

PUTNEY: AT THE HEART OF ROWING

Talk to the Putney Society, Monday 24th February 2020

Talk 3 – Lynn Pearcy

Note: Slides for Lynn's talk are in Slide Pack III

Putney Society rowing and embankment talk – Wrap-up

- Having heard all about rowing, this section is a wrap-up of other things happening on or around the embankment.
- Important conservation area, one of the many in Putney, running from Beverley Brook to Deodar Road.
- Two paths run along it – the Thames Path ... and the Heathrow flight path!
- We start with a lovely old picture of the embankment, looking west from Putney Bridge. *(Slide 2)*
- Though I will actually walk you east from the bridge over Beverley Brook ... *(Slide 3)*
- ... starting just to the west of the bridge, with the Sea Scouts hut. Been there since 1937, using the river and surrounding area for a variety of activities.
- As do the Sea Cadets, whose brick building is just to the east of the bridge.
- Next is Leader's Gardens, with its very popular café and children's play area. Opened in 1903. Established by JC Radford, surveyor to the Leader Estate in West Putney and also the Putney parish surveyor. *(Slide 4)*
- The Gardens are also the meeting place of the Putney Tidy Towpath Group. Meets bi-monthly to collect litter. Slides show the dire need for this activity! *(Slides 5 & 6)* They welcome people to join them, but you need to register – putneytt@outlook.com.

- We've heard all about the boat houses and the famous races:
 - Women's Head of the River Race
 - Men's Head of the River Race
 - The University Boat Race
- In addition, the annual Great River Race from Docklands to Ham passes through Putney *(Slide 7)*
- The Totally Thames Trust organises an annual festival each September, all along the Thames. They are still developing the 2020 programme, but there will certainly be activities in Putney – perhaps paddle-boarding again, as on the slide. *(Slide 8)*
- And not just rowing – Ranelagh Sailing Club has been on the embankment since 1889. *(Slide 9)*
- Chas Newens has been there since 1978. Full-service chandlery, boat hire, etc, including providing the launches for the boat race. *(Slide 10)*
- Next we come to the first impact of the Thames Tideway Tunnel works. The slide shows the temporary slipway constructed while the original one is the centre of the works. The slide also shows more rubbish! *(Slide 11)*
- Not mentioned in the talk, but next is Winchester House, a private members' club and events venue. Grade II listed building dates from early 18th Century; Club from 1892.
- Two pubs – the Duke's Head and the Star & Garter, along with the modern building now housing Thai Square.
- The pier – note you can travel all the way to/from Canary Wharf by Thames Clipper.
- Then the Tideway Tunnel works – the first slide showing the work in progress and the second showing a CGI of what it should look like when the works are complete, including a line across the terrace marking the start-line for the Boat Race. *(Slides 12 & 13)*
- Finishing with a picture of a flooded embankment – something that may become increasingly frequent – we finally have a small café on Waterman's Green, by Putney Bridge and the continuing question over whether we will ever have a foot tunnel under the bridge! *(Slide 14)*