



Summer is here (1) – please look after our trees

Thames Landscape Strategy has asked us to keep an eye on the two new Black Poplars planted by the towpath near the Hawker Centre. Drying out is the main risk, so an occasional walk carrying a bucket might be in order.



One of the new Black Poplars

And a Chestnut Road resident reminds us that our street trees, especially newly planted ones, could do with regular good watering and some TLC, such as keeping the area around the bottom of the tree clear of weeds and rubbish, and discouraging delivery men and tradesmen from bashing the trees with their vehicles, sometimes causing irreparable damage.

Trees enhance our neighbourhood all year round and are very expensive to replace. The London Tree Officers' Association recently devised a new pricing scheme to force people to think twice before felling city trees. The new guide assesses a tree's worth by its size, health, historical significance and how many people live nearby to enjoy it, and valued a large plane tree in central London at £750,000.

CARA online – please join in

CARA's two new websites have covered a range of local issues from stolen bikes to a special offer from the Rose Theatre in the last few months. You're missing out if you never visit the CARA website, and the more members that contribute to the CARA Community Hub the livelier it will become.

To join the CARA Community Hub go to <http://groups.google.com/group/carakingston> and follow the instructions on the homepage.

Flying Doctors in Canbury Gardens

The helicopter below landed in Canbury Gardens on May 1st with three medics on board. Along with two local paramedic teams, they attended an address in Chestnut Road after a contractor fell from his ladder injuring himself quite badly. In the end the injured man was transported to hospital by road.



Point Pleasant - Bank Grove - The Albany - A Riverside Story

In 1796, when the Hon Lieutenant-General Henry St John decided to build a 14-bedroomed villa on the banks of the Thames, this area was open countryside with a road little more than a cart track between Kingston and Ham.

The entrance to the grounds was just opposite the North Kingston Centre in Richmond Road, and the villa, called "Point Pleasant" and built by John Nash, was sited on a bend to enjoy several views of the Thames. Humphrey Repton designed the gardens, and claimed that his sketches were "not flattering portraits of the scenery because it is such as cannot be flattered." The road and footpath between the river and house presented a privacy problem which Repton solved by lowering the ground in front of the house so that the terrace overlooked it and passers-by were unable to look into the grounds.

The property soon became, according to Aycliffe, "the scene of some of the most brilliant gatherings of the best society people in London" and it was said that no written description could convey the magnificence of the grounds. A book published in 1849 on famous Surrey landmarks described the superb gardens of the house known by that time as "Bank Grove".

One owner, William Byam Martin, was famed for his opulent entertaining. He held an Annual Rose Feast when sumptuous food and wines were served with thousands of roses decorating the rooms and tables and adorning each lady's plate. Subsequent owners Sir Charles and Lady Freake continued the society life-style. In 1871 they entertained Queen Victoria's daughter Princess Louise at a garden fete sheltered from the sun by the magnificent cedar trees. In 1888 the Freakes sold 14 acres of the grounds as building plots. The house and remaining two acres became the high-class Albany Club in 1890, but it was destroyed by fire in 1907. So today, sadly, nothing remains of Nash's villa and Repton's garden, except for the lowered footpath, parts of the old brick wall along Lower Ham Road and two of the cedar trees which shaded so many lavish functions.

Lesley Sirrell, The Albany
(Edited; see www.carakingston.org.uk for the full story)

Sources: G.W. Aycliffe *Memories of Kingston*; W.Keene *The Beauties of Surrey*; M. Mansbridge *John Nash*; H. Repton *Red Book on Point Pleasant*; J. Sampson *All Change*

Summer is here (2), and with it noise

Open windows and time in the garden bring with them the possibility of noise disturbance. You can read the RBK noise complaint leaflet at http://www.kingston.gov.uk/noise_complaint_leaflet-2.pdf, which contains these words: "We all need a rest from noise, especially children and the elderly! It is a good idea to warn your neighbours if you are going to make excessive noise and to avoid noise late at night and at sensitive times. Try talking to your neighbours!" (Why didn't someone tell that to Turks disco- boats?)

The General RBK Helpline is 020 8547 5757, and the council officers given in the leaflet as contacts for noise complaints are:

Sue Littleboy (020 8547 5546,
sue.littleboy@rbk.kingston.gov.uk);
Richard Odell (020 8547 5551,
richard.odell@rbk.kingston.gov.uk);
Kate Rogers (020 8547 5543,
kate.rogers@rbk.kingston.gov.uk)

You can also download RBK's form for logging noise disturbance from [http://www.kingston.gov.uk/logsheets - domestic_noise1.pdf](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/logsheets/domestic_noise1.pdf)

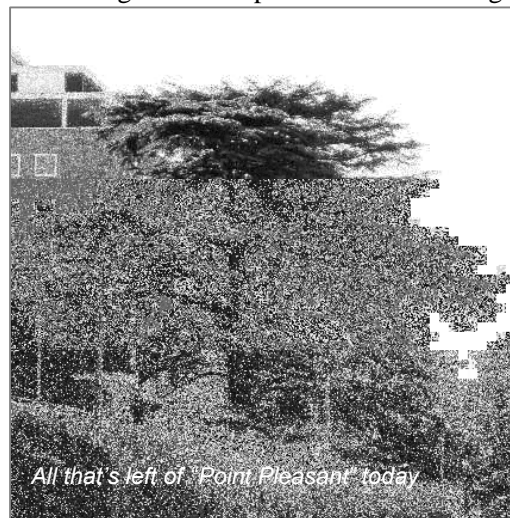
If you do complain to RBK about noise, please tell someone on the CARA Committee as well, so that we can build up a file of complaints.

- and if it's worse than noise ...

Our Safer Neighbourhood Team phone number is 0208 721 2580. If the team is off-duty and it is a non-urgent matter please leave a message or try 020 8541 1212.

For emergencies there is always 999.

See the CARA website for updates and for more information about local police matters.



CPZ for Albany Park Road?

From time to time we receive comment from residents interested in introducing Controlled Parking to Albany Park Road. If you have any comments in any respect please feel free to contact us at cara.kingston@gmail.com or post comments to the CARA Community Hub.

Kingston's new recycling system

...is due to reach us in September. Paper, plastic bottles, tins and cans, glass, textiles, cardboard, directories, household batteries, waxed drink cartons and brown bins for all food waste will be collected weekly, and wheelie bins for all other waste for landfill will be collected fortnightly. The aim is to increase recycling and reduce landfill and landfill tax.

Power station development

After investing a large amount of time engaging with residents, stakeholders, the developers and local councillors, the CARA team encouraged all local parties in our area to comment on this project, irrespective of whether they were for or against the revised proposals set out in application ref: 08/12146. Overall, we welcomed the latest proposals to improve this long-neglected but strategically important site for the town centre, creating a solution of which everyone could be proud.

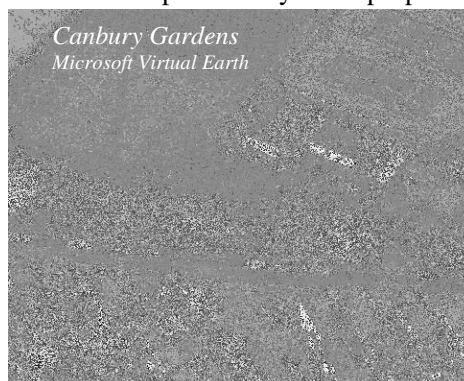
On 27th May RBK Development Control Committee approved the proposal. The Service Director (Planning and Development) recommended approval in his report, and councillors' questions and discussion tended to focus not on the principle of the development, but on detail. There was little opposition at the planning meeting, and council officers appeared confident that the concerns aired had been or could be dealt with and that the conditions set for the developers were sufficient. See also the CARA Community Hub and local media reports.

Boaters

On 16th April the refurbished Boaters pub re-opened its doors with a launch party for 50+ CARA members and local residents. The evening was a great success with staff offering guests a warm welcome and a selection of tasty canapes and drinks. Boaters has a completely new look with a lighter and more modern

interior which lifts the ambience of the pub whilst retaining character features such as the fire and riverside terrace, which has been much improved with a new bar and boundary fencing. The new owners are aiming to create a local with a family-focused atmosphere.

Members of the CARA committee have met with Boaters management to discuss possible changes to their licence, which would include serving from an outside bar occasionally at weekends, extending the licence from 11 pm to midnight at weekends and having music outside (along the lines of a guitarist) occasionally at weekends until 9.30 pm. If and when an application is submitted for these changes, CARA will request conditions to the effect that Boaters put up notices reminding customers that they are in a residential area and should leave quietly, and that no amplified music be permitted outdoors. We are very pleased that Boaters are keen to continue discussions with residents – they welcome feedback, positive or otherwise, and stress that if there are any problems or concerns they want to know about them. And of course, CARA would like to know about them too, particularly if the proposed changes are granted.



Meanwhile, you can see details of licence applications on the RBK website, www.kingston.gov.uk

CARA from the air

Keep an eye on our area from above at Microsoft Virtual Earth.

Our local theatre

There is something for everyone in the current Rose Theatre programme, whether you enjoy comedies like Roger McGough's adaptation of Moliere's *Tartuffe* (4-14 June) or *The English Game* (17-21 June), or tragedy like *The Burial at Thebes* (24 – 28 June). Look out too for *The Drifters* on 15th June, Rhona Cameron in stand-up on 6th July, *One-Man Star Wars* on 20th July (in which actor Charles Ross single-handedly plays all the characters, fights the battles and condenses the trilogy into 60 minutes) and Ken Dodd on 27th July.

Ticket prices start at £7 for the pit - bring your own cushion! More details from the box office on 0871 230 1552 or www.rosetheatrekington.org.

Riverside spring-cleaning

The March rain paused and out came the sun and over 30 litter-pickers for a much-needed tidy-up between Canbury Gardens and the boundary stone on the towpath. Helped by Sea Scouts and their parents, CARA residents filled 13+



sacks with rubbish dropped by visitors or left by March storms and high tides. Plastic of all kinds was the top find – bottles, polystyrene, fast-food packaging and assorted bags – but the rubbish haul also included lots of drink cans, a trainer, a child's umbrella, party balloons, and a lilo.

CARA Committee

Chair: Hugh Scantlebury
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cara.kingston@googlemail.com

Membership Secretary: Penny D'Souza, 14 Chestnut Road, Kingston KT2 5AP, 020 8549 5331

pennydsouza@blueyonder.co.uk

Claire Ferguson, Ulster Court, The Albany, Albany Park Road;

Clare Francis, Chestnut Road, 0208 549 458;

Marilyn Mason (newsletter), Lower Ham Road,

020 8546 4086, marilyn.mason@virgin.net;

Richard Mobbs, Chestnut Road, 07762 598309;

Helen Moss;

Trevor Willis, 07889 731 264,

trevorwillis@london.com

Dates for your diary

■ **Sunday 13th July: CARA Barbecue and Water Sports**, Albany Sailing Centre. Children will once again have the opportunity to spend some time on the river, under qualified supervision. Cost is likely to be around £8, and places are limited and strictly for those aged 8+ as required by the Albany's insurance policy, so please book in advance. For further details please contact Penny D'Souza on 8549 5331 or pennydsouza@blueyonder.co.uk

■ **Sunday 20th July, 11am – 4pm: CARA "Festival of Sport"** (everything from gymnastics to cricket, smite, tennis and boules), around the Pavilion, Canbury Gardens.

■ **Wednesday 17th September, 8.00pm: CARA AGM**, in the Pavilion, Canbury Gardens.

■ **Saturdays, 10am: all-ability keep fit class**, Canbury Gardens, meeting at the Pavilion. £4.50 per session, first one free, drinks available.

Join us (1) – the Committee

It was good to have three new members last year and they make a fantastic contribution to our work, but we need more like-minded souls to help spread the load.

The commitment is not too arduous (otherwise none of us would do it!). We meet for around 2 hours every 6 to 8 weeks for a very balanced and convivial gathering at which we discuss developments in the local community and agree actions, which are shared amongst members. They might typically involve talking to a local councillor, writing a letter or getting involved with one of our key liaison groups. Being involved is a great way to find out what is going on and to get to know local people who share an interest in maintaining the special nature of our neighbourhood.

Even if you can't come to every meeting, we would be very pleased to have you on board, especially if you live in Albany Park Road, Albany Mews, Grosvenor Gardens or Richmond Road. Please contact Hugh (see above).



Join us (2) – CARA *The more members CARA has, the louder our voice can be. If you would like to join or renew your membership, please return this slip to Penny D'Souza (see above) with your subscription. If you're not sure whether you are a paid-up member please contact Penny with your phone number and email address. Thank you.*

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

I do / do not require a receipt. Signed and dated:

Name

Address, phone and email: