



CARA members' discounts

If you are, or become, a paid-up member you and your household will be entitled to discounts at the following establishments when you present your CARA card:

- The Boaters Inn – 20% off all meals for up to four people from Monday to Thursday.
- Hawkers Bar and Restaurant at the Hilton – 10% off your bill when dining in the bar or brasserie. (This offer is not valid as an addition to other occasional promotions.)
- The Canbury Secret (as revealed on page 3) – 10% off all bills at the café.

We are also in discussion with Nuffield Health, who are currently working on a package for CARA members and we will publish the offer in our next newsletter. Watch this space.

CARA membership is currently £5 per year. If you are not already a member or have forgotten to renew, you can join or rejoin using the form on the back page.

Kingston's second fire engine saved

The London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority has reconsidered its plan to relocate the second fire engine from the Richmond Road fire station, after

representations from North Kingston residents and many others concerned by the effect this would have had on response times to local emergencies. The decision is due to be reviewed in a year's time.

Musical memories wanted

IYAF (International Youth Arts Festival) is running a music heritage project in Kingston looking at its musical history from the 1940s to the 70s. They are looking for stories, memories or artefacts from any musical activity in Kingston in this era. Find out more about the project at <http://creativeyouthcharity.org/projects/kingston-rpm-records-people-music>.

New chairman for Thames Landscape Strategy

The 23-year-old organisation, Thames Landscape Strategy (TLS), which promotes and enhances for the future the Thames from Weybridge to Kew, has appointed local Tudor ward councillor David Cunningham as its new chair. Councillor Cunningham is an associate member of CARA and has been a strong supporter of the association's aims and activities. If you would like to know more about TLS, whose patron is David Attenborough, visit their website, thames-landscape-strategy.org.uk.



CARA member Janet Byrne sent us a picture of this old postcard. "The stamp on the postcard cost half a penny," writes Janet. "The post office stamp says Kingston-on-Thames, ... [and] the title on the picture features hyphens. The stamp shows either 89 or 09. The 'on' and the hyphens are significant to the age of the picture. The original bandstand is in a different spot to the present one, and there are no trees, just shrubs."

CARA newsletter, Spring 2017

Printed on recycled paper. Please pass on or recycle this newsletter when you have finished with it.

www.carakingston.org

Local development update

Gasholders site / “Queenshurst”: residents met again with developers Berkeley in January. Work is on target, with the first occupant due in May 2018. A community hall is part of Phase 1, and negotiations with Kingston College about it becoming a student training restaurant are under way. A second community space will be available in Phase 3, with possible users still to be identified. Residents have requested a community notice board, which is currently being investigated, and Berkeley have made improvements to the local riding for the disabled facility and offered funding towards improvements in Canbury Gardens. The next meeting with residents is scheduled for Tuesday 27th June at 7.30pm. More information about the development can be found at www.queenshurstconstruction.co.uk.

Good news from North Kingston Forum

Kingston Council has approved the designated Neighbourhood Area – the whole of Canbury and Tudor wards – as applied for. The next stage is formal approval of the prospective neighbourhood forum as the qualifying body to make the neighbourhood plan. Interested residents were treated to an encouraging but realistic presentation on “Neighbourhood Planning: the Art of the Possible” by community planning consultant Neil Homer in March at the new Hilton Doubletree.



Chair of NKF Diane Watling won a Mayor's Community Award in March for her community work, including all her hard work and efficiency in setting up and keeping the NKF going.

CARA Naturewatch

Cold weather in early spring brought fieldfares and red-wings to the Hawker Centre grounds, as it was even colder elsewhere. Now that spring is here, the plumage of local wildfowl is in prime condition, as seen in the lovely photos below of (left to right) a great crested grebe, a mandarin duck, and a red-crested pochard, taken by Charles Rorcorla. Also spotted locally this spring – a black swan!



Down by the riverside

■ **The Richmond Venturer** has changed the name of its organisation to the Thames Boat Project, and they are to launch a new purpose-built boat in mid-June. There has been no decision on their licence to continue to moor at the Barge Dock, which depends on the proposed (controversial) redevelopment of the Barge Dock.

■ **Reclaim our Riverbank:** in February the Environment Agency removed the three large “slum boats” and four smaller boats from land next to Teddington Lock. The occupants were evicted and the boats towed away to a marina, as part of a very large multi-agency operation executing a High Court writ. Supporters of RoR were pleased by this development; however the owner of the boats later met the legal requirements of the possession order and retrieved his boats, which were then towed to various locations on the river, including Queens Promenade, Kingston. The owner is legally entitled to navigate the river with these boats, but does not have a legal right to moor for more than a reasonable period or against the landowner’s wishes, and Kingston Council promptly started enforcement action. Despite this setback, the CARA area riverbank is now almost completely clear of unauthorised mooring.

Keeping safe

■ **NeighbourHood Watch:** there have been several burglaries lately in Tudor and Canbury wards. Please email jennylangridge@yahoo.co.uk if you would like to be added to the mailing list for NeighbourHood Watch and to receive regular email updates and advice. There is currently an offer (to members of the NHW scheme) to purchase a SmartWater kit (<http://www.smartwater.com/home>) at a reduced price. Our local Police Team are happy to give free crime prevention information and home security advice to anyone on the ward. There is also some useful advice on keeping your home safe on the CARA website.

■ **What’s your air quality like?** London’s air pollution, most of it from road traffic, and its health impacts have been much in the news. If you live on or near a busy road and you’d like to find out what the air you breathe is like, you can obtain a Clean Air Kit from Friends of the Earth for a minimum donation of £15 – see www.foe.co.uk/go/clean-air-kit.

■ **What to do in a heatwave** (just in case) – there’s advice from Public Health England at www.gov.uk/government/publications/heatwave-plan-for-england.



Canbury Gardens

■ **The Canbury Secret:** this spring there will be a



new Italian-inspired coffee, snacks and ice cream café in Canbury Gardens. Situated near the bandstand,

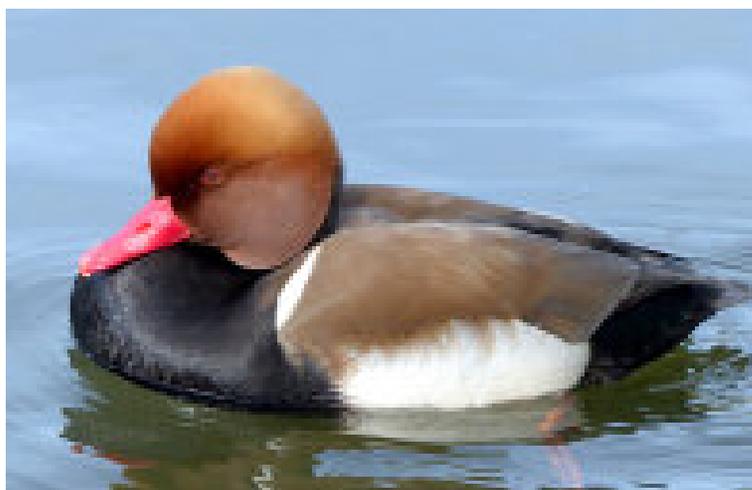
it is the brainchild of Filippo Selini, a CARA member. The converted and much improved building (*see photo above*) was once the Gardens' toilet block, and was a local eyesore for 30 years. Filippo plans to open for business around Easter and will stay open all summer and into early autumn. We wish his venture well. More details on their website – canburysecret.co.uk.

■ **CARA Friends of the Gardens'** application for free bulbs was successful again:



they arrived just before Christmas, so Kingston Rowing Club

organised several crews to plant nearly 1,000 assorted bulbs for us on 14th January (*pictured above*). Andrew Robinson of Quadron/idverde also organised for CARAFoG to have a few spare shrubs and some bedding plants in November. We planted the shrubs, tall daisies and some bedding plants in Canbury Gardens. Other bedding plants found a home in the Community Garden. For the future, planting a hedgerow in front of the tennis courts, possibly this autumn, is under consideration.



■ **Trees:** the loss of trees that have not been replaced in Canbury Gardens has been a cause of considerable concern, and led to CARA's decision to purchase and plant, with the council's approval, two replacements in October: a holly bush by the children's playground and a whitebeam at the top of Kings Walk.

It came as a welcome surprise when a number of trees in the Gardens suffering from disease and needing to be felled had explanatory notices tied to them this winter promising replacements. In the north of the Gardens three oak trees by the riverside and three flowering cherries beside Lower Ham Road have been planted – and another tree close to the Kings Walk entrance has been promised at a later date.

If there are prolonged dry spells this summer, residents of the river roads are urged to water, when necessary, young trees outside their homes – and, where there are gaps, to consider purchasing street trees from the Council this autumn; the cost can often be shared with one's neighbours.

■ Kingston Council's tree officer Leon Parry got ATS, the tree contractors, to make the chair on the right from the stump of a dead London plane tree felled last autumn, as something nice for local children to grow up with and a fun feature for the Gardens. Fortunately, the missing tree does not leave a noticeable gap in the avenue of plane trees.



■ **Canbury Community Garden:** the transformation of the overgrown former gardeners' yard on the edge of Canbury Gardens into a sustainable, wild-life-friendly, edible garden continues apace. So far 400+ volunteer hours have been spent clearing the site, creating raised beds, and getting ready for planting; the garden is providing useful volunteering opportunities for organisations such as TimeBank and Young Placeshapers, though there have been fewer volunteer gardeners so far from this neighbourhood. Now that spring is here, do come along to join in a weekend gardening session or open afternoon. If you can't manage physical work, unwanted garden tools or spare seeds or plants/seedlings for the herb and vegetable plots are always welcome. Please see Canbury Community Garden Facebook page for more information.

Streetlife goes Nextdoor

Streetlife, a website many local people found useful, has been replaced by Nextdoor. To join our neighbourhood section, called "Canbury Gardens", see <https://canburygardens.nextdoor.co.uk>.

Replacing lost local shops?

Over the past two years, Ham Parade has lost its bank, its butcher and its greengrocer. A new group, Ham and North Kingston Community Investors, is proposing a community shop on Ham Parade – you can find out more at www.hamandnorthkingston.org.uk.

CARA COMMITTEE

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 (social events), 23 Grosvenor Gardens; 07710 971917; nic@lewisohns.com

Richard Mobbs (newsletter distribution; river and riverside, Thames Landscape Strategy liaison, CARAFoG), Chestnut Road; richard@statacom.net; 07762 598 309

Des Noble (liaison with police and Neighbourhood Watch), desnoble@blueyonder.co.uk

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

Jonathan Rollason (vice-chair, fundraising), 10 Lower Kings Road, 0208 541 0808, Jonathan.rollason2@me.com

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

STREET REPS

If your road or block is not listed below and you'd like to become its CARA Street Rep, please contact jenny-langridge@yahoo.co.uk.

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 Rollason – thinkkingston@yahoo.com; **Waterman's Close**, Susannah Rose-Innes – susannahroseinnes@gmail.com; **Woodside Road**, Jan Howard-Williams – janninglis11@gmail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

■ **Sat 6 May, 11.15 to lunchtime, CARA Spring Litter-pick:** please come along to the slipway at the northern end of Canbury Gardens to help tidy up the river bank. 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.

■ **17& 18 June, in a park or street near you, The Great Get-Together / Big Lunch:** why not get together with your neighbours for a weekend “celebrating community, commonality and connections”. Find out more and get a free starter kit from <https://www.edenproject-communities.com/thebiglunchhomepage>.

■ **Sun 16 July, from 9.30am, Canbury Gardens, Dragon Boat Challenge** in aid of charity – find out more or get an entry form at <http://kingstonrotaryclub.org.uk/events/dragon-boats> – and have a go.

WANTED: EDITOR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Parrish, chair of the CARA committee, writes: “This is the last CARA newsletter to be edited by Marilyn Mason, who has been producing it for 9 years. All your committee thanks Marilyn for the skilful and conscientious work that has gone into producing this most important medium of communication with residents in the CARA area over all this time. Thank you so much, Marilyn.

Arrangements are in hand for interim editing but we are now looking for a new editor. News items and photographs are always available. What is needed is someone with the ability to assemble the copy in a newsletter format and forward it to the printers. Are there any budding journalists amongst us?”

CARA would also welcome new committee members.

Volunteers for either of these roles are invited to contact John Parrish or Richard Mobbs.

CARA MEMBERSHIP, 2017

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

I / we would like to join/renew my / our household / associate subscription to CARA. (*Please delete as appropriate.*)

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 membership (please tick as appropriate):

£5 for membership up to 31/08/17 £10 for membership up to 31/08/18 £15 for membership up to 31/08/19

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.