



CARA Newsletter

Autumn 2023

CANBURY AND RIVERSIDE ASSOCIATION CALL 3 CHEERS FOR THE KINGSTON TEAMS



**KINGSTON CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION'S**

**2 DRAGON BOAT TEAMS
(INCLUDING CARA MEMBERS)**



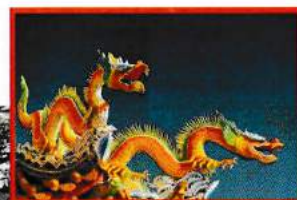
RAISED,

£11,000

Originating in ancient China, Dragon Boat Racing is now the fastest growing water sport in the world and a favourite among charities for fundraising opportunities. Kingston Rotary has held this event every year since 2000 except during lockdown. Originally encouraged by a Rotarian who had witnessed a similar race in Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

This major community event is organised in conjunction with Dragon Boat Events, the leading dragon boat event organiser in the UK and is a fun-filled water sports activity. Teams compete in Dragon Boats, which are large canoe-like vessels fitted with ornately carved dragon heads and tails. Crews of up to 16 people sit in pairs and paddle to compete in races over distances of around 250m. Each boat has a drummer beating time to keep the paddlers in unison and a professional helms person in the stern to guide the boat.

This year, we had 52 teams and each raised funds for a nominated charity. Kingston Rotary also nominated a charity for teams to support if they wish. Six teams supported Momentum, the children's charity, this year. We ask each team to raise a least £1k but we know many raised considerably more. A funfair for children and 30 stalls completed a great day out.



WELCOME TO ALL THE NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE RECENTLY JOINED CARA

BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE SECTION

We have had a wonderful year celebrating and investing in our beautiful green spaces and biodiversity in the CARA area, seeking to preserve the natural beauty of Canbury Gardens and our riverside for everyone to enjoy. Our scenic gardens and riverside is not only popular for a variety of sporting and community activities, but is also a vital local ecological corridor, enabling the passage of numerous species and fostering high levels of ecological connectivity.

Highlights from 2023 include Canbury Gardens being awarded with Green Flag status and a number of educational events, including the very popular Bat walk, our first Dog Walkers event in the gardens, and an amazing talk about the Kingston Peregrines. In October, we continue the series with a talk about the swans of Kingston.

CARA remains committed to protect our green and blue spaces. To further this, CARA not only continues to work very closely with the Council, several charities and organisations specialising in biodiversity but also donates to valuable local biodiversity and sustainability causes. Recently, CARA donated to the Friends of Canbury Gardens (FoCG) to help buy much needed gardening equipment, and also bought bird, bat and owl boxes for the wildlife section of the Gardens.

Look out for the **wildlife** areas

CARA is passionate about keeping the heart of our community diverse & sustainable



KINGSTON PEREGRINES

Elliot Newton, the Biodiversity Officer for Kingston, and Helen Cavanagh, Head of Facilities at Kingston College, gave a fabulous talk about the Kingston Peregrines, in June.

Peregrines are part of the falcon family, and are the fastest animals on earth, beating the cheetah in speed. They hunt pigeons and parakeets. Peregrines and their nesting sites are protected by law.

The talk was to a full house in the Pavilion and covered topics including the history of peregrines in the UK, the peregrines' hunting ability, and then specifically on balancing the college's facilities, telecoms facilities and a protected nesting site; creating a safe space for both humans and falcons; and some lovely and entertaining stories about the peregrines, especially about the juveniles when they learn how to fly and feed themselves.

The key message from the talk is that urban wildlife and humans can harmoniously live together. A very big thank you to Helen and Elliot for holding this talk.

Elliot Newton the Biodiversity Officer for Kingston Council, tells us:-



As we approach autumn it is likely you might hear *vocalisation* commonly known as the 'too-wit too-woo' call. This is often attributed to the typical owl song, but actually this call belongs to the **tawny owl**. However, this call is not produced by an individual bird; rather, it arises from a duet between a male and a female communicating with one another.

In this exchange, the **female emits a 'too-wit'** sound, to which the **male responds with a 'too-woo'!**

This helps to strengthen the pair bond between the birds which mate for life.

Tawny owls have been seen and heard in Canbury Gardens, and CARA working with the Friends group is soon to install a Tawny Owl nesting box.

We worked with FoCG to install the bird boxes in the biodiversity area of Canbury Gardens, and hopefully they will become inhabited very soon by our feathered friends.

A special box for
Tawny Owls
With a pole to the
left for them to
perch on.
Toowit toowoo



A variety of
boxes were
made for the
gardens, for tits,
bats and robins.



CANBURY GARDENS - GREEN FLAG

In July, Canbury Gardens was awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award.

The Green Flag Award scheme is an international standard recognising and rewarding well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

To achieve this status, the Park's management, gardeners and Friends Group had to demonstrate tangible improvement and regeneration activities, including park layout, biodiversity considerations, litter management, signage, and local community involvement.

This status shows that Canbury Gardens has social as well as physical infrastructure, offering health and wellbeing benefits, and maintaining connections with nature.

What are some additional benefits of the Green Flag status? This status can attract biodiversity enthusiasts, bird watchers, or tourists to the park. When you hold an event in the park or if your business is in, or close to, the park, you can include a mention of the Green Flag status in your marketing materials.

We can all be very proud of this achievement, as it showcases our community's passion and commitment for protecting our green spaces. You can continue to help by joining the Friends of Canbury Gardens, watering the plants, using the tap water by Boaters, or helping with litter picks.

To read more about this, search online for Canbury Gardens and Green Flag.

YOU CAN JOIN CARA NOW!

Canbury and Riverside Association: Membership and subscription form.

I would like to become a Member of CARA/renew CARA Membership^[1].

To join and/or pay your subscription please use the instructions via this QR code or the form below.



Membership Perks

A Monthly update on happenings in our community by email

Whopping 20% discount on your meal at the Boaters Inn, on Monday to Thursday.

An amazing 10% off your final bill at The Queen's Head, everyday.

Hawkers Brasserie & Bar with a 10% discount on meals and accommodation.

Please complete your details as follows:

Name:

Address:

Postcode: Telephone:

Email:

I confirm that I support CARA's aims and objectives. (see CARA website www.carakingston.org)

CARA Membership subscriptions run from 1st September to 31st August the following year.

Please tick boxes below as appropriate.

☐ I enclose a cheque for £5 (payable to "CARA") or £5 cash^[2] for my Membership subscription.

☐ I would like to make an additional donation towards the running of CARA of £, so I have increased the value of my cheque/cash payment by that amount.

I do/do not require a receipt.

OR

☐ I have set up a standing order for payment of £5 now and thereafter annually on 1st September to CANBURY AND RIVERSIDE ASSOCIATION (CARA), sort code 20-46-73, account number 53451518, using my house (or flat) number and street (or block) name as the reference.

Signed Date.....

Please post or deliver the completed membership form to:

CARA Membership Secretary, c/o 31 Chestnut Road, Kingston upon Thames, KT2 5AP

[1] A Member should be an individual person. Other residents of a Member's household within CARA Area^[3] will enjoy the usual benefits, with the exception of voting. CARA Members resident outside CARA Area will receive only electronic versions of CARA newsletters and other communications.

[2] Send cash only if it will be delivered by hand.

[3] CARA Area boundaries are:-

to the West, the River Thames, from the Barge Dock to the Hawker Centre;
to the North, Lower Ham Road, from the Thames to the junction with Richmond Road;
to the East, the west side of Richmond Road, from Lower Ham Road to Lower Kings Road;
to the South, Lower Kings Road, Skerne Walk west side, May Bate Avenue north side and the borders of Canbury Gardens.

CARA is administered by volunteers. We will process your Membership application as quickly as we can. New Members should receive a response to the email or address you have given in less than 28 days from when we receive your application.

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Sharon Langer
(Environment; Wildlife; Marketing)
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Nic Lewisohn (Social events; Kingston
Riverside Tennis Club Liaison)
23, Grosvenor Gardens

CARA COMMITTEE
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