

Celebrating 100 years of aviation



On 20th September Tommy Sopwith, son of aviation pioneer Sir Thomas Sopwith, unveiled an information board at the northern corner of Canbury Gardens commemorating Kingston's aviation history. The riverside celebration marked the centenary of testing Sopwith floatplanes on the Thames at that location, as well as the 20th anniversary of Thames Landscape Strategy, and it included a full-size replica of Sopwith's Tabloid racing floatplane (pictured below), a band, and speeches. CARA provided stewards and other help to help make the well attended event a great success.

You can see more photos and a short video of the celebration at <http://www.kingstonaviation.org/film-archive.html>.

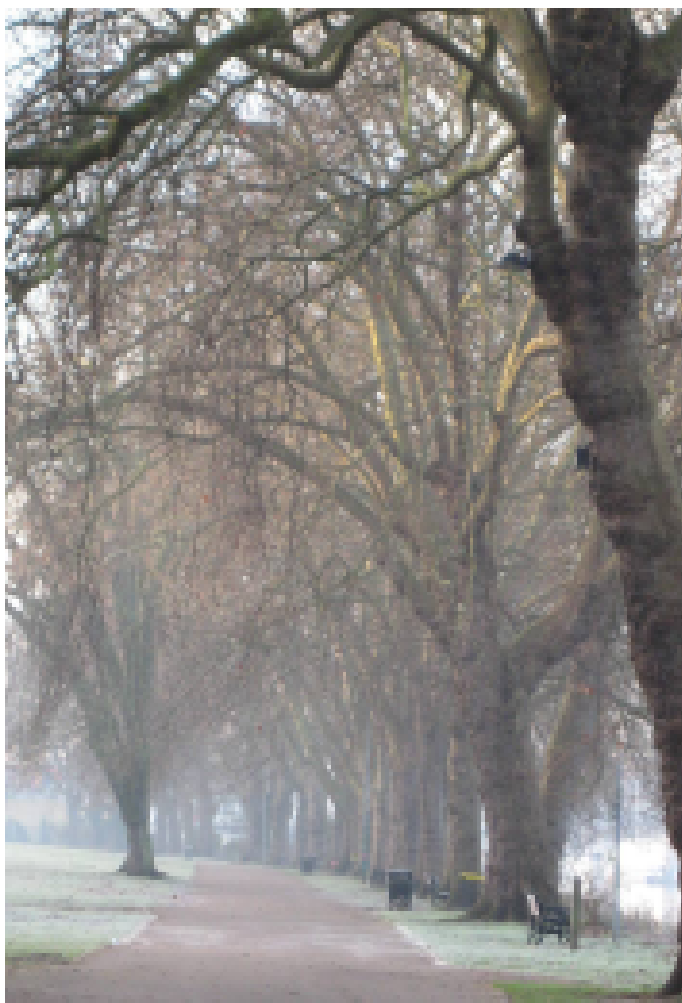


A belated Happy New Year to our readers

...and a suggested late resolution, one that will be easy to stick to – join CARA! Our membership form is on the back page and on our website, and non-residents can now join too, as Associate Members.

Our newest councillor

Maria Netley (Conservative, maria.netley@kingston.gov.uk) was elected in October's by-election in Tudor ward. Tudor councillors hold surgeries in Tudor Hall on the second Saturday of every month from 10.00am to 12 noon. Frank Thompson's retirement on health grounds was the reason for the by-election, and we hope that he is getting better.



*A January morning in Canbury Gardens
(Canbury Gardens updates on inner pages)*

February 2015

■ www.e-voice.org.uk/cara

■ www.facebook.com/cara.kingston

Printed on recycled paper. Please pass on or recycle this newsletter when you have finished with it.

Planning matters

“North Kingston Village”

Approval has been given for the revised gas-holder site plans (315 new homes in nine-, seven- and six- storey blocks + community, education and commercial space), and, on appeal, for the Goldcrest plan for more student accommodation. The Council and local residents continue to prefer a much-needed new school on the site, and CARA will keep an eye on progress.

Eden Quarter development

There have been opportunities (communicated on CARA websites) in recent months to comment on development briefs for large sites in central Kingston and, more specifically, on the planning application for the former Post Office site on Eden Street/Ashdown Road. Though this is outside our area, most of us use the town centre, and how it develops is relevant to local residents.

Kingston's “mini-Holland”

The money allocated by Transport for London for Kingston's plans for cycling has been increased, though is still not enough to cover the original plans, which included a new bridge over the Thames and a boardwalk alongside the river. CARA will continue to monitor the evolving plans for Kingston's “mini-Holland” scheme and its local impacts.

“Gloriana” by Canbury Gardens?

The replica royal barge “Gloriana” could find a home in Kingston after its rejection by Richmond Council. Kingston Council seems keen on this addition to Kingston's tourist attractions, and the Barge Dock by Canbury Gardens was recently announced in the local press as a preferred site. Though this could be interesting and attractive, we are also aware that the ornate barge will bring with it a very large boat-shed and visitor centre as well as visitors and traffic, which is why it proved unpopular in Richmond – so this is something that CARA will keep an eye on. Please tell us what you think.

Controlled Parking Zone in CARA area

The introduction of a CPZ in Lower Ham Road, Bank Lane and Albany Park Road was scheduled for the current financial year, but our most recent update from the Council was that the relevant traffic management order would be published in local newspapers early this year, and that, as objections from Richmond Road were anticipated, there would be further discussion, with the final decision postponed to a future Council meeting. So work on a CPZ is now unlikely before summer.

Canbury Gardens news

The Canbury Gardens Working Group has been revived and CARA Committee member Penny D'Souza will be working with it and raising issues on behalf of the local community. These include: the need for more (animal-proof) litterbins; the need for improved and bat-friendly lighting along some paths in the Gardens; repairs to the gate to the towpath and keeping it locked against illegal parking on the path; repairs to erosion along the towpath; the cycle-, foot- and shared paths in the Gardens; the poor state of the noticeboards; and “Gloriana” (see above).

The rather brutal tree-logging in the Gardens in January was apparently the Council's planned “essential health and safety tree works”, despite it seeming very convenient for the new riverside development. The notification of the works promised “replacement trees of a suitable species to be planted next winter” and CARA will try to ensure this happens.

A plea for permeable paving

If you're thinking of paving over or resurfacing part of your garden, please give a thought to using water-permeable materials. There are two main reasons:

- legal: it is now a requirement for any water (including rainwater) to be disposed of on your property, rather than letting it run off into the road. This can help to prevent flooding of your house as well as of the wider area.
- environmental: it allows any water to soak straight into the ground before coming into contact with pollutants such as engine oil, and conserves the level of the water table.

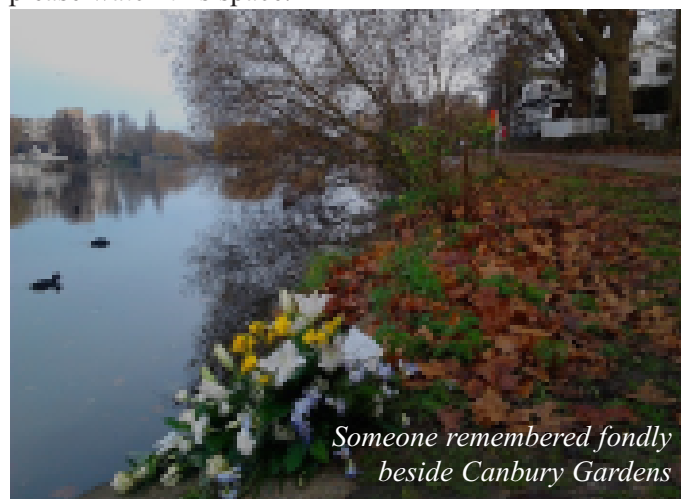
Nowadays there is a wide variety of surfaces to choose from, such as grids which can be filled with gravel or grass, porous concrete, resin-bound gravel (as seen around trees in the town centre) or recycled glass in a range of colours, all relatively easy to keep clean and weed-free.

News from our neighbours

Thank you to Michael Frain of TARAK for sharing his advice sheet “Fraud & Scams – Gas – Awareness & Advice”, now on our website.

North Kingston/Tudor & Canbury Neighbourhood Forum

A group of local organisations, including representatives from CARA, came together in November to explore the possibility of a Neighbourhood Forum covering the two North Kingston wards. Andrew Beedham of Ham Neighbourhood Forum described the benefits offered by Neighbourhood Forums (the urban and suburban equivalents of parishes) and the process of setting one up. A Neighbourhood Forum can get funding to develop its own Neighbourhood Plan, as long as it conforms with area and regional Plans, and it has some say in how community funds from local developments are spent. Both of these seem worthwhile, especially when major developments are on the Kingston horizon (see item on next page about the CARA AGM), and CARA has agreed to be involved and to send representatives to meetings. In fact, once a Neighbourhood Forum is set up everyone in the Neighbourhood will be a member by default – so please watch this space.



*Someone remembered fondly
beside Canbury Gardens*

Reclaim our Riverbank

This new community group has come together since the autumn to get something done about the illegally moored boats along the towpath between Kingston and Teddington Lock. You can find information and the news CARA receives from RoR on our website at <http://e-voice.org.uk/cara/reclaim-our-riverbank>. If you share RoR's concerns and would like to support them and receive their updates, please email reclaimourriverbank@gmail.com.

CARA AGM

Our AGM in October saw the usual formal business and review of the year accomplished speedily, with CARA finances looking healthy, membership creeping up [by the end of 2014 paid-up membership was 174], and a minor change to the Constitution to permit Associate Membership passed without opposition. Committee member James Roy was standing down, and co-opted member Charles Roscorla was elected, and the rest of the committee re-elected, unanimously. Committee member Trevor Willis was singled out for thanks on his retirement from the Neighbourhood Police Panel after 25 years.

Those present then heard and discussed a very interesting presentation on "Kingston Futures" from Viv Evans, the Council's Head of Planning & Transport. He stressed the inevitability of population growth and more development in Kingston, as laid out in the current London Plan, and the subsequent need for the Council and stakeholders to put their efforts into shaping the changes rather than fruitlessly resisting them, so that the impacts of growth are as positive as possible.

It was a pity that miserable October weather meant rather a small audience for this excellent and timely talk, and CARA Committee will consider holding future AGMs a little earlier in the year to encourage more members to turn out. The draft AGM Minutes can be read on the CARA website, in "About CARA/AGMs" – it might be a good idea to read them through while you can still remember the meeting!

Other CARA work on your behalf

Trees, parking, lighting and potholes on Skerne Road

Many people have concerns about the Kingston Heights development on Skerne Road. It was promoted with assurances that trees would be planted along its whole length and that paving stones would be used for the pavement, not tarmac. CARA Committee member Stuart Devall has made repeated requests to Kingston Council officers for information and confirmation that this work will in fact be implemented, but has met with no response so far. Additional concerns include the poor road surface, inadequate street lighting, random parking and the absence of a proper cycle lane.

A new path or paths across Canbury Gardens: we continue to push for a new path from the gate by Kingston Riverside flats, where there is an informal muddy track that needs to be surfaced properly.

The timing of the **traffic lights on Richmond Road** crossing was corrected, thanks to the persistence (five phone calls!) of Trevor Willis of CARA Committee.

What a waste!

Kingston has one of the highest recycling rates in London – we currently recycle 46% of our waste – so let's hope that the new, more complicated, system soon to be introduced doesn't spoil this good record. There is still room for improvement – a recent study showed that a whopping 63% of the waste in our landfill wheelie bins could be recycled or composted instead. In particular, around a third of what goes into the average wheelie-bin is food waste. We can't put meat and bones into our own garden compost bins but all food waste can go into the Council's brown food containers for collection and composting. For an A to Z guide of what can be recycled and how, see http://www.kingston.gov.uk/directory/9/a-z_of_recycling_in_kingston.

Fancy a free energy check up?

Smart Communities is part of a charity giving residents free practical help with reducing their energy bills – experienced assessors can visit your home to review your energy use, heating and insulation, and can fit a few free items of energy-saving equipment. To find out more or to book an energy check, call Clive on 020 8546 5471 or email clive.messenger@blueyonder.co.uk.

CARA Nature Watch



A Tufted Duck snoozes on the river one winter morning

■ **Feed the birds:** The RSPB has some good advice on its website, including a recipe for bird-cake and recommendations of nuts and seeds, grated cheese, pet food, breakfast cereals, leftover pastry and small amounts of breadcrumbs – but not salty foods, dry pulses, cooking fat, margarine, or porridge oats. Bird food is best kept off the ground where it can become soggy or attract squirrels, mice and rats. When everything is frozen do think about putting out some water too. Our local Parakeets, Pigeons, and, increasingly, Jackdaws, tend to dominate feeders, but smaller garden birds do still get the occasional look-in.

■ **But please don't feed the foxes** – find out why not in the wildlife briefing on our website.

■ **Sunset Boulevard cherry trees** have been planted along the tennis courts side of Kings Walk, opposite the trees planted last year. Once fully established, they will enhance the walk for everyone, particularly at blossom time.

■ **Spring bulbs:** Trevor Willis organised, and CARA funded, the planting of some 7,000 bulbs in Kings Walk and other local areas, helped by volunteers from John Lewis and the local community.

CARA COMMITTEE

Stuart Devall (street environment; trees), 21 Eastbury Road; stuart.devall@virginmedia.com; 020 8546 5778

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

Clare Francis (liaison with Conservation Area Advisory Committee; planning applications), 16 Chestnut Road; clarefrancis@gmail.com; 020 8549 4581

Anneke Ferrier (social events; Albany liaison), 1 York Court, The Albany, Albany Park Road, KT2 5ST; anneke.ferrier@gmail.com; 020 8274 0823

Marilyn Mason (CARA newsletter and communications; Town Centre Management liaison), 142 Lower Ham Road; marilyn.mason142@gmail.com; 020 8546 4086

Richard Mobbs (newsletter distribution; river and riverside, Thames Landscape Strategy liaison), Chestnut Road; richard@statacom.net; 07762 598 309

John Parrish (parking), 108 Lower Ham Road; john.parrish@zen.co.uk; 020 8546 1235

Charles Roscorla (membership), 12 Ulster Court, Albany Park Road, KT2 5SS; c.roscorla@btinternet.com; 020 8546 0202

Trevor Willis (liaison with police and Neighbourhood Watch; Canbury Pavilion; anti-social behaviour, litter and graffiti), 7 Eastbury Road; 07889 731 264 or 020 8549 3076; trevorwillis77@gmail.com

Peter Wolf (treasurer), 126 Lower Ham Road; pgw_subs@yahoo.co.uk; 020 8541 3191

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

■ **Every Saturday, 9.45 – 10.45am, exercise group, Canbury Gardens:** sociable, informal, free. All welcome, meet by the children's playground.

■ **Saturday 14th February, Love Kingston Day** with lots going on for local good causes – see www.love-kingston.org.uk.

■ **Saturday 28th March, 11.15am – lunch-time, CARA spring riverside litter-pick:** please come along to the slipway at the northern end of Canbury Gardens to help tidy up the river bank after the tree-cutting and before birds start nesting. CARA will provide grabbers, gloves (you may prefer your own), rubbish sacks, high-visibility vests, and guidance on health and safety at 11.15. Families welcome, as long as children are with a responsible adult.

WANTED – COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE ON NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE PANEL

The Panel involves roughly four meetings a year to exchange information between local people and groups and local police to try to ensure that we get the policing we need, particularly at peak times for criminal activity. If interested, please contact Trevor Willis who has been the local representative for many years and will help with a smooth handover.

YOUR CARA STREET REPRESENTATIVES

Albany Park 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 Ham Road (Nos 38-78):* Michael Seigal, mkseigel@hotmail.co.uk; *Lower Kings Road:* Jonathan Rollason, thinkkingston@yahoo.com; *Woodside Road:* Mitzie Wilson, mitzie.wilson@virgin.net

CARA MEMBERSHIP, Spring 2015

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

I / we would like to join / renew my household/associate subscription to CARA. *(Please email Charles Roscorla if you don't know whether you are a paid-up member)*

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/flat number/business name and street/block as a reference.

OR

I enclose cash / cheque for £..... payable to "CARA" to cover (please delete/tick as appropriate):

£5 for 1-year membership £10 for 2-year membership £15 for 3-year membership

an additional donation towards the running of the association of £..... I require a receipt.

Signed:

Date:

Please send the completed form to CARA Membership Secretary, c/o 31 Chestnut Road, KT2 5AP. (Albany residents can also drop off membership forms at 12 Ulster Court.)

*You can arrange a standing order from your bank account, on-line, by letter or in branch.