



The Bulletin

February 2018



South Western Railway

Find out more about our new Train Operator on Monday 26th February at the Community Church in Werter Road at 7.30pm.

South Western Railway is promising:

- A new fleet of 90 trains
- Doubling the frequency of trains to Windsor
- 22,000 more seats at morning peak hour

- Metro style services for suburban lines
- Phil Dominey, Stakeholder Manager for South West trains will be telling us about the timeline for these improvements and taking your questions on matters such as train punctuality, the ongoing dispute with the RMT Union and facilities at Putney Station.

Putney Society Members Discount Card

Your new membership card is enclosed with this Bulletin*.

An up-to-date list of traders, with the discounts or offers, is on the Putney Society website

www.putneysociety.org.uk.

You need to show your card to the shopkeeper at the participating business in order to get your discount. Do ask first before your bill is itemised. Please remember that the benefits offered are granted entirely at the discretion of the traders, and are subject to change. Have you tried these recent additions to the discount scheme?

- Artisan & Vine, 195-197 Lower Richmond Road
- Brownie Box, Putney Exchange
- Julia Domna Cafe, 26 Lower Richmond Rd,
- Calworries, 178 Lower Richmond Road.
- Push The Boat Out, 115 Lower Richmond Rd.
- The Portland Scallop Company - the fish stall in the market in Church Square every Saturday (9:00 - 16:00).

*If you receive your bulletin by email your card will be posted to you

Chatter and Natter

The Putney Society is supporting a brilliant new scheme originally started in the North of England, and which is now spreading across the UK with the aim to reduce loneliness and get people talking. The Chatty Café Scheme encourages cafes to have a 'Chatter & Natter' table, which is where customers can sit if they are happy to talk to other customers. A Chatter & Natter table is for anyone ... if a person is on their own, in a couple, with friends, if

someone is a carer they could sit there with the person they care for, people with babies, professionals, young people, older people and anyone in between! The Putney Pantry at St Mary's Church has enthusiastically embraced the idea and will be offering a **Chatter & Natter** table on **Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2.30pm to 4.30pm**. More information on the national scheme at www.thechattycafescheme.co.uk.



January saw what appears to be a significant improvement in the air quality in our High Street.

Whereas in recent years the High Street has notoriously broken annual EU NO₂ limits within a matter of days, this year there has only been a handful of exceedances so far. Research will be needed to see how much is due to weather conditions but on first glance a key factor is likely to be the new, 'greener' buses introduced by the Mayor early last year. The Society will be undertaking another exercise to measure air pollution in and around the High Street towards the end of February. This project will enable us to provide a check on the hybrid buses in the High Street and compare with previous exercises we have conducted.

After some years of campaigning to have a defibrillator installed in the Station we have finally received agreement from Network Rail to host one, however, they will not fund it or pay for its maintenance costs. The Society is now exploring how we go about this.

Heathrow airport is hosting a consultation on their airport expansion plans which will be held in Putney on Friday 16 February at the Community Church in Werter Road between 12 and 8pm. It has recently emerged that, while the Airports Commission recommended that there should be a ban on night flights as a condition for a third runway, the parent group of BA has argued for a relaxation of night flights. The Society has long opposed expansion of Heathrow.

Finally, we will have a representative from South Western, our rail provider, at a Members Meeting on Monday 26 February at 7.30pm in the Community Church in Werter Road. It will be a chance to ask about the reliability and punctuality of trains and South Western's plans for the future.

Transport Panel

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

Concerns about open-air nursery

The Panel has discussed the concerns being expressed, mainly by some dog-walkers who are regular users of Putney Lower Common, about the impact of the Little Forest Folk nursery-school encampment in the woodland area of the Common. The intensity of the use, always on the same patch of ground, is having a serious impact on the natural vegetation and the nature of the use makes some other Commons users feel like intruders. It is a complex issue which we are working hard to help to resolve satisfactorily.

Our **litter-picking exercises** are always well supported and worthwhile. This is why we are looking forward to our next effort - on Putney Heath later in February. See the notice with the details in Dates for your Diary section. Do come and join us - you will be most welcome!

The new specially designed and landscaped play area for toddlers in the northwest corner of Leaders Gardens was a good idea - but has raised practical problems. In the winter it is covered with fallen rotting leaves which makes it less attractive; and in the summer the surrounding trees cast a deep shadow over the area making it rather gloomy. We have taken these concerns up with the council's parks advisers to see if something can be done.

Open Spaces Panel

Convenor:
John Horrocks
020 8789 2956
[john.horrocks10@
btinternet.com](mailto:john.horrocks10@btinternet.com)

FUTURE PANEL MEETINGS

All members welcome
www.putneysociety.org.uk

COMMUNITY:
8 February, 8 March
at 41 Norroy Road,
SW15 1PF (18.30)
Convenor:
Vicky Diamond
vickysw15@aol.com
T:07746 022654

TRANSPORT:
13 February, venue tbc –
see website,
13 March at 46 Disraeli
Road, SW15 2DS (19.30)
Convenor:
Stephen Luxford
stephen.luxford@
nao.gsi.gov.uk

BUILDINGS:
7 February, 7 March
at 154 Putney High Street,
SW15 1RS (19.00)
Convenor:
Andrew Catto
ac@andrewcatto.co.uk

OPEN SPACES:
1 February, 1 March
at 71 Norroy Road,
SW15 1PH (19.00)
Convenor: John Horrocks
John.horrocks10@
btinternet.com
T: 020 8789 2956

After much to-ing and fro-ing to get the proposals altered (but not reduced), the application for the “Levellers Court” scheme at the bottom of Putney High Street will go before the Council’s Planning Applications Committee at the end of January, before you read this. We’ll update you on the Putney Society website as soon as we know the decision. It’s still ten storeys on Putney Bridge Road, but the courtyard will now be open to the public (although at first floor level) amongst other small changes.

Despite considerable local efforts over the last year we are expecting this to be approved. Not because the end of the officer’s report says ‘On balance, the proposed development would bring with it some benefits (and) is broadly in an acceptable degree of compliance with relevant planning policies’, but because of the fear that Sadiq Khan will approve it if Wandsworth does not. Late last year he ‘called in’ and approved the redevelopment of the Homebase site next to Wandsworth Town station which Wandsworth Council had rejected, adding

two storeys (and more affordable homes) in the process. The equally tall scheme for the site of B&Q opposite is also on the list for January. Get your DIY supplies in soon.

The separate application for a ten storey hotel on the actual Putney Bridge Road / High Street corner is still ‘in the queue’, but sadly approval for one 10 storey block here makes a follow-on approval for the other harder to refuse.

On a happier note we have recently seen revised applications submitted for two schemes where we had objected first time round, in each case without the extra storey that the Society disliked. Someone is listening. And conversely we even asked in one recent case that the new ‘mansard’ floor on one part of the High Street should be bigger.

Buildings Panel

Convenor:

Andrew Catto

ac@andrewcatto.co.uk

020 8785 0077

Do keep checking our website for any updates on **Recycling**. Some people didn’t know that used batteries, such as AAA, AA etc can be taken to most supermarkets and libraries where there are special containers to put your used batteries in. Likewise Robert Dyas take the used water filters from water jugs. Standard and halogen lightbulbs should go in normal household waste as they cannot be recycled with regular glass. Compact Fluorescent Bulbs and Tubes must be recycled. LED lights can also be recycled. You can take these to Ryness, but not in bulk!

Discount Scheme: A few members have told us that they consult the list of retailers in the scheme and shop at as many independent’s as they can, but that they don’t mention or use their discount card. It’s absolutely fine if you don’t want to take advantage of the discount, but do at least mention the card or the Putney Society. It’s helpful to the shopkeeper, and to us, to know that the Scheme is working and

that members are visiting the shops. There’s no obligation to use the discount, but please do let the shopkeeper know you’re a member. If you happen to come across an independent business that isn’t part of the scheme, particularly a new one, do let me know. It’s not always easy to keep track of the new businesses!

Welcome to the Discount Scheme: **Brownie Box**, purveyor of delicious Brownies. In the Exchange, Waitrose entrance, where the juice bar used to be. **10% off purchases.**

Community Panel

Convenor:

Victoria Diamond

07746 022654

vickysw15@aol.com

PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

I heard a snippet of information about the meeting concerning the High Street (November 2017) and, if that report was accurate, the idea seemed half-baked at best. Narrow the road and widen the pavements? While pedestrians don't need the pavements to be any wider, a narrower road would make the pollution problem a great deal worse. All you have to do is to imagine buses (sometimes three at a time and often two) outside W.H.Smith and the queue of vehicles that would build up if they couldn't get past. At present it's usually quite easy to squeeze through but look at the pollution we've got already. Did this idea emerge from the Town Hall or somewhere nearer home? Anything that creates an even worse flow of traffic automatically creates greater pollution.

Iain KS Gray

Dates for your Diary



Measuring NO₂ levels in Putney

We are all too familiar with the poor air quality in Putney High Street, but recent developments, including the use of hybrid buses, suggest that there has been an improvement. But is this improvement real and sustained? Following earlier Citizen Science exercises in 2011 and 2016, we are planning another in February to test for NO₂ levels in main roads in Putney and those close to schools. If you can help put up the NO₂ sensors on **Sunday 25th February at 2.30pm** (26 Stanbridge Road, SW15 1DX) please email Richard Carter - richard_carter@fastmail.fm

Putney Heath Litter Pick

Meet on **Sunday 25th February at 10.30pm** on the pavement opposite the Green Man – we will provide litter pickers and gloves. An opportunity to help keep the Heath clean and tidy and look for early signs of Spring.

Putney Society AGM

The Putney Society AGM - **19th March 2018, 19:30** in the Community Church, Werter Road, SW15 2LL

Full details in the March Bulletin

Please contact: carolynmcmillan@btinternet.com as soon as possible if you are interested in joining the Executive. If you have an interest in our built environment, transport issues, air quality, waste reduction, our open spaces or anything that makes Putney a better place – then think about getting involved.

LOCAL EVENTS

If you have an event you would like us to list please contact: chair@putneysociety.org.uk

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators Election 2018

Every three years there is a requirement to hold an election for the five elected conservators. Your ballot paper will arrive in early February – for voting on line or by post. All the candidate statements will be enclosed and are also available at www.wpcc.com. Your vote counts – have your say on how this important resource for local people is managed. **Vote before 5pm on 28th February.**



West London Local History Conference – 24 March 2018 – The Impact of the 1914-18 War on West London

Once again the Wandsworth Historical Society is a major organiser of this popular event. They will be presenting a video highlighting the pioneering treatment of war injuries at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton. The conference takes place in The Paragon on the Brentford Campus of the University of West London, which is a short distance from Brentford Station (SW Trains) and Boston Manor Station (Piccadilly Line). Tickets cost

£15.00. For further details or to book a place, just drop an email to Neil Robson at 020neil119@gmail.com.

Restoration of Beverley Brook and River Wandle

The Winter Talk organised by Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators at 7.30pm, 13th February at the London Scottish Golf Club offers a chance to learn about restoration work that has recently been carried out along sections of the River Wandle and Beverley Brook by the South East Rivers Trust. Tony Hall the Senior Project Officer at the Trust will also explore the possibility of carrying out similar restoration work along the section of Beverley Brook that runs through Wimbledon Common.

Extension of Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ)

There is still time to have your say on the Mayor's proposals to extend ULEZ to the North and South Circular. For details of the proposals and respond to the consultation go to <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/environment/air-quality-consultation-phase-3b/?cid=airquality-consultation> On that page you can also find a link to TfL's online vehicle checker which enables you to check your vehicle's emission standard by entering the registration number.