

ISSUE 38 | WINTER 2019/2020

AN INDEPENDENT SOURCE OF NEWS,
BY AND FOR ROEHAMPTON RESIDENTS

ROEHAMPTON VOICE



@RoehamptonVoice

Robin Neil Bishop

A TRIBUTE BY NIEVES CARAZO

This is a tribute in loving memory of our friend and editor Robin Bishop, who passed away on August 2nd of this year. Robin was honest, hard-working and always willing to help.

He was well-spoken and wrote beautifully - many articles in this magazine were written by him. He participated in many Roehampton organisations: he was a founding member of Alton Regeneration Watch, and Chair of the Stoughton Close/Greatham Walk/Ryefield Path Residents' Association (and via this was a representative on the Western Area Housing Panel and Co-Vice Chair of the Borough Residents' Forum). He had been both Chair and Secretary of the Roehampton Forum, the editor of the Roehampton Voice, and Vice-Chair of the Putney Labour Party, as well as part of the Putney Society Building Panel.

He also worked with various other organisations such as Wandsworth Against Cuts, the RMT Waterloo Branch, and many more.

Robin was a man with an enormous heart who always wanted to assist and help others. He was not about power, money or telling people he knew better (even when sometimes he did know better!). He worked hard to make sure people in Roehampton had a voice and a better quality of life. The world should have more people like Robin, and if the world did it would be a better place.

He will be missed by many people, though his spirit is in all of us



and all the things he did for our community. He will forever be part of Roehampton and will never be forgotten.

The following are other tributes which were provided for Robin.

JOE CAIRNS

Local Resident and Alton Regeneration Watch member

"My abiding memory of Robin was his concern for people less fortunate than him. He lived for what he believed in, and that was a fairer society. His life enriched those around him."

MATTHEW TILLER

Local resident and new editor of Roehampton Voice

"Robin was a very good friend, especially in the aftermath of my bone anchored hearing aid operation. He did so many things to make Roehampton, Wandsworth and the world in general better places. Most personal to me was when he stepped in at the last minute to operate the computer animation for my band Gigantic Station's musical. As editor of the Roehampton Voice, he's going to be a tough act to follow."

MICK LYNCH

RMT

"Robin was a great man of principle and was a tremendous asset to the branch. He showed tremendous strength as an RMT activist surrounded by many non- and anti-union people."

STEVE FANNON

Local Resident and Chair of Alton Regeneration Watch

"What I liked most about Robin was that he was willing to challenge those that he thought were not acting in the interests of those they represented. His work as Chair of his Residents' Association can be seen every time you walk along Greatham Walk or through the Stoughton Close car park."

AMANDA BENZECRY

Chair of Take Down The Ads

"A man of strong principles who wasn't the least bit frightened to raise his head above the parapet and defend them publicly - a gentle and kind human being who offered unwavering support at a time when it was sorely needed. He is a great loss to us all."

COLIN CRILLY

Wandsworth Against Cuts

"Robin was a kind and gentle person, as well as a passionate campaigner. He was a joy to have in our group Wandsworth Against Cuts, and I like the fact that he had no time for egos. He just continuously did what needed to be done."



ROEHAMPTON VOICE: ISSUE 38

ADVERTISING

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RATES

£20 for 1/8 page
£50 for 1/4 page
£100 for 1/2 page
£200 for a full page

EVENTS

Please pass us details of your events, for inclusion on our back page.

SUBMITTING ARTICLES

The Roehampton Voice is keen to have input from as many local people as possible. If you would like to write an article for us, email roehamptonvoice@hotmail.com You can follow us on Facebook, or tweet @RoehamptonVoice *The Roehampton Voice is published as a project of the Roehampton Trust.*

Statements by PUTNEY PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES



Sue Wixley Liberal Democrats candidate

WHAT I ENJOY MOST ABOUT LIVING IN THIS PART OF LONDON

I enjoy going for walks in our lovely parks and along the river. Above all, I love the sense of community. I've felt very much at home since I moved to Southfields more than 10 years ago.

MY PRIORITIES FOR THIS AREA

Alongside stopping Brexit, my priorities are to reverse school funding cuts and to make our streets safer and greener. I want to tackle crime and take positive action to revitalise local high streets like Danebury Avenue. In Roehampton, I've heard many residents express concerns about fly-tipping and many are also worried about the Alton redevelopment plans and how it will impact on them and their families. As your MP I would make it a priority to listen to and represent your views and to work with local people, residents' associations and the Council to shape this neighbourhood.

What makes me want to take on the challenge of becoming an MP Like many people, I feel that the country is heading in the wrong direction. Since the referendum, I have been worried about the Conservative party's lurch to the right and determination to force through a No Deal Brexit that nobody voted for. I'm worried about the uncertainty facing my EU neighbours and friends and the impact of Brexit on our economy and public services. You don't have to work for a healthcare charity, as I do, to see how damaging it is for our NHS.

I'm especially concerned about what Brexit could mean for future generations. People in this area voted overwhelmingly for Remain and we need an MP who represents the view of the local majority and will oppose Brexit.

BREXIT

When I talk to local people, one of their main concerns is Brexit. They tell me they want an MP who campaigned to Remain and will oppose Brexit every step of the way. They don't want a Labour Brexit and they definitely don't want a Tory Brexit. A vote for the Liberal Democrats is a vote to build a better Britain and to remain in the European Union. Every vote will count. The freedom to travel and work across the EU is something that I could only dream of when I was growing up in South Africa and it is worth fighting for. It has also taught me about the importance of hope - it's something that I heard Nelson Mandela speak about and it was embodied in the spirit of the London Olympics in 2012. I know it is still at the heart of our communities in Roehampton, Southfields and Putney.

WHAT I CAN BRING TO THE JOB

I bring a realistic understanding of how the world works, a passionate determination to fight for what makes this country great and a principled approach to politics. My party, the Liberal Democrats, are united on the big issues that people in Putney care about - stopping Brexit and tackling climate change.

Statements by PUTNEY PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES



Fleur Anderson Labour candidate

under current plans there will be less space dedicated to them in the new library building.

During the summer, together with Roehampton's three Labour councillors, I visited every house in the regeneration area and asked what people wanted from the regeneration. Some people don't want the regeneration at all, but most people do want better homes. They want quality homes fit for their families not the current homes, many of which are over-crowded and damp. The vast number of residents also told me they want more social housing at affordable rents. According to current plans, the amount of social housing will be cut from 55% to 18% of the housing provided. That's simply not good enough in one of Putney's most deprived areas. Residents also want better transport links, more youth services, better amenities (like shops and a bank) and more community facilities such as a hall which is affordable to rent for community groups and celebrations, because communities are more than bricks and mortar – they need infrastructure too, to thrive.

Perhaps the most shocking element of the current plan is the segregation of social housing from luxury blocks. Communities are at their most vibrant when they are mixed, and we simply cannot

allow the Alton Estate to become ghettoised. Also by the plan to cut down the mature trees, which are a much-loved feature of the estate.

In July I handed in a petition to the Council from 533 local people who want a better deal for their community. I also joined many local residents and groups including the Putney Society, Alton Regeneration Watch and St Joseph's parishioners in submitting very critical comments to the consultation on the plans. In August, the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, backed our campaign and wrote to the Wandsworth Council Leader, Cllr Ravi Govindia. The Mayor said, "the proposals for new housing fall far short of my expectations," including "potentially failing to re-provide socially rented housing", "offering just eight percent genuinely affordable housing", "segregating affordable housing by locating it on the periphery of the site", and "the consultation process appears to have been seriously deficient". The next stage is that the Mayor expects "to see these matters addressed before the proposals are referred back to me".

The Council Leader must now listen to local people and push to make the changes local people demand. This regeneration is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to put residents first by providing them with the kind of estate they need and deserve. For too long Wandsworth Council has put profit before people and prioritised developers over residents. It's time they thought again.

PEOPLE POWER WORKS.

Following a sustained local grassroots campaign, Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London, has stepped in to demand that Wandsworth Council listen to the residents who live on the Alton Estate regarding the Regeneration Plans for their homes. I know it feels as though the Regeneration of the Alton Estate has been talked about forever and it sometimes feels as if it might never happen. But it is coming very soon, and the Mayor's criticisms are a wake-up call to the council to make sure the regeneration is a good deal for local people and not just for the developers.

The current plans are a bad deal for residents. The closure of the Roehampton Youth Club this summer already illustrates that the new plans are not putting the priorities of residents first. Many of the young people who used to go to the Club don't want to go to the Base instead, and the promised "Youth Bus" is nowhere to be seen. We urgently need more youth services for our young people, but they've been cut. With hundreds more homes planned for the Alton it will soon be home to even more young people and yet

Statements by PUTNEY PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES



Will Sweet Conservative candidate

amenities. These plans have been developed over six years with extensive consultation with the local community. People living in the area have played a central role in helping to draw up the proposals and this has helped ensure the regeneration meets their day-to-day needs.

It is the council's core guarantee that all residents living in the regeneration area will be able to remain part of their community. All secure council tenants are being offered a new secure tenancy and a bright, modern new home on the estate, as are all existing resident leaseholders and freeholders. This promise is vastly different and more generous than that given to residents in other regeneration schemes in London.

Our priority above everything else is to provide sustainable, decent, high-quality homes for our residents, which is why we are committed to delivering this project and contributing over £100 million from council budgets to create this vibrant new neighbourhood. Wandsworth Council not only recognises the need for more housing, but among the capital's town halls, we are almost alone in actually doing something about it – and investing our own funds to deliver these new homes. This investment is a mark of my personal

commitment to delivering more and better housing for the people of Roehampton.

The council remains even more ambitious for the future of everyone who lives in Roehampton. We want to improve the health and well-being of our residents and we have already begun this work through the efforts of our public health team. The estate's regeneration will offer new and better opportunities for people to train, learn new skills and improve their general well-being. We want to ensure that people of all backgrounds can fulfil their ambitions in Wandsworth and that is why delivering this regeneration programme is so important.

Other candidates standing in Putney

Fergal McEntee
for the Green Party

Oliver King
for the Renew Party

The hustings takes
place on Tuesday 3rd
December, 7:30pm,
at the Community
Church in Werter Road
(opposite Sainsbury's).

Wandsworth Council has unveiled ambitious regeneration proposals for the Alton Estate which will see the construction of more than a thousand new homes to meet the housing needs of our residents. This includes 280 new and replacement council homes to add to the more than 3,300 that already exist on the estate, leading to a net increase of more than 830 homes. I firmly believe that this estate regeneration will deliver more than just new homes. It will re-energise Roehampton and provide state-of-the-art community facilities that will benefit everyone who lives in this part of the borough.

There will be new shops, a health centre, nurseries, playgrounds and other early years provision for young families, high quality open space and a revamped, bigger and fully modernised local library, able to cater for a wider range of community-led activities.

The regeneration will offer our residents vastly improved living conditions while the overall scheme demonstrates our commitment to ensuring that family housing is closely aligned with play space and other really important neighbourhood

THE ALTON ESTATE PLANNING APPLICATION

expect further delays!

BY JOHN HORROCKS

The public consultation period on the big planning application proposing the redevelopment of a large part of the Alton West Estate has now run its course. The application was made by Redrow Homes on behalf of the borough council, the owner of the land. They are the partners in the redevelopment scheme. They work very closely together.

The council's planning website shows that there are lots of objections to the scheme - for all sorts of reasons. The objections vastly outnumber the few comments welcoming the scheme. So much for Redrow's claim that their plans represent what local people want! The case for the regeneration of the Alton Estate may be supported locally - but certainly not for the way that Redrow have proposed doing it. "It's an over-development" is, in a nutshell, the response of most people to Redrow's proposals. The most significant objections have come from the Greater London Authority's planners and the Mayor for London, at City Hall. They have legal powers in the process. They are concerned about the inadequate provision of affordable housing (well below the London Plan's requirements), the location of the social housing on the extremities of the redevelopment, and Redrow's failure to to organise proper pre-application public consultation

on their scheme. The planning application will need the London Mayor's support if it is to be approved.

Redrow have been asked by the council to address these issues and to consider amending their planning application accordingly.

It is difficult to see how the borough council's Planning Applications Committee could grant planning permission for the scheme as it stands, in these circumstances. Were they to do so, the London Mayor would almost certainly intervene and call the application in for him to decide it, rather than our council.

So, what are Redrow to do? If they agree to amend the scheme, it will need to be put out again for a further period of public consultation before it can be considered by the borough council's planning committee. Further public consultation during the General Election period or over Christmas would not be a very good idea - so we are going to have to wait until 2020 before anything happens.

Watch this space! Redrow delayed the submission of their planning application for eighteen months. So delay is what we are already used to.

It's a bit like Brexit!



“See how their garden GROWS!”

BY SIMONE FARR

Children from the Alton Playgroup have been having fun getting out in the fresh air and growing their own fruits and vegetables. The “Grow Your Garden Project”, in conjunction with the Community Development Team from Sheltered Housing, has enabled the children to learn more about healthy eating and increase their understanding of where food comes from in a fun and creative way.



Cristina Motoca from the Alton Playgroup said, “The children have learnt new vocabulary related to plants and flowers and are starting to be able to match seeds with flowers. As well as being involved in digging, planting and watering of plants, they are also enjoying playing shop in the Florist/Greengrocer store we have created. The children have been particularly thrilled by the Bug Hotel and always check to see if a little bug is inside and if they can hear some buzzing!”

LISTENING FOR BEES AT THE BUG HOTEL!

If you would like to know more about the Community Development Team's work in Roehampton, please contact Simone Farr at simone.farr@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

OUR HIGH STREET LEADS THE WAY

BY JOHN HORROCKS

Last April, the “Quietway” contra-flow cycle route was introduced in Roehampton High Street. Vehicular traffic now has to share the one-way road with cyclists who come down from Putney Heath, cycling against the flow of other traffic. It is part of the efforts to encourage us all to cycle more – to help to cut down on pollution.

There were some who were concerned that it would be very dangerous and that accidents were bound to happen. The street is too narrow, they said. Pedestrians would be confused, they feared. Well, it hasn't worked out that way, fortunately. No-one has been killed!

Everyone seems to be willing to be sensible and to accept that, if you go carefully, the cyclists, motorists and pedestrians can accommodate each other without any hassle.

“Look both ways - it's OK.” This seems to be what people accept.

So, we can now expect to see the borough council proceed to introduce contra-flow cycling in the one-way streets off Putney High Street: Norroy, Chelverton, Disraeli, Werter and Montserrat Roads. It is long overdue.

Where Roehampton leads today, Putney follows tomorrow!



Roehampton buses - could do better!

BY ALEX GAUTIER

TfL continues to disappoint their customers. After closure of the all important Hammersmith Bridge, the 72 bus south of the river towards Roehampton was discontinued and the 265 bus service to Putney Bridge was increased by way of compensation. In the past TfL staff told me that according to Oyster Card data, the majority of people from our area travel to Hammersmith to catch the District or Piccadilly lines into town, so unsurprisingly, complaints were lodged that we wanted the 72 bus service to remain in place from Roehampton to just south of Hammersmith Bridge so that people could walk across the bridge and catch the 72 bus north of the bridge to continue their journey.

Together with these services, Roehampton University (RU) started a bus service for their

staff and students from Barnes Station (usually) to Roehampton. We were all allowed to board this bus to get to Barnes Station in the mornings, which was a great help. RU have now decided to stop anyone but RU staff and students from using their buses which have been extended to go to just south of Hammersmith Bridge, where most of us want to go, leaving a lot of disappointed people on Roehampton Lane.

TfL responded to popular demand and brought in a new service (419 bus) from Roehampton to south of Hammersmith Bridge, but at about half of the frequency they promised, and the 265 bus now runs far less frequently to compensate for the 419 bus introduction.



The result is that from Clarence Lane northwards, people travelling in the morning find that 3 or more TfL buses pass before there is one that has room to board. From what I have heard, the RU bus is full in the morning taking people from Hammersmith Bridge and Barnes Station going south to the university, but on their way back to pick up more passengers, they are almost empty.

I have worked on these transport problems for years and every time things seem to improve, we go back to square one. It would be so much better if RU allowed people on their buses, especially in the morning, to get where they need to go. They are burning the fuel anyway, so why not help their neighbours?

The Telegraph Inn set to reopen

BY JOHN HORROCKS

Last winter, the Telegraph Inn on Putney Heath suddenly closed its doors and shut down. It emerged that the property owner had asked for a huge rent increase and the pub operator decided he just couldn't continue his business. Then the property was put on the market with a £5M asking price - felt to be way over the top. Some saw this a move towards asking for planning permission to convert the

building into flats. But that didn't happen.

Now we are told that it is planned to re-open the pub. A notice displayed on the front boundary fence of the premises advises that an application has been made to the borough council under the Licensing Act 2003, by Brunning & Price Ltd, seeking a Premises Licence to operate as a pub. The new pub would be open from 10.00am to 12.30am the next day, it says on the notice. Presumably, the council will go along with this.

So, a Spring re-opening, maybe? The Roehampton Voice will be there!



BIG CAT in Roehampton

BY DONALD ROY

Late last July the Metropolitan Police raided a flat somewhere in Roehampton and removed a serval cat called Xena.

The serval cat is a different species from the domestic cat – although it belongs to the same family of animals. It is not as big as the better known big cats – such as leopards, lions, tigers etc. – nor is it particularly endangered – the International Union for the Conservation of Nature categorises it as least cause for concern.

However, it is a wild animal – and native to much of Africa south of the Sahara. So a special licence is needed to keep one. Apparently the owner did not have a licence – although he or she may have been applying for one at the time. As well as payment a licence may well require arrangements such as a cage and a lead.

Serval cats can jump 12 ft and run at up to 55 mph. So Xena could have been a bit difficult to control.



Carol Concert in Aid of Paul's Cancer Support Centre

Tickets are now on sale for the annual **Paul's Christmas Carol Concert**, featuring the Fulham Camerata and conductor James Day.

The concert will be held at **St. Mary's Church, Putney High Street** on **Thursday 5th December at 7.00pm** and will be a lovely way to mark the start of the festive season and support a local charity. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/paulscarolconcert2019> and mulled wine and mince pies will be available on the night.

If you are unable to attend, but would like to make a Christmas donation to support the work of Paul's, you can also do this online at <https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/christmasdonationstopauls> and you can find more information about the support offered at Paul's on the charity's website www.pauls.org.uk

Please do forward this invitation on to your friends and neighbours to help spread the word and join the event on Facebook.



presents
A Christmas Concert

*Lully Lulla,
Thou Little Tiny Child*

kindly sponsored by



Thursday 5th December at 7pm

Kings & Queens 2019

BY MO SMITH, CHAIR OF TRUSTEES, REGENERATE-RISE

On Saturday 7th September, the marquee on The Green in Danebury Avenue was transformed into a tropical island for 270 pensioners as a part of the

Roehampton Festival. The event was sponsored by Redrow Homes, Hillsong Church and Regenerate-RISE, and the guests enjoyed the music of Sunny Steel Band and



The Mayor of Wandsworth, Cllr Jane Cooper, attended along with a number of guests, and a great time was enjoyed by all. It was the 14th Kings and Queens held in Roehampton and many commented that it was "the best ever".

We are grateful to Grant Gigg for initiating Kings and Queens back in 2002, and we are very glad that we have been able to continue to provide the annual party for local older residents to enjoy coming to. We believe that it is really important to value older people in our community and we want to say "thank you" to them for their contribution over the years. We hope they feel like a King or a Queen not just on that day, but every day.



Atlantis, who performed a variety of songs for people to dance to. We are grateful to 80 volunteers for giving their time throughout the day to enable our guests ranging from 67 to 102 years of age to be transported to the

sea and sun. All guests were given a gift on their arrival, had a delicious lunch, enjoyed a game of Bingo and participated in the raffle, which raised £1,200 towards the new Jim McKinney Memorial Fund.



New Year... **NEW ART!**

AN EXCITING NEW ART GROUP EXPLORING THE THEME OF "CHANGE" WILL BE STARTING IN JANUARY 2020!

It will be an upbeat group offering a chance to meet new friends and learn lots of different art skills.

No artistic experience is necessary!

Everyone is welcome, and all materials will be provided. The group will run for 8 weeks from *Wednesday January 22nd from 10.00am at Minstead Gardens Church.*

For more information contact the *Community Development Team - Simone Farr on simone.farr@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk or Elaine Curley on richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk*

A MESSAGE FROM THE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Citizens Advice Wandsworth is looking forward to starting the **ROEHAMPTON COMMUNITY CAPACITY PROJECT** in January 2020. We have recruited *Jonathan Palma* to a full time role to lead the project. He will start in post at the beginning of January and will be based at the Citizens Advice Wandsworth office in Minstead Gardens. If you have any questions about the project, please contact Beth Rattigan, Head of Projects, at beth.rattigan@cawandsworth.org

Holybourne Day Centre

Relaxing, chatting and enjoying good company in a welcoming atmosphere



Four Seasons
HEALTH CARE

FREE
trial day



- Experienced day care providers
- Specialists in dementia care
- Great daily programme of social activities
- Home cooked hot meals, snacks and refreshments
- Open 7 days a week – 8am to 6pm (9am-5.30pm Sunday)
- Pick up and drop off service available on request

For more information, including prices, please get in touch.

T: 020 8003 0272

www.fshc.co.uk/holybourne

Holybourne Day Centre, Holybourne Avenue, Roehampton, London SW15 4JD

ROEHAMPTON LIBRARY

UPCOMING LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

ESOL COURSES

E1 Mon & Wed 4 – 6pm

E2 & 3 Mon & Wed 10:30am – 12:30pm

Free English classes available for those entitled to benefits. Please ask for more info.

SCRABBLE CLUB

Adult scrabble club taster sessions

8th Nov 11am – 1pm

30th Nov 11am – 1pm

6th Dec 3 – 5pm (ends 4:45pm)

Please speak with a member of staff to book a place.

SHORT COMPUTER COURSES

We will be holding taster sessions throughout November. You can bring along your own laptop or device.

Week 1 Fri 8th Nov 10am-12:30pm Email

Week 2 Fri 15th Nov 10am-12:30pm Word

Week 3 Fri 22nd Nov 10am-12:30pm Excel

Week 4 Fri 29th Nov 10-12:30pm CV's

Please speak with a member of staff to book a place.

REGULAR EVENTS

Reading Group

Every second Monday of the month 2-4pm.

Knitting Group

Alternate Wednesdays 2-4pm.

For information on the events in other Wandsworth Libraries, please visit:
www.better.org.uk/library/london/wandsworth

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

HOMEWORK HELP

Monday 3:30 – 5pm

During term time only. No booking necessary.

READING SUPPORT

Monday 3:30 – 6pm

During term time only. Please ask to book a place.

CODING/STEM CLUB

Friday 3:30 – 4:15pm

During term time only. Ages 8+
No booking necessary.

CRAFT CLUB

Every Saturday 11am – 12pm

Seasonal crafts, colouring & games for all ages.
No booking necessary.

REGULAR EVENTS

STORY TIME:

For children 2 to 5 years.

Friday 10:30am

RHYME TIME:

For children 0–3 years.

Wednesday 10:30am

FREE BOOKS FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Collect your Bookstart Treasure Bag when your child is aged 3 years.

Please bring your Red Health book to claim your Treasure Bag.



2 Danebury Avenue SW15 4HD

Tel: 0208 246 6979

@Roehampton

OPENING TIMES

MONDAY 9 AM : 7 PM

TUESDAY closed

WEDNESDAY 9 AM : 7 PM

THURSDAY closed

FRIDAY 9 AM : 5 PM

SATURDAY 9 AM : 2:30 PM

SUNDAY closed