



CARA

Canbury & Riverside Association

Working to protect and enhance our local amenities for everyone

Newsletter Summer, 2018

Visit our new website. <http://carakingston.org>

The CARA website has been revitalised, with a new layout and up-to-date information. It's worth a visit just for the pictures! Our thanks are due to member Ken Buckle, giving many hours of expertise to make CARA website useful and easy to use on a pc, laptop or smartphone. We will continue to update the information so the website can be the way to keep up with local issues.

The screenshot shows the CARA website interface. At the top is a navigation bar with tabs: Home, About Us, Contact Us, Events, Canbury Gardens, Planning, Hot Topics, Parking, and Useful Links. Below the navigation is a featured article titled 'Canbury And Riverside Association (CARA) is a non-political and voluntary organisation...' with a sub-headline 'Latest Newsletter Stop Press'. To the right of the article is a tweet from @CARA_Kingston dated Jun 26, 2018, discussing new plans for 9 flats over the Barge Dock. Below the tweet is a 'Next Event' section for 'CARA Late Summer Barbecue' on Sunday 09 September 2018 at Kingston Riverside tennis club.

Megan and Harry come to Chestnut Road



Well at least their cardboard cut outs did at a CARA area street party. The sun shone on 19th May for the royal wedding (and the FA Cup Final!) and there were several street parties in the CARA area. The celebrations included live music and lots of laughter, much of which was thanks to the games which included Pin the Tail on the Corgi and the ever popular and hotly contested (especially by the adults!) balloon game.

.. and the Discoverer arrives

The new Thames Boat Project vessel the Thames Discoverer, officially named at Teddington in May, joins the Venturer. Both provide access to the river for people of all ages, including those with a special need or disability. They are often moored near the Barge Dock in Canbury Gardens.



CALL for action in Canbury Gardens.

Many local residents and users of the gardens are dismayed by the state of our great green asset. Apart from CARA members hundreds of other North Kingston residents and visitors use the Gardens as a wonderful place to relax only a few hundred yards from the town centre. In fact we have been told that a recent survey indicates that the number of garden users has grown by 20% in the last 3 years.

Whilst we have learned to repeat the Council's mantra "there is no money" over the last years, we feel that this precious asset of the Royal Borough must not be allowed to fall into litter strewn disrepair open to any vehicle that cares to drive through the faulty barriers to the tow path.

CARA is pressing for -

- the council to ask their contractor to reinstate a second gardener. The current one is expected to clear up litter daily as well as weed the gardens all with the aid of one junior.
- the adequate provision of appropriate litter bins. The current bins overflow as soon as the sun shines.
- a garden maintenance scheme that not only keeps the attractive areas properly tended, such as the rose garden, but also eliminates nettles in the children's play area and around the seats.
- a serious plan to provide 21st century control barriers to the gardens such as swipe card control for example.
- review the lighting that was reinstated after a major fundraising campaign by CARA. Is it adequate and why does it malfunction from time to time?

But it is not all bad news.

- The council is to spend £50k on a new sports pitch between the pavilion and the tennis club. CARA is seeking sponsors for outdoor exercise equipment.



- We believe that the CARA campaign against the application for flats on the Barge Dock will be received sympathetically by the planners and council members.
- CARA supported Reclaim our Riverbank pressing for the removal of the "slum boats". They are gone! The Environment Agency is now tightening the use of moorings along our stretch of river.

A Fiver for Father Thames

Many people have complained about the scruffiness of our river bank. If it is not properly looked after we lose our wonderful views of the Thames. The photo shows you can hardly see the river from the towpath opposite the Half Mile Tree, for example. Last year the Thames Landscape Strategy had insufficient funds to manage the scrub here.



CARA is asking local businesses and residents to fund the scrub cutting along the river

We need £2,000 a year to sponsor a TLS Towpath Management scheme for this area. TLS is a non-profit organisation, and without their involvement this work will not be done. £2,000 will fund the TLS to supervise their volunteers for 12 days a year to properly manage the riverbank. TLS had funds until last winter, when they ran out and were unable to look after the whole area.

To sponsor this programme you can make donations online or use a sponsorship form.

For a **sponsorship form** or more information, contact Richard - richard@statacom.net (by post 31, Chestnut Road, KT2 5AP) or John - john.parrish1080@gmail.com (108 Lower Ham Road). To donate online go to **www.justgiving.com/fatherthamestrust**, click 'Donate' and follow the instructions. When asked 'What's your message of support for Father Thames Trust' put **'Kingston Towpath Management'**.

Donations and sponsorship are arranged through the charity the Father Thames Trust - all the money will go to the TLS, including any Gift Aid.

CARA Late Summer BBQ, Sunday 9th September, 1pm

Following last year's success, we are delighted to hold the Late Summer BBQ social event at the Kingston Riverside (tennis) Club again. Our local butcher, Bevan's, will be supplying and cooking the food. We look forward to seeing you there. Invitations, details and booking forms will follow shortly.

North Kingston Forum

The NKF is a resident's group. Local forums are sponsored by the national government and the local council where there are no parish councils. Local councils have a statutory duty to consult with a local forum about planning matters in their area. NKF has been carrying out extensive studies in North Kingston including the implications of the London Mayor's Housing Strategy which calls for an annual doubling of RBK's plans for new housing. The Forum has four groups looking at building design and heritage, local business, planning and the environment and commercial services and facilities. They have just completed a survey amongst North Kingston residents and workers to gain their opinions on these subjects prior to preparing a neighbourhood plan to shape the council's development plans. The results will be published later this year followed by the plan which will go to all residents of Tudor and Canbury wards for approval. To learn more about the survey go to www.northkingstonforum.org

End of Term Report



The Kingston Academy were delighted to receive the results of their first ever Ofsted inspection which took place in May. The school has been judged to be outstanding in every category.

Amongst many other positives, the report stated: *"Since opening the school in September 2015, leaders have quickly established an ambitious culture which demands excellence for all"* that *"Teaching successfully challenges all groups of pupils to aim high and achieve their best"* and *"The curriculum is rich and creative, which broadens pupils' minds and helps them think critically"*.

The school continues to make the most of the opportunities afforded to us by our enviable location. Geography field trips have taken place to explore the Canbury section of The River Thames, our annual art show was held in the Penny School Art Gallery in Kingston College, we will be delving into local aviation history with a trip to the Brooklands museum next week and pupils continue to enjoy canoeing, sailing and rowing on the river.



News in Brief



Town Crier

Kingston has a new Town Crier and Tipstaff. He is none other than CARA's first chair of our committee and member, Mike Siegle. The picture shows him leading dignitaries out of the Guildhall in June.

A Bald Eagle Feather

A Canadian relative accompanied our committee secretary to the Mayor's Commonwealth Day event at the Guildhall which resulted in the Mayor receiving a ceremonial quill pen made from a Canadian Bald Eagle's feather. The picture shows Julie Pickering (the then Mayor) signing an official document with the pen.



Kingston Regal (the old bingo hall)

Following extensive repair works to the exterior including the cleaning of the historic brick and stone, numerous structural and safety works including a new basement, have been carried out. We are told that we will see very shortly changes to the scaffolding and its outside covering.

Defibrillator



After many months of negotiations with all concerned, the CARA inspired Canbury Gardens defibrillator has been installed at Boaters. Sarah, the manager, is in charge and we have ten fully trained local residents who can be called upon should anyone in the Gardens or river has heart failure.

CARA Committee

Sophie Cavanagh (liaison with local schools)
head@thekingstonacademy.org

Penny D'Souza (planning applications; liaison with Canbury Gardens Working Party, Leander Sea Scouts and the Council)
14 Chestnut Road: 020 8549 5331;
pennydsouza@blueyonder.co.uk

Clare Francis (liaison with Thames Boat Project) 16 Chestnut Road: 020 8549 4581; clarefrancis@gmail.com

Nic Lewisohn (social events; liaison with Kingston Riverside tennis club) 23 Grosvenor Gardens; 07710 971917;
nic@lewisohns.com

Richard Mobbs (newsletter distributon; liaison with Thames Landscape Strategy and CARAFoG; environment) 31 Chestnut Road: 07762 598 309; richard@statacom.net

Des Noble (the police and Neighbourhood Watch);
desnoble@blueyonder.co.uk

John Parrish (newsletter content; parking; liaison with North Kingston Forum; heritage), 108 Lower Ham Road; 020 8546 1235; john.parrish1080@gmail.com

Sandra Quinn: Trafalgar Building, Henry Macaulay Avenue

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

Filippo Selini (social events) Canbury Secret Café;
filippo.selini@gmail.com

We need help with CARA's NEWSLETTER

We produce three newsletters a year and could do with some help in their production. Whatever your age, if you have a yen to be a journalist or print production manager, your career could start here. Please contact John Parrish or any committee member or Street Representative to get your press pass.

Street Reps

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, Mirella Docherty
mirelladocherty@hotmail.com

If you would like to be CARA Street Rep for a road or block of flats not covered above, please contact Des Noble (des.noble@virginmedia.com)

Dates for your diary

■ **Sunday 9th September**

CARA Late Summer BBQ : details on page 3

■ **Saturday 20th October : 11.15 am – lunchtime**

CARA Riverside Autumn Litterpick

Please come along to the slipway at the northern end of Canbury Gardens to help tidy the riverbank. CARA will provide grabbers, gloves (you may prefer your own), rubbish sacks, high-visibility vests and health and safety guidance at 11.15. Families welcome as long as children are with a responsible adult.

■ **Wednesday 24th October : 8.00pm**

CARA AGM

At the Pavilion, Canbury Gardens. Details of the agenda and guest speaker will be available in September. All are welcome, but only CARA Members may vote.

Some summer events in Canbury Gardens

Bandstand Concerts

Local bands play from 3pm to 5pm on Sunday afternoons.

New London Concert Band: 5th August

Merton Concert Band: 12th August

The Merrie Dance Band: 17th August

The Trousers Band: 2nd September

West London Brass: 9th September

Norwood Wind Ensemble: 16th September

Soul Rites: 23rd September

Squeezebox: 30th September

Films in the Park

Pop Up Screens will be showing the following films 'outdoors' in Canbury Gardens.

The Goonies: 16 August

Thor: Ragnarok: 23 August

Top Gun: 30 August

10 things I hate about you 6 September

Films start 8.30pm. "doors" open 7.00pm.

See **details and book tickets**

at www.inkingston.co.uk/events/