



**MINUTES** – action points are in red

## **Meeting Tidal Crane Association 2018 AGM**

**Date/venue Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November, 89 Haliburton Rd, 7.30pm**

**Present:** Carolyn Bloore, Crispin Edgell, Hilary Thomson, Rosy Brooks, Lin Cordoray, Simon Rouse, Geoffrey Drew, Alison Drew, Surya Cooper, Carolyn Bloore, Richard Bloore, Paul Needham, Roberto Coladangelo, Anne Ottmann, Jean Bland, Susan Bland, Phil Lemon, Daniela Carden

Cris Edgell (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting, said great to see so many people and especially new faces.

1. **Apologies:** Gary and Margit Pond, Jean Feord, Lindsay Bell, Ursula Lehnert, Martyn Day, Zena Carter, Laura Cousins, Frances Bennett, Lindsay Bell
2. **Approval of previous Minutes:** Hilary gave a summary of these and all action points had been completed. They are available on the TCA website [www.e-voice.org.uk/tca/](http://www.e-voice.org.uk/tca/)

Cris thanked Hilary for her years as Secretary and said the welcome from the TCA when he moved to the area was great. She has made a lot happen including initiatives regarding invasive species, wildlife surveys, habitat restoration and engagement with other environmental groups. Hilary said it had been a privilege and a pleasure and that she had learned a great deal, particularly by attending Crane Valley Partnership meetings, which put the TCA in touch with other, larger volunteer groups working on the Crane.

3. **2018 River Celebration Day** – Cris did a quick summary. Started at Lindsay's house for coffee and H&S talk. Supported as usual by Thames 21 [www.thames21.org.uk](http://www.thames21.org.uk) with equipment, waders, insurance etc. and by LBH (rubbish collection). Then split into 2 groups: river dipping with children which he led. Saw elvers (baby eels), baby flounders and other species. About 25 parents and children. Good to explain to children that eels come from Sargasso Sea etc. Also to talk about some of the 50 species of birds. River is corridor for wildlife. We also have had sightings of a seal, muntjack deer. Seal hangs out round Eel Pie Island. Muntjack are said to be migrating from Hillingdon along Crane corridor.

Geoffrey Drew said in the US the national parks got rid of the people and not factored in leisure use. People are part of it too.

Cris did bat talk at evening BBQ – 'The bats were obliging' and we saw/heard (with bat listening device) Pipistrelle, Soprano, Daubenton's Bat. There are 11 species in Richmond.

The river clearing was a success even though we were only able to clear about a third of the tidal Crane due to recent heavy rain making the river too high and fast in places. Some residents came back and collected more rubbish the next day.

#### 4. Boating matters

Hilary: boating community and boating matters are important to the TCA. It was boat owners (including Carolyn and Richard) who saved the tidal Crane from being a concrete channel and fought a court case to retain the right of navigation. Boat owners make up the majority of the river clearers. Carolyn recounted having cabin cruiser. Used to go out on high tides with their children even early in morning. Mooring at Teddington Lock for the night, then on to Hampton Court. Roberto said most of us go to pub. Lin said she went to Putney.

Very successful (despite weather!) TCA Boat Afternoon was held last year, organised by Roberto. He suggested for this year a flotilla or even a 'flotilla day' – lots of support for this. Roberto: do in springtime when warming up. Hilary: suggest you publicise it with doordrop and emailing. Roberto: if more than expected number people can take turns at trips – just on the Crane would be fine, don't necessarily need to go out onto Thames.

**Action: discuss a Spring date in New Year. Those interested can contact Roberto via Boating information page on TCA website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/tca/owning-a-boat/>**

Boat moored on tidal Crane near Thames – 'Pearl' was an illegal mooring. Roberto notified PLA and they put notice on it. It was obstructing navigation. Has now been removed (or owner moved it).

PLA cover all up to Teddington Lock. To go through locks you need a licence or day pass.

Roberto has organised for someone to do outboard servicing on street – he could service all the motor boats instead of people having to take their outboards to marina etc.

**Action: Roberto to find out if he can service electric motors too. (This can then be publicised in next e-mailing).**

Roberto: need to do pruning at high tide in winter. Brambles, branches etc. are impeding boats as is usual at this time of the year.

Alison: section other side of flood gate has lot of branches etc. Also where garage is there are overhanging trees.

**Action: Alison to talk to garage in Haliburton ( M&J) about this to see if they can prune from their premises.**

There is concern that Lindsay's boat and red canal boat together are difficult to navigate past.

Simon: I've talked to people who own narrow boat. They live in Australia, he wants to sell it.

**Action: HT to contact Lindsay and put her in touch with Simon Rouse. Simon to talk to owner of Hebros\* DONE**

*\*Lindsay said she has moved her boat and done her best to be accommodating but that the owner of Hebro's has said he will not move his boat. She feels she is being unfairly blamed for the blockage and wants to sort the problem out asap as she believes Hebro's owner is going abroad very soon.*

## 5. Update on other TCA activities and projects during 2017

Hilary gave quick summary of recent **fish survey**. Involved Steve Colclough, estuarine marine specialist from Institute of Fisheries Management, Friends of River Crane Environment, London Zoo (ZSL) and TCA. Many species of fish found including some not widely known to residents and Steve said presence of healthy, good sized minnows is not only unique on a tidal Thames estuary but indicates high water quality and total lack of salinity. [More information](#).

Alison: are there more crabs than usual? River at 38 Eve. Saw a 'carpet of about 50'. They don't look mitten crabs. Some quite large (several inches across).

**Action point: Hilary to ask around to find out more (Alison - any pics would be useful).**

Hilary read out summary sent by Vanessa Smith, Chair of Friends of **Northcote Nature Reserve**. Progress is slow due to changes of personnel and drastic budget cuts at LBH. However the Head of Parks has picked up the project and a replacement for Paul Bassi will be starting very soon. Trees have been planted through a 'Trees for Sacred Spaces' scheme introduced by All Souls and there were 2 sessions of cut grass raking, both of which were supported by residents.

Lin Cordoray recommended getting involved in **Eel Watch**. Run by ZSL it is part of a national Citizen Scientist programme. You need to attend free training session. Contact is Joe Pecorelli at ZSL and there is more information [here](#). Hilary: one of the aims of the Lower Crane Restoration is to continue to open up migratory pathways for eels by eliminating superfluous weirs and creating fish passes etc.

**Invasive species management:** Paul Needham will spearhead this from now on. The Environment Agency has sprayed all but the very last section of tidal Crane as it reaches the Thames and have said they are committed to continue spraying in future years. The TCA is working with LBH who are initiating a new survey of invasive species. It is hoped that LBH might be able to facilitate training sessions for TCA resident volunteers, which would minimise the cost involved.

**Action point: Paul to contact Michaela and find out current situation re training.**

Rosy asked to be added to Knotweed spraying volunteers list which includes Paul, Martyn Day and Lin Cordoray.

## 6. Fly tipping in the river

Alison has seen whole bits of trees in the river.

Others agreed they had seen large branches of trees floating in the river/trapped under boats.

Some said they have witnessed residents fly tipping.

Geoffrey Drew: that is what people did in years gone by – historically they have put garden cuttings etc in river.

One resident has reported a neighbour to the EA and sent photos – there is a facility for doing this.

Action point: it was agreed best course of action is to take photo of the fly tipping and let those responsible know it is illegal, if it is possible to do this without the TCA seeming like a 'policeman'. If this is not possible and the fly tipping is substantial/dangerous best to call the Environment Agency Incident hotline 0800 807060 (24 hrs). REMEMBER TO ASK FOR AN INCIDENT REF NUMBER SO IF YOU CALL BACK YOU CAN FIND OUT IF ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN.

Other action point: put TCA printed doordrop through all doors again over the winter as this asks residents specifically not to fly tip and explains why it is bad for fish and wildlife – particularly because it traps other rubbish.

Alison said they will leaflet Eve Rd.

## 7. River Celebration Day 2019

Possible dates discussed were:

15<sup>th</sup> June  
22<sup>nd</sup> June  
6<sup>th</sup> July  
20<sup>th</sup> July

Action: check school Fairs etc. and decide date by early New Year – preferred date at the moment looks like **6<sup>th</sup> July**.

Alison and Lin happy to help with flyers

Lin's friend Amanda Dickinson can also help delivery around Dawes Ave – she is moving there in Dec and is also keen to come to TCA meetings.

Paul Needham can do Crane Ave

Anne and Phil can help with Haliburton etc.

Action: Feb planning meeting about River Clearing Day will be Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. Caroline will lead this and will organise an email nearer the date.

8. **Treasurer's Report:** Ursula's finances presented. £160.62 in bank of which £65.56 is due to Hilary for printing costs for River Celebration Day publicity. The TCA got a community grant of £500 from LBH to print introductory leaflets, which were done in the past year and there are plenty of spares left for the planned second doordrop. Ursula suggested identifying anticipated actions which might require budget for 2019 and finding out if someone in TCA might be willing to make funding applications if needed.

## 9. Election of Officers

Hilary thanked Cris Edgell, who is stepping down as Chair. He has brought a wealth of environmental science expertise and professionalism to the TCA. His River Dipping at River Celebration Day has been a tremendous success and many families have said how much their children have enjoyed it. His innovative Bat Talks at the BBQ have also been very much enjoyed by residents and he has also contributed through his

identification of over 50 species of birds on the tidal Crane (see Wildlife section of website for details [www.e-voice.org.uk/tca/](http://www.e-voice.org.uk/tca/))

She also thanked Roseanne Foster, who is stepping down as Vice Chair. Roseanne has been an extremely diligent support to the Chair, not only in helping us forge links to other groups such as London Wildlife and specifically the Isleworth Ait group but finding out background information to enable the TCA to understand matters such as pruning of trees the responsibilities of riparian owners.

Rosy Brooks said she was willing to stand as Chair. Proposed by Hilary, seconded by Carolyn.

Roberto Coladangelo said he was willing to stand as Vice Chair. Proposed by Hilary, seconded by Surya.

Anne Ottman said she was willing to stand as Secretary. Proposed by Hilary, seconded by Cris.

**Action point: Anne to contact SWLEN (South West London Environment Network) to arrange training in MailChimp (for emailings) and e-voice (for website) when convenient. DETAILS SUPPLIED**

Treasurer: Ursula is willing to continue. Proposed by Hilary, seconded by Carolyn

## **AOB**

Carolyn, said she and Lin are caring for a cat called Millie who loves river. Owner not able to keep her. Is anyone interested in taking her on? Very appealing and nice pet! If interested please contact her [carolynbloore@gmail.com](mailto:carolynbloore@gmail.com)

Jean and Susan Bland asked about the Lower Crane Restoration. They are concerned about plans for a path and picnic area on the 'island' between the natural Crane and the concrete channel on the Cole Park Allotments. Have tried contacting various people but they have not responded.

Hilary said the project is only at feasibility study stage and is likely to be amended as time goes on: nothing is decided or graven in stone as it is very early days. Information about the project can be found at [www.cran山谷ley.org.uk](http://www.cran山谷ley.org.uk) and also the LBRUT website.

The meeting finished at 9.30pm