



# The Bulletin

For our members in Putney and Roehampton



July 2021



## Advance notice for an exciting new event this August

The inaugural Putney Festival will be held from the **7th-15th of August**

Events at various locations will include:

- **Open Air Opera Gala** featuring alumni from the National Opera Studio
- **Folkdance Remixed** - Streetdance Round the Maypole & Socially Distant Ceilidh
- Internet Sensation 'Mini Music Makers' with their early years musical extravaganza
- **Putney 24hr Music Marathon** (*all welcome to participate, email [putnefestival@gmail.com](mailto:putnefestival@gmail.com) to sign up to participate*)

- **Nosferatu Silent Film** showing with live organ improvisation
- **Come and Sing the Messiah** with conductor Hilary Wetton Davies
- **Slam Poetry Event** at the legendary Half Moon Pub
- **Organ recital and Evensong** at All Saints'

As we go to press the programme is being finalised and the website developed but keep your eye open for more details at [www.putnefestival.org](http://www.putnefestival.org) where you will also be able to sign up for the mailing list.

## The colourful history of Roehampton from the Stuarts to the Victorians



Make a date in your Diary for this Putney Society presentation - The colourful history of Roehampton from the Stuarts to the Victorians

**Monday 27 September, 7.30pm**

The Putney Society's Open Meeting on Monday 27th September will be 'Royalist Roehampton, Georgian Playground, Victorian Bankers'.

The Buildings Panel continues its explorations of local history. This time,

Gilly King, History and Heritage Advisor at the University of Roehampton, will take us through the colourful history of Roehampton from the Stuarts to the Victorians.

This, the Society's first physical meeting for some time, will take place at Whitelands College. Further details will follow in the August Bulletin. We are also looking at the possibility of live streaming this event for those not able to attend in person.

## CAN YOU HELP?

Phil Evison, a local historian, is researching mysterious, probably 19th century pedestrian tunnels beneath Putney's streets.

They originated under Baltic (Putney) Wharf and one ran/runs to the basement of 4-6 Putney High St.

If you have any information or would like a PDF of his findings to date, email him on [philipevison0@gmail.com](mailto:philipevison0@gmail.com).



# Open Spaces Panel

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

Not so much text this month as I wanted to illustrate the problem of vandalised trees. Recently a cherry tree in the churchyard at All Saints was completely destroyed after some months of incremental damage. A mature tree on the Ashburton Estate has lost a major branch. Many other trees on the commons and parks have also been damaged this year. The message about the climate crisis is getting through to young people as we saw with the school strikes in 2019/20. But, has the link been made between the importance of our urban trees and their role in CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration? It has been a difficult time for young people while youth centres and sporting facilities have been closed, but now we have to find a way to protect trees from vandalism. In Swansea, young people that are part of the Youth Justice Service have worked with the council to replace damaged trees. Perhaps the Youth Offending Team



in Wandsworth could liaise with the Tree Officers at Enable to set up a similar scheme?

# Buildings Panel

Co-convenor: Andrew Catto  
16 Roehampton Close, SW15 5LU  
ac@andrewcatto.co.uk 020 8785 0077

The Panel participated in an online meeting with Wandsworth Council about the Future High Street Fund (FHSF) works. Wandsworth were awarded £1.05 million by the Government for further improvements to Putney High Street; less than the bid that had been submitted. The funds obtained will be used to contribute to three projects; changes to the area of the Embankment around Waterman's Green, restructuring the High Street/Lower Richmond Road/Putney Bridge Road junction and changes to the Library and its vicinity to provide a broader range of uses. As the FHSF money does not fully cover the cost of these projects, sources of additional funds will be identified, and the final designs prepared over the summer. Timescales for commencement are currently unknown.

Meanwhile **Phase 1** of the current High Street works, the widening and paving of the eastern side, is almost complete. **Phases 2 & 3** will follow with works to the western side of the High Street and the feeder road junctions. The repaving of Church Square to take the weight of the light commercial vehicles is in progress.

We have started to see planning applications for telecommunication masts for 5G mobile services. These masts are up to 20 metres high and are a single metal pole with antennae (*not dishes*) at the top and metal

cabinets in the vicinity of the base, similar in size to the cabinets on many street corners these days for delivering the internet. The telecommunication companies have rights as providers of national infrastructure to a significant degree of "permitted development", limiting the grounds for valid public objection. One at Parkstead Road on the Dover House Estate has generated 170 + objections. Unfortunately 5G signals extent over shorter distances than 3 and 4 G signals and require height to work effectively. Increasingly the "internet of things" will demand these high capacity, high speed services but unsurprisingly people are not happy with these masts near them. We are seeking a view from WBC and the London Forum of Amenity Societies about their stance on the issue.

We continue to raise the issue, running for many years now, of the inappropriate placing of Portacabins adjacent to Grade 1 listed Parkstead House in Roehampton. A further extension to the temporary permission has recently been submitted. Can we ever hope that this will be the last one?

The Panel is planning a physical meeting in Roehampton in September, restrictions permitting by then, for a presentation on the outstanding architectural heritage of Roehampton. (*including Parkstead House*).

# 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

## How do you feel about local physiotherapy services?

If you have had occasion to be referred by your GP for physiotherapy for a neck, shoulder, back or other joint issue, our local commissioning group is interested in hearing from you about your experiences. They would like to improve the current services so will be aiming to issue new contracts for April 2022. So now is your opportunity to comment on:

- How you found the referral process. Did your GP make it clear where you would be referred, and why? Did you understand how and when you would receive an appointment?
- If you had an option did you prefer treatment by a physiotherapist at the GP surgery, or in a hospital setting?
- How long did you have to wait for treatment?

- If you have had an urgent need for treatment – were you seen quickly?
- Did you understand the treatment process? Were you given advice on self-help follow up and preventative measures such as exercises or diet?

**Please take a moment to complete the survey below by 5 July:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/7GT6HTX>

**Reminder:** Information on the many events taking place during **Roehampton Community Week** is available on their website <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/7GT6HTX> From **5-11 July** there will be a chance to celebrate Roehampton in music, film, local heritage, arts, wellbeing and sport. Let's hope it is a great success as great deal of work has gone into it over the past year.

# Transport Panel

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

In mid-June, we hosted a successful webinar on the challenges facing those with the responsibility for improving air quality in London. Speakers were Melissa Compton-Edwards from Mums for Lungs and Simon Birkett, director of Clean Air in London. For those not able to make it you can view their slides on our website or watch a video recording.

As part of the next phase of the High Street improvement works, there has been much thought given to how the layout of the junction between the High Street and the Bridge might be improved to serve vehicle traffic, cyclists and pedestrians. We understand that the Council are considering the merits of having a Cycle Optimised Protected Signals (CYCLOPS) junction arrangement, which has been pioneered in Manchester. More news later in the year should this option be pursued.

The current news regarding Hammersmith Bridge is that there may be a decision made shortly, subject to the necessary assurances, of a possible re-opening in the summer to pedestrians. If this were to be the case, it is unclear where this will leave the planned ferry service, which is now scheduled for September.

Even if the Bridge becomes safe for pedestrian use there appear to be significant financial obstacles still to be overcome to enable major structural repairs to go ahead. These are necessary to allow road vehicles once again and therefore relieve the additional flow of vehicles over Putney Bridge. The government has offered to pay up to a third of the repair costs, which would leave TfL and Hammersmith Council to find the remaining £100m. Neither body are likely to find this palatable or affordable in the current climate.

## 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

8 July, 12 August  
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

13 July, 14 September  
by Zoom (19.30)

Convenor:  
Stephen Luxford  
Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

### BUILDINGS

7 July, 4 August  
by Zoom (18.30)

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

### OPEN SPACES

1 July, 5 August  
by Zoom (18.30)

Convenor:  
Judith Chegwidan  
judith.chegwidan@gmail.com  
T: 020 8788 4489

# Air Pollution Group

Air pollution in Putney has been a longstanding issue on which the Society has campaigned for many years. Since 2017 the Air Quality Group has been led by Dr Richard Carter. Richard now feels it is time to hand over leadership, although he will still be very much involved with the issue.

The Executive Committee agreed at its June meeting that Mike Fawcett would take over as leader and thanked Richard for his hard work particularly in running the several "citizen science" exercises to measure NO<sub>2</sub> levels in and around the High Street.

Mike has produced an update on the challenges that still exist in achieving World Health Organisation targets for good air quality and introduces it here:

"Hopefully you are all aware that London's Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) will be expanding out to the South Circular Road on 25 October. You can check whether your vehicle meets the ULEZ standards at [tfl.gov.uk/ulez-2021](http://tfl.gov.uk/ulez-2021).

The ULEZ expansion should reduce NO<sub>2</sub> pollution on Putney High Street. It also means that most of the Society's air pollution objectives, set in 2015, have been met. A great achievement! But there are still many serious air pollution problems in our area. So it is time for a review of the Society's air pollution objectives and strategy.

We have started by preparing a note, which describes the air pollution problems we now face, and briefly summarises existing actions which should deliver significant progress. This note is on the Society's website: [www.putneysociety.org.uk](http://www.putneysociety.org.uk)

We hope the information in the note will be helpful to our members. In particular, the Government's policies to deliver net zero global warming will have major implications for all of us, but will also help reduce local air pollution.

If you have any thoughts or comments on any aspect of the note, or if you would like to participate in our review, please contact Mike Fawcett ([mike.fawcett@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:mike.fawcett@tiscali.co.uk) 020 8788 7917)."

## A message from SW15 Hedgehogs

We are most fortunate to have hedgehogs in SW15 although you may not have been lucky enough to see one; it is after all a hedgehog's job to stay hidden from people. However, there is a growing band of residents who are opening their gardens to hedgehogs by creating small 13cm by 13cm holes in garden fencing or by raising their garden gates; this access is known as a Hedgehog Highway allowing them to move from one garden to another to find food, water and safe places to rest and to breed.

At this time of year, hedgehogs are busy mating, rearing young and gaining weight in preparation for hibernation. Because of a lack of suitable habitats, pesticides and fewer insects to eat, many hedgehogs will struggle to gain sufficient fat stores to make it through hibernation particularly female hedgehogs or those born in the late summer/autumn months. We can support hedgehogs by giving cat/dog food and putting out shallow dishes of fresh water. Contrary to popular myth, hedgehogs should not

have milk as they are lactose intolerant and bread, sunflower seeds, raisins, mealworms and peanuts from bird feeders can also be detrimental to hedgehog health. Hedgehogs are nocturnal mammals so supplementary food should be given at night preferably under a waterproof shelter such as a



plastic box turned upside down with a 13cm x 13cm hole cut in one side. Creating hedgehog friendly places by permitting an area of your garden to become a little overgrown with long grasses, shrubs, brambles and logs gives

good space for hedgehogs to make nests. Hedgehogs may curl into a ball when in danger, but those sharp spines offer no protection to even sharper blades of a strimmer, or the flames of a bonfire so please use caution when gardening. If you have a pond, ensure an escape route by means of a ramp or a sloped edge to your garden pond. Keep any netting at least 20cm off the ground as hedgehogs have poor eyesight, and they will not see it until it is too late. Keep dogs on leads at night to avoid possible encounters – dogs can find hedgehogs rather intriguing and may paw them, push, nudge and even bite them and remember slug pellets kill more than just slugs! Most importantly, please encourage your neighbours to create hedgehog highways, the better the garden corridors the more chances hedgehogs have at finding nourishment and safety.

**SW15 Hedgehogs are here for hedgehogs and to offer advice and practical help – contact [saveourhedgehogs@gmail.com](mailto:saveourhedgehogs@gmail.com)**

## PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

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