

THE RIDDLEDOWN RECORDER



**Date for your
Diary!
Children's
Christmas Party**

5th December 2–4pm
St Edmund's Church Hall

INSIDE

- Purley Pool
 - St Edmund's Caring Group
 - Chris Philp MP
 - Who are we?
- and much more....!

SUMMER 2015

ISSUE 200



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Front Cover Photo:

Wild flowers on Riddlesdown – Rachel Tarrant, Local Resident

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

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Purley Police SNT: **07920 233892**

Sanderstead Police SNT: **020 8721 2470**


NHS Non Emergency Number : **111**

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[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

In this edition we are happy to welcome our new MP, Chris Philp. He has written an article for the Recorder in which he introduces himself and sets out his priorities for his term of office. We wish him every success in his new role, and thank him in advance for his work on our behalf. We are also pleased bring you news from one of our local councillors Tim Pollard. It is also with great pleasure that we are able to bring you news of the successful campaign to save Purley Swimming pool. The association's own Fred Wallace provides the inside story on the campaign, and keeps us up to date with what still needs to be done to safe-guard this essential local facility.

The RRA are also very pleased to announce the return of the children's Christmas Party. It will be held on December 5, from 2-4 in St Edmunds Church. Further details will follow, but it promises to be a great afternoon! If you have children, grandchildren, nephews or nieces please put the date in your diary. We are also looking for volunteers to help us run

the event. A number of people have already expressed interest in helping out through the RRA's Facebook page, and we would welcome any further enquiries at the RRA's email address: RiddlesdownResidents@Gmail.com.

As ever I would like to thank the contributors to the Recorder for their efforts in producing content for the magazine, and our advertisers. I would also like to thank my fellow committee members who support me whilst drawing together the material. Finally, thanks to Roger Cherrill of Cherrill Print for his work putting the magazine together. We always need new material for the Recorder, so if you have a story about a local event or want to tell us about your club or society's activities please let me know! All stories and queries can be directed to the email address below.

Neil Tarrant

editorrra@gmail.com

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BY BRIAN LONGMAN

Local Pharmacy

I make no apologies for returning to this subject yet again; our local shops will only survive if we support them. Local shops are so essential to our community and are often a lifeline to many people especially the elderly. A poll revealed that more than a quarter (28%) of adults in the UK feel isolated or have a friend or loved one who feels isolated because of a lack of access to essential shops and services within walking distance. Today, however, I would like to be a little more specific, especially with regards to our excellent local pharmacy in Lower Barn Road.

Funding for a pharmacy service is broadly calculated on the number of prescriptions dispensed by the service. In 2006 the Essential Small Pharmacies Scheme was introduced to ensure pharmacies with low volumes and who were more than 1km from the next nearest pharmacy were supported. This scheme ended in March of this year. Whilst we remain confident that our local pharmacy will continue to flourish and support the residents of Riddlesdown we must not be complacent.

The truth is, the only way to be certain of maintaining our local pharmacy, and indeed our local post office, is to use them. With more and more local shops and services fast disappearing to the large chains and supermarkets, we must ensure our local pharmacy service, which is so essential for many local people, especially the elderly, continues to operate. Are you aware, for

example, that your GP surgery can now send your prescription electronically directly to the pharmacy for you to pick up? Naseem, our extremely helpful Pharmacist, will also provide free of charge and even deliver to clients who are house bound, pre-packed, weekly medicine trays for the elderly or infirm or those who might be confused or forgetful about taking their tablets.

Did you also know that besides dispensing your prescriptions, our local pharmacy also provides a wide range of free NHS services including, new medication consultations and medicine reviews both in the shop and if necessary in the persons own home, if they are housebound? Cardiovascular health checks, including cholesterol testing, can also be provided at the pharmacy along with a one-to-one stop smoking clinic. The pharmacy is also part of the Croydon Minor Ailment Scheme whereby the Pharmacist is able to prescribe over the counter medications for a whole plethora of common conditions. This service is free to children and adults who are exempt from prescription charges, thus avoiding unnecessary visits to the GP.

Established over 40 years ago, this independent pharmacy provides an essential client-centred service for the local community and with no other pharmacies nearby we need to make sure we use and keep it. Finally if you do not use, or have never used the Riddlesdown Pharmacy for your prescription service, please give them a try and help to support our local service. Thank you.

Local Police

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

The three promises agreed at the January meeting were to reduce burglaries, motor vehicle crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB):

- **Burglaries** – at the last meeting of the SNT in April, the team reported that despite a small increase in burglaries around the start of the year, which resulted in an arrest, burglaries in the area have now reduced. This is mainly as a result of conducting proactive patrols in the area to provide crime prevention advice and visiting all burglary victims within 24 hours. This measure ensures that the team record and use information for intelligence purposes to prevent future offences. It is also worth noting that residents are free to call or e-mail the Sanderstead SNT to arrange for an officer to attend their home with regards to crime prevention. (Details below)
- **Motor Vehicle Crime** – the SNT reported they have been deploying officers both in plain-clothes and in uniform to carry out extra patrols in order to target and arrest motor vehicle crime suspects.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour** – the team have continued to work hard to reduce all forms of anti-social behaviour in the area, with regular patrols at Sanderstead Recreation Ground, Blacksmith Hill and Honister Heights. As a result ASB has fallen and it continues to fall.

At the April meeting of the SNT panel three new promises were agreed:

- to continue to target burglaries
- to continue to target motor vehicle crime which continues to be a major concern for residents.
- to develop closer links with the schools in the area.

Sanderstead SNT changes - we say goodbye to Sergeant Shannon and PC Gino Van Schoor who have left the team and welcome Sergeant Darren Brett and PC George Anckorn who have joined the team.

Finally, in an effort to reduce crime and reduce the fear of crime, the SNT have produced a few helpful tips to assist residents to protect their property. Tips to secure your home can be found elsewhere in this edition of the Recorder, or on our web site.

Sanderstead SNT contact details

Telephone: 0208 721 2470

Email: Sanderstead.snt@met.police.uk

Purley SNT Contact details (for those living in the Purley Ward of our area)

Telephone: 07920 233892

Email: Purley.snt@met.police.uk

Committee

As I mentioned way back in 2011, our Residents' Association is one of the oldest in Croydon. Established in 1937 with the clear objective to promote the well-being of the community, which I think is an objective as meaningful today as it was then. The RRA's constitution defined, in particular, that by associating with local authorities, voluntary organisations and local residents in a common effort, we might improve health provision, advance education and foster community spirit.

Over the years I believe the Association has successfully delivered on these and many of its other objectives. The associations successes include: defending the Green Belt and local woodlands of Riddlesdown; working in partnership with Riddlesdown Collegiate on a range of community issues to the benefit of both residents and pupils; the redevelopment of Purley Hospital and a wide range of other issues including, planning, crime, road safety, public transport and the environment.

The question is: how do we do all these things? The answer is simple; we do it with the help of a willing team of committed volunteers. I think I have lost count of how many times I have appealed for new people to step forward to be a road steward or to join the committee. With many on the committee now over 70, although we do have a few younger members, we do need more people to step forward especially those with energy and enthusiasm. If you are interested or would like to know more, please give me a give me ring on 8657 8374.



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PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

BY PHIL THOMAS

Website & Planning Notifications and Decisions

As usual all planning applications and decisions in our area are updated weekly on the RRA website.

It is with alarm that the RRA has recently learnt that the Labour Council in Croydon are proposing to change the ruling which allows both Ward Councillors and registered Residents' Associations (the RRA are registered with the Council) from "referring" planning applications for "minor" applications. A "referral" means that if the Planning Officer is recommending approval and either a Councillor or a Residents' Association objects to the application then the "referred" application must be heard before the Planning Committee. If the Planning Officer is recommending a refusal, then the application will not go to Committee. A "minor" application is for housing development less than 9 dwellings and any application below 990 sq. metres. So what this means is that if a single dwelling, multiple dwellings up to 9 units, or an extension to any dwelling is proposed, both the Councillors and Residents' Associations do not have any right in future to ask the Planning Committee to debate it. Apparently the Labour group are proposing this change to save money! The RRA and Conservative Councillors in Croydon believe this is undemocratic and denies anyone who objects the opportunity to voice their reasons to the Planning Committee. The planning decision will purely be in the hands of the

Planning Officers and not elected Councillors! We will publish more about this on our website and will keep you informed as to whether this proposal is implemented by the Council.

Land in Dunmail Drive, opposite Riddlesdown Collegiate

The RRA understand this Green Belt land was sold at auction in June 2014 by Wineham Investments to Berkshire Homes, a national house builder and developer. Residents may have noticed last October that the owner erected a two-metre-high fence on the frontage of this site and also down the side of the public footpath. The RRA have received a lot of correspondence about this fencing!

Whilst it is good to see that the site is being secured, the height of the fence at the front of the site did contravene planning regulations. In addition, the fence is on the wrong line at the front where this is public highway land. We understand the fence should be on the same continued line as the side brick boundary wall of 60 Honister Heights.

After the RRA contacted the Council's Planning Department, the land owner did reduce the height of the fence at the front, to one metre. However, at the time of writing in late April, the fence has still not been moved back off the adopted highway land. The Head of Highways at the Council has advised that they will pursue this with the land owner, but they say it does take time!

However, of more concern, are the 2 metre

high panels down the side of the public footpath which are in some places now hanging loose, as a number of the screws have sheared or are missing. There are only four flimsy, short-length screws holding these two-metre-high panels in situ and it is possibly an accident waiting to happen, especially with hundreds of schoolchildren from the Collegiate using this public footpath daily. We have advised the Council and Councillors that we believe this is now possibly a public safety matter and the Council should be taking action in this respect. We did ask if Building Control could inspect the fence which they did. Although they agreed with us that the materials holding the panels were not strong enough, they did not consider at the time that this fact justified serving a dangerous structure notice. However, they will monitor the situation. It is suggested that if residents notice any of the fencing panels are dangerous at a future date, that they report it directly to the Council's Building Control or Highways Departments, or to us.

We have also raised with the Planning Department the issue of the type of fencing being used (wooden posts and a steel mesh "Heras" type infill panels) on this prominent piece of land. The RRA and many residents still feel that this type of fencing is not suitable for Green Belt land (and also the grazing land opposite) and should have softer aesthetic appearance, like wood. However, the Planners say it does not contravene any Green Belt planning laws and that there is nothing they can do about it! The only exception was the two-metre-high fence at the front which should be no higher than 1 metre, where it abutted the public highway.

This has now been reduced in height by the land owner but it is now damaged with some panels lying on the ground! We will continue to monitor the situation and report to the Council.

Purley Hospital – Urgent Care Centre/Minor Injuries Unit

As I have previously reported in a number of issues, the Urgent Care Centre (UCC) within Purley Hospital was re-named to Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) with effect from 1 May 2104. The opening hours were reduced to from 8am to 8pm; to 2pm - 8pm, for 365 days of the year.

The 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 have correspondence and meetings with the Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCCG) about this. The CCCG are responsible for funding this MIU and not the Croydon Health Services NHS Trust. All the RAs are campaigning for the following: to have the MIU restored to an Urgent Care Centre; to revert the opening hours back to a twelve-hour day, i.e. 8am to 8pm; and to restore the x-ray facilities available for the MIU when it is open. The x-ray facilities are run by the Croydon Health Services NHS Trust. The RAs also believe the CCCG did not consult properly before making the decision in April 2014, which they are legally bound to do.

In addition publicity by both the NHS and CCCG about this MIU has been poor, with misleading and inaccurate information on

various healthcare and in particular GP websites. Following correspondence and a number of meetings with the CCCG, the RAs are basically getting nowhere! We have been advised by the CCCG that a report will be prepared by them at the end of April 2015, following “consultations” with the public, ready for the tender documents to be prepared, as the current contracts end in April 2017.

The RAs have now also consulted with Healthwatch (Croydon) and they recently attended a meeting with the RA representatives and the CCCG. Healthwatch (England) are one of a number of groups that oversee CCCGs. They have significant statutory powers to ensure the voice of the consumer is strengthened and heard by those who commission, deliver and regulate health and care services and we hope their involvement may help. Politicians are also involved and trying to put pressure on the CCCG as well, but it appears to boil down to one thing. Money!

All in all, it is not a very satisfactory situation when A&E and the Urgent Care Centre at Croydon University Hospital are swamped with patients, particularly during the winter months, and the population of the Borough of Croydon continues to increase. There is also a possibility the MIU could be closed as patient numbers have been dropping. It seems obvious to us that Purley MIU, which is already based within a well-established and furnished hospital in the south of the Borough, and should be the focal point, as it already exists. It is also well served by public transport and car parking. Both Croydon Health Services NHS Trust and the CCCG do

not seem to see this! We believe this is sheer madness! All the RAs will keep pursuing the Purley MIU with the CCCG. We would also urge our residents to use this MIU when it is not possible to see your GP urgently.

However, it is good news that the A&E unit at Croydon University Hospital (formerly Mayday) will now be rebuilt at a cost of £21m and we will get a new unit in a few years time.

Trees

Following the recent felling of a prominent beech tree in a street in Riddlesdown, a number of residents contacted the RRA expressing, sadness, outrage, regret and also amazement that this tree was not covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). We understand from nearby elderly residents that the tree pre-dated the late 1920s built houses, so it was believed to be more than 100 years old. It was in a very prominent position on private land, and very close to the street. However, it did not have a TPO and the owners were well within their rights to have it felled.

Following concerns raised by local residents, the RRA have had correspondence with senior Officers in the Council’s Planning Department about this tree and TPOs in general. Basically, their response was that as there are only two Tree Officers they no longer scour the Borough to look for suitable trees but only look at trees when planning applications are submitted and they consider that they may be at risk. However, they will look if a member of the public points out a particular tree to them, which is on private land that is worthy of a TPO. They usually will not put TPOs on land in Council/public

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ownership, on the public highway or on Network Rail land.

As we have thousands of trees in the south of the Borough, it is possible that some trees on private land may not be covered by TPOs. So don't take for granted that a good specimen tree has at TPO on it, unless the Council have confirmed this. The Council can also issue blanket TPOs for woodlands, as has been done on many areas of privately owned Green Belt woodland in Riddlesdown. We would suggest if there is a prominent tree, or indeed trees, near you and you think that it merits a TPO, that you contact the Council's Planning Department and ask for the Tree Officers and establish whether that tree has a TPO. There are strict criteria that must be met and the tree usually must be in a prominent position, be in good condition and visible from a public place or street.

As a footnote, it is always advisable to seek professional surveying advice about trees close to buildings as their roots could cause damage to foundations and drains. It should be noted that in most cases trees located close to buildings will not cause any damage. Most damage is secondary in nature particularly with soil types that shrink considerably on drying. However, if trees close to buildings are felled, ideally they should be reduced in size over a number of years. Because of the possible risk of heave or subsidence, some trees will have taken a huge amount of water from the ground and by reducing their size over a number of years, the ground will usually be more stable when they are fully removed. As some houses in parts of Riddlesdown are built on an upper layer of clay, this could be a problem.

Environmental Issues by Phil Thomas

Grass Verges and Highway Repairs

As residents will be aware from previous editions, I have been complaining to the Council for six years now about various repairs required to grass verges in the area. As the Council have either ignored us, or carried out very limited repairs, we have now directly involved Councillor Yvette Hopley to try and get something done.

Although the Council have recently carried out some topsoil infill to a few locations, motorists are again driving on this new topsoil and damaging it just a few weeks after the verges have been re-instated. May we remind motorists that it is illegal to drive over and park on grass verges (and the pavement) in London, so if a motorists does this and parks on verges and pavements they could end up with a PCN (parking ticket) issued by the Council.

We have suggested to the Council that in some areas, especially by the bus stops, and where there appears to be no alternative, they lay bitmac rather than just wasting Council Tax payers' money and laying new soil and grass seed which gets damaged again in a few days.

The main locations we are concerned about are below, together with our suggestions:

- Mitchley Ave bus stop near to Lower Barn Rd junction – constant wearing of grass verge principally by schoolchildren. RRA's view - that reluctantly laying of bitmac will be the only solution here.

- Copthorne Rise at bottom, by shops – constant parking of vehicles and in particular lorries on this grass verge (also on double yellow line). RRA's view – either install concrete bollards or lay bitmac.
- Derwent Drive junction to Buttermere Gardens - constant cutting of corner by cars and lorries, as this junction is narrow and in particular during school morning and afternoon “run”. RRA's view – either install concrete bollards or re-align kerb to junction and re-seed the verge.
- Derwent Drive by junction to Buttermere Gardens and also other sections in Derwent Drive on odd number side - constant wearing of grass verge by schoolchildren. RRA's view - re-seed or widen footway.
- Derwent Drive beside 14 Honister Heights – constant wearing of grass verge by parents in vehicles, jumping up on kerb and verge to drop off schoolchildren (also a double yellow line). RRA's view - install concrete bollards and re-seed verge.
- Dunmail Drive adjoining 60 Honister Heights - constant wearing of grass verge by schoolchildren. RRA's view - widen footway and lay bitmac.
- Dunmail Drive – opposite Riddlesdown Collegiate – area of adopted highway land is currently fenced off by land owner. RRA's view - when the fence is moved back, re-instate grass verge, or widen the footway.
- Buttermere Gardens to Ingleboro Drive - constant cutting of corner by cars and lorries as this junction is narrow. RRA's view - install concrete bollards (as on other side of this junction) and re-instate grass verge.
- Mitchley Ave bus stop outside No. 3 - constant wearing of grass verge by schoolchildren. RRA's view - that reluctantly laying of bitmac will be the only solution here.
- Barn Crescent to Lower Barn Rd – grass verge and the footway is constantly being damaged by vehicles. The Council did lay new topsoil just before Christmas 2014 but within days, the topsoil had been compacted by lorries as this carriageway is narrow. RRA's view – either realign the corner, as was done to Rydal Close junction or install concrete bollards and re-seed grass verge. Also repair the footway.

We have also again reminded the Council that parts of the road surface in Mitchley Avenue (by the speed camera and also opposite 24/30) are still in a poor condition. We were told about two years ago by the Council that these sections of road were on the list to be resurfaced! Although they in-filled the potholes, the road surface in both locations is still poor.

Street litter continues to be a problem and certainly parts of the area would be worse, if it were not for the local residents who pick up rubbish on a regular basis. Thank you to those residents for this public-spirited action. We continue to ask the Council for more litter bins in the area especially at bus stops. However, the Council are reporting in their recent recycling and landfill bin collection leaflet which was distributed to all households, that from 1 June, a new “village approach” is to be adopted from June 2015.

The Council say “a 'village approach' brings together local teams to provide a better and more reliable service for residents. The waste & recycling workforce will work in smaller teams in a specific area, which helps to build local knowledge and understanding of the area. The teams will be more accessible to residents - they are the regular faces residents see on waste & recycling and road sweeping days.” So we will see if things improve!

Street Lighting

Further to my report last time about the new street lighting in the Riddlesdown area, we have now learnt from the Council in March, that Skanska (the contractor) are about eight months behind schedule with the programme, although they are pushing to catch up, with the introduction of additional electrical jointers.

The Council have decided to put the Purley Ward back to Year 5 of the lighting programme (although confirmation of this change is still to be approved by the Council to allow Skanska to proceed with this work). This is because of technical issues elsewhere in other Wards. They have brought forward works for Coulsdon and this is currently in progress. Skanska are now due to start two Wards (Purley & Kenley) in August 2015. At present an exact timetable for the roads in the Purley Ward of Riddlesdown has not yet been set.

Sanderstead Ward, which covers about two thirds of the RRA area, is due to have works start in July 2015. However, these dates may change again. Further information and timetables for streets in our Riddlesdown

area will be made available on the RRA website during the summer.

Are Noisier Electric Trains Now Running through Riddlesdown?

I reported last time about some residents living by Riddlesdown station and close to the railway line to the north of the station felt that since last August the trains running through Riddlesdown were noisier. It was thought this may have been due to regenerative braking, where the trains put electricity back into the electrical system.

However, after writing my report last September, Network Rail responded to us in early October. They said that they had re-ground the rails in early August and that the effect would be that train noise on the rails would reduce in the long term, but for the short term it would be noisier and be a different type of noise. Now into the New Year and residents living nearby advise that the pitch of noise has altered since August and indeed most of the trains are now quieter!

New Wheelie Bins for Recycling to be Introduced Soon

We understand from a report in the Croydon Advertiser in February that in a bid to increase recycling and make life easier for residents, new green wheelie bins are being introduced across the Borough later this year.

Councillor Stuart Collins, the cabinet member for Clean Green Croydon, told the Croydon Advertiser that “the majority of the new £4m investment would go to eventually provide 125,000 homes with the new large wheelie bins, which residents will be able to

use for recycling, glass, plastics, cans, paper and cardboard. At present, residents are provided with separate recycling boxes, a green one for glass, plastic and cans, and a blue one for paper and cardboard, with collections being on alternate weeks. All recyclable material will be collected in one go from one bin, streamlining the existing arrangements. Food waste will continue to be collected separately every week."

"Flats will be excluded from the project, and discussions will be held with residents who do not have the space at their homes to cope with a second wheelie bin." Cllr Collins said: "At present, people have to think every week about what to put out and what box to use, and in some areas this is not working too well. There is also often a problem with boxes going missing and mess from rubbish being blown about when lids come off. That will not happen with the large wheelie bins and I hope it will mean the streets will be a lot cleaner. He said the new system would be a lot easier for people to understand."

The RRA would certainly hope that streets will be cleaner after the recycling days with these new wheelie bins, as much recycling rubbish is often strewn around the streets, some of which is wind blown, where boxes do not have the lids on them. Some other is spillage caused when the recycling is being collected. However, it does create for some, additional problems for space to store another large wheelie bin!

48 Mitchley Ave

We are pleased that we can now report that, after long ongoing negotiations, the Compulsory Purchase Order by Croydon Council of 48 Mitchley Avenue (a vacant

property) was completed on 16th March 2015. The property is now owned by the Council until it can be sold at auction by the Council's Estates Department.

As many local residents may be aware, this property has been vacant for about 30 years (not 20 years as being reported by Croydon Council!). It is therefore good to see that a family home will now be brought back into use, when it is sold and renovated. The Council will impose conditions on the sale that will oblige the new owner to deal with the structural issues and occupy the property within a specified time period.

The RRA, some local residents, Ward Councillors, and in particular Cllr Yvette Hopley, have been pressurising the Council to do something about this vacant property for some time now and it will no doubt be a huge relief to the adjoining residents who have had to endure this derelict property for so long.

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 don't receive commission on everything but any amount helps. 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.riddlesdownresidents.org.uk

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.

Purley Swimming Pool and Gym – Fred Wallace

With the help of the community we saved the Pool and made history in Croydon. What a result!

The present Council have agreed to keep this essential facility open for the people of the South of The Borough of Croydon, but for how long? That could be up to you. The story so far:

Back in 2007 the then Council wanted to close the pool and gym but after getting a petition with some 4400 signatures against closure they reconsidered this decision.

They also recognised that the community of over 50,000 households and some 150,000 residents, old and young, needed a public pool and gym as a health and fitness facility available to this large section of the population living in the South of Croydon. This included all the local schools, the disabled and those recovering from operations. They also agreed that in any redevelopment in Purley that a swimming pool and gym would be built on the present site or nearby, before the present facility closed.

Out of the blue, in November 2014, the newly-elected council, decided that they would close the pool on April 1st 2015, without any discussions with the communities, or their representatives.

We were devastated. All the more so considering the fact that we had had their

support in 2007 and a promise they gave us before the 2014 election that the Pool would remain open.

Chris Philp the new contender for Parliament for Croydon South [subsequently elected] started a petition against a closure of the Pool. The swimmers also started their own petition against the closure of the pool, so as to keep the protest non-political.

With every swimmer and friend out collecting signatures we reached over 6500 in less than 4 weeks. We met with all parties to gain their support and Emilie Benn, a Croydon councillor and also a contender for parliament in 2015, joined the campaign and gave us her support.

We had tremendous support from the press and the grass root supporters of all parties. It became obvious to the new Council that the population of the South of the Borough wanted their voices heard. All residents' associations wrote to the leader of the council giving their reasons for wanting Purley pool to remain open and the necessity of this facility to improve the health of the population of the South of the Borough.

The Labour leader Tony Newman agreed to meet us and listen to our reasons for not closing the pool. After a number of meetings he agreed to consider the matter

Because of our petition containing more than 6500 a new rule was invoked which meant that the council had to call a full council meeting and allow the petition to be presented by the campaigners. This was a

first for Croydon and we created history.

In February 2015 we presented our petition to the full council and I presented our case for the council to reconsider the closure. The council had a full debate with all sides having their say. Although this was not an official voting issue, the Mayor allowed for a show of hands, for and against closure. It was tremendous to see we had 100% of both political parties at the council voting for the pool to stay open. What is going to happen now?

The facility was built in 1973 and major things may need replacing over the coming years and these would be considered as and when. The council has decided to keep the pool open and look at the costs involved in maintaining the pool in a useable and safe condition. We believe that with good cleaning

and maintenance of the pool and building, the facility can be kept open for some time yet; hopefully until a new pool can be planned into the redevelopment of Purley.

To achieve this end we need a user forum to meet with the council and the pool operators Fusion to achieve an ongoing schedule of maintenance and upkeep. To date this has not been set up, but over the next few months efforts will be made to start regular meetings. We hope the new cabinet member for leisure facilities will meet with us during the year and help to plan the future for Purley.

Well that's the story so far. Thank you for all the efforts from many of you, and should we need further help we will certainly call on you. Cheers for now Fred Wallis.

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The Community of Riddlesdown

- Who Cares? – Gill Pates

What does the community of Riddlesdown mean to you? In these days of social media, ease of transport out of our valley and people's lives running to whatever sound track or phone conversation is playing through their earphones is Riddlesdown just a place to live? How well do we all know our neighbours? Are we ☺?

Looking through some old photographs from the 1950s in preparation for St Edmund's Church and Community Hall 60th Anniversary in September a clear sense of community togetherness, determination and fun shines through. Post-War austerity and rationing made life difficult, but there were a host of young families settling into a new expanding estate close to open countryside - there was much to be positive about.

When the residents of Riddlesdown decided they wanted to build a Church with a Hall to serve the needs of the community they sang, danced, acted, gave Red Cross demonstrations, took a grocery basket door to door (residents bought an item from the basket and replaced it with another), completed a mile of pennies from Riddlesdown to All Saints Sanderstead, held fairs and did whatever needed to be done to raise enough money, penny by penny, brick by brick to build it.

The first Fair was in 1951 and was held at Laing's Estate Office which was a hive of community activity until St Edmund's Hall Church was built in 1954. St Edmund's Autumn Fair has continued to the present day and has raised over £10000 for local and overseas charities in the last 5 years alone.

The Church and Hall continue to serve their original purpose as a focus for local activity – Church of England services at 8 a.m. and 10.00 each Sunday (except for the 4th Sunday of each month when the 10.00 a.m. service is at St Antony's Hamsey Green), Badminton, Keep Fit, Zumba birthday parties, Mothers' Union and Residents' Meetings, celebrations, wakes and more. During term time (except Thursdays) the hall is full of youngsters attending Castle Day Nursery

The Church and Hall also play an important role in supporting the community of Riddlesdown through a range of voluntary activity. Each Thursday in term time there is a playgroup called Scallywags that is run by volunteer Mums and Dads. This has been running for 20 years.

The St Edmund's Lunch Club for the Retired is held in The William Goddard Room on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month providing a good hot lunch at a nominal cost of £3.45 and companionship for people in the community of Riddlesdown who might otherwise feel a little isolated.

In 2014 The St Edmund's Caring Group undertook 539 activities to support individuals of all faiths and none in the Riddlesdown community. There are currently 22 volunteers helping clients by providing transport to activities such as medical appointments, lunch clubs, the supermarket or hairdressers. They will also do shopping for residents who are unable to do so themselves and visit those that are housebound.

The St Edmund's Caring Group started in the 1970s when a member of the St Edmund's congregation was suddenly admitted to May

Day Hospital (as it was then) seriously ill in a coma. Her husband was in a state of shock and a young mum, also a St Edmund's member, got a small group together and organised help for the family. This group continued to provide support for the family for some time whilst the lady recovered from her illness. During this time the husband named them "Sylvia's Saints".

The original leader moved away but then members of the Church realised that there was a wider need in the community. They knew of a mother of primary school aged children in remission from cancer who needed help changing beds and doing the washing and an elderly lady in Barn Crescent who was struggling to get out of the house due to mobility issues and thought that there would be others in the community who might appreciate a helping hand.

3 members of the congregation set up The St Edmund's Caring Group with a small grant of £100 from Croydon Council to cover the cost of insurance for the voluntary activity. Since then donations have covered the ongoing costs of volunteers' petrol and client outings. In 2014 there were outings to the Sanderstead pantomime, Christmas Tea at Selsdon Park Hotel and a show at the Fairfield Halls as well as the Harvest Festival and Lunch at St Edmund's and the Christmas Carol Service followed by coffee and mince pies.

Volunteers donate as little or as much time as they can spare, only undertake activities they are comfortable with and find volunteering very rewarding and of course the clients welcome the help from a friendly caring face.

A lot of the activity that the people of Riddlesdown do today to support the

community started because someone spotted a need and took action.

One of the members of St Edmund's Church had an expensive car repair bill and decided that the time had come to stop driving. She was walking past Tesco thinking "What can I do to help now that I can't drive for the Caring Group" and saw people collecting for Purley Food Hub. From that inspiration she started a formal collection point in the foyer of the Church and each week takes a bag of donations from the people of Riddlesdown to the food hub on the bus.

Another activity that is organised by a member of St Edmund's congregation is the annual Christian Aid collection. Come rain or shine, each May a small group of volunteers has been arriving on front doorsteps to "test" letter boxes, some with quite scary sounding but really quite friendly dogs, door knockers and bells asking if our neighbours close to St Edmund's feel able to contribute to the Christian Aid appeal.

The response is heartening. I have been collecting for this cause for a number of years now and always receive a friendly reception whether or not the householder chooses or is able to donate. Since 2008 Riddlesdown residents have donated an average of £1400 each year to help those across the world in great need.

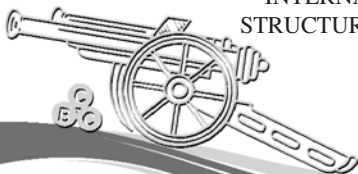
A couple of years ago members of St Edmund's Church received a similar welcome when they undertook a programme of visiting houses in the proximity of the Church to meet people and receive any prayer requests. Whilst letters of introduction were delivered before any visit I don't think any of the volunteers were quite prepared for just how

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welcoming the residents who were happy to be visited were.

One thing is clear. Over the last 60 years St Edmund's Hall Church has stayed at the heart of the community of Riddlesdown as the people who built it intended it to be. As society has moved on and the needs of the community change individuals within the Church and the Community have identified those needs and taken action to meet them.

There is sense of community and caring in Riddlesdown but in this modern age we maybe have to work a bit harder on building relationships – extending those conversations at bus stops, the train station (we break the first rule of commuting at Riddlesdown Station – we talk to one another!) and with

our neighbours and stop to ask the question “What can I do to help”? The rewards of volunteering are great so if you have some spare time to give to keep the caring heart of the Riddlesdown community beating why not give it a try?

There will be a service to celebrate 60 years of St Edmund's Church and Community Hall on Sunday 26th July 2015 at 4 p.m. Everyone from the community of Riddlesdown will be warmly welcomed to the celebrations

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Chris Philp

New Member of Parliament for Croydon South

I would like to thank everyone who supported me at the election on 7th May. I am very grateful to have received the support of so many of my neighbours here in Croydon South and it is an honour to have been elected to represent our area in Parliament as our MP. I will aim to serve in the interests of all residents of the Borough whether they voted for me or not.

One area of immediate action is putting pressure on Southern Rail urgently to improve their service. Persistent lateness, overcrowding and trains frequently skipping stations are simply unacceptable. I met the Rail Minister at the end of May to press these concerns, and I called for her to set up a task force, meeting weekly, to fix the problems with the service. I also called for a better compensation system for rail travellers affected by the delays. I have now received a letter from the Minister committing to do both these things.

I am also actively campaigning against plans to build a 16-floor skyscraper in the centre of Purley. Pre-application consultation has taken place, and it is likely that a formal planning application will be made in the coming months.

A 16-floor skyscraper is totally out of keeping with a peaceful town like Purley. The next tallest building in Purley is only 6 floors, so this proposal is nearly three-times taller. It will fundamentally change the character of the town.

There is also a danger that other developers

will later try to use this building as a precedent to build other very tall buildings in the local area. Before long, we may find that Purley resembles a mini-Manhattan unless this trend is resisted at the outset.

The proposal also only includes 38 parking spaces for 200 flats. There is already huge pressure on parking in Purley. It is the number one concern of local traders. 200 new flats with only 38 parking spaces will only add to these parking problems on nearby streets.

I launched a "Stop Purley Skyscraper" petition a few weeks ago and 2,558 people have so far responded. 93.97% were opposed to the skyscraper. If you would like to add your voice to this, please sign the petition at www.surveymonkey.com/r/StopPurleySkyscraper.

The site, which is the one behind the grey hoardings opposite Pizza Express, does of course need to be redeveloped urgently. The Baptist Church who own the site want to incorporate community facilities, which is an excellent idea. These include a 500-seat auditorium, sports halls and teaching and conference rooms. A more reasonable design – with a much lower tower – would I am sure command widespread support. As our new MP, I am making it a priority to stand up against overdevelopment while encouraging responsible regeneration.

In this vein, I am totally committed to maintaining the green belt. My house in Coulsdon faces directly onto Farthing Down, so I fully appreciate how important it is to protect our green spaces. If there is any attempt by anyone to build on green spaces in our neighbourhood then I will lead the fight to stop it. Development should be focused on

brown field sites (of which there are many in London) and new town sites such as the Bicester project in Oxfordshire.

I will also continue to campaign to extend the opening hours at Purley Hospital's Minor Injuries Unit (it is currently only open 2pm-8pm, although it is open 365 days per year) and restore emergency access to the X-Ray machine. The facility has the potential to be a very good one, and it also needs to be better publicised.

On the topic of health, I am very pleased to report that the Government has found £21m of funding to build a new A&E at Mayday (Croydon University Hospital) where work is due to start in September. This new A&E will take 18 months to build, and a temporary A&E will continue to operate at Mayday during construction. The new A&E will be larger, have more beds and be a modern purpose-build facility. This is great news for the Borough.

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 will be available to meet in person at surgeries on Friday mornings in Purley. Please email chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk to arrange an appointment. I will also hold street stalls on Saturday mornings on an ad-hoc basis and will email out details in advance. Please email me if you would like to be notified of when and where these are, or to receive other local email news from me.

I will keep my website www.chrisphilp.com regularly updated and am also be tweeting at [@chrisphilp_mp](https://twitter.com/chrisphilp_mp).

I look forward to continuing to work hard for our local neighbourhood.



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A Report From Councillor Tim Pollard, Sanderstead Ward Councillor

The RRA have asked me to resume writing a regular piece for the RRA Magazine trying to give some insights into what is happening at Croydon Council. The last such article was a good few years ago, and much has changed since then.

When I last wrote, my party was in control of the council and I held the positions of Deputy Leader of the Council and was the Cabinet Member responsible for education and family social care. All that changed in 2014 when control changed and my party went into opposition. In due course I have become Leader of the Opposition and my ward colleagues Lynne Hale and Yvette Hopley are our spokesman on culture and deputy spokesman on health respectively.

I will do my best in this piece to be as non-party-political as I can. As a leading figure in opposition I intend to support the new administration where we agree and speak strongly against on matters where we disagree.

Firstly an area of agreement. The then-opposition made great capital during the 2014 local election campaign out of their contention that the borough was dirty. We had – and still have – a major problem with fly tipping, both caused by illegal traveller encampments (such as those we have seen in Riddlesdown) and by residents who will not take responsibility for their own recycling and waste and choose instead to dump it. The new council has ploughed significantly more resource into combatting fly tipping, yet the problem remains and in some areas is getting worse. They are right to identify that we have, as a society, to make fly tipping as unacceptable as

drink driving now is. The new administration is prosecuting more people for fly tipping, which is a good thing. We all need to help by reporting fly tipping when we see it and especially if the perpetrators can be identified. In the end it is only fear of prosecution that will reduce the problem.

Planning policy is an area where there is less agreement. The new administration has made Housing one of its key priorities. There is no doubt that demand for housing is outstripping supply right across London. That is driving up house values to unaffordable levels to first time buyers and also driving up rents. The council's solution to this problem is to approve just about every application, regardless of quality. In my opinion that is not good, because the buildings built under this system will be with us for a hundred years, so it is as important that we do not spoil our localities.

So whereas the council used to turn down almost all back garden development and instead encourage new housing on brownfield (previously built-on) sites, now there is a lot of infill development allowed and many blocks of flats approved in places where they are out of character.

Planning is supposed to be a non-political process where each application is determined on its merits and without any committee member pre-determining it. There is a worrying trend towards the committee acting in blocs, which suggests that the principles are not being adhered to.

More worrying still, the council is considering removing councillors' rights to call a controversial application before committee, a process known as 'referral'. At the moment, any councillor can demand that an application goes before committee if officers are minded to approve it and the councillor disagrees (and

it can also be used if officers want to decline and the councillor supports approval, although in practice this virtually never happens). At the moment, residents' associations like the RRA can also refer, as can the public if 12 people agree.

But the council wants to reduce the number of applications going to committee, to save money, and has chosen to do this by proposing to remove the right of councillors to refer. The worry is that if residents' groups then take to referring themselves, as their councillors cannot, then the saving will not be made unless residents' referral rights are similarly removed!

This is a slippery slope towards the complete demolition of the character of our suburbs, and my group is strongly opposed to the change. As, for that matter, are a number of the administration's own councillors. Combined pressure has resulted in the administration saying they will give the matter further consideration before going ahead, and we can only hope that sense prevails.

A good example of this is the proposal to build a 16-storey tower block at Purley Cross. There, the Purley Baptists' site adjacent to Banstead Road has stood empty for many years. There is no question that development of that site would be good for Purley. However, at 16 storeys, the proposed block will be two and a half times higher than any other in Purley, making future tall buildings impossible to resist.

Even more barmy is the proposed parking arrangements. For the two hundred flats the developer is proposing a measly 38 parking spaces and the council is supporting that. So even if the flats only have an average of one car per flat, that means 162 cars clogging up every road nearby!

The Baptist Church are determined that the proposed new development will bring some much needed community facilities to Purley centre, which is good. However, the problem is that the council is not prepared to offset these benefits against the money it demands that developers pay it for infrastructure improvements, which is why only a massive tower with hundreds of flats will make the scheme financially viable.

The new MP for Croydon South, Chris Philp, and GLA Member for Croydon & Sutton Steve O'Connell, are spearheading the campaign against this scheme. We strongly support them in this endeavour and will do everything we can to bring in a less dominating scheme which is more in keeping with Purley town centre.

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Riddlesdown Collegiate Report

Gordon Smith

At the time of writing students in the Collegiate are sitting public examinations at GCSE, AS and A-Level; I hope that in the next edition I can update you on how our performance compares with the exceptional results achieved in 2014. Although those 2014 results seem so long away now, during the academic year further analysis has been provided by the Government and OFSTED on them. We were delighted to see the Collegiate close to the top of the Croydon league in the Government's Performance Tables in January, and equally pleased that OFSTED's Data Dashboard showed us in the top group for all schools nationally and for similar schools; all of this information is available on line to consider further. We were also privileged in March to receive a letter from the then Schools' Minister, David Laws MP, congratulating us on our performance and informing us that the Collegiate is one of the 90 most improved schools in the country over recent years; no mean feat when building on already impressive results!

Of course, great qualifications are only part of what we deliver for our students at the Collegiate; so much of our wider work is aimed at developing in students the qualities and confidence to take those qualifications into the wider world as adults and be successful. This wider work has so many features to it: many of you will have seen our incredible production of *Les Miserables* back in February when a cast, orchestra and technical crew of 150 students delighted packed houses with their astonishing performances; once again our Senior Science

Club has triumphed in the UK Final of the International Space Design Competition and 3 students are off to NASA in Florida in the summer for the international event; for the first time this year we have seen Year 7 students receive Gold Awards in the National Maths Challenge – aimed at Year 8 students; over 200 students took part in international visits over Easter to Italy, Spain, Hungary & Austria and Malaysia carrying out fieldwork, visits to archaeological and historical sites, skiing and working on charitable campaigns. This is just a taster of the ways in which we deliver on our motto of “Learners of today. Leaders of tomorrow”. To see more details on these and other amazing achievements, do please look regularly at our website and Newsletter – www.riddlesdown.org.

Of course the world of education is a very dynamic place at the moment and new systems and structures are changing the ways in which schools work. Riddlesdown Collegiate Academy Trust is currently consulting on becoming a Multi-Academy Trust and sponsoring other schools within that Trust. This will in no way change how the Collegiate works, but will open up opportunities for wider collaboration to help us to drive improvement further. Once again information on this can be found on our website.

Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society

THE HAPPIEST DAYS....? LIFE AS SEEN THROUGH CROYDON LOG BOOKS BY RON COX

All schools have secrets –good and bad. Even the most highly-regarded schools have passed through difficult periods.

No-one knows this better than Dr Ron Cox, now in his nineties. A long-standing member of the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society, Dr Cox has spent over sixty years working for the Croydon Education Department.

He taught at Lanfranc (and narrowly missed being killed in the Lanfranc air disaster) and Ashburton Secondary Modern Schools for eighteen years and returned to Croydon four years later to become an Assistant Director of Education.

As the Education Department's Consultant Archivist he examined about 700 head teachers' log books which recorded, over more than a century, the hopes, triumphs and exasperations of their own and their staff's efforts to educate Croydon's children.

As he read through this collection, most of which are now held in the archives of the Museum of Croydon and which are in effect school diaries, he noted down some of the more bizarre, dramatic, heartening and disheartening entries the head teachers made.

Some head teachers were beloved by pupils such as the one described as 'a magnificent creature with the physique of a heavy-weight boxer but who was kindness itself'. Others

terrified the children or ruined schools. One inspector said his visit to a school was such a farce that he would not return until the head was replaced. One head was sent to jail for embezzling his golf club's funds.

One head teacher vented his frustration at the stress of the job, the vast array of tests and league tables and the government's denigration of teachers.

A class teacher with the impressive name of Arthur Horatio Nelson won a court case against a tabloid magazine which claimed that he had caned a boy twelve times for misspelling a single word.

In the First World War pupils were warned not to pick up sweets because it was rumoured that enemy aircraft were dropping poisoned ones. In the Second refugee Jewish children from Europe were placed in Croydon's schools. Pupils were among the casualties of bombing raids.

Nowhere else in the country has such a comprehensive account of school log books covering over a century in one education authority ever been published.

Ron Cox has now brought together this material in a book, appropriately entitled *The Happiest Days....?*, (ISBN 978-0-906047-29-3), published in September 2014 by the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society at a cost of £4.50, available at local booksellers, or by post (p&p £1.25) from the Society's sales officer, Brian Lancaster, at 68 Woodnote Grove Road, Coulsdon, CR5 2AD

Who Are We? – Neil Tarrant

Riddlesdown Recorder Editor

Where are you from originally?

I was born and raised in Reigate, a short journey down the A23. After studying in Edinburgh, I returned to London to live in Southfields and then moved to Beckenham in Kent.

How long have you lived in Riddlesdown?

My wife and I moved here in 2009. We had just started a family and Riddlesdown offered us everything we needed: good rail connections and schools, not to mention lots of safe open space nearby for the children to play.

How long have you been involved with the RRA and why?

I am one of the newer members, and have been involved for just over a year. Soon after moving to Riddlesdown a street steward explained about the RRA and gave us a copy of the Recorder. I was impressed that the community produced this magazine, as nowhere I had lived previously produced anything similar. I saw in one issue that without a volunteer editor it might no longer be produced. I felt that this would be a great shame and became involved. I have not looked back since!

What is your favourite part of Riddlesdown?

Unsurprisingly, I love the common. When we first looked at our house, we did not know the area well and didn't even know that the common existed! Discovering it was an unexpected bonus. Since moving in we have used it often, to go running, take the children for a walk and, in the winter, sledging.

Is being on the committee a lot of work?

Editing the Recorder does involve some periods of work, but I am well supported by fellow committee members so it never feels overwhelming. Being on the committee does not necessarily involve a major commitment. Attending the meetings really does not take up much time, and outside of these you can put in as much work as you want, or are able to.

Would you recommend more people get involved?

Absolutely. The community really is what we make it. Since joining the committee I have been really struck by how hard members work in order to protect our collective interests. We also need volunteers to help organise, promote and run events like the children's party. Getting involved in the RRA need not necessarily involve being involved in the committee, but being willing to help out for an hour or two.

What would you change in Riddlesdown, if anything?

Probably just the usual – a local pub would be very welcome!

What else do you do?

With a young family and a busy work life, I do not really have time for any particularly exciting hobbies! However, I am very happy pottering in my garden.

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- * Community Trays * Stop smoking clinic * Malaria Prescribers
 - * Flu Jab * Brand new vitamins/supplement range
- * Blood pressure checks * 'Healthy Heart' checks * Deliveries

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ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If you have any thoughts or comments on any of the articles or reports in the Recorder we would be delighted to hear from you. Any letters to the Editor can be addressed to editorrra@gmail.com.

In the last issue Phil Thomas raised the issue of parking for Riddlesdown Station in Lower Barn Road, highlighting some of the problems facing this road's residents. Dr Ron Cox offered a number of comments from the perspective of a station user.

Dear Editor,

One sympathises with the residents of Lower Barn Road who have difficulty in parking outside their homes. But I would ask them to bear in mind the following:

1. Probably most have chosen to move there since the problem had already become apparent.
2. They have the advantage of being able to walk to the station without having to use a car. It would be a very long walk indeed for commuters if they were forced to park elsewhere.
3. It is incorrect to say that navigation is difficult. With all the spaces left by dropped

kerbs one can easily give way to oncoming cars. It just needs a bit of patience.

4. Parking restrictions would merely move the problem to other nearby roads, some of which are more narrow and, in some cases (eg Copthorne Rise), have poorer sight lines.

5. To restrict parking to, say, one side of Lower Barn Road, would at once encourage speeding.

6. Many commuters use the Station shops before and/or after their journey. Anything that diminishes their trade would be disadvantageous.

7. Residents in the road can easily collect names for a petition; commuters have no such option so a petition would only give one side of the argument. I hope you can draw the attention of our Ward representatives to this anomaly

8. Residents can make arrangements to park on their own land. This gets over their problem and would release more space for commuters.

Sincerely

Ron Cox (Dr)



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07940 227 502

email neil271052@blueyonder.co.uk

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 – **Cantilena Singers**

Cantilena Singers Ladies' Choir was originally formed in 1986 as one of the London Borough of Croydon Adult Education classes. Following changes in the strategy of Adult Education in Croydon, the choir became independent in September 2003 and a registered charity in September 2004.

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. On average the choir has thirty five members.

To enable a high standard to be reached by the choir for public performances, the choir has an experienced and qualified Musical Director who works to develop the musical and singing skills of choir members. The choir also has a pianist accompanist.

Members of the choir pay a subscription fee (at present £49 per term) and give of their time to raise funds to enable the necessary fees to be paid to the Musical Director and the Accompanist, and for any other expenditure.

Rehearsals are held weekly over approximately thirty weeks of the year. Each rehearsal starts with a warm-up which includes physical "loosening-up" exercises, breathing and vocal exercises. This is to

enable members to prepare for their singing and increase the quality and ability to use their voices to make a well-produced and natural sound.

The repertoire consists of a wide range of songs in a variety of styles. Past songs include "Flying Free", "Homeward Bound", "One Day More" from Les Misérables, "May it be" by Eithne Ni Bhraonain, "Tonight" by Bernstein and Sondheim. At our summer concert this year we did a medley from The King and I.

Traditional and non-traditional songs are sung at Christmas. Pieces are chosen so that singers feel challenged in a realistic way with songs usually in two or three parts. Each new song is introduced gradually over two or three weeks of rehearsals, with explanations about the song and the method of singing. Analysing the song and the dynamics within it allows for the development of knowledge of music theory.

Recorded CDs are provided to help members to practice outside of rehearsal time. The aim is that, whilst working hard, choir members should enjoy their music making and relay that joy to others in its performances. The choir performs a number of public concerts in the local community during each year and we have also taken part in the Croydon Music Festival.

Some of these concerts are non-fundraising. For example performances at old people's

homes and local groups and societies. Other concerts are given to raise money for charity. For our annual Summer concert, choir members choose one or two charities for which to raise funds. In 2014 we were able to split £900 between two charities from the proceeds of the evening.

Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings between 7.30 – 9.30. 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 (Wednesdays at 7.30 – 9.30 in the Methodist church, Sanderstead) and / or contact Jill on 07957 627 783

Community Information:

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

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

Botley Hill Farmhouse

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Tel: 01959 577154 & www.botleyhill-farmhouse.co.uk

<http://www.botleyhill-farmhouse.co.uk>

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-](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Croydon-Natural-History-Scientific-Society/106522816087133?ref=hl)

[Natural-History-Scientific-](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Croydon-Natural-History-Scientific-Society/106522816087133?ref=hl)

[Society/106522816087133?ref=hl](http://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

July 9th 'The Power of Jewellery:

Adornment and ritual from prehistory to the present' – Judy Rudoe

September 10th 'The Georgians through Caricature, Cartoon and Conversation

Piece Painting' – Patsy Erskine-Hill

October 8th 'Ice Age cave art: the world's oldest and greatest imagery' – Paul Bahn

November 12th 'Facing up to Goya;

portraits by Goya' – Gail Turner

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 prtgl990@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@riddlesdownltc.com
Website: www.riddlesdownltc.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 £3.50. 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 AUG. 10: – “Northumberland”. RSPB Croydon Local Group's John Birkett. After the interval there will be convened the group's annual meeting (afternoon), and AGM (evening).

MONDAY SEP. 14: – “Nature Diaries, Wales”. Brian Gallop returns to give us some visually wonderful images of this great land with its diverse habitats and unpredictable weather.

MONDAY OCT. 12: “Cape to Pack Ice”. In overseas tour leader Colin Kirtland's talk the geographical and human interest stories will come to the fore in this Antarctic foray.

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, Wettren Tree Garden, Purley Oaks Road

Scallywags 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 services 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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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

RIDDLEDOWN/LONDON TRAIN TIMES (SOUTHERN RAILWAY)

Timetable below is from 17 May 2015 to 12 December 2015.

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, 07.37, 08.06, 08.37, 09.06 and then 37 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 23.24 & 23.47.

Saturdays: 06.23, 06.53 and then 23 and 53 mins past hour until 23.23 & 23.47.

Sundays: 07.47, 08.53, 09.23, 09.53, 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, 07.55, 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, 08.16 (to Hurst Green), 08.41, 09.11, 09.41, 10.11, 10.41, 11.11, 11.40, 12.11 then 40 and 11 mins past hour until 15.41, 16.11, 16.40, 17.10, 17.30, 17.41, 17.58, 18.11, 18.32, 18.43, 19.02, 19.11, 19.40, 20.10, 20.40, 21.11, 21.40, 22.10, 22.40, 23.10, 23.41, 00.07.

Saturdays: 06.41, 07.11 then 41 & 11 mins past hour until 22.10, 22.41, 23.11, 23.41 & 00.07.

Sundays: 08.10, 09.10, 09.40, & then 10 & 40 mins past hour until 20.10, 21.10, 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 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 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]

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Riddlesdown Tennis

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Riddlesdown Tennis

Lower Barn Road, Riddlesdown, CR8 1HQ

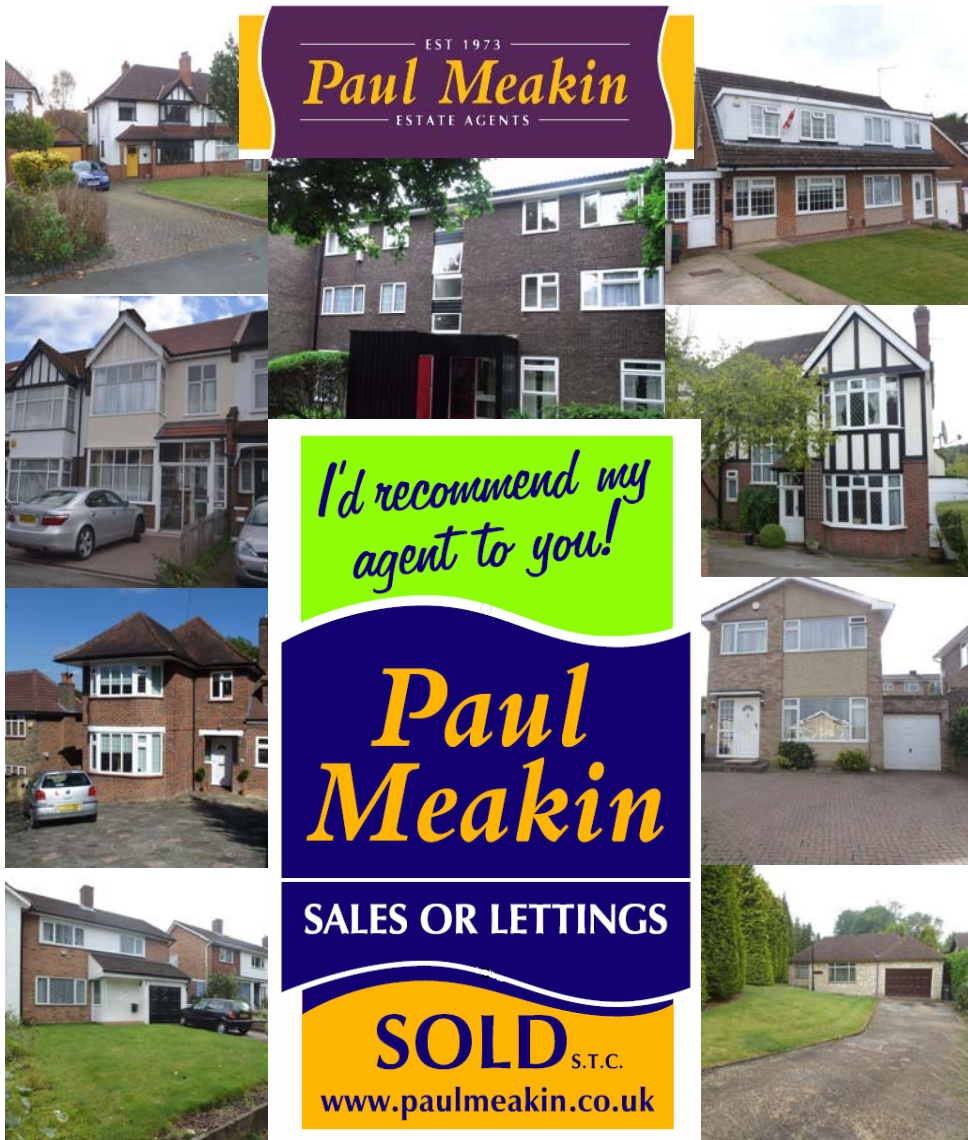
Like the Residents Association, the tennis club was formed 75 years ago for the benefit of the residents of the new John Laing Riddlesdown Estate.

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