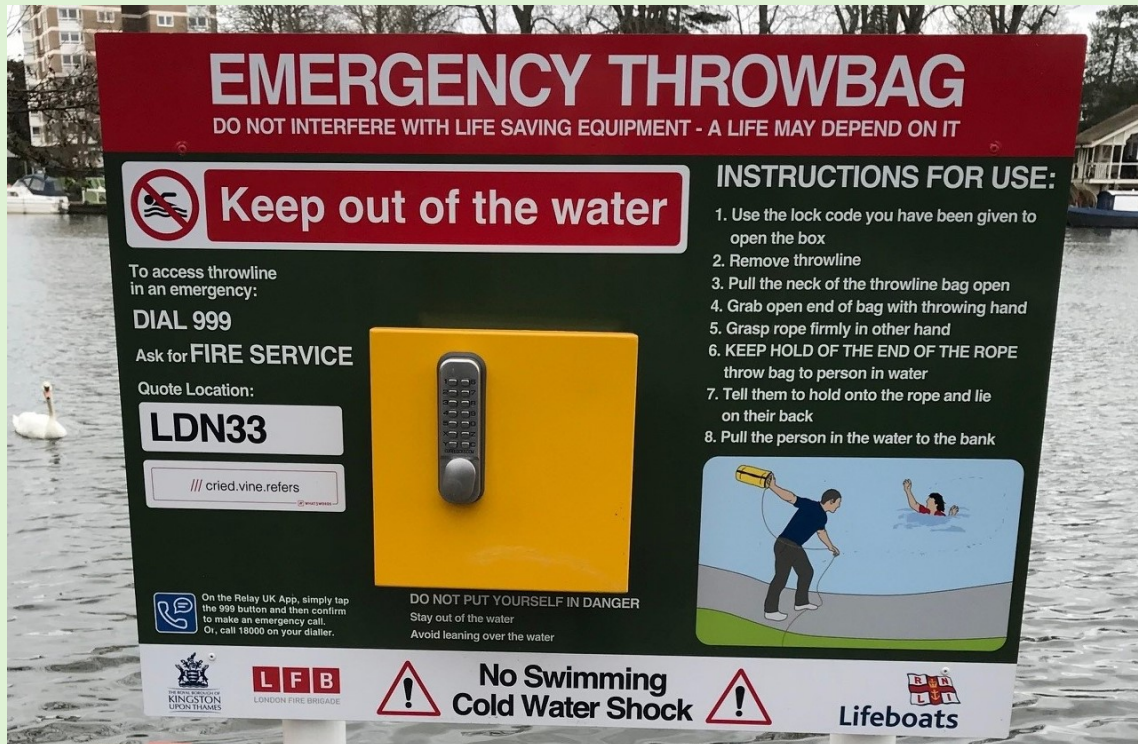




Register for RNLI Throwbag training on 23rd March



**'Emergency Throwbag' training by the RNLI on
Saturday 23rd March 2024 at 10.30am.**

Meet at the bandstand in Canbury Gardens for the introduction.

The event is free, but places are limited so **you need to sign up [here](#).**

The training will enable participants to use the Throwbag to best advantage-knowledge which could be critical if you were to see someone in difficulty in the river.

Note that the RNLI say "Children may attend this session, however they will need to be tall enough and strong enough to throw a throw bag a reasonable distance", so we guess under 10s may not be up to it.

Nature Friendly Dog Walking Talk:

Wednesday 13th March, 7.00 pm Canbury Pavilion



A reminder that Vet, Dr Peter Higgins, and RBK's Biodiversity Officer, Elliot Newton, will give a talk on **safeguarding your dog, the wildlife and other park users**. A CARA event, free to all, but dogs should stay at home! (except assistance dogs).

Bike Marking and Crime Prevention Wednesday 13th March, 12 – 2pm in Canbury Gardens

Our local police team will mark your bikes and give advice, free, at their stall near the Bandstand in Canbury Gardens.

Litter pick in Canbury Gardens with councillors and officers: Monday 25th March 10.00am

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All are encouraged to come and help. Sarah Ireland (RBK's council leader) and others from RBK will be joining us. (It will also be an opportunity to ask questions about plans for North Kingston.) Meet near the Secret Café.

Other CARA events coming up in April

1. **A very tasty evening** at Canbury Pavilion, with a guided talk matching **Cheeses with Wine**. (Saturday 20th April, 7.00pm)
2. **CARA riverside litter pick**. Fern Hill parents and children will join us on the morning of Saturday 27th April.
3. A repeat of last year's very successful **"Bat Walk"** (date to be confirmed)

The Secret Café, Canbury Gardens.

The café is re-opening on Friday 15th March, after their winter break.

Help in the Gardens and for Bandstand Concerts



There is a need for **gardeners to help on Saturday mornings** and those who like music to help with Bandstand Concerts on Sunday afternoons. Gardeners, please join us in Canbury Gardens, from 10am on Saturday mornings (weather permitting!).

Bandstand Concerts.

The Friends of Canbury Bandstand have organised a great programme for this Summer starting on Sunday May 12th. The full list of performers, brass, rock and folk including those from our local schools, will be published in April. To ensure everything goes smoothly, they need some helpers on the day,, volunteer marshals to organise chairs for the audience, which includes toddlers, families, elderly in wheelchairs as the concerts are popular with everyone. They need volunteer marshals - to unlock gates, put out chairs, then put them away and lock up at the end of each event. Can you give an hour or so before a concert starts and/or half an hour or so at the end on one or more of the Sunday afternoons when a band is performing? You will be shown what to do - it's not difficult. But we desperately need enough marshals. Without you, we cannot do this. If you might be able to help, please email Tim Lidbetter at tim.lidbetter@btinternet.com.

Spring menus are coming to our supporting venues

We are very grateful for the discounts CARA members are offered at our supporting local venues.

Spring menus are on their way – click below to see what's coming at:

[The Boaters Inn](#)

[The Queen's Head](#)

[Hilton DoubleTree - Hawkers Bar and Brasserie](#)

Canbury Gardens and Riverside News

A lot is happening in the CARA area.

Re-routing of the cycle path. This has been largely well received. One or two small improvements to signage and plantings that have been suggested were agreed at a meeting at the Guildhall last week.

New Notice Boards. Look out for them. As of April, the monthly CARA eNews will be posted for a couple of weeks each month followed by [FoCG](#) news.

Dragon Boat Races. This is progressing under a new management team of local residents, councillors and local businesses.

Evening police patrols in the summer. Policing in Canbury Gardens is to be stepped up, importantly for the evenings in the eight weeks at the height of summer.

Toilets!! Yes, after years of pressing the council, we learned there is to be a trial this summer of a 24 hour toilet block with a disabled person's loo. (We hope to have full details for the April eNews).

Drinking Fountain. Again, after lots of lobbying, a drinking fountain is to be installed near the Pavilion.

Planning News

The River Thames Boat Project, Canbury Dock

Refurbishment, including disabled access through new gates and fencing beside Canbury Gardens as well as improvements to the dock. The council has approved funding for this, to match the charity's own funding. (Canbury Dock is immediately downstream from the Barge Dock.)

Pool at Albany Outdoors

Local councillors have approved a £150,000 investment in an outdoor pool in the grounds of [Albany Outdoors riverside activity centre](#). The proposed eight square metre pool will provide a controlled environment for nervous or disabled visitors and others, to be used in poor weather.

Kingsgate and the Regal

There is a big rethink going on about the Kingsgate development plans. North Kingston Forum and CARA have pointed out the serious problems the developer's current plans will cause to traffic movement in and out of Kingston town centre. On the more positive side, plans for the old Regal Cinema are progressing well. We hope to be able to give you more specific details next month.