



December 2025

**Best wishes to all our readers! Enjoy the festive season.**

### **CARA Events survey**

Please take a couple of minutes to let us know what events you like CARA to organise. We will use your responses to help us plan the CARA events programme for 2026. [Complete the survey](#) now, before it's forgotten!

### **Christmas drinks at The Boaters Inn Monday 15th December, 7.00 till 9.00**

Join other members and friends for Christmas drinks and snacks at [The Boaters Inn](#) . Get your drinks at the bar and enjoy the conversations. Everyone welcome.



### **Canbury Gardens and the Riverside**

At the November meeting of the Canbury Gardens Working Group, CARA was pleased to hear our councillors' responses to issues we have raised.

#### **In Canbury Gardens -**

- The expanded **playground project** is in its second consultation stage. A further alignment of the project to community views will take place

after the consultation finishes in mid-January. Any amendments would need time to develop, so we don't expect to see the revised plans go back to the council for approval until spring next year.

- Based upon the feedback from the recent trial, the **cycle path** will return to the lower path. Following a review of the feedback, and factors like flooding, new concepts for a cycle path through Canbury Gardens will be put forward next year.
- The council has been asked to prioritise the **permanent public toilets** as the single most important project in Canbury Gardens. The temporary trial last summer provided strong evidence of the need and the support of garden users for a permanent facility. Location and look will be key, though the first stage is to get an estimate of the cost of installation to go into the 26/27 budget.
- After a successful trial a **Recycling Program** is to be started next spring, using three green bins sponsored by CARA, Greenwoods, Friends of Canbury Gardens and the Council. Details of the collection of the recyclable rubbish are to be finalised.
- **Repairs** to the lights at the north end of the Gardens, to CCTV and at the the landing stage at the Albany boat club have all been agreed. Additionally, the lights within the Gardens will be included in the RBK street lights map to allow for ease of reporting a fault. RBK officers will try to hasten the repair to the children's roundabout in the playground.
- **New Regulations** for dealing with **illegal camping** have been agreed for one year, to be reviewed and renewed for subsequent years. These include it being in an offence to use the bushes for toilets.

### Along the Riverside



\* A £15,000 budget has been a granted for the **Half Mile Tree**, planting an established replacement tree and replacing the seating around the tree. The hornbeam they propose would be magnificent, although it will take a few years before it looks like the tree above!

New signage will be provided by the TLS. The consultation on the seating layout and positioning closes on 24<sup>th</sup> December. [click here](#)

\* A second **riverbank naturalisation** budget of £35,000 has been agreed. EA are due to provide approval. Upon receiving the required



## Winter visitors



It is good to see the return of the Tufted ducks, back to their wintering ground along our stretch of the Thames. With their striking golden eyes and the males' bold black-and-white plumage they are easy to spot as they dive to capture freshwater mussels. Their arrival marks a familiar seasonal shift, welcomed by birdwatchers and walkers alike. As temperatures fall, the Thames once again becomes an important refuge these resilient visitors rely on throughout the winter months.