



### High tide on Lower Ham Road



The photo above was taken by Committee member Charles Roscorla on 11th January when the tide at Richmond Lock was 4.9 metres. The next spring tides over 5.0 metres will occur from 9th to 14th March, when Lower Ham Road and the Canbury Gardens riverbank path will again be flooded from mid to late afternoon. "Spring tides" occur twice every month (not only in spring) when there are high tides just after a new moon and a full moon.

### Autumn litter-pick

Thank you to everyone who turned out in October for another successful CARA litter-pick, this time including a boat and crew (*pictured below*) pulling rubbish, most of it plastic, out of the riverbank. The large haul included several rubbish sacks of recyclable plastic, glass and cans, some large pieces of wood, two glass shelves, a piece of garden trellis, a large gas canister, a shoe, a tennis ball (much appreciated by Dougal the dog), a supermarket trolley, a bicycle, three dumped bags of waste (one pulled out of the water), and a fluffy toy seal.



### The way we were #1

You can see vintage footage of Kingston in the 60s on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/59lc7822Zq0>, with shots of Canbury Gardens looking very formal and gardeners at work in the old gardeners' yard (*screen-shot below*) at around 9 minutes in. The film is followed on YouTube by 15 minutes of Kingston in old photos. See page 3 for more on the Gardens today, including some ideas for the now disused yard.



### The way we were #2

Remember when Skerne Road looked like this? You can see various aerial and ground views of the now demolished Skerne Road power station, as well as film of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth at its opening in 1948, on the "Pathe News" website, [www.british-pathe.com/video/king-opens-kingston-power-station](http://www.british-pathe.com/video/king-opens-kingston-power-station).



### Skerne Road soon?

After the completion of the paving, the promised trees in planters along the length of the new flats and hotel, should help to enhance the streetscape.



## Local development updates

■ Berkeley Homes have now cleared the **site opposite Sainsburys**, and are constructing a show flat on the north-east corner, which will open in June. The main building starts in April, with cranes going up beforehand.

■ The demolition of **Kingston Business Centre** is complete. We are in touch with the developer, Investra, and will be monitoring their plans, currently being prepared. CARA and nearby residents will be consulted, maybe as early as June.

■ **The new hotel on the corner of Skerne Road** was awarded a Tony Leitch Townscape Award in November by the Kingston Society, which praised it for being “a striking building, beautifully detailed [which] turns the corner well”, with a character of its own within the large development on this site. Work continues on fitting it out as a Hilton

## North Kingston Forum – get involved!



Local residents, clubs, groups, businesses, allotment societies, schools... are all invited to get involved in the new North Kingston Forum (NKF) which aims to “improve the social,

economic and environmental wellbeing of North Kingston by engaging in the planning of the neighbourhood throughout the NKF area, as provided for in the Localism Act 2011”. Neighbourhood Forums offer local people an opportunity to help shape local development and have a say in how funds from development are spent locally. The NKF needs plenty of local support and commitment to get off the ground and working for us. See NKF news and events on their new website, <https://northkingstonforum.wordpress.com>.

## Mapping local assets – get involved!

Kingston University Community Mapping Project aims to unearth the culture and history of diverse communities, map existing community assets, and collect the life stories of those who live, work and study in Kingston. The Community Connectors will then create an online map as a living record that will be updated with the help of the community. The student team has already walked the length and breadth of the borough, including our area, and are now running Neighbourhood Mapping Sessions, where they invite local residents to bring their interests, enthusiasm and knowledge to a discussion about their local area and the future of the borough, and to share their stories. For further information or to participate, please contact [a.manoharan@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:a.manoharan@kingston.ac.uk).

## Lower Ham Road on TV

Did you see our bit of riverside on Channel 4's “George Clarke's Amazing Spaces” on 1st October? It featured the restoration of “Lady Doris”, moored on Stephens Ait opposite the slipway by the Albany Boathouse, and is probably still viewable at [www.channel4.com/programmes/george-clarkes-amazing-spaces](http://www.channel4.com/programmes/george-clarkes-amazing-spaces).

## CARA 2015 AGM

Though it was dark, it wasn't raining and there was a good crowd at our AGM in October. John Parrish reviewed the successes of the year - healthy finances and membership, a well-attended and sociable late summer lunch, this newsletter, and CARA street reps -and our ongoing involvement in local developments, parking issues, the police panel, Reclaim our Riverbank, the new North Kingston Forum, and the revived Canbury Gardens working party. Jonathan Rollanson, and co-opted members Des and John were formally voted onto the Committee and welcomed, and everyone who had helped to make the year a good one for CARA was thanked.

Tudor Ward Councillor Hugh Scantlebury then spoke about the changes and challenges facing Kingston in an era of population growth, and answered questions about affordable housing, cycle routes, the continuing poor road surface and drainage on Skerne Road, “Gloriana”, traffic and air quality. We all went home much better informed about what is going on in our neighbourhood. The draft 2015 AGM Minutes are on the CARA website in “About CARA”, at [http://e-voice.org.uk/cara/files/view/agm-minutes/Draft\\_AGM\\_2015\\_Minutes.docx](http://e-voice.org.uk/cara/files/view/agm-minutes/Draft_AGM_2015_Minutes.docx).

## Thames Landscape Strategy at work

This February, Thames Landscape Strategy (TLS) supervised the Swingbridge team clearing undergrowth from the riverbank in front of the Half Mile Tree and along the road (*pictured below*). TLS have been organising maintenance work along our stretch of the Thames for many years; they helped us start up CARA litter-picks (see back page for details of the next one); and they have had an even greater impact with larger projects, such as the restoration of Home Park water meadows, just across Kingston Bridge. In the past 20 years TLS has been central to hundreds of projects to preserve and enhance the landscape, wildlife and facilities along the river from Weybridge to Kew (see <http://thames-landscapestrategy.org.uk/what-we-do/projects/>). The continuation of TLS project work is supported by their key partners (such as local councils) but they need more support if their work is to be maintained, as some supporters (for example, the Environment Agency) have suffered such severe cutbacks that they are no longer able to do so. Donations can be made to support TLS through the Father Thames Trust, [www.justgiving.com/fatherthamestrust](http://www.justgiving.com/fatherthamestrust)



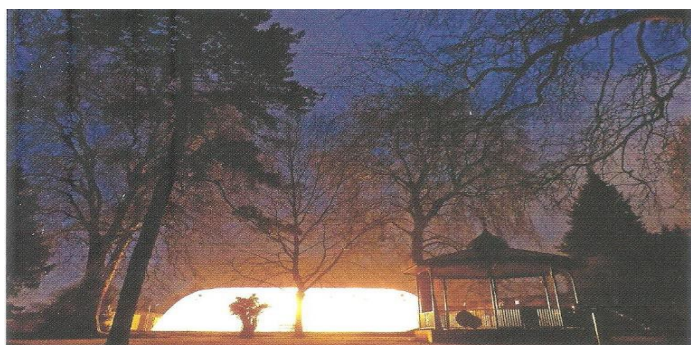
## Lots going on in Canbury Gardens



Thanks to a steady stream of young rowers from Kingston Rowing Club, a couple of volunteer gardeners from Ham House and a few CARA

stalwarts, around **2000 donated bulbs** were planted in Canbury Gardens in a record-breaking two hours in mid-December. Even if only half of them come up, the Gardens will be much more colourful this spring.

**Lighting up the Gardens:** many of our members and residents have been asking for lights in Canbury Gardens. The Committee has responded by raising the £13,000 needed to get lighting back again. The old lighting cables will be removed from the trees, new standard lighting installed, and the old Victorian-style lights repaired. For those concerned about wildlife, the new lights will be as bat-friendly as feasible and switched off at 2.00 am. We would like to thank Berkeley Homes and Greene King for their very generous contributions to the project and Rob Waite of RBK for organising the contractors. Canbury Gardens will be lit up in April with a celebration party: more information to come – keep an eye on the CARA website and Facebook page.



CARA Committee members also had a very positive meeting with **tennis club** representatives who understood the problem of light spillage from the courts and agreed to investigate methods of screening. The tennis club is also happy to let CARA members use the nice cafe facilities within the club.

**CARA Friends of the Gardens**, a specially formed adhoc sub-group of CARA, applied unsuccessfully to Grow Wild in December for funding for planting native species in the Gardens. In the absence of this funding CARA Committee has approved the purchase of some replacements for lost trees in Canbury Gardens. The subgroup is now turning its attention to the **old gardeners' yard**, with the idea of turning it into a **community garden**, somewhere where residents with

small or no gardens could grow a few herbs and vegetables and share gardening tips, and local children could come along to learn where food comes from (and maybe even learn to like vegetables). Or perhaps the yard could become a wildlife garden? Please let CARA Committee members know how you'd like to improve this scruffy neglected space and if you would help.

Young Placeshapers will be back this spring planting **wildflowers in King's Passage** – look out for them (and maybe even give them a hand) on March 30th.

**The daffodils:** some of the older bulbs will be removed this spring, and new bulbs will be planted in the autumn.

**Fly-posting:** an untidy rash of posters has appeared recently in the Gardens, and however worthy the cause (they vary) this is not something to encourage and posters will be removed when spotted. There are noticeboards for the community (though not commercial businesses) to share local information; to get a flyer (preferably A4 or A5) posted on a neighbourhood noticeboard for two weeks or so, take it to the Guildhall for the Rangers in-tray the week before posting is required.

## Other local green issues

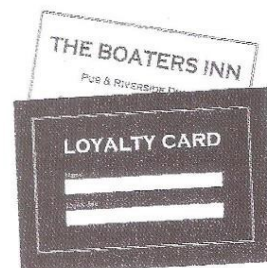
■ **Street trees:** only one "river road" tree has been ordered so far this year by a resident, so many gaps remain and it is not too late for others to be planted. Please contact Stuart Devall for details if you are interested (see back page). The bulbs planted by residents around existing trees bring pleasure to everyone.

■ **Half Mile Tree:** CARA Committee has requested a Tree Preservation Order for this local landmark, which, surprisingly, seems not to have had this important protection.

■ **Why green your garden?** Quite apart from lifting the spirits more effectively than concrete, trees, shrubs, grass and flower-beds in front gardens can help to reduce pollution and noise and to protect your house from flooding as well as the wider neighbourhood. Permeable paths and driveways, street trees, green spaces and verges can also make valuable contributions to flood prevention.

## Special discounts for CARA members

CARA Committee has been negotiating with local organisations and traders for special discounts for CARA members (to join CARA, see back page). So far we have been successful with Boaters Inn and our members will be issued with loyalty cards (*pictured on the right*) for 20% off all food Monday to Friday. The drinks discount is still under negotiation - see the CARA website and Facebook page for updates.





## 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; pennydsouza@blueyonder.co.uk

Clare Francis (liaison with Conservation Area Advisory Committee; planning applications), 16 Chestnut Road; clarefrancis@gmail.com; 020 8549 4581

Nic Lewisohn (co-opted, social events), 23 Grosvenor Gardens; 07710 971917; nic@lewisohns.com

Marilyn Mason (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 (liaison with police and Neighbourhood Watch), desnoble@blueyonder.co.uk

John Parrish (parking), 108 Lower Ham Road; john.parrish1080@gmail.com; 020 8546 1235

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

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

*With many thanks to Anneke Ferrier, Trevor Willis and Peter Wolf, who recently stood down from the Committee after many years of service to the local community.*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

■ **Saturday 12th March, all day: Regatta**, hosted by Kingston Rowing Club

■ **Saturday 19th March, 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 after the tree-cutting and high tides, and before birds start nesting. 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.

### Street Reps - and Neighbourhood Watch

*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 forwarding Neighbourhood Watch emails from both Tudor and Canbury Ward police to local residents. If you are interested in joining NHW and in receiving these regular updates on crime in our area, things to look out for and helpful advice, then please email Jenny, including any email address(es) you would like to have these updates sent to as well as your street address.*

### 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

Rollasonthinkkingston@yahoo.com

Woodside Road, Jan Howard-Williams -

janinglis11@gmail.com

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## CARA MEMBERSHIP, SPRING 2016

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.