



# The Bulletin

For our members in Putney and Roehampton



November 2021

## Rubbish, Recycling, Repair and Re-use

This will be our first Hybrid meeting! A proper face-to-face meeting at the Community Church, Werter Road (Opposite Sainsbury's), **7.30pm, Monday 22 November**. You can also attend it as a webinar, should you not be able to attend in person, by registering at [registration@putneysociety.org.uk](mailto:registration@putneysociety.org.uk) at least 24hrs before the meeting to get the link.

**Jon Long**, from Western Riverside Waste Authority, has kindly agreed to talk about the practical issues of waste disposal and potential re-use. **Mike Grahn**, from Tooting Restart, will focus on repair and re-use, how to encourage this and make it more widespread. **Michael Singham**, Waste Strategy Manager for Richmond and Wandsworth Council, will talk about rubbish and recycling from the Council's perspective, and give us some guidance on what we

can and can't recycle. He will also mention reducing the carbon impacts of Wandsworth's household waste & its management.

### Have a look at this map. Did you know where much of our recycling goes?

For example, Cardboard is sent to a facility in Barking (UK), Germany, Belgium and Netherlands. Because the fibre lengths in cardboard are longer,

the material is stronger and can be recycled more times than paper or newspaper:

- Bales of cardboard are put into an articulated lorry at the MRF in Smugglers Way and taken to the facility.
- Bales are off-loaded and visually inspected for high levels of contaminants.



## The gleaming spires of London – an armchair tour of London's finest buildings

Presented by The Arts Society South West London  
Lecturer: Ian Swankie

**Monday 8 November at 8pm**

This lecture will be delivered via Zoom. Non-members are welcome to view it for a donation to the Arts Society SW London. For more information visit their website <https://theartssocietysw.london.org.uk/> or contact **Gwen Hewitt** on [gwen@the2hewitts.plus.com](mailto:gwen@the2hewitts.plus.com) Currently well over 500 new buildings over twenty storeys high are planned in London, many more than twice this height. This talk looks at the best of these



buildings including the cutting-edge designs of the massive towers such as the Shard, the Walkie-Talkie, the Cheesegrater and the Scalpel. It covers their extraordinary architectural and engineering challenges and the controversies and difficult social decisions needed to manage this dramatically changing skyline.

# THE QUEENS GREEN CANOPY

## THE PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

QGC is a tree-planting initiative created to mark **Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee** in 2022.

Everyone across the UK is being invited to plant trees from October 2021, when the tree-planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022.

The Putney Society and the Friends of Wandsworth Park will be planting four splendid trees in the Park next January at the start of the Jubilee year – more details in the New Year Bulletin.



### Meanwhile what can we do as individuals?

Any trees planted from October 2021 to the end of the jubilee year in 2022 can be part of the QGC. Tree-planting season is October to March – this is when roots are dormant and new trees will have the best chance of flourishing.

The Royal Horticultural Society is supporting this event and reminds us that: “Every garden, however small, should have at least one tree. Full of character and charm, these long-lasting plants bring height, year-round structure, and beauty across the seasons. They are easy to grow, wildlife friendly and come in all shapes and sizes, so there are options for every garden.”

If you only have a small outside space there are trees that grow successfully in larger pots. In addition, we can get involved in community planting events in our locality such as the planned forest garden on the Ashburton Estate.

**There is plenty of advice around on which trees to grow in smaller gardens – but here are a few ideas:**

- 🍃 *Acer griseum* (*paperbark maple*)
- 🍃 *Amelanchier* × *grandiflora* ‘Ballerina’ (*small serviceberry*)
- 🍃 *Sorbus* ‘Joseph Rock’ (*variety of mountain ash*)
- 🍃 *Prunus* ‘Amanogawa’ (*small flowering cherry*)
- 🍃 *Cercis. chinensis* ‘Avondale’ (*Chinese redbud*)
- 🍃 *Liquidambar styraciflua* ‘Gum Ball’
- 🍃 *Crataegus persimilis* ‘Prunifolia’ (*broad-leaved cockspur thorn*)

**Some trees can thrive in a large pot – for example:**

- 🍃 Olive
- 🍃 Bay tree
- 🍃 *Pinus pumila* ‘Glauca’ (*dwarf Siberian pine*)
- 🍃 *Sophora microphylla* (*small leaved kowhai*)
- 🍃 *Prunus incisa* ‘Kojo-no-mai’ Tree (*dwarf Fuji cherry tree*)
- 🍃 Apple or pear grown as a fan, espalier or cordon

**You can find out more about trees to grow in pots at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=274>**

# How much do you know about your local BID – Positively Putney?



Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) have been operating across the UK for over a decade, with the first BID starting in January 2005. There are over 270 BIDs set up around the UK, with over 50 being in London alone. Positively Putney was set up in April 2017 following a ballot of local businesses at the end of 2016. The current term is coming to an end and local businesses are currently being balloted on renewal for another five year term. Just over 400 businesses (retail, hospitality and office sectors) are eligible to vote. To find out more about how the ballot works go to

<http://positivelyputney.co.uk/what-is-a-bid/the-bid/>

Businesses pay a small levy based on the rateable value of their property – in Putney this is likely to raise around £1.4M over the next five years. Projects and services provided by the BID have to be within the BID area and are additional to those provided by the local authority.

As part of the balloting process a Business Plan has been produced, which includes commitments to:

- continue with regular deep cleaning of the pavements in the BID area (unfortunately this does not seem to keep up with the ability of users of the High Street to make a mess with gum and spilt food and drink)

- working with landlords of vacant properties to develop pop-up opportunities
- working with businesses to increase the rates of recycling and reuse
- working with the Police, Wandsworth Council and appropriate charities to better understand and solve the challenges of rough sleeping and street drinking in Putney.

**This is just a flavour of the plans for the next five years.**

The BID is overseen by a Board of Directors drawn from local businesses plus a Wandsworth Councillor. In addition, a representative of the Putney Society attend Board meetings as an observer. If Putney Society members have any matters they would like the BID to consider, please contact [editor@putneysociety.org.uk](mailto:editor@putneysociety.org.uk).

In November, the BID will be organising the installation of a Christmas tree in Church Square. 19th November is the date when the lights will be switched on – the event will be Nutcracker themed with a dance from the Sugar Plum Fairy. Choirs from schools and other performance groups will put in an appearance.



## Letter to the Editor



The BID has recently published its forward plan for enhancing Putney for local businesses. The plan might be further enhanced if the concept of business stakeholders could be expanded to include all its stakeholders (the customers and residents are also stakeholders). We appreciate the challenges facing the BID in attracting retailers to Putney premises against ever growing online offers – eg: you can buy a book online at half the cost of the bookshop price, but an online event never has the same excitement. There has been a rapid increase in people's desire for local experiential offers. Whilst landlords may not wish to offer their premises for unconventional purposes due to

what they may perceive as overhead costs, maybe they could consult their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) departments.

As someone who worked in this field I do know the value that organisations put on CSR whether it be environment, philanthropic or fair trade projects. Putney has a long tradition of incorporating artistic thinking whether in staging family events, arts events, or the excellent riverside market organised by Nicola Grant. Should the BID actively seek a connection with its local stakeholder residents it might find many of them have connections in the CSR field and constructive ideas which could benefit everyone concerned.

*Sue Rolfe*

### FUTURE PANEL MEETINGS

For the moment all panel meetings are held on Zoom. We will let you know as soon as the guidance allows us to meet in person. If you are new to panel meetings, please contact the panel convenor by email if you want to take part in the Zoom meeting and they will send out an invitation.

#### COMMUNITY

**11 November, 9 December by Zoom (18.30)**

**Co-convenors:**  
Vicky Diamond & Val Jones  
vickysw15@aol.co.uk,  
jones.val@gmail.com  
T: 07746 022654 (Vicky)  
T: 07780 674114 (Val)

#### TRANSPORT

**9 November, 14 December by Zoom (19.30)**

**Convenor:**  
Stephen Luxford  
Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

#### BUILDINGS

**3 November, 1 December by Zoom (18.30)**

**Convenor:**  
Andrew Catto  
ac@andrewcatto.co.uk  
T: 07831 761327

#### OPEN SPACES

**4 November, 2 December by Zoom (18.30)**

**Convenor:**  
Judith Chegwiddden  
judith.chegwiddden@gmail.com  
T: 020 8788 4489

## Charity Christmas Cards in Putney - Cards for Good Causes News

We are sad to announce that Cards for Good Causes, the charity Christmas card retailer, will not be opening its doors this year in Putney Library, Disraeli Road.

The Cards for Good Causes team would like to say a huge thank you to both volunteers and customers who have so warmly supported them over the years whilst helping to raise vital funds for charity. They very much hope to be back next year in the heart of the local community.

If you would still like to purchase charity Christmas cards and seasonal gifts whilst helping to raise much-needed funds for charity, you can still do so via their website [www.cardsforcharity.org.uk](http://www.cardsforcharity.org.uk)

or visit the Kingston shop in All Saints Church, opposite John Lewis open from 21st October Monday to Saturday 10am to 4pm

or Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Street open from 25th October Monday to Saturday 10am to 5.30pm

or buy from the Charity Shops in Putney High Street

On behalf of all of our charities, thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.



ROEHAMPTON

# Christmas Tree Light Switch on & Schools Lantern Parade

Bottom of Danebury Avenue  
Tuesday 30th November at 4.00pm. In attendance the Mayor of Wandsworth

## Discount Scheme £

Some of you may be wondering whether the Putney Society Discount Scheme has survived the lockdown. We are currently contacting all the businesses that were already signed-up, as well as potential new entrants, so that we can assess the scheme's viability. There will be more news in the next month or two.



### Another chance to hear more about more historic houses in SW15

Friends of Putney Library are re-starting their talks at Putney Library on **24 November**.  
**Refreshments 6.00.p.m**  
**Talk 6.30.p.m**

Come and hear local historian Phil Evison give an illustrated talk about some of Putney area's "Great Houses", for example the three surviving ones - **Winchester House, Lower Park and Putney Park House** - and the more famous of the lost ones - **Fairfax, Essex, and Granard**.

## Wandsworth Together on Climate Change Festival

**Monday 8 November - Saturday 13 November**

Events include the Climate Change Festival Day at Battersea Arts Centre, online walks, talks, exhibitions, workshops and more.

Wandsworth Council want everyone who lives, works and plays in Wandsworth to join this landmark event on climate change in the borough. Go along to learn more about the issues, connect with others and discover how we can all

take action to help the environment and reduce emissions.

**Book here:** <https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/news/campaigns/climate-change/together-on-climate-change-festival/together-on-climate-change-festival-events/>



# Buildings Panel

**Convenor:** Andrew Catto  
16 Roehampton Close, SW15 5LU  
ac@andrewcatto.co.uk 020 8785 0077

My last report was written just before our first public meeting since lockdown, but I can now report a success on all counts. Sixty people turned out to listen to Gilly King's enthralling talk on the great houses of Roehampton and their often extraordinary inhabitants. Did you know that of just five grade 1 buildings in the whole of Wandsworth borough, three are in Roehampton? Thanks too to Roehampton University for use of their fine modern lecture theatre attached to grade 1 listed Parkstead House.

The panel had some interesting applications to debate in October. I wrote last month about the two big electronic billboards proposed for the Rosslyn Park rugby ground. In the end we decided that two new ones were an improvement on the existing three, but strictly only if the existing ones come down first and that no moving images are allowed on what are effectively giant TV screens. Our letter, as with all of the panel's comments, can now be seen on the Society's web site. Meanwhile Wandsworth Council have evaded enforcement action against themselves by applying for planning consent for a billboard already erected opposite ASDA.

The rugby ground is protected as Metropolitan Open Land. So, of course is Putney Heath, but a large area between the Telegraph Inn and Tibbets Corner is fenced off. It is in fact a big reservoir, covered by a grassed-over lid, here because this is the highest point in SW15. When it was constructed, a small cottage was built for the reservoir keeper. This has long since

been sold off. The adjacent garden has been concreted over and is now home to several large sheds and vans. In short, a bit of an eyesore. There's now a proposal to rip up all that concrete and repair the cottage (good) but to be funded by planning consent for a new house. On balance we think that, since this is fenced-off land already, this is a reasonable trade, as long as the consent ensures the improvements are done. This won't be a first. All the buildings along the stretch of the old Portsmouth Road stand on land that long ago was part of the Heath, before being enclosed for bowling greens etc.

With the modern awareness of the earth's limited resources, all new building needs to justify the materials used in construction and the related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. On this basis we have objected to a scheme to demolish and rebuild one of the big detached houses on Roehampton Lane which could easily be upgraded and, if necessary, extended.

Thanks to the eagle-eyed member who spotted a grey wall being built on top of a house in Burstock Road, presumably to enclose an unauthorised roof terrace. Now reported to the Council's enforcement team. We're only a small panel and would encourage all members to ask about anything that makes you think 'surely that didn't get planning consent'. If in doubt, you can check on Wandsworth's very useful planning map at <https://maps.wandsworth.gov.uk/planning.html>.

# Community Panel

**Co-convenors:** Victoria Diamond 6 Norroy Road, SW15 1PF  
Val Jones Garden Flat, 41 Norroy Road, SW15 1PQ  
Vickysw15@aol.com & jones.val@gmail.com 07746 022654

Community Panel members have been very busy this past month attending meetings, mostly via Zoom, on all subjects from Policing, Roehampton Response, Healthwatch, Sexual Health, and Queen Mary's Enhanced Primary Care Hub.

Wandsworth Police are well aware of the loss of public confidence after recent events, and they feel it too. They are checking all police officer records to try and ensure that there are no past matters that can cause problems in the future. Domestic abuse and violence against women have been on the rise, but the police are working with community groups to try to reach those who are vulnerable and need support. This can, at times, be difficult, with so many different languages used within the Borough.

Wandsworth Wellbeing Hub can be accessed by phone or email. 020 3880 0366 or [waccg.wandsworthhub@nhs.net](mailto:waccg.wandsworthhub@nhs.net) It offers: Adult Care Information Service, Family Information Service, Self-Management courses, Mental health support, and Care4me, which is a directory of useful community services. There are also courses, classes and groups for specific health conditions such as Diabetes, Cardiac prevention and rehabilitation at St George's, Integrated falls and bone health at St George's, and Pulmonary rehabilitation across Wandsworth. Check with your GP or practice nurse to find out if you're a suitable candidate. If you have online access you can read more about it <https://swlondonccg.nhs.uk/yourhealth/wandsworth-wellbeing-hub/>

## Open Spaces Panel

Convenor: Judith Chegwidden  
28 Howards Lane, SW15 6NQ  
judith.chegwidden@gmail.com 020 8788 4489

Perhaps Putney town centre is not somewhere one would associate with the London in Bloom Competition, but this year it was awarded Silver Gilt in the Town Centre City Centre category. The judge praised those businesses that had erected hanging baskets (although more would be good) and the floral display outside the station set up by the Putney School of Art and Design and the adjacent Dovers Flowers. The judge was also impressed with the parklets and the ivy screens on the frontage of the former Marks and Spencer site. Judging also incorporated community initiatives and the report suggested that the excellent Tidy Towpath initiative could work in partnership with businesses as well as the existing cooperation with schools. The Open Spaces panel is particularly interested in suggestions for sensitive improvements to the planting and maintenance of the Old Burial Ground and plan to follow these up with Enable, in partnership with the BID.

The panel welcome the cooperation with JC Decaux to improve the planting in the parklet on the corner of Charlwood Road and the Upper Richmond Road. The company responded swiftly to our communication noting the spread of weeds on the site (although we will probably have an “interesting” discussion about the use of Roundup weedkiller).

They further suggested that we should come up with some plans for enhancing the planting at the site and we have made a list of suitable plants – from ground cover to climbers – to discuss with their representative at the beginning of November.

We welcome the improvement to the drainage and verges in Putney Park Lane and look forward to walking the length of the Lane with (we hope) local ward councillors to discuss (among other things) ways in which the surface of the lane can better withstand the heavy rain storms we have experienced this year. Efforts to limit parking at the northern end of the Lane seem to be working for the moment – we will keep a watching brief. Around the corner in the Dover House Shopping Parade, the landscaping contractor will be starting planting work very soon to cover up the scars left by the hard landscaping in this area.

During some of our litter picking days, we have been identifying rather a lot of fly tipping. All of us can play a role in trying to combat this blight. If you have a smart phone just download the FixMyStreet app and follow the simple steps to link to Wandsworth Council. It is easy to take a photo and transmit a report about fly tipping – or to report potholes and broken pavements. You can even check it up on a map on the council website.

## Transport Panel

Convenor: Stephen Luxford  
46 Disraeli Road, SW15 2DS  
Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

Discussions at the COP 26 event in Glasgow bring home the importance of our local environment so please respond to the article Mike Fawcett has written about the Council’s draft air strategy.

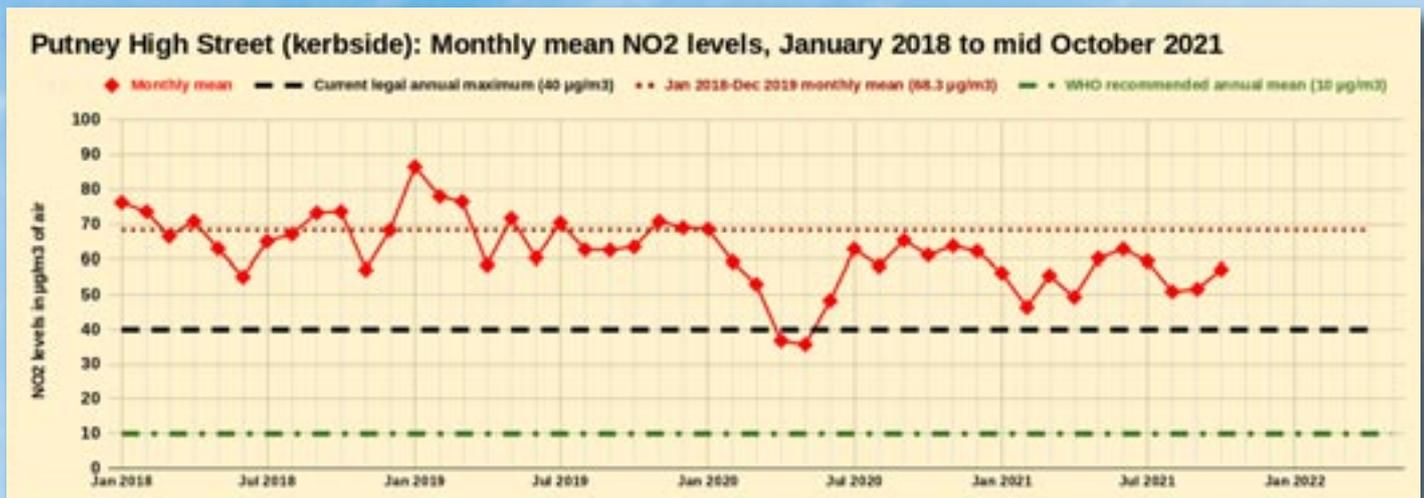
In mid-October, the government published a Net Zero strategy setting out their plans to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2050. The transport chapter is worth reading. It includes plans to encourage more walking and cycling and expand the use of public transport. SWR’s plans to cut the rail service for Putney therefore goes against the grain. Decarbonising transport will also help reduce but not eliminate air pollution as there will still be particulate emissions associated with road, rail, tyre, and brake wear.

It appears that plans for a ferry service besides Hammersmith Bridge are now on hold but may be

revived should the Bridge need to be closed for major repair work. At the time of writing, the Hammersmith Bridge Taskforce has not met for three months.

The Society intends to raise again with TfL the case for lifts at East Putney Underground station. The station, pre Covid, had three times the passenger levels of nearby Wimbledon Park station, which gained its own lift in September. While Southfields, also with fewer passengers than us, has had a lift for around ten years. Notwithstanding the engineering challenge installing lifts might present there is also obviously the cost, as East Putney would require two lifts. However, if we are to realise the government’s ambitions and significantly reduce vehicle usage then we need to ensure that our public transport system is accessible to all.

# Air Quality Action Plan – out for consultation



Wandsworth Council have finally opened the consultation on their Air Quality Action Plan 2021-2025 <https://haveyoursay.citizenspace.com/wandsworthecs/aqap-21/> ; it will run to 4 January 2022. We think it contains lots of good things, but fear they will make little difference to the dangerous pollution on Putney High Street and other major roads. The Council have still not replied to our 3 September letter asking what evidence supports their claim that the borough will “achieve compliance with the objectives for both Nitrogen Dioxide and Particulate Matter no later than 2025”.

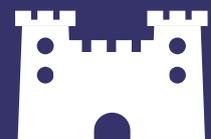
Typical of the Council’s complacency is their continual parading of the fact that the number of

hours when the hourly legal limit is broken on the High Street has fallen dramatically – perfectly true; but they ignore the fact that pollution still greatly exceeds the legal limit for the annual mean level: our graph shows this data.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions you would like included in our consultation response.

We have also now written to our London Assembly member, Leonie Cooper, urging further action by the Mayor to reduce pollution from both buses and cars, prioritising the most polluted streets, such as Putney High Street.

## Local history



The latest edition of the **Wandsworth Historian** is now available. Articles include Philip Evison on the exile of former Czech president Edvard Beneš who came to live in Gwendolen Avenue in 1938 and a celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Festival of Britain focussing on the creation of the Festival Pleasure Gardens in Battersea Park. All this and much more can be found in the Autumn 2021 issue. (ISSN 1751-9225), The Wandsworth Historian is published by the Wandsworth Historical Society, and copies are available price £3.00 plus £2.00 for postage and packing from WHS, 119 Heythorp Street, London SW18 5BT or by emailing [020neil119@gmail.com](mailto:020neil119@gmail.com)

The Wandsworth Historical Society are involved in the organisation of the West London Local History Conference 2021 (online). Its theme will be ‘Liquid History: the Thames in the past of South & West London’, and will include a presentation by local historian, Dorian Gerhold, who will be speaking on Wandsworth’s Lost Fishing Village.

As the number of places is limited, please make sure you book your ticket without delay - please contact Neil Robson via [020neil119@gmail.com](mailto:020neil119@gmail.com).

# Milicent Bagot

One of the Society's many activities is to erect blue plaques to commemorate the lives of those who have made a significant contribution locally or nationally. We have erected nine plaques so far to people who have lived or worked in Putney including Captain Lawrence Oates, Norman Parkinson, Edward Gibbon, and most recently to Carel Weight R.A.

Earlier this year (around the time of International Women's Day in March), it struck us that all our plaques have been for men, and that this should be rectified as soon as possible! Casting around for eminent women (who met our criteria) we alighted upon Milicent Bagot, who lived at 25 Rusholme Road, Putney, from 1913 to 1976. She was a British intelligence officer with MI5 who became one of the security service's principal experts on Soviet Communism.

Born in Battersea, Milicent moved to the house in Rusholme Road in 1907 aged 6. She attended Putney High School and then Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, where she read classics. After gaining her degree in 1927 she started work in the Metropolitan Police Special Branch, the section dealing with communist and foreign revolutionary movements. From there she entered the Ministry of Defence in 1931 and worked for MI5 on counter subversion. She was also seconded to MI6 to advise on countering international communism in the Middle East and the Balkans.

By 1949 she was recognised as a leading expert with an encyclopaedic knowledge of Soviet Communism. In the same year she was promoted to officer grade and awarded an MBE for her expertise, dedication and tenacity of purpose. She was promoted to Assistant Director in 1953, the first female intelligence officer in MI5 ever to gain this rank, and was awarded a CBE in 1967.

She is reputed to have been the first person to raise the alarm about Kim Philby, a MI6 officer but also Soviet KGB double agent - who fled to Moscow after his cover

was blown. Of course, much of her work in the security service will never be made public. But it is thought that she was the model for the outspoken and eccentric character, Connie Sachs, the "Moscow watcher" in John le Carré's novels, *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* and *Smiley's People*.

She was, to quote from Ben Macintyre's *Agent Sonya: Lover, Mother, Soldier, Spy*, "the sort of English woman who strikes fear into the heart of foreigners, children and bank managers, and tends to be described as

'formidable'". Formidable or not, she lived with her former nanny, later housekeeper, in the house in Rusholme Road until 1976. She had obituaries in both *The Times* and the *Guardian* at her death in 2006.

We think you'll agree she is a worthy recipient of a Putney Society blue plaque, our first to honour a woman. The plaque was unveiled on 15 October by Mrs Suzie Longstaff, Head Teacher of Putney High School.

For more information about our Blue Plaques Scheme, see the brochure on our website.



Mrs Suzie Longstaff, and Carolyn McMillan prior to the unveiling

**Note from the Editor** – at the meeting of the Executive of the Society on 17 October, we expressed our heartfelt thanks to Carolyn McMillan for all her work in researching the life of Milicent Bagot and negotiating the erection of the plaque and organising the reception. Many thanks, in addition, to the owners of 25 Rusholme Road for welcoming the plaque and hosting the unveiling reception.



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

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