



**CARA**  
Canbury & Riverside Association

## CARA newsletter, Spring 2008

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### Power station site update

The February exhibition of the revised proposals at the North Kingston Centre expanded on the information we have had so far on the hotel and apartment development on the old Power Station site. There were drawings, a model, computer-generated "photos" and as many experts on hand to explain the presentation as there were visitors.

The hotel development and the EDF substation/ roof garden remain much as in previous plans. The rest now consists of two residential blocks, the one closest to Canbury Gardens being 5 storeys high and the one behind 8 storeys.

They will be quite close together, with a central courtyard, and there is a large underground car park for residents.

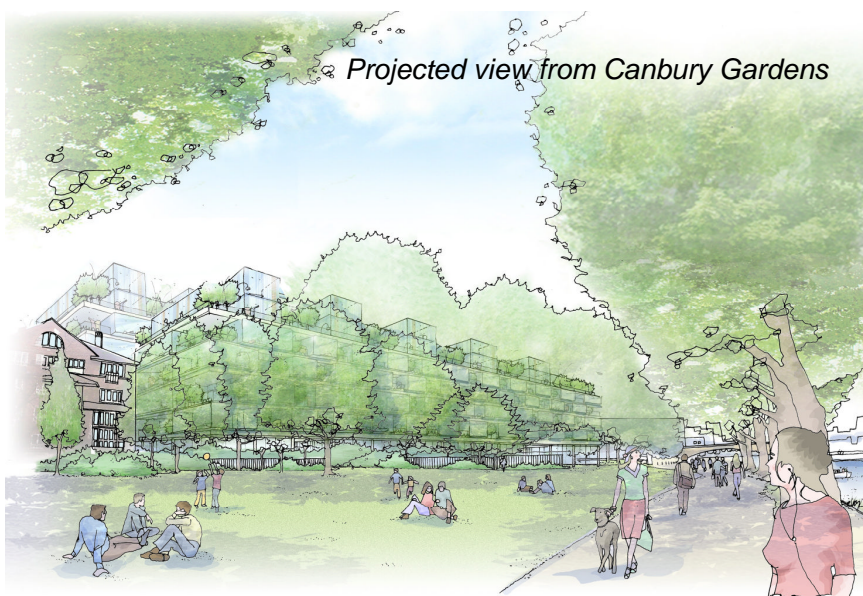
Both buildings feature large glass entrance halls to facilitate views from the courtyard through to the river and vice versa. Other features will include highly finished timber and ripple effect façade, interior wooden shutters, and penthouses to break up the rooftop profile. The campanile that the architects had hoped for is no longer included.

*See the CARA website for more details.*

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### Lighting in Canbury Gardens

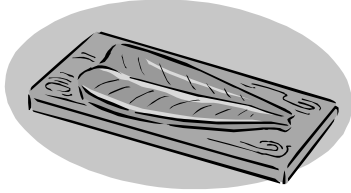
£25k has been granted by TfL for lighting the section of the National Network Cycle Path that goes through Canbury Gardens between Boaters and Lower Ham Road. There will be seven Victorian-style lights interspersed between the trees and between the upper path and the towpath wall. We are assured they will be bat-friendly, and will have directional reflectors to reduce light pollution towards river. We have also been told that they will be on different timings to the street lighting, that there will be variable output from 50W in the evening to 35W late at night, and a same day maintenance service.



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## The Queen's Head Smoked Mackerel Pâté

*Thomas Watson-Lightfoot of the Queen's Head pub on Richmond Road, has given us the following*



*Victorian recipe, passed down from his grandmother. He has adapted it for present-day use.*

### Ingredients

2 packs of Peppered Smoked Mackerel fillets  
1 large (500 gram) tub of soft cheese (Philadelphia or similar)  
1 block of unsalted butter  
1 tablespoon of horseradish sauce  
1 lemon  
Black pepper  
Sea salt

Mix the soft cheese at room temperature and butter together in a bowl until smooth.

Add the horseradish and half the lemon juice (avoiding pips).

Flake the mackerel away from its skin. Discard the skin and add the mackerel to the mix. Using a fork, whip the mix until all the fish is incorporated.

Add salt and lemon juice to taste and spoon into a serving bowl.

Fork the mixture in and grind black pepper liberally over the top.

Cover with cling-film and chill for at least 2 hours. Serve on hot toast or Ryvita for lunch.

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## Use them or lose them – your local shops and post office

At CARA we are very keen to support the parade of shops adjacent to our area along Richmond Road. We have been working with the Council and local businesses to improve the area, encourage trade and provide a more vibrant local amenity. Much of the work has been made possible by grants from Transport for London. Just before Christmas, contractors began on the second phase, which will include the removal of an advertising hoarding, tree planting, some repaving, new bollards to prevent parking on the forecourt, and new cycle stands.

It is a pity, then, that, as part a wider Post Office restructuring, the Chestnut Grove Post Office has been earmarked for closure. A consultation is under

way, but it appears that the post offices opposite Sainsburys and on King's Road are thought to offer sufficient alternative service. It seems to us, however, that Chestnut Grove Post Office has many advantages over those alternatives, not least in bringing customers to the rest of the parade, so let's try and keep it for the good of the community.

For more information, or to comment on the Post Office closure, please visit the CARA website, and then respond to the Post Office consultation.

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## How do you feel about plastic bags?

Would you stop using the local shops if you had to take your own shopping bag? Or do you think the CARA area could benefit from being the first in Kingston to get rid of throw-away carrier bags? London Councils have voted for a total ban, and already Kingston media and retailers are discussing the pros and cons.

The Towards a Plastic-Bag-Free Kingston campaign has asked the organisers of the Green Fair to discourage stall-holders this year from giving out

plastic bags and to encourage visitors to bring their own, thus cutting down on waste and litter in the true spirit of the Green Fair. The campaigners are also asking local shops, starting with the parade on Richmond Road, how they feel about plastic carrier bags and whether they think their businesses would suffer if they stopped giving them out altogether.

Have your say too on the CARA website.



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## Boaters

Boaters, currently closed for an extensive refurbishment, plans to reopen in mid-April. The revamp includes tidying up the outside, repairing lights and replacing signs, and, indoors, evolving into a more family-orientated pub, with more emphasis on food, including coffee and pastries in the morning. The management also hopes to get jazz back into the pub.

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## Riverside spring-cleaning

### On Sunday 24th February

a small group of volunteers, directed by staff from Thames Landscape Strategy, carried out a spring cut-back of some of the overgrown riverbank vegetation.

Also on the 24<sup>th</sup>, a couple of black poplars were planted by the Hawker Centre to replace one that fell down in a storm, in memory of Madge Over, who lived by the towpath until her death in 2006 at the age of ninety.



**Sunday 30th March** is our next date with Thames Landscape Strategy, this time for a much needed litter-pick along the riverside from Canbury Gardens to the Boundary Stone. Volunteers of all ages are welcome to join us, meeting at 10.30 am at Albany Sailing Centre, no special skill or equipment required, but rubber gloves recommended. TLS will undertake a risk assessment beforehand and the activity will be covered by Royal Borough of Kingston insurance.

After the litter-pick, there will be a brief ceremony in memory of Madge by the trees planted in February

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## Turks disco-boats

By now most of you will have heard that in January Turks was granted a license extension allowing them to run their disco-boats on the river up to 2.30 am. The two Lib Dem Councillors on the Licensing Committee, Simon James and Rob Lee, voted for the extension, outvoting Tudor Ward Conservative Councillor Frank Thompson who objected strongly. Only people living within 50 metres of Turks landing stage and head office were consulted, this apparently being the legal requirement. Many CARA members have since objected, as have other riverside residents from Thames Ditton to Teddington. Lower Ham Road resident and Professor of Law Robert Baldwin has lodged a formal request to the Council to rescind the decision, based on the lack of effective consultation and proper process. Local politicians and media are taking an interest in the issue.

If the objections do not succeed, we have been advised that the next course of action is to complain to the Council's Environmental Services Team if and when the noise from the boats is unreasonable.

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## 2008 CARA Community Grants

For the second year running we are looking to invest some of CARA's funds in local clubs, societies, groups and projects which underpin the aims and objectives of CARA to protect and enhance the area's amenities for all residents and users. A wide range of groups can apply for each of the four grants available this year, including charities, voluntary and community groups, social enterprises, sports projects and special interest groups. We expect most of the grants we make to be in the region of £500.

There is more information and an application form on the CARA website, or you can email us and we will send you a simple proposal form. At anytime during the process you can discuss your idea or any queries regarding your application with us. Applications must be received by 31<sup>st</sup> May; we anticipate awarding grants to successful applicants by 30<sup>th</sup> June.

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## Informing, supporting and enlivening the community - CARA online

*CARA has launched two new places on the internet to help you stay in touch with news, issues and happenings in the neighbourhood:*

### The CARA Website

**(<http://www.carakingston.org>)** is the best source of information about CARA and about what is happening in our area. It is updated more than once a week by members of the Committee. If you would like to post information or photographs on the site, please contact a CARA Committee member.

### The CARA Community Hub

**(<http://groups.google.com/group/carakingston>)** is a gathering place for anyone in CARA – you can email questions, news, happenings, requests for a good plumber... To sign-up for the CARA Community Hub, please go to the site and read the instructions on the homepage. Once you have registered, you can choose to have updates or summaries emailed to you, or to see messages on the site. Your privacy will be protected.

We aim to have several hundred CARA members using the site, and in order to encourage membership and to make the site more vibrant, we are offering five £20 prizes to 5 people chosen randomly from the list of members registered on the site by the end of March. Details of prize-winners will be on the website.

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## Community Policing

Motor vehicle crime has spiked in the neighbourhood recently, and though three youths were caught locally with two Tom-Tom sat navs early in February, the investigation continues and the police ask you to phone them on 020 8541 1212 if your car has been broken into. They also warn car-owners to remove valuables from cars, including sat nav cradles, wires and holders, when the vehicle is left unattended. If you have any information you think might be useful to the police, you can call anonymously on Crimestoppers 0800 555 111.

CARA Committee member Trevor Willis has some personal security items available to members on a first come basis: 3 door alarms; 4 personal alarms; 3 key-ring alarms; 1 wrist alarm; 4 door viewers; 3 interior door chains. Anyone interested can contact him (see CARA contacts below).

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## Dates for your diary

- **Sunday 30th March, 10.30 am:** riverside litter picking (see item on **Riverside spring cleaning**), meeting at Albany Sailing Centre
- **14<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> May:** “Be Nice to Nettles Week” (see [www.nettles.org.uk](http://www.nettles.org.uk))
- **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May:** **Green Fair** in Canbury Gardens
- **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July:** **CARA Barbecue**, Albany Sailing Centre
- **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July:** **CARA “Festival of Sport”** (probably including croquet, smite and boules) around the Pavilion, Canbury Gardens

*More details about summer events will follow in the next CARA newsletter.*



I enclose my CARA membership subscription of £5 per household, valid to 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008.

I do / do not require a receipt.

Name:

Signed and dated:

Address, phone and email:

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## Your Neighbourhood Safety Team



**PCSO 7185VK  
Laura  
Reynolds**



**PC 789VK  
Clare Brown**



**Martin  
Coughlan**

**PCSO 204VK  
Ady Hadfield**



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## CARA Committee

**Chair:** Hugh Scantlebury, 07812 027 244,  
[cara.kingston@googlemail.com](mailto:cara.kingston@googlemail.com)

**Membership Secretary:** Penny D'Souza, 14 Chestnut Road, Kingston KT2 5AP, 020 8549 5331, [pennydsouza@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:pennydsouza@blueyonder.co.uk)

Claire Ferguson, Ulster Court, The Albany, Albany Park Road; Clare Francis; Linda Key; Marilyn Mason, Lower Ham Road, 020 8546 4086, [marilyn.mason@virgin.net](mailto:marilyn.mason@virgin.net); Richard Mobbs, Chestnut Road, 07762 598309; Helen Moss; Trevor Willis, 07889 731 264,  
[trevorwillis@london.com](mailto:trevorwillis@london.com)

**We need you to help CARA be effective** – the more members we have, the louder our voice and the more powerful we can be. If you would like to join, or renew your membership, please return the slip below to Penny D'Souza (see above) with your subscription. Thank you for your support.