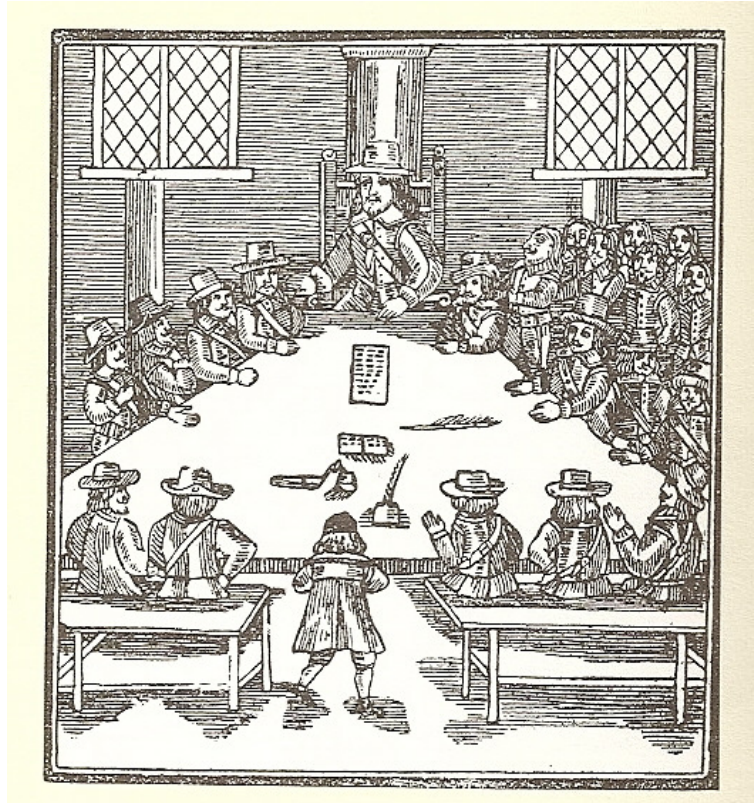


# The Putney Debates 1647



## *Cromwell & Democracy 2007*

St Mary's Church, Putney  
26 October – 2 November 2007

A week of events. Debates, performances  
and opening of a new permanent exhibition.  
Find out about one of the most important and radical  
encounters in Britain's constitutional history which  
took place in 1647 among the pews of Putney church

[www.putneydebates.com](http://www.putneydebates.com)

St Mary's Church, Putney High St, SW15 1SN

*'I think that the poorest be that is in England bath a life to live,  
as the greatest be' Colonel Rainsborough 1647*

**The Putney Debates** took place at a time when the Roundheads were winning the English civil war. Oliver Cromwell's New Model Army had bested the Cavaliers and Charles I himself was in custody. The rank and file of the Roundhead army argued their case for a democratic state based on male suffrage, religious toleration, rights of property and parliamentary reform. These extraordinary discussions remain as vibrant today as 360 years ago. This pinnacle of our progressive past is now to be marked by a permanent exhibition at St Mary's Church.

**Free entry Exhibition includes:**

- **Extracts from William Clarke's** transcripts of the Debates and how the manuscript came to be found in Worcester College Oxford by former keeper Lesley le Claire
- **Protagonists in the Debates**, including firebrand preacher Hugh Peters who preached locally
- **Putney in the 17<sup>th</sup> century** plus many images of the area by Wandsworth Historical Society (WHS) including 1636 map by Nicholas Lane
- **The Church in the 17<sup>th</sup> century** Oxford historian William Whyte
- **The Debates, Democracy and Civil Rights:** Geoffrey Robertson QC
- **An audio narrative** extracts from the Debates and audio description
- **A video** introduced by Tristram Hunt with interviews with leading politicians and historians

**Open daily from Saturday 27 October 2007 (times subject to services Ring 020 8788 4414 to check)**

**Opening Events: 26 October – 2 November 2007.** Tickets £6/£3 concessions (under 16s, students, senior citizens, unemployed and registered disabled) Credit Card bookings 020 871 8711 or half hour before performance at St Mary's

**Fri 26 Oct:** Two shows on the Debates: 6.30pm Wimbledon Youth Theatre (WYT)(Free outside church) 7.30pm 'A Putney Light Shines' by Maria Oshodi, Extant, performed by the University of Kingston drama students and professional actors. *Ticketed*

**Sat 27 Oct:** 12 noon onwards: Civil War re-enactment company Sealed Knot - sword fighting, musket firing. Pewter making demonstrations. Hog roast and Levellers beer tent. 6.30pm WYT (*Free outside church*) 7.30pm 'A Putney Light Shines' *Ticketed*

**Sun 28 Oct:** 10.00am service, 12 noon Peal, Pewter making demonstrations. Hog roast and levellers beer tent. Civil War re-enactment company Sealed Knot – sword fighting and musket firing. 1.30pm arrival of river party rowed by The Putney Oarsmen from Westminster to Putney, 3.30pm WYT, (*Free outside church*)4.30pm 'A Putney Light Shines', *Ticketed* 6pm Caritas

**Tues 30 Oct:** 8.00pm 17<sup>th</sup> century music concert *Ticketed*

**Wed 31 Oct:** 7.30pm 'Every Man and his government: The Putney Debates and the American Premise' by London based American universities *Ticketed*

**Thurs 1 Nov:** 7.30pm '17<sup>th</sup> Century Putney: talk by Dorian Gerhold WHS *Ticketed*

**Fri 2 Nov:** 7.30pm 'What's Wrong with Britain's Democracy' Verso debate chaired by Shami Chakrabati with Geoffrey Robertson QC *Ticketed*