

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our autumn 2016 newsletter. Thank you to all our members who attended the AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> September. An annual report of our activities last year was produced for the AGM and can now be downloaded from the web-site.

Last year, as part of setting up the new charity structure, we had to change our bank account, and this required all those members paying by standing order to set up new ones. Many of you have done this – thank-you – but many others haven't, and there has been a significant reduction in membership numbers as a result. We know that these things can slip to the bottom of the "To Do" list and have therefore extended the period of grace for late payments to the end of the year.

Those of you who have yet to renew will have received a separate note with details about how to do it. If you value the work we do, please renew, as a vibrant and growing membership is important to us. If you require any assistance, please contact the Membership Secretary at [mikeday.force@btinternet.com](mailto:mikeday.force@btinternet.com)

### Duke's River Project

The **signage and map boards** for the 4km route along the Duke's River, linking Twickenham with Isleworth, are due to be installed early 2017 and new leaflets, showing the route and including information on its environmental and heritage value, have been printed and will be available in local libraries and at our events.

Survey work shows a healthy distribution of water voles and bats throughout the river corridor, and the reports are available on our web-site. We will be working with the two councils to protect and enhance



the habitats for these protected species during our ongoing work.

Works are continuing on the ground at both Chase Bridge and Riverside Walk, to improve the riverside habitat, and discussions are ongoing for further improvements at Silverhall Park.

The need for improvement along the RFU reach of the river is becoming more pressing – the monies are in place from LB Richmond, but there is still no agreement with the RFU for setting back the fence.

### Walks and Talks

The 2016 season of walks and talks have been very well received with **over 200 people** attending them and finding out more about the river and its green spaces. The 2017 season is coming together and the first few events are listed in our programme. These include another opportunity to explore the whole river, over three Saturday mornings and this time starting at the top of the catchment in January when we will be at Headstone Manor site of a medieval moated farm house and source of the River Crane. The walks will continue downstream in February, March and April. We are also running a series of walks throughout next year along the Duke of Northumberland's River starting in January with a photographic walk.

### Mystery Mill

An exhibition at Twickenham Museum, which was a joint project between FORCE and the Trafalgar Junior School, considers the history of the Mill at Mill Road and Fulwell Park. Entry is free.

### The Mystery Mill



An exhibition by Trafalgar Junior School which explores the history of Fulwell Mill and Mill Road, Twickenham

Twickenham Museum  
25 The Embankment, Twickenham  
October 2016



### Citizen Crane

This project, undertaken in conjunction with The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and Frog Environmental, and with the help of a network of 50 volunteers, monitors water quality and ecological value every month at 11 sites throughout the Crane catchment.

This summer we also undertook an **"outfall safari"**, volunteers walking the full 30km length of the river, recording and assessing a total of 235 surface water outfalls. Eight of these were deemed to be sufficiently polluting for immediate investigation by the Environment Agency, and the overall data set will be of great value in prioritising investment by Thames Water.



Plans for a third year of monitoring are currently being developed. More details of the project, including all the reports to date, can be found on the Crane Valley Partnership web-site.

This Newsletter is funded for FORCE by: -



### Mayday Genealogy

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Youtube: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCaeesHyZO2bzQnqLrOrw6dw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaeesHyZO2bzQnqLrOrw6dw)

### Kneller Gardens to Twickenham Station

The **new pathway** through Twickenham Junction Rough is being constructed and the works are on schedule for opening the path and the associated open space this winter. On completion, this will be the largest new area of public open space to be created in Richmond borough for years and a major achievement for the Crane Valley.

In October FORCE held a volunteer day on the site with staff from the developer St James, the first time that the public has been able to access the site.



### Volunteer Days

The new FORCE season of volunteer days started in October with a visit to Twickenham Junction Rough, followed by a day on the Rifle Club grounds and Craneford Fields in November. We will be visiting several other key sites in the coming months, always on the second Sunday of the month, and as listed in the programme. Everyone is very welcome to join in for an hour or the whole day; or just pop along, have a chat and see what we get up to.

TCV are also very busy in the Crane catchment in the coming months. There are opportunities to learn traditional skills with them such as pollarding, dead hedge creation and live hedge laying over the next few months, with courses in wetland management and scything hopefully to follow in the spring and summer of next year.

### Usage Surveys

FORCE will be holding our **tenth bi-annual** park usage surveys on Sunday 15th January 2017 at the Meadway entrance to Crane Park, and the Dragonfly Terrace, between 8 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. If you can spare an hour or two to help with the surveys at the Meadway, you will be most welcome. The counting is very straightforward, full instructions are given, and help is always on hand.

The usage surveys are very important in helping us to understand how the local community is using its open spaces, and in helping us to build the case for more investment in our open spaces. Please contact [info@force.org.uk](mailto:info@force.org.uk) if you are interested in helping.

### Planning

FORCE has recently submitted responses to consultations on floodlighting at the Sports Club on Green Lane, Hounslow, and Development Control for Noise Generating and Noise Sensitive Development as part of the Supplementary Planning Document for the London Boroughs of Hillingdon, Hounslow and Richmond upon Thames. We are in the process of developing a response to the consultation on the proposal to extract gravel from the site of Rectory Farm, Hounslow and will respond to the appeal for Hounslow Heath.

### Communications

We have been running a **Facebook** account for a few years now and have recently revived our **Twitter** account. We have also set up a **YouTube** page where you can see a short film made about the Citizen Crane project. Links to all these are provided at the end of this newsletter.

### FORCE Management

The Board of FORCE has been strengthened by the addition of three new co-opted members, Alison Horwood, Alan Charles and Nic Rigby, who have already started working on a new communications portfolio as well as analysing our long-term survey data.

We remain interested in recruiting more support across various portfolios, including membership, planning, communications, education and community, and wildlife. Each role would be developed subject to the interests and experience of the individual and would be supporting the development of these work portfolios and (at least initially and potentially throughout) without any Board responsibilities.

Please let us know if you would be interested in a role with us and we can arrange an initial chat regarding the opportunities available. In the mean time we look forward to seeing you at one of our events in 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>  |  |   |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> December*                           | FORCE Volunteer Sunday<br>Outdoor Classroom, Hanworth Road end of Crane Park   | Clearing around the hazel grove, pollarding/coppicing trees along the river and repairing a small stream crossing |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> December                            | Shot Tower Crane Park<br>10.30am-1.30pm  | Willow weaving: lanterns and night walk (LWT) FULLY BOOKED  |
| <b>2017</b>  |  |   |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> January*                             | FORCE Volunteer Sunday<br>Willow Way/ Hospital Bridge Road   | Path maintenance, ivy removal, riverbank planting, hedge maintenance  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> January<br>12 <sup>th</sup> January | FORCE Community Learning led by TCV for further details see <a href="http://www.tcv.org.uk/london/richmond">www.tcv.org.uk/london/richmond</a> or contact <a href="mailto:richmond@tcv.org.uk">richmond@tcv.org.uk</a> | Pollarding in Crane Park  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> January<br>19 <sup>th</sup> January | FORCE Community Learning led by TCV  | Pollarding in Crane Park  |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> January                             | FORCE Community Learning led by TCV  | Hedge laying in Crane Park  |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> January                             | Duke of Northumberland's River (DNR) (8.30am St John the Baptist Church, St John's Road, Isleworth to Crane Park)  | Walk & Talk - Photography on the DNR – Dan Keel   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> February                             | FORCE Community Learning led by TCV for further details see <a href="http://www.tcv.org.uk/london/richmond">www.tcv.org.uk/london/richmond</a> or contact <a href="mailto:richmond@tcv.org.uk">richmond@tcv.org.uk</a> | Hedge laying in Crane Park  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> February                             | FORCE Community Learning led by TCV  | Hedge laying in Crane Park  |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> February*                           | FORCE Volunteer Sunday<br>Crane Park – Mill Road   | Hedging maintenance, Hedge planting in gaps, Maintenance of scrapes   |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> February                            | FORCE Community Learning led by TCV  | Hedge laying in Crane Park  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> February                            | Kneller Gardens to Isleworth   | Walk & Talk – Walk from Kneller Gardens to Isleworth led by FORCE Trustees  |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> February                            | Roxbourne Park to Bulls Bridge<br>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<br>Crane Park – Butts Farm  | Programme of work to be decided   |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> March                               | Bulls Bridge to Hanworth Road<br>Details sent at registration  | From the Source to the Thames: a walk along the River Crane (in three parts)                                      |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> March                               | Mogden Sewage Works – (5.30pm Gatehouse off Whitiion Dene)   | Walk & Talk – Mogden Sewage Works – Lydia Blake (Adults Only)   |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> April*                               | FORCE Volunteer Sunday<br>Pevensey Nature Reserve  | Programme of work to be decided   |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> April                               | Hanworth Road to Isleworth<br>Details sent at registration   | From the Source to the Thames: a walk along the River Crane (in three parts)                                      |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> May*                                | FORCE Volunteer Sunday<br>Mereway Nature Park  | Location and programme of work to be decided  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> May                                 | Birds on the DNR   | Walk & Talk - Birds on the DNR – Keith Martin   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> June                                 | Wildlife at Mogden   | Walk & Talk – Wildlife at Mogden – Lydia Blake  |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> June                                | Crane Park – Trees as a habitat  | Child Friendly Walk & Talk – Trees as a habitat (with LBRuT) – Jane Crowther, Tree Officer                        |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> June*                               | FORCE Volunteer Sunday<br>Crane Park - Hospital Bridge Road  | Our annual balsam batch   |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> August                               | Crane Park – Mindfulness   | Walk & Talk – Mindfulness – Andrea Horsfield  |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> August                              | DNR Isleworth to Kneller Gardens   | Children's walk along DNR – Bug Hunt in Silverhall Park   |

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. FORCE volunteer Sundays from February onward may be subject to change.