



CARA

Canbury & Riverside Association

Working to protect and enhance our local amenities for everyone

Newsletter, Autumn 2014

About CARA

We are a non-political voluntary organisation whose aims and objectives are the protection and enhancement of amenities within this area for residents and users alike. We take up issues that affect substantial numbers of residents and/or advise them on how to proceed. We provide local news and information through this newsletter, our website and Facebook page, and by email. We run litter-picks and social events such as the annual BBQ. Do please (re-)join if you value what CARA does.

YOU ARE INVITED
to
the 2014 CARA AGM on Thursday 9 October.
See page 3 for details and agenda.

Our councillors, elected in May

In Tudor Ward: Councillor David Cunningham, Councillor Hugh Scantlebury (Chair, Town Neighbourhood Committee), and Councillor Frank Thompson.

In Canbury Ward: Councillor Geoff Austin (Chair, Town Neighbourhood Planning Sub-committee), Councillor Andrea Craig, and Councillor David Glasspool.

YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY A CARA MEMBER!

Please consider (re-)joining —
see back page.

Another successful barbecue in July

...thanks to CARA Committee members and the weather. The sun shone, neighbours enjoyed chatting and viewing a 3-D print of the Sury Basin plans (see next

page), there was plenty to eat and drink, and CARA broke even!

We hope to see you at the barbecue next year.



THAMES LANDSCAPE STRATEGY (TLS) CELEBRATES A CENTURY OF AVIATION IN KINGSTON

Local residents are invited to join TLS on Saturday 20th September at the northern end of Canbury Gardens to celebrate "100 Years of The River Thames and Aviation in Kingston" and 20 years of TLS. The event, from 2.00 to 4.30pm, will include the unveiling of a specially commissioned interpretation panel by Tommy Sopwith, live music, exhibitions and a replica of the 1914 Schneider-Trophy-winning Sopwith float-plane (pictured below on the riverside). Fancy dress (as seen below) welcome!



Cara newsletter, September 2014

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

www.e-voice.org.uk/cara

CARA street contacts

This new scheme is proving a great success. We now have six contacts for six roads not currently covered by Committee members (see back page). If you have any questions or concerns that you would like to raise with CARA, or any local news items for the newsletter, you can either contact the relevant committee member directly, or now, if you prefer, speak to your Street Contact. If your road has neither, perhaps you would consider volunteering: the role is whatever you make of it, with no requirement to attend any meetings, but you will be kept informed of current CARA area news. If you would like to find out more or volunteer, please contact jennylangridge@yahoo.co.uk We would very much like to see every road, or block of flats in our area represented by at least one street contact.

Local plans and developments

■ Despite local opposition, **Barclays Bank** on Ham Parade has closed, as will **our nearest post office** on Richmond Road, to be replaced by one nearer the station, though further from most of us. The Sainsbury collection point is closing too.

■ The new secondary school, **Kingston Academy**, is due to open in September 2015. A head has been appointed and refurbishment and extension work is due to begin soon. To make way for the school, adult education classes are moving to Surbiton.

■ **Gas-holder site:** the developers responded to local objections to the height of the tallest block on the site by reducing it from 12 to 9 storeys. On the right is the 3-D print of the development on display at the CARA barbecue. Some residents are satisfied with this compromise; others are less happy. If the Council rejects planning permission, the developer can appeal to the Secretary of State for the original proposals, as happened with Kingston Heights.

■ The Department of Energy recently published a map of suitable sites for water-source heat-pumps to encourage the rest of the UK to follow the pioneering example of the **Thames-side heat pump** installed by United House as part of the local Kingston Heights development.

■ If you are tempted to pave over your front garden by the soon-to-be-introduced **Controlled Parking Zone** on Albany Park Road, Bank Lane and Lower Ham Road, there are links to some useful guidance on driveways on the CARA website. A porous driveway can protect your house, as well as the neighbourhood, from flooding.

■ The **Velma boathouse**, across the river from Canbury Gardens, has now been listed despite objections from the developer. Pending final approval, it will be part of a conservation area covering the river frontage from Kingston Bridge to Broom Road recreation ground.



■ The recently introduced **town centre Designated Public Place Order**, which gives the police extra powers to deal with nuisance drinkers or move them on, includes Canbury Gardens.

■ **Kingston Fire Station** intends to have some free charging points for electric cars on their premises, which will be powered by their impressive solar panel array (pictured on the right), so locals with electric cars will be able to run them on solar power.



"Good fences make good neighbours"

So wrote the poet Robert Frost, probably ironically as there is more to it than that. Two recent pieces of research suggested that not all is well between neighbours. One survey found that three out of four British people would not trust their neighbours with their keys, and almost one in four would not even tell their neighbours when they were going away. Another study found that most of us don't know our neighbours, with less than one fifth knowing the names of their immediate neighbours, though most would like to: two thirds thought that their neighbourhood would be a stronger and safer place if local people got to know each other better and felt part

of a community. A spokesperson from Neighbourhood Watch commented that community cohesion can reduce opportunities for crime and improve life for the elderly. Even small gestures like saying hello or smiling can have a significant positive effect on a neighbourhood, researchers found.

We are sure that it is friendlier and safer round here than in many places, but we could probably all do better, including keeping an eye on our more vulnerable neighbours and helping them out when they need it. CARA does its bit by organising the occasional social event and passing on local news. We also forward notifications about local scams and crimes from our Safer Neighbourhood Team via our website, Facebook page and email, though those don't reach everyone so it would be very helpful if people that do get these warnings could pass them on to their neighbours.

Other news in brief

■ In June, a small Community Payback group painted the bench around the Half Mile Tree and picked up some litter, thanks to the CARA Committee, which organised this.

■ London buses no longer take cash. Instead, you will need a season ticket, Oyster Card, Freedom Pass or contactless bank card.



■ Canbury Gardens has been awarded a Green Flag again. Members of CARA Committee are working on reviving the Canbury Gardens Working Party to make sure that the Gardens are well maintained, keeping up the pressure on United House to improve a path in the Gardens, and trying to ensure that trees are planted in Skerne Road as shown in the developers' original drawings.

■ This impressive collection of rubbish was pulled out of the Thames just up-stream from us by Kingston University students earlier this year. The next CARA litter-pick is on 27th September.

■ In July, local police, the Environment Agency and Richmond and Kingston Council



enforcement teams found 47 illegally moored boats by the towpath and served them with notice to move. 13 of them were also unlicensed. It will remain an ongoing issue, however, as Richmond awaits a new bye-law to deal with these boats more effectively, and Councils could have to find homes for the boats' residents.

CARA Nature Watch



The local swan family this spring

■ Oak Processionary Moth nests were reported along the towpath just this side of the boundary stone. The caterpillars have nasty effects on human beings as well as on oak trees, and should have been removed by now.

■ The hedge on the edge: if you've wondered where all your garden Sparrows have gone in recent years, at least some of these increasingly rare birds nest in the hazel hedge along the Lower Ham Road footpath by the wall of the Albany flats. A Goldcrest has been reported there too, and Wrens can often be heard singing deep in the foliage. The hedge is cut twice a year, at times that cause nesting birds the least disturbance.

■ Some wild flowers have been planted in a corner of Canbury Gardens where they will help to increase local biodiversity by providing nectar and pollen for insects and, later, seeds for birds. Long grass can also help wildlife by providing shelter and seeds.

CARA 2014 AGM AT THE PAVILION, CANBURY GARDENS, THURSDAY 9TH OCTOBER, 8.00PM AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
2. 2013 Minutes and matters arising, if any
3. Highlights of 2013-14
4. Financial and Membership report
5. Election of Committee 2014/15 ¹
6. Minor changes to CARA Constitution ^{2,3}
7. Any Other Business / Questions to the Committee
8. Guest speaker: Viv Evans, RBK Head of Planning and Transport, on "Kingston Futures" (with particular focus on North Kingston and the town centre) ⁴

Refreshments will be served

All welcome, but only CARA members may vote. Renewals are due in September and you may join or rejoin via the website or the form in this newsletter, or at the AGM.

¹ Committee member James Roy will be standing down at the AGM and co-opted member Charles Roscorla will be standing for election. All other Committee members are willing to stand for re-election. Other volunteers are welcome, and should come along to the AGM or contact John Parrish. (Being involved is a great way to get to know what's going on locally and meet people who share your interest in maintaining the special nature of our neighbourhood.)

² *Special Resolution 1: Up-dated CARA Constitution*, to adopt the revised CARA Constitution as set out in the draft dated 12th August 2014 which clarifies some aspects of the Constitution and brings it into line with current practice (available on the CARA website in "About CARA", with new wording in italics, and significant changes highlighted by showing the previous wording struck through). If you are a CARA member without internet access, please write or e-mail your name and address to Richard Mobbs and he will send you a copy.

³ *Special Resolution 2: Extension of CARA membership* to help meet CARA's aim of enhancing the area for both residents and other "users", Associate Membership of CARA will be available to "users" who are neither residents nor businesses within the CARA area. Acceptance of people outside the CARA area into Associate Membership will be at the discretion of CARA Committee. "Associate Members" will pay the same annual subscription and have membership entitlements as for Members except that Associate Members will receive CARA newsletters and other communications only by electronic means, such as email.

⁴ As there are likely to be a great many comments and questions for our guest speaker, please send them in advance to John Parrish or hand them in at the beginning of the evening so that they can be grouped.

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 533; pennysouza@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

James Roy, 10 Avon House, Samuel Gray Gardens; 07951080 639; jwr2410@gmail.com

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; membership list), 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 20th September, 2.00pm: TLS celebration, Canbury Gardens** - see front page.

■ **Saturday 27 September, 11.15am – lunch-time, CARA autumn riverside litter-pick:** please come along to the slipway at the northern end of Canbury Gardens to help tidy up the river bank. 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.

■ **Thursday 9 October, 8.00pm, CARA AGM** - see page 3.



CARA STREET CONTACTS

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, Autumn 2014

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

I / we would like to join / renew my household's subscription to CARA.

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 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 Treasurer, c/o 31 Chestnut Road, Kingston, KT2 5AP.

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