



# The Bulletin

The amenity society for  
Putney & Roehampton

July 2013

## Summer Outings in the parks

### Can you spot the Ginkgo Biloba tree in Wandsworth Park?



Jane Clarke from **The London Wildlife Trust** is leading two more free Friday walks in Wandsworth Park. A fascinating look at the trees and the birds and a chance to meet other people who share your interests. **Meet at 2pm** at the Park café on **Friday 19 July and 2 August**. The walks will last about 3/4 hour. Win a free copy of the Putney Society's latest publication '**Literary Putney and its Environs**' by spotting the location of the Ginkgo Biloba tree in Wandsworth park.

Please send submissions to: **Sue Rolfe, 15 Werter Rd, London SW15 2LL. Thank you.**

### New Café and mini-golf plus toilet facilities, opening soon in Wandsworth Park

Families visiting Wandsworth Park will soon be able to enjoy a fun-packed round of mini-golf on a course that's being constructed next door to the park's café. The new 12 hole course is being added to the list of the park's attractions after the council gave the cafe's proprietor permission to open it.



The dozen putting greens, which are scheduled to open this summer, are being built on the site of a disused bowling green that closed in 2004 after bowling facilities in nearby King George's Park were refurbished and upgraded. It has lain unused since then.

As part of the negotiations, the cafe's proprietor has also agreed to reopen and maintain the toilets in the adjacent former clubhouse and these will now be available for use by all park visitors at no additional cost to taxpayers.

### Our Putney Park Lane Walk



The Society keeps a special watch on Putney Park Lane. This linear public open space is vulnerable to pressures which could erode its character and charm. This is why we organise our walks in the Lane - to enable all those who have an interest in the Lane to meet and take a leisurely stroll 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. Come and join us. Dogs welcome too!

### Regenerate Roehampton Festival:

**3/4 August**

#### The annual Roehampton Festival is back!

The team from Regenerate, along with local people from the Alton estate are working together to make it the biggest and best summer event yet. The festival take place on **The Green** at the bottom of Danebury Avenue, SW15.

Includes: Kings and Queens – an event run by Regenerate-RISE for local elderly people to enjoy a community meal together from 12.30.

**Tickets from:** Mo Smith, Regenerate-RISE, The Platt Christian Centre, 22 Felsham Road, SW15 1DA. Tel: 020 8780 9330.

**Sunday:** Festival kicks off at 12noon with live performances on the big stage, fun fair rides, bouncy castles, food stalls, BBQ and much more.

**Congratulations to Mo Smith on becoming an MBE!**



### Forthcoming Events: dates for your diary

Thursday	18	July	Putney Park Lane walk	6.30pm
Friday	19	July	Wandsworth Park walk	2.00pm
Friday	2	August	ditto	ditto
Saturday	3	August	Regenerate Roehampton Festival	12 noon
Sunday	4	August	ditto	
Sunday	4	August	Surrey Bike Ride	pm



The annual **Celebrating Fulham** festival starts at the end of this month, promising an action-packed week of excitement for residents, businesses and visitors. The event, running from **Saturday June 29 to Sunday July 7**, showcases the very best in the area's history, talent and entertainment and provides the chance to discover some of Fulham's hidden treasures.

#### Surrey Bike Ride: Sun 4 Aug

Putney High Street will be closed to traffic on Sunday 4 August when 20,000 cyclists descend down Putney Hill from mid-morning as part of two events.

**Wandsworth Museum: 4/5/6 July**  
**David Mamet's Oleanna** at 7.45pm. To be staged by award-winning amateur company New Stagers. Tickets: 07814 611239  
[www.newstagers.co.uk/oleanna](http://www.newstagers.co.uk/oleanna)

We have at last seen and commented on the applications for the changes to the ARK Academy (ex Elliott School), much improved by detailed intervention by English Heritage, and the Barratt development site on the end of the school site, not so improved. Also controversial has been a proposal by Roehampton University for student housing to be built next to Downshire House.

But we still have time for our two perennial hot topics, high rise flats and the shortage of land for schools. The latest contender on the Upper Richmond Road is for a 13 storey tower to replace the VSO block across Carlton Drive from the St James site. This one has gone in with no pre-consultation, provoking one letter from us on that, and another to follow about the design.

### Buildings Panel

Convenor: Andrew Catto (020 8785 0077)

Most people would think that the planning system exists to prevent unwanted change. But not the civil servants at the Communities Department. Just when Wandsworth thought they had completed the seven year process to get the Local Development Framework adopted last year, it has been renamed (back) to the Local Plan and has to be revised to match the National Planning Policy Framework introduced last year. The result is 500 pages of draft changes. The Panel have met with Martin Howell, Wandsworth's officer in charge of planning policy, and are busy ploughing through the detail to reply by late June.

After the council told our members meeting so clearly last October about the rising demand for schools you would think they would resist any loss of land from educational use. But despite prompting from the Society, Wandsworth may soon grant consent for the demolition of St John Bosco College (Pope Paul II School) close to Tibbett's Corner to make way for 55 houses and 55 flats.

Whatever the council may say officially, numbers do count in how the planning committee react. So how can you help this month? Go on line to <http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/Northgate/PlanningExplorer/GeneralSearch.aspx> and have your say about these applications at 2013/0456 (Upper Richmond Road) or 2013/1978 (St John Bosco College).



**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.

**Community Panel**

Convenor: Victoria Diamond (07746 022654)

The Community Panel continues to engage with the **CCG** (Clinical Commissioning Group). Despite it being a very confusing time in the NHS, and with the issues being rather complex, we felt that things were progressing more positively than a month ago. There are many people out there, clinicians, doctors, medical staff at all levels, patient groups etc who are all putting in a great deal of effort to get everything working smoothly. Dr Simon Mills, the 111 Clinical Lead for Wandsworth NHS, is doing his utmost to iron out problems and get us the best service possible. Thanks to Sue Rolfe for her tireless work on all CCG and NHS matters.

There has been some feedback regarding the need for a **post box** at the Post Office. It's not definite yet, but it looks more positive, and there's a good chance one will be installed. One day!

**Thames Clippers** are running a river service from Putney to Blackfriars stopping at Wandsworth Riverside, Chelsea Harbour, Cadogan Pier, Embankment & Riverside 6.30-9.30 & 15.35-19.15 Mon-Fri. [www.thamesclippers.co.uk](http://www.thamesclippers.co.uk)

**The Community Panel** is looking for more members, particularly those interested in education, children's services, leisure, housing, and anything else that YOU have an interest in.

**Open Spaces Panel**

Convenor: John Horrocks (020 8789 2956)

**A Coronation Meadow for Putney?**

HRH Prince Charles, in June, launched a call for 'Coronation Meadows' to be promoted and created, to mark his mother's 60 years since her crowning. To find out more, look up [www.coronationmeadows.org.uk](http://www.coronationmeadows.org.uk) They would encourage the growth of native wild flowers.

Should we try to find a suitable area in Putney for the development of a wildflower meadow? Parts of Wandsworth Park, Putney Heath or Putney Lower Common might be possible?

This will be the main topic for discussion at the next Open Spaces Panel meeting on Thursday 4 July at 7.30pm at 71 Festing Road.

**Regeneration of Wandle**



The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has confirmed funding for a scheme to revitalize the natural and historic features of the River Wandle as it winds through four south London boroughs.

The first HLF Landscape Partnership Scheme in the London area will receive almost £2m and brings together Wandsworth, Croydon, Sutton and Merton with the National Trust, Wandle Trust, Groundwork London, London Wildlife Trust, Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust and Wandle Valley Festival.

NEXT PANEL MEETINGS				
Buildings	July 10 Aug 14	Wed	Sainbury's, Werter Road ditto	7pm
Transport	July 2 Aug	Tues no meeting	9 Charlwood Rd	7.30pm
Open Spaces	July 4 Aug	Thurs no meeting	71 Festing Rd	7.30pm
Community	July 11 Aug	Thurs no meeting	6 Norroy Rd	8.15pm



## Fraud Follow up

Sue Yoxall, Wandsworth's Community Safety Manager, and DC Jim Egley from Scotland Yard's Special Crime Directorate 9 gave a fascinating talk on Fraud at our last Members' Meeting.

Telephone scams have overtaken distraction burglary as the most common crime affecting older people in the Borough, with over 15 reported victims monthly. Those targeted are mainly older single people living alone, as criminals can easily trace personal details and phone numbers using websites and other lists of personal details that are available to 'heir hunters', but anyone can be caught out, as the fraudsters are very convincing.

Sue brought Henrietta with her, who explained how she had been caught by telephone fraud.

She supposedly got a call from the Apple Store in Regent Street. They stated that someone had used her card and asked if she had a grandson as there was a young man wearing a hooded jacket in the store at that time who they were watching. He had already bought one thing on her card but it looked as if he was going to spend more. They gave her another number to call to talk to their Security Manager. Although she thought she was speaking to the Security Manager she was in fact still talking the people who originally phoned as they had kept the phone line open and used a recording of dial tone to convince her she was making a new phone call! They managed to get her to reveal her PIN number and said a courier would collect her cards. Other scams include fraudsters who phone posing as the fraud department of your credit card company or your bank. By spinning a

convincing story that your credit card has been cloned they wheedle information from you, including your pin number. They even suggest you ring the number on the back of your card to confirm they're genuine. At this point you have two options. Using your mobile or another separate phone line to ring the number on your card you can find out if the call is genuine or not, or, if you don't have another phone, dial the number of a friend or family member instead. If you do that, and the phone is 'answered' by the 'Fraud Department', you know 100% that these people are trying to con you. The fraudsters stay on the phone, and play a recording of dial tone, so you think they've disconnected! They even convince you to hand your card over physically by suggesting that having your card in their hands will help catch the criminals, so they send couriers to collect the card. Don't EVER give out information about your credit card, especially a pin number (they may make a big deal about this such as 'Don't tell us the pin number. Just key in the first and last digit'. DON'T DO IT. No credit card company or bank would EVER ask you for your pin number or for you to hand your cards over to a courier/cab driver. And do report the attempt to your local police using 101.

If your bank phones you, and you're unsure if it's a genuine call, have some information about your account at hand so you can question the bank. For example, on what date do you pay your mortgage and what is the exact amount. Your bank will be able to answer specific questions about your account which a fraudster won't be able to.

Be extra alert when getting cash out of a cash machine. Always check first to make sure there are no people loitering about. If you are in the



middle of a transaction and someone taps you on the shoulder, try not to turn round until you're finished, because they'll try to grab your cash and your card. Or put your hand over the part that has your card. Check above the key pad as some criminals put minute cameras to capture your pin number. They will have already changed the face of the right hand side of the machine so that they can capture your card.

There are so many frauds and scams these days, but DON'T answer the door to strangers, certainly never let them in, and DON'T give out information over the phone unless you are 100% certain you know who you're talking to. If you want to transfer money in this country or abroad be very careful as some of the transfer companies can be fraudulent. Stick to Paypal and credit card. And be VERY careful buying electrical goods online, as there are many very good fakes out there which can prove fatal. Only buy from reputable sources. And tell your friends about these scams – the more people who are aware, the fewer will be caught out.

An excellent booklet with many more scams and frauds is 'The Little Book of BIG SCAMS' published by The Metropolitan Police is available from Putney Library.

**\*VOLUNTEERS NEEDED\*** - AGE UK WANDSWORTH needs your help. We have a desperate shortage of volunteers for various projects in the Putney/Roehampton area. One project currently in need of volunteers is the café for Dementia sufferers and their carers which takes place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month in Putney. If you can spare a few hours each month and would like to find out about the opportunities available please contact [kirsty.walker@ageukwandsworth.org.uk](mailto:kirsty.walker@ageukwandsworth.org.uk) or call 020 8877 8948 for more details and an application form.

#### Welcome to the following New Members:

Dr Pat Matheson, Rosaville Rd, SW6  
 Matthew Robinson, Thornhill Mews  
 Helen Finch, Carmalt Gardens  
 Thomas Legh, Quill Lane  
 DS Theophilus, Upper Richmond Road

### New gallery—Maestro Arts



Featuring well-known artists. Exhibition of work by Claude Troin (featured above—c. Alan Roderick) 11 Jul—14 Aug.

Milliners House, Riverside Quarter, Eastfields Ave, London SW18 1LP

(Wandsworth side of Wandsworth Park)

First five Society members to contact Sue Rolfe 07960097370 will receive complimentary invitations to the Private View 9 July 6pm-9pm

[www.maestroarts.com](http://www.maestroarts.com)



### ArtyFizz

Something for grannies and babies/or mothers and children! Hands-on art for all ages led by the incredible Lynda Howells. Get stuck in! Individual classes bookable.

The Courtyard, 286 Upper Richmond Rd,  
[www.artyfizz.com](http://www.artyfizz.com)



**Hilary Mantel** sends her apologies to all those who were hoping to meet her on May 30. She was looking forward to unveiling the Thomas Cromwell plaque and will find a new date in her busy autumn schedule for us soon. Those who had places originally will be given first choice for the new date.

## Blue Plaques

The Thomas Cromwell plaque will be the eighth blue plaque to be produced by the society since 2011. Plaques commemorate the lives of those who have made a significant contribution to Putney.

### The policy for selecting and mounting blue plaques is:

**Buildings marked with plaques must be visible from the public highway. Although most plaques will be erected on the former residences of famous people, the erection of plaques on subsequent buildings on the site is not excluded. The person must have been dead for 5 years.**

### Nominated figures must also meet one or more of the following criteria:

**Be considered eminent by a majority of members of their own profession.  
Have made an important positive contribution to human welfare or happiness.  
Have resided in Putney for a significant period, (3/5 years) within their life or work.**

Unless a case is deemed exceptional (i.e. nominee contributed something exceptional during their stay in Putney, compared with the rest of their life) each figure may only be commemorated with one plaque in London (i.e. not duplicating names already commemorated by Wandsworth Council, English Heritage). Nominations are considered and selected by the Putney Society Executive. **Please send NEW suggestions for future plaques to Sue Rolfe—email below, or 15 Werter Rd, London SW152LL. Our current brochure of plaques can be downloaded from our website. Can you think in particular of a female candidate?**

**OFFER OF GARDENING HELP** Mary Portas and Channel 4 are bringing together a team of retired people with a wealth of skills and experience to provide professional gardening services throughout London, including Putney. If you have a garden in need of a makeover, or just some gardening advice, please contact the film company at [work@plumpictures.co.uk](mailto:work@plumpictures.co.uk) - by 7 July. The project will be filmed in your garden.

**Letters to Editor.** We try to deal with issues in panel meetings due to lack of space in the bulletin. We will occasionally publish letters if space permits. Please keep these to 150 words and send to Chairman at address below. **NEXT BULLETIN SEPTEMBER. Copy date 18th Aug.**

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