

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our autumn 2018 newsletter, highlighting some of our activities over the last three months. As you will see we continue to be very busy and – in line with our determination to remain as a volunteer only organisation – we are looking to recruit two new Trustees and several more active volunteers to support our work – as detailed below.

Thank you to everyone who met up with us at the Kneller Open Day in September. Our next major event will be our AGM and we hope to see many of you there.

Chris Hern MBE

Chris Hern stepped down as a FORCE Trustee in August this year. Chris has been a Trustee since FORCE was formed in 2003. We are grateful for his long service and shall miss his knowledge and advice, particularly on planning matters.

FORCE AGM

Our AGM is set for Monday 26th November, meeting at the Twickenham Club on Church Street, Twickenham at 8pm. Trustees will summarise our work over the last year and there will be an opportunity for questions and discussion. Following formal business Colin Cooper, CEO of South West London Environment Network (SWLEN) will introduce the work being done to update the Richmond Biodiversity Action Plans. All members are very welcome to attend.

Twickenham Junction Rough

We were delighted to see the formal opening of the pathway and associated public open space known as Twickenham Junction Rough last month. This new riverside pathway links Twickenham Station with Marsh Farm Lane and onwards into Crane Park. The first FORCE volunteer day of the new season was held there on 14th October, when we also opened a new carved bench, dedicated to FORCE Trustee Dr Tim Elson, who died in January.



FORCE Trustees past and present at the opening of the new bench in memory of Tim

Twickenham Station Development

We have been in long term discussions with the station developers about the proposed new pathway through the site and associated riverside space, which will further extend the Crane Path, linking Moormead Park in St Margarets with the station.

Work on this pathway started this month when we held our November volunteer day on the site alongside representatives from the contractors. Further details of our season of volunteer days are provided in the programme below and on our web-site.

Dukes River Pathway and the RFU Site

We are delighted to say that the RFU has reached an agreement with LB Richmond to set back their fence and thereby allow the final stretch of the Duke's River pathway to be completed – the path being widened and graveled with the riverside habitat also improved. Initial habitat works were completed by TCV volunteers in September and the main path works are scheduled for this winter.

Heathrow Discussions

FORCE are in discussion with Heathrow Airport Ltd in respect of a mutual "Non-Disclosure Agreement". The purpose is to allow both parties to share information in order to inform the Heathrow masterplan and design in a collaborative manner.

This Newsletter is funded for FORCE by: -



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FORCE's intention is to actively engage with the proposals being developed for the airport and the surrounding area at an early stage before anything is fixed. We shall be putting forward the case for protected and enhanced green corridors along the River Crane and elsewhere in accordance with our Objects. FORCE's position regarding a Third Runway remains as per March 2018, as set out in our Objection submitted to the Department for Transport consultation, which can be seen on the planning pages of our web-site

Wildlife Surveys

Through our Community Learning programme, FORCE volunteers supported a survey of small mammals and reptiles in Crane Park. The survey located short tailed mice, wood mice and bank vole, along with evidence for a shrew. We did not locate any reptiles, though we received recent sightings of grass snakes and slow worms and would appreciate any further sightings from you. We are currently seeking funding to continue the Community Learning, including further wildlife surveys, next year.



Short tailed vole from the summer survey

We also worked with ZSL and the Institute of Fisheries Management to run an initial survey of fish in the tidal Crane. We were excited to find eight fish species in a three-hour survey over the low tide – stickleback; dace; chubb; stone loach; common goby; flounder; minnow and eel. We hope to repeat this work on a larger scale next summer.

Volunteer Activities

The new season of FORCE volunteer days has started and will continue every second Sunday of the month through to June 2019. A new season of community learning events will also start this winter – with coppicing and river management works as well as hedge laying and maintenance planned.

The three Green Gyms continue to run every week and two of them – at Hounslow heath and Pevensy Road - are now run independently by volunteers with support from Hounslow council. We are currently working with TCV and developer Segro to set up a fourth Green Gym on the Causeway Site near to Heathrow.

Walks and Talks

A new season will be starting in January 2019 and events are planned every month – with details below. All events are free, but booking is essential. If you do book and then cannot make it please let us know as numbers are limited and there is often a waiting list.

Looking for Volunteers

For the last few years FORCE has operated through work portfolios and partnerships, greatly enhancing the scope and scale of what we help to deliver. At present though we are in a period of unprecedented challenges and opportunities for the Crane valley and we need to recruit more volunteers to support these work portfolios – potentially including a couple of new Trustees.

We are currently looking for people with an interest in community engagement; book keeping; planning policy; site management planning; and data analysis. We are looking for a new Secretary for the charity/Company.

Anyone interested in volunteering with us please contact any Trustee or email info@force.org.uk and we would be very happy to meet for an initial chat.

Regards,

Rob Gray,
Chair of FORCE



Volunteer Days and Activities Programme

Date	Event and Location	Activities
9 th December	Willow Way*	FORCE volunteer day
13 th January	Crane Park - Hanworth Road*	FORCE volunteer day
January 2019 (date tbc)	History Talk by Katy Cox Venue to be confirmed	Topic to be confirmed
10 th February	Brazil Mill and Donkey Woods*	FORCE volunteer day
23 February 10:30 – 12:00	Walk & Talk: the underwater World of the River Crane. Venue to be confirmed	A talk on local river life by an expert followed by a walk along the Crane.
9 March 11:00 – 12:30	Mindfulness Walk. Shot Tower - Crane Park	A walk along the River Crane - including periods of mindful movement, meditation, silence and reflection
10 th March	Crane Park - Butts Farm*	FORCE volunteer day
14 th April	Duke's River – Riverside Walk*	FORCE volunteer day
20 April 10:30 – 12:00	Spring walk along the rivers from Kneller Gardens to Isleworth	A walk on the River Crane and Duke's River, followed by an opportunity for a pub lunch!
5 May 04:30 – 06:00	Celebration of the Dawn Chorus. Shot Tower - Crane Park	Celebrate International Dawn Chorus Day with an early morning bird walk led by an expert
12 th May	Duke's River – RFU reach*	FORCE volunteer day
9 th June	Crane Park – Hospital Bridge Rd*	FORCE volunteer day
29 June 10:00 – 13:00	Three Rivers Walk 1: Kneller Gardens via Twickenham Rough to Isleworth	A walk taking in the three rivers ... Crane, Duke's and Thames; noting historical sites, ecology and wildlife
24 July 10:30 – 12:00	Butterfly Walk Mereway Nature Reserve	A butterfly walk for families, to co-ordinate with the "Big Butterfly Count"
17 August 11:00 -12:00	Photography for Children Kneller Gardens	A childrens' activity taking photographs of local plants and wildlife
28 August 7.50 to 9.30pm	Bat Walk Kneller Gardens	An evening bat walk led by an expert
8 September 11:00 – 12:30	Mindfulness Walk Mereway Nature Park	A walk in Mereway nature park beside the River Crane - including periods of mindful movement, meditation, silence and reflection
21 September 10:30 – 12:00	River Dipping for Invertebrates Crane Park near Ellerman Avenue	A family event looking at the invertebrate life in the river
19 October 10:00 – 13:00	Three Rivers Walk 2: Pevensey Nature Reserve	A circular walk along three rivers: Crane, Longford and upper Duke's

*Preliminary location for FORCE Volunteer Day. Check the web-site nearer the time for confirmation

Walk and talk events are free but registration is essential. Go to the events page on the FORCE website <https://www.force.org.uk/calendar/> and follow the links. All other events are free, and no registration is necessary. More information is available through the FORCE and/or TCV web-sites.

There are three Green Gyms operating along the River Crane. All are free with no booking required. Everyone can join in this gentle exercise in a social environment whilst working together to improve local riverside spaces. You can turn up on the day (10.45am to 2pm) or contact TCV Green Gym for more information.

Pevensey Road Green Gym Rangers meets every Monday

Hounslow Heath Green Gym Rangers meets every Tuesday

Richmond Green Gym meets every Wednesday at Kneller Gardens – call Chloe on 07717 494476

For more information: www.tcv.org.uk/london/green-gym-london