



The Bulletin

April 2018



Celebrating John Horrocks

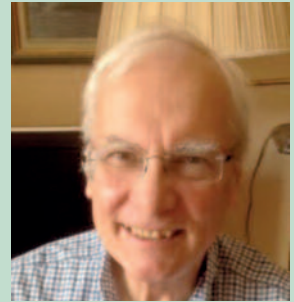
At the AGM on 19th March we paid tribute to our friend and colleague John Horrocks who stepped down after serving an amazing 50 years on the Society's Executive Committee. During that time he has been Chair, Secretary, led both the Buildings Panel and the Open Spaces Panel, acted as Bulletin Editor and represented the Society on many outside bodies, not least the Wandsworth Conservation Area Advisory Committee. Generations have been able to call on John's expertise on the built environment, derived from his career as a lecturer on planning. His passion for trees and green spaces has been reflected in his role as a Wandsworth Council Tree Warden and his direction of an active tree planting programme. John represents a link to the founding of the Society in 1959 as he served on the Executive with two of its founders, Richard Newton and Peter Gerhold.

John's commitment to making Putney and Roehampton better



places to live and work in has been unstinting – authoring hundreds of letters, running campaigns, joining in with energetic litter picking, helping with recruitment, drafting responses to endless consultations and participating in an unimaginable number of meetings. In presenting John with his portrait commemorating his activism and a book that reflected his enthusiasm for Barcelona, the Chair noted that these tokens were just a small reflection of the esteem he was held in - and that they represented the gratitude of this generation of the Putney Society for his contribution to its running over five decades.

New Chair



Robert Arguile moved to London in 1976 and to Putney in 1985. A Chemical Engineer by training, he retired in 2012 after 34 years working in industry; ending his career as part of a team implementing global IT projects. He and his partner Elizabeth and family enjoy all that Putney has to offer; especially the river and the local open spaces. He joined the Executive Committee of The Putney Society in 2016 and has served as Website Editor since that time.

Your chance to question candidates standing for Wandsworth Council Elections



Local elections will be held on Thursday 3 May and the Society has arranged two election hustings so that you can meet your local council candidates.

● Wednesday 18 April at 7.30pm at St Joseph's Parish

Hall, 218 Roehampton Lane, SW15 4LE, for West Putney and Roehampton Wards

● Monday 23 April at 7.30pm the Community Church, Werter Road, SW15 2LL for Thamesfield and East Putney Wards

The council will publish the list of nominated candidates at 4pm on Monday 9th April. If you are not registered to vote, the last day for applications to be included on the register of elections is midnight on Tuesday 17th April.

The significant improvement in the air quality in our High Street continues with NO₂ readings well below those of previous years. However, at the time of writing, we have now reached the EU annual limit of 18 NO₂ exceedances so, while there has been good progress, more still needs to be done. Subject to official academic analysis and confirmation, a key factor is likely to be the new, 'greener' buses introduced by the Mayor early last year. In late February the Society undertook another 'citizen science' month-long exercise to measure air pollution in and around the High Street. This project will enable us to provide a check on the hybrid buses in the High Street and compare with previous exercises we have conducted. We hope to share the results at a Members Meeting in June.

In February, at a Members' Meeting on local rail services, we heard from a representative from South Western, our rail provider, and from Councillor Torrington. South Western promised improved services when a new timetable is

introduced this December. Highlights include more capacity, even newer trains from 2019 and a more frequent service at weekends.

A wide variety of issues were raised including: train punctuality; confusion over which platform Waterloo bound trains will arrive on; cycle parking within the station, installing a defibrillator and a suggestion that an alternative route to Heathrow (train to Feltham and then a short bus ride to the airport) should be better publicised. Some structural matters, also discussed, are dependent upon future funding for Network Rail. For example, a permanent fix to the supporting wall on Platform One and the long mooted second entrance. The next financial settlement for Network Rail from 2019, is currently being discussed, so watch this space.

Transport Panel
Convenor:
 Stephen Luxford
 stephen.luxford@nao.gsi.gov.uk

The borough council has recently adopted new bye-laws for its open spaces, bringing the bye-laws up-to-date with modern circumstances. In particular, this should enable the council to take action against anti-social behaviour in some of our smaller green spaces which have, curiously, had no bye-laws, previously. It could mean that, for example, the problem of vehicles being parked in Putney Park Lane, can be, at last, tackled by the council. It may depend on whether there are the necessary staff to follow up the infringements of the new bye-laws. Members of the panel will be monitoring the impact of the new bye-laws on Putney Park Lane.

There continue to be concerns about the use of Putney Lower Common by the open-air nursery. A representative of the Putney Society plus concerned local residents met with the CEO and the Chair of Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators in mid-March to try and find a

solution to the damage to vegetation caused by over-use of one or two sites. It was agreed that the nursery should rotate around a number of sites and limit the use of any one site to one day a week.

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

A proposal for a second community orchard on the Dover House Estate is being worked up and we hope it leads to a November planting.

In previous issues of the bulletin we have noted the "greying" of front gardens as more and more of them become paved over. In an effort to pause this loss of green space we are thinking of holding a competition for the best front garden – if you are interested in this idea please contact judith.chegwidden@gmail.com.

FUTURE PANEL MEETINGS

All members welcome
www.putneysociety.org.uk

COMMUNITY:
 12 April at 41 Norroy Road, SW15 1PF (18.30)
 10 May at 6 Norroy Road, SW15 1PF (18.30)
Convenor:
 Vicky Diamond
 vickysw15@aol.com
 T:07746 022654

TRANSPORT:
 10 April, 8 May at 46 Disraeli Road, SW15 2DS (19.30)
Convenor:
 Stephen Luxford
 stephen.luxford@nao.gsi.gov.uk

BUILDINGS:
 4 April, 2 May at 154 Putney High Street, SW15 1RS (19.00)
Convenor:
 Andrew Catto
 ac@andrewcatto.co.uk

OPEN SPACES:
 5 April at 28 Howards Lane, SW15 6NQ (19.00)
Convenor:
 Judith Chegwidden
 judith.chegwidden@gmail.com
 T: 020 8788 4489

Once upon a time, the Local Plan included a document listing a number of local views which the council considered needed to be protected.

At the last revision the number of these was reduced dramatically, leaving Putney with only two – upstream and downstream from Putney Bridge. Considering the fuss made last year when some flats in Stratford got in behind the view of St Pauls from Richmond Park, you would hope that this would mean more concern for those that remain. Sadly not. Last year planning consent was given for a 17 storey building at the mouth of the River Wandle, now under construction, directly in the view east. In March, Hammersmith & Fulham Council gave consent for a new riverside stand for Fulham FC at Craven Cottage, which will be the equivalent of a nine storey building, stepped out over the river.

For all that, planning policy documents do matter. Without them we have no basis to object to developments big or small that could erode what we love about Putney. Much of the panel’s time recently has been taken up with the draft new

London Plan. Now we have a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to look at. The government says this will ‘solve the housing crisis’, but if bigger is the answer, why do we hear that flats in the new blocks at Nine Elms are no longer selling.

Sadly we can’t always expect Wandsworth Council to protect local interests. Faced with the imminent destruction of the Roehampton local housing office as part of their own regeneration scheme, they have applied (to themselves) for consent to move this office into the rather fine Alton Hall. The hall is an Asset of Community Value (supposed to bring protection) and contains a fine mural of local life (of which there is no mention in the plans), but losing this is apparently OK because it’s been sitting empty, since the landlord – Wandsworth Council – won’t let it out to local groups.

Buildings Panel
Convenor:
Andrew Catto
ac@andrewcatto.co.uk
020 8785 0077

We were asked recently why we had set up the Discount Scheme, so for new members, here’s why:

As nearly all recent redevelopments did away with office space and became residential, we lost over 800 day time office/business workers, and this had a negative impact on local businesses. Residents were also unaware of how many independent businesses there are in Putney, and were shopping in other town centres such as Richmond. We decided to try to help promote awareness of what fantastic independent shops there are locally, offering a huge variety of things, and thus the Discount Scheme was born.

We are aware that some people don’t necessarily want to use the discount, and that’s fine, but PLEASE do tell the shopkeeper that you’re there because of the Putney Society’s Scheme. It just helps them, and us indirectly, know that it’s working. Thank you. We’ve had some rave reviews in recently about Riverside Upholstery and Putney Printers on Lower Richmond Road, The Cutting Room, Savini Shoes, Putney Pharmacy, Mail Boxes Etc. and Gazette on the Upper Richmond Rd. If you have comments, please let us know. Has anyone tried the Flight Simulator yet?

Huge congratulations to a member, Ruby Lovell, who, together with another local resident, Zara Merrick (illustrator) has become a published children’s author! There was a fabulous launch at Waterstone’s on the 24th March. “*Ruby Rides an Elephant*” can be bought in Waterstone’s.

Last call for anyone who is interested in going on a tour of Smuggler’s Way Recycling Centre. We’ve had a decent response so far, but if there are any more who’d like to go please email vickysw15@aol.com with Recycling 2018 in the subject heading. Thanks. It probably won’t be until May or June, but we’ll have to book well in advance.

For those who are patients of **Putneymead**, two senior partners, Dr McKenzie and Dr Kirkland, are both retiring at the end of June.

Community Panel
Convenors:
Victoria Diamond
Vickysw15@aol.com
Val Jones
jones.val@gmail.com

PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

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WANDSWORTH ARTS FRINGE

4 - 20 May 2018

With over 170 events, there really is something for everyone, from dazzling circus spectaculars to side-splitting comedy and everything in between.

The Putney Society is sponsoring "*Stunning Meara*" which plays at St Mary's Church, Putney Bridge on 4/5/6 May at 7.30pm as part of the Fringe. The play is produced by local actor, Leonora Fyfe, who also takes the lead.

"*Stunning Meara*" is a quirky play laced with singing, dancing, tragedy and comedy about a mixed race woman called Meara with selective mutism; she says little, is withdrawn and has never worked. One day Steve, who has Aspergers Autism, collides into her silent world, he is a frantic ball of energy spewing out avalanches of words and sentences, many of which are inappropriate. Meanwhile, Meara's Irish mother who lives close by detests her - and her beloved father Arthur has recently died.

To find out more and book tickets go to <https://www.wandsworthfringe.com/whats-on-2018/stunning-meara>



Dates for your Diary

The Friends of Putney Library have organised an author's talk by Putney Society member, Sue Rolfe. She will be talking about radical thinkers that are associated with Putney including Douglas Jerrold, Charles Dickens, H G Wells and Arnold Bennett. **Wednesday, 9 May at Putney Library, 6.30-7.45pm.**

Wandsworth Heritage Festival The Putney Society contribution to the Heritage Festival will be a guided walk across **Putney Common on 7 June from 10.30am** lasting for about 2 hours. Peter Haldane, the Wimbledon & Putney Commons Conservators'

Conservation & Engagement Officer, will lead this walk, explaining how the Common has developed from the days when it belonged to the Lord of the Manor, Lord Spencer. More details in the May Bulletin as well as a link to other events.

Scrub clearing on Wimbledon Common

Meet at the bike rack by the **Windmill at 10.30am** on the following Saturdays:
7th & 21st April, 12th & 26th May, 2nd & 23rd June

Please email Peter Haldane on peter@wpcc.org.uk by the previous Wednesday to book a place.

Visit to the Dickens Museum



48 Doughty Street,
London WC1N 2LX

Wednesday 7 May 2018 At 2pm

We have arranged for a self-guided tour of this fascinating home in Bloomsbury of the novelist Charles Dickens. He and his wife Catherine and their infant son came to live at this 18th century house in March 1837, and two daughters were born here. Dickens established his fame as a writer here with the publication of *Pickwick Papers*, *Oliver Twist* and *Nicholas Nickleby*.

The house was saved from demolition by the Dickens Fellowship in 1922 and is a place of pilgrimage. It houses an enormous collection of Dickens memorabilia and it still retains the atmosphere of a family house. The house contains the table at which he was writing "*The Mystery of Edwin Drood*" the day before he died.

The visit will last 1-½ hours. There is a Garden Café and courtyard on the premises.

To book your place please send a SAE or email address, together with your name, address, phone number, with a cheque for £5.00 (*Art Fund members*) or £10.00 payable to 'The Putney Society' to Maureen Howley, 1 Elystan Court, 121 Howards Lane, London SW15 6QH. **Please book early.**