



CARA Newsletter

Summer2023

Canbury and Riverside Association
Working to protect and enhance our local community

CONTENTS: FRIENDS OF CANBURY GARDENS (FOCG) - CARA BBQ - CORONATION PICNIC - HAVE YOUR SAY



"Fabulous turnout"

"Fabulous twilight"

"kids loving it!"

"Bat detectors going potty"

Comments after Elliot Newton's

Bat Walk

We have certainly had some adventures in Canbury Gardens this year!

Apart from the Canbury Coronation Picnic and Concert -more of which inside..... Kingston's biodiversity officer, Elliot Newton, has opened our eyes to the amazing diversity all around us. The more we become aware of it, the more likely we are to care for the extraordinary flora and fauna on our doorstep.

The last newsletter showed us pipistrelle bats & baritone beetles but Elliot says to keep your eyes open for the flash of iridescent blue, darting up and down the river. It could be a dragonfly or a damselfly, both with two sets of wings that enable them to fly with great agility, backwards, up side down, as well as turn on a 'sixpence'. The damselfly is a little more delicate than the dragonfly but they are both expert at catching a delicious flying snack!



More robust
Dragonfly above



Rather delicate
Damselfly right

On his bat walks,

Elliot arms you with a 'bat detector', which picks up the ultrasonic sounds of the bats, which alert you to them flying, helter-skelter above your head in the twilight.

So exciting.



WELCOME TO ALL THE NEW MEMBERS WHO SIGNED UP AT THE CORONATION PICNIC

DINING DISCOUNTS FOR CARA MEMBERS

**Canbury.
And
Riverside
Association.**

We signed up quite a number of new CARA members at the Coronation Picnic, who were amazed at the advantages of being a CARA member for just **£5 a year**.

When he heard of the discounts, one new member remarked, "A fiver! I'll get that back in a week with those discounts!!"-

Just show your card at the following venues:-

Boaters Inn, and you'll get 20% off your meal Monday to Thursday.

The Queen's Head you get 10% off the final bill everyday.

The Doubletree Hilton which includes Hawkers Brasserie & Bar

is also offering a 10% discount for meals and accommodation.

The Brasserie has just launched a new Summer Menu which they invite you to try with 10% discount.

Also, on Wednesday 12th July 6pm-8pm,
they are doing an appreciation drink & canapés to launch their new
Christmas Brochure for this year

An opportunity for locals to come in and sample the Christmas canapés (yes, we know it's the middle of the summer!) and chat to the team about anything from Private Events to Festive Gatherings. To reserve your place, call **0203 096 0099**

The Doubletree Hilton is generously sponsoring the Kingston Music Service Bands on Sunday 9th July

So sign up for your CARA Membership now:-

One click to www.carakingston.org/membership

The Old Nursery School in Lower Kings Road

There has been a fresh application to develop the Nursery school

(See application (23/01345/FUL.) on the council website)

The main change is to reduce the development from six to five Flats. There is little change to the outside of the building, the roof line or the rear extension. Local residents still consider the plan over develops the site and is not in keeping the character of a street lined with detached and semi detached period houses.



Two views of the Bandstand built in 1891 and in colour our bandstand today, built in the same style 106 years later.



A NEW ERA FOR THE UK AND A PEEK INTO THE PAST

The Music in the Gardens Season set off at a gallop, by Celebrating the Coronation of the new king,
King Charles III

And our first Band to hit the bandstand was 'The Tony Heiberg Latin and Jazz Band', followed by 'Regis and Baio' both of which kept everybody royally entertained.



The CARA marquee generously loaned & erected by Project Marquee, from which we chatted and sipped bubbles with members.
Bubbles courtesy of
The Queen's Head

We are so lucky to have the Bandstand as a focal point in our lovely Canbury Gardens and we have a huge variety of Bands to play for us every Sunday until until 3rd September.

Our very generous sponsors enabled us to bring a bit of sparkle to the royal occasion, with a glass of bubbly for all our members who came to gather round the CARA marquee. We were so lucky to have a wonderful sunny day as on the actual Coronation day; the day before, had the drizzly rain that was forecast for us!

Surrounded by Union flags we entertained members, friends, local councillors, our MP Sarah Olney (far left) and even the Town Cryer!



The Rock Choir on Sunday 4th June, had folk dancing or waving to the beat

Thanks to the Friends of Canbury Bandstand (FOCB) including Filippo of Canbury Secret Café, who organise the bandstand event every Sunday, the Gardens come alive and attract visitors from far and wide.

A peek into the past
A history of the bandstand
recalled by
Michael Davidson

The Linden Wind Orchestra, (See:- Sunday Aug 6th)was the inspiration for our new bandstand. (Sadly, the previous Bandstand built in **1891**, was demolished in the 1950's after being neglected during the war.) For several years, Roger Flaxman brought The Linden Wind orchestra to the Gardens, to play in the open air, but remarked one day, "Everywhere else we play has a bandstand, can't Kingston do better than a slab of concrete!"

That prompted Kingston to get their act together. A Project Committee took shape & over 2 years raised money, plus securing a substantial grant and backing from Kingston Council, CARA, Kingston University, Kingston Society and the Boaters Inn. Anthony Leitch a local architect, waived his fee in designing the bandstand, taking his inspiration from the earlier Victorian one.

In **1997** it was finally ready for the grand opening. It's good to know that The Friends of Canbury Bandstand, are honouring the love of music which inspired the huge effort to get it built.

THE ANNUAL CARA BARBECUE



Sunday 10 September 1pm - 3pm
sees the long awaited return of the CARA BBQ

We will be back once again at
Kingston Riverside Tennis Club beside Canbury Gardens.
Food will be provided by Bevan's Butchers with veggie options also available.

(any volunteer cooks to help with the cooking, please let us know).

There is limited first come, first served parking but plenty of seating, so do bring your families and friends for a real neighbourhood coming together.

Prices are £12 for adults and £6 for children and there will be a full bar service available.

Email your booking Name and Address and Membership Number

cara.kingston@gmail.com

Number of Adult Tickets

No. Of Meat. and. No. Of Veg X £12 £.....

Number of child tickets (under 15)

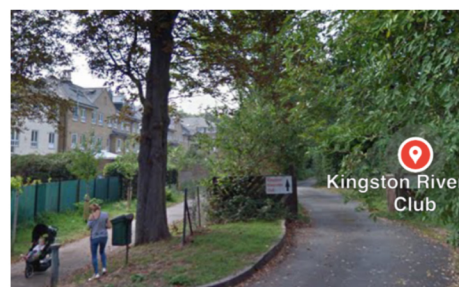
No of Meat. And No of Veg X £6 £.....

Then make a bank transfer to

CANBURY AND RIVERSIDE ASSOCIATION CARA

Sort code 20-46-73. Acc No. 53451518

Put house/flat number and street/block name as a reference



**Entrance to The Riverside Club,
Kingston end of Lower Ham Rd**

Have Your Say

Do you have an idea or a concern about a matter in our area?

Your committee is in regular contact with the 'Friends' groups for the Gardens and Bandstand, those who manage the Riverside, the local Police and of course, the Council. Please let us know if you have a good idea to solve difficult problem or to improve our area and build on the work being done (see pages 2 and 3), as we are always ready to help promote good ideas.

(See below some examples of things we believe you care about.)

Examples:-

1: Some members love the barrier in Lower Ham Road, others find it a problem. It is part of the Government inspired Safer Neighbourhood traffic schemes. Could it be improved? Should it be modified?

2: We have many visitors to the Gardens. It is wonderful that so many people share members enjoyment. But we need more people to volunteer with 'Friends of Canbury Gardens, to enhance this beautiful space. Have you any creative ideas for attracting volunteers?

So....*Have your Say!* **Contact us at:- cara.kingston@gmail.com**

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