

Local development updates

■ The **Hilton Doubletree hotel** on Skerne Road: by the time you read this, the new hotel should be open for business, with a nod to local history in the name of its Hawkers Bar and Brasserie. If you anticipate an overflow of visitors over Christmas or New Year, it's worth booking rooms in advance as that may save up to 20%.

■ **Gasworks site:** CARA and local residents continue to meet with Berkeley Homes, developers of the site now known as "Queenshurst". Plans are firming up for the linear park, the structure is well under way, and a marketing suite and show flat are now open (studio flats are on sale for £420,000, in case you feel like snapping one up). More information about the development can be found at www.queenshurstconstruction.co.uk, and if you have any concerns about the works, please call the site manager Patrick Egan on 07342 062795.

■ **Montague Place**, 42a Albany Park Road, may be offered a one-year trial of temporary parking permits for visitors.

North Kingston Forum

As you know, CARA is represented on the North Kingston Forum (NKF), which has been meeting for over a year now, with its 13th meeting in October. The purpose of the NKF is to give residents more of a role in planning our neighbourhood. It is a Government-initiated process, led by the community and supported by the Council. An application to adopt this Neighbourhood Forum has now been submitted to the Council, and the NKF hopes to get formal ratification later this year or early in 2017. The next stage will then be to develop a Neighbourhood Plan, which will be put to residents for their approval.

The NKF would love to hear your views and your priorities for planning in the area. If you'd like to have a say over where new homes, shops and offices are built in North Kingston and how they look, or want to improve the neighbourhood or protect your favourite local amenities, or ensure there are enough new homes for young families, please email northkingstonforum@gmail.com, to be included in communications from the group. The next NKF meeting will be on Wednesday 30th November at 7.30pm at the Hawker Centre – all welcome.

Down by the riverside

■ **Reclaim Our Riverbank** were disappointed in October when the three large boats used as a commercial boarding house moved only a few hundred metres down-river onto the Environment Agency moorings near Teddington Lock, where they still were moored at the time of writing. You can read ROR's monthly updates on the CARA website.

■ **The River Thames Boat Project:** work on building their second accessible community boat is now well under way. In August a special keel-laying ceremony was held at the boatyard in Polruan.

CARA Autumn Litterpick

It was a good day to be out on the riverside, though only half a dozen people turned up. Nonetheless, we managed a good clean-up as there was less litter than usual.

Pictured on the right are some of the more interesting items: a bike and a road sign, both retrieved from the river, and a huge brush.

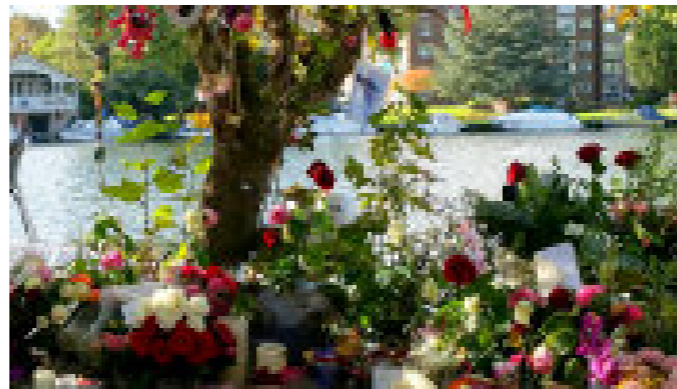
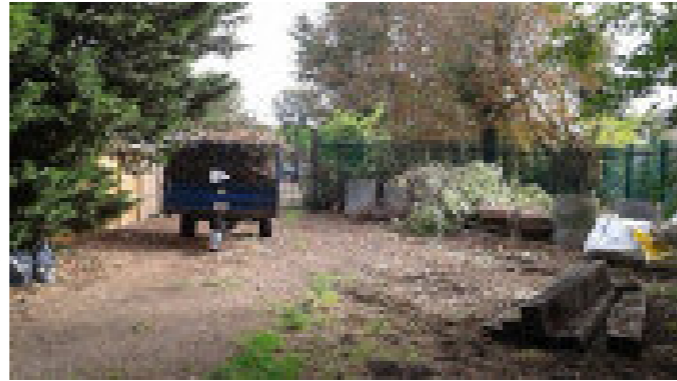
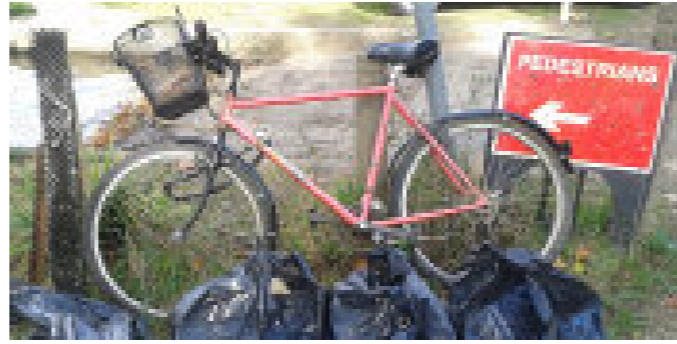
Reducing Thames Flood Risk

The Environment Agency says it "is working with 7 local councils to reduce flood risk to over 15,000 homes and businesses between Datchet and Teddington. The River Thames Scheme includes a new flood channel, improvements to 3 weirs, community measures, and will provide other benefits to local communities and the economy." The new flood channel will increase the flow of water through the upstream areas (which have suffered flooding in recent years); to help prevent that increasing the flood risk in the downstream areas (such as along Lower Ham Road) the EA plans to increase the capacity of the weirs at Sunbury, Molesey and Teddington. The EA will hold "a low-key residents' drop-in" in Kingston from 3.00pm to 7.00pm on 7th December in Room 41 at the Guildhall. For more information see www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-thames-scheme-reducing-flood-risk-from-datchet-to-teddington or <http://tinyurl.com/hb96qvn>.

Wild swimming, anyone?

Though the occasional brave (fool-hardy?) person takes a dip in our stretch of the Thames, most of us would prefer not to, however tempting it may be in hot weather. The London Waterkeeper is a small charity campaigning for clean, thriving rivers, including swimming zones along the our section of the Thames. See www.londonwaterkeeper.org.uk.

■ *On the right: riverside tributes to young rower Rosie Mitchell following her death on the river on Saturday September 17th. There is an obituary for Rosie on the British Rowing website at www.britishrowing.org/2016/09/obituary-rosie-mitchell/.*



Canbury Gardens

■ **Canbury Community Garden:** work on clearing the former gardeners' yard started in the summer. Volunteers from CARA and beyond, including a couple of Timebank's corporate groups working with idverde/Quadron, have worked very hard to clear brambles and overhanging branches, remove rubbish dumped there over decades, and build compost bins and raised beds out of reclaimed wood. The space is now much improved (*see photo on the left*). As well as upcycling some of the junk found under the brambles and taking advantage of freebies, we have purchased topsoil, a first aid kit, a storage box and a waterbutt, thanks to funds from Berkeley Homes via CARA. You can help in the ongoing transformation of this hitherto neglected corner of Canbury Gardens by coming along to a weekly gardening session, or by donating unwanted garden tools or wood suitable for raised beds, or, later on, by offering us spare seeds and plants. Work session times are advertised on the gates and on the Canbury Community Garden Facebook page, where we also record progress.

■ *Above on the left, a vintage postcard of a very busy Canbury Gardens, probably in the first decade of the 20th century. The layout looks very different from today's, with the bandstand in a different place from the current one. Any ideas where exactly this photograph was taken?*

■ **Trees:** because of financial constraints, for some years the Council has had a policy of not replacing dying, dead or storm-damaged trees in Canbury Gardens and consequently the trees planted by the Victorians are slowly declining in number – and that will affect us all. (*Remember the loss of the Holly bush, pictured above left?*) However, there is good news: Berkeley Homes will fund CARA's purchase of two approved replacements in important positions – a Holly bush and a Whitebeam. Both should be planted in mid to late November.

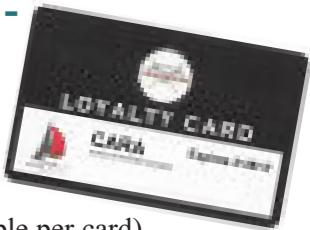
■ **CARA Friends of the Gardens** has a number of projects under way, in addition to the ones already mentioned. Idverde (which recently took over the Council's green spaces maintenance contractor Quadron – fortunately the helpful employees are unchanged) have offered CARAFoG a variety of shrubs to plant in the Gardens. We shall be calling for volunteers to help with planting as soon as we have received the shrubs, know how many and what they are, and have agreed where they should be planted. The bulb-planting last year was very successful, and we'll be applying for free bulbs again this year when the scheme opens. We hope to have a bulb-planting day early in December, which we will publicise (keep an eye on our website and Facebook page) in the hope that there will be plenty of volunteers. CARAFoG is also looking into creating a sports pitch on the former bowling green as a youth provision project. CARAFoG is registered with the RHS's London in Bloom scheme and was awarded a Level 1, Establishing, certificate this year (watch this space next year!). We have also established links to several other organisations that support the preservation and enhancement of green spaces, so that we can take up opportunities for funding or advice.

Street trees

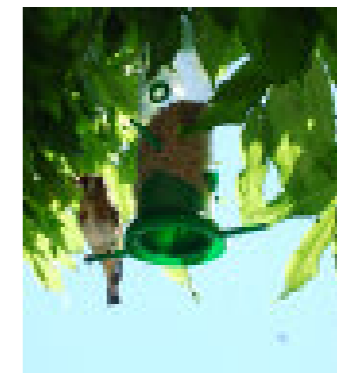
Street trees are valuable to us in many ways (they look lovely and can help to clean the air and screen homes from noisy traffic), but there are significant gaps in some of the the river-road pavements. The Council will provide, plant and maintain trees paid for by residents, and the cost can be reduced if neighbours share a tree and/or there is an existing pit. Young trees can be helped to survive dry weather if nearby residents water them rather more often than the Council's contactors do. Please contact Stuart Devall for details.

Boaters "Loyalty Card" - how it works

CARA members should by now have received the card pictured here which entitles you to a discount of 20% off food (Mondays to Fridays for a maximum of 4 people per card) and Christmas events at Boaters. See www.boaterskingston.com for the Christmas programme.



CARA Naturewatch



There are **Goldfinches** in this area, and you can attract them to your garden by letting flowers go to seed, and providing them with seeds, especially nyjer seeds, in winter. Look out for winter visitors flying in from colder climates: **Tufted Ducks** on the river, and the less common **Redwings** and **Waxwings**.

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; pennysouza@blueyonder.co.uk

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

Nic Lewisohn (social events), 23 Grosvenor Gardens; 07710 971917; nic@lewisohns.com

Marilyn Mason (newsletter), 142 Lower Ham Road; marilyn.mason142@gmail.com; 020 8546 4086

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

Des Noble (liaison with police and Neighbourhood Watch), desnoble@blueyonder.co.uk

John Parrish (chair, parking), 108 Lower Ham Road; john.parrish1080@gmail.com; 020 8546 1235

Jonathan Rollason (vice-chair, fundraising), 10 Lower Kings Road, 0208 541 0808, Jonathan.rollason2@me.com

Charles Roscorla (membership, treasurer), 12 Ulster Court, Albany Park Road, KT2 5SS; charos100@hotmail.co.uk; 020 8546 0202

WITH THANKS to members of CARA Committee and CARA members for news items, photos, proof-reading and other contributions to this newsletter.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

■ **Sat 19 Nov, 10.00am, Staying Safe Talk** at Kingston Quaker Centre, Fairfield East: personal safety tips from experts to help you stay safe in a range of situations. Email KingstonNHW@gmail.com if you would like to attend.

■ **Wed 30 Nov, 7.30pm, North Kingston Forum meeting** at Hawker Centre – see page 2.

■ **Wed 7 Dec, 3.00pm - 7.00pm, Environment Agency drop-in** at the Guildhall – see page 2.

■ **Fri 16 December, 7.00 - 9.00pm, CARA Christmas Drinks** at Boaters – see page 1.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AND STREET REPS

If you are interested in receiving regular updates from **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH** on crime in our area, things to look out for, and other helpful advice, please email jennylangridge@yahoo.co.uk, including any email address(es) you would like to have these updates sent to, and your street address.

STREET REPS: *If your road or block is not listed below and you'd like to become its CARA Street Rep, please contact jennylangridge@yahoo.co.uk.*

Albany Mews, Maria Netley – maria.netley@btinternet.com

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 Kings Road, Jonathan Rollason – thinkkingston@yahoo.com

Waterman's Close, Susannah Rose-Innes – susannahroseinnes@gmail.com

Woodside Road, Jan Howard-Williams – janninglis11@gmail.com

CARA MEMBERSHIP, SEPTEMBER 2016 - 1 SEPTEMBER 2017

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

I / we would like to join/renew my / our household / associate subscription to CARA. *(Please delete as appropriate.)*

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 membership (please tick as appropriate):

£5 for membership up to 31/08/17 £10 for membership up to 31/08/18 £15 for membership up to 31/08/19

+ 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.

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