



The Bulletin

February 2017



Members' Meeting

Rt. Hon Justine Greening MP

Our local MP, Justine Greening, was appointed Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities in July 2016. On Thursday 9th February she will be talking about her role at 7.30 pm, St Mary's Church, Putney Bridge.

Many challenges face the Department for Education including:

- The future of the academies programme
- School Funding Reform
- Teacher recruitment
- Leadership capacity
- Possible expansion of grammar schools
- Access to early years' education

We hope that Justine will cover some of these points and we look forward to a lively debate.

New Year, new opportunities – your chance to volunteer with the Putney Society

Can you spare just a few hours a month to help with our objective to improve the quality of life for people who work, live or visit Putney and Roehampton?

You could help with:

- * Our discount scheme in local and independent shops
- * Ensuring high standards of planning and architecture
- * Campaigning to improve local transport
- * Organising meetings on local or London-wide matters
- * Editing the monthly bulletin

We will be electing new members of our Executive at the Putney Society AGM at 7.30pm on 20th March at the Community Church in Werter Road – why not join us? Please do contact Judith Chegwiddden or Carolyn McMillan (*details on page 3*) if you would like to learn more. Full details of AGM with the next Bulletin.

The Great British Spring Clean

The Putney Society will be joining this national campaign on Saturday 4th March. Calling all litter pickers to join us at the 430 bus terminus in Danebury Avenue, Roehampton at 10.30am. Gloves and bags will be provided.



A reminder – *courtesy of Andrew Wilson* – of the Embankment in 1904. Something to remember while current works to build a temporary slipway are underway. Andrew's new book, *"Wild about Putney and Roehampton"* contains some interesting pictures of local burial grounds, inspired by Phil Evison's talk to a members meeting early last year (aw@unity-publishing.co.uk).

Future Panel Meetings All members welcome

Community:

7 Feb (note change), 9 March
At 6 Norroy Road, SW15 1PF
(18.30)
Convenor: Vicky Diamond
vickysw15@aol.com
07746 022654

Transport:

14 Feb, 14 March
At 46 Disraeli Road,
SW15 2DS (19.30)
Convenor: Stephen Luxford
stephen.luxford@nao.gsi.gov.uk

Buildings:

1 Feb, 1 March
At 154 Putney High Street, SW15
1RS (19.00)
Convenor: Andrew Catto ac@andrewcatto.co.uk

Open Spaces: 2 Feb, 2 March

At 71 Norroy Road, SW15 1ph
(19.00)
Convenor: John Horrocks
John.horrocks10@btinternet.com
020 8789 2956



Happy New Year to you all. By now you should have all received your new **DISCOUNT CARDS**. Please use them! A lot of time and effort has gone in to setting this scheme up, and we need you to use your cards to make it work. The independent traders of Putney are having a pretty tough time, so any new business that they can get is gratefully received. We've got a wide variety of businesses involved, and it's certainly worth using your card.



Community Panel

Convenor:
Victoria Diamond
07746 022654
vickysw15@aol.com

February 8th 6.30pm-7.45pm Putney Library. Clinicians from Wandsworth Talking Therapies will give an introduction to the service and outline self-help strategies for coping with anxiety and depression. Organised by Putney Wellbeing Friends. To reserve your free place email Charlene.coleman@gll.org

Some new members of the Society asked whether we could have a 'fun' evening – quiz or board games or something like that. More of a social event so they could get to know more members. If this is something you'd be interested in attending, do email me and let me know. Subject heading 'social' would be useful! **Thank you**

ENHANCING OUR OPEN SPACES

The extensive landscaping works, carried out by the Commons Conservators, around the new buildings on the old Putney Hospital site on Putney Lower Common, are now largely completed. There are a lot of young trees, shrubs and wide areas of new top-soil and grass-seeding. To protect these areas, extensive wooden fencing has been put in place: this will stay until the grass, trees and shrubs are well-established, and then it will all be removed.

If you haven't seen these landscaping works, then you should. It is quite impressive.

By mid-summer, the trees and shrubs will be in full leaf and the top-soiled areas should be green, as the grass takes root. Local residents should be pleased with the transformation which this well-designed and executed landscaping scheme has represented. The new school and the flats will have a significantly enhanced landscape setting, compared with the previous hospital surroundings.

Open Spaces Panel

Convenor:
John Horrocks
020 8789 2956
john.horrocks10@btinternet.com

Compare this, however, with the various areas of landscape 'enhancement' the borough council has carried out over recent years in Wandsworth Park. At the Deodar Road end of the park, for example, old shrubs were removed a couple of years ago - to be replaced by (mostly) varieties of herbaceous plants. These have really not been a success and, particularly in the winter, look less attractive than the removed, elderly, shrubs. The Society and the Friends of Wandsworth Park are very disappointed with these changes to the park. It really has not been enhanced - as it should have been.

Is there a moral here?

Many thanks to Mo Howley and Carolyn McMillan for organising such a successful New Year Lunch at Bibo. Excellent food and terrific company.





2017 marks the 50th anniversary of Conservation Areas. Many of the Society's members benefit from living in one of these, particularly the large West Putney Conservation Area south of the Upper Richmond Road, but we have lots more from the Embankment to Roehampton Village covering around half of Putney's streets in all. Civic Societies will be celebrating this anniversary whilst highlighting the growing threats to our heritage in booming cities in particular. We hope to organise a members' event later in the year celebrating Putney's heritage. Details to follow, but do let us know if there's anywhere we should be highlighting, or of course if you can help out ...

Protection for individual buildings by 'listing' is some 20 years older, but as with conservation areas additions to the list continue. Local highlights include the grand mansions in Roehampton and the five iconic slab blocks in Roehampton as well as St Mary's and most local churches, but also includes several tombs in the Old Burial ground as well as some milestones and ancient bollards and even Putney Bridge. Like most local authorities Wandsworth also keeps a Local List for heritage that doesn't quite make the grade for the national list. This is under review, and we have already put forward some candidates to be added to the list, but would welcome more suggestions, particularly smaller features we may not be aware of. Later in the spring the

Council will review the suggestions from across the borough, and have invited the Putney Society to have a representative on the review panel. Could this be you?

One success the Panel can report is that after much lobbying from us and persistence from Wandsworth's enforcement officer six good sized new trees have now been planted on the Upper Richmond Road outside Tileman House. But just up the street the owners of Carlton Court have asked to be allowed not to plant the half dozen shown on their planning approval. Shown, as it turns out on a pavement they don't own which is full of electrical mains and other services.

Sorry Miss, the dog ate my homework?

Buildings Panel

Convenor:

Andrew Catto

ac@andrewcatto.co.uk

020 8785 0077

Rail - We hope to hear by the next bulletin who has won the competition for our local rail franchise which is currently operated by South West Trains. Bidders were required to set out how they might improve the quality of the service.

This summer there is scheduled to be major engineering work at Waterloo while they lengthen several platforms and realign the track layout. Temporarily this will mean that some of the old Eurostar platforms (21-24) will come back into service. However, contrary to what I said in the last bulletin, these platforms will not be available again for permanent use until Christmas 2018 as there will be still significant structural works to complete.

Final works on Putney Station to make the entrance compliant with disability legislation is expected to begin in February. **STOP PRESS - may now be deferred until after Boat Race.**

Transport Panel

Convenor:

Stephen Luxford

stephen.luxford@nao.gsi.gov.uk

Buses and air pollution - Despite some welcome initiatives in recent years to tackle Putney High Street's air pollution problems we appear to have reached a plateau. Final figures for 2016 showed there were 1,248 exceedences of specified NO₂ levels against a maximum of 18 allowed under EU law. This year we had already breached our annual limit by 9 January. The Mayor has promised to introduce cleaner, "green" buses on Putney routes from February so we shall monitor closely what affect they have.

Putney Society Contacts—see website for full details

Chair: Judith Chegvidden, 020 8788 4489, judith.chegvidden@gmail.com

Secretary: Carolyn McMillan, 38 Disraeli Road, SW15 2DS 020 8789 6692, secretary@putneysociety.org.uk

Website Editor: Robert Arguile, webeditor@putneysociety.org.uk

Bulletin Editor: Post Vacant

Membership: Chris Orriss, 020 8785 7115, 22 Pentlow Street, London SW15 1LX, membership@putneysociety.org.uk

Treasurer: Gosia Jakubik, 07746409703, gosia.jakubik@hotmail.com

Dear Sir,

Amongst the many sad deaths of 2016, a Putney-linked one may have slipped by unnoticed. Tony Mottram – British tennis star of the 1940s and 50s, Wimbledon men's singles quarter-finalist in 1948 (losing to American Gardner Mulloy), Davis Cup player and national coach – passed away on 6th October at the fine age of 96. He and his wife Joy née Gannon, who survives him, ran the London School of Lawn Tennis, based from c. 1960 at the Woodborough Lawn Tennis Club, aka the Woodborough Hard Court Club, at 131 Howard's Lane, opposite the top of Woodborough Road. It opened c. 1925 and was replaced by the Kingslawn Close estate in the early 1970s. Largely forgotten, the Daily Telegraph obituary described the club as "unfashionable" and as having "an old-fashioned wooden clubhouse." [The more venerable Putney Lawn Tennis Club was founded in 1879, moved to the eastern end of Howard's Lane in 1891 and to Balmuir Gardens in 1904.] Their three children included two successful tennis players – Christopher ('Buster') and Linda. **Philip Evison**

Letter
to the
Editor



PUTNEY TO HOST HIT PLAY ABOUT GREATEST ROWER

Putney will play host to a hit play about the Victorian Geordie who invented the sport of rowing we know so well today. Harry "Hadaway" Clasper, who was from Tyneside, was the Sir Steve Redgrave of his day having led seven teams to win the Championship of the World on the Thames at Putney. In addition Harry, in the 1840s, invented and built the slim, light boats and outriggers used by modern scullers. At the time Clasper's revolutionary new initiatives were ridiculed because rowers were still using the old clinker-built boats that had been a feature on rivers for centuries.

The play, "Hadaway Harry", which will be performed at Newcastle's 1200-seat Theatre Royal, will have an out-of-town-run at the London Rowing Club in Putney on Friday and Saturday, February 17 and 18. The play focuses on the very first time the Geordie oarsmen defeated the "unbeatable" Thamesmen in 1845. Playwright Ed Waugh, explained: "Rowing was the sport of the working class prior to football. Every major river had its champion so there was huge interest in matches because civic pride was at stake. Even Charles Dickens wrote about the wonderful spectacle of the Geordies versus the Thamesmen."

Hadaway Harry will be performed at London Rowing Club, Putney (SW15 1LB) on Friday and Saturday, February 17 and 18. The show starts at 7.30pm on both evenings with a matinee at 2.30pm on Saturday. Tickets, limited to 80 per show, cost only £16 from (0191) 424 7788.

For further details visit: www.hadawayharry.co.uk

Diary Dates

9 February:

Members' Meeting on Education at St Mary's Church, Rt. Hon Justine Greening MP.

20 March:

Annual General Meeting at Community Church, Werter Road at 7.30pm – remember, we are looking for new Executive members.

24 April:

Members' Meeting on planned changes to local health provision.

LOCAL EVENTS

Putney Arts Theatre

Steel Magnolias
by Robert Harling

21st - 25th February 2017
at 7.45pm

Wandsworth Symphony Orchestra

Saturday 18 March 2017,
at 7.30pm

St Barnabas Church,
Southfields, Lavenham Road,
London SW18 5EP

NIELSEN Music from Aladdin

SIBELIUS Symphony No.1
in E minor

1885 Singers

Sunday 26th March 2017 at
7:30pm. All Saints Church,
Putney Common.

Song of Solomon - a world
premiere commissioned by
the 1885 singers from Peter
Foggitt plus Faure Requiem.

Wandsworth Arts Fringe

5 May – 21 May

Get involved - whether
you're a local artist or visiting
professional, first time or
older hand wishing to try a
new idea or venue - get
involved in our annual arts
extravaganza, and a
celebration of Fringe arts
in Wandsworth

www.wandsworthfringe.com

Wandsworth Heritage Festival

This year's theme is Industrial
Architecture

17 May – 11 June 2017

If you have an event you would
like us to list please contact:
chair@
putneysociety.org.uk