



# The Bulletin

November 2019

## Showcasing the Arts in Putney

Time to celebrate the vibrant arts scene in Putney, a place where there are at least six choirs, a theatre offering a new production every month, an art school offering the whole gamut of courses, a poetry writing group, a large dance studio and much more. On **Thursday 28th November at 7.30 pm in the Community Church, Werter Road, SW15 2LL** the Putney Society will be spreading the news about the arts in our community. You can visit all the stands to see what is available and talk to the groups that provide regular meetings with in-depth information

on music or the decorative and fine arts. You will be able to participate in a theatre workshop, sing with a choir, write a poem or make some art work.

Come along to this festival – there will be something for everyone. Many thanks to the Community Panel for organising this meeting and to Allen Fuller for sponsorship.

**Read more about some of the local offering in this special edition of our Bulletin:**



Our local art school, **Putney School of Art and Design (PSAD)** in Disraeli Road, was founded by Sir William Lancaster, an eminent local politician and philanthropist in Victorian times. The art school will be 125 years old next year and is one of the last remaining Victorian purpose-built art school buildings in London, with huge north-facing windows. It is a wonderful, not-for-profit, community asset serving local people and further afield and is very popular - many students returning year after year. Fees are reduced for in-borough residents and those of retirement age. The school is currently managed by Enable Leisure and Culture for Wandsworth Council.

There are six studios with classes in painting (including oil, watercolour, botanical), life drawing, printmaking, pottery, sculpture, photography and digital design. Classes are for all abilities from beginner to more experienced artists. There are now family learning sessions and courses for young people as well as half-term and vacation courses. There is an excellent reference library of art books.

The very active Friends of PSAD arranges parties, lectures and a Christmas Fair (note the date: Sunday 8 December). If you have never tried a course at PSAD, why not try now? What are you waiting for? Give free rein to your creativity. It's a great way to meet people, and make new friends too. The fantastic range of courses can be found on the Enable website: <https://enablelc.org/psad/about/>



putney  
arts  
theatre

**Putney Theatre Company** produces between around 10-12 shows a year, plus other activities such as rehearsed readings. We always welcome new comers - no matter on age or level of experience. There are many ways you can get involved with our theatre group be it acting, front of house, stage management, set design, costume, props, lighting & sound, to name just a few. Auditions take place on a regular basis and are open to all adult members. However, you don't need to be a member to audition - you just need to join if cast in a production. Membership is just £20 for the year and you will be kept updated with our e-newsletters and will receive discounts on PTC tickets.

We also run an informal Friday Theatre Club for those who would like to dip their toes into theatre without the commitment involved with working on shows. Run by a professional coach these sessions explore text, sometimes working with voice and movement.

The next set of dates are:

**November 1st, 8th & 22nd 10.30 – 12.30.**

All are welcome to attend. Please express your interest by emailing [info@putneyartstheatre.org.uk](mailto:info@putneyartstheatre.org.uk), suggested donations £2 per session.

For further information about all our activities at Putney Arts Theatre please visit [www.putneyartstheatre.org.uk](http://www.putneyartstheatre.org.uk)

## Putney Music

Putney Music is a society of music lovers who meet to hear some of the world's most celebrated musicians talk about their lives and work with recorded, and sometimes visual, illustrations.

Our meetings provide a rare opportunity to learn how great musicians approach their work and hear about the private person behind the public image. Our guest speakers come from all fields of classical music.

<http://www.putneychoralsoc.org.uk/contact.html>



### Dover House Singers – a Putney Choir open to everyone

We sing a wide range of music – from pop songs to spirituals, stage musicals to classical, and lots more in between. About twice a year we hold a big concert, with several smaller performances dotted through the calendar. If you'd like to join us, please contact us via <https://doverhousesingers.co.uk/>.

We are very lucky to have an extremely talented musical director, Carl Speck -and we are proud to support Regenerate RISE a charity whose mission is to reach the isolated elderly.



### The Arts Society South West London

(previously the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies - NADFAS).

Through lectures and visits, we aim to broaden our knowledge and appreciation of the decorative and fine arts. We are based in Putney but our members also come from other surrounding areas. We meet on the second Monday of each month (except April and August) at 7.55 pm when we have a varied programme of illustrated lectures by expert Arts Society speakers. We also organise day visits to places of special historic or architectural interest and have one study day in the year for in-depth lectures and discussion focused on the Away Trip for that year, which alternates between the UK and abroad. A key aspect of our membership is the opportunity to work as Heritage Volunteers on local and London based projects. Details of all our activities are set out on our website:

[www.theartsocietyswLondon.org.uk/](http://www.theartsocietyswLondon.org.uk/)

## The 1885 Singers & Orchestra

The 1885 Singers is an un auditioned choir who give 4 concerts a year. Since their foundation in 1997 they have rehearsed in All Saints church Putney.

Conducted by Alison Hunka the 1885 Singers perform a great variety of music; this includes the traditional oratorio repertoire and lighter pieces - often for the Summer and Christmas events.

Orchestras are booked for the autumn and spring concerts. On the 9th November the 1885 Singers are performing the Verdi Requiem in Southwark Cathedral.

For more information about the 1885 Singers visit: [www.1885singers.com](http://www.1885singers.com) You can read about our past, our upcoming concerts and how to get involved.

**Japonica Singers was formed in 2016 by Mikiko Ridd,** formerly with the London Symphony Chorus. Members are all female, and are of various nationalities. Their repertoire comprises classical choral music, folk songs and Japanese music. They have performed at various venues, including a successful lunchtime concert in the City, and their Annual Concert at St Mary's Church in Putney, where they rehearse on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:30pm.



<https://japonicasingers.wordpress.com/contact/>

### Putney Verse Workshop

is a small group of poets and poetry-lovers founded in 2010 to promote public appreciation of poetry and to give local poets opportunities to meet, discuss each other's work and poetry in general, of all origins and traditions.



**It meets monthly on Sunday afternoons.**

<http://www.putneypoems.co.uk/>

### Putney Choral Society



is a friendly choir who sing both the classical choral repertoire and some more modern works. There are two main concerts each year when we sing with a professional orchestra and soloists. There are no auditions but members are expected to be able to follow a score. We can supply learning aids to help you learn the music. New members are welcome on Monday evenings at 7.15pm in Putney High Junior School Hall. See our website for details: [putneychoralsoc.org.uk](http://putneychoralsoc.org.uk)

### Inspired by Strictly? Want to learn to dance?



There are adult ballet classes at St Mary's Church (Alice Crawford) and at St Margaret's Church in Putney Park Lane (Holly Meyer Academy of Dance) as well as the Dance Lab in Upper Richmond Road offering Latin and Ballroom.

## Open Spaces Panel

**Convenor:** Judith Chegwidden  
[judith.chegwidden@gmail.com](mailto:judith.chegwidden@gmail.com) 020 8788 4489

The panel spent some time in October considering the Wandsworth Council Environment and Sustainability Strategy that was launched this summer. We welcome many of the measures set out in the Urban Greening and Open Spaces section of this document, but felt that there were some areas where it could have been stronger. The analysis of open and green space in our borough does not include any reference to residential gardens or allotments. Around 24% of open space in London is made up of domestic gardens – sadly these are not all green as they are increasingly paved over. The Council has an important role to play in disseminating information about the importance of gardens for both biodiversity and drainage. It can also play an active role by ceasing permits for pavement crossovers to allow parking spaces in front gardens. Our views together with those from the other panels will be submitted to the council.

Members are increasingly concerned by the misuse of pedestrian paths between Granard Avenue, St Margaret's Crescent and Putney Park Lane. Cycling is banned on these paths (and the one linking Woodborough Road with the Lane) but they are used not only by cyclists but also by mopeds and scooters. These paths are used by children accessing Granard School and Paddock School and it is really important that they are safe for pedestrians. We are grateful to Councillor Steffi Sutters for taking this up with the appropriate officers.

The contract for street and park tree pruning comes up for renewal in 2021. We have asked if we can contribute our ideas when the tender documents are drawn up. In recent years pruning in our streets and parks seems to have become more haphazard and we need to ensure that our trees are looked after in the best possible fashion.

### PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

See website for full details:  
[www.putneysociety.org.uk](http://www.putneysociety.org.uk)

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

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

# Buildings Panel

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

Whilst Open House weekend already seems like the distant past, it was actually just after I wrote the last of these pieces, so I would like to thank all those who helped spread the word resulting in 75, mostly local, visitors finding their way to the back of the Alton estate to admire the garden temple at Mount Clare. This led to us wondering why, apart from two also owned by Roehampton University, NONE of the 800 other buildings open to the public were in Putney?

It's not that we don't have some fine examples from recent times. For our presentation the following Monday, on modern buildings in Putney, panel members identified nearly 100 examples, without including all the interesting extensions and modernisations that can't be seen readily from the street. If you own one of these, or a house that's out of the ordinary in some other way, please think about opening up next September. Ask me for details of how. It only has to be for half a day! Meanwhile, as a follow up from the 'Modern Buildings' talk, we are starting to put together a series of illustrated short walking guides so that you can explore some of the visible gems (and horrors) for yourselves. These will be posted on the Society's web site as they are done.

Following their declaration, along with many public bodies, of a Climate Emergency Wandsworth Council have now published an Environment & Sustainability Strategy (WESS). Several of the Society's panels have combined to respond to this. We would like to hear from you about what concrete

changes (in line with this strategy) should be included as specific policies in the Local Plan, now in the early stages of rewriting, particularly since many of these may constrain individual householders. Should we encourage the council to:

- Refuse the creation of new driveways on front gardens?
- Continue to refuse parking permits to the residents of new flats?
- Allow solar panels on south facing front roof slopes in conservation areas (they have no control elsewhere)?
- Allow external insulation to replace brickwork more widely?
- Find a way to build new homes in Roehampton without wasting the huge amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> locked up in the existing blocks?

Wandsworth are not alone. The Government is also consulting on changes to the Building Regulations aiming for 'zero carbon' as well as looking hard at fire risk, particularly in flats.

Meanwhile there's still no sign of activity on any of the 'big three' sites at the bottom of Putney High Street. Some investment decisions have clearly been postponed until the direction of Brexit is known, but this is the first time I can remember when there are no new blocks of flats rising around our town centre. Very much a case of 'watch this space'.

# Transport Panel

Convenor: Stephen Luxford  
Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

Work on the High Street is now underway. The Council's original intention was to significantly widen the eastern side of the pavement so as to allow more space for pedestrians and to include some planters. Disappointingly these ambitions have now been scaled back, we understand for engineering reasons. Rather than being up to 2 metres wider the pavement will either not be widened at all in some places or at a maximum of 0.8 metres in others - perhaps the width of one person with shopping. The Society has written to the Council urging them to be more ambitious in their objectives.

By the time you read this the Society will have held its meeting on the proposed expansion of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone in 2021, which will reach as far as the South Circular thereby bisecting Putney. The initial results of the central London ULEZ have been very encouraging with a

drop of around a third in NO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Many vehicles will already comply with the ULEZ target, but if you are not sure please use the TfL vehicle checker on their website. Please note that the ULEZ limits will be in force 24 hours a day every day of the year.

Rail travellers may recall that, when the rebuilding work was undertaken at the station about five years ago, 'temporary' supports were added to the wall on Platform One. These are hidden by hoardings which narrow the width of the platform. We have now learnt that, contrary to promises at the time, Network Rail now have no plans to provide a permanent solution for the wall. We intend to raise this further. If you have general comments about our local rail service - compliments and criticisms or queries - please pass them on as I have now tracked down who has managerial responsibility at SWR for our station.

## FUTURE PANEL MEETINGS

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

**COMMUNITY:**  
14 Nov. & 12 Dec.

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:**  
12 Nov. & 10 Dec.

46 Disraeli Road,  
SW15 2DS (19.30)

**Convenor:**

Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

**BUILDINGS:**  
6 Nov. & 4 Dec.

at 154 Putney High Street,  
SW15 1RS (19.00)

**Convenor:**

Andrew Catto  
ac@andrewcatto.co.uk

**OPEN SPACES:**  
7 Nov. & 5 Dec.

at 28 Howards Lane,  
SW15 6NQ (19.00)

**Convenor:**

Judith Chegidden  
judith.chegidden@gmail.com  
T: 020 8788 4489