



An illuminating evening

CARA held its first social event of the year in May, to mark the official switching on of the lights in Canbury Gardens. An estimated 130 CARA members and friends enjoyed a lovely summer evening at Boaters Inn, with drinks, excellent food and live jazz, all kindly provided by the pub. There had been insufficient lighting in Canbury Gardens for over five years, so CARA was delighted to get the financial help to improve matters from Berkeley Group and Greene King, and full operational support from Kingston Council. Local celebrity Angellica Bell “flicked the switch” of the newly installed lights, after welcomes from John Parrish of CARA and the Mayor of Kingston, Geoff Austin.

Planning for a CARA social event in September is now under way – more news on this later.



Bulbs donated by the Metropolitan Parks and Gardens Association and planted by volunteers brightened up parts of Canbury Gardens earlier this year.

Toasting the Queen on her birthday

The sun came out just in time for a wonderful street party to celebrate the Queen’s 90th birthday in Woodside Road. Most of the residents turned out their gazebos and piled their tables high with salads, sandwiches and Pimm’s to supplement the wonderful hog-roast, kindly sponsored by Greenwoods estate agents – and a big thank you as well to Fuller’s, from the Queens Head, for supplying beer and cider. Face-painting and balloon-making kept children happy and even the local firemen had a balloon hat made. The highlight was experiencing the pressure of the fire-engine hose as the men took turns to jet-wash the top of the road, while the children sprayed themselves with a smaller hose. A good time was had by young and old, and everyone agreed it was a great opportunity to get to know each other. We look forward to an excuse to do it again in a few years!



Local development updates

■ The new **Hilton Doubletree hotel** on Skerne Road, currently being fitted out, is due to open in August.

■ **Kingston Regal** (formerly Gala Bingo): the new website for the development is now up and running at <http://www.kingstonregal.com>. For enquiries on the project, James Robson can be contacted on 020 8390 9265.

■ **Virgin Gym:** CARA objected to Virgin Gym's application for a liquor licence from 6.00am until midnight, on the grounds that this would have a detrimental effect on the neighbourhood. A liquor licence was granted, but the hours were restricted to 11.00am until the club closing time, normally 10.00pm, and the licence is subject to the club remaining a gym. Strict conditions were imposed to prevent alcohol being sold and removed from the club.

■ **Gasworks site:** work is due for completion in late Summer 2018, and the first crane will come down in September 2017. CARA continues to attend regular site meetings with the developer to raise issues of concern on behalf of residents, for example, concerns about the lights on top of the cranes – so only the safety lights are now displayed. If you have any immediate issues then please call the site manager Patrick Egan on 07342 062795.

North Kingston Forum – get involved!



CARA is represented on the committee of this new neighbourhood forum, which is being created to cover Canbury and Tudor wards, to help our community have more

influence over new development design, transport, schools, green spaces and community projects. If you would like to participate or learn more please see the flier with this newsletter, or go to www.northkingstonforum.org, or talk to a NKF representative at a CARA event, or go along to a NKF meeting – all welcome. See the back page for information about next one, on 4th July.

Down by the riverside

■ You can read the full, 90-page version of **Thames Landscape Strategy's "The Arcadian Thames Towpath Management Plan 2016"**, covering Kew to Weybridge, at <http://thames-landscape-strategy.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Arcadian-Thames-Towpath-Management-Plan-2016.pdf>. CARA has also published the 12 pages covering the Kingston stretch of the riverside on our website at <http://e-voice.org.uk/cara/assets/other/tls-towpath-management-kingst>.

CARA committee members attended TLS's AGM in March, and heard about its work last year along the river clearing scrub and opening up views, as well as talks on the tercentenary of Capability Brown this year and proposals for a London-wide National Park City. You can read more about these at <http://thames-landscape-strategy.org.uk>, www.nationalparkcity.london, and www.capabilitybrown.org.

■ You can read the latest on local illegal moorings from **Reclaim our Riverbank** at <http://e-voice.org.uk/cara/reclaim-our-riverbank>.

■ **Want to try messing about on the river?** The Albany sailing club offers canoeing for the over-fifties on Thursday mornings, and paddle-boarding on Thursday evenings at 6.30. To find out more or book, see www.kingston.gov.uk/albanypark or phone 020 8891 7537.

■ **Canbury Boathouse**, home to Kingston Rowing Club and Tiffin School Boat Club, is among 148 local sports projects to secure a share of £9 million from Sport England's "Inspired Facilities" fund; it received £75,000 to enable it to upgrade its facilities with new energy-efficient, toughened glazing in the gym and bar areas, refurbishment of the electrical systems, and improvements to lighting and security systems.

■ **CARA spring litter-pick:** a big thank you to the half-dozen regulars, supplemented by a passer-by or two and a boat, who helped to tidy the river-bank on a grey Saturday morning in March. Despite small numbers and the fact that Swingbridge Trust volunteers had cleared some rubbish a few weeks earlier, the litter-pickers collected 6 black sacks of rubbish, plus three bagfuls of recyclables, a cushion, and a big bag of wood scraps. We will try to co-ordinate future litter-picks with those of the Swingbridge Trust. See the back page for details of the next one.

Canbury Gardens



■ **History: the clinker wall** alongside Canbury Gardens is likely to be part of the original 1890 development of the Gardens, and is visible on the circa-1905 postcard above. Furnace and kiln linings were frequently used for such purposes in the late 19th century, and you can still see similar clinker walls from this era, for example, further along Lower Ham Road. It is difficult to determine the source of the clinker without finding features such as manufacturers' marks, but one possibility is that the fire bricks were made in the Black Country and used in kilns of the Eyre Smelting Works, Merton, as described in a South Wimbledon history research blog at <http://faded-london.blogspot.co.uk/2009/12/just-another-brick-in-wall-fire-brick.html>.

■ **Stories of Our Park:** Young Place Shapers filmed some familiar faces and places in Canbury Gardens for their project on the importance of green spaces for health and well-being. The films can be seen at <http://www.environmenttrust.co.uk/stories-our-park>. YPS also picked up litter and planted some native wildflower seeds along Kings Passage, where the flowers should be blooming soon.

■ Last November CARA Committee formed a sub-group, **CARA Friends of the Gardens**, to apply for funds for some planting in Canbury Gardens. CARAFoG is now evolving in order to support a range of projects with the wider aim of protecting and enhancing our local green space, Canbury Gardens. We will be working with CARA, our community, the Council, its contractors, the Canbury Gardens Working Party, funding bodies and other interested parties to achieve this.

One project, starting soon, aims to transform the disused former gardeners' yard on the edge of Canbury Gardens into a productive **community garden**, working with Transition Town Kingston and Quadron. If you'd like to learn more about gardening or wildlife-friendly gardening, or you are a keen gardener with skills you could share, or you'd enjoy working with other people to grow herbs and other edibles, you can help make this happen.

To find out more, help us plan, or contribute ideas, please come along to the CARAFoG introductory meeting at Canbury Pavilion at 7.00pm on Thursday 14th July. Weather permitting, the evening will include a tour of the proposed community garden.

Local schools

North Kingston continues to have some of the best schools in the borough with consistently strong academics results. We welcomed two new schools in the area this academic year: the much needed secondary school Kingston Academy, which is already over-subscribed for this September – a huge testament to the head teacher Sophie and her staff and pupils, who have had a brilliant first year – and a primary school, Kingston Community School, in a temporary home on Acre Road. Both schools have been respectful of their neighbours and are becoming good community assets.

Major road works in August

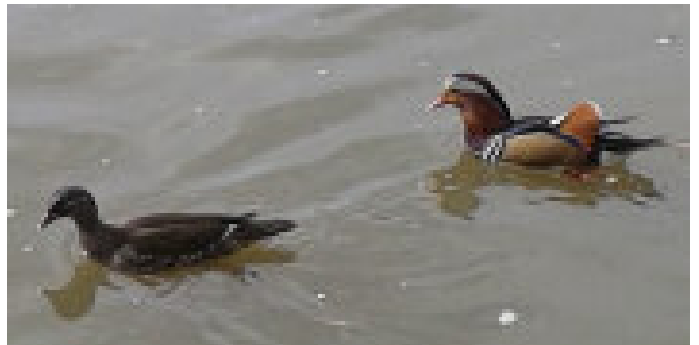
Petersham Road will be closed to traffic from number 141 to Manor Farm House for up to 5 weeks in August. The works have been scheduled to coincide with school holidays and longer daylight hours so the Park will be open later, but bus routes will be severely disrupted, with the 65 diverted via Teddington and the 371 operating a split service. National Grid Gas is holding drop-in meetings to explain the work to local residents and businesses, with one on Thursday 14th July from 3.00pm to 9.00pm in The Annexe, Ham Library, Ham Street.

CARA Nature Watch



Night life in Lower Ham Road

CARA was surprised to find that our much loved local landmark, the **Half-Mile Tree**, was not legally protected so we suggested that it should have a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). But Kingston Council's tree officer tells us that, despite its local significance and great contribution to the amenity of the area, the tree will not be considered for a TPO because it is owned and maintained by the Council, is surveyed every year and not under any foreseeable pressure for works or removal or in danger of damage, and so is clearly being well cared for by the Council and does not need a TPO. Central government guidance is apparently that councils should not unnecessarily protect their own trees. We will continue to keep an eye on this and other local trees.



Several new species of duck formed breeding pairs this year along our stretch of the Thames, including Common Potchards, Tufted Ducks and Mandarin Ducks (pictured above, with the female, as usual among ducks, much drabber than the showy male), as well as the usual Egyptian Geese and Mallards, one of which was spotted with a family of 11 ducklings.



Where in our neighbourhood can you see these cobbles?

BECOME A COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDER

Community First Responders are the people who provide care in a medical emergency before the ambulance arrives. If you have been driving for two years or more, have your own car, and want to help people in your local area, you could train as one. Find out more at www.londonambulance.nhs.uk/working_for_us/volunteering_with_us.aspx, or talk to Alan, an active local CFR, on 0208 549 2972 or 07802 744656, or email alanchemist@btinternet.com.

CARA COMMITTEE

Stuart Devall (street environment; trees), 21 Eastbury Road; stuart.devall@virginmedia.com; 020 8546 5778

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

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CARA 2016 AGM

**AT THE PAVILION, CANBURY GARDENS,
THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER, 8.00PM
AGENDA**

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
2. 2015 Minutes and matters arising, if any
3. Highlights of 2015-16
4. Finance and Membership report
5. Special Resolution: CARA to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation*
6. Election of Committee 2016/17**
7. Any Other Business
8. Guest speaker: tba
9. Q & A

Refreshments will be served

All welcome, but only CARA members may vote.

(Renewals are due in September and you may join or rejoin via the CARA website or at the AGM.)

* This resolution will be circulated before the AGM with supporting information.

** Being involved is a good way to get to know what's going on locally and people who share your interest in maintaining the special nature of our neighbourhood. Even if you can't come to every meeting, we would be very pleased to have you on the Committee or as a Street Rep, especially if you live in an under-represented road. Volunteers should come along to the AGM or contact John Parrish.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

■ **Monday 4 July, 6.30pm, St Luke's Church, Gibbon Road, North Kingston Forum meeting:** Viv Evans, Kingston Council's Head of Planning and Regeneration, on what an "opportunity area" is and its implications for North Kingston and our green spaces.

■ **Tuesday 5 July, Kingston Town Neighbourhood Conversation on the subject of Air Pollution.** Find out more and book at <https://www.kingston.gov.uk/conversation>.

■ **Thursday 14 July, 7.00pm - 9.00pm, Canbury Pavilion: CARA Friends of the Gardens introductory meeting** – see page 3.

■ **Sunday 11 September, CARA late summer social:** please keep the date free – more details later.

■ **Thursday 15 September, CARA AGM:** see below left.

■ **Saturday 24 September, 11.15am – lunch-time, CARA autumn riverside litter-pick:** please come along to the slipway at the northern end of Canbury Gardens to help tidy up the river-bank. 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.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AND STREET REPS

Jenny Langridge forwards **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH** emails from both Tudor and Canbury Ward police to local residents. If you are interested in joining NHW and in receiving these regular updates 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.

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 for more information.

STREET REPS:

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

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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 – janinglis11@gmail.com

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