Meanwhile the **EDF work** in the park is almost complete for the time being, but more work is scheduled for this summer. FORCE has been meeting the council regularly to try to minimise the impact of these works and we remain hopeful that EDF will fund the **re-painting and renovation** of the old bridge across the Crane in mitigation for the inconvenience the work has caused to park users.

**Feltham Marshalling Yards**

Many of you will know of the proposals by BAA to build over much of this large wildlife rich site, adjacent to the Crane, as part of the **Airtrack** project. FORCE is tracking this project and has been in discussion with BAA, its consultants and Hounslow council to try to minimise the impact and **ensure proper compensation** is provided for the losses sustained. The Department for Transport has recently announced the **Public Inquiry** for the scheme has been delayed until this autumn. We shall keep you informed as the project progresses.

**Green Guardian Award 2009**

FORCE has been announced as “**Green Group of the year for Hounslow**” in the Green Guardian awards 2009. It is particularly gratifying to receive an award for **Hounslow borough** and reflects the increased efforts we have been making in the borough. Many thanks to all of you who have contributed to our work in the Hounslow parts of the Crane valley.

**Volunteer Days**

The recent heavy snow caused us to cancel our January volunteer day, the first time we have done this in our seven years, and we have now re-scheduled the programme as follows:

<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Crane Park – Mill Road Area</b> <i>Hedge planting and path management.</i>
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Mereway Nature Park</b> <i>Planting new hedges, creating a “dead hedge” for wildlife, and a wild flower meadow.</i>
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Hounslow side of Crane Park</b> <i>Path creation and rubbish clearance.</i>
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Crane Park – Hospital Bridge Road</b> <i>Wetland creation – including construction of a kingfisher bank.</i>

We are pleased to say there are also several other local volunteer activities planned for the coming months:

<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Crane Park Hospital Bridge Road</b> <i>Hedge planting with Whitton School and BTCV.</i>
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Mereway Nature Park</b> <i>Environment Trust for Richmond volunteer morning.</i>
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Crane Park</b> <i>BTCV hedge planting.</i>
<b>Every last Sunday of the month</b>	<b>Crane Park Island</b> <i>Volunteer work with London Wildlife Trust.</i>

As always, you are all welcome to come along for an hour or the whole day. Remember to wear old clothes and stout shoes. If you don't feel up to taking part come along and say hello.

Kind regards,

Rob Gray, Chair, on behalf 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](http://www.force.org.uk)  
E-mail: [info@force.org.uk](mailto:info@force.org.uk)