



The Bulletin

July 2018



Putney Society's latest blue plaque

As part of the Putney Society's on-going blue plaques programme a plaque was erected in May in memory of **Carel Weight CH CBE RA (1908 – 1997)**. Weight, a painter, was born in Paddington, but he later lived at various addresses in the borough of Wandsworth. He was a professor at the Royal College of Art, and an official war artist (in Italy and Greece). His paintings included portraits and urban settings of west and south London, including a painting of East Putney underground station, and suburban back gardens.



Ken Howard RA, Olwyn Bowey RA and Mick Rooney RA after the unveiling.

He worked at his studio on the top floor of 31 Keswick Road, Putney from 1984 to 1997. The plaque, at this address, was unveiled by Mick Rooney, well known Royal Academician, who was one of Weight's many students at the RCA. Other students, including Ken Howard RA, Olwyn Bowey RA, Maurice Sheppard and Linda Sutton, came to honour Weight, to reminisce and share their fond memories

of their teacher and mentor. The unveiling was followed by a small reception at which Cllr Ravi Govindia, the leader of the Council, and other invited guests were in attendance.

The Society is very grateful to both Carolyn McMillan for organising the plaque and to the family that hosted the plaque.

Putney Society Prize Winners



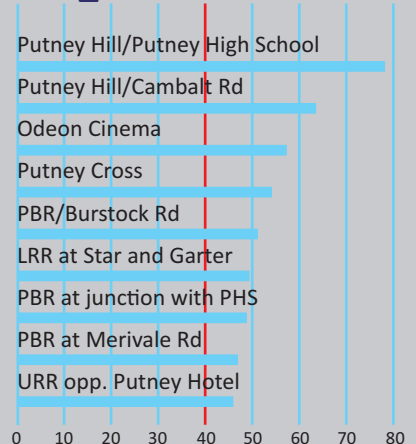
The Putney Society donated four prizes at the recent annual Putney School of Art and Design prize giving. The winners were Karen Pitcairn (Ceramic Sculpture), Andrea Bromley (Oil or Acrylic Painting), Effie Labropoulos (Botanical Drawing & Painting) and Sue Rigg (Pastels).

Putney Society Air Quality Project

In February/March 2017 the Society set up 20 pairs of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) sensor tubes at locations around Putney, 17 of them at the same locations as a similar exercise in 2016. Overall, there has been a significant improvement in air quality at the sites that are directly comparable. This improvement is welcome and is in line with similar reductions seen at the council's monitoring sites in Putney High Street; most of the improvement is attributable to

the introduction of hybrid buses on routes through the High Street. However, at 15 of the locations, levels of NO₂ still exceeded the mandatory EU safe level of 40µg/m³. The chart below shows the nine sites where NO₂ levels were worse than 40µg/m³. High levels of air pollution on Putney Hill are of particular concern and it will be interesting to see the results of an ongoing Kings College research project on the causes of poor air quality in that area.

NO₂ LEVELS UG/M³



PBR – Putney Bridge Rd, LRR – Lower Richmond Rd, PHS – Putney High Street, URR- Upper Richmond Rd.

We had two very successful tours of Smugglers' Way Recycling Centre. Certainly worth a visit and we might try to organise more next year. Just remember NO BOTTLE tops at all to go in your recycling!



Our latest project (and it is very early days!) is to find out what happens to leftover food in shops, restaurants, and cafes at the end

of the day – and a very large task it is. Can you guess how many retail food outlets there are in Putney, from supermarkets large and small, pubs and bars, cafes, restaurants and coffee shops? The area covered is the High St, and roads off it, Putney Bridge Rd from Oxford Rd to the High St, Lower Richmond Rd, the Upper Richmond Rd from Charlwood to East Putney

Tube. The answer is at the bottom of the back page. I wonder how many of you were close to that number? Each of these is likely to have some fresh food left at the end of the day, and it is our quest to find out what they do with this. We aim to research all the charities that deal with surplus food (it's not necessarily food waste, as much can be redistributed) and connect the right business with the relevant charity. The aim is to make Putney as food waste free as possible. A mammoth task. Putney Business Improvement District (BID) is going to join us when it comes to doing the footwork, which is very welcome news. If anyone has experience in this area, please let us know! Thank you

TO BE CONTINUED!!

Community Panel

Co-convenors:

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Anger about the decision of Wandsworth Council to remove waste bins across Putney is growing.

Within days of litter picking along Putney Heath we noted that rubbish had built up again – particularly near the bus stops.

The removal of bins in the roads leading to Wandsworth Park has posed a problem for dog walkers – where can they put the poo-bags? Litter also accumulates outside schools where bins have been removed – check out Williams Gardens near Greenmead School for example. As commuters walk to, or away from, bus stops trails of litter can be found. We understand that the council believed that the removal of litter bins would encourage people to take their litter home – sadly this has not happened. Perhaps it is necessary to be realistic about the reluctance of some residents to carry packaging home. We have asked the council to reconsider their policy but with no positive response to date – nevertheless, we will continue to press them to replace the litter bins.

There have been some interesting conversations

about our plans to develop tree trails in Putney and Roehampton. Many thanks to Simon Edwards (TiCI) who has shared information on the development of a tree trail in Wandsworth Park and who has pointed us in the direction of some magnificent trees in Putney. Some members have also responded to our plea to send us information about interesting trees in their street – please keep sending the suggestions.

We welcome the council's commitment to develop pocket parks across the borough and are sending in suggestions about likely venues. For example it would be good if the landscaping and seating at the corner of Upper Richmond Road and Charlwood Road could be improved – at the moment it is not impressive.

Open Spaces Panel

Convenor:

Judith Chegwidden

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FUTURE PANEL MEETINGS

All members welcome
www.putneysociety.org.uk

COMMUNITY:

12 July, 13 September
at 6 Norroy Road,
SW15 1PF (18.30)

Co-convenors:

Vicky Diamond
& Val Jones
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TRANSPORT:

10 July, 11 September
at 46 Disraeli
Road, SW15 2DS (19.30)

Convenor:

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

BUILDINGS:

4 July, 1 August
at 154 Putney High Street,
SW15 1RS (19.00)

Convenor:

Andrew Catto
ac@andrewcatto.co.uk

OPEN SPACES:

2 August, 6 September
at 28 Howards Lane,
SW15 6NQ (19.00)

Convenor:

Judith Chegwidden
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Sadly the deadline for the Bulletin means that I have to write this before our 25 June Members Meeting to update you all on Wandsworth Council's plans for improving Putney High Street, but I hope you were all there and brought your neighbours and local friends to hear. I hope we may be able to get a summary on to the Putney Society web site soon.

Also on the High Street, the developers now building on the old Top Shop site have bought WH Smith's distinctive, but very underutilised building and the empty shop next to this on the corner of Werter Road. The panel had a meeting last month with the developer's planning consultant about development options.

The ground floor should be retail, but we have asked that they look at setting the shop fronts back to deal with the congestion on the pavement caused by the very busy bus stop here. Above we have asked that the building is no taller than its neighbours. The interesting question is what should go here? Instead of more flats the developers are looking at the option of offices for small businesses, which we would welcome, or a hotel, about which we were more cautious. Deliveries could be a problem. Plans for a hotel at the 'White Lion' opposite St Mary's church were approved 3 years ago, but work may not start until 2019. Meanwhile the new hotel that replaced the old Post Office on Upper Richmond Road remains unfinished. But we would love to hear from High Street users – you - about what could go here, to support these discussions.

Also due in 2019 is an application to renew the

'temporary' consent for the big LED advertising screens at Roslyn Park. The club say they need the income to survive. We and other local groups say they have wrecked a once green gap between Putney and Sheen. Again, please tell us what you think

so that your Panel can speak for as many Putney residents as possible. Meanwhile we are watching a new planning application for one of these screens to be built into a new block of flats on St John's Hill in Wandsworth. If passed this could trigger similar schemes for several local sites.

There's still an ominous silence around the rejected plans for the corner of Putney High Street and Putney Bridge Road. We hope the council agree with us that neither owner here gets a consent until they work together on something better. Meanwhile just 200m from here we have seen and supported a proposal for an infill housing development just 3 storeys high. That's more like it and shows that sensible development is possible.

Also pre-viewed, with an application expected in July is a new science block for Putney High School. Much of the concern with the expansion of this school centres around pupils being collected and dropped off by car. In response to local concern (including, of course, the Putney Society) the school has introduced a private bus scheme, which has reduced car numbers. We are urging the school to continue and expand this.

Buildings Panel

Convenor:

Andrew Catto
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The Office of Rail and Road issued data on passenger rail usage in June that showed for the first time since 2009/10, passenger journeys fell nationally by 1.4% and in London and the South East by 2.1%. The fall is driven by a sharp drop in the number of season ticket journeys - suggesting that more people are working flexibly and that the ticketing structure has not kept up with different working patterns.

Our local provider, South Western Railways, recorded a decrease of 18 million journeys in 2017/18 – the most significant decrease in our region. Part of this may be to do with the works at Waterloo and some industrial action, but the decline in journeys must be of concern when their bid for the franchise was based on growth. Earlier in the year TfL reported that journeys on the underground fell by 2% in 2017 and that bus usage was

also falling. How much of this fall can be attributed to different working patterns? The increasing prevalence of private hire vehicles, particularly Uber, may also play a role as may the rising number of journeys made by bike.

Slow but steady progress is being made on the installation of a defibrillator at Putney Station (in collaboration with the charity DiPPs (www.dipps4James.co.uk)). We hope to meet with Network Rail in July to finalise where it might go within the station and to discuss any concerns they might have.

Transport Panel

Convenor:

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PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

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www.putneysociety.org.uk

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100 Years On - Festing Road remembers the residents who fell in the First World War

Festing Road in West Putney, famous for being the birthplace of Mr Benn the BBC cartoon character, will become the first street to commemorate its residents who fell in the First World War. Work by the Putney and Wandsworth Historical Society has discovered details of the 343 Putney men who died in the Great War. Four came from Festing Road

- **Albert Biscoe**
- **John Copping**, died February 1919, buried in the British Cemetery, Pas de Calais
- **George Down**, died in action in July 1917, also buried in the Pas de Calais
- **John Gobbey**, died of wounds in 1915, buried in Hampshire.

Street resident and Putney Society Vice President, Hugh Thompson, said "We chose 'They stood at the end of the world' as the inscription as it is a combination of two lines



from Wilfred Owen's "*Spring Offensive*" which sum up how they must have felt; such were the casualties that they know very well that they may be going to their deaths. Everyone has a grandfather or great grandfather who fought in that awful war, I had great uncles as well. Remembering with an engraved paving stone the Festing Four is our way of commemorating and honouring their sacrifice. This being 100 years since the end of '*the war to end all wars*', it is a good time."

Merits of the Alton Estate

We have had several responses to the letter from Mr Waterston published in the June Bulletin. They variously point out the architectural merits of the Alton Estate and the fact that many residents really appreciate living in what Sir Richard Rogers called "one of the best examples of public housing anywhere in the world".

They highlight the fact that architectural critics wrote that the Alton Estate reflected ambitions of its day and did so with a quality and panache that later mass housing almost uniformly failed to achieve. Nicolaus Pevsner described the Estate in the Architectural Review as being in the eighteenth-century English tradition of picturesque landscape. Much of the estate is now Grade II* listed by Historic England.

Two of our members living on the Alton estate (with experience of living in high rise, maisonettes and houses) were dismissive of the idea that the housing portrays a sense of penury and deprivation. They noted that they enjoy and appreciate the architecture and landscaping. One notes that the buildings remain, after 60 years, warm, comfortable and well-constructed homes, as they were at the time their first delighted tenants moved into them in the 1950s. His view of the proposed new designs from Redrow are "post-post modern Weetabix-box designs – banality in bricks".

We now wait for Redrow to submit their formal planning application – which the Buildings Panel will consider in detail. Until then this correspondence is closed.

Local Events

GET FIT THIS SUMMER
join the scrub clearing sessions on Wimbledon Common

Meet at the bike rack by the Windmill at 10.30am on the following Saturdays:

30th June, 28th July, 11th and 25th August, 8th and 29th September

Please email Peter Haldane on peter@wpcc.org.uk by the previous Wednesday to book a place.

MORE THAN JUST A LIBRARY!

Join a reading group (*including one for addicts of Crime Fiction*), try out the knot and knatter sessions to swap crochet and knitting skills or join Spanish classes. More information at <https://www.better.org.uk/library/london/wandsworth/putney-library/activities>

PULSE CHOIR

is a new choir based in Putney, in St Mary's Church.

Make some new friends, learn to sing and bring a bit of life back to your Thursday evenings. They sing a wide variety of music, from folk to jazz, gospel to pop and songs from many cultures, traditions and faiths. Suitable for the complete beginner or the more experienced singer.

No auditions, just turn up and join in. Join them for a free taster session. Spaces are limited, so please email: aaron@pulsechoir.com or call on 07533 315 696.

Answer from Community Panel is 119 outlets.