



CARA

Canbury & Riverside Association

Working to protect and enhance our local amenities for everyone

Newsletter Winter 2020

CARA under COVID

As we write the second lockdown is with us. The first stopped earlier editions. This edition will not suffer the same fate. CARA has not been idle during the pandemic. Your Committee and members have still kept oversight of Canbury Gardens, the riverside, local planning and more. CARA has attended Zoom meetings with the Council, its contractors, the police and North Kingston Forum. We are even planning now for next year, more, bigger and better social events when normality returns.

Intentionally blank

.... with the spotlight on Canbury Gardens



A party aftermath
*End of a sunny day
In Canbury Gardens*

If ever there was a time to appreciate the absolute treasure on our doorstep, it was this year. Lockdown and travel restrictions brought people to the Gardens from far and wide, to enjoy the green space, exercise and socialise (mostly from a safe distance!). One evening it was estimated that 1,500 people were in the Gardens; nearly 200 crowded into the bandstand. Whilst many residents close by suffered from noise, most youngsters did respond to requests to cool it when asked. The children's playground was a place for "a good laugh". Unfortunately damage was done. On one night 235 people were counted there. Trevor Willis, a CARA member who keeps a daily eye on the Gardens, reported one good news story. A lady from a flat in the town discovered the Gardens. Locked down with quarrelsome children and a fed up husband, she said "These gardens have saved my marriage."



Great teamwork
*Good gardening by
locals and council team*

More Lessons, as they say, have been learned. The Canbury Gardens Working Party, with CARA's representative Penny D'Souza, has been meeting regularly during the year to discuss how to manage these. Litter was an obvious case: prominent signs were put up, reminding visitors to use the extra litter bins or take their litter home. Residents stepped in to help (see Litter Picking Takes Off on page 2). More volunteers came to the rescue of the flower beds, giving their time to tackle the weeds - all much appreciated.

Unfortunately another problem arose with the public toilets, as Boaters closed during both lockdowns. The CGWP is looking into the viability of providing separate public toilets in the Gardens, firstly investigating locations with access to water and drainage. Yes, you will be informed! Meanwhile, regular winter pruning has started, for healthy, vigorous growth next spring, and extraneous undergrowth removed to reduce areas that could shelter folk going to the loo 'al fresco'. On a much more positive note, the outdoor gym has now been installed next to the Multi-Use sports pitch and is available for use post lockdown. Another positive move is the possibility of using the wide verge at the town end of Lower Ham Rd as a Nature Garden, with wildflower planting and access from the Gardens. This project is at the feasibility study and costing stage - we will keep you informed of this as well.



Traffic control trials, Lower Ham Rd

Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) are being promoted in outer London by the Greater London Council. North Kingston has two so far. The road block on Lower Ham Road Rd is one. A six month trial to the end of February 2021. After a rather chaotic start it is now well established and we are told liked by many, if not all, in the roads south of Bank Lane.

There is a petition confusingly entitled “*Against Partial Closure of Canbury Gardens*”. **We are assured that there is not to be any such closure.** One of the signatories told us it was against the barrier. We suggest using the official site kingstonletstalk.co.uk/low-traffic-neighbourhoods to register approval or disapproval.

Residents in Bank Lane itself could be suffering at school leaving times when parents collecting children by car queueing up to leave Albany Park Rd via Bank Lane. Another nearby trial readers might like to note is to be outside Latchmere School. The road is to be closed at that point during drop off/pick up hours.

Bombarded by planning challenges

The North Kingston Forum is our watchdog on planning matters, now officially the third tier in local planning after GLA and RBK. It has been an incredibly busy year for the local volunteers and their professional advisors on the Forum. They have responded to eight major planning applications including the Kingsgate skyscraper (now on hold), the Nikon site (approved with conditions), 84 Lower Ham Rd (withdrawn), whilst attending the Barge Dock appeal (the developers lost) and monitoring the lack of progress on the old Regal Cinema. All of these are in or close to CARA area.

The GLA new homes target in Kingston has been cut by 30% but many more than first planned are needed. RBK's Local Plan shows 10 possible sites in North Kingston. The Forum's local consultation yielded 600 responses. These informed the policies in their Neighbourhood Plan. The views of all residents will be sought in a few weeks' time. The plan will then go to an independent examiner and finally to a community referendum this winter. If approved it becomes a legal document that will be referred to in all local planning applications. John Parrish is your CARA rep on the Forum, but any local resident can attend general meetings.



Then there were two and congratulations to the man behind the picture

Kingston Riverside Club have joined Boaters as proud possessors of a London Ambulance Service accredited Public Access Defibrillator. We are delighted, as CARA member Alan Pettitt, who persuaded the Committee to sponsor the Boaters' equipment, has now trained another team to cover emergencies in Canbury Gdns. Alan says “congratulations to Samir and Conor from the Club in passing with flying colours the qualifying ‘Teach the Beat’ course which I ran for them. LAS set very high standards to achieve a pass. This was the first course that LAS approved with revised protocols to take into account the risk of infection from Covid-19.”



Apart from training some of us locals how to use a defibrillator, Alan (on the left) took the Respirator Challenge Speed March. A march over 16.5 miles carrying the weight of a First Responder kit (16.73 kg) wearing an LAS full-face respirator.

Time 4hrs 38mins 38sec.

His effort, supported by CARA, raised over £2,400 in aid of the London Ambulance Service Charitable Fund.

Social Events

CARA members and residents have enjoyed great social events over the years, most recently with BBQs at the tennis club and Christmas drinks at the Boaters. We will return to social events in 2021. The Committee has already got more ideas ready to go. Also we are working with the Council to bring back Bandstand concerts and we hope the Ben Judd riverside boat project will be launched. The boat can provide CARA with a week for a variety of activities. As soon as we have plans you will be told, either by Newsletter or by CARA eNews, which we are currently trying out.

In the meantime have a very Merry Christmas!

CARA AGM

The pandemic forced CARA Committee to cancel our traditional AGM in October. We are making arrangements to hold a 'mini' AGM for 2019/2020, via Zoom, on 22nd February 2021, at 7.30 pm. We shall email the arrangements to our contact list and deliver a paper copy to members not on email. This will include how members may participate even if they cannot join us on the internet.

CARA Committee

Sophie Cavanagh (liaison with local schools)
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John Parrish (newsletter content; parking; liaison with North Kingston Forum; heritage) 108 Lower Ham Road
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CARA Street Reps

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If you would like to be a CARA Street Rep for a road or block of flats not covered above, please contact Kelly Page
kelly1page@yahoo.com

Kingston Riverside flats contact, Deborah Olszewski
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CARA MEMBERSHIP 2020/2021

Please use this form, or join and/or pay your subscription on line at <https://carakingston.org/about-us/membership/>

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

I would like to become a Member/renew my Membership^[1] of CARA.

I confirm that I support CARA's aims and objectives. (see CARA website www.carakingston.org)

Please tick boxes and/or fill in amounts below as appropriate

I have set up a standing order for a payment of £5 now and thereafter annually on 1st September to CARA, Barclays Kingston, sort code 20-46-73, account number 53451518, using my house (or flat) number and street (or block) name as a reference.

OR

I enclose a cheque/cash^[2] for £..... payable to "CARA" for my membership subscription

£5 to 31st August 2021 **or** £10 to 31st August 2022 **or** £15 to 31st August 2023

This payment includes an additional donation I wish to make towards the running of CARA of £.....

I do/do not require a receipt.

Signed:

Date:

Please send the completed form to CARA Membership Secretary, c/o 31 Chestnut Road, KT2 5AP.

^[1] A Member should be an individual person. Other residents of a Member's household within CARA Area^[3] will still enjoy the usual benefits, with the exception of voting. CARA Members resident outside CARA Area will receive only electronic versions of CARA newsletters and other communications.

^[2] You should **send cash only if it will be delivered by hand.**

^[3] CARA Area boundaries:- West the Thames; North Lower Ham Road; East the west side of Richmond Road; South, Lower Kings Road, west of Skerne Road, north of May Bate Avenue to the south end of Canbury Gardens.

CARA is administered by volunteers. We will process your Membership form as quickly as we can. New Members should receive a response, at the email or address provided, in under 28 days from when we receive your form.