



The Bulletin

February 2021



Sign up now for Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators Election Hustings

Over the last 10 months many more of us have been grateful for the green spaces on our doorstep, particularly the expanses of Putney Common, Putney Heath and Wimbledon Common. Every three years most of us living in Putney and Roehampton get the chance to elect five Conservators to join the Board of eight that run Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators. To help you decide where to place your vote the Putney Society is organising a Hustings on **Thursday 18 February at 7.30 pm**, where you will get a chance to hear and question the candidates standing for election. The event will be held on line and you can register for it now at Eventbrite using the link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wimbledon-and-putney-commons-conservator-elections-putney-hustings-tickets-137305856513>

This event is for **all electors in Putney**

and Roehampton so do pass on this joining information to your friends and neighbours. Surely, as we come up to the eleventh month of the pandemic and realise what these fantastic green spaces have contributed to our wellbeing, our participation in the electoral process is more important than ever.

Just a reminder that the ballot papers will be despatched in the week commencing 8 February and the deadline for receipt of the completed ballot papers (either electronically or physically) is 5pm on 10 March.



Annual General Meeting

Monday 22 March 2021 at 7.30pm - by videoconference

You may remember that we usually hold our annual AGM in March, but with the uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic we didn't hold it until September last year. However, we want to return to our usual pattern, and our next AGM will be on 22 March by Zoom webinar. We shall conduct necessary Society business such as the elections of Committee members for the next 12 months.

The next issue of the Bulletin, the March Bulletin, will include details of how to participate in the online meeting and all the papers you will need. There will also be details of our guest speaker.

If you wish to stand for election to the Executive Committee, please contact the Secretary and she will send you a nomination form. Nominations should be returned to the Secretary by Monday 15 March 2021.

and YOU
can
HELP!

Find out more about how you can help with the work of the Putney Society

The Putney Society depends on its trustees and volunteers to keep functioning – so this 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, marketing, 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.

Erratum: In our last bulletin we said that Warrens estate agents had bought copies of the Putney & Roehampton: A Brief History book to hand out to people buying/renting property locally. This should have said Winkworths. Our apologies and belated thanks to Winkworths.

Open Spaces Panel

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

The new season of tree planting is underway and you may notice that the trees have been fitted with “tree gator” watering bags to help them take root and establish themselves. Each gator holds 68 litres of water and can be easily and regularly refilled. Using them promotes deep root growth and ensures that all the water is consumed by the tree with no wastage or run-off when compared to traditional watering methods. We hope that this means that there is a reduction in the number of newly planted trees that do not survive.

The upcoming Wandsworth Council Community Services and Open Spaces Oversight and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 2 February, held online, will be considering at least two matters of interest: the Biodiversity Strategy will be launched together with an outline of ways that local groups, such as the Society, will be involved in developing the Biodiversity Action

Plan. We understand that the priorities will be to maintain and improve existing habitats, to expand existing habitats and then create new ones and to focus on connectivity to boost pollinator pathways. The importance of the planting that we chose to do in our own gardens was apparent to me this week as I watched a flock of Redwings feasting on cotoneaster berries in my garden.

In addition we understand that the future contract for managing the Roehampton Playing Fields will be considered. The Society is a firm supporter of the bid by the Roehampton Playing Fields Trust to take over the management of the site. If you want to watch this committee meeting (or any other council committee) go to <https://richmond.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>.

This site covers both Wandsworth and Richmond meetings.



Transport Panel

Convenor: Stephen Luxford
Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

Many of you will have received a booklet about the forthcoming extension of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), which is going to potentially affect all drivers including motor cyclists who drive within the perimeter of the North and South Circulars. If your vehicle breaches ULEZ emission standards then you will have to pay an additional £12.50 each day you drive within the zone, excluding Christmas Day. An estimated 80% of vehicles will not need to pay anything. So how can you check if your vehicle is ‘clean’ or not? The simplest thing is to log on to the TfL website at tfl.gov.uk/ulez-2021 and type in your registration number to get an instant answer. The ULEZ charge is due to be introduced from 25 October.

Action on Hammersmith Bridge appears to be happening albeit at a glacial pace. Some 22 months after it was closed to road traffic, there are still engineering studies underway to determine the precise condition of two of the pedestals.

This work won’t be completed until April. A decision might be then made as to whether pedestrians can cross again or whether further remedial work is required. Architects have been commissioned to conduct a feasibility study into the possibility of a temporary bridge and there is an expectation that a temporary ferry service may be in place by the ‘spring’. In the meantime river traffic can pass underneath on some Sundays. Fundamental decisions about the funding to repair the bridge itself have yet to be made.

Closer to home, the pavement work on the High Street is set to continue with a Copenhagen crossing being installed at the junction of Werter Road and the High Street towards the end of February for around six weeks. This will lead to temporary traffic arrangements within Werter Road while this work is underway, so check the road signs.

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

11 February, 11 March
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

9 February, 9 March
by Zoom (19.30)

Convenor:
Stephen Luxford

Stephen.luxford46
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BUILDINGS

6 January, 3 February
by Zoom (18.00)

Convenor:
Andrew Catto

ac@andrewcatto.co.uk
T: 07831 761327

OPEN SPACES

7 January, 4 February
by Zoom (18.00)

Convenor:
Judith Chegwidden

judith.chegwidden@gmail.com
T: 020 8788 4489

The Community Panel is very concerned about those members of society who are without computers, tablets or smart phones, especially during the various lockdowns, when much information is really only available online. The Putney Society came to an agreement with Putney Medical Practice, who sent out a letter on our behalf to patients whose records show only home address and a landline telephone number. They were invited to let us know how they were. Strict confidentiality was observed and we were not given any personal details about these patients. To date we've had a very positive response from people who have all expressed their thanks that they haven't been forgotten, and we are in the process of putting those who need some sort of help or contact in touch with those who can fill the gap. We will contact other Surgeries and suggest they do something similar, as there are many out there, not just older people, who do not have access to electronic media. If you had a letter and haven't responded, we would still be very pleased to hear from you.

We decided to go for something different, now that Seville Oranges are in the shops!

Sue's Low Sugar Seville Orange Marmalade

This marmalade has half the sugar of conventional recipes and keeps well for at least two years.

Ingredients (to make 14 lbs (6.3kg))

4lb (1.8kg) Seville Oranges

4lb (1.8kg) granulated sugar
(you don't need jam sugar – and it's more expensive)

4 litres long life apple juice

Plus Preserving pan (*plus trivet or heat diffuser if you have it*)

Pair of old tights (*legs cut off and tied*) or muslin bag

Method

Cut oranges in half and squeeze juice into preserving pan.

Cut orange skins in half and remove pith and membrane with very sharp knife. Put pith and membrane and pips into pair of old tights stretched over a bowl. Then slice the skins very finely, or Magimix slice, and put the slices into the preserving pan. Knot the tights to make a bag and place in preserving pan.

Add the apple juice and bring to boil then simmer 1 hr with lid on until it thickens and fruit is tender.

Remove tights bag and gently squeeze between two plates to get juice out – but don't over squeeze. Add the sugar and stir over low heat until dissolved – 5 mins.

Then heat at rolling boil 10 mins or so without lid. Be careful not to burn sugar at this stage. This is where a trivet is useful to stop burning. Test by dropping a teaspoonful onto refrigerated plate until the mixture wrinkles when cooled.

Take off heat, skim, add small knob of butter, stir, and leave 10 mins before lading into jars which you have stood in boiling water. Pot up with greaseproof jam covers and cellophane under lids.

If, by any chance, the marmalade is not set when it is cooled you can just give it another boil and it will come to no harm. But it may be best to leave overnight to check it has set, since pectin setting often takes place many hours after it has cooled

Putney and Roehampton Walks - get creative

Twiddling your thumbs at home except when out walking locally? Put the two together and what do you get – an architectural walk! We would like to add to our growing collection of local walks at <https://putneysociety.org.uk/news-and-issues/modern-architecture-walk-1-east-putney.html> by inviting readers to create their own and send it to us.

Look around on your walk, take some photographs (*one of our examples is Brandlehow School, 1950, by Erno Goldfinger and listed Grade II – see below*), and add a little research and

some directions so that others can follow your path. If you can, lay these out on an A4 page to present whatever intriguing part of Putney or Roehampton that you would like to share with others. The standard format is 1 side of A4 (*in case people want to download it*), with about 6 images (*taken from the public domain or with owner's permission*) following the two examples of Modern Architecture walks that we contributed to London Open House this year. Please add your name as credit and forward it as a pdf to ac@andrewcatto.co.uk.

Finished sheets preferred, but text and photos welcome if you haven't the computer or know how.



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

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You might think that between dealing with Brexit and Covid the Government would have enough to keep them busy. But not the Housing Minister. Despite there being unbuilt permissions for around a million homes, his Department is convinced that England's housing shortage is down to the difficulty housebuilders have in getting planning consent, which in turn is blamed on the likes of us opposing change and they keep bringing forward new ways to allow more building.

In 2020, in addition to a White Paper proposing a complete overhaul of the planning system, which the Panel looked at in some detail, in August we saw new Permitted Development allowances for additional storeys on top of existing buildings. We haven't seen any of these in Putney yet, although in December we objected to a proposal for two extra floors on one of the blocks on the railway side of the Upper Richmond Road which could be the forerunner of extra density, particularly in the Carlton Drive area and many of the smaller council estates.

Today they have published a proposed Future Homes Standard for consultation, whilst we are already looking at a proposal to allow any business premises to be converted into homes. This is supposedly to mop up the empty shops and unloved older office buildings in some town centres, and introduce new residents who would use what shops remain. Putney's experience is the opposite. Back in 2019, before lockdowns distorted the picture, Putney's shopkeepers were complaining that the replacement of so many office buildings by flats on the Upper Richmond Road had taken away a significant part of their daytime, particularly lunchtime, trade. We will be responding on this basis.

What is clear from all of this is that planning decisions will be progressively removed from debate at the time of individual planning applications, and increasingly decided at policy and plan making level. With this in mind, we are

looking closely at Wandsworth's draft new Local Plan, now out for consultation (comments by 1st March). Right now we are collecting views from Panel members and as many other Putney Society members as possible. I would urge all members interested in the future of Putney to take a look at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/draft-local-plan-pre-publication and tell us what you think.

Many of the older areas, the Victorian and Edwardian streets that make up much of Putney's character, will for now continue to be protected as Conservation Areas. The risk to these areas is that new owners, particularly in the nicest streets, seem determined to make their houses ever bigger. The Panel continue to see applications for these and comment where we feel that this ambition risks spoiling the very character that makes these streets so nice to live in. Last year we commented on several in Parkfields, and recently have written to oppose two oversized extensions within sight of each other in Charlwood Road. Here at least the planners have taken note and asked the owners to cut back. One scheme has been withdrawn, and another reduced in scale to remove the most damaging parts of the proposal. Thanks are due here to Putney Society members who took my advice to object themselves and get their neighbours to do so to supplement our letter. Of course this works both ways. Whilst the Panel continue to check the lists of new applications, we still need you, our members, to highlight what is being proposed in your area so that we can respond in good time.

Close by, members will be aware of the large digital billboard on the corner of Charlwood Road and the Upper Richmond Road (opposite the Methodist Church). A new planning application proposes to incorporate this sign into a new block of flats. We have opposed this both because of the impact of the sign, and for the loss of the small 'pocket park' here which was laid out only in 2019 and is almost the only place to sit at this end of Putney.

A Concise History of our Great British Parks

An Arts Society South West London lecture by Paul Rabbitts. **Monday 8 February 2021 at 8pm**

This 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

This talk illustrates the origins of our great British public park. It examines the need for parks, their Victorian heyday, what makes a great park, with examples of lodges, lakes, bandstands, fountains and floral displays. Following a great decline in the sixties and seventies, interest in our parks has revived and again we are in love with them.

Paul Rabbitts has a master's degree in landscape architecture and has worked on many architectural landscape projects from in the Isle of Wight to the Scottish



Borders, and in Jersey. He has written over 15 books about parks and park architecture.