

## TUDOR AREA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION KINGSTON (TARAK)

### Easter Newsletter 2012

#### Your Committee News

**1 Jubilee Bulb Planting.** Your committee is exploring the possibility of celebrating the Diamond Jubilee with the planting of bulbs in the grass verges in Tudor Drive (between the Cardinal and Richmond Road). It is hoped with the support of Kingston Council to organise this as a family fun event in September, and we hope many of you will be able to spare some time to help with this venture. More details on the planting will be given in the summer.

**2 Rear alleyways** During March several residents met with local councillors at their Saturday morning surgery to discuss matters regarding the alleyways which all the Tudor Estate houses have at the rear of their properties. These alleyways, known as accommodation roads, are also rights of way and should not be blocked by rubbish or any other obstruction. This is a particular problem behind the shops but many alleyways are affected. We hope to work with the Council on helping to keep all of them clear.

**3 Latchmere House** Our Chairperson was recently invited to an informal meeting about the future of Latchmere House and as soon as there is any news about proposals for the site of the former Latchmere Prison your committee will keep you informed.

**4 Lunches at the Cardinal.** These are still a popular and happy event. One of our Councillors usually joins us so informal discussions can take place as well as it being a purely social event. A good £5 menu is available as well as an al la carte one. If you haven't already joined us and are free at lunch time please do come along. The next lunch is on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May.**

**5 Additional TARAK events** If you have any ideas for other TARAK events you would like to take part in, or organise, such as river or theatre trips or an evening meal (or anything else) please get in touch with Sue Cauty (020 8456 8529) or Judith Pottinger (020 8546 1195). If any member would be interested in attending, with others, a Kingston Town Neighbourhood meeting to see how our Council operates, please let us know.

**6 Garden at junction of Hollybush Road and Cardinal Avenue** Those of us who use the K5 or walk everywhere will know this small garden and may have noticed how the trees have grown and overshadowed the planting below. Residents who live around the little garden, have, with help from the councillors, obtained funding so that the garden might be cared for and replanted. On 3 April Quadron started to tidy the site – it will be interesting to see the little garden flourish again.

#### **7 Surrey Comet and the RBK website and Council Information**

Your committee endeavours to keep you in touch with items which may be of interest to TARAK members, some of whom do not have computers and others who are very busy:

**a** The Council has saved more than £1 million over the past year by merging and axing top jobs. These recently include a director of environment and a senior post in learning and children's services. At the same time a new interim head of Environment at £116,500 per annum and a pay rise of £28,500 for a regraded head of planning were confirmed.

**b** In a bid to promote transparency and democracy all public meetings will in future be recorded at a cost of £8000. This will be complemented by a written note on how councillors vote on issues.

**c** The Olympic Torch. This will pass through our borough twice on its way to the Olympic Village. On **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July** it will leave Hook Centre, Chessington at 8.22 a.m. It will come through the Richmond Road and handing on to Richmond borough (at Ham Parade) at about 9.45a.m. So be up and about early to cheer the torch on! The flame will then travel by river passing through Kingston on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July** (times to be confirmed).

**d** Other summer events:

International Youth Arts Festival 29<sup>th</sup> June – 22<sup>nd</sup> July;

Kingston River Regatta 7-9 July;

Dragon boat challenge/Speedo Open Water Swim 15th July.

**8 Kingston Aviation Festival.** This will run for four days over the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2012 in Kingston Market Place. The festival organised by the Hawker Association's Kingston Aviation Centenary Project and financed by a Heritage lottery grant of £50,000, will feature a WW1 Sopwith Camel biplane and a Hawker Hurricane amongst other exhibits. This festival celebrates the important part Kingston has played in the history of the RAF and the design of its fighter planes.

**9 Redesign of the Market Place.** A reminder of this on-going project. Outline Design Exhibitions for this took place earlier in the year. The next stage of the project is to finalise the detailed and technical design before implementation. Online information can be viewed at [www.kingston.gov.uk/ancient\\_market\\_area](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/ancient_market_area). You may also contact Jay Judge, Project Manager at Kingston Council by emailing [ancient.market@rbk.kingston.gov.uk](mailto:ancient.market@rbk.kingston.gov.uk) or phoning the Council's Customer Contact Centre on 020 8547 5002 for more information. There have been a number of letters in the Comet from those who welcome the new design but many, like the stall-holders, who do not. Make sure you have your say!

**10 Our MP in Parliament.** Our North Kingston MP, Zac Goldsmith, has asked some questions in Parliament recently, and received answers that have a bearing on our local area.

**a** Night flights at Heathrow – 139 flights in the winter season 30 October to 9<sup>th</sup> February were given dispensation or disregarded from the night restrictions. More information at <http://noise.heathrowairport.com>. TARAK members might have noticed an increase in noise over the past months.

**b** New Homes Bonus – This was introduced in April 2011 to incentivise housing supply. Kingston will receive £1,396,314 for the period 2011-12 and 2012-13.

**Happy Easter holiday to everyone.**

Susan Canty – Editor

Margaret Levy – Vice chair

Judith Pottinger - chair

**PS Road Works in Tudor Drive** Don't forget there will be road repairs in Tudor Drive for the week beginning Tuesday 10 April and this will affect street parking.