



## Thank you

...to everyone who took the time to respond to our recent survey, and to the CARA Committee members who produced and analysed the responses. We received over 50 responses, which will be very helpful in steering the activities of the CARA Committee. There were some ideas that we can act upon immediately, others that will be considered, and some that tell us that we need to be clearer about our remits and capacity. The survey responses are summarised on the back page, and can be read in more detail on the CARA website. Welcome, too, to new members nudged into joining by the survey.

## Did you hear about...

... the plans and consultation meeting about the old Bingo Hall/Regal cinema (see page 2)? Two recent local applications for late night licences? The police request for support for a Controlled Drinking Zone in Canbury Gardens? Kingston Environment Centre's presentation about their proposals for part of the Gardens (see next column)? The consultation and demonstrations on Heathrow night flights?

In between our three-times-a-year newsletter we try to keep you updated on local issues and events via our Facebook page and Twitter – so to keep up with current news please have the occasional look at [www.e-voice.org.uk/cara](http://www.e-voice.org.uk/cara), and to discuss local news and issues or to publicise very local planning applications join our Facebook group, [www.facebook.com/cara.kingston](http://www.facebook.com/cara.kingston). Thank you to those who already do this and help to keep us all better informed about our area.



*Cara newsletter, Spring 2013*

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## CARA AGM

The draft Minutes of our 2012 AGM are now on our website, in the "About CARA" section. We regret that we do not have the capacity to print out and deliver them to all our members.

## Carols in the Pavilion

The happy few who came along to socialise and sing in December enjoyed themselves, but the thinking on CARA Committee is that the numbers were too small to justify all the organising involved, and that our energies might be better spent on a party (or perhaps a CARA riverboat trip?) at a less busy time of year. Please let us know what you think.

## Street trees

Several of the trees in our roads have either gone or are on their way out because of a combination of age, disease and damage. Residents have asked on a couple of occasions if CARA could fund replacements. Our aim is always to use CARA funds to benefit as many residents and visitors as possible – and, as we could only afford at best one street tree a year, with no funds left for any other projects, we decided that regrettably this wasn't the best use of funds. While we were delighted to see that the Council replaced a couple of trees in Chestnut Road last year, we can't claim any credit – it was a complete surprise to us!

*Spring begins in Canbury Gardens (pictured below in March, left) and local streets (pictured a year or two ago, below right)*



[www.e-voice.org.uk/cara](http://www.e-voice.org.uk/cara)

## Planning updates

- A new restaurant on stilts above the Barge Dock has been approved.
- The Jeyam off-licence application to extend its hours was rejected, partly thanks to all the local residents who added their voices to CARA's, pointing out the potential for negative effects and increased anti-social behaviour in the neighbourhood.



■ CARA Committee member Richard Mobbs attended the March public meeting, held by CNM Estates, on proposals for the Grade-2-listed former Regal Cinema/ Gala Bingo Hall. There were plenty of ideas from the community for uses for the impressively large, but sadly neglected and damaged, art deco style auditorium (*see photo above*); these included an arts cinema, exhibition space, and a concert hall, with the developer proposing offices and rooftop apartments as his part of the deal. You can see a summary of suggestions at <http://tinyurl.com/c6bwc4a>, and Richard's full report of the meeting on the CARA website. It remains to be seen what emerges from this consultation and the planning process, but a night-club is very unlikely.

■ The group proposing the Edward the Martyr secondary school in North Kingston has withdrawn, leaving only the Kingston Education Trust proposal, which still has to get funding.

■ CARA Committee responded to Kingston Council's consultation on Residential Design. On the whole, we felt it offered useful guidance, for example, on ridge heights and extensions, but we also suggested that guidance on avoiding detrimental impacts on neighbouring buildings should be extended to include impacts on parks, the river and other public open spaces.

■ Latchmere House: following consultations, the planning brief prepared by Richmond and Kingston Councils should be signed off around now; they envisage low-density family housing, with open community space and the preservation of Latchmere House. The location and restricted access make it unlikely to be suitable for a school.

## Parking – again

Parking is an on-going issue for almost everyone in the area with our relatively narrow streets, closely packed houses, two-car families, and visitors' and commuters' cars. The recent Albany Park Road and Lower Ham Road surveys (reported in our last newsletter) have led to petitions to the Council requesting parking restrictions. As a result, Council officers have been instructed to carry out a

survey of parking in the CARA area. The Kingston Town Neighbourhood Committee will consider their findings and recommendations at their meeting on September 25th.

## Use them or lose them?

Our local shopping parades on Richmond Road seems to be suffering from closures and a series of short-term tenants. CARA will keep a watching brief on the situation and try to arrange some relevant meetings, as these shops could and should be a valuable local amenity

## Police matters

Austerity is heading CARA's way in the form of cuts to local policing. There will be fewer police officers covering a larger area, so being mindful of our own personal safety, looking after our own property (houses, sheds, bikes...), and keeping local police and our neighbours informed, will become even more important than usual. There is lots of good advice about crime prevention in the Factsheet section of the CARA website.

If your road does not have a Neighbourhood Watch coordinator, why not volunteer by contacting the Safer Neighbourhood Team on 0208 721 2580? To inform the SNT about non-urgent crime or suspicious behaviour phone 0208 721 2580 (a mobile phone with message facility which the SNT have with them when on duty), or phone 101; when the team is off-duty or for non-urgent matters, leave a message or try 020 8541 1212; in emergencies phone 999.

To be kept informed by email about local crime, sign up at [www.neighbourhoodlink.met.police.uk/registration/](http://www.neighbourhoodlink.met.police.uk/registration/) (you can choose which areas to be informed about). See also [www.kingston.gov.uk/safer\\_kingston\\_partnership](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/safer_kingston_partnership).

**Some new acronyms: CDZs and DPPOs.** Do you think Canbury Gardens should be a CDZ (Controlled Drinking Zone), otherwise known as a Designated Public Place Order (DPPO), giving the police extra powers to deal with nuisance drinking? CARA concerns include a worry that if the Gardens are excluded from a central Kingston CDZ, town centre anti-social drinking will be displaced into the Gardens, and that, even if the Gardens are included, the police will be too overstretched to use these discretionary powers. There's a new fact-sheet about CDZs on the CARA website.



## Canbury Gardens updates

■ Kingston Environment Centre has held a couple of displays/consultations in the Pavilion about their plans for a community garden in the old gardeners' compound in the Gardens, which they say would “transform this unused site into a blossoming interactive resource centre for the local community dedicated to outdoor learning.” If you haven't yet seen their proposals, do take the next opportunity. There are also proposals from the rowing club and, possibly, others too, though these have not yet been revealed to the local community.

■ An intervention from CARA reduced the disturbance from loud music from an exercise class in the Gardens on Wednesday and Friday mornings.

■ Following a complaint from a resident living beside the Gardens about people urinating in the bushes, Trevor Willis of the CARA Committee has extracted an undertaking from the contractors that manage the Gardens to provide signage informing park users that public toilets are available at Boaters pub. It may take time, and may not solve all such problems, but better signage should help.

■ CARA Committee has recently acquired another key to the notice boards in the Gardens and will try to keep them tidier and more up-to-date, though we are aware that they also need renovation.

## We like dogs but...

Dog fouling of pavements and in Canbury Gardens seems to have become worse lately. Despite an absence of warning notices on some streets and of plastic bags in the Gardens, dog fouling remains an offence and dog-owners should keep their pets under control. Anyone observing a stray dog or dog fouling, or who wants advice on dog matters, should telephone RBK Environmental Health on 020 8547 5002 during normal office hours. It is helpful if you can describe the offending dog-owner and give information on the breed of dog, the time and place, indeed anything that may help the authorities take positive action. We are informed that a new dog warden has been appointed.



## Down by the riverside

Tree-cutting along the riverside on Lower Ham Road is scheduled to be carried out by Council contractors on 8th and 9th April. When this is done CARA will try to arrange scrub-cutting under the supervision of Thames Landscape Strategy to further tidy this area, and other scrub-cutting and litter-picking sessions in our area.

## CARA Nature Watch

### Canbury duck?



The strange (possibly unique) local resident pictured above is not a previously unknown species of duck, but a hybrid, probably the offspring of a Mallard and a farm-yard duck.

### April is not too late to plant a “River of Flowers”

Spring is starting late this year, so there is still time to start planting and participate in the international project aiming to create urban meadows in “pollination streams” or “green corridors”. Wild flower patches take a while to get going and look nothing special out of season, but they can look lovely once established and they do help vital pollinators – bees, butterflies and hoverflies – to find forage. If you would like to plant a small meadow in a planter or window-box or front garden, please contact Marilyn Mason (see back page for contact information) for some free seed-balls with growing instructions, and see [www.riverofflowers.org](http://www.riverofflowers.org) for more about the project. There are already a few wild flower patches established at the Hawker Centre end of Lower Ham Road.

### Winter visitors

Seen this winter in the area: Fieldfares, which fly in when it is very cold in northern Europe; the usual Tufted Ducks, some of which are resident, others visiting for winter; a Sparrowhawk; and a Grey Wagtail (greyer and yellower than the more common Pied Wagtail). Despite plentiful local berries, no visiting Waxwings have been reported – do please let us know if you ever spot one of these exotic winter visitors which have been seen not far from here, in Surbiton, Teddington, Ealing...

**Ring-necked Parakeets** remain our most exotic garden birds, and although we are used to them in the area, visitors can get very excited about them!

## CARA COMMITTEE

Fay Clough, 208 Richmond Road, KT2 5HE;  
Fayclough@hotmail.com; 07738 291 616

Penny D'Souza (CARA spokesperson; Council contact; liaison with Canbury Gardens Working Party), 14 Chestnut Road; pennysouza@blueyonder.co.uk; 020 8549 5331

Clare Francis (liaison with Conservation Area Advisory Committee, Kingston Heights), 16 Chestnut Road; clarefrancis@gmail.co; 020 8549 4581

Anneke Ferrier (social events; Albany liaison), 1 York Court, The Albany, Albany Park Road, KT2 5ST; anneke.ferrier@gmail.com; 20 8274 0823

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

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

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

Trevor Willis (liaison with police, Canbury Pavilion, Youth Provisioning Project), 7 Eastbury Road; trevorwillis@london.com; 07889 731 264; 020 8549 3076

Peter Wolf (treasurer), 126 Lower Ham Rd;  
pgw\_subs@yahoo.co.uk; 020 8541 3191

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

■ **Saturday 13 April, 11.15am – lunch-time, CARA spring riverside litter-pick:** please come along to the Lower Ham Road entrance to the Albany Canoe and Sailing Centre, 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.

■ **Sunday 30 June, CARA barbecue, Pavilion, Canbury Gardens:** look out for posters and fliers with more details later.

■ **Sunday 4 August, Ride London:** 20,000 amateur cyclists followed by 150 of the world's top cyclists will race through Kingston on closed roads – but this year, though parts of Kingston will not be accessible by car, the CARA area will not be land-locked. For more info, maps and updates, see [www.PrudentialRideLondon.co.uk](http://www.PrudentialRideLondon.co.uk).

■ **25 September: Kingston Council to discuss local parking issues**

## CARA Survey 2013

### What did you tell us?

Many comments were along the lines of “keep doing more of the same”, which was good news! There was overwhelming praise for our newsletter, with no negative comments. The website was also highly regarded, although there were some ideas for improvements.

The topics and activities that interest you most, in order of ranking, were:

- 1. Crime and public order**, with requests to be kept informed about criminal and anti-social activity in the area.
- 2. Planning issues**, including concerns about the increasing density of development and its impacts.
- 3. The environment:** you want us to help preserve the leafy nature of the area and keep Canbury Gardens pleasant, safe and user-friendly for all, and have concerns about litter, flooding, and cycling.
- 4. Parking**, currently a particular issue to residents in or around Eastbury, Lower Ham and Albany Park Roads, especially at weekends.
- 5. Social and sporting activities** were of noticeably less interest to most of you.

### What will CARA do now?

We'll certainly keep informing you about the issues that most interest you via our newsletter, website and Facebook page. We'll try to be as clear as possible about our policies on issues such as parking and the environment, which can be complicated when there is a range of views amongst CARA residents and, sometimes, amongst Committee members. We've started tidying up our website and archiving outdated posts, and we will make sure future posts are dated. We'll email members more often (but not too often, we hope) about local issues that can't wait for the next newsletter. We'll try to use noticeboards in flats and Canbury Gardens to publicise CARA.

### What can you do now?

We can't know everything that happens in the CARA area, so please keep giving us your news and views (one way is via the new “Contact the Committee” form on the website). For example, should we have a community forum on the website to recommend tradesmen or offer unwanted goods, or use our Facebook page for this? Do let us have your email address – we won't pass it on to anyone outside the CARA Committee. Do please let us know if you'd like to get involved in any way.

### And do please join CARA –

find out how on our website. The more people that join us, the louder our voice.

[www.e-voice.org.uk/cara](http://www.e-voice.org.uk/cara)