



# The Bulletin

For our members in Putney and Roehampton



November 2023

## Return of our popular QUIZ NIGHT!!

**Monday 27 November 7pm for 7.30 start, Community Church, Werter Road, SW15 2LL**

There will be plenty of questions about Putney, as well as lots of other questions that will test your general knowledge. You don't need to come with a team – you

can join a table of 4 or 5 and help name your team, as well as meet other local residents. Entrance fee £2, which will go in the pot and the winning team will share the

total amount. Open to all – so bring your friends and neighbours.

You can also join us virtually by Zoom if you want to do the quiz, but you won't be eligible for the prize if you happen to come top! You have to be in the room to qualify for that. Email: [registration@putneysociety.org.uk](mailto:registration@putneysociety.org.uk) for the link.

There is a disabled entrance on the right of the Church.

**Refreshments available.**



## Granard Primary School is 70!

To mark the occasion of Granard's 70th Anniversary a carving made from the trunk of school's iconic Cedar Tree was



unveiled on Friday 6th October. After living for around 370 years this tree was a living symbol of the school. Sadly, it

died last year and had to be cut down.

The present cohort of pupils had gathered beforehand for a very special Assembly.

They were treated to an illustrated journey, beginning with a newspaper cutting of the original opening of the school in 1953 to the present day by the Head Teacher, Mrs Grigg.

Two former Heads, **Mr Bridge** and **Mrs Cobb** told entertaining stories about their memories of Granard. There was a specially composed Granard Song the pupils sang to mark the event plus a beautiful cake.



**The 3 Head teachers posed on the seats carved into the tree following the official unveiling. We all hope the new tree will remain for at least another 370 years!**

## Community Panel

Co-convenors: Victoria Diamond & Val Jones Vickysw15@aol.com & jones.val@gmail.com 07746 022654

**Defibrillators:** We are delighted to hear that City Hall, **London Ambulance Service (LAS)** and **Transport for London (TfL)** have completed a joint rollout of defibrillators at all Underground and Overground stations, plus most bus stations and piers. For every minute that goes by without life-saving intervention like CPR and defibrillation, the chances of a person surviving cardiac arrest decrease by 10%, so it's really important we all know where defibrillators are.

**Roehampton Leisure Centre.** For our members in Roehampton. Did you know there's a Leisure Centre in Laverstoke Gardens, off Danebury Avenue? Apparently, a lot of residents aren't aware that it's there. Do investigate if you haven't come across it before. It has lots to offer, and the team there are keen to get involved with the local community.

**Reusing old laptops and tablets.** If you have an oldish laptop or tablet that you no longer use, Power to Connect would love to know, so they can donate them to people without devices, but who need them. Some are children who need them for homework, others for families who need them for banking, access to GPs etc. They want devices that are fully working (no cracked screens or missing keys, come with a working charger and are no more than 8 years old (laptops) or 4 years old (tablets). You can complete their donation form via [www.powertoconnect.co.uk](http://www.powertoconnect.co.uk) or contact them at [hello@powertoconnect.co.uk](mailto:hello@powertoconnect.co.uk) or ring 07934 553 192 if you have any questions. One of the drop off points is Wandsworth Town Hall. If you have more than one device, they will get a transport volunteer to collect them from you.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**10 November** – Putneymead Medical Practice are hosting a session on AGEING WELL, LIVING WELL, from 2pm-4pm Putney Library Meeting Room, Disraeli Rd, SW15 2DR Falls prevention exercises and tips for independent living. Refreshments will be available.

**23 November at 6pm.** SW15 Women's Network have organised a White Ribbon Torch Parade to support the global movement to end male violence against women and girls. To be opened by **Fleur Anderson MP**. Meet at the junction of Danebury Ave and Roehampton Lane with a torch, lantern or mobile phone. Free torches and glow sticks to the first 30 attendees.

**24 November Putney Christmas Lights** will be switched on. Schools and dance groups will perform. **Joseph Coello**, author and poet who grew up in Putney will be switching on the lights.

**25 November** welcomes the **Putney Ice Sculpture Trail**, with 17 sculptures that will be located around the town centre. In addition, there will be seasonal performances in Church Square.

**30 November Roehampton Christmas Lights** will be switched on. **The Community Shed** will have made baubles, which children will have had a chance to decorate and hang on the tree. There's also a snow machine this year!

**9 December Roehampton Christmas Fair** with many stalls and activities for all the family.

## Transport Panel

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

In September, we held a very popular public meeting about the River Thames with our guest speaker, **Jim Trimmer**, who holds a senior position at the **Port of London Authority**. This led to a very wide-ranging discussion covering a number of diverse topics including mud larking and swimming in the Thames to attracting more freight to the river and preparing for the Boat Race. If you were unable to attend but wish to learn more about what was discussed there is a clear [audio version](#) of the meeting available on our website.

After much deliberation of different proposals over recent years, the Council has now **agreed** to reshape the junctions connecting Putney Bridge Road and the Lower Richmond Road with Putney High Street. There is a package of measures which involve changes to the pedestrian crossing times; carriageway alterations; new traffic signals layout (and the movement of existing traffic islands) and additional measures for cyclists. For example, a new cycle 'gate'; the extension of existing cycle lanes; and the right for cyclists to be able to turn left at the junction of Putney Bridge Road and the High Street. Hopefully this will all lead to some improvements for all modes of transport. Construction work is due to begin this coming January.

And as part of these works, following a request from the Putney Society, the Council plan to pilot pedestrianisation of the Putney Embankment between Lower Richmond Road and Thames Place. The benefits of pedestrianising the Embankment tie in wider Council initiatives to improve conditions for pedestrians and open new potential opportunities for market events or alfresco dining. This will be a trial so there will be consultation with the residents and businesses in the area.





## Open Spaces Panel convenor: Judith Chegwidden judith.chegwidden@gmail.com 020 8788 4489

After some discussion, the Society has decided to support the proposal by **Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators** (WPCC) to increase the Levy.

The value of the Commons to the mental and physical health of the Putney and Roehampton residents cannot be overestimated. This is particularly true for those who lack resources for more costly recreation. We are therefore concerned that upkeep of the Commons is adequately funded.

The Society is, however, aware of the cost-of-living crisis and its adverse effects on the citizens of the Borough. The Society is also aware that all Levy payers do not benefit from the Commons to the same extent as others. We would like to see far more outreach from the Conservators to residents on the estates in Roehampton and West Putney. The two walks arranged during Roehampton Community weeks were a good start but this needs to be an ongoing process. We would like to see the Conservators working with local youth groups to allow free or subsidised use of the playing fields. And working with primary schools in Roehampton and parts of West Putney to set up regular nature discovery events as well as encouraging local secondary school pupils to become involved in volunteering projects.

Finally, we would like to see a change in the composition of the board of WPCC to reflect the fact that over 60% of their income comes from Putney and Roehampton. Currently 4 out of 5 elected Conservators come from Wimbledon. Elections for Conservators takes place next March. If you are at all interested in standing for one of the five elected posts, please do contact us and we could provide briefing and support to suitable candidates.

Meanwhile, we have met with the new CEO of WPCC, **Colin Cooper**, to show him the damage done to the banks of Beverley Brook when a fence was erected to block a path between Putney Common and the playing fields operated by the Barn Elms Sports Trust. Pedestrians continue to use this route despite the partial fence, sadly further damaging the banks of the river. In addition, the Sports Trust have piled up grass clippings in an effort to block this route and they are falling into the river – a possible source of pollution. It is vital that the banks are kept in good order, silting up is already taking place, reducing flow and diminishing the habitat for fish and aquatic insects. We will continue to liaise with Colin Cooper to see what amelioration is possible.

## Buildings Panel convenor: Andrew Catto ac@andrewcatto.co.uk 020 8785 0077

Every Panel meeting seems to include reports from the construction press about the continuing shortage of planning officers. Now the **Royal Town Planning Institute** (RTPI) report that across the country 25% of Council planners have left in the last seven years, yet the government closed Britain's only planning course a few years ago. That's why applications are still taking so long to process, despite a huge drop in development due to the economic situation. Wandsworth isn't immune. The current head of the Planning team for Wandsworth and Richmond is leaving to take up a similar post in Hampshire where she lives, leading to a big internal reshuffle.

But our Council does however still seem to have some money. Last month they granted themselves consent for a big expansion of the facilities at **Tooting Bec Lido**. Their campaign of estate infills grinds on slowly. A planning application has been submitted for 8 flats on Bessborough Road, but of course we're still a long way from an overall scheme for the Alton Estate. We have just seen a further consultation on changes at Aubyn and Toland Squares on Roehampton Lane. Next door to this the Society of the Sacred Heart are proposing 8 supported living flats.

**Dial House** on the Upper Richmond Road just west of **The Fox and Hounds** is a plain red brick office block which in the more car orientated 1970's was set back to allow for road widening that never happened. If you don't know it, you will know the six splendid plane trees that stand in front of it. This month's big application is to reclad and reconfigure the building, but still as offices. We can see why they want more

glazing and a new entrance with a URR address, but have urged the Council to ensure those trees are protected and to ask for the forecourt to be further planted.

At Wandsworth's recent **Conservation and Heritage Panel**, senior planners present agreed with me that there needs to be a standard condition that where front gardens are paved, and that paving must be permeable. Next, we'll try to get them to retain perimeter planting. But there still doesn't seem to be an answer about where to put 5G 'phone masts. We're told that the council are "talking to the major providers".

In a new departure we have seen a couple of roof extensions refused because of visible impact when seen from behind. Of course, this can only happen in conservation areas.

Other good news is that the roof of the lovely Georgian garden temple at Mount Clare has been completed, preventing further deterioration and saving the painted ceiling. But sadly, it will continue to be fenced off until the University find more money for the doors and windows.



## ART OF THE ATACAMA DESERT: MUMMIES, LLAMA HERDS AND THE WORLD'S TALLEST GIANT

13th November 8.00pm  
Dryburgh Hall and on zoom.



Lecturer: Paul Bahn

The Atacama Desert in Chile is not only the driest place on earth, filled with spectacular landscapes, but also home to two kinds of prehistoric rock art. First, rock paintings and engravings (often very beautiful and mostly depicting llamas) and second, the world's greatest collection of 'geoglyphs' - huge drawings made on the landscape. They include the 'Giant of the Atacama', by far the biggest human depiction known from prehistory. The talk presents the best examples of the Atacama's art and discusses what is known of the purposes of these enormous drawings.

Visitors Welcome. Please check our website for details of how to register for the Zoom Lecture. <https://www.theartsocietyswlon.org.uk>

## Putney Street Names



The Friends of Putney Library (FoPL):  
AGM and talk by Phil Evison

**Wednesday 29 November,  
Putney Library**

**What's in a street name?** The talk will attempt to explain this sometimes obscure and thorny subject. The AGM will be 18.00 followed by Phil Evison's talk at 18.30. Refreshments from 17.30. Free entry, but cash donations welcome. Booking advisable from the library, call 020 8780 3085 or email [Charlene.coleman@gll.org](mailto:Charlene.coleman@gll.org).

## Update from the Wandsworth Museum Action Group (WMAG)

Cllr. Rex Osborn was appointed History Champion for Heritage, Arts and Culture in July. One of his roles is to liaise between WMAG and the Council and to communicate their ideas and ambitions to the Council. Currently these are: - to be given display space in The Borough Libraries where they can present curated items from the collection, hold an annual exhibition in Battersea Arts Centre collaborating with The Director of Roehampton University's Heritage course, and, more ambitiously still, develop a Cluster Concept incorporating Museum/ Environmental Centre/Art Gallery/ Performance Space, perhaps with some commercial venture as a financial back up. But WMAG know they need to raise awareness. There are 327,000 people in this Borough, few of whom know that there is a museum without a home.

## Upcoming events from Putney Music

**6 November:** Nigel Simeone talks to Andrew Neill about his work as a broadcaster and writer, notably on Sir Charles Mackerras and Janacek. His recent book, Ralph Vaughan Williams and Adrian Boult, charts Sir Adrian's championship of Vaughan Williams' music.

**20 November:** Steven Osborne OBE, one of today's most sought-after and recorded pianists, in conversation with Putney Music's vice-president Piers Lane.

**4 December:** Laurence Perkins, for many years principal bassoonist of Manchester Camerata and passionate record man, talks to Andrew Keener about life inside and outside the orchestra, and of his work as a teacher and educationalist.

All events take place at the Dryburgh Hall at Putney Leisure Centre SW15 1BL at 19:45.

## FUTURE PANEL MEETINGS

New panel members very welcome. Some panel meetings are held in person and some on Zoom. Please check details below. 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 Nov., 14 Dec. (18.30)  
in person at 41 Norroy Road

#### Co-convenors:

Vicky Diamond & Val Jones

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

### TRANSPORT

14 Nov., 12 Dec. (19.30)  
by Zoom

#### Convenor:

Stephen Luxford  
Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

### BUILDINGS

1 Nov., 6 Dec. (18.30)  
by Zoom

#### Convenor:

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

### OPEN SPACES

2 Nov., 7 Dec. (18.30)  
in person at 28 Howards Lane

#### Convenor:

Judith Chegwidden  
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T: 020 8788 4489

## PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

See website for full details:  
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