



The Bulletin

The amenity society for
Putney & Roehampton

January 2011

Next Members' Meeting

Wandsworth Museum, 38 West Hill (the former library)

Thursday 27th January at 7.30 pm

'Wandsworth Museum - Its Role in the Community'

The museum's beautiful new café will host our next Members' Meeting on the evening of Thursday 27th January, starting at 7.30 pm. **Ken Barbour**, the new Director, will speak about the Museum's collections, its education services, its plans for the future and its growing role in the community. Members and their guests will have free access to the Museum for the evening and the chance to ask Ken any questions they may have about its exhibits and its collections. 'Friends of Wandsworth Museum' (including Treasurer and Museum Trustee **Jonathan Callaway**) will be on hand to speak about their activities in support of the Museum - which, by the way, always welcomes volunteers.



Capacity will be restricted to 50 people, so please let Jonathan know in advance, and as soon as possible, if you wish to attend:

email: callahiljo1@btinternet.com mobile: 07768-907672

[Note that Jonathan's email address has changed from that given in the December Bulletin and that emails sent to the old address may not have been received. Please repeat if necessary.]

The meeting is for all Society members and friends. Refreshments available.

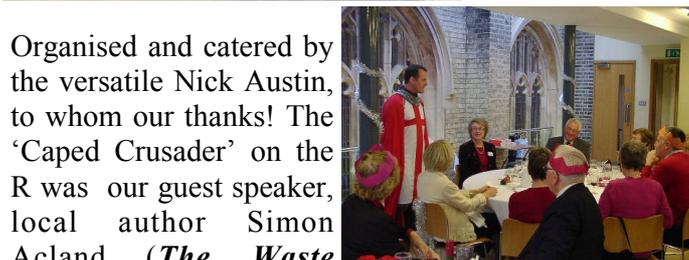
Members' Meeting, Thursday 24th February The Brewer Building, St Mary's Church Saving the Hedgehog

Britain's estimated 1M hedgehogs are facing a tough future. According to one study, 20 years could see the end of one of Beatrix Potter's, and our, favourite mammals. 25,000 die on the road each year and a decline of natural habitats has led to unequal turf wars with badgers and foxes. London's hedgehog population has declined by 40% in recent years; thousands are killed by gamekeepers. However, there is a dedicated band committed to saving the hedgehog, many operating under the umbrella of the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. Sue Kidger from Twickenham has personally saved over 1,000 injured hedgehogs and found many of them safe garden homes. She will be giving a talk on her work, bringing two of her prickly friends!

Christmas Lunch 2010



An excellent event, attended by some 55 members and guests, in the Brewer Building, on Saturday 11th December.



Organised and catered by the versatile Nick Austin, to whom our thanks! The 'Caped Crusader' on the R was our guest speaker, local author Simon Acland (*The Waste Land; Angels, Dragons & Vultures* - see page 4).

Forthcoming Events: dates for your diary

Friday	14 January, Thames Tunnel	Revised cut-off date for Phase 1 Consultation
Thursday	27 January, Members' Meeting	Wandsworth Museum (page 1)
Thursday	24 February, Members' Meeting	'Hedgehogs' (page 1)

NB: Consultations in Roehampton Library 18th Jan 2.30-4.30 & Putney Library 19th Jan 6.30-8.30 re proposed reductions in library opening hours and possible closures. HAVE YOUR SAY!

SOS! Despite some progress, this problem has not gone away and we still need volunteers/deputies in the areas of Transport, Open Spaces & Bulletin.

Your letters

The views expressed by members are the individual's own and not necessarily the views of the Society. As we may receive more letters than we have space for, letters should be concise. Long letters may have to be edited.

bulletin@putneysociety.org.uk
or philipevison@btinternet.com

Dear Sir,

Trees

I note that a number of mature trees have been cut down in Kingsmere Close and adjoining Weimar Street; all appear to be on private land. Two months since they were felled, there seems to be no effort so far to replace them. Is there any statutory requirement to do so?

Bob Bowmer, Felsham Road

Dear Sir,

Street Clutter

We are all, including the Council, against street clutter, especially in our already congested High Street. Could not the Society use its influence to get the two unused telephone boxes outside Lloyds Bank removed? None of them works, the bigger one, with BT's name on it, has not one but two kiosks, and neither even has a telephone! The other box, anonymous, has a phone, but it is unusable. Go to it, Putney Society! Stir it up at the Council and with BT. It would be great to have them removed by Christmas.

Richard Morgan, Charlwood Road

Thames Tunnel

At a public meeting in St Mary's Church on 9th December, Thames Water presented their plans for the Thames Tunnel project. They focused on their preferred choice of Barn Elms as the main construction site and the works required to divert the CSOs (Combined Sewer Overflows) at Beverley Brook and under Putney Bridge.

The project is necessary owing to the millions of tons of untreated sewage entering the river every year and to the potential (and growing) health hazards from this. Government has taken the decision, in principle, that the proposed scheme is the best way to address the problem but key concerns remain over cost (£3bn, or an estimated additional £60-70 per TW customer per year), value for money (only 30 of the 50 CSOs will be re-engineered) and detailed planning issues.

The large audience present was given the opportunity to put questions and express concerns about the project's implications for Putney. TW confirmed that the initial consultation exercise had been extended to 14th January, giving all of us more time to respond. Main issues:

1. Barn Elms Site

- The Barn Elms construction site would be in use for at least 7 years. It was clear there would be huge disruption to neighbouring residents (especially to the 1,500 living on the nearby Horne Way estate), to surrounding roads due to construction traffic, whichever exit route is chosen (either Lower Richmond Road or Rocks Lane), to users of the towpath and, not least, to river users, on the assumption that the planned jetty is built.
- Alternative sites considered but rejected include St Paul's playing fields and the brownfield site of Hammersmith Pumping Station.
- Apparently there are no brownfield sites available which do not already have planning permission - which would present cost and access problems - but TW were asked if they could use Tideway Walk (near Battersea Power Station) instead and they agreed that they would consider this.

2. The Putney Bridge and Beverley Brook CSOs

- Each involves a 2-year construction period and each raises concerns over construction traffic and disruption to local residents.
- It was unclear whether spoil from the Putney Bridge site could be removed by barge. The alternative is yet more heavy lorries on local roads, but TW were unclear on the extent of the impact on road traffic.
- We asked if we could expect anything in the context of Section 106 planning gain, e.g. could TW build a footpath/footbridge to connect the Embankment and Putney Wharf? No clear answer, but it will be considered.

TW stated that this was just the first phase of consultation and more detailed plans will be presented for the 2nd round in August-September 2011 - when the Society will hold a members' meeting with TW. Members are urged to respond by the 14th January deadline.

The Society recognises the need to clean up the Thames but has serious concerns over the choice of valuable green space for the main construction site. The Council has also queried the huge costs involved and the loss of green space, and has agreed to work with neighbouring councils to resist the choice of Barn Elms.



News from the Panels

Members are invited to attend panel meetings and raise issues they feel need to be discussed.

Buildings Panel

Convenor: John Horrocks (020 8789 2956)

A job well done!

Thank you to all those members who braved the bitter cold at the end of November to attend our Brewer Building meeting on the council’s new Local Development Framework documents, the Development Management Policies Document and the Site Specific Allocations Document - and, especially, to those who then sent their comments to the council. Our Chair, Carolyn McMillan, did an excellent job of drafting the Society’s response, incorporating the comments of Society members.

BP regular Patricia Poulter undertook a remarkably thorough review of the policy documents - a uniquely unmatched scrutiny, for which she deserves an award from the council! As expected, ‘tall buildings’ was the hot topic for everyone. The full text of the Society’s response to these impossibly complex documents can be found on our website. It is particularly unfortunate that the impenetrable nature of the consultation process meant that the majority of people were excluded. ‘Public participation in planning’ it was not! Perhaps ‘localism’ might be the answer?

Open Spaces Panel

Convenor: Hugh Thompson (020 8788 8771)

Big guns elsewhere are rightfully pointing at the effect the Thames Tunnel will have on open spaces by the river, on Barn Elms playing fields, and even Leaders Gardens and Lower Common. However, life goes on and in some form will go on, if and when they start building. The Friends of Barnes Common’s latest newsletter has an interesting piece about the car park next to Rocks Lane tennis courts. As the tennis centre has clamped down on unauthorised parking, ever more pressure has been put on this car park. Not least from the now almost annual visits by travellers and the daily use by commuters and dog-walking vans. All this has led to service vehicles and casual users having difficulty finding spaces. The FoBC are considering a height barrier to stop travellers but not all-day parkers; time restrictions would have to be enforced, which would need new by-laws. Since there is no simple solution, it may be that the best way forward is to close the car park with a barrier which could only be opened by those with a pass.

Community Panel - Renaissance!

Co-Convenor: Victoria Diamond (07746 022654)

We have been trying to find a new convenor for months but were unable to find anyone with time to devote to the wide remit of this panel. We are delighted to announce that we finally have a solution to the problem: three co-convenors who share responsibilities between them, taking one month on duty each! They are Victoria Diamond, Jonathan Howell and Maury Shenk. Between them, they hope to cover issues in health, policing, licensing, postal services, education, local independent traders, social care, promotion of local community spirit. This is a new format for Putney Society, but job-share may be the way forward, as people live ever busier lives. The first meeting will be this month (see below) and will usually take place on the second Wednesday each month. Let’s see how it works. We wish them success in their endeavours on the panel and welcome your views on the issues they should address.

Transport Panel

Convenor: Jonathan Callaway (07768 907672)

Formation of ‘Wandsworth Living Streets’

At an inaugural meeting on 8th November, a local group of ‘Living Streets’ was established. **Susie Morrow** was appointed as Chair and **Robert Molteno** as Secretary. Over 30 people were present, including local councillors from both Conservative and Labour parties. The purpose is to work towards safe, attractive and enjoyable streets in our borough. The charity is already active in e.g. supporting borough-wide 20 mph speed limits in built-up areas (an aim very much supported by the Putney Society Transport Panel) and opposing TfL’s recent proposal to remove a number of traffic light-controlled pedestrian crossings in the borough to “facilitate traffic flow”. The Council has since confirmed that all these crossings will remain in situ.

The group will also support our efforts to make Putney High Street more people-friendly and less polluted than at present. Another initiative Living Streets will support is the Mayor of London’s ‘Year of Walking 2011’. They will seek to ensure that our Council provides positive support for the campaign and propose a range of actions, including temporary road closures, the creation of more pedestrianised streets and restrictions on car parking on pavements. The charity’s next meeting will be on Monday 17th Jan. at a location in Wandsworth to be decided. To join their mailing list, phone 0207 223 0408 or email Sue or Robert:

sem@semorrow.com or Robert.molteno@googlemail.com

NEXT PANEL MEETINGS				
Buildings	Jan 13	Thursday	21 Pentlow Street	7.30 pm
	Feb 10	Thursday	71 Festing Road	7.30 pm
Transport	Jan 11	Tuesday	10 Luttrell Avenue	7.30 pm
	Feb 8	Tuesday	to be confirmed	7.30 pm
Open Spaces	Feb 3	Thursday	54 Festing Road	8.15 pm
	Mar 3	Thursday	54 Festing Road	8.15 pm
Community	Jan 12	Wednesday	4 Norroy Road	8.15 pm
	Feb 9	Wednesday	66 Disraeli Road	8.15 pm



Local Author Outsell Dan Brown!

The Waste Land by local author **Simon Acland**, guest speaker at our Xmas lunch last year, was Waterstones' best-seller in The Exchange on Saturday 24th July last year, outselling even Dan Brown's latest blockbuster, as



the author signed copies of his book, wearing Crusader costume, in line with its historical setting! "My novel is an adventure story but also has a sense of humour. I wanted to reflect that in my costume for the book signing," said Simon. "Some modern novels perhaps take themselves too seriously. Mine is subtitled 'An Entertainment' for good reason. I

was delighted by my reception and I hope to repeat the exercise in other local bookshops."

The Waste Land, published by Charlwood Books on 10th June 2010, chronicles the adventures of Hugh de Verdon, monk turned knight, during the extraordinary events of the First Crusade. He journeys from the Benedictine monastery of Cluny to Constantinople, Antioch and Jerusalem, encounters the Assassins, has a personal epiphany, and finally discovers the 'truth' behind the Holy Grail.

His latest book, *Angels, Dragons & Vultures*, published by Nicholas Brealey Publishers on 21st October 2010, is a practical guide for prospective entrepreneurs, based on his 20+ years' experience in the field of venture capital. [Simon is related to the Valentine family - see 'Putney Railway Garden' item in the December Bulletin - being Shirley Valentine's son-in-law.]

Do you remember the Festival of Britain?

Wandsworth Heritage Group is collecting oral history memories of Battersea Park, particularly relating to The Festival of Britain in 1951. Were you involved in the building or creation of any of the elements of The Pleasure Gardens? Did you have any interesting encounters there? Maybe you have a romantic story to tell? The group aims to use these memories as part of a borough-wide project and exhibition at Wandsworth Museum. In addition, the theatre company *Peopleshaw* is working with the group, and will be mounting a show at the Pump House Gallery in May 2011 on the history of Battersea Park, as part of the Wandsworth Arts Festival. Please contact Sue Rolfe ASAP if you have any memories to share:

sue.rolfe@fsmail.net or 07960-097370

Photographic Competition

We invite you to submit a recent photograph (just one per entrant) taken by you in Putney or Roehampton, the winner being that judged to best embody, in the widest sense, the spirit of the borough, or of the season. Email digital photos to the 'bulletin' address on p.2 (file-size ideally no larger than 2 Meg) or post or deliver prints to the Chair, at the address below. We regret that prints cannot be returned.

Closing date end March 2011. Entries will be judged by a small panel, including Andrew Wilson, and the winner will receive copies of his wonderful books of photographs - *Wild in the City* (Putney, Barnes & Richmond) and *Wild about the Thames* (the Thames from Battersea Park to Hampton Court) - also available in Smiths, Waterstones etc. Plus an A3 print of a selected photograph from the above books. We will also hold an exhibition of the best entries and, of course, feature the winner in the Bulletin.

Putney Christmas Market

Local organisations braved the cold to man stalls at the annual Church Square Christmas Market organised by the Town Centre Partnership, on Friday 3rd December last year, and featuring local children's choirs and the switching on of the lights by local pop group 'X-X'. The Putney Society stall featured local artists, including Dick Bates, pictured above R with two of his works ...



... and on the subject of art (& the PSAD)

The Society provided five of the thirteen prizes awarded at the **Putney School of Art & Design's** annual exhibition at their recently refurbished premises in Oxford Road. These were presented at their Christmas party on 4th December last and the winners of the £30 Putney Society prizes were: **Charlotte Anand** for Digital Photography; **Cordelia Ellis** for Etching; **Fatemah Hadidi** (who recently joined the Society!) for Life Drawing; **Michi Collis** for Painting in Watercolour; and **Jill Hopper** for Portraiture. Well done to them and the winners in the other categories: **Jessica Arah, Fozia Khan, Sally Shillito, Tomas Marcevicus, Steffie Garcia, Isabel Courtenay, Rouhi Peck & Mary Algar.**

We welcome the following new members:

Simon Acland, Charlwood Road; **Raymond Barker**, Rotherwood Road; **Fatemah Hadidi Behnoud**, Wessex Ct; **Robert Cross**, Lower Richmond Rd; **Anne Maud Parker**, Westhorpe Rd; **Richard Thomas**, Brewhouse Lane.

Putney Society Officers:

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