



The Bulletin

July 2017



VISIT TO APSLEY HOUSE

149 PICCADILLY, LONDON W1J 7NT

FRIDAY 28 JULY 2017 at 2.30 p.m.

We will visit No 1 London, one of the capital's finest private residences, home of the first Duke of Wellington. It was built by Robert Adam between 1771 and 1778 and acquired the popular name because of its position just past a toll gate into the capital from the west. It passed to the Wellesley family in 1807. It has been the London home of the Dukes of Wellington ever since.

Wellington made it his home after a military career culminating in his defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815. As well as a dazzling state dining room, it houses an extensive art collection including paintings by Velasquez and Rubens, and a wonderful collection of silver and porcelain.

We will have a guided tour of approximately 1½ hours. A lift is available in the house for those with limited mobility.



To book your place please send a sae or your email address, with your name, address and contact phone number, together with a cheque made payable to

'The Putney Society' to Maureen Howley, 1 Elystan Court, 121 Howards Lane, London SW15 6QH.

Putney Society members with English Heritage membership: £6

**Putney Society members £14.00.
Guests £16.00**

Celebrate Heritage Open Days and Open House London

On successive September weekends, take your pick of the fantastic array of buildings and places not usually open to the public - **and free** - and then the capital's largest annual festival of architecture and design. Wow!

Programmes for the ever-popular Heritage Open Days 7-10 September and Open House London 16 & 17 September are both due out over the summer.

Some of the most popular sites need advance booking and fill up fast so keep an eye out for the launches.

Heritage Open Days programme, including a number of London sites as well as thousands all across England goes online in mid-July see <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/> and the paid-for guide to Open House London venues 16 & 17 September will be available in mid-August from <http://www.openhouselondon.org.uk/> You can pre-order the £7 guide via <https://opencityshop.myshopify.com/products/pre-order-your-open-house-london-guide-2017>

Mrs Beryl Jeffery

We are very sad to report the death of the Society's President, Mrs Beryl Jeffery.

Beryl's professional career was as an architect working for one of London's larger architectural practices.

Beryl was Chairman of the Society from 1985 to 1989. She went on to be elected as a West Hill ward councillor and was Mayor of Wandsworth in 1994-95.

As Chairman of the Society, Beryl led the organisation of the hugely successful Society Art Exhibitions held in All Saints Church, Putney Common and later in South Thames College and Putney High School on Putney Hill. These exhibitions brought the Putney artistic community together for everyone's benefit.

To celebrate the Society's Silver Jubilee during Beryl's chairmanship, we planted a group of Silver Poplar trees on Putney Heath, near the cattle pound opposite the Green Man pub. They have grown into a significant feature on the Heath.

As our President, Beryl took a close interest in the Society's work, regularly attending our Executive Committee meetings and our social functions.

Beryl will be remembered with deep fondness. She was a lovely lady.

Summer has finally arrived, and with it comes the kind of exuberance and joy of outdoor living usually associated with the countries of southern Europe. A walk down Putney High Street in the late evening, bathed in high summer twilight, finds the community – young and old, resident and visitor – enjoying all that Putney offers – and relishing being outside. It is good to see that The Italian Boys restaurant – members of our Discount Scheme (see website www.putneysociety.org.uk for full list) – have raised brand new flags.



Let's make sure that we support all the businesses signed up to the Discount Scheme. And now that Putney Town Centre has become a designated Business Improvement District (BID), there is even more opportunity to develop the town centre's reputation as a welcoming and accessible place to shop, visit and work. Putney is a delightful place to live – we can all ensure that it continues to thrive as a local shopping centre.

Community Panel

Convenor:
Victoria Diamond
07746 022654
vickysw15@aol.com

If you go down to Putney Bridge and look east, you can see the red structure that is the Western Riverside Waste Authority – our local waste and recycling centre. Members of the Society visited recently and learnt a lot about the way the recycled waste is processed and general waste sent for incineration. The group queried the lack of opportunities for recycling food waste and regretted that space constraints prevented composting garden waste on site.

The Grenfell Tower fire has raised the question of whether there's a risk of anything like this in SW15. At the time of writing the cause of the blaze still needs to be properly investigated, but most experts feel it relates to the recently installed cladding and the foam insulation behind this. Locally we have learned that the towers above Southside shopping centre were clad a few years ago by the same contractors, and these certainly should be looked at urgently by Wandsworth Council. Putney is mercifully free of tall blocks of flats, other than the new arrivals on the Upper Richmond Road, some brick finished but with one or two that also may need careful inspection. Roehampton fares better. The Alton West slab and tower blocks are still the original concrete panels in most cases.

But it's important to remember that fatal fires are few and far between. Most of those who die do so in two storey houses. So please ask yourself – Did I shut all the doors before going to bed, and is my smoke alarm LOUD enough to wake me?

Members by now may be wondering what happened to the Levellers Court scheme for the site where Putney Bridge Road meets the High Street. This has been delayed because a revised proposal was sent before the original decision date, and new consultations have been needed. The earliest likely committee date is now July, more likely September. The new scheme reduced the height of the mews houses at the back, but it's still 10 storeys on Putney Bridge Road and we have written to say this is still not good enough.

Buildings Panel

Convenor:
Andrew Catto
ac@andrewcatto.co.uk

020 8785 0077

The panel continues to look at the small changes that step by step erode the character of our streets. Currently it's urging the Council, both as planning authority and housing landlord, to stand by the fine words in their planning policies and not allow traditional windows to be replaced by PVC, which never matches no matter what the promise, and perhaps fortunately, doesn't last either.

STOP PRESS - Prompted by the Putney Society, the Mayor of London's office have told Wandsworth planners that the Levellers Court scheme is 'unacceptable' as it stands. Watch this space for changes?



<p>FUTURE PANEL MEETINGS</p> <p>All members welcome www.putneysociety.org.uk</p>	<p>COMMUNITY: 13 July, 14 Sept At 6 Norroy Road, SW15 1PF (18.30) Convenor: Vicky Diamond vickysw15@aol.com T:07746 022654</p>	<p>TRANSPORT: 11 July, 12 Sept At 46 Disraeli Road, SW15 2DS (19.30) Convenor: Stephen Luxford stephen.luxford@nao.gsi.gov.uk</p>	<p>BUILDINGS: 5 July, 2 August At 154 Putney High Street, SW15 1RS (19.00) Convenor: Andrew Catto ac@andrewcatto.co.uk</p>	<p>OPEN SPACES: 10 July, 7 Sept At 71 Norroy Road, SW15 1PH (19.00) Convenor: John Horrocks John.horrocks10@btinternet.com T: 020 8789 2956</p>
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In view of the current planning application to turn the river terrace to the east of **Wandsworth Park** into private gardens, the Society is sending a letter of objection. The main points of the letter are set out below – the full text is on the website.

Open Spaces Panel

Convenor:

John Horrocks
020 8789 2956

john.horrocks10@btinternet.com

Dear Sir,

Planning application 2017/2707

River terrace, Wandsworth Park, (abutting 105-115, Deodar Road, Putney)

This planning application proposes the loss of public open space and its conversion into private residential use. Given the importance of public open space to the wider Putney community, this proposal must be unacceptable in principle.

In the Wandsworth Local Plan, the borough council's planning policies, against which this application must be judged, are set out. The proposed change of use of this corner of Wandsworth Park is in clear contradiction of the adopted council policies on open space. There is no land use policy in the Local Plan which would support the granting of planning permission by the council in this instance.

This application arises as a result of alleged night-time anti-social behaviour in this patch of public open space. But the council has not sought to discuss or find a solution to the problem with local relevant community groups, such as the Putney Society or the Friends of Wandsworth Park. There could be a solution to this problem without the loss of public open space and without any detriment to the public interest. The council could ask the Friends of Wandsworth Park to take on the responsibility of closing and locking the gate at the entrance to the patch of open space at dusk and of unlocking and opening the gate early in the morning. This would maintain public access to the open space during daylight hours.

This corner of Wandsworth Park offers the only bit of riverside walk in the park where quiet contemplation, without interference from cyclists and dog-walkers, is possible. Why should this be lost?

With every new development in the areas around the park, especially in the Wandsworth Riverside Quarter to the east, the number of residents looking to Wandsworth Park for their recreational needs grows. The demands and pressures on the park can only continue to grow in the future. How can the loss of even a small part of this public open space be justified in these circumstances?

<http://www.putneysociety.org.uk/news-and-issues/wandsworth-park-riverside-terrace.html>

Air pollution – we understand that the air monitoring equipment in the High Street has developed a fault and has been failing to record the level of NO2 emissions. We are in contact with the Council to ascertain how long this problem has gone on for and the steps being taken to remedy this.

Trains – as many rail passengers will be aware there are plans for major works at Waterloo in August. South West Trains, who will be replaced as the rail franchise holder in the middle of this work, have acknowledged that their website gives conflicting information of how it might affect travellers from Putney which they will remedy. In short, we will have the same rail service as now but it is likely to be more crowded because of reductions at other stations. So be warned. SWT plan a publicity campaign at Putney station by the end of June.

Transport Panel

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

Buses – Although after many months, and much pressure from the Society, the missing bus shelter outside the Station was finally installed in May both shelters still lack Countdown indicators. TfL have promised the Council they would rectify this but they have still failed to do so. We hope this is just TfL's usual tardiness rather than a deliberate ploy.

PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

See website for full details:
www.putneysociety.org.uk

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INTERNET SHOPPING

Convenient but throws up problems

There are more delivery vans than ever on our streets and inconvenient waits for delivery – but there are alternatives.

Putney's network of parcel collection points for internet shoppers is growing quickly. This is a quick guide to making the most of available parcel collection points for smaller portable items. Be aware that sometimes there are additional charges for parcel collection.

- 1) Buying from an internet shop which offers collection from its own branch in Putney, e.g. John Lewis (Waitrose), Marks & Spencer, Rymans and eBay (Argos). This is simple and can bring additional benefits (such as being able to try M&S clothes on to check the fit at the Putney branch).
- 2) Buying from an internet retailer whose distributor has established a network of parcel pick-up points:

- a. Pass My Parcel
- b. Amazon Lockers
- c. Click & Collect Plus
- d. Royal Mail Local Collect
- e. DPD

For details of all the local pick-up points please go to <http://www.putneysociety.org.uk/news-and-issues/internet-shopping-click-and-collect-putney.html>

- 3) Establish your own second address specifically for Parcel collection (currently only Mail Boxes Etc offer this service in Putney at 210 Upper Richmond Road, SW15 6NP but other chains do offer the service elsewhere, e.g. Duddle in Richmond)

Using these collection points could save time and reduce the number of (often diesel) vans on our roads.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday morning scrub bashers on Wimbledon Common

If you would like to become involved with the regular Saturday morning volunteer group, it meets at the bicycle racks near the Windmill car park at 10:30am and work finishes at around 12:30pm. Saturday volunteering sessions will take place on the following dates:

1st & 22nd July, 5th & 12th August, 9th & 23rd September

To help ensure the health & safety of volunteers and visitors to the Commons, unfortunately, the maximum number of people that can be accommodated during each session is 15. Therefore, to avoid disappointment, all volunteers wishing to attend a particular event should email peter@wpcc.org.uk by the Wednesday morning of the week preceding each session.

Litter Pick - Alton East Estate - Sunday 9th July 10.30am

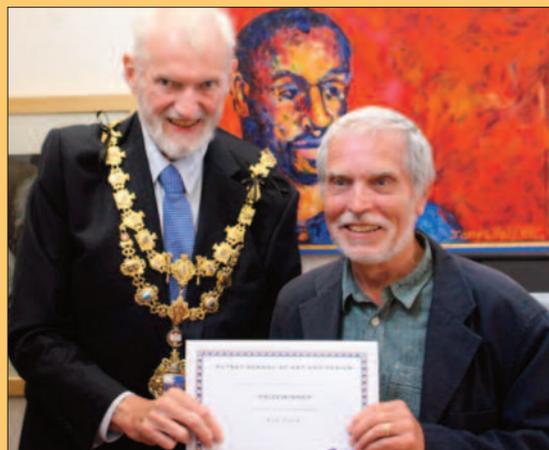
Calling all litter pickers!

Please come and join us; we will cover part of the Alton East estate.

Meet at junction of Petersfield Rise and Alton Road.

Please bring gardening gloves; litter bags will be provided.

Any queries, please call John Farrer, Open Spaces Panel on 0793 559 9600.



Prize for Putney Society member

Putney Society donated four prizes of **£25 each** at the recent prize giving at Putney School of Art and Design. The prize winners were: **Ken Cox** (Digital Photography), **Catherine McDonald** (Oil and Acrylic painting), **Rob Dark** (Pottery Handbuilding) and **Karen Hughes** (Portrait painting).

Here is a photo of Rob Dark receiving his prize from the Mayor Cllr Jim Madden and one of his marvellous winning teapots. Rob was, for many years, Chair of the Friends of PSAD and helped save the school from closure.

