



The Bulletin

For our members in Putney and Roehampton



February 2023

It's QUIZ NIGHT!! This is the first time we're hosting a quiz night, and it's going to be a fun evening.

Monday 27 February 7pm for 7.30 start, Community Church, Werter Road SW15 2LL

There will be plenty of questions about Putney, as well as lots of other questions that will test your general knowledge. You don't need to come with a team – you can join a table of 4 or 5 and help name your team, as well as meet other local residents. Entrance fee £2, which will go in the pot and the winning team will share the total amount. **Open to all – so bring your friends and neighbours.**

You can also join us virtually by Zoom if you want to do the quiz, but you won't be eligible for the prize if you happen to come top! You have to be in the room to qualify for that. Email [registration@](mailto:registration@putneysociety.org.uk)

putneysociety.org.uk for the link.

There is a disabled entrance on the right of the Church.

Refreshments available.



How much do you know about your fellow residents in Wandsworth?

Find out more from Data Wand <https://www.datawand.info/> Much of the recent census data from 2021 are now available on this site. Did you know that Wandsworth has a high rate of resident turnover? Just 80% of residents were living at the same address as they were one year before the 2021 census date. This compares with 87% of London as whole and 89% in England.

The population is also quite young when compared with England:

	Wandsworth	London	England
Total under 15 (%)	15.7	18.1	17.4
Total 15-64 (%)	74.8	70.0	64.2
Total over 64 (%)	9.6	11.9	18.4

Check out the site to challenge any preconceptions you may have on how many people are married or in a single partnership (hint - nearly 56% of residents have never been married or in a civic partnership). How many people in the borough were born in Wandsworth? How many have lived here for more than 10 years?

SAVE THE DATE

Putney Society AGM

Monday 27 March, 7.30pm, at the Community Church Werter Road in person and by Zoom

We are actively seeking new members of the Executive Committee; please contact the Secretary and she will send you a nomination form; secretary@putneysociety.co.uk For more information on the role of members of the Executive Committee, please contact chair@putneysociety.org.uk Do get in touch if you think you can contribute.

Nominations should be returned to the Secretary by Monday 20 March 2023.

Our speaker will be Tom Sainsbury, Chair of Putney Theatre Company Management Committee. Papers for the meeting will be distributed with the March Bulletin.

At the last High Street Fund meeting (yes meetings continue although most of the money has already been spent on pavement widening) we were told that the competing proposals for a river bus landing at (or next to) Putney Pier would be put before the Planning Applications Committee in January, but this date seems to have been missed.

By now this is no surprise. Local authorities have taken the brunt of Government spending cuts for some years so that, despite the fact that applications are still 12% down on pre-Covid levels, we know that Wandsworth's planning department has been seriously short staffed for some time. An email to me this month from one case officer confirmed this – whilst asking for extra time.

What doesn't seem to have wasted time getting on this agenda is the retrospective application to allow what was demolished and is now being rebuilt without consent at Carlson Court. We're not sure what message this gives, but it's probably not one we should be comfortable with.

Meanwhile, central government keeps hoping that councils can be persuaded to approve more homes at ever greater densities, but carries on adding to legislation which, although aimed to make homes greener and safer, will also make them more expensive and even harder to get approved. The Building Safety Act, the reaction to the Grenfell Tower tragedy, is now law but won't be fully operational until a whole new regulatory body is set up. But an attempt to ban external

timber (as did the 18th century London Building Acts) has destroyed Britain's lead in environmentally friendly Cross Laminated Timber.

Time has been called too on gas boilers, so far only for new homes constructed after 2033, but the scope of this may be extended and we should all be thinking about where to put our air source heat pumps. That in turn means finding somewhere for the external fan units. But first we would ask our planners, please, to stop refusing consent for photovoltaic (solar) panels at every opportunity as 'visually intrusive'. There's a big debate here for us all about the balance between energy efficiency and preserving Putney unchanged, which keeps your panel exercised.

Many of you will have come to our public meeting on 23 January to hear from Cllr Aydin Dikerdem about the changes to Wandsworth's Housing programme following last year's change in council control. But it will take a while before these to result in new buildings. The new flats on Lytton Grove started by the Conservative Council near completion, but now for council rent, not for sale. However revised proposals for the Alton Estate won't emerge until at least June. This is good news for those who thought the wholesale demolition was a mistake, but bad news that, after a decade of inaction and delayed maintenance, there's still no clear way ahead. At the Platt Estate on Felsham Road, a four-storey block replacing garages consented last year has now been redesigned and an application lodged for a new version cut to eight bigger flats. Build date 2024?

Community Panel

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

Repair Café – 2nd Saturday of the month, St Mary's Church, Putney Bridge

The Repair Café is a welcome and worthwhile addition to Putney life, providing the option to repair and re-use everyday items, rather than throw them away.

Its success has led to a need for more volunteers – particularly those experienced with electronics and electrical goods. If YOU are able to spare a few hours a month to help with this interesting group, please contact Charlie Lindsell at repaircafeputney@gmail.com who will be delighted to explain what's needed, and how you can get involved.

Such a valuable service in this throw-away age.

PLEASE HELP!

<https://www.repaircafe.org/en/cafe/putney-repair-cafe-london/>

<https://nextdoor.co.uk/g/b4k35gfpz/>

Local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) meeting
Thamesfield SNT ward panel – chance to interact with your local police team.

**Monday 13 February 2023 at 6.30pm in Putney
Pantry by St May's Church**

We get the dates for Thamesfield, Roehampton and West Putney SNT meetings – do let Vicky or Val know of equivalent meetings in East Putney and West Hill.

Defibrillators

In these critical times of ambulance delays and overcrowded A&E departments, the Putney Society thought it would be useful to compile a list of local defibrillators. **Could you let us know if you know where any are?** Next month we hope to publish a map with the location of all known defibrillators in Putney. Contact Val or Vicky.

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

The headline in the New Scientist this January was a wake-up call:

“Strong El Niño could make 2024 the first year we pass 1.5°C of warming

Early modelling suggests the world’s climate could shift to an El Niño pattern towards the end of 2023, which is likely to increase the global average temperature.”

How will this impact on our commons, parks and gardens? We have raised concerns with Wandsworth Council and Enable about their tree planting strategy. While it is more than admirable to plant around 700 street and park trees every year, we are concerned about the survival rate. Newly planted trees need regular watering for 2-3 years after planting and the maintenance contract currently in place does not allow for this level of support. The increasing frequency of very hot summers just compounds the problem. The current policy seems

to be to support a certain level of wastage in newly planted trees – but this means fewer trees reaching maturity where they will contribute to CO2 capture and provide habitats for other flora and fauna.

How do we prepare our own gardens and balconies for hotter and drier summers as well as wetter winters? We are planning a meeting in April where professional gardeners with expertise in planting for more extreme conditions will be sharing their recommendations.

Five years after the Royal Horticultural Society’s “Greening the Grey campaign” to try and stem the flow of paving and concrete in the nation’s gardens, Wandsworth Council is still giving permission to turn gardens into car parks. A recent permission for the creation of a front garden car park in SW15 failed to provide guidance on the need for impermeable paving, although, thankfully, it did note the need to preserve trees and hedges.

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

The Council has now launched its Citizens Assembly on Air Quality. The aim is to get a representative overview across the Borough on air quality issues, and how these should be tackled. In early January thousands of letters were sent out to a randomly to Borough residents who can then register an interest. From this, a group of 50 forming a representative cross section of the Borough will be selected to take part in the Assembly which will take place over four Saturdays from 25 February onwards. Results will be considered by the Council who will respond with either a commitment to take action or an explanation as to why they cannot.

In the meantime, the Society continues to monitor air quality in the High Street and surrounding main roads. Initial figures for the six-month period up to early January 2023 suggest that NO2 and PM2.5 levels for several parts of the High Street still exceed the EU recommended levels - particularly by the cinema and on the opposite side of

the road outside Simmons bar.

For members who are regular bus users, you may be pleased to hear that Putney bus garage has won the “London Bus Garage of the Year” award. Other good news we have heard is that the 93 route, currently operated by the most polluting bus models to service Putney, is go all electric in 2024. However, on the downside we also learn that TfL plans to reduce the frequency of buses on the 430 route in the Autumn.

On Hammersmith Bridge, Hammersmith & Fulham Council are expected to have submitted their business case to the Department for Transport soon. Assuming the government is content, and that is a big if, then the next stage would be to begin the procurement of the double decker repair option. And, if this goes smoothly, which given the history of the project to date is by no means certain, then a contract to repair the bridge might be awarded next year.

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 February, 9 March
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 February, 14 March
by Zoom (19.30)**

**Convenor:
Stephen Luxford**

Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

BUILDINGS

**1 February, 1 March
by Zoom (18.30)**

**Convenor:
Andrew Catto**

ac@andrewcatto.co.uk
T: 07831 761327

OPEN SPACES

**2 February, 2 March
by Zoom (18.30)**

**Convenor:
Judith Chegwidden**

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

The story of two iconic Welsh gardens: Middleton Hall (now the National botanic garden of Wales) and Aberglasney

Lecturer: William Wilkins



Monday 13 February, 8pm, Dryburgh Hall

The late Elizabethan garden at Aberglasney is the only surviving cloister garden in the UK and was discovered and saved, at the 11th hour, with the help of an American benefactor. The lecture also reveals the discovery and restoration of a supposedly vanished park around the vestiges of a great house at Middleton, and recounts how it became the National Botanic Garden of Wales and the setting of the largest single span glasshouse in the world, designed by Norman Foster.

We are hoping that this will be a hybrid lecture, live in Dryburgh Hall and on Zoom. Visitors welcome.

Please check our website for up-to-date information.

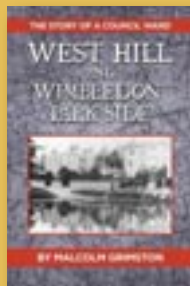
<https://www.theartsocietyswlondon.org.uk>



Two fascinating February talks from the Friends of Putney Library

**On Thursday 2 February 6.30pm
(refreshments from 6.00pm)**

Councillor Malcolm Grimston will be talking about his book, *West Hill and Wimbledon Parkside*, charting changes that have taken place in the area through the stories of its houses and their occupants.



Then on **Wednesday 22 February at 6.30pm** Hugh Thompson, local journalist and Vice President of the Putney Society, will be talking about the Putney based historian Edward Gibbon, author of *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*.

Both talks are free entry but please book in advance at the library, or by calling 020 8780 3085 or by email charlene.coleman@gll.org

Fulham and Hammersmith Choral Society



Fulham and Hammersmith Choral Society are inviting you to "Come and Sing"

Join them to rehearse and perform the Mozart Requiem in one day!

Mozart's Requiem is a choral masterpiece whose genesis is shrouded in mystery – which makes this piece all the more fascinating and emotionally stirring.

Saturday 4 February – registration 10.15 -11.00

St Mary's Church, Putney Bridge SW15 1SN

Rehearsal from 11.00 -13.00 and from 14.00 – 15.45

Performance from 16.30 – 17.30

Supporting Glass Door

Register at <https://www.fhcs.org.uk/comeandsing>

Or buy tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/come-sing-mozart-requiem-tickets-464725294867>

PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

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