RIDDLESDOWN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

THE RIDDLESDOWN RECORDER

SUMMER 2023 ISSUE 211

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Front Cover Photo: "19th Purley 80th Birthday" Cake made by Ellen Tilbury, photo by Liz O'Brien,

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

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

www.riddlesdownresidents.org.uk

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

All Emergencies: (Fire, Police, Ambulance) **999**
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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 in Lower Barn Rd by Riddlesdown Pharmacy, on the Green opposite the shops in Lower Barn Rd, on the Green in Lower Barn Rd near St Edmund's Church and on the side wall of St Edmund's Church.
Website: www.riddlesdownresidents.org.uk Email RiddlesdownResidents@gmail.com

EDITOR'S NOTES
BY NEIL TARRANT

As we gradually return to normality after the pandemic, the area has begun to see more communal events such as street parties celebrating the recent coronation of King Charles III. In this issue you can also read about the local Scout group, the 19th Purley's party to celebrate its 80th anniversary. The RRA committee has been pleased to resume a number of its activities. In recent months local residents have participated in litter picks organised by the committee, which have helped to keep our communal spaces tidy. We were also delighted to be able to see the return of the children's Christmas party. It ran with reduced numbers last year, we plan to run the event again on the first Saturday in December hopefully back to full capacity. As the Chair Brian Longman notes in his report, we were glad to welcome two new members to the committee but in order to keep working on behalf of the community we would love to see some new volunteers step forward!

I would like to thank all who have contributed to this magazine, and Roger Cherrill for his work type setting it. If you have any ideas for a feature, please do get in touch via editorrra@gmail.com.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
BY BRIAN LONGMAN

Welcome to the 2023 Spring edition of the RRA's Recorder Magazine.

As I said in my report back in 2021, the RRA workload continues to grow year on year. I also said the good news was that the Association has an excellent team in its dedicated committee members who willingly shoulder the ever-growing workload between them. However, I then went on to mention that since 2014 we have lost more committee members, who have either moved away, or retired, than we have managed to recruit. We have been pleased recently to welcome two new members to the committee, Joyce Boakye-Ansah and Ann Shepherd, but we still need further volunteers.

I apologise for repeating myself yet again, but I believe the Association can and should be proud of its achievements in helping to make Riddlesdown a better place to live. For this to continue, we need more people to step forward especially those with energy, enthusiasm and a community spirit. Please, please if you are interest and want to know more, e-mail me via the RRA's e-mail address, or give me a call. Your Residents' Association Really Needs You! Without new volunteers, the Association may well cease to function in a few year's time.

Hopefully the question you are now asking yourself is, what does the RRA do and how can I help?

The background. The RRA was formed in 1937 to promote the well-being of the residents in Riddlesdown. In 1937, there were twenty-one people on the committee, more than double the number we have today. In those early years the Association ran a number of social activities and clubs as the population of Riddlesdown grew and developed. A gramophone club that included a record library for the loan to club members, an autumn flower show with 39 separate categories and a Dramatic Society who produced several performances each year. In 1956, the RRA held its first dance at St Edmund's hall with 180 residents inside on the dance floor; many more had to be turned away at the door due to overcrowding.

Today, the Association receives a constant stream of contentious planning applications of which many involve the demolition of single homes to build blocks of flats. As result we have seen a growing pressure on our local infrastructure. This includes areas such as schools, public transport, parking, planning, local health services, risk of flooding and so much more.

The Association continues to work closely with our public transport providers, both train and bus and a wide range of other service providers including, schools, Police, health, Croydon Council, the City of London Corporation (Riddlesdown 'Common') and a number of other Resident Associations and Voluntary Service providers.

Also high on our agenda is the protection of the Green Belt that borders Riddlesdown. At a Public Inquiry in 1974, the RRA successfully opposed an appeal to the Secretary of State to build hundreds of new houses on the Green Belt land of Riddlesdown. The lesson was

clear: the Green Belt cannot be taken for granted and if we value it, we must be prepared to fight for it. We have done so ever since and will continue to do so.

The Association has always considered that its role should be more than just planning applications, important as they are, we should try to introduce more social activities to help bring our community closer together.

For example, the first RRA children's Christmas party was held in 1957 at St Edmund's with 120 children attending. Today the Christmas party continues to be as popular ever and with numbers growing; we are now looking for a larger venue.

Pre-Covid, the Association teamed up with the City of London Corporation and St Edmund's Care Group to provide a new 'Active Ageing Health Walk' on Riddlesdown 'Common'. The walks were aimed at those who had not walked for a while and required a little support. The walks were advertised on our website, Facebook and in our E-Blast system and proved popular before they had to close during Covid. This is something we would like to re-start.

Until a few of years ago, the Association ran an extremely successful family Fun Day with a relaxing picnic on the Downs. The Fun Day attracted around 800 people to the Downs to enjoy the jazz band, donkey rides, Punch and Judy, tractor rides and children's fun races, including the traditional egg and spoon race. The Fun Day was a real success story with many families visiting the Downs for the first time and making new friends. I know I speak for many residents when I say the Funday is much missed. Again, this is something we would like to re-start.

In 2020, the RRA together with St Edmund's Care Group, submitted a funding bid to provide a local film club with afternoon tea for the elderly in the Goddard Room at St Edmund's Church. The bid was unsuccessful but the idea is still there.

With a few more people on today's committee with new ideas and energy, we could do so much more. Please give it some thought.

Moving on to the City of London (CofL), who in 2021 introduced new parking charges for their car park on the Downs. We were told the reason for the new charge was to increase income. They informed us that while they were faced with a substantial budget reduction, they still have to provide a year-round Ranger service across the whole site. As a 'critical friend' of the CofL, we made the point that the new charges would not necessarily yield the revenues that they expected, but would increase parking on the nearby residential streets. What we now find is a car park that is barely a quarter full, and on other occasions is often completely empty. Parking in nearby residential streets has indeed increased.

At a recent meeting of the West Wickham & Coulsdon Commons Consultative Group which I attended on behalf of the Association, the CofL published the income raised from the new Riddlesdown 'Common' parking charges. These were from March 2021 to March 2022, with an income of £10,114 and for March 2022 to March 2023 an income of £5,012 which was a 50% drop on the previous already low income year. Also discussed at the meeting was the idea of a café on Riddlesdown, possibly in the Ranger's hut. So far, there have been no takers. Having said

that, I am sure many of you will remember that back in 2017, the RRA ran a project under the banner: 'What will Riddlesdown look like in 2036'. Following positive feedback at our AGM in 2017, we subsequently held a workshop at Riddlesdown Collegiate in July 2017 to consider current and future planning issues under the themes: housing, transport, environment and community facilities. Under community facilities, whilst Riddlesdown Open Space was considered to be well-managed by the CofL, there was a perception that it is not used enough and could be more child-friendly. There was also strong support for a tea-room and toilets. Other options included were an adventure playground, trim trail (like Happy Valley), more benches and seats and picnic areas. We will continue to discuss both issues with the CofL and keep you informed of any developments in this respect.

Finally, at the AGM in May 2022, it was agreed to increase the cost of the RRA's subscription from £3 to £5. Members now have the option of paying the annual subscription of £5, either by cash, cheque, standing order or online banking. For more information, please read payment notes for residents on the back cover of this issue of the Recorder. There is a also a standing order form on the inside back cover. Thank you.

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PLANNING MATTERS
BY PHIL THOMAS

Recent Planning Applications and Decisions

Again, a fair amount has happened on the planning front since the last Autumn 2022 Recorder, so I will briefly summarise below some of those previous planning applications and decisions. It is noticeable that since the change of control of the Planning Committee in May 2022 (it is now 5 Conservative and 5 Labour Members, but the Conservative Chairman has the casting vote) that many more applications for both flats and houses going to Committee are being refused by the Committee. It is also noticeable that the Council's Planning Officers are refusing more under delegated authority, and the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) are also dismissing about 95% of appeals in the south of the Borough for this type of development, which the Officers and Planning Committee have refused, when the application has gone to appeal. More detail of the status of each application can be found on the planning pages of the RRA's website.

Briefly, I will summarise:

14 Oakwood Ave - 20/01625/FUL; "demolition of 1 no. detached family house and erection of 1 no. apartment blocks, comprising of 20 new apartments". A revised application for 18 flats was refused on 1 December 2021 by planners and an appeal was lodged. This appeal was dismissed the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on 14 February. An application for the demolition of the existing house and erection of two detached houses has recently been approved by the Council, with only one objection. Another application has recently been granted: (22/05346/FUL) for the 'demolition of existing garage and extensions to existing house. Two storey rear extension to existing house. Erection of one new house to be built to the side of the existing house with altered and new vehicular accesses.' However, a further application (23/00568/FUL) for the 'demolition of existing detached dwelling house and replacement 4 new semi-detached dwelling houses with associated landscape and parking' has also been submitted but no decision has been made as yet. Nearby residents are concerned about this particular application and a number of objections have been lodged with the planners. This site is not in the RRA area but backs onto houses in Riddlesdown Rd and Coxley Rise, which are in our area.

88 Riddlesdown Road - 19/04371/FUL; "demolition of existing house and erection of a block of flats comprising of 21 No. units with parking." The Council refused this application on 20 December 2019, but an appeal was made to the PINS. The appeal was dismissed on 7 December 2021. However, a slightly different application for 21 flats (22/00148/FUL) was submitted and was approved by the Council's Planning Committee, with a Section 106 agreement completed on 20 February.

Land Rear of 15 Rectory Park/Hyde Road - 21/01871/FUL; "demolition of existing wall and gate, division of existing garden to No.15, alterations to land levels, erection of a pair of three storey semi-detached 3 bedroom houses, formation of vehicular accesses with associated car parking (including parking space for host house) fronting Hyde Road." The Council refused this application on 28 July 2021. An appeal was lodged and this was dismissed by PINS on 3 October 2022.

125 Mitchley Ave - 22/02278/FUL; a third application was submitted to the Council, to convert the house into two flats (1 x 2- and 1 x 3- bedroom flats with vehicular parking - 3 spaces). This application was refused by the Council on 14 December 2022. An appeal has been lodged with PINS on 1 March but at the time of writing it has not been 'validated' or given a 'start date', which is why all those who made comment have not received a notification from the Council.

98 Hyde Road - there are currently four applications in with the Council, to vary a condition, a non-material amendment, variation of Condition 1 and two applications to discharge conditions. The Council have still not determined these applications - two of them were validated in April 2021 and one in January 2022 but still no decisions have been made. Most of the flats are occupied now, yet full planning consents have not been granted. Both the RRA and Ward Councillors are in contact with the Planners about this scheme. Apparently, the developer has submitted a new application but the Council have not validated it for some reason. They advise that they need to give the applicant a 'reasonable amount of time' before any enforcement action will be taken.

89 Hyde Rd - a number of applications have been been submitted by the developer to discharge conditions attached to the original approved planning application. Like No. 98 opposite, the developer is progressing on the works to build this block of flats but at the time of writing they do not appear to be occupied and all building works have ceased. The Council recently 'not determined' the application for 22/02205/CONR - to discharge Condition 2 (plans) of the main planning application. We have since learnt this is because a new and revised Section 106 agreement was no signed by the applicant/developer, despite reminders being sent over many months by the Council's Legal department/advisers.

Riddlesdown Railway Station, Lower Barn Road - 22/00681/FUL; a retrospective planning application was submitted by Amazon for the 'Click & Collect' lockers that are located on the downside footpath to the railway station. The Council granted permission. However, the lockers were subsequently removed by Amazon, presumably because they weren't getting used!

20 Riddlesdown Ave - 21/06095/FUL; for the "demolition of existing dwelling and the erection of a new building comprising 7 new dwellings with associated parking". The Council refused this application on 27 January.

22 Rectory Park - 23/00940/FUL; this application is just outside the area but the foul water drainage from this site will flow towards and through Riddlesdown, and is for the 'erection two detached dwellings with

associated parking and landscaping to the rear of 22 Rectory Park. Access off Rectory Park via the approved access drive associated with development at 20 Rectory Park (ref: 22/05329/FUL).' This is the third development in close proximity to each other, with applications at No 18 being approved (5 fats and 4 houses) and No 20 (two houses at the rear of the existing house). The RRA have objected to this latest application about the additional sewage and surface water flowing towards Riddlesdown in the undersized foul water sewers in our area and the subsequent foul and surface water flooding that occurs locally. In addition, there is currently extensive parking by contractors on Rectory Park and these two further developments will no doubt add to the parking issues and damage to grass verges.

30 Riddlesdown Ave - 23/00010/FUL; this application is for the 'demolition of existing garage and shed fronting Riddlesdown Road, alterations to land levels, erection of dwellinghouse (over two floors) and associated parking, cycle storage and refuse storage'. The RRA were contacted by a number of nearby residents and we have objected to this application. Whilst a number of dwellings have been constructed in the rear gardens of the Riddlesdown Ave properties, the rear gardens in the Riddlesdown Ave properties do get shorter going northwards, so the distance from the host property and those adjoining in the rear gardens is less.

31 Copthorne Rise - 22/04872/FUL; an application was submitted on 19 December for; 'the demolition of a detached garage, alterations to land levels, erection of two detached two storey houses with accommodation within the roof space, formation of vehicular accesses and car parking spaces (including an access and parking space for the host property), provision of associated cycle and refuse.' There were 100 objections to this application, including from the RRA and Cllr Lynne Hale and the application was refused on 28 April.

Telecommunication Mast, Mitchley Wood, Dunmail Drive - 23/01357/PA8; an application was submitted on 5 April for: 'The installation of a new shareable 30m lattice mast which is collocated with an existing mast to the north of the site. The proposed new mast supports 6no. antennas over 1no. headframe, 2no. 600mm diameter transmission link dishes, 6no.equipment cabinets, 2.4m high perimeter fence and ancillary development thereto). This is required to facilitate enhanced network coverage for the Mobile Network Operators. This multiuser structure with secure compound and upgraded power supply will enable a consolidation of equipment and in time lead to the removal of unused infrastructure from the wider site and cell area.' This is for a prior approval for a telecommunications mast and is not like a full planning application. The RRA and Ward Councillors cannot ask for a referral to the Planning Committee for this type of application. This proposed mast on Dunmail Drive is to be adjoining the site of the existing 20 metre high phone mast close to the Scout hut and Mitchley Hill. The mast is used by 02, Vodafone and we believe EE. It has limited phone signal distribution as it is in the valley and those travelling through by vehicle.

Whilst the RRA are not averse to new telecommunications masts, bearing in mind

the topography of Riddlesdown, this proposed mast involves felling mature trees on land protected by a blanket Tree Preservation Order. The applicant did not raise this point in their application and seem to be oblivious to this fact. The RRA are not averse to raising the existing mast to say 25 metres. The Council have just refused this application.

85 Mitchley Avenue - 23/00962/LP; a Lawful Development application was submitted in March for a 'change of use of from C3 to use under Class C3(b) as a semi-independent dwelling house for young people (to accommodate up to 4 people include residents and carers).' There was no right to comment on this application and the Council subsequently approved the application.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
BY PHIL THOMAS

Brighton Road Cycle Lane Corridors

Works have been ongoing for many months to create a cycle lane corridor, and the Council have now brought in the new mandatory cycle lanes, with junction layout changes (to Riddlesdown Rd & Sanderstead Rd), parking restrictions etc, on the Brighton Rd from Bartlett Street, South Croydon, through to Purley town centre. This is being implemented under a Temporary Management Order for 18 months.

The RRA have been in correspondence with the Council's Highways Officers since September 2022 to establish some points with the scheme and raise some concerns. In that time whilst our correspondence has been acknowledged, we have not received a substantive response from Officers, so we escalated it to the Chief Executive. We also asked that the entry for traffic from the south of the Borough into the Purley Oaks Household Refuse & Recycling Centre (HRRC) be opened up again, around the Capella Court 'roundabout' as some drivers were making dangerous U turns on the Brighton Rd and finding it difficult to turn around safely. This request was implemented although we received no prior notification about it happening. However, by reducing the northbound lanes beside Capella Court, from two to one lane plus the mandatory cycle lane, with bollards, it will no doubt cause traffic flow issues when northbound traffic is stacking to enter the HRRC and/or in peak times, for drivers who are waiting to turn back around Capella Court towards Riddlesdown Road.

From late March, bollards were fixed to protect the cycle lanes and we know from previous comments on our Facebook page that this is not popular with some cyclists. However, a few days later the Council's contractor came back and removed some of the bollards in various locations but kept the rubber bases in place!

The experimental scheme went 'live' on 3 April 2023 and the public now have 6 months to raise comments/concerns (or praise) for this scheme with the Council. It will run until 3 October 2023. Residents are encouraged to submit their comments.

More details are on the RRA's website and the link to the Council's web pages to comment.

Gas Main Works in Riddlesdown - in the Summer of 2023 and 2024

Following the gas main works in the summer of 2022, the RRA have again been advised by the contractor acting on behalf of SGN (Forefront Utilities), that gas main replacement works will continue in the summer of 2023. The Council have stipulated that the works must be undertaken during the school summer holidays, in view of the location of Riddlesdown Collegiate.

For the next phase this summer, Forefront Utilities propose commencing on Saturday 22 July until circa Sun 3 Sept 2023. They are proposing to work and lay new gas mains to Dalegarth Gardens (odd number side only), Eskdale Gardens both sides, and Honister Heights from the Eskdale Gardens junction up to and just past the Derwent Drive junction. Again, the majority of excavation work will be in the footways.

They would also like to close off again the Dalegarth Gardens junction to Mitchley Avenue for the storage of spoil. The location of their welfare unit is not yet decided - it had to be moved from Dalegarth Gardens this year, as it was on a slope and was difficult to use for the workforce.

All gas mains not already replaced to houses will need to be upgraded to PE (yellow plastic) so there are no iron mains, or services left in the area. So where new gas mains are laid into houses, access will be required to the property at some point. Where there are new PE mains to houses, the connection will be made in the street. It is appreciated that this is holiday season and the contractor will letter-drop all residents affected before works commence. Residents can then liaise with Forefront Utilities.

Further works to the other end of Honister Heights and Dunmail Drive serving the Collegiate will be undertaken in the summer of 2024. Further details and maps are available on the RRA's website. All the proposed work is subject to the contractor obtaining a works permit from the Council.

Road Closure of Godstone Road (A22) during the School Summer Holidays

A reminder that the Godstone Rd (A22) will be entirely closed from Saturday 22 July 2023 until circa Sunday 3 September 2023. This is between the entrance to the Tesco Store in Purley Road (just north of the railway bridge), up to and just south of the Dale Road junction (close to the Downs Court Road/Warren Avenue traffic lights). The main alternative diversion routes (principally for HGVs) will be signposted through Coulsdon, Redhill, Godstone and Whyteleafe, and primarily via the A22, A23 and A25. There will be clear diversion signage in place. This work is to enable SES water to connect a water main between these two locations. Warren Rd will be closed in both directions to through traffic on the sharp bend to Purley Railway Station. No doubt unofficial local diversions will be via Downs Court Road, and Mitchley Avenue (A2022).

It is anticipated that the 412 bus service will start and terminate at the back of Purley Railway station, along with the 407 (to Caterham) bus service (which will be split into two services in Purley). Full details will be published on the RRA's website, our Facebook page and our E-Blast, when we have received full and further information information from Croydon Council, TfL and SES Water

Street Tree Pruning

The RRA raised last year with the Council's Forestry Office about street tree pruning which for some streets particularly in the former Sanderstead Ward, are now 3 years beyond the regular 5 year tree pruning programme for the south of the Borough. Most other streets are 2 years behind schedule. We have been advised that tree pruning works have temporarily ceased due to Council's current poor financial situation. However, a number of larger trees in some streets are now excessive in height and spread across the narrow streets, and is some instances are blocking street lights. We have again raised this issue with the Forestry team. It is all well and good the Council planting new street trees (which is to be welcome) but if the Council can't carry out basic tree maintenance/pruning on a regular basis to large trees in narrow streets, then that surely is poor tree management?

Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) - Boundary Variation

Many residents may have seen on television or perhaps read that Natural England started a review of the AONB boundary review process in late 2021 and this ran until January 2022.

The RRA in 2022, and many other residents submitted comments about land including Riddlesdown, Kenley & Coulsdon Commons within this proposed AONB extension area, plus some Sanderstead land. Unfortunately, we learnt at the beginning of March that these four areas were not to be included. Basically, it is surrounded by too many urban areas to the south and is not a continuous part of the existing and proposed AONB. But Happy Valley and Farthing Downs in Coulsdon were proposed to be included in the AONB.

Another consultation is now under way until 13 June 2023 and further comments can be submitted, to again justify the case for Riddlesdown, Kenley & Coulsdon Commons. Support can also be given to include Happy Valley & Farthing Downs. There could be objections about these two suggested areas to be included in the AONB. More details are on the RRA's website.

Flooding In Riddlesdown

After all the money spent with flood alleviation works in Mitchley Avenue and Lower Barn Road by the railway station in the summer of 2021, flooding continues to occur at both locations causing inconvenience to residents in heavy and torrential rain.

In our view, part of the problem (which we have been telling the Council for the last 15 years years) is that road gully grids are not being cleaned by the Council's contractor higher up in other streets in Riddlesdown, and a lot of excess flood water flows to the low points in these two locations, rather than draining away higher up. Extensive redevelopment doesn't help the situation either and puts a strain on the undersized foul water sewers in our area. The RRA will continue to pursue these flooding issues with the Council.

Do you know where to go if you need medical advice, but it's not an emergency?

We have received a leaflet from the Croydon Health Services NHS Trust (the full leaflet is on the RRA website at the top of the page) but it advises the following:

Pharmacy -Your local pharmacy is a first port-of-call for minor health concerns. Pharmacists are experts in medicines and can help with lots of illnesses, from skin rashes to earaches and flu. Many pharmacies open late and offer private consultations, no appointment needed.

Your GP - Call your GP practice or visit their website to make an appointment for an illness or injury that won't go away, or access your GP's out of hours service.

NHS 111 (24/7) - Call NHS 111 FREE for urgent medical advice, or access the service online at 111.nhs.uk. If NHS 111 advise that you attend the Emergency Department, ask them if they can book you an appointment.

GP hubs (bookable appointments 8am-8pm, every day) -There are three 'GP Hubs' in Croydon which treat both minor injuries and minor illnesses requiring same day care – for both children and adults. They are located in Central Croydon, Purley and Parkway (New Addington). To book an appointment, people should call NHS 111 first to discuss their symptoms. You will be offered a telephone consultation with a GP or practice nurse who can also book you to attend for a face-to-face appointment where appropriate.

Contact your current healthcare team - If you are already receiving care or treatment from a particular healthcare team, contact them first to see if they can help.

Healthier Together children's health website - Created by experts, Healthier Together is a new website in south west London which provides pregnant people, parents and carers with trusted information on common childhood illnesses. Search 'South West London healthier together'.

Mental health support (24/7) - If you live in Croydon and you need mental health support in a crisis you can call our 24/7 Mental Health Crisis Line on 0800 731 2864 (option 1). The Mental Health Crisis Line offers emotional support and advice to people who are affected by urgent mental health issues, at any time of the day or night. It is open to children and adults of all ages, and to people who haven't previously accessed mental health services. If you are in a mental health crisis or need urgent support you can also search 'Mind', 'Samaritans' or 'Good thinking urgent support'.

Wellness space at the Whitgift Centre - The Croydon Health and Wellbeing space has been created to offer free mental health support and social care help for people living in Croydon. Whether it's financial worries, loneliness, questions about housing or bills, or just a simple need to talk with someone – there is team there to help, including specialist mental health staff.

You can find the service on the 1st floor of the Whitgift Centre, next to Holland and Barrett. Simply walk in to make an appointment or book by calling 020 8680 3635.

Simply Connect Croydon - If you need to access community support, visit croydon.simplyconnect.uk You find local community services, activities and support including a map of warm spaces and community hubs close to home. Simply Connect Croydon is dedicated to helping Croydon residents navigate local services, managed and delivered by Croydon Voluntary Action (CVA) and Volunteer Centre Croydon.

TRANSPORT
BY JOHN RAPP

Using Public Transport to and from Riddlesdown

I have been asked to provide these notes to help all Riddlesdown Residents to use public transport happily.

In 2015 we enjoyed four 412 buses every hour and a half hourly train service. Due to Transport for London, and Department for Transport wanting to save money, from Mondays to Saturdays we now have three daytime buses (only going as far as Croydon Town Centre and not West Croydon). This reduces to two an hour in the evenings and on Sundays. From Monday to Friday, morning and evening peak train services (including three Thameslink trains - morning to London, evening bringing everyone home) run every half hour. This reduces to an hourly service outside peak hours. At the weekend, we have enjoyed a half hourly service. Sadly, the start time has progressively become later, and the May 2023 timetable reduces the first two hour's service to one an hour. We are told that cutting out those trains will allow Southern to provide a better late night Monday to Friday service - getting people home more relaxed after a night out in London.

One feature on the buses is that they are more reliable, and less prone to not turning up. For the trains, and perhaps for TfL services generally, we are being encouraged to plan our journeys. Here are some thoughts on making the most of the services available.

Using the bus.

We have two special stops - Riddlesdown Road and Borrowdale Drive, at which we can - in addition to the timetable - see buses coming and go in either direction to leave Riddlesdown, and connect with more frequent services.

Arriving at Purley there are two options.

Getting off at the Purley Station / Purley High Street Stop (beside Tesco), options include 127, 289, 407 and 455 services. The 127 can take you to Mitcham, where you can transfer to a bus serving St George's Hospital. The 407 is good as it goes to Sutton (with the possibility of changing at West Croydon Bus Station to take a 264. This is 24-hour 100% electric bus service that goes all the way to St George's Hospital.

Staying on the 412 to its stand in the Brighton Road gives, after crossing the road, access to Purley Hospital, and more buses to Croydon

Taking the 412 towards Croydon Town Centre, gives the option to change to a 64 at Selsdon - for Croydon University Hospital - or to continue to the Swan and Sugarloaf Stop. From here, the 468 starts on its way to Elephant and Castle - thankfully passing Selhurst Park – very useful for Crystal Palace home matches!

Staying on the 412, the next stop is Coombe Road - which is an almost universal stop giving buses toward Norbury Station (via Croydon University Hospital), and East and West Croydon Stations - for Tramlink.

The Coombe Road equivalent stop going south is Aberdeen Road, from which the 412 runs. Riddlesdown can also be reached from Selsdon (around the hour and half hour in the evenings) and Purley, where the Countdown

System dot matrix display states when buses are expected to arrive. Both Selsdon and Purley feature a public house (the Julian Huxley and Jolly Farmers, respectively) which can provide warmth and comfort on the way home.

I have not given details in Croydon as a revised one-way system close to the Town Hall is being built.

For the trains, it is worth memorising when trains arrive off-peak during the day on Mondays to Fridays. If it is quite cold the train to upper Warlingham (with walk to Whyteleafe (train going north to Purley at 00:18 may be preferred to the train to East Croydon at 00:36.

I could go on to tell you about the local shop with the best selection of honey - and how to get there - but will now leave you to enjoy building up your knowledge.

RIDDLESDOWN PHARMACY

104 Lower Barn Road, Purley, Surrey
Tel/Fax: 8660 7150

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9am-1pm, 2.15-5.30pm
Wednesday: 2.30-5.30pm, Saturday: 9am-1pm

For caring, friendly, confidential advice

We also offer:

A FREE automated electronic prescription Order / Collection /Home Delivery Service (local area only) for surgeries including; Dr Woolf (Mitchley Avenue Practice), Woodcote Practice, Parkside GP Practice, Selsdon Medical Practice, The Moorings, Keston House: Purley Memorial, Queenhill Surgery and Farley Road Medical Practice.

* Free Medicine-Use Review Service * Qualified On-Site Adviser for Vitamin Supplements * Private Consultation Room * Community Medicine Trays * Walk-in Flu Jabs * Brand New Vitamins/ Supplements Range * Blood Pressure Checks *Accredited Healthy Living Pharmacy * Emergency Contraception *new NHS 111 emergency referrals service offered *

Support your local independent pharmacy

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

MEMBERSHIP
BY JOHN RAPP

Since the start of the pandemic many of us have questioned how we approach life in order to stay healthy physically and mentally.

We have found that we need to have space and company both in our homes and away from our homes. Some of us enjoy working from home, others have difficulty in juggling their time. Slight adjustments for all, taking advantage of new opportunities, can increase the feeling that life is good.

When speaking with our Road Stewards and members, I have almost always heard that new ways of doing things are desired. Since 2019, many homes now have a new dog, or other pet. This is healthy both for parents and children.

Your Committee has considered how these needs can be helped. We all need the opportunity to do things in a way that helps us. I am asking our Road Stewards to do a little less and a little more. They will still be available for chats with members but I am aiming for them to be largely freed from trying to catch members ready to pay on the door, in cash. This will be done in three ways:-

One - Payment by standing order on the 1st June each year. Standing order forms will be distributed with details available on the RRA website.

Two - Delivery of a cheque to your Road Steward or The Treasurer with your address on the back

Three - Delivery of £5.00 to your Road Steward or The Treasurer in an envelope with your name and address on the back.

Giving those details will leave more time to chat to your Road Steward.

One thing that our members and people living outside Riddlesdown have recognised since COVID hit (and before) is how active the Association is in protecting the interests of members, and the wider community.

The Association now needs members to "vote with their wallets" to allow the Committee to say "look at our member percentage and please do your best for us" when asking for preferred actions from organisations that can adversely affect our lives.

When speaking with existing and new Road Stewards I am pleased to learn that they want to be active in their community and will tell the Committee about member's concerns. I leave each of you to give thought to whether you can add to your life either as one of my Road Stewards or as a committee member.

When the Riddlesdown Residents' Association was formed there was no thought of pandemics or the internet. None of us can predict the future, I can only say that when you give your time to RRA the way in which you are asked to help will be interesting and will change.

Over to you as members.

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.

19th Purley (Riddlesdown) Scout Group

Liz O'Brien, Group Scout Leader

This year we are celebrating our 80th year when the group was first founded. We found some old paperwork that had a letter dated November 1942 in which there was approval to start the 19th Purley Scout Group. There wasn't time to organise anything for around that time to celebrate, so we thought as we cannot hold our Family Fun Day this year due to the date clashing with the King's Coronation then why not hold something for this. We therefore held a daytime street party style celebration for our current families which included a cream tea, taking part in a traditional sports day and a fancy dress competition. Then in the early evening we were entertained first by The Whiskey Sours, who are a 1940s style band, then a disco.

Reaching our 80th anniversary is a significant achievement, but it has only been possible with a great deal of commitment and effort. I joined the 19th Purley in July 2011 when my eldest son was due to move up to Cubs but the Cub Leader wanted to retire. At that point we only had one leader running Beavers and one running Cubs so they shared both sessions on a Monday along with parent helpers. We had no Scout Group at this point. There was a crisis meeting held by District which we all had to attend where they told us the Group would fold if no one stepped forward. Myself and two other parent helpers looked at each other and said "shall we?" and the rest as they say is history. I remember attending my first Executive Meeting and there was £3 in the bank! Fast forward to our first Camp which was CroyCamp 2012 when a dad came to help as a parent helper and somehow we left that weekend with a Scout leader. He started with 4 Scouts and now we have a thriving section.

Our HQ was built in the early 1960s by skilled members of the Group. We are very lucky to be situated in the woods by Riddlesdown School (the White Path). By 2011, the hall needed some care and attention. I remember well the bars and shutters on the very old windows, the horrible floor, damp hut smell and leaky roof. There were many times over the winter months when we could not meet as the conditions were just so bad. I was asked to take on the role of Group Scout Leader in July 2012 whereupon I made it my mission to get some money in the bank to start making our meeting place more bearable. We have been fortunate to have had two National Lottery grants along with many other grants from organisations who support community projects, so that along with lots and lots of fundraising activities in the Group has meant we have managed to complete the following:-

- Kitchen
- Toilets, disabled toilet and shower
- Door widening to allow for wheelchair access
- Windows and doors
- Roof
- Internal ceilings

- Electrics including fire alarm and signage
- Cupboards in small hall
- Outside wood store
- Vast amounts of ground works including cutting back of brambles and cutting down of dangerous overhanging branches and dead trees
- Outside play area and seating areas
- Shooting range
- Coming soon - outside tomahawk range!

Please visit our website to see all the progress photos at https://19thpurleyscoutgroup.org/

The reason I have given some background for you all is for you to see how much hard work and dedication has gone in to making the 19th Purley HQ the place it is today on this our 80th anniversary. We are very fortunate to own our own building and the land within the perimeter fence, but all that comes at a cost to us. We charge subs every term to cover capitation which we are charged at County level, all the badges your children receive, money towards the activities we run at the weekly meetings and to run the premises. It is vital we fundraise, as any community organisation has to do, so we do rely on our local community to help us out by supporting what we do.

Our Rovers still meet every year, this year was the 55th of meeting! Our Rovers are made up of ex-leaders and senior scouts. If anyone has any links to the 19th Purley as an ex-scout or leader we are looking to increase our Rover membership so please get in touch.

To find out more about our Group, my scout email address is GSL@19thpurley.org.uk or visit our website

https://19thpurleyscoutgroup.org/

Councillor's Report

Endri Llabuti

One year on since Croydon made history with our first elected Mayor, time has flown by. Much has changed and much more must change for the council to provide the services residents expect and deserve.

I was pleased to see the Mayor set up the 'Opening the Books' exercise, a close review of the council's finances. Having followed the council finances and seeing Croydon deteriorate towards two Section 144 notices, I knew that this was a crucial task. It was necessary to really get to the bottom of the financial mess Croydon was in. Findings so far are not pretty, with millions of pounds in poorly accounted numbers, forecasts (that were wildly optimistic) and a debt pile that was not sustainable. Sorting our Croydon's finances remains one of the biggest challenges and a key tasks for the Mayor and the team. Spending close to £50m per year just to service the £1.6bn of debt inherited- a colossal amount when considering Councils annual total expenditure.

Planning is an area that frequently arouses great emotions on all sides. has seen a pleasant change, with a The new committee is Conservative- led and has a Conservative Chair (who has a casting vote – if the committee is tied). Over the last year, we have seen several refusals for developments looking to squeeze the maximum number of flats into the smallest possible space. Whilst we certainly need more housing, the emphasis must always be on quality and a greater appreciation for the character of the local area. The majority of refusals by council officers and the Planning Committee (I am a reserve member on) have been found in our

favour, when they have gone to appeal. Closer to home, we saw recently the refusal of an application for 27 Riddlesdown Road, which would have seen – a house replaced with 9 flats. Outside of RRA's area, I was particularly pleased to see an application on Pampisford Road application for the demolition of 6 houses to make space for 67 flats – an overdevelopment on a site with infrastructure challenges as it is, refused by the committee. Not all has gone our way though, having spoken against an application for 88 Riddlesdown Road, which I spoke against, and a local resident made an excellent speech by local resident against the development, and to which objections by residents, the RRA, the local MP and previous ward councillors all objected nevertheless passed. I was very disappointed to see this development pass. Although the committee had their reservations, they felt they had little choice due to the fact that the initial application had gone to appeal with the Planning Inspectorate having upheld thecouncilís decision, but only on technicalities of the affordable housing aspect. Lessons to be learned!

The Brighton Cycle Lane scheme continues to be a point of debate in the area, with many objecting against the removal of parking, very few cyclists using the cycle lanes, impact on refuse trucks, emergency service and so on. I was pleased to see on 3rd April the consultation finally started. I would urge all residents to respond online at: www.getinvolved.croydon.gov.uk "Brighton Road Corridor Project" or by Post quoting reference "BRIGHTONROAD" to Highway Improvement Team, Bernard Weatherill House, 8 Mint Walk, CR0 1EA.

Finally with spring in full swing, warmer days and what has felt like plenty of rain, nature is once again in full bloom. I have particularly enjoyed the goldfinches in our garden, and they seem to love the dandelions seeds with our lack of mowing in May, it has certainly helped them flourish. To mow in May or not to mow – is a questions residents, council officers and certainly my family has been debating. At home we have settled for 50/50 – one side of the garden ready for the kids to kick a ball, the rest firmly for nature, including our chickens to enjoy. Finding the right balance between nature and humans, between further developments and protecting are green spaces, will be pivotal in creating the environment for all to thrive. As was evident at the recent RRA- organized litter pick, which was a great opportunity to do our part in helping clean up some of the waste thrown on our green spaces, meet residents and appreciate the local fauna and flora.

Over the next few weeks and months, finances will continue to play a crucial role. With the recent Section 114a notice – it highlights the depth of the financial challenges our towns finances face. The difficult decisions being made during inflationary pressure on all household budgets are not to be taken lightly, however it is important to tackle them head on. At the same time supporting our most vulnerable residents. Support is available and we encourage residents to get in touch.

If you would like to get in touch, raise any concerns locally – please feel free to email me on endri.llabuti@croydon.gov.uk or on mobile: 07716 092461 .

Councillor's Report

Alasdair Stewart

Since writing my last update, we have had the very sad passing of Her Majesty the Queen and more recently the local 'big lunch' celebrations for the coronation of their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla in May.

It was great to meet many local residents at the Riddlesdown Residents' Association Annual General Meeting on 10th May. Given the situation with Croydon Council, it is perhaps too soon to see significant progress only one year in, but I hope at future AGMs we will be able to recognise visible progress and improvements in Riddlesdown and across our borough. I would also echo the comments of the Chair encouraging local residents to come forward to assist the committee – the RRA has a vital role in our community but needs new volunteers to ensure it continues in the long term.

Since the new Conservative administration in Croydon Council removed the 'SPD2' planning design guide, we have seen a significant shift in the planning applications being approved by Officers, by the Planning Committee (which is now equally split between Conservative and Labour councillor members, but with a Conservative Chair holding a casting vote in the event of a tied decision), and on Appeal by the independent Planning Inspectors – who, recognising the changed policy position, are upholding refusals. Riddlesdown has suffered in recent years from inappropriate developments, and while previously approved applications can still be built, I am pleased we are now better able to protect important family homes and the character of our lovely streets. I expect full details can be found in Phil Thomas' Planning Matters report elsewhere in the Recorder.

The Brighton Road cycling scheme, approved by the previous Council administration, has now been completed and the Experimental Traffic Order is now open for consultation and comments for 6 months from April 2023. It has been helpful to hear from members of the RRA committee, highlighting positive and negative elements of the scheme, and also other local residents as I consider my response. A response to the consultation can be made online via https://www.getinvolved.croydon.gov.uk/brighton-road-corridor-project or by post - quoting scheme reference "BRIGHTONROAD" to Highway Improvements Team, Bernard Weatherill House, 8 Mint Walk, CR0 1EA. You can also send your objections by post using the same address. You will need to provide your full postal address for the Council to record and consider your views.

Cllr Llabuti and I continue to host monthly surgeries in conjunction with the Purley & Woodcote councillors, in either Purley Tesco Extra or on Brighton Road in Purley town centre – this is usually the first Saturday morning of each month. Exact dates, times, and our location will advertised on our Twitter (@PurleyCllrs) and Purley Councillors Facebook page. I can also be contacted directly via email alasdair.stewart@croydon.gov.uk or telephone 07716 092 472 (please leave a message).

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. If you would are 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

Croydon Camera Club

Caroline Avern

I recently got asked why I joined Croydon Camera Club: the obvious answer is that I like taking photos, but that doesn't tell the full story.

The truth is that I've liked taking photos since I was a child. I guess back then I liked the power it gave me; how when I had a camera in my hand, I could boss the adults around for the sake of the photo. I liked how people said I "took a good photo" and at family events my Nan would give me her camera to take photos for her.

In the beginning, I was using a film camera, so I learnt the hard way to keep fingers, hair and wrist strap out of the frame. But I was intimidated by more complicated SLR cameras; I didn't feel I had the skill or the know-how to use them. However, with the introduction of digital cameras I could see any mistakes right away and retake the photo. Now I could take as many shots as I liked, well at least until either the card was full or the battery was dead!

I always thought photography was a solo hobby, until I came across the Croydon Camera Club website and decided to visit one evening. I joined up there and then! Why? Well, I guess the real reason is that I no longer wanted to take just "good photos". I wanted to stop using "auto mode" on my camera, to really learn about photography and how to let my creative side come through. Joining the club has done this. Seeing the images others are producing has given me the confidence to try taking different types of shots that I wouldn't have attempted before.

So if you want to take better photos or be with other like-minded people; or if like me, you're the person who's too busy taking photos at events to enjoy the action, maybe the "event" you're missing is Croydon Camera Club! Whatever the reason check out the club's website www.croydoncameraclub.org and come visit us one evening. I can promise we don't bite; we do snap but we only snap photos!

Where: Shirley Methodist Church Hall, Eldon Avenue, CR0 8SD. If you're driving, the church has a small car park and there's ample free on-street parking adjacent. The Hall is approximately 1.5 miles from East Croydon Station as you travel along the A232 heading towards Shirley. Alternatively buses 119, 194, 466, 198 and 130 stop close by.

When: Wednesdays, 7:45 for 8:00pm-10pm between early September and late July, except during the Christmas & Easter breaks. Tea, coffee and biscuits are served at the interval, during each meeting.

All you need do is turn up on an evening which looks good to you - our programme of events, examples of our images and plenty more can be viewed at

www.croydoncameraclub.org.uk.

If you're interested in photography, novice or expert, you're always welcome. Newcomers may join us for several evenings, at no cost, to see if the club is right for you, before making any longer term commitment. We look forward to seeing you!...

Community Information:

A - Z of organisations in or close to Riddlesdown (more details on the RRA website)
http://www.riddlesdownresidents.org.uk/communitypage.html

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

Cantilena Singers

A long established choir for female voices - we sing light popular songs, folk songs, songs from musicals, and carols at Christmas. There are no auditions and you don't have to read music. Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays at 7.30pm, Methodist Church, 102 Limpsfield Road, Sanderstead,CR2 9EF (between All Saint's Church and Hamsey Green on the 403 bus route; parking available).

COME AND EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF SINGING IN THIS FRIENDLY AND WELCOMING CHOIR. For more information contact Jill on 07957 627783 or at jkcharity@outlook.com www.cantilenasingerscroydon.org.uk

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.croydoncameraclub.org.uk

Croydon Decorative and Fine Arts Society

Lectures take place on the 2nd Thursday of each month except August and December at 10.45 a.m. in All Saints Church Hall, Onslow Gardens, Sanderstead CR2 9AB. Tea/coffee and biscuits from 10.00 a.m. Visitors welcome. 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/

Croydon Symphonic Band

An amateur community wind band with 50 or so players that was formed by an ex Riddlesdown resident over 50 years ago. The band is based in Croydon. New members always welcome. 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/

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/

Purley Bury Sports & Social Club

(Brancaster Lane):
Bowls www.purleyburybc.co.uk/
Croquet www.purleyburycroquet.org.uk/
Tennis 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/ or email 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

Ramblers (Croydon) - www.croydonramblers.org.uk

Ramblers (Surrey) –

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.riddlesdownltc.com/

RSPB Croydon Local Group

Monthly Illustrated Wildlife Talks in South Croydon at Whitgift Sports Club, Croham Manor Road - off Croham Road. South Croydon, CR2 7BG
Second Monday of each month, 2pm and again at 8pm.
Admission £4.00. Everyone is welcome, not just RSPB members.
Free refreshments. A selection of RSPB goods, nuts & seeds are on sale.
Parking limited on site but free in adjacent roads.
64 & 433 buses stop nearby in Croham Road.
Whitgift Sports Club, Croham Manor Road -

For more information contact John Davis on 020-8640 4578

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

St Edmund's Church & Community Hall, Riddlesdown

St Edmund's Church & Community Hall, Riddlesdown 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.
Website
www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk/st_edmund .

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/
11th Purley Scout Group; St James Church Hall, Lower Road, Kenley
Beavers – Fridays; 1630 - 1730;
Cubs – Mondays; 1830 - 2000
Scouts – Tuesdays; 1900 - 2100
www.http://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/
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/gdlgallery/croydon

Sanderstead Cricket Club

14 Old Saw Mill, Limpsfield 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

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 Limpsfield Road, Sanderstead.
http://www.selsdoncameraclub.co.uk/

Selsdon Little Leagues Football & Netball

Providing Football and Netball for local children in the Croydon area.

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

Storisse

EACH STORY IS UNIQUE. After many months of planning, storisse.com is finally here. Storisse is a website which celebrates worthwhile work carried out by worthwhile charities, in a different way. Being a storyteller by profession, Alex Cuncev tells real life stories that are meaningful, moving and engaging.
Her personal stories are linked to thoughtfully researched charities.
Read storisse.com for weekly updates on amazing work, positive thoughts and heart-rendering stories! You can also submit your own story on the website.
This is what her readers say: 'These stories are like big hugs. Just enjoy a cup of tea and dive into this sweet universe filled with sunshine and kindness.' All on storisse.com

Surrey Wildlife Trust

More Information Tel: 01483 795440 or 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

The PROBUS Club of Sanderstead & Riddlesdown

Meet at Whitgift Sports Club, Croham Rd, S Croydon. From noon on first Tuesday of every month. Further details contact:- Chris Babbs email: chrisbabbsuk@waitrose.com

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://warlinghamhorticultural.co.uk

Yoga with Linda

Wednesdays evenings at St Edmunds Church Hall
18:15 - 19:30 Mixed Ability
19:45 - 20:45 Beginners/Gentle
Yoga improves strength and flexibility. It also helps you relax, improves confidence, reduces anxiety and helps you de-stress. To find out more, including prices, contact: Linda Bevin 07767 268408 . www.lindabevinyoga.com

Younger Generation Theatre Group

give an opportunity to 9-18's to appear on the professional stage
All auditions and rehearsals in Purley
Www.youngergeneration.co.uk or contact John Blundell 02086573214

DISCLAIMER

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If you would like to place an Advert, please contact Neil editorrra@riddlesdown.org or on 020 8668 4061

Our MP (Croydon South - Conservative); Mr Chris Philp MP ,
The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel; 020 7219 8026
Email; chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk website; www.chrisphilp.com
If you would like an appointment then telephone or e-mail.

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

PURLEY OAKS & RIDDLESDOWN WARD (Conservative)

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Email: alasdair.stewart@croydon.gov.uk

Cllr Endri Llabuti
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GREATER LONDON ASSEMBLY MEMBER FOR CROYDON & SUTTON
Neil Garratt (Conservative)
Email; neil.garratt@london.gov.uk

RIDDLESDOWN/LONDON/LUTON/BEDFORD TRAIN TIMES

Southern Rail and Thameslink trains to and from Riddlesdown

The Southern Railway and Thameslink rail service is not running to a full service due to reduced passenger numbers after the pandemic, so please consult the GTR or National Rail website.

Enquiries: Southern Railway: Tel: 03451 27 29 20 (07.00 - 22.00 hrs) or southernrailway.com

Thameslink: Tel; 0345 026 4700 (07:00 to 22:00 hrs) or thameslinkrailway.com

National Rail Tel: 03457 48 49 50 or nationalrail.co.uk

Local Bus Route and Frequency

Bus 412 (Arriva) – the 412 starts in Park Street, Croydon and then travels via Fell Rd, around the Fairfield roundabout, onto the flyover, then down the Croydon Flyover slip road into High Street, South End, Selsdon Rd, Upper Selsdon Rd, Addington Rd (stop for Selsdon), Rectory Park, Mitchley Ave, Downs Court Rd, Godstone Rd, Pampisford Rd & ends on Brighton Rd (High Street) opposite the Purley Hospital.

From Purley, the service is nearly in reverse direction starting from Purley Downlands Precinct, (Brighton Rd) then left into Godstone Rd, Down Court Rd and terminates at the bus stand in Park Street, Croydon.

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

For exact timetable, consult the TfL website: tfl.gov.uk/bus/timetable/412/

Enquiries: TfL - Customer Services: 0343 222 1234 or TfL website: tfl.gov.uk

Arriva London Tel 020 8271 0101 (0800-2000 Monday to Friday) or website www.arrivalondon.com/

Links also available via the Transport section on the RRA website: riddlesdownresidents.org.uk/transport.html

Timetables are subject to change, so if in doubt, check with the rail and bus operator, TfL or National Rail. The RRA cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of any of the above information and times.

Libraries: Purley - Open only; Tuesday and Thursday. Selsdon and Sanderstead - Open only; Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. Please check, as Libraries are operating on a phased return to service.

Croydon Council's telephone number for all enquiries: 020 8726 6000

website: 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, May, July, September and November. Contact a Committee member for details.

New Standing Order Instruction

Please Print Details

To the Manager _____ Bank / Building Society

Branch Address _____

_____

Post Code _____

Please set up the following Standing Order and debit my/our account accordingly.

Upon receipt of this Standing Order Instruction, please pay immediately to:

Riddlesdown Residents Association at Lloyds Bank, Caterham

Sort Code 30-99-50, **Account Number 37821768** a first payment of **£5.00** (Five Pounds) and continue to pay annually until further notice on 1st June each year.

Your Details

Account Name _____

Sort Code (6 digits) _____

Account Number (8 digits) _____

Payment Reference _____

For the 'Payment Reference' Please use your postcode first and then your house number (plus flat number (F1 if applicable)); e.g., CR81HW-23(F1)

Your Name _____

Address _____

_____

Post Code _____

Signature(s) _____

Date _____

Please complete the form using black or blue ink and return to; **The Treasurer, Riddlesdown Residents' Association, 23 Purley Bury Close, Purley, CR8 1HW**. Alternatively, you can set up an annual Standing Order with the RRA by using your on line banking, or the banking app. If you do use this method of payment, please notify us, and for any other enquiries, e-mail the RRA at; RiddlesdownResidents@gmail.com

Riddlesdown Residents' Association (RRA) - Payment of Subscriptions; A Note for Residents

The RRA has now given residents the option to pay the annual subs of £5, either by cash, a cheque, or by a printed Standing Order form. If you wish, you can make a single annual payment, or set up an annual Standing Order instruction via your online bank account, or through your banking app.

The RRA's Bank details are:
Name; Riddlesdown Residents Association
Sort Code; 30-99-50
Account Number; 37821768

Ideally all future subscription payments should be made each year on 1 June.

Cheques should be made payable to the 'Riddlesdown Residents Association' and either given to your Road Steward, or posted/delivered by hand to the RRA's Treasurer. Please write the first line of your address and postcode on the back of the cheque.

Completed standing Order forms and cheques, can be returned by post, or hand delivered to;

The Treasurer,
Riddlesdown Residents' Association,
23 Purley Bury Close,
Purley
CR8 1HW.

If delivering by hand, please note Purley Bury Close is accessed from the bend on Brancaster Lane and not to be confused with the nearby Purley Bury Ave.

The Standing Order form is also available to download and print, on the RRA's website;
riddlesdownresidents.org.uk