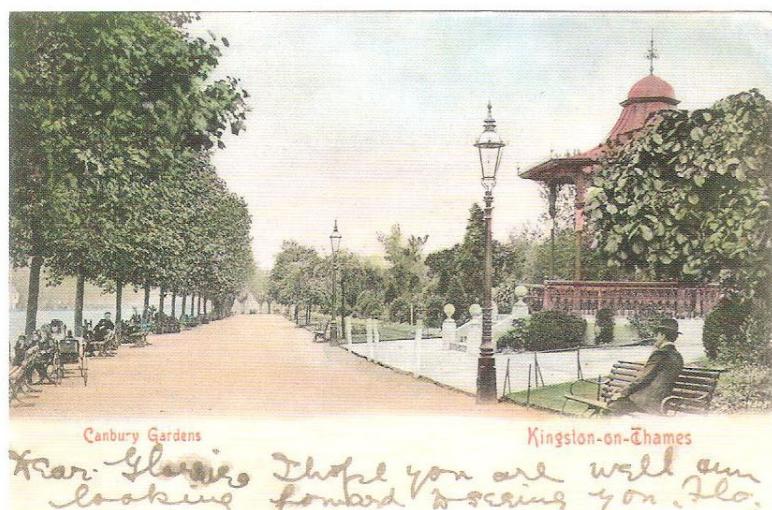


REMINDER

CARA 2015 AGM
Monday 12th October
Pavilion, Canbury Gardens - AGENDA on page 3

Canbury Gardens then...

We thought you might appreciate this 1903 postcard of Canbury Gardens, showing the newly established London Plane trees that are now such a magnificent feature of the riverside. Early in the 19th century, this area was marshland and osier beds;



by mid-century it was being used for a tar factory and rubbish dump. However, in 1884, Samuel Gray, member of a family of prosperous Kingston maltsters and lightermen, proposed the laying out of a public garden. This was agreed following his election to the Council, with the first section of Canbury Gardens opened in November 1890.

The gardens were raised above the level of the towpath, the Plane trees planted and a network of paths created following the boundaries of the gardens and linking with access points from Lower Ham Road. The ornate cast iron bandstand featured in the postcard was erected in 1891, a gift from Alderman Charles Nuthall, a former Mayor of Kingston. This cost between £200 and £300, a large sum at the time, and was a copy of one in Hamburg, Germany.

Intentionally blank

A contemporary newspaper account states: "...the well-shaped trees gave every promise of successful growth. The results would be that after a few years they would have one of the most beautiful gardens in England, and the view on the other side of the river, with its beautiful residences, would make it one of the most charming places between Richmond and Oxford".

The first of a series of articles on local history by CARA Committee member Charles Roscorla. See also "Canbury Gardens today..." on page 3

Our Late Summer Lunch Party

Thanks largely to the hard work of chief organisers Anneke Ferrier and John Parrish from CARA Committee, the lunch party on 12th September proved a great success, with a turn-out of over 60 people and excellent food. Guests commented on how much they enjoyed the buffet and the Kingston Rowing Club venue, and that it had been a lovely relaxed way to catch up with neighbours and make new friends.



Local development updates

■ **The Queen's Head** has been acquired by the pub chain Fuller's, so its future as a pub seems assured for now.

■ **The Gas-holder site** has been cleared (see photo on the right), and developers Berkeley Group are talking regularly to local residents and listening to their concerns. If you'd like to be included in these meetings please contact thinkkingston@yahoo.com.

■ Kingston and Richmond Councils continue to work with other agencies to clear **illegally moored boats** from the riverside, with patchy progress. *Reclaim our Riverbank* monthly updates can be seen on the CARA website, or you can get emails directly from reclaimourriverbank@gmail.com

■ We are told that the **hotel part of the development on Skerne Road** will be a Hilton Doubletree and that work has already begun on fitting out this 4/5 star hotel which will have function and meeting rooms.

■ We are to have a **new sub-post office** at Jeyam's convenience store on Richmond Road.

■ There are **proposals to make Down Hall Road two-way**, and to close the roads under the two railway bridges at the end of Skerne Road and opposite the entrance to Canbury Gardens, except for pedestrians and cyclists. This could make walking and cycling into the town centre pleasanter and safer, as well as improving pedestrian access from the town into the Gardens.

■ Revised proposals have been submitted by St George PLC for the planning application at the **Old Post Office site, Ashdown Road**, and a public exhibition of the plans was held on 18th and 19th September. A decision is likely in November.

■ **Teddington and Ham Hydro** have been granted planning permission for their hydro-electricity scheme just down the river at Teddington Weir.

Flood defences

The September event at the Hawker Centre to present the Environment Agency's ambitious River Thames Scheme proved interesting. Kingston and other riverine Councils are working with the Environment Agency on the Scheme, which involves creating new flood channels and weir works further up the river to reduce the flood risk to 15,000 properties between Datchet and Teddington. The event was also an opportunity to find out if your home is at risk of flooding and what you can do to reduce the risk, and to get onto the EA mailing list to receive regular updates, invitations to future events and notifications of consultations. Anyone unable to attend the event can catch up at www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-thames-flood-risk-management-scheme, and join the mailing list or request information by emailing rts@environment-agency.gov.uk.



Greening our area

Some of the many concerns relating to the Kingston Heights development on Skerne Road, including trees, proper paving, road surface, lighting and a cycle lane should be resolved this autumn when extensive work is due to be carried out by the Council. Regrettably, the promised avenue of semi-mature Plane trees planted directly into the ground was never possible because of the enormous number of cables and other services below ground, and even smaller trees in planters are apparently too heavy. Other ways of softening and greening this area are now being considered.

River road residents who would like to have a young tree planted outside their house – or between their house and a neighbour's – should contact Stuart Devall (see back page). During the dormant season it would also be good to see more people planting spare crocus, daffodil or other spring bulbs around the existing trees.

North Kingston Forum – get involved!

The new name, as above, for the fledgling local neighbourhood forum has been chosen by public vote and was announced at the Forum meeting on 14th September. The purpose of the NKF is to help local residents to prioritise and improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the area. It is a non-political body and the hope is to connect with as many residents as possible in the coming months and years. Work continues on its constitution and remit, with an open meeting to discuss the planning implications with Leader of the Council Kevin Davis and Head of Planning Viv Evans scheduled for 23rd September. Local residents, clubs, groups, businesses, allotment societies, schools... are all invited to get involved – please contact northkingstonforum@gmail.com.

Seen in, or dragged out of, our stretch of the Thames recently. Though we do our best, we doubt our October litter-pick (see b



CARA Nature Watch

"Manky Mallards"

One of several cross-bred Mallards resident along our stretch of the Thames is pictured on the right.



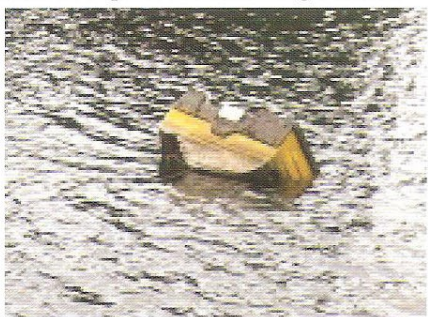
There used to be a pure white farmyard duck amongst the local Mallards, presumably the ancestor of some of these hybrids. You can read more about "Manky Mallards" and their varied ancestry (as there are many breeds of domestic duck that can cross-breed with their wilder relatives) at <http://10000birds.com/manky-mallards-domestic-feral-or-just-plain-odd-mallards.htm>.

Canbury Gardens today – and in future?

CARA was well represented at the initial meeting of a new Kingston Green Spaces Strategy Steering Group, formed to consider all parks and green spaces across the Borough, the current maintenance regime of the parks and the the primary function each park plays in its neighbourhood (for example, dog-walking, sport, horticultural excellence). Canbury Gardens were agreed to be multi-functional: a destination for promenading, dog-walking, sports and recreational cycling. It could be improved to become known for horticultural excellence and was in need of increased maintenance, which could be partly funded by savings made by reducing mowing in other areas – typically around the fringes of open spaces – with the resultant longer grass and wild flowers also increasing local biodiversity. So, potentially good news for the Gardens – we'll keep you posted.

CARA Committee members also met very recently with Councillor Hugh Scantlebury to exchange views on the Gardens and get an update on the current situation there. We agreed to walk the Gardens very soon, to monitor the regrowth of shrubs and undergrowth, and to identify which trees are currently protected by Tree Preservation Orders and others that should be. We also pressed for increased but bat-friendly lighting and better bins, and took the opportunity to point out two houseboats and a couple of smaller boats which are apparently illegally moored outside Boaters.

(back page for details) will be able to cope with such large items!



CARA 2015 AGM

AT THE PAVILION, CANBURY GARDENS,
MONDAY 12 OCTOBER, 8.00PM

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
2. 2014 Minutes and matters arising, if any
3. Highlights of 2014-15
4. Financial and membership report
5. Election of Committee 2014/15*
6. Guest speaker: Hugh Scantlebury, Tudor Ward councillor, on "Kingston 2015 and beyond"
7. Any Other Business / Q & A

Refreshments will be served

All welcome, but only CARA members may vote. (Renewals are due in October and you may join or rejoin via the form in this newsletter or the CARA website or at the AGM.)

* Committee member Peter Wolf is standing down. Being involved is a great 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 (see back page). Volunteers should come along to the AGM or contact John Parrish.

In brief

■ **CARA membership** has now reached 216, which represents about 25% of local residents and an all-time high. Street Reps (see back page) have done an excellent job in recruiting new members, and we hope that this issue of the newsletter will encourage even more of you to sign up.

■ **Kingston History Centre and archives** have had to move from the very handy former North Kingston Centre and will re-open in the Guildhall on 28th October. Find out more on the Council website.

■ **CARA's offer of a litter-picking kit** still stands. If you're tired of waiting for someone else to clear up litter and you'd like to keep part of your road tidy, CARA can provide you with a high-visibility vest and a grabber. Please contact Marilyn Mason (see back page) to collect your kit.

■ **Find out more about our ward** (Tudor) at <http://data.kingston.gov.uk> and <http://kingston-consult.objective.co.uk/file/3417339> and <http://kingston-consult.objective.co.uk/file/3417337>.

■ **Other useful local websites:**

www.streetlife.com for local conversations on everything from goods for sale to recommended tradesmen to cycling in Richmond Park.

www.facebook.com/cara.kingston, where CARA circulates news and events between newsletters and any member can start a local discussion. Events and developments featured in this newsletter that you may have missed probably appeared there and on our website. <http://www.surreycomet.co.uk> for the latest local news and to sign up for their daily email digests.

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; clare-francis@gmail.com; 020 8549 4581

Anneke Ferrier (social events; Albany liaison), 1 York Court, The Albany, Albany Park Road, KT2 5ST; anneke.ferrier@gmail.com; 020 8274 0823

Marilyn Mason (CARA newsletter and communications; Town Centre Management liaison), 142 Lower Ham Road; marilyn.mason142@gmail.com; 020 8546 4086

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

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

John Parrish (parking), 108 Lower Ham Road; john.parrish@zen.co.uk; 020 8546 1235

Charles Roscorla (membership), 12 Ulster Court, Albany Park Road, KT2 5SS; c.roscorla@btinternet.com; 020 8546 0202

Trevor Willis (Canbury Pavilion; anti-social behaviour, litter and graffiti), 7 Eastbury Road; 07889 731 264 or 020 8549 3076; trevorwillis77@gmail.com

John Ward (co-opted; liaison with police and Neighbourhood Watch) johnquark@tiscali.co.uk

Peter Wolf (treasurer), 126 Lower Ham Road; pgw_sub@yahoo.co.uk; 020 8541 3191

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

■ **Sat 3 Oct, 11.15am – lunch-time, CARA spring 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.

■ **Sat 10 Oct, 10.00am – 12.00: "Kingston Conversation", Tudor Drive Library Hall:** meet Leader of Kingston Council Kevin Davis to discuss and help shape the future of our borough. RSVP at www.kingston.gov.uk/conversation.

■ **Mon 12 Oct, 8.00pm, 2015 CARA AGM:** details and Agenda on page 3.

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 for more information. Jenny is also passing on Neighbourhood Watch emails, and if you would like to receive these, please contact her.

If you'd like to receive email updates please contact your Street Rep:

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 Ham Road (Nos 38-78), Michael Seigel – mkseigel@hotmail.co.uk

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

Woodside Road, Jan Howard-Williams – janinglis11@gmail.com

CARA MEMBERSHIP, AUTUMN 2015

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

I/we would like to join/renew my/our household/associate subscription to CARA. *(Please delete as appropriate, and email Charles Roscorla if you don't know whether you are a already paid-up member.)*

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 (please tick as appropriate):

☐ £5 for 1-year membership ☐ £10 for 2-year membership ☐ £15 for 3-year membership

☐ 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.