



The Bulletin

For our members in Putney and Roehampton



December 2021

Christmas message from our Chair

I would like to wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and New Year. Thank you for being a part of the Putney Society.

As you know in 2021 the Society moved meetings "on-line". However, we were aware that some members were not able to be connected and as soon as prudent we started "hybrid" public meetings – a physical meeting simultaneously streamed online. During the year meeting topics have included 'Georgian & Victorian Roehampton', 'Improving Energy Efficiency in Our Homes', as well as presentations from Clean Air in London and Mums for Lungs. All suggestions for meeting topics are welcome – so do let us know. We also placed a tenth Blue Plaque commemorating Millicent Bagot in October.

One effect of the pandemic and lockdowns has been to encourage the sense of community in Putney &

Roehampton ranging from ad hoc Whatsapp neighbours' groups to the Roehampton Community Week and I know members and the Society have played their part. The Society exists to preserve and enhance the local heritage and community and if you would like to play a more active part by joining the Executive Committee or attending one of the monthly Panel meetings who all do valuable work behind the scenes, please contact the Secretary or myself. (All contact details on Page 4)

Robert Arguile (Chair)



Come and meet members of the Putney Society Executive Committee on our stalls at two local Christmas celebrations

Christmas Fayre – Positively Putney

Saturday 4 December 11am – 3pm,
Upper Richmond Road between the Fox and Hound pub and the Methodist Church.

There will be stalls from more than 20 of Putney's local shops and eateries offering a selection of presents, Christmas treats such as mulled wine and mince pies, as well as a charity tombola where you can win prizes donated by Putney businesses.

There will also be free children's shows of The Nutcracker by Storystock happening in The Platform at Putney

Hotel. Shows take place at 11am, 12pm, 1pm and 2pm and last around 20 minutes, and will be followed by arts and crafts.

Throughout the day, there will be festive music provided by Putney and Wimbledon's brass band, and children will also be given the chance to write letters to Father Christmas. You can also take part in the special Nutcracker trail to find all the hidden Nutcrackers.

Roehampton Christmas Market

Saturday 11 December
details on Page 4

All things entomological in January!

Advance notice for a Society open meeting on

24 January 2022,

when we will be learning more about the Big City Butterflies project, which is taking place in inner London boroughs as well as the work being carried out by Habitats and Heritage to create more insect friendly planting in Kingston-on-Thames



Transport Panel

Convenor: Stephen Luxford
46 Disraeli Road, SW15 2DS
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Please respond to the current TfL consultation seeking view to help shape future step-free access priorities and improvements on the London Underground network.

This is available at <https://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/tube-step-free-access> or you can provide responses to TfL via 020 3054 6037 or via their postal address.

Approximately a third of the Underground network and a half of the wider TfL rail network (including DLR, trams and London Overground) are step free.

The aim of the consultation, which runs until 10 February 2022, is to help TfL identify which aspects of making London Underground stations more accessible it should prioritise, to bring the biggest benefits and help more people use the public transport network independently.

As part of the consultation, respondents are asked whether they would prefer for future funding to be used to improve clusters of accessible stations to create a close group of accessible stations or upgrade areas with limited accessibility, or a combination of both. Please be aware in completing your answers that while our immediate neighbours on the District Line – Southfields, Wimbledon Park and Wimbledon are step free, East Putney is not. It would therefore make sense that we should join this cluster of accessible stations.

The Society has written to our GLA representative, Leonie

Cooper, to make the case for prioritising the introduction of zero-emission buses on heavily polluted streets, such as Putney High Street, and also to press for the removal of pure diesel (non-hybrid) buses, such as those on the 93 route. We await a response. We have also made the same points to Councillor Locker, who represents Thamesfield and sits on the Council's Strategic Planning and Transportation Committee.

The Council are currently reviewing options for improving, for cyclists and pedestrians, the junctions between the High Street and Putney Bridge Road and nearby Lower Richmond Road. The initial idea of introducing a 'Cyclops' junction has been ruled out. Any alterations to road layouts needs agreement with TfL but hopefully if a design is selected then work should begin roughly this time next year.

Briefly, on Hammersmith Bridge, there is no visible sign of progress. Government will not give financial support until a robust business case is submitted that outlines Hammersmith Council's preferred option for repair. Works, once given the green light (and funding agreed) will be in two stages - stabilisation and strengthening, which between them are likely to take well over three years. Meanwhile plans to re-introduce a rickshaw service, to enable pedestrians who need assistance to cross the bridge, have been put on hold because of black cab objections.

Buildings Panel

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

Many of you will have read stories about the impact of Brexit on imported goods and the related shortage of delivery drivers. It's not just about Tesco running out of milk (as happened yesterday) but equally of builders having trouble sourcing basics such as timber, which has risen in price by 26% in a year. This in turn had led to a quiet autumn on the planning front as developers and home owners alike wondered whether building would be worthwhile.

But there are signs that development may be coming back to Putney. The most obvious in our vicinity is the activity on the sites either side of Swandon Way at Wandsworth Town station where a pension fund is building over 700 flats to let. On a smaller scale we have seen four very different schemes in SW15 this month. The first is for mews houses to replace the shed behind Majestic Wine at East Putney, unremarkable except that they will all have basement TV rooms or gyms extending under the roadway.

The others seek to add extra floors to existing blocks of flats. This is something that the government wants, and has made 'permitted development' in most cases as part of the many changes last year, but not for conservation areas (which means about half of SW15) or where the building would be over 18m high, the level at which the Grenfell-inspired changes to fire regulations kick in. This is why two extra floors on a bland eight storey block at the top of Putney Hill need consent. We've not opposed this, but have offered advice to

members living in the block next door who will be objecting.

We've also seen two proposals for one extra floor on three storey blocks in different conservation areas. The mansard roof on a block flanked by equally tall houses seemed acceptable, but we will oppose another where the three-storey block is already taller than the houses all around, and would clearly dominate. If this seems like 'splitting hairs' please join in one of our online panel meetings to see how we do it.

My November report mentioned enforcement action against a roof terrace. More recently, we have requested action about the big 'wrap around' advert at the corner of the High Street and Putney Bridge Road. This only got planning consent, on appeal and limited to one year, because the owners claimed to need scaffolding for building works. That year was up last March and there was never any work, so we have now asked Wandsworth Council to ensure this comes down.

If you are wondering what happened to the much talked up reforms to planning, be patient.

It seems that the new Minister for 'Levelling Up', Michael Gove is concentrating on that rather than the planning muddle after it became clear that a lot of what was in last year's White Paper was deeply unpopular with voters. Watch this space, but not this year.

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

Update on the Independent Trader's Discount Scheme

We had to put the Scheme on hold at the start of lockdown, but plan to start it up again at the beginning of December. It is a slow process, as, oftentimes businesses have to be visited on numerous occasions in order to speak to the owner/manager, but we are slowly getting round them all. Sadly at least 17 out of the 60+ we had signed up have closed down. We will continue to visit the remaining businesses, and find out how they are doing. Some are really struggling in these changed times.

To date, we are pleased to announce the following have signed up – please remember, you MUST show them your discount card before paying, and the **discount/offer is at their discretion**.

- **Coppa Club** – where Carluccios used to be - free glass of wine or mocktail with your main course.
- **Kallums Bathrooms** – 100 Lower Richmond Road – **20% off**
- **Artisan and Vine** – 195 Lower Richmond Road – **10% off**
- **A H Peck flooring** – 141 Lower Richmond Road – **5% discount** on wood flooring services
- **Chook Indian restaurant** – 147 Lower Richmond Rd – **10% off** dining in Monday - Wednesday, and **15% off** takeaway collections all week.

- **Riverside Upholstery** – 24 Lower Richmond Road – **5% off**
- **Putney Design & Print, Printers** – 44 Lower Richmond Road – **10% off** services not already on offer. Minimum spend £10. Does not apply to letterpress printing services
- **31 Antiques and Gifts** – 31 Lower Richmond Road - **10% off**
- **Mei Wei** – 315 Putney Bridge Road – **10% off** all lunches (dine in), and dinners Monday - Thursday
- **NPH Plumbing Ltd** – 271 Putney Bridge Rd – **10% off**
- **Glug Wine Merchants** – 242 Upper Richmond Rd - **10% off** all Wine & Craft Beer purchases over £30.00
- **Putney Salsa Club/Incognito Dance Studio** – 63 Upper Richmond Road. **£10 off** when you sign up to 3, 6 or 9 week courses.
- **Sporting Feet** – 3 Lacy Road - **10% off** full priced items, Monday - Friday.
- **The Sewing Rooms** – 14 Lacy Road - **10% off** all haberdashery.
- **The Artisan Bakehouse** – 232 Upper Richmond Road **5% off**.
- **Putney Pantry** at St Mary's Church – **10% off**.
- **Mail Boxes** – 210 Upper Richmond Rd – **10% off**. Some exceptions e.g. Stamps

Open Spaces Panel

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

No apologies for returning to the subject of the continuing trend towards paving over front (and some back) gardens. The heavy rains in late summer saw drains unable to cope with the run off from paved areas. It is worth a reminder of the planning law: Since 1 October 2008, the government has introduced changes to the General Permitted Development Order, making the hard surfacing of more than 5sqm of domestic front gardens 'permitted development' only where the surface in question is rendered permeable. Impermeable surfaces, which lead to more run-off and our storm drains becoming overwhelmed, require planning permission. Permeable surfaces allow sustainable drainage.

Of course, the best solution is to plant up front gardens – or, at a minimum, to introduce as many pots and containers as possible. Our neighbours in Southfields who run the successful "Greening the Grid" have come up with a slogan, which is short and to the point – "Plant don't Pave". However small the plot, some planting helps to benefit wildlife as well as looking more attractive. In January, we are planning an open meeting with Butterfly Conservation and Habitats and Heritage, where we

hope to learn more about planting for pollinators and other wildlife. (More details in next month's Bulletin.)

Some of you will have noticed that a large acacia tree has been felled in the corner of Church Square. It had grown to such an extent that it was impeding access to events in the Square (perhaps judicious pruning over the years would have obviated the need for felling?). We are assured by the Tree Officer that Wandsworth Council plan to replace it – but with a smaller tree.

A sharp-eyed member has noted the loss of a rather special tree – a Persian Ironwood - that was planted at the rear of Dryburgh Hall (Putney Leisure Centre) when the Leisure Centre was remodelled. We have contacted the Tree Officer, who has promised to look into this disappearance.

Persian ironwood is a spectacular specimen tree with kaleidoscopic autumn foliage and clusters of ruby red flowers in February. We hope that a like-for-like replacement will be planted.



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

9 December, 13 January
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

14 December, 11 January
by Zoom (19.30)

Convenor:
Stephen Luxford
Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

BUILDINGS

1 December, 5 January
by Zoom (18.30)

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

OPEN SPACES

2 December, 6 January
by Zoom (18.30)

Convenor:
Judith Chegwidden
judith.chegwidden@gmail.com
T: 020 8788 4489

Have your say



It is always worth keeping an eye on the Wandsworth Council Consultations page on their website

<https://haveyoursay.citizen-space.com/wandsworth/>

At the time of writing, there are two borough-wide consultations:

The Air Quality Action Plan (**closing 4 January 2022**)

The Walking and Cycling Strategy (**closing 8 December 2021**).

If you have no internet access you can contact 0208 871 8337 to get copies of the consultation documents.

The Society will be making a detailed response to the Air Quality Action Plan but, with this and all other consultations, it is important that as many people as possible participate.

Far more of the journeys made by borough residents are on foot, cycle or public transport so making sure that walking and cycling are safe and accessible is obviously important. Do the council's proposals meet these aims – what do you think are the main impediments to walking and cycling more? Take a few minutes to complete the consultation questionnaire.



Dates for your Diary

Porcupine Productions

The Pirates of Penzance

St Mary's Church, Putney Bridge

4 December, 7.30 pm

Tickets £15 at

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-pirates-of-penzance-tickets-198873143927> or reserve on 07889 280766

Putney Arts Theatre

Alice in Wonderland, written by the PTC Writing Team.

Thursday 16 – Sunday 19 December,

Tuesday 21 & Wednesday 22, 7.45pm

Matinées on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 December

Music at St Margaret's Church, Putney Park Lane

Sofia Livotov, soprano & Satriya Krisna, tenor with pianist Prajna Indrawati

5 December 6.30pm

Hubert Parry, Franz Schubert, Modest Mussorgsky, Claude Debussy, Frederick Delius, Edvard Grieg and Ralph Vaughan Williams

Christmas Carol Service

19 December 6.30pm

Dover House Singers – Christmas concert

St Mary's Church, Putney Bridge

17 December 7.30pm

An evening of inspirational music of all styles and genres

Royal Hospital for Neurodisability Charity Christmas Concert

Performers include our the RHN Choir, Ron Cook, Pitch Purple and Ark Putney Academy choir plus many more!

9 December 7pm- 9pm

Holy Trinity Church

Purchase tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rhn-charity-christmas-concert-tickets-189568503497>

or phone 020 8780 4565

Roehampton Christmas Market

Saturday 11 December, 1pm-4pm

Get into the Christmas spirit at Roehampton Festive Fortnight's Christmas Market Portwood Place, Alton Estate.

Santa's Grotto

Crafting

Refreshments

Entertainment

Stalls – including lavender bags, home-made jams, handmade cards, Christmas wreaths, bakery goods with made-up hampers, tombola

We will be there! Come and visit our stall – enjoy an orange and a mince pie, and arty things for children to do

It's an outside event; if weather is bad, find us in the Methodist Church Hall, Minstead Gardens (close to the bus terminus, Danebury Avenue)

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

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