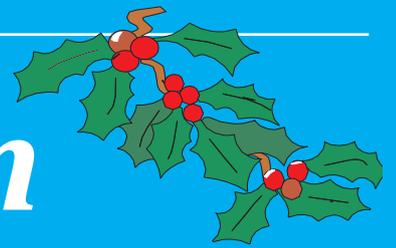




The Bulletin

December 2019



Meet the local candidates for the General Election 2019

The Putney Society election hustings will take place on Tuesday 3 December at 7.30pm in the Community Church, Werter Road, SW15 2LL.

All four parliamentary candidates for the Putney, Roehampton and Southfields constituency will be attending:

- Will Sweet (Conservative)
- Fleur Anderson (Labour)
- Sue Wixley (Liberal Democrats)
- Fergal McEntee (Green Party)

The format will allow each candidate to speak for 5 minutes, followed by a question and answer session. Members can submit topics for questions in advance by emailing



hustingtopic@putneysociety.org.uk. The meeting is open to all so please do bring along your friends and neighbours. These events are well attended so if you want to sit in the body of the hall, rather than the upper gallery, we advise you to get there with some time to spare.

Invitation to members: join us for New Year drinks at the Kings Head, Roehampton

We are having an informal evening drinks party in the New Year. Do come and meet your Committee and other members of the Putney Society in this cosy pub (plenty of seating if required in the space we have reserved). New members will find this a good opportunity to get to know us better.

Date: Thursday, 16 January, 2020

Time: 6.30 to 8pm

Venue: The Kings Head, 1 Roehampton High St, SW15 4HL. Easily reached by 85 or 430 buses from Putney High Street. Limited parking.

Cost: £16.50 per head for a welcome drink and canapés. There's a pay bar if you want more to drink or eat.



Payment: RSVP to Carolyn McMillan (secretary@putneysociety.org.uk) and she will send you bank transfer details or, if you prefer, RSVP and send a cheque, payable to The Putney Society, to the Secretary, Putney Society, 38 Disraeli Road, London SW15 2DS. Deadline for receipt of payment: 3 January 2020.



Christmas Fayre in the Upper Richmond Road

The traders in the Upper Richmond Road – with the support of Positively Putney – are organising a special event on Sunday 15 December from 11am to 3pm. Traders will be moving onto their forecourts to showcase their Christmas offerings. The Putney Society will be joining them, so do come along and meet some of the Society's Executive in our gazebo.



SPECIAL OFFER AVAILABLE NOW

Putney Hardware Store is offering all Putney Society members 15% off the price of a Christmas tree. They are available now from their shop at 290A Upper Richmond Road, SW15 6TH. The discount only applies if you show your Member's discount card.

Buildings Panel

Co-convenor: Andrew Catto
ac@andrewcatto.co.uk 020 8785 0077

One unexpected result of the December election almost upon us is that Wandsworth has cancelled the December Planning Applications Committee - due on the 12th - to make way for the count that evening. To most, the extra delays in the planning system that this will cause won't matter. Planning application numbers continue to fall until there is some certainty about the future. Committee-ready cases and response times are falling further behind due to an ever more obvious lack of staff in the planning department, including no head of planning. How do I explain to couples eager to move that their house will have to stay empty a month longer? Also delayed will be any decision on the demolition of the heart of the Alton Estate.

Perhaps this ties in with a trend we have been noticing for decisions that matter to Putney to be taken away from public scrutiny. Earlier in the year many of you objected to the proposal for a bar to be built on the rooftop car park of the Putney Exchange. The Committee gave it consent but with lots of conditions. The original application wrongly described it as planning class 'A3', which covers cafes and restaurants and one of

those conditions limited the use to this. But in November that condition was removed without consultation as a 'minor' variation. Also in November Wandsworth, fresh from declaring a climate emergency, passed, again without publicity, the Tree Assessment for the B&Q site on Swandon Way. All 26 mature trees were cleared the next day. More variations amounting to dozens of extra flats are now going through the same process.

Newly 'environment conscious' Wandsworth also continue to approve installation of PVC windows across our conservation areas, despite knowing that, as well as eroding the character of the Putney we love, these will barely last long enough to 'save' the energy used in their making.

But there is some good news. A proposal for illuminated billboards on the Tibbetts Corner underpass was refused, rightly, in order to protect the adjacent commons. And of course, for many of you, a visible decline in the demand for construction work may mean a peaceful new year, or perhaps an available builder?

Transport Panel

Convenor: Stephen Luxford
Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

The Society held a very well attended and informative meeting on the proposed expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) to the boundaries of the North and South Circulars from autumn 2021. It will therefore run from central London to as far as the top of the High Street but not Putney Hill. Road transport is the biggest cause of air pollution. We heard from TfL and the Council about the roll out plans and from Dr Ian Mudway, from the King's College air quality team, about the pernicious effects of air pollution. Copies of the presentations are on our website.

TfL's key aim is to drive down use of diesel vehicles over 4 years old- but not ban them. Petrol vehicles up to about 15 years old will probably be compliant. You can check if your vehicle is OK by keying your registration in on the TfL website. After only 6 months, the new ULEZ in the Congestion Charge zone has already reduced NO₂ by 29%.

The Council is working with TfL on zone border issues e.g. side roads into the zone that can only exit back out of it (for example Dyers Lane in Putney or Smugglers Way where our recycling facilities are located). They also need clarity on where the ULEZ boundary will lie when the Wandsworth one-way system is reconfigured. The Council is also busy introducing more electric charging points within the ULEZ zone for cars using converted lampposts.

Interestingly we also learnt that overall traffic volumes in Wandsworth has fallen by c20% over 20 years as the number of registered vehicles in the borough have fallen by a third despite a population increase. However, this decline in traffic has tailed off more recently due to the growth in home delivery vehicles, Uber-type taxis etc.

FUTURE PANEL MEETINGS

All members welcome, but please contact Convenor if new to the panel to check if there is sufficient space.

COMMUNITY:
12 December, 9 January
at 6 Norroy Road,
SW15 1PF (18.30)
Co-convenors:
Vicky Diamond
& Val Jones
vickysw15@aol.co.uk,
jones.val@gmail.com
T: 07746 022654

TRANSPORT:
10 December, 14 January
46 Disraeli Road,
SW15 2DS (19.30)
Convenor:
Stephen.luxford46
@gmail.com

BUILDINGS:
4 December, 8 January
at 154 Putney High Street,
SW15 1RS (19.00)
Convenor:
Andrew Catto
ac@andrewcatto.co.uk

OPEN SPACES:
5 December, 2 January
at 28 Howards Lane,
SW15 6NQ (19.00)
Convenor:
Judith Chegwidan
judith.chegwidan@gmail.com
T: 020 8788 4489

Community Panel

Co-convenors: Victoria Diamond & Val Jones
Vickysw15@aol.com & jones.val@gmail.com 07746 022654

One in four children leave primary school without the expected literary skills. The charity Bookmark is looking for volunteers to go into schools to help a child gain and improve their essential reading skills. If you can spare half an hour twice a week for six weeks, then go to www.bookmarkreading.org.uk/ volunteer. Bookmark will train and support you, and pay for your CRB check. It's a great opportunity to get involved for a short period of time, and you could help a child improve their life forever.

Not only do we have the collection box for buttons in Putney Library, but we have now expanded the items that we'll be collecting for the Work & Play Scrapstore charity. If you have unused postcards/greetings cards, unused stationery, unwanted maps, knitting needles and cotton reels, there is a collection box on the left hand side of the Library in Disraeli Road.

Putney's Tree of Life and Hope. Putney Wellbeing Friends invites you to write a message of goodwill to

hang on the tree at Putney Library Nov 21- Jan 6. Please bring recycled Christmas cards if you have any to make tree labels. The tree is donated by The Christmas Forest in support of Tree Aid, which plants trees in the African drylands to help against erosion, and protect communities – 258,433 have been planted to date. Putney Wellbeing are local volunteer social prescribers offering self-help at Putney Library Wednesdays 6pm-8pm.

We've been asked by members to write to The Exchange to ask that they please put some seats back where they used to be, in the Atrium outside Waitrose. It's generally felt that the rather poor bench by the lifts is not enough, makes people feel excluded, and isn't suitable for those who just need to sit for a short while whilst shopping, or waiting for someone.

STOP PRESS: The exchange has replied in the last few days saying that additional seating will be installed early in 2020.

Open Spaces Panel

Convenor: Judith Chegwidden
judith.chegwidden@gmail.com 020 8788 4489

Twenty nine trees have been felled on the B&Q site in central Wandsworth including the mature London Planes that bordered Swandon Way. The application to cut down these trees was not publicised in any way. It seems extraordinary that these trees were removed within a couple of months of the launch of the Wandsworth Environment and Sustainability Strategy (WESS). In the section of the report "Urban Greening and Open Spaces", the council cites several examples of its commitment to maintaining Wandsworth's trees. It seems that this commitment does not apply in the case of the development of the B&Q site.

In the Putney Society's comments on the WESS document we noted "The importance of trees in our environment is emphasised in the document but it is not a simple numbers game. We would like to see a log kept of all trees cut down and those replanted as

a result of new construction, and a calculation made on the potential loss in the amount of CO₂ sequestered per year. Mature trees sequester far more CO₂ than young saplings, which will take many years to grow to maturity (way beyond 2030)." Although the developer has promised to plant trees on site, the saplings will not perform the same function as the 29 mature trees.

Do you know any paved areas that could be returned to planting? We have been looking at the Mayor's Grey to Green guide which focusses on "depaving" – a process of removing impermeable surfaces and replacing them with soil or gravel. Depaved areas can be planted with a wide range of suitable plants - now we have to find a small patch of SW15 where we can replace paving with plants – can you help us find a suitable site? Email judith.chegwidden@gmail.com with suggestions.

PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

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Letter to the editor

Stephen Luxford wrote about the widening of pavements in Putney High Street in the latest Bulletin which I believe is supported by the Putney Society. My view is that the pavements do not need to be widened except outside the former W.H. Smith but such an isolated widening would be absurd.

Ironically the effect of widening there would be to make it virtually impossible for southbound traffic to pass buses at that bus stop. Since it's not unusual for as many as 3 buses to stop there at the same time the resultant congestion would be lengthy and the increased pollution truly dreadful.

The fact is that there is no solution in prospect for the almost continuous flow of north- and southbound traffic in that street. All the same TfL's tinkering with traffic lights and the idiotic lights installed by Wandsworth Council on the Bridge do significantly aggravate the problem.

I spent months persuading TfL to have the 14, 85 and 93 buses all stop outside the station instead of having passengers literally running from there to the foot of Putney Hill and that included the elderly, infirm and parents with prams and pushchairs. Bureaucracy works very slowly but Putney Society need not follow that example.

There was a time you will remember well, going back to John Horrocks's editorship of the Bulletin when readers' letters were a key feature of each issue. I haven't seen one published for a long time and, as I told Carolyn, you create an us- and -them relationship with the Society's members. Time to turn back the clock!

Yours

Iain KS Gray

Ed. Letters are welcome, and all those received over the last two years have been published. However the Editor's decision regarding publication is final

STOP PRESS

A future for The Telegraph?

Many of you have been wondering about the fate of The Telegraph pub on Putney Heath, already closed for too long whilst the previous owner tried to sell it as a development site for many millions.

The good news is that there are now clear and specific plans to reopen as a pub. A planning application (2019/4598) has been lodged for what would be a very comprehensive refit including moving the kitchen upstairs to make more space on the ground floor, clearly with an emphasis on dining but with a proper bar too. The Society will be supporting this.

Don't be fooled (as I nearly was) by the heading 'alterations in connection with change of use'. The staff accommodation is to be reorganised, replacing four bedrooms at the back of the 1st floor with two small flats, so no actual loss of pub space. In fact there will be more customer space but without extending the building.

Cheers! – if not in time for this Christmas.

A feast of music across Putney this December

Monday, 2 December 2019 at 19:00

Ark Putney Academy,
Pullman Gardens, SW15 3DG

What better way to start off the festive season than an evening of classic Christmas music and festive cheer, performed by over 350 talented children from Wandsworth Schools and the Wandsworth Music Academy. Presented by Wandsworth Schools Music in partnership with Ark Putney Academy and the Mayor of Wandsworth. Tickets are available on the door only, priced at £4. All proceeds go towards the Mayor of Wandsworth's Charities.

Thursday 5 December at 7pm

Fulham Camarata
at St Mary's Church, by Putney Bridge

A very special evening of Christmas music and readings in aid of Paul's Cancer Support Centre and sponsored by Douglas & Gordon. The Fulham Camerata choir and conductor James Day will perform

a magical programme of carols to celebrate the start of the festive season.

You can buy your tickets online at <https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/paulscarolconcert2019> or on the night (but please call Kerena on 07905 712196 to reserve your ticket).

Saturday 14 December at 7.45pm

The 1885 singers under their director, Alison Hunka, will celebrate the Festival of Christmas with an evening of warming seasonal music at All Saints Church, Putney Common.

Also on Saturday 14 December but at 7.30pm

The Dover House Singers under their musical director, Carl Speck, will present a "Festive Fiesta of Song" with seasonal music and the chance to sing along. St Mary's Church, by Putney Bridge – Free entry but there will be a raffle and refreshments sold in aid of Regenerate-Rise.