



# The Bulletin

The amenity society for  
Putney & Roehampton

June 2013

## Members' Meeting

Thursday 27 June at 7.30pm

The Brewer Building, St Mary's Church, Putney



## Maintaining our local parks—introducing Quadron Services

The Borough Council recently contracted out responsibility for the maintenance of our local parks to the private company, **Quadron Services**. This well-established company is now looking after Wandsworth Park, Leaders Gardens, Putney Park Lane, Waterman's Green and all the other areas of public open space in the borough. So, what will this mean for these 'green lungs' which are such an important element in our environment?

Our speaker, **Andrew Kauffman, the Corporate Development Manager for Quadron Services**, will explain the national context for his company's work, describe the details of the Wandsworth Contract and review the challenges of the task in our Putney open spaces.

This meeting has been arranged by the Society's Open Spaces Panel - for our members and friends. The Putney Pantry cafe will be open for drinks and snacks before the meeting.



**Visit to Houses of Parliament, June 14, 2pm.** Tour at the invitation of our Member of Parliament, Justine Greening. Numbers limited to 20. Since likely to prove very popular please respond as soon as possible. To book your FREE place please send a SAE (First Class please) plus contact telephone number to: Maureen Howley (Putney Society), 1 Elystan Court, 121 Howards Lane, London SW15. You will be sent further details. Thank you.



## Let the patient revolution begin

So begins an article in the British Medical Journal (BMJ 2013;346f2614). The journal advocates that it is essential that patients understand how they can take a greater part in managing their healthcare. To do this you are advised to join your local practice patient participation group to help you engage with the rapid changes in the NHS provision in your area.

### What's happening to our local hospitals - and can we believe what we read in the press about the NHS?

It's a very confusing time at present to get your mind round the biggest changes to the NHS since it started. Is it going to mean 'privatisation by the back door'? Can you believe all the sensational stories you read in the press? Well, yes, and no. There is no doubt that secondary care (the hospital sector) needs improvement as the current structure is unsustainable with healthcare costs rising above the rate of inflation and therefore efficiency needs to be improved.

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**Forthcoming Events: dates for your diary**

Friday	14	June	Visit to Houses of Parliament	2pm
Thursday	27	June	Members;' Meeting: Open Space Management	7.30pm
Friday	28	June	Friends of Putney Library	7.30pm
Wednesday	10	July	Putney Society Coach Outing	9.30am-6.30pm (May b)

**Some tickets still available: BOOK NOW!**

**Coach outing Watts Gallery & Clandon Park, Wednesday 10 July 9.30am-6.30pm. Some tickets still left (£24.50.). See details in April bulletin. Please contact John Horrocks for bookings. Thank you.**



**Buildings Panel**

Convenor: Andrew Catto (020 8785 0077)

I wrote last month that schools have been a continuing theme this year, and this continues. There's still no sign of a new application for the Putney hospital site, but for those who opposed the roof top playground there, one encouraging sign has been the very swift rejection of a similar proposal by Hurlingham School. Meanwhile, details of the renovation scheme for the ARK Academy have arrived, much improved by lots of input by English Heritage and others experts, but we will be objecting to the crude boundary fence. We also have details of the houses and flats to be built on part of the school grounds to pay for this, and a proposal from Roehampton University for student housing next to Downshire House, both of which are proving controversial.

The much discussed, and delayed, scheme to allow larger single storey rear extensions without planning permission finally starts on 30 May. But anyone wanting to build one of these must consult their neighbours through the council. I wonder if any will get through in Putney without objection?

The developers' cranes are now in evidence all along the Upper Richmond Road, with the St James site next to East Putney station now full height, and demolition in hand opposite the station as well as at No.113 and Tileman House, and with at least three others at planning application stage. The council, when including these sites in the Local plan, had expected these to be spread over ten years. Let's hope the lifts and longer trains get to Putney Station before all the new residents. If the Society can get the Council, SW Trains and Network Rail to stop passing the buck to each other, we might even get a more convenient entrance too.

**Community Panel**

Convenor: Victoria Diamond (07746 022654)

The newly revamped **Recycling Centre** at Smuggler's Way is excellent.! A lot of effort has been made to make it more efficient and quieter. A new local repair service for good quality reusable items has been launched. You can either take your items to the site, or phone 0203 142 8506 to have your furniture and electrical items collected for repair at a newly constructed workshop based at the site or stored for resale. (There will be a fee for this service.)

Please note that you now have to lift your waste or recycling over a 1.1 metre safety barrier into a container below, so where possible make sure your items are light enough to lift yourself or, if they're heavy, take a friend to help you.

Garden waste collected with your rubbish gets mixed with general rubbish in the dustcart, so it cannot be composted. Instead, it's delivered to an energy-from-waste incinerator. Green waste that is taken to Smuggler's Way is transported in bulk to a composting plant, where it is broken down into a humus. Further curing of this residue produces a product for a soil conditioner. Hours are: Mon – Fri 9am to 4pm, Sat 8am to 6pm, Sunday 8am to 5pm. Tel: 020 8871 2788 Fax: 020 8875 8887 Email: [info@wrwa.gov.uk](mailto:info@wrwa.gov.uk)

You can book a place on a tour of The Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) at Smuggler's Way, which is well worth a visit. Contact Steve Ford on (020) 8875 8884 or [steve@wrwa.gov.uk](mailto:steve@wrwa.gov.uk)

There has been a very comprehensive report on **Policing and crime** in Wandsworth, which I will study, and hope to put information in the next Bulletin. If you have anything you want us to look in to, or you want to come to one of the Community Panel meetings, please contact me.



**News from the Panels:**  
 Members are invited to attend panel meetings and raise issues they feel need to be discussed. However, since space is limited in people's houses please contact convenor in advance.

**Open Spaces Panel**

Convenor: John Horrocks (020 8789 2956)

**Putney Park Lane**

This unique public open space provides a valuable linear green corridor linking Putney Heath and the Upper Richmond Road. It is a historic access-way, originally to some very grand country houses developed in the 18th Century with their large gardens. It was bought by the London County Council in the 1920's, from Pierpoint Morgan, the owner of Dover House, to enable the development of the Roehampton Estate, now called the Dover House Estate - and the Willett's Estate of private houses, south of Crestway. The Lane was left intact as a private road. It is not a public highway. It now belongs to our borough council.

The Society has always taken a special interest in the Lane, particularly since it is so vulnerable to various pressures which could damage its character: more vehicular traffic, unauthorised car-parking, nibbling by developers, etc. Keeping it an attractive open space for all to enjoy needs constant vigilance and careful management.

This is why we organise our Putney Park Lane walks - to enable all those who have an interest in the Lane to meet and take a leisurely stroll up the Lane discussing the issues of current concern.

On **Thursday 18 July at 6.30pm** we will be meeting at the Upper Richmond Road end of the Lane to start our walk up to Putney Heath. We will be joined by Councillor Liz Stokes and the council's Parks Officer to help us to understand the issues we raise. Hear about Quadron Services new role in the Lane's maintenance. Come and join us. Dogs welcome too!

**Transport Panel**

Convenor: Hugh Samuel (0208 788 3328)

The panel felt that Wandsworth Borough Council had not fully responded to the Society's concern to improve the environment of Putney High Street. A letter was sent requesting an update on the following issues :-

What is planned to regulate delivery lorries/vans? Will a 20 mph speed limit be implemented on the High Street and surrounding roads?

Will a trial of two-way cycling on one-way streets be carried out ?

Will there be any further increase to the number of cycle parking stands (apart from the Boris bike stands) ?

Will air quality monitoring continue and when will the next ANPR-linked survey take place?

Are there any plans to require bus companies to introduce more efficient driver change-over procedures, reduce idling times at bus stops and improve garage in and out procedures at Chelverton Road depot ?

Will Wandsworth - and Putney in particular - will be implementing the National Institute of Care Excellence (NICE) recommendations for walking and cycling ?

A letter was also sent to TfL suggesting that cycle ramps be installed on the steps up to the walkway beside the District Line bridge over the Thames.

NEXT PANEL MEETINGS				
Buildings	June 12 July 10	Wed	Sainbury's, Werter Road ditto	7pm
Transport	June 4 July 2	Tues	11 Werter Rd 9 Charlwood Rd	7.30pm
Open Spaces	June 6 July	Thurs no meeting	71 Festing Rd	7.30pm
Community	June 13 July 11	Thurs	6 Norroy Rd ditto	8.15pm

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The Clinical Commissioning Group in Wandsworth (WCCG) is made up of GPs and clinicians and other health, and social care specialists, and is responsible for the entire local NHS budget to be spent on healthcare. WCCG is on the verge of going out to consultation with 'Better Service, Better Value' - the plan to radically overhaul the entire local hospital, healthcare and social care provision in Wandsworth. Their [pre-consultation business case summary \(www.bsbv.swlondon.nhs.uk\)](#) outlines a reconfiguration of services where 'more investment in GP and community services will improve the finances of local hospitals.' However, the business case raises a great number of questions, outlined below—many of which are being asked by CCG members themselves.

Emergency care will be expanded in three of our five local hospitals - Kingston, St Georges, St Helier, Epsom and Croydon. All five of these hospitals will have urgent care centres. Some hospitals such as St George's will have enhanced status, whilst others may be downgraded. Currently Queen Mary's does not even figure in the plan - since its status is not that of a teaching or acute care hospital. We need to keep a close watch on how it is funded, and what private companies or other hospital providers get tenancies in the future. Locally, many have fought long and hard to retain QMH!

The plus side of the reforms is that you may get to see someone of appropriate seniority 24/7 in the speciality you need. There will be a reduction of beds - particularly in A&E, but will there be sufficient staff to deal with emergencies? Can the system cope with this? Has it been proven on patient flow? We are told that there will be an emphasis on 'care in the community.' But social care has no idea of where the beds will be or indeed their budget. Change is required but can we have confidence in what is proposed since it has not been demonstrated in any other scale or setting? How can we have confidence in the management of risk to patient outcomes during the migration from a currently fraught scenario to an untested future?

WCCG maintains that 50% of people who use our A&E departments could be treated better, more quickly and at a lower cost in an urgent care centre. If you read articles posted by clinicians on the online medical journal Pulse - [www.pulsetoday.co.uk](#) you will see that some doctors claim that the current pressure on hospital beds means that hospitals seem to aim for discharge rather than cure for patients - who often then get readmitted. Preventative measures and 'care in the community' only goes so far in keeping the elderly out of hospital. Health Minister Jeremy Hunt talks about the possibility of re-negotiating GPs' contracts, since when patients cannot get to see their GP or access the new 111 services, they may present at A&E as a last resort. Out of Hours services are not currently supervised by GPs, and many are run by companies whose contracts might be difficult to change.

It is a good idea to free up acute hospital beds currently occupied by elderly patients who could be better treated elsewhere. But where is the training budget or plan to enhance the status of carers to do the support work for consultant geriatricians? Carers are usually employed at the minimum wage and very few receive training to even NVQ level.

It is concerning that Section 75 of the Health and Social Care Act obliges the WCCG to tender out all services to private as well as NHS providers, increasing the chance of care being fragmented rather than encouraging co-operation. Just think about how a hospital works. Is it a series of polyclinics, or do the departments interrelate? Privatisation may put commercial interests before academic integration.

**Join your local practice patient group, look at the WCCG website: [www.wandsworthccg.nhs.uk](#) and submit questions to the Chief Executive. Attend meetings - the next one is 12 June, 10am at Queen Mary's. Give your opinions before it is too late.**

**(Sue Rolfe : Chair of Putney Mead Patient Participation Group, Member of West Wandsworth Locality Group, Healthwatch and Putney Society Community Panel)**



## Free guided walks in the Park



The London Wildlife Trust is to lead free Friday walks in Wandsworth Park - for us to learn about the wildlife, the history and the management of the Park.

The leader will be Jane Clarke from the Wildlife Trust. Meet at 2pm at the Park café on Friday 7, 21, June, 5, 19 July and 2 August. The walks will last about 3/4 hour.

## Friends of Putney Library

Come along to a public meeting at Putney Library, Disraeli Road, 7.30pm Friday 28 June.

Hear about changes to how the library is run, explore ideas of a 'Friends of Putney Library' and have your say as to what it should do.

Please contact: Rob Dark Email: [radark@btinternet.com](mailto:radark@btinternet.com).

## Meet the Commons Conservators 19 June

The Annual Open Meeting of the Wimbledon & Putney Commons Conservators is a good opportunity to hear all about their management of these major local open spaces - but also to raise issues which you want to have discussed.

This year's meeting is being held at Christ Church Hall, Cottenham Park Road (just off the Ridgeway), Wimbledon, SW20 ONB. Refreshments will be available from 7.15pm, when the Conservators will be happy to chat with those attending, over a cup of tea. The formal meeting will start at 8pm.



## Air Pollution campaign update

Following the slow but progressive introduction of hybrid and low emission diesel buses on the High Street we can report that the Council is considering further measures to combat air pollution in our main shopping street. We hope these will include regulating delivery lorry times and additional cycle parking (in addition to the Boris Bike stands).

While Nitrogen Dioxide levels remain dangerously high and well beyond EU limits, we are also thinking of initiating a further air quality survey of "PMs" or particulate matter, if we can obtain on loan the necessary monitors. The Council does not believe we have a problem with PM levels but medical evidence is clear that any concentration of PMs is potentially hazardous to health. We are also encouraging the Director of Public Health to prioritise air quality issues in addressing public health challenges in Putney.



## Open Garden Squares Weekend 8-9 June 2013

A celebration of London's Open Spaces. One weekend ticket provides access to numerous gardens and squares in London. Come and see the Roehampton Allotments, to the east and west of Dover House Road, (open on Saturday 8 June from 10am to 4pm) as well as other gardens in the area. Check venues and opening hours on the website. Tickets for the weekend (valid on both Saturday and Sunday) are £10, if bought before 8 June and £12 if bought during the event weekend. Children under 12 are free. Ticket price includes guidebook and all booking fees.

Details about the gardens and how to buy tickets are on the website:

<http://www.opensquares.org>



## Putney Town Centre Rebranding

The UK's town centres are facing some unprecedented challenges... their function and purpose are shifting, the business climate is growing increasingly competitive, and their future likely lies with a model that is quite different than what exists today. As much as they have been, and will continue to be, centres of commerce, they also retain an important use as centres of community. Ensuring the balance of both will no doubt be critical to their future.

Recognizing the need to better understand how centres can be positioned to thrive, the Wandsworth Borough Council has commissioned a consultancy to explore each of their five town centres – Putney, Tooting, Balham, Clapham Junction and Wandsworth. This study is designed to proactively identify the relative health of each

to proactively identify the relative health of each town centre today, and engage business operators, property owners, residents and community groups in a process to establish a shared vision, identity and strategy for achieving a more vibrant and sustainable town centre for the future.

Three diverse consulting firms have been selected to work collaboratively on this study, including *Strategic Perspectives*, *The Mosaic Partnership* and *AR Urbanism*. Together, these firms are looking at each town centre in terms of data, engagement, and public realm environment.

The work has already begun to identify existing conditions in the Putney Town Centre and to explore a possible vision for the centre. In addition to on-the-ground analysis the consulting team has held initial focus groups and interviews to speak to Putney stakeholders and residents. The Wandsworth Borough Council, the Putney Town Centre Partnership and the consulting team are seeking further input from the community via an online survey that is currently available at [www.wandsworthtowncentres.co.uk](http://www.wandsworthtowncentres.co.uk)

The consultancy is expected to continue through the summer with a final report due in September. If you have any questions or comments, you can also submit your thoughts and opinions on our project website. We hope you'll get involved in making Putney Town Centre the best town centre it can be!

### Putney Society Contacts

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