

# THE RIDDLESLOW RECORDER

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a winter scene. It shows a snow-covered ground, bare trees with snow-laden branches, and a wooden fence in the distance. The sky is overcast and grey.

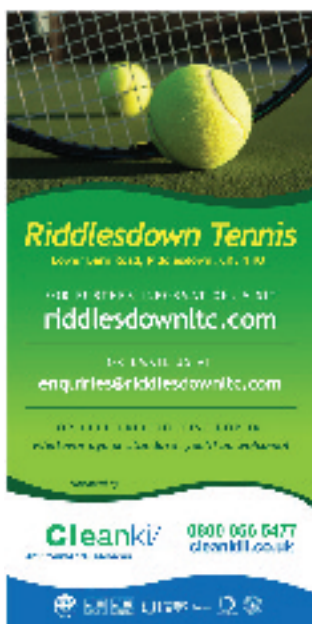
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7.00pm  
5 April 2017,  
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## INSIDE

George Beresford  
Future of Riddlesdown  
Christmas Party Report  
And More....

ISSUE 203

SPRING 2017



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Front Cover Photo:

Winter Trees – 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:

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

## IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Sanderstead Police SNT: **020 8721 2470**

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# THE RIDDLEDOWN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Vice-President: Mrs H.Kiernan



**Brian Longman**  
*Chairman and Riddlesdown  
Collegiate Liaison*



**Phil Thomas**  
*Planning & Environmental;  
Website Editor*



**Linda Bevin**  
*Secretary & Treasurer*



**John Rapp**  
*Membership, Road Stewards and  
Public Transport Concerns*



**Neil Tarrant**  
*Recorder Editor*



**Janice Kedwards**



**Frankie Wheeler**  
*Footpaths Liaison*



**Diana Chitty**  
*Footpaths Liaison*



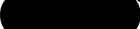
**Nick Tennant**



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**Mavis Wilder**



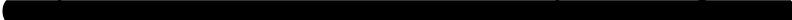
**Keith Powell**



**Jan Powell**



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



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

As I write 2016 is a fading memory. There are a number of articles in this issue of the Recorder that will hopefully remind us of some of the happy events that we have shared in Riddlesdown. Gill Pates shares her experience of hosting ADVENTure's first trip to Riddlesdown, and an account of the Children's Christmas Party, and stories of the ongoing successes of the students at Riddlesdown Collegiate. However there is also a moment for reflection, and to consider members of our community whose lives have been transformed by tragic events as we remember George Beresford, who was sadly killed in Riddlesdown at the beginning of last year. His family recall his life, and share some of the events that they have arranged to commemorate him.

The New Year is also a time to focus on the future. In the reports of the officers of the committee and those of our elected representatives you will find much information about changes, both implemented and proposed that will affect our area. There is also an article by Nick Tennant that poses the question: What will Riddlesdown look like in 2036? Nick explains the RRA's proposals to try to shape the future of our community. You can join in this conversation by either contacting the association, or attending the forthcoming AGM on 7.00 Wednesday 5th April at St Edmund's Church Hall.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this issue of the Recorder, and to Roger Cherrill for setting all the text.

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# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

## BY BRIAN LONGMAN

### 1937 to 2017

In 1937, George VI was crowned King; Britain introduced the 999 emergency telephone number; Crystal Palace motor racing track held the first London Grand Prix and Crystal Palace football team were still struggling in the Third Division South. However, one other special event also took place on the 6th January 1937, the Riddlesdown Residents' Association was established. After just one week 100 members had enrolled and by the end of the year, the Association had 424 new members. 1937 was a busy year for the new Residents' Association; they were campaigning hard for a new school in Sanderstead and challenging the lateness of postal deliveries. The Post Office promised that they would try to ensure first delivery by 8.30am and the last collection from the box in Mitchley Avenue would be at 10.30 pm. It is a bit different now. The Association was also negotiating with the railway company to improve both the train service and the station facilities, including a new footpath to Lower Barn Road, which is still in use.

Today in 2017, the Association celebrates its 80th Anniversary. Established in 1937 to promote the wellbeing of the community, the Association has faced many challenges over the years. Protecting our local Green Belt from development, helping to ensure the success of our local shops, working closely with Croydon Council to ensure local services, roads, pavements, verges, lighting, and drains are all maintained to a good standard. Local health services have also been high on the agenda and in recent years the

future of Purley Hospital Minor Injury Unit has been a particular concern. The Association has also actively engaged with Transport for London (TfL), local train and bus operators and our local mobile telecom network operators, to ensure they fully understand the needs of the local community and provide a service that is fit for purpose.

While the Association cannot report success in all areas, I do believe that it can be proud of its achievements over the last eighty years in helping to make Riddlesdown a better place to live.

Having said that, the RRA will face many new challenges in the years to come. The Croydon Plan shortly to be introduced has some controversial issues. The re-designation of some areas of Metropolitan Green Belt (MGB) land to Metropolitan Open Land (MOL). Also the proposed development of a Travellers' site at the Purley Oaks Highways Depot, at the bottom of Riddlesdown Road. The remodelling of Purley district centre, including the building of a 17-floor development and the disruption to traffic flows during construction.

On a more local level, we have the increasing problem faced by many local residents when just trying to park close to their own homes, especially in the roads around Riddlesdown Station. Many of you will also be aware in September, Riddlesdown Collegiate informed parents, via their newsletter, that they were considering a new, 2-form entry primary school, which could be located on, or very close to the Riddlesdown Collegiate site. Croydon Council needs 60 additional places



in the local area for reception class and beyond, beginning in September 2018. The Association met with the CEO of the Collegiate Trust to discuss the obvious issues with the plan, including the access arrangements to any new site. The CEO wanted to reassure us that nothing was definite and the proposal would only go ahead if they could address the concerns of the local community. We understand that Croydon Council is currently considering all its options to address any future short fall in school places.

We are also still awaiting a decision from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) about the proposed new flight path into Biggin Hill airport from the south. We submitted our concerns over the number of new flights and the increase in aircraft noise over Sanderstead and Purley in January 2016. Protection of our local Green Belt will once again occupy the Association in 2017. As I said in my last report, rarely does a month go by without some sort of challenge to the Green Belt in Riddlesdown. Trees are cut down, small parcels of woodland and fields are put up for sale at public auctions and planning applications are submitted.

As you may or may not know, the Council, following a consultation from 18th January to 15th February 2017, will be looking to introduce new 20 mph zones for residential streets in the south of the borough, including Riddlesdown. This has already been agreed in the north of the borough and is currently being rolled out.

As you can see, the RRA is going to be busy in 2017 with a range of local issues. You can find

more information on the work of the RRA in the Planning and Environmental sections of this magazine.

For the Association to be able to represent your views, we need to understand your concerns and how you would like to see Riddlesdown develop as a local community. We need to understand your views on local issues such as Green Belt, housing, schools, public transport, local shops community activities, and local health services. To this end the committee is considering developing a future vision for Riddlesdown document. See more information on this subject in this issue of the Recorder. This will also be an item for discussion at the RRA AGM on Wednesday 5th April 7pm at St Edmund's Church hall; I hope to see you there!

## **Local Police**

The Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) police panel meets four times a year in open meetings, to represent the views of local residents on local policing issues. Currently Riddlesdown is covered by two Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Sanderstead and Purley. The dates and the locations of the meetings are published on the RRA website. At each SNT meeting the panel agrees up to three promises.

Promises address local community issues to which local police are capable of providing a response without the need for long-term activity. Sanderstead and Purley Ward promises were reviewed and agreed at the panel meetings in November 2016.

Both Sanderstead and Purley agreed three similar promises: to reduce burglaries across the two Wards; to reduce motor vehicle

crime - including theft, criminal damage and anti-social driving; to reduce anti-social behaviour, particularly near the shops, schools and in the town centre.

Whilst Sanderstead has some of the lowest crime statistics in the borough, residents still need to be vigilant and alert when it comes to keeping their vehicles safe from motor vehicle crime. In November there were several thefts from motor vehicles. Although it has not been confirmed, the thieves may have been using jamming equipment to stop the cars from locking. The police advice is to keep close watch on your cars and possessions so as not to offer any incentives to criminals, including manually checking that the vehicle is locked and taking any valuables with you when leaving the vehicle unattended.

In a previous report I mentioned that the Association, in partnership with Croydon Health Service, would be introducing a Staying Healthy page on our website. Unfortunately this has not yet been possible. However we are still committed to the idea and will hopefully introduce the page to our website in 2017.

## Committee

I have been delighted to welcome a number of younger members to the committee over the last few years. Nevertheless, with many on the committee now over 70, we still need more people to step forward especially those with energy and enthusiasm. We have also been pleased to welcome many new road stewards, who play a vital role in sustaining our work. We do still require volunteers, especially for Hyde Road. For potential volunteers, we can split the road into small manageable groups of houses. If you are interested or would like to know more, please give me a ring.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to Fred Wallis who served on the committee for many years. Fred, as many of you will know was the driving force behind the campaign to keep Purley swimming pool open. I am sure, without Fred's commitment, the pool would have closed many years ago. Well done Fred and we hope you are enjoying your well earned retirement.

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# PLANNING MATTERS

## BY PHIL THOMAS

### **Website; Planning Notifications and Decisions and Facebook**

We update every week (usually on a Saturday) our website, for all applications (and decisions) locally and these applications are usually publicised well before the site notices are erected by the Planning Department. We are quite often told by residents; "I didn't know an application had been submitted near me." So why not check out the website page?!

We are also aware recently, that some Council site notices have only been up for a short time and then have disappeared! If you know this is the case for a current application, then please contact me and I will look into this further and take it up with the Planning Department. The Council have a statutory responsibility to publicise applications either by site notices, or writing to nearby residents. Unfortunately they stopped doing the latter about 5 years ago! We have also noticed that many street notices are not removed at the end of the consultation period (the date is on the notice). If you are the applicant and you have applied for planning permission then please remove the sign at the end of the consultation period. Some notices are left up for months afterwards which are untidy and they really do look disgusting when they fill with rainwater!

Do you also know we have a Facebook page? Why not give it a "like" and maybe post some comments on there and see what is happening locally! A lot of local discussions are happening on there. Recently, many have concerned the 17 storey tower now to be constructed in central Purley (see below).

### **Mitchley Hill Field**

I have reported on the last few occasions about the grazing land in Mitchley Hill, beside the Dunmail Drive access way, and the submission of a retrospective planning application by the owner, for the retention of the security gates and an agricultural hardstand/turning area. This application had been refused by Croydon Planners and the owner went to appeal in May. The Planning Inspector has subsequently dismissed the appeal in September. This means the owner will have to remove some of the hardstand and re-instate the grass area and reduce the height of the gate.

It is good to see the land is now being used for the grazing of horses. However, the RRA have received some messages from residents about the horses' welfare. Unfortunately the RRA cannot become involved in this, and if you are concerned, then please make your own representations to the relevant animal welfare organisations.

### **New Telecoms Mast in Mitchley Hill**

I reported last time about a new telecoms mast being sited on the grass verge in Mitchley Hill, near to junction with Mitchley Ave/Rectory Park. The new mast is to be used by O2 and Vodafone only. This new mast is required to replace the mast a short way up Dunmail Drive, where we believe there may have been some dispute between the land owner and the telecoms companies. The Council subsequently approved this new mast. However, I have recently noted that the antennae on the existing mast have now been painted green from a grey

colour; something the RRA has been asking to be done, for a couple of years, as part of the original planning condition. At the time of writing we are trying to establish from the Telecom companies, if the dispute about this existing mast has been resolved and if the new mast will be needed on the highway in Mitchley Hill. We will update you in due course.

## **75a Riddlesdown Rd**

As a further update, I reported last time about an outline planning application to demolish the dwelling on this site and to erect five flats, with five car parking spaces. This property is situated right on the junction to Riddlesdown Ave. There were 40 objections from local residents and also from the RRA about this proposal. However, the applicant withdrew the application in June.

## **48 Mitchley Ave**

This property, which has remained empty for about 30 years, was finally Compulsory Purchased by the Council in March 2015 and then sold at auction in early 2016. The new owner submitted a planning application in June, for a new two storey side extension; alterations to land levels and formation of parking area at the front. Despite receiving no objections, the Council refused the planning application at the end of July. In October, the applicant has appealed to the Planning Inspector.

## **44 & 46 Riddlesdown Ave**

In June, a planning application was submitted for a new 3 bedroom house in the back garden of No. 44 and then in July another application for another 3 bedroom house in the back garden of No 46. These two applications were a continuation of six previous houses that have already been built off the adopted access road in Riddlesdown Rd. There were many objections from local residents on both these applications.

The RRA did not object on either, but we did raise questions and concerns to the Council about both applications. This in particular related to the narrow access road, which is only wide enough for a car and not really a lorry, and mixing both pedestrians and vehicles on this narrow access road. We also raised concerns about the lack of road gullies (there is only one) and possible flooding lower down the access road (near to the back of 2a Riddlesdown Ave) and the lack of street lighting. However, despite all the objections from local residents and the RRA's comments, the Council's Planning Subcommittee approved both applications on 22 October. Work is now well under way by the same developer to both sites. As part of the planning condition, a parking space each, for the two host properties (44 & 46 Riddlesdown Ave) has to be provided in front of the new buildings for these occupiers to use. This is in addition to two spaces each, for both new properties. The RRA have raised with the Council how many further applications they will agree to, before they have to widen this adopted access road, including installing street lighting and improving the surface water drainage. It seems to us, that now is the time get payments from these developers, rather than wait for the Council taxpayer to foot the bill in a few years' time. We are still waiting for a reply!

## **32 Riddlesdown Avenue**

In September, two further planning applications were submitted for No 32. One application was for the erection of 3 bedroom house (also fronting Riddlesdown Road) with a curved green Sedum roof. The second application is for a fairly similar style house but with a conventional part pitched/part flat roof.

Again there have been a number of objections from local residents and the RRA have also

objected to both of these applications. Our objections are again relating to the narrow access road and no proper footway for pedestrians, lack of drainage in the access road and lack of street lighting. This application is well away from the other new developments. We also expressed reservations about the green Sedum roof and the appearance of the front cladding/windows. At the time of writing in early January, both applications are undecided.

## 98 Hyde Road

In October, an application was submitted for the demolition of the existing house (it is located on the corner of Copthorne Rise), and the erection of a new building, comprising of 7 x two bedroom apartments, the formation of vehicular access and provision of seven associated parking spaces, off Copthorne Rise. The owners had previously notified local residents that this application was to be submitted and their reasons why they had done this.

Again there have been a number of objections from local residents and the RRA have also objected, as well as Councillor Lynne Hale. The RRA's objections are related to a poor Planning, Design & Access Statement (which has to accompany an application), which was littered with errors and inaccuracies. We questioned the accuracy of the Public Transport Accessibility Level (PTAL) rating, which the applicant's agent said was at a rating of 5. The Transport for London (TfL) rating for Hyde Road is 2. PTAL ratings are set by TfL and is an assessment of accessibility to public transport links, with 6b being the highest and 0 the lowest. We also questioned if the density for this site is too much, and the detrimental impact it would have on surrounding residential dwellings. At the time of writing in early January, the application is undecided.

## Purley Town Centre – 17 Storey Tower Building

As many of you will be aware, the Purley Baptist Church finally submitted a planning application in June, for two separate buildings. One is to front Banstead Road, Russell Hill Rd and Brighton Rd (known as the island site, which included the 17 storey building). This site is in the Purley Ward. The other site is on the opposite side of Banstead Road and also fronting Brighton Rd. This is known as the south site and sits in the Coulsdon West Ward.

The application is for the demolition of existing buildings on the two sites. On the island site, the proposal is to erect a 3 to 17 storey building with basements, comprising of 114 flats (1, 2 & 3 bedroom), plus a community and multi-purpose church space, and a retail unit. There is to be 78 car parking spaces for this site (50 for the church/community users and 28 for the residential units, 11 of which will be set aside for Blue Badge holders).

On the south site, the application is for the erection of a 3 to 8 storey building comprising 106 residential units (again 1, 2 & 3 bedroom) with vehicular access and service bay off Banstead Road. There would only be 9 disabled car parking spaces, refuse and cycle storage. For both sites, there would be 388 cycle spaces for all the residential units! So in total, there are 220 flats and at full occupancy, it will be for 600 people.

As this is a major development affecting the town centre and is in our Purley Ward, the RRA along with six other local RAs submitted objections to Croydon Council. The RAs are not against a development on these two sites, including much needed residential accommodation, but we believe this particular scheme as presented will not be beneficial to

the Purley District Centre and the surrounding area.

The RAs' letter to the Council's Planners, raised questions, objections, concerns and comments. However, our main objection was the height of the 17 storey building and the effect on the surrounding town centre shops. The density of the proposed residential units is also in excess of the London Plan rating for Purley. We also expressed serious concerns about insufficient parking for both the residential flats and visitors to the 500 seat auditorium. The Council's preferred and an alternative option of the Croydon Plan (drafted in November 2015) supports landmark buildings of up to 16 storeys but the RAs believe it has limited weight, given it is a consultation document only. The new Croydon Plan has not yet been approved by the Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government and is unlikely to be until mid-2017, subject to a Public Inquiry to be held by a Planning Inspector in early 2017.

According to the Council's report, in total there were 551 public objections and 57 supporting. Chris Philp MP, Steve O'Connell and Purley Ward Councillors Donald Speakman objected as did Margaret Bird from the Coulsdon West Ward. Chris Philp also presented a petition signed by 4,117 people. The Purley & Woodcote Residents' Committee did support the application, although we know they did not consult their residents and we know some of their residents objected directly to the Council. The scheme was also supported by Purley BID (Business Improvement District).

The application was heard by the Council's Planning Committee on 15 December. Diane Hearne, the Chair of Hartley and District Residents' Association represented all seven objecting RAs. Diane addressed a packed

Council chamber and public gallery (an overflow room was used to relay CCTV pictures to those who could not get into the gallery). Diane expressed concerns to the Committee, about the density, scale, massing and the height of the 17 storey building, traffic issues and also lack of parking. It is believed the height will cause considerable overshadowing on some parts of the town centre during the day. Diane said it is accepted the proposal would make a contribution towards much needed housing in the Borough but the level of affordable housing at 18% (39 units), is low in relation to the whole scheme of 220 flats. She also told the meeting that London's Labour Deputy Mayor for Housing has said recently (Evening Standard) that tower blocks are not the answer for tackling the capital's housing crisis. Why therefore were Croydon Council pursuing this tall building policy for housing?

Central Purley suffers extensive flooding at times, immediately adjacent to this site and this causes major inconvenience to the traffic infrastructure, as well as severe damage to many properties. We asked what assurances there were from the Council, that flooding will not be made worse by this development. Purley Cross is a major interchange and there are indications this scheme will hinder traffic flows, particularly during construction. Traffic will also increase here when the new Westfield development in central Croydon is completed. This scheme will now stop any future major road improvements scheme at this busy junction by TfL. Lack of on-site car parking is also a major issue for local residents, with increased on street parking nearby, likely to occur.

However, after 3 hours of presentation and discussion, the Planning committee voted purely on party political lines (6 Labour for, and 4 Conservatives against) and the scheme was

passed. Whilst some people will applaud this decision, from the number of objections submitted, many will not. The RRA's Facebook page the day after was full of comments from many angry residents. As this development is so large it will mean at least 4 years (if not more) of traffic congestion for all motorists and bus users in Purley town centre when construction begins. As there will have to be lane closures on the busy A23 (Brighton Rd, Banstead Rd and Russell Hill Rd) for delivery vehicles. There will also have to be utility connections in these roads!

What all the RAs would now like to know, following this decision: will there be better road, rail, bus infrastructure, more local GPs, dentists, school places etc., to accommodate all these new residents? Of course there is another large 600 home development taking place at Cane Hill in Coulsdon which is also going to put a huge strain on local services. We're waiting for the Local Authorities and Health Authorities to answer that question! The London Mayor has also to give his approval which will probably be forthcoming soon, although Chris Philp MP has now asked him to intervene. Steve O'Connell GLA member is lobbying the London Mayor and TfL on all the traffic issues when construction starts.

The RRA have been asked by a number of residents if there is anything that can be done now. Unfortunately there is no right of appeal for a planning application by anyone else other than the applicant. The scheme could get "called in" by the Secretary of State but this is unlikely considering the overall small size of it. The only other option available is a judicial review if the Council have not acted lawfully. Any judicial review has to be started within 6 weeks of the decision date. However, this is an expensive option and to date no objectors have come

forward. We'll update any further developments on our website and Facebook page.

Some of you may also be aware, from press reports, that Tesco have publicly stated that they are looking at various sites around the country to build above their stores and car parks! If Tesco propose this for their Purley store, this could be the start of many other taller buildings in the town centre!

## The Croydon Plan

As many of you will be aware, the Council in September started the second phase in their Croydon Local Plan (CLP) process. The consultation for this closed on 17 October. The Plan is the proposals for large developments in the Borough for the next 20 years or so.

The first part of this consultation for the Local Plan was held just before Christmas 2015. The Council took on board some of the objections and in particular the three sites suggested then were for a Gypsy and Travellers site, at Coombe Farm; Conduit Lane (both near Coombe Lane/Oaks Rd) and Pear Tree Farm in Featherbed Lane. All these proposals were dropped because there was so much opposition locally. However, the recent, revised, Croydon Plan included a proposal to locate a Gypsy & Travellers' site on the current Purley Oaks Highways Depot, behind the Purley Oaks Household & Recycling Centre in Riddlesdown Rd. There has been no previous public consultation on this proposal, putting local residents and businesses at a clear disadvantage.

The RRA also object to the de-designation of Purley Downs Golf Club from Metropolitan Green Belt (MGB) to Metropolitan Open Land (MOL). The Council have not provided sufficient evidence to justify the proposed change. In particular, it is inconsistent with the proposed re-designation of, two adjoining

pieces of land off Lower Barn Road and at St. Edmund's Church Green, as new MGB. The Golf Club land is much more prominent, especially from the vistas on Riddlesdown Ave and Riddlesdown Rd, compared to the two parcels of land in Lower Barn Rd.

However, with only a few minor changes, it appears the Council ignored the views of thousands of residents, MPs and Local Councillors and in mid-December sent their Local Plan to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for approval. The Secretary of State will in turn appoint a Planning Inspector, and he/she will hold a Public Inquiry at some time in early 2017. His/her job is to assess whether the Plan has been prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements and whether it is sound. This has to be undertaken before the

Council can adopt this Local Plan.

The RRA along with many other local RAs have asked to speak at the Public Inquiry. We will update more on our website.

### **Street Cleaning**

At the time of writing in early January, many of the streets in Riddlesdown have been cleaned but there are still a few that are leaf and litter strewn. Some Public Footpaths also seem to be untidy and we have raised this a number of times now with the Council and they assure us Veolia will clean them soon!

All the streets on the south side of Mitchley Ave, close to the Collegiate (i.e. Honister Heights, Ingleboro Drive, Derwent Drive etc.) should be swept on every 4 weeks. However, all other streets to the north, including Mitchley Ave, which is heavily used by pedestrians, are now

# desresblinds



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# ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

BY PHIL THOMAS

swept only once every 6 weeks! We believe this is not frequent enough and we have written to the Council's Director of Streets a number of times this year, with our own suggestions to increase the frequency, especially to Lower Barn Rd and Mitchley Ave/Rectory Park. The bottom of Copthorne Rise seems to suffer from tradespeople sitting in their vans eating takeaways from the nearby shops and then just dumping the packaging onto the street! To date the response from the Council has not been very encouraging but we will keep pursuing them.

## Street Champions

As a result of the litter strewn state of some streets and the farm and woodland near to the Collegiate (including Dunmail Drive) in the summer, we made contact with Tracey Bellamy who is the Clean and Green Champion Co-ordinator at Croydon Council.

Tracey then made contact with the Collegiate and in early October, 28 pupils, and two teachers from Riddlesdown Collegiate, together with Neighbourhood Safety Officers, one local resident and Cllr Tim Pollard undertook a clean-up of litter, bottles, cans etc., to areas around the Collegiate. The Green Belt land around the Collegiate is a lovely green space in our area but was badly littered. There have been issues with litter in this area, and we have noticed this has increased in term time. Tracey approached the school and explained the types of complaints being received. Riddlesdown Collegiate were fully supportive and they started to plan some litter pick days to highlight the impact the litter is having on the

environment. The litter pick in October was the first and they collected 40 bags of litter. The day was received well by local residents who thanked pupils for their efforts. The pupils were surprised at how many drink bottles and sweet wrappers that they found. The school have offered support with further days involving pupils from varying year groups. Future litter picks will involve highlighting items that could be recycled. Well done to all.



Following on from this, on behalf of the RRA, I organised another litter pick in mid-November. About 40 people in total, adults, children and the 19th Purley Beaver scouts and two Sanderstead Ward Councillors (Lynne Hale and Yvette Hopley) turned up and we undertook a litter pick and rubbish collection from the farm and woodland in Mitchley Hill, Dunmail Drive, Rectory Park and Mitchley Ave and Footpath 24 in Mitchley Hill. About 40 bags of rubbish, a chair and discarded plastic was collected. And it finished just before the rain showers came in! A big thank you from the RRA, to all who took part and to Tracey for supplying all the materials and having the rubbish removed. As

this event was so successful, the RRA will hold another event in the spring 2017. Please keep an eye out on our Facebook page and website for further details.



### Collegiate Garden

The RRA have been approached by a member of staff at Riddlesdown Collegiate, who works in the Science Department. We quote the e-mail; "Our department currently has a garden which is being underutilised and we are reaching out to the local community to see if we could find a person who may be interested in helping run our Garden club one lunch hour per week. .... we would love to be able to offer this club to our pupils on a regular basis.

We currently have one session filled in on a Monday lunch. We would appreciate any other day of the week. We have a great space and I am more than happy to show potential volunteers what we currently have in situ and what we would like to produce. We used to enter the Woodcote competitions a few years back. At the moment it needs to be dug over and weeded ready for the spring time. We also now have a science pond and could really do with some expert help and assistance pulling that into shape so that children can go up there for science lessons, but that is purely a more ad hoc volunteer job than a regular club each week with the pupils

themselves doing the work."

If anyone is interested in volunteering for this project, then please e-mail or telephone me, and we will put you in touch with the Collegiate staff member.

### Mitchley Ave/Rectory Park

There have been a number of motor accidents over the last couple of years, on the sharp bend at Rectory Park/Mitchley Ave. All the accidents have involved vehicles coming down Rectory Park and losing control on, or just after the bend. Collisions have resulted in the new street lamp column being hit twice, as well as one vehicle ending up against a tree in the woodland. There has also been another accident where a vehicle has gone across the oncoming traffic and taken out the telegraph pole on the opposite side of the road (odd numbers). It has been sheer luck, that to date, no pedestrian has been killed or seriously injured. Many children walk along this section of street during the school morning and afternoon times.

As a result of the latest incident in mid-November, the RRA had extensive correspondence with two Council Officers (copying in local Councillors and Cllr Stuart King the Labour Cabinet member responsible for Transport and Environment and also Riddlesdown Collegiate). Cllr King responded that he would take this up with the Director of Streets at his next briefing with him.

The RRA made a number of suggestions to Officers, which included improving the road signage, laying an anti-skid road surface just before, on the bend and just after it, installing an Armco barrier to protect pedestrians and additional chevron boards. Relocating the

lamp column damaged twice now, and additional road markings were other requests.

The Council Officers have rejected virtually all our suggestions! They did say they have made a number of additional safety measures at this bend over the years. However, Officers have said they will look to install another "SLOW" road marking just before the bend, and installing white marked dragons teeth on the road, to highlight the danger ahead, look at the signage, and check on the condition of the road markings. Something, but overall not a good result and the RRA will keep pressing the Council on this. The Council felt that by installing a crash barrier here would hinder pedestrians crossing at this point! At the time of writing in early January nothing has been undertaken yet.

We have also been told the Council have applied to TfL for funding to re-surface the entire length of Rectory Park and Mitchley Ave. If TfL agree to this funding, then the work will be carried out in the financial year 2017/18. We have asked that if and when works are done, the Council look into realigning the camber on this bend and lay a better skid resistant surface before, on and after the bend.

In the meantime, if any further incidents occur here, please post it on our Facebook page and with photos if possible (or e-mail us) and we will refer them to the Council.

Once again we raised with the Council, the missing the speed camera further along in Mitchley Ave (near the shops). We have now been told this camera is to be replaced soon. Safety cameras are controlled and maintained

by the London Safety Camera Partnership (LSCP), which is made up of TfL, the Metropolitan Police and Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS). The LSCP have informed Council Officers that the safety (speed) camera was removed following damage caused by vandalism, as well as the road speed sensors being removed when the section of road by the camera was re-surfaced. The Council have no control over these cameras.

### **Parking close to Riddlesdown Station**

The RRA are again receiving a number of complaints from residents about inconsiderate parking in some streets. In particular this is near to the Station, in Lower Barn Rd, Riddlesdown Ave, Coombe Wood Hill and Brancaster Lane, primarily with commuters' vehicles being responsible (but not solely). Complaints are also being made that access to driveways and garages are being blocked by thoughtless motorists who seem determined to be on a mission every morning, to park as near as possible to the station, regardless of the consequences for those residents whose property they park outside! Under various pieces of legislation, no one has the right to park on the highway, unless it is in a marked parking bay. By leaving your vehicle parked on the highway, you are technically causing an obstruction! We also receive complaints from residents who use their driveways, that they cannot always see moving traffic on the highway, because of parked taller vehicles, in particular, vans, people carriers and 4x4s which are obscuring sightlines. All residents should be aware that these streets have driveways/garages and the

motorist who is exiting cannot always see you. So please drive with caution in these streets. If you live locally and you drive to the station, then please consider walking and think of the inconvenience you are causing to local residents who in some cases, don't have an off road parking space and are at times having to park a considerable distance from their home.

Parking in front of a dropped kerb is an offence and it is indeed covered in 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 parking in front of 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/multi occupancy driveway." The home owner can request the Council to visit and issue a Penalty Charge Notice (parking ticket). A shared/multiple occupancy driveway is a driveway used by more than one property, or served by a dropped kerb that is used or shared by more than one property e.g. a shared driveway, access to a block of flats or an office block. As more than one person may use this type of dropped kerb you cannot park across it even with the permission of the occupier.

Because driveways were being blocked frequently, the Council in 2012, did agree to the RRA's and residents' requests and arranged for white Access Protection Markings (APM) to be installed, across dropped kerbs for those residents who

wanted them. These white APMs have proved to be about 90 to 95% effective since being installed to about 50 dropped kerbs in the area. The only exception to this appears to be where occupier returns home and finds now where to park, so they park on the white APM lines outside their own property. As explained above, this is fine, if it is not a shared/multi occupancy driveway.

Unfortunately the current administration has now said the APMs will not be remarked when they fade and they will not install any new ones. This is very disappointing and the RRA have contested this, as we believe they have been very successful in Riddlesdown and is a major contribution for road safety in the area. Councillor Stuart King, the Labour Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, has told us "we found that these markings created a false expectation amongst residents that they could be enforced, which of course they cannot." Yes, the white lines are advisory but they can then be enforced by the Council, when the motorist parks with at least one wheel beyond the dropped kerb, including the angled section!

The RRA have also argued that during the morning and afternoon school drop off and pick up times, these white lines provide a useful passing place for oncoming traffic to pass, which is not always possible with so many parked vehicles. This is especially relevant in Coombe Wood Hill and Brancaster Lane. We will continue to raise this with the Council and we know Cllr Yvette Hopley has been very pro-active on this subject as well.

There have also been issues in Riddlesdown

Ave, where parking changes from one side of the street to the other and an insufficient gap is left for HGVs, fire engines and ambulances to get through. We have been told that recently a police vehicle on an emergency call, with 'blues and twos' going could not get through the gap. They had to wait until the car owner appeared from a house, to move it!

Parking on the odd number side of Coombe Wood Hill also causes some issues at times particularly in stopping lorries, coaches, dustcarts, ambulances and fire engines getting through the gap! In addition, at times there seems to be parking very close to the junction to Mitchley Ave which also causes obstructions. Most people seem to park on the even number side of the street, i.e., on the left going up the hill. If you live in these two streets then please park with consideration and think, "am I causing an obstruction and can an HGV get through the gap?"

If a vehicle is parked either partially or fully, in front of a dropped kerb to a driveway or garage, this can normally be enforced by Croydon Council and/or the Police. Usually, providing a wheel is alongside the dropped kerb (this includes the sloping kerb) then enforcement can take place. Residents who experience blocked dropped kerbs to their driveways should firstly contact Croydon Council's Parking Hotline on 020 8760 1966. The RRA have made approaches to Council's Parking Design team as to what else can be done to reduce this nuisance. The Council say they would prefer a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) to be installed, to be effective in controlling parking. As some of you may

know, in 2002 the Council investigated the possibility of having a CPZ installed in streets close to the station, with a 1 hour parking restriction around lunchtime. There was some local opposition about this (primarily because of the annual charge for a resident's parking permit), and the RRA did say after this we would not initiate another attempt to create a CPZ unless it was resident-led. A Council Officer has told me recently, that if a petition was presented from at least one street locally, they would again consider having a CPZ consultation, and with free parking bays, i.e., no residents' parking permit bays. The CPZ would have yellow lining and could be enforceable for 1 or 2 hours a day with marked bays for parking which could stop driveways being blocked. If anyone wants to take this forward in one of the four main streets and organise a petition, then the RRA would support you. The petition would need to be presented by one of our Purley or Sanderstead Ward Councillors. Please contact me if you want further information.

## **20mph Areas for Residential Roads**

Croydon Council are proposing to "consult" in January, about bringing in 20 mph areas for Area; 3 (north west), 4 (central east & south east) & 5 (central west and south).

The Council have already consulted on two areas in the north of the Borough (north and north east; areas 1 & 2) and, by a very slim majority (52%), the proposal was accepted. 20 mph speed limits are now in force in streets in the north area and will be in force in the north east by April 2017; but not on main roads (Class A & B). The response from

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the residents in these two areas was extremely low!

In order to speed up the process and ensure it is completed before the next election in May 2018, the Council have said they will now shorten the consultation process and will consult the remainder of the Borough in mid-January 2017 (Zones 3, 4 & 5). These areas will not have any physical measures to slow traffic down, only 20 mph signs, spaced at the statutory distances on street furniture. These 20 mph areas will differ to the current 20 mph zones. Zones only need a 20 mph signs on entry and have no repeater signs. However, they have physical speed restrictions measures, like speed humps, width restrictors and chicanes.

Unlike the first two areas in the north and north east -- where the residents were given the opportunity to vote Yes or No – the three remaining areas in the Borough will only have the opportunity to respond and object to the blanket 20 mph limit. Therefore, if you are against the blanket 20 mph limit, you must follow the Council guidelines in the leaflet to register your opinion. It is a presumption in favour of the scheme, and if you do nothing, you will be deemed to have approved of the introduction of the 20 mph limit!

All households in Areas 3, 4, 5 will be sent written notification about the consultation of the area they live in. Riddlesdown is in Zone 5 and includes Waddon, part of South Croydon, Purley, all of Coulsdon, Kenley and part of Sanderstead. Each household will have the opportunity to vote against the scheme. Every resident over 18 in the household can make a comment if they wish. We understand the consultation will begin on the

18 January and ends after 4 weeks, on 15 February 2017. The other areas were given 6 weeks to express their opinions!

At the time of writing in early January, the RRA are advised that in our area (& nearby) the following roads will remain at 30 or 40 mph;

A2022 - Banstead - Purley - Sanderstead – Selsdon – Addington (Downs Court Rd, Mitchley Ave, Rectory Park, Addington Rd, Selsdon Park Rd);

A22 - Godstone Road;

A23 (from Hooley, Purley Way, London Rd, Norbury - full length);

A235 (Brighton Road; Purley to Croydon);

A237 (Woodcote Rd & Woodcote Grove Rd);

A232 - East-west through central Croydon, including Croydon Road, Duppas Hill Road, Croydon Flyover, Addiscombe Road;

B269 Sanderstead Road - Limsfield Road.

However, we understand the following “major side roads” will be at 20 mph;

Mitchley Hill, Purley Downs Road, and Riddlesdown Road.

It is not clear what will happen to these roads which are currently at 40 mph;

Featherbed Lane, Hayes Lane (southern end, 40 mph limit), Stites Hill Road (40 mph limit), Ditches Lane, and Old Lodge Lane (southern end).

There are very conflicting views on the benefits and problems with 20 mph area. It will probably cause a heated debate and we should accept that different people have different views and priorities. The Council at this stage won't commit themselves as to a figure for the number of people objecting against the schemes! All they are saying at the

moment is that it will be considered at the Traffic Management Advisory Committee in due course.

To introduce the 20 mph blanket limit in all five areas, it will cost the Council £1.5m although TfL are funding a large proportion of the cost (but it is still paid by us, through our Council tax).

It does remain to be seen how extensively it will be enforced by the Police, who are the only Service that can prosecute motorists for speeding. At the moment you rarely see any Police enforcement in the current 30 mph residential side streets, so we perhaps need to ask; what are the chances they will police this new limit? It is generally agreed that 20 mph should be in force near schools (when children are present). But is it really practicable for all our streets especially with the many steep hills in our area, where most vehicles won't get out of 2nd gear and will create more engine noise (e.g. Coombe Wood Hill, St James Rd, Copthorne Rise)?!

The RRA will continue to find out as much as possible about the scheme so residents can make an informed decision. We will update

more on our Facebook page and website when we have further details. The Council do have some further information on their website; <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/20mph>

### **Trees on Godstone Road opposite Harris Primary Academy (Roke)**

We received a number of enquiries in October as to why all the trees were felled on the City of London Common land, in Godstone Rd, opposite Harris Primary Academy (Roke).

The September update on the City of London newsletter did explain the reason why, but it is reprinted below for information: "This coming autumn contractors will be cutting the woody area shown in the yellow outline. Trees within this area are poorly rooted on shallow chalk soil and are leaning downhill towards the busy A22 Godstone Road. It is difficult and dangerous to manage woodland on this steep slope so the best long term solution is to restore the area to a more open landscape of grassland and younger shrubs maintained by grazing and regular shrub cutting."

A cartoon illustration of a window cleaner. The character is a man wearing a cap, a long-sleeved shirt, and overalls. He is holding a squeegee in his right hand and a bucket of cleaning solution in his left hand. He is standing in front of a window with a grid pattern.

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# TRANSPORT

BY JOHN RAPP

## **“From Gatwick to Varna”**

Publication of the Recorder in early 2017 gives me an opportunity to look back and forward.

Over the year, I have been interacting with many representatives of transport providers, some of these interactions have been good and some very disappointing. Due to what seems to be a constant need to remind those contacts of our needs, I am now being helped by Keith Powell another RRA Committee Member. I now return to the title of this article.

One problem this year has been how to acknowledge the often dreadful experiences of many of our residents. Thinking about these matters, I have gone back to when Margaret and I went to the Black Sea Coast of Bulgaria for our holiday. All went well until shortly before boarding was announced, when the flight to Varna suddenly disappeared from the departure listings. A lady beat me to the information desk and laid into the attendant – receiving no help and being invited to go away. I followed, taking advantage of the opportunity to offer sympathy, and learned that that the airline was catering for passengers at two UK Airports, flying from Varna with returning holidaymakers for Gatwick and Cardiff with matching pick-ups at Gatwick and Cardiff before flying direct to Varna. Although the customer service was in this case poor, I found that engaging politely with the staff allowed me to elicit the information I required. In my experience there is nothing quite like a Soviet Trained Pilot getting the

best from a Tupolov.

Sadly (possibly taking their lead in offering poor customer service from the aviation industry), rather than considering the requirements of passengers travelling on late-running services the operators of both the railway and buses have often seemed to focus on the need to start a vehicle's next journey on time. On late-running services, this had led to frequent instances of 'skip-stopping' on trains – missing out scheduled station stops – and 'turning' on the buses– the practice of turning buses around before they have of reached their final destination. On the buses, I have experienced being turned off an almost full morning bus at Croydon Town Hall or The Swan and Sugarloaf, when travelling to Croydon. When travelling in the other direction the buses have frequently turned at Sanderstead Church, rather than travelling on to Purley centre. Unfortunately, when this occurs passengers are often left with a feeling that the transport operator has no concern for their individual journey plans. Thankfully, we do not have too many trains running fast from East Croydon to Oxted and Riddlesdown (Coulsdon South has experienced a half-hourly service reduced to one every two hours).

Many people will be asking who it that is deciding that certain passenger journey wishes should be ignored. Over Christmas, in many Riddlesdown homes many children will have learned about the Fat Controller, who runs Thomas the Tank Engine's railway on the Island of Sodor. I thought that I would take a moment to explain who does what on

our railway network. The management structures of the railways in our area is complex. The Public Companies who provide our services are employed, for that purpose by Transport for London (TfL) and The Department for Transport.(DfT), with both asking potential operators to tender to operate services.

The train service operator is typically asked to agree to pay DfT for the privilege of running the service. However, the Govia Thameslink Franchise (approximately 22% of all UK train journeys) was let on a management basis. Consequently, DfT now receives every penny of fares collected, leaving Southern with little incentive to promote train travel. In essence – now known to the public – DfT specifies in detail what Southern does.

During the year Keith and I have been monitoring the service that is provided. We also have the opportunity to speak with people at many levels within the rail and bus industries, and I am pleased to share some highlights.

In conjunction with Kate our Station Manager, and Louise her Network Rail Counterpart, we have obtained progress on getting Riddlesdown Station looking more presentable. They helped with the challenge of moving on from the official Network Rail approach, which could have been paraphrased as: “We have taken a pair of nail scissors to the overgrown vegetation – job done”. I am now delighted to say that Jason and Team spent almost a week working on the vegetation. They also identified extra work that needed to be done. Having worked to make the area safe, a second team

run by John were able to identify further necessary work including litter clearance. That work is expected to take place early in 2017. I had been noticing a growing pile of lager cans. Someone local, perhaps inspired by the vegetation clearance, cleared the cans before Christmas. Thank you!

I know that Kate and others within Southern appreciate the gentle (not at all times) and thoughtful (always) feedback that they receive on the actual train running. Please do continue to communicate your thoughts. We will be looking at Customer Information Service for trains and buses in the New Year.

One feature of the Tram Ticketing System has been that tickets last for an hour. I am pleased that the new London Mayor, Mr Khan, has extended this scheme (enabling passenger to board two [or more?] buses in the same hour – whist only paying once) to the buses. Passengers need to remember to present the same Oyster or Contactless card to both Oyster terminals.

Comments have been received from transport people who can be classified along a line from very senior to worker level. With some keen to help drag the railway and buses into this century, and others happier to talk about their contributions to the service. There is a recognition that all vehicles need drivers – Mr Khan has decided that bus drivers in London should all have the same basic wage – considered helpful. On the railway, I have heard the comment that the technology could soon be in place for trains to run without drivers – who are overpaid and unreasonable - from London to Brighton. To balance that opinion, I had a chat with a member of the Associated Society of



Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, (ASLEF) whose name points to two people taking care of passengers.

He told me that his preference is for trains to retain a Guard (Conductor) rather than an On Board Supervisor. This was because a Guard who has been trained so that (s)he possesses some traction knowledge, that is knowledge of how the train works. This has the benefit of enabling the Guard to fine tune – under instruction – a train in motion. He also mentioned that a twelve coach train, loaded with 1200 people could stop miles from anywhere due to a technical fault.

I cannot end without mentioning our 412 Bus Driver of the Year – who has received praise from their management, but for employment security reasons must remain unnamed. The driver was running – a little late – from West Croydon to Purley. The bus that should have been in front was not running, causing increasing late running. At the Swan and

Sugarloaf, instruction was given to the hero of our story to turn his bus at Sanderstead Church rather than carrying on to Riddlesdown and Purley. Before reaching Selsdon the late bus was overtaken, with attempts to get back in front of that bus being unsuccessful.

The driver allowed the passengers who hoped to alight in Riddlesdown passengers to stay on board as the bus left Sanderstead Church. Instead of returning directly to West Croydon the driver made an unscheduled diversion down Sanderstead Hill, down Purley Downs Road to Purley Oaks and then along to Purley – where it started its next journey dropping Riddlesdown people opposite their intended stops on its way to West Croydon.

Keith and I will continue to be active in our encouragement of transport providers and will welcome any comments the RRA membership has.

## MEMBERSHIP

### BY JOHN RAPP

I was delighted to hear that the re-launched Children's Party took place, for the second time, on 3 December 2016.

There will be other comment elsewhere in this magazine, but I am pleased that we have Riddlesdown People doing – and intending to do – another thing together.

I have had an easy year in 2016, with many new Road Stewards helping me. Many have told me that they enjoyed feeling more of a part of their community. I am always able to help a new person – perhaps it could be you – to join the select band of just under fifty Road Stewards.

Please accept my best wishes for 2017.

# 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.*

## George Beresford



As some of you may be aware, we tragically lost our son George earlier this year. George was the eldest of our three children. He was just 21 years old, with his whole bright future ahead of him. George went out on the night of 6th February with his John Fisher friends. Whilst walking home in the early hours, he was knocked down on Ingleboro Drive by a driver who was under the influence of alcohol. George was taken to the wonderful St George's hospital, where he was so greatly cared for by the amazing staff. Unfortunately, we had to make the heart wrenching decision to have his life support turned off on 10th February. We can't thank the hospital enough for their efforts, support, love and care to George and our entire family. George had over 120 visitors on the first day there and they let every one of them go to George's bedside and say their goodbyes, despite George being unstable and needing a lot of care. We are very proud to report, that to date, we have raised £15,000 (with gift aid and George's brother Jack's just giving page) for the neurological intensive care ward.

They are letting us have a say in what is bought with the money and are even putting a plaque up on the ward in memory of our George. In January, we have been invited to an evening at the hospital as a thank you from them. Everyone has been so generous.

Our daughter Milly held a mufti day and cake sale at her school and our son Jack bravely took on the 'tough mudder' challenge. Even George's company in London, Clydesdale Bank raised over £1400 for the charity. George had only been working there for 2 short weeks before the accident, having graduated from Exeter university with a First-Class Maths degree last summer. We held a stall at the John Fisher fete to raise funds and John Fisher now have a maths achievement cup in memory of George that will be awarded each year. George's primary school, Margaret Roper, raised funds for the hospital and we have been over whelmed by the generosity of everyone. We will continue to fundraise and are in the process of organising a 'George to George' walk on 23 April 2017, St George's Day, to raise more money. We will be walking from George's home in Riddlesdown to St George's hospital in Tooting!! Mark will be taking part in the London to Brighton bike ride for the charities Cruise and Brake, who have been incredibly supportive to us since February and I will be holding a Coffee and Cake charity coffee morning to mark the anniversary of George's death which will be held on Saturday 11th February, all are welcome.

We, as a family, along with our family liaison officer, feel very passionately about getting



the law changed around charging and sentencing of people who make the decision to drive a car whilst under the influence of alcohol and our local MP Chris Philp will be helping us with our campaign. We believe that people who make that choice should be punished appropriately. The individual who knocked George down was given 180 hours community service, banned from driving for 28 months and fined £170!! We have just been up to the House of Commons and met with the Minister of Justice to put our point of view across with our family liaison officer and the local MP Chris Philp. George's name was mentioned in a debate in parliament and they are considering reviewing this. We will continue to fight this for our son.

We have a just giving page set up for the

hospital

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/GeorgeBeresford>

and we will be launching a new just giving page in January for the 'George to George walk' in April. The time we will be leaving Riddlesdown hasn't been finalised yet but if you are interested please contact your local resident association member or look on the Facebook page. The more the merrier.

As a family, we would like to thank you all for your support for these last horrendous 9 months, some of you in particular have been incredibly supportive to the four of us and we really appreciate it so much.

Thank you for reading.

From Mark, Shaena, Jack and Milly

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

## Christmas Party

The Riddlesdown Residents' Association hosted its annual Christmas party on the 3rd December 2016. We were delighted to welcome around 65 children and their grown-ups for an afternoon of games, fun and laughter. Santa, resident in his Grotto, reported that the children of Riddlesdown were among the most polite and charming that he had encountered this year. I have included here some comments from our Facebook page:

"Thank you so much everyone who was involved! Lovely event to bring local families together!"

"Thank you so much. My children had a wonderful time as did I and my parents who organised them to attend. A huge thank you to all involved."

"Thank you so much! It was really well organised & my children had a great time."

"Fantastic party, thank you so much for all your hard work - the children (and I) had a wonderful time!"



I would like to thank Nick and Anna Tennant, Laura Bradley and Rachel Tarrant and other members of the committee for their hard work in making this event happen.

We are beginning to plan for the next Christmas party. We would welcome any comment and suggestions about the party, so please get in contact. Equally, if you would like to get involved in organising the next event please email [riddlesdownresidents@gmail.com](mailto:riddlesdownresidents@gmail.com) or contact us through our Facebook page. We hope to see you next year!



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## News from St Edmund's Church

Gill Pates

What's Coming Up at St Edmund's Riddlesdown

All – welcome

If you would like more information about any of the following please contact Gill at [GillatStEds@Outlook.com](mailto:GillatStEds@Outlook.com)

6th March for 5 weeks 19.45 to 21.15

Lent York Course (please contact [Gill@StEds@Outlook.com](mailto:Gill@StEds@Outlook.com) to book place/get venue)

13th March 8.00 St Edmund's Church AGM

14th April 10.00 Good Friday Service

14th April 14.45 -17.00 Children's Activity Afternoon at St Antony's Hamsey Green

16th April 08.00 Easter Day Service at St Edmund's

16th April 10.00 Joint Easter Day Service at St Antony's Hamsey Green

14th- 20th May Christian Aid Week (Helpers welcome!)

## Riddlesdown's First ADVENTure

ADVENTure, the alphabet trail living Advent calendar sponsored by Churches Together in Sanderstead, came to Riddlesdown for the first time on 9th December 2016.

At 6 p.m. Gill from Buttermere Gardens threw open her garage door to reveal an Advent scene representing the letter "I" for Immanuel (before you ask it's spelt with an I in Hebrew) – which means "God is with us".

The scene showed an empty crib with Mary and Joseph awaiting the birth of Jesus. This reflected both the Old Testament prophecy

that a child that was the Son of God and a human (Mary) would be born (becoming a God with us on Earth – Immanuel) and the meaning of Advent during which Christians eagerly await celebrating the birth of Jesus on December 25th

ADVENTure turned out to be a real community event with around 60 people of all ages calling in during the hour the Living Advent Calendar "window" was open. There were a lot of Riddlesdown residents and members of St Edmund's congregation there but the event also drew people from across Sanderstead Parish who were following the ADVENTure trail.

Whole families arrived to look at the scene and collect an ADVENTure star for their card (there was a prize for the most venues visited between 1st December and Christmas Eve) and there was a great deal of chat, quaffing of hot spiced apple punch and snacking on biscuits.

Creating the ADVENTure in Riddlesdown was a team effort involving Gill, Mike and Anne from Buttermere Gardens and Sandra from Purley. Seren from next door rushed back from pre-school to produce copious quantities of delicious biscuits assisted by her younger brother Leo and Mum Cari.

It was enormous fun following the ADVENTure trail around Sanderstead Parish, seeing all the living Advent scenes, sampling a variety of beverages, mince pies, biscuits etc. and meeting lots of lovely people in the run up to Christmas. Now that we know that Riddlesdown residents love an ADVENTure, maybe more "windows" will open in our neighbourhood next year?

## Nuisance Phone Calls to Land Lines

Diana Chitty

There seem to have been many more nuisance calls to land lines recently.

If you are affected by them the first move is to register with the Telephone Preference Service (T.P.) at [www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk) or Tel. 0845 0700707, 24 hrs a day 7 days a week. If you get a call from a company in this country and are registered with T.P.S., the company can be fined if you report them (you will need the details of the company calling you).

Unfortunately, many of the calls come from abroad so they cannot be identified; these usually occur when the company tries to contact more phone numbers than they have operators to speak to people. On the caller display screen, it can come up as “UNAVAIL”, “INTERNAT” or “NUMBER WITHHELD”. BT’s advice is either to ignore it or to pick up the phone but not say anything and listen for someone to speak to you. You then have the choice to reply or put the phone down. However, this is complicated by the fact that local authorities and health services use “NUMBER WITHHELD” as do numerous companies.

It is also possible now to buy a phone which ‘filters’ all calls. The caller is asked for their name and the person receiving the call can decide whether they want to take it or not. If they refuse, this is added to a list of ‘refusals’. These new phones cost from £45. You will need a Caller Display Service from your network provided, which you may have to pay for.

## MP’s Report

Chris Philp MP

### *Southern Rail*

Hundreds of thousands of Southern Rail passengers are currently suffering acute misery. Unable to get to work or get home to see loved ones, local families are being pulled apart and people are losing their jobs. Every day more and more residents are writing to me - stressed out, exasperated and worried about the future.

I agree with local residents that more must be done to fix this.

The Government needs to invest more in the Brighton Mainline infrastructure – I have personally lobbied both the Chancellor and Transport Secretary for an urgent injection of £300m to £500m to do this. I am delighted to report that the Government has said that it will do this. They also agreed to my request for a partial refund for 2016 season ticket holders.

GTR, who run Southern, have done a bad job and someone else should run the franchise. But the current appalling misery is mainly caused by ASLEF and the RMT holding weeks of needless strikes, accompanied by unofficial strike action (work to rule, an overtime ban and very high levels of purported sickness), and something must be done to stop this.

I am tabling new legislation that will come before Parliament towards the start of the year. This Bill will protect critical infrastructure from militant and deliberately vexatious strikes. For a strike on a critical infrastructure service (like trains, the underground and emergency services) the union will have to prove to a High Court judge that the impact of the strike is



proportionate to the issue that they are striking about. This means that an argument like the current one the unions are using - over whether it is the guard or the driver who should open and close the train doors - would not be sufficient to cause havoc to people's everyday lives.

On Southern there are no job losses or pay cuts, and Rail Regulator has ruled that there are no safety issues. My proposal also brings forward plans for a minimum threshold of service that must still continue for critical infrastructure on strike days, something that other countries like Canada, Italy and Spain have already done. This would stop the gridlock that we have seen in recent months.

## **George Beresford**

In December Mark and Shaena Beresford and I met with the Justice Minister, Sam Gyimah, to campaign for a tightening in drink drive laws.

Mark and Shaena lost their son George in February last year when he was knocked down and killed by a drink driver on Ingleboro Drive. George was just 21 years old.

The driver was not charged for causing death, only for drink driving, and so only received a fine and a 28 month driving ban. Under current drink drive laws a person who kills someone while driving over the limit is very unlikely to go to prison unless it can also be proven that they were also driving carelessly or dangerously.

At the meeting I explained to the Minister how this loophole can prevent people who kill while driving over the limit from being sent to prison, and the urgent need for a change in the law.

Driving over the limit is one of the most reckless and dangerous things that a driver can do. Injuries or deaths caused by drink driving

are utterly senseless and cause anguish and grief for entire families.

Currently the law allows people to get away with killing while drunk behind the wheel if carelessness as well as being drunk is not proven. This has to change. We need to close this loophole and make sure that families get the justice for their loved ones that they deserve.

Mark and Shaena have told me they support this change in the law.

Following the meeting the Minister said to the Beresfords that he was extremely moved by their case and he committed to consider very seriously the changes proposed by us, as part of a wider review of dangerous driving laws now underway.

## **VIRGINIA STONE GGSM**

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or email [slowgin@talktalk.net](mailto:slowgin@talktalk.net)**

## What Will Riddlesdown Look Like In 2036? - Nick Tennant

Ever wondered what Riddlesdown might look like in 20 years time?

Probably not. But now is a good time to get thinking as Croydon Council are currently reviewing the local plan for the Borough – which sets out what type of development will be allowed over the next twenty years and, importantly, where it will occur.

The document setting out the proposed changes to the plan (see <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/articles/downloads/clpstrategic-policies-partial.pdf> ) says 'Croydon is a growing borough. It is already the most populous borough in London and aims to be London's most enterprising borough'.

Perhaps the most important change is the proposal for 31,850 new homes to be built in Croydon over the period 2016 to 2036. That represents a 48% increase in the number of homes required in the Borough each year. This includes between 310 - 2070 new homes in Purley over the plan period.

Extract from the proposed changes to the Croydon Plan. The plan is silent in respect to the future development of Riddlesdown – aside from the swathe of green belt land running from Riddlesdown Common down to Whyteleafe Park, across to Hamsey Green and up to Sanderstead Recreation Ground; and identifying an Archaeology Priority Area across Riddlesdown Common.

'Am I bothered?' you might be asking yourself. After all, this is leafy, suburban Riddlesdown where nothing much happens.....

But that isn't strictly true, as developers have tried over a number of years to build upon farmland on Mitchley Hill and Mitchley Avenue. The RRA worked closely with Croydon Council to prevent development upon this greenbelt land, and will continue to do so in the future. Riddlesdown Collegiate have recently announced plans for a new primary school on (or close to) the existing secondary school, to open in September 2018. See <https://www.tct-academies.org/Media/CFPS%20Leaflet%20with%20Survey.pdf>

So back to the question I started with – what do you want Riddlesdown to look like in 2036? It is fair to say that the need for more homes across Croydon is going to increase the pressure for development in Riddlesdown. Is this a good thing or not? Do you think:

- Riddlesdown is already overdeveloped - more housing will lead to greater problems around car parking, traffic congestion, more commuters using the Station, noise, litter, rubbish collection etc?
- More development is inevitable - so we need to allow some new housing in a way that improves the quality of life?
- We should encourage new housing – as a means of protecting the community facilities we already have and securing more in future?
- We need a new primary school given the growing number of young families in the area. Or are you concerned this could lead to more traffic and parking problems?

The RRA want to hear your views on what kind of Riddlesdown you want.

Over the next year, we want to develop a

shared vision of what Riddlesdown should look like in 2036, and the principles that any future proposals for development in the area will be expected to reflect. We're looking to draw up a short statement – no longer than a few pages – which clearly sets out what we want for our area. It will not be part of the Croydon Plan, but because it will be developed with you – the Riddlesdown Community – it will carry weight as a planning document which developers and Croydon Council will be expected to consider when preparing and considering planning applications.

You are welcome to post your thoughts on the RRA Facebook page (see [https://www.facebook.com/RiddlesdownResidentsAssociation/?hc\\_ref=NEWSFEED&fref=nf](https://www.facebook.com/RiddlesdownResidentsAssociation/?hc_ref=NEWSFEED&fref=nf) ) or email them to us at [Riddlesdownresidents@gmail.com](mailto:Riddlesdownresidents@gmail.com) They can be as long or short as you like – what matters is that you tell us what you think. To get you in the mood, here are a few more questions to consider:

- Are there any additional community facilities you'd like to see in the future – maybe a health hub (including a dentist, another GP surgery and health centre); a dedicated Village Hall with a licensed bar (!) offering daytime activities for the young and old with evening classes and clubs; a children's playground (maybe using the open space adjacent to St Edmund's church) or even a swimming pool (as part of the expansion of Riddlesdown Collegiate)?
- Do we need a focal point for the community – perhaps a local cafe (as part of a village hall) run on a not-for-profit basis

or a one-stop-shop (for the services provided by the Council) with a police officer presence?

- Are we making full use of Riddlesdown Station? Is there potential to link the station better to local bus routes?
- Do we need another bus route?
- Do we need to deal with the traffic issues around the station and the roads leading up to Riddlesdown Collegiate – including more traffic calming measures and car parking spaces?
- Is the development of back gardens for housing acceptable? Do we want to see new housing and if so, where should it go? In terms of design, do we want new housing to be in keeping with the Laing Estate, or is modern architecture acceptable providing that it is of a high standard using high quality materials?

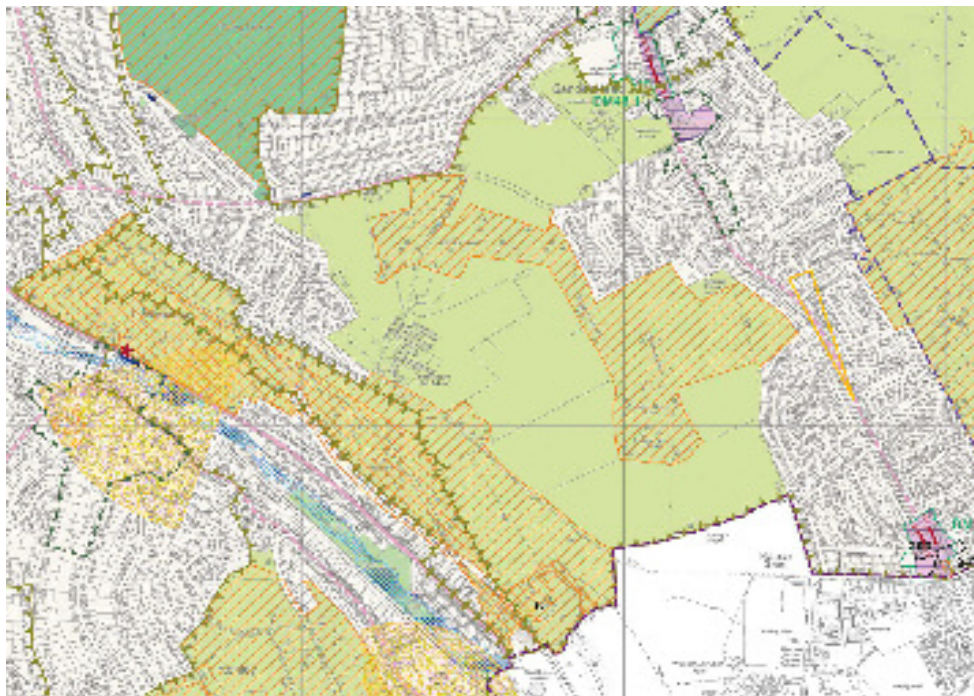
One final thought: even if you don't feel like writing to us, maybe talk to your road steward or any of the committee members of the RRA about your thoughts. We can only make sure that Riddlesdown continues to be the kind of place you like to live in, if you tell us what you want.

## Protecting the Greenbelt in Riddlesdown – Dr Ron Cox

Ron Cox recalls some previous disputes over development and the reasons previously given for rejecting them.

There have been various attempts by developers, big and small, to build houses on our Green Belt land. The major - and significant- one was in 1975 when Laing Homes Limited proposed to develop 20 acres of a 70 acre site off Mitchley Avenue/Rectory Park. Croydon Council





rejected the proposal and the matter went to appeal, Laing Homes using high ranking experts to support its case.

This was turned down by the Secretary of State for the Environment on the recommendation of its Inspector. Residents, beneficiaries of the open space, would-be developers, and local Councillors may wish to be reminded of the findings of the Inspector. His conclusions, set out in a formal letter dated 14 May 1975, include the following:

".....I consider that the present green belt boundary is clearly enough defined by the alignment of Mitchley Avenue despite the small group of 4 houses within this part of the appeal site frontage. While the western part

is defined solely by the extent of present housing halted by the war, its development for the most part is on an elevated position to which any addition would be clearly visible from Mitchley Avenue. I have no reason to doubt, therefore, the appropriateness of the green belt boundary in these parts.

"On the further issue of whether the release of 20 acres of green belt land would be justified on grounds of housing need. I do not find that there are any exceptional circumstances pertaining to the site in question which would be sufficient to justify making an exception to accepted green belt policy.

"I recommend that the appeal should be dismissed".

## The council forces through its local plan

Councillor Tim Pollard

Hopes of residents that even at the eleventh hour the council might agree to defer approval of its local plan to take on board residents' concerns have been dashed.

At a meeting at the town hall in early December a motion to refer the plan back for further changes before submission to the inspectorate was voted down by the administration. This means that the things that residents objected to about the plans will go forward to the inspection in public as the council's policy.

The 'local plan' is a suite of documents which outlines the council's planning policies and controls what sort of development can take place (and where). All planning applications are considered in the context of the plan and assessed in terms of their compliance with it. The plan may not contradict the Mayor of London's wider plan or national planning policy, but the council does have a wide degree of freedom to devise local policies which suit our local environment.

Over 4,000 objections were received from the public to the final plans, on top of the 7,000 objections made at the previous stage. This level of public unhappiness at the plans is almost unprecedented.

The specific objections that residents raise have included:

- Concern about the conversion of the current highways depot at the rear of Purley Oaks recycling centre for use as a gypsy and traveller site: this was the thirtieth best option under consideration a

year ago (when the preferred options were all on Green Belt sites), so why is it now the only one under consideration?

- Concern about the loss of protection for a swathe of Metropolitan Open Land around Shirley Oaks Village, which will soon have no protection against redevelopment
  - Worries about the size of the so-called 'Intensification Zones' around a number of small district centres, such as Onslow Gardens in Sanderstead, off Godstone Road in Kenley, Wickham Road in Shirley. This is a license for developers to knock down bungalows and replace them with blocks of flats.
  - Concerns about the downgrading of many sites currently forming part of the Green Belt to Metropolitan Open Land status – including Sanderstead Plantation, Purley Downs Golf Club and Croham Hurst.
  - Alarm at the loss of any protection to a group of roads currently protected as Local Areas of Special Character, such as West Hill.
  - Fear that the approval of a policy which allows for a tall building at Purley Cross will mean that the recently-approved Purley Baptists' 17-storey skyscraper will just be the start of the conversion of Purley into a second Croydon town centre, with numerous tower blocks popping up.
- Unfortunately, the council just isn't listening to the objections raised by residents. Thousands have asked them to think again about the areas of the plan they find unacceptable, but the council is just ploughing on regardless. Almost nobody has come forward in support of the unpopular proposals above, apart from the councillors involved in the administration!

As the Leader of the Opposition in Croydon it is my intention to make these points strongly at the forthcoming inspection in public. Unfortunately, the inspection in public is a rather yes/no process. Either the entire plan will be thrown out as not well founded or it will be approved in spite of issues within it. What inspectors do not usually do is approve the plan overall but reject elements within it.

It is a great shame that the council has not agreed to deal with these last few concerns. Overall the plan contains a lot of sound policy and has grown over the last five years with broad consensus across the political parties and with residents' groups. It wouldn't take much change to arrive at something we can all agree on, but that chance now looks to have gone. Given that the plan will impact on how the character of our area develops for fifty years or more, it is a real pity we can't all sign up to the full set of policies.

## **Has it been a Winter of Discontent?**

**Cllr Yvette Hopley**

It has been an extremely busy few months with many residents contacting me about the Council's Local Plan, furious that their objections have not been taking into account with the Council rubber stamping its approval at the Council meeting in December.

I was recently presented with a petition from residents in Hill Barn asking for yellow lines on the junction with Purley Downs Road and for their road to be repaired or resurfaced. It would appear that this Administration's priorities lie elsewhere and both the yellow lines and the resurfacing of the road were refused by the Council.

The very basic of services are now being cut back. Unfortunately, the Council have decided that the provision of new and re-marking of white lines, often used as an advisory demarcation to prevent vehicles from obstructing driveways has also been withdrawn. This was particularly useful around many of the roads in the vicinity of Riddlesdown, Purley Oaks and Sanderstead stations. Whilst they were never enforceable, they were usually respected and as a result it is possible there will again be partial obstructions to driveways and garages when residents want to exit their properties, between the many parked cars. Worse still, some vehicles could be parked so badly that residents are not able to exit/enter their properties at all. I say it is all about priorities and certainly the residents who have had this service removed are less than pleased.

I even offered to pay for some of the white lines to be repainted from my community budget but this was rejected by the Council. It would seem that devolution doesn't exist at all! And no lines white or yellow for Sanderstead! (Editor's note – see also Phil Thomas' report on this subject).

By the time you read this report, Christmas will have passed and we will all be recovering from perhaps a little too much to eat and drink. There has been much activity in Sanderstead with the Riddlesdown children's party, the official turning on of the Xmas lights and celebrations with Churches Together's ADVENTure. That is the celebration of Xmas from the 1st to the 24th of December at a different home in Sanderstead in the run up to Christmas. (Editor's note - for a report on ADVENTure in Riddlesdown see Gill Pate's article elsewhere in this magazine)

I am delighted that the Councillor's ward budget has been able to support many projects in this area and we are looking at funding a new noticeboard for Riddlesdown (rather like the ones you may have seen at the pond and recreation ground) in Sanderstead. They are a useful means of communication with residents who are not connected on the internet and the RRA committee members can post information on a regular basis to keep you informed.

The other bug-bear with residents has been the early cessation of the garden waste collection. Just as the leaves were about to fall, the service ended. This didn't seem sensible at all and has resulted in a number of fly tips of garden waste (as well as other types of fly-tipping) throughout the Ward. The local Councillors had a special "clean up Croydon" report day and during a two hour stint in the morning more than 1,300 fly tips were reported in the Borough. In some parts of Croydon it has become an epidemic with a road in Selhurst having dozens of refrigerators dumped in one street. If you see anyone fly-tipping, do please report it to the Council and email the location at [flytip@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:flytip@croydon.gov.uk). I have asked that roads that are particular favourites for fly tippers have notices and CCTV installed to try to prevent this blight.

I noticed that this autumn there was a new method of clearing our streets of leaves. The Veolia street cleaners are now blowing them off the pavements, some of which are swept into piles for the contractor to collect. However, if the street cleaner doesn't turn up they are then mulched into the gutter on the road and between some of the parked cars,

which make it quite difficult to sweep.

I continue to hold this Administration to account and try to ensure that we get our fair share of services in the south of the Borough. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year and good health in 2017.

## **Riddlesdown Collegiate**

**Soumick Dey – Principal**

Since I last made a contribution to the Riddlesdown Recorder, there has been much activity and cause for celebration at Riddlesdown Collegiate. Readers will recall that last summer term, the Collegiate was delighted to welcome an OFSTED inspection which judged our school to be outstanding. This outcome made for a superb start to what I called our "Celebration Season" throughout the second part of the summer term. During this time, each of our Colleges held a special Showcase Evening to celebrate the efforts, achievements and talents of our students. In addition, the Creative and Performing Arts College (CPA) hosted a Lecture Evening, where a number of professionals from creative and performance backgrounds and careers inspired a packed audience in The @RC Theatre, as well the Arts Awards Evening, Summer Concert and Sports Awards Evening, each of which also recognised our students' talents in these important areas of the curriculum. In all, over 800 students received an award during "Celebration Season" which culminated on the last day of term when I awarded my Principal's Commendation to the top achieving boy and girl in each Year Group in each College.

Just over a month later, there was more high

achievement as the Collegiate celebrated its best ever A Level results, whilst almost a quarter of grades at GCSE were A\*/A. This led to a very special Collegiate Celebration Evening in September where we were able to congratulate our top achievers – including Benjamin Swain A\*A\*AA going to Kings College London to study Medicine, Sophie Gibson A\*AA going to Bath to study Pharmacy and Liam McRedmond AAA going to Exeter to study Law – in fact, the vast majority of students were heading off to great universities, with some opting to take a gap year and travel and/or work before embarking on the next stage of their education.



During the same week, we welcomed over 2000 visitors to the Collegiate as families came to one of our Open Mornings or Open Evening to consider whether they felt that the Collegiate might be the best place for their child to learn and grow over the next seven years. As always, it was great to welcome so many people and we continue to appreciate the support the Collegiate receives from the community. Riddlesdown Collegiate remains a very popular, over-subscribed school and we are currently consulting on some changes to our

admissions criteria for entry in September 2018 – all views would be welcome, please see our website for further details.

Over the course of the autumn term, students have enjoyed many opportunities to extend their learning outside of the Collegiate, including international trips to Greece and Switzerland over half term. Over 200 students were involved in our Christmas Concert last month and rehearsals are ongoing for our Collegiate production of the musical, West Side Story, which will be performed during the w/c 6th February 2017 – tickets will be on sale shortly, all are welcome to come and be entertained by our talented students!

## **19th Purley (Riddlesdown) Scout Group**

Liz O'Brien Group Scout Leader

Our Group was founded over 70 years ago with our headquarters located in the beautiful setting of Riddlesdown along Dunmail Drive. With our headquarters being as old as it is there is an ongoing refurbishment project taking place. This started a couple of years ago with work on the leaking roof which meant some very cold and damp winters spent at the hut and even having to cancel meetings because of it. Thanks to the help of the National Lottery's "Funding for All" scheme we were able to get the entire roof patched and resealed. This summer we have replaced all the windows and doors thanks to the generosity of a legacy left to us by one of our fellow senior scouts who sadly passed away. With all the fundraising we have been doing over the years we have a brand new kitchen and are now in the process of



refurbishing the toilets with the inclusion of a disabled toilet and shower room, which will allow us to open up our premises to the wider community and other scout groups.

We cannot do what we do without the great support from our very dedicated group of senior scouts who last year celebrated meeting every year for 50 years and who so generously raise a large amount of money for us each year. Also our Executive Group, Leaders, Young Leaders (who come along to complete their volunteering section of their Duke of Edinburgh and seem to love it so much they stay), parents and of course the children who seem to keep telling their friends which is great!

We offer a broad and exciting programme for all the children which ranges from Beavers of the age 5 and ?, then on to Cubs and finally to Scouts up to the age of 14. At the age of 14 they can move on to Explorer units nearby. We are also working on starting up a section in the near future. Some examples of the activities we do as a Group include visits to the local fire station, an annual swimathon, the Gruffy Fair 5 a side football, PGL, camping, lots of badge work, pottery painting, cooking on open fires, the list goes on. Our Beaver Leader, Christine Scott, even got to meet Bear Grylls this April following an award she received in recognition of her dedication and enthusiasm.

I personally got involved in the Group when my eldest started Beavers over 9 years ago now. I used to help on a parent rota and just loved it, following him up to Cubs and helping there too. The Cub leader was due to leave as her children had grown up and it was time to move on but there was no one to take her

place. We had no Scout section, and there was just one Beaver leader left, no money in the bank and the group was set to close. After a crisis meeting organised by the district team, myself and 2 other mums decided to give it a try and 5 years later we are still going strong. Not long after, during CroyCamp, a dad stepped forward to become Scout Leader. I was asked by the Exec Group to become Group Scout Leader about 3 years ago and I have loved every minute of it. We are going from strength to strength with full sections and an increase in our numbers year on year.

I am very proud to be a part of the 19th Purley and to work with the local community. We are looking forward to working more closely with the Riddlesdown Association and the brilliant work they do. If you are interested in getting involved in any way from your children attending, becoming a leader, helping with fundraising, any match funding, the list goes on.... please do contact me. My scout email address is [GSL@19thpurley.org.uk](mailto:GSL@19thpurley.org.uk)

## **Croydon Churches Floating Shelter and helping the Homeless**

**Cllr Lynne Hale**

For over 10 years the Croydon Churches Floating Shelter (CCFS) has been offering men and women, who would otherwise be sleeping out in the streets, a warm welcome, hot food and a warm place to sleep overnight, throughout the winter months.

Overnight accommodation is offered from 1st November through to 31st March except for the Christmas period when guests may



attend CRISIS in London. Seven churches host the Shelter for a night each week with volunteers offering a warm welcome and hot drink, a three course hot meal and a bed for the night, followed by breakfast in the morning and guests take a packed lunch with them when they leave. Overall more than 20 Croydon churches are now involved.

Our Sanderstead churches play a very active role offering accommodation on Monday evenings during the November – December period at Sanderstead URC, All Saints' or St Mary's Church and volunteers come from all the Sanderstead churches and beyond.

Verified rough sleepers are referred to the Shelter by Croydon Reach, SNAP (Support Needs Assessment & Placement team, Turning Point and Turnaround, with an initial contact and risk assessment having been completed. Guests of the Shelter are welcome regardless of background or personal history, as long as they behave appropriately and adhere to the Shelter agreement.

Volunteering opportunities are many and varied and include: compiling the rota, cooking an evening meal/breakfast, washing-up, making up the beds, laying tables, washing the bed linens/towels and cleaning up the premises after the guests have left for the day. The Shelter also has overnight volunteers who stay on until the breakfast shift arrives to ensure that everyone is kept safe. For many, especially for the women, this is really important and one of the key aims of the Shelter is to provide a safe environment for everyone.

Whilst at the Shelter guests may quietly read, play games such as chess and dominoes and

some will very much enjoy chatting with the volunteers and enjoying the company or, perhaps, be pleased to have the opportunity of seeking some assistance and counselling. They will also be offered free toiletries and warm coats; donated jeans and trainers are also much appreciated.

People can lose their homes for all sorts of reasons and working in the Shelters for many years has proved a real eye-opener to me, demonstrating that this really can happen to anyone. Family breakdowns, following periods of severe debt, or a term of imprisonment, rent arrears leading to eviction, are all examples of when people can suddenly find themselves homeless. There are also of course people arriving in the UK from abroad who are without a home who need assistance and shelter.

Living on the streets is cold, unhealthy, distressing and dangerous and it is really important that everyone has the opportunity of having a helping hand to help them back into secure accommodation, or indeed stops them losing their home in the first place. We aim to encourage guests to engage with us at the Shelter and with statutory agencies until they are able to move on into more permanent accommodation and guests will be required to attend appointments with referring agencies to expedite this.

One of the things which can be so important is showing that you care, that you will listen, not judge, and that you can offer some assistance in addressing the most immediate needs. Building confidence is absolutely vital because people without a home to call their own often feel at rock bottom and completely demoralised.





I don't think anyone of us would underestimate the importance of housing – to have a roof over your head; somewhere to call your own; to enjoy privacy; raise a family or enjoy a relationship; a place to come home to. Without that – there is so much that can be so difficult; Problems with employment; nowhere to keep your things safe; the vulnerability that being homeless brings; the impact on physical and mental health.

So the excellent news that Croydon was given just before Christmas that it would be a significant beneficiary of the Government's £50million grant to tackle homelessness across the UK, is very warmly welcomed.

Croydon will receive £1.4million made up of: a Rough Sleeping Grant of £400,000 over the next 3 years; Prevention Trailblazer funding of £1m. Croydon is also part of a successful bid from the GLA that will see our town benefit from a share of up to £2million in locally commissioned Social Impact Bonds. This money is specifically to help long term rough sleepers with the most complex needs. The funding will include targeted support for those at imminent risk of sleeping rough or those new to the streets.

I think that this money will be a real boost in tackling the problem which has been stubbornly resistant for a long time in our town. It will allow the Council, charities and volunteers to making even more of a difference and ensuring that everyone who needs a hand up, gets the help and assistance which they need to get their lives back on track as quickly as possible.

I know that if either Nightwatch or the CCFS

said they had to close due to a complete lack of demand, they would be absolutely delighted. This would surely be a most worthwhile goal, but in the meantime the work continues.

If you would like to help please do send me an email; [Lynne.hale@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Lynne.hale@croydon.gov.uk)

### **Crime Prevention**

This information, posted by a local resident is from our website message board, in September,

"Be aware we have experienced break-ins in Riddlesdown Road. A neighbour was broken into by thieves a week or so ago, using a ladder from another house. Be sure you all lock any ladders so that they cannot be used by these people. We found two intruders at 00:10hrs in our front gardens in the early hours of this morning. I was out walking the dog. We have pretty good CCTV pictures of them but the Police say they cannot charge them as they did not actually break in nor are there any signs of a break-in. Be aware they are operating in this area."

Do not leave any access equipment like ladders, out for thieves to use on your own, or your neighbours' house, unless they are well secured with a chain and padlock!

### **Car Key Jammers and Theft from Motor Vehicles**

Whilst the ward of Sanderstead has some of the lowest crime statistics in the borough, residents still need to be vigilant and alert when it comes keeping their vehicles safe from motor vehicle crime.

During the weekend of Saturday 26th November to Sunday 27th November 2016,

the ward saw six offences of theft from motor vehicle concentrated in two areas. For all six incidents, it appears that there has been no damage caused by the thieves to the vehicles. All of the vehicle owners are adamant that they left their vehicles locked when they parked up overnight. Although it has not been confirmed, the thieves may have been using jamming equipment to stop the cars from locking.

Relatively low-powered jammers can have a range of about 75 metres, meaning fairly large areas, such as a whole car park or residential street, can be affected at the same time. They are also easy to buy online.

Most central locking cars have another indication the lock has been deployed, such as the indicator lights flashing, wing mirrors drawing in, or the horn giving a short toot. If you're close enough to the car you can also hear the central locking clunk into place. The only sure way to know your car is locked is to check manually by tugging the door handle after locking.

Our advice is to keep close watch on your cars and possessions so as not to offer any incentives to criminals, including manually checking that the vehicle is locked and taking any valuables with you when leaving the vehicle unattended.

Can I ask that you please take the following precautions with your vehicle in order to help us to reduce the chance of these incidents occurring in the future:

- Always lock the doors and activate any security devices when leaving your car unattended, even for only a few minutes

- Never leave your keys unattended in the car, even for a second
- Do not leave Sat Navs, designer glasses, phones, wallets or loose change on display
- Consider property marking Sat Nav devices
- Remove as many valuables as you can from your vehicle, including from the boot, when the vehicle is parked up overnight.

If you have any queries or would like further crime prevention advice, please contact the Sanderstead Local Policing Team on 020 8721 2470 or email [sanderstead.snt@met.pnn.police.uk](mailto:sanderstead.snt@met.pnn.police.uk)

There is more advice and tips from the Metropolitan Police about securing your home and vehicle. These can be found on our website; <http://riddlesdownresidents.org.uk/house&cartips.html>

## RRA AGM

St Edmund's Church Hall

7.00pm, 5th April 2017

All welcome!

# 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 section we are delighted to hear from the Chipstead Sailing Club. 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

### CHIPSTEAD SAILING CLUB

chipsteadsc.org.uk

Chipstead Sailing Club is a friendly and sociable sailing club situated at the foot of the Downs in Chipstead near Sevenoaks (25 minutes drive from Riddlesdown). The club caters for all sailing abilities, from complete beginners to hardened racers and for all ages, from young to children to as old as you like! The club is completely run by volunteers enabling a reasonable level of subscriptions. Visitors are welcome to come and have a look and make enquiries whenever the club is open.



Sailing Training Courses (officially approved by the RYA) take place throughout the year for both juniors and adults. Power boat courses also take place.

Juniors have a very popular section sailing on Saturday mornings. They sail in Optimists, Toppers, Lasers and two handed boats all of which are available from the club. Guardians must be present for those under 16.

Racing takes place on Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesday evenings in the summer. The club is unique in that it has 9 racing classes of dinghies. Handicap racing also takes place in which any boat class can race (within some length restrictions).

Free Sailing can take place almost any time when racing or special events are not taking place. Members are advised not to sail alone as weather conditions can change suddenly. Safety is paramount.

Open Day takes place on May Day Bank Holiday Monday May 1st 2017. Visitors can have taster sails, make enquiries, and have refreshments or just picnic. Parking is free.

Disabled Sailing is run by Wealden Sailability, [wealdensailability.org](http://wealdensailability.org). It caters for most disabilities (a hoist is available) and all ages. It is run by dedicated volunteers on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The boats range from single handed, doubled handed (usually with an instructor) and boats which can take 4 or 5 people.

Socially the club has annual dinners, BBQs and many other events eg. Quiz nights etc.

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

If you would like to place an Advert, please contact Neil  
[editorra@riddlesdown.org](mailto:editorra@riddlesdown.org) or on 020 8668 4061

## *Tip Top Hair*



**100 Lower Barn Road, Purley**  
(opposite Riddlesdown Station)

### **LADIES & GENTS SALON**

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Saturday 9am.- 4pm

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Special Rates for Senior Citizens – Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday



## Community Information:

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

### Bourne Society

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

### Cantilena Singers

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

### Croydon Art Society

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

### Croydon Camera Club

Meets at Shirley Methodist Church Hall most Wednesdays of the year & has outings to photogenic locations. Further Information [www.croydoncameracub.org.uk](http://www.croydoncameracub.org.uk)

### Croydon Decorative and Fine Arts Society

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

### CNHSS – Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society

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

### Croydon Symphonic Band

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

## **FoFD - Friends of Farthing Downs**

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

## **London Mozart Players**

For details of concerts some of which take place locally.

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

## **North Wood Morris Men -**

Croydon's Own Morris Dancers

They are always looking for new members to dance or play music. They will train dancers and musicians from scratch if need be. All are welcome.

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

## **Parkrun; Riddlesdown Common**

Free 5km Run Every Saturday at 9am - Further details and to register

[www.parkrun.org.uk/riddlesdown/](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/riddlesdown/)

## **Purley Bury Sports & Social Club**

(Brancaster Lane):

Bowls [www.purleyburybc.co.uk/](http://www.purleyburybc.co.uk/)

Croquet [www.purleyburycroquet.org.uk/](http://www.purleyburycroquet.org.uk/)

Tennis [www.purleyburytennisclub.net/](http://www.purleyburytennisclub.net/)

## **Purley and District Townswomen's Guild**

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

## **Purley Literary Society**

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

## **Ramblers (Croydon) -**

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

## **Ramblers (Surrey) –**

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

## **Riddlesdown Lawn Tennis Club,**

Lower Barn Rd

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

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

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

## **St Edmund's Church & Community Hall, Riddlesdown**

St Edmund's is a dual purpose building, used both as a church hall and a Riddlesdown community resource. Its congregation are mainly from the Riddlesdown resident community and are friendly and welcoming to all. Sunday services are at 8am and 9.15am. Worship varies week by week. Rev'd Susan Atkinson-Jones is the Team Vicar of Edmund's. Further information: [www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk/st\\_edmund](http://www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk/st_edmund)

## **St Edmund's Lunch Club**

St Edmund's Lunch Club for the Retired meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in the month at St Edmund's at 12.30 pm. The hot lunch costs £3.45, with a small extra charge for tea or coffee. The team hopes that you will enjoy yourself at the lunch club and we look forward to welcoming you many times.

## **St Edmund's Caring Group**

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

## **St Edmund's Tuesday Night Badminton Club**

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

## **Scouts and Girl Guiding**

**19th Purley (Riddlesdown)**, Dunmail Drive, off Mitchley Hill  
[www.croydonscouting.org.uk/](http://www.croydonscouting.org.uk/)

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

**Beavers** – Fridays; 1630 - 1730;

**Cubs** – Mondays; 1830 - 2000

**Scouts** – Tuesdays; 1900 - 2100

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

[www.http://11thpurley.org.uk/](http://www.11thpurley.org.uk/)

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

[www.croydonscouting.org.uk/where-do-we-meet/beavers-cubs-and-scouts/16th-purley-7th-sanderstead-all-saints-group/](http://www.croydonscouting.org.uk/where-do-we-meet/beavers-cubs-and-scouts/16th-purley-7th-sanderstead-all-saints-group/)

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

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

**Beavers** – Thursdays; 5.00 – 6.00pm

**Cubs** – Mondays; 6.30 to 8.00pm

**Scouts** – Thursdays; 7.30 to 9.00pm

## **Croydon Girl Guiding**

[www.girlguidinglaser.org.uk/gd/gallery/croydon](http://www.girlguidinglaser.org.uk/gd/gallery/croydon)



## **Sanderstead Cricket Club**

14 Old Saw Mill, Limsfield Rd, Sanderstead  
(entrance opposite The Gruffy). Website;  
<http://sanderstead.play-cricket.com/>

## **Sanderstead Dramatic Club -**

Contact Mr John Desbottes - Tel 01883  
625656 - <http://www.sdclub.org.uk/>

## **Sanderstead Evening Townswomen's Guild**

Contact Mrs Doreen Nicholls - Tel 020  
8657 2072. Meets 3rd Monday of the  
month at 7.45pm at Sanderstead Methodist  
Church Hall. [www.the-  
tg.com/Guild/sanderstead-evening/375.aspx](http://www.the-tg.com/Guild/sanderstead-evening/375.aspx)

## **Sanderstead Horticultural Society**

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

## **Sanderstead Village WI**

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

## **Selsdon Camera Club**

Meet Fridays at 7.30 pm (for a 7.45 pm  
start) The Methodist Halls 102 Limsfield  
Road, Sanderstead.  
<http://www.selsdoncameraclub.co.uk/>

## **Selsdon Little Leagues Football & Netball**

Providing Football and Netball for local  
children in the Croydon area.  
[http://selsdonlittleleagues.leaguerepublic.co  
m/l/newsArticle/new\\_website.html](http://selsdonlittleleagues.leaguerepublic.com/l/newsArticle/new_website.html)

## **Stagecoach Croydon - Theatre Arts Schools for Children**

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

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

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

[www.stagecoach.co.uk/croydon](http://www.stagecoach.co.uk/croydon)

## **Surrey Wildlife Trust**

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

## **The Jolly Farmers**

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

7 Purley Road, Purley CR8 2HA, Tel: 0208  
660 2076 or [www.jollyfarmers-purley.co.uk](http://www.jollyfarmers-purley.co.uk)

## **The PROBUS Club of Sanderstead & Riddlesdown**

Meet at Old Whitgiftians Sports Club,  
Croham Rd, S Croydon. From noon on first  
Tuesday of every month. Further details-  
Mike Phillips - 020 8407 0305

## **The University of the Third Age (U3A)**

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

## Walk & Cycle Surrey

Further information:

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

## Warlingham Horticultural Society

Hold Regular flower shows & plant sales in Warlingham & outings

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

## Yoga with Veronica

A mixed ability class suitable for all ages which takes place on Tuesday evenings in St

Edmund's Church Hall during term-time between 6.15 - 7.30pm. Yoga will improve your flexibility and strength and help you relax and de-stress after your busy day. Contact: Veronica Moulder; Tel 07803 728868.

## DISCLAIMER

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

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Our MP (Croydon South - Conservative); Mr Chris Philp MP, The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA  
Tel; 020 7219 8026 or visit his Friday mornings surgery; 36 Brighton Rd, Purley CR8 2LG (telephone  
for appointment times).

Email; [chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk) website; [www.chrisphilp.com](http://www.chrisphilp.com)

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

#### **PURLEY WARD**

**Donald Speakman**

Tel: 8405 6752

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

**Simon Brew**

Tel: 020 8668 0814

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

**Badsha Quadir**

Tel: 8668 3672

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

#### **SANDERSTEAD WARD**

**Yvette Hopley**

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

**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)

#### **GREATER LONDON ASSEMBLY MEMBER FOR CROYDON & SUTTON**

**Steve O'Connell (Conservative)**

Tel: 020 7983 4353 Email: [steve.o'connell@london.gov.uk](mailto:steve.o'connell@london.gov.uk) Website: [www.steveoconnell.org](http://www.steveoconnell.org)

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

Times below are from 11 December 2016 until 20 May 2017. Residents are advised to check and  
confirm times with Southern Railway or National Rail.

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

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

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

**To London Bridge - No direct services Saturdays & Sundays.**

**From London Victoria to Riddlesdown: Weekdays:** 05.47, 06.24, 07.32, 08.53, 09.23, 09.54 and then 23  
and 53 mins past hour until 23.23 & 23.47.

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

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

**From London Bridge to Riddlesdown:**

**Weekdays:** 07.03, 07.18, 07.50, 08.24, 17.13, 17.44, 18.17 & 18.47.

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

**From East Croydon to Riddlesdown: Weekdays:** 06.06, 06.41, 07.17 (to Hurst Green), 07.34, 07.50, 08.09,  
08.41, 09.11, 09.41, 10.11, then 41 and 10 mins past hour until 16.40, 17.10, 17.30, 17.42, 17.58, 18.11, 18.31,  
18.43, 19.02, 19.11, then 41 mins and 10 mins past hour until 23.41, 00.16.

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

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

Enquiries: Southern Customer Services: Tel: 08451 272920 or [www.southernrailway.com](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; 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](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 usually in April or May, at St Edmunds Church Hall.



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