



# CARA Newsletter

New Year 2024

Canbury And Riverside Association  
Working to protect and enhance our local community



Bottoms-up!



**You'll know when spring has arrived**  
as volunteers, lead by Trevor Willis,  
have planted **1.300 daffodil bulbs**  
in Canbury Gardens!

## GREEN FLAG CEREMONY



**CANBURY GARDENS GREEN FLAG STATUS**  
can finally be affirmed with the arrival of the  
flag and flagpole. An event that undoubtedly  
called for a bit of ceremony!

The Mayor, Cllr Diane White, arrived on a  
cold December morning, to do the honours.

**Mayor, Diane White**  
chatting and enjoying a  
warming hot chocolate in  
**The Boaters Inn**

If you haven't spotted the flag yet, it's at the entrance opposite to Woodside Rd.

The Mayor congratulated the assembled crowd of Canbury Gardens volunteers and workers, who put such effort in, as well as the many lovers of Canbury Gardens, for all the care and attention it takes to win such an award. She then valiantly raised the Green Flag to the top of the mast to enthusiastic applause. We are now waiting for the accompanying plaque.

The Boaters Inn kindly opened earlier that morning to serve us all free coffee, hot chocolate and a delicious piece of Panettone.



# THE OLD REGAL CINEMA, RE-IMAGINED



**Left:-** Coming from Kingston into Richmond Road.

**Below:-** Approaching the railway bridge, towards Kingston along Richmond Road.



**A high end HOTEL** within the demise of the existing listed building. Over 90 guest rooms, with a fully restored principal entrance foyer/ reception.  
A restaurant and bar, within the double height ground floor space, with mezzanine levels.  
Plus, 51 new homes and 16 affordable homes.  
**Still to go to the Planning Committee**



## **Would you like to have a say in local conservation and heritage issues?**

Toby Hiscock, foreground of photo, invites you to join his happy team, at Kingston Conservation, Areas Advisory Committee (CAAC).  
CAAC have a passion to conserve & improve Kingston's rich heritage.

Toby stresses that they are an *advisory* not a *statutory* body, whose aim is to advise the local Planning Authority on conservation & heritage issues, commenting on planning applications for all developments & public works in conservation areas.  
They also monitor locally listed buildings throughout Kingston, providing a focus for local residents on conservation & heritage issues at: [www.planningapp.org](http://www.planningapp.org)

The borough's new target under the London Mayor's Plan is to  
**provide 10,000 new homes in Kingston by the end of the decade.**

Revised guidance on development in conservation areas will soon be available and the updated appraisals for each of the local conservation areas, will start with Kingston Old Town.  
Toby Hiscock and his team are actively working with councillors & officers to strengthen our voice in these planning decisions.

If you share their passion for conserving & improving the Town's rich heritage & would like to join their team, then do please **contact Toby at :-** [chair.kingstontowncaac@planningapp.org](mailto:chair.kingstontowncaac@planningapp.org)

## **Nature Friendly Dog Walking Talk**

**Canbury Pavillion at 7pm Wednesday 13th March 2024.**

Vet, Peter Higgins, **The guy with a Bird on his Head** (on opposite page) is giving an illustrated talk with Elliot Newton, RBK's Biodiversity Officer in This will be a **free** and **fascinating** event to which all will be very welcome and of course, will be of particular interest to dog owners.

## **A thoughtlessly cruel act.**

Two swans were shot on the night of the 29th December, behind the Boaters Inn where swans rest at night on the dock behind the pub.

Youths between the ages of 18 and 21 are often seen there, late at night intoxicated with alcohol or drugs. We have no evidence that these youths are the culprits but it is a coincidence worth noting. This is more than serious antisocial behaviour and has been reported to the police. It is a crime on two counts, firstly, the perpetrator set out from home carrying a firearm, which was used to kill one swan and maim another. Plus swans are protected under ancient laws.

Subsequently, three youths were reportedly seen at midnight in Canbury Gardens, taking an air rifle out of a Sainsbury's bag and targeting swans. They were described as being around 19yrs with hair shaved at the sides and hair on top.

**If you know who these three are, please report them to the authorities**

On a happier note, the injured swan that was shot in the eye, recovered well and was nursed back to health by Sarah Kausmally, of the Thames Ditton Swan sanctuary. See below:- Alive and well but with only one eye



The police have the X-ray of the dead swan with air gun pellet clearly visible, which our MP Sarah Olney suggested to the police that a firearm specialist should analyse and save for comparison.

In England these guns can be bought on line and delivered to your home. However, in Scotland a licence is required.



**Firearm Ad Online!** "What are air-guns used for? Originally used in warfare, air guns are commonly used in target practice, as toys and as 'beginner' guns for children. The projectile force of these weapons can rival that of many conventional handguns".



## **What to do if you find an injured bird**

**by Dr Peter Higgins Veterinary Surgeon**

We all love Canbury Gardens for both its flora and fauna and the coffee shop 😊

Many examples of fauna that we see include birdlife that either live there or visit. Sadly, from time to time you will find an injured bird... so what to do?

What is the correct first aid for our feathered friends?

This article is a very brief overview of what to do if you find an injured bird.

### **First Aid Principles**

The basic tenet of any first aid is... *do not be the second accident!*

The first step to consider when looking to help an injured bird is assessing for risk to yourself. Identify the risks around and be sure it is safe to attend the bird. Then.....

### **Visually Assess the Bird**

Before you attempt anything... assess the bird and its situation. Stand a short distance away and examine the bird visually. Look for any deformity, unusual wing positions or lameness.

**Eyes   Head   Breathing   Feathers   Posture   Legs   Wings**

### **Physically examine the bird.**

**Stop Bleeding   Treat for Shock   Cuts and Wounds   Fractures**

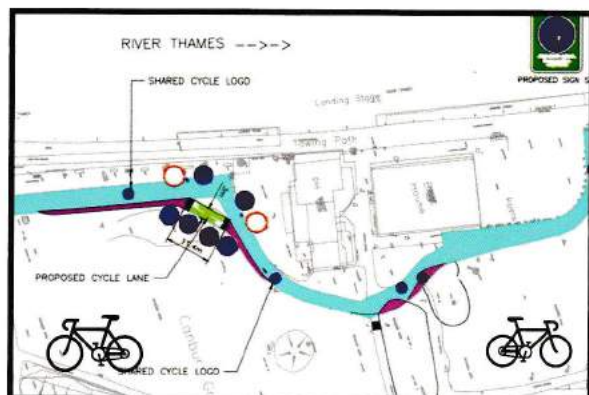
Of course for the best outcome, if possible, take our feathered friend to a veterinary clinic.

I hope this brief summary has been helpful and gives some confidence about what to do with our beautiful gift from nature. I am happy to answer questions via email.

See you at the next CARA function, or the coffee shop 😊 Peter [peterhiggins@bigpond.com](mailto:peterhiggins@bigpond.com)

**Go to the full article by Peter at <https://bit.ly/48M4ZeW> or scan this QR code**





## **A one year trial**

Don't panic, this plan isn't cast in stone.

In the diagram (left) adjacent, you can see the path, coloured in turquoise, as it runs round the Boaters Inn, in Canbury Gardens. The purple dots are places where the path will be widened for the trial.

The plan is to have both people and bicycles sharing the space.

A number of Canbury Gardens regulars, have expressed anxiety about the plan to amalgamate walkers and cyclists on the main path that runs through the gardens. However, when the plan is put into action, it will only be for a year's trial and then it will be reviewed.

The lower tow path, previously allocated to cyclists, has become a problem, because so many children and their parents gravitate towards the river, to see the ducks and swans at close quarters. Plus some dog walkers are happy to walk their dogs there, out of the way of picnickers and children playing ball games. Because the tow path, up till now, has been designated as a cycle path, cyclists are inclined to ride faster causing a clash between the various users. The cyclists then use the upper path as well.

Possibly, by sharing the main path through the gardens, the cyclists won't feel so 'entitled' and will ride more carefully and those currently using the gardens as a shortcut, who want to keep up a fast pace, will be more likely to stick to the adjacent road, Lower Ham Rd, where they can go at a speed expected on a legal traffic thoroughfare. This is just a hopeful opinion! (ED).

## **An Important Message from our Local Police**

**ALL wild birds are protected in law from killing, injury/taking under s1. Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.**

It is a criminal offence to kick, throw objects, shoot/catapult or do anything else that may cause harm to **ANY** wild bird, including ducks, geese, swans, crows, seagulls and pigeons. It is also a criminal offence to damage / destroy active nests with eggs or chicks in them.

**Police will investigate and prosecute those responsible for breaking the law.**

**If you witness a crime against a wild bird or their nests, please report it to police on 999 or 101.**

### **CARA Committee**

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Scan the QR code on the left to go to the CARA website for more information  
or go to [www.carakingston.org](http://www.carakingston.org)