

Winter 2012/13

Welcome to the first newsletter of the River Cray Catchment Improvement Group.

We hope that you find this newsletter informative and we welcome all of your views and comments relating to the content and any other issues that you would like to tell us about the River Cray.

You are probably asking yourself, who are the River Cray Catchment Improvement Group and why was it formed?

The group is made up of several organisations that have an interest in improving the river for both people and wildlife.

Partners include Thames 21, the London Boroughs of Bexley and Bromley, North West Kent Countryside Partnership, Friends of Footscray Meadows, the Environment Agency, Darent River Preservation Society (DRiPS) and the Darent & Cray Catchment Consultative.

The key objectives of the group is to improve the ecological status of the river and to ensure that communities living and working along the entire length of the valley are given the opportunity to get involved in projects to improve this valuable local resource.

How can you get involved ?

As well as providing your thoughts and comments there are many other ways in which you can get involved in the projects that are happening on the River Cray.

Over the next year or so local organisations like the North West Kent Countryside Partnership and Thames 21 will be working in partnership with other organisations such as the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to deliver an extensive range of river enhancement and habitat creation projects on several locations along the river.

We need your help to deliver this exciting programme of projects that will improve conditions for many species of wildlife from the smallest caddis fly up to the largest wetland bird such as the majestic heron.

No experience is needed to get involved as all the training and equipment will be provided, so if you have a few hours to spare and want to make a difference to your river please contact the Catchment Improvement Group and we will provide you with all the information that you will need. (Please see the contact details on page 2)

In addition to the habitat improvement works we can also provide you with information on river clean ups, walks, talks and other river related events, all you have to do is sign up for our newsletter and we will keep you informed of what's happening on your river.



River Cray Open Day Event in Bromley

Following the success of the River Cray Open Day that was held in Bexley in May 2012, the Catchment Improvement Group is proud to announce that the partnership will be hosting a second Cray Open Day event in the London Borough of Bromley.

The event will take place at the Walnuts Shopping Centre, High Street, Orpington, BR6 OTW between 10.00 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Friday 16th and Saturday 17th November 2012.

The event will provide people from both Bexley and Bromley with the opportunity to learn and comment about proposals to improve their local river.

Representatives from a range of organisations will be available to offer advice and answer questions on a range of river related subjects from wildlife conservation through to flood management. Please spare the time to come along and join us.



Congratulations

The hard work of Thames 21, Friends of Foots Cray Meadows and the North West Kent Countryside Partnership has been recognised in the 2012 Bexley Environmental Challenge Awards.

Thames 21 and the Friends of Footscray Meadows were both awarded Silver Gilt awards in the Green Challenge category; the North West Kent Countryside Partnership received a gold award in the same category for the organisations environmental work within the borough.

Thames 21 River Keepers also won a community award which recognised the good work that the charity contributes towards the wider community, as well as the benefits they deliver to the river environment. If you would like to get involved in a Thames 21 river clean up visit www.thames21.org.uk for a calendar of events on the Cray and Shuttle.

Sign up for the CIG Newsletter and learn about what's happening on your river!!!

If you would like to be kept informed about future events or volunteering opportunities on the Cray, please contact Mark Gallant, North West Kent Countryside Partnership, Mead Crescent, Mead Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 2SH.

Email: mark.gallant@kent.gov.uk Tel: 01322 294727

Your contact details will be held by the NWKCP on behalf of the Catchment Improvement Group and will be kept in confidence and held under data protection regulations

