



CARA

Canbury & Riverside Association

Working to protect and enhance our local amenities for everyone

Newsletter Winter/Spring 2018

Reading this Newsletter?

Would you like to become a member and help pay for it? The newsletters are delivered to all households in the area and available on line. They are one of the ways we promote community engagement and keep you informed of local news

Intentionally not used

North Kingston Residents' Forum formally recognised

After three years of hard work by local residents led by Diane Watling, RBK has finally recognised the NKF. Forums, proposed by Government as a way of local residents having a bigger say in planning issues, are being formed across England to advise local councils. They are to be somewhat like rural parish councils.

NKF covers the Tudor and Canbury wards. To be a member, you have to live or work in the area. There are four groups in the Forum - Community, looking at arts and culture, leisure, public services, and sports and recreation facilities - Business and how we support employment in the neighbourhood. They are surveying

local business needs including those of home workers (have your say on <http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/6LYLC3L>) - Heritage and Design completing a character assessment to create policies that protect the feel of the area - Environment looking at air quality, sustainable travel, green infrastructure, flooding and light pollution.

The groups will consult residents over next few months to gather their views before creating policies for residents' approval by referendum hopefully in the autumn. More details on the website www.northkingstonforum.org or contact them at northkingstonforum@gmail.com

A Very Good Time was had by All



Despite many apologies, nearly 40 members turned out for the CARA Christmas drinks get together at the Boaters Inn. Ben, the pub's congenial manager, provided excellent eats to soak up the one or two

glasses consumed. This cannot be verified as your editor could not be there, someone said this photograph was taken "...prior to the table dancing"

Charity Commission Stumbling Block

Following the CARA AGM decision to seek charitable status, we have hit a problem. Quoting from the Commission's response "*In order to be a charity an organisation must be established for exclusively charitable purposes for public benefit. activities such as disseminating information to inform people of planning matters or developments and changes that could affect the area or its residents, or lobbying the local authority on matters such as parking and organising social events for members to enable them to get to know others who live locally, would not be charitable*". To fulfil this, much of that which is in this newsletter would have to hit the editor's waste bin. As we think our members find this letter and website news very useful the committee has decided to seek other ways to solve the occasional problem that not being incorporated creates. One good thing that has come out of the exercise is that we have reviewed our activities. Decisions taken at the last AGM will remain until the 2018 AGM, when we can reconsider them.

TLS Scrub cutting beside the Thames

To keep our riverside attractive, improve diversity and encourage natural riverside vegetation, each winter TLS manages the Swingbridge volunteers doing scrub management and coppicing through Canbury Gardens, on the riverbank and along the clinker wall. In previous years they have continued their work along Lower Ham Road, past the Half Mile Tree to the Hawker Centre but this will not be done this year as funding problems have reduced the time available, and there is no funding for any of it in future. CARA will be seeking sponsorship for this work to continue next winter and beyond.



Canbury Business Park development

CNM, the developers of the old Regal Cinema in Richmond Rd, are seeking planning permission to re-develop the Canbury Business Park behind the cinema site. Whilst it is outside the CARA area, its effect will be felt by residents. Apart from the aesthetic concern of the 14 storey block of flats in the centre of the development (currently the maximum height is 4 storeys), CARA residents nearest to the town centre could be affected by the 24% increase in foul water drainage. On this drainage matter, CARA are questioning the developers, but on all other issues, the North Kingston Forum, who are now the planning watch dogs for Tudor and Canbury wards (see page 1), will keep us advised.

A new arrival in Canbury Gardens

After a long gestation period the Thames Discoverer, a sister to Thames Venturer, will be delivered to Canbury Gardens in March. The actual date is dependent on Cornish weather. The Discoverer has to sail from Polruan to Plymouth on its first leg from the boat builders to the Kingston. Being a specially designed vessel for disabled passengers to enjoy Thames cruises, a calm crossing up the Cornish coast is essential. We are reliably told that a mooring will be available on the Gardens riverside as the necessary legal arrangements are soon to be in place. The picture is an artist's impression from the very interesting presentation given by Peter Oldham the "fleet" skipper, at the CARA AGM.



Kingston Riverside Club

KRC or the tennis club as we know it, has agreed with the council that they can modify the entrance to the club. The plan shows a lighted sign at the entrance on Lower Ham Rd with plantings and hedge behind. A resurfaced drive will lead to new gates. It has been approved by the Conservation Area Advisory Committee and awaits legal process before work starts.

Improvements to Playground

The children's playground on Lower Ham Rd in Canbury Gardens is having a facelift (see picture). The work should be finished by the time this Newsletter is published. Those who have visited will have seen that there is extra space available at the back behind the pavilions. When asked the council said they would welcome suggestions from parents using the playground as to how it might be used. Please contact chloe.clay@kingston.gov.uk



Albany Park Road CPZ

In the last issue we reported on a proposal to abandon the CPZ in APR. Well it has not happened. Thanks to members' and other residents' pressure, the decision looks as if it will be kicked into the long grass. On 24th Jan, as we go to press, the Council will be discussing a report on the survey of East of Richmond Rd (ERR) residents who want parking controls. Over half of the 421 households responded. Only 4 suggested APR had plenty of space to take parking pressure off their roads, the idea taken up by some councillors leading to the proposal to rescind APR CPZ. Together with the report will be a recommendation from the officers for a Private Parking Area between 11am and 2pm. A PPA, which does not have marked parking bays as in a CPZ, enables maximum space for residents parking where there is little private off street parking space for their cars. There is no recommendation to rescind APR's CPZ. However the proposal has not been struck off the records.

The picture below is of APR full of parents' cars collecting children from the schools (the most are from Fern Hill we are told), a privilege that would be denied them if the road was full of commuter vehicles (short and long stay) that were there before the CPZ.



Morning Harvest from Canbury Gdns

Canbury Community Garden recorded 417 volunteer-hours worked and 23 Kilos of produce harvested in 2017 (see picture below of one day's harvest). Thanks to everyone including the 7 year olds from the Kingston Academy who helped make such a difference to this formerly neglected yard last year! All was going well and even surpassing expectations until mid-December, when the community garden's small shed, donated by Transition Town Kingston, and some of its contents were stolen - sad end to a good year. Once the garden's lease is renewed, volunteers will set to work to replace the shed - look on the Canbury Community Garden Facebook page if you'd like to help with this or any of the other tasks coming up in spring



A London Plan Test Case?

84 Lower Ham Road : There is a planning application to knock down this classical Edwardian property (see picture). It is in the North Kingston Conservation Area. It is mentioned specifically in RBK's conservation plan as the only house left from the original Albany Park estate, of architectural interest making a positive contribution to the area. 50 to 1 residents have written in objecting to it. Thanks for copying CARA. Planning officers have refused the application with councillors' support. The developer, who wants a six storey block of nine flats, has the right to appeal to Sajid Javid the secretary of state. The new London plan will be influential. As we go to press this had not happened.

The Mayor's London Plan published recently calls for building 1364 new homes in Kingston annually, double the number planned. This application puts nine dwellings on a two dwelling site, breaches numerous existing building regulations, but could be considered to be following the Mayor's wishes to maximise home building density as much as possible. In addition an underground car park for 10 cars will mean that the high grass bank in the picture will be cut away for an entrance to the car park. Residents say amongst other things, that to remove the bank will remove some of the "rural" feel of the area and importantly result in the loss of precious public parking spaces. CARA will be following this matter closely. Watch the CARA website.



New Members join CARA Committee

We are delighted to welcome three new members to the committee. They are Filippo Selini who owns and runs the Secret Cafe in Canbury Gardens, Sandra Quinn an active resident of Trafalgar Building, the riverside block of flats at the end of Canbury Gardens, and Sophie Cavanagh who lives in Albany Mews and is the Head of the Kingston Academy on Richmond Rd. They will bring extremely useful, new and varied experience to the committee and we thank them for giving up time to do so. We would also like to thank members Ken Buckle and Toby Hiscock. Toby is to be the CARA representative on the Conservation Area Advisory Committee (CAAC) and Ken is helping us with our website and will play a key role in the production of the Newsletters starting with this edition.

CARA Committee

Penny D'Souza (planning applications; liaison with Canbury Gardens Working Party, Leander Sea Scouts and the Council) 14 Chestnut Road: 020 8549 5331: pennydsouza@blueyonder.co.uk

Clare Francis (liaison with Thames Boat Project) 16 Chestnut Road: 020 8549 4581; clarefrancis@gmail.com

Nic Lewisohn (social events; liaison with Kingston Riverside tennis club) 23 Grosvenor Gardens; 07710 971917; nic@lewisohns.com

Richard Mobbs (newsletter distributon; liaison with Thames Landscape Strategy and CARAFoG; environment) 31 Chestnut Road: 07762 598 309; richard@statacom.net

Des Noble (the police and Neighbourhood Watch); desnoble@blueyonder.co.uk

John Parrish (newsletter content; parking; liaison with North Kingston Forum; heritage), 108 Lower Ham Road; 020 8546 1235; john.parrish1080@gmail.com

Sandra Quinn: Trafalgar Building, Henry Macaulay Avenue

Charles Roscorla (Membership Secretary; Treasurer; heritage) 12 Ulster Court, Albany Park Road, KT2 5SS; 020 8546 0202; charos100@hotmail.co.uk

Filippo Selini (social events) Canbury Secret Café; filippo.selini@gmail.com

Dates for your diary

■ Saturday 24th March : 11.15 am – lunchtime CARA Riverside Spring Litterpick

Please come along to the slipway at the northern end of Canbury Gardens to help tidy the riverbank. CARA will provide grabbers, gloves (you may prefer your own), rubbish sacks, high-visibility vests and health and safety guidance at 11.15. Families welcome as long as children are with a responsible adult.

Street Reps

Albany Mews, Maria Netley
maria.netley@btinternet.com

AlbanyPark Road, Penny Stott
penny_stott@hotmail.com

42A Albany Park Road, Frances Bailey
francesabailey@hotmail.com

Grosvenor Gardens, Nic Lewisohn
nic.lewisohn@kantarworldpanel.com

Lower Kings Road, Jonathan Rollason
thinkkingston@yahoo.com

Waterman's Close, Susannah Rose-Innes
susannahroseinnes@gmail.com

Woodside Road, Mirella Docherty
mirelladocherty@hotmail.com

CARA MEMBERSHIP, 2018

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

I would like to become a Member/renew my Membership^[1] of CARA. (Please delete as appropriate)

I confirm that I support CARA's aims and objectives. (see CARA website www.carakingston.org)

Please tick boxes and/or fill in amounts below as appropriate

I have set up a standing order for a payment of £5 now and thereafter annually on 1 September to CARA, Barclays Kingston, Sort Code 20-46-73, account number 53451518, using my house (or flat) number and street (or block) name as a reference.

OR

I enclose a cheque/cash^[2] for £..... payable to "CARA" for my membership subscription

£5 to 31st August 2018 **or** £10 to 31st August 2019 **or** £15 to 31st August 2020

This payment includes an additional donation I wish to make towards the running of CARA of £.....
I do/do not require a receipt.

Signed:

Date:

Please send the completed form to CARA Membership Secretary, c/o 31 Chestnut Road, KT2 5AP.

^[1] A Member should be an individual person. Other residents of a Member's household within CARA Area^[3] will still enjoy the usual benefits, with the exception of voting. CARA Members resident outside CARA Area will receive only electronic versions of CARA newsletters and other communications.

^[2] You should **send cash only if it will be delivered by hand.**

^[3] CARA Area boundaries are:- to the West, the bank of the River Thames; to the North, Lower Ham Road; to the East, the west side of Richmond Road; and to the South, Lower Kings Road and Canbury Place.

CARA is administered by volunteers. We will process your Membership form as quickly as we can. New Members should receive a response, at the email or address you have given above, in less than 28 days from when we receive your form.