



# The Bulletin

June 2018



## Report back on plans for Putney High Street

The High Street is the one part of Putney we all share, and sometimes despair. On Monday 25 June we have a great triple bill to update you on recent and upcoming developments here.

The council have now voted funds for improvements to the pavements and more. Wandsworth's Nick O'Donnell will return to explain what is planned. Nicola Grant from 'Positively Putney' will talk about the work of our Business Improvement District (BID) and the commercial outlook for our shops. And Dr Richard Carter will report on the results of the



Society's latest 'Citizen Science' monitoring of air pollution in and around the Town Centre. Have the new hybrid buses done all we hoped?

Monday 25 June, 7.30 pm at the Community Church on Werter Road (opposite Sainsbury's).

## GDPR - General Data Protection Regulation

Many of you will have received communications from businesses, charities and other organisations advising you of the new GDPR which come into effect on 25 May. In some cases you will have been asked to confirm that you are happy for your personal data (e.g. postal address or email address) to be used in the future by the organisation concerned. The Putney Society has been advised that as you are existing members of the Society we do not need to ask for your confirmation in this way as we only use personal data to provide the benefits of membership e.g. sending you the Bulletin or alerting you to Society events.

However we will now explicitly inform new members as to how the Society uses personal data and we have taken the opportunity to post our updated Privacy Policy on the Society website.

## Wandsworth Heritage Festival

**Guided walk: Putney Lower Common: understanding its history - organised by the Putney Society**

**Thursday 7 June at 10.30am**

Peter Haldane, the Wimbledon & Putney Commons Conservators' Conservation & Engagement Officer, will lead this walk, explaining how the Common has developed from the days when it belonged to the Lord of the Manor, Lord Spencer.

Meet on the Lower Richmond Road at the junction with

Comondale - by the 22 bus stop. No booking required for this free event.

The festival continues until 10th June – the full programme is available on our website <http://www.putneysociety.org.uk/events/wandsworth-heritage-festival-2018.html>



**Some Members may be aware that South Western Railways has finally agreed to our request that a defibrillator be housed in Putney Station, but have left it up to the Society to source and fund it.**

A local charity, DiPPS (Defibrillators in Public Places), has very generously agreed to donate a defibrillator and the Society will fund a cabinet to house it in. We are currently in discussions with SWR to satisfy any further requirements they have, but hopefully we will shortly be in a position to have one installed.

Nearly 9 million passenger journeys begin or end at the station so having a defibrillator in place will meet a real community need.

Following the February Members Meeting with SWR, Network Rail has confirmed that there will be no work on the temporary structure on Platform One which was put up to strengthen the supporting wall, before the next funding round in 2019-2024.

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



**People often refer to “leafy Putney” – but how much do we know about our street trees?** Inspired by Paul Wood’s recently published “London’s Street Trees” we are planning to create street tree trails in Putney and in Roehampton. These walks will be designed to show the diversity and splendour of our urban forest – but we need your help. We would like you to nominate your favourite street trees (or those in other public spaces). It could be a particularly magnificent

specimen of the widely planted London Plane – or a less common, but interesting tree. Perhaps we could include hawthorns or the magnificent hybrid black poplar? Email your nominations to judith.chegwidden@gmail.com. We have also asked local tree wardens to nominate their favourites.

Many thanks to those who donated tools for the Putney Community Gardens. When I delivered the tools in mid-May I was delighted to see that their newly planted community orchard was thriving – to the extent that a tiny almond tree had produced one furry nut.

The decision by Network Rail to clear all trees within 6.5 metres of the track is very concerning. In Putney these trees form a vital green lung and screen the railway from neighbouring houses. The move to halt the programme until the end of the nesting season is welcome but more needs to be done and we have asked Wandsworth Council to protect the best specimens by means of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).

**Open Spaces Panel**  
**Convenor:**  
 Judith Chegwidden  
 020 8788 4489  
 judith.chegwidden@gmail.com

**FUTURE PANEL MEETINGS**

All members welcome  
[www.putneysociety.org.uk](http://www.putneysociety.org.uk)

**COMMUNITY:**  
 4 June, 12 July  
 at 6 Norroy Road,  
 SW15 1PF (18.30)  
**Convenor:**  
 Vicky Diamond  
 vickysw15@aol.com  
 T:07746 022654

**TRANSPORT:**  
 12 June, 10 July  
 at 46 Disraeli  
 Road, SW15 2DS (19.30)  
**Convenor:**  
 Stephen Luxford  
 stephen.luxford@nao.gsi.gov.uk

**BUILDINGS:**  
 6 June, 4 July  
 at 154 Putney High Street,  
 SW15 1RS (19.00)  
**Convenor:**  
 Andrew Catto  
 ac@andrewcatto.co.uk

**OPEN SPACES:**  
 7 June, 2 August  
 (no meeting in July)  
 at 28 Howards Lane,  
 SW15 6NQ (19.00)  
**Convenor:**  
 Judith Chegwidden  
 judith.chegwidden@gmail.com  
 T: 020 8788 4489

**It's all quiet on the High Street (for now) and we won't get to see the latest scheme for the Alton estate until after this bulletin is published, which gives me a chance to explain how the Buildings Panel works.**

Our main role is to respond to planning applications big and small that might affect Putney. Every year Wandsworth process 6,000 to 7,000 planning applications. That's perhaps 120 each month in Putney and Roehampton, which is why a monthly panel may not respond to your neighbour's extension. But we do read all the lists of applications, and those you bring to our attention, discuss about half a dozen a month and write to the council on about half of these.

These may be huge developments in the town centre or tiny changes that could set a bad example, like over-large roofs that disrupt the street scene, increasing street clutter from advertising masquerading as new 'phone boxes, or even, recently, a simple shelf designed to encourage café users to stand where they block the pavement and late opening food outlets. Increasingly developers are coming to talk to us before finalising their ideas, which is a welcome sign that we have something worthwhile to say on your behalf.

Whether a scheme gets planning permission depends on it meeting planning policies driven by a mix of

political aspirations for growth and a natural desire to conserve what matters. Whether local, London or national, policies are forever being revised and we try to respond with Putney's point of view to all the important changes. Last year it was the London Plan, this year the National Policy Framework.

And of course not everything that gets built is permitted. We're on first name terms with the Council's enforcement team, chasing what should have been done (so that at last the promised trees bloom outside Tileman House) as much as what should not, like ugly new walls in Conservation Areas and depressing shutters. But we still can't persuade Wandsworth to clamp down on the ever more numerous 'A' boards outside our shops.

We are fortunate to have two architects, a retired planner, and heritage experts as regular panel attendees, but this runs the risk of seeing things through professional eyes, so it's great that we also have Putney and Roehampton residents – maybe you too soon? – to ensure we reflect a wider view. Do join us one month (first Wednesday, 7.00 pm).

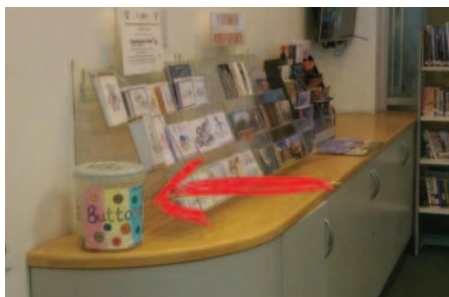
## Buildings Panel

**Convenor:**

Andrew Catto  
ac@andrewcatto.co.uk  
020 8785 0077

**The police report that there's been a dramatic drop in theft from motor vehicles in Thamesfield Ward.**

This was due to a six week effort, with a special team of officers, some 'borrowed' from other wards, which was highly successful, with 29 people arrested, two proving responsible for at least 40% of thefts. They are currently behind bars. The police ask us not to be complacent and not to leave anything visible or



otherwise in our vehicles.

We've been looking for items which cannot go in the normal recycling, but

can be collected and used by other groups. The first item is..... BUTTONS! Many people have button boxes, but don't ever use the buttons. Putney Library has kindly agreed to have a small button collection container, on the counter on the left hand side near the library entrance. The buttons will be passed to the Work and Play Store ([www.workandplayscrapstore.org.uk](http://www.workandplayscrapstore.org.uk)) who will pass them on to sewing groups and the like. They collect a VAST array of items, so it's worth checking their website to see if you have things you could donate to them.

## Community Panel

**Convenors:**

Victoria Diamond  
Vickysw15@aol.com  
Val Jones  
jones.val@gmail.com

## PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

See website for full details:  
[www.putneysociety.org.uk](http://www.putneysociety.org.uk)

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# Roehampton Garden Society **SUMMER SHOW**

**Saturday 16th JUNE 2018**  
**at St Margaret's Church**  
**Hall Putney Park Lane,**  
**SW15 5HU**

**Doors open at 3pm.**

Exhibits cleared at 4.30,  
followed by auction of  
produce.



-  See the prize-winning vegetables,  
fruits and flowers grown by local gardeners.
-  Buy home-made jams, seedlings  
and seasonal produce.
-  Enjoy tea and home-made cakes.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

In the most recent bulletin, there is a request for comments on the Alton West redevelopment.

I am happy to respond to that- my view, which I believe is shared by many Putney (and Roehampton) residents, is that the Alton estate should be demolished and rebuilt with tasteful architecture befitting the stunning surroundings of Roehampton and Richmond Park.

It is a great shame that these oblong buildings were given planning permission in the first place, but the same can be said for many Le Corbusier inspired buildings. There was a stark choice facing planners at the time- a necessity for lots of new housing after the war and very little funding, so the need for cheap and basic housing was put ahead of architectural concerns. The buildings were clearly cheap to build, as they had to be in the post-war period, and portray a sense of deprivation and penury, reflecting the hardships faced by society in the 1950s, when rationing was still in place of course. There is no place for them in modern Britain. There is particularly no place for them in Richmond Park.

I made similar comments to Putney Society around the time of the attempted listing of Allbrook House in 2015, which was a mistake in my opinion. Now there is a wonderful opportunity offered by Redrow to redevelop the Alton Estate.

Kind regards

L. Waterston

We have received a letter expressing similar views from a resident of the Alton Estate.

## Dates for your Diary



### Roehampton regeneration

opportunity to look at the latest plans for  
the Alton West Estate

**Wednesday 6 June**

drop-in between 3pm and 8pm

**Saturday 9 June**

drop-in between 10am and 5pm

Roehampton Parish Hall (Cornerstone) on  
the corner of Roehampton Lane  
and Alton Road.

### BioBlitz on Wimbledon Common

a fantastic weekend of nature!

**23 June pm and 24 June am**

meet at the Ranger's Office

Join local volunteer experts and Wimbledon  
and Putney Commons staff for some  
fascinating walks to learn about the flora and  
fauna of the Commons. The provisional  
programme, including bird walks, working  
with moth traps and small mammal trapping  
is available at

<https://www.wpcc.org.uk/things-to-do/events/profile/bioblitz-weekend-of-nature>

## COMING UP IN JULY

We now have the results of our latest  
Citizen Science exercise to measure NO2  
levels in Putney. Full details will be  
published in the July Bulletin, but the  
results indicate a significant reduction in  
pollution levels since 2016, although they  
are still well above the legal maximum.



Just as we were going to press, we  
celebrated the unveiling of the Putney  
Society's ninth Blue Plaque – there will be a  
full account next month – in the meantime  
see if you can find the location!