



The Putney Society BULLETIN

The amenity society for
Putney & Roehampton

September 2010

Next Members' Meeting

Thursday 23rd September at 7.30 pm

The Brewer Building, St Mary's Church, Putney Bridge

Our Local Cemeteries - Past & Present

The Old Burial Ground on Upper Richmond Road, Putney Cemetery on Putney Lower Common (right) and Putney Vale Cemetery all offer valuable sources of information on local social history. They are well worth a visit!

Our speaker, **Dale Ingram**, will present an illustrated talk on Wandsworth's Victorian Cemeteries - which she has studied in depth recently. Ms Ingram is a conservation expert and a member of the Tooting Local History Society.



We also hope to update you, during the meeting, on the serious issue of the unlawful demolition, last May, of the detached Victorian house at 8 Lower Common South - which is expected to be discussed at the 14th Sept meeting of the Council's Conservation Areas Advisory Committee, of which Dale Ingram and John Horrocks are members. Will the Council bring a criminal prosecution? Do you think it should?

The meeting is for all Society members and friends

Refreshments available

STOP PRESS

!NEW WANDSWORTH MUSEUM OPENS TO THE PUBLIC ON 3rd SEPTEMBER 2010!

After an opening ceremony on 1st September, in the presence of Mayor Boris Johnson, the Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Culture, and Cllr. Edward Lister, Leader of Wandsworth Council, the new Museum, in the former Library building at 38 West Hill, will be opened to the public on 3rd Sep at 2.00 pm. All thanks are due to the heroic efforts of the Museum Director Andrew Leitch and his team, who have been working flat out for many months, getting everything ready.

Opening times will be 10-6 daily and as well as permanent exhibits, there will be temporary exhibitions, the first of which will be "Wandsworth in a Hundred Objects". The entry charge of £8.00, which can be Gift-Aided, is paid on the first visit only (seniors & students £6.00) and constitutes an annual membership fee. 'Friends of Wandsworth Museum' will be offered a concession on the entry charge, as well as a discount in the shop. Details to be confirmed.

The major share of the costs has come from the incredibly generous £2M bequest by the Hintze Charitable Foundation but ultimately, the Museum will have to be self-supporting. An active fundraising programme has been initiated and donations from the public will form an essential part of that. Volunteers are sought and should, in the first instance, contact the Friends of Wandsworth Museum:

wandsworthmuseumgroup@hotmail.co.uk

Forthcoming Events: dates for your diary

Thursday	9 Sept	Visit to House of Commons (page 4)
Sat-Sun	18-19 Sept	'Open House' weekend (page 4)
Sunday	26 Sept	Putney Verse Workshop (page 4)
Thursday	14 Oct	Visit to Tower Bridge (page 4)
Thursday	28 Oct [Members' Meeting]	'Rat-running & how to deal with it'

Your letters

The views expressed by members are the individual's own and not necessarily the views of the Society. As we may receive more letters than we have space for, letters should be concise. Long letters may have to be edited.

**putneysociety@hotmail.com
or philipevison@btinternet.com**

Cycling recycled!

Dear Sir,

Why do so many people become so exercised over what is an essentially trivial problem? Certainly it's annoying, sometimes even a little frightening, to have someone on a bike approach silently from behind, but where in the scale of our problems does it really lie? Very far down the list, I suggest, because the number of people killed or seriously injured by cyclists in Putney over the last year is ... zero. I'm not sure of the figure for motor vehicles, but I'd be prepared to bet the considerable sum I won on this year's Grand National that it's rather more than zero!

Why such a gulf in perception between transgressions by cyclists and those by far more dangerous vehicles? I think because cycles are readily visible, whilst cars exceeding the speed limit, for example, are not easily detectable by pedestrians. Let's get a grip, folks, and worry about threats in proportion to the actual danger they present!

Richard Carter, Stanbridge Road

Dear Sir,

Since Sainsburys opened in Werter Rd, many cyclists have ridden the wrong way along this road, for safety reasons. A cyclist is in more danger from following traffic, which he/she can't see, than from oncoming vehicles. The 'correct' option (crossing into High St and back via Montserrat or Upper Richmond Roads) is unpleasant and unsafe. I have asked the Council to create a reverse-flow lane for cyclists in Werter Rd, as they have for buses in Ram Street SW18, and a right turn into Montserrat Road, but that department is so locked into 'rat-runs' that it has no inclination to look at the realities of traffic in the High Street area.

Noel Stevenson, Deodar Road

The Transport Panel has asked the Council to consider adapting the 1-way streets off High St, to allow cyclists to ride the 'wrong' way. Kensington & Chelsea Council are trying the idea and WBC's highway engineers are looking into the possibilities for Putney. [Editor]

Dear Sir,

Cyclists are more likely to be killed by a vehicle they can't see than by one they can. A girl riding down Putney Hill was crushed to death by a truck turning left, but if she had been riding downhill on the other side of the road, it might not have happened. The law is sometimes, it is said, an ass, so breaking it can be a public service. The Putney Society could perhaps work out how everyone could use the roads amicably and safely. If the law allowed cyclists to go both ways in 1-way streets, pedestrians would learn to look both ways - though nervous ones already do. Country people usually walk facing oncoming traffic, because it is safer to do so, and townspeople should be allowed to cycle facing the traffic for the same reason. In Roehampton High St, there is a sign warning of 'Oncoming Horses', with a blue cycling disc right next to it. There hasn't been a horse in the street for many years but pedestrians cannot say they have not been warned. All that is needed in 1-way streets is signs saying 'Oncoming Cyclists'.

Peter Hutchinson, Redwoods

8 Lower Common South

Dear Sir,

I was saddened to read the report of the demolition of a house on Lower Common South. As a local resident, I often walk that part of the Common and was shocked recently to discover a hoarding, and the house behind it demolished. How can it have happened? I can't believe that the Council agreed to the demolition. This is a conservation area and with good reason - a unique row of fine, late-Victorian houses, full of character, which could never be built today. They act as a perfect backdrop to the historic Common.

Something has gone seriously wrong here. The Put Soc, which represents over 1,500 local residents, needs to take firm action on this matter and insist that the Council issue an enforcement notice on whoever has perpetrated this act to at least rebuild the front elevation of the house as it was. Unless this is done, a precedent has been set for any owner/architect/developer in the future to demolish other houses in this road and destroy the unique character of the area.

Rob Dark RIBA, Westhorpe Road

Dear Sir,

May I draw members' attention to the putneysw15.com website, which hosts a forum where many of the topics that concern the Society are regularly raised e.g. transport, buildings, open spaces, Putney Hospital etc.

Suzanne Taylor, Dealtry Road



News from the Panels

Members are invited to attend panel meetings and raise issues they feel need to be discussed.

Buildings Panel

Convenor: John Horrocks (020 8789 2956)

Applications surge

August is supposed to be a quiet month, when we all go on holiday. Not a bit of it! For rather curious reasons, the number of planning applications submitted to the Borough Council for consideration during the holiday period has surged, keeping our Buildings Panel very busy indeed! Among the proposed developments we are investigating are: a brand-new detached house at 8 Lower Common South; a 10-storey block of flats at Tileman House, 131 Upper Richmond Road; an 11-storey hotel at Tote House, 74 ditto; 91 flats & 43 houses at the Arton Wilson site, Roehampton Lane (St James) & King’s Head, Roehampton High Street - development proposed by St James/Youngs. Some of these are controversial and their timing rather odd - not helped by the Council’s Planning website being down for long periods, which makes it impossible to follow the applications on-line (for those who like to do it that way).

It is just as well that the Society’s Buildings Panel regulars do not all take their holidays in August! Our September Panel meeting will have some important decisions to make.

Transport Panel

Convenor: Jonathan Callaway (07768 907672)

Air Pollution in Putney

We were horrified by a recent report that up to 67 people a year are dying in Putney and Wandsworth as a result of air pollution. The Institute of Occupational Medicine’s study was commissioned by the GLA to inform the Mayor’s Air Quality Strategy (AQS). It estimated that over 4,000 people a year die prematurely in London from air pollution. The study has used internationally accepted evidence-based risk factors associated with pollution to assess the contribution that prolonged exposure to poor air quality might make to the number of premature deaths in London. It concludes that poor air quality (specifically PM2.5) contributed to an estimated 4,267 premature deaths in London in 2008.

The AQS is currently out to consultation. The Society has responded in detail and has written to the Council, asking them to set out their own plans to combat the problem.

They have been monitoring air quality in High St for some time and are putting in additional monitoring equipment, but it has already been highlighted as one of the three most polluted shopping streets in London and that surely should be enough to galvanise them. There is, of course, a limit to what the Council can do alone, even though it is clear from the report - and indeed self-evident to anyone using High St - that the overwhelming source of the dangerous gases we inhale is vehicle emissions.

We are planning a members’ meeting next April, when we hope to have representatives of both the Council and the Campaign for Clean Air to examine local and London-wide policies to address the problem. Obvious ways forward include: tighter emission controls - making the Low Emission Zone regulations really bite and extended to cover all vehicles, not just lorries/vans; the introduction of low- or non-polluting buses; discouraging people from using their cars for local journeys; provision of additional cycle parking near obvious destinations such as shops and stations - even the extension of the Boris Bikes scheme to Putney? - and more. WBC has made a start by promoting car clubs, setting up electric car charging points, and trying to agree with local businesses on improving delivery lorry times. But we believe more could and should be done and we all have a responsibility to contribute. At its simplest, you could walk or cycle to Sainsburys next time you need a pint of milk, rather than hop in your car!

Open Spaces Panel

Convenor: Hugh Thompson (020 8788 8771)

**Mayor of London’s Seminar 28th June
‘Better Green & Open Spaces’**

Of interest to the Society was the repeated assertion by all local government councillors, GLA officers & consultants that getting local groups involved was vital, as they have knowledge, common sense, ownership and can provide cost-saving volunteers and QC for projects. Peter Ramage, the impressive Director of Waste Management, Culture & Leisure of the RB of Kensington & Chelsea, was very forthright in how he dealt with the various open spaces which property owners can leave derelict for several years. He takes them over and, with local consultation and guidance, turns them into playgrounds, wild-flower meadows or kitchen gardens. When the property owners complain, he dares them to take him to court. They never have.

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NEXT PANEL MEETINGS					
Buildings	Sept 9	Thursday	71 Festing Road	7.30 pm	
	Oct 14	Thursday	21 Pentlow Street	7.30 pm	
Transport	Sept 14	Tuesday	10 Luttrell Avenue	7.30 pm	
	Oct 5	Tuesday	10 Luttrell Avenue	7.30 pm	
Open Spaces	Sept 2	Thursday	54 Charlwood Road	8.15 pm	
	Oct 7	Thursday	54 Charlwood Road	8.15 pm	
Community	Sept ??		[depending on when		
	Oct ??		this panel is revived]		



[continued from page 3]

Cllr. Paul Lynch spoke of developments (e.g. playground, paddling pool, wild-flower meadow) with the aid of local residents, funded by the National Lottery etc. TfL has provided money for a study on a cantilevered walkway under Barnes Bridge, to make the towpath continuous - an idea also floated for Putney Bridge.

Community Panel

Any volunteers as Convenor of this Panel?

Amendments to Wandsworth's Licensing Laws

Have your say! Wandsworth's 3-yearly review of its licensing policy closes on 10th Sept. Your contribution is important and all comments will be considered, though the Council cannot respond individually. There are vital changes we need to comment on, so please email your views to me by 5th Sept latest. To read the Draft Licensing Policy Statement 2011, it's easiest to use the following website, as there have been problems accessing it via the Council's website:

http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/3302/draft_licensing_policy_statement_2011_consultation

Victoria Diamond (vics57@aol.com)

'Open House' Weekend

On **Saturday & Sunday 18th-19th September**, London's doors are flung wide for the 'Open House' weekend. Pick up the yellow booklet in your local library to see the full interesting and exciting programme. There are 14 venues/events in Wandsworth Borough - 4 in our area. Why not join the tour of the Alton Estate?!

Thames Philharmonic Choir welcomes new members. Rehearsals Tues 7.30 pm at alternating venues. Concert Sat 20th Nov in Kingston: *Bach Mass in G Minor*, Haydn *Te Deum*, Mozart *Coronation Mass*. For details, visit www.thamesphilchoir.org.uk. Tues 28th Sept: 'Come & Sing' rehearsal open to all without obligation, at Granard School. Membership by audition, subscription applies. Free membership for full-time students. Contact Di King, Membership Secretary, on 020 8876 8997 or:

membership@thamesphilchoir.org.uk. Rehearsals:

Granard School, Westleigh Avenue, SW15 6XA, or:

United Reformed Church, East Sheen, SW14 8NH

Visit to the Palace of Westminster

Apologies for short notice, but this has been arranged for **Thursday 9th Sept at 12 noon**; Justine Greening will give us an hour-long tour. Numbers are *very* limited, and since this event is likely to prove popular, please contact **Phil Evison** ASAP by phone (in panel below) or email (page 2).

Rendezvous outside Portcullis House Reception, 11.45 am **latest!** The visit is free but do bring money for tea & cakes afterwards (optional). Nearest tube station Westminster, on the District/Circle/Jubilee lines, or Waterloo mainline and app. 10-minute walk, or 211 bus.

Visit to Tower Bridge & City Hall

Arrangements have been made for members to have a tour of Tower Bridge and afterwards, we suggest, an informal buffet lunch at City Hall, HQ of London's Mayor. **Thurs 14th October; meet 11.00 am at the Bridge**. We will have an introductory talk, see the newly-opened photographic exhibition *River Thames: Source to Sea* and make our way through the workings of this historic landmark, including crossing it on the highest level. Leaving the Bridge, on the South Bank, we can lunch in the self-service café on the LG floor of City Hall, which is only a few hundred yards away.

Tickets £6.00 per person (covers visit to Bridge only)

To book your place(s), please send SAE to John Horrocks, 2 Angel Mews, Roehampton High Street, SW15 4HU. You will be sent a detailed itinerary, with travel suggestions. Cheques made out to The Putney Society, please.

Putney Verse Workshop

Meets monthly, Sundays @ 3 pm. Contact Connaire Kensit 0208 788 8647 for venues. The aims of the workshop are to promote an interest in and appreciation of poetry among the general public and to give local poets opportunities to meet and discuss each other's work. It is not necessary to write your own poems to take part but hopefully, the workshops will inspire you to do so. It encourages an interest in every kind of poetry from blank to rhymed, so is not the preserve of a particular 'school'. Future meetings:

26th Sep: Poems to present to children. **24th Oct:** London poems; Putney, or somewhere you know. **28th Nov:** Eating out; teashops, restaurants etc.

We welcome the following new members:

Colin Hayter, Disraeli Road; **Nicola Walker**, Putney Park Lane; **Pamela Green**, Disraeli Road; **Hugh Caseley**, Clarendon Drive; **Toni Marshall**, Cromford Road

Putney Society Officers:

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