



Planning the future for our local floodplains.

Many will remember the flooding in 2014, when we saw our local floodplains constantly in action: swans swimming along the towpath outside The Boaters Inn, and a long stretch of Lower Ham Road under water.



Swans swimming along the towpath
in front of The Boaters Inn



Cycling along Lower Ham Road under water.

The flood water came from heavy rain in the Thames Valley. **The Thames Barrier** was deployed repeatedly, closing at low tide to prevent the tide flowing in. That allows the rainwater, instead of the tide to fill the river in central London. This prevented the flood water in our area rising even higher.

In ten years' time every available closure of the Barrier will be needed to protect central London from tidal surges. It will no longer be used to reduce the impact of fluvial flooding like that of 2014. Climate change is bringing more frequent heavy rain and sea level rise, so we need plans for resilient flood plains after 2035.

At CARA AGM in October, **Jason Debney, Coordinator, Thames Landscape Strategy (TLS)** gave a most interesting talk on their work, focusing on flood risks. The Environment Agency's West London Communities Project had released that morning a report on their updated flood risk models, which assess how river flooding might combine with sea level rise and climate change up to the year 2100. Jason presented some of the data.

After 2035, if water coming down the Thames after extremely heavy rainfall reaches Teddington at the same time as a high tide is coming up the river, the water in our area will rise significantly higher than we're used to.

The TLS will look at how this will affect our local flood plains, working with community groups like CARA, the council and other stakeholders to identify strategies that will help us to continue to enjoy the river and riverside, building in the resilience needed in future. This is part of the **Joint Thames Strategy Refresh Project**, which is bringing together the five Thames strategies from Surrey to the sea. CARA works closely with the Thames Landscape Strategy, and we will keep you informed as this work progresses.

We love our river and wish to maintain and enhance its beauty, its biodiversity and its value for all, those who sail on it, swim in it or stroll beside it.

For more info about The Thames Landscape Strategy, go to www.thames-landscape-strategy.org.uk

The Drinkable Thames

By Dr Peter Higgins

The water quality of the Thames river has been a talking point with the CARA committee for a considerable time.

However, it's not just CARA that has major concerns regarding this area but many other organisations, including local councils up and down the Thames. As a vet, I have treated many dogs, who have had a great time swimming after a ball, only to end up in my veterinary practice for treatment after ingesting the river water.

This October I attended **a full-day workshop** with the sole aim of improving the quality of the water in the Thames, in fact with the goal of being able to drink it without ingesting either bacterial or pesticide pollution.

The meeting was incredibly well attended, with 30 organisations all in agreement with the high standards we wanted to achieve. Mayors from councils, as well as community and activist groups, were present from the length of the non-tidal Thames at Oxford down to the tidal Thames in Chelsea. CARA was represented by committee member Richard Mobbs as well as myself and I'm proud to say one of our local councillors, **James Manthel** was on the organising committee.



Li An Phoa who heads the international organisation **Drinkable Rivers, based in Amsterdam**, introduced us to Thames Walk, followed by James Manthel who presented a summary of the course of our Thames journey thus far.

Various approaches were outlined by the active organisations present, including those working with schools and local councils.

Professor James Barker of Kingston University gave us an insight into an exciting new **Thames water quality Doctoral Degree (PhD) programme** commencing in March 2026. Finally, the Port of London Authority (PLA) outlined their **Clean Thames Plan**



Representatives of 30 organisations devoted to a Drinkable Thames

The meeting left me feeling buoyed and full of optimism as I truly believe that everyone there was dedicated to the improvement of the quality of the water of the Thames, focusing on our eventual aim of being able to swim and ingest the water freely with no concerns.

This highly motivated group is now maintaining communication electronically and plan to have another face to face meeting towards the middle of next year to discuss our ongoing achievements.

Speaking personally, this is something I feel very passionately about, both from a scientific point of view and also for community outcomes. I will continue to work on this with representatives of CARA and other community groups and will keep you updated as more achievements are realised. *Peter*

A SUCCESS STORY!

Summer Concerts in Canbury Gardens

From June to September this year there were 13 Sunday concerts put on by a small group of **Friends of Canbury Bandstand (FoCB)**. The concerts were varied and importantly well attended and enjoyed. They were sponsored by generous donors The Boaters Inn, Greenwoods Estate Agency, the Secret Café, the Hilton and of course CARA. Sometimes as many as 600 people attended, some just as passers-by, others sitting down, many as families having picnics.



The Friends of Canbury Bandstand were fortunate to have some band supporters, CARA members and their friends helping as Marshalls. If you were one of them, thank you very much. They will be hoping to continue with your help next year. At CARA AGM a formal link was created between **CARA and FoCB** (*pesky acronyms & initialisms!*), this includes having at least one person being a member of both CARA committee and that of FoCB.

If any of our readers have an interest in music and outdoor entertainment and would like to help in any way with ideas, publicity, contacts with local bands, or choir ensembles, please get in touch with a member of the committee - see back page.

Operation Goldfish

Operation Goldfish is run by a local grassroots charity called RBKares who swing into action every Christmas to arrange presents for care home residents and care service users who sadly have no family or friends to celebrate the occasion with.

Last year, more than 280 presents were arranged, kindly bought and wrapped by members of the community. RBKares regularly hears from work teams who decide to participate instead of doing a Secret Santa -

If you'd like to be allocated a resident to buy for, please contact Yvann at yvann@rbkares.org who will match you up.

Why Operation Goldfish? The whole initiative is named after a care home resident called Peter A, who asks Santa for goldfish every year - and so far, Kingston residents have made sure that Santa delivered every year since 2020. (*Peter has quite the lovely aquarium now!*)

CARA CHRISTMAS DRINKS AT THE BOATERS INN

MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER FROM 7.00 - 9.00

Buy your drinks at the bar and join in the chat with neighbours, friends and CARA members - don't forget your CARA discount card if you are going to eat.

CARA Annual General Meeting (AGM)

At the AGM in October we established closer links with
Friends of Canbury Bandstand
(See article on page 3)

The committee members listed in the blue box below were all re-elected.

They would welcome new members.

If you think you might be interested, please contact any committee member below and arrange to come along one Thursday evening and give it a try.

(The Committee meets from 7pm to 9pm on a Thursday evening 6 times a year).

Don't forget Keep your card with you at all times, just in case you find yourself at one of the following venues:-

The Boaters Inn 20% off food and drinks for up to 4 people Monday to Saturday.

Note: that this discount cannot be applied for drinks only orders.

The Queen's Head 10% off all meals and drinks for up to 6 people.

Doubletree Hilton and Hawkers Brasserie & Bar, 15% discount for meals and accommodation.

Komoo 10% off their freshly baked baguettes with delicious fillings.



CARA COMMITTEE

Charles Roscorla (Membership Sec; Treasurer) 12 Ulster Court Albany Pk Rd charos100@hotmail.co.uk

Clare Francis (Thames Boat Project) 16 Chestnut Rd clarefrancis@gmail.com

John Parrish (CGWG; Planning; NKF; Bandstand) 108 Lower Ham Rd john.parrish1080@gmail.com

Kelly Page (Litter Picking; Canbury Gardeners) 19 Chestnut Rd kelly1page@yahoo.com

Liz Poole (Newsletter Editor). 86 Lower Ham Rd lizpooleis@gmail.com

Peter Higgins (Wildlife; Planning; CGWG) Wolsey Drive, pchiggins007@gmail.com

Richard Mobbs (Environment; Thames Landscape Strategy) 31 Chestnut Rd richard@statacom.net

Sharon Langer (Environment; Wildlife; Marketing) 22 Ulster Court, Albany Pk Rd sbmlanger@gmail.com



This is the **CARA** QR Code. Scan until carakingston.org appears, click on that for all the current info at **CARA**.

Alternatively, go to www.carakingston.org to get to the same place.

CARA NEWSLETTER SPONSORED BY GREENWOODS SALES & LETTINGS YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT ESTATE AGENT



**YOUR
FRESH START
AWAITS!**



If you are thinking of **Selling** or **Letting**
Call us NOW for a **Free Valuation** and ask for **Peter**

0208 239 0535

www.greenwoodsresidential.co.uk