



Newsletter, Autumn/Winter 2011



Thank you and au revoir

CARA will greatly miss Hugh Scantlebury, who stood down as Chair at the 2011 AGM, after 14 years of active involvement on the Committee, for the last six as Chair. Hugh, pictured above with local Councillor Dennis Doe receiving a Safer Parks Award from London Mayor Boris Johnson earlier this year, has been a hugely energetic and effective public face of CARA, and is so irreplaceable that the only way for the post-AGM Committee to manage his many diverse interests and activities has been to divide them up between its members. At the AGM Hugh thanked the “huge number of people who take an interest in looking after our very special location”, and was in turn thanked by the rest of the Committee and those present for all his hard work on our behalf. Of course, Hugh still lives in the neighbourhood, he was out with the litterpickers once again in October (though not visible in the photo on page 3 as he was behind the camera), and no doubt the Committee will be picking his brains for a while – so we know it's not really goodbye.

For a flavour of the tasks that Hugh and the Committee did, and the Committee will continue to do, on behalf of local residents, businesses and visitors, see the back page of this newsletter. There's also chairing meetings, taking minutes and liaison with various other local organisations, and that's still probably not all. No wonder Hugh needed a break!

Cara newsletter, Autumn-Winter 2011

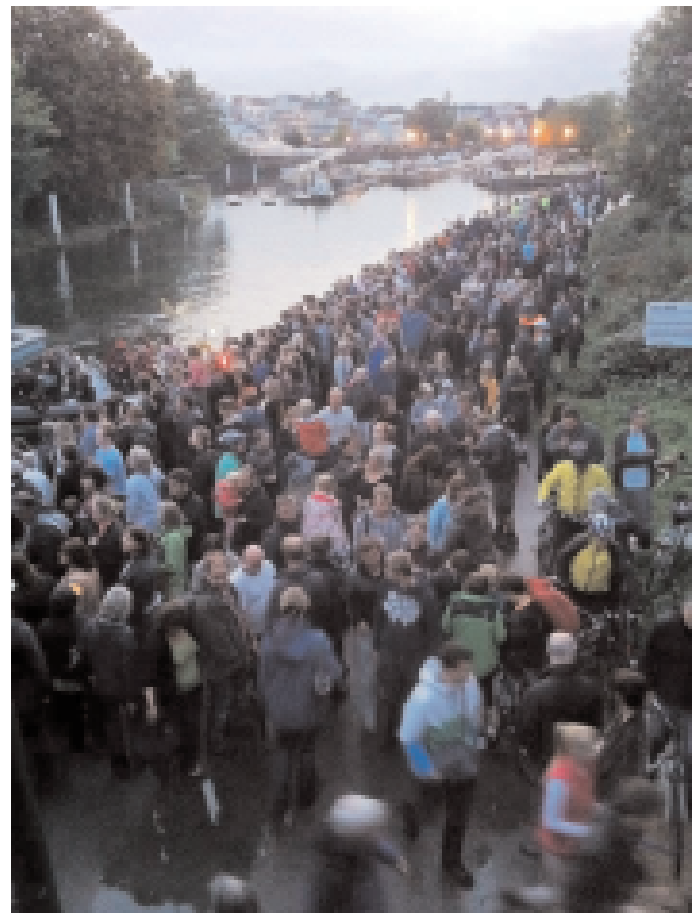
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**YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY
A CARA MEMBER!**

Please consider (re-)joining —
see back page.

David Walliams swims past

On September 11th comedian David Walliams reached our stretch of the Thames on his epic 140-mile swim from Gloucester to Westminster for the charity Sport Relief. The photo below shows the huge crowd at Teddington Lock cheering him on.



www.cara.kingston.org.uk

Congratulations to Canbury Court

Residents of Canbury Court have turned an unused corner of their grounds into an attractive community allotment, part of the Capital Growth initiative which aims to create 2012 new community food-growing plots by 2012. With help from Quadron, Mears and Capital Growth funding, residents are growing brassica, beans, herbs and fruit bushes in the raised beds pictured below.



Free exercise in the Gardens

The Saturday morning exercise class continues throughout the year – so do come along to stretch and tone those muscles and raise your heart rate a little. The class is run by the participants and free, as well as being sociable and gentle enough for most levels of fitness.

“Free” electricity

Solar photo voltaic (PV) panels have become more efficient and their cost has fallen, electricity bills are rising, the current guaranteed Feed-In Tariff is generous, and though the Government is now proposing to reduce it for PV panels installed on or after 12 December, it is still not a bad deal if you have a suitable roof and can afford the initial outlay. There is much useful information at www.energysavingtrust.org.uk and some good advice about what to consider at <http://tinyurl.com/68dsxftp>. Word of mouth is a good way to find a reliable installer, so ask neighbours who have already had solar panels installed (including the editor of this newsletter).



How to warm up your house

Even draughty old houses can be made cosier and more energy-efficient, and there is a useful heating and insulation retrofitting comparison tool at www.transitioncambridge.org/housemodel/interactive.php. You can enter your house type and construction details to get a summary of the relative benefits of various improvements and upgrades.

Local developments

Kingston Heights

United House, developers of the flats, social housing and hotel on part of the former power station site, have delivered a Kingston Heights newsletter to Canbury Place properties, with updates and how to contact United House. Their site office will be on the wide pavement section on Skerne Road. To help keep more CARA residents informed, we are delivering copies with this newsletter to other properties relatively close to the development.

Work is due to be completed in September 2013. In the meantime, the sub-station has to be enclosed by a concrete and steel structure, which entails switching off the four main transformers one at a time, which could only be done before the clocks went back and will be restarted next spring. The main roof structure will be supported by huge 70-tonne, 38-metre-long W-beams, and bringing them to the site from Liverpool on an articulated lorry will be a tricky process. They will be transported to the site via Sury Basin under police escort, outside normal working hours to minimise disruption to local traffic.

Kingston Riverside

Redrow Homes development of a tall apartment complex next to the river is due to be completed by the start of 2014.

...and they're green(ish) too!

As part of the planning process, new developments are obliged to generate up to 10% of the energy they will need from renewable sources. These local developments will be using river water for super-efficient heat pump technology which can generate enough “renewable energy” (depending where the electricity to drive the heat pump comes from) for both Kingston Heights and Kingston Riverside. Water will be extracted from the adjacent Thames, transported through underground tunnels (formerly used by the old power station to draw cooling water), taken through heat exchangers and then returned, a couple of degrees cooler, to the river. This very new technology has been proven at a site in Osaka, Japan.

Barge Dock

Developers still plan to create a raised, colonnaded, restaurant as part of the landscaping of the barge dock. Once everything else is done, this will be looked at in the context of approved but deferred plans from about a decade ago.

Lower Ham Road parking and passing

In response to the residents' survey and petition earlier this year, the Council has decided in favour of yellow lines on a short riverside section of Lower

Ham Road to create a new passing place. Nine out of ten of those who supported a passing place or places were CARA members – we do listen to you!

Kingston Arena

At its meeting on 16th September, the Licensing Sub-Committee refused the application for a 2,000-capacity arena on the former Gala Bingo Hall in Richmond Road. The reason given was that they did not believe that the existing licensing objectives concerning both crime and disorder and public nuisance would be satisfied were the licence granted. They took specific note of the police evidence, including crime statistics, which they felt would be negatively impacted, and they also considered that there would be an unacceptable level of noise from people leaving the premises. Kingston Arena has lodged an appeal, but no hearing date has yet been set.

Cumulative Impact Policy

Over 1000 people signed the petition in support of a Cumulative Impact Policy for the town centre, and the Licensing Committee and then the Council have since approved it. This will introduce a “rebuttal principle” to the consideration of new licensing applications and changes to existing licenses. In other words, they will usually be refused unless the applicant can satisfactorily demonstrate that granting the license will have no negative impact. This is a great result and brings us into line with neighbouring Richmond and Croydon councils, who have already adopted Cumulative Impact Policies. Thank you to everyone who supported the petition.

New Canbury Gardens gate

After many years the gate at the end of Henry Macauley Avenue providing access into Canbury Gardens is finally open!

North Kingston school – still no firm news

Please keep an eye on the CARA and Kingston Council websites and the *Surrey Comet* for updates on this necessary but as yet unfunded school development.

CARA autumn litterpick

Over 20 local residents, the Safer Neighbourhood Team, and a group of Sea Scouts in a boat turned out for our litterpick by the Thames on Saturday 8th October. Despite blustery weather spoiling their neat piles of collected litter, volunteers (pictured above right) pulled an astounding 10 rubbish sacks full of glass and plastic bottles and cans out of riverside vegetation and the water – items that could have been taken home and recycled by the users. Along with the predictable mix of litter dropped by passers-by were some more unusual objects: a fishing lure, a reel for a fishing rod, a much weath-



ered sign advertising food at the Gazebo, an estate agent’s sign and several unopened bundles of junk mail, presumably discarded by an idle deliverer.

It's a pity that people use our river and riverbank as a rubbish dump, but thank you to everyone who came along and helped to make it look much tidier, at least for a little while. And thank you to the *Surrey Comet* for featuring our litter pick not once but twice on October 14th!



CARA nature watch

Return of the tufty

Tufted Ducks (drake pictured left), regular winter visitors to our stretch of river, reappeared towards the end of October in a larger group (or “raft”) than usual. Though our autumn has been unusually mild, it

must be much colder in northern Europe and Iceland where they come from. Look out too for other cold weather migrants: Redwings, Fieldfares and, if you are very lucky, and have berries in your garden, exotic-looking Waxwings.

Please leave the berries for the birds

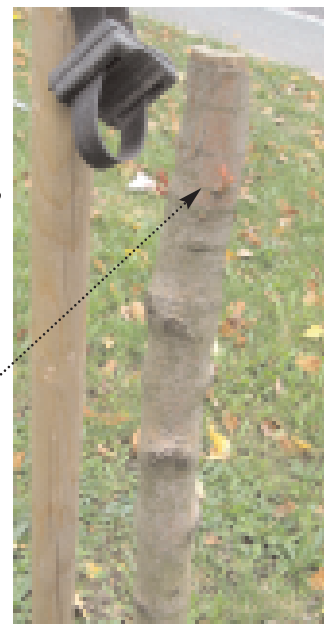
The RSPB advises gardeners not to over-tidy hedges and bushes: “In chopping down hedges, bushes and trees you could be wiping out a vital food source for birds and other creatures.

Last year’s winter larder of berries on shrubs and hedges meant the difference between life and death for many resident birds and winter visitors...”

For more advice on gardening for wildlife see www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/wildlifegarden.

Victims of crime recover

The saplings on Richmond Road beheaded by vandals earlier this year are putting out new buds! Thank you to the Council’s tree contractors for not over-tidying.



CARA COMMITTEE

Mike Buckley, 9 Eastbury Road,
mike.buckley@blueyonder.co.uk; 020 8549 5826

Penny D'Souza (CARA spokesperson; Council contact; liaison with Canbury Gardens Working Party), 14 Chestnut Road; pennydsouza@blueyonder.co.uk; 020 8541 5331

Clare Francis (liaison with Conservation Area Advisory Committee, Kingston Heights), 16 Chestnut Road; clarefrancis@gmail.co; 020 8549 4581

Anneke Ferrier (social events; Albany liaison), 1 York Court; lovehill@blueyonder.co.uk; 020 8274 0823

Marilyn Mason (CARA newsletter and communications; Town Centre Management liaison), 142 Lower Ham Road; marilyn.mason@virgin.net; 020 8546 4086

Richard Mobbs (newsletter distribution; Thames Landscape Strategy liaison), Chestnut Road; richard@statacom.net; 07762 598309

John Parrish (treasurer), 108 Lower Ham Road; john.parrish@zen.co.uk; 020 8546 1235

Paul Taylor (membership), 5 Lower Kings Road; paultaylor812@hotmail.co.uk; 020 8391 0751

Trevor Willis (liaison with police, Canbury Pavilion, Youth Provisioning Project), 7 Eastbury Road; trevorwillis@london.com; 07889 731264, 020 8549 3076



THE COMMITTEE WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE PAVILION FOR CAROLS AND MINCE PIES IN DECEMBER.



New Committee member still needed

CARA Committee would welcome a member who could represent the interests of residents who live in and around May Bate Avenue and Samuel Gray Gardens.

At the AGM

On September 22nd at the Pavilion, we heard encouraging reports from our outgoing Chair, our Treasurer and our Membership Secretary, as well as interesting and relevant presentations from three visitors: David Randall of Vital Kingston on walkable communities, the new urbanism and good uses for local public spaces; Mike Spenser-Norris from NHP and Patrick Egan from United House on the Kingston Heights development and the challenges of bringing in the enormous beams needed to box in the sub-station (see page 2); and David Kingstone from the Council on Kingston's licensing policy, what they can and can't do, and the proposed Cumulative Impact Policy (since approved by the Council, see page 3), which may affect Kingston Arena plans.

CARA membership stood at an excellent 195 at the end of the year – but that still leaves many readers of this newsletter who have not yet joined. If you've read this far, please consider joining to help fund this newsletter and the many other CARA activities and actions taken on your behalf (see previous column).

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

■ **Sunday 11th December, 6.00pm, CARA Christmas Carols**, with mince pies and mulled wine, at the Pavilion, Canbury Gardens. All welcome.



CARA MEMBERSHIP, Autumn-Winter 2011

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

I would like to join / renew my household's subscription to CARA as follows (please tick or delete as appropriate):

£5 for 1-year membership £10 for 2-year membership £15 for 3-year membership

I would like to make an additional donation towards the running of the association of £.....

I have set up a standing order for an annual payment to CARA, Barclays Kingston, sort code 20-46-73, account number 53451518

I enclose cash / a cheque for: £.....(payable to "CARA"). I do / do not require a receipt.

Signed:

Date:

Please return to Paul Taylor (address above).