



# The Bulletin

April 2019



## Why are we launching a Front Garden competition in Putney?

**Around two thirds of London's gardens are now paved over**

The increase in off-street parking and increased use of hard paving means that there are fewer front gardens in Putney than there were 20 years ago. But it is possible to create a place for cars or dustbins without entirely losing planting and we hope that this competition will encourage residents to maintain or create attractive front gardens.

### Why does it matter?

- urban garden plants and trees help cool the air in towns and cities
- garden plants and trees intercept pollutants in the air
- garden plants and trees intercept intense rain, reducing the pressure on urban drains
- soil in gardens naturally absorbs rainwater, reducing the risk of flooding, and refilling aquifers
- some fauna are now more common in cities than in rural areas

- the presence of gardens eases stress and improves psychological wellbeing

The Putney Society is, therefore, organising a competition to find the best front garden, window box or planter in Putney. You can enter by nominating yourself, a friend or a neighbour (with their permission).

**Prizes will be National Garden Vouchers**

**Best garden**  
£100 (runner up £25)

**Best window box or planter**  
£100 (runner up £25)

In this inaugural year we will be focussing on properties in post codes SW15 1 and SW15 2.

Entry forms and more details will be available from garden@putneysociety.org.uk.

**All entries to be submitted by 31 May and judging will take place in mid June.**



Should our streets be full of front gardens like this?



Or like this?

**Wrong again!** Last month I predicted that by now we would have seen the application to totally rebuild the centre of the Alton Estate, and one for a hotel on the corner of the High Street and Werter Road. Alton it seems won't now be with us until 'after Easter'. The hotel application did arrive, but now it's for offices, which we welcome, to replace the upper parts of WH Smith and the adjacent corner building, but omitting the Brutalist concrete loading bay block opposite Sainsbury's. I've been shown the scheme for this part, but why not apply all at once?

Advertisers continue to look for chances to make our streets brighter still with more LED screens. The temporary consent for Rosslyn Park's three expires this year, but before that the latest proposal is for screens above the A3 at Tibbetts Corner, ironically illustrated with an ad that claims 'a life full of possibilities'. Comments to the Council, ref 2019/0685, by 27th March if you don't see the joke.

For those of you wondering what has happened to other recent applications mentioned here:

The Palmhouse consultation has closed with sufficient objections, including our own and one from Justine Greening, that this will go to committee some time in the summer.

The main 11 storey scheme for the 'Levellers Court' site on Putney Bridge Road / High Street was refused and is waiting a planning inquiry in June, whilst the just as tall corner site application is on hold until then. Only now they want to jump on the advert bandwagon by wrapping a 6.7 x 23 metre hoarding around the unused corner building.

56-70 Putney High Street won't be redeveloped for a while. The owners have put some piles into the car park so as to be seen to 'start construction' to preserve the consent they won from Boris Johnson after Wandsworth refused it, but some key leases are believed to have another six or seven years to run.

## Buildings Panel

**Convenor:**

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

**The Council has written to residents in West Putney after deciding not to proceed with their proposed trial to restrict traffic movements in the rush hour on Dover House Road.** The Council has now commissioned an investigation of traffic management measures in West Putney. The Council say the aim is to focus on "the root cause of the problem which is through traffic from Roehampton Lane, the A3 and the South Circular". The letter goes on to say that residents will be able to feed into this work, with council officers reporting back in the autumn.

As many of you will be aware, there is to be an Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) introduced into the existing congestion zone on 9 April. You can check on the Mayor's site ([https://tfl.gov.uk/](https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/check-your-vehicle)

[modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/check-your-vehicle](https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/check-your-vehicle)) whether your vehicle is compliant or not with the new air pollution standards. For vehicles that are not

compliant there will be an additional daily charge of £12.50 a day which will operate every day of the year. The Mayor's intention, were he to be re-elected, is to extend the ULEZ in 2021 to the boundaries of the North and South Circulars. Later this year, once the central London ULEZ is in operation, the Society is considering holding a public meeting to discuss how an extended ULEZ will affect us. All views are welcome.

## Transport Panel

**Convenor:**

Stephen Luxford  
Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

## FUTURE PANEL MEETINGS

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

### COMMUNITY:

**11 April, 9 May**  
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:

**9 April, 14 May**  
at 46 Disraeli  
Road, SW15 2DS (19.30)  
**Convenor:**  
Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

### BUILDINGS:

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

### OPEN SPACES:

**4 April, 2 May**  
at 28 Howards Lane,  
SW15 6NQ (19.00)  
**Convenor:**  
Judith Chegwidan  
judith.chegwidan@gmail.com  
T: 020 8788 4489

Please do go to the Putney Society website and have a look at the **Additional ideas for Upcycling and Recycling**. There's so much new information out there about what we can do with our unwanted items. Aside from the local charity shops there are many ways you can support other charities and organisations too. If you have other suggestions, we'd be happy to hear about them and share them. You might even want to organise a collection from the street where you live, and make it a regular event, distributing items to one of the organisations mentioned. We're hoping to write a bit more about food waste in the next Bulletin, and what you can do to help cut down on what the food shops have left over at the end of the day. You can also read about groups that manufacture useful and attractive objects from plastic waste.

St Mary's church reports that they are still having to turn **rough sleepers** away each week. They take 50 people each time, and there are people on a waiting list. They still require donations of clothing, and toiletries, mostly for men, but there are a few women too. Donations to be taken to the Church on

a Monday only please. They're open until Easter. Thank you.

**SNT – Safer Neighbourhood Team.** We in the Community Panel are concerned that Thamesfield and Roehampton SNT groups (Ward Panels) are the only ones in Putney Ward to actually function and have regular police-led meetings. These meetings are most informative and helpful to the communities involved. There don't seem to be any meetings of Ward Panels in West Hill, East Putney, West Putney, Earlsfield and Southfields – this means local residents do not get any information from their local police team. We don't know what can be done to get some sort of information-sharing meetings set up. As police numbers continue to be cut, it may be that it will fall to volunteers from the community to lead these, with the police giving input. If you have any ideas, please let us know.

## Community Panel

### Co-convenors:

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

In recent years all the parks and most of the commons in Wandsworth have been run by the "not for profit" organisation, Enable. Their contract is coming to an end this year and local groups, such as the Friends of Wandsworth Park (FOWP), have been in consultation with Wandsworth Council to make sure that the tender document for the new contract reflects their concerns about standards of management and maintenance. The new contractor will be announced in July.

**Good news** – FOWP now have a key to the River Terrace to the west of the Park and are drawing up planting schemes. The Terrace will be open during the day – once the Friends have a rota in place for locking and unlocking the gate.

Wandsworth Council have decided to halt the current tender process for the management of Roehampton Playing Fields and retender on a revised basis. This will give the Roehampton Playing Fields Community Trust the opportunity to

tender for the contract – an outcome supported by the Putney Society. There is no guarantee that the Trust will be the only bidder. The process could take 8-9 months.

We will be resuming work on our tree walk around Princes Way and Victoria Drive in the next few weeks and hope to launch the walk during the Wandsworth Heritage Festival at the end of May. We will be working with a tree identification app supplied by TiCL that can be used on any smart phone.

**Last chance to sign up for the Wimbledon Common Bird walk** with Adrian Podmore on Sunday 14 May – email [Judith.chegwidden@gmail.com](mailto:Judith.chegwidden@gmail.com) for details of where to meet at 8am. Warm drinks available before and after the walk.

## Open Spaces Panel

### Convenor:

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

## PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

**Chair:** Robert Arguile, 020 8788 4554  
[chair@putneysociety.org.uk](mailto:chair@putneysociety.org.uk)  
**Secretary:** Carolyn McMillan  
38 Disraeli Road, SW15 2DS 020 8789 6692  
[secretary@putneysociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@putneysociety.org.uk)  
**Website Editor:** Robert Arguile  
[webeditor@putneysociety.org.uk](mailto:webeditor@putneysociety.org.uk)

**Bulletin Editor:** Judith Chegwidden, 020 8788 4489  
[judith.chegwidden@gmail.com](mailto:judith.chegwidden@gmail.com)  
**Membership:** Chris Orriss, 020 8785 7115  
22 Pentlow Street, London SW15 1LX  
[membership@putneysociety.org.uk](mailto:membership@putneysociety.org.uk)  
**Treasurer:** Gosia Jakubik, 07746 409 703  
[gosia.jakubik@hotmail.com](mailto:gosia.jakubik@hotmail.com)

# Getting more out of National Trust membership



**Are you a member of the National Trust (NT)?** If so, why not join our supporter group, Richmond Association for the National Trust - our members live in Richmond, Putney and surrounding areas. RANT offers events and activities such as day trips by coach to NT and other

places, an annual holiday break, talks by guest speakers, days out in local places and in London, and social lunches. The subscription is modest, and any surplus from events goes towards NT projects.

**Please contact the membership secretary on 020 8876 8405.**

## Letter to the Editor

### Local Connections

My interest in George Orwell (aka Eric Blair) has led me to his second wife Sonia Orwell, they were married for three months before his death. She went on to controversially run the Orwell estate. As a girl she went to the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Roehampton. There she appeared in a school play with another famous old girl film star, Vivien Leigh. Neither would have happy endings.

Yours

*Hugh Thompson*



## Dates for your Diary

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

### The Boat Race 2019

**Sunday 7 April**

**The Women's Boat Race 2.15pm**

**The Men's Boat Race 3.15pm**

On the same day, witness the relaunch of local internet radio station as Riverside Radio, in Church Square from midday to 5pm, alongside street food and bars. Positively Putney have ordered 14,000 reusable cups so no single use plastics will be used by bars within the BID area.

### PLUS

St Mary's Church is hosting a Parish Action Family Fundraising Day from 12-4pm with a bouncy castle, face painting, BBQ, cake stall & more.

### Free auction valuations

**Saturday 6 April 10am-1pm, Cromwell Room, St Mary's Church SW15 1SN**

Bring along silver, ceramics, paintings, sculpture, prints, jewellery, watches, clocks and memorabilia for a free valuation.

### Friends of Putney Library

**Wednesday 24 April at 6.30pm**  
in Putney Library, SW15 2DR

Local historian, Phil Evison, will be talking about the restored 1654 Roehampton mounting block and reviewing milestones in the Putney area.

Free entry but you are advised to book a ticket in advance from the Library. Call 020 8780 3085 or email [Charlene.coleman@gll.org](mailto:Charlene.coleman@gll.org)

### Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators are organising a Birdsong Identification Workshop

**27 and 28 April 2019**  
**from 1.30pm**  
at the Ranger's Office SW19 5NR

Full details at <https://www.wpcc.org.uk/things-to-do/events/profile/birdsong-identification-workshop-1> – you will need to sign up for this event.

## WANDSWORTH ARTS FRINGE

Time to clear some dates in your diary for the Wandsworth Arts Fringe, which runs from 3-19 May. Something for everyone from Big Band Jazz to surreal theatre. All events in Putney are listed at <https://www.wandsworthfringe.com/whats-on-2019>

### and include:

- Fragility Takeover in the Arches at St Mary's Church and at the Cat's Back pub.
- Royal Academy of Dance at St Mary's.
- Geoff Robb playing guitar in St Mary's.
- Janet at the Antique Breadboard Museum.
- Electric Village in the Arches at St Mary's.
- South London Jazz Orchestra at St Mary's.
- Rogue Opera in Putney Exchange.