



**Hurry, hurry, hurry - buy your tickets for the CARA BBQ and meet the neighbours for a relaxed Sunday lunch in Canbury Gardens on July 12th**

This year's barbecue will take place at the Pavilion, where there is plenty of space outside as well as indoors in case of bad weather. Our local butcher Bevan's will be providing and cooking their high quality free-range meat, so, although the cost has risen from previous years, the lunch remains excellent value. There will also be vegetarian options, a range of salads, strawberries, cream, cakes (from our local cafe, Soupcon), and plenty to drink (first drink included in the ticket price). CARA Committee members and helpers will be organising games suitable for everyone, including skittles, rounders, smite and football. If you would like to help, for example, by coming along early to prepare strawberries or set up, or by making a salad or looking after the bar, please contact Committee member Richard Mobbs (see back page).

Tickets (which include food and your first drink) are £7 for CARA members or £9 for non-members, with an extra discount of £1 for advance booking and children under 10 free. To book your place(s) in advance, please send in the form on page 3. If you are not already a CARA member you can join at the same time and get the members' discount as well as 3 months free membership (see back page).



*Proud parents on the river: above, an Egyptian Goose with nine goslings (a sadly depleted brood as we go to press) and, below, a coot with newly hatched offspring.*



**Power Station site**

We are told that the developers are trying to negotiate new terms with the Council, including less affordable housing, and that they are now proposing to build their final design, the one that was better liked locally. No news yet on whether they have found a new hotelier partner, or when anything will happen on the site.

**Pelican or Zebra?**

A number of local people have commented on the apparently long waits for the pedestrian crossing by the Canbury parade of shops. CARA raised the matter with Council highway engineers but a check by TFL found that the pelican (light-controlled) crossing is in fact working properly. We have now been asked whether we would prefer it to be a zebra crossing. Please email your views to [carakingston@gmail.com](mailto:carakingston@gmail.com)



*What sent people hurrying home from concerts in the band-stand in the nineteenth century? Answer on page 3.*

## Waste Matters - again

Like instructions for household gadgets, the Council leaflets about recycling repay rereading every now and then. It's easy to forget what can and can't be recycled, especially as there sometimes seems to be no logical reason for it. At the moment, yogurt pots and the plastic boxes supermarkets package fruit and veg in are not wanted (even though they are made of the same plastic as the bottles that the Council does take in our green boxes). The Council also requests no shredded paper, no lids of plastic bottles, and no broken glass.

The Council also asks us to tie up the green food waste bags to avoid spills. The only way we've found to remember fortnightly wheelie bin day is to make a note on the kitchen calendar!

*Kate Tebb*

And how about sharing a Green Wheelie Bin? If you have too much garden waste to compost or twigs and prunings to dispose of, the Council offer various options for collection - and for small amounts suggest sharing a green bin with neighbours. Find a neighbour to share with in the discussion forum on the CARA website.

## Planning for Kingston's Future

The two CARA Committee members who attended the Tudor Ward workshop in May on Kingston's Core Strategy thought there was little in the Local Development Framework that was likely to affect our part of Kingston directly: our green spaces will remain as they are and the rest of the area is pretty well developed already. There is much in the strategy that most of us would support, for example, on protecting the environment and on supporting the local economy. Issues that are of local interest include: where to put a new school in North Kingston; where, if anywhere, to site a "community hub"; and which shopping parades and local business/employment centres should be protected from changes of use.

Some of the broader issues and options could have impacts on our area. One is whether future development (of housing in particular) should be 'focused' (concentrated in Kingston town centre and the three centres - New Malden, Surbiton and Tolworth), "dispersed" (across the borough - so local character, like back gardens, would be under threat) or "targeted" (aimed at locations that would benefit from development). Under the London Plan, Kingston has to build 3850 new dwellings between now and 2017, and they have to be fitted in somewhere - so it was definitely a consultation worth responding to.

## Going wild

The CARA area, with its open spaces, gardens, hedges, verges and riverside has huge potential as a haven for wildlife, particularly if we are prepared to tolerate uncultivated, untidy corners. Generally, native plants, including many that we consider weeds or scrub, are best for wildlife, and an untidy pile of rotting logs can provide food, shelter and places to breed for beetles and other invertebrates (food for birds), as well as shelter for frogs, toads and hedgehogs, creatures that can help out in our gardens by eating slugs and snails.

Foxes, particularly in their noisier seasons, may be less welcome visitors, but they are almost inevitable in the suburbs and they too sometimes eat slugs and snails. So do the rather quieter badgers (occasionally spotted by local insomniacs) and many bird species. Birds can be attracted into gardens by feeding, but they also feed on the caterpillars and other insects (107 species, according to one source) that thrive on the much despised stinging nettle. And most of us enjoy the butterflies - Red Admiral, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and Comma - that also rely on nettles for part of their life-cycle.

Some readers might like to participate in the *Independent's* Great British Butterfly Hunt (see <http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/uk-butterflies/>). For advice about how to create a wildlife-friendly garden see [www.bbc.co.uk/nature/animals/wildbritain/garden-wildlife/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/animals/wildbritain/garden-wildlife/) or [www.rspb.org.uk/advice/gardening/](http://www.rspb.org.uk/advice/gardening/)

### CARA COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

Although our AGM is coming up in September, we can co-opt volunteers to the Committee at any time of the year - and the more of us there are the lighter the load for everyone. Committee meetings are not overly frequent; we usually 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 to be shared amongst us. These 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 your 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, Grosvenor Gardens or Richmond Road, or would be interested in helping to organise CARA social events. Volunteers should contact Hugh Scantlebury (see page 4).

### Google comes to a street near you...

though possibly not yours just yet, as, outside city centres, Google's Street View tends to be of main roads. See CARA's new website for a local "Street View".

### Taxis on the street

CARA recently followed up local concerns that a taxi business was looking to set up at the back of the Costcutter shop on the corner of Eastbury and Richmond Roads. Significant resident feedback resulted in CARA presenting a petition to Council officers. They have since reported that the rear of the shop will not be used as a taxi office and that the car park spaces at the rear, though sold (subject to contract), will not be used for any unauthorised purpose (their use is limited to the tenants of the adjacent flats). We are sure that keen-eyed Eastbury Road residents will keep an eye on things and be in touch if anything untoward becomes apparent!

### Lock up your houses, sheds, ladders...

Readers may be aware of an increasing number of burglaries and car crimes in the area. The message, as always, is to be vigilant and to keep an eye on vulnerable neighbours. Young people, especially in the town centre, should keep valuables out of sight and be aware of the impression they are making.

Householders should ensure that all doors and windows are locked especially at night, that sheds, garage, outbuildings and ladders are securely locked too, and that all locks are sufficient and well maintained. If unsure, we can recommend some good independent locksmiths who don't charge the earth - contact us for details. If you see anything suspicious call the police immediately - they would rather have a call about suspicious people in the area than not.

### Historic Kingston: "...and the band played on..."

Canbury Gardens hasn't always been the fragrant, pleasant spot it is now. Back in the 1860s, councillors wrestled with the growing problem of what to do with Kingston's sewage. Open sewers, which until then were all over Kingston, were no longer allowed, and nor was it permitted to drain the sewage into the Thames. Finally a solution was found and in 1888 the Native Guano Company opened its sewage works in Down Hall Meadows - where the former power station stood and now the Canbury Place development stands. There, sewage was treated and separated into a clear liquid, pure enough to flow into the Thames, and a firm sludge that was dried in huge ovens, ground up and sold all over the Empire as fertiliser. As June Sampson writes in her book *Kingston Past*, local townfolk talked proudly of the fact that their sewage was now a national export and contributing to bumper harvests in far-flung corners of the globe.

However, this happy state of affairs did not last. As Kingston's population grew the Native Guano Company went into overdrive. June Sampson quotes one 90-year old resident who recalled how, in his youth, elegant band concerts were given in Canbury Gardens bandstand and huge crowds would gather there on summer evenings. But then a clanging and grating noise would come from the Native Guano works - they were opening the oven doors. The stench was so great that everyone would flee the Gardens, hurrying home to shut windows and doors and leaving the band to play on alone.

*Penny D'Souza, with grateful acknowledgement to Kingston Past by June Sampson - a recommended read*

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### CARA BBQ, July 12, 2009

**Tickets include food and first drink. Discounts for CARA members (join overleaf) and advance booking.**

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

*I enclose a total of £..... (cheques payable to "CARA" please) for*

*tickets @ £6\* each (CARA members) and/or*  *@ £8\* each (non-members), and would like*

*free tickets for under-10s (who must be accompanied by a responsible adult).*

Signed:

Date:

*Please return to Richard Mobbs by 8 July (address on back page). \* Tickets will cost £1 more on the door.*

## Welcome to the new CARA website - bigger and better than ever



We have been busy integrating the former CARA website and the CARA Community Hub into one new bigger, brighter and better-organised website. It has a discussion forum - please join - local news, updated useful links, photo albums - please send us your photos to add - and sections for local history, events, past newsletters and AGMs.

The URL remains the same: [www.carakingston.org](http://www.carakingston.org)

### CARA litter-picking

Do come along at 11.15am on September 12th to help tidy up the bits by the Thames that the Council never reaches. September 12th is also scheduled for a national Plastic-Bag-Free Day - so let's see how many we can pull out of the riverside scrub this year. And can we beat last year's total of 63 vodka bottles found along the riverbank? CARA will provide grabbers, gloves (you may prefer your own), rubbish sacks, high visibility vests and guidance on health and safety at 11.15am. Families are welcome, as long as children are with a responsible adult.

### 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)

Bazil Arden (Websites), 4 Samuel Gray Gardens, 07775 913 932, [bazil@agilechange.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:marilyn.mason@virgin.net)

Richard Mobbs (Treasurer), 31 Chestnut Road, 07762 598309, [richard@statacom.net](mailto:richard@statacom.net)

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

### Dates for your diary

■ **Sunday July 12, 12.30pm on - CARA BBQ** by the Pavilion in Canbury Gardens. See page 1 and booking form on page 3.

■ **Saturday September 12, 11.15am to 1.00ish - CARA litter-pick:** meet at the Leander Sea Scouts, Lower Ham Road. See item in previous column.

■ **Wednesday September 16, 8pm - CARA AGM** at the Pavilion, Canbury Gardens.

### CARA MEMBERSHIP, Summer 2009

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

If you can't remember whether you've paid your subs, just e-mail (or write) your name and address to Richard Mobbs (see above).

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

£5 for 1-year membership     £10 for 2-year membership     £15 for 3-year membership  
**(If you join now, your first year's membership will last till November 2010 - that's 3 free months.)**

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 Richard Mobbs (address above).*