



The Bulletin

March 2020



Annual General Meeting

Monday 23 March 2020 at 7.30pm
The Community Church, Werter Road, Putney

Enclosed with, or attached to this bulletin, you will find the papers you need for the AGM: the AGM agenda with 2019/20 Annual Report, and the Treasurer's report and 2019 accounts. Please bring them with you to the meeting at which elections of the Society's President and Vice-Presidents, Officers, Executive Committee, and Auditor will take place. The AGM will be followed by refreshments at the Community Church to which all those present are invited.

Do please come along to VOTE and have your say on any of the agenda items.
This is a members only event.

Our guest speaker is our former MP, **Justine Greening**, who will be speaking on her work with the Social Mobility Pledge.

The Social Mobility Pledge is a cross party movement which has built a coalition of over 400 companies, employing over three million people across the UK, as well as over 50 UK universities representing over 1 million students. The numbers continue to grow as business leaders recognise the importance of the levelling up agenda, company purpose and making an impact on social mobility.



How can **YOU** help with the work of the Putney Society?

The Putney Society depends on its trustees and volunteers to keep functioning – so this a call for any of you that can spare a little time to come forward as a trustee (member of the Executive Committee) or as a volunteer. If you have an interest in our built environment, transport issues, air quality, waste reduction, our open spaces or anything that makes Putney a better place – then think about getting involved. You could help with our campaigns, admin tasks, recruitment or social events. If you can spare a couple of hours a month please do contact the Chair or the Secretary to find out more.

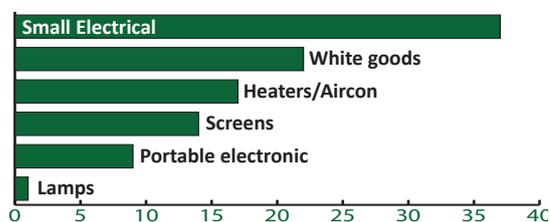
Reminder: Nominations for the Executive Committee should be submitted to the Secretary by **Monday 16 March 2020**. A nomination form is enclosed/ attached to this bulletin.

Reuse or throw away?

We are all throwing away things that could be repaired. The 50 million tonnes of e-waste generated every year will more than double to 110 million tonnes by 2050, making it the fastest growing waste stream in the world, according to the author of a UN report. All over Europe local communities are setting up Restart Projects (www.therestartproject.org) to help local people repair and reuse everything from tablets to toasters, and iPhones to headphones. Members of the Society have been to look at Restart Projects in Hackney and Tooting (where they also run a Sewstart project) and were so impressed that the Society wants to develop a local network and hold a Restart party for Putney and Roehampton. The Tooting Restart team have generously offered to contribute their experience and

expertise to help us organise our first Putney events, and the London Restart Network Lead is keen to have us involved. Ultimately we would like to build a team of local volunteers to help with repair parties about four times a year. So if you know anyone that is good at fixing small electrical or electronic devices or mending and altering clothes and other textiles please do get in touch with us. All volunteers get trained and some equipment is provided.

Global e-waste 2020, %



Buildings Panel

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

This column aims to keep you up to date about developments and planning in Putney, but every so often I need to catch up on what is NOT happening.

The most deafening silence is around the bottom of the High Street (sadly I'm not referring to the traffic). The owners of the block above TK Maxx seem to be waiting for that lease to end before rebuilding after having 'commenced construction' of their eight storey block by putting a few piles in to the car park.

Across the road, although planning consent for the 10 storey 'Levellers Court' scheme was granted in July, we have not yet seen any of the discharge of condition applications that usually signal imminent construction. Maybe they're still waiting for the corner site whose 2017 dated application for a ten storey hotel is, we understand, under review. Or maybe they're still not talking to each other. The Levellers team are now asking for variations (application 2020/0394) solely to provide a specific height of truck access to the back of the shops on the High Street that their owners seek to demolish. Sadly the council's powers don't extend to knocking heads together.

Closer to the river it's now 10 months since the renewed consent for renovation of the White Lion as a traditional pub and hotel first proposed in 2015. No signs of work starting here either. They could well be beaten to market by the Star & Garter, whose new owners have applied to turn the ballroom and upper floors into 34 hotel rooms as part of a wider overhaul.

And, of course, there's still no final version of the Council's own plans to demolish the centre of the Alton estate. Development partners Redrow are said to be revising the affordable housing content (but not the overwhelming bulk) of their schemes, after having been warned that the Mayor of London would refuse it in its current form – but we hear without actually talking to the Mayor's office. What did I say about knocking heads?

So make a note to see Alton as it still is on one of two guided walks that the Society will be arranging as part of the **Wandsworth Heritage Festival in May & June**. Details nearer the time, but note the dates.

23 May – Alton, 30 May – Dover House Estate (led by DHERA) and 5 June - East Putney

Transport Panel

Convenor: Stephen Luxford
Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

The Council's High Street improvement works continue. The junction with Monserrat Road should be completed by the time you read this. Then work will begin on Disraeli Road (closing the road from March to the end of April) before pavement renewal work continues down the High Street. Planned work on the junction with Werter Road will be deferred until the autumn to enable the existing development activity on the corner to be completed.

The Society plans to shortly mount another air quality monitoring exercise, which this time will be targeted on the Lower Richmond and Putney Bridge Roads which lack air monitoring stations. We are trying to capture whether the increased traffic arising from the Hammersmith Bridge closure is worsening our local air quality. We intend to compare the results with our

previous results for these roads.

In February the Council discussed the outcome of a review of West Putney road traffic following concerns from local resident groups. The Council have proposed a number of measures, all subject to consultation. These include: traffic calming measures on the length of Westfield Avenue; improving the visibility around a number of junctions (e.g. the junction of Gwendolen Avenue and Hazelwell Road) by making existing yellow lines double; and restricting or limiting traffic movement on Dover House Road, Genoa Avenue and Carslake Road.

A verdict on the legal challenge to Heathrow expansion was expected at the end of February. Should the airport be successful it is unlikely to submit a planning application before the autumn.

FUTURE PANEL MEETINGS

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

COMMUNITY:

12 March & 9 April
41, Norroy Road,
SW15 1PQ

Co-convenors:

Vicky Diamond & Val Jones
vickysw15@aol.co.uk,
jones.val@gmail.com
T: 07746 022654

TRANSPORT:

10 March & 14 April
46 Disraeli Road,
SW15 2DS (19.30)

Convenor:

Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

BUILDINGS:

4 March & 1 April
at 154 Putney High St.,
SW15 1RS (19.00)

Convenor:

Andrew Catto
ac@andrewcatto.co.uk

OPEN SPACES:

5 March & 2 April
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

Spring is on the way . . .



As we go to press we are still in the grip of a miserable winter, with high winds and flooding wreaking havoc across the country . . . but Spring is around the corner. So why not use your discount card at Putney Hardware on Upper Richmond Road, where they have a lovely array of spring plants and shrubs? Brighten up your gardens and window boxes on these dull days - and enjoy the discount too!

A couple more pieces of news . . . it is distressing to see people sleeping rough on our streets, so it was good to hear that Wandsworth Borough Council

received nearly **£700,000** from Government to put further efforts into helping to tackle this problem. The funds will be used to provide further coordination and outreach services and some new units of supported accommodation, among other things. And secondly, the wonderful **Work and Play Scrapstore** (www.workandplayscrapstore.org/), for which we have a collecting box for buttons, new cards and other things in Putney Library, is also keen to receive donations of fabric and other materials. We welcomed Theresa and Deborah from the Scrapstore to our Arts in Putney open meeting in November and enjoyed seeing their work. You can take surplus fabrics etc – see website for details - direct to the Scrapstore at Hazelhurst Estate, 13 Blackshaw Road, London SW17 ODA on **Tuesdays** between **9.30 and 8.00pm** and **Thursdays** between **9.30 and 5.00 pm**. Check website or phone for more details. **Happy Spring everyone!**

Open Spaces Panel

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

Church Walk – cyclists continue to use Church Walk between St Margaret’s Crescent and Putney Park Lane. In February, a local resident was hit by a bike speeding along this “no cycling” path. We have been told that the path is too narrow at the St Margaret’s Crescent end to accommodate chicanes, but we dispute this and will continue to press for measures to protect pedestrians.

Tree Pruning – Pruning of London Plane trees in the West Putney area continues to be hampered by residents who do not move their cars. Nevertheless the process was progressing better than in previous years, before Storms Ciara and Dennis with accompanying high winds prevented pruning for some days. The contract for all the council’s arboricultural work will come to an end next year. When drawing up the new tender documents perhaps the Council can consider giving residents more notice that they are likely to have move their cars?

Friends of Parks – Nearly all the parks and commons managed by Enable for Wandsworth Council have Friends’ Groups that meet regularly with Enable and Council staff. One notable exception is Leaders Gardens

down by the Embankment. If you are interested in forming a Friends’ Group for this park do contact me (judith.chegwidden@gmail.com). The Friends of Wandsworth Park have done a great job involving local people in improving their park.

Looking after our trees – We understand that three of the five tree officers employed by Enable to look after all the trees in the borough -and to develop planting programmes - have left in the past two months. At a time when the important role of trees in absorbing CO₂, as well as pollutants such as NO₂ and particulates, is being recognised in the Wandsworth Council’s Climate Action Plan it is essential that these posts are filled without delay.

Impermeable paving – walking around the streets of Putney there seem to be several contractors that are laying impermeable paving in front gardens. While residents may not understand that any surface over 5 square metres must be a permeable surface, it is more surprising that contractors do not seem to know of this planning requirement.

PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

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Fascinating historical maps at the Museum of Wimbledon

Don't be put off by the title – this exhibition includes much of historic Surrey as far north as the Thames. Did you know that Putney is part of the traditional Brixton Hundred? The museum is open on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, but you will need to be quick as the exhibition closes on 8 March.

Dates for your Diary

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

Putney Theatre Company presents The Wolves by Sarah DeLappe.

Performance dates: **Tuesday 3 March to Saturday 7 March 2020, 7.45pm** (main Stage)

Every Sunday, a team of girls meet to play football. We listen to their secrets and their squabbles, from the seemingly unremarkable to the incredibly profound. Growing up is tough, especially in a confusing, fast-moving world. Alone it feels like it might be impossible to fathom, but as a pack, they're fierce. Book online www.putneyartstheatre.org.uk/event-3666189

Wimbledon and Putney Commons - Spring Walk with the Senior Management Team

25 March 2020 from 10.30am - starting at the Ranger's Office, the management team will take you for a walk around the Commons, explaining some of their projects and conservation work, as well as some anecdotal tales of the life of the everyday folk of the Commons from our longer-serving members of staff. These walks are free of charge and refreshments are available before and after the walk.

No Taxation without Representation?

Wimbledon and Putney Commons including Putney Heath are governed by a Board of Conservators (WPCC) established by an Act of Parliament in 1871. Three of the Conservators are appointed by separate government departments after consultation with the Board of Conservators and the remaining five are elected triennially by local residents. The electorate, of whom a large proportion lives in Putney and Roehampton, is defined by geographical proximity to the Commons as defined in the Act. This can be found at: (<https://www.wpcc.org.uk/downloads/publications/1871-act-amended2.pdf>). The elected Conservators must be drawn from the same area. The maintenance of The Commons is almost entirely supported by



a levy imposed on the electorate.

Historically, Putney has been relatively under-represented on this Board, which is responsible to the Charity Commission having registered with the Commission in the 1970's. At present four of the five elected conservators are residents of the London Borough of Merton and two of the three appointed Conservators live there. The election for the next body of Conservators will occur in February 2021. Given the importance of the Commons and Heath to Putney it is to be hoped that Putney residents will stand in the 2021 election and that more will be elected to the Board. The Commons website can be found at www.wpcc.org.uk.

Historic gates and railings restored

Following restoration of the East Lodge gates and railings at Putney Vale Cemetery at the end of 2018, the Council began a similar project at Putney Lower Common Cemetery late last year, using the same contractor (Triton). The work was completed in early February 2020. It was a major task, as the railings were in a very poor state, severely corroded and with whole sections missing, but the result has been very successful. The Putney Society is suggesting that they are added to the Local List.

