



The Bulletin

February 2019



Fahrenheit 451

There will be a special showing of **Fahrenheit 451** at **Ibstock Place School** on **Monday 23rd February** – for details of how to book see **enclosed leaflet** (or the link on your email). Tickets are selling well so book early.

Fahrenheit 451 is the temperature at which paper auto-ignites. The 1963 book by American author, Ray Bradbury, imagines a future where people are forbidden to read, firemen don't put out fires but start them and wall-to-wall TV is more real than reality to some. Ray Bradbury examined what this means for society. The French Director François Truffaut made it into a powerful film.

For this 1966 production, the Alton Estate was chosen for some scenes



because it was new and very much a vision of the future. The film shows Dunbridge House and the bungalows on Minstead Gardens - all in pristine condition - and closes with (maybe) Kingsmere on Putney Heath.

This is also a chance to see the 300-seater Theatre at Ibstock Place School that was designed by architects Barnsley Hewitt and Mallinson and completed in 2015.



- Are you concerned about air quality and planning policy?
- Or frustrated by local transport links?
- Are you interested in local health and social services?
- Or pleased the way parks and open spaces contribute to our environment?

Of course you are – that's why you joined the Putney Society!

Could you take the next step and help run the Society?

There are more than a thousand members of the Putney Society – somewhere among your number are some who could serve on the Society's Executive Committee.

To find out more about what is involved (*it's not too time consuming!*), please contact Carolyn McMillan (*secretary@putneysociety.org.uk*)

Planting a splash of colour for patients, staff and visitors

On a chilly January day, Justine Greening MP joined members of the Putney Society and the Chief Executive of the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability (RHN), Paul Allen to plant the first of three new trees along the West Hill frontage. John Horrocks, of the Open Spaces Panel, noticed that some of the trees planted as part of an earlier landscaping scheme had died and, on behalf of the Society, he negotiated with RHN to donate and plant three liquid amber trees. These trees have beautiful autumnal



colours and should provide a striking addition to the existing planting along West Hill.

We are already discussing what our Open Meeting topic should be later in the year. We think that Putney is such a cultural hub for the Arts, with several choirs, Putney Music, Putney School of Art and Design, The Arts Theatre etc that it would be of interest, as well as entertaining, to host an interactive meeting on and about what there is on offer locally. We'd love to hear what you think though - would an arts-themed evening be of interest, or would you prefer something else? Let us have your thoughts and suggestions about what areas you'd like us to focus on – both for the Open Meeting and more generally. Just email Vicky or Val.

And now the festive season is over and life is back to normal, don't forget the Trussell Trust donation boxes at Sainsbury's and Waitrose, the button and postcard boxes at the Library, and the box for ladies sanitary items (preferably pads) also at the Library.

All donations, however small, are warmly welcomed, and will help fulfil our aim of promoting and helping our community.

The Serendipity Café runs at the Community Church in Werter Road every Monday, providing a free lunch for around 40 people. Local businesses are donating food but they need people to help with food preparation from 10am – if you can help, please ring Graeme on 07722 022 069.

For our members that live in Thamesfield – the next meeting of the **Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)** is **13 February at 6.30pm** in the Community Church in Werter Road. We wish we had more information about the SNT meetings in other Putney Wards – but it is proving hard to obtain.

Community Panel

Co-convenors:

Victoria Diamond
& Val Jones
Vickysw15@aol.com
jones.val@gmail.com
07746 022654

The first indications of the Council's plans to enhance our High Street appeared just before Christmas. There was the installation of barriers in the middle of the road outside Putney station to prevent more than 2 or 3 taxis parking at any one time. There are new floodlights to illuminate St Marys Church and due early in 2019 is a proposed 'green wall' on the side of the Odeon.

Don't forget that the **Ultra-Low Emission Zone** will be introduced into the Congestion Charge area from **8 April**. It will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year. It will expand to cover the area within the north and south circulars in October 2021. To check if your vehicle is liable for the £12.50 daily charge or not look for the tool on the TfL website.

Closer to home, to date there has only been a handful of breaches of EU NO₂ limits in the High Street so far this year. In previous years it was already well into double figures by this stage.

Heathrow Airport has launched a new major public consultation exercise asking for public feedback on issues such as noise, runway alternation and night flying relating to its two existing runways, as well as the proposed new third runway. The deadline for responses is 4 March. Wandsworth Council has reiterated its opposition to a third runway and criticised the Government for not being more transparent about new flight paths. The Society has written to Leonie Cooper AM, raising the issue of the overcrowding on buses serving Roehampton, particularly the 72 route. The planned regeneration of the Alton Estate will bring 1,000 new residents to the area, which is likely to cause even further overcrowding – have TfL made plans to upgrade the transport links to Roehampton?

Transport Panel

Convenor:

Stephen Luxford
Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

FUTURE PANEL MEETINGS

All members welcome
www.putneysociety.org.uk

COMMUNITY:
14 February, 14 March
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:
12 February, 12 March
at 46 Disraeli
Road, SW15 2DS (19.30)
Convenor:
Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

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

OPEN SPACES:
7 February, 7 March
at 28 Howards Lane,
SW15 6NQ (19.00)
Convenor:
Judith Chegwidan
judith.chegwidan@gmail.com
T: 020 8788 4489

Last month I started by saying that the panel spends most of its time dealing with matters on the High Street. This continues, although by the time you read this we expect to be looking at a gigantic application to totally rebuild the centre of the Alton Estate, in addition to yet another sizeable scheme for the High Street.

Those are for the future. The New Year's January's big application to date is for a new 'Palm House' bar and food court to be built on top of the Putney Exchange Car Park. Regular readers may remember a similar scheme last year was withdrawn. The new proposal has been moved to the High Street frontage (*above H&M*) instead of the back of the carpark to reduce noise to the streets behind. The dilemma for the Society is that Putney is actually home to a higher proportion of 20-35 year olds than any other part of London, who would probably all welcome this, but that our members are mostly older householders who worry about noise. Which are you? Some of the Society's Executive will be visiting another venue run by the same firm to help us decide.

We have also faced a similar dilemma in responding

to a proposal by Wandsworth Council to build an extra 41 flats on the ends of blocks at the Kersfield Estate in Lytton Grove. We all know that more affordable rent homes are needed, and Wandsworth have been pioneers in finding 'hidden homes' this way, much as they did some years ago with the peppermint green blocks next to the railway at Queenstown Road, but there will be trees and open space lost.

The success of any planning application ultimately depends on whether it meets planning policy. So a chance to influence policy should not be missed. Wandsworth are about to review the Local Plan and are consulting on options for change. Many thanks to those of you who responded to my 'show of hands' about some of these at the recent Members Meeting. Go to http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/13805/local_plan_-_issues_document to see what is proposed and have your say on the points that matter to you.

Buildings Panel

Convenor:

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

Have you heard of the London National Park City?

Or is this a rather well-kept secret? National Park City will launch in July this year with the aim of making London greener, healthier and wilder. It is a movement to improve life in London - working with residents, visitors and partners so that it can enable us to:

- **Enjoy London's great outdoors more**
- **Make the city greener, healthier and wilder**
- **Promote London's identity as a National Park City.**

The aim is to have more bird song, ultimate frisbee, hill-rolling, tree climbing, cycling, hedgehogs, volunteering, sharing, outdoor play, kayaking, clean air, otters, greener streets, outdoor learning, ball games, outdoor art and hilltop dancing in the city.

Other local groups such as the Kew Society and Wandle River Forum have enrolled as members and supporters – should the Putney Society join up?

Update on previous topics; we are still waiting to hear from councillors about the possibility of creating a pocket park on the corner of Upper Richmond Road and Charlwood Road. We welcome the planned introduction of gates at the northern end of Putney Park Lane but are still concerned about the inappropriate granite kerbstones.

Watch out for the date for an early morning bird walk towards the end of April – places will have to be booked and there will be more details in the March Bulletin.

Open Spaces Panel

Convenor:

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

PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

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Roehampton Mounting Block and Milestone

The extraordinary 364-year odyssey of the Roehampton mounting block and milestone came full circle, when it was finally re-installed, in December 2018, at or near its original site, on Kingston Vale, outside where are now the East Lodge gates of Putney Vale Cemetery. It was set up in 1654, at the instigation of Thomas Nuthall of Roehampton, to mark his appointment as local surveyor of roads. Lost in the 19th century, it was rediscovered by chance in 1921, during the demolition of an old tithe barn in Parish Yard, off Wandsworth High St. Identified by nurseryman Ernest Dixon, who bought and displayed it for some 60 years in his nurseries, later garage at 134 West Hill, and subsequently moved to five different locations in the borough.

The campaign for its re-installation was begun in 2013, by a steering group including, at various times,



representatives of the council, local historians and the Putney Society. The re-installation of the cleaned-up block was coupled with restoration of the cemetery's East Lodge gates, and the nearby 9-mile milestone, an improved surround for the latter, an explanatory metal plaque, and an information board. Funding came from Wandsworth Neighbourhood Fund.



Frost – no excuse for engine idling

In some London Boroughs de-icing your car by running the engine attracts a £20 anti-idling fine. The best way to clear frost is to mix up a solution of about one litre of water with a teaspoon of salt and pour it over icy areas - or a mixture of three parts of vinegar to one part of water will also do the trick. But **DON'T** pour boiling water onto frozen car windows. Prevent windscreen frost by soaking an old towel in a solution made up of water and table salt, or a mix of one part of water and two parts of alcohol, then place it over your car windows the night before.

Dates for your Diary

If you have an event you would like us to list please contact: chair@putneysociety.org.uk

PUTNEY SOCIETY AGM

25 March 2019 at 19.30

at the Community Church,
Werter Road, SW15 2LL.

Full details in the March bulletin

FRIENDS OF PUTNEY LIBRARY

Tracy Chevalier

Author of *Girl with a Pearl Earring* and other novels

Putney Library, Wednesday 6 March 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Drinks available from 6pm. No booking required.

PUTNEY TIDY TOWPATH

Volunteers needed

14 February, 23 February, 21 March and 23 March

The dates are based upon high tides in Putney and all sessions are in the morning. If any members wish to join a clear up, we ask they email putneytt@outlook.com so we can ensure we have enough equipment and let you know the exact time for the meet-up.

WIMBLEDON & PUTNEY COMMONS SATURDAY MORNING SCRUB BASHERS

Protecting the Common's remaining areas of heathland is an ongoing task.

If you would like to help to maintain this special habitat by cutting back areas of invasive scrub and vegetation, the regular Saturday morning sessions will continue throughout 2019.

9 February, 23 February, 9 March and 23 March

Meet at the bicycle racks near the Windmill car park at 10:30am

Please email peter@wpcc.org.uk by the Wednesday morning of the week preceding each session if you want to join the scrub bashing group.

PUTNEY WELLBEING FRIENDS -

is your mind full or mindful?

Group event for all who would like to learn the basic techniques for practicing mindfulness

Wednesday 13 February 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Putney Library, Disraeli Rd, London SW15 2DR
[@putneywellbeing](https://www.instagram.com/putneywellbeing)