



# The Bulletin

For our members in Putney and Roehampton



April 2022

## Putney Society Hustings for the Local Elections



**Elections for all wards in Wandsworth take place on Thursday 5 May**

The Society is organising hustings where you will get the chance to meet and question candidates standing in the election for our local council. At the time of writing, candidates representing the Conservative, Green, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties were known to be standing. Nominations do not close until 5 April, so more candidates may emerge. The hustings are open to all - please spread the word to your friends and neighbours. The Chair will be taking questions after the candidates have made their pitch.

- **Thamesfield & East Putney Wards: Community Church. Monday 11th April 2022 at 7.30pm**
- **Roehampton & West Putney Wards: Holy Trinity Church. Wednesday 13th April 2022 at 7.30pm**

Be aware that there have been some ward boundary changes. To make sure that you are going to the correct meeting please check the map here <https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/the-council/elections-voting-and->

[registration/electoral-reviews-and-consultations/local-electoral-boundary-reviews/](#) or the one that arrived with your voter registration details in mid-February. The map also shows the locations of the polling stations.



## Fundraising to restore the footbridge

If you walk on Putney Lower Common you may have noticed posters on site asking the community to 'help bring back the bridge'. Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators, the charity that cares for the Common, has launched a fundraising appeal to restore the footbridge over the Beverley Brook.

### About Putney Lower Common

Putney Lower Common is a cherished green space in the heart of London, located approximately ½ mile west of Putney town centre. The Common's broad grass meadows, cricket pitch and location next to the All Saints church help retain a village green character. During the spring the

meadows are adorned with cow parsley. To the north is a riverside walk that leads out onto the Thames Towpath. However, the footbridge that forms part of this riverside walk is currently closed and needs major repairs.

### Restoring the footbridge

The bridge provided a much-loved circular walk around the Common and over the Beverley Brook. To reopen the bridge and make it safe for use, the broken and decayed timber sleepers need to be replaced. The steel frame will need to be lifted and repaired as the metal ties that hold the beams together have corroded. The bridge can then be



protected from corrosion, painted and fully restored.

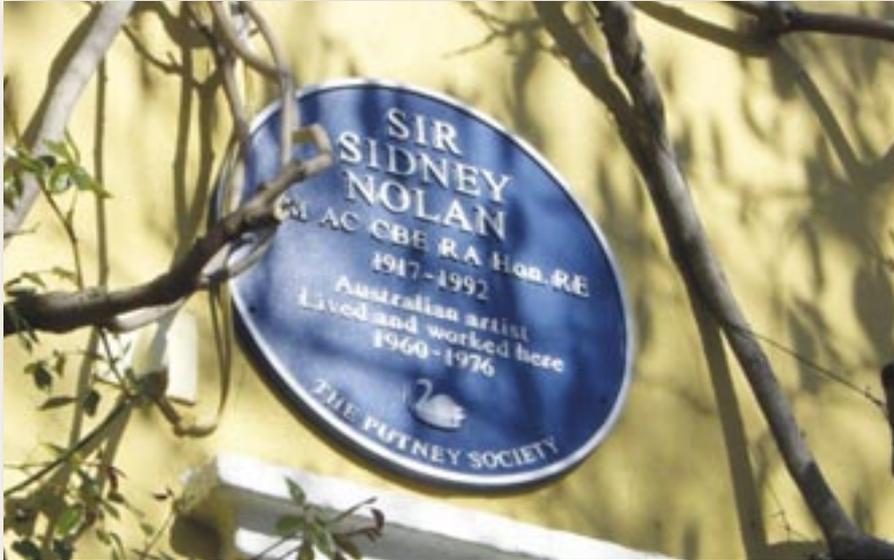
Can you help bring back the bridge? With your support the bridge can be fully restored, made safe for use and the surrounding landscape enhanced. All donations received for the bridge mean that more funds can be spent caring for this cherished green space in our community.

**If you love Putney Lower Common, please consider making a donation today.**

[www.justgiving.com/campaign/putneylowercommon](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/putneylowercommon)

# The Putney Society unveils a plaque to commemorate

## Sir Sidney Nolan OM AC CBE RA Hon. RE



**On 7 March, Lucy Trench, the Chair of the Sidney Nolan Trust, unveiled a Putney Society Plaque commemorating the years that the artist lived in Deodar Road in Putney.**

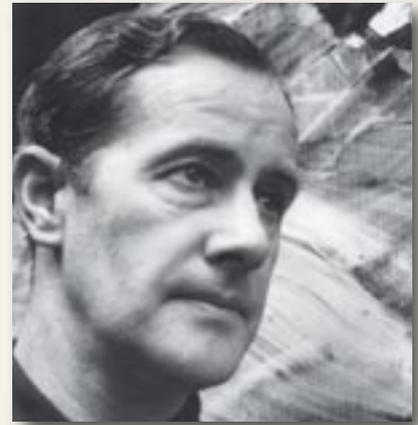
The eminent Australian artist moved into 79 Deodar Road with his wife Cynthia in 1960 and remained there until 1976. He is probably best remembered for his series of paintings on legends from Australian history, most famously Ned Kelly, the bushranger and outlaw. Nolan's stylised depiction of Kelly's armour has become an icon of Australian art.

During his Putney years he travelled widely and produced works based on his tours in Africa, Antarctica and Asia (particularly China) as well as his frequent visits to Australia. Of particular note were the two large works produced during these years: Paradise Garden made up of 900 panels inspired

Benjamin Britten cantata and the Snake - a montage of over 1,600 heads, blooms and animals that, when seen from a distance, reveals a serpent. Sidney Nolan has been described by his biographer, Simon Mundy, as a storyteller inspired by landscape and humanity who encapsulated complex schemes in abstract form.

He was also a designer for opera and ballet and in 1961 produced striking designs for the Rite of Spring, choreographed by Kenneth MacMillan for Covent Garden – designs that were still being used at its last performance in 2013.

The Putney Society is grateful to the owner of 79 Deodar Road (*who, with her late husband purchased the house after the death of Cynthia Nolan in 1976*) for allowing us to install the plaque and for hosting the unveiling ceremony. Our thanks are also to the Sidney Nolan



Trust for supporting the project and to the Trust and Phil Evison for providing photographs.

More information about Putney Society plaques at [https://putneysociety.org.uk/putney\\_society\\_files/R6\\_blue\\_plaques\\_brochure.pdf](https://putneysociety.org.uk/putney_society_files/R6_blue_plaques_brochure.pdf)

More information about the Sidney Nolan Trust at <https://www.sidneynolantrust.org/>



Mike Fawcett of the Putney Society, who introduced Lucy Trench, Chair of the Sidney Nolan Trust, during the unveiling ceremony.



Sidney Nolan on Putney Embankment

# Making Putney Blooming Marvellous

## What are the aims?

Putney is a great place to live but it would be even better if we could stem the wave of concrete burying our front gardens. If we all do our bit to turn our gardens green, together we can encourage wildlife, improve air quality, help to prevent flooding (by letting water drain into the earth and not down the drain) and enhance our health and wellbeing.

To encourage more planting in front gardens, (however small) the Putney Society is launching an ambitious Garden Award scheme in central Putney\* , based on the very successful scheme

already running in Southfields. Judging will take place in mid-late June.

Over two weekends at the beginning of May, we will be offering plants and garden advice to any residents in the streets in central Putney. Come along to our stalls at the corner of Burstock Road and Montserrat Road on 7 May and at the corner of Chelverton Road and Charlwood Road on 14 May. We will be there from 10am to 2pm so do come along to see what is on offer in the way of plants suitable for containers or small front gardens as well as advice for gardening newbies.

## How can you help?

 From 21 April we will be **delivering leaflets** to all the streets which will be part of the garden award scheme (see below). Can you help with the delivery (just one road would be very helpful)?

 Can you provide any **plants** for our stalls on 7 and 14 May? Anything suitable for a small front garden or for containers. Some members are growing plants from seed for the stall, others are dividing plants that they can spare from their gardens. Can be flowers, evergreens, herbs – even vegetables.

 Can you join our **judging panel** (we will provide judging criteria) – judging in pairs on a maximum of 3 streets in mid to late June? Many thanks to the ten volunteers who have already offered their help.

Contact me ([judith.chegwidden@gmail.com](mailto:judith.chegwidden@gmail.com), 020 8788 4489. 07768 982 431) if you can contribute in anyway to making Putney greener.



\*Burstock Road, Atney Road, Montserrat Road, Werter Road, Disraeli Road (up to Oxford Road), Norroy Road, Chelverton Road, Lacy Road, Felsham Road (up to Charlwood Road), Redgrave Road, Gwalior Road, Mascotte Road, Olivette Street, Lifford Street, Stratford Grove, Quill Lane, Cardinal Place, Charlwood Terrace, Modder Place.



Copy dates mean that I'm writing this too soon to report on Wandsworth's March Planning Applications Committee. Five of the fifteen applications on their agenda are Putney cases.

First up is a scheme for two extra storeys above an existing ten storey block of flats close to Putney Heath. This is something the government wants to encourage through one of the many extensions to Permitted Development brought in last year. Expect to see more like this soon.

Elystan Court on Howards Lane by contrast is in a conservation area. This three-storey block replaced one house on a corner plot in the 1960's, when development rules still set maximum densities, but the calculation used measured land out to the middle of the adjacent road - both roads on corners. Today this block would be refused for not fitting in to a conservation area of mainly two storey houses, but the freeholders now want to add another floor. This scheme has raised an enormous

number of objections, including the Society's and local Councillors. Will the Committee take note?

Rosslyn Park rugby club's application to replace the digital adverts facing the Upper Richmond Road with new taller screens was mentioned at length in my March report. This too has lots of objections and is a test case of the priorities for our open spaces. Meanwhile the club has filled a chunk of its car park with containers housing 'dark' kitchens for the food delivery apps. No licence, no food safety rating and lots of moped traffic. The enforcement action will take months, meanwhile you might ask where that home delivery is coming from.

As always, we're keeping an eye on the creeping changes that can strip our streets of their charm just as readily as the big stuff. This month we are opposing loss of a front garden to parking in leafy Charlwood Road, and seeking retention of a shop front in Roehampton.

In early March members of the Putney Society and Nicola Grant from Positively Putney met with representatives of Enable to discuss ways in which the Old Burial Ground (between the Upper Richmond Road and Nursery Close) could be improved, while still retaining its peaceful character. A number of problems were identified including the condition of some of the monumental tombs, the need to prune and crown lift some of the trees, particularly those impinging on neighbouring properties and the condition of the turf. We also discussed establishing a shrub border along part of the northern boundary. We are awaiting the follow up report from Enable.

The Putney Society has entered into agreement with JCDecaux to help invigorate the planting of the parklet at the junction of Charlwood Road and Upper Richmond Road. A number of plants have been purchased by the Society, generously funded by JC Decaux, and we will be preparing

the ground and planting out in early April. We are also negotiating with a local school to participate by looking after two planters that will be installed on the site. In order to prevent damage to the new plants, the company has agreed to cease the use of glyphosate weed killer and in return volunteers from the Society will be doing some regular hoeing until the ground cover plants become established. (Would you like to join in the hoeing parties?)

Good news from Wandsworth Park – the two drinking fountains have been installed and are already being well used by humans and dogs, who have their own trough. Events in the park will be resuming this summer, including Children's Theatre and a May Day Festival. Storm Eunice left the park relatively unscathed – but the Strawberry Tree on the eastern boundary of the park blew down and had to be removed.

## Throw away?

Not today – repair and re-use every day electrical items

There is a movement in the UK and other countries to persuade manufacturers to produce spare parts for many everyday items, to give the 'right to repair' to their owners, and to reduce the amount of electrical waste the UK produces each year. The UK introduced legislation in July 2021 <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents> which supports the aim to: 'extend the life of certain categories of products (household washing machines, washer driers, dishwashers, refrigerators, and electronic displays) by making manufacturers, authorised representatives, and importers legally obliged to make available to professional repairers and/or end-users, spare parts for their products, using commonly available tools'

The Restart Project ([therestartproject.org](http://therestartproject.org)) helps people learn how to repair their broken electronic equipment and other items such as toasters and kettles. Our neighbours in Tooting (Transition Town Tooting) are part of Restart, holding regular Restart Parties - free community repair events where participants work with skilled volunteers to fix anything with a plug or a battery. At the party on 12 March (see pictures), 12 volunteer 'Restarters' helped 40 participants to look at 18 devices, six of which were fixed on the spot, and eight more judged to be repairable, with correct spare parts. This prevented 17kg of equipment going into rubbish . . .

We want to host fledgling Restart Parties in Putney and Roehampton in the coming months. These are hugely enjoyable events, bringing much-needed help and skills to local communities. We'll do the admin, find the venues and provide refreshments, but need help to find volunteer 'fixers'.



Would you like to repair items such as kettles, toasters and laptops, rather than see them thrown away? Or do you have items which need repair? Do you have the interest, enthusiasm and potential skills to volunteer as a 'Restarter'? Exchange of skills is at the centre of the movement, so don't be put off from volunteering if you feel you have little skill or knowledge. The most important thing is an interest and willingness to try things out. And there's lots of support available.



If you'd like to help, or just find out more, please contact Vicky Diamond or Val Jones, details at the side.

Meanwhile, you might like to make a note of the next Restarters Tooting Party – Saturday 14 May, 1-4.00, St Mary's Church, Balham High Road, SW12 9BS – and see how good they are!

## In other news

Wandsworth Council is developing a Night Time Strategy and has launched a consultation to understand how they can make the night time (*everything between 6pm and 6am*) a better experience for all those living, visiting and working in the borough, and encourage more people to explore the area after dark. The Council wants feedback from as many as possible, so they can consider improvements that can be made to our streets and public spaces, parks and high streets. The findings will form their Night Time Strategy, which is a document which will set out a vision and some recommendations for Wandsworth at night. They want to understand how we all experience the borough at night, as they want to ensure our high streets and town centres are 'vibrant and continue to thrive'. It's really important as many of us fill this out as possible – issues such as too many bars open until the early hours on Putney High Street, very low police presence and the total lack of public toilet facilities are three major concerns, but there are positives too. If you're unable to fill it out online, you can ask for a paper copy on 0208 871 6884 or go to <https://haveyoursay.citizenspace.com/wandsworthced/night/>

## PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

See website for full details:  
[www.putneysociety.org.uk](http://www.putneysociety.org.uk)

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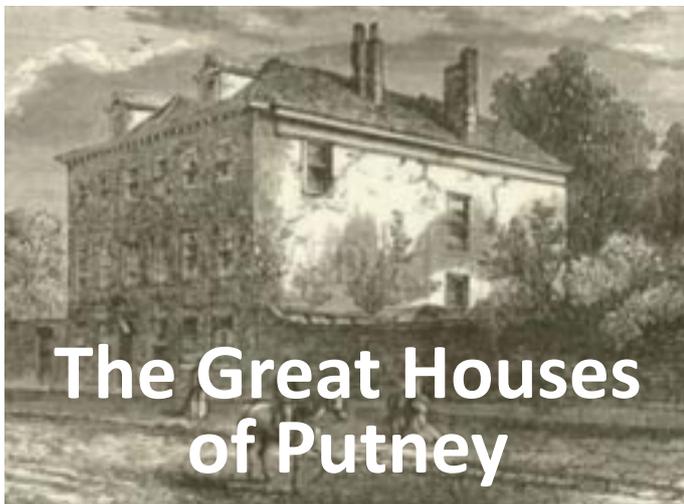
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The Council has provisionally agreed to provide a “Breathe London” air monitor for Putney which will enable the monitoring of fine particulates, referred to as PM2.5, for the first time - as well as nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) levels. The location will be decided by the Council but is likely to be either on Putney Hill or in the Putney Bridge Road area. Previous monitoring work carried out by the Society has shown that both these two areas have particularly poor-quality air. The results of the “Breathe London” monitor will be analysed by Imperial College, London and displayed daily online.

The recent temporary closure, without warning, of Norroy Road at its junction with the High Street to enable the installation of a Copenhagen crossing led

inevitably to chaotic traffic jams. Drivers on Disraeli Road who access Norroy Road to join the Upper Richmond Road were forced instead to use the already congested High Street. Rather belatedly a few days later diversion signs finally appeared in the area. The Society raised the issue with the Council who acknowledged that it would have been better to have signage up in advance and noted it for the future.

Advance warning for anyone travelling on Putney High Street in the evenings of mid-April (most nights between 11th-22nd). There will be partial closures while the road is resurfaced. The works will be undertaken between 8pm and 5am.



## The Great Houses of Putney

An illustrated talk by  
Phil Evison in Putney Library

**Wednesday 27 April 6.15 -7.30pm**

Putney was once a tranquil village, remote from the noise and pollution of the city, and wealthy people built grand mansions here. To learn more about some of the lost “great houses” book your place by calling 020 8780 3085 or email [charlene.coleman@gll.org](mailto:charlene.coleman@gll.org)

## SW15 Hedgehogs

Raising money for a thermal imaging camera



SW15 Hedgehogs is a local voluntary group raising awareness around the plight of our native hedgehogs and publicising measures we can take to halt the decline in their population. To help in their work they are fundraising to acquire two thermal imaging cameras, which will help them understand so much more about how hedgehogs use the land throughout the day and night. The Putney Society is donating £100 towards the cost of the camera – but more is needed. If you would like to support the work of this group, please go to their GoFundMe site [https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/hoggysurveys?utm\\_term=YwYV5ZD3V%F0%9F%A6%94](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/hoggysurveys?utm_term=YwYV5ZD3V%F0%9F%A6%94)

## 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**  
14 April, 12 May  
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**  
12 April, 19 May  
by Zoom (19.30)

Convenor:  
Stephen Luxford

Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

**BUILDINGS**  
6 April, 4 May  
by Zoom (18.00)

Convenor:  
Andrew Catto

ac@andrewcatto.co.uk  
T: 07831 761327

**OPEN SPACES**  
7 April, 5 May  
by Zoom (18.00)

Convenor:  
Judith Chegwiddden

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