



Let's Go Outside and Learn partnered with TCV and others on Restoring the Riverside project to connect local people with the green and blue spaces on the River Crane in Cranford.

The project aimed to work with Cranford based partners to encourage community engagement activities with residents that explore the environment and wildlife in an urban environment along the River Crane Corridor. The project sought to encourage increased respect for the environment, to show local people its value as a community asset, to bring people together and support health and leisure agendas.

Reclaiming the Riverside

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

PROJECT EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK

September 2021-March 2023

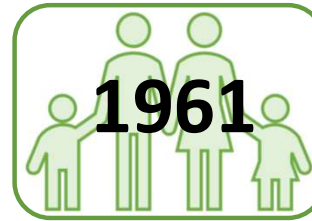


WHAT DID YOU ENJOY?

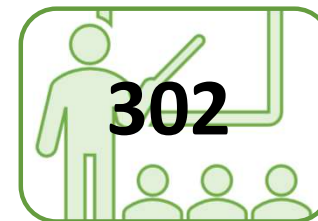
This is what participants told us that they enjoyed about the project:

- ◆ *“Seeing new and exciting things such as the River Crane”*
- ◆ *“Getting to know my area and local hidden gems.”*
- ◆ *“Seeing the natural beauty and discovery of the river”.*
- ◆ *“Being outside and learning about nature”.*
- ◆ *“It was nice to explore these places in a new way, with different themes and activities to do with the outdoors. A real highlight was that each session was different, and this kept it really exciting.” Buggy stroll participant*
- ◆ *“My main reason for coming was to improve wellbeing. I liked learning about new things in nature (such as bats - really different!).” Project participant.*

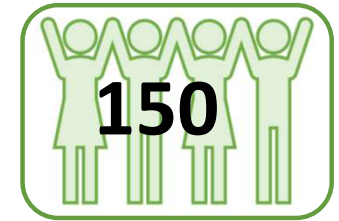
PROJECT STATISTICS



Number of attendees (excluding school visits)



Number of school children who visited open spaces



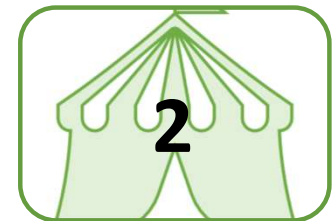
Number of activities delivered



Number of workshops for young people

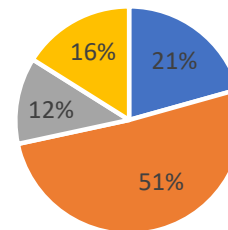


Number of primary schools engaged in project



Number of large community events

Ethnic heritage of participants



■ White ■ Asian ■ Black ■ Not identified



PROJECT OUTCOMES

The nature-based learning activities held in Waye Avenue Open Space and Avenue Park Cranford had the following outcomes for local people:

<p>More people and a wider range of people spent time in the blue/green spaces of Cranford.</p>	<p>People connected with nature and more people enjoyed time in the parks and open spaces</p>	<p>People have a more understanding of the ecology of the green/blue spaces of the Crane corridor</p>
<p>More people are aware of the river Crane in Cranford.</p>	<p>People are aware of other opportunities in parks in Cranford</p>	<p>People learnt new skills.</p>
<p>People have greater well-being and learnt new coping strategies</p>	<p>The project team worked in partnership with community and environmental stakeholders</p>	<p>More young people engaged with the open spaces and voiced their opinions.</p>

There was positive feedback about the two larger Culture Events, one held in autumn 2022 at Avenue Park and the other at Waye Avenue in Spring 2023.

- ◆ *“The different of activities at the Summer of Culture Event in Avenue Park was really good.”*
- ◆ *“I really enjoyed the Summer of Culture Event in Avenue Park and thought it was well organised. A particular highlight was the drumming workshops which was good for everyone.” Project participant*
- ◆ *“The Council wants to see more community events in the park following the success of the Summer of Culture events in 2022.” Officer Hounslow Council*



Cranford's Culture in Waye Avenue Open Space

Saturday 25th March 12 - 3pm
Join us for a celebration of culture in one of Cranford's beautiful riverside parks!

Animal Petting Zoo * Willow Weaving * Dhol drumming workshop * Silent Disco litter pick * Riverside walks * Community stalls * Family activities & much more!

For more info please contact Sarah Salisbury:
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Barriers to engagement

The project team identified several barriers to engagement with the project:

Hot, wet and cold weather and muddy paths

Concerns for personal safety

Lack of facilities e.g. paths benches and toilets

Limited access for people who are less mobile e.g. no paths, disabled parking

Unwillingness to engage due to a lack of sense of belonging to the local community

Lack of knowledge of the river and open spaces

Cultural factors e.g. preference for other leisure activities

Working patterns e.g. shift work

For further information:

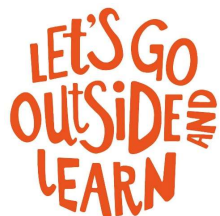
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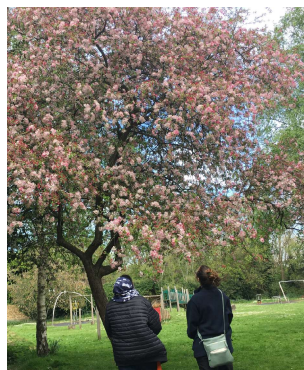
Website: www.lgoal.org

Facebook : [LetsGoOutsideandLearn](https://www.facebook.com/LetsGoOutsideandLearn)

Twitter: [@LetOutside](https://twitter.com/LetOutside)



CIC Registration number 9435120



What next?

In April 2023 we relaunched the project with funding from the **Crane Project Fund** through the Crane Smarter Water Catchment.

Let's Go Outside and Learn will be delivering a weekly programme of activities called Let's Explore the River Crane Together and TCV will deliver a weekly Cranford Green Gym. Our thanks to our funders and partners for their support.