

lifeatcanaryriverside

Newsletter of the Residents' Association of Canary Riverside

September 2014

Have you joined the **facebook** group?

If you're not already on it, it's worth knowing that we have a residents' Facebook group ("Canary Riverside"). It is a closed group meaning that residents can raise and talk about issues without them being visible to the rest of Facebook. All residents, whether renters or owners, are most welcome to join.

The topics discussed are wide and varied, from questions about the apartments to local events taking place. Common questions come from residents who are on the lookout for recommendations for plumb-

ers/electricians etc. This newsletter contains some of the interesting items you may have missed on the FB group, so if you have any thing to contribute, please get on board, or if Facebook isn't your thing, you can send ideas to lifeatcanaryriverside@gmail.com and we can post in upcoming newsletters.

There is also a Facebook group "Canary Riverside Kids" with information for families with kids at Canary Riverside, set up by Catriona Xifaras, Leo Grange Schmid and Pardeip Sahota. Please contact them to join.



Wapping Market

Have you tried Wapping market? It is a newly-opened Sunday market a leisurely stroll down the Thames, just past the King Edward VII memorial park. See <http://www.wappingmarket.com> for more details. Canary Riverside resident Clare took these pictures of the food...



Water leaks and toilet cisterns

After some hunting around for an errant smoke alarm, CR resident Saket eventually found that his apartment had been fitted with a water alarm, which was detecting dripping from a toilet cistern! In fact—as highlighted by a note from Marathon Estates recently—a lot of the apartments in the estate have experienced problems with leaking cisterns: the plastic ones in the main bathrooms now appear to be getting past their useful life.

If you didn't know water alarms

existed, then you can find them on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B001BXKYB0>. Thanks to Victor from Belgrave for the link.

And water alarm or not, you may want to check your toilet cisterns. In most cases the marble cover above the cistern should lift off, and for replacement work note that you can often get to them through the thin wood in the back of wardrobes in the next room, rather than needing to pull out the marble tiles.

Cooling (or not)

The warm weather has left residents sweltering, as the chillers that provide cooling have not been working. While it is good to see that management is looking to resolve the issue through total replacement, past experience gives rise to concerns about how wisely our money has been/is being spent. £416k was spent from reserves in 2010 to extend the life of the chillers by 10 years, and an estimated £1M will be spent on their replacement (and we don't have £1M in reserves). If this makes you feel hot under the collar, then join the RA and find out more.

To contact the Residents' Association of Canary Riverside management committee, email lifeatcanaryriverside@gmail.com

RACR exists to help build a community here, so we're happy to hear from residents on any issues.

Bathroom / toilet extractor fans

Thanks to Victor Stone for the following info about the extractor system in our apartments. See the Facebook group for updates!

Residents might not know that there are extractor fans working continuously on the roof of our buildings removing air, water vapour, and smells - and also heat - from our bathroom/toilets. In addition each flat has one or more centrally installed extractor fans (usually in the ceiling space above a hall cupboard) operated by the respective light switch which causes the relevant extractor fan to boost the extraction rate not only from the bathroom/toilet but from all the bathrooms and toilets connected to it regardless of the one being used. The additional extractor/s are on a timer which can be adjusted to switch off the flat's extractor/s at a set time. In our case the flat's extractor fans were set to

run for c.12 minutes which we consider to be far too long, wasteful of electricity and heat. We have therefore had our timers reset to operate the extractors for a much shorter period of time: in our case for just over a minute - the adjustment is pretty coarse and uncalibrated - and I will report in due course whether or not this is sufficient to reduce the bathroom humidity quickly enough. (The kitchen hob hood extractor is also connected to a roof extractor but having its own booster fan is not connected to the bathroom/toilet extractors and will be unaffected by timer change to the bathroom/toilet extractor.)

Residents should also note also that the cowls of the extractor inlets are adjustable: they screw in and out so they can be adjusted to set the draft. Accordingly

if they are at maximum opening the noise level will be quite high....

To adjust the timers:

1. Locate cupboard above which in the ceiling void the central extractor fan is situated.
2. Preferably employ my electrician Kenny McLeod 07765 253717 or failing him...
3. Open ceiling hatch (key required) and/or remove ceiling tiles (we have both systems) by cutting sealant between tiles with Stanley knife. The tiles are made of plaster and are brittle.
4. Locate small c.100mm square white box (cover plate with two screws)
5. Open box by removing cover plate and see timer.
6. Turn timer screw as may be necessary by experiment: the setting is coarse and there is no obvious calibration. I can give no advice as to which way to turn it!

No canaries but bags of other birds

By Alastair Newton, Belgrave.

A few years ago (but some time after Clare and I moved to Canary Riverside), I read an article about birds in London by David Lindo, the 'Urban Birder', <http://www.theurbanbirder.com/>, in which he noted that 'even' at Canary Wharf he had seen perhaps as many as 20 bird species.

At the time - and with all due respect to David who is a remarkable supporter of our urban avian life - I thought that this was probably a modest estimate of the reality. But it wasn't until quite recently that I actually took the trouble to do a count of my personal sightings.

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The result is 35 to date; and I am confident that some of you will have seen birds around our immediate area which I have not.

This year we seem to have added the grey wagtail (breeding in Westferry Circus) and the red-ringed parakeet to our 'locals' - though I had seen both previously within a couple of miles of Canary Riverside. And our resident starling population (breeding, and now roosting, in the arch above the entrance to the Limehouse Link) has multiplied significantly to several hundred, promising some late-afternoon spectacles in the sky above Dundee Wharf when winter comes. This is also attracting periodic visits from peregrine falcons - we saw a hunting youngster being successfully driven off



by flocking, swirling starlings just a few evenings ago.

But my personal favourite is probably the great crested grebes (pictured), which have successfully nested off Bank Street again this year; their truly remarkable courtship display is always a pleasure to see.

So, keep your eye on the sky from time to time as you walk through our garden and around the immediate vicinity. There is a lot going on up there!