



CARA under Covid

Social events and hardcopy Newsletters such as this have been absent under the lockdown. Sadly we learn that some members and their relatives have suffered from the virus. It has been a difficult time. As we go to press we are still not one hundred percent certain that all our plans for back to normal summer activities will take place but, read on, much is in the offing.

Canbury Gardens – a lot happening

It is good to see so many activities again in Canbury Gardens, despite restrictions. People are sitting outside the Secret Café and The Boaters Inn, with the pub serving inside too - very welcome during a chilly May. Rowers are out on the river, the tennis courts are busy and events are being planned. We applaud the work of volunteers helping to make our Canbury Gardens so attractive. The

large flower bed beside Lower Ham Road was due to be replanted this spring, but the council contractors were unable to undertake the work at the best time in April. Trevor Willis organised a band of local volunteers. They worked on Saturday mornings to clear the bed, and then put in the plants. A neighbour across the road provided water to help get them bedded in. The plants were provided by the contractor's Andy Robinson who also gave instructions for the layout. One side of the bed, under the trees, was left empty for it to be returned to grass in due course. These volunteers are already waiting to embark on their next project. Volunteers are welcome (but children must bring their own responsible adult). You will find them in the Gardens most Saturday mornings from 10.00 am.

Unfortunately, litter remains a problem in Canbury Gardens. For months, most of the time allocated to the contractors for routine maintenance has been taken up with emptying overfilled bins and clearing up litter spread around by foxes, crows and others.

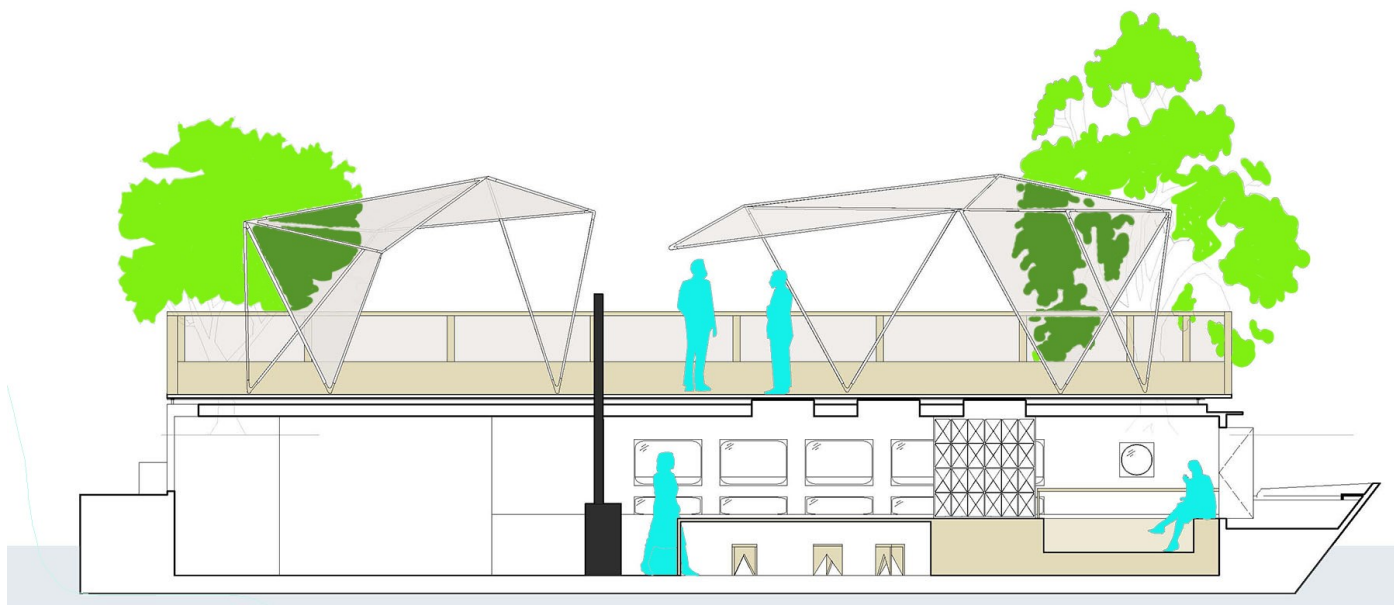


Recently, volunteers organised by Trevor, Len Cowking and some from CARA have been helping bag up the litter, which has allowed the contractors to spend time on other work to keep the Gardens looking good. The Council has ordered more litter bins. These we are told will be placed at strategic locations in the Gardens in July.

Canbury Gardens Working Party (CGWP) is a council backed committee co-chaired by two of our local councillors. Initiated by CARA some years back, it has been revived and it now meets monthly. Members include council officers, contractors and stakeholders in the Gardens, such as CARA, the Pavilion Trust and Kingston Rowing Club. The purpose of the committee is to take forward the range of issues that interest those who use the Gardens, including many of the items in this newsletter. The Canbury Gardens Masterplan designed for major improvements to the Gardens for instance, has been scrutinised by the CGWP and will go to the Council's Neighbourhood Committee on 23rd June.

If you would like to receive our monthly CARA eNews emails please contact us at cara-enews@carakingston.org (NB CARA holds personal data securely)

Ben Judd Boat is coming to Canbury Riverside!



A new exhibition *The Origin* by London-based artist Ben Judd, is now open at Stanley Picker Gallery in Kingston upon Thames. The exhibition is a collaboration with the local community and Kingston University students.

It will expand on 17 June with a boat mooring on the River Thames. It will host performances, workshops and events. CARA has been working with Ben and his team of students for several months to bring the boat to the river in Canbury Gardens.

On Thursday 1st July 2021, we are excited to have Ben Judd's boat docking at The Boaters Inn jetty in Canbury Gardens for a full day of CARA organised events!

We hope (restrictions permitting) this will enable us to finally come together, meet friends, enjoy community events and celebrate our wonderful community together.

The plan for the 1st July is...

10.30am - 11.30am

Design Talk: Level 6 Interior Design students at Kingston School of Art will talk about their design work for the top structure of the boat.

The Boaters Inn will be open to welcome visitors and participants from 11am so that you can enjoy refreshments during any event.

11.30am - 1.30pm

Art class - run by Kate Brett of KEA. Limited spaces available. To secure a place please contact john.parrish1080@gmail.com.

1.30pm - 3pm

Lockdown photography and lockdown literature on display. Please come anytime to view - max 12 on the boat but will run on a one on, one off basis!

3pm - 4pm

TKA music band. Listen to some great local talent from The Kingston Academy.

4pm - 5pm

Riverside Design competition entry for the revitalisation of the riverside frontage around John Lewis and Kingston Bridge, including a presentation by TKA students and local architects who collaborated on their entry.

5pm

Presentation of winners of the **Lockdown Photo and Lockdown Literature competitions**.

5.30pm - 7pm

Music Band. More great music to enjoy.

Your opinions on these plans essential

The draft North Kingston Forum Plan is out for consultation

This is a map of the CARA area of the plan with areas and sites indicated for which there is a draft policy. Please complete the whole questionnaire or at least those on the CARA area. The questionnaire can be found here <https://www.northkingstonforum.org/req14consultation>

The question number and NK Policy number are alongside the sites below.



NK16v Hawker Centre sports pitches Q8

NK12xiii Grosvenor Gdns to Lower Ham Rd Q6

- Conservation Area
- Area of special character
- Transition Zone

NK12xi Albany Park Rd to Lower Ham Rd Q6

NK28 Richmond Road petrol station Q10

NK32 Canbury Court garages Q10

NK9V Richmond Rd North Parade Q4

NK16xiii Canbury Riverside Q8

NK12ix Towpath Routes Canbury Gdns Q6

NK16iv Canbury Gardens Q8

NK15ffrx & gsr Riverside to Acre Rd link Q8

NK19 Surrey Basin Q10

NK15gcii Canbury Gardens South Q8

NK9vi Richmond Rd South Parade Q4

NK15ffrxiv Skerne Rd to Richmond Rd link Q8

NK15gciiiditto.....

NK27 Seven Kings Car Park Q10

NK20 Canbury Car Park Q10

A YouTube video will tell you about The Forum and how the draft plan came about.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2X7-o-UrHg>



What is CARA?

Readers said, in answers to our question in the last edition of this newsletter

Q. What is CARA valued for by its members and how should it act?

A. Valued for being non-political and its strategic and trusted information.

Q. What is CARA not?

A. It is not a Whatsapp street group or NextDoor, all valued but with different roles.

Q. What should CARA change or do more of?

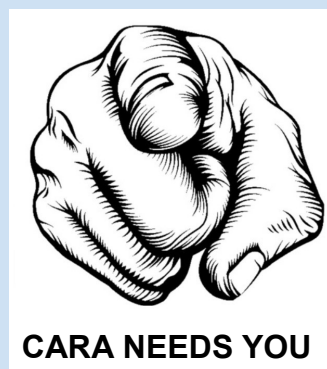
A. It should communicate more often and regularly engage with both members and non-members.

Q. What does CARA need most?

(a question answered by the committee)

A. Help from members who have the time and interest to progress strategic planning and/or environmental matters and/or community events. Help is also needed from members with communications expertise.

If you can help in any way, however little that help may be, please get in touch.



Q. Is our stated objective still relevant?

A. Yes. CARA's stated objective is: "Canbury And Riverside Association (CARA) is a non-political and voluntary organisation whose aims are the protection and enhancement of amenities within the CARA area. We campaign on key issues facing the area." However, we propose to add this: "and support local initiatives and promote cohesiveness" to reflect a broader role and purpose.

The CARA Keystones

**Planning
Matters**

**Environmental
Matters**

**Social
Events**

Can you add more to the answers?

If you can, please contact Kelly Page (kelly1page@yahoo.com)

Canbury Community Garden



Lead gardeners and the Canbury Community Chicken Collective have kept the gardens going during lockdown. Despite having to restrict the number of helpers, autumn harvests were surprisingly good. The chickens have remained happy and healthy, though they had a short bird-flu lockdown. Now that we are allowed up to 30 people in the Garden, larger groups of volunteers and visitors are welcome. Muddy Toddlers messy play sessions have begun again and, in May, Good Gym helped with heavy tasks - quite like old times! Now we have some sunshine, things will start growing. Thank you to local visitors who have given us seedlings, pots and occasional help.

...and down by the riverside



CARA resident, Peter Lukes, has been improving the riverside with young lavender bushes planted on the roadside bank next to the path below the old Georgian wall. Peter's initiative and effort gave us a long line of trees last year, north of the half mile tree. As last year, other CARA residents have helped water the young lavenders. The trees have flourished as can be seen in the picture. Hopefully the lavender will do likewise. The riverbank itself has become very overgrown without the annual scrub cutting. A group is considering how best to get on top of the excessive growth.



Notices

The Boaters Inn head office has cancelled all discounts, even staff discount. So, for now CARA members' discount cannot be claimed at Boaters.

The Pavilion: This great resource is now available again. To book a time contact <https://tinyurl.com/h2zxt4vt>

Desirable dwelling vacant



On the river near the Albany sailing base is a lovely home still not occupied as we go to press. Not suitable for swans but ducks and moorhens have been seen viewing.

Community Hero

As CARA residents, we are blessed to live in a beautiful locality, something we have learnt to appreciate even more in recent times. Yet, our community is greatly enhanced by the efforts of a number of individuals and it is important that we take the time as a community to acknowledge their contribution and show our appreciation. The annual CARA Community Champion Award has been designed to do just that: acknowledge and show our thanks to those amongst us who make our community better through their efforts and contributions. Any CARA resident may nominate an individual by contacting cara.community.hero@gmail.com. All nominations will be reviewed by the CARA committee and a winner determined. The winner will be presented with the award at our Annual General Meeting each year.

Dates for your diary

1st July 2021: CARA Events Day on the Ben Judd Boat at The Boaters' dock: see page 2 for details.

CARA Lockdown Photo Competition: see <https://carakingston.org/photos/> for details.

Now until 1st July: CARA School age Lockdown Literature Competition.

And we hope to have

CARA Late Summer Event. We will hold this popular get-together this September, if we can.

Bandstand Concerts in Canbury Gardens. Plans are being finalised with the council for bandstand events on Sunday afternoons from 2pm to 5pm in July, August and early September. If concerts go ahead as planned, a few volunteers will be needed for each concert to help organise them on the day.

Activities are returning....

Canbury Pavilion is gradually opening for some activities. The toddlers group is due to start again on 8th June, with restricted numbers, and from 21st June other regular activities and one-off events may be booked, but only provisionally at this stage.

Canbury Gardens Sports Pitch (MUGA): The Youth Team has started its visit to the Pitch area every Weds from 6.30 - 9.30 with Football and Basketball training and professional advice on youngsters' issues.

The events and activities outlined above will be conditional upon Government rules not changing to preclude some or all of them taking place, or requiring changes to the way they are held.

If you would like to receive our monthly CARA eNews emails please contact us at cara-enews@carakingston.org (NB CARA holds personal data securely)

CARA Committee

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