



The Bulletin

March 2021



Annual General Meeting

Monday 22 March 2021 at 7.30pm - by videoconference

You may remember that we held an online AGM last September, 6 months later in the year than normal owing to the uncertainties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. We now wish to get back to our usual pattern of holding our AGMs in March.

We are therefore holding an online AGM on **22 March** in order to conduct necessary Society business such as the elections of the Society's President and Vice-Presidents, Officers, Executive Committee, and Auditor for the next 12 months. Members will be able to attend and vote online. Profiles of candidates for officer posts and the executive (*at the time of writing*) are on the back page.

Enclosed with, or attached to this bulletin, you will find the papers you will need for the AGM if you wish to participate online: the AGM agenda with 2020/21 Annual Report, and the Treasurer's report and 2020 accounts.

If you would like to participate please email the Secretary secretary@putneysociety.org.uk

and she will contact you within 48 hours prior to the meeting with the link to join the online meeting and an explanation of how we propose to conduct meeting business.

If you would like to question the Officers or Panel Convenors about any aspects of the Annual Report or the Accounts, please submit questions by email or by post to the Secretary.

After conclusion of Society business we have a guest speaker, Sarah Chapman, Policy and Communications Manager at Wandsworth Foodbank. She will tell us how the foodbank operates and how it has responded to the growing need for emergency food aid for local people during the Covid-19 pandemic.



How can **YOU** help with the work of the Putney Society?

The Putney Society depends on its trustees and volunteers to keep functioning – so this is a call for any of you that can spare a little time to come forward as a Trustee (*member of the Executive Committee*) or as a volunteer.

If you have an interest in our built environment, transport issues, air quality, waste reduction, our open spaces or anything that makes Putney a better place – then think about getting involved.

You could help with our campaigns, admin tasks, recruitment or social events. If you can spare a couple of hours a month please do contact the Chair or the Secretary to find out more.

Please contact the Secretary and she will send you a nomination form to serve on the Executive Committee. Nominations should be submitted to the Secretary by **Monday 15 March 2021** (*full contact details on page 3 of this Bulletin*).

Public Toilets



Major omission from Wandsworth Draft Local Plan

The Society is in the process of a detailed review of the Wandsworth Draft Local Plan and our views will be submitted to the Council by the end of March. In the meantime we have noted with real concern that the Draft Plan contains no reference to public toilet provision. Any developments for improvement and growth in leisure and night time economy uses should be accompanied by a requirement to work with the council to provide public toilet facilities, ideally at the top of the High Street as well as the renovation of the long-closed existing facilities at Waterman's Green.

We note that the new London Plan has an entire policy on the provision of public toilets – we also note that the Local Plans are required to be in “*general conformity*” with the London Plan – so how does Wandsworth justify a different approach? It is extremely disappointing that the Wandsworth Local Plan has not seized the opportunity to use the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and other monies, and planning obligations, to require developers to provide these facilities, not only with capital but also with ongoing running costs.

Open Spaces Panel

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

We are very pleased that a proposal for the future management of Roehampton Playing Fields was agreed in principle at the Council's Community Services and Open Spaces Overview and Scrutiny Committee early in February. Council officers and the Roehampton Playing Fields Community Trust (RPFCT) will now continue to collaborate to finalise the legal and other arrangements for the Trust to manage the playing fields in partnership with Enable Leisure and Culture. RPFCT will now hope to secure much-needed investment for the playing field and all its facilities, particularly the pavilion.

February saw the publication by the government of **The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review**. This is a long and complex report on the importance of the role of Biodiversity in economic modelling and forecasting, but there is an abridged version available at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/957292/Dasgupta_Review_-_Abridged_Version.pdf

We can no longer ignore the importance of understanding the impact of our 21st century world on the future of our planet. As David Attenborough points out in the preface, *"But consider the following facts. Today, we ourselves, together with the livestock we rear for food, constitute 96% of the mass of all mammals on the planet. Only 4% is everything else – from elephants to badgers, from moose to monkeys. And 70% of all birds alive at this moment are poultry – mostly chickens for us to eat. We are destroying biodiversity, the very characteristic that until recently enabled the natural world to flourish so abundantly. If we continue this damage, whole ecosystems will collapse. That is now a real risk."*

This is why, over the next few months, the Society will be closely involved in the development of the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan – so that, at least at a local level, we try and ensure that all decisions include an assessment of their impact on biodiversity.

Transport Panel

Convenor: Stephen Luxford
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Works on Putney High Street continue. Between now and the end of May measures include the widening of the eastern pavement between Felsham Road and Putney Bridge Road, providing a Copenhagen crossing at Werter Road and potentially improvements to, or at least plans to, improve the pedestrian island at the junction with Putney Bridge Road. Further into 2021 we may see changes to the junction between Lower Richmond Road, the Bridge and the High Street. This is currently at the design stage and will also require TfL approval. The Society has made representations for consideration of a cycle lane and a wider pavement for pedestrians.

Beyond the High Street other work is in train. From the end of February, there will be a series of traffic calming measures

along the stretch of Westleigh Avenue between Putney Hill and Carlslake Road. These include speed bumps, raised carriageway 'tables' and kerb build outs. Collectively they are designed to reduce vehicle speeds, improve road safety for all road users and make this a less attractive route to use as a cut through.

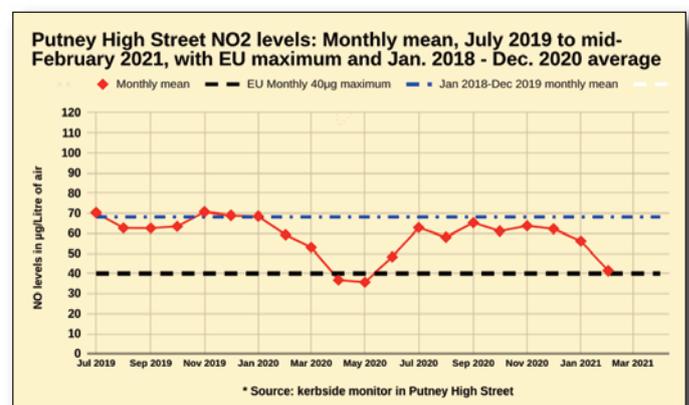
Some readers had difficulty accessing the link provided in last month's Bulletin to check if your vehicle is compliant with October's new Ultra Low Emission Zone.

Please try this instead: <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/ulez-expansion>

NO₂ levels in Putney High Street

In recent years the levels of NO₂ have been reduced from the dreadful values in excess of 100 µgrams/metre³ of four years ago, mainly thanks to Transport for London's introduction of hybrid buses. But even so, they have remained well above the mandatory 40 µg level: even with the improvements, the average over the last 2-3 years has been consistently around 70 µg.

However, the Covid-19 lockdowns have had a significant effect because there has been far less traffic, as the chart below shows. During the first lockdown, NO₂ levels actually fell below 40 µg in April and May, before reverting only too quickly to the long-term average as the restrictions were eased. We may have missed an opportunity to reduce pollution permanently by taking more radical action. Now, with the reintroduced restrictions just before Christmas, levels are again down: currently at a fraction above 40 µg.



No doubt they will rise when restrictions are again lifted. And in any case, even current levels are harmful: the 40 µg figure is arbitrary and unsupported by empirical evidence.

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

SMUGGLER'S WAY aka The Tip. From Monday, 22nd March 2021, residents who wish to use the Western Riverside Waste Authority's Smugglers Way Household Waste and Recycling Centre in a car, or on a motorcycle, must have booked a slot before they arrive at the Centre. You don't need to book if you're on foot or bicycle. It will be possible to book a slot from when the system goes live on Monday, 15th March. They are introducing this new six-month trial to reduce the longstanding queuing problems on Smugglers Way, particularly at weekends and on Bank Holidays. By controlling the times the Centre is used, staff can redistribute visits which will reduce the peak usage, thereby decreasing queues and lessening the impact on the local community. The booking system will also ensure that usage of the Centre is limited to only residents of the four London Boroughs who use the site, a potential saving to council tax payers of over £100,000 per year. Only the driver is permitted to leave the vehicle – if you have a passenger with you to help you, you have to inform a Recycling Advisor first, before they leave the vehicle.

It will be possible for those that are not online to make a telephone booking by contacting Wandsworth Council on 020 8871 8558 - **but please note this number will not be available until 15 March.**

In the meantime, if residents have any queries in the period leading up to 15 March, please contact WRWA on 020 8871 2788 and they will be happy to offer advice.

Queen Mary's site for vaccination – this has been delayed for a month now, but, all being well, will be up and running mid-March.

Roehampton Community Week – They have had to change the dates from **May to July 5 – 11**. We hope this will be able to go ahead then.

Andy Smith from the Putney charity **Regenerate Rise** www.regenerateuk.co.uk is fundraising to enable the **Feel Good Coffee Cart** to be situated alongside the Hurlingham Yacht Club on the walk to Wandsworth Park from Putney High St (via Deodar Road) on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from April. The plan is to offer employment for up to 35 young people, often their first job. It's a very admirable scheme, which we hope will help these youth move forward. He hopes to launch a second one in July. You can donate online via <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/feelgood2021> You can also send a cheque, made out to Regenerate to: Regenerate, Ashburton Youth Centre, Westleigh Avenue, Putney, SW15 6XD.

Buildings Panel

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

Looking back over recent Bulletin reports I see that increasingly the Panel has been kept busy with changes to planning policy as much as by the actual planning applications that form our 'bread and butter' role. The last month has been no different. Wandsworth's draft new Local Plan sits centre stage and filled much of the discussion at February's panel meeting. Huge thanks are due to all the other panels for their input, and for the many individual contributions received. I now just have to weave these into single document responding to the consultation.

Thank goodness, at least for the panel's workload, that Wandsworth was one of only two major planning authorities to see a drop in application numbers in 2020. The other was Westminster. Everywhere else seeing an increase suggests this wasn't the result of Covid restrictions. Could it be that with so many recent flats unsold, we are seen as 'full' - other figures show that London's population declined by several hundred thousand last year?

But it's not entirely quiet on the 'home' front where owners

increasingly want more. In December we objected to two excessive roof extensions in Charlwood Road. Both have been reduced in scale but we have had to urge the council not to allow the more prominent one, even in reduced form, so as to protect the special character of this long-standing conservation area. Elsewhere we have written seeking refusal of front garden parking that would have broken up a stretch of the privet hedging that distinguishes the Dover House estate, and to object to an over visible roof extension. All these letters are now on the Society's web site

Our objection to the proposals to, in effect, wrap a block of flats around the digital billboard opposite the Methodist Church on the Upper Richmond Road has now been joined by 84 against to only 2 in support. Mainly thanks to Vicky for getting her neighbours to spread the word. Don't forget how effective this can be next time something comes up in your corner of Putney. Our objection for another current case, where change won't be so immediately visible, is only one of two. But it's encouraging that there are revised drawings reflecting our comments here too.

PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

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www.putneysociety.org.uk

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Getting to know candidates for the Executive

Have you ever wondered about the people putting themselves forward for the Putney Society Executive and officer posts?

Here are the short profiles of those known – at the time of writing – to be standing for election at the AGM. Would you like to join them? There is still time to get a nomination form and participate in the running of the Society.

Robert Arguile – my family has been resident in Putney since 1985, but I had periods working abroad for a multinational company. Retired chemical engineer and process analyst. I have been a Trustee of the Putney Society since 2016, first as Website Editor and then becoming the Chair in 2018.

Jonathan Callaway – resident in Putney since 1988, retired banker, former Member of British Library board, former trustee Battersea Arts Centre & Wandsworth Museum until it merged with BAC, current trustee of CW+, the charity supporting the Chelsea & Westminster hospital. Have been a committee member since 2007, convener of the Transport Panel 2007-2012, initiated Air Quality campaign 2010. Current Deputy Chair.

Richard Carter – Brought up on a farm in Wiltshire, I escaped to civilisation to study chemistry at Bristol University, followed by a PhD in organic chemistry. I then spent 30 years doing operational research/policy advice at the Department of Health. After that I became head of research at a children's charity working mainly in Central/Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Now retired, I divide my time between rebuilding/riding bicycles, advocating sustainable transport, going to concerts/theatre - and covering the pollution issue for Putney Society.

Judith Chegidden – Cornish by origin but resident in Putney since 1970. Before retiring I was MD of a company providing analyses of minerals and metals markets. Locally, I spent twelve years as a local councillor and ten years as a NED of a local NHS Trust. I joined the Putney Society in 1990, served as Chair for 2 years in mid-1990s and later as Secretary and Chair in 2010s. Latterly contributes as Bulletin Editor and convener of Open Spaces Panel.

Victoria Diamond – brought up in South Africa. I worked initially for a vehicle export company in St James, sending ambulances, Jeeps and Rolls Royce to the Middle East. Subsequently worked for a large American investment bank on the US equity side, before moving over to the US Derivative Desk. Lived in New York for 6 months, and travelled extensively. Glandular fever and meningitis put a stop to that. I have lived in Putney since 1986, am co-convener of the Community Panel and have been a member of the Society for 10 years.

Mike Fawcett – born and grew up in Preston, Lancs; resident of Putney since 1981; a retired senior civil servant, having worked mainly on transport and economic regeneration. Interests include theatre, art appreciation (including architecture), walking and playing bridge. Working on a local history project since lockdown. Member of the Putney Society since 2007, and of the Executive Committee since the 2019 AGM. Particularly concerned about road, rail and air transport, and especially in improving our local air quality and reducing the disturbance caused by aircraft noise.

Charles Gillbe – I was born in Manchester and grew up and studied medicine in Aberdeen. I have worked on the shop floor in Slough, London and Brigg, Lincs and in medicine in Leicester, Brisbane, Portsmouth, Groenlo, (NL) and London. My professional interests were cardiothoracic anaesthesia and critical care and for a time I was responsible for anaesthetic training in north London and intensive care training nationally. Since retiring I have continued to grow my own vegetables, walk up mountains and cycle, all increasingly slowly. I have recently started studying mathematics at the OU.

Val Jones – Val came to live in Putney in 1973. Her career in health and social care includes posts at the Medical Research Council and Hammersmith and Fulham Council. She was seconded to the Department of Health in 2001. In 2004 Val established her consultancy business and was also a member of the Guy's Research Ethics Committee. A member of the Putney Society since 2016, Val is Co-Convener of the Community Panel and a member of the Executive Committee. Now retired, her interests include architecture and design, opera, horses and walking.

Stephen Luxford – born and grew up in Weybridge in Surrey. First visited Putney regularly in the 80s and has been resident for over 25 years. Works for a Parliamentary body and as a regular commuter (pre-Covid) has a particular concern for the quality of rail and tube transport and the effects of air pollution in the High Street. Member of Putney Society for over ten years. First direct involvement was in the initial air pollution measuring exercise in 2011. Subsequently joined the Transport Panel, later becoming the Convener and a Member of the Executive Committee.

Carolyn McMillan PhD – A chartered psychologist (retired) specialising in health and quality of life. Research conducted at Royal Holloway, University of London. Resident in Putney for over 40 years with spells abroad. She was Chair of Putney Society for four years to 2014, and has served as Secretary for the past six years. She is currently Trustee of the Friends of Putney School of Art and Design and a former Trustee of the Friends of Fulham Palace. She has an interest in community issues, having set up a local resident's association and neighbourhood watch.

Andrew Nichol – Treasurer. Resident of Putney, with my wife and children, since 2003. A Chartered Accountant, currently CFO of M Winkworth PLC. Member of the Executive Committee since 2020.

Mark Poulter – South London born and bred. Resident of Putney since 1980. Retired after 41 years of senior management positions in Information Systems management with BP, Shell, P&O/OCL and others. Interested in architecture and traditional buildings and gardens, the countryside and classic vehicles. Member of the Putney Society for 30+ years and Executive Committee for 10+ years, seeking to maintain the ambience of Putney for those who live here.

The Arts Society South West London lectures in March

Great Tarts in Art:
High Culture and the Oldest Profession
Lecturer: Linda Smith
Monday 8 March at 8pm

Three Great Families and Their Gardens:
A History of the Astors, the Rothschilds and the Sackville Wests
Lecturer: Caroline Rayman
Monday 29 March at 8pm

Lectures will be delivered via Zoom.

Non-members are welcome to view it for a donation of £5.

For more information visit the website <https://theartsocietyswLondon.org.uk/> or contact Gwen Hewitt on gwen@the2hewitts.plus.com

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 convener by email if you want to take part in the Zoom meeting and they will send out an invitation.

COMMUNITY

11 March, 8 April
by Zoom (18.30)

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

TRANSPORT

9 March, 13 April
by Zoom (19.30)

Convener:
Stephen Luxford
Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

BUILDINGS

3 March, 7 April
by Zoom (18.00)

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

OPEN SPACES

4 March, 1 April
by Zoom (18.00)

Convener:
Judith Chegidden
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