



**CARA**  
Canbury & Riverside Association

## Newsletter, Autumn/Winter 2008

### NOT YET A MEMBER?

Please consider joining CARA -  
see back page

#### Seasons Greetings...

and a happy 2009 to all our members from the CARA committee. We hope to see some of you at the CARA carol sing-along on 21st December (see back page).



#### Power Station development update

CARA's initial response to the recent Secretary of State's decision on the Power Station site development was a cautious "wait and see", though many of us were disappointed with the decision to allow the locally much disliked plans for such a tall and bulky development. Since then, our Chair has corresponded with the developers and received a somewhat non-committal answer, hoping "to see a start on site in early Spring next year" - though in the current economic climate anything could happen between now and then.

We have also had further details from the Council planning department, and it seems that it was the higher number of dwellings in the first proposal that swayed the inspector and the Secretary of State, and also makes that the developers' preferred proposal. The CARA Committee has now written to the Secretary of State to ask why local preference for the much more acceptable second proposal was so decisively ignored.

#### CARA litter-pick

Thank you to everyone who helped with the CARA litter-pick, part of the national "Big Tidy Up" in September. CARA and the "Big Tidy Up" campaign provided high visibility vests, gloves, rubbish bags, litter pickers and badges and stickers galore for the kids, and after briefing and safety information willing helpers, young and old, spread along the towpath to pick up litter.

This was the first time we had separated out recyclables, which proved well worthwhile as they filled two bins and included an astonishing 63 vodka bottles! We also collected 9 bin-bags of rubbish, one boot, and two broken fishing rods. The Safer Neighbourhood Team joined us to meet some local residents and to help in case we found any sharp or dangerous items. Trevor Willis and a couple of willing volunteers manned a boat, pulling large amounts of flotsam from the river and bank, despite some engine trouble! The riverside looked lovely and tidy - for a day or two - and we had the picture below in the *Surrey Comet*.



## 2008 CARA AGM at The Pavilion

After thanking the members and the dedicated and hard-working Committee members who had supported CARA over the past year, Chairman Hugh Scantlebury reported on a very busy year. CARA had been involved in: commenting on the hotel development review and Boaters refurbishment; organising Christmas carols; opposing a local post office closure; improvements to the Richmond Road parade; three riverside litter picks and tidy-ups; liaising with Thames Landscape Strategy on issues such as the new lighting in the Gardens; supporting keep-fit in the Gardens; liaison with the Police Safer Neighbourhood team, Councillors and Council Officers, Quadron on Canbury Gardens maintenance, and Kingston Town Centre Management; the CARA 2008 grant programme; keeping locals informed via the new format newsletter, the web site, and the CARA Community Hub where residents and other interested parties can post comments; traffic and parking reviews; plans affecting Lower Ham Road and Albany Park Road; and re-connecting with the Albany, thanks to a Committee member who lives there.

The Chairman described CARA as: “not an NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) organisation, with no agendas, no politics and no single issues beyond the protection and enhancement of amenities within the area for residents and users. The Committee fosters a constructive mix of views and opinions through friendly debate and respect for all concerned. Above all, it aims to encourage people to take responsibility for positive change in the neighbourhood.”

The Committee said goodbye to Helen Moss, and welcomed a new member, Glenda Leveson. Other current members were re-elected (see back page for their names, contact details and responsibilities). CARA membership was growing (see item on back page), and CARA now also distributed the newsletter to 100 or so parties in the Council, local businesses, shops and volunteer groups. A request was made for members to supply CARA with email addresses if possible, to enable us to communicate more effectively and in a more environmentally sensitive manner.

Treasurer Richard Mobbs presented the accounts. The two major expenses had been the 2008 CARA Grants (£1,000: £500 to Kingston Rowing Club; £300 to Andrew Cunliffe of Albany Sailing; and £200 to Ignite Youth Group), and printing and distribution costs for the newsletters and other materials (£598). Reserves stood at £1,383, so there were no plans to run the Award scheme in 2008/9.

Kate Tebb kindly gave a briefing on the latest Rose Theatre productions and a preview of the winter programme. Inspector Mick Mills introduced the

Safer Neighbourhood and Safer Transport teams, which were explained in more detail by our local Safer Neighbourhood Sergeant Mark Phinn and the Kingston Safer Transport lead Sergeant Stephen Sharrack. Mark Muir, Manager of Boaters, updated the meeting on the first six months of our recently refurbished local.

The Chair finished by highlighting some future issues for CARA, which included the ongoing hotel development, the new refuse and recycling systems, and water - too little or too much. A full report can be read on the CARA website.

## Visitors from the North

You may have noticed the regular autumn visit to our stretch of the river of a small group, or “raft”, of 5 or 6 tufted ducks.

According to the RSPB, the UK tufted duck population increases hugely in winter as they move here from Iceland and northern Europe.



## Police

The Community Police team are circulating their own newsletter this month. This remains a relatively safe neighbourhood (as the Met's new Crime Mapping Website at <http://maps.met.police.uk/> confirms), but a seasonal reminder is: “Buy it, hide it, or lose it” - we need to be particularly careful about security at Christmas, locking cars and not leaving property and presents around as easy pickings for opportunistic thieves. Bikes are likely to be targeted too.

## Doctor Who in Canbury Gardens



Did you know that Doctor Who's “Tardis” touched down in Canbury Gardens in 1973, in a story entitled “Invasion Of The Dinosaurs”? Pictures of Doctor Who in the Gardens and on Lower Ham Road, (© BBC) can be seen at <http://www.doctorwholocations.net/locations/canburygardens>, <http://www.doctorwholocations.net/locations/lowerhamroad?from=canburygardens>, and above. The one on the left is captioned “The Doctor and Sarah wait for bus, a long time...” - well they would, on Lower Ham Road!

## Keep fit in the Gardens

Low impact cardio-exercise for all - power walking, jogging and stretching - takes place from 10.00am to 11.00am every Saturday. AHM started these sessions (see <http://www.active-healthy-mind.co.uk/index.html>), but in November handed them over to the community to run for the community, with AHM's continued help. Everyone, including parents with pushchairs, is welcome - we meet at The Pavilion, Canbury Gardens, and it costs nothing.



## Our local trees

The wet summer proved a good one for the new black poplar saplings planted in spring on the tow-path by the Hawker Centre. Less healthy-looking are our local horse chestnut trees. As in previous years, they have been affected by Leaf Mining Moth caterpillars, which cause leaves to brown and fall early. But so far they appear able to survive this (though not the canker that sometimes afflicts them too) and next spring will probably look as good as ever.

Readers may have noticed the rather drastic lopping of some shrubs in Canbury Gardens. Although they look pretty horrible, CARA has been assured by the Council officer responsible that the "pruning" will have stimulated growth and they will recover.

## Waste matters

Are you left with stuff that is too good to throw away even after virtuously recycling? Freecycle <http://www.freecycle.org/group/UK/London/Kingston-upon-Thames> "exists to find new homes for stuff too good to dump" and is well worth investigating if you are redecorating or de-cluttering. Your "rubbish" could be exactly what someone else is looking for!

## Don't call us, call them!

The CARA Committee is here to represent you, so do let one of us know if you have a suggestion or a problem that affects the neighbourhood. CARA can and does take up these issues, though, for example, if there were traffic or parking problems in one street, the Council, and CARA, would need evidence (such as a petition from residents) that it was a general problem before taking action

However, for issues that affect just one or two people (for example, problems with noise, street lights, rubbish or trees) we recommend contacting the Council yourself - it will be more effective, and faster than CARA waiting for a collective voice. Here are some useful contacts:

**Noise:** 020 8547 5536;  
[environmental.health@rbk.kingston.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.health@rbk.kingston.gov.uk)

**Planning:** 020 8547 5330 (planning enquiries); 020 8547 5332 (planning enforcement);  
[planning@rbk.kingston.gov.uk](mailto:planning@rbk.kingston.gov.uk)

**Trees:** 020 8547 5929;  
[environment@rbk.kingston.gov.uk](mailto:environment@rbk.kingston.gov.uk)

**Police:** Our Safer Neighbourhood Team phone number is 0208 721 2580; for emergencies use 999.

**Rubbish collections:** 020 8547 5560;  
[\\$environment@rbk.kingston.gov.uk](mailto:$environment@rbk.kingston.gov.uk)

**Street lighting:** 020 8547 5929 (enquiries); 020 8547 5972 (24 hour message service); [environment@rbk.kingston.gov.uk](mailto:environment@rbk.kingston.gov.uk)

**For other Council matters see:**  
<http://www.kingston.gov.uk>, or phone the main helpline 020 8547 5757.

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## CARA SURVEY NOVEMBER 2008

*Which CARA activities are most important /valuable / useful to you? Please circle numbers: 3 = most important, 0 = not important at all .*

Alerting residents to major development proposals, e g, on the power station site	3	2	1	0
Telling residents how to contact the Council, etc., to get things done , e g, for noise complaints or to get rubbish removed from the street	3	2	1	0
Lobbying to support action that most residents affected say they want, e g. to get a new bus stop by Richmond Road shops	3	2	1	0
Organising activities to improve our environment, e g, litter-picking by the river and bulb planting along Richmond Road	3	2	1	0
Organising social events, e g, carol sing-along; barbeque	3	2	1	0

Other comments:

*Please return completed surveys, with or without your subscription, to Penny D'Souza (address overleaf) in the envelope provided , or e-mail your response to [richard@statacom.net](mailto:richard@statacom.net).*

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## CARA Membership - what's it all about?

The CARA "patch" covers the roads between Richmond Road and the river, and from Lower Kings Road to the Hawker Centre, and Canbury Place. If you live in the area you will get the CARA newsletter, can access our website and join our "Hub", and you are invited to the various social events we organise - whether you are a paid-up member of CARA or not. You'll be kept up-to-date with what's going on in the area and your views and suggestions will be listened to. So if you get all that anyway, why join?

Because we really need you to help us to be effective and to support our work: the more paid-up members we have, the louder our voice and the more weight we carry in our discussions with the Council, police, local businesses and developers. We also rely on your subscriptions to fund this newsletter, many of our social events, and community initiatives in the area through our grant programme.

Membership remains healthy, at 183, but as we deliver this newsletter to over 700 addresses, we know that there are still many potential members out there. Membership costs £5 per year per household, and runs from 1st November each year. The sticker at the top of this newsletter shows if you are already a member of CARA and if your membership is due for renewal (some of you are already paid up through 2009). If you are not a member, we do hope you will consider showing your support by joining. And if you are a member, thank you so much, your support makes such a difference. If you are due to renew, or would like to join, please just complete the form below and return it to Penny D'Souza in the envelope provided.

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## CARA Committee

**Chair:** Hugh Scantlebury  
07812 027 244, cara.kingston@googlemail.com

**Membership Secretary:** Penny D'Souza, 14 Chestnut Road, Kingston KT2 5AP,  
020 8549 5331, pennysouza@blueyonder.co.uk

Bazil Arden (Websites), 4 Samuel Gray Gardens, 07775 913 932, bazil@agilechange.com

Claire Ferguson (Albany Liaison), Ulster Court, The Albany, Albany Park Road

Clare Francis, Chestnut Road, 0208 549 458;

Glenda Leveson (Minutes Secretary), Albany Mews, jongle@talk21.com

Marilyn Mason (Newsletter; Liaison with Thames Landscape Strategy and Kingston Town Centre Management), Lower Ham Road, 020 8546 4086, marilyn.mason@virgin.net

Richard Mobbs (Treasurer), Chestnut Road, 07762 598309, richard@statacom.net

Trevor Willis (Liaison with Police, Kingston Town Centre Management and Park & Gardens), 07889 731 264, trevorwillis@london.com

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## Dates for your diary

■ **26 November - 7 December: National Tree Week**, when everyone is encouraged "to get their hands dirty and together plant around million trees". See [www.treecouncil.org.uk](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk).

■ **Sunday 21 December, 6.00 pm: CARA Carol-singing** at The Pavilion, Canbury Gardens. Everyone welcome.

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## CARA MEMBERSHIP, Autumn/Winter 2008

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

*I would like to join/ renew my subscription to CARA and enclose:*

£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 £.....

Total enclosed: £.....(cheques payable to "CARA" please). I do / do not require a receipt.

Signed:

Date:

*Please return to Penny D'Souza (address above). Don't forget to complete our survey on the other side.*