



Friends of the River Crane
Environment
C/o South West London Environment
E.T.N.A. Community Centre,
13 Rosslyn Road,
Twickenham, TW1 2AR

FINAL

Press Release – 2 June 2019.

**Friends of the River Crane Environment (FORCE)
receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2019**

The Friends of the River Crane Environment (FORCE) are delighted to announce they have been honoured with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK. This award was created by HM The Queen in 2002 to celebrate the anniversary of her coronation and recognises excellence in voluntary activities carried out by groups in the community. Winners of the award are announced each year on 2 June – the anniversary of the Queen's Coronation.

Rob Gray, Chair of FORCE, and Anna Smyk, volunteer and past treasurer, represented the organisation at the Queen's garden party at Buckingham Palace in May along with other recipients of this year's Award. Representatives of FORCE will receive the award from the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of London later this summer.

The award to FORCE was made in recognition of the work that volunteers have played in enhancing the community and environmental value of the River Crane corridor through west London over the last 16 years. What makes the charity exceptional is that it is run, resourced and managed entirely through volunteer commitment. The achievements of the organisation have been made possible by the highest standards of volunteering and a long term strategic plan which includes working in partnership with many organisations to achieve its aims. Partners include local councils, statutory organisations, research, business and environmental organisations.

FORCE trustees commented: *"The award of The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2019 represents a huge achievement for all the many FORCE volunteers who work, and have worked over the last 16 years, to improve the environment along the River Crane in Twickenham and Hounslow for people and wildlife. The trustees of FORCE would like to congratulate and thank all our volunteers, past and present."*



FORCE

1. Friends of the River Crane Environment (FORCE) is a registered charity with Objects to promote for the benefit of the public, and to advance the education of the public in, the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the River Crane. Further information can be found on our website www.force.org.uk or contact info@force.org.uk
2. FORCE has been operating for the past sixteen years, and has a membership of around 600, most of whom are residents of the lower Crane Valley. The charity organises a series of monthly conservation workdays for volunteers from the local community, each attracting around 30 volunteers. There are weekday conservation activities held in association with TCV (The Conservation Volunteers) as well as monthly community activities with local schools and youth organisations. FORCE works in partnership with research organisations and businesses to manage a citizen science project (Citizen Crane) to monitor and enhance water quality of the river.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

3. Lord Lieutenants represent the monarch in each of the UK's ceremonial counties.
4. This year there were 281 winners of The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service from across the UK. More information on the winners and the Award can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/queens-award-for-voluntary-service>
5. Any group of two or more people that has participated in voluntary work for more than three years can be nominated for the award. Full details on how to nominate are available at <http://qavs.direct.gov.uk/>
6. Nominations for the 2020 awards close on 13 September 2019

Volunteers at a workday 2019

Trustees 2019