



# The Bulletin

For our members in Putney and Roehampton



March 2023

## Putney Society Annual General Meeting

**Monday 27 March 2023 at 7.30pm**

**Community Church, Werter Road, Putney and by video conference**

Our AGM will be both in-person at the Community Church and online. We shall conduct necessary Society business (*e.g., elections including our President, Officers, Executive Committee*). Online voting will be possible.

With this bulletin are the papers needed if you wish to participate: Agenda with 2022/23 Annual Report, and the Treasurer's report with 2022 accounts. Please bring them with you if you are attending in person.

If you would like to participate online, please email the Secretary: [secretary@putneysociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@putneysociety.org.uk) and she will contact you in the 48 hours before the meeting with the Zoom link and an explanation of

how we shall conduct meeting business.

If you would like to participate online and pose questions about the Annual Report or Accounts, please submit questions by email or by post to the Secretary.

**Our guest Speaker will be Tom Sainsbury, Chair of Putney Theatre Company Management Committee.** Putney Arts Theatre is in the heart of our community and is home to two theatre groups. It hosts one of the leading adult amateur theatre companies in the UK as well as Group 64, a young people's Theatre Company running weekly drama classes for ages 4-19.

putney  
theatre  
company

### Haussmans

by Stephen Beresford  
directed by  
Frances Bodiam

**Tuesday 14 - Saturday 18 March 2023  
7.45pm Main Stage**

The Last of the Haussmans examines the fate of the revolutionary generation and offers a funny, touching and at times savage portrait of a family full of longing that's losing its grip.

**Buy tickets**  
[https://www.putneyartstheatre.org.uk/  
event-4892280](https://www.putneyartstheatre.org.uk/event-4892280)

## How can YOU help with the work of the Putney Society?

**The Putney Society depends on its trustees and volunteers to keep functioning.** We will soon be down to just 8 trustees and need more help! We contacted you recently by letter. This is a reminder. If you have an interest in our built environment, transport issues, air quality, our open spaces or anything that makes Putney a better place – then get involved! Could you help with our campaigns, admin tasks,

recruitment or social events? Do you have expertise in IT, websites or social media?

Could you serve as a trustee (on the Executive Committee) or as a volunteer? Or do you have a friend or neighbour who might? You'd get to meet more local people, find opportunities for networking, maybe make some new friends. You'll enjoy getting more involved in local matters.

To find out more contact the Chair or Secretary for details of what might be involved in a committee or volunteering role (contact details on the back page of this Bulletin).

Nomination forms to serve on the Executive Committee are enclosed with this Bulletin and can be obtained from the Secretary.

**Nomination deadline  
Monday 20 March 2023.**

## Community Panel

Co-convenors: Victoria Diamond & Val Jones Vickysw15@aol.com & jones.val@gmail.com 07746 022654

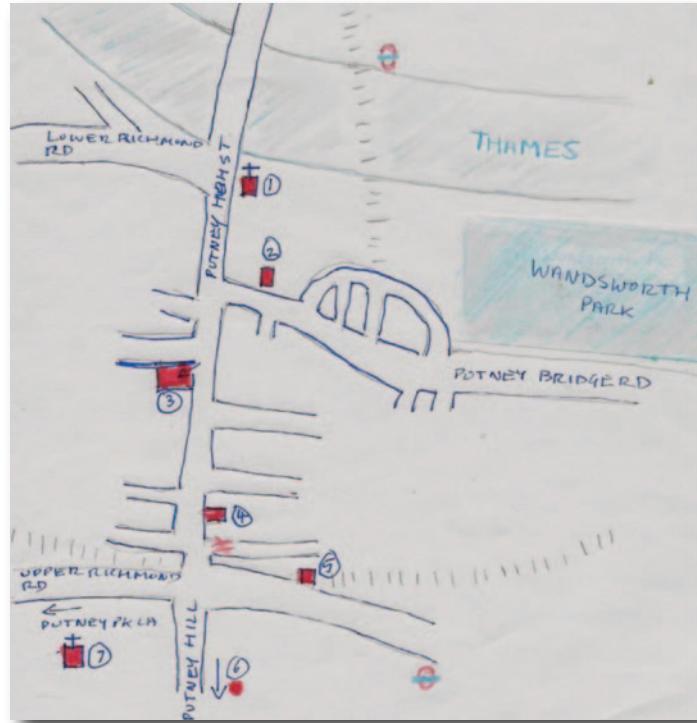
The Community Panel has joined with the Friends of Putney Library and the founder of the Repair Café to host a meeting on Thursday 30 March at 5.30pm in Putney Library, Disraeli Road. They call it the 'Circular Economy' - the sustainable world of "reduce, reuse and recycle", but there's not as much discussion about repair. So how can we reduce the ever-increasing tides of waste appliances and clothing going to landfill? The best option is to repair and reuse. Come and hear the founder of Putney's Repair Cafe, Charlie Lindsell, tell the story of how and why it was founded, and how it works. Why repair is essential to keep products in use longer and how we can avoid buying non-repairable products by supporting the repairability legislation soon to come before the UK parliament.

**DEFIBRILLATORS SAVE LIVES** - Immediate cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation can help increase someone's chance of survival. Increasingly, GPs are advising you to get hold of a defibrillator before an ambulance arrives.

### DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR NEAREST DEFIBRILLATOR IS IN PUTNEY?

Here is a list of those we know of - with the opening times we believe to be correct at the time of going to press:

1. St Mary's Church: **inside during opening hours**
2. JCDecaux kiosk: 230-232 Putney Bridge Rd: **24/7**
3. Putney Exchange near photo booth:  
**Mon-Fri 6am – 11pm, Sat, Sun 8am-8pm**
4. Tesco Express, 139-141 Putney High Street: **7am – 10pm**



5. Savills, 198 Upper Richmond Rd:  
**Mon-Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 9am-4pm**
6. Putney High School, 35 Putney Hill: **school opening hours**
7. St Margaret's Church Putney Park Lane:  
**Mon-Thurs 10am–5pm, Sun 7.30am-12pm**
8. The Spencer Pub, 237 Lower Richmond Road: **24/7**

Defibrillators are also in GP Surgeries and in Gyms and should be in all schools by the end of 2023

## Transport Panel convenor: Stephen Luxford. Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

Last year the long-standing Council air quality monitors situated on the High Street regularly broke down and needed replacing. As an interim measure the Council has installed temporary air monitors so we have reliable NO<sub>2</sub> data once again. The medium-term aim is, subject to a procurement exercise, to have brand new monitors in place by the summer which will also record PM 2.5 (particulates) data as well. These monitors will also be supplemented by additional 'Breathe London' monitors. The precise location of these is to be determined but will most likely be close to the most polluted section of the High Street which is outside the cinema and opposite by Simmons bar.

Further to last month's news that the 93 bus is to go electric from 2024, we now understand that the switch may in fact happen much sooner. We have heard reports, still to be publicly confirmed, that new electric buses might begin appearing from this March. The 93 is currently amongst the most polluting bus services operating in Putney so this is very good news. Once fully introduced it would leave the 39

as the only wholly diesel bus using our High Street.

A couple of local transport issues to look out for. There is to be a public meeting on 16 March at Regenerate Rise, 22 Felsham Rd, SW15 1DA, between 7pm-8pm on cycling and walking. It will be a chance to hear about Council plans to make cycling and walking a more pleasant and enjoyable experience in and around Putney High Street especially, but also the wider area. Plans include parallel cycle routes to the High Street. This idea has been mooted for some time so it will be interesting to hear what is being suggested. And a proposal which has been floated for even longer is the current campaign for lifts at East Putney tube. Given TfL's budgetary position and some technical issues regarding the East Putney site, this will require sustained campaigning if it is to be successful. Interestingly, Barnes Station, which is drawing from a different pot of money, is to have three lifts installed in the next 12 months, so if there is the will it can be done.

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

Over a number of evenings around Chinese New Year, semi-professional grade 3 fireworks were set off in Wandsworth Park. The park is governed by a set of byelaws inherited from the Greater London Council. Paragraph 31 states: "**No person shall in any open space, discharge any gun, syringe, squirt, catapult or other instrument, or shall wantonly or recklessly throw or discharge any stone or missile, or make any bonfire or let off any firework.**" **But who is around at midnight to police these byelaws?**

The mess left in the park was appalling – many boxes like the one shown and bits of metal from the exploded devices. Debris that is very dangerous for dogs and small children using the park.

The UK law says you must not set off or throw fireworks (including sparklers) in the street or other public places. You must not set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am, except for:

- Bonfire Night, when the cut off is midnight
- New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year, when the cut off is 1am

The fireworks set off in the park were a danger to wildlife (the park is home to at least two species of bat) and very

disturbing to local residents and their pets. Do the current regulations covering the sale and use of fireworks take into account the increasing availability of semi-professional fireworks or the proliferation of registered firework sellers?

**On a more positive note, the panel is preparing for the 2023 Front Garden Award Scheme** – watch this space for news of the dates and locations when we will be giving away plants and advice for residents of central Putney streets.



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

I ought to start this column by welcoming Sarah Healey as the new Housing Secretary, the sixth within the last twelve months, but by the time you read this it may be too late. Clearly housing isn't actually important in Whitehall, and targets have been dropped from the Levelling Up Bill.

In November 2022, chancellor Jeremy Hunt said £6 billion of spending to improve home insulation would start in 2025. How many years after declaring a Climate Emergency? But at least Mr Gove has announced a ban on artificial grass for new housing estates! Not all MPs are to blame. In January the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee said that all homes should have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of C or above by 2035 – and that by 2025, at least one million homes a year should be installing insulation and other energy efficiency measures. However, the Chancellor will still tax you 20% VAT if you do.

The Mayor of London is making a second staircase mandatory for new flats over 18m high (6 storeys). But beware. One developer told the press 'We're currently designing in second staircases and adding more floors to the towers to compensate.' The Mayor has also published Air Quality Neutral (AQN) guidelines for developers to meet air quality standards set out in the London Plan (2021). But small schemes and developments without additional car parking or new gas boilers – nearly all - are exempt.

Using less gas left redundant the big gas holder between Armoury Way and the railway. Now there's a scheme for 16 storeys of flats following the circle of the gas holder

foundations. And to make up numbers there will also be a 30-storey tower, which will be centre stage in the view from Putney Bridge. All on half the area of vacant land here. We are working with the Wandsworth Society in objecting.

Meanwhile Wandsworth Council deserve recognition for trying to do their bit for energy saving. But your Panel reluctantly found ourselves objecting to a Council scheme to install air source heat pumps, photovoltaic (PV) panels, new windows and upgraded insulation on a school - because this was the Grade II listed Brandlehow School, but the proposals didn't appear to acknowledge this. I have also had to advise one member who had consent for PVs on his house wrongly refused, yet Cambridge Council have agreed to panels on the roof of Grade I listed Kings College Chapel.

I do hope the schools team aren't expecting planning consent in time for the summer holidays. Wandsworth's planning backlog keeps increasing. My own office is still waiting for a simple Permitted Development certificate that's eight weeks late as I write. We had been told that the twin proposals for Putney Pier would be heard at the January Planning Applications Committee, but they have now missed both this meeting and that in February.

Appeals are even slower. When the proposal for an extra floor on Elystan Court was rightly refused last June by Wandsworth's PAC, the owners appealed straight away but have had to wait six months for a Planning Inspector to be allocated.

# SOROLLA: THE MASTER OF LIGHT

13 MARCH 8.00PM

Dryburgh Hall in Putney  
Leisure Centre

Lecturer: Arantxa Sardina



Joaquin Sorolla was a master of light, managing to capture, like no other, the light of the Mediterranean beaches he loved and the energy of Spanish life. He painted what he saw, quickly, to capture that precise moment. As he said "I could not paint at all if I had to paint slowly. Every effect is so transient, it must be rapidly painted." The lecture we will look at Sorolla's life and art, from early

education to success. Having been almost forgotten, he has been rediscovered in the last few years.

We are hoping that the lecture will be live in Dryburgh Hall and on Zoom. Visitors Welcome

Please check our website for up-to-date information on venue and format.

<https://www.theartsocietywlondon.org.uk>

## CONCERTS AT ST MARGARET'S

Putney Park Lane

### 2023: SPRING RECITALS:

**SUNDAYS AT 6PM, BAR FROM 5:30PM**

Entrance is free but donations very welcome.



- **5 March** - Frances Griffin & Leo Turner, Guitar Duo
- **12 March** - Anna Webster & Dominic Doutney, Clarinet & Piano
- **19 March** - Mateusz Retter, Piano
- **2 April** - Stations of the Cross featuring Pergolesi's Stabat Mater, Eyra Norman & Lizzie Hawes
- **23 April** - Joe Zeitlin & Beatrice Nicholas, piano

- **30 April** - Stelios Kyriakidis, classical guitar
- **7th May** - Emilia Noack-Wilkinson & Lyla Levy-Jordan, Soprano & piano
- **14th May** - Amici della Voce, vocal ensemble
- **21st May** - Natalie Tsaldarakis & Panayotis Archontides, piano duo
- **28th May** - Freddy & Hugo Wickham, voice & piano

## FUTURE PANEL MEETINGS

New panel members very welcome. Some panel meetings are now being held in person.

Please check details below. If you are new to panel meetings, please contact the panel convenor by email if you want to take part in the Zoom meeting and they will send out an invitation.

### COMMUNITY

**9 March, 13 April**  
by Zoom (18.30)

**Co-convenors:**  
**Vicky Diamond & Val Jones**

vickysw15@aol.co.uk,  
jones.val@gmail.com  
T: 07746 022654 (Vicky)  
T: 07780 674114 (Val)

### TRANSPORT

**14 March, 11 April**  
by Zoom (19.30)

**Convenor:**  
**Stephen Luxford**

Stephen.luxford46  
@gmail.com

### BUILDINGS

**1 March, 5 April**  
by Zoom (18.30)

**Convenor:**  
**Andrew Catto**

ac@andrewcatto.co.uk  
T: 07831 761327

### OPEN SPACES

**2 March, 6 April**  
by Zoom (18.30)

**Convenor:**  
**Judith Chegwidden**

judith.chegwidden@gmail.com  
T: 020 8788 4489

## PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

See website for full details:  
[www.putneysociety.org.uk](http://www.putneysociety.org.uk)

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## Letter to the Editor



I would like to thank Dr Richard Carter for his update on Putney Air Quality (January 2023 Bulletin). As he says, the pollution is still over the legal limit in the High Street, Upper Richmond Road and Putney Bridge Road with no sign of the situation improving in the near future – which is affecting everyone's health. A recent study from the University of Aberdeen and Hasselt University in Belgium has shown that babies have pollution particles in their brains and lungs before they are born.

We can only hope that the upcoming Citizens Assembly will be able to make a difference but we will have to wait until late April for the results to be considered by the Council. Even more delay.

Leonie Cooper AM has said she would lobby for our High Street to become a zero-emission zone for buses. But buses are not the problem. How can Ms. Cooper be oblivious to the never-ending stream of cars belching out so much pollution? Please can Leonie Cooper with her power and influence do something about the pollution caused by cars? A planned diversion, avoiding residential areas, would help. Many years ago, I wrote to the council suggesting a diversion. I was told motorists would not be prepared to use it. Did they ask them?

Yours sincerely,

*Jeannette Leigh*