



The Bulletin

September 2018



Thomas Cromwell - a definitive account

Thursday 11 October, 7.30 pm
at St Mary's Church, Putney
(next to Putney Bridge)

Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch will give a talk on Thomas Cromwell, Henry VIII's chief minister. This will mark the publication on 27 September of what is likely to become the definitive biography of Cromwell, overturning many established views. Professor MacCulloch is well-known from television programmes on Tudor history and the history of Christianity, and is Professor of the History of the Church at Oxford University.

Thomas Cromwell, the subject of Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall*, carried through the



break with the Church of Rome, the Dissolution of the Monasteries and many other changes. His family lived in Putney, where he was born, and in Wandsworth. The talk will be given in the place where he received his religious education.

THE ECONOMICS OF THE HEATWAVE

In Wandsworth Park the contractor started to water the plants in August – too little too late. This affects us all whether or not we use the park. It is not an economic use of local taxes to replace plants rather than care for them. If the trees, bushes and perennials had been watered throughout the heatwave (remember there was no hose pipe ban), they would not have died and replanting would not have to take place. Compare the way that Friends of Wandsworth Park have watered their formal flower beds – still flourishing – with the brown crispy remains in other parts of the park. Constant replanting is not only costly – it results in planting that is perpetually immature and therefore less able to withstand drought. With predictions of more hot summers to come surely it is time to review the maintenance contracts and the planting selections.

Come and celebrate the Great River Race

When – 8 September (boats should be passing Putney just after 11am)

Where – Church Square and Putney Wharf



Positively Putney will be holding a Summer Party on the river bank with Radio Jackie's roadshow, circus workshops, giant games, crazy golf, kids rides and slides and foods from Putney Market.

The Great River Race is London's River Marathon. Over 330 crews will race from London Docklands to Ham in Surrey.

The Putney Society will be there promoting our campaign to increase the rate of recycling locally as well as providing information on minimising food waste.

This September Positively Putney are also showcasing some of the many food and drink venues in Putney. From 8-23 September there will be special offers, deals and events on for everyone to enjoy.

Go to <http://positivelyputney.co.uk/> for details of locations, events and tempting offers.

Our long held contention that over tall blocks of undersized 'luxury' flats were the wrong thing to build in such numbers on the Upper Richmond Road seems to have been borne out by the news that in the spring quarter not one new flat was sold in the whole of SW15. Despite this there are two such developments still on the way up in central Putney, plus hundreds more flats on the former industrial area east of Wandsworth Park - where August brought a planning application for yet another 175 flats. Classic economic theory says that oversupply leads to falling prices, but somehow I doubt it here.

Meanwhile the focus of attention is back on the High Street. There still silence about the fate of the corner with Putney Bridge Road and now the 'To Let' board is up on M&S's building right next door to this, one of four double frontages is empty on this side. Across the road we had assumed that leases and economic uncertainty had put paid to British Land's plans for 56-70 High Street, but a new flurry of 'approval of details' applications suggests that the new owners, believed to be a major housebuilder, are intent on pushing forwards. Halfords closing might confirm this, except that Barclays Bank are about to refurbish. Reading the runes gets ever harder!

As a panel we try to represent the views of all the Society's members and ensure that our comments on

development proposals encourage what is good for the future of an inevitably expanding Putney at the same time as opposing the insensitive and damaging. So it is with some sorrow that I have recently received two letters telling me we got it badly wrong. Curiously both were about Rosslyn Park rugby club. One says that we should have strongly opposed their car park expansion, the other that we ought not to prevent the club doing whatever it wants to increase income. To both of you, and all other members, I say that we do try to listen. The Buildings Panel, like all the Society's panels, welcomes all members. Come along and share your views, otherwise we can only guess. And if something matters to you please tell us before the letters to the council go out.

I'm glad to see that Justine Greening is once more pressing the council and Network Rail for a second entrance to Putney station on Oxford Road. Time to dust off our alternative proposal for a much cheaper and easier possibility, to build entrance from the Upper Richmond Road?

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

In May 2018, it was reported that Network Rail (NR) intended to target all "leaf fall" trees (sycamore, poplar, horse and sweet chestnut, ash and lime) for removal alongside its tracks in a new £800m five-year programme of "enhanced clearance". Subsequently the Rail Minister, Jo Johnson set up a review into vegetation management. He called for all tree felling to be suspended during the current nesting season - March to August.

The Open Spaces panel approached Councillor Will Sweet (Chair of the Planning Committee) to see if there were any measures that Wandsworth could take to ensure that tree felling was minimised as far as possible and not extended beyond the current limit of 5m either side of the tracks. Trees and vegetation along rail and tube tracks are a vital green lung in our busy and polluted city. We wondered if Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) could be used to prevent the extension of the felling to 6.5m each side of the track.

It seems that there is no requirement for NR to obtain permission to carry out works along the tracks so TPOs would probably be ineffectual. However, Councillor

Sweet has established that the London Tree Officers Association (LTOA) is part of an initiative which seeks to talk to NR vegetation managers about trees on rail land and how best to manage them before the chainsaws start their work. He has also contacted the LTOA

requesting Wandsworth formally joins this initiative so it can discuss any areas of concern in the Borough at an early stage. Some discussions have already taken place elsewhere in London and results have been encouraging. Councillor Sweet is also planning to meet with NR to ensure that damage to vegetation and wildlife in Wandsworth is minimised. The panel is delighted that the Councillor has taken up our concerns.

Meanwhile we continue to seek options for walks featuring particularly beautiful and unusual trees. Perhaps the area around Victoria Drive?

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

FUTURE PANEL MEETINGS

All members welcome
www.putneysociety.org.uk

COMMUNITY:
13 September 11 October
 at 6 Norroy Road,
 SW15 1PF (18.30)
Co-convenors:
 Vicky Diamond
 & Val Jones
 vickysw15@aol.co.uk,
 jones.val@gmail.com
 T: 07746 022654

TRANSPORT:
11 September, 9 October
 at 46 Disraeli
 Road, SW15 2DS (19.30)
Convenor:
 Stephen Luxford
 stephen.luxford@
 nao.gsi.gov.uk

BUILDINGS:
5 September, 3 October
 at 154 Putney High Street,
 SW15 1RS (19.00)
Convenor:
 Andrew Catto
 ac@andrewcatto.co.uk

OPEN SPACES:
6 September, 4 October
 at 28 Howards Lane,
 SW15 6NQ (19.00)
Convenor:
 Judith Chegwidden
 judith.chegwidden@gmail.com
 T: 020 8788 4489

Advance warning! Our meeting on 22 October is to be 'Integrated health and social care in our area – what does this mean for local people needing help?' This is a really important subject and we're going to do our best to simplify this complex health arena. We have two speakers confirmed so far, both in 'commissioning' roles, and hope to have one from the 'provider' side too.

- Sandy Keen, Head of Older People's Services, CCG Clinical Commissioning Group
- Sydney Hill, Head of Early Help and Enablement, Department of Adult Social Services, Richmond and Wandsworth Councils (representing Liz Bruce, Director of Adult Social Services)

The August Thamesfield Safer Neighbourhood Team Police meeting was very interesting. We learned:

- Crime figures in Thamesfield have risen by 1.42% this past year, compared to London's rise of 4.59%.
- The High Street is the main source of crime currently, with shoplifting, bike theft and pickpocketing on the rise.
- The problem with motorbikes in Felsham Road simply riding around the barrier on the pavement should be thwarted by staggered barriers which are to be placed on the pavement on either side of the barrier sometime in the next six months. (They'll still allow wheelchairs and prams to pass along safely and easily.)

- If you find a stray dog, have issues with a dog barking too long, or you find a stray cat, then you can call the Wandsworth Animal Welfare Officers on 0208 871 7606 or 07860 534 733. They'll do their best to tackle the issues, whether it be checking to see if the animal is chipped or not, and if possible, returning it to its owner.

Community Panel
Co-convenors:
Victoria Diamond
& Val Jones
Vickysw15@aol.com
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07746 022654

www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk 0845 450 0307 and **www.storystarters.org.uk** 0845 450 0301 are both charities looking for volunteers to help children learn to read. The former try to help children before they start school, and the latter are for children of primary school age. If you've time on your hands and want to get involved, you can contact them on line or by phone.

8 September, 10am-1pm, Grand Auctions, Auctioneers & Valuers, are hosting free valuations in the Cromwell Room, St Mary's Church. www.grandauctions.co.uk. They have a team of well known experts: Robin Newcombe, Jonathan Riley, Simon Rufus, Dominic Kemp. Email info@grandauctions.co.uk or 01303 220440 for more info.

Don't forget to take your spare buttons to the Button Box in the library – it's on the left hand side near the postcards.

South Western Railways (SWR) have now given the go ahead for a defibrillator to be installed in Putney station. This has been the subject of a long campaign by Putney Society so it is good to know we are nearly there. Subject to SWR's own timings in installing it, we would hope one could be in situ ideally in September. The defibrillator has been entirely funded by a local charity, (www.DiPPS4James.co.uk), while the Putney Society will cover the cost of housing it in a cabinet.

We will celebrate the installation in a future edition of the Bulletin.

South Western Railways have now abandoned their plans to revise their timetable this December. SWR won the local rail franchise last year on the basis on an improved rail service. They undertook an extensive public consultation with a view to altering some services including introducing later night trains for Putney. However, in the light of problems affecting other rail franchise timetable changes SWR has now put their plans

on the back burner.

For Members who were unable to attend the recent Society meeting on our High Street you can find the results of the Society's latest air pollution monitoring exercise on our website. They show a marked improvement since our 2016 nitrogen dioxide (NO2) survey. However, 15/20 sites we monitored in central Putney over a four-week period still exceed EU safety limits.

The Mayor of London has confirmed plans to expand the Ultra-Low Emission Zone to the boundaries of the North and South Circulars - so it will affect most of Putney. Unlike the Congestion Zone it will operate every day of the year. The Council are broadly supportive but want to see "clear mitigation plans to stop rat running and other adverse effects".

Transport Panel
Convenor:
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PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

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www.putneysociety.org.uk

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Visit to the British Library

96 Euston Road, NW1 2DB Wednesday 26 September 2018 at 2.30 p.m.

We have arranged for a guided tour of The British Library which will comprise both the general tour with the history of the collection and the architecture of Library and some of the Reading Rooms, and the Treasures of the Library tour. We will learn about the Magna Carta and other items in their collection of books, manuscripts and sound recordings.

It was originally part of the British Museum and in 1988 the new (red brick) building was finally opened. The Library today is one of the largest and most comprehensive in the world. The large piazza outside the building houses Paolozzi's great bronze of Newton. And inside, in the centre, a tower of bronze and glass reaching 6 storeys, are 60,000 volumes of the King's Library presented in 1823.

The visit will last 1½ hours. There is a Café on the premises. There are also lots of cafes around St Pancras and King's Cross.

To book your place please send a SAE or email address, together with your name, address, phone number, with a cheque for £13.00 or £15.00 for guests, payable to 'The Putney Society' to Maureen Howley, 1 Elystan Court, 121 Howards Lane, London SW15 6QH.

Please book early.



Make sure that your voice is heard when Wandsworth consults residents.

This will be particularly important in the next few months as the council starts to consult on a full review of the Local Plan, which will provide the framework for the way in which Putney develops over the next decade.

Sign up now for the Wandsworth Matters Panel

http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/info/200436/wandsworth_matters/1856/about_the_wandsworth_matters_consultation_panel

Roehampton Garden Society - Autumn Show

Saturday 8 September, doors open at 3pm

St Margaret's Church Hall, Putney Park Lane SW15 5HU

A chance to see the prize-winning vegetables, fruits and flowers grown by local gardeners. Buy home-made chutney, plants and seasonal produce. Enjoy tea and home-made cakes and take the opportunity to buy exhibits at the end of the show.



Local Events

FRIENDS OF WANDSWORTH PARK AGM
Tuesday 4 September, 7pm
at the Hurlingham Yacht Club, Deodar Road

Find out about the work of the Friends over the past year - plus speakers on reducing plastic waste; Alison Baxter of Plastic Free Barnes, Ann Sullivan of Barnes Tidy Towpath Group and Rhiannon Ashley of Hubbub.

WIMBLEDON & PUTNEY COMMONS OPEN DAY
9th September 2018
from 10.00am to 5.00pm

Includes displays by the Hawking Centre and the Essex Dog Display team – for a full schedule check out www.wpcc.org.uk/things-to-do/events/profile/wimbledon-putney-commons-open-day

And don't forget the Wacky Dog Show!

LITTER PICKING IN WANDSWORTH PARK
Meet at 10.30am on Sunday 16 September at the centre gates of Wandsworth Park - opposite Laksmi Newsagent. We will supply litter picking grabbers, sacks and gloves.

LONDON OPEN HOUSE
22-23 September
Places to visit in our area include Parkstead House, Chadwick Hall and the new library at Roehampton University. Find out more at: <https://openhouselondon.open-city.org.uk/listings/6633>

MEMBERS MEETING ON INTEGRATING HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE
There is general recognition that health and social services need to work closely together – but is this happening locally?
Make a date to find out more at the Putney Society meeting on **22 October, 7.30pm** at the Community Church, Werter Road.