



# The Bulletin

For our members in Putney and Roehampton



September 2021

## Royalist Roehampton, Georgian Playground, Victorian Bankers

**Open Meeting - Monday 27 September at 7.30pm**

The Buildings Panel continues its explorations of local history. This time, **Gilly King**, History and Heritage Advisor at the University of Roehampton, will take us through the colourful history of **Roehampton from the Stuarts to the Victorians**.

This, the Society's first physical meeting for some time, will take place at Whitelands College, Holybourne Ave, SW15 4JD.

Buses 265, 419, 493 and 170 serve the college, alight at Roehampton Lane/ Danebury Avenue.



## Explore Putney and Roehampton this September

**Open House London** takes place again this year from **4-12 September** with a mix of virtual and actual events to celebrate our great capital city. This year's themes are **Local London, Global London, Architecture and Wellbeing** and, more curiously, it will also be exploring ideas around architecture and food as well as architecture and education. Keep an eye on <https://openhouselondon.open-city.org.uk/> for the programme in order to check out the huge variety and to make any necessary bookings where numbers are limited.

The Putney Society is again championing our wealth of architectural gems in this year's **London Open House Festival**. Supporting this year's Local London theme, our expanded series of architectural walks explores buildings, pubs and the public realm, giving us an opportunity to show our pride in the areas and institutions that have influenced our communities.

We now have six walks available through the London Open House Festival website <https://open-city.org.uk/open-house> or on the Putney Society's own webpage <https://www.putneysociety.org.uk/news-and-issues/putney-architecture-walks.html>

1. East Putney
2. Putney Heath
3. Upper Richmond Road West
4. Roehampton Lane
5. Putney Embankment
6. Putney /High Street to the River Wandle

You can download them or print them out to walk, look, learn (and chat) about our fascinating neighbourhoods.



# Air Pollution Group

**Convenor:** Mike Fawcett  
7 Deodar Road, SW15 2NP  
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The Society has been in the forefront of campaigning on local air pollution for 14 years. Thanks in part to our pioneering efforts, useful progress has been made; but serious problems still exist. So the Air Pollution Group is reviewing our strategy and objectives.

We have hitherto focussed mainly on nitrogen dioxide, largely caused by motor vehicles, and for which Putney High Street is a particular black-spot. Almost all the measures we called for in 2015 have now been delivered, or are being delivered. While the annual average concentration of this pollutant on the High Street is still way above the UK legal limit, we hope the imminent expansion of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone will accelerate progress. We will continue to monitor this carefully.

Our top priority will now switch to small particulate (PM2.5) pollution. These particulates are especially dangerous, since they can penetrate deep into our lungs; and there is increasing evidence that they contribute to a wide range of diseases, including dementia in older people. The level of PM2.5 pollution throughout Putney

(and Greater London) is substantially above the level recommended by the World Health Organisation, with major roads, including our High Street, being the worst. Unfortunately current local data on PM2.5 is poor so that it is unclear what progress is being made; however new detectors are becoming available, which should provide better information.

There are many sources of PM2.5 pollution – road transport, biomass burning (including domestic wood burning), construction and cooking being the major ones. So policy measures to tackle this form of pollution will need to range widely.

Wandsworth Council have just published the consultation draft of their Air Quality Action Plan 2021-2025; we will scrutinise this carefully, and submit a substantial response. First impressions are that the draft is a curate's egg – some good parts, but also serious weaknesses. The Consultation is expected to open to the public shortly; all can participate so keep an eye open for it and let Wandsworth have your feedback.

# Buildings Panel

**Convenor:** Andrew Catto  
16 Roehampton Close, SW15 5LU  
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This month's crop of planning applications has raised the question of what we want to see built in Putney, not just what new developments might look like or how big, on which we and most Society members are likely to be agreed, but also what and who is this building for? Members may think of this as an area of family homes, but high property prices and rents, combined with the continued popularity of Putney amongst young professionals, means that developers generally want to build mainly one-bedroom flats. To balance this Wandsworth has a planning policy (DMH3 b & c.) which limits 1 bedroom units to 20% of any scheme and requires just 5% as 'family housing' which means 3 bedrooms or more. Yet this is regularly ignored. Should we be pushing for more family sized homes?

The latest offender is Wandsworth Council itself. They have long had a sensible programme of filling in gaps (usually unloved garage blocks) in their estates. The latest such scheme is for the Platt estate on Felsham Road. Here 13 of 15 flats will be one bedroom. More worrying is that whilst this scheme is part of a pledge to build 1,000 new homes across the borough, of which 40% will be affordable, all of these flats, to be built on publicly owned land, are for market sale. We are told that the 40% is an overall target, but that because Putney prices are higher, developments in Putney will be for sale to help subsidise (future) affordable homes elsewhere. They would not let anyone else do this.

The Society has long argued, and the local plan agrees, that to support our High Street and relieve the load on the trains, Putney needs to be a place to work too, keeping the lunchtime spend local. Signs here are more encouraging. We supported the enlargement of the offices at Carlson Court next to Wandsworth Park, and a recent refusal of an application to turn offices into housing just west of the High Street. Central Government however want to make it possible for everything to be converted to residential and have changed the rules from 1 August 2021 to make this Permitted Development. Wandsworth however have replied with a new 'Article 4 Direction' removing this right from certain locations, in Putney this includes the whole town centre, seven local shopping parades and a couple of office blocks. Who is right? This Article 4 is open to consultation until late September 2021 and becomes operational on 1 August 2022, unless blocked by the Secretary of State first.

August's panel welcomed two bits of good news for local heritage. Roehampton University have appointed experienced conservation architects to look at repairs to the little 18C temple at Mount Clare which we arranged to include in Open House in 2019. Twenty years late, but all the more welcome. Meanwhile the Ranelagh Sailing Club are seeking to remove the unsightly 1970's enclosed gallery from the front of their clubhouse on the Embankment and restore the Victorian façade behind (application 2021/2493).

# Community Panel

**Co-convenors:** Victoria Diamond 6 Norroy Road, SW15 1PF  
Val Jones Garden Flat, 41 Norroy Road, SW15 1PQ  
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**Defibrillator update** – The JC Decaux Defibrillator on the corner of Putney Bridge Road and Brewhouse Lane, near Putney High Street has been fixed so that you can now contact 999 directly using the handset. However, to access the defibrillator you have to ring the number on the glass frontage, 0333 444 8889 and they will give you a code to unlock the defibrillator case. We are still in dialogue with JC Decaux and London Ambulance about this access, but at least it can be used now, if there is a life-threatening event nearby.

Healthwatch Wandsworth are doing a survey on people who are suffering from Long Covid. You can either fill out the survey online at [www.healthwatchwandsworth.co.uk/news/2021-06-22/long-term-affects-of-having-a-virus](http://www.healthwatchwandsworth.co.uk/news/2021-06-22/long-term-affects-of-having-a-virus) Or call them share your experience on 020 8516 7767, or email them at [information@healthwatchwandsworth.co.uk](mailto:information@healthwatchwandsworth.co.uk)

**South West London Law Centres** ([www.swllc.org](http://www.swllc.org)) offer free or low-cost legal advice to people in our community – including those on low incomes who aren't eligible for legal aid – to understand their rights and know what steps they can take next. There is a branch 76 Falcon Road, near Clapham Junction Station. They offer advice on a wide range of issues, and webinars covering Universal Credit, Carers and Benefits, and Managing Money. The webinars are free to join – visit [www.swllc.org/webinars](http://www.swllc.org/webinars) for information and registration. To find out more about what they do, what they can and cannot help with, or how to arrange to talk

with one of their legal advisers, you can phone 020 8767 2777 (10.30am-11.30am Mon-Fri; outside these hours, leave a message and someone will respond as soon as possible) Or email [enquiries@swllc.org](mailto:enquiries@swllc.org)

## Keep a thermometer with you!

In these times when it is sometimes difficult to see a GP face-to-face, everyone needs to be aware of basic health measures. Bacterial infections or septicaemia can develop suddenly and increase rapidly. It could be as a result of a skin infection - maybe an insect bite - or bacterial pneumonia. In either case checking your temperature has not spiked over 38.5 C (101.3F) is a good idea as it is sometimes easy to miss. Other signs are shivering and aching. An Oximeter (available online and from most chemists) is also useful, particularly if you suspect pneumonia, to check that your oxygen levels are between 90 and 100. Any lower than 90 needs watching closely. If you showed 80, I would get yourself to A&E. These quantitative measures are a more effective tool than trying to assess whether you are 'worse' and can be relayed to your GP. However given the sudden onset of these conditions even if you are on GP prescribed antibiotics, if these measurements were to exceed the normal range, it would be advisable to go straight to A&E where they can do the vital check for your CRP blood markers - which indicate the severity of the infection. It's not a bad idea to know what your daily normal temperature range is anyway, as normal for you might be 36.2°C – 36.8°C, or 36.5°C – 37.3°C etc.

# Open Spaces Panel

**Convenor:** Judith Chegwidden  
28 Howards Lane, SW15 6NQ  
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It has been a wet summer so far, which is good for newly planted trees but if we get a dry spell please look out for newly planted trees in the roads listed below and fill up the gators (water reservoirs – illustrated here) from time to time. Also, please let me know if any new trees have been damaged by the heavy rains and winds and we will ask the local tree officer to get some additional staking.



**Balmuir Gardens, Bangalore St, Bemish Rd, Bendemeer Road, Carlton Drive, Carmalt Gardens, Cromford Rd, Danemere St, Deodar Rd, Dromore Rd,**

**Erpingham St, Farlow Rd, Fawe Park Rd, Festing Rd, Galveston Rd, Gamlen Rd, Genoa Ave, Gwendolen Ave, Holmbush Rd, Huntingfield Rd, Kersfield Rd, Mascotte Rd, Mexfield Rd, Norroy Rd, Pentlow Street, Rusholme Rd, Salvin Rd, Santos Rd, Schubert Rd, Sefton St, Skelgill Road, Solna Ave, St, Margaret's Crescent, Stratford Grove, Swinburne Rd & Weiss Rd.**

The parklet on the corner of Upper Richmond Road and Charlwood Road has become rather weed infested. We have written to the owners, JC Decaux, to point out that some of their planting is becoming clogged with bindweed and that sycamore seedlings will soon become saplings. We understand that the planting is watered from time to time - but a bit more maintenance is required now.

## FUTURE PANEL MEETINGS

For the moment all panel meetings are held on Zoom. We will let you know as soon as the guidance allows us to meet in person. If you are new to panel meetings, please contact the panel convenor by email if you want to take part in the Zoom meeting and they will send out an invitation.

### COMMUNITY

9 September, 14 October  
by Zoom (18.30)

**Co-convenors:**  
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[jones.val@gmail.com](mailto:jones.val@gmail.com)  
T: 07746 022654 (Vicky)  
T: 07780 674114 (Val)

### TRANSPORT

14 September, 12 October  
by Zoom (19.30)

**Convenor:**  
Stephen Luxford  
[Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com](mailto:Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com)

### BUILDINGS

1 September, 6 October  
by Zoom (18.30)

**Convenor:**  
Andrew Catto  
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T: 07831 761327

### OPEN SPACES

2 September, 7 October  
by Zoom (18.30)

**Convenor:**  
Judith Chegwidden  
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T: 020 8788 4489

## Floods in Putney High Street

We are used to the river flooding Putney Embankment, particularly during the Spring and Autumn Equinox, but the floods in Putney High Street this June and August are much more unusual. While the downpours have been exceptionally sharp and heavy, it is not surprising that some local residents are asking if this had anything to do with the new wider pavements. Were the drains cleared properly before the new paving was laid? Is the camber of the pavement and the Copenhagen crossings affecting the way in which surface water collects? These are questions for Wandsworth Council, but what is clear across London is the fact that there is now inadequate capacity for dealing with surface water that then

flows down into drains – whether they drain into pipes that discharge into rivers or enter into combined sewer and storm water pipes. In urban areas most surfaces have been paved over, which makes it much harder for water to soak away. Individuals can help by using alternatives to hard paving, harvesting rainwater and creating green roof. However, is it time for the GLA and London Boroughs to look at ways of making pavements and roads more permeable? The alternative might be a very costly upgrade to our Victorian storm water and sewer system.



## Looking to travel in the next few months – or need a test for work?

There are now three testing centres in Putney offering a range of tests in person but all offering the PCR test that you need when returning from a country designated orange:

### London Medical Laboratory Putney

260 Upper Richmond Road, Putney, London SW15 6TQ

<https://www.privatecoronavirus.com/list/>

### London Medical School and Aesthetics Clinic

208 Upper Richmond Road, London, SW15 6T

<https://www.samedayclinic.co.uk/>

### The Regenerative Clinic

Putney Exchange (Unit 30 next to GAP), Putney SW15 1TW

<https://www.theregenerativeclinic.co.uk/putney-covid-19-pcr-testing-same-day-and-next-day-covid-19-pcr-service/>



## Letter to the Editor



Dear Editor

What a shame that Ash and Jaymini Patel are leaving Gerhold's after 25 years. They have been a dedicated part of Putney. Friendly and polite. Nothing too much trouble. They have been a real service to the community. We wish them well and welcome the new owners.

Richard and Shelly Peat

## Wandsworth Council is developing a new Walking and Cycling Strategy



To complement data collected by the Council, Transport for London and the Department for Transport, the Council would like to know more about how people living in the borough travel on an everyday basis to help guide and monitor the strategy. They want a better understanding how and why we walk, cycle, use public transport and drive private cars. The responses will help the Council to prioritise different types of programmes and interventions in the borough, with the aim of supporting the Wandsworth Environmental Strategy, including improving local air quality and encouraging more walking and cycling.

*Have your say* – go to [https://haveyoursay.citizenspace.com/wandsworthecs/walking-cycling-21/consult\\_view/](https://haveyoursay.citizenspace.com/wandsworthecs/walking-cycling-21/consult_view/)

Remember that the survey closes on 3 September.

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