



The Bulletin

March 2017



Annual General Meeting

Monday 20 March 2017 at 7.30pm

The Community Church, Werter Road, Putney

The AGM will be chaired by the President, Beryl Jeffery.

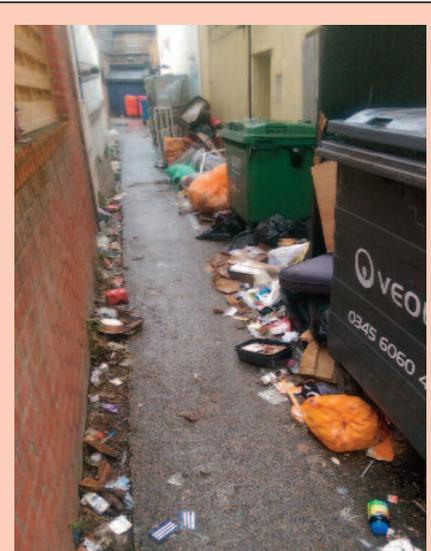
Enclosed with, or attached to this bulletin, you will find the papers you need for the AGM:

- the AGM agenda with 2016/17 Annual Report, and the Treasurer's report and 2016 accounts.

Please bring them with you to the meeting at which elections of the Society's President and Vice-Presidents, Officers, Executive Committee, and Auditor will take place.

Reminder: Nominations for the Executive Committee should be submitted to the Secretary by Monday 13 March 2017. A nomination form is enclosed/ attached to this bulletin.

Do please come along to **VOTE** and have your say on any of the agenda items. The AGM will be followed by refreshments at the Community Church to which all those present are invited.

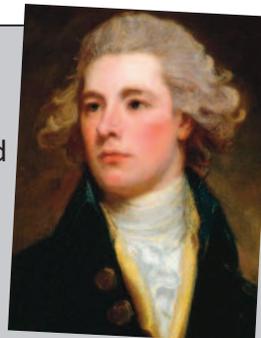


How to improve Putney High Street?

The council have recently appointed a firm of consultant engineers to review ways in which to improve air quality, streetscape and the urban realm in Putney High Street. The Putney Society welcome this initiative and hope that our voice will be heard when the consultants are gathering information.

In terms of improving the streetscape we hope that the project will include looking at ways of improving the back lanes behind the businesses – not just for deliveries, but perhaps as pocket parks? Almost anything would be better than the current rubbish and vermin ridden alleys that exist at the moment.

Our guest speaker is **Professor Penny Corfield**, emeritus Professor of History at Royal Holloway, University of London. Why did Britain's prim and priggish Prime Minister, William Pitt the Younger, agree in May 1798 to fight a duel on Putney Heath? Not only was duelling utterly deplored by respectable opinion, but Britain was then in the midst of a titanic struggle against revolutionary France. It was certainly not the time for the Prime Minister to put his life needlessly at risk. Professor Corfield explains the context of this impetuous duel - throwing new light not only on the history of duelling and the nature of eighteenth-century parliamentary arguments, but also of the local history of Putney in 1798.



FUTURE PANEL MEETINGS

All members welcome
www.putneysociety.org.uk

COMMUNITY:
9 March, 13 April
At 6 Norroy Road,
SW15 1PF (18.30)

Convenor:
Vicky Diamond
vickysw15@aol.com
T:07746 022654

TRANSPORT:
14 March, 11 April
At 46 Disraeli Road,
SW15 2DS (19.30)

Convenor:
Stephen Luxford
stephen.luxford@nao.gsi.gov.uk

BUILDINGS:
1 March, 5 April
At 154 Putney High Street,
SW15 1RS (19.00)

Convenor:
Andrew Catto
ac@andrewcatto.co.uk

OPEN SPACES:
9 March, 6 April
At 71 Norroy Road,
SW15 1PH (19.00)

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



A big thank you to our MP, The Right Hon Justine Greening, for her most interesting talk on her new role as Education Secretary. We hope we can have a follow up meeting next year, once she's been in the post for a while.



Putney Wellbeing Friends, who operate out of Putney Library on a Wednesday evening, are recruiting new volunteers. Can you spare one or two Wednesday evenings per month? Would you like to be trained in the internationally accredited mental health first aid two day course? If so, please email Sue Rolfe on rolfe.sue3@gmail.com. Thank you.

There continues to be a problem with thefts from motor vehicles – in January Thamesfield had 27 such incidents. The Police ask us to PLEASE not leave anything on view in our vehicles, and to remind visitors not to do so either. It just takes a few seconds for an opportunistic thief to smash the car window and run/cycle off with the goods.

The DISCOUNT SCHEME'S updated lists should be on our website. Do have a look, and print one out to take with you when you're out shopping. There is a version by service, one by street and an alphabetical one, so all bases are covered! A few changes to note:

Community Panel

Convenor:
Victoria Diamond
07746 022654
vickysw15@aol.com

- Putney Dry Cleaners – 285 Upper Richmond Road - £10 minimum spend for 20% discount
- John Roberts Kitchens on Lower Richmond Road has closed.
- L'Auberge Restaurant is no longer in the scheme.

Keep using your card! Our Independent Traders are going to have an even harder year with raised business rates, so we need to support them if we want to keep them.

A SOCIETY TREE FOR THE OASIS ACADEMY

On Thursday 19 January, the Grand Opening of the new Oasis Academy primary school on Putney Lower Common took place - with Justine Greening MP cutting the ribbon in front of the school's first intake of tiny children. A very happy event.

Part of the opening ceremony saw the planting of a young tree - specially donated by the Putney Society. It is a Crab Apple tree, *Malus Evereste*, and will have red blossom in the spring and small fruits in the autumn. The tree was planted by Justine with help from some of the children. It is on the

Common at the front of the school. We will be keeping a close watch on the tree and look forward to it coming into leaf.

Open Spaces Panel

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

Another good news item: Our proposal to plant, in conjunction with the Dover House Estate Residents' Association, a Community Orchard on one of the greens on Dover House Road, has been welcomed by the borough council. Discussions are getting underway which should see the orchard planted next autumn. This will be a first for Putney. The borough council recently reported on the successful planting of a Community Orchard on the Wendelsworth Estate, Wandsworth, and our Society will be learning from that community's experience in creating our new venture.

LOCAL EVENTS

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

BATTERSEA ARTS CENTRE

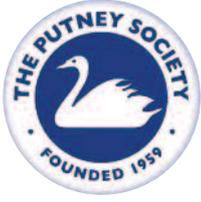
Town Hall Talks 27 March, 6-7pm

Cash, Capitalism and Corporations: Battersea and Beyond
Tickets are free but advance booking is essential as places are limited. Book tickets at bac.org.uk/townhalltalks

PUTNEY ARTS THEATRE

Moonlight and Magnolias

14-18 March, 7.45pm



Last month I rashly predicted in my annual report that we didn't expect any new development proposals in Putney this year. No sooner was this sent than we got an email from their PR firm to say that the new owners of the 'Blades' site on Putney Bridge Road and the High Street (but still not the actual corner building, whose owners clearly haven't been offered enough) are readying a new planning application. There will be a public exhibition of this at St Marys Church on **Friday 24 February from 3pm to 7pm** and on **Saturday 25 February from 10am to 2pm** The earlier scheme created huge protest. Let's hope this is better.

I also mentioned the application by Fabrica, the developers of the old VSO site on the corner of Carlton Drive and the Upper Richmond Road to omit the trees they were to have planted along the main road frontage, because these were to go in the pavement (which they don't own) that turned out to be full of services. Sadly Wandsworth Council have allowed this, without seeking alternative planting elsewhere. Why? And almost

immediately after comes an application for hundreds of flats to replace Homebase next to Wandsworth Town station. 50 trees are to be removed, with the only replacements to go in the pavement. Dare we hope the Council will see the connection, and take note of the GLA's new report on encouraging bio-diversity.

Continuing last month's heritage theme, plans are starting to come together for a Members Meeting celebrating Putney's Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings, but this will now be on 26th June. Watch this space. Meanwhile we still want your suggestions for hidden gems that might join the local list. How old is your local post box (we've found one VR), or is there an outstanding house in your road?

Buildings Panel

Convenor:
Andrew Catto
ac@andrewcatto.co.uk

020 8785 0077

RAIL At the time of going to press we were hopeful that the highway works to make the entrance to the station compliant with Disability Legislation would soon be underway.

Looking ahead, there are several welcome initiatives to come. By the time of the next Bulletin we should learn the outcome of the competition to run our local rail franchise. Whoever wins will be operating new services from June which will include new trains with more capacity, but with no loss from March. Also in March there are to be tactile pavements laid on Platforms 1-3. In August there will be major infrastructure works at Waterloo as they seek to lengthen some platforms. There has been some confusing messages from Network Rail as to whether this work will affect Putney services much or not. We will update you once we see some firmer plans.

AIR POLLUTION AND BUSES As you will be aware our pollution problems continue. By 12 January there had already been recorded 30 exceedences of EU NOx limits (the annual recommended limit is 18).

However, possibly in sympathy, the air monitor on the High Street then packed up and was unable then to record air quality for the next fortnight. The Society was in contact with Kings College who operate the monitors to ask them to rectify this, but it means whatever the annual reading is at the end of December

won't represent the true picture of our air quality. In 2016 there 1248 recorded exceedences - 69 times the EU limit - but the monitor was only able to capture valid readings for 82% of the time.

The Mayor promised to introduce cleaner buses for Putney as one means to address this issue, although private diesel cars are the main culprits. By mid-February the swop over of buses serving Putney to less polluting hybrid buses had begun so hopefully we shall see better statistics in the future.

Transport Panel

Convenor:
Stephen Luxford
stephen.luxford@nao.gsi.gov.uk

PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

See website for full details:
www.putneysociety.org.uk

Chair: Judith Chegwidden, 020 8788 4489
judith.chegwidden@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 Editor

The view we have enjoyed of the Polish Church in St Johns Avenue, as seen from Hazlewell Road has been changed – some would say spoiled – forever. This is thanks to one of the new over-tall buildings on the Upper Richmond Road. When new applications are considered, especially if it is for another of the ever-spreading tall blocks of flats, the planners do need to take a wider view, literally, of the effects on the local landscape. Most private homes in Putney are two or three floors at most, so anything larger is going to be very visible in ways that are clearly not being considered. The view in Hazlewell is just one case in point. Yours etc.

Jonathan Callaway



CAN YOU ENRICH PUTNEY'S 'LOCAL LIST'

The most significant of England's historic buildings and places are 'listed', so they can be understood and protected for the future.

Wandsworth has around 500 buildings listed of national importance including Thames bridges and burial tombs as well as many houses, churches, schools and cinemas.

Historic England (the Government's adviser on the historic environment) is now asking for help in updating the

listing descriptions, many of which are far too brief, out of date or both. Opening up the National Heritage List for England to the public for the first time, it invites everyone to share their knowledge and pictures of listed places, so it can record important facts, and even unlock the secrets of some places. Facts, not opinions, are invited - such as new or old photos; historical events and social history; later changes since a building was listed; or information about the

architecture or archaeology. Contributions will appear on the List after the official entry for that place.

See <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/enrich-the-list/> for guidance on Enriching the List and how to complete a Heritage Passport to become a contributor.
http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/info/514/building_conservation_and_design/194/listed_buildings_and_borough_history/5

DIARY DATES

TRANSFORMING HEALTH CARE IN OUR AREA

7.30pm Monday April 24 Putney Community Church, Werter Road, SW15 2LL

Puzzled about the future of GP and hospital services in your area? Despite confusing national stories, our local Commissioning Groups in South West London have come together to devise exciting new plans for delivering integrated services closer to your home using innovative ways which aim to reduce unnecessary visits to hospitals and make better use of GPs. Rebecca Wellburn, Director of Commissioning and Planning, Wandsworth Clinical Commissioning Group will speak about the plans together with a local GP.

VISIT TO SIR JOHN SOANE MUSEUM

**13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3BP
Friday 28 April 2017 at 2.00 p.m.**

Sir John Soane was an architect who is perhaps best remembered for his designs for the Bank of England and the Dulwich Picture Gallery. He formed a

collection, for the benefit of his pupils, of antiquities, books and works of art and these, together with his architectural drawings, he arranged in his house.

We will visit this unusual museum, originally built by Soane as his home around 1792. He established the house as a museum by an 1833 Act of Parliament requiring that his romantic and poetic interiors be kept as they were at the time of his death. It is now a centre for the study of architecture. Soane's Private Apartments and Model Room, not seen for 160 years, are now opened.

We will have a self-guided tour, together with an introductory talk by one of the curators.

The visit will last approximately one and a half hours.

To book your place please send a SAE (or email address), with your name (and name of your guest), and contact phone number, together with a cheque for £10 (members) and £12 (non-members) made payable to 'The Putney Society' to Maureen Howley, 1 Elystan Court, 121 Howards Lane, London SW15 6QH.