



The Bulletin

For our members in Putney and Roehampton



August 2021

Looking after Putney Common

All our open spaces have been under huge pressure during lockdown and, now that many people have discovered our open spaces for the first time, this looks set to continue. Putney Common is under particular pressure as it is now a popular venue for parties with groups and families who often put up gazebos and install sound systems. The new Chief Executive tells us that the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators (**WPCC**) ask people to notify them if they are planning to erect a gazebo – but there is no formal licensing system. It is likely that about half of the parties do not notify WPCC. Commons byelaws do not prohibit music completely but they do prohibit music if causing a nuisance to others. So, what happens if you think that a party is moving away from reasonable behaviour to becoming an anti-social nuisance? Or if you see a fire or barbecue, which are definitely prohibited?

The full time ranger on Putney Common does an incredible job of keeping the commons clean (helped by volunteer litter pickers) but he is only there for 5 days a week. This is in contrast to Wimbledon Common and Putney Heath where the mounted keepers patrol from dawn to dusk seven days a week. Many do not know that there is a **24 hour number** to ring if you see any anti-social behaviour on the Common- contact the **Ranger's Office on 020 8788 7655**. Notices drawing attention to this number are going to be placed around the site.

In addition, we have been assured that one of the Keepers will patrol the Common during the late afternoon on Saturdays and Sundays if the Ranger is not on duty. While welcome, this is still not the level of patrolling that is enjoyed on Putney Heath and Wimbledon Common.



Putney resident who revolutionised electronic music

With the death of **Peter Zinovieff** on 23rd June, aged 88, the world of electronic and experimental music has lost one of its noted pioneers. In the 1960s, he lived on Deodar Road, Putney where he founded Unit Delta Plus, with Delia Derbyshire and Brian Hodgson, to promote electronic music. State-of-the-art synthesisers were built at EMS (Electronic Music Studios), 277 Putney Bridge Road. He developed them in a studio at the bottom of his garden, beside the Thames, and worked with, and was visited by,

some of the leading musicians of the time, including the Beatles and Bowie. His equipment was destroyed one day by an exceptionally high tide, but the 'shed' remains!



Contributed by Phil Evison

WARNING

The JC Decaux Defibrillator on the electronic phone booth outside Jubilee House on Putney Bridge Road at the Brevhouse Lane junction, is not currently functional. Neither 999 nor the defibrillator can be accessed. We hope this will be remedied very soon.

Open Spaces Panel

Convenor: Judith Chegwidden
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Many of you are supporters and users of Wandsworth Park but others may not know of the many ways in which the Friends of Wandsworth Park (**FOWP**) have worked with Enable (who run parks and leisure for the council) to bring improvements to this Green Flag Park*. A wild flower meadow is under development on the western side of the park and to encourage plants to seed the grass is cut infrequently using a mower pulled by shire horses. FOWP have been active in fundraising for the new drinking fountains – let's hope this results in a reduction in plastic bottle detritus. They have also bought a telescope, which will be installed on the Riverside Terrace – now renamed Fiona's Scented Garden after the late Fiona Crumley, who was the inspiration behind much of the creative planting on the Terrace and elsewhere in the Park.

We have previously reported on the swift box scheme initiated by the Friends of Wandsworth Park and it is great to report that 100 boxes have been installed and that some of them have already been occupied. If you are having any

work done on your house it is a good time to think about installing a swift box under the eaves. These last warm evenings it has been so good to see the swifts wheeling and diving in the sky over Putney. More information on installing swift boxes can be found at <https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/conservation/conservation-and-sustainability/safeguarding-species/swiftmapper/easy-ways-to-make-swifts-welcome2/>

At the annual meeting of Wandsworth Council, Councillor Jane Cooper (West Putney Ward) was appointed to chair the Community Services and Open Spaces Overview and Scrutiny Committee. We welcome this longstanding member of the Putney Society to this important role.

If you know of any street trees that have died or been removed please let me know and I will liaise with the tree officers about replacements.

*For more information on the Green Flag Award <https://www.greenflagaward.org/>

Buildings Panel

Co-convenor: Andrew Catto
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Looking back on recent reports I realised that it has been quite some time since we saw a major development proposal for Putney. Not that construction has stopped, but the cranes are now mainly to be found on both sides of the mouth of the Wandle at Osiers Road and the former B&Q sites, whilst Wandsworth Council's scheme for the Alton estate is still waiting a decision by the Mayor of London. The biggest scheme on our agenda this month was for the expansion and updating of Carlson Court next to Wandsworth Park. This has aroused lots of local opposition, but we have welcomed a scheme that makes an existing building 'greener' and a rare expansion of office space in Putney, which in turn provides daytime custom for the High Street.

Of course there's still lots of domestic work going on, seemingly undaunted, if sometimes a little delayed, by shortages of materials and labour resulting from a combination of Brexit, Covid and the whole world seeking to build back better at the same time. If you are amongst those planning work, be patient, and please ensure your plans include plenty of insulation, solar shading and good drainage. July's floods and heatwaves won't be the last.

The other topic of concern across panels has been 5G phone masts. Earlier mobile phone networks have mainly been provided from widely spaced antennae on tall buildings, and we have got used to seeing automatic approval for these, even sometimes on listed buildings. But the 5G signal needs masts closer together, and many residential areas don't have any tall buildings within range. The government says councils can't oppose the principle of these, but

Wandsworth Council have recently refused specific 'Notifications' for sites in the Dover House Estate and close to Richmond Park.

We have asked the Council to set out a clear policy about where these masts can go, but do we just have to learn to live with these as we do with the parked cars lining our streets, and the need for charging points for the increasing number of electric vehicles (if you can find one when you need it)? That latter problem is leading to more applications for front garden parking, but we have agreed with the Transport Panel that green space comes first.

Meanwhile the relaxing of Covid restrictions allows me to give you two dates for your diary for September. The annual Open House festival returns, but has been extended from 4-12 September rather than a single weekend. We've yet to see the whole programme, but hope that more of SW15's gems will be open than the meagre offering in recent years. The Society will once more be including our self-guided 'Putney Walks', now six in number, but members can of course download these whenever you want from the Society's website.

On 27 September we are planning the Society's first live public meeting since February 2020.

Gilly King, the heritage officer for Roehampton University will share her extensive knowledge of Roehampton's fine houses under the title 'Royalist Roehampton, Georgian Playground, Victorian Bankers'. Appropriately the talk will be given inside one of those fine houses, now Whitelands College. 7.30 pm – full details in the September Bulletin.

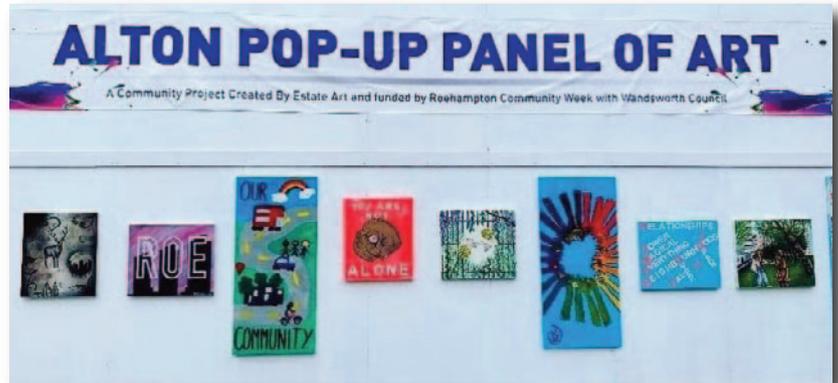
Community Panel

Co-convenors: Victoria Diamond 6 Norroy Road, SW15 1PF
Val Jones Garden Flat, 41 Norroy Road, SW15 1PQ
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Some of the art work on display in Roehampton, which has proved so popular will stay on display for the next 6 months before being put up for auction. This art initiative was part of the highly successful Roehampton Community Week, organised by Jonathan Palma, who leads the Community Capacity Building project, based at Citizen's Advice in Roehampton. With support and funding from the Council and many other sources, Community Week saw hundreds of local people join in nearly 40 different events. These included art sessions, such as the special 'recycled art' for children at Ubuntu Museum, walks for young people, a sports festival for children, the opening of the Community Space in Harbridge Avenue, a chance to try boxing, first aid and self-defence tuition from the Royal Marines, litter picks, a Climate Change stand, gardening events and arts and crafts. There was something for every age group - a wealth of fun and opportunity.

The list was extensive and - even though a few events had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions - very impressive. The Putney Society was privileged to be involved from the beginning, joining many local

organisations and volunteers to help with planning and preparation in the months leading up to Community Week. Members also organised four litter picks on the Alton Estate, helped with publicity and at the Information Stand throughout the week. It was a very successful week, with thanks again to Jonathan Palma for his extraordinary skills in bringing



people together and delivering this major event. Plans are in hand to ensure that the spirit and enthusiasm created is continued through both ongoing events - and in ideas for more. Moreover, all being well, there will be another Roehampton Community Week next year. We hope without restriction!

Transport Panel

Convenor: Stephen Luxford
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As trailed in last month's Bulletin, following an engineer's report Hammersmith Bridge re-opened in mid-July to pedestrians and cyclists. Boats are also now allowed to sail underneath. Presumably, this spells the end of the mooted ferry service but this has yet to be confirmed. The Hammersmith Bridge Taskforce, set up by the government to work with interested parties to oversee the re-opening (or replacement?) of the Bridge has not, at the time of writing, met for six weeks. Fundamental issues including who will fund the repairs and when the major work might start have yet to be agreed.

The Council, as required by legislation, has produced a new Air Quality Action Plan for 2021-2025 replacing the existing one. It is expected to go out to formal

consultation from the end of August. The Society will make a detailed response to it, so please let us know what you think. Bear in mind that pollution on our High Street is already closely approaching pre-Covid levels and that is before everyone has made a full return to work.

Just to give you an idea of local traffic volumes, the Council recently undertook a traffic measuring exercise of local roads while Werter Road was closed for the installation of a Copenhagen crossing. Upwards of 35,000 vehicles a day were recorded using just the High Street and Putney Bridge Road. Interestingly, up to 50% of vehicles using side roads close to the High Street were found to exceed the 20 mph speed limit that is in place.

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
12 August, 9 September
by Zoom (18.30)

Co-convenors:
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jones.val@gmail.com
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T: 07780 674114 (Val)

TRANSPORT
14 September
by Zoom (19.30)

Convenor:
Stephen Luxford
Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

BUILDINGS
4 August, 1 September
by Zoom (18.30)

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

OPEN SPACES
5 August, 7 October
by Zoom (18.30)

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



Saturday 7th of August - Come and Sing the Messiah workshop with eminent conductor Hilary Davan Wetton. 11am-late. All Saints', Putney (for rehearsals), St Margaret's, Putney (for performance). £15 adult, £10 under 18s

Saturday 7th of August - Handel's Messiah Concert 7.30pm. St Margaret's, Putney. Adults £10, under 18s £5.

Tuesday 10th August - Putney 12hr Music Marathon (all welcome to participate, email putneymusicmarathon@gmail.com for more information) 10am-10pm. St Mary's, Putney. FREE

Thursday 12th August - Bodhran Drumming workshops with Ruairi Glasheen. Beginners welcome, drums provided. St Margaret's, Putney. 6pm-7.30pm. £15

Thursday 12th of August - Hidden Drummers of Iran documentary screening with presenter and percussionist, Ruairi Glasheen. St Margaret's, Putney. 8.15pm. £8. Sponsored by Bodies Under Construction.

Friday 13th of August - Nosferatu - Silent Film showing with live organ improvisation courtesy of Nick Miller. . St Margaret's, Putney 9pm. £11. Sponsored by Ernest Larner & Son, Funeral Directors & Memorial Consultants

Saturday 14th August - Internet Sensation Mini Music Makers with an early years musical extravaganza. St Margaret's, Putney. 10.30am SOLD OUT, 11.30am £5 per person (babies under 6 months free)

Saturday 14th August - Opera Gala with a long picnic interval featuring recent alumni from the National Opera Studio, St. Margaret's, Putney 6.30pm. £20. Picnics available to book from The Luxury Picnic Company. Sponsored by Winkworth, Estate & Letting Agents, Putney.

Sunday 15th August - Folkdance Remixed - Streetdance Round the Maypole & Socially Distant Ceilidh. Times and place TBC. FREE

Sunday 15th August - Organ Recital from Eleanor Carter & Evensong for the Feast of the Assumption at All Saints', Putney Common. Time TBC. FREE

To buy tickets and get the latest information about the Music Marathon and ways in which you can participate go to www.putneymusicmarathon.org

The organisers are still seeking volunteers and donations as well as performers for the Music Marathon – to get in touch email putneymusicmarathon@gmail.com

Post 19 July situation in Wandsworth

Although restrictions are relaxing, COVID-19 rates are continuing to rise in Wandsworth and the Council advises us to remain vigilant. They request that visitors continue to wear face coverings in all its buildings.

Library opening hours will return to normal, but the library services will continue under COVID-19 safety measures and visitors are encouraged to wear a mask and socially distance.

Leisure centre exercise classes and swimming sessions will increase in capacity to pre COVID-19 levels but cleaning gaps in between sessions will remain.

All restrictions in terms of social distancing will be removed in parks.

Waste and recycling services will continue as usual. Remember that trips to the Smugglers Way waste and recycling centre must be booked in advance. (<https://wrwa.gov.uk/centre-opening-times/>)

Find out more about free Lateral Flow Tests for Wandsworth residents here:

<https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health/corona-virus/book-lateral-flow-test/>

AGE UK Wandsworth

If you are a dab hand on your tablet, laptop and phone, and have some free time, Age UK are very short of digitally knowledgeable volunteers for their Digipals service. It is quite flexible in terms of the time you have to commit but note that all volunteers have to agree to being police checked. However, it is a great way to help those who need a helping hand getting online.

Likewise, if you know someone who is over 60 and would like to learn how to use a tablet, Age UK have some they can loan out for three months, with a Digipals volunteer to provide guidance on their use. The person must just commit to 3 sessions a week on the tablet.

Contact Emma Chisolm
emma.chisolm@ageukwandsworth.org.uk
or **020 8877 8940**

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www.putneysociety.org.uk

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