

THE RIDDLESLOW RECORDER



INSIDE

- The Story of Our Driveway
- Flood Special Report
- Cycling on Riddlesdown
- Who are we?

and much more....!

ISSUE 198

SPRING – SUMMER 2014

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Front Cover Photo: Apple Blossom, Rachel Tarrant Local Resident

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

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

www.riddlesdownresidents.org.uk

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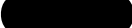
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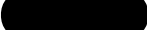
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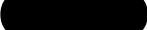
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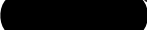
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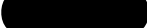
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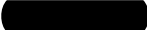
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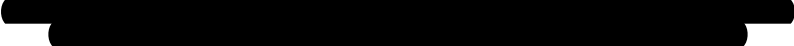


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You may write to the Riddlesdown Residents' Association at any of the following addresses:



Please mark your correspondence with the committee member's name, if applicable. Or you can e-mail any committee member at **RiddlesdownResidents@gmail.com** or at any of the e-mail addresses listed above. RRA Notice Boards are situated by Riddlesdown Pharmacy in Lower Barn Rd, on the side wall of St Edmunds Church, by K&K Food & Wine in Mitchley Ave. We also use the Boards on the Green by St Edmund's Church and in the station waiting room.

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

EDITOR'S NOTES

BY NEIL TARRANT

My family and I moved in to Riddlesdown on a sunny day in late summer 2009. Our new neighbours were quick to introduce themselves. Upon hearing that we had foolishly packed the kettle in an unidentified box, they rapidly invited us for a much needed cuppa. Soon we were sat in their front room, drinking tea while they bounced our then nine month-old daughter on their knee.

It was a wonderful welcome to the area and to our new home. It also showed us that Riddlesdown was not only a beautiful place to live, but it was also home to a welcoming community. A community thrives by making that little extra effort, whether inviting your new neighbours in for a cup of tea or participating in the work of the Association. In this edition, we highlight numerous opportunities for you to get involved!

This is the first edition of the Recorder that my co-editor Daniel Munn and I have prepared, and we hope that you will enjoy reading the regular articles and features. In addition to the community news and information contained in the various committee member reports, the Mayor of Croydon Yvette Hopley keeps us up to date with her activities. Alison Carpenter relates

the experience of a builder discovering medieval bones in her driveway, and Kevin Baker reflects on the effects of this winter's downpours on his daily cycle across Riddlesdown.

We are already looking forward to producing our next edition. There are many ways that you can contribute! Perhaps you have a feature that you would like to write, or you are a keen photographer and would like to see your image on the front cover? Alternatively, you may be a member of a local organisation and you would like to tell us about your activities. We would love to hear from you! Contact details are below.

Daniel and I would like to thank all those who have contributed to this edition of the Recorder, and those who have helped me in getting this first edition out. In particular we would like to thank fellow committee members Brian, Phil and Linda for their advice and support, and Roger Cherrill for all his work putting the magazine together. Finally thank you to our road stewards for getting this edition of the Recorder delivered.



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BY BRIAN LONGMAN

Riddlesdown Recorder

Welcome and congratulations to Neil Tarrant and Daniel Munn, our new editorial team on producing their first edition of the Riddlesdown Recorder. Well done. It has been said many times before by the previous editors of the Recorder, to produce a magazine year on year that is both interesting and relevant and on occasions makes you smile, is not easy.

Our new team will need your help to source new articles, so if you have a good local interest story, why not mail or e-mail it across to them and let them have a look. To email a story or feature send to [REDACTED] or by post to [REDACTED]

Local Police

The Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) in Croydon, have just completed a major reorganisation. One of the most significant changes has been the formation of the new Croydon South Cluster, of which the Sanderstead SNT is just one section. The new cluster now under the control of a single Inspector will offer increased flexibility and cross-boundary working in an effort to tackle some of the more serious issues affecting the south of the borough. Purley SNT is also in a small part of our area and has the same Inspector but with their own team.

Another big change is that the old local SNT meetings were not open to the public but under the new arrangements they will be. The police will advertise the dates and locations of the meetings and we will also

publish this information on our web site. The format of the local SNT meeting is that, following an open discussion, three local promises are agreed with the police team. At the last Sanderstead SNT meeting, the three promises agreed were: to reduce burglaries; to attend Riddlesdown Collegiate and be a visible presence; to patrol targeted areas to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour.

Following agreement of the three local promises, a subsequent cluster-wide meeting is then arranged. This is attended by the chair of each SNT panel in the South Cluster from Coulsdon to Addington. This wider-based meeting will then set the three major priorities for the whole of the South Cluster, which generally will require a level of cross-boundary working.

At the first meeting of the South Cluster in January, the following three priorities were agreed: tackling burglary; theft from motor vehicles; and Addington Central Parade crime reduction. All promises and priorities are set for a three-month period. Sanderstead is a low-crime area when compared to many other parts of Croydon but burglary or the fear of burglary is still high, judging by the feedback we receive from residents.

For your information, in the 12-week period from December - February there were sixteen burglaries to homes in the Sanderstead ward. Out of the sixteen, twelve were during the daytime between 8am and 5pm and fourteen gained entry via the rear of the property. The good news is the police have arrested and charged an offender

responsible for some of the recent burglaries in the area. Please also have a look on our website, for tips and advice from the Police, for home and vehicle crime prevention.

Funday

It is with regret that I have to announce that this year's Funday on Riddlesdown Common will not take place. It was not a decision that the Association took lightly, but faced with a range of organisational issues it was the correct one to take on this occasion. It is the Association's intention to reinstate the Funday in 2015.

Since moving the Funday up on to the Downs several years ago, many things have changed. Costs have risen year on year, public liability insurance with all the associated risk assessments around health and safety issues have become more complex but perhaps the biggest issue is around volunteers. The event continues to grow each year, but even with the support of the City of London rangers and a dedicated but small number of fit and available committee members, we struggle to cover all the duties required of us on the day. I know I keep saying it, but we do need more people to step forward especially those with energy and enthusiasm. The committee agreed that in order to ensure the safe future of the Funday we need to develop a specific Funday sub group to help organise and deliver the event in 2015. The question is, are you interested? Do you have some time to give to your community, if so, please give me a ring on [REDACTED] or email me on [REDACTED]

You might find it interesting that only last week I was reading the very first annual

report of the Association back in 1937 and to my surprise, I found there were twenty-one people on the committee, more than double the number that we have today, despite the Association today having many more members. However, even with twenty-one committee members in 1937, the Association had already introduced task specific sub groups to spread the load.

There was for example a sub group for social activities that reported for the year 1937; a social evening at Kenley Memorial Hall in March, a Flannel dance in May, two rambles in July and September and a New Year's Eve dance. A busy group but they also had the responsibility for the negotiations with Laings about the possibility of obtaining tennis courts in the locality for the use of the local residents. Perhaps in our fast moving digital world we have lost some of that community spirit and enthusiasm that was so evident back then in the 1930s!

Support our local shops

I make no apologies for returning to this subject yet again. Our local shops will only survive if we support them. Local shops are essential to our community and are often a lifeline to many people, especially the elderly. A recent poll revealed that more than a quarter (28%) of adults in the UK feel isolated, or have a friend or loved one who feels isolated because of a lack of access to essential shops and services within walking distance. The first thing to say is how fortunate we are in today's climate to still have a range of local shops, including a Post Office, a Pharmacy and two excellent newsagents that also sell a wide range food and general supplies.

It is said the closing of one shop often leads to the closure of another. All our shops, to some extent, rely on each other to generate footfall. Every shop is important, Tip Top Hair, Maggie's Diner, Caterham Glass and our excellent local chippy. We must not be complacent as I am sure many of you will remember the time when we had two greengrocers and a butcher but they are sadly now all gone. Let us make sure that we do not lose what we still have.

Just a quick reference back to 1937 again and that first annual report. The committee of

1937 formed a sub group to keep a watch on the erection of the new shops in Riddlesdown. The builder of the estate gave the Association an assurance that they would do all within their power to safeguard the amenities and look after the interests of the residents in the matter of the shops. Even back in 1937, the local shops were high on the Association's agenda. Local shops so often the lifeblood of the community, are closing at an alarming rate across the UK. Let's make sure this does not happen in Riddlesdown. Please support our local shops when you can.



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PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

BY PHIL THOMAS

Grass Verges, Highway Repairs, Street Cleaning, and Flooding

As residents will be aware from previous editions, I have been complaining to the Council for some time now about the generally untidy state of the area. On the whole, the Council have been listening and certainly some things have improved. But not everything has been done!

Although Tony Brooks the Director of Public Safety at Croydon Council, did promise us a response in early December, we are still waiting for a further update from him! Generally our main complaints are damaged grass verges in a number of locations including at some road junctions, insufficient litter bins at bus stops and potholed and poor road surfaces, in particular in Mitchley Ave, Riddlesdown Road and Ingleboro Drive. We would hope that with the spring season upon us, that grass seeding to the damaged verges will now take place. In addition we have complained about vegetation overhanging the footway from the north side farmland in Mitchley Hill. Our area has had poor street cleaning in a few of locations, although this does seem to have improved recently, following our complaints.

We are also pleased to report that the badly sloping and dangerous footway by the railway bridge in Lower Barn Rd which we had complained about for many months was resurfaced in early December. However, some white line marking on the newly laid road still remains to be completed together with remarking some defective white Access

Protection Markings across dropped kerbs that were done last year in some streets close to the station. I will continue to pursue the outstanding defects that were reported to the Council in January 2013!

It does appear that, even with the extremely wet weather that we have experienced this winter, the flooding situation under the railway bridge in Lower Barn Rd has been nowhere near as bad as in previous years. The RRA's perseverance with the Council seems to have paid off! All the works the Council did, with large gully suckers emptying all road gullies and soakaways a couple of years ago seems to have worked, although some minor flooding did occur it has been nowhere near as bad as previously. We still do, however, have to keep reminding the Council to clear blocked road gully grids but they do seem to respond when reported! We would urge all residents to report any blocked road gullies near to them via Croydon Council's website or by telephoning them on 020 8726 7100.

At least Croydon Council's road surfaces and water gullies do seem to be in a generally better condition than neighbouring Surrey County Council's streets! Many of Surrey CC's roads are potholed, littered and have many blocked road gullies, which cause extensive flooding on the road surfaces and are an absolute disgrace. It has even been reported that Surrey Police are concerned, as they say sober drivers are now being forced to weave around potholes, thereby masking the erratic behaviour typical of drink-drivers!

Overhanging hedges, shrubs and trees

With spring and summer fast approaching again, we would like to remind residents that we do receive a number of complaints/comments, about the number of households within the area that allow vegetation from their gardens to overhang the pavement. This vegetation can in particular, cause inconvenience for people with buggies, in wheelchairs, the disabled and more importantly the visually impaired, who could walk directly into the vegetation and injure themselves. All property occupiers are legally responsible for ensuring that this does not happen and they could well have damages awarded against them by a court for any injury sustained. The Council also have the power to serve a notice on the household and, if necessary, undertake the work themselves by removing the danger and charging the owner accordingly.

So please check whether any of your vegetation is overhanging the pavement and, if so, please arrange to cut it back level with your boundary. If you want to report an overhang from a particular property to Croydon Council, it can be done on the Council's website by going to the 'Report it' section. Or alternatively telephone the Council on 020 8726 7100.

Laying of New Power Cable – Purley to Addington

Croydon Council and UK Power Networks (UKPN) have advised that UKPN are currently renewing a 33KV power cable from Purley to Addington. The scheme is part of a larger investment programme UKPN are delivering over the next few years to ensure

that their infrastructure is fit for purpose.

The first stage of the works will be from the sub-station in Whytecliffe Road North, Purley to Sanderstead Hill. This work is designed to reinforce the electricity supplies between Purley and Addington, which will not only make the supply more robust but will allow room for any future development in the area. They began the first stages of work by Whytecliffe Road North to Sanderstead Hill, on 3 March 2014 and progress will continue through the coming months. The work will take approximately 12 months.

UKPN are working with Croydon Council to keep any disruption to a minimum. They will be working throughout the week and some weekends on the busier roads, to reduce the length of time the works will take. Access to all properties will be maintained and they will carry out noise and traffic management surveys throughout the scheme.

The majority of the works will be done in 50 – 100m lengths controlled by two-way temporary traffic signals and the trench will be reinstated as the works progress. The two exceptions to this are when Riddlesdown Road has to be crossed at the mini roundabout by Purley Oaks Depot (which is where it will mainly affect access for RRA residents), where three-way signals will be used and Purley Park Road will be one-way from Riddlesdown Road to Whytecliffe Road North; and when going under the railway bridge in Purley Downs Road, where this section of road will have to be closed and local diversions put in place. There will also be some disruption in Addington Rd, just on the east side of Selsdon

Full details of the route can be found on the RRA website.

RRA Website and Amazon

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

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

Website & Planning Notifications

As usual, all the planning applications and decisions in the area are updated weekly on our website www.riddlesdownresidents.org.uk

As Croydon Council no longer sends out notification letters to adjoining occupiers, there is now, on the RRA website, a new "Weekly Planning List" which shows newly submitted applications each week.

Woodland in Dunmail Drive, opposite Riddlesdown Collegiate

I have reported previously that two separate outline planning applications were submitted by the owner, Wineham Investments Ltd, for

an area of Green Belt woodland, fronting onto Dunmail Drive, opposite the collegiate gates. The first application was to build eight detached houses and then the second application was to build four detached houses. On both occasions Croydon Council's Planners refused the applications.

I also reported last time, that Wineham's appealed to the Secretary of State, for the second application, to build four houses on this Green Belt land. Just before Christmas, the Planning Inspector upheld the Council's refusal and dismissed the appeal. This is indeed excellent news and is welcomed by the RRA and many local residents. Hopefully, the dismissal of this appeal will now convince other developers that they will simply be wasting their time and money in trying their luck on similar schemes on other Green Belt land in our area! The full transcript of the Planning Inspector's report can be found on the RRA website.

Interestingly, in his report the Planning Inspector stated that the applicant's agent had provided detailed information relating to a number of extensions in recent years, on the collegiate site, which is also all built on Green Belt land. In response, the Inspector did state, "that the erection of such buildings would represent inappropriate development contrary to established policy and that the buildings have had a pronounced impact upon the openness of the Green Belt and clearly breached this policy." He did go on to say that the decision to allow these additional buildings may represent an economical and sensible way forward and for those reasons very special circumstances may have influenced the Council's planning decision in

allowing these buildings. However, it is still development on Green Belt land and in view of the Inspector's comments, the RRA will continue to monitor very closely any future proposals the Collegiate may put forward for future building work and any further increase in pupil numbers. It is probably generally agreed by local residents and the RRA alike, that this school has now reached its maximum capacity on this site (circa 2,000 pupils plus staff) and access to the school is not helped by the poor road, footpath and bus infrastructure that serves it. The RRA feel that the Council and local Councillors do now need to address these issues, which have, up until now, been allowed to go on, unchecked.

As a footnote, Wineham's did again put this piece of land opposite the collegiate gates, to auction on 5 February but it did not reach the reserve price and the land does remain for sale.

Tree Preservation Orders

As many residents will also be aware, Wineham's have felled many trees on the Dunmail Drive site, opposite the collegiate gates. As a result of this, the RRA and all the Sanderstead Ward Councillors requested that the Council do something to preserve the remaining trees on this site and on other land Wineham's own in the immediate locality. We are, therefore, pleased to report, the Council's Planning Department have now put blanket Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) on most of the remaining trees on the land, stretching from the top of Dunmail Drive down and including all the trees fronting onto Mitchley Ave, Mitchley Hill and also including the historic Mitchley Wood. The woodland opposite 16/60 Honister Heights and

adjacent to the Common, is also covered. Some of these TPOs are historic dating back to 1958. There is one minor exception, to some of the grazing land in Dunmail Drive, which is owned separately by a local resident. The exact locations of these TPOs can be found on the RRA website.

If any resident now sees any tree felling occurring on this land, they should contact Croydon Council's Planning Enforcement Officers immediately on 020 8726 6000. The RRA also understand that a Tree Felling Licence is required from the Forestry Commission, if more than 5 cubic metres of timber is felled, although some exemptions do apply. Again if residents notice felling of trees on this land, or in other woodland areas of Riddlesdown, as well as contacting Croydon Council, enquiries should also be made with the Forestry Commission in Bristol, on Tel: 0117 906 6000.

Farmland beside and rear of 118/122 Mitchley Ave

As reported last time, a planning application was submitted in early September 2013: "for the erection of boundary fencing and 3 non-permanent stables/livestock shelters; and the remainder of land will then provide grazing, whilst a small area will be reserved for growing horticultural crops." This is to the land beside No. 122 and also to the rear of these four houses in Mitchley Ave (including behind the Doctors' surgery). This land is not owned by Wineham Investments, who own most of the other agriculture land, but by one resident of the houses. The Council's Planners did approve this application in January.

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

I reported last time about the prior approval application that was agreed by Croydon Council in respect of repositioning the mobile phone mast from the pavement in front of the new flats to the rear left corner of the site, tight up to the railway fence. The RRA and Councillor Lynne Hale both objected to this application but the Council approved O2 and Vodafone's application despite our objections and the previous presentation of facts, made by the applicant to the Planning Inquiry in 2009.

On 23 March, Lower Barn Rd was closed off by the new flats development and a crane lifted into position the new mast. Whilst it does sit quite well within the corner of the site, it is still fairly prominent to a number of properties and is screened by trees on the west side of the railway embankment. We will just have to hope Network Rail do not fell these trees, or the mast will then be clearly seen by other properties in Riddlesdown Ave and Riddlesdown Rd. It will also be interesting to see if transmission improves to the north and west of the mast. I think it may be worse, especially when the trees are in leaf, because of the height of the trees around two sides of the mast. It is well below the top of them! Since my last report, I have heard of other complaints about poor O2 transmissions from this mast and the RRA would be interested to hear if other O2 and Vodafone customers are getting a better or worse service from the new mast. At the time of writing, at the end of March, the old mast on the pavement has not been removed and is still operational.

Planning Changes to Residential Rear Single Storey Extensions

Since the end of May 2013, Town and Country Planning legislation has allowed increases in the size of single-storey rear extensions which can be built under permitted development rules.

For a period of three years, between 30 May 2013 and 30 May 2016, householders will be able to build larger single-storey rear extensions under permitted development rules. The size limits will double from 4 metres to 8 metres for detached houses, and from 3 metres to 6 metres for all other houses. These new larger extensions (i.e. if they extend between 4 and 8 metres or between 3 and 6 metres) must go through the following process.

A homeowner wishing to build a larger single-storey rear extension must notify the local planning authority and provide a plan with full dimensions of the proposed extension and its relation to any existing adjoining properties at the rear. There is no fee in connection with this process. The Council will then serve a notice on adjoining owners or occupiers, i.e. those who share a side boundary and including those to the rear. This notice will give the address of the proposed development and describe it, and it will also set out when the application was received, and when the 42-day determination period ends. It will explain how long neighbours have to make objections (which must be a minimum of 21 days), and the date by which these must be received. If any adjoining neighbour raises an objection within the 21-day period, the local authority will take this into account and make a decision about

whether the impact on the amenity of all adjoining properties is acceptable. No other issues will be considered.

The development can go ahead if the Council notifies the developer in writing that no objections were received from adjoining neighbours. If the local authority does not notify the developer of its decision within the 42-day determination period, the development may also go ahead. If approval is refused, the developer may appeal. To benefit from these permitted development rights, the extension must be completed on or before 30 May 2016. The developer must notify the Council in writing of the date of completion.

If you want to object on a proposal submitted by a neighbour, then you must act and raise an objection with Croydon Council within the time frame. The Council will then have to assess the application and if necessary they can refuse it. A number of applications in the Borough have already been refused by them. However, if no representations are received from adjoining occupiers, the Council has no jurisdiction to determine this case and the developer can then proceed with the work. Further details and full guidance on these changes can be viewed on our website. This change in planning rules has not gone down well with many Councils and Councillors across the country but unfortunately it has been brought in by the coalition Government and is enforceable. Just make sure that if you are unhappy about a proposed development adjoining your property, that you object and take the necessary action within the timescale.

Purley Hospital – Urgent Care Centre

I reported last time about the official opening of Purley Hospital after the major refurbishment and about the Urgent Care Centre (UCC) which is on site here. Despite assurances given at the opening last November by the Croydon NHS Trust that the UCC would remain fully open, it seems that the Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCCG) had other ideas!

It has been announced by the Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group (the CCGs are the GP led organisations who took over from Primary Care Trusts in April 2013), that from 1 May 2014 they are proposing to reduce the opening hours at Purley Urgent Care Centre (UCC) from the existing; 8am - 8pm to 2pm - 8pm for 365 days a year. This reduction in hours is because the Croydon CCG says not enough people are using Purley UCC - on average only 19 people a day. However, it has to be borne in mind, during 2013, Purley Hospital did resemble a building site and many people perhaps did not realise the UCC was open! The Croydon CCG has said they will review the footfall at Purley within the next 3 to 6 months and if it increases, they will look at again at possibly extending the opening hours of the UCC. We would urge our residents to spread, by word of mouth that this facility exists in the south of the Borough at Purley.

It was also announced by the Croydon CCG that this UCC would change from being a nurse-led minor injuries and ailments service to a GP-led Minor Injury walk in Unit (MIU). Because a GP is now leading the centre, rather than nurse professionals, apparently the services provided will not be as many as the former UCC! Confused? Probably like many people, the RRA are totally baffled as

to what ailments and urgent situations patients can or can't be treated at Purley Hospital, within a UCC or a MIU. Consequently, in January we took this matter up with our Croydon South MP, Sir Richard Ottaway. Sir Richard agrees with us and he took it up with John Goulston, the Chief Executive of the Croydon Health Services NHS Trust together with the lack of publicity given to Purley UCC.

Sir Richard subsequently responded after receiving information from the Croydon NHS Trust that GPs are already referring large numbers of their Croydon South patients to Purley and the Hospital has recently been seeing some 3,000 out-patients a month, increasing to 7,500 by the end March 2014.

The investment in the Hospital was justified to provide accessible out-patient & urgent care services to the whole of the South of the borough, all 100,000 plus of us, and to relieve pressure on CUH, particularly the A & E Department.

So this is the situation. If we don't use it, we stand to lose it. Please do spread the word, so that patients for whom this is the ideal treatment centre will be aware of it and make beneficial use of its services. The quicker we get the word around and attendance up, the more secure its future will be.

You can attend the UCC if you suffer a Minor injury which includes the following:

Lacerations capable of closure by simple techniques (stripping, gluing, suturing); excluding injuries involving broken glass in which case x-ray may be required to look for fragments.

Bruises.

Foreign bodies, e.g. children sticking beads, etc. in noses or ears, in which case a quick assessment needs to be made to determine whether these can be removed or whether

the child needs to be referred for ENT, or things like splinters/other foreign bodies stuck in wounds which could be removed with tweezers.

Non-penetrating superficial ocular foreign bodies.

You can also attend the UCC in these in these eventualities:

- Following advice to attend specifically given by a general practitioner.
- Following recent injury of a severity not amenable to simple domestic first aid.
- Following recent injury where it is suspected stitches may be required.
- Following blows to the head where there has been no loss of consciousness or vomiting.
- Following a recent eye injury where there is no loss of vision, chemical or blunt injury.
- Partial thickness thermal burns or scalds involving broken skin: not over 1 inch diameter, not involving the hands, feet, face, neck, genital areas.
- Foreign bodies superficially embedded in tissues.
- Minor trauma to hands, limbs or feet.

Further details (with links to various NHS websites) about healthcare within Croydon can be found on the RRA website.

Many GPs are now referring patients to Purley Hospital for the many clinics that are now operating there. Feedback that the RRA has received is generally very favourable about this newly refurbished Hospital.

The RRA can also report that from 1 April 2014, the world renowned Moorfields Eye Hospital in London, will be taking over all eye care at Croydon University Hospital and they will also have a clinic at Purley Hospital. Again this is excellent news.

TRANSPORT AND MEMBERSHIP

BY JOHN RAPP

Transport

Thank you to our commuters who helped to make Clare Williams, the Southern Manager of Riddlesdown Station, welcome when she visited for a Station Walk on 12th December. This was an opportunity for Committee Members to show her areas of concern. The service had not been good for a few days before, and it was again bad on that day, and Clare took away improved knowledge of many passengers' concerns.

East Croydon, Victoria, and London Bridge, our three main destination stations, continue to have a building site feel. While 2018 is the target year for completion of the works in the last two stations, I do not have a date for East Croydon's completion, where improvement tasks start and end each month. The latest task is the installation of middle handrails for bridge stairs to platforms three and four & five and six, with measurements being taken on 2nd April. The other set of stairs, which is temporary and narrower, will not receive a centre handrail because it is planned that at some time in the future platforms one and two will be moved to give space (extra land need is secured) for two further platforms.

We continue to have dialogue regarding the 412 bus service with Transport for London (which arranges the provision of bus services using bus operators) and Arriva the operator of the 412 service. I am hoping to receive factual information - details of buses that did not arrive (times and dates) that I can collate and pass to TfL. Riddlesdown Collegiate is already aware of this need and if anyone

would like to help with that work, please contact me on [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Membership

During the past few weeks I have been sharing signs of spring with delighted members of the RRA. Many of those that I have spoken with have been pleased to learn of the Godstone Road being opened again and Purley Oaks Recycling Centre opening again on 29 March 2014.

While I am not sure who watches to see if we use the Godstone Road – Margaret and I are finding that many journeys have become easy again – our recycling visits are monitored, if only by the quantity of material delivered and the Croypost taken away.

I did make a couple of visits to Factory Lane and heard that many Purley Oaks refugees had travelled there to deposit waste and visit some of our temporarily transferred local staff. The staff are delighted to have returned home and look forward to welcoming their returning clients.

I leave you to enjoy your summers remembering that every time, in common with your fellow Riddlesdown Residents, you use a service (or comment to service providers) you add to the voice of our community. If you would like to do more please consider joining the Committee – details from any existing Committee Member. For contact details see the front of the magazine.

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.

The Story of Our Driveway –

Alison Carpenter

When you move into a new house, you sometimes learn a bit about the previous occupants. We heard stories from the neighbours about how the gentleman who once lived here drove his car right through the back of the garage and into the garden by mistake!

But it had never occurred to me who might have been here before our house was even built. The recent discovery of an ancient skull and bones under our driveway by some landscape gardeners has opened up a whole new world – an historical one – that we had never even thought about. Who was this person and what was their life like? How did they die, and how did they come to be buried there without a grave? Was their life and death not worth marking, or was that just not the ‘way’ back then? It feels a little odd that we may never know the details.

The past week has certainly made history very real to our children. Many parents take their children to visit museums during the school holidays, but this Easter holiday, the museum (or at least one exhibit) has come to us!

We had an extension built when we first moved in, but like any building project it took a lot more time and money than we anticipated, so we were unable to finish all the work. Although we have walls, windows and a roof, for which we are very grateful, we still have work to do inside the house. However, as we needed to install a soakaway and manhole, and after 2 years of chalk footprints

through the hallway, we decided that sorting out our driveway was our next priority.

So we employed a landscape gardener, Terry Jobson, to carry out the work, and after waiting several weeks for him to finish off other jobs he finally began to dig out the soakaway and take off the surface of the driveway with a digger. Within a couple of hours he came across what he first thought was a coconut, partially submerged under the ground. On closer inspection he realised it was a skull! He dug it out by hand and found fragments of other bones as well, including a femur.



My husband was out with our children at the time, and I was at work, when Terry called me to tell me about his discovery. I phoned my husband to let him know what had happened and he went straight home to have a look and phone the police. Several police officers looked at the skull and agreed it was probably very old. They took the skull and the only large bone – a femur – away to be aged, and left two police officers to watch our driveway



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and pile of rubble, as it was now a potential crime scene.

Several neighbours have now told us of other remains found in the area over the years – some thought to be plague victims - and of Saxon burial grounds nearby.

As I write, our driveway is still being guarded by police officers, until they get official confirmation of the age of the bones. If they turn out to be less than 70 years old then a criminal investigation will take place, and if they turn out to be very ancient then it's a possibility that archaeologists will want to do some further digging. For the sake of our new driveway and getting on with our lives, we're hoping for somewhere in between!

Special Report - Flooding in Purley and Whyteleafe – Phil Thomas

Although it is outside our area, as I'm sure most of you will be aware, the Godstone Rd, between Tesco at Purley Cross and Hillbury Rd in Whyteleafe was closed between 6 February and 19 March because of flooding. This, of course, caused considerable pain and anguish for those whose homes were flooded in the Kenley/Whyteleafe valley.

For some Riddlesdown residents, this also had a considerable "knock on effect" and caused considerable inconvenience and additional traffic on some streets and bus detours into Purley. Additional diverted traffic has been using some of our roads, including Riddlesdown Rd, Brancaster Lane and Coombe Wood Hill because Downs Court Rd and Warren Road were both closed at the junction of Godstone Road. It has also highlighted, that in particular Riddlesdown Road, which is classed as a "Local Distributor

Road" on the Council's District Plan, is not fit for purpose, especially when two HGVs (many Day Aggregate lorries have been using this street) have to pass by each other on the narrow sections, both at the north and south ends! In some instances Lorries have been mounting the footway to pass one another. The RRA did take this matter up with the Council's Highways Department and Councillors, a number of years ago, but we never got a satisfactory response!

So what is the Caterham Bourne and why did it flood? The Caterham Bourne is located to the south of the borough running along the A22 corridor. It was first documented in 1473 in John Warkworth's Chronicle. He named it a "character of ill-omen" and "of Woe-water." The source of the Bourne is close to the railway viaduct in Woldingham Road (which now has severe damage to the road surface), near to Wapses Lodge roundabout. It then runs through Whyteleafe, Kenley & Purley Town Centre, along the Brighton Rd, Old Town, then to Waddon Ponds as it makes its way into Wandle Park and then into the River Wandle and then eventually the River Thames. In our part of the Borough, it is mostly hidden in underground culverts but it is visible by Bourne Park in Kenley, in front of the Harris Primary Academy Kenley (formerly Roke School) and as the "pond" beside Purley Oaks Recycling Centre. This is the reason that sandbags were placed around this "balancing pond" and extensive pumping took place, to try and prevent flooding at this location and relieve the amount of water in Kenley. The water from this "balancing pond" was then pumped into the underground culvert that runs along the Brighton Rd going towards Croydon.

The intense rainfall received over the winter months, also saturated the ground causing the flow of the Bourne and the water table to increase significantly. The water table is usually 25 metres below ground during the summer months and is the boundary between water-saturated ground and unsaturated ground. At the height of the flooding it was approximately 0.75 metres below ground level, or in some areas above the ground.

As many local residents may be aware, extensive flooding last happened in this valley in December 2000 and lasted until March 2001. The then, local Members of Parliament Peter Ainsworth and Richard Ottaway called for action and the Chief Executive of Tandridge District Council met with representatives of Thames Water, Sutton & East Surrey Water, the Environment Agency, Surrey County Council Highways, Croydon Council and the Police in efforts to find a speedy solution. Pumps were set up and large hoses pumped water from the vulnerable areas near Maple Road to a little further down Godstone Road near The Rose & Crown Pub (now demolished), where it was allowed to run alongside the road and down the drains again. A large bund was created to the north of the allotments to contain the water before it reached Bourne View, in a determined effort to prevent polluted water from reaching the Kenley Water Treatment works. Throughout the crisis Thames Water was criticised for not having enlarged the culverts over the years.

After the water levels had subsided to a manageable level, Thames Water brought in a large machine to clear the culverts of

debris. This machine blasted its way through the pipes crushing into fragments anything in its path. Four and a half tons of silt and rubbish were removed from the pipes!

So who is responsible for the Bourne? In 2001, residents were told by the Environment Agency that the Bourne was not its responsibility because it was not a main river. In a repeat of the situation of 100 years ago, residents were told that each property owner under whose land the Bourne flowed is responsible for its maintenance.

So here we are in 2014, 13 years later and yet again we have a repetition of the previous flooding! Many agencies and Councils have



been again been involved. Thames Water, Croydon Council, Tandridge Council, Surrey County Council, the Environment Agency, Sutton and East Surrey Water, and Transport for London (TfL) on behalf of the Mayor of London. But, you may ask, what have all these agencies been doing for the last 13 years to ensure that the problem did not recur? It appears to be very little. Thames Water, which is responsible for the management of the Bourne, and of course is now a private company, probably do not want to spend money, to protect their shareholders' interests, unless they get financial help from the Government!

As to the future and plans for dealing with further flooding? Your guess is as good as ours. But let us hope these multiple agencies get a grip of the situation and do something

about it now! The fiasco this winter has no doubt cost us, the tax payer, a fortune, not to mention the extreme inconvenience to many thousands of motorists and many occupiers who had their homes flooded! We were also very close to having our Kenley Water Treatment works closed because of flooding and sewage contamination. It is reported that both Croydon Council and Surrey Council have applied to the Government for £1m funding to build new permanent reservoirs in Woldingham and Kenley. History tells us there were problems from as far back as 1473, so the Authorities have had plenty of time to do something by now! Let's hope something is done fairly soon!

Adventures in Commuting! – Kevin Baker

A few years ago, when my now wife and I were looking to take that giant step of buying a house together, the Estate Agents sent us details of properties in an area that I was only vaguely aware of. It was called Riddlesdown. And what an absolutely lovely area to live in, it has proved to be, with easy access to both London, for our frequent theatre trips, plus the beautiful Surrey and Kent countryside on our doorstep. And then there is the added bonus of having the common at the top of our road. This means that I am able to cycle along the Bridleway to get to my workplace in Whyteleafe. Usually my biggest commuting hazard is cows and cowpats, plus the occasional deer gambolling across my path.

That was, of course, until earlier this year, when the rains came!

What was an occasional cycle in the rain

became a regular, adrenalin-fuelled adventure! It is hard enough at the best of times cycling back up the hill, especially after a day's work, but the added challenge of fighting against a running flow of water and mud coming in the opposite direction, made it quite a battle! And of course, that was without the wind! Occasionally, it would be kind and get behind me to help me up the hill, but most times, it would either be head-on, or trying to blow me sideways into the many ruts that had been carved in the ground by the torrential rain; ruts, which at times, and especially when cycling home in the dark, seemed to rival the Grand Canyon!

But now, hopefully, the worst of it is over and I can go back to enjoying the ride, even if it is considerably more bone-shaking than before!

Who are we? - Linda Bevin Secretary of the RRA *Where are you from originally?*

I was born in London, and have gradually moved further and further South as I have grown up. I have lived most of my life in various parts of Croydon – spending time in Norwood New Town, East Croydon, South Croydon and New Addington. Then I discovered Riddlesdown and never looked back.

How long have you lived in Riddlesdown?

We moved here about 6 years ago, attracted by the good rail links and the Common. The area seemed to offer the best of both worlds, easy access to London and Croydon and Gatwick, but with the countryside on the doorstep.

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

I am one of the newest members of the team, only joining less than a year ago so I am still getting to know how it all works. The previous secretary, Karen Whitehead, was one of our neighbours so I was able to quiz her first about what it involved before I “signed up”. We live in such a lovely area and I wanted to contribute towards helping it stay that way – and it is a great way to keep in touch with all the local issues. I have found out all sorts of stuff I never knew before.

What is your favourite part of Riddlesdown?

Predictably, I love the common although I never spend as much time as I would like there. One of my favourite times has been during the snowy winters when the children have been out building snowmen and creating runs for sledges. It was so lovely to see them outdoors enjoying themselves. And it is so funny to watch the dogs bounding about full of canine joie de vivre. I think it is particularly beautiful in the winter sunshine.

Describe life in Riddlesdown in six words.

Safe. Quiet. Friendly. Leafy. Green. Convenient.

Is being on the committee a lot of work and what do you do?

I think they are breaking me in gently. I take the minutes at the meetings and type them up and distribute them. It is really only a couple of hours every other month.

Would you recommend more people get involved?

Of course! The present committee does a brilliant job, but any organisation needs new blood from time to time to bring new ideas and fresh enthusiasm. It is very rewarding to know that in my own small way I am helping our community by supporting the other hard-working committee members and hopefully lightening their loads a little. If a lot of people did a little bit, we could achieve so much more and make sure that the Association keeps looking after our interests for another 75 years.

What would you change in Riddlesdown, if anything?

Although litter is not as big a problem here as in some areas, it would be great if there was none at all. A lot of the litter is not directly caused by people, but by birds and foxes rooting around in open bins, or high winds blowing things out of recycling boxes. If everyone just kept a lid on their recycling box, and picked up any fallen litter from the street around their own frontage it would make a huge difference. And I do wish I could get a seat on the train for my morning commute.

What else do you do?

I am a yogini- after 15 years or so of practising yoga I have just qualified as a teacher. I am also a tanguera – a female tango dancer. I dance Argentinian tango – yes, the one that Vincent and Flavia do on Strictly with all the fancy leg flicks. They keep copying all my moves!

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Riddlesdown Collegiate – Gordon Smith

As we move towards the end of the academic year at the Collegiate, it is worth looking both back over the year so far and forward to what is to come.

The year began with celebrations for a big improvement in GCSE results and the achievement of our best ever A Level results in the summer of 2013. This was really pleasing and has spurred all members of the Collegiate on to look to achieve even more for our students this year.

The Collegiate continues to be a very busy place throughout the year with special events and activities complementing the day-to-day teaching and learning. Once again particular highlights have been the concerts and productions, which showcase the wonderful talents of our students. Should any readers be interested in attending our Summer Concert in the second week of July, please keep an eye on our website for details. I hope also that we shall see many of you at our Third Annual Summer Fare on Saturday 5th July at the Collegiate.

Our neighbours will, I am sure, have seen the large number of deliveries for construction work over recent months. I am pleased to be able to report that the development of our new, multi-million pound Arts Centre is now close to completion, and that work on the half-a-million-pound refurbishment of our netball and tennis courts has now begun. These will provide first class facilities both for our students and I hope the wider community; more information about these and the opportunities they provide will be available soon.

I would like to thank our local police for the support they provide in helping to keep the Collegiate community safe. Once again, neighbours may regularly see police at the end of the day; this is rarely for a specific reason, but is part of their wider commitment to provide a presence in places across Croydon, particularly school gates at the end of the day, to ensure the welfare of our students.

If you wish to know more about Riddlesdown Collegiate, please visit our website at www.riddlesdown.org.

From the Town Hall -

Cllr Yvette Hopley,
Mayor of Croydon

It seems like only yesterday I was in the council chamber accepting the post of Mayor and explaining what I would be doing during my year of office. Time flies when you are having fun and I have certainly enjoyed all of the events I have been invited to attend in the borough, which have been so varied and exciting.

Croydon is the largest London borough, one of the most racially and culturally diverse and is a hive of activity in terms of business development and expansion.

At the beginning of my tenure I said that the future of Croydon was bright and I am delighted to see that the Westfield Hammerson plans are coming to fruition. There has certainly been a significant change in Croydon and I have opened a number of new buildings including Bernard Weatherill House, the launch of Renaissance Building,

the new bridge at East Croydon, a number of new school developments as well as many new local shops and businesses. The residents and businesses with whom I have met at recent conferences are confident and confirm that productivity figures are moving in the right direction, which of course has led to many companies taking on new staff bringing down unemployment figures.

I have spent some time supporting our youth and recently involved Croydon College at one of my fund raising event – The Gourmet Dinner. This was a great success involving 75 children and giving them hands on experience, which is so important in the development of their careers. I have also given opportunities for young people to shadow me and recently a young lady from Purley Igbo Ebunor spent the day with me from 8.30 am in the morning to 10.00 pm when the council meeting ended. I don't think she realised what a busy life the Mayor has, but she does now! The youth are the future of the borough and I have taken every opportunity to support their activities and events.

I have also spent a great deal of time with many faith groups, talking about the importance of religious education in the curriculum which leads to a better understanding of how many of us live here in Croydon. I believe this is key to community cohesion in a borough as diverse as ours. Certainly I have been welcomed with open arms wherever I have gone and I have really enjoyed all the cultural events.

As I move towards the council and European elections in May my role in the council will become ever more challenging, with all

members trying to get their important points across. I will continue to be fair but firm and will stick by my no nonsense policy in the chamber.

I hope that you will all continue to support my charity events in aid of the South East Cancer Help Centre in Purley and the British Heart Foundation details of which can be obtained on the Mayor's website. Do follow my facebook page to see all my recent activities. Thanking you for all your previous support.

www.croydon.gov.uk/mayor

www.facebook.com/MayorOfCroydon

Riddlesdown History

Alison Carpenter's fascinating article on the discovery of human remains in her driveway reminds us of Riddlesdown's long and rich history. As we go to press, Croydon police have announced that the bones found in the Carpenter family's driveway have been carbon-dated. They have been shown to date from between 650-755 CE, that is from the Anglo-Saxon period! At the Recorder we hope to be able to update you with any further information that may be discovered about the bones in the next issue.

Alison's story also gives us a chance to consider how traces of our past are preserved. Sometimes it is by chance, sometimes it is due to a conscious choice. We are currently in the early stages of developing a project with Riddlesdown Collegiate to make an archive of oral histories of the area. The proposed project would offer a fantastic opportunity for residents to contribute to the community's collective memory. Oral accounts are an increasingly

important means of recording history, which complement and enhance more traditional sources such as printed documents, photographs or indeed archaeological evidence like bones.

This project would involve residents, especially long-standing ones, recounting some of their memories and experiences of living in Riddlesdown. Do you have a story

to tell, or have some reflections on the manner in which the area has changed over the years? If so would you be prepared to have them recorded with a view to them be deposited in the RRA's archives?

If you would be interested in contributing stories and memories to the project please contact Neil Tarrant on either [REDACTED]

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COMMUNITY PAGES

Short pieces on local associations, events and activities. Submissions should be of around 150-200 words. Each edition we will also offer a 'Featured Group' section, in which an individual group can give a more detailed account of its activities and aims. In this edition we are delighted to hear from the 16th Purley Scout group. 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: 16th Purley Scout Group – Chris Leonard

The 16th Purley Scout Group has sat at the heart of Village life since 1937 and has, since 1971, organised and hosted the ever popular Gruffy Fayre, which sits fondly in the memories of many former and current Sanderstead residents. Plans are already advancing for this year's extravaganza, which has been booked for Saturday 7th June – we hope to see you there!

Scouting at the 16th Purley however is not just about The Gruffy Fayre. An important element of what we do is ensuring that our activities and pack nights remain fresh and appealing for today's children whilst maintaining traditions that are important to Scouting. In November, two of our Scouts, Jake (11) and Tom (10) attended the annual Croydon Remembrance Service, representing the group as part of a much larger Croydon District Scouting contingent. For both boys, this was the first time they had experienced a "parade" and service on this scale. The boys spoke about their experience after the event: "it was exciting to march through the town with everyone stopping to watch us and clap. We even had a police escort! There was a strong feeling of community spirit and it was cool to see the Mayor at the wreath laying ceremony. It made me feel grateful to the soldiers who had lain down their lives for us." Remembrance will be an important theme for the group as we move into 2014 with the centenary of the beginning of the First World

War. You might start to notice Beavers, Cubs and Scouts wearing a "Lest We Forget" badge on their uniforms this year – as a visual focus for Scouting remembrance and to increase the understanding of the sacrifice made by others on our behalf.

Away from the crisp, cold of Remembrance Sunday, the pack regularly take full advantage of the natural resources around us to get out and about as frequently as possible. Pack nights are often spent on Sanderstead Rec and The Gruffy, playing Capture the Flag, orienteering games, football, rounders and any manner of outdoor pursuits. In the weeks before our annual camp, you may spot Cubs and Scouts practising their tent pitching skills on the Gruffy. Seeing the massive Ridge Tents being erected takes me back to my early camping experiences – as I am sure it does for many others. Practice does however make perfect, as years of our Scouts and Explorers will attest to, and we must be doing something right as many of them continue to support the Group by becoming Young Leaders and participating in the Annual Camp themselves too! Camp cooking practice is another firm favourite – but don't worry – these activities are restricted to our HQ in Cranleigh Gardens! And let us not forget the Beavers, our youngest members – a yearly Beaver Sleepover with games, activities, campfire (and the obligatory singing around it) never fails to thrill and satisfy their early sense of adventure!

It is this spirit of adventure that our Leaders harness and work with each week at meetings

and in frequent additional opportunities for outings and excursions. Some activities test the children physically or mentally. Some take them out of their comfort zone by increasing their independence and personal responsibility but all are carefully planned and supported by our dedicated group of volunteers and parent helpers, without whom none of this would be possible. In a typical year the children will experience: zip wire and climbing activities, building rafts and bivouacs in the woods, weekend camps, excursions to places such as Drusillas and the pantomime, Laser Quest, sailing, canoeing and kayaking in London Docklands, archery and air rifle shooting, watching changing the guard at Windsor Castle with a "behind the scenes tour", Beaver camp visit, model aeroplane and roller coaster making, science activities at Riddlesdown Collegiate, wildlife ramble on the common, night hikes, abseiling, crate stacking, team building and problem solving activities to name but a few...

If you think Scouting is for you, we'd love to hear from you whether you're a six year old potential Beaver or a 66 year old Adult volunteer, there is always a warm welcome at the 16th Purley Scout Group!

Dyb, Dyb, Dyb!

Contact details for the group:

Beavers Thursday 5.30-6.30pm

NicolsDibbs (Jay Beaver) 020 8660 5776

beavers@16thpurley.org.uk

Cubs Wednesday 6.45-8.15pm

Dominic Watts (Akalea) 01293 534370
dom@d-i-w.co.uk

Scouts Thursday 7.30-9 pm

Trevor Lowe 01883 626038 lowies@aol.com

Explorers Tuesday 8.30-10 pm

Alex Kelberman

Cantilena Singers 2013

Cantilena Singers is a friendly, local, ladies choir which celebrated 10 years as an independent choir in 2013.

Our summer concert in July attracted over 100 friends and supporters at St Matthew's Church, Chichester Road. The choir performed a varied programme.

Additionally we commissioned Alan Smith to write a piece to celebrate our 10 year anniversary. We performed this song "When thou commandest me to sing" for the first time at the summer concert.

The annual summer concert is always a fundraising event. In 2013 the choir chose to support Lupus UK and South Croydon Centre for the Retired. This enjoyable evening was the finale to a successful year which included several seasonal performances before Christmas and informal concerts at residential homes and local societies.

In our weekly rehearsals we have fun and work to improve our technique. Our music director and accompanist provide guidance and help us with passages with tricky tuning or timing.

Cantilena Singers meet on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm in the Small Hall, Methodist Church, Limpsfield Road, Sanderstead (403 bus route). For more information please ring Jill on 07957 627783

Parlour Players

Born in 1980, Parlour Players are proud to continue presenting two plays a year, to welcome new faces as well as retain the stalwarts of many years. Our membership is around 65 people who take on the huge

variety of roles needed for our productions. We aim to be a friendly, welcoming club. We have a well-subscribed audience mailing list giving the details of our next play, which range through 'whodunnits', comedy, farce and big costume dramas. Past productions include A Man For All Seasons, The Dresser, David Copperfield and Amadeus with many different kinds of thrillers and light comedy threaded throughout our 31 years. Last November, Pygmalion was much acclaimed. There are also social occasions, and we meet to read through each play we plan to perform, with everyone taking part.

Affiliated to Sanderstead United Reformed Church, where we perform, we welcome you to join us, or to be on our mailing list or in any capacity. See our website www.parlourplayers.co.uk or call our secretary, Joyce Wells, on 0208 657 0704.

Spring/Summer at Purley and Sanderstead Libraries

April is City Reads month in Croydon Libraries. To commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the start of the first World War the London wide City Reads campaign is encouraging people to read "My dear I wanted to tell you" by Louisa Young and "Private Peaceful" by Michael Morpurgo, in April. For more information about City Reads please see <http://www.cityreadlondon.org.uk/> Multiple copies of both books are available to borrow at all Croydon Libraries.

Look out for children's activities in all Croydon Libraries in May half term.

June and July see Adult Learners Week from 14th-21st June, the Purley Festival between 21st and 28th June and Croydon Heritage

Festival from 21st June-4th July. Again Croydon Libraries will be hosting talks and workshops for these. As the magazine goes to press a talk by author Barnaby Powell entitled "2018: China goes Critical" is confirmed at Purley Library for Saturday 21st June, 2.00-4.00pm. Please keep an eye out for other activities in the libraries as they are advertised.

The Summer Reading Challenge for children will run in all Croydon Libraries from Saturday 12th July to Saturday 13th September. The theme this year is "Mythical Maze." Children must read 6 books to win a medal collecting stickers and other incentives on the way. Libraries will be running craft and storytelling activities throughout the summer holidays. Please see our summer activities leaflet for more details.

All Croydon libraries will be recruiting volunteers aged 13+ to help run the Summer Reading Challenge, please enquire in your local library for more information and an application form.

Sanderstead and Purley libraries continue to run their regular under fives activities on Tuesday morning at Purley and on Wednesday morning at Sanderstead, these will continue throughout the summer holidays, please contact the libraries for the times.

All activities are free but some talks and activities may require you to book a place.

For more information please contact Sanderstead Library on:

Croydon.Sandersteadlibrary@Carillionservices.co.uk or 0203 7001015 and Purley Library on:

Croydon.Purleylibrary@Carillionservices.co.uk or 0203 7001013.

St Edmund's Church

Riddlesdown's Anglican Church at the Heart of the Community

Part of the Parish of Sanderstead

Services on Sunday mornings at 8am and 10am

All welcome - just come along

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



Church hall for hire

Very reasonable rates

Good for children's parties

Contact Parish Office (tel: 8657 0665)

parish.office@sanderstead-parish.org.uk

Mitchley Avenue (junction with Lower Barn Road)

www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk

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Opening Hours: Monday to Saturday - 6 am to 9 pm
Sunday - 6 am to 7 pm

A-Z Organisations

& how to obtain more information regarding their diary listings

City Commons Events Information
City of London website:

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

Telephone: 020 7606 3030, Email:

pro@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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

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

Do check that events are definitely running before turning up

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

CNHSS – Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society

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

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

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

Facebook and Twitter

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

[Society/106522816087133?ref=hl & https://twitter.com/cnhssprogramme](https://twitter.com/cnhssprogramme)

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

FoFD - Friends of Farthing Downs

AGM on Wednesday 28th May, Regular talks & walks & meetings & exhibitions
Hold a Sunday Tea on Farthing Downs the last Sunday of each month, May to September

For more information - email fofd2@btinternet.com or telephone: 01737 554449

Riddlesdown Collegiate

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

For more information see website:

www.riddlesdown.org or tel: 020 8668 5136

RSPB Croydon Local Group

Monthly Illustrated Wildlife Talks in South Croydon at the Old Whitgiftian Association Clubhouse, Croham Manor Road - off Croham Road. South Croydon, CR2 7BG

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

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

For more information contact John Davis 020-8640 4578 or see www.croydon-rspb.org.uk

SHS - Sanderstead Horticultural Society

Membership £6 per family contact Val Burley 020 8651 5837. Five member lectures a year & Garden Outings to great gardens. Other member benefits including horticultural advice & Knights discount. 60th Annual Flower Show on Saturday 22 June 2pm onward, Wettren Tree Garden, Purley Oaks Road

Whyteleafe Comedy Club

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

Further Community Information

A-Z of more things to do locally, things to join and places to go

Bourne Society

Their website includes details of local publications, historical information, downloadable leaflets of walks around the area and photographs of Riddlesdown. Member only meetings – membership £10 a year. There is also a specific Sanderstead Local History Group.

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

Botley Hill Farmhouse

Live Entertainment

Limpsfield Road, Warlingham, Surrey CR6 9QH

Tickets usually required.

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

Cantilena Singers

A local ladies choir – for information contact Jill 07957 627783

Croydon Animal Samaritans

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

Tel: 020 8644 8829 or website: www.croydonanimalsamaritans.co.uk

Croydon Art Society

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

Croydon Camera Club

Meets in Shirley most Wednesdays of the year & has outings to photogenic locations

Further Information via email:

ccc@croydoncameraclub.org.uk

Or website:

www.croydoncameraclub.org.uk

Fairfield Halls

Theatre, Concerts & Cinema, etc.

Park Lane, Croydon CR9 1DG,

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

Purley Bury Tennis Club

For information contact Tel: 020 8668 5250

Email: mail@purleyburytennisclub.net

Website: www.purleyburytennisclub.net

Purley Literary Society

Meetings October to March, 8:00pm,

Purley United Reformed Church

906 Brighton Road, Purley CR8 2LN

Visitors fee per talk £5 or Season ticket (11 talks) £22 or (6 talks) £12

www.purley-literary-society.com

Purley & Riddlesdown

Townswomen's Guild

<http://purley-guild.webplus.net/> or tel 020 8668 3719 or email prtg1990@hotmail.co.uk

Meet in the United Reform Church Purley on the first Tuesday of each month from 2-4pm.

Hold regular talks, lunches & various outings, etc.

You can attend up to 3 meetings free of charge – otherwise membership is £24 pa

Riddlesdown Lawn Tennis Club

For information contact Richard - tel: 020 8645 0075

Email: enquiries@riddlesdownltnl.com

Website: www.riddlesdownltnl.com

Riddlesdown ParkRun

Free 5km run every Saturday at 9am, on Riddlesdown Common – must register

Further information at website:

www.parkrun.org.uk/riddlesdown/

St Edmund's Church & Community Hall, Riddlesdown

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

Surrey Wildlife Trust

More Information Tel: 01483 795440

Website: www.surreywildlifetrust.org

Surrey Ramblers

Website www.surreyramblers.org.uk

Croydon Ramblers - tel: Rosemary 020

8660 6107, Email

ramblersrose@yahoo.co.uk

The Jolly Farmers

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

Walk & Cycle Surrey

Further information at website:

<http://walkandcycle.co.uk/surrey/groups.php>

Warlingham Horticultural Society

Hold Regular flower shows & plant sales in Warlingham & outings

<http://home2.btconnect.com/bransby/hort/hort.htm> or call Derek Butler on 01883 623618

WEA

Workers Educational Association

Sanderstead & Selsdon Branch

Educational courses in Sanderstead, Tel: 020 8 651 4651 or email

JosieDGreen@hotmail.com

Whyteleafe Tavern

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208 Godstone Road, Whyteleafe CR3 0EE,

Tel: 01883 626270 or

www.whyteleafetavern.com

Our MP (Croydon South); Richard Ottaway MP, The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel; 020 7219 1590 or visit his surgery; 36 Brighton Rd, Purley CR8 2LG (call for appointment times).
Website: www.richardottaway.com Email; ottawayr@parliament.uk

OUR COUNCILLORS

SANDERSTEAD WARD

Lynne Hale

Tel: 8405 6721

Email: lynne.hale@croydon.gov.uk

Tim Pollard

Tel: 8251 8500

Email: councillor@timpollard.co.uk

Yvette Hopley

Tel: 8657 0973

Email: yvette.hopley@croydon.gov.uk

(As Cllr Hopley is Mayor until 3 June 2014 she has to remain neutral and will be unable to participate in any political matters)

PURLEY WARD

Donald Speakman

Tel: 8405 6752

Email: donald.speakman@croydon.gov.uk

Badsha Quadir

Tel: 8668 3672

Email: badsha.quadir@croydon.gov.uk

Graham Bass

Tel: 8660 7013

Email: graham.bass@croydon.gov.uk

Please note – Local Council Elections take place on 22 May 2014, so the above Councillors may not be re-elected. See the RRA website for an update.

RIDDLESDOWN/LONDON TRAIN TIMES (SOUTHERN RAILWAY)

WEF 8 December 2013 until 17 May 2014 (Information is taken from Southern timetable).

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

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

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

To London Bridge - No direct services Saturdays & Sundays.

From London Victoria to Riddlesdown: Weekdays: 05.52, 06.24, 07.32, 08.53, 09.23 and then 53 and 23 mins past hour until 23.24 & 23.47.

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

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

From London Bridge to Riddlesdown:

Weekdays: 07.03, 07.19, 07.55, 07.58, 08.25, 17.15, 17.44, 18.16 & 18.47.

Saturdays & Sundays: No direct Services.

From East Croydon to Riddlesdown: Weekdays: 06.10, 06.41, 07.17 (to Hurst Green), 07.34, 07.52, 08.09, 08.16 (to Hurst Green), 08.41, 09.11, 09.40, 10.10 then 40 and 10 mins past hour until 17.30, 17.41, 17.58, 18.11, 18.31, 18.41, 19.01, 19.11, 19.40, 20.11, 20.40, 21.10, 21.40, 22.10, 22.40, 23.10, 23.41, 00.05.

Saturdays: 06.40, 07.10 then 40 & 10 mins past hour until 23.41 & 00.05.

Sundays: 08.10, 09.10, 09.40, & then 10 & 40 mins past hour until 20.10, 21.10, 22.10, 22.57.

Enquiries: Southern Customer Services: Tel: 08451 272920 or www.southernrailway.com National Rail Enquiries: 08457 484950 or www.nationalrail.co.uk

Local Bus Route and Frequency: Bus 412 (Arriva)

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

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

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

Links also available via the Transport section on the RRA website: www.riddlesdownresidents.org.uk

Timetables are subject to change, so if in doubt, check with TfL or the Operator(s). The RRA cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the above information.

Library Closing Days: Purley and Selsdon – Wednesdays and Sundays: Sanderstead – Mondays, Thursdays and Sundays. Croydon Council's telephone number for all enquiries: 020 8726 6000, website www.croydon.gov.uk

Address: London Borough of Croydon, Bernard Weatherill House, 8 Mint Walk, Croydon, CR0 1EA.

RRA Committee Meetings: usually 3rd Wednesday in January, March, September, November. Contact a Committee member for details. The AGM is on 21 May 2014 at 7.30pm in St Edmunds Church Hall.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, VISIT

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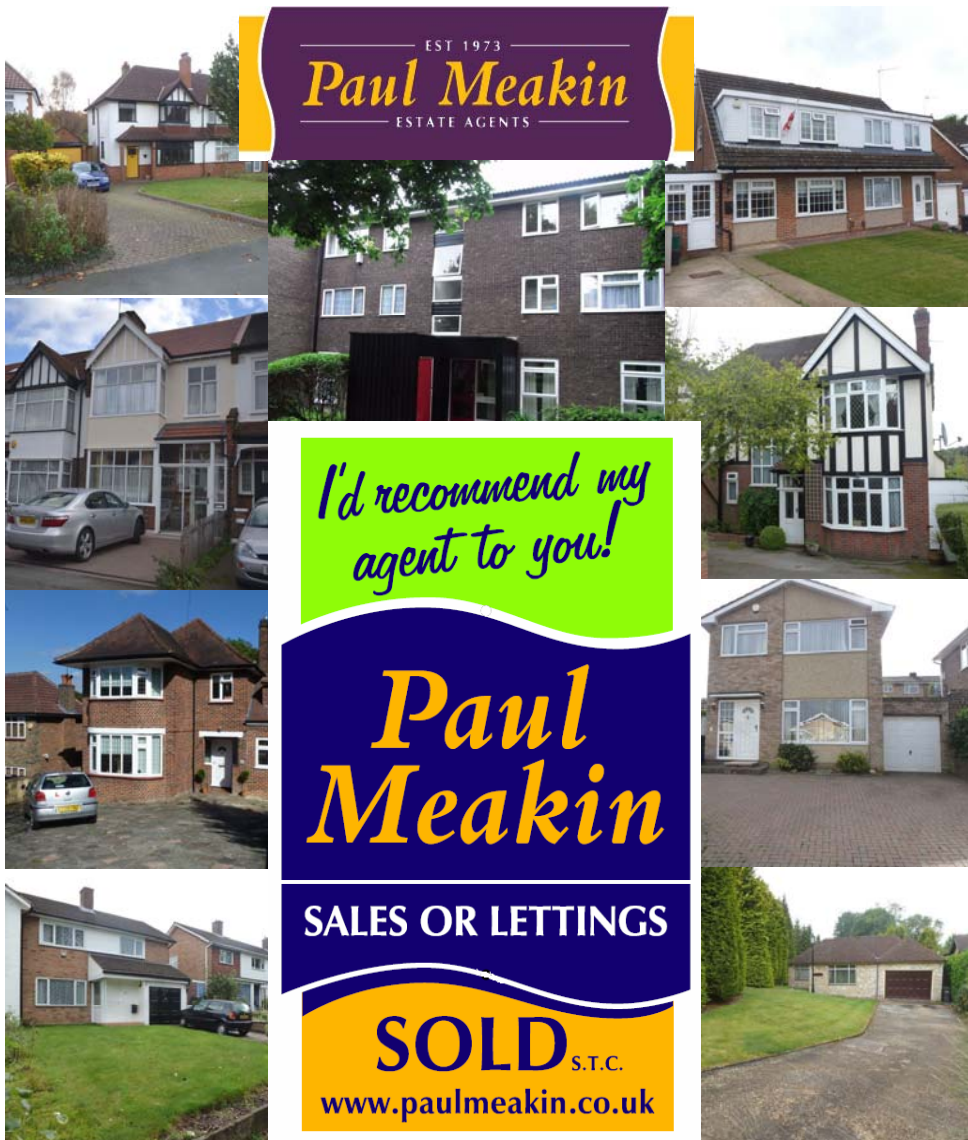
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