



Season's Greetings...

to all our members from the CARA committee. We wish you a happy 2010, and hope to see some of you at the CARA carol sing-along on 13th December (see back page).



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

Please consider joining -
see back page



CARA litter-pickers, September 2009 — all dressed up and ready to go

CARA cleans up

CARA is constantly involved in promoting green issues in and around North Kingston, and on a sunny Saturday in September we organised one of our regular litter-picks to tidy the parts of the riverside that other litter-pickers do not reach. More than 30 local people of all ages, plus local Councillor David Cunningham, the Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, Leander Sea Scouts, the Albany Sailing Club canoeists, and Quadron (the local parks management group) turned out to tidy the area between Canbury Gardens and Teddington Lock.

In three hours 25 bags of general rubbish were collected, plus: 1 tyre; 1 roadwork sign; 1 cushion; 1

sign; 1 cat-flap in wooden frame; 1 sheet of plywood; 1 "For Sale" sign; 1 broom; 1 bucket; 1 wicker chair; 1 "No Waiting" sign; 50+ plastic bags; and recyclables: 4 bin-bags of cans (mainly beer); 5 bags of plastic bottles; and 2 bags of glass bottles.

CARA's riverside tidy-up earned a mention in the local press and contributed to our nomination for a Kingston Green Guardian award.

CARA thanks everyone who turned out and did such a splendid job, and would like to encourage even more people to get involved next time. If you care about the local environment and would like to help more often to keep this part of Kingston tidy and special, do please get in touch.

NOMINATED FOR A KINGSTON GREEN GUARDIAN AWARD 2009



The way we were

Is your house on this 1888 map of the CARA area, or was it a “lot”? There are more old maps on the CARA website and at <http://www.ponies.me.uk/maps/osmap.html>, where you can see Kingston as it was when it was a town in its own right surrounded by green space, not just a suburb of London. In our area, no Tudor Estate, no Hawker factory, no North Kingston Centre, no Fern Hill Gardens, few houses...

The Canbury Gardens Conservation Area appraisal (2002), now on the CARA website at <http://tinyurl.com/yav8e3h>, also contains some fascinating local history, as will the November to December exhibition at the Tudor Library (see page 4).

North Kingston school proposals

Over past weeks, the CARA Committee has been requesting further information from a number of sources about the Council’s plans for a new school on the Hawker and North Kingston Centre sites. One of our local Tudor Ward councillors, Dennis Doe, who is now again the Council’s Shadow Children & Learning Services (i.e. “Education”) Councillor, joined us at a recent Committee meeting to discuss some of the many outstanding questions regarding the current proposals.

It appears that securing government funding for a new school depends on the Council identifying a suitable site and proving its “readiness to deliver” by mid-December — when, if the quango overseeing the government’s programme of secondary school development accepts RBK into its programme, Kingston will be treated as a “Basic Need” and receive 100% financing instead of a 50% grant with 50% to be raised through PFI. Hence all the haste, with the application for funds proceeding even before local traffic and parking surveys and in the face of much local concern. However, we are led to believe it will be possible to vary the scheme as it goes through the planning and bidding processes,

depending on infrastructure constraints and other local considerations.

We have been asking some tough questions. Is there robust evidence that Kingston really needs 15 new secondary forms, 8 of which have to be in North Kingston? Councillor Doe says that recent data confirms that there is. How can the Hawker Centre, a site that is designated Metropolitan Open Land with restrictive covenants, be considered as a possible site for a school building? Councillor Doe advises that the legal position has not been clarified, but any restrictions are expected to limit development to the current built footprint. How large would an adequate sixth form centre on the site have to be, and how big will be the addition of “enhanced leisure facilities”? Councillor Doe has noted the growing opposition to any use of the Hawker Centre, which would mean at least temporary loss of its leisure facilities. And where will Adult Education go? This, we are told, is currently being investigated by the Council, and includes AE across the whole borough. The issues of planning, traffic, restrictions from the Environmental Agency etc. are still to be resolved.

Councillor Doe is looking into these questions and keeping us informed. Meanwhile, you can follow the story in the local press or via links on the CARA website.

Notching up local history

Many houses in the CARA area are gabled, originally with a finial at the apex, although often the finials are missing, having been broken or decayed. Now three houses in Chestnut Road have had theirs restored, thanks to resident Tony Brook.

The three households got together in a co-operative venture and agreed to have work done to the outside of their houses at the same time, thus sharing and reducing the cost of scaffolding. At the same time,

Tony thought this an ideal opportunity to restore the gables to their former glory by replacing their missing finials. He looked at the other houses in the road and noticed that the remaining finials were in a variety of styles and made of either wood or clay, so it wouldn't be too difficult to come up with something in keeping with them.

Now all three houses have smart new wooden finials. At first glance they are alike, but in fact each one is unique: the edges of the finials are notched and the number of notches corresponds to the house number. Thanks to Tony, the character of the area is continued today.

Penny D'Souza

CARA's 2009 AGM

Around 30 people attended the 2009 CARA AGM in the Pavilion in Canbury Gardens on 16th September. After thanking all those members who have supported CARA in the last 12 months, it was remarked that since we have now been running for 19 years maybe we ought to do something to celebrate our 20th Anniversary in 2010! What do you think? We would be interested to hear your views.

The following members who offered to stand for the Committee were duly elected: Bazil Arden, Penny D'Souza, Claire Fergusson, Clare Francis, Glenda Leveson, Marilyn Mason, Richard Mobbs, John Parrish, Hugh Scantlebury and Trevor Willis. A particularly warm welcome was given to John Parrish who rejoined the team after a break of seven or so years!

Besides providing an update on major items of interest including the Power Station / Hotel Development, Waste Management (with the new collection process 47% of domestic waste is now being recycled) and the upcoming Thames Landscape consultation exercise (see next item), there was also quite a lengthy debate about the proposals for the new secondary school for North Kingston. And once again we requested people where possible to supply CARA with valid email addresses to enable us to communicate more effectively and in a more environmentally sensitive manner.

Our guest speaker was Reverend Jonathan Wilkes, the Rector of All Saints Church, Kingston who gave a thoroughly interesting and warmly received talk on the subject of "Plans to restore the historic Church of All Saints so that it is once more the heart and soul of Kingston". The project's objectives include: celebrating our past by telling Kingston's Saxon story more effectively than at present; explaining local and regional history and society over the last 1000 years through the monuments and

artifacts of the church; making some structural improvements to the fabric of the church in association with the Heritage Lottery Fund in order to provide for more community use; and creating a new extension on the north side to provide a social cafe, visitor information, a dedicated youth facility, heritage and history services, space for the PCT and rooms for meetings of all sizes — all very exciting! You can find out more at www.askingston.co.uk.

Hugh Scantlebury

Thames Landscape Strategy consults us

A consultation meeting for CARA area residents will be held on Tuesday 8th December at the Albany Canoe and Sailing Centre, starting at 7.30, in which Jason Debney, Thames Landscape Strategy co-ordinator, will give a presentation on the TLS 2009/10 Review Document and process, and listen to local concerns and ideas.

This is your chance to respond to a three-month-long TLS consultation which ends in February, reviewing the strategy set out in their 1994 report (available at www.thames-landscape-strategy.org.uk, where you can select the section on "our" Hampton Wick reach, from Kingston Railway Bridge to Teddington Lock). The strategy is very detailed, covering the history, character (including appearance and views), nature (and natural habitats), and recreational use of the river and riverside areas and parks from Kew to Hampton Court. The aim of the consultation is to ensure that a new strategy reflects current views and allows for what has changed since 1994. Both Kingston and Richmond councils have already formally confirmed that the Thames Landscape Strategy is included in their planning considerations, so the revised strategy will have some weight.

Whatever your interest — fishing, boating, riverside development, the effect on bats of street-lights and floodlit tennis courts, policing, noise on the river, or preserving our river views — please come along to record your concerns, your vision of how it might be better, and your ideas on how to achieve that improvement. If you cannot attend, please e-mail or post your ideas to Richard Mobbs before the meeting so that he can summarise and present them at the meeting and then send in a collective CARA response (TLS's preference). There is another opportunity to speak to Jason and the team at a drop-in session in on 2 December (see DATES FOR YOUR DIARY on page 4), and outside these two meetings, TLS will accept comments by letter to: TLS, Holly Lodge, Richmond Park, TW10 5HS.

Richard Mobbs



CARA Committee

would welcome a new member who could take minutes at our meetings. Please contact Hugh.

Talk to us — most of you have a Committee member not too far away, so please let us know what you think about local issues.

Or keep in touch

via Twitter (CARA_Kingston) or Facebook (CARAKingston). If you are a member of Facebook you can search for the group, join, and then write notices on the “Wall”, start or comment on discussions, post pictures or links to other sites of interest.

And join us — if you receive this newsletter it means that you live in the CARA “patch” and, whether you’re a paid-up member or not, you’ll be kept up-to-date with what’s going on in the area, your views and suggestions will be listened to, you’ll be invited to the social events we organise, and you can access the latest news our website.

So why join? Because we really need your support to be effective: 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.

Membership remains healthy, and if you are a member, thank you — your support makes such a difference! But as we deliver this newsletter to over 700 addresses, we know that there are still more potential members out there. So why not join?

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, pennydsouza@blueyonder.co.uk

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

■ **21 November to 12 December: Tudor Ward History Exhibition**, Tudor Library, Tudor Drive

■ **Wed 2 December, 3.00 — 8.00 pm, Thames Landscape Strategy “drop-in session”**, Richmond Venturer, Barge Dock, near Kingston railway bridge

■ **Tues 8 December, 7.30 pm: CARA TLS consultation meeting**, Albany Park Canoe and Sailing Centre

■ **Sun 13 December, from 6.00 pm: Christmas carol sing-along**, The Pavilion, Canbury Gardens

CARA MEMBERSHIP, Autumn/Winter 2009

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

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

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).