



# The Bulletin

The amenity society for  
Putney & Roehampton

May 2013



## Members' Meeting

**THURSDAY 23 MAY 2013 AT 7.30pm**

**The Brewer Building, St Mary's Church, Putney Bridge**

Sue Yoxall, Wandsworth's Community Safety Manager, will be talking to us about Fraud, and all its aspects – telephone scams, ID fraud, ATM crime etc. DC Jim Egley from Special Crime Directorate 9 will be talking on all aspects of Economic Crime.

### PUTNEY SOCIETY'S

### VISIT TO FULHAM PALACE

**Date: Wednesday, 29 May 2013**

**Price: £7.00 per person**



Fulham Palace served as a Bishop's residence for over 12 centuries from around 700, being the Bishop of London's country home, providing him and his family with a rural retreat in summer. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century it became the Bishop's principle home, running the Diocese from the Palace.

Excavations on the site revealed evidence of Neolithic, Iron Age and Roman settlers and the foundations of a medieval palace under the East Lawn.

The grounds of Fulham Palace and the adjoining Bishop's Park have benefitted from an £8 million Lottery Fund improvement programme. The Council has restored the Park's ornamental lake and installed an urban beach.

We will have a guided tour looking at the history of both the building and the gardens, starting in the Museum and then taking in the Great Hall, the Victorian Chapel, Bishop Terrick's Rooms, Bishop Sherlock's Room and finally the shop.

Our tour will commence at **2.30pm** and will last an hour and a quarter. Lunch and refreshments will be available in the Drawing Room Cafe which is open until 5pm. Allow some time to explore the Palace grounds, especially the walled garden.

To book your place please send a stamped-addressed envelope, together with your name, phone number and email address, together with a cheque for £7.00 made payable to: 'The Putney Society', to Maureen Howley, 1 Elystan Court, 121 Howards Lane, London SW15 6QH. Please book early as numbers are limited. Thank you.

### Forthcoming Events: dates for your diary

Thursday 16	May	Talk by Lewis Carroll Society & Sue Rolfe	7.45pm	(below)
Thursday 23	May	Members' Meeting, The Brewer Building, St. Mary's	7.30pm-9pm	(page 1)
Wednesday 29	May	Visit to Fulham Palace	2.30pm	(page 1)
Thursday 30	May	Unveiling of blue plaque to Thomas Cromwell by Hilary Mantel		(below)
Wednesday 10	July	Putney Society Coach Outing	9.30am-6.30pm	(below)

#### PUTNEY SOCIETY EVENT

##### Watts Gallery & Clandon Park

Date: Wednesday, 10 July.

Time: 9.30am—approx. 6.30pm

Ticket: £24.50 pp



The Society's summer coach outing is on **Wednesday 10 July**. It will be a day of culture in the Surrey countryside. We will visit the lovely Watts Gallery in the morning and the National Trust country house, Clandon Park, in the afternoon - both near Guildford.

We set out at 9.30am from Gwendolen Avenue, by the Methodist Church, Putney.

**The Watts Gallery**, a 'national gallery in the heart of a village', is a purpose-built art gallery displaying the works of the great Victorian artist George Frederick Watts (1817 - 1904). The historic galleries have recently been extensively restored setting the collections in their original decorative schemes. G.F.Watts holds a unique position within British art and his portraits, landscapes and sculptures are dramatically displayed in the Gallery. There is an attractive café adjoining the gallery. See [www.wattsgallery.org.uk](http://www.wattsgallery.org.uk) for more details.



**Clandon Park** was built in 1730 for the 2nd Lord Onslow by Venetian architect Giacomo Leoni. The house is one of England's most complete examples of a Palladian mansion.

It contains a superb collection of 18th-century furniture, porcelain and textiles, mostly acquired in the 1920s by connoisseur Mrs Gubbay. The wider parkland, still owned by the Onslow family, surrounds the mansion set in intimate gardens. There is a Maori meeting house brought back from New Zealand in 1892. Adjoining the house, there is a shop and restaurant. See [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/clandon-park/](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/clandon-park/) for more details.

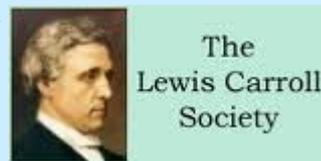
**We set out for our return journey at about 5pm - getting back to Putney at around 6.30pm.**

Tickets for the outing cost **£24.50**. This covers the coach (and a gratuity for the driver) and the entry fee to the Watts Gallery, with an introductory talk. For National Trust members, entry to Clandon Park is free. There is a charge of £7 for non-NT members.

For your tickets, please send a s.a.e. to: John Horrocks, 2 Angel Mews, Roehampton High Street, SW15 4HU, enclosing a cheque made out to: **The Putney Society**. Thank you.

#### Lewis Carroll Walk and Talk

Date: 16 May



There are still a few tickets for this very popular event on May 16. If you would like to come contact Sue Rolfe:

E: [rolfe.sue3@gmail.com](mailto:rolfe.sue3@gmail.com)

M: 07960 097370

Thank you.

The format of the event is as follows:

**7.00pm meet at Park Lodge, corner Atney and Putney Bridge Roads (optional).** Lewis Carroll Society chair Mark Richards and Sue Rolfe will lead a short walk from there to St Mary's church highlighting the local history connections relating to Lewis Carroll and other literary figures connected with Putney.

**7.45pm St Mary's church Brewer building: Mark Davies, local history historian and Lewis Carroll expert (author of *Alice in Waterland*) will give a 45 minute talk on Carroll and his Putney connections.**



This will be followed by a 45 minute talk by **Sue Rolfe** - giving an illustrated **snapshot of the 28 literary figures associated with Putney** which feature in her book: **Literary Putney and its Environs**.

#### Thomas Cromwell plaque unveiling

Date: 30 May

We regret that this event is now **fully booked**. For those of you who have tickets - there will be copies of **Hilary Mantel's** books on sale. If you wish to purchase one or are bringing one of your own for signing please note that this will be limited to one book signed per person.

#### The Friends of Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton

The Friends require a **bookkeeper/accountant** for 2 half days a week and 6 trustee meetings pa to carry out all financial responsibilities including operation of bank accounts petty cash control payroll (2) management accounts and annual accounts - Salary to be agreed. Apply to E: [friends.qmh@wpct.nhs.uk](mailto:friends.qmh@wpct.nhs.uk) or T: 020 8487 6798



**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) There is no panel report this month.

**Community Panel**

Convenor: Victoria Diamond (07746 022654)

As per the front page, we have our Member's Meeting on Fraud on 23 May at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Putney Bridge. It promises to be a very interesting meeting, with as many aspects of fraud covered as is possible.

The Wandsworth Fire Brigade has not been directly affected by the proposed cuts, but Clapham Fire Brigade is expected to close and Chelsea Fire Brigade to lose its second fire engine. This means that Wandsworth and Battersea's Fire Brigades would be stretched further, as they would assist in the areas that have reduced services. The numbers of fires have reduced significantly over recent years due to the improvements in building standards, and the increase of smoke alarms and sprinkler systems, and this is part of the reasoning behind the suggested loss of 18 fire engines, 12 fire stations and 520 staff in the capital, as well as economic reasons. To read the Consultation document:

<http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/Documents/Draft Fifth London Safety Plan.pdf>

To fill out the questionnaire:

[https://www.citizenspace.com/app/london-fire-brigade/lsp5/consult\\_view](https://www.citizenspace.com/app/london-fire-brigade/lsp5/consult_view)

No news on whether or not the Putney Post Office will have a post box, but we will continue to monitor the situation.

If you have any issues you want us to look at, please get in touch. We welcome you to our Community Panel meetings – just let us know in advance that you want to attend.

**Wandsworth's director of public health has urged parents to make sure their children have had the MMR jab, following an outbreak of measles in south Wales. Houda al Sharifi warns that the outbreak could easily spread to London and cause more infections in Wandsworth.**

**Wandsworth Clinical Commissioning Group**

hold monthly meetings at which the very crucial decisions and planning about **YOUR** future health care are discussed. These meetings are open to the public.

Do take a look at their website:

[www.wandsworthccg.nhs.uk](http://www.wandsworthccg.nhs.uk) where you will see lots of background information.

The next meeting on: **8 May at 9.30am will be at Wandsworth Town Hall, Room 122**, and will have **Better Service, Better Value** on the agenda (the future plan for secondary care - hospital provision - in Wandsworth).

**This is a very important meeting** so if you would like to submit a written question for the meeting please send to Jeremy Ambache, who is our Lay Patient and Public Involvement representative on the board:

E: [jambache@aol.com](mailto:jambache@aol.com) (and please mention you heard about this from Putney Society). Also let him know what you think of the CCG website.

The June meeting (**12 June, 10am** at Queen Mary's Hospital) plans to discuss procurement - commissioning of private companies who may be asked to tender for health services.

**Transport Panel**

Convenor: Hugh Samuel (0208 788 3328)

I had a useful meeting with South West Trains (SWT) Station Manager for Putney Station. They are not ready to publish their plans for the refurbishment after the Network Rail works are finished, but plenty of planning is going on. Opening the central arch from the High Street and the provision of a 1 in 15 ramp for wheel chairs are still under discussion. SWT are planning to provide toilets on the rail (paid) side of the barriers.

SWT are going to provide 10 car trains in stages from this autumn to next spring. Meanwhile Spencer's work seems to be going well and the additional station staff provided by SWT are appreciated.

Thames Clippers have published a new timetable from Putney pier and are advertising their service widely. We hope they will have plenty of Putney customers to make the service profitable for them.

The 22 bus extension to Roehampton campaign continues.

Our campaign to get WBC to make improvements in Putney High Street also continues.

NEXT PANEL MEETINGS				
Buildings	May 8 June 12	Wed	Sainbury's, Werter Road ditto	7pm
Transport	May 7 June 4	Tues	9 Charlwood Rd 11 Werter Rd	7.30pm
Open Spaces	May (no meeting) June 6	Thurs	71 Festing Rd	7.30pm
Community	May 9 June 13	Thurs	6 Norroy Rd ditto	8.15pm



## Buildings Panel

Convenor: Andrew Catto (020 8785 0077)

The timetable for the bulletin means that I am writing this before our members meeting on steps you can take to Go Green around the home. For those who missed it, or want to know more, we have a contact list for the speakers and the organisations mentioned on the night who offer advice. Please contact me if you want a copy. Energy saving may seem less important in summer, but now is the time to get insulated before another long winter arrives.

Spring may lead to thoughts of lazy days on the commons or by the river. But Putney's famous river front is likely to be a building site for some years to come. The first threat comes from a proposal to extend the pier for houseboats. After vigorous objection to the original, there's now a reduced proposal to which we have again objected. Even if this does not happen, Thames Water's relief tunnel will. Our thanks to Jonathan Callaway for continuing to battle with this.

Schools have been a theme of these reports for many months. At long last we have an application for changes to the ARK Academy (formerly Elliott School), but so far only for the replacement sports hall. We saw a preview of detailed proposals in February. What's the delay? Meanwhile, inspired no doubt by the aborted scheme for Putney Hospital, the Hurlingham School have applied (not for the first time) to be allowed a playground on the roof. Is this a step too far, or the inevitable result of Putney's relative prosperity? We have decided to oppose this particular application.

## Putney Hospital site update

It is several months since we wrote about the Putney Hospital site and the planning applications by Wandsworth Council (WBC) to build a primary school on the site with 420 primary places and a four storey block of 24 flats.

The Society opposed the first planning application (early 2012), not because we were against a new primary school per se, but because we considered it a gross overdevelopment of the site, with children having a playground on the roof and because 24 flats (needed to help pay for the school), were situated where a ground level playground could be built. We thought the transport assessment was seriously defective, and that WBC had underestimated the likely increase in local traffic. The application was withdrawn by WBC when it became apparent that it contained a number of errors. A revised application was submitted last summer which also included solar panels mounted above the rooftop playground (effectively an extra storey). The Society again responded expressing our continued concerns about an overdevelopment with detrimental effects on the amenity of the surrounding Common and adjoining residents. Following the threat of legal action from a newly formed group, calling itself the Friends of Putney Common (FofPC), regarding the Transport Assessment, the screening opinion and planning consent were quashed by

the High Court on the joint application of WBC and FofPC in March of this year.

In March FofPC's solicitors filed a Judicial Review application in the High Court challenging the right of Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators (WPCC) to allow WBC to build an access road to the school and flats, substantially along the existing roadway running up the east side of the site, and to grant easements (rights of way) for the use of the access road, which would at all times remain the property of WPCC. It was claimed that WPCC were failing to uphold their statutory duty to protect the common from unlawful development. WBC had agreed to pay for the easements a substantial sum approved under the Charities Act by a leading professional valuer following arms-length negotiation between WPCC and WBC. The agreed figure remains confidential until the rights of way are granted. For more information on the legal challenge see FofPC website: <http://www.friendsofputneycommon.org/>

WPCC, on the other hand, argue their right to grant the rights of way and will defend the legal challenge. The hospital site has had access roads on it for many years, and the Council's proposals mostly involve the replacement of existing hard surfaces. The construction of the access road is compensated for by the transfer to WPCC of former hospital land at the north end of the site. The construction of the coach-turning circle is compensated for by WBC land being transferred to WPCC elsewhere on the Commons.

WBC are in a difficult position; they have a legal duty to make sure there are enough places for local children, yet the increased birth rate will lead to a rise in primary places needed. The council's education spokesman has warned that the campaign to prevent the use of the former hospital site as a school is detrimental to the interests of future generations of children: one in four children in Thamesfield ward alone could be without a school place if the school is not built.

We await the outcome of the legal challenge.

**Carolyn McMillan**

**Chairman**

## Art Activity in Putney

**This year's Artists Open House will be on the first two weekends of October, the 5th/6th and 12th/13th.**

As in previous years there will be about 25 artists exhibiting, opening their homes and studios, including painters, sculptors and printmakers. The Putney Steering Group is chaired by Ian Lettice. Please contact him for any enquiries about the event. Ian has also recently launched a bespoke picture framing service from his studio, The Old-Air Raid Shelter in Oxford Road.

[www.zinc-white.co.uk](http://www.zinc-white.co.uk)



## Roehampton Garden Society Show

The Roehampton Garden Society runs two large allotment sites off Doverhouse Road, on behalf of Wandsworth.

Every year the Society has two Shows. The first this year is on **Saturday 15th June** from **3 to 5pm** at St Margaret's Church Hall in Putney Park Lane. They exhibit their home grown fruit, vegetables and flowers and have many stalls including produce and home made cakes. If you would like more information, contact the Chair, Jackie Savage.

**T:** [07508 559 134](tel:07508559134)

**E:** [jisavage@talktalk.net](mailto:jisavage@talktalk.net)

**W:** [www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk](http://www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk)

## Wandsworth Heritage Festival 30 May - 16 June

For full details of events see brochure in your local library.

**Highlights include:**

**5 & 6 June. 2 hour Historic walk around the Grove House Estate** led by Gilly King, History and Heritage Promotion Manager. Froebel College, University of Roehampton SW15 5PJ.

**12 June. The Final Whistle. Free. Putney Library.** Story of fifteen men killed in the Great War. All played rugby for Rosslyn Park FC; none lived to hear the final whistle. There is no Great War memorial and old press cuttings gave numbers - 350 served, 72 died - but no names. So began a quest to rediscover these men and capture their lives. Together their stories paint a portrait of the entire War. Booking essential.

**W:** [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/libraries)

## Wandsworth Arts Festival and Fringe 2013.

**Date:** 3 - 19 May 2013

**Highlights include: The Art of Place**

Following Lucy Neal's exciting presentation at our AGM on Transition Town Tooting, and the dynamic effect that celebratory events can have in changing our community spaces, it is timely that the festival is presenting a series of events highlighting this theme:

**Wandsworth Town Centre** will have a temporary structure for the Arts Festival bringing an essentially disused space to life ahead of the proposed redevelopment of the adjacent Ram Brewery site.

In **Roehampton**, in partnership with Wandsworth Public Health, the Arts team has commissioned artist collectives Avant Gardening and Emergency Exit Arts to work with local communities. Watch out for an inside-out living room on the green by Roehampton Library, and see familiar streets in a different way on **Saturday 11 May** when the town centre is lit up by a magical fire garden accompanied by live music and performance.

The **Shimmy** returns to Putney on **Sunday May 19** to end the festival. From 1pm - 5pm there will be a procession of events from St Mary's church square through Deodar Road to Wandsworth Park. Fun for all the family.

**More information:**

Visit the Festival Hub (next to Southside Shopping Centre). Pick up a brochure in a library.

**W:** [www.wandsworthartsfestival.com](http://www.wandsworthartsfestival.com) for full details

## Wandsworth Environmental Forum meeting on Water Conservation

**Wandsworth Town Hall**  
**Thursday, 6th June at 7.30pm**

\* A speaker from Thames Water

\* John Griggs of the Chartered Institution of Plumbing and Heating Engineers

\* Prof, Cedo Maksimovic of Imperial College – Blue Green Group

## The World of Opera and Musicals

**Friday, 17 May**

**7pm – 10pm**

**All Saints' Church, Putney Common, SW15 1HL**

Opera singers, Anna Boucher and Rachel Shannon will entertain you with music from the Marriage of Figaro, Cosi fan Tutte to comic numbers from Flanders and Swann and Cole Porter and provide a varied and highly entertaining evening for all the family.

Doors open at 7pm, Recital starts at 7.30pm. Free entry and refreshments provided. All proceeds go to Shooting Star CHASE a local children's hospice service caring for families with a child or teenager with a life-limiting condition.

**W:** [www.shootingstarchase.org.uk/](http://www.shootingstarchase.org.uk/)



## Letters

**Thank you for all letters received. Please note that owing to limited space we cannot publish letters every month. However, we aim to increase the number of our expanded editions to accommodate letters from our members. Please try to keep letters to a maximum of 150 words. Thank you.**

Sir,

Congratulations Putney Library staff for winning, for their community engagement work, a thoroughly-deserved Staff Recognition Award at the Civic Awards Ceremony in November (*Bulletin*, January 2013)! This award only goes to underline the deplorable stupidity of the Council's "outsourcing" (i.e., privatising) our library services to the self-styled "charitable social enterprise" Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL).

This decision, the Council claims, will produce annual savings of over £500,000. Why wasn't the staff in-house bid chosen? No doubt because they were counted as more expensive than GLL, but it would have been good if the criteria for the choice had been made public so we could see the social cost of any cash savings.

Interestingly, GLL's MD has said, of the decision to set up it when Greenwich's library services were privatised, that "The solution dawned on Greenwich — why not let the staff set up their own 'trust' and then transfer the service to them?" An excellent idea, and shame on Wandsworth for their cheap decision to reject their own staff by deliberately *not* making this choice!

Richard Carter

Sir,

Anthony Marshall was brilliant as President of Putney Society, supportive and a superb speaker. This was important as I knew, when I was Chairman 2006-9, we could rely on him always to deliver an excellent speech which was researched and related to the occasion. Thanks also to Suzy Marshall for her support at all these events.

John Ewing (newly elected Putney Society President)

Sir,

The Bulletin looks absolutely splendid these days. Although the latest one did mention at the AGM I raised a couple of points on which there seemed to be a good deal of support not all of which was voiced during the formal proceedings. I'd like to reinforce those points for the benefit of members who were not at the AGM.

The first was the increasingly defiant parking of Tesco's large lorries outside their shop in Putney High Street. With the excellent support of Justine Greening, who helped stop the same arrogant blocking of the road in Southfields, I've been in unrelenting correspondence with the Chief Executive's office. More hands to the pump please!

Second was the prolonged absence of members' letters from your otherwise excellent columns. In the course of several months just 2, albeit good and interesting, letters have appeared. In days gone by, but not really so long ago, the Bulletin was often a 6-pager to accommodate letters from the likes of me. I suggest the absence of letters creates an "us and them" impression which I urge you to prevent. Publish and be damned?

Yours sincerely

Iain K S Gray  
Manor Fields

### Christian Aid Car Wash

Sat, 4 May, 10am – 1pm

All Saints' Church, Putney Common, SW15 1HL

"Come along and help raise money for the world's poorest people and have fun in the process We need your support to make this happen! WE NEED: Volunteers to wash cars — bring yourselves, a bucket and a sponge. Just a couple of hours of your time will make a real difference to the amount we are able to give to Christian Aid this year. and/or Book your car in to be cleaned. To volunteer help or to book a slot please email Andy Bodley".

E: [andrew.bodley@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:andrew.bodley@thomsonreuters.com)

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