



# The Bulletin

January 2020



## Growing your own

No matter how small or large your garden there will be some space where you can grow vegetables, fruit or herbs. The possibilities range from neat rows of leeks and potatoes to runner beans mingling in flower beds to salad leaves on the window sill. Lack of expertise may be putting some of us off, so we have arranged for Sarah Wain, former Gardens Supervisor at West Dean Gardens in Sussex to provide us with some valuable guidelines on how to grow the perfect fruit and vegetables right here in Putney. Find out more about preparing the soil, choosing the right



varieties and the opportunities for growing fruit and vegetables in a small space.

**Monday 27 January, 7.30pm,  
Community Church,  
Werter Road, SW15 2LL**

## Happy New Year

And welcome to the 45 new households that joined the Society in 2019.

What will the next twelve months bring here in Putney?

We will be monitoring and contributing to the process whereby the Wandsworth Environmental and Sustainability Strategy (WESS) is converted into action plans. Will the council's commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030 be reflected in its new Local Plan by, for example, insisting that promised energy standards are met? Our Community Panel will also be monitoring commitments made in WESS to increase recycling and re-use. Should we be lobbying the council to collect food waste separately?

Local rail services were disrupted by strikes throughout December, but little information was available for commuters. Is it time for our local train company to improve communications with its paying customers? We will be meeting with our new MP, Fleur Anderson, to discuss this and other urgent transport matters, including poor transport



links between Roehampton and local rail stations.

Last year we organised two tree walks and a bird walk – we would welcome suggestions for more walks around Putney, whether to celebrate the biodiversity of the area or to explore our local history.

In February, we will be organising a presentation on the history of rowing in Putney including the development of the boathouses (24 February). Our AGM in March provides an opportunity to hold the Executive to account – but also to become a trustee or officer of the Society.

**Finally - do you feel strongly about planning issues, local policing, transport failures or protecting our open spaces?** Then why not join one of our panels – all the details are given in the following pages.

## Are you using your discount card?

As Andrew Catto points out in his report this month, we need to use our local shops if we do not want to lose them. With your card you can shop local and save money. Our Independent Trader's Discount Scheme offers savings at cycle shops to upholsterers, bakers to hairdressers and computer repairers to restaurants.

In the last couple of weeks I have saved 10% on my dry cleaning bill and a further 10% on a beautiful flower arrangement. Join me and check out all the places where you can support local shops and services at <http://www.putneysociety.org.uk/discount-scheme.html>

# Buildings Panel

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

I'm told that one immediate response to the general election result was to bring to completion several long stalled sales of multi-million pound flats in central London. Maybe this will in turn start to move the log jam of unsold flats in the big new blocks which have sprung up along the Upper Richmond Road in recent years. That would in turn revive interest in building out stalled schemes like the 11 storey 'Levellers' at the bottom of the High Street. Watch this space.

Meanwhile high prices and rents continue to drive a rush to provide ever smaller accommodation. We have written to oppose the conversion of a 3 bedroom flat on the High Street into six bedsits of just 14 sq.m. each with shared bathrooms. Hopefully the Council will understand that their 'green' pledges must include allowing only homes fit for long term use.

But one 'new flat' we will be supporting is a part of plans for extensive renovation of The Telegraph Inn on Putney Heath. Members have long been concerned that this well-loved pub was a lost cause, but what is

now proposed will increase the public space on the ground floor. Interestingly in 2019 the number of pubs in Britain rose very slightly after many years of decline, and we can welcome this sign that it applies to Putney too, and not just in the busy area around Putney Bridge where we are shortly expecting to see a proposal to reinvigorate the Star & Garter. Maybe 2020 will see the White Lion finally reopen?

Another concern we hear a lot is the dearth of good shops on our High Street. Some of you may have caught me on BBC Radio London in November talking about this on behalf of the Society. Maybe another good resolution would be to support the shops we have, to encourage others. 'Use it or lose it' is the message behind Positively Putney's 'shop local' campaign. Sadly as I write this another Ocado van has pulled up to deliver to a neighbour.

Wishing them and you all a happy and prosperous new year. It looks like being an interesting one for our panel.

# Transport Panel

Convenor: Stephen Luxford  
Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

The Council's work to improve the High Street is well underway. However, their original ambition to significantly widen the pavement on the east side of the street to enable greater movement of pedestrians at pinch points, has been scaled back. The intention had been to widen the pavement by up to 2 metres but it will now vary from an extra 80cm to no change at all. The Society awaits plans for redesigns of the junctions with Putney Bridge Road and the Lower Richmond Road.

Rail commuters have recently suffered from a reduced service during the current industrial action. I witnessed how when a passenger tried to raise a complaint with platform staff none of them knew what to do or who to refer him to. I intend to take up this lack of customer care with the person responsible for overseeing our station, so, if you have any other observations about our rail services or even

simply the lack of a toilet at the station, please contact me.

The introduction of cleaner buses has led to a dramatic fall in the number of hourly Nitrogen Dioxide breaches in the High Street with only six breaches so far recorded this year, the best record since air monitoring began. However, the annual NO<sub>2</sub> mean is still 50% above the EU recommended limit so there is still a long way to go.

Finally, although there has been much attention around a possible second entrance at the railway station, a greater priority would appear to be installing lifts at East Putney underground. Every day people struggle up and down the stairs or are simply unable to access it. Please let me know your opinions as this is a matter we intend to raise with both TfL and our new MP.

## FUTURE PANEL MEETINGS

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

**COMMUNITY:**  
9 Jan. 41, Norroy Road, SW15 1PQ  
13 Feb. 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:**  
14 Jan. & 11 Feb.  
46 Disraeli Road, SW15 2DS (19.30)  
**Convenor:**  
Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

**BUILDINGS:**  
8 Jan. & 5 Feb.  
at 154 Putney High St., SW15 1RS (19.00)  
**Convenor:**  
Andrew Catto  
ac@andrewcatto.co.uk

**OPEN SPACES:**  
2 Jan. & 6 Feb.  
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

**January is a time for reflection...** the highs and lows of 2019 will be different for each of us, but globally we probably share some of the same concerns . . . And as we move into a new decade, the need to do more to curb waste – both domestic and municipal – is ever more pressing. The Community Panel is committed to helping in the fight against waste and supports the policy

## Reduce Reuse Recycle

and plans to look into the feasibility of holding a 'Zero Waste Hub' event, similar to the one taking place in north London on Sunday 26 January. Members of the Community Panel will attend, chat to organisers and report back – please join us if you would like to.

Meanwhile, there are challenges for us all. Can we stop creating unnecessary waste, for example, by refilling our plastic bottles with household liquids, rather than buying new? The Oasis charity store on Upper Richmond Road (next to Sainsbury's Local) offers a range of liquids. And can we all make more effort to avoid wasting food, and throw less away?

Wandsworth's Western Riverside Waste Authority has

suggestions on its website ([www.wrwa.gov.uk](http://www.wrwa.gov.uk)) see - 'End-of-the-line-for-Waste' and some ideas below. And you can sign up for weekly tips, tricks and free samples for your home at [www.cleanipedia.com](http://www.cleanipedia.com)

**HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!**



# Open Spaces Panel

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

**The trees that line our streets and gardens purify our air, clean and encourage water storage, give our wildlife homes, lock up carbon and make our landscapes green and beautiful.** Urban trees are at threat from the impact of climate change, which can exacerbate the likelihood of tree pests and disease. The impacts of storms and drought may fragment already declining habitats and affect the range of some species.

But there is another threat – as developers seek to develop more and more sites in Wandsworth, increasing numbers of mature trees are felled. Our local council was recently reported as felling 641 trees in 2018, the third highest loss in the country among reporting councils. Frequently, mature trees are replaced with saplings that will take many years to provide the same level of carbon capture as the mature trees that they have replaced. Over the next few months the Open Spaces Panel hope to be have a constructive conversation with our local

council on ways in which they can ensure that tree stocks are maintained when developments take place. What is the best way to measure this? Some advocate a system involving identifying the ages of all the lost trees and replacing them with sufficient younger trees to match the combined ages of the trees that have been lost. Others advocate measuring the carbon sequestration value of trees to ensure that replacement trees provide an equivalent value. To date this methodology has mainly been used for large scale re-forestation schemes, but there is work being done to adapt the technique to single urban trees. Any member with expertise on this topic would be more than welcome to join our discussions.

We will also be working with the Buildings Panel to ensure that the protection (or completely adequate replacement) of mature trees on development sites is included in the new Wandsworth Local Plan, which is being drawn up over the next few months.

## PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

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# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

RE: Open Spaces report about the felling of 29 Trees on the former B&Q site (December Bulletin)

As a tree warden, I was once again appalled by such vandalism and lack of understanding. In the recent past we have also lost 56 trees because of the development on the corner of Westleigh Avenue and Carslake Road. We cannot afford to keep losing so many trees because we need all of them to help us deal with the foul, disgusting, polluted air we breathe in Putney, which affects everyone's health. It takes 100 saplings to reduce as much pollution as one mature tree.

For any development which involves mature trees being cut down only a truly independent assessor should be employed to ensure that trees are lost according to that assessment and no other alternative. Does the council know why so many Tree Protection Orders (TPOs) are ignored?

If anyone would like to join Wandsworth Tree Wardens, which involves checking the trees in your area, we hold meetings and training sessions. For more information go to <https://wandsworthtreewardens.org/>

Yours truly

*Jeannette Leigh*

Madam

The reason you don't get readers' letters to publish is surely that you don't give us a postal address to send them to – only members of long standing like Iain Gray and me know that.

Incidentally, what I think Iain is referring to as the "idiotic (traffic) lights installed by Wandsworth Council on the Bridge" are an ingenious arrangement to facilitate southbound buses getting from the stop at the Fulham end of the bridge out to the right hand lane in order to turn into the Lower Richmond Road. I recall there being a similar system at the bottom of our High Street, to allow buses to draw out from the stop by the cinema into the outside lane to proceed up the High Street, but this was, sensibly as it turns out, not proceeded with.

But what has happened to the idea of a pedestrian underpass at our end of the bridge, like the one at the Fulham end?

Yours faithfully,

*Derek Purcell*

*(Note from Editor – my email address and telephone number are published on page 3 of the Bulletin and my postal address on page 2.)*

Dear Editor

"Excellent letter from Iain Gray – those of us using the bus stop outside Putney station owe him a big "THANK YOU" – easy now to step out of the station on to the bus. If this is result of Iain's efforts he deserves elevation to Vice Presidency of the Society. Who will second this proposal?"

Also, Iain is right about lack of letters – in John Horrock's day as editor my recollection is there would be an editorial addressing issues – it stimulated feedback, discussion and letters – I agree with Iain – turn back the clock!!

Yours faithfully,

*John Ewing*

## Wimbledon and Putney Commons Annual Winter Talk - Garden Bird Watch



**7.30pm, 13 February 2020  
at the London Scottish  
Golf Club**

Peter Almond, an Ambassador for the British Trust for Ornithology's Garden BirdWatch Scheme will talk about the data the scheme has gathered over the last 25 years, why this Citizen Science data is so important and what we can do for garden wildlife.

This ties in with the launch of Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators Citizen Science initiative here on the Commons later in the spring and their DEFRA appointed Conservator, Dr Ros Taylor, will outline how this scheme will work. Book here <https://www.wpcc.org.uk/main/2020-winter-talk-booking-form/submit#form43>

## Putney as a Film Set

Review of locations in Putney that could seem familiar by local historian, Phil Evison

**Thursday, 30 January in Putney Library  
Entry from 6pm, talk from 6.30 – 7.30**

Free entry, but it would be helpful if you booked your place in advance - call 020 8780 3085 or email [Charlene.coleman@gll.org](mailto:Charlene.coleman@gll.org).

## Teaser

Who can identify the calendar that illustrates the month on the front page of the Bulletin?