



The Bulletin

June 2019



Lucy Hart, Head Gardener at Fulham Palace on the history and restoration of the garden

Lucy has been Head Gardener since 2011 and has overseen the renewal of the walled garden and vinery. The second oldest botanic garden in London, it came to prominence in the mid-16th century under the careful cultivation of Bishop Grindal. He sent grapes from the garden to Queen Elizabeth I every year and introduced England's first tamarisk plant on the site.



garden after part of this collection was dispersed.

This will be a chance to hear about the avid plant collector, Bishop Henry Compton, the arrival of the first magnolia in England and the fate of the

Monday 24 June at 7.30pm, Lower Hall, Community Church, Werter Road, London SW15 2LL.

The Society makes a further commitment in our campaign to improve air quality

Since 2010, the Society has been campaigning to reduce the levels of air pollution in and around our Town Centre and has effectively lobbied Wandsworth Council, the Mayor and TfL to take measures to reduce pollutants. Most of our efforts to date have concentrated on measuring levels of NO₂ in the immediate vicinity of heavily trafficked roads. Now we have decided to invest in two sensors that will measure black carbon – one of the components in fine particulates such as PM2.5. While NO₂ disperses quite rapidly (to the extent that it is better to walk as far away from the kerb as possible when negotiating Putney High Street), particulates have a much greater spread. By measuring PM2.5 in streets around Putney we will be able to identify these areas with the highest and lowest



concentrations. This will enable us to recommend the safest walking and cycling routes as well as provide more evidence for campaigning for cleaner (and fewer) vehicles.

Why does the presence of PM2.5 matter?

"Air pollution can harm acutely, as well as chronically, potentially affecting every organ in the body," conclude the scientists from the Forum of International Respiratory Societies in the two recent review papers, published in the journal *Chest*. *"Ultrafine particles pass through the [lungs], are readily picked up by cells, and carried via the bloodstream to expose virtually all cells in the body."* Small particulates are especially bad for children, and affect their lung development right from the start and cause life-long damage.

And more on Fulham Palace

The Friends of Putney Library have organised an illustrated talk by **Alexis Haslam, the Community Archaeologist on the Restoration of the Tudor Fulham Palace.**

Once enclosed by the largest domestic moat in England, the site of Fulham Palace has an extensive history stretching back some 6,000 years. It was purchased by Waldhere, the Bishop of London, in AD 704 and remained a residence of the Bishops until 1973 when Bishop Stopford left. The current buildings comprise the Tudor quadrangle, constructed between 1493 and 1495, the adjoining Georgian building and the beautiful walled garden which was enclosed in the late 18th century.

Wednesday 19 June at 6.30pm in Putney Library. Free but please book a ticket in advance by emailing Charlene.coleman@gll.org

Buildings Panel

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

Last month's deadline for writing this column meant that I couldn't report the decision by the Planning Applications Committee on 25 April to approve the plans for the 'Palmhouse' venue at Putney Exchange, albeit with no late opening after 11.30 pm. Nearby residents objected in huge numbers at the potential for late night noise every night, but it seems that the PAC, most of whom don't represent Putney wards, listened instead to the business case.

With the continuing decline in demand for 'going to the shops', other uses for town centre space will need to be found, but this isn't the only one causing conflict. Last year an application for a 24 hour gym on the Upper Richmond Road west of the town centre also raised lots of objections from neighbours about noise and was refused. Unfortunately the decision notice didn't mention noise or opening hours. So now there's a new application, still a noisy 24 hour gym, but tweaked to get round with the quoted grounds for refusal.

Planning is supposed to take account of the welfare of neighbours and the public. We have written to councillors asking what went wrong here, but if you agree there's a growing mismatch please tell your local councillors too.

Meanwhile some good news. Following from our private visit, the lovely Georgian temple folly on Minstead Gardens is to be opened as part of London Open House on 21 September. Make a note of the date and come along between 10am and 1 pm. Better still offer to volunteer as a steward. Please contact Kate Pugh (Katepugh4@gmail.com) or myself. SW15 is often underrepresented in Open House. Although too late for this year's list, maybe we can persuade owners of other interesting local buildings - old or new - to join in future. Are you one of them? There are more good modern buildings here than you might think, but we're still looking for more for the list which will be introduced to you at our public meeting on 23rd September. **Suggestions welcome!**

Transport Panel

Convenor: Stephen Luxford
Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

The sudden closure of Hammersmith Bridge has inevitably had a knock on effect for Putney residents. Extra road traffic is being funnelled towards our already polluted High Street and is also having a severe impact on Putney Hill, which showed up as one of the most polluted roads in our Citizen Science project in 2018.

There has also been massive disruption to local bus services. This has been of particular concern to our members in Roehampton using buses either to reach Barnes Station or for routes to the other side of Hammersmith Bridge. TfL introduced a revised bus schedule in mid-May but we have concerns over whether there will be sufficient capacity in place. Since the closure is now defined as "indefinite" it is particularly important that good

public transport alternatives are available.

By the time you read this we will have articulated our concerns to local councillors, our GLA representative and Justine Greening.

The Society has offered its support for a "three school" school street in Putney. Pioneered elsewhere in London, schools streets transform roads outside schools, so that only pedestrians and cyclists can use them at school start and finish times. The streets tackle congestion and improve air quality at the school gates. The proposal would cover two sections of Charlwood Road and help provide a safe and healthy route to school for primary school children at St Mary's, Hotham and Our Lady of Victories primary schools.

FUTURE PANEL MEETINGS

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

COMMUNITY:

13 June, 8 August
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:

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

BUILDINGS:

5 June, 3 July, 7 August
at 154 Putney High Street,
SW15 1RS (19.00)
Convenor:
Andrew Catto
ac@andrewcatto.co.uk

OPEN SPACES:

4 June (note change), 1 August
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

Discount Scheme – new participants!

We are delighted to add Gabriel Tattoo Studio (Basement, 264 Upper Richmond Rd, SW15 6TQ) to our list. They're offering 10% off all tattoos. It seems to be a high quality tattoo parlour with very talented artists on site. In my opinion anyway!

Gazette Restaurant (147 Upper Richmond Road) is offering 10% off all meals and has Chateaubriand Monday, Mussel Tuesday, Free cocktail or free dessert Wednesday and Lobster Thursday, but do tell them at the start that you have a Discount Card.

Artisan & Vine (195 Lower Richmond Road) are offering 10% off all products and events. Do check our website for the list of all the shops and businesses involved.

The SNT (Safer Neighbourhood Team) police report that theft FROM motor vehicles has sharply increased recently and the police recommend NOTHING be left in cars. A window was smashed to take the £1 coin in view! And rugs left on back seats are assumed to cover laptops/phones, so best not leave anything. It was suggested that glove compartments be left open too. The sharp increase was, it was suggested, due to criminals who had been locked up being released...

News from SW London Sexual Health Services, 160 Falcon Road (Clapham Junction) who manage all sexual health services in Wandsworth, Merton and Richmond.

- A new sexual health clinic is due to open at the Danebury Avenue Surgery, Roehampton in July – more information on this next month.
- The sexual health services at 160 Falcon Road are developing closer links with the primary care centre at Clapham Junction, and the team is being expanded in August to include a permanent consultant responsible for Sexual and Reproductive Health.
- It is recognised that some women prefer to attend women-only clinics to obtain contraception. To meet this need a women-only clinic now runs on Wednesdays from 08.30–11.00am at 160 Falcon Road, London SW11 2LN. Women will be seen by a female clinician who will help them make a decision about the contraceptive method best for them. This clinic is by appointment only - call 0333 300 2100 to book and please ask for the Wednesday morning women-only clinic.

Open Spaces Panel

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

Use of glyphosate weedkiller by local councils.

Evidence on the use of glyphosate ("Roundup") in the UK is under review after two cases in California where the original owner, Monsanto, was found liable for users developing cancer. However, the current owner, Bayer, has stated that four decades of extensive research has shown that glyphosate is not carcinogenic. Many local councils are now looking to minimise or eliminate the use of this chemical but Wandsworth Council is still using it. Neighbouring borough, Richmond, started trials of non-chemical weedkiller in April while Hammersmith and Fulham stopped using glyphosate more than a year ago. Alternatives can be more expensive and, in the case of acetic acid (vinegar) rather smelly. In Hammersmith the contractor uses an application of hot water and foam made from non-toxic ingredients. We would like to know our members' views on the continuing use of glyphosate in our

borough. At the moment it is licensed by the government for use until 2022.

A better looking tree. At the beginning of May, the Society and Putney Methodist Church jointly funded a tree surgeon to carry out some crown reduction on the False Acacia in the grounds of the Church. The tree was planted some years ago to commemorate a long standing member of the Executive committee. The removal of some tangled branches really improved the appearance of the tree as can be seen in the photo. It will look even better when in full leaf in June.



PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

See website for full details:
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2019 sees the centenary of the foundation of the Dover House Estate.

In 1919, the LCC bought 147 acres of parkland belonging to the adjacent private estates of Dover House and Putney Park House. Building began in early but was not completed until 1927. When the Estate was complete, 1212 homes had been erected – ranging from five-room houses to two-room flats, accommodating a population of around 4400. The homes themselves built of stock brick with occasional decorative touches and roughcast rendering to bring variety. Doors and porches were used to add to the ‘cottagey’ feel of the housing. Rooflines – a range of gable and hipped ends, some houses with first-floor eaves and dormer windows – are varied strikingly, their visual impact heightened by the planners’ deliberate use of the Estate’s sloping landscape.

Internally, the homes were of their time – gas-lit in the first place with water heated in a downstairs coal-fired copper and pumped upstairs where necessary. But every home



had a garden and many, unusually, had a side garden – another feature deliberately employed by the planners to add to the Estate’s vistas and feeling of spaciousness. But the real glory of the Dover House Estate lay in its overall design and layout. The 1921 estate plan shows how carefully its design conforms to Garden City ideals in its studied informality, open space and greenery, and curving streetscapes.

On 29 June from 2pm to 9pm there will be a chance to celebrate the centenary of the estate at St Margaret’s Church, Putney Park Lane. Entertainment from the South London Jazz Orchestra, Dover House Singers and the Putney and Wimbledon Brass Band – plus a 1920’s themed bake-off.

More Putney Society events for your diary

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

Monday 23 September
Highlights of 20th Century building in SW15.

Monday 28th October
How is the ULEZ working? What will be the impact of extending it to North and South Circular?

Monday 25th November
Showcasing the Arts in Putney.
All meetings at 7.30pm at the Community Church in Werter Road.

Golden Age Card Show

Monday July 1 - Saturday 13 July sees Putney Library, Disraeli Road host an exhibition of over 70 cards featuring Putney. This is a show of the Putney post and greetings cards which Hugh Thompson, Vice President of the Putney Society has collected. Pride of place in this show must go to the ten cards from the golden age of Post Cards. This is reckoned to be 1902-1918 after which the postage for a postcard went from 1/2p to 1p Although the Post Office

allowed picture cards from 1894, most of these cards date from the first decade of the 20th century. The 1904 card celebrates Putney as a holiday destination! Some cards have been deliberately sent to card collectors- as with stamps, post cards became a great vehicle for collectors-to a lesser extent they still are. To cater for the modern collectors market both Wandsworth Libraries and others have reissued reproductions of vintage cards.

