Members’ Meeting:
Stained glass in and around Putney
Monday, 23 May in Brewer Building,
St Mary’s Church  at 19.30
Author and stained glass artist Caroline Swash will give an illustrated talk on some of the fascinating stained glass windows in Putney, Roehampton and nearby. These include rare early examples of the craft, fine stained glass by Victorian firms and a complete scheme by Morris and Co. Excellent contemporary work includes the fine windows by Alan Younger that the Putney Society successfully fought to retain when the original post-modern frontage of the Exchange was demolished in 2013. Caroline has just published a book ‘The 100 Best Stained Glass Sites in London’ in which Putney’s buildings are featured. There will be signed copies at a special price available for sale.

Visit to The Houses of Parliament
Monday 6 June 2016 at 10.20
Join us for a tour of the Mother of Parliaments, courtesy of the MP for Putney and Southfields, the Rt Hon Justine Greening. Numbers are limited so please respond as soon as possible. There will be no charge for this visit. To book your place please send a SAE (or your email address), with your name, address and contact phone number, to Maureen Howley, 1 Elystan Court, 121 Howards Lane, London SW15 6QH. You will be sent further details.

WANDSWORTH HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2016
The festival runs from 28 May to 12 June. There is a wealth of information about the heritage of the Borough, the extent of which has astonished your editor. The complete programme is available at:  
[GLL_Libraries_Wandsworth_A5Booklet_HeritageFestival_2015_fy_web_.pdf](GLL_Libraries_Wandsworth_A5Booklet_HeritageFestival_2015_fy_web_.pdf) or copies can be obtained from Putney Library. Of particular interest are:

**Saturday 4 June** – 6pm Screening: Alan Thornhill and the Putney Sculpture Trail; Anna Thornhill introduces a screening of the film ‘Spirit in Mass – Journey into Sculpture’ about her father Alan Thornhill, creator of the Putney Sculpture Trail. This event will also launch Alan’s monograph ‘The Search for Authenticity’. Putney Library, 5/7 Disraeli Road, Putney SW15 2DR • £3 on the door • No booking required

**Saturday 11 June** – 3pm Walk: Putney Sculpture Trail; John Horrocks will lead this guided walk along The Putney Sculpture Trail, featuring nine Alan Thornhill sculptures. Running from Leader’s Gardens to Prospect Quay, it takes in Putney’s riverside. Meet at the sculpture in Leader’s Gardens, Putney Embankment. • free• No booking required

**Sunday 12 June** – 2.30pm Rehearsed reading: Roehampton Women; Listen to a collection of dramatized stories of the nuns, nurses, inventors and dancers who have lived in Roehampton • Maryfield Convent, Roehampton SW15 4JA • free• No booking required • Information contact: victor@sparetyre.org

One
Putney Society Discount Scheme

It’s almost 2 months now since the launch of this Scheme. We hope you’ve started to use your Discount Cards? Our website has the up-to-date list of all 56 shops and businesses who are signed up and their offers. Please note that the discount is at the discretion of the business and is subject to change. We hope to send a complete list out with one of our Bulletins in the near future, when there’s space. In the meantime, PLEASE USE YOUR DISCOUNT CARD! It’s a great scheme and we hope it lasts for many successful years! HAPPY SHOPPING!

Open Spaces Panel

Convenor: John Horrocks
020 8789 2956
john.horrocks10@btinternet.com

Let’s mark the Queen’s 90th birthday!
The Open Spaces Panel is proposing that the Society celebrates the Queen’s 90th birthday by planting a tree in Wandsworth Park. This is, after all, what the Society’s Tree Fund is for. Tony Kirkham, head of the arboretum at Kew’s Royal Botanic Gardens, has said, “The Queen is the best tree planter. She never fails - if the Queen plants a tree for you, you are going to go and water it”. Asked what tree might be planted for her 90th birthday, he advises the tulip tree, Liriodendron tulipifera, Kew’s prize specimen having been planted in about 1770. "They are beautiful”, he says, "they've got good autumn colour, lovely flowers, good form, good bark and no diseases". We think we should accept his advice. We are looking for a suitable site in Wandsworth Park and would like to share the cost with the Friends of Wandsworth Park - so that a larger tree could be bought. We will, of course, need to get permission from the Tree Officers of 'Enable', the team which now looks after the park for the Borough Council.

We are pleased to see that the two Catalpa trees which the Society planted in the same park last February are settling in well. They will be coming into leaf shortly - they have large, almost tropical, leaves, followed by interesting blossom. We will be walking past these two trees when we have our Putney Sculpture Trail walk on Saturday 11 June - see the Wandsworth Heritage Festival programme, out in mid-May.

Sir, Let me toss a few pebbles in the pond of public transport. First, Putney Station: why did the buses lose their little "parking bay" at the top of the High Street? The result is that the inside lane can’t be used if a bus is there and that causes a tailback. We all know that causes increased pollution. Second, Putney Station again: it’s proposed that there will be an entrance in Oxford Road. A building will have to be demolished to accommodate that. The art school perhaps? Third, buses: I’ve frequently seen would-be passengers bound for The Green Man and beyond rush from the 14 and 93 stop at the top of the High Street to the 85 stop at the foot of Putney Hill. This is a very hazardous exercise as it involves crossing Upper Richmond Road and that consists of 3 sections. I’ve even seen people with pushchairs and disabled folk trying to do this. It’s madness and all because the 85 stop was switched to Putney Hill. Finally, (phew!), East Putney Station: Why on earth would the drive-in be removed? I’ve used it many times. What is the space to be used for? A plague on tinkering bureaucrats!

Iain KS Gray, 1 Keble House, Manor Fields, SW15 3LS

Future Panel Meetings

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

Community: 12 May, 9 June at 6 Norroy Road, SW15 1PH (18.30) Convenor: Vicky Diamond vicky.sw15@aol.com 07746 022654

Transport: 10 May, 14 June at 46 Disraeli Road SW15 2DS (19.30) Convenor: Stephen Luxford stephen.luxford@nac.gsi.gov.uk

Buildings: 4 May, 1 June at 154 Putney High Street, SW15 1RS (19.00) Convenor: Andrew Catto ac@andrewcatto.co.uk

Open Spaces: 5 May, 2 June at 71 Norroy Road, SW15 1PH (19.00) Convenor: John Horrocks john.horrocks10@btinternet.com 020 8789 2956

Please check in advance with Panel Convenors as space may be limited.
Have you tried our Discussion Forum?
It’s been re-launched

Last year we introduced a new Discussion Forum, a place for members to exchange ideas, knowledge, opinions and information about Putney and Roehampton. Despite some initial enthusiasm, it became clear quite quickly that the method of signing up to use the Forum through an “invitation” email was a nuisance, and quickly it stopped being used. Which I think is a pity.

We’ve therefore revamped the way the Forum can be joined, and members can now contribute easily by just clicking on the prominent “Putney Forum” blue button on the left side of our home page on the Putney Society website – www.putneysociety.org.uk. From there you either click on the “Sign in” button if you’ve joined previously, or “Register” to fill in the very straightforward information, and you’re ready to go. Of course if you’ve forgotten your password this too can be reset.

But why should you bother? The website hopefully will become a place where Society members can swap ideas and information online. Not least it can be a way of letting the Society itself know what you care about and what you would like to see the Executive Committee and the various Panels working on. Have you been to one of our meetings? Tell us what you thought. What do you like – or dislike about the Bulletin or website? We really want to hear from you.

Because the technology underlying the Forum is much like using a typical word-processor you can easily cut and paste photographs and links, copy text and information into postings and not get bogged down in typing complicated HTML codes or suchlike. You don’t have to be a high-tech wiz. It’s also not a place for bad tempered argument and disputes – the Code of Practice sets out the boundaries. We hope that it will be used instead for sharing in a constructive way. Have a look, and see if you can help build an online community that really supports what we all want for Putney and Roehampton. Come on, give it a try.

Nick Evans, Website Editor (retiring)

At our April panel meeting we had the pleasure of two new members attending, only one of whom went away with follow up homework (because it affects his street). Welcome Lynn Pearcy & Dudley Howard! I hope we’ll see both again soon. Like all the Society’s panels we welcome any member who cares to come along and engage. No knowledge of the planning system needed, just the same love of Putney that made you join the Society in the first place. But please let me know in advance so that I can put enough chairs around the table. If you can’t spare a Wednesday evening, we would still love to hear from you about the topics raised and the questions asked in these articles, like last month’s about domestic basements, as well as new ideas.

For a Buildings panel we have spent a lot of time recently talking about trees. But that’s because developers (and some householders) want to clear them away, and on the other hand those same developers can afford to plant, if only they would do what they promise when seeking consent. Last month we had to ask Wandsworth Council to act against the missing new trees at Rosslyn Park, this month it’s Tileman House on the Upper Richmond Road. Their planning consent required the retention of three mature trees along the street frontage. The sales image visible in an agent’s window shows six beauties, but when the hoarding came down there is nothing but bare paving. Just where more trees are really needed to clear the air.

Another local joy is Putney’s surprising collection of interesting stained glass, and not just in the churches. Don’t miss Caroline Swash’s talk about this on the 23rd May (details on page 1), or miss seeing her splendid new book which will be discounted on the night.

Our Council’s planning guidelines call for ‘active frontages’ (shop windows) in big new developments. When they all open these will transform the south side of the Upper Richmond Road. But how far should these extend round the corner into residential streets? Do come and tell us your views on this and the many other topics we discuss.

On questions like this we want to truly represent all Putney.
Greater London Authority Hustings

“From the Old English: House assembly, a council held by a king, earl etc. ......... The temporary platform on which Parliamentary candidates stood for nomination and while addressing the electors; now any place where political campaign speeches are made.” (Shorter Oxford English Dictionary)

The gradnal devaluation of the word continued at the Hustings organised by the Putney Society and Wandsworth Society. They were held at St Ann’s Church on April 14 and ably chaired by Jonathan Callaway, eminence grise of Putney pollution and Vice-Chair of the Putney Society. Upwards of one hundred persons attended, mostly grey of hair and included members of other local amenity societies: Balham, Battersea, Tooting and Wimbledon. The Chairman began by advising us that one candidate, the Independent Thalmilini Kulendran, would not be attending, that Esther Obiri-Darko of the Green Party was engaged in hustings elsewhere and would be represented by Liam Morgan and that Adrian Hyyrylainen-Trett, the Lib-Dem candidate was delayed as a consequence of a disruptive road traffic accident. Each candidate was allowed, in alphabetical order of first names, four minutes to present a case and then to take questions after all had spoken.

David Dean, Conservative, reminded the audience that Wandsworth is London’s safest borough, that green evolution is needed and that his party planned to deliver in silence, a policy he demonstrated by speaking for only two and a half minutes. Elizabeth Jones, UKIP, enunciated her party’s principles of reality, responsibility and service, reminded us that the London Overground is owned by interests in Hong Kong and Germany and since the constituency is represented by 5 MPs and 120 Councillors opined that the Greater London Authority should be abolished. Leonie Cooper, Labour, was critical of the lack of innovation during the last eight years of London government, noted the significant increase in public transport fares which she wished to freeze and hoped to introduce bus hopper tickets and to pedestrianize Oxford Street. Liam Morgan, Green, held the view that the GLA top-down planning approach was inappropriate, noted that poor air quality leads to six thousand excess deaths in London each year and argued in favour of routing Crossrail 2 by Tooting rather than Balham. Adrian Hyyrylainen-Trett, Liberal Democrat, argued in favour of transparency and openness and was critical of the transport service.

Questioning was vocal and extensive. All candidates agreed that Tooting was the preferable route for Crossrail 2 and most deplored air quality in London. The organisers should be congratulated on a successful event. It remains both surprising and disappointing that the mayoral candidates declined to avail themselves of this opportunity to engage with such a committed group of the electorate.

Sir, some council tenants paid several times over for their homes as their rents rose to match inflation but Right to Buy gave others control of their property. Registered voters own everything publicly owned in Putney but delegate management of their social housing to the council or other public bodies. They subsidise it from taxes but could instead buy high rent property and use the profits to subsidise their low rent stock. In the long term social housing could produce profits, some to be distributed as dividends to voters and some to be used for civic improvements they want. Over a long enough period, property could be acquired without compulsory purchase, for the centre of Putney, to be bypassed by roads alongside the railways. A strip of parkland along the top of Putney Hill could be created to give views over the Thames and Wand valleys. It could be the start of a network of parkland round outer London. A network of motorways alongside railways could reduce pollution caused by slow-moving traffic. Frequent mini-buses could make public transport more attractive and produce less pollution than convoys of private cars with one person in them. Unlike councillors who measure time in the intervals between elections, Putney Society members can take a long term view when deciding how they want their property improved.

Peter Hutchinson, 14 Redwoods, SW15 4NL
Granard School Development

Michael Foreman, distinguished author and illustrator of children’s books and winner of many awards in this field opened the Cedar Building at Granard School on the 12 February 2016. All Granard’s classrooms are named after authors and in September when there is an additional Year 2 class due to expansion this will be named this after Michael Foreman. The new building is named after a magnificent three-hundred year old cedar tree, the school’s emblem, that dominates the school’s spacious grounds. A mosaic of the cedar tree (shown right), which all Key Stage 2 children were involved in creating, has been set on the outside of the new building.

Snippets

- Council litter bins have been disappearing from West Putney. The Doverhouse Estate appears to have been denuded of them and those outside Granard School and Greenmead School have gone too. Both these schools employ significant populations of smokers and both are on routes frequented by residents walking their dogs and commuters. The inevitable discarding of rubbish is as deplorable as the removal of the bins is incomprehensible.
- Readers will be relieved to know that the long-awaited trees and climbers have been planted by Rosslyn Park Rugby Football Ground. In spite of the un-seasonality of their planting they appear to be prospering so far.
- The potholes are back. The temporary fix of a couple of years ago needs to be repeated, or better still many of the roads remade.
- Wandsworth Borough Council is to be congratulated on introducing a requirement for Estate Agents advertising signs to have planning permission, but so far only near the High Street. Extension would be welcomed!
Building our membership

The Society draws its strength from the number and diversity of its members, but each year there is some attrition. The Executive works hard to recruit new members; the new shop discount scheme has brought some new faces, we hold recruitment events in the Putney Exchange and we have had some success with street recruitment. But, by far the most effective way of increasing our membership would be if every existing member recruited a friend or neighbour. Next month we will include a membership application form with the distribution; in the meantime, you can download the membership application form from our website. We hope you will all be inspired to do your bit to boost our membership!

Diary Dates:

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday May 7</td>
<td>Scrub bashing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday May 10</td>
<td>Visit to Southside House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday May 22</td>
<td>Putney Society Litter Pick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday May 28</td>
<td>Scrub bashing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday June 6</td>
<td>Visit to Houses of Parliament</td>
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<td>Saturday June 4, 11</td>
<td>Wandsworth Heritage Festival</td>
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<td>Monday June 27</td>
<td>Talk by Richard Bullock, Wetland Centre</td>
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<td>Sunday July 31</td>
<td>Ride London Cycle (road closures)</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>Visit to Foundling Museum</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>Visit to St Bartholomew the Gt</td>
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Our new Treasurer

Małgorzata (Gosia) Jakubik has joined the Putney Society Executive as Treasurer. She grew up in South-East Poland and graduated from Krakow in English Philology in 2006. She started work as an accounts manager in the same year with a letting agency in North London. Having completed the AAT Accounting and Bookkeeping course she has gone on to pass the exams to become an ACCA Affiliate and expects to complete the full ACCA qualification this year. Her passion is travel and she has visited more than thirty countries so far; her wanderlust is unsatisfied. She lives in Roehampton with her partner, Oskar.

Transport Panel

Convenor: Stephen Luxford
stephen.luxford@nao.gsi.gov.uk

Putney Station – repairs have been made to the glass canopy outside the station but work on the façade is still awaited. Only the central part of the façade above the entrance is to be cleaned; there is no funding to restore the façade on either side of this i.e. where the café and hairdressers were on the left hand side or above Costa on the right. Network Rail has confirmed that the ramp into the station will not be replaced with one compliant with disability legislation until at least the summer. And it would appear that the long awaited works to provide an adequate power supply to the station, to enable power for the new shops, is going more slowly than planned. Last year completion at the end of June 2016 was promised but it appears it might now be later in the summer, almost two years after work on the concourse was finished.

New Buses – London General who operate out of the bus garage and run the 14, 39, 74 and 430 buses have been awarded a new franchise starting from November. The buses on these routes will be ‘battery hybrid’ which are claimed to produce around 40% less carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions than traditional diesel engine buses.

20 mph consultation – the deadline (15 May) for responding to the Council’s consultation on introducing a 20 mph limit across the whole Borough is approaching. Members are encouraged to respond to the consultation which can be found on the Council’s website and which will take only a few minutes to complete.

Putney Society Contacts—see website for full details

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Published by The Putney Society (registered charity no. 263242) www.putneysociety.org.uk