

THE RIDDLEDOWN RECORDER



This impression of the Riddlesdown Church Hall as it will look when finished was drawn by Clifford Haggis, and is based on the plans prepared by the architects, Messrs Seely & Paget.

A Hall for Riddlesdown

To all Residents of Riddlesdown,

Doubtless you will already have heard of the proposal to build a hall on a central site in this area, which can be used both as a church and a social centre. With this object in view we, the Executive Committee of the Riddlesdown Residents' Association, would like to bring to your notice the following picture of the situation, and we hope that this will give you some idea of the uses to which the hall will be put and, equally as important, the problems we face in raising our share of the building costs.

The Objects of the Hall

The uses to which the hall will be put were outlined in the Riddlesdown Recorder (June 1951 edition) and it only remains for us to refresh your memory by saying that the proposed hall will seat approximately 250 people and will include the necessary arrangements for the reverent conducting of Church services and Sunday Schools; an excellent stage for dramatic shows; committee rooms; kitchen for preparation of refreshments; facilities for badminton, whist drives, dances and socials. You will see from the illustration that the intended building will be a considerable



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Front Cover Photo:

“A Hall for Riddlesdown” from a pamphlet delivered to all households in Riddlesdown in 1951

This is your local Community Magazine – for future issues we welcome your contributions, either directly about Riddlesdown or which are of interest to local residents – send these to editorrra@gmail.com

Further information and past issues of this magazine can be found on our website:

www.riddlesdownresidents.org.uk

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

All Emergencies: (Fire, Police, Ambulance) **999**

Police Non Emergency Number: **101**

Purley Oaks and Riddlesdown SNT: **07584 186578**

Sanderstead Police SNT: **020 8721 2470**

NHS Non Emergency Number : **111**

THE RIDDLEDOWN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS



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*Chairman and Riddlesdown
Collegiate Liaison*

[Redacted]
[Redacted]



Phil Thomas
*Planning & Environmental;
Website Editor*

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You may write to the Riddlesdown Residents' Association at any of the following addresses:

Please mark your correspondence with the committee member's name, if applicable. Or you can e-mail any committee member at RiddlesdownResidents@gmail.com or at any of the e-mail addresses listed above.

RRA notice boards are situated in Lower Barn Rd by Riddlesdown Pharmacy, on the Green opposite the shops in Lower Barn Rd, on the Green in Lower Barn Rd near St Edmund's Church, on the side wall of St Edmund's Church and by K&K Food & Wine in Mitchley Ave.

Website: www.riddlesdownresidents.org.uk Email RiddlesdownResidents@gmail.com

EDITOR'S NOTES

BY NEIL TARRANT

The cover image for this edition of the Recorder is a flyer advertising a new hall for Riddlesdown: St Edmund's hall church. Since it was built, the hall has provided a focus for many of the activities within the area, as well as a place of worship. As you will read inside, St Edmund's is currently redeveloping its hall so that it will continue to be at the heart of the community. Clubs and societies provide fun and companionship for many, but they also offer many other benefits. In the Chair's

report you will also find out about plans to develop social prescribing, that is, efforts to encourage participation in the activities currently available in Riddlesdown as a means to boost health and well-being. In the other articles and reports, you will be able to read about many of other clubs and societies active in our area, and how you can get involved! My thanks go to everyone who has contributed to this issue, and especially Roger Cherrill for setting the magazine.

Tip Top Hair



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BY BRIAN LONGMAN

In September last year, Riddlesdown Collegiate held their annual Open Evening for prospective parents. Due to the Collegiate's growing popularity, the evening attracted many more visitors than in previous years. With record numbers of parents attending, coupled with ongoing gas works, the result was traffic chaos and gridlock in many of the local roads around the school. Since the Open Evening, the RRA has listened to many residents' comments, both positive and negative.

A number of you told us that the Open Evening may now be too large for the narrow streets leading up to the cul-de-sac of Dunmail Drive and the Collegiate building. Others said they were pleased to see their local Collegiate so popular and the evening was only once a year. However, I have to say, the large majority wanted the Collegiate to take some action to reduce the traffic chaos and gridlock in the roads outside their homes.

With that in mind, the Association has held meetings with Soumick Dey, the Principal of Riddlesdown Collegiate in an effort to resolve some of the issues. At this point, I need to say that the Collegiate engaged with the Association in a positive manner and were keen to take steps to improve the situation for their neighbours and local residents.

Following our meetings, which Simon Hoar our local councillor also attended, I am happy to report on the Collegiate's plan for future prospective parents' Open Evenings.

This includes:

- Engage with a traffic management team to prepare a plan to reduce traffic congestion

and improve road safety.

- Hire professional Traffic Marshalls to help manage traffic flow on the night.
- Police Safer Neighbourhood teams to attend the event for extra support on the night.
- Additional pre-booked open mornings during school time to help reduce numbers on the night.
- Advise the RRA early of events for inclusion on RRA website, monthly newsletter and Facebook.
- Drop more letters to local residents, advising them of the date of the open evening.
- Start evening slightly earlier to spread visitors across a longer period.
- Ensure that in any advertising the Collegiate reference the likely congestion and suggest that visitors walk instead.
- The Association will continue to monitor the situation and work closely with the Collegiate to ensure that traffic congestion in the roads around the school is kept to a minimum.

Finally, I would like to thank the Collegiate for their positive approach to this difficult problem.

I would now like to move to the subject of social prescribing in Croydon.

What, I hear some of you say, is social prescribing? Social prescribing enables GPs, nurses and other primary care professionals to refer people to a range of local, non-clinical services. These services can involve a variety of activities that are typically provided by



voluntary and community sector organisations. In Croydon, a growing number of GPs are already operating the scheme. The NHS has now announced plans for all GP networks to have access to social prescribing, to help patients find suitable activities that are a better alternative to medication.

For example, for someone who might be lonely or socially isolated, a GPs social prescription might include, activities such as joining a lunch club, exercise or walking groups, befriending, volunteering, or something as simple as a drop-in facility for coffee and a chat. The list is endless.

So, what has this to do with us in Riddlesdown? Riddlesdown already has some of these activities and facilities. St Edmund's Neighbourhood Care Group is a fine example of a voluntary service, providing services for the elderly, the lonely, the sick and the socially isolated. I am sure there are many other activities running in and around the Riddlesdown, by individuals and groups. For example, walking groups, yoga classes, badminton club, swimming group, the list goes on. The ideal situation would be not to have wait until the GP suggests a social prescription in the form of a community activity for someone who is lonely or isolated, but to ensure the person already has the information and knows about the range of actives in their area and how to access them. The Association has already held discussions with St Edmund's Neighbourhood Care and Riddlesdown Collegiate and will be talking to other community organisations and individuals in the Riddlesdown, Sanderstead and Purley area.

The Association needs to ensure we have up-to-date information on all the community activities currently available to residents, both

the large and the small, and indeed any ideas that might be developing for the future. To do this, we need your help. Please can you let us know the details of any community activity or service that you either run, or are involved with, or just know about. Riddlesdown is already great place to live; let's make it a community that cares for those who need a little help.

I will finish with just a couple of the findings from the social prescribing project in Croydon, which has been operating from the Parchmore Medical centre in Thornton Heath for the last eighteen months. It is estimated that up to a third of doctors' appointments involve an issue they were not qualified to help with, including accessing welfare, or tackling loneliness and housing problems.

In the year to July 2018, there was a 20% reduction in hospital outpatient referrals and a 4% drop in emergency hospital admissions from the Parchmore Medical centre, in Thornton Heath, who pioneered the social prescribing scheme. Dr Agnelo Fernandes, who leads at Parchmore, said "it had resulted in a marked reduction in the number of people using doctors' appointments for non-medical issues."

For more information about St Edmund's Neighbourhood Care Group, or to volunteer to help, please contact either Penny Hinton on 020 8660 9219, or Richard Wragg on 020 8660 9219. The telephone number to make a request to St Edmund's Care Group is 0208 651 9442. For local community activities you know, or are involved with and that are not on the Community page of the RRA website, please e-mail details to us at RiddlesdownResidents@gmail.com.

I would now like to say a few words about the

new arrangements for the Police Safer Neighbourhood teams (SNT) in Riddlesdown. Following the boundary changes for Ward Councillors last May, the boundaries of SNTs were also changed to mirror the new Council Ward arrangements. We now have the Sanderstead SNT and the Purley Oaks & Riddlesdown SNT covering around half of the RRA area each. There is also a small slither in the Purley & Woodcote SNT area, at the top of Downs Court Rd and Cranford Close.

Both teams hold regular open public meetings, Sanderstead SNT at Riddlesdown Collegiate and PO&R SNT at Christchurch, Brighton Road, Purley. These dates are published on our website and also the SNT police website. The meetings discuss local crime issues and set new local priorities and promises for the next quarter. Burglaries remain a high priority and with a high number of break-ins via the rear of the properties, the police advice is simple. The rear of the property is where homes can be most vulnerable. Side gates should be secured with a lock and/or padlock that cannot be reached by leaning your arm over the gate. If the gate is 6ft tall you can consider a trellis on top. Wheelie bins should be stored behind the locked gate, as they can be used to

climb over gates. Rear fences should be secure and can also have a trellis on top. Sheds should be secured and do not leave garden tools, or ladders out that can be used to gain entry. For further information and advice from the police on crime prevention including scams and vehicle crime please check the RRA website.

Finally, I would like to end on a positive note, by congratulating the volunteers who organise two activities that help to make Riddlesdown a good place to live in.

A big thank you to the team who once again organized the RRA Children's Christmas Party. Neil and Rachel Tarrant, Laura-Jane Bradley, while not forgetting Santa and his team of elves and all the volunteers who helped make the day very special for the children.

Riddlesdown tennis club, is a fine example of why Riddlesdown is good place to live. Formed in 1936 for the benefit of the residents, it remains today at the centre of our community. On behalf of that community, I would like to say a big thank you to the tennis club and all those volunteers, who have, over the last 80 years, ensured we still have a tennis club in Riddlesdown today. A short history of the tennis club is included in this edition of the Recorder.

Mary Bond B.A. Solicitor

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PLANNING MATTERS

BY PHIL THOMAS

It has once again been a busy six months on the planning front. Some contentious applications have been submitted and, in many cases approved, especially for flats. We summarise the latest applications and also the decisions on some others that were reported in the last edition.

141 Brancaster Lane

This outline planning application was lodged with the Council last June, for the “erection of a two storey side/rear and a conversion into 6 flats with associated parking (4 spaces).” This site is on the corner of Brancaster Lane and Lower Barn Rd. It is intended to abut an existing semi-detached house and replace it with flats.

The RRA submitted a very detailed objection letter and at the Planning Committee in September the owner of the semi-detached house adjoining spoke and presented a well founded argument. Cllr Simon Hoar also presented some valid and strong points. However, as is usual these days, some of the Committee members ignored our comments and also public opinion (100 objections were lodged) and granted approval. Within a few days of the Committee’s approval, the owners, a limited partnership in South Croydon, put the house on the market, for offers in excess of £750,000. They bought it for £470,000 in April 2018! The property at the end of February, is now under offer.

A new full planning application was submitted in early March with public comments due in by the end of March. The RRA will be making further representations to try and “fine tune” this application now the full planning

application has been submitted.

14 Mitchley Ave

As I reported last time, another Aventier application was submitted to the Council to demolish the existing detached house and erect a four-storey development consisting of six flats with four parking spaces. This application went to the Planning Committee in November and the adjoining owner spoke and presented a well founded argument and Cllr Simon Hoar again presented some very valid points as well. However, the application was approved on the usual party political lines of 6–4.

98 Riddlesdown Rd

Another Aventier application was submitted in mid-October for this property. It was for the demolition of a single-family dwelling and erection of a three-storey block, including basement accommodation, for nine apartments, nine off-street parking spaces and cycle storage. This site adjoins No 96a (another Aventier application for flats), which has been demolished and is now under construction. The RRA again submitted a detailed written objection.

However, yet again the application was approved at the Planning Committee on 14 February with the usual split vote on party political lines 6-4. Cllr Helen Redfern spoke on behalf of Cllr Simon Hoar who was unable to attend. Unfortunately, an objector who was due to speak on behalf of the RRA was not allowed to speak by the Planning Chair, Cllr Toni Letts because of a technicality! This is now the fourth approval given for flats with Aventier in Riddlesdown Rd (in total 34 flats)

and not one of the flats is “affordable”. During the discussion on parking, Cllr Paul Scott stated that there is not a parking issue on Riddlesdown Rd and that you can park on both sides! This might be true for the middle section where this application was. But what Paul Scott omitted to say, is that at both ends of Riddlesdown Rd are narrower and if two vehicles park opposite one another (or slightly diagonal) this road is blocked (like a number of other narrow streets in the area). It is in this northern section where at No. 80 (Aventier for nine flats) was recently approved and also another private application is outstanding for another eight flats at No. 31, and where no doubt further on-street parking issues will occur in due course if this one is approved as well.

Points to consider if a developer approaches the owner of a house for re-development

In view of all these continued planning applications/decisions to demolish houses and replace them with flats, the RRA along with a number of other local RAs have published this piece below for residents to consider if they are approached by a developer.

The RRA know that a number of developers are seeking to purchase houses for re-development in and around Riddlesdown (Kenley, Purley & Sanderstead), particularly detached houses. These are some points below for home owners to consider. What follows, is not RRA guidance or advice and it is not aimed at specific developers or house builders. It is a generic note that sets out points that owners may wish to consider before selling their property. However, the RRA would strongly recommend that anyone in this position should always seek legal and

financial advice before acting on any offer from a developer. The developers typically want an “option” and will only complete the purchase if planning permission is obtained. Having paid around £5,000 to £10,000 for the option, the developer then funds the planning application process and, if successful, they have first-refusal to buy your house at the previously agreed price.

As the RRA currently understands it, if a developer approaches you, then there are some important matters to consider:

1. The developer may not be “purchasing” the house right now, but generally looking to lock the home owner into a contract that is likely to force a sale in twelve to eighteen months’ time (or longer). Only the developer can walk away from the agreement.
2. The developer can fail to gain planning permission - so they might decline to purchase your house. You get to keep the initial option money and you keep your house. Any plans you had to move elsewhere may be significantly disrupted. The developer may submit a number of variable planning applications to Croydon Council, to ensure the maximum return for them.
3. The “option” process may create a great deal of inconvenience for the seller. Having taken the “option” payment, the developer may be entitled to force the sale of your house. Even if your circumstances have changed, or you have simply changed your mind once you see how much your neighbours resent the planning proposal.
4. If for any reason you need unexpectedly to sell your house urgently, you will probably be unable to do so whilst the developer holds the “option”. You can only wait for the planning process to take place and let the developer decide.



5. We understand that some developers are currently offering a “fixed price” for houses, which will be paid after 12 to 18 months. You may not benefit from any uplift in the value of your property.

6. Should you be tempted to enter into an “option” relationship with a developer you should discuss it with your immediate family and most certainly take legal and financial advice. You should obtain independent, professional advice and ensure that you totally understand what you are committing to, and what can go wrong. If you have received assurances or been promised any concessions from the developer, then these should be in placed in writing and reviewed by your solicitor before you sign the contract.

7. If one (or both) owners die, then the situation may be more complex in respect of probate.

8. Are there restrictive covenants on your land? A lot of land in Riddlesdown does have restrictive covenants regulating the types of houses that can be built in the street, the number of houses in the street and on your plot. Some covenants specifically prohibit the building of flats. We are given to understand that the legal opinion received by some adjoining residents to plots that have already been granted planning permission, is that some of these restrictive covenants may be enforceable. But this does depend on each property and the exact wording of the restrictive covenant. It cannot be generalised. Again legal opinion needs to be sought before signing with a developer.

These are just some of the issues to consider. It is not an exhaustive list.

40 Riddlesdown Avenue

Another application was submitted in early October for a four-bedroom detached house at rear, the formation of vehicular access onto Riddlesdown Road and provision of associated parking. There have been no adjoining objections for this application and as we were not asked to object, the RRA have not this time. However, we have again raised separately with councillors, the Planning Department and the Highways Department the narrow and inadequate access road, lack of street lighting, highway safety with vehicles and pedestrians and lack of surface water disposal. There is only one rain water gully for the entire access road, which frequently blocks and when it does, it floods into one of the gardens in Riddlesdown Ave. We have received acceptance from Cllr Paul Scott (the former Chairman of the Planning Committee) that something has to be done to this access way if further houses are to be built, so we are hopeful this may progress soon. However, instead of all the developers paying for the cost of this, it will have to be met from the Council’s Highways budget, that is, by Council taxpayers!

New Houses Rear of 44 & 46 Riddlesdown Ave

As reported last time. these two new houses were not built in accordance with the previously deposited plans and new retrospective applications were submitted to the Council for both new properties. Croydon Planning Officers decided in mid-August, that both applications generally should be refused but some aspects of the applications were allowed.

As was expected, both applications then went to appeal to the Planning Inspectorate on 19

October. However, at the end of January, the Planning Inspector dismissed the appeal. The Planning Inspector dismissed three of the four main issues, which are: the effect of the garage on the character and appearance of the area; whether the scheme makes adequate provision for surface water run off; whether the accommodation at first-floor level provides an acceptable standard of accommodation for occupiers. But he allowed that the scheme made adequate provision for car parking.

It remains unclear what the developer will do now about the first-floor accommodation. The Planning Officer had stated in her report that there was sub-standard accommodation for future occupiers by reason of inadequate internal floor areas and layouts, inadequate floor to ceiling heights and inadequate light and outlook within the first floor bedroom. The Planning Inspector backed this statement. The Inspector's report can be viewed via the planning application page on the RRA website.

Purley Town Centre – seventeen-storey tower and associated developments

The seven RAs in the south of the Borough learnt with great surprise on 3 December that the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government (James Brokenshire) had overturned Croydon Council's planning decision on the seventeen-storey Purley tower (19 storeys in total) and other associated proposals for both the sites fronting onto Banstead Road, Brighton Rd and Russell Hill Rd.

This decision followed the Public Inquiry held in January 2018, at which the Planning Inspector had recommended approving the scheme in his report. This recommendation

was overturned by the Secretary of State, James Brokenshire.

It is interesting to note that the Secretary of State overturned the Inspector's recommendation on a number of key points, some of which the seven RAs had raised at the outset of the Inquiry process, in our Statement of Case submitted to the Planning Inspector in December 2017.

These included:

- i) the standard of design was not of high enough quality;
- ii) the height of the tower exceeded the description in the Croydon Local Plan and that no specific justification had been given in either the Local Plan, or in the application, to support the height of this site as proposed, having regard to its relationship with the existing built urban form and that some parts of the scheme were not of exceptional quality;
- iii) that there would be a clear negative impact on the former bank building at 960 Brighton Road (now Pizza Express) and the rest of the Brighton Road Local Heritage Areas.

However, on 14 January we learnt that the developer Thornsett had made a legal challenge contesting the Secretary of State's decision to refuse planning permission for this development. All the interested parties had been given six weeks from 3 December to lodge a legal challenge. The decision to refuse planning permission has been challenged by Thornsett, against the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Govt, the London Borough of Croydon and the Greater London Authority.

We understand the grounds of the legal challenge are:

- 1) Failure to provide adequate reasons for concluding that the tower proposed for the

Island site would not be a high standard of design.

2) Applying the wrong policy test when assessing the quality of the design of the South site, by wrongly applying the tall buildings policies in Local Plan Policy DM15c and London Plan Policy 7.7C(e) to the lower height building on the South site.

3) Irrationally concluding that there would be harm to the significance of the listed Purley library at the “upper end of less than substantial”. This was based on a flawed understanding of the IR which concluded there would be no harm, and without consideration of the positive heritage effects of the development.

4) Failure to provide adequate reasons for his conclusion that there would be harm to non-designated heritage assets and to the Upper Woodcote Village and Webb Estate conservation areas.

However, at the time of the Recorder going to print, Croydon Council issued a press statement on 12 March and said the Secretary of State’s decision to refuse planning permission will allegedly be quashed. Chris Philp MP posted the next day on his website on 13 March the following;

“The Purley Skyscraper review process is set to begin all over again due to Judicial Review. Although I have not been informed of the reasons for the decision, Judicial Review is based entirely on whether correct process is followed, and not whether the right decision has been reached. This means that the entire process of reviewing the planning decision needs to be repeated. This does not mean that the skyscraper now has planning consent. There will now be a new Public Inquiry into the decision, likely by a different planning inspector. I will fight the skyscraper

again through a new Inquiry and I hope that everyone who fought so hard against it before will continue to do so. I remain deeply disappointed and shocked by the council’s decision to contemptuously ignore the wishes of residents when it comes to the skyscraper.”

The seven RAs have received nothing formal from the Secretary of State’s Department, so we must wait for ongoing legal proceedings to be concluded. Further updates will be published on our website and Facebook page, when we receive them.

Building Works - Party Wall Act and Noise

It seems that Riddlesdown’s streets are now one continuous building site! When one set of building works finish in a street, another set start up! Or in the case of Riddlesdown Rd & Ave, are on the go all the time! The RRA have received a number of comments and or complaints lately about the noise from local building works.

So if you or your neighbour undertakes building works then there are a number of issues to consider. Firstly, if there are any works planned for the party wall and any excavation for foundations within three metres of the neighbouring property (six metres in some instance) then the Party Wall Act 1996 will apply. I will not state all the conditions and requirements here but there is good advice, and more detail about the Party Wall Act, on the RRA website; riddlesdownresidents.org.uk and go to the left side of the home page at ‘Advice on Building Control Applications.’

In addition, any noisy works on a building site by a contractor are time-limited during the day. Croydon Council expects contractors undertaking construction and maintenance

works, whether on private land, highways or railways, to comply with the Construction Code of Practice, or agree appropriate variations with them. The Council's Code of Practice restricts noisy work to the following times: Monday to Friday 08:00 to 18:00 hrs; and Saturday 08:00 to 13:00 hrs. On Sundays and Bank Holidays, no noisy activities should take place on site at any time. If they witness unacceptable noise from site activities, the Council can take legal action under Section 60 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974. Home improvements such as DIY works inside a dwellings are not classed as construction work and are therefore not subject to the hours specified above. However, noisy DIY can be a statutory nuisance depending on the time of day, the duration and loudness of the works. Again, more information about this is available on our website on the same link above.

Local yoga classes

Monday 11:30-12:30 Purley United Reformed Church, 906 Brighton Road, CR8 2LN

(Mixed Ability)

Tuesday 09:15-10:15 Sanderstead United Reformed Church, 3 Sanderstead Hill, CR2 OHB

(Gentle yoga - Seniors and impaired mobility)

Wednesday 09:15-10:15 Riddlesdown Lawn Tennis Club, Lower Barn Road, CR8 1HQ

(Mixed Ability)



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Call: 07767 268408

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

BY PHIL THOMAS

Litter Picks in Riddlesdown

Thank you once again for all the residents who attended the RRA litter pick on 17 November. There were also a number of beavers & cubs from the 19th Purley Scout Group.

About thirty-five bags of rubbish, bags of fly-tip and some metal were collected. A good effort was made by all, and Dunmail Drive, Mitchley Ave, Rectory Park, Mitchley Hill and the farmer's fields opposite the shops and in Mitchley Hill had a good clean up. The farmer's field opposite the shops in Mitchley Ave has had a number of clean ups over the last 18 months or so, and was left in a lot better condition this time! Thanks also go to former Riddlesdown resident Tracey Bellamy, Dermot Linehan and Mason McIlroy from Croydon Council for assisting.

Tracey continues to be in contact with Riddlesdown Collegiate and to have further litter picks with the school children. Tracey's colleague Michelle Gayle will also talk to the children in assembly, when she will discuss with the children the issues caused by plastic, litter and metal being dropped in the grass field. A local farmer from Woldingham takes a hay crop from these fields for their longhorn cattle.

Tracey has also suggested an inter house competition to see which College can collect the most litter. She will provide the wheelie bins, which can be decorated in house colours, and will also provide some prizes. So it is good to see that the Collegiate are also actively involved in litter collecting locally.

The next RRA litter pick will be on Saturday

11 May 2019 from 2pm until 3.30pm. Please meet in the usual place at the bottom of Dunmail Drive, at the junction to Mitchley Hill.

Rectory Park and Mitchley Ave Accidents and Road Condition

The RRA continue to have dialogue with Croydon Council about the poor condition of these two Class A roads and the number of blocked road gullies, in particular on the hill of Rectory Park, as well as the number of accidents. There were at least three accidents in the snow, on the sharp bend on 30 January. We are also pleased to report that road gully and soakaway cleaning should have taken place by the time you read this report. Following our persistence with the Council, large scale re-surfacing of Mitchley Ave happened in early March and the road surface is so much better now. We are told that the Council are also looking at the condition of Rectory Park and will report their findings to us soon.

A22 – Godstone Rd

Transport for London (TfL) consulted with residents and stakeholders in the summer of 2017 about proposals for changes to the double and single line red route on the A22 (Godstone Rd) from Foxley Hill Road to Old Barn Lane (at the Borough boundary to Whyteleafe). They also proposed other works, which include: changes to bus stop facilities; improved zebra crossings; and changes to road layouts at some side road and designated parking areas.

The RRA did submit comments at the time regarding these proposals. Following

consideration, TfL have decided to proceed with the scheme as proposed, but with the some minor alterations. These works will commence in 2019 and will run through to 2020. We have also highlighted to TfL the poor sections of road surface for about 300 metres going south, from outside the Kenley Memorial Hall, past the old Kenley Police Station going up to the junction of Waterbourne Way. Hopefully, this section of road will have been re-surfaced at the end of March.

Major Gas Works - Streets in the north of the RRA area - Riddlesdown Rd, Riddlesdown Ave, and Purley Downs Rd

We have been advised by Southern Gas Networks (SGN) and Croydon Council of further extensive gas main renewals works to these streets as listed above. SGN commenced works on 3 April 2018 with a pause over Christmas and they will now continue in these streets until August 2019.

Works commenced again on 31 January with two-way traffic lights in Riddlesdown Rd, and will run until the Easter school holidays. There will be temporary traffic lights, one-way working and some street closures. Works at the junctions of Grasmere Rd and Brancaster Lane will also be undertaken. SGN will then pull off Riddlesdown Road to carry out works on Purley Downs Road during the Easter school holidays. This means that the junction that will have the biggest impact for Riddlesdown is the mini roundabout at Riddlesdown Rd/Purley Downs Rd, which will have four-way traffic lights from 6 to 19 April. Other works are to be undertaken at the four-way junction of Brancaster Lane, Riddlesdown

Ave, Lower Barn Rd and Coombe Wood Hill in mid-August, with three-way traffic lights. Gas works to supply houses in Riddlesdown Ave will also be finished. More details and estimated dates are on the RRA website.

Dog Waste in Brancaster Lane and Riddlesdown Ave/Purley Bury Ave

We have been alerted that there is a dog owner/walker who likes to pick up their dog waste in a small black bag, but then drop the bags into the undergrowth in Brancaster Lane, at the back of two houses in Riddlesdown Ave. Black bags containing dog waste have also been dumped on the public footpath between Purley Bury Ave and Riddlesdown Ave and also along the verges/footway on Riddlesdown Ave. One of our resident 'Street Champions' has reported back to us that they recently picked up 20 black bags of dog waste from this undergrowth in Brancaster Lane. More dumped bags followed soon after. And it is still continuing.

Croydon Council's Neighbourhood Safety Team/Enforcement have been alerted about this and they are now patrolling the areas to try and catch the offenders. So as a reminder to all dog owners and walkers: it is your responsibility to pick up your dog's mess and to dispose of it correctly in waste bins. We know most dog owners/walkers do this. But it appears not all. Under legislation, the person can be issued with an on the spot fine, and if the matter goes to court, the additional fine can be up to £1,000.

Sanderstead Clinic - Possible Closure?

The RRA were made aware in late January about the possible closure of the Sanderstead



Clinic in Rectory Park, within a few months and to sell off the site to build a block of flats. The Croydon Health Services NHS Trust own the site. The RRA, when made aware, took this up with our MP Chris Philp, the Sanderstead Ward Councillors and the Croydon CCG. Chris Philp immediately e-mailed Matthew Kershaw, the interim Chief Executive of the Croydon Health Services NHS Trust. Mr Kershaw's response, received on 30 January, is printed below:

"We continually review our estate to make the best use of all of our premises to provide the best, most accessible and most efficient service we can to our patients. There are no agreed plans to close Sanderstead Clinic which is an important part of our estate and sees 4,500 patients a year. Our ongoing review includes how we utilise some of the empty clinic space in Purley War Memorial Hospital which is 2 miles away from Sanderstead and provides a range of services including minor injuries and minor illnesses. Early conversations have begun to see what additional services, like physiotherapy or speech & language therapy, could move in to Purley to make this a central part of our care for people in the south of the borough but this does not mean changes at Sanderstead would have to happen. At this stage we are only looking at what is possible. No decisions have been made and there would be no movement of services without a clear explanation to local people."

This Clinic, with some other services, primarily houses a Baby cafe, Children's Speech and Language Therapy, Podiatry and Moorfields (Croydon) Community Eye Clinic and is an important health service in the local community. We will keep residents updated if we hear anything further.

Overhanging hedges, shrubs and trees onto pavements and public footpaths

With spring and summer fast approaching again, we would like to remind residents that we do receive a number of complaints and or comments, about the number of households within the area who allow vegetation from their gardens to overhang the pavement and public footpaths. This vegetation can cause particular inconvenience for people with buggies, in wheelchairs, the disabled, and the blind and visually impaired, who could walk directly into the vegetation and injure themselves.

All property occupiers are legally responsible for ensuring that this does not happen and could have damages awarded against them by a court for any injury. The Council do have the power to serve a notice on the household and, if necessary, undertake the work themselves by removing the danger and charging the owner accordingly. So please do check whether any of your vegetation is overhanging the pavement/public footpath and, if so, please arrange to cut it back to at least level with your boundary.

If you want to report an overhang to a particular property to Croydon Council, it can be done on the Council's website by going to the 'Report it' section. Or alternatively telephone the Neighbourhood Safety Officers for the South, on 020 8726 6200 or e-mail; NSOsouthwest@croydon.gov.uk

Website Mailing list and Facebook

The RRA Facebook page continues to go from strength to strength and a lot of useful information is posted and shared on there. If you are on Facebook why not give us a "like"

or “follow” us! If you are not on Facebook, we have now set up a monthly E-Blast newsletter which will be sent to residents by e-mail, who register with us. The E-Blast may be sent out more often if important information needs to be made available to residents, for instance concerning a particular planning application.

You will need to subscribe to receive the E-Blasts and the sign up is on our website: riddlesdownresidents.org.uk. Scroll down the home page and registration is in the bottom left side of the page where it says: “subscribe to our mailing list”.

MEMBERSHIP

BY JOHN RAPP

Since my last article, I have been learning more and more about the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and I hope that mention of that topic will still allow you to read to the end of this article. The RRA have to conform to these regulations, so when road stewards collected the subscriptions last year they will have confirmed with you whether you were happy for the RRA to collect limited data for our records. When I was collecting some subscriptions last year almost everyone was relaxed about this topic, and the RRA recording home addresses, a name, and the fact that £3.00 had been paid.

One feature was the quantity of small groups, with any five residents knowing their neighbours. I believe that all people living in the RRA's Area will be a member of a number of other groups. For many years, I was a member of my employer's group. In the early days, I was “John”, but as e-mail developed work colleagues would know both my fore and family names.

Many of you will know that – like many other members of the RRA committee – I am a keen Crystal Palace fan. I now have a seat in the Holmesdale Stand to watch them play. Over the past few seasons, I have progressed from

knowing just my neighbour's family name (as the father of a former workmate). I now know his wife's forename and that he does not live in the Borough of Croydon.

Socially, we all like to share selected personal information with trusted people, and I am encouraged by the trust that members demonstrate when they speak with me.

Many of you have selected Riddlesdown as their chosen place to live. Being happy in this area is demonstrated by the number of children who have been born here. Our accounts are published on our website allowing those hearing local concerns to make judgements about the number of people the RRA represents. Whether you own or rent your Riddlesdown home, please – when your Road Steward calls – pay your £3.00 towards the total of subscriptions collected that the RRA publishes.

This report is longer than usual, and I will happily answer any questions you may have including whether you can become a Road Steward and help the Association while meeting some of your fellow Residents. I end by wishing all my readers happiness in the rest of 2019.

TRANSPORT

BY JOHN RAPP

I am starting with an invitation. At the Association's Annual General Meeting - starting at 7.30 p.m. - on Wednesday, 15th May 2019, we will have the company of Michelle Wildish representing Transport for London (TfL).

Following the sudden reduction of the 412 bus service from 1st September, 2018, TfL were advised that our residents would welcome the opportunity to ask their own questions, and to share their own experiences of the reduced services. Our invitation was accepted.

Sadly, while I am usually able to say that generally Riddlesdown has enjoyed a good service from its buses and trains, and that concerns are being addressed by the service providers, at this time I need to report that all is not well.

We know that the number of passengers is counted and I have often used the phrase "use it or lose it", it now appears that, despite

buses being used, levels of service provision are being questioned as service providers try to save money.

Thankfully, Thameslink is well on the way to providing the full timetable (of services) that was to operate from May 2018. The last service restoration will be the weekend trains passing through East Croydon (Brighton to Cambridge & Horsham to Peterborough).

However, Govia Thameslink Railway is struggling to open the Riddlesdown Ticket Office on Monday to Saturday mornings and their comments are awaited.

We also know that the volume of comments received for the Croydon Town Centre Bus Changes consultation – which closed on 13th January – means that TfL will be unable to publish results until towards the end of May.

Keith Powell and I continue to monitor what our transport providers are doing.



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YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS & ARTICLES

Thank you to all the RRA Committee for their contributions – we now have your contributions, information, articles, letters and photographs on the following pages.

Happy 100th Birthday Hazel!

Margaret Rapp

A couple of issues ago, I was asked to write an article on Gwen, a lady who lives in Riddlesdown and was soon to be one hundred. At the time, I was needlessly nervous, because I ended up thoroughly enjoying myself.

I think we must live in a very healthy area, because I have been asked to write another article, this time on Hazel, who will also become a centurian this year.

Hazel was born a twin, but unfortunately her brother died at about a month old, (because of a chest infection). She was brought up in South Norwood. Her working life was spent in a shipping office, where there were three generations of the same family. She soon worked her way up through the “ranks”. Which included teaching the boss's son about the business.

Hazel told me that a highlight of her working life was when, before the Second World War, she spent three weeks clearing a large mansion of a valuable art collection to send to the West Country for safe-keeping. The Mansion is now the official residence of the United States Ambassador to the UK.

Like many people who were in their twenties when the Second World War started, Hazel found herself serving King and Country by continuing to use skills acquired during her pre-War civilian employment. Her special items for going out after work were a tin hat and stirrup pump – essentials for any young

lady fire-watching overnight and then going to work in the morning.

She met her husband when he went to view the house that she was selling. It must have been one of the hidden extras that you hear about. Only this time a welcome one.

Hazel has lived at different addresses in the area for fifty odd years and Riddlesdown has a lot to thank her for. She was on the Riddlesdown Residents' Association Committee for several years and remembers fighting against houses being built. Also she had a hand in arranging the children's christmas parties.

I first met Hazel many years ago when we were both volunteers at the Selsdon Centre for the Retired. At the time, I did not realize that she was older than quite a few of the people that we were looking after. She was very popular and was liked by both the other volunteers and the diners.

Hazel is enjoying life in Riddlesdown and says she is among very nice neighbours, who all watch out for one another.

Like most of us in the area, she is a firm Crystal Palace supporter and eager to hear news about them from my husband John.

I am sure you will all join me in giving Hazel our congratulations and wishing her a very happy birthday.

Remembrance Day 2018 – from behind the scenes at St Edmund’s

Preparations for this momentous day began some time in advance, when our Church Warden Gill constructed a suitable memorial to be the focal point for the first ever out-door Remembrance Day service at St Edmund’s Church in Riddlesdown. We had worked closely with the Riddlesdown Residents’ Association and The Royal British Legion Local Fundraising Team and planned the event to be a fitting end to their Poppies on Lamppost’s initiative.

Saturday was a day of discussion and rehearsal concerning the safe placing of the loud speaker to be used for The Last Post and The Reveille – “if dry it goes here and if wet....” Umbrella needed in case! There were certainly a few odd looks from passers-by as the volume of the machine was tested.

Inside the church, the various copies of service sheets had been prepared and left ready for the three morning events – yes, there were two services prior to the special Remembrance for all.

Then it fell to the person on the Church’s normal coffee rota to gauge how many people might take up the publicised invitation to stay for light refreshments after the outdoor service, and duly set out enough cups, saucers, mugs and biscuits – lots, as we knew there would be some youngsters taking part. Having done as much as seemed necessary, by mid afternoon those involved departed feeling that we had thought of most eventualities.

Shortly afterwards, a call came through to confirm that the troop of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts that would arrive shortly before the ceremony was slightly larger than we had anticipated. How many youngsters will there

be? – between 20 and 50! Great news, but a hasty recount of them and probable attendant parents/guardians and an inestimable number of local residents sent our intrepid Warden flying off to do a late-night shopping trip for extra soft drinks and yet more biscuits! Our Vicar, Susan, made a dash to the Parish Office photocopier for further supplies of service sheets.

Come Sunday, Remembrance Day, the people of Riddlesdown, including Chairman Brian Longman and other officers of the RRA, gathered. Shortly, they were treated to the fine sight of our local Scout Group, the 19th Purley Group (Riddlesdown), parading along Mitchley Avenue, flags flying, uniforms pristine and in fine order to join us.

PC David, who was representing our Safer Neighbourhood Police Team at the Act of Remembrance, made sure that the traffic stopped at the Zebra crossing to allow the Scouts to cross safely and muster in rank on the lawn in front of the Church. This was one of his more usual duties for the day. Half an hour earlier, he was witnessed helping Church Warden Gill clear fallen leaves from the pavement and, dodging the traffic, prodding the blocked drain with a broom handle trying to clear the enormous puddle that gave several people a good soaking! All credit to him for adding event drain clearance to his CV! During the Remembrance Service, a mix of sun and wet squalls did not deter anyone from forming a large group round the Memorial cross – luckily no thunder but passing traffic added to the challenge for Vicar Susan and Cllr Helen Redfern (who read a passage from the Bible) to be heard against the rain and wind. At one point, when Susan’s black cape was billowing in the wind and the rain was slanting

diagonally across her face, a scene from the French Lieutenant's Woman briefly wafted through my mind for some reason.

All went smoothly despite the elements. Much credit is due to the young Scouts who performed their duties so well despite the drenching. Especial mention goes to the smallest and possibly youngest standard-bearer who valiantly battled against an adverse flag to body weight ratio to successfully hold her rain-sodden flag in the dipped position during the two-minute silence.

A St Edmund's congregation member and a Scouts representative laid Poppy wreaths at the base of the cross and we were invited to plant wooden crosses, some bearing the names of fallen relatives, in memory of those that gave their lives in conflict.



Remembrance Day at St Edmunds

After a spirited rendering of the National Anthem drew the Act of Remembrance to a close, the young troupers and many others came inside for refreshments. Opening the kitchen hatch door, it was daunting to find a long and very orderly queue forming and hearing much cheerful chatter. Amazingly, and thankfully without any prompting, our wonderful congregation members leapt into

action making sure cups and glasses were filled and distributed safely in all directions, later washed, dried and generally cleared up - only about 6 biscuits were left at the end. What a team we have – thanks be to all!

Over 120 people attended the Act of Remembrance in person. It was a real community occasion on a very special day commemorating the centenary of the end of The First World War.

Mad, wild and ambitious? It has to be Riddlesdown

By Gill Pates, RRA Member and Church Warden at St Edmund's Riddlesdown

"A Hall for Riddlesdown" announced an RRA pamphlet delivered to all households in Riddlesdown in 1951. One that could be used as a Church and a Social Centre. One that the austerity-worn, post-War residents of Riddlesdown scraped, fund raised, begged and borrowed the money to build because a community resource really mattered to them. It was a mad, wild ambitious plan that ordinary people made happen.

Now, over 60 years later, there is an opportunity for the current generation of residents to take the baton over from those mad, wild ambitious ordinary people who cared about Riddlesdown so much and get involved in breathing new life into our community resource.

Those nice people at St Edmund's Church who are currently custodians of our Hall, believe that there is an opportunity to refurbish The William Goddard Room into a cosy, welcoming space and extend use of this facility to new community-focused activity.

The idea is to provide a space where residents can gather in shared activity and also access

useful services that are not currently available here in Riddlesdown. St Edmund's are talking with the RRA about potential ways to best utilise this space. Early ideas include a Film Club, Book Groups, Friendship Circles as well as Health and Financial support group meetings. We are keen to hear any suggestions for activities you would like to see get off the ground and that you would support.

Other activities may be run in collaboration with local health professionals or experts supported by volunteers or require ongoing funding to be secured to progress. For instance, The St Edmund's Caring Group and the RRA are jointly exploring opportunities to bring Health Service Social Prescribing initiatives to Riddlesdown. Social Prescribing involves referrals to local health and well-being activities that could, through improvement in physical and mental health, reduce the need to prescribe medication. The activities are often run or supported by local volunteers so if this is an area of particular interest to you then please let us know

The fantastic news is that our local Ward Councillors, Helen Redfern (Purley Oaks and Riddlesdown Ward) and Yvette Hopley (Sanderstead Ward) think that the proposal to refurbish the William Goddard Room for extended community use is a good idea and have generously agreed to a one-off grant to enable this new community-focused project to become reality in 2019

The funding provided would allow professional fitting of new carpet tiles in The William Goddard Room and a few new pieces of furniture. That is great, but here's a thought. The kitchen is badly in need of refurbishment and would add huge value to the community space if improved. If it were possible to get volunteers from the community with suitable skills (such as fitting carpet tiles, kitchen flooring and units) who would be prepared to donate some time or do a quality job at low cost, the money will go further and a better community facility created for Riddlesdown

For those of you out there that might be thinking "Hang on a minute. The Church of



This impression of the Riddlesdown Church Hall as it will look when finished was drawn by Clifford Haggis, and is based on the plans prepared by the architects, Messrs Seely & Page.

A Hall for Riddlesdown

To all Residents of Riddlesdown,

Doubtless you will already have heard of the proposal to build a hall on a central site in this area, which can be used both as a church and a social centre. With this object in view we, the Executive Committee of the Riddlesdown Residents' Association, would like to bring to your notice the following picture of the situation, and we hope that this will give you some idea of the uses to which the hall will be put and, equally as important, the problems we face in raising our share of the building costs.

The Objects of the Hall

The uses to which the hall will be put were outlined in the Riddlesdown Recorder (June 1951 edition) and it only remains for us to refresh your memory by saying that the proposed hall will seat approximately 250 people and will include the necessary arrangements for the reverent conducting of Church services and Sunday Schools; an excellent stage for dramatic shows; committee rooms; kitchen for preparation of refreshments; facilities for badminton, whist drives, dances and socials. You will see from the illustration that the intended building will be a considerable

A Hall for Riddlesdown

It is envisaged that activities would be organised by the residents for the residents and initially quite small-scale and informal, so if you are interested in leading or supporting any activities that would benefit the community of Riddlesdown then now is a good time to put up your hand.

England is rolling in notes. Why don't they pay and provide all the resources/ volunteers?" there are two things to bear in mind.

The first thing is that the congregation at St Edmund's is small and aging. This fact, combined with the desire to keep Hall hire rates reasonable for hirers from the community, mean that Church human and financial resources are fully expended on keeping St Edmund's Church running as a place of worship and completing essential works to keep the whole building sound and safe for all users.

The second thing is far more important. The people of Riddlesdown worked hard to build our community hall. The William Goddard Room is rarely used by the Church and has light use from commercial hirers during the week. It is a community asset that should be used to the benefit of Riddlesdown people, so who better to get involved in a new mad, wild and ambitious plan to breathe new life into a unique facility, our Hall, at the heart of Riddlesdown than the people of Riddlesdown themselves?

Please e-mail me (gillatsteds@outlook.com) or drop in a note to me at 7 Buttermere Gardens to let us know if you are supportive of the plan, give us your ideas for the sorts of activity you would like to see in in the refurbished community space and to make offers of help.

Upcoming Events at St Edmund's

There are 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m. services at St Edmund's every Sunday with the exception of the 4th Sunday each month when the 10.00 service is held at our sister Church St Antony's Hamsey Green

Please note 10.00 a.m. services and special services are live streamed. St Edmund's Riddlesdown was the first Church in Southwark Diocese to regularly Live Stream it's services. The broadcasts can be seen at twitter.com/revsusan5 (Links may be found on The St Edmund's page of The Parish website (https://www.sandersstead-parish.org.uk/st_edmund))

Thursdays during term time 9.30-11.30 am - Scallywags Friendship, fun and play for the Under 5's and their carers - All Welcome

Sunday 14th April – Palm Sunday – 8.00 Holy Communion, 10.00 Morning Worship

Wednesday 17th April – 19.00 Compline – A special service of quietness and reflection for Holy Week. It is held at the end of the day and the tradition of leaving the service in silence to return home is maintained

Friday 19th April – 10.00 Good Friday Devotional Service – On Maundy Thursday all the items representing the presence of Christ that you would normally find on the altar are removed and every cross in the Church shrouded. This is to signify Christ leaving his disciples after the Last Supper to face his death. The altar remains stripped for the Good Friday Service to represent The Crucifixion.

Sunday 10th November – Remembrance Day 10.00 Church Service and 10.50 Act of Remembrance outside the Church.

St Edmund's Church

Riddlesdown's Anglican Church at the Heart of the Community

Part of the Parish of Sanderstead

Sunday Services:

8am service every Sunday. 10am Sunday services are shared with St Antony's, Hamsey Green.

Please see notices and website for details.

All welcome – just come along

Susan Atkinson-Jones (tel: 8657 5505)



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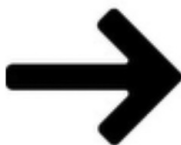
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MP's Report – Chris Philp

The Council's planning committee is currently granting ninety five per cent of applications that are put before it. As a result, applications that are unpopular with residents, or are not in keeping with the area, are waved through.

The Council plans to build 10,000 more homes in suburban areas by 2036. To achieve this, the council intends to build blocks of flats in traditionally quiet areas. It will require knocking down existing houses and building on green land. I strongly oppose this. On 11th February I spoke at City Hall to make my opposition to the Council's plans clear.

It is not that I oppose building new homes. London needs new homes. Building more homes will help young people into homeownership. It will prevent first time buyers from being priced out of the market and is vital to solving London's housing crisis.

However, building blocks of flats by destroying family homes in areas that have always had a quiet or suburban character is not the answer. Across the south of the borough, the council is granting permissions to knock down four-five bedroom houses, to build blocks of around nine flats. This creates buildings that are out of character with the area around them, as well as a sudden spike in population.

A sudden increase in the number of people living in an area creates a strain on local infrastructure; including roads, schools and GP surgeries. The necessary infrastructure improvements are not being made. For example, the proposed seventeen-storey skyscraper in Purley would provide just twenty new parking spaces for 220 new flats. There is already a shortage of parking in the south of the borough. Building blocks of flats with inadequate parking spaces will only exacerbate the problem.

New buildings should be appropriate to the

area and only built on suitable sites. The Council's own Local Plan states that planning permission should only be granted for buildings that fit the character of the area. In the south of the borough most homes are four-five bedroom family homes. Homes like these are important for young families and should not be destroyed.

The Council is only focusing on hitting its target through blocks of flats. As a result, the Council is failing to meet its target of thirty per cent family homes (ie homes with two bedrooms or more), as only nineteen per cent of new homes have more than two bedrooms.

The Council should be prioritising building flats on brownfield sites, near existing tall buildings. Tall buildings and tower blocks already exist in Croydon town centre, and I support building them there – not on field or in the suburbs.

I will be launching a Brownfield First campaign on this issue in the near future. There are many buildings that are unused in Croydon town centre. These should be a priority – either repurposed or rebuilt as flats.

More widely, Sadiq Khan as Mayor of London should bring forward large-scale schemes on brownfield sites. Previous mishaps during his time as Mayor have caused schemes at Old Oak Common and the Meridian site in Enfield to fail – which could have provided around 16,000 homes.

The town centre already has the necessary infrastructure and amenities for new residents. Its excellent transport links makes it perfect for young professionals just starting on the property ladder. Building more large blocks of flats in Croydon town centre is therefore appropriate, and will protect our green spaces. A focus on Brownfield First will allow the borough to meet its housing demand and preserve the historic character of our neighbourhoods.



Councillor's Report

Helen Redfern

One of the most enjoyable parts of being a ward councillor is distributing the Community Ward Budget, with each councillor having £8,000 to spend on community initiatives. Whilst it is very nice to have funds to give to good causes, from a personal perspective I have found considering the use of the Budget to be a good way to learn more about activities and needs within Purley Oaks & Riddlesdown ward.

In this first year, I have been able to support the 19th Purley (Riddlesdown) Scout Group who will be fixing their Scout Hut roof; Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association who will be producing the Good Neighbour Guide across our ward; Riddlesdown Lawn Tennis Club who will be offering free coaching to children and adults; St Edmunds Church Riddlesdown who will be refurbishing one of their rooms in order to open it out to community-focussed activities and The Charter Trust's Lily Pad Appeal that is raising funds for the new oncology unit in Croydon University Hospital's new Paediatric Village. Finally, the 5 Purley councillors agreed to financially support the 'Iron Horse' sculpture that will commemorate the Surrey Iron Railway (the world's first railway) that passed through Purley Rotary Field.

These projects encompass such a range of activities that hopefully every ward resident can benefit from at least one of these initiatives. It will be interesting to see what ideas come up in the next year.

Councillor's Report

Simon Hoar

One of the things local councillors have are annual ward budgets to go to local community groups and charities in need of some funding help. This year's budget of £8000 closed on May 15th and Helen and I have partnered up on projects we've been approached for in the ward and in Croydon where a Borough-wide charity is looking for some help.

Our funding this year has gone on local groups such as St Edmund's Church and the local Scout group in replacing their Hall roof. We have also helped Riddlesdown Tennis Club in funding for community coaching and an arts project in Rectory Field commemorating the world's first railway that went through what is now the park. All Conservative councillors have also donated to the Lily Pad appeal at Croydon University Hospital for paediatric services.

In the next financial year, I have already been approached by the RRA and by Purley Bury Tennis Club for help with disabled tennis funding, but if others have projects in mind that could do with done capital funding then please let us know.

Riddlesdown Collegiate

Soumick Dey, Principal

Another year is flying by at Riddlesdown Collegiate and, as always, there has been so much going on. Following last summer's superb examination results, we returned to the new academic year, jubilant and determined to build on our successes by further developing the quality of teaching, continuing to provide exceptional opportunities for learning outside of the classroom and using our resources most effectively to support students' learning experiences and achievements.



Wizard of Oz Performance

Our size has allowed us to develop great facilities over the years and whilst our students benefit the most from these, increasingly we are attracting other groups from the local community to use our facilities. We now have a programme of activities, including sports, keep fit and drama, which operates every evening during the week and during the day at weekends. We are keen to develop this programme and make the Collegiate an even stronger part of the community by providing opportunities for local people – children and adults – to access the site and take advantage

of what is available. In particular, we are exploring the potential for our own Arts School, growing from the significant success of the Creative and Performing Arts (CPA) College at the Collegiate, which would deliver classes in drama, singing, dance, art etc. Look out for information on this in the coming months. The Collegiate has football pitches, rugby pitches, tennis courts, netball courts, an astro turf, a fitness suite, a Sports Hall, a gymnasium, our main hall and a 200-seat theatre, as well as almost 100 classrooms – all of these spaces could be available for hire, either for regular bookings or one-off events. For further information or to make an enquiry, please contact our Facilities Manager, steven.sayer@riddlesdown.org.

The outstanding quality of education at the Collegiate means that we remain a very popular school. For entry in September 2019, we received a record number of applications – close to 1500 for the 328 places available. Whilst it is fantastic to know that parents have such confidence in our work, this inevitably means that more children are disappointed not to be allocated a place. At the same time, we recognise that the roads leading up to the Collegiate are often congested and despite regular requests to parents to avoid driving up to the gates, the issue persists. There are a number of contributory factors, not least the fact that the Collegiate's location at the end of a residential dead-end makes any traffic flow issue more challenging, but we have been in discussions with the Riddlesdown Residents' Association and Transport for London to try to agree a strategy which will lead to an improvement. This will not necessarily be quick or easy, but we are determined to tackle

the issue.

Meanwhile, The Collegiate Trust continues to grow. In September 2018, Courtwood Primary School and Gilbert Scott Primary School both joined our Trust, making us a family of six schools now with over 4000 learners and almost 600 members of staff. We are delighted that more children and more families are benefiting from the Trust's vision of delivering an exceptional education for all and we know that, as a family of schools, we are growing stronger together.

19th Purley (Riddlesdown) Scout Group

We started back refreshed after the summer break ready for another fun packed term. On Saturday 29th September we represented Scouting at the Sanderstead Community Day organised by Priscilla's Tea Room. It was another great success with the District climbing wall. We had a record number of climbers and we took details of those interested in joining Scouting in the area.

On Saturday 13th October we held a Wild West Disco fundraising event. This is always great fun, getting dressed up and of course raising money for our Group, we raised £602 on the night.

On Monday 5th November we held our annual fireworks display. This was a record attendance with over 150 people turning up to enjoy the fun. Everyone was treated to a fantastic display and were served hot dogs or soup. We raised £213.

On Sunday 11th November we held our first Remembrance Parade. St Edmunds were thrilled when we made contact to become involved in this event at their church. Despite the weather the turnout was great, and the day was marked beautifully. We look forward

to working with St Edmunds again next year.

On Saturday 17th November we joined Riddlesdown Residents' Association for their litter pick. The children always enjoy this event, and it goes towards their Community Award so we are always happy to support. We will see you at the next one!

After much fundraising, we were finally able to get the builders in to refurbish our toilets and install a disabled toilet facility and shower. This has made such a difference to us as a Group, not only for us personally but also for future hut hires. This along with the recoating of the roof, for which we obtained Lottery funding, were significant to us as a charity. Nevertheless, they have left us with an empty pot so the fundraising continues. Our next priorities are to hire dehumidifiers to draw out all the moisture, replace the internal ceilings, replace the broken heating in our small hall, replace the water damaged floor in the kitchen and redecorate throughout. This is a huge list for us so we welcome any support anyone can offer.



Carol singing at Sanderstead Station

On Monday 10th December, Sanderstead Station very kindly allowed us to turn up with our festive head wear and collection buckets

and sing carols to the passengers getting on and off the trains. In an hour we raised an amazing £196. Watch out Sanderstead -- and perhaps other neighbouring stations -- we will certainly be doing this again.

On Saturday 23rd February our Dunmail Dolphins took part in the annual swimathon for our Group and the Rotary Club. The final total raised is not in yet, but the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and swam a total of 198 lengths in an hour.

We have further fundraising events coming up this year to which the wider community is always very welcome:-

Saturday 18th May '19 Family Fun Day

Saturday 5th October '19 Family Quiz

If you would like to contact me as to how you can help our Group out in anyway, or just to find out more, my scout email address is GSL@19thpurley.org.uk or visit our website <https://19thpurleyscoutgroup.org/>

Liz O'Brien

Group Scout Leader

The History of Riddlesdown Lawn Tennis Club

John Pewtress

The Tennis Club was formed in 1936. The grounds were provided by Laing Homes Limited, developers of the new Riddlesdown Estate, for the benefit of the residents at a peppercorn rent. On 11th June 1938, Mr J Crittended, deputy chair and owner of the local tea rooms, was joined by Mr John Laing to formally open the courts.

At that time, the club had 20 members and the annual subscription was £1 1s 00d. Club tournaments were first played in that year with Finals Day on Saturday 1st October attended by local brothers S and G Paish, who

played an exhibition set in front of two hundred residents. The need for a pavilion was raised and Laings agreed to provide a building with a common room twenty feet long and fifteen feet wide plus two cloakrooms, and a seven foot wide covered veranda running the whole thirty foot length. To contain costs, the site was prepared, drainage dug and the building sections erected by volunteers, an ethos that still continues to this day.

The building cost £155, for which Laings provided an interest free loan with repayments of £20 per annum. This did not include sanitary fittings, which were obtained by a member for £10. It was envisaged that the pavilion would be used by the community for classes in home nursing, cookery, lectures on horticulture, a literary circle, chess club and table tennis. A public subscription was opened to raise funds for the purchase of the necessary equipment and Mr J Lambert, the estate manager at the time, started off the donations with a contribution of £3. It is understood that dancing classes were also held by Carol Howard of Kotchinsky ballet, who lived at 60 Ingleboro Drive. The outbreak of war reduced the opportunities for play, but the pavilion was used as the local ARP and first aid station. After the war, the Club continued to thrive and with rationing still in force, Saturday and Sunday afternoon teas, provided with the help of members' home grown produce, became an attraction.

In 1948, an ex-army Nissan hut was obtained by Neil Millar and used to extend the Pavilion. A Badminton section was also formed with play at St Edmund's Church Hall.

In 1949/50 a third tennis court was laid with the help of a loan from the LTA, and was opened by Fred Perry. The Club was also

granted a ten-year lease on the grounds for a rental of £30 per annum.

In 1968, Laings agreed to sell the freehold of the land to the Club for £1,500 but with the proviso that, if the Club were to dispose of any of the land, Laing's would have first option on buying the freehold back at the original price. With the help of another LTA loan and members' loans and donations the purchase was completed. This proviso was released in 2007.

In the 1980s a darts section became popular on Wednesday evenings and in 1982 it was agreed that the Club should apply for a Club Licence. This was met with opposition from the police and fire brigade who branded the Clubhouse a firetrap. With the roof leaking in heavy rain and draughts coming through gaps in the wooden boards it was decided to raise funds for a new pavilion. With a membership of 80 senior and 50 juniors, members held informal dinners -- for which guests made a payment which was donated to the Club, saved their odd coins, made and sold cakes, collected waste paper, held social functions and other fund raising activities. Over five years nearly £25,000 was raised. John Pewtress obtained a bank loan of £25,000 (using his house as collateral) and, he, Richard Allen and John Rasmusen each loaned £7,000. A further £12,000 was lent and/or donated by other members and work commenced on the new pavilion in 1987. When "completed" in 1988 there was no access to the pavilion as the entrance was eight feet above the path and the builders admitted that they had failed to quote for the necessary steps (although they were shown on the plans). At this time the Club launched a "200 Club" to raise funds for capital projects and to date this has raised

£10,099.

In 2012, with local authority rates increasing each year, the club decided to apply to become a Community Amateur Sports Club which gave it special dispensation, although the members gave up all rights to sharing any future proceeds of sale. In the same year, members' loans and donations were again sought, this time for the installation of floodlights at a cost of £23,000. These were thought to be essential if the club were to survive, as many members were working longer hours and could often only play in the evenings. This assumption has proven to be correct but we now face the problem of a lack of parking due to the number of "outside" commuters.

The courts are maintained regularly to a high standard and, last year, work commenced on upgrading the pavilion interior by volunteers. Having guided the Club finances for the last 45 years, John Pewtress has, at last, handed over the reins to Chris Johnson.

Today, the club have several teams (ladies, men, mixed, over 55) playing in the Surrey tennis leagues as well as having well attended club playing sessions throughout the week and at weekends. Whether you're a beginner, an experienced player or somewhere in between(!), we believe it's a place where you can enjoy your tennis throughout the year.

There are membership vacancies and details are available at www.riddlesdownltc.com. New members are always welcome. If you would like to start playing, please email riddlesdowntennis@gmail.com or call Dave on 07773818443

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COMMUNITY PAGES

Short pieces on local associations, events and activities. Submissions should be of around 150-200 words. Each edition we will also offer a 'Featured Group' section, in which an individual group can give a more detailed account of its activities and aims. If you would be interested in submitting an extended feature on your group please contact the editor at editorrra@gmail.com or on 020 8668 4061 to discuss.

Croydon Bowling Club

Croydon Bowling Club will be celebrating its 270 years as a bowls club in Croydon in 2019.

The first reference to the playing of bowls in Croydon dates from 1749, when it was recorded that men were playing bowls on common land at the back of the Three Tuns Inn, Surrey Street. However, on a map of the Manor of Waddon 1695 there is a clearly marked bowling green on the edge of the Duppas Hill gravel pits. It could be that when the gravel pits were extended the bowls club moved to the Three Tuns – we shall never know...

Following the demolition of the Three Tuns, and the closure of its green in 1907, the bowlers of Croydon re-established the club on ground to the rear of 88-90 High Street. The present site, at Nottingham Road, was purchased and Croydon Bowling Club was registered as a company in 1920

A new indoor pavilion was opened in 1937, but closed during the period 1939-45, because it was requisitioned for war use.

The first hint of war came when the indoor and outdoor "boys" were given 2/6d a week increase and a week's leave because both had joined the territorials in May 1938. In October, they were called up for service.

In 1939, the police authorities asked for permission to use a room as a police post in the event of war. The Ministry of Works made the indoor pavilion into a store in 1940 and would not evacuate until 1950 when it was

handed back to the bowls club.

Croydon Bowls and Sports Club have the best facilities in Surrey. We have 6 indoor and 12 outdoor rinks, plus a Croquet Green, we cater for all levels of play, from casual and friendly matches up to national competitions. Our fixture list is in excess of 150 competition matches a year, home and away. We offer free "taster" sessions and coaching from our volunteer, fully qualified, coaches. Our Social section run a variety of events throughout the year; dances, quizzes, race nights, theatre and bowling holiday trips. We also cater for darts, table tennis and snooker.

We welcome "new" bowlers of any age and are keen to promote the sport for everyone. Why not give us a try – there are several levels of membership. Email Alan9483@aol.com for more information or phone 0777 2022 156

Community Information:

A - Z of organisations in or close to Riddlesdown (more details on the RRA website)

Bourne Society

Their website includes details of local publications, historical information, downloadable leaflets of walks around the area and photographs of Riddlesdown. Member only meetings; membership £10 a year. There is also a specific Sanderstead Local History Group, which holds monthly meetings for a charge of £2 per meeting for Bourne Society members only. www.bournesoc.org.uk

Cantilena Singers

Cantilena Singers Ladies' Choir was originally formed in 1986. There are no auditions and members do not need to be able to read music. Membership is encouraged for any adult female who is interested to learn and work at achieving a high enough standard for public performance. Members of the choir pay a subscription fee (at present £49 per term). Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings between 7.30 – 9.30pm. Choir members are encouraged to play a part in the running of the choir and there are publicity, fundraising, social and library sub-committees. We are a friendly choir and welcome new members. If you are interested in trying us out please come along to a meeting in the Methodist Church, Sanderstead) and / or contact Jill on 07957 627 783.

Croydon Art Society

Holds meetings & exhibitions – information at <http://www.croydonartsociety.org.uk/>

Croydon Camera Club

Meets at Shirley Methodist Church Hall most Wednesdays of the year & has outings to photogenic locations. Further Information www.croydoncameraclub.org.uk

Croydon Decorative and Fine Arts Society

Lectures take place on the 2nd Thursday of each month except August and December at 10.45 a.m. in All Saints Church Hall, Onslow Gardens, Sanderstead CR2 9AB. Tea/coffee and biscuits from 10.00 a.m. Visitors welcome. Other activities include Special Interest Days, Visits and Study Tours. Membership Secretary; 020 8680 3049.

CNHSS – Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society

Indoor meetings are usually held in the Small Hall of the East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, almost opposite East Croydon Station. www.cnhss.co.uk/

Croydon Symphonic Band

An amateur community wind band with 50 or so players that was formed by an ex Riddlesdown resident over 40 years ago. The band is based in Croydon. New members always welcome. www.csb.org.uk

FoFD - Friends of Farthing Downs

Regular talks & walks & meetings & exhibitions. Hold a Sunday Tea on Farthing Downs the last Sunday of each month, May to September. For more information - e-mail; fofd2@btinternet.com or telephone: 01737 554449.

London Mozart Players

For details of concerts some of which take place locally. www.londonmozartplayers.com/

North Wood Morris Men -Croydon's Own Morris Dancers

They are always looking for new members to dance or play music. They will train dancers and musicians from scratch if need be. All are welcome. <http://www.northwoodmorris.co.uk/>

Parkrun; Riddlesdown Common

Free 5km Run Every Saturday at 9am - Further details and to register www.parkrun.org.uk/riddlesdown/

RIDDLEDOWN'S

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Purley Bury Sports & Social Club

(Brancaster Lane):

Bowls www.purleyburybc.co.uk/

Croquet www.purleyburycroquet.org.uk/

Tennis www.purleyburytennisclub.net/

Purley and District Townswomen's Guild

Meet in the Lounge, United Reformed Church, 906 Brighton Road, Purley CR8 2LN (next to Purley Hospital). First Tuesday every month, 2 – 4pm. Hold regular talks, lunches, etc. Try before you buy! First meeting free. www.purley-guild.webplus.net/ or email admin@purley-guild.com

Purley Literary Society

Meetings run from October to March. Talks are in the hall of the Purley URC Church, 906 Brighton Road – next to Purley Hospital, at 8pm. Visitors pay £5 at the door or season ticket; £22 for eleven talks or 6 talks £12. More information: www.purley-literary-society.com

Ramblers (Croydon) -

www.croydonramblers.org.uk

Ramblers (Surrey) –

www.surreyramblers.org.uk

Riddlesdown Lawn Tennis Club,

Lower Barn Rd

A small friendly club where everyone is welcome - regardless of age, experience or skill. Junior section with full coaching sessions organised by MDL Coaching on Sat mornings throughout year. Further details – Dave Kerr - 07773 818443. www.riddlesdownltc.com/

RSPB Croydon Local Group

Monthly Illustrated Wildlife Talks in South Croydon at Whitgift Sports Club, Croham Manor Road -

off Croham Road. South Croydon, CR2 7BG
Second Monday of each month, 2pm and again at 8pm.

Admission £4.00. Everyone is welcome, not just RSPB members.

Free refreshments. A selection of RSPB goods, nuts & seeds are on sale.

Parking limited on site but free in adjacent roads.

64 & 433 buses stop nearby in Croham Road. Whitgift Sports Club, Croham Manor Road -

Monday May 13, 2019: “Behind the Scenes at Kew”. Peter Gasson leads a team at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, which gives him an in depth knowledge of what goes on at this world famous institution – like housing the world’s biggest dung-heap! But it’s the world of wood that will be our main focus, with some breathtaking macro lens and microscopic images to share.

Monday June 10, 2019: NO MEETING - Summer break.

Monday July 8, 2019: “W H Hudson - an RSPB Legacy” Author and conservationist Conor Mark Jameson explores why this impoverished immigrant from South America rose to prominence in Victorian and Edwardian Britain, what his contribution was in the early stirrings of conservation activism, his place in literature, and how his legacy can still be felt today.

Monday Aug 12, 2019: Group AGM preceded by a talk from the Group’s Environment Committee.



Monday September 9, 2019: “Transatlantic Travels”. Wildlife photographer Mike Mockler’s talk will look at wildlife in some of his favourite places in the Americas, e.g. Costa Rica, the Galapagos Islands, Jamaica, Canada and Patagonia. Birds range from the resplendent quetzal to snowy owls and Andean condors. Many mammals are also included.

Monday Oct 14, 2019: “Hedgehogs Update” - Dr Pat Morris. The future wellbeing of the hedgehog is threatened like never before, so it is a real pleasure to have Pat back to update us on the plight of this most lovable mammal.

For more information contact John Davis on 020-8640 4578

or see www.rspb.org.uk/groups/croydon

St Edmund’s Church & Community Hall, Riddlesdown

St Edmund’s Church & Community Hall, Riddlesdown St Edmund’s is a dual-purpose building, used both as a church hall and a Riddlesdown community resource. Its congregation are mainly from the Riddlesdown resident community and are friendly and welcoming to all. Sunday services are at 8am and 10.00am. Worship varies week by week. 10.00 a.m. Sunday services are live streamed. You can join us by viewing the broadcasts at twitter.com/revsusan5 (Links may be found on The St Edmund’s page of The Parish website (https://www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk/st_edmund)). Rev’d Susan Atkinson-Jones is the Team Vicar of Edmund’s. Further information: www.sandersteadparish.org.uk/st_edmund

St Edmund’s Caring Group SECG is a voluntary group in Riddlesdown which

supports residents in remaining independent and at home when life becomes a little more difficult. We have wonderful volunteers who are happy to help in numerous ways; shopping and being taken to medical appointments are the most popular. Volunteering is such a rewarding experience knowing that you have helped someone to do something that would otherwise have seemed impossible is marvellous. Young or old, if you require support, reassurance or any information, please do give us a call. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please call our new telephone number 020 8651 9442. We are open 10-12 weekday mornings and at all other times there is an answer phone

Sallywags is held at St Edmund’s Church Hall every Thursday during term time from 9.30 to 11.30 am. Whilst babies and tots up to 5 years old play with the toys and crafts provided, their Mums, Dads, Grandparents and Carers enjoy a tea and chat. There is fun and friendship for all attending. All under 5s and their carers are welcome. More information is available from Susan Atkinson-Jones (susan@sanderstead-parish.org.uk Tel: 020 8657 5505)

St Edmund’s Caring Group

SECG is a voluntary group in Riddlesdown which supports residents in remaining independent and at home when life becomes a little more difficult. We have wonderful volunteers who are happy to help in numerous ways; shopping and being taken to medical appointments are the most popular. Volunteering is such a rewarding experience knowing that you have helped someone to do something that would otherwise have seemed impossible is marvellous. Young or old, if you

require support, reassurance or any information, please do give us a call. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please call our new telephone number 020 8651 9442. We are open 10-12 weekday mornings and at all other times there is an answer phone.

St Edmund's Tuesday Night Badminton Club

Tuesday night badminton takes place between 8 - 9.30pm in St. Edmund's church hall during term time. We are a friendly mixed club with a mix of ability and would encourage new members to join. No absolute beginners please. Contact details: Mrs Christine Whitmarsh on 8660 2178 or just drop in one Tuesday evening.

Scallywags

St Edmund's Church is delighted to offer local children from 0 to school age the chance to play together – and for their parents/grandparents/carers to meet and chat over a cup of coffee!

The group meets in St Edmund's Church on Thursdays during term-time from 9.30 to 11.30 am. Lots of exciting equipment to play on, craft activities, singing.....

Contact: Rev. Susan Atkinson-Jones

Tel: 020 8657 5505

Email: susan@sanderstead-parish.org.uk

Scouts and Girl Guiding

19th Purley (Riddlesdown), Dunmail Drive, off Mitchley Hill

www.croydonscouting.org.uk/

11th Purley Scout Group; St James Church Hall, Lower Road, Kenley

Beavers – Fridays; 1630 - 1730;

Cubs – Mondays; 1830 - 2000

Scouts – Tuesdays; 1900 - 2100

Enquiries to Peter Pearce (Group Scout Leader) 07947 889920 or

www.http://11thpurley.org.uk/

16th Purley Scout Group (All Saint's Group, Sanderstead)

www.croydonscouting.org.uk/where-do-we-meet/beavers-cubs-and-scouts/16th-purley-7th-sanderstead-all-saints-group/

18th Purley (United Reform Church). Scout HQ in Farm Fields.

<http://www.18thpurley.org.uk/>

Beavers – Thursdays; 5.00 – 6.00pm

Cubs – Mondays; 6.30 to 8.00pm

Scouts – Thursdays; 7.30 to 9.00pm

Croydon Girl Guiding

www.girlguidinglaser.org.uk/gdlgallery/croydon

Sanderstead Cricket Club

14 Old Saw Mill, Limpsfield Rd, Sanderstead

(entrance opposite The Gruffy). Website;

<http://sanderstead.play-cricket.com/>

Sanderstead Dramatic Club -

Contact Mr John Desbottes - Tel 01883

625656 - <http://www.sdclub.org.uk/>

Sanderstead Evening

Townswomen's Guild

Contact Mrs Doreen Nicholls - Tel 020 8657

2072. Meets 3rd Monday of the month at

7.45pm at Sanderstead Methodist Church



Hall. www.the-tg.com/Guild/sanderstead-evening/375.aspx

Sanderstead Horticultural Society

Wettern Tree Garden, Purley Oaks Road.
Membership £6 per family. Contact Val Burley 020 8651 5837. Five member lectures a year & Garden Outings to great gardens. Other member benefits including horticultural advice & Knights discount.

Sanderstead Village WI

<http://www.sandersteadwi.btck.co.uk/>

Selsdon Camera Club

Meet Fridays at 7.30 pm (for a 7.45 pm start)
The Methodist Halls 102 Limpsfield Road, Sanderstead.

<http://www.selsdoncameraclub.co.uk/>

Selsdon Little Leagues Football & Netball

Providing Football and Netball for local children in the Croydon area.
http://selsdonlittleleagues.leaguerepublic.com/l/newsArticle/new_website.html

Stagecoach Croydon - Theatre Arts Schools for Children

Fridays at Riddlesdown Collegiate
4.30 - 7.30pm; 6 - 18 years; 4.15 - 5.45pm; 4 - 6 years.

Saturdays at Croydon High School
10 am - 1pm or 2.30pm - 5.30pm; 6-18 years;

9.30 am - 11am or 11.15am - 12.45pm; 4-6 years. Tel 0845 265 7083

www.stagecoach.co.uk/croydon

Storisse

EACH STORY IS UNIQUE. After many months of planning, storisse.com is finally here. Storisse is a website which celebrates worthwhile work carried out by worthwhile

charities, in a different way. Being a storyteller by profession, Alex Cuncev tells real life stories that are meaningful, moving and engaging.

Her personal stories are linked to thoughtfully researched charities.

Read storisse.com for weekly updates on amazing work, positive thoughts and heart-rendering stories! You can also submit your own story on the website.

This is what her readers say: 'These stories are like big hugs. Just enjoy a cup of tea and dive into this sweet universe filled with sunshine and kindness.' All on storisse.com

Surrey Wildlife Trust

More Information Tel: 01483 795440 or www.surreywildlifetrust.org

The Jolly Farmers

Live Music & Entertainment several times a week, usually free.

7 Purley Road, Purley CR8 2HA, Tel: 0208 660 2076 or www.jollyfarmers-purley.co.uk

The PROBUS Club of Sanderstead & Riddlesdown

Meet at Whitgift Sports Club, Croham Rd, S Croydon. From noon on first Tuesday of every month. Further details contact:- Chris Babbs email: chrisbabbsuk@waitrose.com

The University of the Third Age (U3A)

The Third Age Trust is the national representative body for the Universities of Third Age (U3As) in the UK. U3As are self-help, self-managed lifelong learning co-operatives for older people no longer in full time work, providing opportunities for their members to share learning experiences in a wide range of interest groups and to pursue learning not for qualifications, but for fun. <http://www.u3a.org.uk/>

Walk & Cycle Surrey

Further information:

<http://www.walkandcycle.co.uk/surreytrails>

Warlingham Horticultural Society

Hold Regular flower shows & plant sales in Warlingham & outings

<http://home2.btconnect.com/bransby/hort/hort.htm>

Yoga with Veronica

A mixed ability class suitable for all ages which takes place on Tuesday evenings in St Edmund's Church Hall during term-time between 6.15 - 7.30pm. Yoga will improve your flexibility and strength and help you relax and de-stress after your busy day. Contact: Veronica Moulder; Tel 07803 728868.

Younger Generation Theatre Group

give an opportunity to 9-18's to appear on the professional stage

All auditions and rehearsals in Purley

[Wwww.youngergeneration.co.uk](http://www.youngergeneration.co.uk) or contact John Blundell 02086573214

DISCLAIMER

Every effort is made to ensure that the above information is factually correct and is made in good faith but accuracy must not be assumed and no responsibility can be taken for any actions arising in the case of error or otherwise. Please bring to the attention of the Editor, any inaccuracies.

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Thank you to these Advertisers, without whose support this magazine could not have been produced

If you would like to place an Advert, please contact Neil
 editorrra@riddlesdown.org or on 020 8668 4061

Our MP (Croydon South - Conservative); Mr Chris Philp MP, The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
 Tel; 020 7219 8026
 Email; chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk website; www.chrisphilp.com
 If you would like an appointment then telephone or e-mail.

Our Ward Councillors: All letters to Councillors should be sent: c/o The Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX.

<p>PURLEY OAKS & RIDDLESDOWN WARD (Conservative) Helen Redfern Tel: 07783 152334 Email: helen.redfern@croydon.gov.uk Simon Hoar Tel: 07783 152372 Email simon.hoar@croydon.gov.uk</p>	<p>SANDERSTEAD WARD (Conservative) Yvette Hopley Tel: 8657 0973 Email: yvette.hopley@croydon.gov.uk Lynne Hale Tel: 8405 6721 Email: lynne.hale@croydon.gov.uk Tim Pollard Tel: 8251 8500 Email: councillor@timpollard.co.uk</p>
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GREATER LONDON ASSEMBLY MEMBER FOR CROYDON & SUTTON

Steve O’Connell (Conservative)
 Tel: 020 7983 4405 Email: steve.o’connell@london.gov.uk
 Website: www.london.gov.uk/people/assembly/steve-oconnell/more-about

RIDDLESDOWN/LONDON/LUTON/BEDFORD TRAIN TIMES

Southern Rail and Thameslink trains to and from Riddlesdown with effect from 9 December 2018 until Saturday 18 May 2019

National Rail Key; **RDD** - Riddlesdown; **VIC** - London Victoria; **LBG** - London Bridge; **STP** - London St Pancras; **BDM** - Bedford; **ECR** - East Croydon; **LUT** - Luton; **OXT** - Oxted; **EGR** - East Grinstead.

To London and/or Bedford from Riddlesdown;

Weekdays: All trains terminate at London Victoria, unless otherwise stated in brackets; 6.06, 06.15(to LBG, STP, BDM), 06.35, 06.42(to LBG, STP, BDM), 07.06, 07.15(to LBG, STP, BDM), 07.36, 07.45(to LBG, STP, BDM), 08.06, 08.15(to LBG, STP, BDM), 08.36, 08.45(to LBG, STP, BDM), 09.06, 09.15(to LBG, STP, BDM), 09.36 and then 06 and 36 mins past hour until last train at 23.36.

Saturdays (To London Victoria only): 07.06, 07.36, and then 06 and 36 mins past hour until 23.36.

Sundays (To London Victoria only) 08.42, and then 12 and 42 mins past hour until 23.44.

To and from London Bridge and Bedford - No direct services Saturdays & Sundays.

From London Victoria to East Grinstead stopping at Riddlesdown;

Times in brackets are the arrival times at Riddlesdown for departures on to Oxted & East Grinstead.

Weekdays: 05.21(05.49), 05.51(06.18), 06.21(06.48), 06.51(07.18), 07.21(07.48), 07.51(08.18), 08.21(08.48), 08.51(09.18), 09.21(09.48), and then 51(18) and 21(48) mins past the hour until 22.52(23.18), 23.21(23.48), 23.53(00.23 - to Oxted only).

Saturdays: 06.21(06.48), 06.51(07.18) and then 21(48) and 51(18) mins past hour until 23.53(00.24 - to Oxted only).

Sundays: 07.43(08.17), 08.51(09.17), 09.21(09.47), 09.51(10.17), and then 21(47) & 51(17) mins past hour until 22.51(23.17).

From Bedford (BDM) or Luton (LUT) via London St Pancras (STP) & London Bridge(LBG) to East Grinstead stopping at Riddlesdown;

Weekdays only: 15.49(LUT)(17.05); 16.06(BDM) at LBG 17.11(17.35); 16.32(BDM) at LBG 17.41(18.05); 17.21(LUT) at LBG 18.11(18.35); 17.28(BDM) at LBG 18.41(19.05); 17.56(BDM) at LBG 19.11(19.35).

From East Croydon to East Grinstead stopping at Riddlesdown;

Weekdays: 05.41(49), 06.10(18), 06.40(48), 07.10(18), 07.40(48), then 10(18) and 40(48) mins past hour until 16.55(05), 17.10(18), 17.25(35), 17.40(48), 17.56(05), 18.10(18), 18.25(35), 18.40(48), 18.55(05), 19.10(18), 19.25(35), 19.40(48), then 10(18)mins and 40(48) mins past hour until 00.14(23 - to Oxted only).

Saturdays: 06.40(06.48), 07.10(07.18) and then 40(48) and 10(18) mins past hour until 00.15(00.24) - to Oxted only).

Sundays: 08.09(08.17), 09.09(17), 09.39(47), and then 09(17) and 39(47) mins past the hour until 23.09(17).

Enquiries: Southern Railway: Tel: 0345 1 27 29 20 (07.00 - 22.00 hrs) or southernrailway.com

Thameslink: Tel: 0345 026 4700 (07:00 to 22:00 hrs) or thameslinkrailway.com

National Rail Tel: 03457 48 49 50 or nationalrail.co.uk

Local Bus Route and Frequency

Bus 412 (Arriva) - The 412 starts/ends at West Croydon Bus Station and travels along Wellesley Rd, Katharine Str, High Str, South End, Selsdon Rd, Upper Selsdon Rd, Addington Rd (stop for Selsdon), Rectory Park, Mitchley Ave, Downs Court Rd, Godstone Rd, & ends/starts at Brighton Rd, at Purley Downlands Project.

Frequency Weekdays & Saturdays: Early; 20 mins, Peak; 15 mins, Daytime; 15 mins, Evenings; 20 mins, Late Evenings; 30 mins. Frequency Sundays; 30 mins.

Timetable: tfl.gov.uk/bus/timetable/412/

Enquiries: TfL London Buses: Tel: 0845 300 7000 or TfL website: www.tfl.gov.uk

Links also available via the Transport section on the RRA website: riddlesdownresidents.org.uk/transport.html

Timetables are subject to change, so if in doubt, check with the rail and bus operator, TfL or National Rail. The RRA cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the above information.

Library Closing Days: Purley and Selsdon – Wednesdays and Sundays; Sanderstead – Mondays, Thursdays and Sundays. Croydon Council's telephone number for all enquiries: 020 8726 6000, website www.croydon.gov.uk
Address: London Borough of Croydon, Bernard Weatherill House, 8 Mint Walk, Croydon, CR0 1EA

RRA Committee Meetings: usually 3rd Wednesday or Thursday in January, March, May, September and November. Contact a Committee member for details. The AGM is to be held on Wednesday 15 May 2019 at 7.30pm in St Edmunds Church Hall, Mitchley Ave.

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Dates for Your Diary

RRA AGM

7.30pm Wednesday 15th May, St Edmund's Church Hall

RRA Litter Pick

2-3.30pm Saturday 11th May, Meet at Bottom of Dunmail Drive

RRA Children's Christmas Party

2-4.00pm 7th December

Party bookings can be made from 1st October 2019

Email: eventsrra@gmail.com

Phone or Text: 07874682852