

THE RIDDLESLOW RECORDER



Date for your Diary!

AGM of the RRA
7pm on Wed 20 April 2016
at Riddlesdown Collegiate

INSIDE

Children's Christmas Party
MP's Report
Security Tips
Who are We?
And More....

WINTER 2016

ISSUE 201

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CONTENTS:

<i>Section Heading</i>	<i>Page</i>
The RRA Committee Members	4
RRA Editor's Notes	5
The RRA Committee Reports	
Chairman's Report – Brian Longman	6
Planning Report and Environment Report – Phil Thomas ..	13
Transport and Membership – John Rapp	19
Your Contributions and Articles	
Children's Christmas Party	20
Who are We?	20
MP's Report	23
Councillors' Report	25
Riddlesdown Collegiate Report	26
Top 10 Security Tips	26
Community Pages	
Featured Group – Marion's Walks	28
Community Listings	28
Advertiser Index	33
Front Cover Photo:	

Frost Patterns on Riddlesdown – Rachel Tarrant, Local Resident

The Annual General Meeting of the RRA will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 20 April 2016 in the 1st Floor Staff Canteen, Riddlesdown Collegiate, Honister Heights. Use the main front entrance to the building and take the stairs up to the first floor. Some limited parking will be available within the Collegiate grounds.

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 Police SNT: **07920 233892**

Sanderstead Police SNT: **020 8721 2470**

NHS Non Emergency Number : **111**

THE RIDDLEDOWN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Vice-President: Mrs H.Kiernan



Brian Longman
*Chairman and Riddlesdown
Collegiate Liaison*
t: [REDACTED]



Phil Thomas
*Planning & Environmental;
Website Editor*
[REDACTED]



Linda Bevin
Secretary & Treasurer
[REDACTED]



John Rapp
*Membership, Road Stewards and
Public Transport Concerns*
[REDACTED]



Neil Tarrant
Recorder Editor
[REDACTED]



Janice Kedwards
Social Secretary
[REDACTED]



Frankie Wheeler
Footpaths Liaison
[REDACTED]



Diana Chitty
Footpaths Liaison
[REDACTED]



Fred Wallis
[REDACTED]



Bill Whitmarsh
[REDACTED]



Monica Pugh
[REDACTED]



Mavis Wilder
[REDACTED]



Keith Powell
[REDACTED]



Jan Powell
[REDACTED]

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

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 by Riddlesdown Pharmacy in Lower Barn Rd, on the side wall of St Edmunds Church, by K&K Food & Wine in Mitchley Ave. We also use the Boards on the Green by St Edmund's Church and in the station waiting room.

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

EDITOR'S NOTES

BY NEIL TARRANT

As I am writing Christmas now seems like a distant memory. Yet before Christmas St Edmund's Church hall saw the return of the Riddlesdown Children's Christmas Party. A full report on this very successful day can be found later in this magazine. Photographs of the day can be found on our website. This is just one event that the Riddlesdown Residents' Association runs, and in the Chairman's report you will be able to find detail of the forthcoming Community Festival organised in conjunction with Sanderstead Residents' Association and local Churches. It will be held on 18th June on the Gruffy next to Sanderstead pond. Further details, and information on ways to get involved can be found in Brian Longman's report.

We are also very pleased to include reports from our new local MP Chris Philp, and reports from two of our local councillors Tim Pollard and Yvette Hopley. You will also be able to read about the continuing success of our local secondary school, and of important changes to its leadership.

As ever, I am extremely grateful to everyone who has contributed to this magazine, and to Roger Cherrill of Cherrill Print for putting it together. We are always happy to include reports on any local activities or societies. Contributions need not be long, a paragraph and a photograph would be enough to keep everyone informed! If you would like to submit an article, or just discuss an idea for one please email the editor at editorra@gmail.com.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BY BRIAN LONGMAN

Pharmacy

In my last report, I discussed the difficult situation facing our local pharmacy in Lower Barn Road. In March the Essential Small Pharmacies Scheme, which was introduced in 2006, came to an end. The Scheme was intended to ensure that small local community pharmacies, like ours in Riddlesdown, with a relatively low footfall and prescription rate were supported. I remember I said at the time, that whilst we remained confident that our local pharmacy would continue to flourish and support the residents of Riddlesdown, we must not be complacent. To that end the Association has spent the last six months campaigning to ensure that our excellent Pharmacy service continues to support the residents of Riddlesdown and for many years to come.

The Association has sought advice and assistance from a wide range of organisations including, Croydon Health Services, NHS England and the local Pharmacy committee. I am now extremely pleased to report that the Riddlesdown Pharmacy is now designated as a Healthy Living Pharmacy and as such, part of Croydon's Minor Ailment Scheme. This means the pharmacist is able to prescribe over-the-counter medications for a plethora of common conditions. The service is free to children and adults who are exempt from prescription charges, thus avoiding unnecessary visits to the GP. Add to this a whole range of other services from basic health checks, advice on self-care and the new online prescription service. We now have a Pharmacy service in Riddlesdown that we can be proud of.

Incidentally, whilst preparing this report I noticed on the NHS Choices website that Riddlesdown Pharmacy has a five star rating, so well done to the whole team in Lower Barn Road and especially to Naseem, our extremely helpful and knowledgeable Pharmacist.

Post Office

Many of you will be aware that our local Post Office in Lower Barn Road has been subject to a comprehensive review of the services it provides under the Post Office's investment and transformation plan.

I think many residents may have seen the BBC TV programme earlier this year, which showed a number of communities who had real concerns that their local Post Office would close under a modernisation programme. Riddlesdown Post Office for decades has been at the very heart of our community and we were not surprised at the number of residents who have contacted the Association to register their concern that the Post Office might have to close. The Association has liaised closely with Vijay Patel, our long-standing and extremely helpful Postmaster.

The Association has lobbied and met with the Post Office team managing the programme and has also sought the assistance of our local MP Chris Philp, who contacted the CEO of the Post Office to raise our concerns.

The proposed new service would be offered from an open-plan style service point, integrated into the retail counter and would open for longer hours, including Sundays.

However, one of the main points of concern was whether the new service would retain all its current products and services. We also raised the issue of the recent closure of the last bank in the Sanderstead Parade in Limsfield Road and the need for the Post Office to retain all its current financial services. In the end, the decision was one for Vijay and his family to make and, I am pleased to say, it was to stay and work with the new style Post Office service in Riddlesdown. It will retain all its existing services.

On behalf of the Association I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Vijay and his family. I know the process has been long and stressful for them, with the creation of a new business plan and longer opening hours. I have said it before and I will say it again, our local shops will only survive if we support them.

Vijay and his family have said yes to Riddlesdown, so let us make sure we support them in this new service. The shop and Post Office however will have to close for about a week at the end of January/beginning of February whilst building works are carried out, so watch out for information that Vijay will display in the shop about this.

Helping Staying Healthy in Riddlesdown

Croydon recently ran a Self-Care Week with the aim of helping people better understand how to stay healthy and look after any minor ailments or long-term conditions they may have.

Dr Agnelo Fernandes, a local GP and Assistant Clinical Chair of NHS Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group said: "Self-care is about keeping fit and healthy and

making healthy choices that reduce the risk of illness in the future. Healthy choices can include keeping active, eating well and giving up smoking. Self-care is also about ensuring people understand when they can treat themselves at home, for example if they have a cough or cold, and the importance of choosing the right health service. People often go to their GP with a minor ailment when they could get faster and more appropriate treatment from their Pharmacist, who as trained health professionals can also provide advice on healthy living and common health problems."

Apart from my role as Chair of the RRA, I also sit as a patient representative on the Prevention, Self-Care, Self-Management and Shared Decision Making Board. Croydon has wide range of information and initiatives to help people stay healthy but how to get the message out to Croydon residents is still a big issue. To help spread the word the Association, in the New Year, will introduce a Staying Healthy page on our website.

All the information will be provided by the NHS Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group or Croydon Council. When operational the Association would welcome your feedback on the project, so please check the RRA website early in the New Year.

Local Police SNT

The Sanderstead Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) police panel meets four times a year, in open meetings (usually at Riddlesdown Collegiate), to represent the views of local residents on local policing issues.

At the October meeting of the SNT panel, three new promises were agreed: to

continue to target both burglaries and motor vehicle crime, which remain major concerns for residents, and to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB)

In November, the police ran a campaign with the aim of reducing motor vehicle crime across Croydon. Motor vehicle crime in the Borough showed a 14.3% increase during the six-month period April to September 2015. Inspector Kevin Fitzgerald is keen to raise awareness of the rise and is urging residents to act now and take simple steps to prevent their vehicles from being a target. Inspector Fitzgerald said; "A majority of these incidents could have been avoided if drivers had taken simple crime prevention measures, as 50% of the vehicles were either left unlocked or with items left displayed in parked vehicles. During the next few months, both uniformed and undercover officers will be patrolling the Borough to prevent offences and detect offenders."

The advice from the police is simple:

- Always lock your vehicle when you leave it.
- Ensure all windows are closed.
- Never leave valuable items in your car - Sat Navs, cash, credit cards, cheque books, mobile phones, or other valuables.

- Wipe away the Sat Nav mark on your windscreen.
- Consider fitting anti-tamper screws to your number plate.
- Never leave your car keys where they can be seen from the front door.

Community Festival in Sanderstead

Croydon has offered to all Croydon Councillors, via the Community Ward Budget, £2,000 each to be used for a Community event by the end of June 2016. Riddlesdown and Sanderstead Residents' Associations, together with local church groups, recently met with our three local councillors to discuss the possibilities. It was decided a Community Festival with music, dance, arts and crafts would be appropriate for the event.

The date is confirmed for Saturday 18 June 2016 at 2pm on the Gruffy by Sanderstead Pond, Limsfield Road. Arrangements are at an early stage and we are still looking for suggestions and volunteers on the day. Please email me if you would like to be involved (my contact details are at the front of this magazine). Details of the event will be on the RRA website in the New Year.

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PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

BY PHIL THOMAS

Website, Facebook & Planning Notifications and Decisions

As usual all planning applications and decisions in our area are updated weekly on the RRA website. Generally planning matters have been fairly quiet in Riddlesdown over the last 6 months with no major applications. Just the usual residential applications and one retrospective application for the land in Mitchley Hill (see report below). Did you know we also have a Facebook page? Why not give that a “like” and maybe post some comments on there!

Croydon Local Plan

At the beginning of November, Croydon Council’s Planning Department published two large documents for their proposed strategic planning policies up until 2036. The consultation period for this Local Plan ran from 6 November to 18 December 2015. So by the time you read this in the New Year, the consultation period will be over. The details were published on our website and Facebook page, so hopefully you had the chance to look at the documents and maybe make some comments.

The Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies was adopted in April 2013 and set a vision and framework for the planning of the Borough up to 2031. A partial review of the Strategic Policies is now being undertaken to ensure that the Borough has an up-to-date development plan to 2036 and to take account of the further alterations to the London Plan, which has increased the

Borough’s housing requirement. The partial review also includes updated evidence on employment policies, community facilities and a move from Local Areas of Special Character to Local Heritage Areas.

The Croydon Local Plan: Detailed Policies and Proposals will provide greater planning policy detail to the Strategic Policies, setting out development management planning policies and site allocations for a range of land uses to meet the Borough’s growth needs to 2036. The Detailed Policies and Proposals will also ensure a continued focus on the 16 “Places” of Croydon outlined in the Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies. Once adopted, the Detailed Policies and Proposals will replace the currently saved policies of the Unitary Development Plan (2006).

At the time of writing this, at the start of December, the RRA has not fully explored the documents as yet, but from brief viewings there is nothing in it that appears to affect Riddlesdown too much, apart from the re-introduction of “garden grabbing” which could be a problem. Unfortunately in the Plan, Riddlesdown falls between the Purley and Sanderstead “Places” so we are not really recognised as an area! Some adjustment to Green Belt land in Riddlesdown is being considered (added to rather than removed). However, the main areas of concern elsewhere are the proposed 16 storey Purley tower on the Baptist Church site in Banstead Road and the future of the Purley pool complex and car park. Also proposed are two travellers’ sites on Green Belt land at the

Council's Coombe Lodge Nurseries in Conduit Lane, and nearby Coombe Farm in Oaks Road, Croydon and/or one at Pear Tree Farm in Featherbed Lane, Addington, close to the Borough boundary. A proposal for a new school is also being considered on the playing fields, next to Coombe Farm off Oaks Rd. We will publish our comments submitted to the Council, on the RRA website.

Mitchley Hill Field

Residents might remember that despite objections from the RRA and Councillor Tim Pollard, the owner of the land in Mitchley Hill, beside the Dunmail Drive accessway, was granted planning permission in February 2013, for the formation of a vehicular access onto Mitchley Hill and the construction of an access road within the site. This planning permission was granted by the Planning Committee, where Councillor Pollard voiced his objections.

In early 2014, the owner was then granted subsequent planning permission to erect the gates and fencing and to discharge some conditions on the 2013 decision. Since then, the owner has rather slowly been erecting a barbed wire fence all around the site, erecting gates and digging a trench for a water supply and forming a hardstand area for vehicles.

In late October 2015, another planning application was submitted by the owner for the retention of the security gates and an agricultural hardstand/turning area. This application had to be submitted because the Planning Enforcement Officer had noted that the hardstand area was much larger than had originally been given permission for – 12

metres deep by 9 metres wide, compared to what has been built of about 36.6 metres from the back edge of the pavement by 17.6 metres at its widest point on the turning area. This was a retrospective planning application because most of the works have already been carried out.

We know that some residents have objected to this application and an objection has also been made by Croydon South MP, Chris Philp. Because the RRA's objections were ignored in February 2013, we have made no objections on this particular application. However, we have made some observations to the Planning Department about the excessive depth of the hardstand stand and also the height of the gates fronting the highway.

At the time of going to press we understand the Planning Officer has refused the application without a referral to the Planning Committee. The reason for refusal is that the proposal would be detrimental to the visual amenities and the open character of the Metropolitan Green Belt. This now means the owner will have to remove some of the hardstand and re-instate the grass area and reduce the height of the gate, unless he appeals against this decision. We are aware also, of the many rumours flying around about what the site is going to be used for. We understand that it is the intention of the owner to graze livestock on the land. It remains to be seen when!

Environmental Issues by Phil Thomas

Purley Hospital – Urgent Care Centre (UCC)/Minor Injuries Unit

As I have reported in a number of previous issues, the eight Residents Associations (RAs) in the south of the Borough (Hartley & District, Purley & Woodcote, Kenley, East Coulsdon, Old Coulsdon, West Coulsdon, Riddlesdown and Sanderstead) continue to maintain a dialogue with the Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCCG) about Urgent Care at Purley Hospital. The CCCG are responsible for the funding of all Urgent Care provision and GPs within Croydon.

Following correspondence and a number of meetings with the CCCG, the eight RAs realised we were just hitting our heads against a brick wall as the CCCG had their own agenda! Croydon South MP, Chris Philp has also been lobbying the CCCG and is having the same problems! So on 1 September, the eight RAs wrote to Jeremy Hunt, the Secretary of State for Health asking for his intervention at Purley. Our letter was presented to Jeremy Hunt by Chris Philp. A copy of the open letter can be viewed on our website. Although we did get a response from Jeremy Hunt, the gist of the reply was that we should continue to pursue our issues with the CCCG!

At the same time our letter was sent in early September, the CCCG released a public document about proposals for future Urgent Care in the Borough of Croydon. In the report there were a list of 11 scenarios proposed but some scenarios would result in

the closure of the existing Minor Injuries Units at Purley and at Parkway, New Addington and the Walk-In Centre at Edridge Road, Croydon. This could have huge implications for tens of thousands of Croydon residents, not just those in the south of the Borough.

Following this September report issued by CCCG, the eight joint RAs wrote on 20 October 2015 to all 16 CCCG Governing Board members expressing grave concerns about their report, including the lack of public consultation.

The RAs believe there is another option, which is a combination of extended GP practices and a walk-in Urgent Care Centre at Purley Hospital. The Scenario 6a, as proposed by the RAs is supported by Chris Philp MP, and all Councillors in the south of the Borough. We believe this scenario is feasible both, in terms of logistics and finance. We did receive a response from the CCCG who agreed to review and consider our proposed scenario 6a, along with the other 10 scenarios.

However, at the end of November, the CCCG then published a shortlist of their three preferred options. This document was released before full public consultation about all the 11 scenarios, including the RAs scenario! They applied a scoring process to each of the 11 scenarios. However, as an RA group, we believe this scoring process is flawed.

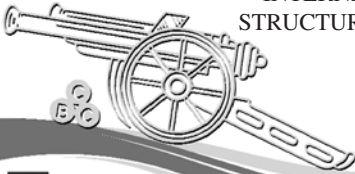
The CCCG's preferred 3 options, were issued at the beginning of December (Option 1 is their preferred option). These are their 3 options:

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Option 1: An Accident & Emergency (A&E) and a Urgent Care Centre at Croydon University Hospital (CUH); a GP Out-Of-Hours service at CUH, 3 GP hubs in the vicinity of the current services; (note “in the vicinity of” and not actually named as Purley Hospital, Parkway or Edridge Rd!)

Option 2: Same as we have now; i.e., an A&E and a UCC at CUH, a GP Out-Of-Hours service at CUH, two MIUs at Purley & New Addington; one Walk-In Centre at Edridge Rd.

Option 3: An A&E and a UCC at CUH, GP Out-Of-Hours service at CUH, 2 GP hubs covering all of Croydon. They go onto say, the GP hubs in Option 3 can be located in one of 3 different ways.

3a - Two GP hubs in the vicinity of New Addington and Purley, covering all of Croydon.

3b - Two GP hubs in the vicinity of Edridge Rd and New Addington, covering all of Croydon.

3c - Two GP hubs in the vicinity of Edridge Rd and Purley, covering all of Croydon.

What are GP hubs? The CCGG say: “GP hubs are led by GPs, and can treat all ages. They will provide all of the same services as the Walk-In Centre and Minor Injury Units and more. You can get advice and treatment from GPs and nurses for minor illnesses, injuries and ailments between 8am and 8pm, 365 days a year. They will check your medical records so you won’t have to tell your story more than once. In time you could have skype or face time appointments if you choose to. There will also be a roving GP who could visit you at home if medically necessary. If you are unwell, call NHS 111

before you go as they can assess your problems, advise you over the phone, and make an appointment for you to have the best care. This might be at a GP hub, the Urgent Care Centre or even a dentist. In an emergency an ambulance will be sent to you. You can go straight to a GP hub, but it’s better if you know you are going to the right place before you set off, so phone before you go. 999 will continue to take emergency calls, and NHS 111 will take all calls that are urgent but not emergency calls.”

The consultation runs until 17 January 2016 and the Croydon CCG are expected to make a final decision about the future of urgent care services in early February 2016. Possibly by the time you read this report it will be too late for you to comment. The effective date for this Urgent Care contract will be from April 2017.

The RAs believe that the x-ray facilities at Purley are now under-used and should be available for urgent care patients who go to Purley and need possible fractures diagnosed. The RAs group are also convinced that despite the “public consultation” process, the CCGG will progress to the tender process for option 1, regardless of what the public say!

We will update more about this on our website in due course.

A&E and Urgent Care at Croydon University Hospital (formerly Mayday)

Until spring 2017, the A&E Department and Urgent Care Centre, are now temporarily located in buildings accessed via the Woodcroft Road entrance. This is a temporary move whilst a new £21.25m A&E

Department is built on the existing site, off the Mayday Rd frontage. Croydon University Hospital is one of the few London hospitals to offer on-site car parking for patients and visitors near to the Emergency Department. Patients and visitors can now park at the Woodcroft Road entrance, next to the temporary Emergency Department and Urgent Care Centre.

Don't Mess With Croydon – Take Pride

I'm sure many of you are aware of the slogan "Don't mess with Croydon – Take Pride" that was brought in with a huge fanfare in May 2014, following the election of this Labour Council. The Labour group members proudly displayed and were photographed on the steps of the Town Hall in Katharine Street with this slogan with emblazoned on their snazzy new white T shirts. The cost of course, of these T-shirts, came out of our Council taxes!

Move on a year and a new "village" system was brought in on 1 June last by the Council. This meant changes to our rubbish and recycling collection days and we were told there would be an improvement in street cleaning on the previous system! Well, what do we now have 7 months on? Streets littered with leaves and rubbish, and a non-existent street cleaning service. At the time of writing in early December, some streets in Riddlesdown (and many others in the south) have not been cleaned for nearly 7 months now, although a lucky few have been cleaned. When was the last time you saw a mechanical sweeper or any hand cleaning being undertaken in Riddlesdown? Probably in late May 2015!

Hopefully by the time you read this report, in the New Year, our streets will have been swept at least once to clear the huge amount of leaves (which are now getting ground down by vehicular and foot traffic) and litter! The compacted leaves block road gully grids and can cause flooding after heavy rain. Of course, the wet slippery leaves on the footways are also a danger to pedestrians, especially the many elderly who live in the area. More costs for the NHS to pick up because this Council cannot be bothered to keep its streets clean. We have also pointed out to the Council that spillage from recycling collections also add to the litter problems on our streets! The streets would be worse if it weren't for the residents who do pick up rubbish off the streets. Thank you to those residents.

However, very little is done by various private land owners, to collect any rubbish on and beside the Public Footpaths and Bridleways in the woodland within a 500 metre radius of Riddlesdown Collegiate, on land not owned by the City of London Corporation. The Common is generally kept clean by the City of London Corporation. We have pointed this out to the Council a number of times now when commenting on the condition of the Public Footpaths.

Following the many complaints the RRA have received (and we know residents have complained themselves to the Council), we have written to Jo Negrini, the "Director of Place" (yes, a stupid title isn't it!) Steve Iles, the Director of Streets, Nathan Elvery, the Chief Executive and Councillor Stuart Collins. He was the Councillor who promoted the Clean, Green, Croydon; after Labour said in

its 2014 local election manifesto that it is “our goal is to make Croydon the cleanest and greenest Borough in London.” At the time of writing this report, the only person to respond has been Steve Iles who advised us that street cleaning in the south of the Borough now takes place every 6 weeks rather than the previous 4 weekly cleaning! However, the street cleaning in the north of the Borough remains unchanged! Sanderstead Ward Councillor Yvette Hopley did have to submit a Freedom of Information request to discover this information as well! However, we have had no straight answer from the Council as to why the now planned 6 weekly street cleaning, has turned into nearly 7 months!

Street cleaning in Riddlesdown has not always been great, but at least we did see a mechanical sweeper and some hand sweeping done on a 4 weekly basis and it was a lot better than we have now. Since the new “village” system this certainly appears not to be the case anymore!

So what next? The RRA will keep pursuing with the Council if things do not improve, but the Council will only take notice if residents do the same. Please write, e-mail or ring the Council and in particular those senior Council officers named above and also Councillor Stuart Collins who is ultimately responsible for this mess on our streets in Croydon. His contact details which we have taken from the Council’s website, are e-mail; stuart.collins@croydon.gov.uk or telephone number 07789 068870 or correspondence to c/o The Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX. Please copy in your Ward councillor and also the RRA.

Street Lighting

At the time of writing, the installation for new street lighting is well under way by Skanska (the Council’s contractor) and all the roads in our area now have either had their lighting completed or it will be completed very shortly.

We believe generally that the white street lighting is an improvement on the previous orange lighting and is of benefit to pedestrians in particular, but we are aware that not all residents agree with us! The main complaint we have heard is that some lights are too bright (especially if you live opposite one) and on some hills the bright lights can be dazzling to motorists, particularly when raining. Also a few columns were put in places in the footway that could hinder the visually impaired, those in wheelchairs and parents pushing wide buggies. Where these columns were positioned badly in footways, we did contact the Skanska and asked if they could be re-positioned.

As far as brightness of lamps is concerned, we received this response from Skanska: “the street lighting designs are tailored specifically to light the adopted highway to the required levels meeting with the current British Standards. The new street lighting is internally shielded and improvements in the street lighting optics allow for very precise angling of light to be achieved. As such, we do not envisage an issue with light spill, however should you feel that there is an issue with regard to the light levels once the street light is illuminated, we will happily investigate this and install additional rear shielding should this be deemed necessary.”

The RRA understands the shields are not fitted at the time of installation but are fitted upon requests from any residents who have any obtrusive lighting issues. If any residents wish for a shield to be fitted on a column outside or opposite their properties then they are advised to contact Skanska on 0800 028 5986 to put in a request. Alternatively residents can e-mail Skanska requesting a shield at clstreetlighting@skanska.co.uk

Some residents may have also noticed an antenna at the top of each street light. We are told the antennae actually enable the lights to be switched on or off (or even dimmed) remotely and is the means of being in radio contact with a control station. However, the Council are still in the process of developing a dimming policy of which any issues will be dealt with on an individual basis. The Council would not randomly start dimming lights if the correct lighting levels are achieved in the road. If any queries come to Skanska's attention then they can deal with each individual issue.

On the reinstatement of grass verges, we have been told by Skanska: "all excavations will be fully reinstated, in regards to grass verges they will be levelled with top soil and then re-seeded." The winter months are possibly not the best time to sow grass seed, so we will keep an eye on any disturbed areas.

If any resident has any concern about any street light, we suggest you contact Skanska direct on the above telephone number or e-mail address.

Proposed Changes to Charge for Green Waste Collections from April 2016

On Monday 19 October last, the Council at the full Council meeting, voted to end the free garden waste collection service and to introduce a charge to residents who want to use this service. We understand that in order for the new scheme to be viable, at least 18,000 people will have to express an interest or there will be no collections at all.

The Croydon Conservatives, who oppose the charge for this service, did organise a petition which was presented to the full Council meeting on 7 December, by local RAs. All the Councillors did debate this but no vote was taken as to whether the scheme would be scrapped.

At the end of November, the Council wrote to all residents with further details of the service. The consultation and registration period ended on 31 December, so by the time you read this report it will be too late to register.

Croydon's proposed charges are: one 240 litre bin is £60; two 240 litres bins are £105; one 140 litre bin is £55. There would no option for two 140 litre bins. The Council say that if the scheme goes ahead and you pay before 16 February, you will receive a £10 discount on the above charges. A number of other nearby Boroughs now charge for this service and their prices are roughly comparable, except Horsham who only charge £29.

It has been highlighted by some that you can only register online to opt in to the service (there is no paper or phone option). So what

happens if you are not online, and do not want to set up an email account, plus an account with the Council? It is suggested that you can do this at a library, or at Access Croydon but people who do not understand or trust computers may not want to do this and it will still involve setting up the various accounts. Some older and/or disabled people who would like the service may not be able to do this. Payment is also by direct debit/credit card and involves putting in these details online. Some people do not like giving these details out online. There is no cash or cheque option.

Previously a maximum of 10 bags were collected free of charge. The proposed 240 litre bins will only take about 4 to 5 existing bags, in volume. So if you want to dispose of the existing volume of 10 bags, this means two wheelie bins will be required. We also understand the Council are also proposing at some time for a new combined wheelie bin for the current blue and green recycling bins. So if you elect to pay for this garden waste service you will eventually have to store three or four wheelie bins (one black refuse bin; one bottles/plastic/paper recycling bin; and possibly one or two garden green waste bins) on your property! We have been unable to get a date from the Council when these new recycling bins are to be introduced, if at all!

The RRA believe that if a charge is made and this service does continue (or does not), this could well see more bonfires in the area and hence increase pollution in the Borough. More residents will possibly put their green waste in the black bins, which in turn increases costs for landfill dumping to the Council and this could be reflected through

increased Council taxes. Also more people will no doubt drive to one of the three refuse and recycling waste centres in the Borough which will add to congestion at these sites, in particular to our local depot, Purley Oaks, which at times has huge traffic queues on the Brighton Rd, outside the site. Also more fly tipping will no doubt occur on the streets. This in turn means the Council will have to remove it! Additional costs for us all.

Nearby Tandridge Council do not have a direct green waste collection service but we understand their residents belong to a Green Waste Club. This is run by the waste disposal company Biffa and residents pay their £50 (plus a £10 one off payment) direct to Biffa for a 240 litre bin which is collected every 2 weeks for 50 weeks of the year. This is a longer period than Croydon are proposing. If not enough residents sign up to Croydon's scheme, the scheme may be scrapped. Planning for this possibility, the RRA on behalf of the Residents' Associations have written to the Council to ask if they will investigate this scheme run by Biffa, for all Croydon residents.

We will provide further updates in the New Year on our website, and with the Council's decision and whether this service will continue.

Overhanging hedges, shrubs and trees

The RRA continues to receive complaints about shrubbery and hedges overhanging pavements and we would again like to remind residents about this issue, with spring and summer fast approaching. Vegetation can cause inconvenience for people in

wheelchairs/motorised mobility scooters and parents with buggies, by making the footway narrower particularly for the disabled and more importantly the blind and visually impaired, who could walk directly into the vegetation and injure themselves. All property occupiers are legally responsible for ensuring that vegetation from their property does not overhang the highway and the occupier could well have damages awarded against them by a court for any injury. The Council also have the power to serve a notice on the household and, if necessary, undertake the work themselves to remove the potential danger and charge the owner accordingly.

So please check whether any of your vegetation is overhanging the pavement and, if so, please arrange to cut it back 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 Council on 020 8726 7100.

RRA Website and Amazon

Do you buy off Amazon? If so, then please click on the link at the bottom of our website home page and provide funds for the local Community. We do not receive commission on everything but any amount helps. We have already received some money from Amazon and any profits we make from this are used for the benefit of all residents and the community. Please give it a try. It costs you nothing. Unfortunately if you make multiple purchases you do have to enter via our website again. This is the way Amazon set the system up! Just follow the link at the bottom of our homepage at www.riddledownresidents.org.uk



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TRANSPORT AND MEMBERSHIP

BY JOHN RAPP

Membership

In this report I return to some topics that I have mentioned before in *The Recorder*: the Association's early days; the fact that so many people regard Riddlesdown as a super place for family life; and that younger residents have a part to play in the future.

I was delighted to see – on 5th December 2015 – a Saturday become party time. The Children's Party, a much-loved Riddlesdown tradition was back. It also showed me that we have a young group of Residents who are determined to enjoy their life in Riddlesdown. Amongst them was Neil Tarrant our Editor, and his wife Rachel whom I met at the party along with their five and seven-year-old children.

While the entertainer – Geronimo – captivated the thirty-five or so children, the adults were free to chat with each other. I am confident that those conversations are foundations for the future – I kept hearing “we must do this again” – with people becoming a team that cares for family life in Riddlesdown. I learned that Neil and Rachel have been networking with many people – you too can ask if you can help.

If you would like to get involved in the association please either contact myself or Brian Longman. (Contact details at the front

of the magazine). Remember you can also keep up to date with the association's activities and events by liking our Facebook page or visiting our website www.riddlesdownresidents.org

I end by saying that going to the party, made this old man very confident for the future of Riddlesdown as a place to enjoy family life.

Please accept my best wishes for 2016.

Transport

Recently, it has seemed that at any social gathering in Riddlesdown, our currently poor bus service is mentioned. I can report that London Buses (part of TfL) are investigating the 412 route. They have learned that it is not an end-to-end route that runs like clockwork. They are now very aware that at several points in the route -- leaving Downs Court Road and joining Godstone Road; up Rectory Park; round the Selsdon Triangle; getting onto the Brighton Road at South Croydon – there is potential for delay. They also know that as a result of these delays and other eventualities, such as giving passage to trams at the Croydon underpass, drivers do struggle to remain within the allotted running time. I am waiting for their post-investigation response to me and will report further.

I am continuing to monitor the train service given to us.

Don't forget

The Annual General Meeting of the RRA will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 20 April 2016 in the 1st Floor Staff Canteen, Riddlesdown Collegiate, Honister Heights.

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.

Children's Christmas Party 2015

Neil Tarrant

The 5th December 2015 saw the return of a much-loved Riddlesdown institution: the Children's Christmas Party. Around 35 children along with their parents, grandparents and other friends and relations gathered at St Edmund's Church hall to enjoy two hours of games, dancing, food and good company.

The children were enthralled by the entertainer Jeronimo's magic, games and activities. The afternoon was topped off by the arrival of a very special visitor, Father Christmas! For some reason he looked very familiar to many of the residents.

It was a lovely occasion, and a great opportunity for the residents of Riddlesdown both young and old to meet and spend time together. Several of the parents who brought their children had come to the party themselves when they were younger, and were happy to share fond memories of previous events.

I would like to thank Laura Bradley, Nick and Anna Tennant and Rachel Tarrant for their hard work in organising this event and making it such a success. The party will return again in December 2016, and a final date will be confirmed in the next issue of the Recorder. If you would like to get involved in organising this event, or have any suggestions or comments please do get in touch!

Who Are We? Keith Powell

Where are you from originally?

I was born in Redhill hospital in 1952. I first lived in a house, then bungalow in Sanderstead before moving to Coulsdon. After I was married I lived with my wife in a flat in South Croydon until we moved to a maisonette in Coulsdon in 1991. Finally we moved to Riddlesdown in December 1993.

How long have you lived in Riddlesdown?

We have lived in Riddlesdown for 22 years. We thought it was a nice place to live with a station nearby with easy access to Croydon and London. It is also close by to the country side.

How long have you been involved in the RRA?

I am reasonably new to the committee, having been a member for about 3 years. I am also a road steward.

Is being on the committee a lot of work?

It is not a lot of work for me, apart from delivering the Recorder magazine. I am also a member for the Neighbourhood Watch for part of Brancaster lane and attend committee meetings.

What else do you do?

I have been a self-employed gardener for about 4 years now. I have supported Crystal Palace for over 50 years, and I have a home and away season ticket. I have also been involved with Trinity Mid-Whitgiftian Cricket Club through umpiring and scoring for over 40 years. Last summer I joined Purley Bury Croquet Club.

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Chris Philp MP

It's been a very busy six months since I was elected as our MP. I have been working very hard on important local issues as well as getting to grips with the many idiosyncrasies of Parliament. Below are some updates on some of the local issues I have been working on.

I have been heavily pressing Southern Rail to fix the huge problems with their service, including lateness, over-crowding and station-skipping. Sadly, I have yet to see any significant improvement so far. I therefore recently met with the Rail Minister, Claire Perry, to press for change. Southern's performance is the worst in the UK and she is now holding weekly review meetings, at my request, with Southern and Network Rail. I am also arranging a meeting with them all in the New Year with other MPs on the Brighton Main Line to pile on more pressure to fix these problems urgently.

Moving on, many people will have heard that a Grammar School in Kent recently received approval to open a satellite school. Here in Croydon we do not have any Grammar Schools, although neighbouring Bromley and Sutton both do (I went to a Grammar School in a next-door Borough because my parents could not afford the fees at Trinity here in Croydon, where I was offered a place). I believe that Grammar Schools help children from ordinary backgrounds like mine achieve their potential. I have therefore been working with the Headmaster of Wallington County Grammar School in Sutton to explore opening a new satellite of that school here in Croydon. I have already written to Education

Secretary Nicky Morgan and met with officials to get the ball rolling.

Unfortunately, Croydon's Labour-controlled Council has announced that from 2016 it is going to start charging for the recycling of green garden waste - over and above the Council Tax we all pay. The free Garden Green waste collection service was introduced under the previous administration in 2006. The recycling rate during this time increased from 16% in 2006 to 50% in 2014. Without the free collection of green garden waste, I believe it is inevitable that the recycling rate will fall as it will discourage recycling. It will also potentially lead people to dump their garden waste, thus increasing the problem of fly-tipping, which is already a serious concern.

I totally oppose the charges. The recycling of garden waste is an incredibly popular service and residents are entitled to have their green waste collected free of charge given that we all pay quite hefty council tax already. I oppose the Council charging people for it, and believe that it will only lead to more problems.

On a more positive note, I have been pleased to support plans by Westfield and Hammerson to redevelop the Whitgift Centre into one of London's leading shopping centres - hopefully to include a John Lewis store. Not only will it transform Croydon, giving us a modern shopping centre with all the top brands (and reasonable parking prices!) and create thousands of jobs, it will also help improve Croydon's image and encourage other major firms to invest in the Borough. In the Autumn we had some



excellent news. There was one remaining legal obstacle to the scheme progressing. Westfield and Hammerson already control much of the land involved, but they had been unable to acquire some of it. A Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) was required to acquire this land, with the landowners receiving fair market value compensation.

The Government announced that it had approved the CPO (which I had lobbied for). Work on site is due to start in early 2016 with a target opening date of early 2020. This will give a huge lift not just to Croydon town centre, but to the whole Borough.

I have been continuing to oppose completely plans for a 16 floor skyscraper in the centre of Purley (the planning application is due to be made in early 2016), and I have also opposed council plans to downgrade some local green belt land (Including Sanderstead Plantation). I am also still pressing Croydon's Clinical Commissioning Group to extend the opening hours at Purley Hospital's Minor injuries Unit so that it is open in the morning as well as the afternoon. I expect some news in the New Year on these issues.

In Westminster, I have been very active on our behalf. I have spoken in a wide range of debates in the Commons. These include debates on the Housing Bill, Finance Bill, on Personal Injury Fraud, Productivity, Trade Union Reform, the appalling service of Southern Rail and many other topics. The speeches are on YouTube and can be found if you search for "Chris Philp" on You Tube and click on the first link.

Shortly after being becoming a Member of Parliament I was elected to the Treasury

Select Committee by other MPs. I have already questioned the Chancellor, the Governor of the Bank of England and the Head of the Office for Budget Responsibility on growing the economy, creating jobs and on interest rates. The experience of having set up and run my own businesses for the past 15 years has been useful in doing this.

If you would like to get in touch about anything, please email me at chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk. I am also able to arrange tours of Parliament, so please also email if you and any friends or family would like to come on one. I will endeavour to either conduct these tours myself, or to be available to chat and answer questions at the end.

I hold regular street stalls on Saturday mornings around the area. Please email me at chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk if you would like to be notified of when and where these are, or to receive other local email news from me.

If you would like to keep up to date with what I am doing as our Member of Parliament follow me on twitter (@chrisphilp_mp), like my Facebook page (facebook.com/Chris.philp.33) or have a look at my website (www.chrisphilp.com).

Councillors' Reports

Tim Pollard

In my last piece for the Riddlesdown Recorder I talked about some of the changes we have seen from Croydon Council in terms of how they approach development in suburban areas. Since then we have had a consultation on the latest stage in the development of the Croydon Local Plan,

which is the suite of planning documents which outline what is and is not permitted in Croydon. The process of developing the plan has been going on for many years so was started when the council was under different political control.

There is a lot of good stuff in the plan's latest draft but, as always, there are also a number of changes which I consider to be much less welcome. The new administration's priority is to build more housing to accommodate Croydon's expanding population. That is not a bad thing, but it does mean there is a balance to be struck between supporting the needs of incomers and respecting the rights of the existing population.

So in the latest plan there are a number of changes which, if ultimately approved, will, I believe, have an impact on the quality of life in the suburbs. One of these is the weakening of protection for back gardens. Under the previous administration there was a presumption against back garden development. It tends to lead to cramped developments with insufficient outdoor space and loss of privacy to neighbours. That is now proposed to change, but I have challenged this on the grounds that it is actually contrary to the London Plan, which affords much more protection against garden-grabbing.

A second major area of concern is the redesignation of some Green Belt down to Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) and the degrading of some MOL to unprotected status - for example the area of green ringing Shirley Oaks Village. In Sanderstead a number of open spaces are being downgraded from Green Belt to MOL (Sanderstead Plantation, Purley Downs) and this is likely to be a

slippery slope. I oppose all reduction in protection for our precious green spaces.

A number of areas in the borough near district parades are being proposed for 'intensification'. Bizarrely, this includes Onslow Gardens, near All Saint's Church. I hope this is just an error and can be withdrawn, as I consider it to be completely illogical to open up that quiet road, full of detached properties and bungalows, for taller flat developments.

In terms of the administration of the recent consultation, I have concerns about the clarity of documentation and ease of access to the public. It is quite likely that many reading this report will have completely missed the fact that this important consultation was going on and will be annoyed about the fact that the council was not more pro-active in communicating it. The documentation provided to the public was in electronic PDF format only and was very confusingly set out with references to each area scattered through the thousands of pages. I believe that this made it very hard for the public to understand what was being proposed or make meaningful comments.

Riddlesdown RA and other local RAs have been very proactive in responding to the consultation on their members' behalf and the window for responses has now closed. All your ward councillors also put in extensive comments and objections.

We can only hope that the council responds positively to many of these comments and is more pro-active in communicating the next round of public involvement.

Councillors' Reports

Yvette Hopley

Many residents will have noticed a reduction in street cleaning. Since June and the introduction of the new Village System many of the roads and pavements remained unswept and as autumn leaves fell this became a real problem in the south of the borough. I put in a freedom of information request to try to ascertain exactly what had happened and was informed that street cleansing was cut from every four to six weeks in most of our roads. However, the leaves were only being picked up on an "ad hoc" basis. Naturally residents were furious and our in boxes became extremely full with enquires. Since June, most residential roads in the south have been cleaned every six weeks instead of every four, while parts of the north are now cleaned every fortnight. As local councillors, we do not believe that this is at all fair. Changes to street cleaning were introduced at the same time as a new bin collection service. That included a £575,000 cut to council contractor Veolia's budget, which saw the number of bin lorries fall by two but did not result in a reduction in the number of street cleaners. As readers may have seen in the Croydon Advertiser, the frequency of rounds in the south was cut to increase cleaning in the north. There was no consultation about the reduction in service and I know that many residents are unhappy about this unfair reduction in cleaning. There have been many complaints about the

problems that have resulted from the cuts in recycling and street cleaning. Some properties (particularly flats) did not receive any collections for up to six weeks, despite repeated calls to the council to pick up the waste. This now seems to have been rectified but if residents are still experiencing problems please do get in touch with us and we will endeavour to assist and resolve any issues locally.

Recently I have taken on the role of shadow cabinet member for Transport and Environment. In this role I am particularly concerned about the rise in parking charges. The current administration is looking to raise £1 million of revenue from increased charges. The bulk of this revenue will be raised from long-term stays which I believe will be particularly detrimental to our town and district centres. This will not encourage residents to spend time shopping in central Croydon and in some district centres. I understand that many businesses are extremely worried about these changes, and I believe they will be a false economy with many shops not being able to exist given this increased burden on the shopper. Coupled with this the promise of one hour free parking in some areas, which was an election pledge, has now been broken. I am informed by an officer that in some areas parking will be cheaper. I have asked to see a report of all the charges and changes in the borough which I will examine and certainly challenge if unfair.

Collegiate Report

The academic year is well underway here at the Collegiate and whilst it has featured the usual outstanding work from students and staff, there have been significant changes in the leadership of the school. Riddlesdown Collegiate is part of The Collegiate Trust, and the Trust is now developing links with other schools and academies which will see other schools joining our Trust. Mr Smith, who has been Principal at Riddlesdown Collegiate since 2006, has now assumed the role of Chief Executive of the Trust; in this role he oversees the work of the new Principal, Mr Dey, who has held a number of posts within the school over almost 10 years. This partnership has delivered great success for our students over the years, and will continue to do so in the years to come.



Mr Gordon Smith
Chief Executive –
The Collegiate Trust



Mr Soumick Dey
Principal

Readers will know that here at Riddlesdown we focus on two key features of education; the very best academic results possible, allied with the development of skills and qualities through the whole range of activities we offer here. We began this year once again with exceptionally strong GCSE results which now make us one of the top 3 performing schools not just in Croydon but in the wider area. Our focus is on developing these standards further and making sure that every one of our students has the benefit of an exceptional education.

Top Ten tips for securing your home

With burglary on the increase in the Riddlesdown area. The Metropolitan Police's Operation Bumblebee are targeting burglars in London. Help keep your home secure by following these 10 Top Tips:

1. Close and lock all doors and windows. If you have multi-locking door handles, lift the handle, lock it with the key and remove it - LIFT - LOCK - REMOVE. Put the key in a safe place out of sight in case of fire.
2. Don't leave your keys or ID documents within easy reach of doors, letterboxes or windows.
3. Lock garages and sheds so garden tools and ladders can't be used to break into your home.
4. Keep side gates locked and wheelie bins stored behind them.
5. Use timer switches linked to lights and a radio so it appears that someone is at home.
6. Invest in a safe for valuables and sentimental items and securely fix it to a solid surface.
7. Install a visible intruder alarm system - burglars don't want to be seen or heard.
8. Install low level 'dusk till dawn' lighting to increase visibility and deter burglars.
9. Keep side and rear boundaries high to restrict access and front boundaries low to remove hiding places.
10. Photograph and mark valuables and sentimental items with your postcode and house number/name. Register items with serial numbers at: immobilise.com - see

related links.

What makes your home attractive to burglars?

1. A high front boundary.
2. Low side and rear boundaries.
3. Accessible wheelie bins.
4. No visible intruder alarm.
5. No security lighting.

6. Valuables on display.
7. Open or unsecured windows.
8. Unsecured garage or shed door.
9. Unlocked back or side gate.
10. Paved path or driveway.

For more help and advice visit www.metbumblebee.org or go to your local Police station, or ring your area Safer Neighbourhood Team.

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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. In this edition we are delighted to hear from the Purley Literary Society. 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.

Featured Group

MARION'S GUIDED WALKS

Jan-July 2016

Volunteer Marion's walks explore local countryside, wildlife and history. Boots are advised as paths may be muddy, and waterproofs in case of rain. Dogs allowed if on leads. Finish at the start point. Walks are free.

Fri 26 Feb 10.00 am A Blow Along the Top Track GR 323 605

Come for an exhilarating 2 hour walk through varied chalk hill habitats. See downland where sheep and cattle graze and follow old routeways. Meet in Riddlesdown Common car park at the end of Riddlesdown Road.

Fri 18 Mar 10.00 am Woodland Holes and Hazels GR.349 603

How many kinds of holes can we find? Why were hazels coppiced?

A gentle 2 hour amble starting from where Orchard Road enters King's Wood [off Limpsfield Road, Sanderstead, B269, Bus route 403].

Sun 24 April 10.00 am Flowers of Lane and Wood GR.351 595

Starting from Hamsey Green Pond on Limpsfield Road, this two hour walk follows a lane along the parish boundary and returns through King's Wood.

Fri 29 April 10.00 am King's Wood in Springtime GR 349 603

Enjoy the freshness of new leaves on our native trees above and delicate flowers at our feet. A gentle 2 hour amble starting from where Orchard Road enters woodland [off Limpsfield Road, Sanderstead, B269.

Sun 24 June 10.00 am Happy Valley & New Hill GR. 302 572

See what flowers are now flourishing on slopes where scrub has been removed. Some longish slopes on this easy paced 2 hour walk exploring a spectacular chalk valley. Leave from Farthing Downs car park, one mile south of Coulsdon South Station.

Fri 1 July 10.00 am Riddlesdown's Chalk Grassland GR.323 605

In areas where sheep and cattle have been grazing, the number of flower species has multiplied. Enjoy the colours and the insects they attract. This two hour walk leaves from Riddlesdown Common car park at the top end of Riddlesdown Road.

Community Information:

An A-Z of things to do locally, organisations to join and places to go.

Botley Hill Farmhouse

Live Entertainment
Limpsfield Road, Warlingham, Surrey CR6 9QH
Tickets usually required.

Tel: 01959 577154 &

www.botleyhill-farmhouse.co.uk

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.

www.bournesociety.org.uk/bournesoc/ or Telephone - 01883 349287

City Commons Events Information

City of London website:

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/city-commons/Pages/City-Commons.aspx
City of London, Guildhall, PO Box 270, London, EC2P 2EJ

Telephone: 020 7606 3030, Email:

pro@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Contains details of events and activities run by the City of London Corporation

Note: advance booking can be required for some events & activities

Do check that events are definitely running before turning up

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/events/Pages/default.aspx

CNHSS – Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society

Headquarters and Registered Office: 96A Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD.

Unless otherwise stated, indoor meetings are held in the Small Hall of the East Croydon United Reformed

Church, Addiscombe Grove, almost opposite East Croydon Station, at 7.45pm.

Facebook and Twitter

www.facebook.com/pages/Croydon-Natural-History-Scientific-Society/106522816087133?ref=hl & <https://twitter.com/cnhssprogramme>

There is also a monthly e-newsletter sent blind copy, this includes all of the CNHSS events. It also includes meetings of other societies, links to interesting websites, local cultural events, exhibitions open days and festivals. To be added to the list please email cnhssprogramme@btinternet.com

Croydon Animal Samaritans

Local Riddlesdown registered charity – adopt, foster or sponsor a cat or dog locally

Tel: 020 8644 8829 or website:

www.croydonanimalsamaritans.co.uk

Croydon Art Society

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

Croydon Camera Club

Meets in Shirley most Wednesdays of the year & has outings to photogenic locations
Further Information via email:

ccc@croydoncameraclub.org.uk

Or website:

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.

Lectures in 2015

Other activities include Special Interest Days, Visits and Study Tours.

Volunteering opportunities in Heritage Conservation work and Church Recording. The society supports the arts in local schools.

For Membership please phone

Membership Secretary on 020 8680 3049

Fairfield Halls

Theatre, Concerts & Cinema, etc.
Park Lane, Croydon CR9 1DG,
<http://www.fairfield.co.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 - email
fofd2@btinternet.com or telephone: 01737 554449

The Jolly Farmers

Live Music & Entertainment several times a week, usually free. 7 Purley Road, Purley CR8 2HA, Tel: 0208 660 2076 or website
www.jollyfarmers-purley.co.uk

Purley Bury Tennis Club

For information contact Tel: 020 8668 5250
Email: mail@purleyburytennisclub.net
Website: www.purleyburytennisclub.net

Purley Literary Society

Meetings October to March, 8:00pm,
Purley United Reformed Church
906 Brighton Road, Purley CR8 2LN
Visitors fee per talk £5 or Season ticket (11 talks) £22 or (6 talks) £12
www.purley-literary-society.com

Purley & Riddlesdown Townswomen's Guild

<http://purley-guild.webplus.net/> or tel 020 8668 3719 or email prtg1990@hotmail.co.uk
Meet in the United Reform Church Purley on the first Tuesday of each month from 2-4pm.
Hold regular talks, lunches & various outings, etc.
You can attend up to 3 meetings free of charge – otherwise membership is £24 pa

Riddlesdown Lawn Tennis Club

For information contact Richard - tel: 020 8645 0075
Email: enquiries@riddlesdownltn.com
Website: www.riddlesdownltn.com

Riddlesdown ParkRun

Free 5km run every Saturday at 9am, on Riddlesdown Common – must register
Further information at website:
www.parkrun.org.uk/riddlesdown/

Riddlesdown Collegiate

In particular hold a Summer Festival in Collegiate grounds on Saturday 6th July
For more information see website:
www.riddlesdown.org or tel: 020 8668 5136

The RSPB Croydon Local Group

Monthly Illustrated Wildlife Talks in South Croydon

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.

T33, 64 & 409 buses stop nearby in Croham Road
MONDAY JUL. 13: – “Riverbank”. Jennie Hibbert gives a personal account of the seasonal changes one encounters on a river over the course of a year.

MONDAY APR. 11, 2016: “Wild Wonder”. Iain Green will remind us that there is so much wild wonder to discover on our

doorstep and will recount the experience that led him to form "Wild Wonder".

MONDAY MAY 9, 2016: "The Science and Beauty of Birds". Oliver Smart guides us through some fascinating insights into the science of birds, their adaptations, evolution and physiology.

MONDAY JUL. 11, 2016: "Japanese Adventure". Jenny Hibbert will take us through the Jigokudani Monkey Park, on to Kishiro Shitsugen National Park, then to Kussharo Lake and finally Rausu on the Shiretoko Peninsula.

MONDAY AUG. 8, 2016: General Meeting (afternoon) and AGM (evening), preceded by a talk from the Group's Environment Committee.

MONDAY SEP. 12, 2016: "London's Birds". David Daryll-Lambert says it's amazing what you see here these days - owls, peregrines, red kites etc. Tonight he will plot the changes in London's bird population.

MONDAY OCT. 10, 2016: "Wildlife of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve". Ian Rumley Dawson will talk about his local patch in East Sussex, an area well known to many who take part in our Field Trips.

For more information contact John Davis on 020-8640 4578

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

Sanderstead Horticultural Society

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. Annual Flower Show in June 2pm onward, Wettern Tree Garden, Purley Oaks Road

Sallywags Playgroup

A friendly mother and child playgroup that meets every Thursday morning in St Edmund's Church Hall during term-time between 9.30 -11.30am. Come and meet other local parents and carers and let the children have lots of fun with our toys, craft activities, playdough etc. Contact details: Veronica Moulder, Tel 07803 728868

St Edmund's Church & Community Hall, Riddlesdown

St Edmund's lunch group meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month to provide a good lunch and companionship to local people. A prayer group meets every Monday at the home of a Church member. See the RRA Chairman's report in this magazine for more information regarding the St Edmund's Caring Group, which is part of Croydon Neighbourhood Care. 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 surfaces are at 8am and 9.15am worship varies week by week. Rev'd Susan Atkinson-Jones is the Team Vicar of Edmund's. Further information from website: www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk/st-edmunds

Surrey Ramblers

Website www.surreyramblers.org.uk
Croydon Ramblers - tel: Rosemary 020 8660 6107, Email ramblersrose@yahoo.co.uk

Surrey Wildlife Trust

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

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 0208 660 2178 or just drop in one Tuesday evening.

Whyteleafe Comedy Club

Shows start at 8pm; tickets are £7. Pre-show food from 7pm for £6. Bookings & information: 07845 757610. Venue: Function Room, Whyteleafe Tavern, 206 Godstone Rd, CR3 0EE, www.whyteleafetavern.com

Walk & Cycle Surrey

Further information at website:
<http://walkandcycle.co.uk/surrey/groups.php>

Warlingham Horticultural Society

Hold Regular flower shows & plant sales in Warlingham & outings
<http://home2.btconnect.com/bransby/hort/hort.htm> or call Derek Butler on 01883 623618

WEA

Workers Educational Association
Sanderstead & Selsdon Branch
Educational courses in Sanderstead, Tel: 020 8 651 4651 or email
JosieDGreen@hotmail.com

Whyteleafe Tavern

Live Free Saturday Music & Entertainment & Monthly Comedy Club
208 Godstone Road, Whyteleafe CR3 0EE,
Tel: 01883 626270 or
www.whyteleafetavern.com

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



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Index to Advertisers



	Page
Mary Bond – Solicitors	8
Cannon Construction	12
Neil Coppen – Window Cleaners	30
Andrew Delgrosso – Painter and Decorator	17
Des Res Blinds	25
Gin Jewellers	21
Nicola Harrison – Chiropody Services	21
Paul Meakin Estate Agents	36
The Post Office	2
Purley Property Care	33
Riddlesdown Pharmacy	5
Riddlesdown Lawn Tennis Club	35
St Edmund's Church	12
Virginia Stone – Music Teacher	35
Tip Top Hair	33
Village Pets	35

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Tel; 020 7219 8026 or visit his Friday mornings surgery; 36 Brighton Rd, Purley CR8 2LG (telephone
for appointment times).

Email; chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk website; www.chrisphilp.com

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

SANDERSTEAD WARD

Lynne Hale

Tel: 8405 6721

Email: lynne.hale@croydon.gov.uk

Tim Pollard

Tel: 8251 8500

Email: councillor@timpollard.co.uk

Yvette Hopley

Tel: 8657 0973

Email: yvette.hopley@croydon.gov.uk

PURLEY WARD

Donald Speakman

Tel: 8405 6752

Email: donald.speakman@croydon.gov.uk

Badsha Quadir

Tel: 8668 3672

Email: badsha.quadir@croydon.gov.uk

Simon Brew

Tel: 020 8668 0814

Email: simon.brew@croydon.gov.uk

GREATER LONDON ASSEMBLY MEMBER FOR CROYDON & SUTTON

Steve O'Connell (Conservative)

Tel: 020 7983 4353 Email: steve.o'connell@london.gov.uk Website: www.steveoconnell.org

RIDDLEDOWN/LONDON TRAIN TIMES (SOUTHERN RAILWAY)

Times below are from 13 December 2015 up to 14 May 2016. Residents are advised to check and
confirm times with Southern or National Rail.

To East Croydon (EC), & London Victoria, (London Bridge (LB)): Weekdays: 06.15(LB), 06.42(LB),
07.02, 07.11(LB), 07.35, 07.46(LB), 08.04, 08.18(LB), 08.37, 08.46(LB), 09.06, 09.36 then 06 and 36 mins past
hour until 23.06 (Plus LB train at 18.46, EC only trains at 19.16, 19.46 & 20.16).

Saturdays (To Victoria only): 07.06, 07.36, and then 36 and 06 mins past hour until 23.06.

Sundays (To Victoria only) 08.49, 09.41, and then 11 and 41 mins past hour until 20.41, 21.41, 22.41, 23.38.

To London Bridge - No direct services Saturdays & Sundays.

From London Victoria to Riddlesdown: Weekdays: 05.47, 06.24, 07.32, 08.53, 09.23 and then 53 and 23
mins past hour until 23.23 & 23.47.

Saturdays: 06.23, 06.53 and then 23 and 53 mins past hour until 23.24 & 23.47.

Sundays: 07.47, 08.53, 09.23, 09.53, 10.23, 10.53 and then 23 & 53 mins past hour until 19.53, 20.53, 21.53, 22.36.

From London Bridge to Riddlesdown:

Weekdays: 07.02, 07.18, 07.50, 08.24, 17.13, 17.44, 18.17 & 18.47.

Saturdays & Sundays: No direct Services.

From East Croydon to Riddlesdown: Weekdays: 06.06, 06.41, 07.17 (to Hurst Green), 07.34, 07.50, 08.09,
08.41, 09.11, 09.41, 10.10, then 41 and 10 mins past hour until 16.40, 17.10, 17.30, 17.42, 17.58, 18.11, 18.31,
18.43, 19.02, 19.11, then 41 mins and 10 mins past hour until 23.41, 00.10.

Saturdays: 06.41, 07.10 then 41 & 10 mins past hour until 23.41 & 00.07.

Sundays: 08.10, 09.10, 09.40, & then 10 & 40 mins past hour until 21.11, 22.10, 22.57.

Enquiries: Southern Customer Services: Tel: 08451 272920 or www.southernrailway.com National Rail

Enquiries: 08457 484950 or www.nationalrail.co.uk

Local Bus Route and Frequency

he 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 Hospital.

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

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: www.riddlesdownresidents.org.uk

**Timetables are subject to change, so if in doubt, check with TfL or the Operator(s). 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 in January, March, September, November. Contact a Committee
member for details. [REDACTED]



Riddlesdown Tennis
Lower Barn Road, Riddlesdown, CR8 1HQ


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, VISIT
riddlesdownltc.com

OR EMAIL US AT
enquiries@riddlesdownltc.com

OR FEEL FREE TO JUST POP IN
whatever age or standard, you'll be welcome!

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Riddlesdown Tennis

Lower Barn Road, Riddlesdown, CR8 1HQ

Like the Residents Association, the tennis club was formed 75 years ago for the benefit of the residents of the new John Laing Riddlesdown Estate.

Why not come along to a small, friendly club where everyone is welcome - regardless of age, experience or skill.

We have a first year special offer membership for just £120. Membership enquiries may be made via our web site or telephone Richard Davis on 020 8645 0075

We have a Junior Section with full coaching sessions organised by MDL Coaching on Saturday mornings throughout the year.

By May 2013, our NEW courts should be ready with floodlights introduced later in the year.

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