

Canbury And Riverside Association (CARA) AGM 2024

Minutes of the meeting held at Canbury Pavilion on 17th October 2024 at 7.00pm

Welcome: John Parrish, as Chair for the meeting, welcomed CARA members and the post-AGM speaker, Ellis Jones (former senior director at RADA and a CARA member), who would give an illustrated talk on *David Garrick: his life, his times and his Temple*.

John presented apologies from CARA Committee member Liz Poole.

Tellers: Laurence Garvey and Peter Greenwood volunteered to count votes if required.

Minutes: There were no matters arising from the minutes of the AGM for the previous year, on 12th October 2023. Those minutes were approved unanimously.

CARA through 2023/2024:

Kelly Page presented some CARA's highlights from the past year.

CARA had organised events – The Secret Life of Swans, Nature-friendly Dog Walking, the Bat Walk, and a Canbury Gardens Litter Pick with Fern Hill School. We had organised social events – Christmas Drinks at The Boaters, Cheese and Wine Tasting and the September Barbecue.

CARA had supported Bulb Planting in the Gardens, helped set up RNLi Throwbag Training (and bought 2 throwbags for The Boaters), and supported the Bandstand Concerts (sponsoring two). Kelly emphasised that much of CARA's work was less visible than these events, notably the work Committee members did with local community groups to protect our area; groups like Friends of Canbury Gardens, Canbury Gardens Working Party, Thames Landscape Strategy, Friends of the Bandstand, North Kingston Forum, and the local Police Panel. Last year there were few planning problems, but the committee had written to express our residents' concerns over the proposed DRA scheme at Teddington.

Our staple, CARA Newsletters have again been delivered to some 900 households, thanks to Peter Greenwood for sponsoring them and to Liz Poole for editing them. CARA eNews monthly emails to all members are edited on rotation by different Committee members.

Despite record membership (229 households) there are too few people who want to get involved. We asked for help in our last newsletter, but no one came forward. Kelly said "If you know anyone that can get involved please ask them to email CARA or speak to any Committee member".

Friends of the Bandstand also need more support. John Parrish echoed the plea for help with the organisation of bandstand concerts.

Kelly concluded that CARA had achieved a lot last year. The Committee hoped to continue with these many activities, but more resources were needed.

Peter Greenwood suggested that organisations that sponsored a concert should be asked to send people to help at their concert, when they could take the opportunity to promote their involvement. He also suggested that younger people might be attracted by selecting bands that would play more inclusive music. John Parrish responded positively to these helpful suggestions. He commented that there were more bands wanting to play than available Sundays.

Treasurer's Report and Accounts

Charles Roscorla spoke to the Report and Accounts. Hard copies were available to all present. Charles highlighted key points from the accounts. Subscriptions had been high due to the good number of paid-up members. Expenditure had also been high, especially due to printing three newsletters, but that cost had been covered by Peter Greenwood's generous sponsorship.

Charles commented that he had been pleased to pass the £50 received from Barclays (as an apology for their poor service) to RBKares, in recognition of their loan of two gazebos for the barbecue in 2023.

He concluded that CARA reserves were healthy, and the Committee planned to use these for projects to support the community.

Richard Mobbs commented that CARA had committed to pay half the cost of the pavilion's new projector, which was in use that evening. He thanked Bazil Arden and the Pavilion Trustees for their support of CARA.

Carol Willis asked if the Committee knew how many new members resulted from distribution of Newsletters. Charles replied that while there was plenty of positive feedback about CARA newsletters we had not made any assessment of their direct influence on membership numbers.

(He declined to take up Peter Greenwood's suggestion of a discounted subscription for new members joining via the newsletter as it would require an unacceptable amount of extra work.)

John added that while there had not been a membership form included in any of last year's newsletters, it was planned to include one this year.

Election or re-election of CARA Committee Members

There were no new nominations, but all the following, existing Committee Members were standing for re-election:

Clare Francis	Sharon Langer	Deborah Higgins	Richard Mobbs
Kelly Page	John Parrish	Liz Poole	Charles Roscorla

Re-election of them all was proposed by Martine Roscorla and seconded by Carol Willis. With no objections all were re-elected unopposed.

Any other business

John Parrish took the opportunity to thank Trevor Willis for his extraordinary contribution to Canbury Gardens over many years. Trevor was standing down from his formal responsibilities.

John presented Trevor with a bottle of single malt, as a small gesture of thanks from CARA.

Trevor responded, outlining his feelings for Canbury Gardens, which is a sanctuary for us all. He reiterated the need for more people to give a little of their time to help maintain it.

John brought AGM business to a close.

John then introduced Ellis Jones^[1], who gave a most entertaining talk, "David Garrick: his life, his times and his Temple"

vividly illustrated with his slides via the new projector.

Richard thanked Ellis for his excellent talk, and gave him a book token as a small gesture of thanks.

Ellis invited everyone to visit Garrick's Temple, which is open to visitors on Sundays from 2 to 5pm from April to the end of October.

[1] Ellis Jones, was formerly a senior director at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, RADA's Head of Acting 1993 to 2003, the Academy's Vice-Principal 1998 to 2003, Creative Director of RADA's business training initiative, an actor in television situation comedies, dramas and Shakespeare productions who has acted and directed in theatres throughout Britain, was awarded an Arts Council Associate directorship and for three years was Artistic Director of the theatre at Keswick, Cumbria.

Ellis is the author of "Teach Yourself Acting" (Hodder Headline 1998) and currently is a trustee and a guide at Garrick's Temple.