

Putney Walkabout: Audio Guide

Four historic walks through Putney and a new dramatised journey of Arnold Bennett's 1908 novel *Buried Alive* will be launched in May 2010 during the Wandsworth Arts Festival. There will be CD versions available from Putney library and MP3 versions downloadable from Wandsworth library website.

The walks are designed for everyone, but have additional access features to support visually impaired people to participate. A thermo map (raised/ tactile) is available from Putney library to help orientation for the walk.

The CD contains 3 tracks:

Track 1: access information for visually impaired walkers,

Track 2: four historic walks from early history to present times - Putney High Street, Putney Bridge Road, Putney Embankment and Putney Heath.

Track 3: a dramatised walk of Arnold Bennett's 1908 novel *Buried Alive* set in Edwardian Putney.

The dramatisation is by Maria Oshodi, Artistic Director of Extant (The UK's only theatre company for visually impaired professionals) and features Clive Merrison as Priam Farll (BBC Radio's Sherlock Holmes and the teacher in *The History Boys*) together with other local actors Tom Marshall, Tamara Hinchco, and Ronald Markham, and visually impaired actors Tim Gebbels and Heather Gilmore. The sound mixing and design are by Peter Boshier who is also visually impaired. It is produced at Wandsworth's Pocklington Resource Centre by Sue Rolfe for the Putney Society, with the invaluable assistance of Centre Manager Odette Battarel and sound engineer Michael Relf; and funded by the National Lottery through Awards for All.

The drama of *Buried Alive* focuses on the internationally known artist Priam Farll who decides to swap identities with his valet Henry Leek when the latter dies. Farll begins a new life as his former servant 'burying' himself in Putney where he marries a middle class lady and settles into a life of domestic bliss at 29 Werter Road. However Farll cannot resist the motivation to paint which leads to dramatic consequences and discovery.

The guide will be launched during *Look Again* - this year's Wandsworth Arts Festival, and will also be part of LOCOG's *Discovering Places* festival. Three guided walks lasting between 30 minutes and an hour and half, will be offered starting at Putney Library at 1.30pm:

Sunday May 2 – BURIED ALIVE launch. Walk the walk and meet the author of the dramatisation Maria Oshodi.

Sunday May 9 – Putney Library to St Marys Church and Putney Bridge.

Sunday May 16 – Putney Library – Putney Bridge and Embankment.

Members of the Putney Society will be on hand to help guide walkers, but those people who are visually impaired should arrive with an escort.

Further information will be posted at

http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/info/884/arts_team/363/wandsworth_arts_festival