



**CARA**  
Canbury & Riverside Association

*Working to protect and enhance our local amenities for everyone*

## Newsletter Winter 2022

### A New Year, a New Start

You, dear reader, are the Canbury and Riverside Association. We would like to think all agree that this area of North Kingston is special to visit and a great place to live. Your committee and many other volunteers are enthusiastically “working to protect and enhance our local amenities for everyone” as it says on the tin or masthead above. At our AGM (see below), we learned our finances are good enough to keep us going as we are for some time, but many would like CARA to be even more active. We can have a great influence on Council policy (see article on P3). About one in four homes that receive this Newsletter are members. Membership cost is £5 per year. Residents of each member’s home get a say in policy, regular updates through our eNews and a discount on weekday dining at The Boaters Inn. If you are keen to protect and enhance our local amenities please join us. If you have some spare time to help with communications or litter picking and can join us or renew your membership, go to [carakingston.org/about-us/membership](http://carakingston.org/about-us/membership).

### A Real AGM

Fortunately, the lull in Covid cases enabled us to hold our 2021 AGM at the Pavilion in October, when our MP, Sarah Olney, joined us. Sarah praised CARA’s work and good influence on local matters, and went on to present Trevor Willis, one of our members, with our ‘Local Hero Award’.



Penny D’Souza chaired the meeting and presented the year’s highlights. While many events had to be postponed the outdoor work by ‘Canbury Gardeners’ on Saturday mornings was thriving. Penny was thanked for her tremendous support for CARA in over 20 years on the Committee - she had decided it was time to step down. (Committee members are listed on the back page)

## Canbury Gardeners out in force

Canbury Gardeners have been out most Saturdays over the last six months, with many plant beds being resurrected, replanted and tidied up. The team, with a great turn-out of volunteers from the local schools, the Rotary with prep work from the Payback Team, planted a mammoth 2,500 daffodil, bluebells and numerous other bulbs across the Gardens early December. We look forward to a fantastic full bloom spring onwards. Look out for daffodils along Kings Walk, bluebells around Boaters and Canbury Secrets, to name a few of the areas. Well done everyone a really great effort!

## Great Picking (sadly not grape)

Many CARA members and local residents continue to pick individually and in small groups, so that litter in Canbury Gardens and the riverside areas remains (largely) under control. CARA also organised, (supported by Keep Tudor Tidy and The Rotary), a Big Autumn Litter Pick last October, scouring the Gardens for litter and so it got a full cleanse, before the winter months kicked in.

Below, some of our volunteers planting bluebells  
And picture right, a "Bug Hotel", now fully booked!



## Don't be Confused !

The Canbury Gardens Working Group is not the Canbury Gardeners. CGWG is a committee of council officers, contractors and stakeholders in the Gardens. CGWP (P for Party as it was originally known, but now changed not because of recent national news!) was inspired by CARA some 12 years ago. It has always been chaired by one of our Councillors. The current committee has the luxury of two, Cllr Maria Netley and Cllr Katrina Lidbetter. Stakeholders include the Rowing Club, Canbury Secret Cafe, the Pavilion, the local police team when possible and of course CARA. The group meet monthly to discuss the maintenance of the gardens, new ideas for improvements, activities like the Bandstand concerts and all too often the problems of litter, graffiti and antisocial behaviour and how to tackle them. The joint Chairs, Katrina and Maria, want to thank all residents who volunteered and pulled together to keep the gardens looking so good over this difficult period. They are pleased to tell us of a number of council grants given for garden repairs, especially for those needed in the playground. Funds are also enabling a boat to be installed in the playground and the bandstand to be maintained.



Anyone interested in either gardening or litter picking, please email [kelly1page@yahoo.com](mailto:kelly1page@yahoo.com)

## North Kingston Forum and Planning News

NKF committee are very grateful to those of you who took the time to read the draft NKF Plan and comment. It is being refined to truly reflect local opinion, and delivered in final form to council shortly. After independent scrutiny, there will be a local referendum through polling by the end of this year. Government published 2021 figures show RBK is 24% below GLA housing development target. This will pressurise the Council to allow shoddy developments, hence we urgently need approved neighbourhood plans.

NKF has worked hard to ensure our local shops and businesses are protected from "Permitted Development". PD allows shops to be converted to homes without planning permission. The Council has a new Heritage Officer. NKF will work with them so conservation areas are protected. We hope to reassure residents that the Barge Dock restaurant scheme will also be protected.

## Kingston is up on Thames

One of Kingston's greatest assets is on our doorstep...the river. For over a century the Town has turned its back on what Jerome K Jerome called a river "couched in that green and golden winding valley, whispering of strange old tales and secrets under the bare canopy of England's sky running through England's history"



For a very long time the RBK council has considered in-store shopping as the town's greatest draw rather than, as the three men in a boat thought, as a wonderful launching point for an adventure. RBK has turned its back on what our Victorian and Edwardian forbears consider their "must go to" attraction in London. Some residents would like the riverside relaunched as an adventure. Witness our forebears tales of boating, punting and picnicking whilst listening to the music from the bandstand in the nearby gardens.

Taking coffee at Boaters recently with Councillor John Sweeney, who had cycled from far away Berrylands, he agreed that there was a missed opportunity here. Not only does the river provide a green oasis for local residents, it has the potential to attract more visitors to the business of the town. John Sweeney was just the right man for us to be talking to. His Cabinet responsibility is for RBK's Business and Leisure. Our local councillors we know are now of similar mind.

The result of this and other discussions, is that RBK will re-join The Thames Landscape Strategy in this coming financial year. This means we will have

better access to major funders. The first is Heritage Lottery Fund where there is £3 million available for riverside projects. Funding we know is the key to grand plans but local residents input is equally vital.

John Sweeney and our local councillors have much to think about. What should be the plan to link the excellent John Lewis frontage design (congrats again to the Kingston Academy) with the uncoordinated stretch between it and Canbury Gardens - how to incorporate the Heritage of this stretch of the river - what about the Barge Dock - should they grant riverside vending licences and where and to whom - should use of Lower Ham Rd be further restricted in any way - could the Albany Sailing Base be improved - what about vagrant boat moorings north of the Half Mile Tree - and many more questions. Maybe the most important is what should be the character of the riverside?

We need residents' views. You, our readers and members, are the Canbury and Riverside association formed 22 years ago. CARA is "*Working together to protect and enhance our local amenities for every one*" as it says at the top of this Newsletter, go to [www.carakingston.org/contact-us](http://www.carakingston.org/contact-us)

### John Lewis Riverside

This winning design by TKA students and architects WR-AP starts to happen this year.



#### Time line

- Y1 Lighting, hanging baskets, signage & murals
- Y2 Stage, market, benches, wall flags & bridge lighting
- Later The fountain square

# JOIN CARA FOR JUST £5 A YEAR TO SUPPORT OUR OBJECTIVES

The more members we have the louder our voice. Subscriptions help us keep members and residents informed on local matters. To join or renew your membership subscription, go to CARA website ([carakingston.org/about-us/membership](http://carakingston.org/about-us/membership)) or contact our Membership Secretary, Charles Roscorla.

## EXCITING SOCIAL EVENTS PLANNED FOR THIS YEAR FOR MEMBERS & SUPPORTERS

### Opening River Views

The Thames Landscape Strategy were able to return to our riverside this winter to cut back overgrown scrub opposite the Half Mile Tree and some along Lower Ham Road. TLS arranged for Swingbridge volunteers to bring their boat and equipment on several days to clear the vegetation round the information board and open up the view from the bench round the tree. A few CARA members have been contributing towards the cost of this work, which is much appreciated. We are pleased to hear Kingston Council will restore their support to TLS later this year – which we hope will lead to more TLS activities to enhance our riverside.



Behind masks: volunteers, local councillors, TLS & CARA reps

### CARA Committee

**Sophie Cavanagh** (liaison with local schools and Leander Sea Scouts) head@thekingstonacademy.org

**Clare Francis** (Thames Boat Project liaison) 16 Chestnut Road clarefrancis@gmail.com

**Nic Lewisohn** (social events; Kingston Riverside tennis club liaison ) 23 Grosvenor Gardens nic.lewisohn@kantar.com

**Richard Mobbs** (newsletter distribution; Thames Landscape Strategy liaison; environment) 31 Chestnut Road: richard@statacom.net

**Kelly Page** (Events, Litter picking, Canbury Gardeners) 19 Chestnut Road kelly1page@yahoo.com

**John Parrish** (newsletter content; Canbury Gardens Working Party; parking; planning; liaison with North Kingston Forum; heritage) 108 Lower Ham Road john.parrish1080@gmail.com

**Charles Roscorla** (Membership Secretary; Treasurer; heritage) 12 Ulster Court, Albany Park Road charos100@hotmail.co.uk

**Hugh Scantlebury** (Communications; Street Rep liaison) Woodside Road hugh.scantlebury@gmail.com

**Trevor Willis** (Canbury Gardens and Gardeners; Canbury Pavilion) trevorwillis77@gmail.com

### Music News - waiting for the band



The Friends of Canbury Bandstand are again planning a series of Sunday afternoon concerts for the summer of 2022. Pandemic permitting, we hope that this time we can resume a full schedule of bands from June to September. If you know of any local bands (or are part of a group yourself!) who may be interested in performing in one of these 2 hour concerts, please contact [friendsofcanburybandstand@hotmail.com](mailto:friendsofcanburybandstand@hotmail.com). Note we do not pay performer fees, only expenses. We will also be holding a Friend of Canbury Bandstand Annual General Meeting sometime over the next few months, so keep an eye out for the notification.

### CARA Street Reps

**Albany Mews**, Maria Netley: maria.netley@btinternet.com

**Albany Park Road**, Penny Stott: penny\_stott@hotmail.com

**The Albany flats**, Albany Park Road, Charles Roscorla charos100@hotmail.co.uk

**Homington Court**, Albany Park Road, Mike Simpson simpsonsplace@blueyonder.co.uk

**Montague Place**, Albany Park Road, Frances Bailey francesabailey@hotmail.com

**Chestnut Road**, Clare Francis: clarefrancis@gmail.com

**Eastbury Road**, Trevor Willis: trevorwillis77@gmail.com

**Grosvenor Gardens**, Nic Lewisohn nic.lewisohn@kantar.com

**Lower Kings Road**, Jonathan Rollason thinkkingston@yahoo.com

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

**Woodside Road**, Mirella Docherty mirelladocherty@hotmail.com

If you would like to be a CARA Street Rep for a road or block of flats not covered above, please contact Kelly Page kelly1page@yahoo.com

Kingston Riverside flats contact, Deborah Olszewski (deborah.olszewski@outlook.com)