



The Bulletin

For our members in Putney and Roehampton



May 2021

Clean Air in London

Webinar for members Monday 7 June at 7.30pm



Simon Birkett of Clean Air in London will talk about the challenges facing the new Mayor in reducing levels of NO² and PM2.5 pollution in London.

Clean Air in London's mission is to achieve full compliance with WHO guidelines for air quality throughout London and elsewhere.



On 21 April 2021, Philip Barlow, coroner for inner south London, who ruled earlier this year that air pollution from traffic was a cause of the death of nine-year-old Ella Kissi-Debrah, followed up with a "prevention of future deaths report", calling for maximum levels of particulate air pollution (PMs) to be legally brought into line with WHO levels.

We hope that Simon will be joined by a representative from Mums for Lungs, who recently installed the striking billboard by East Putney Station, which shows the impact air pollution has on lungs. The lungs starts white and change colour as they become more polluted. Within days, they were grey.

Editor of PutneySW15 stepping down

After nearly 20 years of editing our successful local website, Sandi Bloomfield is stepping down. She has been a fantastic supporter of many local community activities – including those of the Putney Society - and will be sadly missed.

We were particularly grateful for her input as a judge of our front garden competition.

For the moment, the website will be produced in conjunction with Wandsworth SW18 but Sandi will continue contribute articles as well as continuing with her work as a volunteer with Putney Tidy Towpath.

Wandsworth Heritage Festival 2021

The programme has been released for the Wandsworth Heritage Festival 2021. Events this year are either online or outdoors in response to the Covid-19s pandemic. Some highlights include:

Tour and talk: A Home on the Hill – a virtual tour of the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability

Organised by the Royal Hospital for Neuro-Disability **Thursday 10 June, 1pm**

Walk: The Wandle's Industrial Heritage

Organised by the Wandle Industrial Museum - Local historian John Sheridan leads this walk from Earlsfield station to the mouth of the River Wandle, with illustrations and descriptions of former mills and industrial activities along the route.

Thursday 3 June, 11am

Talk: Transforming Springfield Hospital

Organised by the Wandsworth Society. Emma Hill, Community Engagement Officer at Springfield Hospital, talks about the redevelopment of Springfield Hospital as

well as the hospital's new Integrated Programme for better quality mental health treatment. **Thursday 10 June, 8pm**

Full details of the programme and how to book are available at <https://www.better.org.uk/library/london/wandsworth/news/wandsworth-heritage-festival-2021>



Open Spaces Panel

Convenor: Judith Chegwidden
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The Panel applauds the efforts of Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators, Wandsworth Council and Enable – not forgetting the many individual litter pickers - to clear all the rubbish strewn across parks and commons in recent months. After a few sunny days, it becomes impossible to turn on the radio or TV or to look at a paper without coming across horror stories about the rash of litter across the country. The associated financial and environmental costs are stacking up at a time when many bodies responsible for open spaces are operating with reduced staff and funding.

We now need to find a way of preventing littering in the first place. Radical action at a national level is required to re-educate the population to prevent the spread of litter across our public open spaces. We have written to our local MP, Fleur Anderson to ask government to provide support for local authorities and charities trying to clear the rubbish tsunami. A hard-hitting national advertising campaign across all types of media together with increased fines and enforcement is one way to go.

Another is to try to change behaviour through the reintroduction of a deposit scheme for bottles and cans (to include plastic bottles). There have been continuing delays in introducing a deposit return scheme – first mooted in 2018, but now the Minister of State at DEFRA has said it will be delayed until late 2024, which will be after the next General Election!

Congratulations to the Friends of Wandsworth Park who have now installed more than half of the Swift Boxes purchased with grants from Wandsworth Council and the RSPB. We hope that returning swifts will home in on these potential nesting sites in the streets around the Park.

The Friends of Barnes Common have published some interesting data on hedgehog populations on Barnes and Putney Common as well as across South West London. As the UK population of hedgehogs continues to decline, urban areas are becoming sites of safer refuge.

<https://barnescommon.org.uk/conservation/species-management/hedgehogs/>

Buildings Panel

Co-convenor: Andrew Catto
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In March's report, I thanked Vicky for drumming up lots of neighbours to object to the planning application for a block of flats wrapped around a replacement of the three storey high digital billboard where Charlwood Road meets the Upper Richmond Road. Thanks again to all who wrote to object: the application has now been refused and four out of five reasons for refusal were about the loss of the small open space here. Wandsworth Council does listen if enough of us take time to comment.

Whether it is a whole block of flats, or small-scale changes to front gardens, whether we agree with or object to proposals for development often depends on how they fit in the local context. Amazingly, this month we saw one scheme for a whole house on a back lane plot off the High Street presented as if it was a freestanding building. Whilst we might welcome the house, the Panel still felt obliged to ask the planners to demand proper drawings in context before making a decision.

When the Panel took a close look at the proposal for two extra floors on Sylva Court (see my April piece) we found that all 10 flats proposed were under 35 sq.m., with the whole living space in some being only a little over the Council's standard for a double bedroom. Let's hope that this is the last application of this type that we see.

Several years too late the Government has now closed this loophole, but only for applications after the start of April. If the last year has taught us anything, it is that our homes need enough space to adapt.

You may have wondered why this column has gone quiet on the future of the Alton Estate. Simply because so too has Wandsworth Council, having lost their development partner. The Council's proposal now needs to be ratified by the Mayor of London, something to consider in May's election. Meanwhile some residents have been putting together an alternative to the Council's proposal, along with students and tutors from UCL, based on renovation and selective infill with new units. This is the approach, honed over many years, which won Lacaton & Vassall the Pritzker Prize in March, the first time the world's top architecture award has been awarded to team who don't do new buildings. How about it Wandsworth?

The unlocking of 'non-essential' shops saw me getting a long needed haircut and a new battery to get my favourite watch working again - both from local independent shops. The big chains may think that you can travel to Kingston or Southside to find them, but the local firms know where they belong. Reviving the High Street and filling the empty shops needs us all to support businesses who are committed to Putney.

Community Panel

Co-convenors: Victoria Diamond 6 Norroy Road, SW15 1PF
Val Jones Garden Flat, 41 Norroy Road, SW15 1PQ
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Injuries such as burns, sprains, broken bones, cuts, bruises and wounds can continue to be seen conveniently and locally at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, as a pilot urgent care service is extended for a further six months. Emergency practitioner appointments may now be booked by calling a dedicated number - 020 8725 0120. Anyone calling this number will be assessed to make sure they are suitable for the service and given an appointment. The service offers appointments with emergency practitioners (nurses, physiotherapists and paramedics) as well as GPs. Adults and children over two can be seen by an emergency practitioner seven days a week, from 8am to 8pm. You can still book appointments at the urgent care service by calling NHS 111 or your own GP practice as well. People should not attend Queen Mary's Hospital if they have Covid-19 symptoms, are self-isolating or have tested positive for Covid-19. Instead, ring NHS 111 or 119. People with suspected life-threatening conditions, such as a heart attack or stroke, should call 999 immediately.

Consumers of coffee brands including Nespresso, Nescafé Dolce Gusto, Tassimo, L'OR and Starbucks at Home will be able to recycle pods through a new collective scheme. You can drop your pods off at one of these shops: Gerhold - at 295-7 Upper Richmond Rd, Brown's - at 11 Charlwood Road, Putney Express on Putney Bridge Road, Hardings News on Tildesley Road, Londis on Portswood Place, Roehampton and Londis in Aubyn Square. Better than putting them in the rubbish!

Ubuntu Museum (the African Museum of Humanity) in Roehampton has been running a Kids Recycled Art project for the last couple of months, encouraging

children aged 6-11 to use their creative and artistic skills with everyday materials. Kits have been provided, and you can see an exhibition of the work on Saturday 8 May, 10.00-4.00 at 6 Portswood Place, Roehampton, SW15 4ED – ubuntumuseum.com. Well worth a visit ...



Plant and Grow in Roehampton Community activist Vicky Pigott has been working hard across Roehampton to encourage more people to get gardening. By involving local schools, she wants to create more green spaces, improve education about wildlife and gardening skills, and create a biodiversity network for Roehampton. With support from local organisations, including Richmond Park, Vicky is looking for more volunteers – all details on her poster, enclosed with this Bulletin.

And for those who haven't been to Putney High Street lately, the recent shop closures are TSB, Jigsaw and O2. Santander is closing on 29 July. Preto looks like it is closed. Trespass and Mountain Warehouse are having closing down sales.

But some openings as well: Liliya Art Gallery opposite the station, Il Gusto (was the Italian Boys), Lidl, Whoop hairdressers where everything is £15, next door to Trespass. Energie Fitness Gym in the Exchange is open, as is Mooboo Bubble Tea, which is new to the Exchange.

Two ways in which you may be able to help the work of the Society

1. We are looking for a Deputy Membership Officer with a working knowledge of Microsoft Office applications and a willingness to learn how to use the Donations Co-ordinator software. The membership database software manages all membership name and address information as well as recording all financial contributions, but its report generation capability does not satisfy all the Society's reporting requirements. Consequently, much of the reporting is generated separately using data exported from the database and processed using Microsoft Excel in conjunction with Mail

Merge. If you could spare a couple of hours a month to assist the Membership Officer with any of these tasks please email membership@putneysociety.org.uk

2. Do you have any experience of commissioning websites or designing them? The Society is planning to update and improve its current website and would welcome input from any members with expertise in this field. If you can help or would like to find out more, please email webeditor@putneysociety.org.uk

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

13 May, 10 June
by Zoom (18.30)

Co-convenors:
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TRANSPORT

11 May, 8 June
by Zoom (19.30)

Convenor:
Stephen Luxford
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BUILDINGS

5 May, 2 June
by Zoom (18.30)

Convenor:
Andrew Catto
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OPEN SPACES

6 May, 3 June
by Zoom (18.30)

Convenor:
Judith Chegwidan
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Unfortunately, there is little positive news yet to report on Hammersmith Bridge but there may be developments around the corner. TfL have chosen Thames Clipper (Uber) to operate a ferry service from “late summer” although at the time of writing the location of the piers they will operate between has yet to be confirmed. News is finally expected shortly on the condition of the bridge pedestals, which may, in turn, enable a more accurate picture of the remedial work required. Fleur Anderson MP held a debate in Parliament on Hammersmith Bridge and got a rather terse response from a minister who said

the onus was on Hammersmith & Fulham Council to present a detailed business case setting how much the Council would contribute to the repairs.

Mike Fawcett from the Transport Panel recently wrote an article for the local website PutneySW15 about the deadly impact of local air pollution. Research from Imperial College indicates that air pollution in Wandsworth Borough was responsible in 2019 for between 115 and 129 deaths. This would mean that in four years deaths could exceed the number of local deaths from Covid (nearly 500).

Historic graffiti – the hidden story of the hopes, fears and desires of a nation

Lecture by James Wright, organised by The Arts Society South West London.

Monday 10 May at 8pm - the lecture will be delivered via Zoom. Non-members are welcome to view it for a donation of £5. For more information visit our website <https://theartsocietyswlondon.org.uk/> or contact Gwen Hewitt on gwen@the2hewitts.plus.com



Modern graffiti is often seen as transgressive and moronic. However, look closely at the walls of our historic buildings, trees, caves and rockfaces and you will see a world of graffiti left that illuminates the psychology of our ancestors. The study of historic graffiti enables us to hear the lost voices of ordinary individuals through their images of daisywheels, ships sailing across the walls, knights drawing their swords, demons stalking the stonework and every animal imaginable.

As more businesses re-open Putney Pedals are on the road again!

This e-bike waste collection service provides convenient, green collections to businesses in Putney and encourages businesses to recycle more through subsidised recycling collections.

E-bike collections will result in reduced vehicle movements and emissions as local businesses' waste will be consolidated on a single site – requiring only one vehicle to collect it each day.



Join the Air Quality Group

This group meets on an ad hoc basis to plan Citizen Science projects and to liaise with organisations such as Breathe London - as well as lobbying Wandsworth Council and TfL. Because it meets irregularly it is not included in our list of regular panel meetings, but we would like to welcome new members to this group. If you are interested in joining – or just finding out more – please email judith.chegwidden@gmail.com and your details will be passed to the convenor.

PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

See website for full details:
www.putneysociety.org.uk

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