



# The Bulletin

For our members in Putney and Roehampton



January 2023



## What will the changes in Wandsworth Council's Housing policy mean for local residents?

**Monday 23 January 7.30pm, The Community Church, Werter Road, SW15 2LL.  
7.30pm, drinks from 7pm.**

The change of control at Wandsworth Council last year heralded changes in policy, probably no more so than in Housing. We are pleased that Wandsworth Council's new Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Aydin Dikerdem has agreed to set out for us what this means for Wandsworth's existing homes and the development of Alton and other estates.

This meeting will be live and available on Zoom – as usual, please email [registration@putneysociety.org.uk](mailto:registration@putneysociety.org.uk) to obtain the necessary link.



## Still time to book for New Year buffet and drinks at the Kings Head, Roehampton

Come along to an informal evening drinks party with a generous buffet in the New Year. A chance to meet your Committee and other members of the Putney Society in this cosy pub (plenty of seating, if required, in the space we have reserved).

**Fleur Anderson MP**, has said she will attend and we will also be joined by the Mayor, Councillor Jeremy Ambache.

New members will find this a good opportunity to get to know us better. And if you want to get more involved in the running of the Society, this will be an opportunity to learn more.

**Date: Friday, 20 January, 2023**

**Time: 7pm- 9pm**

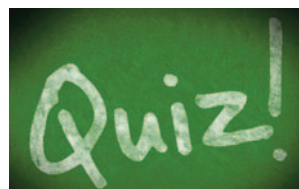
Venue: The Kings Head, 1 Roehampton High St, SW15 4HL. Easily reached by 85 or 430 buses from Putney High Street together with the 265 and 170 routes from other areas. Limited parking.

**Cost:** £24.00 per head for a welcome drink and buffet. There's a pay bar if you want more to drink or eat.

**Tickets:** Available from Eventbrite - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/> - please search on "Putney Society".

If you don't have online access, please write enclosing a cheque and SAE to 18 Burstock Road, London SW15 2PW

**Deadline for receipt of payment: 12 January 2023.**



### Save the date!

**Monday 27 February  
7.30pm, The  
Community Church,  
Werter Road, SW15  
2LL. 7.30pm,  
drinks from 7pm.**

#### Grand Putney Society Quiz

How much do you know about Putney?

Is your General Knowledge up to scratch?

Just 8 weeks to polish up those little grey cells and form a team to compete in our inaugural quiz – **don't miss out.**

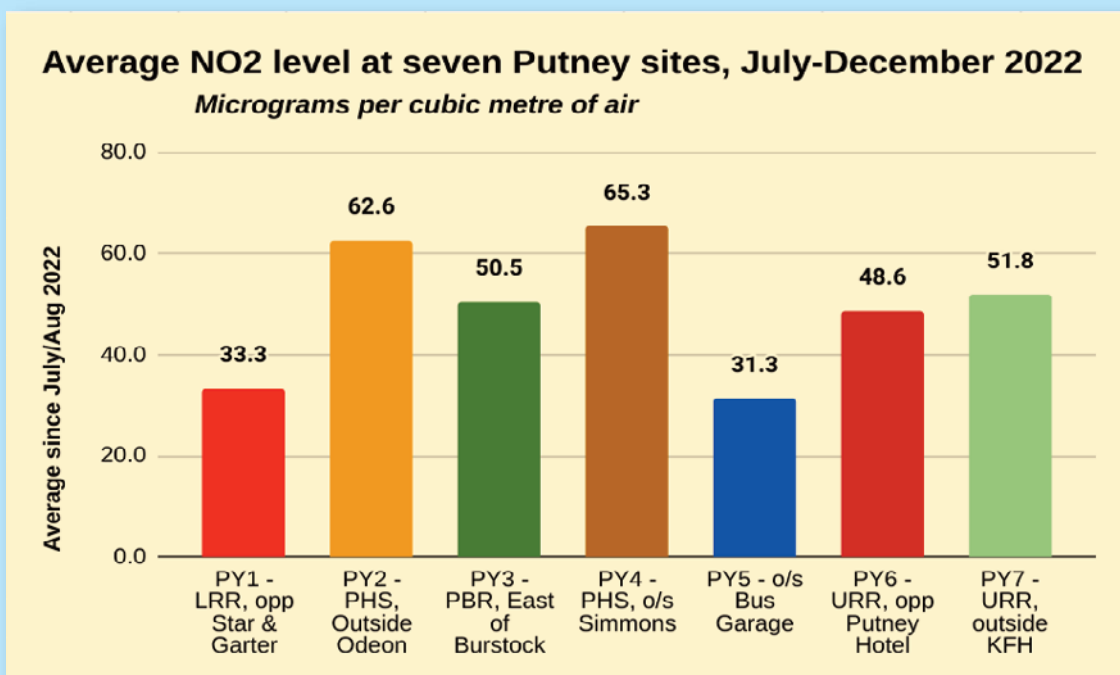
# Update on Putney Air Quality

Dr Richard Carter, a member of the Society has been working with local Environmental Health Officers to measure NO<sub>2</sub> levels around Putney High Street. He comments as follows:

- We now have five months' worth of data in measuring NO<sub>2</sub> levels at seven Putney locations, giving quite consistent results: there has so far been little variation month-to-month.
- Overall, although NO<sub>2</sub> levels fell from very high levels following the introduction of hybrid buses in 2016, it is still well over the legal limit of 40 micrograms per cubic metre of air.
- Levels in Putney High Street are particularly high at 59.69 and 57.95, and at the bottom of Putney Hill at 54.95, but Upper Richmond Road (47.47), and Putney Bridge Road (45.56) are also well over the legal limit.
- Somewhat surprisingly, levels in Chelverton Road by the bus garage (33.84) and Lower Richmond Road

(34.78) are within the limit but still higher than we can be comfortable with.

- In particular, contrary to received opinion, it looks as though the continued closure of Hammersmith Bridge has not had a significant effect on NO<sub>2</sub> levels in the Lower Richmond Road.
- Whatever the detail of these findings, the fact remains that the central roads in Putney are badly polluted to the detriment of the health all of us, and there is little sign that this will improve in the near future.



PHS – Putney High Street, PBR – Putney Bridge Road, LRR – Lower Richmond Road, URR – Upper Richmond Road

## Improving how we communicate with our members

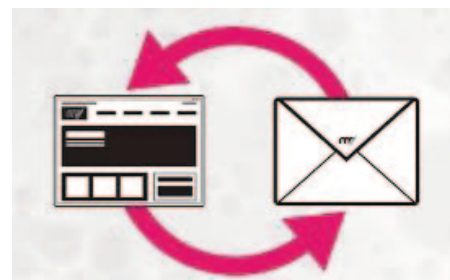
Our website will be redesigned and made more informative and user friendly and we will also be looking at the way that we deliver our newsletter – the Bulletin. We would really appreciate your views – so if you can spare a few minutes please find time to answer some of these questions:

- Most of you receive the Bulletin by email – how often do you click on the link to open the Bulletin and read the contents? Would you be more likely to read the Bulletin if it came in in an email newsletter format?
- How do you use the website – would it be useful to have more information on the work of the panels on the site? Do you use it to check on upcoming events?
- We include information about both Putney Society

events and other local events (talks, concerts, theatre) in the Bulletin. Is there something else you would like more information about?

- Do you follow the Putney Society on Twitter or Facebook?
- If you have skills in newsletter design or social media, can you help us in the next few months?

Do please get in touch by contacting Judith Chegwidden or Robert Arguile using [Judith.chegwidden@gmail.com](mailto:Judith.chegwidden@gmail.com) or [webeditor@putneysociety.org.uk](mailto:webeditor@putneysociety.org.uk)



Looking back at my column from last January I see that some things don't change – we're still waiting for Michael Gove, now back in the same post, to get 2020's planning reforms into legislation. But none of us had foreseen the effects of Russia invading Ukraine. By now the shortages and delivery delays have mostly been sorted out and you can find a builder again, but the extra costs are here to stay and inflation has made many projects less viable.

Planning applications have been down 10% for most of the year. But in most areas, including Wandsworth are still being processed ever more slowly due a continuing shortage of staff. Needless to say, the new Local Plan is late too, stuck in a queue at the Planning Inspectorate. Maybe the new Council can find a way to plug this gap.

My predictions for 2023 are effectively for less of the same. Inflation and uncertainty will continue to impact on development with investment further discouraged by rising interest rates. Is it too much to hope that after decades of fine words but no action the doubling of fuel prices will encourage us all (and the Council) to start insulating the estimated 28 million homes that still need to be made energy efficient before 2030 if we are to meet net zero targets. If your house is still one of these (and over 90% are) then maybe now is the time to do something about it.

However, we can expect some changes from the new Council. They have already announced that all homes built by the Council in future (and those under construction on Lytton Grove) will be for social rent, and have cancelled the plans to demolish and rebuild the centre of the Alton Estate. What's next will be one of the key questions we will have for Councillor Aydin Dikerdem, Wandsworth's new Cabinet Member for Mousing when he comes to speak to our public meeting on the 23rd January, along with what Wandsworth will be doing to tackle energy efficiency in its existing stock.

Alton will be 'back to the drawing board', but the smaller scale estate infill policy appears to be continuing. New flats on Felsham Road were granted planning consent in April, although work is yet to start. Recently there have been initial consultations for modest infills on the 1950's Ashburton and Eastwood estates. But the numbers are tiny, and mainly smaller flats.

A little over 10 years ago I was asked to take over running the Buildings Panel from John Horrocks. However, he continued to represent the Society on Wandsworth Council's Conservation Panel, but has now finally asked to be replaced. These will be difficult shoes to fill, but I'm pleased to say that instead of another appeal for help, this can be a double thank you both to John for nearly 50 years of service and to Laura for stepping forward bringing an ecological perspective needed if our heritage is to stay useful, and therefore looked after. Our sincere thanks to you both.

Recently we have had a number of requests from members to object to their neighbours' planning applications. Please tell do us what's happening, including proposals we should support. But limited capacity means your Panel can only deal with these when there is a wider point to be made. We recently objected to an out of scale porch in one local conservation area (out of character and very visible) and supported a small side extension in another, but generally can only take on things of wider interested to Putney as a whole.

We wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year, and hope to welcome many of you to Cllr Dikerdem's talk on the 23rd and perhaps to a Panel meeting. These are on line so easy to join on cold evenings, and open to all with no commitment. Give us a try. Details on page one.

## Transport Panel

Convenor: Stephen Luxford. Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

Look out for news in early 2023 regarding the upcoming Citizens Assembly on Air Quality. The aim of which is to get a representative overview across the Borough on air quality issues, and how these should be tackled. Initially thousands of invitation letters will be sent out to a cross section of the Borough's residents who can then register an interest. The Assemblies will take place over four Saturdays between February and late April. Results will be considered by the Council who will respond with either a commitment to take action or an explanation as to why they cannot.

If any members do take part in the Assembly bear in mind the regular work the Society undertakes with the Council to help measure air quality in the High Street. NO<sub>2</sub> levels are still above the EU recommended levels in several places - particularly near the junction of Putney Bridge Road and Putney High Street. (For more details see Richard Carter's report on the results of this exercise on page 2.)

Leonie Cooper, our GLA representative, gave a wide-ranging talk on transport issues at a recent Society public meeting (a video recording is available on our website). Leonie said she would lobby for our High Street to be the first site for a zero-emission zone for buses. We will follow this up to see if she is successful. Other issues raised included the poor performance of the District Line outside peak times especially at night; the long running saga of the inaccurate electronic arrival boards at East Putney station (is the train going to Edgware Road or to the City?); our desire to have lifts installed at East Putney (she is supportive) and the inadequate bus service in Roehampton. To help strengthen our case we need examples of where the tube or buses have let people down - so please take a note and write to me.

Finally, in January the Council's Planning Applications Committee will assess the two applications for extended or new piers at Putney Embankment. We will update you on the outcome.

## **Celebrating gardening volunteers in Putney and Roehampton**

To quote the Royal Horticultural Society “Whether it's greening a local area, starting a food growing project or conserving an area for wildlife – community gardening can have a huge impact for both people and places”.

At the end of 2022 (such a tough year for gardeners) the Putney Society wants to celebrate all the local volunteers that are contributing to maintaining and improving our green spaces.

- The Friends of Wandsworth Park, who have planted up or designed many of the beds, opened up and planted the Riverside Terrace, reinvigorated container planting and supported the creation of the wildflower meadows. Input from the Friends contributed significantly to the recent Silver Gilt award from London in Bloom.
- Putney Community Gardeners (recently recipients of a Wandsworth Civic award) who have created several gardens on the Ashburton Estate, including a forest garden, an orchard and a composting corner.
- Volunteers with the Bee Friendly Trust who maintain the pollinator friendly planters on East Putney and Putney stations.
- Community groups, individuals, councillors and council staff who planted hundreds of daffodil and crocus bulbs

across the Alton Estate in Roehampton. Look for results in spring around Harbridge Avenue, Bull Green and Portswood Place. Many planters have been installed across the area, and new wooden benches with integrated planters will soon arrive by the outdoor Art Gallery at the top of Danebury Avenue. The Victorian memorial fountain in Medfield Street has been brought back into use, with original troughs and drinking fountains planted throughout the year, brightening up the area no end. This growing enthusiasm continues, with more ideas and plans in the making.

- Cooperation between JCDcaux, Our Lady of Victories School and a team of volunteer gardeners from the Putney Society who have reinvigorated the parklet on the corner of Charlwood Road and Upper Richmond Road. Watch out for daffodils emerging in the early spring and some new planting to cope with the dry conditions on the site.

If you have any ideas for creating more opportunities for community gardens or tree planting in Putney or Roehampton in 2023, please do get in touch.

In the meantime, the Open Spaces Panel is making plans for another Front Garden Award Scheme in the early summer. If you live in streets in Central Putney it could be time to start planning your display to see if you can win an award this year.

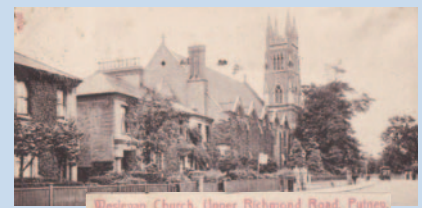
## **The Friends of Putney Library**

### **A talk arranged by the Friends of Wandsworth Library by David Armstrong**

Just over a century and a half ago in 1870 the Wesleyan Methodists opened a chapel and schoolhouse on the Upper Richmond Road, where the current Victorian Gothic church stands today. Whilst preparing the exhibition celebrating that centenary, David Armstrong discovered a fascinating time of social change.

Presenting a snapshot of Putney in the watershed year 1870, the year of Dicken's death and of the Franco-Prussian War,

David's talk accompanies his exhibition currently in Putney Library.



**Thursday 12th January, 6.30pm at Putney Library.  
Refreshments from 6.00 pm**

Entry and refreshments free. Advance booking advisable. Please call Putney Library on 020 8780 3085 or email [Charlene.coleman@gll.org](mailto:Charlene.coleman@gll.org). Donations to Friends of Putney Library gratefully received.

## **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 January, 9 February,  
in person Garden Flat,  
41 Norroy Road , (18.30)**

**Co-convenors:  
Vicky Diamond & Val Jones**

[vickysw15@aol.co.uk](mailto:vickysw15@aol.co.uk),  
[jones.val@gmail.com](mailto:jones.val@gmail.com)  
T: 07746 022654 (Vicky)  
T: 07780 674114 (Val)

### **TRANSPORT**

**10 January, 14 February  
by Zoom (19.30)**

**Convenor:  
Stephen Luxford**

[Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com](mailto:Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com)

### **BUILDINGS**

**11 January, 1 February  
by Zoom (18.30)**

**Convenor:  
Andrew Catto**

[ac@andrewcatto.co.uk](mailto:ac@andrewcatto.co.uk)  
T: 07831 761327

### **OPEN SPACES**

**5 January, 2 February  
by Zoom, (18.30)**

**Convenor:  
Judith Chegwidden**

[judith.chegwidden@gmail.com](mailto:judith.chegwidden@gmail.com)  
T: 020 8788 4489

## Our work in Roehampton

The first Covid lockdown gave the Community Panel the opportunity to really get involved in Roehampton. Under the auspices of the 'My Roehampton' project (led by Jonathan Palma and managed by Citizens Advice Wandsworth), an online group of some 60 individuals, charities and organisations was set up. Called the Roehampton Response Network, the Community Panel was delighted to become a member of the group. Everyone worked tirelessly to ensure that during the strange circumstances we were all in, residents of Roehampton had information about services and organisations offering help, access to needed essentials and, in the early days, a weekly online meeting providing support – particularly valuable for those in isolation.

As things eased, planning began for the first Roehampton Community Week in summer 2021, where events took place all over Roehampton for all ages to enjoy and to celebrate getting through the difficult times. This was very successful, and a second Community Week was held in 2022. Hopefully this will become an annual event, as it all goes to help bring the community closer together.

The Roehampton Women's Network has become a very successful development of the Response Network. Everyone works together to offer support and information to women and children in need, to link them with services, organise events and to help overcome the hurdles many are facing.

## What else does the Community Panel do?

### We help with:

- The information stall in Danebury Avenue on Friday afternoons,
- planting and maintenance of the memorial fountain flower beds in Medfield Street – soon to be replanted for spring,
- the Christmas Fair in December, once again having a stall and doing Christmas crafts with children,
- sharing information within our network and linking more widely with others
- contributing ideas for events, attending meetings and giving practical help where possible
- litter picks and tidying
- events and displays organised by Estate Art

- and much more. We would just LOVE a few more residents of Roehampton to join us. Are you free for a couple of hours a month? We could really do with some help, for the activities listed, and with new ideas and suggestions. Please consider joining the Community Panel, as we'd really value your input.

## Roehampton Community Box

Have you heard about this excellent service? The Rackets Cubed 'Community Box' is a service which helps families in need of support. One of us (VJ) was fortunate to be part of the Community Box volunteer team just before Christmas. It was, of course, a very busy morning, and organised to perfection . . . There were no hitches, no queues, no disappointments – just smiles, conversations, friendship, gratitude – perfect! Nikki Rossner and her team do an amazing job and deserve huge thanks and congratulations – which they also received from the Mayor, Cllr Ambache, in person. As Nikki said

'It has been a very busy time, but we held it together and look what we achieved -

- Food to 165 families - nearly 850 individuals- accounting for about 2500 meals
- 496 presents distributed - wrapped and donated by Gift Tree, Ibstock School, St Mary's Church and All Saint's Church, Putney
- 160 goodie bags of Christmas treats distributed - contents donated by St Margaret's Church Putney.

This could only have happened because all our wonderful volunteers (all 48 of you) give time, energy and smiles to make this work - both this week and all year.'

The Community Box premises reopens in early January at 166 Roehampton Lane, open on Wednesdays and Thursdays - people wanting to go must register and book a slot.

For details email [communitybox@racketscubed.com](mailto:communitybox@racketscubed.com)  
The Community Box is run by the charity Rackets Cubed.  
[www.racketscubed.com](http://www.racketscubed.com)

## Happy New Year everyone



# The Future of the Wandsworth Museum Collection

The Council's Arts & Culture Strategy 2021-31, published early in 2022, had as one of its key aims *"fostering collaboration between libraries, cultural and heritage organisations, creative industries and educational organisations in order to provide a rich variety of lifelong learning opportunities using the borough collection"*.

Since the May elections Cllr Kemi Akinola, the new Deputy Leader, has taken on responsibility for Arts & Culture as well as Libraries. Cllr Rex Osborn has recently been given responsibility for the museum collection which comprises some 11,000 artefacts and is stored in the basement of the former West Hill site. Including these historical paintings of local interest:

An Action Group has been formed, chaired by Sheila Allen the former Chair of the Friends of Wandsworth Museum and a trustee of the Museum itself (and later the Battersea Arts Centre following the merger). The Group aims to coordinate and channel the efforts of the borough's amenity and historical societies including the Putney Society to make the Council-owned collection once again available to the public.

The ultimate aspiration of a sustainable new museum in a new location lives on, of course! Sadly, a return to either West Hill (now a nursery school) or the Old Court House (to be leased out at commercial rates) has been ruled out.

Meanwhile some progress is being made despite the almost complete absence of allocated budget:

- The Council is working on updating the collection's records;
- Roehampton University students have been working on curating small scale displays of collection artefacts as part as one of their courses. They may be able to assist with digitising parts of the collection, especially the paintings (digitised years ago and still on Art UK | Discover Artworks)
- Battersea Arts Centre has confirmed it is happy to host free of charge an exhibition based on collection artefacts;
- A freelance curator has been identified to assist in setting up an exhibition at BAC as well as smaller displays at local libraries, probably in cooperation with the Heritage Service (subject to funding);

- Putney Library would be delighted to host an exhibition if space is booked well in advance;
- Crowd funding options are to be identified and scoped so more of the above can be actioned;
- A new charity may be set up to receive donations and potentially to apply for Arts Council or other funding.

Restoring the education outreach programmes run by the old museum and later by BAC should be a priority. We know the Council is supportive but that requires a budget allocation and there is currently nothing in sight.

Volunteers are needed who share the aspirations of the Action Group. Please let me know if you are interested in working with us. Thank you.

**Jonathan Callaway**

[callahiljo1@btinternet.com](mailto:callahiljo1@btinternet.com)



Old Putney Bridge, Edward Parrini, 1885



The Embankment Putney, George Frederick Hughes, 1881

## PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

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