



Welcome to our October eNews, with details of our next social event, a quick update from the AGM and an opportunity to comment on Kingston's Local Plan.

Join us for our Cheeses with Wine Event Friday 30 October



It was great to see so many new and longstanding members at this year's summer BBQ. We hope you can join us next for a Cheeses with Wine evening on:

**Friday 30 October 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
at the Pavilion in Canbury Gardens.**

With the event limited to 24 people, and tickets at £15, to avoid disappointment, book early using the following link:

[CARA Cheeses with Wine event](#)

CARA Annual General Meeting

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our AGM on Thursday 8 October. Following the formal business, Councillor Peter Higgins gave an engaging talk about his first few months in the role and answered a variety of questions

from members. He also shared lots of photographs, which showed that his camera technique has improved along the way.

Have your say: Kingston's Habitats Regulations Assessment

Kingston's new Local Plan will guide development across the borough from 2028 to 2043. Following consultation on the main Plan from July to September 2026, the Council is now seeking views on the supporting Habitats Regulations Assessment, which considers how the proposals may affect protected natural habitats. This six-week consultation runs from 28 September until **11.59pm on Monday 9 November 2026**, before the Local Plan is due to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in December 2026.

We encourage members to read the information and share their views using the links below.

[Read the Local Plan and HRA information](#)

[Complete the online survey and provide your comments](#)

Kingston's City Nature Challenge and your nature reserves - a call for help

Georgina Fauconier, Kingston Council's Biodiversity Officer, and Sivi Sivanesan, Kingston University's Biodiversity and Landscape Manager, invite CARA members and members of other local community organisations, to join next year's City Nature Challenge. They include lots of detail in their message below.

If you wish to participate please sign up directly, as an individual, but if you would be prepared to participate as 'CARA representative' please let CARA know (email: cara.kingston@gmail.com) so we can discuss the use of the CARA logo.

Note – there is an opportunity to 'discuss the project in person' at the next Kingston Biodiversity Network meeting is on Wednesday, 21st October, 6.30 to 8.30pm at Kingston University, Penrhyn Road Campus – see the final paragraph for the link to reserve a free place.

Georgina and Sivi wrote -

Dear Representatives of Friends Groups and Local Green Spaces

I hope you are all well.

Kingston Council and Kingston University are teaming up for next year's international [City Nature Challenge](#) (30th April – 3rd May 2027), taking place under the [Greater London initiative](#).

To boost local wildlife recording under the borough's Biodiversity Action Plan, Sivi (Biodiversity and Landscape Manager at Kingston University) and I are launching Kingston's "100 x 100 Challenge." This is a challenge within the wider event where our goal is to get 100 people trained and committed to making 100 individual observations each. While the target can be met over

two days, participants can complete it in a single day or spread their observations across all four days of the event. We would love for members of your group to participate, even a few volunteers per site can significantly boost records for your green spaces and local streets.

Free Training Workshops

To help participants get ready, we are hosting interactive workshops covering app setup, ensuring records reach [GiGL](#), and sharing tips for recording wildlife (e.g. getting 30+ observations on a single street).

- **November Workshops** (Kingston Council & KU): Sign up via [Eventbrite](#) (you only need to attend one).
- **December Workshop:** Additional session hosted by Citizen Zoo (details to follow).

How Your Group Can Get Involved

Might this be something your group would be interested in taking part in? Here are a few ways you can join us:

- **Participate as a Group:** If your group can commit to recording over the challenge weekend (even just for a single day), we would love to feature your logo alongside ours on our promotional materials. Ideally, please send over a black-and-white version of your logo so the red challenge text pops (see the attached draft to see how it's coming together).
- **Share with Your Members:** If your organisation doesn't have the capacity to take part officially, we would be hugely grateful if you could forward this email to your members. They can still represent your sites by carrying out self-led recording via the app over the weekend.

Next Steps & Questions

Please let us know if you have any questions or if you'd like your logo included. Sivi and I will also be attending the upcoming Kingston Biodiversity Network meeting via [Eventbrite](#). We'll be giving a brief presentation following the screening of the People's Emergency Briefing, so please do come along if you'd like to discuss the project in person.