



# The Bulletin

November 2018



## Learn more about the Bird Life of Richmond Park

**Monday 26 November, 7.30pm, Lower Hall, the Community Church, Werter Road, SW15 2LL**

Peter Burrows-Smith, former Friends of Richmond Park trustee and currently Chair of the Bird Group, will be giving an illustrated talk on the "Birds of Richmond Park". He will be providing a comprehensive overview of the wide range of birds regularly seen in the park including the unwelcome (to some) 1960s addition, the ring-necked parakeet.

Richmond Park is an ancient parkland with an area of almost 2,500 acres (1,000 hectares) comprising diverse habitats such as ancient trees and decaying wood, grasslands, bracken, wetlands and waterbodies (including the Pen Ponds). Consequently, it attracts a wide variety of birds, both resident and migrating. Around



144 species of birds have been recorded over the last 10 years of which 63 are breeding species, including all three native woodpeckers, kestrels and owls and, of course, the beautiful male stonechat (illustrated).

As with all open spaces, there are conflicts between the wildlife and some users. The latest edition of the Bulletin of the Friends of Richmond Park details a horrific story of a dog attack on a group of young cygnets. Dogs can also be a threat to ground nesting birds. For those who are enthused by the birds of Richmond Park or indeed any other aspect of its diverse nature or fascinating history, membership of the Friends of Richmond Park costs only £10 for a year for individual membership and £15 for a household. More details at website: <http://www.frp.org.uk/>

## Feedback needed

### This is important!

Over the last year our social secretary has struggled to find sufficient numbers for visits to places of interest around London. Organising these events takes a lot of care and time so we now have to question in what form or indeed whether these should continue. Other local societies organise short walks/rambles to places of historic or environmental interest in their respective patches. Some organise a short ramble followed by coffee or lunch.

Or perhaps we are simply selecting the wrong venues to visit? It is interesting that the trip to Fulham Football Club was well attended while a personal tour of the British Library was not. Is this because FFC was local and easy to get to?

Please let us know what you think as we want to organise events that appeal to a wide spectrum of our membership.

Please email [chair@putneysociety.org.uk](mailto:chair@putneysociety.org.uk) with your ideas.

## Integrated Health and Social Care

At the recent well-attended Putney Society meeting on "Integrated Health and Social Care", the three speakers: Sandy Keen, Wandsworth Clinical Commissioning Group, Sydney Hill, Wandsworth Adult Services and Sarah Wright, Wandsworth Community Adult Health Services, gave a joint presentation describing the new integrated approach for providing health and social care in Putney and Roehampton. Most importantly, the speakers identified the real problems in the provision of health and social care:

- Under the Care Act (2014) local authorities must provide preventative services with the objective of reducing the need for hospital care and maintaining independence.
- Government Targets: Political and financial pressure to keep older people out of hospital and promote independence in their own homes.
- Ageing Population: A growing number of people in need of support, with complex health and care needs.

There was a very interesting 45-minute question and answer session which explored many aspects of the provision and quality of services. Several of the audience asked how the public could more easily discover and gain access to the services offered; for example those without computers, hard of hearing or who lived alone and whether there would be true integration between different provider groups.

The speakers explained the current processes and said that, as the new arrangements were still "work in progress", they welcomed any feedback on the challenges and successes of the services.

The presentation is available on the Putney Society website at [www.putneysociety.org.uk](http://www.putneysociety.org.uk).

[Editor's note: Those with a long memory will recall that the need for integration of health and social care has been on the agenda before. Richard Crossman was appointed by Harold Wilson as Secretary of State for Health and Social Security in 1968. The Department of Stealth and Total Obscurity, as it came to be known, was abolished in 1988.]

Recently I reported that we had opposed an application for a new billboard masquerading as a telephone box which would add to the clutter on the Upper Richmond Road. This was one of a second wave proposed under an outdated law that gives effectively anyone the right to place a public telephone on public land. The good news is that Wandsworth Council has this week refused this, as well as at least three others, as they did with the first batch. Undaunted, the same firm is now back with dozens more applications, one just 20 yards from the one refused. Well done Wandsworth, but why should we face this onslaught of the unwanted? Surely it is time for a change in the law.

The far more wide-spread clutter from 'A' boards outside shops, mentioned last month, has now been taken up by the Society's Executive which will be contacting Nick O'Donnell at Wandsworth, seeking action to reduce or remove these. Many of you will remember Mr O'Donnell's excellent presentation earlier in the year on the Council's plans and real budget for upgrading our High Street pavements. Here's an effortless way to get extra pavement space.

Early next year Wandsworth Council will be starting the lengthy process of updating its Local Plan, starting with a 'call for issues', in other words topics that the public – you – feel the current plan has missed or gets wrong. We have already identified basements as one topic. We know that residents dislike the disruption they bring (but so does building upwards)

and their potential to disrupt old watercourses, perhaps causing some neighbours' cellars to flood. Current policy assumes they will happen and is interested only in keeping part of the front garden. Should Wandsworth go further next time, as already happens in some other boroughs? Should the Society take a stand on this?

Another topic may be the balance in our High Street. With declining demand for actual shops, should the council continue to limit the number of High Street shops converting to banks, coffee shops and suchlike? We are already campaigning for retention of small office suites, Wandsworth has brought in a "Direction" to limit losses of these in the town centre, and we have been encouraged to note that several recent developments outside the town centre now include business use.

Finally, a sign that our voice can be heard. Roehampton University's contractors proposed to erect a very big fenced enclosure to hide some large rubbish containers. This would have been in plain view right by the access to the Grade I listed 18th century Mount Clare house. At the time of writing, The Putney Society has provided the only comment, but the University has been in touch to say they will now reconsider. Thank you, Roehampton University.

**Buildings Panel**  
**Convenor:**  
 Andrew Catto  
 ac@andrewcatto.co.uk  
 020 8785 0077

Regular readers will appreciate patience is a virtue when it comes to tackling local transport matters.

Trains - The continuing campaign to install a defibrillator at Putney mainline station edges closer to success. DiPPS (Defibrillators in Public Places), a charity well worth supporting, has kindly funded and had delivered to them a defibrillator for the station. We now await news from South Western Railway on when and where it will be fitted.

Meanwhile the continuing problem of frequent last-minute platform changes at the station, which particularly affects those with limited mobility, persists. The Society has raised it on several occasions with SWR and its predecessors and also with local councillors. A difficulty lies in that an operational decision might not be made until a train is within the Barnes area. Clearer communication appears to be the key and SWR tell us they are investing in a new customer information system which will give passengers more time to react should there be a platform change.

Buses – TfL is currently consulting on route changes, within central London, to the 14 & 22 services. I suggest you check their consultation changes in case it affects your journeys. Closer to home, I am in correspondence with TfL as to when it plans to fix the bus indicator outside Putney Station for routes 14 and others. It took constant cajoling for nearly two years to

get them to install a Countdown indicator there a short while ago and it is already out of action.

Putney High Street improvements - We hope to bring you an update in the next Bulletin of when we might expect to see the first of the Council's planned improvements.

20 mph zones – In the spring of 2017 the Council introduced 20 mph throughout the purely residential streets of the borough since there is overwhelming evidence that a reduction from 30mph to 20mph reduces the number of deaths and severity of injuries on these roads. The only exclusions are TfL roads designated as red routes, other main roads classified as 'A' or 'B' roads and private roads. In the main most cars observe the limit and the Council has purchased two more radar guns to help the police enforce the rules. The Council runs 'Community road-watch' events where the police mount a special exercise to track the speed of vehicles on a nominated road, often with local observers. The Society observed a successful pilot event last year in a road off Putney Hill. If you are interested in a 'road-watch event' near you then you should contact your local councillor who should be able to arrange one.

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

**FUTURE PANEL MEETINGS**

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

**COMMUNITY:**  
**8 Nov., 13 Dec.**  
 at 41 Norroy Road,  
 SW15 1PF (18.30)  
**Co-convenors:**  
 Vicky Diamond  
 & Val Jones  
 vickysw15@aol.co.uk,  
 jones.val@gmail.com  
 T: 07746 022654

**TRANSPORT:**  
**13 Nov., 11 Dec.**  
 at 46 Disraeli  
 Road, SW15 2DS (19.30)  
**Convenor:**  
 Stephen Luxford  
 stephen.luxford@nao.gsi.gov.uk

**BUILDINGS:**  
**7 Nov., 5 Dec.**  
 at 154 Putney High Street,  
 SW15 1RS (19.00)  
**Convenor:**  
 Andrew Catto  
 ac@andrewcatto.co.uk

**OPEN SPACES:**  
**1 Nov., 6 Dec.**  
 at 28 Howards Lane,  
 SW15 6NQ (19.00)  
**Convenor:**  
 Judith Chegwidan  
 judith.chegwidan@gmail.com  
 T: 020 8788 4489

**The Discount Scheme** has a new and rather interesting member, **The Sampler Wine Shop**, situated next to Putney Station. This wine merchant offers the facility to taste before you buy. The process is this: buy a card for, say £10, put the card in a slot, select a wine, take delivery of the sample and drink. Repeat the process until the card is exhausted; the number of samples depends on the price of the wine chosen. Those that take your fancy are available to purchase with 10% discount from the Putney Society Discount Scheme card, but



not in conjunction with other offers. The sampler card is not discounted. The wines are all from small independent vineyards and there is a considerable range on offer.

**The Integrated Health and Social Care Meeting**, which was organised by

the Community Panel, was a great success and is reported elsewhere in this Bulletin.

**How to access Wandsworth Community Adult Health Services:**

**Existing patients:** This number is for patients already known to the services: 0333 300 0950

**New Patients:** You need to go to your GP for a referral. Once you're in the system it's much easier to navigate the services on offer.

For complaints, concerns or to give a compliment: 0800 368 0412

**How to access Wandsworth Adult Social Services:**

Wandsworth Access Team: 0208 871 7707 or [accessteam@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:accessteam@wandsworth.gov.uk)

For complaints, concerns or to give a compliment: 0800 023 2011.

## Community Panel

**Co-convenors:**

Victoria Diamond  
& Val Jones

[Vickysw15@aol.com](mailto:Vickysw15@aol.com)  
[jones.val@gmail.com](mailto:jones.val@gmail.com)

07746 022654

The panel is very concerned about the works being carried out in Putney Park Lane and we have written to council officers and local West Putney councillors to express the Society's reservations. In this we have joined with the Dover House Road Residents' Association. The appearance of the works does not respect the rural character of the Lane and its historic significance. The excessive use of granite kerbs, particularly on the western side of the Lane where they have been laid in a double height row, has introduced an inappropriate 'engineered' feature quite out of keeping with the nature of the Lane. The works do not preserve and enhance the character and appearance of the conservation area of which the Lane forms a part.

We understand the objective to limit parking on the grass verges but there are many less intrusive ways in which this could have been done, including the use of appropriately weathered wooden bollards. The changes being made to the Lane have introduced an urban feel which has completely

altered the appearance of the northern end.

A further erosion of the rural feel has occurred with the widening of the road around part of the north-western aspect of The Pleasance although this may be justified as an attempt to keep delivery vans off the grass.

Wandsworth Council's recent decision to increase the spot fines for litter louts is welcome. The maximum fine is to be increased from £100 to £150. But most problems are solved using a carrot and stick approach so perhaps the council will also consider replacing the litter bins that were removed from many Putney streets? The existing fines do not seem to have done anything to encourage people to take their litter home judging by the detritus around many of our bus stops. Who will be policing Putney Heath and Tibbetts Ride to reduce the level of littering?

## Open Spaces Panel

**Convenor:**

Judith Chegwidden  
020 8788 4489  
[judith.chegwidden@gmail.com](mailto:judith.chegwidden@gmail.com)

## PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

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## Bags of Taste...

Is one of the many initiatives to spring out of ten years of austerity. It is driven by the facts that one in four low income families struggle to eat regularly and that cheap ready meals may assuage hunger but provide poor nutrition; this fuels obesity, thereby exacerbating health and financial problems. Bringing about dietary change is a complex problem and simple solutions don't work. Bags of taste has developed a multi-layered intervention that addresses issues of motivation, confidence, lack of financial resource, the sourcing of good, cost effective ingredients and lack of skills and equipment. It also uses aspects of behavioural economics to encourage and

motivate participants to make the healthier choices that will long term affect their daily diets.

Bags of Taste offers classes that are hands-on, with everyone learning to cook two new delicious, healthy recipes every week, each of which costs less than £1 to make at home.

The classes are free and the next scheduled series of classes will be held each Monday, beginning **Nov 19 to Dec 10** at The Yard, 401-403 Tildesley Road, Putney SW15 3BD.

More information at:  
<http://www.bagsoftaste.org/>

## Putney Tidy Towpath...

is a group of local volunteers who have decided to clear litter from the towpath, embankment and foreshore from Putney Bridge to Queen Elizabeth Walk. We are unable to access the foreshore until we get training from Thames21 for insurance purposes. The Port of London Authority will then allow us on to the foreshore. We plan 2 clear-ups a month: one weekday and one weekend day with times determined by the tides. We have a

Facebook page and a Twitter account and hope that the volunteers will grow in numbers steadily.

**November's clear-ups are 8th (10.00-12.00) and 25th (10.30-12.30).** The dates are based upon high tides in Putney.

If any member wishes to join a clear-up, we ask they email [putneytt@outlook.com](mailto:putneytt@outlook.com) so we can ensure we have enough equipment.

## Wimbledon and Putney Commons

The charity is conducting a survey of the Commons on who uses the commons and why. There are two surveys and only the long one has specific questions that relate to Putney Common. It can be accessed at:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VisitorSurveyPLC>.

Given the controversies that have dogged Putney Common in recent years, readers may wish to complete the survey.

On November 11, WPCC is organising an event to mark the end of the carnage of WWI and to promote peace around the world. Walks to the Windmill begin at 18.00 from Roehampton and Wimbledon War Memorials. More details can be found on the WPCC website:  
<https://www.wpcc.org.uk/>

## LOCAL EVENTS

If you have an event you would like us to list please contact: [chair@putneysociety.org.uk](mailto:chair@putneysociety.org.uk)

### DOVER HOUSE SINGERS

**Wed, 7 November, 19:30 – 21:30**

St Margaret's Church, Putney Park Lane, SW15 5HU

The Dover House Singers is a non-auditioned choir of about 30 singers, led by new conductor Carl Speck. They sing all styles including classical, folk, world and popular music. There is no requirement to read music, just a love for singing with others. If you are interested in joining, simply turn up at a rehearsal (no charge for the first time). Every Wednesday (term times only). Cost: £6 per rehearsal  
[www.doverhousesingers.co.uk](http://www.doverhousesingers.co.uk)

[Editor's note: Making music exercises the brain and the body; singing is particularly good for improving breathing, posture and muscle tension. Listening to and participating in music is effective in pain relief, probably due to the release of neurochemicals such as  $\beta$ -endorphin. Music may also help to sustain a healthy immune system by reducing the stress hormone cortisol and boosting Immunoglobulin A.]

### STATIC SATURDAY

**From Saturday, November 17 to Monday 19 November** gas works are planned on the Upper Richmond Road to the west of Putney Cross. Additional confusion on the Saturday will be secured by an international rugby match at Twickenham and a strike on SWR.

### MUSIC BY THE BRIDGE

**Sunday, 25 November, 19:15 – 20:00**

St Mary's Church, Putney High St, SW15 1SN  
Travis Baker, Director of Music, St Mary's Putney  
Tickets cost £5 on the door.

Putney Pantry will be open to serve drinks and food. For further information please contact St Mary's Parish Office: [Julie.Craig@parishofputney.co.uk](mailto:Julie.Craig@parishofputney.co.uk) or tel: 0208 394 6061

### POSITIVELY PUTNEY CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON 2018

St Mary's Church Square, Putney High St, London SW15 1SN

**Friday November 30, 2018 15:00-20:00**

Annual light switch-on with performances from local schools and drama groups on a live stage compered by Wandsworth Radio. Plus street food, craft and gift stalls, children's rides and slides and a Christmas Tree forest.

### PUTNEY SOCIETY NEW YEAR'S LUNCH

**Saturday January 12** at HomeSW15, 146 Upper Richmond Road, SW15 2SW

### WANDSWORTH HERITAGE FESTIVAL

**May 25 to June 9, 2019.** The topic for this festival will be "Entertainment in Wandsworth", a subject chosen for its relevance to all ages and interests.