

# CARA

## Newsletter

Winter 2023

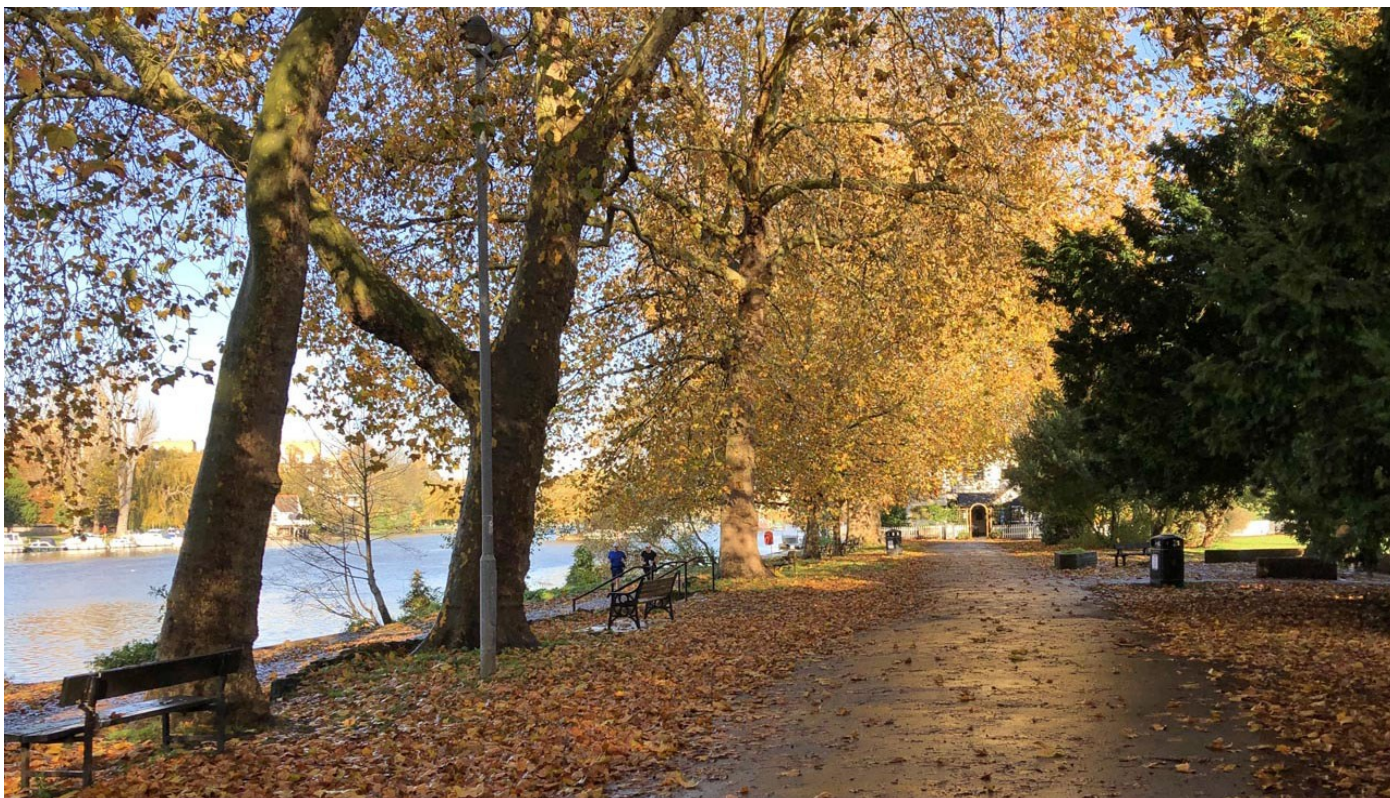


**What is CARA? Find out [here](#)**

### **Our Garden Friends to become a formal organisation**

At a drop-in session held at the Canbury Pavilion in November, it was clear that there is strong support within the community for a Friends of Canbury Gardens, with a constitution and committee. At the next session people volunteered (or were coerced) to serve on the committee. This group will meet in the new year to formalise the constitution, and the Friends of Canbury Gardens (FoCG for short) will be ready to start in the spring. We are delighted the Friends of Canbury Bandstand (renamed Bandstand Friends) will join FoCG. They will continue to provide amazing concerts to delight visitors over the summer months. The main aims of FoCG will be to protect and improve our very special gardens, adding more initiatives to the enthusiastic volunteer gardening and litter-picking teams whilst liaising with the local council and contractors by taking an active part on the Canbury Gardens Working Group. If you have a love of the gardens and could help with the new organisation or would just like to find out more, please contact [friendsofcanburygardens@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcanburygardens@gmail.com)

Thanks to our two local councillors James Manthel & Noel Hadjimichael, who with CARA members Maria Netley & Trevor Willis, have helped to get this new venture off the ground.



**If you would like to receive our monthly CARA eNews, please contact us at [cara-eneews@carakingston.org](mailto:cara-eneews@carakingston.org)**

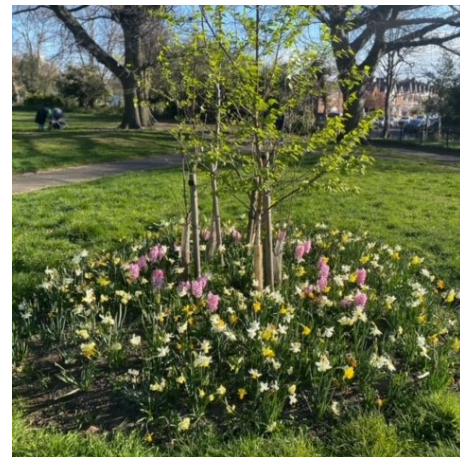
## Hard work in the gardens and along the road and riverside



The hard work carried out last month by volunteer gardeners and the TLS-led Swingbridge team, saw scrub cut back along Lower Ham Rd and the riverside to beyond the half mile tree. This opened up river views to pedestrians,

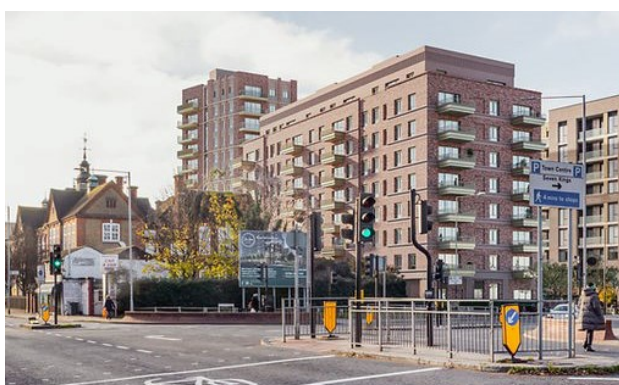


cyclists and drivers, allowing all to pass without cuts or scratches. Also in December, 15 CARA resident volunteers planted new bulbs adding to the 2,000 planted in 2022. This was not easy with frost on the ground. Thank you Gardeners. We will all benefit from your chilly efforts in a month or two.



Picture top left is of young volunteers cutting back a big branch on the roadside. Top right more volunteers planting bulbs. Just above left to right, no scratch cycling, the Swingbridge team opening up the view and the results of some of last year's bulb planting

## Sury Basin & Richmond Rd junction needs sorting, but is this going too far?



The picture on the left shows the junction as never seen. There is no traffic! Also, there is a massive block of flats behind the old college building and on part of the Parkhurst van hire site. Behind the new college extension is an even taller block. The developers who are asking for local residents' views say "...the scheme will create new facilities for Kingston College and much needed homes". Members of CARA who received the January eNews were told of drop-in meetings which were held just before we had gone to press. If you managed to get to a meeting and have some comments, North Kingston Forum want us to pass them on. NKF are our eyes and

ears on planning matters and have considerable influence on development plan details. On the right is a bird's eye view of the site. The developers say the linear "park" at the bottom of the picture will be widened. They also say the 8 & 13 storey blocks of flats will have 125 homes, if the height of the blocks are approved. Most of the ground floor will be given over to college teaching space and a studio. Apart from NKF's opinions, the council will expect comments from CARA. So please send yours to [cara.kingston@gmail.com](mailto:cara.kingston@gmail.com)

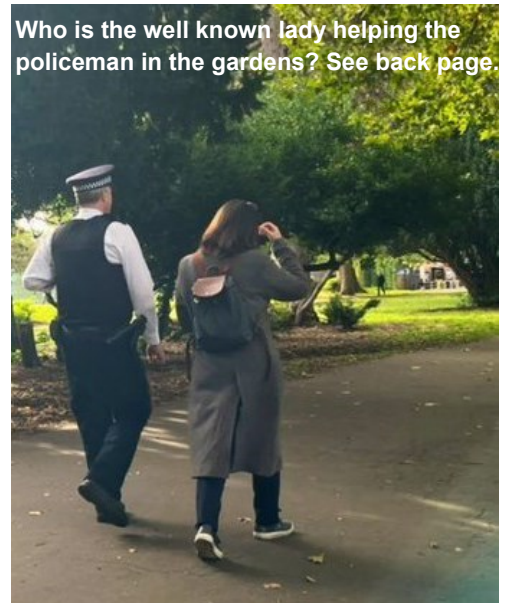


## The police need your help

North Kingston, according to records, is a low crime area. But, and it is a big but, that is according to "records". The Police Panel, on which we have a CARA representative, think some crimes in our area go unreported and therefore don't get on these records. Why? ... "well, I don't want to get involved" ... "well, it is just a suspicion" ... "well, the police have better things to do". This is what some say when asked why they don't phone in. **Well, the police DO want to hear from you.** An item stolen, property damaged, a violent dispute heard, anti social behaviour witnessed or a strong sniff of "dope", in fact any suspicious activity should be phoned in. So please, please do *be* bothered and don't think you will be laughed at or wasting police time, dial **101**. It might help them solve a much more serious crime. As a responsible reader, we know that in an emergency - you are witnessing a serious offence, someone is about to be harmed or property to be damaged or there is some serious public disruption - then you will dial **999**.

If you want even more details of how you can help, contact [www.met.police.uk/ro/report](http://www.met.police.uk/ro/report) .... and please fill in their survey to be found on [kingstonletstalk.co.uk/community-safety-survey-2022-2023](http://kingstonletstalk.co.uk/community-safety-survey-2022-2023). It might say it closes on February 1st but we are told late arrivals will be welcome.

Who is the well known lady helping the policeman in the gardens? See back page.



## Soprano pipistrelles and baritone beetles in our wild life corridor



A memorable CARA event last year was the bat walk led by Elliot Newton (pictured below right), the RBK biodiversity officer. We learned amongst many other things, about the Soprano pipistrelles. Talking with him since we find the gardens and riverside have several other interesting creatures in the loggery built by the volunteers Saproxylic invertebrates! It



means creatures that some time live off dead wood such as beetles. A suggested evening concert with a baritone beetle singing with soprano pipistrelles was beyond even Elliot's skills. What is not is a wild fowl walk. We are also lucky to have on our doorstep Sarah Kausmally from the Swan Sanctuary so watch this space. They both say our riverside and gardens are a unique part of Kingston supporting a number of protected and other species. We have badgers, stag beetles, great crested grebe, tufted duck, pochard and of course the lovely mute swans as well as the pipistrelles and other bats. There are also number of less common mature trees including native species such as small leaved lime and pedunculate oak. Kew gardens impressed by our



gardeners have offered a valuable Australian wattle. Elliot concludes that "...despite being a well used formalised park, it has significant value to local wild life populations. Its location on the Thames means ... ecological connectivity ... a vital wildlife corridor"



## Events and Activities - Planned and Suggested for 2023

### Sat March 4th "Walking Your Dog"

Helpful advice given free, by experts. Meet them with your dog 2.30pm by Canbury Gardens Bandstand



### Bandstand Concerts

The Bandstand Friends are already signing up some great concerts for this summer. A few CARA members are bandstand marshals. BUT WE NEED MORE. Welcoming the performers, putting out the chairs, helping spectators on just one Sunday afternoon in June to Sep from 2pm would ease burden of the current volunteers. Please contact [filippo.selini@gmail.com](mailto:filippo.selini@gmail.com)



### Amateur Art Competition

Good with a brush, a pen or even stuck down scraps of paper (collage) such as these portraits attempted by a member of rather better know artists. Let us know if you would like to participate. There will be prizes!

### BBQ

We have always run very successful CARA BBQs. There will another this September. Watch this space.



### Food Bank Month

Thanks to members who contributed to the Kingston Food Bank at Christmas. We want to expand the idea this year. Let us know if you can help

### Wildfowl Riverside Walk

See **Sopranos** on page 3.



### Paddle-boarding for beginners

We have noticed that one or two of our members take to the water standing up. How about a course run by a professional coach. Contact us if you might be interested.

### Wine and Cheese Tasting

An evening sipping wine carefully matched to tasty cheeses with a talk to back it up? Sounds like you? Watch this space.



### Other Ideas

Please let us have any ideas for organised events. So far we have suggestions for a Teddy Bears' Picnic, Thai-Chi in the park, specialist talks on various subjects and even opera in the pub. Any Takers?

**Who is the lady helping the policeman?** Yes you have guessed it, our MP Sarah Olney

### CARA Committee

**Clare Francis** (Thames Boat Project liaison) 16 Chestnut Road  
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**Sharon Langer** (environment; wildlife; marketing) 22 Ulster Court, Albany Park Road  
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**Richard Mobbs** (newsletter distribution; Thames Landscape Strategy liaison; environment) 31 Chestnut Road:  
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**Kelly Page** (events, litter picking, Canbury Gardeners) 19 Chestnut Road  
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**John Parrish** (newsletter content; Canbury Gardens Working Party; parking; planning; liaison with North Kingston Forum; heritage) 108 Lower Ham Road  
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**Liz Poole** (Newsletter) 86, Lower Ham Road  
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