



# The Bulletin

For our members in Putney and Roehampton



November 2022

## A chance to hear from Leonie Cooper, the London Assembly member for Wandsworth and Merton

**Monday 28 November at 7.30pm (drinks from 7pm)  
at the Community Church, Werter Road, SW15 2LL**



Leonie Cooper AM was elected to the London Assembly in May 2016. She was re-elected in 2021 and is Deputy Leader of the Labour group at City Hall and leads for Labour on the Environment.

We have asked Leonie to update us on the implications of the latest TfL budget settlement, the lack of buses serving

Roehampton (not a new issue but one that persists to the despair of the residents) and the erratic service on the District Line early in the morning and late at night. Bring your own questions to the meeting!

The meeting will also be live streamed; to join online please contact [registration@putney.society.org.uk](mailto:registration@putney.society.org.uk)



A chance to meet your local police teams in the next few weeks

### Thamesfield Safer Neighbourhood Team

The ward panel meeting will take place on **Thursday 17 Nov., at 18:30** at Putney Pantry, St Mary's Church, Putney High Street SW15 1SN.

### West Putney Safer Neighbourhood Team

The ward panel meeting will take place at Granard Primary School, Putney, SW15 6XA on **Tuesday 1 Nov. 2022 at 18:00.**

## Masterplan and Levy consultation

The Draft Masterplan for the Commons has been published and the Conservators want your views on its proposals for future management of the natural habitats, access, and signage. They are also seeking opinions on the principle of increasing the Levy, which funds the management of this important green space.

**The Masterplan Stage 1** assesses the investment requirements for both the natural and built environments of the Commons and the way in which these requirements will be met. The current consultation is gathering the public's views on Stage I which focuses on the natural environment, encompassing both the conservation and access aspects. Details are set out at <https://www.wpcc.org.uk/downloads/masterplan-consultation/>

[masterplan-material-for-stage-i-consultation-final-08.09.pdf](#) .

**This is a vital read for all of us that use and love our Commons.**

**The Levy** - The Wimbledon and Putney Commons Act of 1871 that established the Commons is clear in that a levy on properties that 'primarily benefit from the establishment of the Commons' is intended to serve as the principal means through which the Commons are to be financed. The Levy remains WPCC's principal source of revenue, but this revenue no longer meets WPCC's financial requirements and the long-term preventative maintenance of both the natural and built environments has suffered as a result.

An increase in the Levy is therefore deemed to be the most viable way of



## Wimbledon and Putney Commons

meeting the necessary investment and maintenance requirements. Conservators are therefore now consulting on the principle of increasing the levy by about £8 per year for a Band D property. To find out more go to <https://www.wpcc.org.uk/downloads/masterplan-consultation/levy-material-for-phase-i-consultation-final-08.09.pdf>

**To take part in the consultation go to** <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WPCCC2022> There will be a public meeting in early November - check our Website, Facebook and Twitter feed for date and location.

A significant development this month is the decision by the new administration at Wandsworth Council to suspend the search for a development partner for regeneration of the Alton estate. The Cabinet Member for Housing Cllr Dikerdem stated “We are absolutely committed to investing in and improving the estate, but we are going to review the proposed outcomes for this investment and explore the options available to us. We are therefore ending the current procurement on the original master plan”. The Buildings Panel has always been concerned in recent years that regeneration of the estate should emphasise refurbishment and upgrade rather than wholesale demolition and rebuild. The latter approach would have significant CO<sub>2</sub> implications.

The Council have also announced that all properties in all Council led housing developments currently underway will hence forth be made available solely under the category of “social rent”. This will change a number of the arrangements and expectations related to current projects.

Updates have arrived this month with planning applications now submitted for the conversion of the Star & Garter into a boutique hotel with 24 bedrooms and the redevelopment of the RSPCA site to produce seven new houses of a similar scale to others on the road. The Society was invited by the developers in each case to meet with them and exchange views and give input.

Pleasingly, the planning applications in each case reflect the discussions that were held. The Star and Garter work will require considerable attention to detail to achieve the sought

after quality of the renovation. We hope that WBC will make approval conditional on these features. The four road frontage houses proposed at the RSPCA site are modelled on the style of certain other properties in the road and will be built of conventional materials. If we have a complaint it would be slightly over dominant dormers on these houses and, as always, some ask why we should want pastiche. The Society is supportive of both these proposed developments. In connection with the RSPCA site we and others have enquired as to the situation regarding the adjacent Eileen Lecky clinic. There is no indication that this site is in play at the moment or for the foreseeable future.

In April 2021 the Society accepted an invitation from a company called Akoya and their architects Icen to discuss face to face their proposals to bring back into use Carlson Court, 116 Putney Bridge Road. This is the building adjacent to the south west corner of Wandsworth Park. Their proposal was to refurbish the existing building, adding an additional one and a half storeys on the top, and turn it into attractive flexible office space. The Society wrote in support of the planning application when it arrived, encourage by the proposal to refurbish and the proposed usage of the building.

The Society was therefore shocked in August to find that threequarters of the building had been flattened, including the attractive entrance, contrary to their planning permission. This action was brought to the attention of the Planning Department who have passed the matter to the Planning Enforcement team.

## Community Panel

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

We had a fascinating talk on 3 October from Wayne Bellamy, Station Manager of the Chiswick RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution) and learned so many interesting things:

- Coastal water temps average about 14C year round, but the Thames ranges from 6C in winter to 20C+ in summer
- There’s no salt water in the Thames at all, even though it’s a tidal river
- Depending on the time of year, the river tide rises and falls twice a day by up to 7 m (24 ft). Because the tide goes against the outflow of fresh water from the Thames Basin, it takes longer to ebb (6–9 hours) than it does to flood in (4–5 hours).
- On the flood tide it only takes 10 minutes for the river to rise 1 foot
- The human body goes into ‘cold shock’ in water below 16C, and it depends on the person, but the first 90 seconds are critical. It’s worth looking on YouTube and the RNLI website to see what action to take Float To Live – What To Do In An Emergency – RNLI
- At least 22 people are rescued a day around the UK by the RNLI
- There are about 30 fatalities a year in the Thames from Teddington Weir to the Thames barrier.

- The fastest Thames RNLI boats can go 42 knots/48 mph
- There are about 100 people who are part of the Chiswick RNLI station and all but 10 are volunteers

It costs about £2000 a day to run the Chiswick RNLI station

Chiswick Branch is fundraising for RNLI - Royal National Lifeboat Institution ([justgiving.com](http://justgiving.com))

Putney Tidy Towpath regularly gather to pick up rubbish on the foreshore. Since spring they have collected 53 bags of litter. There have been 500 ‘man’ hours of volunteering. Their area of operation has extended towards Barnes, and they are also going to make a quarterly collection in Battersea where there are high levels of litter on the foreshore by Battersea’s St Mary’s Church. If you’re interested in joining them, and meeting more locals at the same time (an added bonus!) email [Putneytt@outlook.com](mailto:Putneytt@outlook.com)

And a reminder: **DO NOT PUT ANY WETWIPES of ANY KIND DOWN THE TOILET.** The majority have a lot of plastic in them, which pollutes and poisons the Thames, and kills the wildlife in there, one way or another. Huge mounds of wipes have been found in the Thames, so many that it has changed the way the River runs in some areas. Our MP Fleur Anderson has been campaigning vigorously to get plastic in wet wipes banned altogether.

## Open Spaces Panel convenor: Judith Chegwidden [judith.chegwidden@gmail.com](mailto:judith.chegwidden@gmail.com) 020 8788 4489

**News from the Old Burial Ground** – Putney’s Town Centre Park hidden away between the Upper Richmond Road and Nursery Close. In mid-October contractors from Enable planted 4,000 crocus corms underneath the trees shown in the accompanying picture. Make a date to go and see the results next February. Now we wait for the long-promised crown lifting on some of the larger trees – which should allow a bit more sunlight to penetrate the canopy. The society is also in discussion with Enable about planting some drought tolerant and colourful shrubs along the northern edge of the Burial Ground.

The condition of planting in the **High Street** continues to be of concern. We now understand that the contract for the ivy and the planter outside the former M&S building is between Positively Putney BID and Meristem design. The contract for the blue planters (currently home to dead silver birch trees) is between Wandsworth Council and Meristem Design. In both cases the contract includes watering and other maintenance. The poor choice of plants and the lack of watering, combined to result in a dismal display this summer. The blue planters are a welcome addition to the High Street – but they need more carefully thought through planting and maintenance.

After attending the London in Bloom awards this year, we realized that other



boroughs celebrate their **community gardeners** much more enthusiastically than Wandsworth Council. We know about the marvellous Putney Community Garden on the Ashburton Estate, but do you know of any other community gardeners in Putney or Roehampton? Can we begin to match the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea where a dozen community kitchen gardens received awards? What can Enable and Wandsworth Council do to encourage more community gardening?

The repair of the footbridge over Beverley Brook on Putney Common (the Society contributed towards the fundraising effort by Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators) is now complete and it was officially opened on 20 October.

## Transport Panel convenor: Stephen Luxford. [Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com](mailto:Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com)

Junctions at the bottom of the High Street with Putney Bridge Road and the Upper Richmond Road have long been the bane of pedestrians trying to cross or cyclists seeking to navigate the traffic safely. Our local council, in conjunction with TfL, has for some time been seeking ways of addressing this within the obvious space and budget constraints. The Society has recently fed into the current draft proposals and we will update you when anything transpires.

Leonie Cooper, our local London Assembly Member will be talking at a Putney Society public meeting on 28 November. Now that Transport for London’s budget for the next few years is finally fixed, please use this opportunity to question her on TfL’s services that affect you. Are you happy with

local buses and tubes? Should there be more provision for cyclists and pedestrians? What about drivers? If you cannot be at the meeting, please send any questions to [chair@putney.society.co.uk](mailto:chair@putney.society.co.uk)

Hammersmith & Fulham council is seeking approval for a temporary double-decker crossing placed within the existing structure of Hammersmith Bridge and supported by the bridge’s foundations. This could hasten repair work and enable the bridge to reopen to motorists earlier than the existing Transport for London plan. The Council plans to raise its share of the money for both the repairs and ongoing operations from a toll. Given that any work is predicated on government approval of the business case it is premature to speculate what level this toll might be.

## 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

**10 November, 8 December, in-person Garden Flat, 41 Norroy Road 6 Norroy Road, (18.30)**

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

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

### TRANSPORT

**8 Nov. , 13 Dec. by Zoom (19.30)**

**Convenor: Stephen Luxford**

[Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com](mailto:Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com)

### BUILDINGS

**2 Nov., 7 Dec. by Zoom (18.30)**

**Convenor: Andrew Catto in November, Mark Poulter**

[ac@andrewcatto.co.uk](mailto:ac@andrewcatto.co.uk)  
T: 07831 761327

### OPEN SPACES

**3 November, by Zoom, 1 December, in-person at 28 Howards Lane (18.30)**

**Convenor: Judith Chegwidden**

[judith.chegwidden@gmail.com](mailto:judith.chegwidden@gmail.com)  
T: 020 8788 4489

## Forgotten Voices

Moving Oral Testimonies of  
the Great War



Selected from the Imperial War Museum's sound archive recorded in the 1950s, Forgotten Voices relives the moving testimonies of those whose lives were utterly transformed by their experiences in the First World War. These personal oral testimonies make a poignant tribute to the men and women who survived.

Based on the best-selling book by Max Arthur and adapted for the stage by Malcolm McKay.

Performed by Maggie Ollerenshaw, John Chancer, Charlie Roe, Paul Moriarty and Geoff Leesley

Directed by Gerrard McArthur

**St Mary's Church, Putney,  
19 November at 3pm and 7.30pm**

## The Foundations Of Fashion

The History Of Underwear from the 18th Century  
to the 20th Century

Presented by The Art Society South West London

**Monday 14 November,  
Dryburgh Hall (in person only), 8pm**

**Lecturer: Kate Strasdin (Senior Lecturer in Cultural  
Studies at Falmouth University)**

Christian Dior said "Without foundations there can be no fashion." This lecture looks at how those foundations have evolved to create the silhouettes that shaped generations of men and women. It is a story of cutting-edge technologies, and looks at men and women alike from the girdle to the Y-front, the chemise to the stocking. In an era where we rely less on foundation garments and more on diet, it is easy to forget how central these garments were to everyday life.



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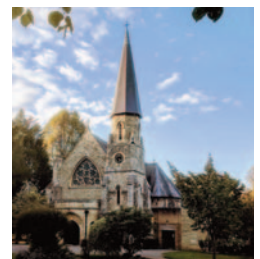
## Great Expectations

By Charles Dickens,  
Adapted for the stage by Neil Bartlett

**Tuesday 8 to Saturday 12 November  
7.45pm plus  
12 November 3.00pm Matinee**

Neil Bartlett's acclaimed adaptation of Great Expectations thrillingly brings to life on the stage some of Charles Dickens' most memorable characters. The aspirational Pip, the kindly blacksmith Joe Gargery, the mysterious convict Abel Magwitch, the eccentric Miss Havesham, her beautiful ward Estella and Pip's good-hearted room-mate Herbert Pocket.

## Sunday Evening concerts at St Margaret's Church, Putney Park Lane



**All concerts start at 6pm**

There is no charge to attend  
and no need to book a seat. Drinks will be served in  
the garden - weather permitting - from 5:30pm.

- 6 November** - Manos Kitsikopoulos, piano
- 13 November** - Emily Beech, soprano with  
Roxanna Shini-Mehrabzadeh,  
piano
- 20 November** - Ensemble OrQuesta  
(harpichord, lute and singers)
- 4 December** - Thomas Jesty and George Cooke,  
cello & piano
- 11 December** - Simone Tavoni, piano
- 18 December** - Harriet Adie, harp Christmas  
Concert

## PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

**Chair: Robert Arguille**  
020 8788 4554 [chair@putneysociety.org.uk](mailto:chair@putneysociety.org.uk)  
**Secretary: Carolyn McMillan**  
38 Disraeli Road, SW15 2DS 020 8789 6692  
[secretary@putneysociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@putneysociety.org.uk)  
**Website Editor: Robert Arguille**  
[webeditor@putneysociety.org.uk](mailto:webeditor@putneysociety.org.uk)

**Bulletin Editor: Judith Chegwidden**  
020 8788 4489 [judith.chegwidden@gmail.com](mailto:judith.chegwidden@gmail.com)  
**Membership: Chris Orriss**  
020 8785 7115 [membership@putneysociety.org.uk](mailto:membership@putneysociety.org.uk)  
22 Pentlow Street, London SW15 1LX  
**Treasurer: Andrew Nichol**  
07894 982 020 [nicol.andrewjd@gmail.com](mailto:nicol.andrewjd@gmail.com)