



The Bulletin

September 2019



20th and 21st century architecture in Putney and Roehampton

Open meeting **Monday 23 September at 7.30pm.**
Community Church, Werter Road, SW15 2LL

Love it or loathe it, in among the Victorian and Edwardian terraces and office blocks of SW15, we have some wonderful modern architecture. There are some absolute gems of design - some of them too big to ignore, some of them the heritage of tomorrow.

The next Putney Society meeting will showcase some of our best examples and some of the most controversial – all a matter of personal preference of course. Andrew Catto, Convenor of the Society’s Buildings Panel, will introduce a selection; he will launch the exciting new walking trails, downloadable from the Society’s website, which will guide you through different areas of Putney and Roehampton as well as illustrate the



Gazeteer of some 80 entries which will also be on line.

Be prepared to open your eyes to the delights of twentieth and twenty-first century architecture!

Our membership and YOU?

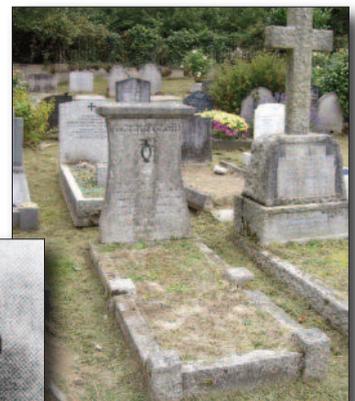
All the advice is that you should never start out with a negative thought – BUT I am going to break the rule. About 18 months ago we asked you to recruit a neighbour or a friend as members of the Putney Society. Out of our 900 plus subscribers just one recruited a new member. We know that you value the Putney Society so we are going to appeal to you once again in the hope that this time more of you respond. The Society only operates through the strength of its membership. All the lobbying and campaigning that your Executive and Panels carry out is based on the support of our members.

All you have to do is encourage your friends and neighbours to sign up via the membership page of our website <http://putneysociety.org.uk/membership.html> or email our membership officer membership@putneysociety.org.uk.

Putney’s connection to early film history

Two British pioneers of the cinema have links to Putney. William Friese-Greene (1855-1921), subject of 1951 biopic *The Magic Box*, is said to have shown some of his early films ‘before WW1’ in the Platt Picture Theatre, a converted factory in The Platt (though the only evidence is a 1973 letter to Wandsworth Borough News). And the under-recognised Robert Paul (1869-1943), who was a

renowned scientific instrument maker, spent his latter years, from c. 1939, in a house at 85 Victoria Drive (SW19). He was a major developer of motion picture systems at the turn of the 19th/20th centuries and made dozens of films, including the first ever film of the University Boat Race (1895). He and his wife Ellen, who died in 1954 aged 87, were buried in Putney Vale Cemetery.



Robert Paul

Buildings Panel

Co-convenor: Andrew Catto
ac@andrewcatto.co.uk 020 8785 0077

Your Buildings Panel has had a busy summer in the two months since my last column.

Then the planning application for the demolition and rebuilding of the centre of the Alton Estate at Roehampton had just been lodged by Redrow and Wandsworth Council. We responded by holding a public meeting to gauge local reaction (thanks to Roehampton University for loan of a room) before sending a wide ranging response. Other panel members added comments on specific topics and others are still coming. Historic England's reply arrived only on 15th August. We are now looking at whether Wandsworth Council is getting value for your money out of this. It seems that the Council will be contributing perhaps £108 million (and a lot of land) to get just 30 extra council homes and around 160 replacements.

Meanwhile in Putney High Street work is progressing on the redevelopment behind the retained frontages of WH Smith and the Werter Road corner. This will be offices which we welcome because those working there may also shop on the High Street. Further down the High St, the appeal inspector overturned Wandsworth's refusal of the

ten storey 'Levellers' Court' scheme for the High Street / Putney Bridge Road corner. We expect work here to start soon but the application for a ten storey hotel on the actual corner has yet to be decided.

September looks to be busy too. Details of our Public Meeting on Monday 23rd can be found on the front page of this Bulletin. It's very easy to think of Putney as only a Victorian and Edwardian railway suburb, but Kate Pugh and I hope to show you that a lot of good stuff has happened since, and will be providing self-guided walks for you to see for yourselves.

In complete contrast the Society has encouraged Roehampton University to include, in the annual London Open House, their fine little Georgian Temple of Fortune hidden in trees at the top of Minstead Gardens. This is probably for the first time ever since 1762 that it has been open to the public. Come and see for yourselves between 10am and 1pm on Saturday 21st September. More details of this and the 800 other buildings in Open House that weekend at www.openhouselondon.org.uk or look out for the guide in local libraries.

Transport Panel

Convenor: Stephen Luxford
Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

The long-awaited works to enhance Putney High Street are now expected to commence towards the end of August. Work will start near the station and move down the High St over the course of the next 12 months. I hope to be able to update you with more details in the next edition. In the meantime the uplighting of St Mary's Church by Putney Bridge was expected to be launched in late August.

Following the Hammersmith Bridge closure, the Society continues to raise with Councillors, Transport for London (TfL) and the GLA the need for extra bus capacity for those travelling to and from Roehampton. A detailed engineers report was expected in August which will help shape the way forward. A Freedom of Information (Fol) response has revealed that the closure has led to around an additional 4,000 vehicles a day crossing Putney Bridge.

Don't forget that the current Heathrow expansion plans consultation will close on 13 September. For details look at aec.heathrowconsultation.com. Please let us know

your opinions as soon as possible. The airport's proposals are silent on where exactly the additional flight paths will go but it appears clear that Putney will enjoy less respite from noise during the day. The plans also fail to address issues around air quality and the meeting of key environmental standards.

Finally, we plan to hold a meeting in October with representatives from TfL and the Council examining the operation of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone in central London together with a look ahead to its proposed roll out to Putney. Please let us know your thoughts about these plans.

Editor's note: According to Richmond Cycling, of the 25,000 vehicles that used to cross Hammersmith Bridge each day, 6500 have gone to Chiswick Bridge, 2000 to Kew, 2000 to Wandsworth and 1000 to Battersea. 9000 seem to have disappeared. Meantime, Roehampton Lane, Rocks Lane and Castelnau have (relatively) become a joy to use by car or bicycle. CG

FUTURE PANEL MEETINGS

All members welcome, but please contact Convenor if new to the panel to check if there is sufficient space.

COMMUNITY:
12 Sept. & 10 Oct.

at 6 Norroy Road,
SW15 1PF (18.30)
Co-convenors:
Vicky Diamond
& Val Jones
vickysw15@aol.co.uk,
jones.val@gmail.com
T: 07746 022654

TRANSPORT:
10 Sept. & 8 Oct.

46 Disraeli Road,
SW15 2DS (19.30)
Convenor:
Stephen.luxford46
@gmail.com

BUILDINGS:
4 Sept. & 2 Oct.

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

OPEN SPACES:

3 Oct. no meeting in Sept.
at 28 Howards Lane,
SW15 6NQ (19.00)
Convenor:
Judith Chegwidan
judith.chegwidan@gmail.com
T: 020 8788 4489

Community Panel

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

The Trussell Trust food bank collection point at Sainsbury's has a sign saying they don't want pasta, tinned beans, or fresh produce. They do want UHT milk, long life fruit juice, instant coffee, rice pudding, sponge pudding, tinned custard, deodorant, shampoo, shower gel and strong carrier bags. It's worth knowing current requirements before you start shopping. Waitrose also has a collection point for the Trust and it's worth checking the needs there as well.

Some businesses have developed recently that have a policy of zero waste packaging. They work by the customer taking containers to purchase items that are packed, often in plastic, much of which is not recyclable, by supermarkets and other shops. One of the members of the Community Panel, Di McCann, is working hard to find out how we can get one of these businesses to set up in Putney. The high business rates are one of the drawbacks, but she's trying hard to find a solution.

Did you know that H&M in Putney Exchange now offers a garment collecting and recycling service? They accept

unwanted clothes and textiles by any brand, in any condition. Simply hand in your bag of old clothes at the cash desk and receive a £5 voucher to use towards your next purchase at H&M in store or online. All clothes and textiles collected by H&M are sent to their sorting and recycling partners I:CO in Germany where they are either reused, re-worn, or recycled with nothing going to landfill.

Advance date for your diary: The Community Panel public meeting on Thursday 28th November is going to be based on the Arts in Putney and promises to be a fun, interactive meeting. We are planning on making our own Christmas card with the Art School, doing a dance with the Dance School from the Upper Richmond Road, singing along with a couple of the local choirs, and doing some drama exercises with Putney Arts Theatre. It should keep us busy and active on a cool November evening and we hope it will be a lot of fun too. There will be displays from other areas of the arts too.

Open Spaces Panel

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

We really welcome Wandsworth Council's recently adopted Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2019–2030, particularly the section on Urban Greening and Open Spaces. One of the targets for the next three years is to "ensure that the urban greening factor is considered in all developments in the borough". We hope that the council's planning committee will bear this in mind when considering Redrow's application for the regeneration of the Alton West estate, which involves the felling of 189 well-established trees on Council-owned land. This represents 36% of the existing trees within the application site. The applicant claims that, for every tree removed, a new one will be planted. But what about the tree canopy? A mature tree can have a large green canopy - a new, nursery-stock one, will have hardly any canopy at all and may take many years to develop one.

As everyone is aware, a drinking fountain has been a high priority for Wandsworth Park. The Friends of Wandsworth Park (FoWP) have been working diligently

to design and source a drinking fountain specifically for their park which originated in Victorian times. As they are approaching the final design they are sourcing finance in all sorts of ways. They were fortunate that the Co-op 2019 Campaign chose the FoWP as a local community group to support as they seek funding for the drinking fountain. The way that it works is the members of the public who have Co-op membership cards are given the opportunity to vote for their favourite community project. Every vote translates into money, not a lot, but every little bit helps. Go to <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/22373>.

If you are a member of the Co-op, please vote and tell your friends! Voting will continue until November. And watch out for other ways in which FoWP will be raising money. They are grateful for your support.

Don't forget the opportunity to go on the tree walk if you missed it earlier in the year. Details are on the back page.

PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

Chair: Robert Arguile, 020 8788 4554
chair@putneysociety.org.uk
Secretary: Carolyn McMillan
38 Disraeli Road, SW15 2DS 020 8789 6692
secretary@putneysociety.org.uk
Website Editor: Robert Arguile
webeditor@putneysociety.org.uk

Bulletin Editor: Judith Chegwidden, 020 8788 4489
judith.chegwidden@gmail.com
Membership: Chris Orriss, 020 8785 7115
22 Pentlow Street, London SW15 1LX
membership@putneysociety.org.uk
Treasurer: Gosia Jakubik, 07746 409 703
gosia.jakubik@hotmail.com

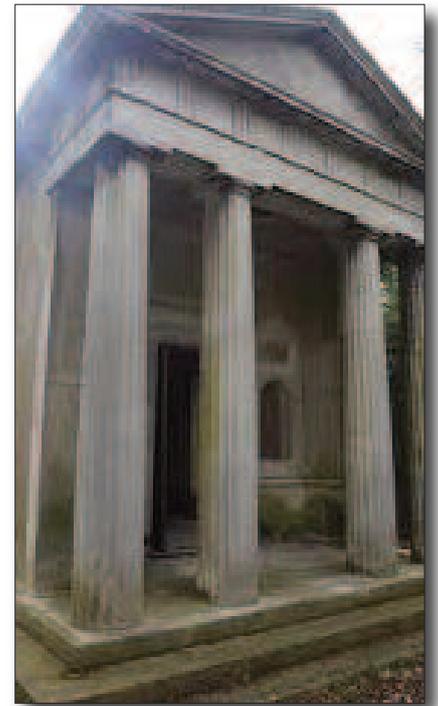
Mount Clare Temple in Open House London, 21st September

Open House London, the world-famous annual festival of the capital's architecture, will take place on **21-22 September** giving free public access to more than 800 buildings, walks, talks and tours over that weekend.

This year we are delighted that the Putney Society with Roehampton University is opening up the Grade II* listed Mount Clare Temple. This offers a rare opportunity to get up close to the 18th century Temple

which has recently been made more accessible by the University and not least to see the coved ceiling and wonderful frescoes inside.

The Temple will be open only from 10.00am to 1.00pm on Saturday 21st September. You'll find it at the top of Minstead Gardens, keeping left past Mount Clare itself. **Admission is free, as it is to all the many fascinating buildings in the Open House programme.**



Dates for your Diary

If you have an event you would like us to list please contact: chair@putneysociety.org.uk

The Friends of Putney Library

Wednesday 11 September, at Putney Library 6.30 – 7.30 pm

An illustrated talk by Dr Dave Dawson on the history and present state of Capability Brown's Wimbledon Park.

Free – but please book a ticket in advance from the library Call 020 8780 3085 or email Charlene.coleman@gll.org.

Refreshments available from 6.00 pm.

Barnes Food Fair

Saturday 14 September 10am – 5pm.

Plenty of food stalls and master classes (butchery anyone?), beer and wine tasting as well as live music.

Tickets from <https://www.barnes-ca.org/bca-events/barnes-food-fair>

Taste of Putney

The local BID, Positively Putney have announced that they will be hosting Taste of Putney for the second year running – it will take place from **Saturday 14th and Sunday 29th September** - the event will consist of two weeks of special 'Putney themed' offers, deals and events for you to access.

Check <http://positivelyputney.co.uk/> for details of participating restaurants, cafes and bars.

Meet your local police team

18 September 2019 at 7pm, Putney High School

If you live in East or West Putney Wards this is your chance to meet your local Safer Neighbourhood teams. Find out more about local policing and express your concerns.

Brighter Living Fair

**Friday 20 September 10.30am – 4pm
in Wandsworth Civic Suite.**

Hosted by Wandsworth Council's adult social care team for people with care and support needs – an opportunity to find out about local charities and community services as well as the chance to talk to council staff.

West Hill Tree Walk

**Thursday 26 September @10.30 – meet at corner of
Castlecombe Drive and Beaumont Road.**

Several members missed this walk when we launched it in May and have asked that we repeat this Tree Trail around Princes Way and Victoria Drive. Many of the trees were planted in the grounds of long lost Victorian Villas, but the trail also includes some new planting by Wandsworth Council. In this small patch we will see an ancient English Oak, Lucombe Oak, Cork Oak, Holm Oak, Pin Oak and Red Oak. Find a Giant Redwood and a magnificent Cedar of Lebanon hidden away in the middle of housing estates. Please email judith.chegwidden@gmail.com if you plan to join the walk as we need to have some idea of numbers.

Nearby Open House

London Events 21-22 September

The whole programme can be found here <https://openhouselondon.open-city.org.uk/listings/>

Chadwick Hall: **Saturday 10.00-13.00**
Royal Hospital, West Hill: **Saturday 10.00-16.15**
Dorich House, Kingston Vale: **Saturday 10.00-17.00**
Wimbledon Windmill: **Sat. 14.00-17.00, Sun.11.00-17.00**
3 Queensmere Road: **Saturday 10.00-16.15**