



# CARA

Canbury & Riverside Association

*Working to protect and enhance our local amenities for everyone*

## Newsletter Spring 2019

*In this issue we have two articles by **budding journalists** from The Kingston Academy. Both have suffered from the editor's blue pencil but both are excellent examples of well observed and written press pieces.*

### Opening of Canbury Gardens Astro Turf

*by Chris Randall, Year 8, The Kingston Academy*

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019 Kingston's Deputy Mayor opened the new Astro Turf football pitch in Canbury Gardens. Funded by the local Council, our councillors and Zac Goldsmith, our local MP, believe that this pitch will enhance sports facilities and children's resources in the borough. Canbury Pavilion Chairman, Trevor Willis, CARA and other community members worked to persuade Kingston Council to provide funding for the project. Added outdoor fitness machinery is being called for by local young people and their parents. Zac Goldsmith told our reporter he thought the pitch was a "huge triumph" for the determination of the people involved. He added a skate park could also be in demand from local young people and their parents. When our reporter asked if the pitch could help reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, Zac said it was only a "small positive step". Young people will be the main beneficiaries of this



pitch, since it will be available for use in their free time and for holding after school clubs. Hugh Scantlebury, ex-CARA chair, who was pivotal in bringing this project to fruition, told our reporter that the aim was to create an amenity for young people to hang out in a safe space. His co-supporter, Trevor Willis, said how he had begun the project as far back as 2008 when there was a youth group in the Pavilion with not enough to do – especially in the sports arena. Trevor, Hugh and others worked hard to get Council agreement to use the area and get funds. Finally the Council found the money and in 2018 work commenced. Deputy Mayor, Olivia Boulton, opening the pitch for its first game, congratulated the group of TKA students who refereed the tournament in which local primary schools took part opening the new Astro Turf.

### News in brief

Recently CARA attended the reconstituted **Canbury Gardens Working Party** in Jan. Many issues are to be taken forward. Litter remains a high priority. There will be new signs in the Gardens. The Kingston Academy will have a poster competition and help with our litter pick.

The **Shell Garage** is to have a mini Waitrose but without a 24hr alcohol licence.

At the latest **Police Panel** the CARA representative heard that our area still had low crime levels but residents were urged to report any crime or anti-social behaviour on

[www.met.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/](http://www.met.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/)

There was a recommendation to consider organising a speed gun patrol on Richmond Road. Despite heavy traffic, there is much speeding when quieter.



## Positive developments for Canbury Gardens

In the past few months Council contractors have been active in Canbury Gardens, not only laying down the new all-weather sports pitch (p 1). More maintenance work has been carried out. Many shrubs have been cut back (some might say a bit too severely) to open up views to the river and to discourage illegal camping in hidden corners. The gardens are looking tidier than they have for some time. The Environment Agency will plant screening around their new monitoring station (the dark green shed) - planned for the autumn.

New gates (right) have been installed at the two main entrances to keep out large vehicles, like travellers' caravans, a new local problem. We are assured that the council will repaint the gates "a more sympathetic colour". We are still concerned that the lower gate is frequently left open, encouraging unauthorised parking by cars and vans. In response to our call for members' suggestions CARA will be spending some of the association's reserves on improvements in the Gardens. Members have told us which projects they support. Now we have to agree details with the council, establish each project's costs and implement as many as we can afford.



## Canbury Thames riverside development - a collaboration between TLS and CARA

*by Shreya Karuman, The Kingston Academy*

On March 15th our reporter met Becky Law, Thames Landscape Strategy Project Officer, to hear about their work on the CARA Thames riverside. A not-for-profit partnership, TLS champion the river corridor between Weybridge, Hampton and Kew, inspired by the famous paintings called "Views from Richmond Hill" - the only English view protected by an Act of Parliament. While addressing the immediate riparian problems, like wildlife or flood management, TLS also aims to bring about connectivity between

land and river. Becky said "We take our countryside for granted, assuming the natural beauty and the trees are everlasting. Actually, the only reason these idyllic places exist is because they are sustained and managed by the like of TLS, with groups of citizens cognizant of environmental causes."

A good example is restoring river views: scrub cutting by volunteers, managed by TLS, funding organised by CARA. (see Becky and team below)



Volunteers, with Becky and Jason from TLS, beside some of the scrub cut from the riverbank near the Half Mile Tree.

On a personal note, Becky says "the best part of this work is the enthusiasm shown by the residents" and she had a message for the young generation: "Learn as much as you can about your home, your surroundings and your culture; they are integral to who you are. Once you have discovered what you are interested in, then work towards making a

positive impact. Through the work of organisations like CARA and TLS, the river can become an object of common interest, a unifying factor that connects varied cultures, generations and passions. And I think, in today's turbulent world, that's something to hold tight to".



## ... and concerts in the Gardens will return this summer

CARA has been a prime mover in getting back the popular summer concerts this year. They might have been the victims of cut backs but with council help and local sponsorship, including CARA, and the organisation of Belinda Paul, summer Sundays in the Gardens will "be alive to the sound of music". All we need is for the sun to shine.....



## First time in Kingston - residents get a say in long term development plans

North Kingston Neighbourhood Forum, an independent qualifying body sponsored by Government to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan, is charged with getting residents' opinions on planning in the Canbury and Tudor Wards. As yet, this is the only neighbourhood Forum in Kingston. The Forum, managed by local volunteers, aims to get 1000 local respondents to join its survey. This is very important as National Government and the Mayor of London are calling on Kingston to more than double its planned number of new homes to be built in the next 10 years. North Kingston has to take its share but its residents' opinions have to be taken into consideration.

### CARA residents are urged to give their views.

So go to <http://tinyurl.com/y3q9crw4> where Council plans and possible alternatives can be seen. At the end there is a questionnaire for you to record your comments. The results of the survey will be published and the Council is required to take the conclusions into account when writing their Local Plan later this year.



## Local campaign might give CARA residents unnecessary concerns

There is a leafleting campaign to stop over-development ruining Kingston, claiming residents are not being consulted. There is no plan from our council to build 46,317 homes over the next 20 years. There is a plan from the Mayor of London, yet to be ratified to build 13,623 homes over the next 10 years which is challenged by the Council whose own plan is for 6,360 homes by 2030.

## Trees

Recently CARA has been fortunate with the allocation of new trees and saplings. Three years ago the young cherry trees were planted along Kings Walk. They are beautifully flowering this year (see pic). Over the last few months more than 100 saplings and young trees have been planted in the area with more to come. We look forward to them growing up with similar beauty.





## CARA Committee

**Sophie Cavanagh** (liaison with local schools)  
head@thekingstonacademy.org

**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

**Charles Roscorla** (Membershlp 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 27th April 11:15 until lunchtime

#### CARA Spring Litter-pick

Meet at the entrance at the north end of Canbury Gardens. Join us to help clear litter from the riverbank through Canbury Gardens, along Lower Ham Road and downriver past the Half Mile Tree. CARA will give a safety briefing and provide litter pickers, gloves (or bring your own) and bin bags. Leander Sea Scouts will put out a boat to pick the litter at the water's edge.

### ■ ..... and hold this date

#### Sunday 15th September CARA Late Summer BBQ

To be held at Kingston Riverside (tennis) Club again. Invitations, details and booking forms will follow.



## SUPPORT FOR CARA

Could you put a little time into any CARA projects or activities? CARA needs more people to get involved, or the organisation will fade away. If you are willing to help in any way, however limited, contact a member of CARA Committee (see above).

## Council News

A packed Council meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup> dealt with a one way system request for Kings Road (refused), a development plan in Manorgate Road (referred) and at nearly midnight the latest application for planning to build flats on the **Barge Dock** was debated and rejected. The design, though much improved, was refused because of flood risk. CARA members, supported by our committee, have always objected to flats on the Barge Dock.

Three years ago CARA raised £10,500 to get the **lights in Canbury Gardens** re-instated. They have frequently failed in recent months. CARA has again raised the problem together with the failed light outside the children's playground, a hazard for those using the Pavilion after dark.

There is still a technical danger of **Albany Park Road** losing its CPZ status. It will come up at the June Council meeting. The threat to APR is expected to be removed then.

## CARA Street Reps

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

**Albany Park Road**, Penny Stott  
penny\_stott@hotmail.com

**Albany Flats, Albany Park Road**, Charles Roscorla  
charos100@hotmail.co.uk

**Montague Place, Albany Park Road**, Frances Bailey  
francesabailey@hotmail.com

**Chestnut Road**, Clare Francis  
clarefrancis@gmail.com

**Eastbury Road**, Trevor Willis  
trevorwillis77@gmail.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

If you would like to be CARA Street Rep for a road or block of flats not covered above, please contact Des Noble (des.noble@virginmedia.com)

To join or re-join CARA go to our website

<https://www.carakingston.org/about-us/membership/>

Or contact Charles Roscorla