

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our summer newsletter. There is plenty to update you on, most notably new and improved public access routes (both on the ground and in the pipeline), and a new programme of volunteering, walks and talks. Full details are also enclosed regarding this year's FORCE AGM, to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> September at the Twickenham Club in Church Street.

### Duke's River Project

The latest elements of this project to be delivered are the improvements along the short section between A316 and Chase Bridge in Whitton. The path has been re-laid and widened and new marginal vegetation introduced. This includes the first installation in west London of floating marginal wetland systems known as "Biohavens".



Children from Chase Bridge Primary School and Isleworth Town Primary School have helped us design a logo for the Duke's River Walk, which will be displayed on new site maps, waymarkers and leaflets. Once installed we hope that they will help to introduce the walk to the local

communities along the river.

The major section of the walk remaining to be improved is the 700 metres along the side of the RFU stadium. This requires an agreement with the RFU to widen the pathway to allow safe access for pushchairs, wheelchairs and bicycles. FORCE, along with Richmond and Hounslow councils, are continuing to press for this agreement, and we are still hopeful it will eventually be delivered.

### A New Walk from Kneller Gardens to Twickenham Station

There has been considerable progress in delivering this new link, funded in large part by Section 106 monies from Harlequins' Challenge Court and The Brewery Wharf developments. There is a widened and re-laid pathway around the council depot, with a new fence replacing the ugly and graffiti ridden boundary wall. Most recently a new path has been installed along the riverside through Craneford West playing field and the triangle copse linking into Marsh Farm Lane.

A new path is also now being installed through Twickenham Junction Rough - by St James developers as part of the Brewery Wharf project. This is due to be complete, with the land transferred into public ownership, by the end of 2016.

### Events



### A performance of Peter Rabbit at Silverhall Park

FORCE has attended fairs at Twickenham Green and Silverhall Park this summer. We are looking forward to the Kneller Gardens Community Event and dog show for junior handlers on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September, starting with registration from 12pm and the main events from 1pm. where we shall have an exhibition stand showing the exhibition about the history of the Mill at Mill Road which was put together by Year 6 at Trafalgar School. We will also be running the fourth annual Crane valley duck race.



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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Registered Company No.: 8383410  
Website: www.force.org.uk  
E-mail: info@force.org.uk

The FORCE AGM will be held from 8pm on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September at the Twickenham Club in Church Street, Twickenham. All members are very welcome to attend. Following formal business, and an overview of last year's activity, there will be a presentation (TBC).

We are actively seeking new trustees and would be very pleased to hear from anyone interested in taking on this role. Please contact [info@force.org.uk](mailto:info@force.org.uk) if you would like to get involved in this way.

### Walks and Talks

Our latest series of walks and talks are in full swing and have been well attended over the summer. Highlights in the coming months include "The highwaymen and women of Hounslow Heath" and the "Citizen Crane" project, both in October, with three walks along the full length of the river (from Headstone Manor, Harrow to Isleworth) early in the New Year.

A new season of walks and talks is also being prepared for 2017, and these will focus on the Duke's River. Further information on these can be found on the attached events listing with more details on our web-site and Facebook page in due course.

### Volunteer Days

The new FORCE season of volunteer days has been finalised, and will start on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October with the first ever public event on Twickenham Junction Rough, working together with volunteers from St James. As this will still be a working site all volunteers are asked to arrive by 10-30am at the main site entrance for a health and safety briefing. The rest of the season will all be on public sites, and everyone is welcome for the whole day, an hour, or just to say hello, as normal.

Much of the volunteer work in the Crane valley is delivered through collaboration with TCV (The Conservation Volunteers). TCV are running three regular weekly green gyms in Pevensy (Mondays), Hounslow Heath (Tuesdays) and Mereway Nature Park (Wednesdays). More information can be found on their web-site or through contacting Nadia Ward [n.ward@tcv.org.uk](mailto:n.ward@tcv.org.uk)

TCV has also run a series of community learning events with FORCE throughout the year, including hedge laying, meadow scything and wetland management. These sessions are an opportunity to learn traditional conservation techniques from experts and in addition to learning new skills the methods used by volunteers at these events have environmental benefits. Subject to funding a new series of events is planned for 2017.

### Use Surveys

Our latest survey of public use of Crane Park, on 17<sup>th</sup> July, witnessed record usage of the park. Nearly 1800 people entered the park at Meadway and over 500 people were counted at the Dragonfly Terrace next to the Butts Farm estate. The fine weather was clearly a factor, although anecdotal evidence supports the idea that the park is at least as well used now as it has ever been.

Incidentally, if anyone is interested in helping us to analyse and interpret these data we would be very grateful. We have records over several years now and it would be fascinating to reveal how much information is held in them. We have already found these data of great help in quantifying park use, and illustrating to parks departments and local politicians the value and importance of these local open spaces.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our AGM and/or one of our many events over the coming months. Thanks again for all your support,

Regards,



Rob Gray,  
Chair of FORCE

**FORCE Volunteer Days and Activity Programme**

Date	Location	Activities
<b>2016</b>		
3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Shot Tower, Crane Park 10.00am-11.00am	Walk & Talk (Family Friendly) Mindfulness Walk
8 <sup>th</sup> October	Shot Tower Crane Park 10.30am-1.30pm	Printmaking (LWT)
9 <sup>th</sup> October**	FORCE Volunteer Sunday Twickenham Junction Rough (Prompt 10:15 start for site induction)	Woodland flower planting, hedge planting, ivy removal, rubbish removal
15 <sup>th</sup> October	Mill Road, Crane Park 10.00am-12.00pm	Walk & Talk River Invertebrates (& Citizen Crane)
19 <sup>th</sup> October	Shot Tower, Crane Park 10.30am	Walk & Talk Fungi walk
29 <sup>th</sup> October	Shot Tower, Crane Park 10.30am-12.30pm	Walk & Talk Highwaymen (& women) of Hounslow Heath
13 <sup>th</sup> November*	FORCE Volunteer Sunday Twickenham Rifle Club, Craneford West Field	Hedge maintenance, tree planting & maintenance, litter picking
11 <sup>th</sup> December*	FORCE Volunteer Sunday Crane Park Island	Willow pollarding, coppicing, litter clearance
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Shot Tower Crane Park 10.30am-1.30pm	Willow weaving: lanterns and night walk (LWT)
<b>2017</b>		
8 <sup>th</sup> January*	FORCE Volunteer Sunday Willow Way/ Hospital Bridge Road	Path maintenance, ivy removal, riverbank planting, hedge maintenance
12 <sup>th</sup> February*	FORCE Volunteer Sunday Venue To Be Confirmed	
25 <sup>th</sup> February	Details sent at registration	From the Source to the Thames: a walk along the River Crane (in three parts)
12 <sup>th</sup> March*	FORCE Volunteer Sunday Venue To Be Confirmed	
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Details sent at registration	From the Source to the Thames: a walk along the River Crane (in three parts)
9 <sup>th</sup> April	FORCE Volunteer Sunday Venue To Be Confirmed	
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Details sent at registration	From the Source to the Thames: a walk along the River Crane (in three parts)

Walk and talks events are free but registration is essential. To register go to the events page on the FORCE website <http://e-voice.org.uk/force/calendar/view> and follow the links.

\*FORCE volunteer events start at 10-30am; join us for an hour or the whole day. Hot drinks are provided but bring a packed lunch if staying the day. Please wear stout shoes or boots and old clothes.

\*\* Please note that the Volunteer Day on 9<sup>th</sup> October has a prompt 10:15 start time for a site induction by St James, the developers of Brewery Wharf \*\*