



The Bulletin

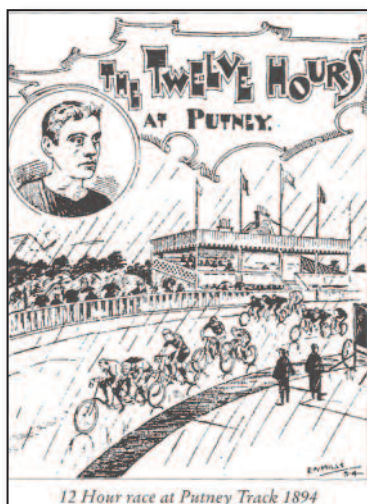
May 2019



Putney Velodrome and the Putney Estate

The Victorians left many marks on London – the Houses of Parliament, Tower Bridge, the Albert Hall and not least Joseph Bazalgette's sewers, but one Victorian building craze has barely survived. From the East London Memorial Park via Catford, Herne Hill, Westminster and Putney to East Sheen the last decade or so of the 19th century saw velodromes built across the city. They hosted races lasting up to six days and, by 1983, the International Cycling Union had even sanctioned ladies races, although these were often regarded as novelty acts.

Now all the velodromes have disappeared, with the notable exception of Herne Hill. As part of the Putney Society contribution to the Wandsworth Heritage Festival, Pat Heery will talk about the history of the Putney Velodrome which was built in the 1890s in an area between Landford, Hotham and Erpingham Roads. Although attracting large



crowds it sadly could not compete with the profits to be made from developing houses on the site and by 1906 the track had disappeared. A fate shared by many other velodromes across the city.

Come along and find out more on Monday 3 June, 7.30pm at the Community Church, Werter Road, SW15 2LL

Magnificent Trees in Putney



Our second contribution to the Wandsworth Heritage Festival is the inauguration of our new Tree Trail around Princes Way and Victoria Drive. Many of the trees were planted in the grounds of long lost Victorian Villas,

but the trail also includes some new planting by Wandsworth Council. In this small patch we will see an ancient English Oak, a Lucombe Oak, Cork Oak, Holm Oak, Pin Oak and Red Oak. Find a Giant Redwood and a magnificent Cedar of Lebanon hidden away in the middle of housing estates.

Meet at the junction of Castlecombe Drive and Beaumont Road, SW19 on 31 May at 10.30am.

Free but please book via Eventbrite: <https://westhilltreewalk.eventbrite.co.uk> or call 020 8788 4489

Wandsworth Heritage Festival 25 May – 9 June

As well as the events organised by the Putney Society other local events include:

Murder Mystery:

A Wandsworth Literary Whodunnit

Putney Library, Disraeli Road, SW15 2DR

Wednesday 29 May, 7.45pm (£5)

Archaeology on your doorstep

Roehampton Library, 2 Danebury Avenue, SW15 4HD

Friday 31 May (Free)

Pageantry and Revels at Whitelands College

A Tour, Talk and Exhibition centred on the Whitelands College Mayday celebrations over the last 138 years.

Whitelands College, Holybourne Avenue, SW15 4JD

Tuesday 4 June, 2pm

(Free but booking required gillyking@roehampton.ac.uk)

The History of Putney's Cinemas

Putney Library, Disraeli Road, SW15 2DR

Wednesday 5 June, 6.45pm

Free but booking required charlene.coleman@gll.org

Queen Mary's Hospital through Time

Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton Lane, SW15 5PN Lower Ground Floor entrance

Friday 7 June 2-4pm (Free)

Tour of Antique Breadboard Museum
17 Lifford Street, SW15 1NY

Various dates, fee payable
contact: theantiquebreadboardmuseum@gmail.com

Buildings Panel

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

Brexit may now be delayed, but its effects on construction locally have already been clear for some time, and look set to continue. Whilst the skyline is still full of cranes, they are mostly finishing projects initiated some time ago. The new flats aren't selling and it's been a long time since we saw any applications for more big blocks. Smaller developments are being delayed by ever more cautious banks. Fortunately for me individual home owners are still looking to expand and renovate.

Meanwhile we will be watching the **April 25th Planning Applications Committee** where the 'Palmhouse' venue above the Exchange is recommended for approval.

The Panel's remit includes Putney's past as much as future plans. Thanks to the Society's excellent Heritage expert Kate Pugh and to Gilly King, Roehampton University's Heritage Officer some of us recently enjoyed a visit to the exquisite Georgian temple in the former grounds of Mount Clare.

Sadly this will stay locked behind a protective fence until funds can be found for restoration.

Kate also managed to discover the history of the unusual Arts & Crafts building at 63 Putney High Street (*now Paperchase*), built in 1906 for Lilley & Skinner to designs by Arthur Sykes whose work includes Pontings on Kensington High Street. His other two similar shopping parades in Acton & Palmers Green are listed and we're looking into whether 63 Putney High Street might also qualify, particularly since it's next door to potential redevelopment of the empty Marks & Spencer (*more on Page 4*).

It's easy to think of Putney as essentially a Victorian and Edwardian suburb, but for our Members meeting in September we are proposing to highlight the best of the 20th century's contributions, perhaps with a guide to help you find these for yourself. Many seem to be along the major roads, but do let us know of any hidden gems we should include.

Transport Panel

Convenor: Stephen Luxford
Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

Hammersmith Bridge shut to vehicles at short notice in early April because of safety concerns. This led to the diversion of some local buses and traffic, some of which is likely to come in our direction. Wandsworth Council is in contact with their Hammersmith counterparts and TfL to learn more. If no immediate fix is found then this increased congestion could have a harmful effect on our local air pollution problem.

The Mayor introduced the **Ultra-Low Emission Zone** into central London in April. If he wins re-election in 2020 then the ULEZ will be extended as far as the boundaries of the North and South Circulars. The Society is proposing to organise a public meeting in late October to assess how the **ULEZ** has operated to date and what might be the impact on Putney residents

should it be rolled out. We intend to invite speakers from TfL and the Council but please let us know if there is anyone in particular or an organisation you would wish to hear from in addition?

South Western Railways (**SWR**) are introducing new services with a timetable change in May but unfortunately they are unlikely to benefit us. We are contacting SWR to see if there any local improvements we might look forward to either now or later in the year otherwise we may just have to witness happy residents of Windsor speeding through, but not stopping at, Putney. If you have any particular bugbears about local rail services then please raise them so we can take them up with SWR.

FUTURE PANEL MEETINGS

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

COMMUNITY:

9 May, 13 June
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:

14 May,
28 Howards Lane,
SW15 6NQ (19.30)
11 June,
46 Disraeli Road,
SW15 2DS (19.30)
Convenor:
Stephen.luxford46
@gmail.com

BUILDINGS:

1 May, 5 June
at 154 Putney High Street,
SW15 1RS (19.00)
Convenor:
Andrew Catto
ac@andrewcatto.co.uk

OPEN SPACES:

2 May, 6 June
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

The **Button Collection box** and the unused post card box in the library have been emptied a couple of times and the contents were taken to the Work and Play Scrap Store in Tooting. The buttons, in particular, were greeted with much delight and thanks. Apparently they can't get enough buttons to share out! So please, if you have lots of buttons stashed away somewhere, do drop them in to the Library. The collection container is on the left hand side, near where the postcards are. The box for unused postcards is there too, as is a collection box for women's sanitary products, which are much needed for schools.

Trinity Hospice is recruiting for volunteers to work in their shops for a few hours each week. Contact them either on 0207 787 3203 or www.royaltrinityhospice.london/retailvolunteers. **Thank you.**

Congratulations to one of our members, **Ruby Lovell**, who is having a book launch for her second children's book '**Stop that Monkey! He Stole Ruby's Ice Lolly!**' in Waterstones on 11 May 3pm – 4.15pm. There will be fun and entertainment for children at the launch. It's always good to hear a fellow Putney resident and Society member doing well.

Open Spaces Panel

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

Urban trees. For decades the Putney Society has been promoting the importance of urban trees. Now there are more opportunities than ever to discover the history and ecology of trees across London. On 18 and 19 May, the Museum of Walking is organising an urban tree festival. It includes a walk around St James to discover the history of King James 1's Mulberry Garden. Nearer to home the author of "**Oak and Ash and Thorn: the ancient woods and new forests of Britain**" is leading a walk across Wimbledon Common. To find out more about these walks go to: <https://www.museumofwalking.org.uk/events/categories/urban-tree-festival-2019/>

The Society's Front Garden competition launches this month and we hope to have delivered most streets in SW15 1 and SW15 2 with entry forms by the beginning of May. If you have not received a form please email garden@putneysociety.org.uk and we will send you one. Don't forget that you can nominate a neighbour (with their permission).

Back to trees – do you know anywhere that would be improved by some tree planting? Or where we could create a community orchard? Any planting has to be supported by local residents who need to commit to watering young trees. Let me know your ideas by emailing Judith.chegwidden@gmail.com.

Air Quality Group

Pollution levels in Putney: Tackling pollution in Putney is not helped by false claims of the effects of the introduction of hybrid buses by TfL. In the current issue of **Brightside**, the Council claim that pollution levels have been dramatically reduced in 2018 ('*Pollution plummets, page 15*'). But this claim is highly misleading since it relies only on the reduction in the number of exceedances of the peak level of NO₂; the average level through the year fell only slightly, from 76 µg/m³ of NO₂ to 68 in 2017 (*the legal 'safe' maximum is 40 µg/m³*). Furthermore, the average figure for this year to

date is 70, so there has in fact been no significant reduction in the average level since 2017.

Brightside also claims that "*the fall has been attributed to the council successfully lobbying Transport for London for cleaner buses.*" It would be equally true to say that the fall could be attributed to Putney Society's lobbying of Wandsworth Council, since we have been pressing them for action for at least the past 8 years...

PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

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Have you ever wondered about Paperchase?

That Arts and Crafts façade looks so out of place in Putney High Street, more like a Voysey-esque house in Surrey or Hampshire.

No 63 Putney High Street features briefly in Pevsner's Buildings of England and has been nominated by the Putney Society for Wandsworth's 'Local List' which identifies historic buildings and features valued by the local community. But curiosity from locals, and from as far afield as Islington, demanded further investigation.

Thanks to the records held by Wandsworth Heritage Services in Battersea Library, we can reveal that 63 Putney High Street was designed in 1906 by Arthur Sykes FRIBA. Previously an ironmonger's shop, by 1908 according to the Post Office Street Directory, the building was occupied by 'Lilley & Skinner (Bootmakers)'. Interestingly, Sykes designed several buildings for the shoe company including Lilley's own home in Clacton.



A versatile architect responding to the booming economy, Sykes could design huge classical retail premises for example in Kensington and Holborn. He designed King's Parade in the centre of Acton in 1903 in an Art Nouveau style and later experimented with even more fanciful styles in Palmers Green. We're proud to have our own Arthur Sykes building!

Dates for your Diary

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

A chance to talk with Roehampton and Putney Heath Councillors

Wednesday 15 May 2019, from 7.30pm

Holy Trinity Church, Ponsonby Road, SW15 4LA

Putney Verse Workshop

A chance to read, write and discuss poetry

Meeting at Bill's Restaurant, 146-148, Putney High Street

2nd Sunday of the month 3.30 -6pm

Latest edition of the Wandsworth Historian reveals that in 1939, Queen Mary's car crashed in Southfields

Other articles of Putney interest include an account of one of the original Wimbledon and Putney Commons conservators, the barrister, **Alfred Dryden**, who lived at 72 Putney High Street in the 1850s.

The Wandsworth Historian (ISSN 1751-9225) is published by the

Wandsworth Historical Society, and copies are available price £3.00 plus £1.50 for P&P from Neil Robson, 119 Heythorp Street, London SW18 5BT or by emailing 020neil119@gmail.com.

Please make cheques payable to the 'Wandsworth Historical Society'.



Queen Mary's limousine lying on its side in Wimbledon Park Road in May 1939. (Keystone)