

# THE RIDDLESLOW RECORDER



## INSIDE

- 50 Years of St Edmund's
- Winter Birds
- Who are we?

and much more....!

ISSUE 199

WINTER 2014



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Front Cover Photo: Riddlesdown Common, by 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](mailto:editorrra@gmail.com)  
Further information and past issues of this magazine can be found on our website:  
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# THE RIDDLEDOWN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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



**Linda Bevin**  
*Secretary*  
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**John Rapp**  
*Membership, Road Stewards and  
Public Transport Concerns*  
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**Neil Tarrant**  
*Recorder Editor*  
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**Frankie Wheeler**  
*Footpaths Liaison*  
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**Fred Wallis**  
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**Mavis Wilder**  
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**Jan Powell**  
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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](mailto: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](http://www.riddlesdownresidents.org.uk) Email [RiddlesdownResidents@gmail.com](mailto:RiddlesdownResidents@gmail.com)

## EDITOR'S NOTES

BY NEIL TARRANT

### Editor's Notes

This is a celebratory edition of the Recorder! We are all familiar with St Edmund's Hall-Church. It stands at the heart of our community, not only as a building but also as a focus for many collective activities. Nearly all of us will have had a reason to use this building: for worship, for voting, attending a pre-school or lunch-club. Next year will mark the 50th anniversary of its construction. It is with great pleasure that we are able to print Gill Pate's account of its conception, construction and early history.

This important anniversary is not the only thing we have to celebrate. As we enter Autumn and Winter, we may feel the urge to bemoan the passing of Summer. Yet as John Birkett, of the Croydon Local Group of the RSPB reminds us, with the changing of the seasons we welcome a host of new visitors to Riddlesdown common. We can also join with the principal of Riddlesdown Collegiate,

Gordon Smith, in congratulating the academic success of his students. There is also an opportunity to find out more about one of the long-standing members of the Riddlesdown Residents' Association, John Rapp, and thank him for his efforts on our behalf.

It is always rewarding to be able to celebrate the things that we share as a community. As Editors we would love to know more about the activities that take place within Riddlesdown, and of course more about the organisations and individuals who give over their time and enthusiasm to organise them. If you are running a street party, perhaps you could tell us about your day? If you run an organisation, a club or a society and you would like to make its activities more widely-known, we would like to know more. Contributions need not be long, and photos are very welcome!

If you have a story or an idea for a feature please email: [editorrra@gmail.com](mailto:editorrra@gmail.com)



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# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

## BY BRIAN LONGMAN

### Parking

Welcome to the Winter edition of the Riddlesdown Recorder.

Whilst the last six months have been relatively quiet, the issue of parking has been high on the agenda for many residents. Hardly a week goes by without some residents contacting the Association to voice their concerns. From the number of telephone calls and emails received, there appears to be two main issues. First, the increased levels of commuter parking in the relatively narrow roads close to Riddlesdown station, secondly, the inconsiderate parking in the road approaching Riddlesdown School.

Some Lower Barn Road residents have told us that they often find it difficult to park anywhere near their homes. Drivers are also telling us that they find the road difficult to navigate due to the number of cars parked on both sides of the road with few passing places. In Brancaster Lane, despite the introduction of the white access protection lines in front of some driveways to discourage inconsiderate parking, residents tell us they still find exiting their driveways onto the slight incline with limited visibility into fast-moving traffic extremely dangerous.

In Honister Heights, once again inconsiderate parking by parents and visitors to the school which results in the blocking of driveways, managed to reach a new level during the spring term. The Association has discussed the situation with the school and they are working hard with parents who drive to there to resolve the problem. We will continue to monitor the situation here with the local residents.

However, the issue of the increasing number of commuters parking in the local roads around the station is more difficult to solve. I think I need say at this point, this issue is a difficult one for the Association to tackle unless there is a clear consensus from the local residents on what needs to be done. In previous reports I have said that parking schemes can be very contentious and that this is not an area in which the Association can lead unless it has an overwhelming mandate from the residents involved.

Therefore the Association is looking for guidance and we would like to know what you think. Please send you suggestions or solutions to the Association's email address, or by telephoning, or write to one of our contact addresses. All the contact details are available at the front of the Recorder. Of course this could include, 'to do nothing'. However, judging by the number of calls we have received on this issue I would think many of you will have an opinion. Phil Thomas, in his report, further outlines some of the main parking issues.

### Local Police

Local police officers from the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) together with the local ward panel members for Sanderstead, met in July to set the three local ward promises for our area. These promises are what your local policing team will focus their efforts on in order to reduce crime in the Sanderstead ward for the period August to September. The three promises agreed are:



## Burglary –

To reduce burglary by increasing the number of proactive patrols on our local residential roads. To increase the level of crime prevention advice and visit all burglary victims within 24 hours. In the four week period prior to writing this report, the Sanderstead ward had just one burglary. This was quickly resolved and the suspect was identified, arrested and charged. However, I should point out that the Sanderstead team does not cover the whole of the Riddlesdown area, and the North West section of the RRA area is covered by the Purley team so this might not be the complete picture.

## Speed Awareness –

Following a number of complaints from residents concerning high speed driving on local roads, the SNT officers agreed to conduct a speed watch programme by monitoring the speed of passing vehicles using portable speed indication devices on a few of our local 30 mile-per-hour roads. Speed awareness is designed to increase the awareness of speeding and encourage drivers to address their behaviour without being penalised, reduce the risk of injuries and collisions on local roads, and improve the safety and quality of life for the local community.

## Anti-social behaviour -

Following numerous complaints from residents across Sanderstead, the team agreed to increase patrols around local parks and green spaces during the holiday period. I mentioned in my last report that the the Safer Neighbourhood Team meetings are now open to all. If you would like to attend, the dates are published on both the SNT and the RRA websites.

## Committee

In the Spring - Summer edition of Recorder I raised the issue of the lack of people stepping forward to join the committee. I am pleased to report that three people have contacted the Association to volunteer; good news. However, and I know I keep saying it, we do need more people to step forward especially those with energy and enthusiasm. If you are interested please give me a ring on 8657 8374.

Finally, I would like to apologise to the lady who rang me to volunteer for the committee and help with events, especially the Fun Day. Unfortunately, I have misplaced your contact details so, if you read this, please can you contact me again. Thank you.



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# PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

BY PHIL THOMAS

## Website & Planning Notifications

Generally, it has been a fairly quiet 6 months or so on the planning front, with only the usual residential applications for extensions etc. being submitted. As Croydon Council no longer send out notification letters to adjoining occupiers, there is now, on the RRA website, a “Weekly Planning List” which shows newly submitted applications each week.

## Woodland in Dunmail Drive, opposite Riddlesdown Collegiate

We have learnt that Wineham Investments again put to auction on 24 June, the land opposite the Collegiate gates in Dunmail Drive and behind the houses in Honister Heights. It was sold for £148,000 but as yet we do not know who the new owner is. A small piece of woodland opposite 18/20 Honister Heights was also sold.

Both areas of land are Green Belt and the land in Dunmail Drive was also subject to the recent Planning Inspector’s decision to dismiss an appeal for the building of 4 detached houses. The RRA will be watching carefully to see if another planning application is submitted here.

## New Flats (Riddleah Court) adjoining the shops in Lower Barn Rd

The saga of the repositioning of the new mobile phone mast continues by Riddleah Court! Many residents will be aware that Lower Barn Rd was closed for a couple of Sundays in late spring and early summer for a

crane to firstly install the new mast at the back of the car park and then, on another Sunday, to remove the old mast from the pavement. The new mast is operational for both the O2 and Vodafone networks.

However, one of the new control boxes at the back of the site has not been painted green (as submitted on the deposited plans) and also the two plinths and smaller control boxes have been left on the pavement, where the old boxes stood. According to the drawings submitted, to Croydon Council, these should have been removed. The RRA have pointed this out to the Council’s Planning Enforcement.

## EE Mast at the top of Dunmail Drive

Some residents who use the T-Mobile and Orange mobile phone network (now branded as EE) may have noticed for a few days in June 2013 and again in late August 2014, that their phone network may have either failed or that their signal level reduced.

On both occasions some residents, along with the RRA took this up with EE. We were told on both occasions that EE were looking to reduce the number of their mast locations and wanted to decommission the 25 metre high mast at the top of Dunmail Drive, close to Riddlesdown Collegiate. We have pointed out to EE that the topography in Riddlesdown is extremely undulating and some of their mobile phone networks are patchy in places, especially in the valley near the station. Two other EE masts that directly serve our area are at the bottom of Dunmail Drive and at

the top the hill in Mitchley Ave, close to the junction with Downs Court Rd. However, this 9.7m high mast is at the top of a hill and the signal doesn't seem to go down into the valley near to the station very well!

We did also point out to EE that the mast at the top of Dunmail Drive is situated close to Riddlesdown Collegiate and about 2,000 pupils plus 250 staff attend this school. A good EE signal strength is therefore important for some of these children and staff, for safety reasons. We also have a major railway line running through the area (although part of which is in a tunnel) and we also live in London and a good signal strength is now expected by residents!

On both occasions, after the RRA and some residents contacted EE, they did switch the mast back on. However, we have not been given a good reason why EE want to decommission this mast considering the topography of Riddlesdown. We have therefore taken this up with Councillor Lynne Hale, and our MP Richard Ottaway, to try and get assurances from EE that they will not decommission this mast. We'll keep you advised.

Further details about all the mobile phone masts in our area, can be found on the RRA website.

## **Purley Hospital – Urgent Care Centre/Minor Injuries Unit**

I reported last time about the change in the Urgent Care Centre (UCC) to a GP-led Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) from 1 May 2104. This new GP-led service is now run by a company called AT Medics. The former opening hours of 8am - 8pm, were also

reduced at this date to: 2pm - 8pm, for 365 days a year. The Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCCG) who are now in charge of this type of healthcare are again reviewing these opening hours, and a decision will be made in mid-September, just after writing this report.

Feedback that the RRA and many other Resident Associations in the south of the Borough received after 1 May was not all together favourable to this new Unit. Apart from the reduced opening hours, the type of ailments now seen by staff is limited and the X-ray Department, which is only a few feet away from the MIU, is not always being used in conjunction with the opening times of the MIU! Patients sometimes have to travel to Croydon University Hospital (CUH) at Thornton Heath to have X-rays undertaken, having first gone to Purley!

As a result of this unsatisfactory situation, the Residents Associations (RAs) in the South of the Borough (Hartley & District, Purley & Woodcote, Kenley, East Coulsdon, Old Coulsdon, West Coulsdon, Riddlesdown and Sanderstead) have agreed to campaign jointly. Some of the representatives from these RAs met with Paula Swann, Dr Anthony Brzezicki of the CCCG and Andrew Hobson from the NHS in mid-July.

All the RAs are campaigning to have the MIU re-instated back to an Urgent Care Centre; to have the opening hours reinstated back to a 12 hour day, i.e. 8am to 8pm; restore the x-ray facilities available for the Unit when it is open. Also the publicity distributed by both the NHS and CCCG regarding this unit has been poor, with misleading and inaccurate information on various healthcare websites.

We have highlighted these anomalies to the CCCG.

A letter was sent to the CCCG from all these RAs on 4 July 2014 outlining our concerns and the CCCG responded on 15 July 2014. This correspondence is available to view on our website. Our MP, Sir Richard Ottaway, and Chris Philp, the Parliamentary Candidate for Croydon South, also met with the CCCG and have raised their own concerns.

Further meetings are planned with the RAs and CCCG over the next few months.

## **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 some time now about various repairs required in the area and also about the generally untidy state of the area, in respect of litter.

Nothing was done in the spring about re-seeding the damaged grass verges to a number of streets in the area which have been damaged by vehicles and pedestrians. We have again taken this up with the Council.

However, we have had some success. The centre white line in Lower Barn Rd on the bend and under the railway bridge has now been re-instated on the newly laid bitmac surface. Rydal Close has been resurfaced, as has the southern end of Riddlesdown Road.

However, nothing has been done to rectify the damaged grass verge and footway at the junction of Barn Crescent to Lower Barn Rd and we have highlighted this again to the

Council. The RRA want the Council to re-align the kerbing on the junction. This would allow the dustcart and any other lorries that enter and exit from Barn Crescent, to do so without mounting the grass verge and pavement. A similar problem had occurred at the Rydal Close junction, and the Council re-aligned the kerb here following our request.

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

We will continue to raise with the Council, these and the various other repairs still required in the area!

### **Street Lighting**

The question was raised by a resident at the RRA AGM in May, as to how and when the new street lighting will be installed in Riddlesdown and whether residents will have a say in the design of the lamp columns and type of lighting.

Having subsequently contacted the Officer concerned, I understand from the Council that the new street lights are of a standard design and that there will very little choice or discussion on the type of lamp column design in each street. As there are no street lighting conservation areas in Riddlesdown, a standard palette of materials will be used i.e. Black Malletite Columns (6 metre to 12 metre high depending on design) and Phillips Iridium Lanterns. Many of these lamp

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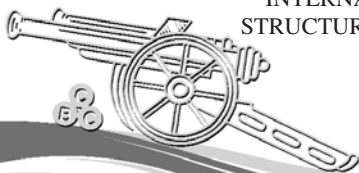
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columns are now in place in central, eastern and northern parts of the Borough.

After making enquiries with the Council, I have now published on the RRA website a full list of some frequently asked questions. Some of these are answered below:

- ***Who will be managing the new contract?***

The new contractor is Skanska Infrastructure Services. They will operate in Croydon and Lewisham as Croydon and Lewisham Lighting Services Ltd.

- ***How many street lights are being replaced?***

In the first five years of the 25-year contract all of the council's 42,000 lights and 8,000 signs will be upgraded. 38,000 will have both the column and the lantern replaced. 4,000 will have just the lantern replaced or converted. This is because the column will have been replaced recently, generally as a result of traffic accidents or local improvement works. All of the signs will be replaced on a scheme-by-scheme, road-by-road basis.

- ***When and where will the work start?***

It started in August 2011. Work will progress on a street-by-street, ward-by-ward basis. The RRA have been advised by Croydon Council that there is some slippage on the dates advertised on the Council's website.

As the RRA area is split into both the Purley & Sanderstead Wards, the work will be as follows: The Purley Ward is to be in Year 4 - this was due to be from August 2014 but has now been revised to late 2014 or early 2015. The Sanderstead Ward is due to be in Year 5 from August 2015, but will also probably be

delayed to late 2015 or early 2016. According to the minutes of a report submitted the Streets and Environmental Scrutiny Sub Committee in July 2014, the project is currently about 8 months behind schedule although the contractor Skanska hopes to claw back some of this delay.

- ***Will the lighting columns be going back in the same place or will they be repositioned?***

In many circumstances the roads undergo a complete re-design to conform to the current British standards and therefore the positions of the columns must be changed. It is not always possible to integrate the existing column positions in the new design layout. The new design parameters agreed by the council indicates that, where possible, they will light the pavements in addition to the carriageway, this means that the majority of the lighting columns where possible will be positioned at the back of the pavement, i.e. usually tight up against the front boundary wall of properties.

- ***How will I be notified of what is happening in my area?***

Residents should receive a letter before the work is scheduled to be undertaken advising them of the programme.

- ***What types of lighting will be used?***

The majority of the lighting across the boroughs is currently yellow/orange. The new lighting will be white and will give clearer illumination at night. Lights on heavy traffic roads will remain yellow/orange.

- ***Will Public Footpaths still be lit?***

Footpaths that are currently lit will have their existing lighting replaced.

## Street Parking and Highway Safety in Riddlesdown

As our Chairman Brian Longman has said in his report, the RRA continue to receive complaints from residents about commuter parking problems and access to driveways and garages in a number of streets in the area. This is a particular problem in the four main streets near to the Station in Lower Barn Rd, Brancaster Lane, Coombe Wood Hill and Riddlesdown Ave.

Problems are also being experienced by residents in Honister Heights regarding access to their driveways, close to Riddlesdown Collegiate where staff and 6th formers park during the day. The situation is made worse by parents, principally in the afternoons, collecting their children and clogging up the streets. The RRA are in discussion with the Collegiate about this.

We have been asked a number of times: 'What are the legal obligations for motorists on parking and in front of dropped kerbs?' So here goes!

Many motorists may not realise it, but there are a number of pieces of legislation that make parking a vehicle on the highway, unless it is in a designated marked parking bay, an offence! Obstruction of the highway is usually only enforceable by the Police, but they could instruct the Council to remove offending vehicles in the worst case scenario.

However, the Council can become involved when parking occurs across a dropped kerb. A number of residents in our area have advised that the dropped kerbs/crossovers to their driveways and garages have been

blocked by thoughtless motorists. In some instances they are also causing sight-line obstructions for motorists exiting their driveways, which could be a danger to other road users. Parking in front of a dropped kerb is an offence and is covered under Rule 243 of the Highway Code - "do not stop or park where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles" and also "in front of an entrance to a property." The only exception to the rules against parking outside a dropped kerb to a property or garage is where, "the vehicle is parked outside residential premises by or with the consent of the occupier of the premises - but this is not in the case of a shared or multi occupancy driveway."

Some residents were surveyed a couple of years ago about parking and whether they wanted their dropped kerbs highlighted with the white Access Protection Markings (APMs), in a number of streets close to the station. Following the survey the Council did install the white APMs across forty dropped kerbs, about 65% of those who responded. The Council said at the time they would not expand the scheme because of the cost, but said that they would monitor the situation. These white APM's have probably been about 90% successful. Unfortunately some drivers (mainly commuters) still continue to park with their wheels on the white lines and in some cases across dropped kerbs and continue to make life awkward for local residents. It seems to be the mission of some commuters, to park as close to the station as possible and ignore the consequences or inconvenience for that resident!



Some commuters (and others) do now seem to also park in the middle, between the white APM lines, where normally two vehicles can park and then other vehicles try to squeeze in on each end and park on the white APM's and sometimes across the dropped kerbs. The vehicle parked in the middle does also sometimes get boxed in!

All London Local Authorities provide guidance to their Civil Enforcement Officers (formerly Parking Wardens) in the Civil Enforcement Officer's Handbook. It states that in the event of a Code 27 (parking in front of driveways), they can issue a PCN (parking ticket) if a vehicle is parked across shared driveways. A shared driveway does not have a raised bit of kerb between the two driveways. Usually that enforcement only occurs if a request has been received from one of the residents affected, i.e. it needs the consent of both users of the shared driveway for someone to park across it, no matter how small a bit is parked on. It also needs to be remembered that parking across a dropped kerb can obliterate the sightlines of other drivers who are exiting their driveways a short distance away. If an accident does occur because of blocked sightlines, then the driver who has parked over the dropped kerb could be held partly liable as their vehicle could be causing an obstruction.

Providing a wheel is alongside the dropped kerb (this includes the sloping kerb part) then enforcement can take place. If a vehicle is unable to leave or enter a driveway or garage, then the offending vehicle can be removed to the Council's car pound. Residents who experience blocked dropped

kerbs to their driveways should contact Croydon Council's Parking Hotline on 020 8760 1966. The charges for recovering any removed vehicle from Croydon's car pound in Factory Lane are £200, plus the fee for the PCN, plus a £40 storage fee which will also be charged for every day a vehicle is stored at the pound!

Also, the dropped kerbs provide valuable places for two vehicles to pass in opposite directions, usually on the single track roads, where parking occurs. In Riddlesdown, this is especially important on some streets where there is a high level of use during the Riddlesdown Collegiate morning and afternoon school run. So basically the moral of the story is, please do not park in front of any dropped kerb, unless absolutely essential, for the safety of all in the area. If a motorist parks on the white APM in front of, or their car even slightly slightly overhangs your dropped kerb, why not just put a note on the windscreen pointing this out to the motorist?

Some motorists are also parking on single and double yellow lines, especially in Lower Barn Rd by the Station. Following complaints by local residents to us and the Council, the Council have told us they are aware of this and have stepped up their patrols in the area. Croydon Council have also told us their CEOs do work on Sundays and Bank Holidays, so be warned if you think you can "get away with it", by parking on yellow lines on those days! Parking at any time on a double yellow line is not allowed. No street signage is now required.

Riddlesdown is now one of the last Rail and Tram Stations within the Borough of Croydon

where there is no substantial controlled parking. Following a petition recently submitted to the Council, the residents in a number of streets on the west side of Purley Oaks Station are currently being written to and surveyed as to whether they want a controlled parking scheme brought into their streets (Braemar Road, Brantwood Road and Grange Road). If any parking controlled scheme is brought in around Purley Oaks, then it could mean displaced commuters who park in the streets on the east side of Purley Oaks station. Or it could also mean more displaced commuters park in Riddlesdown's streets as well!

Interestingly, all the other smaller rail stations near to us, Kenley, Coulsdon South, Reedham, and Woodmansterne have all had controlled and residents' permit parking brought in over the last few years (with a 1 hour restriction during the day) and we understand that this has drastically cut down on commuter parking. Some residents have said afterwards "this is the best thing since sliced bread!"

The RRA believe that road safety for all is now being compromised in our area. It is not just the residents who exit their driveways who are at risk but also other road users who could be involved in an accident and because they are travelling at say 30mph, could hit the exiting vehicle. Accidents have occurred in our area due to this problem.

We have also received a number of complaints from residents in Lower Barn Rd that they cannot park outside or near to their property if they go out during the day and they have to park a considerable distance way

when returning. Residents' bays with permit parking would go some way to resolving that problem. We believe that if anything is done, this parking problem needs to be resident-led. The Council have advised that they will consider taking action if a petition from just one of the streets affected is sent to them. The RRA have sounded-out Ward Councillors Yvette Hopley, Lynne Hale & Tim Pollard (Sanderstead) and Cllr Donald Speakman (Purley) and also the Council's Parking Design Manager, David Wakeling, and they will only act if enough residents sign a petition and present it to the Council, via a Councillor.

If you and your neighbours believe that something needs to be done then why not start a petition? The RRA and Councillors are here to help for any further advice. Further details about parking are on our website.

## **Are Noisier Electric Trains Now Running through Riddlesdown?**

Some residents living by Riddlesdown station and close to the railway line to the north of the station may have noticed that, since mid-August, the electric trains now running through Riddlesdown are noisier and have a louder humming sound. This high-pitched hum is more noticeable when the train is accelerating away from or slowing down when approaching the Station. Our Transport Member, John Rapp, believes this is due to the electric trains in the 377 fleet now running on the "regenerative braking system." What this basically means is that the trains are returning electricity back into the rail system when braking, allowing other trains in the vicinity to draw on that energy for power.

The RRA have written to Southern Railway on 14 August, asking for clarification. At the time of writing this report, we have not received a response, apart from an acknowledgement. Southern Railway say on their website “Southern places environmental responsibility at the centre of its corporate decision making process. We are committed to improving our environmental performance and have programmes currently underway aimed at minimising the environmental impact of our day to day activities.” Okay, so they want to save energy and improve their carbon footprint but it appears to be at the expense of creating increased noise pollution to their rolling stock. That isn’t very environmentally friendly is it?!

A detailed explanation is available on the RRA website as to what exactly “regenerative braking” is.

## Bonfires

We have received feedback and comments from residents that during the summer, even on a nice sunny day, some of their neighbours are lighting bonfires!

So the RRA would like to remind our residents about their responsibilities. The following advice is taken from Croydon Council’s website:

“Bonfire smoke can have damaging health effects and although serious harm is unlikely if exposure is brief, it can cause significant problems for people with asthma, bronchitis, and heart conditions. Bonfires generate around 30,000 nuisance complaints to local authorities each year. As well as causing health problems, smoke prevents neighbours from enjoying their gardens, opening

windows or hanging out washing.

Please note: you should never burn household or commercial waste on a bonfire, only garden waste. However, we encourage more environmentally friendly ways of disposing of your garden waste.

If you have a garden bonfire please observe the following:

- burn garden waste only.
- site the bonfire in a remote area of the garden where the smoke will not blow onto neighbouring properties - consider the direction the wind is blowing.
- douse the fire with water once the material has been burnt to avoid smouldering and fire risk.
- never leave a bonfire unattended.
- be considerate to your neighbours.

The Council can issue legal notices to people having nuisance bonfires. It can be an offence to cause a nuisance from lighting a bonfire. Offenders can be prosecuted and fined up to £5,000 for residential properties and £20,000 for businesses.”

Further information is available from the RAA website. The telephone number for the Council’s Pollution team is: 020 8760 5483 and their e-mail address is: [pollution@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:pollution@croydon.gov.uk)

We have a very good Recycling and Reuse Centre available close to us at Purley Oaks, so please consider using that facility first before lighting a bonfire. Between April and November a fortnightly green waste collection is also made by the Council.

## RRA Website and Amazon

The RRA website continues to be popular and if you haven't had a look, then give it a try! All the up-to-date information is displayed there, and there is also a members' message board if you want to raise an issue. We also now have a Facebook page, so why not give that a visit and like or post a comment!

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](http://www.riddlesdownresidents.org.uk)

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# TRANSPORT AND MEMBERSHIP

BY JOHN RAPP

## Membership

I am pleased to report that I am still receiving money – via Road Stewards – from individual households. It is great to know that our residents want to be members. We have a number of focal points, St Edmund's Church; Riddlesdown Station; and the bus stops. From being in the right place at the right time, I do get told about members' concerns. I have to confess that earlier this year I slipped and forgot that at the 2013 AGM it was decided that the Senior Citizen's concession would be removed from April 2014. Up until 1998, the subscription per house was £2.00 with a senior rate of £1.00. At that time the subscription went up to £3.00. Each year I have told our Road Stewards that £1.50, £2.00, or £3.00 will be happily accepted from our senior members. Next year it will be £3.00 for all – less than the general price of a pint of beer – and great value.

## Transport

Who would like to go to Cambridge? From December 2018 (with a change (bus to train at Purley; train to train at East Croydon) it will be possible. There is a lot of work to be done before the Thameslink system is completely finished, and until then there will be a need to plan travel (London Bridge closed to our usual six morning (and evening services) trains from Riddlesdown from 20th December 2014 to 5th January 2015).

These developments are being carefully watched, with Southern receiving (and appreciating comment) on the August blockade. It is being stressed to our railway contacts that the Railway needs to attract customers and that bad journeys do not help it to be a first choice for leisure travel – the extra income that supports improvements.

The operation of the 412 route is being closely watched by the London Assembly and TfL on our behalf. I expect to be able to share more news in the next Recorder.



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# YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS & ARTICLES

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

## Community Spirit

Gill Pates

Something extraordinary happened in Riddlesdown 60 years ago. On 25th September 1954 the foundation stone of Riddlesdown's new Hall-Church was laid by John Laing in front of a crowd of 300-400 local residents.

Why was this remarkable? Firstly this building was an inspiring example of integrated effort between Church and Community. St Edmunds King and Martyr Hall-Church was built by the people of Riddlesdown for the people of Riddlesdown. From the outset it was designed to meet the needs of the people of Riddlesdown of all faiths and none. It is still doing so 60 years later.

The functionality of the building was decided in consultation with Church-goers and The Riddlesdown Residents Association (RRA). It had to be big enough for Badminton and seat 200 people. It had to have a Chancel at one end for worship and a stage at the other for concerts and amateur dramatics.

When Mr Laing laid the foundation stone he said that "Riddlesdown would be a very poor place if there were nowhere to worship God". The 180 members of the Church in Riddlesdown would have agreed but everyone in Riddlesdown was equally excited that the build had finally started.

The second reason this event was remarkable was that it was only possible due

to the glorious confluence of the vision, determination and prayer of a small number people led by William Goddard, a decade or more of fund raising by the people of Riddlesdown in a period of post War austerity and the generosity of John Laing who gave the site for the Hall-Church.



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

## A Hall for Riddlesdown

*To all Residents of Riddlesdown,*

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

### The Objects of the Hall

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

The story started with the building of the Laing Estate in 1936. Out of open down land a whole community sprang up and many common interest groups formed. There was The RRA, a Gramophone Club, Dramatic

Society. There were also various Christian groups all meeting in people's houses or having to travel to venues outside of Riddlesdown to pursue their interests and beliefs.

The advent of War and fear of air raids meant that rather than walk to All Saints Sanderstead to worship, adult and children's church activity centred on Riddlesdown. The War also meant that work on the Laing's Estate ceased and the Estate Office at the corner of Mitchley Avenue and Buttermere Gardens became vacant on Sundays.

The Reverend F.B. Hutchinson, Curate at All Saints obtained permission from Sir John Laing to use the Estate Office for a Sunday School. The Sunday School was split into a number of classes so that activities could be tailored to different age groups so a number of venues needed to be found around Riddlesdown to accommodate the different groups. Miss Turner of "Coronilla" in Mitchley Avenue agreed to use her school rooms to accommodate the younger children and William Goddard to hold a Bible class at 4 Lower Barn Road for the senior boys and girls.

To give you an idea as to the size of these groups, Mr Goddard and his helpers acquired 48 chairs (24 chairs from The Welcome Tea Rooms on Farthing Downs and 24 garden chairs from Gamages) just to accommodate the Sunday School in the Estate Office!

These Sunday School groups became known as the Pilgrim Band. Their motto was "Ubi Fides Ibi Lux et Robur" – "Where there is Faith there is Light and Strength" and song the Pilgrim Hymn – He who would valiant be.

A choir formed, there was a Christmas Carol Service to which all the parents were invited and a Christmas Party. The Senior Pilgrims met once a week under the watchful eye of Mr Goddard for "Friday Night" to play games, table tennis, cricket and rounders on the green and rehearse concerts and plays produced by Mavis Wilder (nee Goddard).

Although there was a hive of religious and social activity in The Estate Office and an inconceivable number of residents seemed to be able to fit into its limited capacity for special occasions, there was an expectation that once the War was over Laing would need it back. Mr Goddard (an RRA Committee member and committed Christian) and a small band of residents formed a vision for a larger purpose-built centre for the religious and social life of the people of Riddlesdown and set about bringing it to fruition.

Post-war austerity made raising funds hard but Green Belt legislation meant that Laing's post war building activity was constrained and John Laing generously allowed the community to use the Estate Office until it was demolished on completion of the new Hall-Church in 1955.

A quick look at the Estate Office "rota" for 1951 illustrates how busy the local calendar was. Riddlesdown Church organisations were prolific (\*) and groups were led from people from right across the community:

By June 1954 William Goddard, the Clubs and Societies of Riddlesdown and RRA, had raised £2000 towards the cost of the new building. A grant of £9000 was obtained from the

Monday	Natural Science Circle for children aged 9- 14 years (run by Mr Hammond of 37 Mitchley Avenue) Dramatic Society (Produced 2 plays per year - Hon Sec Mr John Rogers of 82 Ingelboro Drive)	Last Monday in each month  Every Monday
Tuesday	Child Welfare Centre and Welfare Food Distribution  Brownies* (Miss K Lucas, 47 Farm Fields)	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3rd Tuesday of each month
Wednesday	Gramophone Club (Hon Sec Mr Fisher of 52 Derwent Drive)  Church Working Party* (Mrs Jones 16 Mitchley Avenue, Mrs Spurgin 26 Coombe Wood Hill) China Inland Mission. Japan Inland Mission* (Mrs Rawthorne)	Alternate Wednesday evenings 2.30 p.m.  6.30 p.m.
Thursday	Girl Guides* (Miss M Davis 63 Beechwood Road)	6.30 p.m.
Friday	Pilgrim Guild* (Mr Goddard 4 Lower Barn Road)	7.00 p.m.
	Riddlesdown Church Building Fund Meeting* (Honorary Secretary Mr Goddard, Treasurer Mr Harrison 28 Coombe Wood Hill)	
Saturday	Parties, concerts, plays etc.	
Sunday	Junior Pilgrims* – (Mrs Bassell, 37 Mitchley Hill, Mr Cook "Four Winds" Westfield Avenue) Senior Pilgrims* (Mr Goddard 4 Lower Barn Road, Mr Rawthorne and Mr Chambers of 80 and 34 Ingelboro Drive respectively)	11 a.m.  3 p.m.
	Riddlesdown Church Service*	6.30 p.m.

Diocese of Southwark and a General Appeal issued to the community to raise the remaining £5000.

To achieve this target there were concerts, Red Cross demonstrations, carol singing around the estate and the sale of work. A "Mile of Pennies" was collected (this would reach from The Estate Office to All Saints Sanderstead), special stamps were printed in denominations of 6d, 1s, and 2s 6d and sold to residents raising £12 per week and there was a travelling grocery basket (people would buy an item and contribute a replacement).

Donors bought bricks for a shilling a time, autographed them in crayon and placed them



in a pile to be used in the interior construction – mostly behind the altar. Church fairs were held at the Estate Office to raise money.

St Edmund's King and Martyr was dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Southwark Dr Bertram Simpson on 6th June 1955. The church was packed. People were standing in the aisles, in



Coronation style house built in 1936).

The community still gathers together to meet, play and pray in the building that the



people of Riddlesdown built. The church and community work together at the Autumn Fair to the benefit of local and international causes and St Edmunds Caring Group and St Edmunds Lunch Club continue to support people in Riddlesdown of all and no faith.

Our 60th anniversary celebrations will include a Christmas Carol Service on 21st December to which all are welcome and will culminate in a Community Service in July 2015. Just like the laying of the foundation stone in 1954 we hope that the church and community will stand together to celebrate 60 years of the Hall-Church built by the people of Riddlesdown for the people of Riddlesdown.

the halls or doorways and the congregation spilled outside. Commentators at the time wrote: "To look down the hall on to a sea of friendly faces was an exciting experience. Though this was a parochial occasion, and many Sanderstead folks were there, the congregation was overwhelmingly Riddlesdonian in content."

"It is functional, yet aesthetically it is very pleasing. When the screen is opened and the whole building becomes a church, it is quite clearly and most satisfyingly just that, a place where God is worshipped. It has the right "feel about it". But when the screen is closed, and one looks stage-wards (and what a stage it is!) it is equally certainly a hall for social occasions, and moreover not without its own quiet distinction, for again the lines are right".

Sixty years later, the building is still in use by the community and by church goers. Some are new to the neighbourhood and some part of the great story of the building of St Edmund's. There is still a Goddard (Mavis Wilder) involved in the RRA and St Edmund's Church. Like me, some are second generation St Edmund's congregation members and RRA Members. Many live on Laing's Estate (and in my case in the first Laing

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## Autumn Arrivals in Riddlesdown

By John Birkett, RSPB Croydon Local Group

As autumn moves on, so our winter visitors start arriving here. The few hours after dawn from mid-October onwards can be productive for birdwatchers as birds migrating from colder northern climes pass overhead looking for suitable winter quarters. The first flocks of Redwings and Fieldfares might be seen flying over the downs. Other birds taking part in this visible migration could include Skylarks, Pied Wagtails, Meadow Pipits and Chaffinches. In some conditions these flocks may be grounded as the birds take the opportunity to feed up before moving on. And it is a fair bet that at least one Ring Ouzel (the 'mountain blackbird' with its white gorget) will appear somewhere; so why not Riddlesdown or even a local golf course or park? Those places will also be good for searching for Wheatears and possibly Stonechats as they break their southward journeys. If you see any interesting birds please let us know. October and November are also good months to see large flocks of Woodpigeons flying over. Occasionally hundreds or even thousands can pass through soon after daylight breaks.

Keep your bird feeders stocked and, especially in freezing weather, ensure that the birds have clean water to drink and bathe in. The RSPB Croydon Local Group can help to keep you supplied with bird food. Why not visit us either at one of our monthly meetings or at our annual fair? The fair will be held at All Saints Church Hall on Saturday November 1st between 10am and 1pm; someone there will be more than willing to answer any

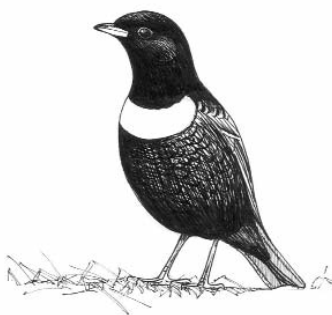
questions you may have about birds if we can.

We are always keen to recruit more volunteers to take part in our bird survey (gardens or open spaces). You do not have to be an expert birdwatcher or have exotic species turn up in your garden. In fact we are looking for 'ordinary' gardens so that that we don't bias our findings, but once you start looking carefully you may be surprised at just what does turn up.

More information about the Group's activities can be found on our website <http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/croydon/> and records of recent bird sightings are on the Croydon Birders website [http://croydon-birders.wikia.com/wiki/Latest\\_News](http://croydon-birders.wikia.com/wiki/Latest_News)



Wheatear by John Flynn



Ring Ouzel by Alan Pearson





Year 13 students celebrate fantastic A Level results.

## Riddlesdown Collegiate Report

Gordon Smith Principal of Riddlesdown Collegiate

The term started with staff and students in a buoyant mood following a summer of record-breaking examination results. A Level results were on a par with last year's best ever performance, including a massive increase in the proportion of A\*-B grades. Top performers included Seth James (A\* in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics) who has now gone to study Chemistry at Southampton, and Sophie Dubber (A\* in

Maths and Physics, A in Latin) who has now gone on to study Astrophysics at St Andrews.

If A Level results were great, those at GCSE were even better. Year 11 achieved a 7% increase on the previous year with almost three quarters achieving five or more A\*-C including English and Maths. Over a fifth of students achieved 10 or more A\*/A grades in our best ever performance at GCSE. This has led to a significant increase in student numbers in College VI, our post-16 provision, with the strongest quality cohort we have ever had.

Students and staff were excited at the start of term to gain access to The @RC (pronounced arc, and standing for The Arts @ Riddlesdown Collegiate), our new building housing most of the Creative and Performing Arts College. This £4million facility contains 3 Music suites and 7 music practice rooms, 3 Art suites, a Media suite, 2 Drama studios, a Dance studio, Art gallery / conference space and a 200 seat theatre. We intend that it will help to deliver excellence in the arts for the Collegiate and our community.

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## Who Are We? John Rapp

### *Where are you from originally?*

I spent my childhood and early adult years in Streatham living over a butcher's shop where my father was the owner. From there I purchased a house in Thornton Heath where Margaret joined me after our marriage. After a couple of years we moved to our present home in Riddlesdown.

### *How long have you lived in Riddlesdown?*

We moved here thirty years ago. Wanting to move but not that far away, after looking at several properties we eventually looked at our present home. We both liked the look of the place and when the previous owners told us to look at the downs we were "sold."

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

Wanting to keep our area "in the manner it has become accustomed" I got involved with the RRA not long after we moved here. After a short while I took on sharing transport issues, eventually becoming Transport Secretary followed by Membership Secretary.

### *What is your favourite part of Riddlesdown?*

Apart from being on the downs and seeing the view, I enjoy the walk up from the station, seeing my home getting nearer and often meeting friends and neighbours and having a chat.

### *Describe life in Riddlesdown in six words.*

Happy. Restful (sometimes). Friendly. Convenient. Green. Scenic.

### *Is being on the committee a lot of work for you?*

At certain times of the year dealing with both transport and membership issues can be both enjoyable and time consuming.

### *Would you recommend more people get involved?*

I have always believed that "many hands make light work." I feel that new committee members could benefit from their new interest as much as present members.

### *What would you change in Riddlesdown, if anything?*

One joy is being told by new residents that they decided to come to Riddlesdown. I have used the word residents as it covers both property owners and tenants. I would like to hope that as the area receives new residents they recognise that, whether renting or owning their homes, they can pull together with their neighbours to build for the future.

### *What else do you do?*

Margaret, who helped me with these answers, wants me to develop interests outside work. It is surprising how many residents support Crystal Palace FC.

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## Commuter Line Disruption Explained

John Rapp

Sometimes when we get to work or get home, we have trouble explaining why we are later than expected. One local resident who commutes from London Bridge to Riddlesdown, was puzzled by the fact that his train was delayed by disruption at Clapham Junction. His confusion stemmed from the fact that trains bound for London Bridge do not pass through Clapham, but divert onto another line just north of East Croydon. As other residents may be equally bewildered, earlier this year we asked Southern to provide an explanation. Liam Ludlow, Southern and Gatwick Express Customer Service manager has provided the support we need. The words received are:-

*"I can appreciate how on the face of it, it may seem illogical that an infrastructure problem at Clapham Junction can cause disruption to services on the London Bridge route given, as you say, that the line diverges north of East Croydon.*

*As I'm sure you are aware, the Southern network is operationally extremely complex with metro and mainline services interacting at a number of junctions on the mainline. In addition to this, we share a very small network with several other operators, FCC and London Overground being the main two. In order to deploy our fleet to maximum benefit our stock is not diagrammed to just one line of route. During the course of a day, stock may operate a mixture of metro and mainline services as well as going between both London Victoria and London Bridge. I have attached two example*

*diagrams for you which clearly demonstrates this. Because of this, delays from one part of the network can easily be transferred to other parts of the network.*

*In addition to this, because we operate a mixture of services which have Conductors and those which are Driver Only Operated, our crewing arrangements mean that crews mostly do not stay together throughout the day. This complexity overlays the stock workings which during disruption can lead to the displacement of crew. Because such a high proportion of our services run through the Clapham area, it is inevitable that knock on delays will occur elsewhere on the very congested network on which we operate.*

*To cover your final point, we are operating the maximum number of trains to/from London Bridge and as such we are simply not able to run additional services there when disruption occurs on the Victoria route. Not only are there no spare pathways between East Croydon and London Bridge but the loss of three platforms at London Bridge as a result of the Thameslink programme means we are running to maximum capacity and makes the service much harder to recover where disruption does occur."*

As the Thameslink programme is mentioned, we would remind residents that completion is due in 2018, but other than Thameslink trains being diverted away from London Bridge Station until then the impact on Southern trains to London Bridge is expected to end in early 2015.

# 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 [REDACTED] to discuss.

## Featured Group:

### Purley Literary Society -- 'SEE YOU AT THE LIT FOR THE NEXT TALK' --Harvey Smith

One of life's most enjoyable experiences is listening to someone who knows what they are talking about: when you can learn, look, laugh – and question. All the better when you're among a friendly group of people, and it's local, and costs very little...and isn't on television.

It might be a TV presenter. Recently we heard Nicholas Owen reminiscing on his experiences during 50 years in the media, or recalling how he was knocked out of Strictly Come Dancing, even though partnered by the Latin American champion. He added, however, that you were paid the same if you were knocked out as if you reached the final. On presenting, he reflected: "You stumble along, trying to keep cock-ups to the minimum. If things go wrong – tell 'em!"

Or you could try some history. Say the haunting story of the seventeenth-century Huguenots, as told by Jane le Cluse, who is descended from Huguenots herself. They were some 200,000 Calvinist Protestants, driven out of Catholic France after the Edict of Nantes in 1685, who fled to Protestant countries, with some 50,000 arriving in England. It's a story that touches on today, with what has happened to Christians in Mosul. Huguenot men were executed or sent as galley slaves; women were imprisoned,

their daughters sent to convents.

You can always try travel – for instance, the young Appleby family's account of their adventures on a 17-day trek through Nepal. Travel is a popular subject at the Purley Literary Society (the 'Lit') where these three talks were among the eleven in last season's programme. It also included music, in the shape of the Klezmer Quartet playing the toe-tapping music of Eastern European Jews; and dance, in the very flexible shape of young Lindsey Funes Obleas who demonstrated exotic Bohemian Carnival dances, both on video and live, for Christmas.

The talks in the second half of last season were from January to March this year and demonstrate further the endless variety of entertainment. You could have visited the Jerusalem Botanical Garden with Hever Castle's head gardener, taken part in the Bloomsbury Group's WWI years at Charleston Farmhouse, found out about the Bizarre World of the Kims in North Korea, enjoyed the history of buttons, and heard about the life-saving exploits of the local KSS Air Ambulance Service.

At the Charleston talk, Dr Mark Banting explained the "very intertwined lives" of those who set up life there together in 1917. Initially Vanessa Bell (Virginia Woolf's sister) when she was still married to Clive Bell (who visited); her old flame, art critic Roger Fry; the gay painter Duncan Grant with whom Vanessa was living - and his lover, David (Bunny) Garnett. "This was no normal house moving,"

said Dr Banting, "They did untold Bohemian things."

A fortnight later Nicholas Bennett, ex-MP, ex-minister, explained the sterner life in the hermit state of North Korea, closed off from the rest of the world and without internet access. He said that the children sing patriotic songs not nursery rhymes, that the army is used as a general workforce, and that the people are regarded as the purest on earth. You don't see disabled or old people, and the locals, if they knew about it, "would be astonished at life in South Korea."

During Neil Miller's talk on the University Botanical Gardens in Jerusalem you would have heard about another form of isolation. On the long dividing wall built by the Israelis, children had scribbled "Please can I have my ball back." He's been fourteen times now, every year spending a month helping to train the gardening team of three gardeners, six volunteers and Ethiopian labourers. "Plants include acacias, aloes, anemones, black irises, myrrh and Judas trees, and the only red buttercups on the planet. Most flowering is in March, when roses bloom alongside daffodils."

What do you know about buttons? Martin Frith, who runs the Button Queen shop in Marylebone Road, said that they are recorded 3,000 years ago but no one knows about the first one. They've been made in everything from gold, silver, glass, porcelain, metal and wood to printed circuits and plaited human hair. Buttons used to be how rich people showed off their wealth – in the sixteenth century the Pope issued an edict restricting the number of buttons on a garment to 400. In the twentieth century men had likenesses of the Gaiety Girls on their waistcoat buttons, and there was a 'Road to Ruin' series featuring snooker, wine and women dancing.

Last season's talks ended with John Gleinister, a KSS volunteer, showing the work of the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Service. KSS helicopters bring accident and emergency services to you in a crisis. It could be a toddler choking on a swallowed toy, a woman trampled by horses, a car accident or, especially with the over-50s, cardiac arrest, stroke, allergy or respiratory problems. The helicopter lands where it likes, without permission – as it did one day on the Purley Bury croquet lawn (though it could have landed on one of their tennis courts).

The Lit had its Centenary season in 2012-13 (allowing for its suspension during both world wars). It started out as a Mutual Improvement Society in 1901, meeting in the Old Village Hall (the 'Tin Tabernacle') on Purley High Street, before being adopted by the Congregational Church in 1901.

In the old days the talks were just as varied: Whale Hunting in the Shetlands (1905), Psychic Phenomena and Spiritualism (1919), The Wonderful World of Spiders (1932), Problems of Interplanetary Travel (1969), With Elephants Underground (1985).

Have a look through the new talks programme! Visitors are most welcome (£5 each talk at the door) but you can become a member and go to all eleven talks for just £22. Contact Margaret Hall, Membership Secretary on 0208 668 1764. Talks are on alternate Tuesday evenings from October to March, at 8pm (to about 9.30pm) in the United Reformed Church Hall, Brighton Road, by Purley Hospital. Very handy for all who live in Riddlesdown. Join us and we can all mutually improve together! Web site: [www.purley-literary-society.com](http://www.purley-literary-society.com)

# St Edmund's Church

***Riddlesdown's Anglican Church at the Heart of the Community***

*Part of the Parish of Sanderstead*

Services on Sunday mornings at 8am and 10am

*All welcome - just come along*

*Contact Revd Susan Atkinson-Jones (tel: 8657 5505)*

## **Church hall for hire**

Very reasonable rates

Good for children's parties

*Contact Parish Office (tel: 8657 0665)*

[parish.office@sanderstead-parish.org.uk](mailto:parish.office@sanderstead-parish.org.uk)

**Mitchley Avenue** (junction with Lower Barn Road)

[www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk](http://www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk)



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Sunday - 6 am to 7 pm



## A-Z Organisations

*& how to obtain more information regarding their diary listings*

**City Commons** Events Information  
City of London website:

[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/city-commons/Pages/City-Commons.aspx](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:cnhssprogramme@btinternet.com)

## **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](mailto:fofd2@btinternet.com) or telephone: 01737  
554449

## **Riddlesdown Collegiate**

In particular hold a Summer Festival in  
Collegiate grounds on Saturday 6th July

For more information see website:

[www.riddlesdown.org](http://www.riddlesdown.org) or tel: 020 8668  
5136

## **RSPB Croydon Local Group**

Monthly Illustrated Wildlife Talks in South  
Croydon at the Old Whitgiftian Association

Clubhouse, Croham Manor Road - off  
Croham Road. South Croydon, CR2 7BG

On the second Monday of each month at  
2pm and again at 8pm - Admission £3.50

Everyone is welcome, not just RSPB  
members. Free refreshments.

For more information contact John Davis  
020-8640 4578 or see [www.croydon-](http://www.croydon-rspb.org.uk)

## **SHS - 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

## 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](http://www.whyteleafetavern.com)

## Further Community Information

***A-Z of more things to do locally, things 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/](http://www.bournesociety.org.uk/bournesoc/) or Telephone - 01883 349287

### Botley Hill Farmhouse

Live Entertainment

Limpsfield Road, Warlingham, Surrey CR6 9QH

Tickets usually required.

Tel: 01959 577154 & [www.botleyhill-farmhouse.co.uk](http://www.botleyhill-farmhouse.co.uk) <http://www.botleyhill-farmhouse.co.uk>

### Cantilena Singers

Cantilena Singers is a friendly, local, ladies choir.

The choir has had another successful year which has included several performances including our annual fund-raising concert in July when friends and supporters gathered to hear the choir perform a programme of songs and light music. This year the choir chose to support Combat Stress and the

Stroke Association, Croydon branch.

Cantilena Singers welcomes the opportunity to perform their repertoire which combines a mix of traditional and more contemporary pieces.

In our weekly rehearsals we have fun and improve our technique with clear guidance from our musical director, ably assisted by our piano accompanist. We are helped with relaxation and vocal exercises and are coaxed gently through passages with tricky tuning or timing.

The new term starts on 17 September 2014 when we will begin to prepare for our Christmas concerts. For more information please ring Jill on 07957 627783

### 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](http://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](mailto:ccc@croydoncameraclub.org.uk)

Or website:

[www.croydoncameraclub.org.uk](http://www.croydoncameraclub.org.uk)

### Croydon Decorative and Fine Arts Society

We meet in All Saints' Church Sanderstead on the second Thursday of each month. Coffee is served from 10.00 am and the lectures start at 10.45 am. There are wide-

ranging lectures and special interest days when a subject is studied in more depth. There are also outings and once a year a 4-5 day visit to a place of interest.

More details are available from the membership secretary 020 8680 3049 or from [www.nadfas.org/croydon](http://www.nadfas.org/croydon).

### **Fairfield Halls**

Theatre, Concerts & Cinema, etc.  
Park Lane, Croydon CR9 1DG,  
<http://www.fairfield.co.uk/>

### **Purley Bury Tennis Club**

For information contact Tel: 020 8668 5250  
Email: [mail@purleyburytennisclub.net](mailto:mail@purleyburytennisclub.net)  
Website: [www.purleyburytennisclub.net](http://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](http://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](mailto: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@riddlesdownltdc.com](mailto:enquiries@riddlesdownltdc.com)  
Website: [www.riddlesdownltdc.com](http://www.riddlesdownltdc.com)

### **Riddlesdown ParkRun**

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

### **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](http://www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk/st-edmunds)

### **Surrey Wildlife Trust**

More Information Tel: 01483 795440  
Website: [www.surreywildlifetrust.org](http://www.surreywildlifetrust.org)

### **Surrey Ramblers**

Website [www.surreyramblers.org.uk](http://www.surreyramblers.org.uk)  
Croydon Ramblers - tel: Rosemary 020 8660 6107, Email  
[ramblersrose@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ramblersrose@yahoo.co.uk)

### **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](http://www.jollyfarmers-purley.co.uk)

### **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](mailto: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](http://www.whyteleafetavern.com)

7.2 Community Listings – (Listings to be added to existing)

### **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.

### **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 JAN. 12 2015: "Speyside Wildlife". Mark Denham will show us some of the delights of this special region of the Scottish Highlands.

MONDAY FEB. 9 2015: "The Goshawk". RSPB's Conor Jameson, author of "Looking for the Goshawk", will give us an in-depth look at his favourite bird.

MONDAY MAR. 9 2015: "RSPB Rainham Marshes". Nicole Khan, Reserve Warden, will take us behind the scenes of this modern environmental reclamation success, and inspire us to get along there more often!


MONDAY APR. 13 2015: "Camouflage & Mimicry". Dr Tim Sellar, a very popular visiting speaker in the past, returns with a fascinating talk.

For more information contact John Davis on 020-8640 4578

or see [www.rspb.org.uk/groups/croydon](http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/croydon)

Note: on request we give illustrated bird talks to local organisations.

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Website: [www.richardottaway.com](http://www.richardottaway.com) Email; [ottawayr@parliament.uk](mailto:ottawayr@parliament.uk)

**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](mailto:lynne.hale@croydon.gov.uk)

**Tim Pollard**

Tel: 8251 8500

Email: [councillor@timpollard.co.uk](mailto:councillor@timpollard.co.uk)

**Yvette Hopley**

Tel: 8657 0973

Email: [yvette.hopley@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:yvette.hopley@croydon.gov.uk)

### **PURLEY WARD**

**Donald Speakman**

Tel: 8405 6752

Email: [donald.speakman@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:donald.speakman@croydon.gov.uk)

**Badsha Quadir**

Tel: 8668 3672

Email: [badsha.quadir@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:badsha.quadir@croydon.gov.uk)

**Simon Brew**

Tel: To be advised

Email: [simon.brew@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:simon.brew@croydon.gov.uk)

### **RIDDLESLOW/LONDON TRAIN TIMES (SOUTHERN RAILWAY)**

**WEF 18 May 2014 until 13 December 2014** (Information is taken from Southern timetable).

**To East Croydon (EC), & London Victoria, (London Bridge (LB)):** Weekdays: 06.15(LB), 06.43(LB), 07.06, 07.18(LB), 07.35, 07.48(LB), 08.06, 08.18(LB), 08.37, 08.46(LB), 09.06, then 36 and 06 mins past hour until 23.06 (Plus LB train at 18.46, EC only trains 19.16 & 19.46).

**Saturdays (To Victoria only):** 07.06, 07.36 and then 06 and 36 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: 05.52, 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 23.24 & 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:** 07.03, 07.19, 07.55, 07.58, 08.25, 17.15, 17.44, 18.16 & 18.47.

**Saturdays & Sundays:** No direct Services.

**From East Croydon to Riddlesdown: Weekdays:** 06.10, 06.41, 07.17 (to Hurst Green), 07.34, 07.52, 08.09, 08.16 (to Hurst Green), 08.41, 09.11, 09.40, 10.10 then 40 and 10 mins past hour until 17.30, 17.41, 17.58, 18.11, 18.31, 18.41, 19.01, 19.11, 19.40, 20.10, 20.40, 21.11, 21.40, 22.10, 22.40, 23.10, 23.41, 00.05.

Saturdays: 06.40, 07.10 then 40 & 10 mins past hour until 23.41 & 00.04.

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](http://www.southernrailway.com)

National Rail Enquiries: 08457 484950 or [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://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; 20mins, 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](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)

Links also available via the Transport section on the RRA website: [www.riddlesdownresidents.org.uk](http://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](http://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. The AGM is on [REDACTED] in St Edmunds Church Hall.



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### Riddlesdown Tennis

Lower Barn Road, Riddlesdown, CR8 1HQ

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, VISIT  
[riddlesdownltc.com](http://riddlesdownltc.com)

OR EMAIL US AT  
[enquiries@riddlesdownltc.com](mailto:enquiries@riddlesdownltc.com)

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## Riddlesdown Tennis

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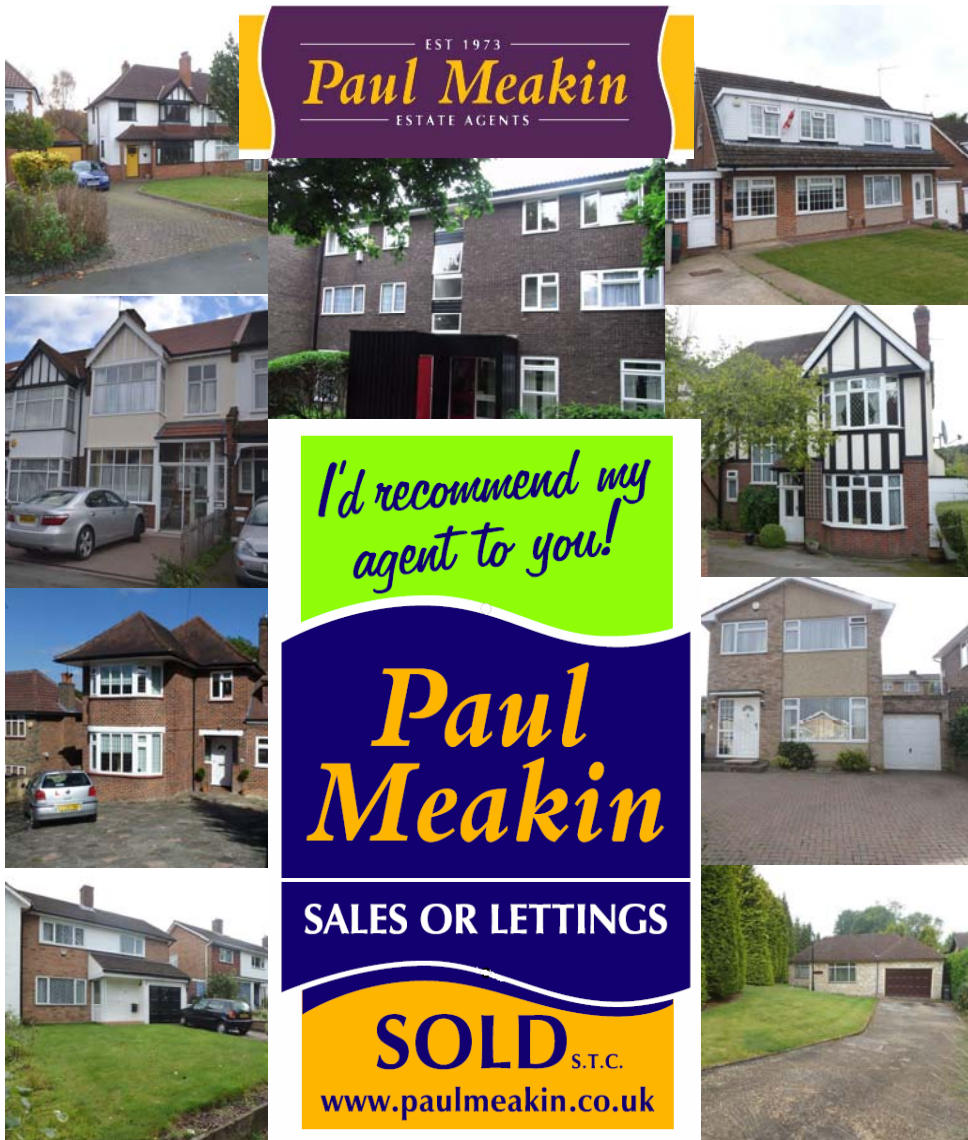
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