

Putney - 1851

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Cover illustration - map of Putney, c.1859

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INTRODUCTION

FOREWORD

Too many local historians pay lip-service to the platitude "history is people" and then proceed either to devote their efforts to reconstructing bygone masterpieces of architecture, or if they remember to mention people at all, confine themselves exclusively to the upper layers of the social scale.

It is the intention of those responsible for producing this booklet to provide a genuinely comprehensive account of Putney, and its inhabitants in 1851. The bulk of the contents derive from data extracted from the manuscript Census on Enumerators returns available at Battersea District Library, (Local History Collection), with additional material culled from a variety of sources such as contemporary bus and railway timetables.

THE CENSUS METHOD

On the night of 7th April 1851, a precise record was taken throughout the country of every man, woman and child present in each parish, with their age, status, occupation and birthplace; the enumerator's manuscript returns form the basis of the present study. For this reason, it must be realised that the picture presented is a snapshot of Putney at that moment in time, in the year of the Great Exhibition, rather than a running commentary or a newsreel! The census return does not, for instance, enable us to assess the complete sizes of families, because there is no record of children who had died or moved away, nor do we know how many more children there might have been in any given family.

The assessment of "occupation" also presents problems. There is on the one hand the tendency of many people to overstate their importance in the social scale; the rag and bone man becomes a "general dealer" and the errand boy a "baker's assistant". At the other end we find such terms as "annuitant", "fund-holder" and "proprietor of houses" applied equally to an occupant of the almshouses living on her savings or a pittance from a former employer, to Ruth Taylor, widow aged 66, living at Lower Common (next door to Vine Cottage) presumably on the rents of Taylors Buildings off Quill Lane, or to Caroline Chapman, also a widow, aged 68, whose family had been owners of "Riverbank" and the Point Brewery, living in the High Street with her sister Elizabeth Williamson, widow of the owner of the biggest scarlet dye-works in Wandsworth. However, provided the sample examined is large enough, these inequalities iron out, and so do not significantly distort the overall picture.

THE CENSUS AREA

For the purposes of the Census, and for this review, Putney is taken as including the whole of the ancient parish, that is, including Roehampton (a separate Ecclesiastical District from 1845) as well as the more recently established parish of St.Margaret's (hived off from Putney and Roehampton in 1923).

The ancient parish of Putney covers 2240 acres, roughly in the shape of a triangle having two sides of approximately three miles and a base of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles along the river.

The river frontage is from Deodar Road/Wandsworth Park to the mouth of the Beverley. The boundary then follows the Beverley for about half a mile by Barn Elms, turning south to divide Putney and Barnes commons and continuing along Dyers Lane to Upper Richmond Road. Here it turns westward for three quarters of a mile to Priests Bridge, where it again turns south to follow the Beverley through Richmond Park to Putney Vale. A short distance beyond the Portsmouth Road bridge, the boundary strikes off north-eastward, and runs practically straight past the Windmill, across Tibbett's Corner, along the line of the railway through East Putney station, and so back to Deodar Road.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Miss Bryan	Mrs.Keene
Mrs.Dolan	Mrs.Outred
Mrs.Fuce	Mrs.Peacock
Mr.Hill	

Most of the editing and writing was ably undertaken by the late Mr.Don Pollock and the production of this booklet owes much to his dedicated efforts.

Roger Logan
Editor

LIE OF THE LAND

A. BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS UP TO 1851

During the first half of the nineteenth century, Putney experienced an unprecedented increase in population, from 2428 in 1801 to 5179 in 1851, well over double in just two generations. As we shall see, much of this was due to immigration from all parts of Britain and even from overseas, although the declining mortality rate must have meant a better chance of survival for Putney-born children. During this period, the number of houses rose from about 430 to more than 950, slightly faster than the rate of population increase. During the 1840's alone, 220 houses were built in Putney, more than twice the number which made up the whole village 300 years before, in the 15th and 16th centuries. Even so, only six or seven were built each year in the earlier eighteen hundreds, a rate which accelerated sharply to more than twenty per annum by the 1840's.

In many cases, these houses were not built on new, consciously-planned estates, but were infilling within the existing street pattern, or extensions along such streets further into the fields. Putney had not yet begun to experience the large-scale activities of speculative developers and builders, although already in three areas around the ancient settlement there were indications of the shape of things to come, viz. Gay Street, the Charlwood Road area and Parkfields, to give them their present-day names.

The Gay Street area had been laid out in 1826 on land belonging to Dr. Carmalt, who had bought and demolished the D'Aranda House ("The Palace"). By 1829, about 65 houses had been built here, a total which had increased to 105 by 1851.

By 1850, villas had begun to spring up on erstwhile market garden ground further west, in Charlwood Road, Hotham Villas and Clarendon Road, all of which are referred to in 1851 as "The Gardens", while even more remote, and not joined to the rest of Putney by building until after 1860, were the small shops and cottages in Parkfields and the Upper Richmond Road grouped around the Arab Boy. This last development owed much to the combination of Charles Lee (1807-1880), who had carried out the survey for the Richmond Railway and had prepared the Putney Tithe Apportionment in 1848, as well as being the architect of St. John's Church, and Henry Scarth, a local solicitor who owned the Parkfields Site. This was typical of dozens of such unions of interest between architects/surveyors and solicitors in Victorian London, with one providing the estate-planning expertise, and the other having the entree to local life and finance. Lee probably sold the idea of villas in such remote locations to potential investors on the basis of a new concept of middle-class commuters on the railway, although as we shall see, this was not the case with the first-generation occupants, which may account for the rapid turnover of tenancies which is apparent in the first ten years.

These buildings were mostly constructed in a very conservative classical style, already rather outmoded by central London standards, although it continued in Putney throughout the 1850's, for example in the neat little villas of Stratford Grove. This represented another sort of development technique: William Stratford, who lived in one of the two large houses at the south end of Bigg's Row, owned the land, and his elder son John, who at the early age of 23 was already in business as a builder on a fairly large scale (he lived at the top end of Roehampton High Street and employed five men), would no doubt undertake the structural work to their mutual advantage. At the time of the census the first four houses in Stratford Grove were occupied, one more was finished but still vacant, and ten more were under construction. Incidentally, it had not yet acquired its name, being lumped in with the rest of the houses in this part of Putney under the common title of Back Lanes.

It will be seen that all this building activity was confined to the west side of the High Street: not for another ten years, when the grounds of Lime Grove on the Hill and Putney House by the river came on to the market, would there be any noticeable change to the east.

B. STREET NAMES

The allocation of street names in 1851 seems to have been a far more haphazard business than it is today. Apart from the old-established through roads, the High Street, Putney Hill, Wandsworth Lane, the Upper Richmond Road and Lower Richmond Road plus Windsor Street, only the Gay Street development of the 1820's can be said to have been deliberately named street by street from the outset.

Of the rest of Putney's housing in 1851, much of it consisted of courts and alleys, or small groups of two or three cottages, each of which had its own name, not infrequently derived from the builder or proprietor - Parson's Villas, Price's Folly, Walker's Place, Harris's Yard, Stewart's Rents, Biggs' Row, March's Place are a few examples.

To the west of the High Street, the name Back Lanes seems to have been used for everything between Walker's Place and the present Charlwood Road, itself a prime example of the way in which names were chopped and changed. In 1851 Charlwood Road, together with the few houses beyond it (the beginnings of Clarendon Road and Hotham Road) were all referred to as "The Gardens"; in the previous hundred years there are references to it as "Worple Way", "Biggs Lane", "Back Lanes" and even "Plattfield" at the Felsham Road Crossing. Not until 1869 was it officially (and erroneously) named Charlewood Road, a misspelling which was not corrected until 1902!

The appended list is not intended to be a complete guide to Putney's street nomenclature in 1851, it includes only those names referred to in the following chapters, as an aid to their identification in present-day Putney.

GAZETEER OF CHANGED STREET NAMES

1851

Albert Place

Back Lanes

Brewhouse Lane

Chick Row

Church Row

Cock's or Cox's Buildings

Coopers Arms Lane

Gardens, The

Gardiners Lane

Malthouse Yard

North Place

Prices Folly

Ragmans Castle

River Street

Sadlers Buildings

South Place

Spring Gardens

Stewarts Rents

Taylors Buildings

Terrace, The

Wallers Cottages

Wandsworth Lane

Windsor Street

1977

Continuation of Weimar Street to west
(vacant site)

Lacy Road (part) Quill Lane, Cardinal Place.

Brewhouse Street

Felsham Road west of Hippodrome (vacant site)

Off High Street, adjacent St.Mary's Church
(I.C.L. site)

Henry Jackson estate, Felsham Road.

Lacy Road (part). Adjacent High Street.

Charlwood Road, Hotham Road, Clarendon Drive.

Felsham Road

Weimar Street to Lower Richmond Road (built over).

Waterman Street (Bricklayers Arms) to The Platt.

Lacy Road (Crown Court).

At the river end of Spring Passage

Waterman Street

Commondale (Jerrold Lodge)

Felsham Road (Phelps House)

Spring Passage

Commondale (Jerrold Lodge)

Off Lacy Road (Crown Court)

Lower Richmond Road (Kenilworth Court)

Putney Hospital N.Block (Lower Common)

Putney Bridge Road

Lower Richmond Road (High Street to The Platt)

LOCAL SOCIETY

A. STATISTICS

The total resident population of Putney on 7th April 1851 was 5179, of whom 2383 (46%) were male and 2796 (54%) female. In addition, the census revealed a further 101 people present in Putney that night 'of no fixed abode', made up of 85 gypsies on the Lower Common and 16 people on boats on the river, which brought the enumerators' returns up to a grand total of 5280 (2435m. + 2845f). For statistical purposes however, the 101 itinerants can be ignored, since it is the 5179 residents that are the subject of this study. They constituted 1066 separate households, occupying 919 dwelling houses. This means that 147 families lived in sub-let accommodation, but over and above this were some 150 lodgers, plus 160 'visitors' many of whom were probably paying guests.

Table 1 summarises the age/sex structure by age groups, and Fig.1 depicts the complete "pyramid", showing clearly the different life expectations of males and females at that time.

TABLE I

Putney 1851 - Age/Sex Structure

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
0 - 14	836	16	802	15	1638	31
15 - 29	660	13	851	17	1511	30
30 - 44	470	9	617	12	1087	21
45 - 59	280	5	332	7	632	12
60 & over	135	3	173	3	308	6
Not known	2	-	1	-	3	-
TOTAL	2383	46	2796	54	5179	100

It will be noted that the female population exceeded the males by 413 which expressed as a ratio meant that for every 100 males there were 117 females, the imbalance being particularly significant in the 20 - 35 age group and in the over - 50's. Many of the 'surplus' females in the 15 - 30 age group were domestic servants, part of larger households and not in separate families of their own. Over the age of 50, on the other hand, many widows and spinsters "of independent means" lived in Putney on the proceeds of rents, interest and annuities.

The fact that nearly one-third of the population in 1851 was aged 14 or less may come as a surprise, but it must be remembered that infant mortality was very high and family sizes much larger than today. Only 6% of the people in Putney were aged 60 and over. (In the Borough of Wandsworth in 1971, the comparable figures were 21% under 15 and 20% over 60).

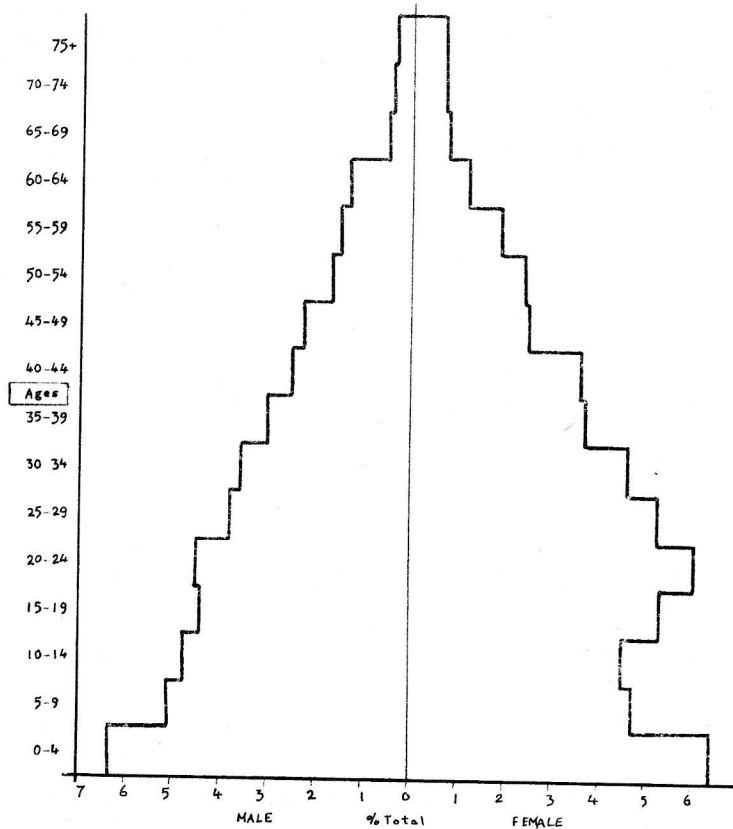


FIGURE 1

Putney 1851 Age/sex profile

B. ORIGINS

Where did people in Putney in 1851 come from? Despite it being a self-contained small town, still well away from the suburban sprawl of London, only about one-third of the people enumerated in April that year were born in the parish, the other two-thirds coming from places as near as Fulham and as far away as India. Table 2 below gives details of birth-places, by parishes in the case of nearby localities and by counties or countries of origin for the rest. It will be seen that besides the 25% born in the parish, 31% of Putney people were born in other parts of Surrey or in Middlesex, with a further 10% from the rest of the home counties, representing over three-quarters of the inhabitants of the parish. Few came from the north of England, Wales or Scotland, and less than 3% from Ireland (many of these last were concentrated in Cox's Buildings and the other small courts and alleys behind Bigg's Row). Pupils at the various boarding schools and colleges account for a high proportion of those born overseas.

It will be noted that outside the Home Counties, Hampshire produces the highest figure for immigrants, no doubt due to some extent to Putney's location on the main Portsmouth/Winchester/Southampton Road, but in view of what is often said about migrants tending to come from counties or parishes lying in the same sector as the parish concerned, in this case the south-west, it is interesting to note how few come from counties beyond Hampshire, compared with the influx from East Anglia, which is diametrically opposed in the north-east sector. Just why this should be so is not apparent; the census does not provide the answer. All that can be said is that of the 226 people concerned, 69 were domestic servants, there is a fair sprinkling of gardeners from Norfolk and Suffolk employed in Roehampton, and the rest are a random selection of heads of households, wives and children scattered about the parish. One possible explanation is that the purchase of Finborough Hall, Suffolk, by Roger Pettiward in 1795, and other Pettiward estates in Norfolk, may have had some bearing, by recruiting domestics from nearby villages, which might in turn lead to others in search of work following them to Putney.

It is noteworthy that in general, the Putney-born families, particularly those going back more than one generation, tend to be concentrated in the older properties; the newer and better quality housing such as the Lower Terrace in Windsor Street, Hotham Villas and 'The Gardens', and where development was still going on, in Stratford Grove and Charlwood Road, were occupied almost exclusively by people moving into Putney from outside. Few of these families were of the artisan or labouring class, the majority being in professional or semi-professional occupations, plus a significant proportion who were property owners or of independent means.

TABLE 2

PUTNEY 1851: BIRTHPLACES OF INHABITANTS

<u>BIRTHPLACE</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>BIRTHPLACE</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>%</u>
Putney	1805	34.8	Shropshire	17	0.3
Adjacent parishes*	372	7.2	Cornwall	14	0.3
City of London	324	6.3	Herefordshire	14	0.3
Chelsea/Westminster	252	4.9	Worcestershire	14	0.3
Lambeth/Southwark	124	2.4	Bedfordshire	13	0.2
Rest of Surrey	302	5.8	Staffordshire	13	0.2
Rest of Middlesex	253	4.9	Lincolnshire	10	0.2
Kent	179	3.4	Derbyshire	10	0.2
Hampshire	102	2.0	Cheshire	9	0.2
Suffolk	91	1.8	Cumberland	8	0.2
Sussex	89	1.7	Northumberland	8	0.2
Berkshire	81	1.6	Durham	6	0.1
Hertfordshire	76	1.5	Westmorland	5	0.1
Essex	73	1.4	Huntingdonshire	3	0.1
Norfolk	62	1.2			
Wiltshire	49	0.9	Glamorgan/Monmouth	8	0.2
Somerset	47	0.9	Other Wales	15	0.3
Buckinghamshire	45	0.9	Scotland	86	1.7
Yorkshire	42	0.8	Ireland	145	2.8
Oxfordshire	41	0.8	Channel Islands	2	-
Lancashire	38	0.7	Isle of Man	1	-
Devonshire	35	0.7			
Gloucestershire	29	0.5	France	32	0.6
Nottinghamshire	25	0.5	Germany	8	0.2
Warwickshire	24	0.4	Other Europe	30	0.6
Cambridgeshire	23	0.4			
Northamptonshire	23	0.4	Colonies	30	0.6
Dorset	19	0.4	U.S.A.	2	-
Leicester/Rutland	18	0.3	At Sea	1	-
			Not Known	32	0.6
			TOTAL	5179	100%

* Wandsworth, Fulham, Wimbledon, Barnes and Mortlake.

C. SOCIAL STRUCTURE

The following analysis is based on heads of households only, excluding lodgers, boarders and dependents, since the status of a family in society was a reflection of the job and income of the head, even where women and children supplemented the family income.

The division into Classes is based on the Registrar General's Classifications of 1921 and 1951, which are broadly as follows:- Class I = higher professional; Class II = lower professional, independent shopkeepers, clerks and employers of labour; Class III = skilled workers, shop assistants, domestic servants; Class IV = semi-skilled workers; Class V = unskilled workers. Class III is subdivided into IIIM and IIIN, representing manual and non-manual workers respectively.

TABLE 3

SOCIAL GRADING OF HEADS OF FAMILIES

Class	I	65	6.2%
	II	266	25.4%
	III M	180	17.2%
	III N	218	20.8%
	IV	163	15.6%
	V	155	14.8%
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		1047	100.0%

No details are available for the remaining 19 households (1.8% of the 1066 total), due to the family being away from home or no occupation being identified for the head of the household.

There is a fairly regular distribution here, with 32% in Classes I and II, 38% in Class III and 30% in Classes IV and V. This may seem surprising in view of the commonly held concept of Putney as the haunt of the aristocracy, bankers and brokers, but these people formed only the upper 6%, supported by, and themselves supporting, much larger numbers of tradesmen and other services.

The average size of a Putney household in 1851 was 4.8 persons, and the average number of inhabitants per dwelling house was 5.6. There were however wide variations, from people living on their own to households such as that of Anthony Fothergill Bainbridge, Brewer and Magistrate, living in Gordon House at the top of the High Street with his wife, mother-in-law, five young daughters and nine servants, a total of seventeen, or Doctor Cormack at Essex House a little lower down on the other side, whose household totalled nineteen. At the other end of the social scale, in Isabella Place the average number of persons living in each of the ten occupied cottages (two were vacant) was 9.7. The record was held by No.3 into which were crammed three families: William Mead, Zinc Worker aged 34, his wife and five children, Sarah Brocksopp, widow, aged 45, Charwoman, and her fourteen year old son, and John Wild, Plasterer aged 44 with a wife and three children, fourteen in all in a small two-storey cottage.

In the adjacent Cox's Buildings, twelve cottages mostly occupied by immigrant Irish labourers, the overcrowding is not quite so bad, the average number of occupants per house being 6.8 with a maximum of thirteen and a minimum of three.

As might be expected, there are significant geographical variations in the distribution of the various classes. The High Street still had a number of fine old mansions, such as Essex House and Fairfax House, and accounted for sixteen of the Class I families, a far cry from the transformation which took place in the next half-century. Of the rest, thirteen were in the Putney Hill/ Putney Heath enumeration districts, twelve were in the Roehampton area, while the new building expansion in "The Gardens" accounted for another five.

Class II is predictably concentrated in the High Street (74) and the adjacent part of Wandsworth Lane (15), which is not surprising since the great majority of shopkeepers were in the village centre, living over their place of business, whilst Windsor Street, which included The Terrace, accounted for another twenty, about half of whom were annuitants or fund-holders of one sort or another.

Class III is more evenly spread throughout the parish, usually forming between a half and one third of all households.

Class IV shows signs of concentration in definite groups: the courts and alleys around the High Street and the Gay Street/Platt areas account for over half of them, 88 out of 163. Occupations such as Porters, Coachmen and Watermen are included in Class IV and one would expect to find them in such areas.

Class V is even more concentrated, in the smaller back streets adjacent to the High Street, the crowded area between Biggs Row and March's Place, and the little colony on the Lower Common, which between them account for 103 out of 155. No Class V families lived in the High Street itself, and only 22 of this class are found in Roehampton.



EMPLOYMENT

A. OCCUPATIONS

How were Putney people employed in 1851? Again, the following conclusions are based on heads of households and exclude the occupations of dependents and others in employment. This has been done to facilitate comparison with other parishes and census years in due course, since much of this ancillary employment was part-time or casual, and varied in extent between places and at different times. Table 4 shows the occupational pattern of Putney households, divided into broad groups.

TABLE 4

Putney 1851 - Main Employment Categories

<u>Group</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
Manufacturing	132	13.0
Agriculture	94	9.3
Building	126	12.5
Retailing etc.	121	12.0
Domestic Services	173	17.1
Industrial Services	107	10.6
Mining and Quarrying*	3	0.3
Private Means	92	9.1
Professions	103	10.2
Transport	60	5.9
TOTAL	1011@	100.0

* The three householders in this category list their occupation as Well-diggers.

@ The remaining 55 heads of households were away from home, were on Parish Relief, or gave no details of occupation.

It will be noted that the largest groups are, respectively, Domestic Services (17%), Manufacturing (13%), Building Trades (12.5%) and Retailing Services (12%). This pattern, taken with the 10.2% representation of the professions and 9.1% of households being "of independent means", combine to give a good basis for an understanding of what life was like in Putney in 1851. Bear in mind that the "Manufacturers" were in most cases tailors, bootmakers and dressmakers working at home to meet the demand from local upper and middle class patrons - the only "industrial" manufacturers operating on any sort of scale were Dallett's soap and tallow works on the corner of Wandsworth Lane and the High Street, and Mr. Wood's Anchor Brewery, occupying the site between Felsham Road and Lacy Road which continued as brewery premises into the 1970's.

Agriculture only accounted for 9.3%, in spite of so much of Putney being still open ground, much of it devoted to market gardening, while transport, including the river and the railway, occupied less than 6%, a reflection on the one hand of the number of private carriages (and horses) kept in Putney in 1851, and on the other, the lack of mobility of the local working population, due to the absence of facilities for travel.

One is left with the impression that Putney was a relatively "closed" economy, without much employment outside the parish and little or no regular travel to London for work. The whole place seems permeated with the effects of substantial numbers of upper and middle class families living here and their multiplier effects on domestic service, retailing and building. Putney seems to have been a place where people got a living taking in each others washing - literally so in the case of the many laundresses!

B. WATERMEN

Much has been written about the importance of Watermen in the history of Putney, and it is often tacitly assumed that they still formed a significant element in the population during the 19th century. The 1851 Enumerators' Returns show clearly that this was not the case. Indeed, the building of Putney Bridge in 1729, along with the growth in road (and rail) traffic in the first half of the 19th century, probably meant that riverside Putney was at a very low ebb. Although the University Boat Race had been rowed from Putney regularly since 1845, its Golden Age as a centre of rowing and pleasure boating had not yet begun. Most of the riverside was still osier beds: there were no buildings west of Ragnans Castle to the parish boundary at the Beverley, and the Embankment itself was not constructed until 1887.

In 1851, there were twenty watermen, three of whom described themselves as "lightermen" also, one lighterman as such and two apprentices. In addition there was a solitary fisherman, Lewis Gibson, aged 40, born in Chiswick and living in Spring Gardens. All lived near the river, nearly half in Spring Gardens, and the rest in Brewhouse Lane, Albert Place, Church Row etc., the furthest removed being in South Place. John Cobb, the lighterman, was in Malthouse Yard, opposite the draw dock in Windsor Street. Of these twenty-three, fourteen were born in Putney, three in Fulham, two in the Strand and one each in Wandsworth, Ham, Isleworth and Woolwich, showing a close connection with the Thames, with some mobility up and down stream. Five were members of the Green family, as was Sarah Green, waterman's widow; three of these five were born in Putney. There were four Cobbs, all local men by birth and bearing a name still associated with Putney, and two Phelps, another well-known name, but they were both born in Fulham and had only recently moved over the river to Spring Gardens. Seventeen of these watermen were heads of households, representing only 2% of the Putney Total, hardly a major element in local society.

Other people connected with the river were Robert Miller, boatbuilder, aged 31 from Eton, who carried on his business between Lower Richmond Road and the river, where is now Ayling's boathouse and John Johnson aged 34, born in Fulham, captain on one of the "Citizen" steamboats, who lived at 13 Albert Place.

C. SERVANTS

No fewer than 12% of all the people in Putney in 1851 were in domestic service, a total of 644. The majority of these were living-in; only 41 lived at home and worked elsewhere.

Servants were confined to families in Classes I - III (for the definition of these classes, see the chapter on Social Structure, ante). Table 5 below sets out the pattern of living-in servants in Putney.

TABLE 5

<u>Class</u>	<u>Families</u>	<u>Keeping Servants</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Total Servants</u>	<u>Average servants per Household</u>
I	65	55	85	314	5.7
II	266	139	52	269	1.9
III	398	16	4	20	1.2
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>789</u>	<u>310</u>	<u>42.5*</u>	<u>603</u>	

*Note: 42.5% of Class I - III families, = 30.0% of all families.

The difference between Classes I and II stands out clearly in the table, the former having on average three times as many servants per household as the latter. Similarly, the proportion of households keeping servants falls rapidly between Classes I and II, and even more rapidly between Classes II and III: in the latter class only one family in twenty-five kept a servant in 1851. Few households ran to more than two servants, but at the other extreme, some of the "great" houses had a dozen or more. For example, we find Lady St.Aubyn, a widow of 81, living at Lime Grove, an estate extending the whole length of Putney Hill from the Upper Richmond Road to Cut-Through Lane (Putney Heath Lane). With her lived her son-in-law Colonel Knollys, his married daughter and eight grandchildren aged from nine months to eighteen years, also one visitor, thirteen in all, looked after by a staff of seventeen, who themselves had six dependents. The staff consisted of cook, two lady's maids, two housemaids, kitchenmaid, nurse, nurserymaid, two footmen and a batman for the eldest grandson, who was a Lieutenant in the Army. To these must be added the outdoor staff of coachman, gardener and his eldest son employed as gardener's boy (he also had a wife and five younger children), and a sergeant of the Metropolitan Police with his wife, who seem to have doubled up as lodgekeepers and security guard!

Or, again, at Grove House, Roehampton, Stephen Lyne Stephens senior, aged 87, kept up an even more impressive household. To supply the needs of three people, himself, his son aged 49 and the latter's French wife, took the combined efforts of a staff of twenty-six, a butler, a French cook, valet, under-butler, two footman, housekeeper, four housemaids, a dairymaid, lady's maid, still-room maid, two kitchen maids, a gamekeeper, coachman, two stable hands, a gardener (who had a wife, daughter and three-year-old niece living with him), three under-gardeners (one married), a lodge-keeper with two children and a gatekeeper in Templeton Land (Clarence Lane), which gives an overall ratio of 3 to 32, upstairs to downstairs!

The polarisation of Putney society between these grand mansions (some of which would rank as Stately Homes by today's reckoning) and the poor, often near destitute labouring families living in some of the courts and yards off the High Street and in the Irish enclave behind Bigg's Row is starkly recorded in the census enumerators' notebooks and the reality can have been no less noticeable to a passing visitor.

D. POLICE

In 1851 Putney boasted a police station - but only just! It was situated at No.1 Priests Bridge, a little group of eight houses on the old 'dog-leg' of the Upper Richmond Road (now by-passed by Upper Richmond Road West). In the course of some adjustments in 1957, the boundary was moved from behind these houses to the middle of the road, so as a result they found themselves translated from Putney, London, to Barnes in the County of Surrey.

In the police station itself we find one P.C. with a large family and a twelve year old servant girl; at No.3 is an Irish police sergeant with two single P.C's as lodgers, and at No.4 another P.C. with his family and three lodgers (not in the force). Three more P.C's appear in the Felsham Road area; one in Biggs Row, one in Seymour Row (an Irishman, perhaps strategically situated to keep an eye on his compatriots in Cox's Buildings), and one in Chick Row.

In addition, two police sergeants and two constables, with their families, are recorded as living at the big houses or their gate-lodges. There was a sergeant at Lime Grove, as already recorded, a P.C. at the main gate of The Priory, a sergeant at the Roehampton Lodge Gate of Bessborough House and a P.C. at Lower Park on Putney Hill, perhaps acting as caretaker while the owners were away.

There seem to have been no police in Roehampton Village, although soon afterwards a police station was set up in Medfield Street, then known as Kingston Road, and later as Stamford Street.

E. POSTAL SERVICES

By the time of the 1851 census, the penny post was well established, having been instituted eleven years earlier, but the postal requirements of the 5000-odd inhabitants of Putney, occupying less than 1000 houses and with the majority working locally, were probably not very great. The one and only post office was located on the south-western corner of Putney Hill and the Upper Richmond Road (there were no houses at all in Upper Richmond Road between the boundary at East Putney and the Hill).

The postmistress was Miss Helen Johnston, a Scot, and her household as recorded in the census was an interesting one. There were two "household servants", a 45 years old Irish widow, and William Grinson, aged 11, from Fulham. She had three lodgers, all in their twenties: an Attorney aged 27 and two brothers, one a Customs Clerk and the other a pensioner of the East Indian Navy at the age of 25. In addition, Henry Scarth of Putney, whose name crops up as co-developer of the Park Fields area, was staying at the Post Office as a visitor.

The record shows only one postman resident in the parish: William Shepherd, aged 40, living in Wallers Cottages on the Lower Common (now absorbed in the Putney Hospital site), with his second wife and two children. Ten years earlier John Turner, a Letter Carrier, was living at 6 Prices Folly with his wife, Hannah and four children; in 1851 the entry for this address reads "Hannah Turner, widow aged 59; pauper, formerly postman's wife". Evidently the Post Office took no responsibility for the welfare of its employees' dependents in those days!

The only other reference to the Post Office is at 15 River Street, where lived William Ilsey, 27 Mail Cart Driver, and a lodger Peter Martin, 19, Mail Rider, neither of whom was born locally.

RELIGION & EDUCATION

A. CHURCHES

First and foremost, of course, was the Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin, rebuilt in 1836 on the site by the river at the foot of the High Street which it had occupied for over 500 years, though the churchyard was now cut off from the river by the approach to the wooden bridge cutting across it. The Parish did not have a Rector or Vicar, but was assigned a Perpetual Curate (an arrangement which lasted until 1868). This office had been held since 1835 by Christopher Thomas Robinson, by now aged 57 and still unmarried, who shared a house at the foot of Putney Hill with a sister, also unmarried, and one domestic servant. Only one assistant curate is listed in the census, Edward East, 34, who appears to have lived in fair style with his wife, two small children, a cook and a nursemaid in Grove House, or part of it. Less than twenty years later Grove House was demolished to extend Disraeli Road through to the High Street.

For dissenters, the Platt Mission had been founded as far back as 1808 under the auspices of the Surrey Mission Society, apparently after an abortive earlier attempt, for a reference in the Society's minutes reads: "The Gospel was first introduced into this dark village in 1799, not without opposition -----". The minister, Robert Ashton, was away when the census record was compiled, but his wife Martha and his twenty-year old son Robert (who was evidently following in father's footsteps, his occupation being recorded as Studying for the Ministry), were at home at Garden Cottage in Upper Richmond Road near Dyers Lane.

There was also a small meeting house for Wesleyans established about 1845, known as "the hole in the wall", in Coopers Arms Lane/Back Lane (the name varies from time to time); its site is now covered by Ferry House on the corner of Stratford Grove. It had a spasmodic existence at first, with no permanent minister as far as can be traced, although there was a William R. Davies, 60, described as Dissenting Minister of Independent Denomination, living with his wife at Gotha Cottage in the Gardens (now 27 Charlwood Road). Whether he was connected with the Putney Methodists, retired, or ministering elsewhere, the census unfortunately does not tell us.

The spiritual needs of Roehampton were served by Holy Trinity parish church in Roehampton Lane, built in 1842 and enlarged when it became a separate Ecclesiastical District in 1845. This building continued in use until the present church in Ponsonby Road was erected in 1898. It lasted in various stages of dereliction until 1928, when it was demolished. The building in Roehampton Lane which is often mistaken for the old church is the mausoleum of the Lyne Stephens family, consecrated in 1864, which in fact stands a little further north than the site of the old church. Like Putney, Roehampton also had a Perpetual Curate, the Rev. George Edward Biber, born in Wurtemberg, married, aged 49, who is recorded as living in part of Prospect House, Roehampton High Street, but there are no entries for his wife or any family.

B. SCHOOLS

There were no "Board" schools as early as 1851: they were still some twenty years away in the future. On the other hand, on the evidence of Samuel Pepys and John Evelyn's diaries alone, Putney had long enjoyed a reputation for the quality of its educational establishments, particularly those for young ladies!

Of the schools in existence in 1851, only the Parochial Schools of St. Mary's, Putney and Holy Trinity, Roehampton survive today. Martyn's School still exists as a charitable trust, but the school itself was closed in 1911, being then located at No.13 Lower Richmond Road.

The oldest scholastic foundation in Putney in 1851 was the School for the Sons of Watermen, set up under the will of Thomas Martyn, dated 22nd October 1684, but due to protracted Chancery suits over the estate, the bequest was not put into effect until 1714. This educated and clothed twenty boys, the sons of Putney Watermen. It had a fine mansion "Southfield House" on the south side of Wandsworth Lane which was demolished in 1887 to build the viaduct over which the Underground trains now pass on their way to and from East Putney. For some years this house was let to the Rev. Christopher Robinson, last Perpetual Curate and first Vicar of Putney, but by 1851 he had moved to the foot of Putney Hill and Southfield House was occupied by Richard Slack, ironmonger, his brother John, their respective families, a housemaid and a nurse, totalling eleven in all. Samuel Elliott, aged 23, schoolmaster, occupied a small building in the grounds of Southfield House, together with what appears to be a schoolroom and playground. These were separated from the rest of the garden and had their own access from the road.

On the other side of Wandsworth Lane, occupying the land now covered by Deodar Road, Florian Road and Merivale Road were two houses, Putney House and the Cedars, and their grounds. These were occupied by the Putney College of Civil Engineering, a typical Victorian enterprise for fostering scientific knowledge, which during its brief existence of just under twenty years attained quite a high reputation. The principal was the Rev. Benjamin Morgan Cowie, M.A., aged 34, who lived in The Cedars together with his wife and five children (aged 8 months to five years), a gardener with his wife and daughter, three house servants, two footmen, a lodgekeeper (a Chelsea Pensioner) and two students. Putney House, one-time residence of Sir Gerard Vanneck, brother of the first Lord Huntingfield, housed two assistant masters (both Cambridge B.A.'s), a Matron, a Sempstress, six female servants, two menservants, two porters and 26 students aged from 16 to 24, who came from all over the world: India, U.S.A., Italy, West Indies and Ireland, as well as the more distant provinces of England. The remainder of the students, nine in number, aged from 17 to 19, were housed with one assistant master (also a B.A.) and a manservant, in an annexe.

Also in Wandsworth Lane was Shrubbery House (later Crest House), one of a pair of houses set back from the road by Brewhouse Lane, which were demolished when the Castle P.H. was rebuilt in 1937/38. This had been quite a flourishing school of music; by 1851 it was being run by Jane Nicholls, widow aged 60, with only two boarders, but ten years earlier there had been eleven pupils and a resident teacher.

In the High Street there were three establishments, run respectively by the Misses Lewis, Emma Thompson and John Bird, as follows:-

Sarah and Anne Lewis, aged 44 and 42, had a large old house on the east side of the High Street, now covered by Messrs. W.H.Smith's shop and the entry to Werter Road, with extensive grounds reaching back as far as Tarling's Lane (Oxford Road). They employed three resident teachers, including Mlle Dupuis who taught French, and five servants. There were 24 pupils aged 14 to 17, plus one aged nine, the younger sister of a fourteen year old. They came mostly from Scotland, Ireland and the provinces: only seven were Londoners. The only pupil from overseas was Emma Graham, aged 15, born in Oporto, Portugal, of British parents. She was presumably a member of the well-known family of Port Wine shippers, in itself an indication of the high status of the school.

At Knox House (now No.100) Emma Thompson, a widow aged 50 born in Putney, has one governess, two house servants and seven pupils aged 10 to 16, including three from the West Indies.

Next door, to the south, was John Bird's boys school. He had one assistant aged 24, two Irish servants and 19 boys aged 8 to 14, plus one little brother aged five. With few exceptions they came from the London area.

In Upper Richmond Road, the Rev. Edward Trimmer was still carrying on Dr.Carmalt's school in the large house and grounds now covered by Carmalt Gardens and the adjacent properties. The Doctor, who had retired nearly ten years previously, died in 1850, but his widow was still living in their home in The Terrace. This school, which had a very good name over a long period, had 44 pupils aged 7 to 16, quite a few from India and the remainder from the Home Counties. The household included four resident teachers: two classics, one maths and one French, nine maids and two manservants, as well as the Rev. Edward Trimmer, his wife, two daughters and one son.

Lastly there were the National Schools at Putney and Roehampton. St.Mary's, Putney, still stands in Felsham Road, in 1851 included in the all-embracing title of Back Lanes. In the Master's house lived John Roseblade and his sister, while Harriet West Bailey, aged 46, was in the Assistant's house (these two houses are still there, adjoining the school on the south side).

The Roehampton Infant School which formed the core of the present Parish School, had a resident mistress, 23 year old Jane Gregory, a local girl, but her assistant, 16 year old Margaret Scott, lived at home with her parents and her four younger brothers in Elizabeth Place, Roehampton.

Also living in Roehampton was Edwin Carthew, schoolmaster, aged 19, born in Penzance, who lodged at Prospect House in the High Street in company with G.E. Biber, the German-born Perpetual Curate of Roehampton, but where Mr.Carthew taught is not revealed.

The entries for Elm Grove, occupied by the Convent of the Sacred Heart which had removed there from Acton the previous year, include nine sisters of various ages and countries of origin described as "Teacher in the Poor School", from which it would appear that the Order had set up some sort of school for local children, but whether it was within Elm Grove or in some other building in the village does not appear.

Only one privately-run day school is recorded as such: Katharine Wood, 38, living in Coopers Arms Lane between Walkers Place and the High Street, whose husband was employed as an "Ironmonger's Messenger", gives as her occupation "Day School", probably not much more than a child-minding service. Ann Ives aged 33 and her widowed mother aged 69, living in Back Lanes near Prices Folly also Maria Steathes, a widow of 33 living in Windsor Street opposite the Star and Garter, are all described as schoolmistresses, and they may have operated similar establishments. The returns also show George Newbolt, schoolmaster, aged 27, living with his mother in Walkers Place, but he may well have been a non-resident teacher at one of the more reputable schools, likewise Charlotte Gould aged 21, lodging at No.7 South Place, who gives her occupation as Infant School Teacher (perhaps at the National School).

This completes the record of schools in Putney parish in 1851, as far as can be ascertained. The list might be longer, for some of them seem to have been of a very transient nature: for instance in the 1840's there was a boys boarding school at Ivy Cottage, 19 Gardiner's Lane, run by George Ogg with fifteen boarders aged from 6 to 11. There were no resident staff, so presumably his four sons and one daughter, all in their twenties, taught and looked after the boys. By 1851, however, he had gone and the house was occupied by Edward Morris, a Master Tailor from Devon, with his wife, four children and a maidservant.

About this time too, contemporary maps show a Roman Catholic school in George's Place, in the heart of the Irish enclave between Bigg's Row and March's Place, but it evidently just missed the 1851 returns.

Finally, on the fringe of the educational bracket, we have Robert Wilde aged 53, living in Back Lanes between Walkers Place and the corner of what is now Stratford Grove/Cardinal Place, who is described as "Educational and Geographical Modeller, employing two apprentices". The apprentices were his own sons, aged 15 and 16, and presumably they made a living constructing terrestrial globes and three-dimensional landscapes!



Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin,

LEISURE

Just how the bulk of the inhabitants of Putney occupied their leisure time - assuming they had any in 1851 - is difficult to determine. The census contains only two slightly relevant entries: at Richmond Lodge in Upper Richmond Road (now Balmuir Gardens), lived Fanny Fitzwilliam with her son aged 24, described as a Theatrical Musical Composer, while staying with them as a visitor was John Bucston, 45, Theatrical Comedian. Evidently a Thespian sort of household, but since Putney had neither a theatre nor a music hall, not even a working men's club or recreation room, it is unlikely that their talents found any local application.

The other entry relates to outdoor sport: staying as a visitor in Biggs Row was Edward Pope, 28, simply described as "Cricketter"; by birth he would have qualified for Kent, assuming he was of that standard. Cricket certainly was played in the parish; Roehampton Cricket Club has occupied a pitch on Putney Heath, by the Telegraph, since 1842, while Manorial records give an indication of earlier and less organised activities. At a Court Baron held on 31st July 1800 it is recorded that "Complaint having been made unto this Court that divers persons frequently play at cricket on Putney Lower Common, near the gate leading from Windsor Street to Barnes, to the great inconvenience and annoyance of travellers passing and repassing, by the cricket balls being flung in the road and the players stopping them with their bats in an improper manner, to the obstruction of horses in carriages. It is ordered that the Bayliff of this Manor do take an account of their names and places of abode and inform them that they will be prosecuted as tresspassers unless they carry on their games and diversions in future so as not to be a detriment and nuisance to His Majesty's liege subjects". No doubt similar rough and ready football games took place in the appropriate season.

With regard to other outdoor sports, there had been a bowling green on the Heath in the 18th Century, but it had long since been closed down, and anyway its use would have been largely confined to wealthy visitors from London taking a day out in the country.

Rowing started as a recreation in about 1800, but none of the clubs had established themselves at Putney by 1851, although the London Rowing Club is believed to have operated from a shed by the river in 1856, replaced by the present boathouse in 1871. It is doubtful though whether this club would have catered for the locals to any extent - it was then largely an association of City articulated clerks and the like.

There was however, one leisure occupation that was well catered for, and that was drinking! There were in 1851 no fewer than twenty-two licensed taverns and public houses in the parish, one for every 156 people over the age of 14, an increase of five on the total twenty-five years previously. This may account to some extent for the gloomy and disparaging tone of reports recorded about this time by well-meaning missionaries, on the manners and morals of the Putney townspeople.

A list of the public houses in 1851 makes interesting reading today: eight of the 22 have since closed (marked + below), but at least a dozen have opened in their place, though not all of them survive to the present day. The list is as follows:-

In the High Street, the Red Lion+, White Lion, Bull and Star+, Coopers Arms+, Spotted Horse, Rose and Crown+. In Wandsworth Lane, the Queens Head+ and the Castle. In Back Lanes, the Jolly Gardeners and in North Place the Bricklayers Arms. In Windsor Street, the Star and Garter and the Eight Bells+, and in its continuation in Lower Richmond Road the Dukes Head and the Half Moon. In Upper Richmond Road the Fox and Hounds (since renamed the Coach and Eight) laid a doubtful claim to having been founded in 1360, while the Arab Boy was less than ten years old. On Putney Heath were the Green Man and the Telegraph, and down in Putney Vale (otherwise Kingston Bottom) was the Bald Faced Stag+. Roehampton Village supported three inns, the Kings Head, the Angel and the Queens Head+. There was also one unnamed "beer shop" on the Lower Common at the corner of Stewarts Rents and Sadlers Buildings (now covered by Jerrold Lodge), which would no doubt have been eclipsed by the opening of the Cricketers and the Spencer Arms nearby.

Of the fourteen which survive, only four, the Bricklayers Arms, the Arab Boy, the Green Man and the Kings Head are practically unchanged externally. The Spotted Horse and the Telegraph still retain their original buildings but have undergone a "face-lift"; all the others have been demolished and rebuilt.



TRANSPORT

A. TRAIN SERVICES

Post hoc propter hoc is a maxim which, in the field of local history, has given rise to any amount of firmly established folklore which, on close examination, serves mainly to illustrate the danger of jumping to conclusions! The oft-quoted statement that the arrival of the railway in Putney in July, 1846, had an immediate effect in triggering off its transformation from a quiet Surrey village to a Metropolitan suburb seems to be a good example of this sort of hasty judgement.

Examination of the pattern of train services to and from Putney in 1851 indicates that, while they were almost generous for their day and for the size of the community served, they offered little or no incentive to would-be commuters.

Putney was (and still is) served by the "Windsor Line" to and from Waterloo, operating independently of the South Western Railway's main line, which by then had reached out to Southampton and Portsmouth, with a branch to Hampton Court. The Windsor line by 1851 included the 'Loop' from Barnes through Hounslow which rejoined the original line through Richmond at Feltham. These lines carried 21 departures daily from Waterloo, and 22 arrivals. The services provided were simple: to and from Windsor via Richmond and Twickenham (there was one exception, a mid-afternoon train via Hounslow to Feltham and Windsor), alternating with short workings to and from Twickenham only, and to and from Hounslow via the 'Loop'. Many of the trains served both destinations, splitting at Barnes. Only six trains each way passed Putney, which had 15 down and 16 up trains each weekday, giving an approximately hourly service. On Sundays this was reduced to six down and seven up trains at irregular intervals.

An indication of the type of traffic expected, however, lies in the fact that the first up trains left Putney at 8.6am., 9.1am., 9.24am., and 10.25am., arriving at Waterloo at 8.30am., 9.25am., 9.40am., and 10.50am., respectively. Of these only the first two carried 3rd class passengers, and for the rest of the day, with the exception of the 1.25pm. and 9.40pm. off Putney, all trains were 1st and 2nd class only. In the down direction the service was similar. Only the 7.35am. (7.56 at Putney) and the 7.1pm. departures from Waterloo carried third class passengers; the other thirteen were 1st and 2nd class only.

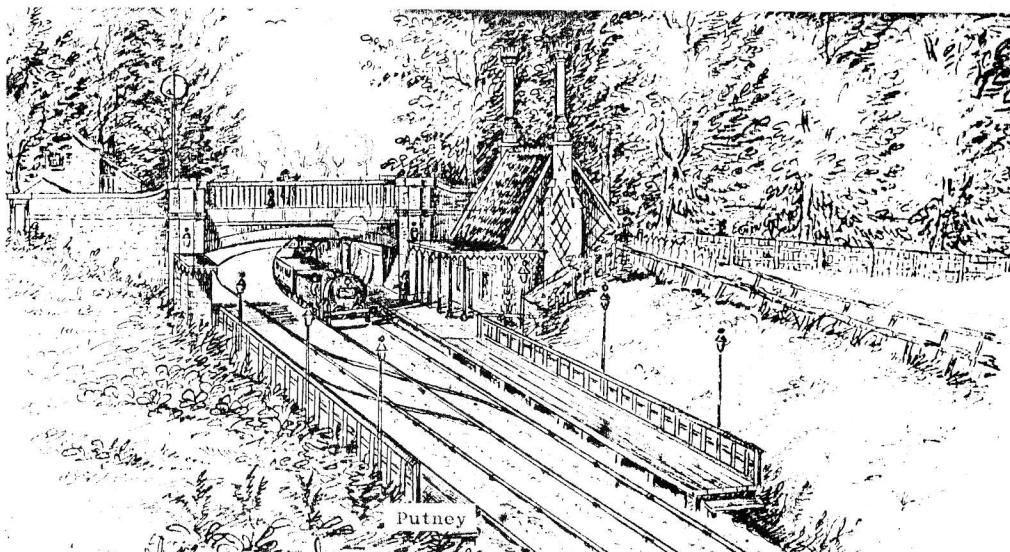
The pattern of Victorian hours of work would have made these services quite useless for artisans and the labouring grades who formed a large part of Putney's population, and equally inadequate for wage-earning clerks employed in the City. The only 'workers' who could have used them would be the upper layers of the professional classes, the lawyers and the bankers, of whom Putney boasted a fair number, although they formed only a small proportion of the total population.

On this evidence, therefore, it seems reasonable to assume that in 1851 Putney's pattern of employment must still have been very self contained, daily work being possible only within walking distance, and owing nothing to the coming of the railway.

Even at this early date the railway did provide some employment locally, up to a dozen or so jobs. Thus we find George Galloway, aged 36, "Railway Station Clerk" (in charge of the booking office), living in that part of The Gardens later named Clarendon Road. When built, this consisted of eight houses in an L-shaped arrangement from its present junction with Charlwood Road, to what is now 'Springfield', 332 Upper Richmond Road. The railway cut between the last two of these, and the house on the north side, in which George Galloway lived, was only a few yards from the tracks. It was no doubt railway property, and was demolished in the 1880's to make room for the widening to four tracks.

James Sutton, "Agent to the L.S.W.R." was living at No.7 Priests Bridge, and had as a lodger J. Harvey, 16, Clerk on the L.S.W.R., while two of the four cottages in Dyers Lane provided homes for four Railway Labourers (for track maintenance?) and one porter. There were three more porters, one living in the High Street next door to the Bull and Star, one in Russell's Place and one at No.1 Priests Bridge. Finally, Benson Varnals, aged 14, at No.10 North Place, described his occupation as "Railway Servant", probably in the grade usually designated as "Boy".

Few, if any of these railway employees were born locally, the majority coming from places near the South Western's main line in Surrey and Hampshire. In the case of William Cheasley, however, one of the labourers living in Dyers Lane, it is tempting to draw another, wholly conjectural, conclusion. He was born in 1823 at Gatton, near Merstham, and his wife at Reigate, while their elder child was born in 1848 at Wandsworth, and the younger in June 1850 in Putney. Could he have found his early employment on the Surrey Iron Railway or its extension, which passed near his home, moving to Wandsworth in the process, and after its closure in 1846 getting a similar job on the newly-built Richmond line? An interesting possibility, but nothing more!



B. BUSES AND STEAMBOATS

For the study of other forms of transport in 1851, we are fortunate in having the first edition of "The Illustrated Omnibus Guide", which was published in May that year in connection with the Hyde Park Exhibition, price 6d. It was available, *inter alia*, from W.H. Smith & Son, 136 Strand, a good many years before Putney acquired its own branch.

Horse bus service No.95 (although the buses then did not carry any route numbers, but were painted distinctive colours, such as white for Putney), operated between London Bridge Station and what was always called Putney, but in fact was the "Eight Bells" pub in Fulham High Street at the north end of old Putney Bridge. This was to avoid the operators having to pay the toll for the bus, although Putney travellers had to pay $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each way to catch it! The buses left Fulham every ten minutes from 7.40am. until 10.00pm., long hours for a bus in those days, and went via, Brompton, Piccadilly and Bank, the journey taking one hour with a through fare of 9d. A local journey, say Fulham to Brompton, cost 3d. These fares represent weekly travel costs of 9/- and 3/- respectively, and coupled with the time the first bus reached the City emphasise the role of the horse-bus as a middle-class conveyance. Like the railway at Putney, the bus to town was not aimed at the early commuter, but no doubt appealed to the wives of local tradesmen bound for a day's shopping in town.

South of the river, bus services were sparse in 1851. A service left Rockhampton (sic) for Bank at 9.00am. on weekdays, 5.40pm on Sundays, returning from Bank at 4.30, and on Sundays from the White Horse Cellar in Piccadilly at 9.15pm. The fare was 1/-. In view of the great disparity in Roehampton between the carriage-owning bankers and aristocrats and the relatively immobile lower classes, it is difficult to see what market this bus tapped. Four buses a day ran from Wimbledon to St. Paul's or Bank, passing through Putney. The fare for this was also 1/-. This service provided the earliest public transport between the two villages, along the line now served by the 93 bus. Putney Heath was served by the once-daily Kingston-Gracechurch Street bus which passed at about 8.30.

In 1851, then, Putney lay at the very edge of the frequent horse-bus network which had evolved in London since 1829, although the level of service to Fulham was probably aimed as much at the Putney traffic as that of the former village. Putney remained isolated until the bridge was freed from toll in 1880, when the buses crossed over to use a stand outside the White Lion, familiar from Field's early photographs.

Much less is known about the steamboats which ran up-river in 1851. The Omnibus Guide details the ten-minute service provided by the Citizen and Iron Steamboat Companies, which had been established in the 1840's, although this ran only from London Bridge to Battersea/Chelsea piers. Putney is not mentioned, and probably was too remote for a scheduled service at this date, although pleasure steamers had been plying from Richmond and elsewhere as early as 1824. It must also be remembered that the racing world had yet to establish itself at Putney on a permanent basis, and that local riverside activity was at a low ebb at the mid-century (see section on Watermen).

