



# The Bulletin

For our members in Putney and Roehampton



December 2022



Dear Members,

I would like to wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and New Year. Thank you for being a part of the Putney Society.

In 2022 we were able to hold a full programme of meetings ranging from the History of St Mary's Church to the Thames operations of RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution). There were architectural walks along the riverside and a very successful Front Garden Competition in central Putney. The Community Panel have been increasingly involved with various community groups in Roehampton.

As we enter 2023, I would ask all members to consider playing an active part in the Society

either by joining the Executive Committee or attending one of the monthly Panel meetings who all do valuable work behind the scenes. We have lost several members of the Executive Committee over 2022 for various reasons and are reaching the point where we may have to consider the future of the Society in its present form. If you would like to play a more active part by joining the Executive Committee or attending one of the monthly Panel meetings who all do valuable work behind the scenes, please contact the Secretary or myself. (All contact details on Page 4)

## Subscribe to Wandsworth@6

No apologies for a second reminder – this is such an easy way to find out what the local Council is doing. A brief email drops into your inbox at 6pm most weekday evenings. From notifications about which parking restrictions apply on bank holidays to finding out when refuse will be collected after Christmas. Be the first to know when the Mega Skips are arriving near your street.

The Council launches many consultations across the year to get residents' views – Wandsworth@6 is the best way to find out about them. For example, the Council is currently undertaking a review of the leisure centre facilities and the services provided within the borough, and they would like to hear from you.

To sign up for Wandsworth@6 go to <https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/subscribe>



# HAPPY NEW YEAR

## Invitation to members: join us for New Year buffet and drinks at the Kings Head, Roehampton

We are having an informal evening drinks party with a generous buffet in the New Year. Do come and meet your Committee and other members of the Putney Society in this cosy pub (plenty of seating, if required, in the space we have reserved). Fleur Anderson MP, has said she will attend and we will also be joined by the Mayor, Councillor Jeremy Ambache.

New members will find this a good opportunity to get to know us better. And if you want to get more involved in the running of the Society, this will be an opportunity to learn more.

**Date:** Friday, 20 January, 2023

**Time:** 7pm- 9pm

**Venue:** The Kings Head, 1 Roehampton High Street, SW15 4HL.

Easily reached by 85 or 430 buses from Putney High Street together with the 265 and 170 routes from other areas. Limited parking.

**Cost:** £24.00 per head for a welcome drink and buffet. There's a pay bar if you want more to drink or eat.

**Tickets:** Available from Eventbrite - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/> - please search on "Putney Society".

If you don't have online access, please write enclosing a cheque and SAE to 18 Burstock Road, London SW15 2PW. Deadline for receipt of payment: 12 January 2023 but apply early to ensure a place as numbers are limited.

I wrote last month's article just before going on holiday and came back to not just a new government, but two changes of Housing Minister – which makes five this year! Can you name them\*\*? - and the return of Michael Gove to the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities. Not surprisingly the planning reforms promised last year have been lost in this revolving door, but we are told they are still on the way, and that 'beauty' will still be central, although the zoned approach may be lost.

Meanwhile what most developers and those householders still looking to build want is for the planning system to be properly funded and staffed so that decisions actually get taken. Wandsworth, to be fair, are better than many in this respect, but there are still too many overdue decisions, causing frustration for owners, neighbours, and your Panel.

The other big change of regime this year was at Wandsworth Council. New policies are still emerging, but of interest to us all, particularly those in Roehampton, is the announcement that all new homes built on council land will be 'social rent' and the cancellation of the current Regeneration scheme for the Alton Estate, in order to look at the situation afresh. Backing this up there's now a planning application to confirm that the flats nearing completion on the Kersfield Estate on Lytton Grove are no longer for sale.

Which is why we're pleased that Councillor Aydin Dikerdem, the new Cabinet member for Housing, will be talking to the

Society's public meeting on 23 January. Make a date in your diaries for this.

I would hope this will include a plan for improving the energy efficiency of all the Council's housing stock well ahead of the 2050 target for net zero.

Cutting carbon extends to the 'embodied' energy inherent in development. Last year we welcomed the proposal for a careful green refit of the 1970's Carlson Court next to Wandsworth Park, which was granted planning consent by Wandsworth, we are sure because the renovation approach fitted their aims too. To the panel's dismay, when work started in the summer, most of the building was bulldozed. We complained to the Council enforcement team, and there's now a new application, 2022/4100, for the replacement building which we like a lot less.

On a more cheerful note I'm pleased to report that the proposal for a new mirror glazed house on Wildcroft Road, mentioned last month, has been refused by Wandsworth Council.

Late November also means Maintenance Week, your annual reminder to clear gutters, check roofs, flashings and hidden corners ahead of another wet and windy winter. In the words of William Morris, 'stave off decay by daily care'.

\*\* Lucy Frazer, Lee Rowley, Marcus Jones, Stewart Andrew and Christopher Pincher have all been Minister for Housing (by slightly different titles) during 2022.

## Community Panel

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

West Putney and Thamesfield SNT (Safer Neighbourhood) Police meetings have taken place. There is continued frustration by police at the abstractions, whereby officers have to go and help with major events such as the Queen's funeral, Extinction Rebellion protests, Stop Oil, etc. All Wards have a shortage of PC's and PCSO's but we hope this will be remedied in the coming weeks.

Wandsworth has the lowest burglary rate of London inner city boroughs, but as it gets dark earlier, people need to ensure that their homes look occupied, with lights on timers for example if you're going to be out late, or the house is going to be empty all day. High hedges also are a beacon to the thief, as it affords protection from public view if they break in. There is a constant reminder from the police not to leave anything at all visible in vehicles. An old jacket, a pair of sunglasses, or a couple of pounds parking money are enough incentive for the opportunistic thief to smash the car window. There is also a significant increase in the theft of catalytic converters. Thieves are very proficient, using an angle grinder, and can have it removed from the vehicle in seconds. Police say that Kwik Fit (and other garages) can fit some extra enforcement that make it very difficult to remove the catalytic converter, and it's worth paying to have that done, rather than discover it's been stolen when you turn on the engine. If you have a car with a smart key, keep it in a security pouch, preferably at the back of the house, as

far away from the front door as you can to ensure the signal can't be accessed.

Spear and Streetlink are the organisations to contact if you're concerned about someone sleeping rough on the streets. If that person doesn't want help, and isn't being abusive to the public, the police can do little, especially if the person is sleeping in the inset doorway of a shop or business which is considered part of the premises, and not a public space.

Don't walk around with your head down looking at your phone! It makes it so easy for thieves on bikes, mopeds and even on foot to snatch them and disappear before you can even note what they're wearing.

The new Council administration has pledged to put more funding into community safety, which is very good news.

Roehampton Safer Neighbourhood meeting

**5th December 2022 7pm**

Roehampton Public Library, 2 Danebury Avenue SW15 4HD

**Saturday 3 December** Christmas Fair in Roehampton, in the Methodist Church Hall, Minstead Gardens, **12.00 – 4.00**.

We'll have a stall there, so come and say hello!

Sea Scouts are selling Xmas Trees for charity on the Embankment on **3rd, 4th, 10th and 11th December**.

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

Many thanks to our Executive Committee for agreeing that we can stage another Front Garden Award Scheme next year. The Society remains committed to increasing biodiversity across our patch and to discouraging the spread of impermeable paving. Watch this space for more details of next year's event.

On Monday 21 December, volunteers from the Open Spaces Panel and JCDecaux braved the pouring rain to cover the beds in the Putney Tower parklet with 45 bags of organic manure and 50 bags of woodchip mulch, both kindly supplied by JCDecaux. We hope that this measure will improve the soil (and keep down the weeds for a while). In the New Year we will be formulating plans to supplement the planting with some more drought resistant species. Look out for some narcissi in early Spring.

Congratulations to Rowan Salim and all the Putney Community Gardeners for achieving a Wandsworth Civic Award for everything they have done to create a



patchwork of green, wild and growing spaces on the Ashburton Estate.

The installation of a new playground in Wandsworth Park has been much delayed, but thanks to pressure from the Friends of Wandsworth Park, the consultation process has been revived and we hope to see the new equipment installed without too much further delay.

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

You may have read that the Council has recently given Lime Bikes an ultimatum to either get their riders to use dedicated bike parking bays or otherwise risk them being impounded. Many will have noticed green bikes being left on pavements causing an obstruction for pedestrians. Please let us know if you feel this action is having the necessary effect?

The Council has approved their new Walking and Cycling Strategy. Amongst the measures included are plans to expand "school streets". These schemes transform roads outside of schools into pedestrian and cycle zones at drop off and pick up time providing a low-traffic route around school gates. They also encourage walking and cycling, with a wider aim of improving safety and improving local air quality. Two local primary schools, Brandlehow and All Saints, have expressed an interest in taking part in the next round of the programme.

A Council decision on how the junctions at the bottom of the High Street with Putney Bridge Road and the Upper Richmond Road might be reconfigured has been deferred until February. Councillor and officials in conjunction with TfL have been considering options for some time. The goal, perhaps an impossible one, is to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists while also keeping traffic flows moving. The Society has fed into draft proposals and we will update you if a decision is reached in the New Year.

Neighbouring MP for Richmond, Sarah Olney, has called for an independent analysis of the impact of night flights on the health of residents close to Heathrow. The Government has said that they plan to consult in late 2023 on a new night flight regime. The Society will monitor developments and seek your views once more details are known.

### 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

**8 December, 12 January,**  
in-person Garden Flat,  
41 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

**13 Dec., 10 Jan.,**  
by Zoom (19.30)

**Convenor:**  
Stephen Luxford

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

#### BUILDINGS

**7 Dec., 4 Jan.**  
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

**1 December, 5 January**  
in-person 28 Howards Lane  
(18.30)

**Convenor:**  
Judith Chegwidden

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

## A BRIEF STORY OF WINE

12 December at 8.00 pm,  
Dryburgh Hall in Putney  
Leisure Centre

Lecturer: David Wright

Wine has been part of our global society for over 7,000 years, and the story tells of its origin and appearance in all societies across the Mediterranean and through Europe. Wine became an important component of faith, well-being, and festivity. From the kwevris of Georgia in 5,000 BC, the symposia in ancient Greece, the thermopolia of Pompeii, the hospices of Europe, to the dining tables of fine society wine has been ever present.

David Wright has been a wine retailer, importer and distributor for 30 years. Over the years, he has publicly presented tastings and talks on wine to trade and private audiences.

If you have never attended an Arts Society lecture before you are urged to come along and find out about your local Arts Society.

For more information visit

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



PSAD Artists

## Exhibition

2nd December 2022. 6 - 8.30pm

Abdrew Robinson Bridge Club

31 Parsons Green Lane, SW6 4HH

And don't forget the Putney School of Art and Design Christmas Fair on 4 December – see insert for details.



## Dates for your Diary

A selection of the many events in Putney this December and into the New Year

**Ice skating Rink in Church Square:**

1, 2 December, 2pm to 8pm

3, 4 December, 10am to 4pm

Book via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ice-skating-in-putney-tickets-464338026537>

**Repair Café, St Mary's Church, SW15 1SN**

10 December, 10am - 12noon

**Sunday evening music at St Margaret's Church, Putney Park Lane** - all events at 6pm, free but donations welcome

4 December - Thomas Jesty and George Cooke, cello & piano

11 December - Simone Tavoni, piano

18 December - Harriet Adie, harp Christmas Concert

**'Elves' family Christmas show at Alton Activity Centre and Lennox Community Clubroom**

Jellyfish Theatre presents 'Elves' - a joyful, interactive family theatre show combining puppetry, live performers, and music. No booking required.

**Tuesday 20 December, 2022**

Alton Activity Centre, Ellisfield Drive, SW15 4EZ at 2pm

Lennox Community Clubroom, Ludovick Walk, Lennox Estate, SW15 5LE at 4.30pm

**Dover House Singers present a Seasonal Spectacular at St Mary's Church, SW15 1SN**

17 December 7pm

Join Putney's Community Choir for an evening of seasonal music – with a chance to sing along

Free entry, Raffle and refreshments in aid of Regenerate Rise

**Your local Pantomime this year is Dick Whittington**

Putney Arts Theatre: 6-14 January

For times and tickets:

<https://www.putneyartstheatre.org.uk/event-4892251>

**Make a date in your diary for Putney Society January meeting**

Wandsworth Council's Cabinet member for Housing, Cllr Dikerdem, will be with us to talk about their current housing policy and how this will impact plans to regenerate parts of the Alton Estate

**Monday 23 January**, Community Church, Werter Road 7pm for 7.30pm

## PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

**Chair: Robert Arguile**

020 8788 4554 [chair@putneysociety.org.uk](mailto:chair@putneysociety.org.uk)

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