RIDDLESDOWN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

THE RIDDLESDOWN RECORDER

RRA

Dates for your Diary!

RRA Litter Pick Saturday 5th November 2.00pm meet at junction of Mitchley Hill and Dunmail Drive

Children's Christmas Party 3rd December 2-4pm St Edmund's Church

AUTUMN 2022 ISSUE 210

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Front Cover Photo: "Juilee Street Party",
by Jade Trimbee

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

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

www.riddlesdownresidents.org.uk

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

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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

For many of us, 2022 was a year in which things began to return to normality after the upheavals of the pandemic. Numerous streets across the Riddlesdown are were able to hold street parties to celebrate the Queen' diamond jubilee. The cover photo on this issue of the Recorder was taken during Brancaster Lane's celebrations. In this issue, John Rapp reflects on his experiences attending a party and the role that such events can play in fostering a local sense of community. The Riddlesdown Residents' Association is also beginning to get back to normal. We were pleased to hold our first in-person AGM since 2019 and run events such as the local litter pick. This year will also see the return of the children's Christmas party (further details are available in the advert on the rear cover of this magazine). We are also delighted to welcome two new councillors for the 'Purley Oaks and Riddlesdown' Ward. Alasdair Stewart and Endri Llabuti.

I would like to thank all the contributors to this magazine and Roger Cherrill for his work type setting the text.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
BY BRIAN LONGMAN

Over the last year, the Association was very busy dealing with a constant stream of contentious planning applications. On the one hand, we have Croydon telling us that they were under pressure to meet its housing targets and on the other, we saw developers constantly targeting Riddlesdown and Sanderstead, as an area ripe for redevelopment.

As with any new development, especially development involving the demolition of single homes to build blocks of flats, we have seen growing pressure on our local infrastructure. One particular area of concern is our ageing drainage and undersized foul water sewer systems. As many of you will already be aware, Riddlesdown's water drainage system is already seriously overloaded, with regular flooding near to the rail station in Lower Barn Rd and on Mitchley Ave by St Edmund's Church. At this point I would like to say a big thank you to Phil, our committee member for Planning & Environmental. Phil has spent many hours mapping the water drainage systems in Riddlesdown and Sanderstead, determining how many end up flowing towards Lower Barn Road, resulting in flooding within the vicinity. It is the RRA's view that it is not sustainable to just keep building new housing units, without a major upgrade of our foul water sewers and local surface water drainage infrastructure. A point we keep making to Croydon Council.

I said in my last report, the only rule for development in Croydon appears to be, forget the character of the area, forget the quality of design, forget the negative affect on neighbours, forget the lack of infrastructure, but concentrate on how many flats can be squeezed into a small space!

Also in my last report, I mentioned that the City of London (CoL) had introduced new parking charges for their car park up 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 CoL, 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 often less than half-empty (and empty on many occasions) and more visitors' cars parked on the local roads. We continue to talk to the CoL and will keep you informed about this.

Back in March 2020, Croydon Council commissioned a team to develop the Purley Strategic Regeneration Framework. To ensure community involvement in the project the Purley Panel was formed, and the RRA were represented by myself. The aim was to create a plan that could be used to shape the future of Purley Town Centre and the High Street. The good news is, that the Purley Panel's Bid was successful at both stage 1 & 2. The final bid for the "High Streets For All Challenge" was submitted at the end of May 2022. Should we be successful in this final stage, the GLA can award anything from £100-£500,000 to

spend on Purley town centre. However, many other London boroughs will also be submitting bids, so it is fingers-crossed time. If you have any ideas on how to improve Purley town centre, please let us know via our RRA email address. Purley is on our doorstep and should be a natural hub for many Riddlesdown residents.

A quick word about our two Safer Neighbourhood Police teams (SNT). Both the Sanderstead and the Purley Oaks & Riddlesdown SNTs are now back operating face-to-face public meetings, three times a year. Should you wish to attend a panel meeting, venues and dates are published on the RRA website. You also might like to read on our website, the police SNT's news sheets, which are published monthly by the teams and review the progress and priorities as set by the previous SNT panel meeting.

At this year's AGM in May, the committee tabled two proposals. The first was that the members' annual subscription should be increased from £3 to £5 per year, and this was agreed by the meeting. The second was a general updating of the Riddlesdown Residents' Association rules, and this was also agreed by the meeting. Coupled with the increase to £5 per year, the Association will at some point in the year introduce a new online payment option. I say option, as members unable to pay online will still be able to pay cash. However, we need to accept that fewer people now have cash available at home and it is becoming increasing difficult for our road stewards to collect.

Over the years, you may have noticed in my Recorder reports, a desperate call for more members to join our committee. This year we have again lost another two committee members and with no new recruits, the pattern is very worrying. One of the main reasons for the change to the Association Rules at the AGM was to ensure that the Association had a process for closure, should the Association just run out of steam, or, more to the point, committee members. While I do not think this will happen imminently, we cannot be complacent. Volunteers are harder than ever to recruit, I think the phrase "Riddlesdown Resident Association Needs You" has never been more true.

I would like to say a few words about our two departing committee members. Firstly, Frankie Wheeler who steps down after 50 years serving the community. Frankie for the last 10 years has been our local footpaths liaison officer walking miles up on the Downs through the woods and around the roads, identifying footpath issues. Sadly, due health reasons Frankie has needed to stand down and her knowledge of the Riddlesdown community will be missed.

Also, stepping down after 10 years on the committee is Linda Bevin. Linda as both Secretary and Treasurer has been a real asset to the Riddlesdown community. I know I speak for the whole committee when I say, Linda you will be missed, but we hope you will continue in your starring role as "head elf" to Santa's Grotto at the next Children's Christmas party!

Finally, I would like to dispel the rumour that has been circulating in the community, that new houses are about to be built on the farm field between Mitchley Hill and Rectory Park. It is correct that this proposal was included in the first Croydon Local Plan (CLP) review, which closed in January 2020. However, with the CLP review document issued last

December 2021, the proposed development of the Green Belt land on Mitchley Hill/Rectory Park appears to have been dropped by the Council.

I think we can now be reassured that currently, Croydon Council are not seeking to reclassify any of Riddlesdown's Green Belt land.

Whilst on the subject of the Green Belt, I was recently surprised when talking to few local residents, just how many were unaware of the farming arrangements in Riddlesdown. Back in 2017, I introduced and welcomed our new farmers to the area. However, from my conversations I think I need to take this opportunity to once again introduce and welcome the farmers of our two local fields at Mitchley Avenue and Mitchley Hill/Rectory Park. They are Nick Fuller and his son Oliver of Church Farm. Nick and Oliver are fifth and sixth generation farmers based in Woldingham. Their plan for the local fields is to establish meadow grassland that they cut and make into feed, for their pasture-fed-for-life longhorn cattle. As the grass will be used as animal feed, they are hoping to keep the fields as clean as possible. Their ethos for raising beef is that their cattle live the most natural life possible, eating only home-grown grass.

We now have a farming family who want to keep the fields clean and tidy. Let us all share in this objective and play our part in keeping Riddlesdown clean and tidy. Church Farm is rightly very proud of their pasture-for-life certification and for your information they sell their beef locally. For more information on Church Farm Services, see their website; www.churchfarmservices.co.uk

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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 issue of the Recorder, so I will briefly summarise some of those previous planning applications and decisions since Autumn 2021 (in no particular date order). Full details of the status of each application can be found on the RRA's website.

48 Mitchley Hill - 20/06615/CONR -

Aventier, who were granted planning permission for the; "Demolition of single-family dwelling and erection of one 3-storey block, containing 6 x 2-bedroom apartments, 2 x 4-bedroom houses and 1 x 3 bedroom house", subsequently sold the site to another developer. Construction has started and an application to modify the original application (20/06615/CONR) with changes to the roof design was approved by the Council on 17 June.

27 Westfield Ave - 20/01120/FUL

"demolition of the existing single storey 2 bedroom dwelling and construction of a pair of 3 storey 4 bed semi-detached dwellings." This application was "not determined" on 15 March. We believe that the term "not determined" means that the Council have asked for more information but it has not been forthcoming from either the applicant or agent. The Council have a statutory duty to determine applications within 8 or 13 weeks (for major applications) and they need to get them "cleared off their books". Usually, 26 weeks is the maximum deadline! The Council usually ask for the applicant to withdraw the applications after a long time, but we can only guess in this case the agent/applicant did not. So the Council have "not determined" it after correspondence with the agent. The Officer refers to this correspondence in the letter. The Council did not refuse it.

36 Oakwood Ave - 20/01658/FUL

"demolition of a single-family dwelling house and erection of 4x two-storey semi-detached houses with accommodation in the roof, and 4 x one-storey semi-detached houses with accommodation in the roof, with associated access, car parking." This application is in the Purley & Woodcote RA area but backs onto properties in Riddlesdown Road and in particular the Purley Cattery (in the RRA area). The Council refused this application on 18 December 2020 and it then went to appeal. The Planning Inspector dismissed the appeal on 14 October 2021.

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." This application was to be presented to the Planning Committee on two occasions with Officers recommending granting approval, however, it was withdrawn on both occasions. We do not know why. A revised application for 18 flats was then submitted, which Officers then refused on 1 December. An appeal was lodged on 26 May 2022.

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 Planning Inspectorate. The appeal was dismissed on 7 December 2021. However, a new application for 21 flats (22/00148/FUL) has now been lodged which has not been determined by the Council.

11 Coombe Wood Hill - 21/00002/OUT

"an outline planning application for the redevelopment and sub-division of site to provide 2 x two-storey semi detached dwelling houses (2 x 4-bed)." This application went to appeal which was dismissed on 6 December 2021.

11 Coombe Wood Hill - 21/00024/FUL

"redevelopment and sub-division of site to provide 2 x two-storey semi detached dwelling houses (2 x 4-bed)." This full planning application is in addition to 21/00002/OUT (above). The Council refused the application which went to appeal but was then subsequently withdrawn by the applicant.

11 Coombe Wood Hill - 21/05212/FUL

"redevelopment and sub-division of site to provide 2 x two-storey semi detached dwelling houses (2 x 4-bed)." This third planning application was refused by the Council on 8 December 2021.

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. However, it went to appeal on 21 January 2022.

77-79 Mitchley Ave - (both Paul Meakin's shops) - 21/02891/FUL

"amalgamation and change of use from retail (class E(c)) to mixed use cafe/restaurant (class E(b)) & Takeaways (Sui Generis). Installation of new shop fronts and extraction flue to the rear elevation." The Council's Planning Sub-Committee granted permission on 14 April 2022. The two units will now be a restaurant (Saray) which will serve alcohol to diners, subject to the alcohol licence being approved by the Council.

Riddlesdown Car Park, (the 'Common' carpark) Riddlesdown Road - 21/00274/FUL

"installation of 2 x 500mm x 500mm x 500mm concrete plinths for the erection of 2 x Hectronic Citea car park ticketing machines Erection of 1 x pole for the sighting of an ANPR camera (retrospective)." The Council's Planning committee granted permission on 4 November 2021. It is noticeable since the parking charges came into force that the usage of the car park has dropped dramatically. The RRA are still in correspondence with the City of London Corporation about this, as parking is occurring on nearby residential streets.

75A Riddlesdown Road -

21/01421/FUL

"demolition of existing buildings; erection of a residential apartment building of three storeys plus roofspace comprising 8 units." The applicant submitted new drawings to reduce this application from eight to seven flats. However, the Council refused this application on 14 October 2021.

125 Mitchley Ave - 20/03842/FUL

"conversion of the existing 4 bedroom house into 1 x 2 and 1 x 3 bedroom flats with associated landscaping (changes to land levels) and vehicular parking." The Council refused this application on 20 October 2020. The applicant lodged an appeal. The appeal was dismissed by the Planning Inspector on 17 December 2021. However, a third application was submitted to the Council on 13 June, again to convert the house into two flats (1 x 2- and 1 x 3-bedroom flats with vehicular parking - 3 spaces; 22/02278/FUL).

98 Hyde Road - 21/01672/NMA

validated on 1 April 2021

"non-material amendment to planning permission ref. 18/03682/CONR for the variation of condition 1 (in accordance with approved plans) attached to planning permission 17/03542/FUL for the Demolition of existing building, erection of two storey building with basement and accommodation in roof space comprising of 2 x one bedroom and 6 x two bedroom flats. Formation of vehicular access and 8 parking spaces, cycle and refuse storage." This application is to vary conditions attached to the original approved planning application. The developer is now progressing on a second attempt to build this block of flats (at their own risk). The Council have still not determined this application more than fifteenth months later.

89 Hyde Rd

a number of applications have been been submitted by the developer to discharge conditions previously attached to the original approved planning application. Like No. 98 opposite, the developer is progressing on the works to build this block of flats (at their own risk). The Council have not determined some applications, approved others, and not approved others still.

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. This is because Amazon did not apply for planning permission prior to installation! The Council granted permission on 8 July. The Officer's report is slightly misleading because it stated the RRA had objected. We did not object but submitted neutral comments. This mainly highlighted that the lower part of the locker and electrics could possibly get flooded if there is extensive surface water flooding under the railway bridge, and we raised concerns about service vehicles and customers collecting parcels parking on the double yellow lines on the bend.

2 Shaw Crescent - 21/04742/FUL

this application is in the Sanderstead RA area but backs onto the RRA area in Westfield Ave (Nos. 8,10,12). This application is for the demolition of a dwellinghouse and the

erection of eight semi-detached houses. This application was reported to the Planning Committee on 24 March and permission was granted by the Committee.

2 Mitchley Ave - 21/04244/FUL

the application for eight flats was refused by the Planning Department on 18 March.

79 Downs Court Road - 21/04117/FUL

"demolition of existing building and the erection of a 3 storey building plus roof level comprising 6- residential dwelling." This application is just outside of the RRA's area. It was refused by the Council and went to appeal. But the appeal was withdrawn by the applicant on 25 April.

20 Riddlesdown Ave - 21/06095/FUL

"demolition of existing dwelling and the erection of a new building comprising 7 new dwellings with associated parking." The Council have not determined this application.

106 Lower Barn Rd - 22/01583/FUL

an application has been submitted, "for a change of use from business/professional/financial services to a restaurant with ancillary takeaway (Cafe)." This unit is next door to the Pharmacy. The Council have not determined this application. However a lawful development certificate application - 22/02575/LP was submitted on 17 June for a "change of use from Business/Financial/professional Services (Use Class E (a), (c) (i)/(ii)) to a Cafe/Restaurant (Use Class E (b))." This application was approved on 5 July.

Suburban Design Guide (SPD2)

The newly elected Executive Mayor - Jason Perry - announced soon after his election to Office, that the highly contentious Suburban Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD2) is to be revoked. Adopted by Croydon Council in April 2019, the Croydon Planning Department used it extensively for major flatted and house developments. This decision was agreed by the Council's Cabinet meeting on 22 June and was approved by a full Council meeting on 25 July. The Council advised on 27 July that the SPD2 document had been revoked on 26 July, subject to any legal challenges within 3 months. The SPD2 was not part of the Local Plan, but a Supplementary Planning Document, which formed part of the Local Development Framework and informs how policies are applied and interpreted. The policies in the Local Plan and Development Plan (CLP 2018) remain unchanged. Further details are on the RRA website.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
BY PHIL THOMAS

Litter Picks in Riddlesdown

Thank you to the thirty or so residents (including those from the 19th Purley scout group) who turned up at the RRA litter pick on 9 April. A big thank you as well to Paul from the Council (who had to deputise for Tracey at the last moment), and for supplying all the equipment.

We collected in the region of thirty bags of rubbish, four tyres, a green wheelie bin and the remains of a metal sprung bed mattress! We are holding another litter pick on Saturday 5th November starting at 2.00pm and meeting at the junction of Dunmail Drive and Mitchley Hill

Overhanging Hedges, Shrubs and Trees onto Pavements and Public Footpaths

Can we please remind residents, that the RRA do receive a number of complaints from residents about households within the area who allow vegetation from their gardens to overhang the pavement and public footpaths. This vegetation can cause particular inconvenience for people with buggies, in wheelchairs, on motorised mobility scooters, the disabled and more importantly the blind and visually impaired, who could walk directly into the vegetation and injure themselves.

All property occupiers are legally responsible for ensuring this does not happen and could have damages awarded against them by a court for any injury. The Council do 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/occupier accordingly. So please do check whether any of your vegetation is overhanging the pavement or public footpath and, if so, please arrange to cut it back to at least level with your boundary. Rose bushes can be particularly painful and dangerous.

You might think, "I am not the owner, but a tenant of the property, so it's not my responsibility." So far as the law is concerned, the occupier is usually responsible for this sort of maintenance and, in addition, tenancy agreements often include routine maintenance. Even if your tenancy agreement states that the landlord is responsible, you would be required to contact him/her and ensure that pruning is carried out as soon as possible.

If you want to report overhanging vegetation from a particular property to Croydon Council, this can be done on the Council's "Love Clean Streets" app. Or alternatively, e-mail Public Safety: Public.Safety@croydon.gov.uk

Grass Verges

In relation to the above topic, as you will have noticed, many grass verges are very long and are not being cut regularly again this year - but some have been cut recently. Basal growth to trees is also causing issues and blocking footways in places. Again, if this is an issue on a tree/shrub near to you, please report it to the Council by the above methods. I have taken this up with the relevant Council Officer and he advises that they continue to have a shortage of staff due to funding issues. So it may be some time before Riddlesdown's

highway verges and trees are looking neat and tidy! We are aware the newly elected Executive Mayor is putting pressure on Officers to get them cut more frequently.

New Street Trees

Residents may have noticed a number of new street trees were planted in the Borough, including Riddlesdown over last winter. We have been asked by residents whether the Council are watering them during dry spells, and we have made some enquiries with the Tree Officers. There are usually notices on the trees asking residents to look after and water them, but due to cutbacks, the Council did not place notices on the tree poles this winter. The new trees were funded by a Grant, and this expense (for the notices) could not be claimed back.

We are told that the Council will water the new trees every two weeks until the end of September 2022. But the Tree Officer says that in addition, if residents would like to water any new street tree, especially during dry spells, then please do so. The tree pits do have a blue pipe to pour the water down. The trees in Mitchley Hill, Mitchley Ave and Rectory Park in particular, which are not outside houses, seem to be lacking in water.

Brighton Road Cycle Lane Corridors

The Council are proposing that permanent cycle lanes are constructed on the Brighton Road (both sides) from Purley High Street to South End (S Croydon). The proposal is that the bus lanes on both sides by Whitgift school will also become 24/7.

The Council started these works in March and there will then be a six month consultation period once implemented! But at the time of writing, they appear not to have completed all the white/yellow lining and the bus lanes are not operational 24/7. The proposal will be in place for eighteen months before the Council decide whether to make it permanent.

There have been changes made to the junction layouts at Riddlesdown Road and Sanderstead Road onto the Brighton Road. The RRA have raised concerns to the Council about the new junction layout at Riddlesdown Road, as it could be that drivers unfamiliar with the area may now go around the Capella Court “roundabout” the wrong way because of the way the new road junction has been laid out.

Gas Works in Riddlesdown

The RRA were advised by Croydon Council and the contractor acting on behalf of SGN (Forefront Utilities), that gas main replacement works would be undertaken to Ingleboro Drive, Dalegarth Gdns, Eskdale Gdns, Honister Heights and the top half of Dunmail Drive (o/s the Riddlesdown Collegiate). At the time of publication, the first phase of works for the summer of 2022 have been partially completed to Ingleboro Drive and Dalegarth Gdns.

The Council stipulated that the works must be undertaken during the school summer holidays, in view of the location of Riddlesdown Collegiate. We were told this will be during the school summer holidays of 2022 and 2023.

At the completion of works on 4 September 2022, Forefront Utilities advised; "all works to Ingleboro Dr and Dalegarth Gdns are not fully complete, but they have been taken as far towards completion as operationally possible within the 6-week window. The team have achieved a great deal and will return in future

Summer holidays to complete the outstanding works."

Forefront Utilities will return during the school summer holiday in 2023, and if necessary in the summer of 2024. The next streets due for renewal of gas mains, after these two streets are completed, are Eskdale Gardens and Honister Hts and Dunmail Drive, o/s Riddlesdown Collegiate.

New Ward Councillors

The RRA welcome the two new Councillors who were elected on 5 May for the Purley Oaks and Riddlesdown (PO&R) Ward. They are Cllrs Alasdair Stewart and Endri Llabuti. In addition, Cllrs Yvette Hopley and Lynne Hale were re-elected for the Sanderstead Ward and Cllr Helen Redfern, who previously represented the PO&R Ward, was elected as Councillor for the Sanderstead Ward. The RRA Committee liaise and work closely with all our ward Councillors. We do have a couple of roads within the Purley and Woodcote Ward and Cllr Simon Brew is our main point of contact for these streets. All the councillors' contact details are available on the RRA website. Please go to "Council Information" on the left side of the home page of the RRA website.

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TRANSPORT
BY JOHN RAPP

I have been thinking about the effects of the pandemic and cost of living concerns. All of us have had to adjust the way we live and often continue to do so.

On the railway, I often see evidence of day-to-day problems, with expected trains being cancelled due to the lack of traincrew, or depot workers (so no train is available).

When I moved to Riddlesdown, I would commute during the week and take leisure trips at weekends. The pandemic and some working from home has caused that travel pattern to be less reliable for the railway.

They are now second guessing when passengers will be available. We have welcomed the return of a single morning and evening peak-hours Thameslink train, giving us access to and from London Bridge Station. However, this is a major reduction from the pre-pandemic service when there were six trains going each way.

We are asking for a better service. In many of my articles I have said "use it or lose it". Akil, becoming more and more our man in the Riddlesdown Station Ticket Office, tells Keith and I many useful things. He has told us that that our lonely morning Thameslink train is getting fuller each day as the weeks pass. As many of you will have noticed, the Thameslink trains have information screens saying, among other things, which toilets are available and the fullness of each carriage. Scales are included on all Govia Thameslink Railway and this information is used by Govia Thameslink Railway to determine what trains need to be longer, and whether more trains are needed. Whenever any of us use it, GTR will know how popular it is. This may give us the basis to ask for more trains. In these times, then the words are "use it and potentially get more".

On the buses, I know that new staff are being recruited. They need our support and encouragement.

Through the East Surrey Transport Committee we have channels that are being used to get information to Transport for London and their contracted bus operating companies.

One area of intimidation for bus drivers is people attempting to travel without payment. Drivers can receive pressure from people trying their luck, the length of the queue of waiting passengers, passengers already on the bus, and the rules they have to follow as they drive the bus. Please be patient, and perhaps without putting yourselves in danger, report instances as they occur. As we know Transport for London needs all the fare revenue it can get in these times.

We know that the Countdown screen at the Jolly Farmers stop does interesting things when it predicts the arrival of a 412 service for Riddlesdown (and Croydon – Town Centre), and I would recommend that people watch and learn – to avoid following the bus up Downscourt Road in a cab.

With less public transport available, there is a need to remember the concept of integrated transport (changing transport modes and routes during journeys), and getting to know good changing points.

For the benefit of others, please let transport operators know when a good service is not delivered. Do enjoy your journeys.

MEMBERSHIP
BY JOHN RAPP

The last few years have been challenging for us all. During the pandemic, there have been many changes – living in bubbles, working from home, doing home tests (and subsequent tests), enjoying meeting people on and around Riddlesdown. I am sure that many were left with a feeling that we need to recover from lost time. The time came, with the Jubilee Weekend to recognise that there is a world outside our homes which can help to maintain our mental wellbeing.

Over the Jubilee Weekend, I took part in a garden party and enjoyed the mix of people and skills. The weekend was special on many levels. We were able to meet again with each other and I know that there were many events all over Riddlesdown. After two years of little gossip there was a thirst to meet new neighbours. One of our Arsenal supporting residents found that his new neighbour supports Tottenham. The chance to socialise reminded me of the importance of community and the part that the RRA can play in making Riddlesdown a pleasant place to live.

Over the years I have asked our Road Stewards to knock on doors to collect subscriptions – now £5.00 per Riddlesdown home per year. Collecting subscriptions has a number of benefits. The Association has money to support its work of providing a glue to hold our community together and can point out that it is supported by Riddlesdown Residents.

Making these collections also allows people talk to each other. Sometimes a Road Steward will find that a resident is more interesting than expected, with a possible two-minute chat turning into a twenty-minute (good when weather is dry) conversation and a new friendship.

We have all learned in lockdown that it is good to interact with others. and have seen how much interaction there has been during the Jubilee weekend – with many unexpected skills being displayed. The good feelings of those who have helped with and attended street parties should not be put away.

As the Riddlesdown Residents' Association relaunches after the pandemic, I am pleased to invite you to become a road steward, offering the chance to interact with people more than four doors away from you. The world has changed and skills not thought about in 1999 are needed. Please contact me (or any Committee Member (details on our magazine contact page) if you would like to tell us about how you would like to help. In these days of working from home the chance to have a break (the number of dogs who have come to live in Riddlesdown since 2000 confirms this) is an essential for physical and mental wellbeing. Please do not hesitate to challenge the Committee to help you to use your skills to benefit other members of the Riddlesdown Community.

I leave all my readers to stay safe and keep as well as possible.

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.

Councillor's Report

Alasdair Stewart

I am Councillor Alasdair Stewart, one of the two new Conservative councillors elected to represent the Purley Oaks and Riddlesdown ward in May 2022.

In the last 15 years, I have run my own business and worked in both the public and private sectors. I currently work for a large national charity, looking after several national telephone support services that operate across the UK. Work originally brought me to Croydon 10 years ago, and I moved into my home in what would become the Purley Oaks and Riddlesdown ward in 2016. Although my accent has softened from my time in England and London, most people can still tell that I was originally born and brought up in Scotland.

From speaking to residents ahead of the local elections, I heard three key themes: that many people were very unhappy with the planning policy and planning decisions, the importance of re-opening Purley Pool, and getting good quality services in exchange for our council tax. The new Mayor and new administration are making good progress on all of these issues – at our second full Council meeting on Monday 25th July, I was pleased to vote in favour of revoking the 'SPD2' planning design guidance that has allowed too many inappropriate developments across Croydon.

Purley Pool is another priority for me, the Mayor, and the new administration. Ahead of May's elections, I attended some of the public meetings and also watched residents, teachers, and others passionately explain the value of the local facility in council meetings – it is clearly a much-loved local facility, and it is sorely missed at the moment. The new Mayor, Jason Perry, has commissioned a report on the different options to re-open Purley Pool (which will be funded from the Community Infrastructure Levy that developers pay), and I look forward to seeing how the different options stack up when this reports back in the near future.

In my first few months I have also heard from local residents that the poor performance of our waste and recycling collections is a source of constant frustration. The Council has recently made it easier to report missed bin collections online via www.croydon.gov.uk (you no longer need to signup for or sign-in to 'My Account'), but we need Veolia to deliver the service we all pay for as part of our council tax – I know the Mayor has already met with representatives and reiterated the importance of delivering a high quality service that we all, rightly, pay for and expect.

The other significant issue that residents have contacted me about are the changes on Brighton Road as part of an Experimental Traffic Order agreed earlier this year by the previous administration. This has seen a new 'mandatory' cycle lane installed and the removal of parking spaces and loading bays along most of Brighton Road. Councillors in South Croydon, Purley Oaks & Riddlesdown, and Purley & Woodcote have all heard from local residents and local businesses about the impact this is having. We met with Council

officers at the end of July to share the concerns and feedback residents have raised with us, and a formal consultation period should be starting in September – I would encourage any residents with any feedback (good and bad) to respond when this opens.

Alongside my responsibilities as a ward councillor, the Mayor has also asked me to take on the role of Deputy Cabinet Member for Finance. Working with the new Cabinet Member for Finance, I have been spending time and in meetings to gain a greater understanding of the council's finances and financial controls. Following the two 's114 notices' in 2020 (where the council effectively declared bankruptcy) we are still learning the full extent of the council's financial position and challenges across different areas, with more issues sadly appearing on a weekly basis, and so there is much work to do in order to get the council finances into a better place. Like last year, the council was only able to set and pass a budget this year by borrowing money, and this is not a long-term or sustainable solution. To help everyone – councillors and residents, who often ask me what has happened with the council's finances – Croydon Council will be launching an 'opening the books' exercise later this year so that we can all gain a greater understanding of the council's financial position, and what choices we face in the future as we try to rebuild a better and financially sound council.

Despite the council's challenges, I have also found in my first few months as a councillor that many council staff will go the extra mile and are passionate about working with residents and councillors to improve our borough and improve the situation we find ourselves in. It will be difficult, but I am confident that over the next four years we can visibly improve Purley Oaks and Riddlesdown, and the services that residents receive across Croydon.

If there are any local problems I can help with, please don't hesitate to email me alasdair.stewart@croydon.gov.uk or telephone and leave a message: 07716 092 472. We are also hosting monthly surgeries in conjunction with the Purley & Woodcote councillors on Purley High Street at the Purley Market – this is usually the first Saturday morning of each month. Exact dates and times will advertised on our Twitter (@PurleyCllrs) and Purley Councillors Facebook page.

Councillor's Report
Endri Llabuti

I am delighted to be writing my first article for The Riddlesdown Recorder as one of the two councilors for Purely Oaks and Riddlesdown ward. Alasdair Stewart and I were elected in May, to represent this wonderful ward. It is an honour and privilege to be able to represent residents and we look forward to meeting the various organisations, volunteers, residents and friends' groups and to play our part in making sure the council delivers the services you expect.

Whilst I have always had in interest in politics from a geological aspect, playing an active role was not something I craved. Politics though has always played a part in my life. Born in the Balkans in the late 80s and seeing the region fall into conflict, civil war, ethnic cleansing, I witnessed at firsthand the good or evil effects that political leaders can have on local people. When politicians fail, local people suffer.

Many will have read and heard about the financial challenges that Croydon has faced

over the last few years. There has been a reduction in services across the board with many projects cancelled and vital community facilities closed due to budget restraints. For far too long residents across Croydon did not receive the basic services one would expect and have rightly grown frustrated with the direction things were going. It is for these reasons that I began to get involved locally with community groups and seeing firsthand the impact that these cutbacks had on the most vulnerable members of our society. We must do better as a Council and must start putting residents first. Far too many residents have experienced poor customer service from the council and occasionally the responses have been just to fob off residents' concerns and not focusing on helping. A culture shift is required, and I am determined to play my role in being part of this change.

We made history in May with the election of our first Mayor of Croydon. I am delighted with one of Mayor's Perry first decision, to scrap SDP2 – which empowered developers to demolish beautiful houses and build flats that look like they have been dumped on our streets by extra-terrestrial life. I along with my fellow councilors were proud to back the proposal. The character, greenery, history of our area should not be negotiable with developers. Whilst we are in need in more housing and must play our part in tackling the housing shortage in the country, we cannot compromise on quality, character orallow the over intensification of our streets, with little to no consideration for the wider impact. Whether it is flooding risks, lack of infrastructure improvements, school places, GP places and so on. As a reserve member on the planning committee, I will make sure residents are heard and the business-as-usual approach must STOP.

My wife and I chose this area as our home to raise our young family precisely because of the green spaces, community connections, parks, houses with beautiful gardens – where children can play safely and as a family, we can spend time building an oasis to counter the modern way of life stress and high-pressured work environment. This time of year is particularly wonderful for our garden as we begin picking the fruit of our labour, with tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, peas all wonderfully ripe thanks to our very warm summer. A way of life that, frankly, if developers had their way would be under threat.

Finally, I also want to recognise the challenges many local council staff have faced over the last few years. Working for an organization which declared bankruptcy, fired people, is an incredibly stressful experience. However, I have been encouraged in the first few months as a councillor to see the passion, work ethic and drive they have to deliver for Croydon – a borough many of them live in. We must work together the get the change required and put Croydon in a stable financial situation.

We have plenty challenges locally to be getting on with, but as your local councillor I want to be as approachable and accessible as possible, whatever local issues you may have, small or large please do feel free to get in touch. Together we can all play our part in enhancing and improving our local area and preserving the character for future generations. Feel free to contact me on endri.llabuti@croydon.gov.uk or mobile 07716 092461

Collegiate Report

Soumick Dey

Our students and staff returned to the Collegiate last September, full of hope and optimism for the academic year ahead. We were no longer operating in "bubbles" or with staggered timings and all students were able to return to their Colleges. We were delighted to be able to welcome visitors again and, just as in the pre-pandemic years, we saw over 2000 people through our doors across a series of Open Events in the autumn term. Whilst it would be incorrect to say that there was no further disruption to learning – student and staff absence has still been affected, and we have again had periods of face masks being worn in indoor spaces including classrooms – this academic year has certainly felt more "normal" than the previous two.

Students have been able to resume their engagement in all the wonderful activities that make school life special: competitive sport, playing in the orchestra, singing in the choir, putting on a play and learning off-site on educational visits. Next year, this programme will be further restored as we begin to take students abroad again for the first time in over two years. A real highlight this year was our production of Shrek the Musical – a fun, funny and joyful show, performed with huge talent and enthusiasm, the perfect "comeback" show after the forced hiatus in 2021.

At the same time, students have been working hard to ensure their good academic progress. GCSE and A-Level exams returned this summer and if grades were awarded on effort alone, we could expect to see some fabulous results in August! I am confident that students will have performed very well and their success will set them up for the next stage of their educational journey.

The Collegiate site has continued to be developed this year. Our College VI refurbishment programme has now been completed with the construction of two new classrooms, a brand new Fitness Suite and an extension to the College VI Café. Our facilities now match our ambitions and further demonstrate why College VI is the place to be for Sixth Form success. Clearly, many students, including a large number from other schools, agree as we have seen a significant increase in the number of applications and enrolments.

After 7 years in my current post, this will be my last report for the Riddlesdown Recorder as from September 2022, I will be stepping into the role of Chief Executive of The Collegiate Trust – the family of schools that Riddlesdown Collegiate is a part of. This follows the decision of my predecessor, Mr Gordon Smith, to retire this summer after twenty years in Croydon, nine of which were as Principal at Riddlesdown. Our school, as it is today, reflects the vision for an exceptional education for all that Mr Smith conceived many years ago. He introduced the small schools model in 2009, he encouraged cultural and creative learning as well as a focus on academic rigour, he oversaw huge capital projects and steered the school through its change to an academy. Since 2015, he has led The Collegiate Trust, still maintaining a keen interest in and support for Riddlesdown Collegiate and its community. Mr Smith's legacy will leave a lasting impression on our school and, on behalf of everyone in our community, I would like to thank him for his enormous contribution to what has been achieved at Riddlesdown and wish him a very

happy and relaxing retirement. My successor as Principal will be Mrs Katie Turner, who already knows Riddlesdown well, having been a part of our team since 2013 and a student at Riddlesdown High School herself in the 90s! I know that she is looking forward to engaging with the community and I am grateful for the support that I know she will be given.

19th Purley (Riddlesdown) Scout Group

Liz O'Brien

We have had another amazing year at the 19th Purley. We are always so proud of all achievements within the group and in the local community. Here are some of the highlights since our last report.

In October we joined the Riddlesdown Residents' Association in their regular litter pick. This is always a favourite for our families, not only is it good to support the local community but also picking up litter can be very rewarding!

In November we were pleased to be back face-to-face at our Remembrance Service at St Edmunds Church. It is always good to remember those who sacrificed so much for us.

In December we were back at Purley, Riddlesdown and Sanderstead stations carol signing. Despite lots of people not carrying cash these days they were still very generous and more importantly we put lots of smiles on the commuters' faces. Also in December we did our annual reverse advent calendar for Purley Food Hub where every week families put donations in to the boxes. We love to support our local food hub and the amazing work they do.

In April it was our annual St George's parade with our fellow Sanderstead Scouts at the 16th and 18th Purley. There was another great turn-out where we renewed our promises. We decided to collect easter eggs for all the families supported by Purley Food Hub and were thrilled to be able to deliver around 80 eggs to them.

In May we were back camping at Blacklands Farm near East Grinstead, and lots of fun was had by our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Activities including archery, abseiling, zip wire and grass sledging. It is always good to get outdoors camping and also for all the sections to get together. We are busy planning our next one. Also in May we held our third Family Fun Day. We promised we would be back bigger and better and we certainly were. The turnout was amazing and it was so lovely to see so many happy faces. Big thank you to Croydon District Scouting for their climbing wall which is always a favourite.

We ended this year with our annual AGM which is always a great celebration and also by keeping our reign as Gruffy 5-a-side football champions. It was a very hot day and the cubs did so well. We are super proud of their team work and dedication. Next to retain our Baloo Trophy in September – fingers crossed.

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

Mary Finch: A True Croydon Heroine

On 30th August 2022, a commemorative wreath was placed by the memorial to Mary Finch that stands at the Junction of Downs Court Road and Selcroft Road to mark the centenary of her death. Yet who was Mary Finch and why is there a memorial to her? The

following article, originally published in the Croydon High School newsletter explains all.

So, who was Mary Finch?

In January 1911, aged 9, Mary Finch joined Croydon High School at Wellesley Road. She had previously attended Downs Court Preparatory School. Her two younger sisters, Margaret and Grace, also attended Croydon High School. By 1913, the Finch family lived at 'Skerryvore' on Oakwood Avenue in Purley.

Mary was an extremely gifted student – academic, athletic, and accomplished at drama and music. She was Head Girl from 1919 to 1920 and passed her first medical exams whilst still a pupil in the Sixth Form. After Croydon High School, Mary attended the London School of Medicine for Women at the Royal Free Hospital and had completed two years of study.

Why is there a memorial to her?

In early August 1922, Mary and her family went on holiday to Gorran near St. Austell in Cornwall. They were joined by their friends, the Wood family, from Norbury.

On the afternoon of 30th August, the Wood family, together with the Finch siblings, went to Porthluney beach for a swim. It was here that Mary, her younger sisters Margaret and Grace, her brother Jack and 15-year-old Stuart Wood found themselves in difficulty due to the strong current.

Despite Mr Wood's repeated attempts, he was unable to assist them. Mary, who was not a particularly strong swimmer, first brought her sister to the shore and then returned to attempt to rescue Stuart. Whilst the others managed to reach the shore, Mary and Stuart were swept away by the strong current.

The following evening, the body of Mary was found by a local carpenter at a place named 'Blue Corner', close to where she had disappeared. Stuart's body was recovered the next day.

At the inquest, the coroner stated 'the conduct of the Miss Finch was very plucky, she gave her life for the boy and but for her, one of the little girls would have drowned, she could not have done more.'

Mary was buried on 5th September at Brandon Hill Cemetery on Plough Lane, Wallington, following a service at the Friends Meeting House on Downs Court Road. On her coffin was white heather collected by her father from the Cornish moors. The villagers of Gorran sent wildflowers. On her tombstone are carved ivy leaves, the symbol of Croydon High School.

A Public Memorial to Miss Finch

In the following year, funds were raised by friends and colleagues for a public memorial t honour the heroic efforts of Mary Finch. If you look closely at the junction of Downs Court Road and Selcroft Road in Purley you will find a wooden memorial seat on a red brick platform in front of a yew hedge. The plaque reads:

'In radiant memory of Mary Finch of Purley. She Gave her life in attempting to save a friend from drowning August 30th 1922 Aged 20 years.'

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.

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 40 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 Caring Group

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

Scallywags

Scallywags is delighted to offer local children from 0 to school age the chance to play together – and for their parents /grandparents /carers to meet and chat over a cup of coffee! The group meets in St Edmund's Church on Thursdays during term-time from 9.30 to 11.30 am. Lots of exciting equipment to play on, craft activities, singing……

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

DISCLAIMER

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

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 Veronica

A mixed ability class suitable for all ages which takes place on Tuesday evenings in St Edmund's Church Hall during term-time between 6.15 - 7.30pm. Yoga will improve your flexibility and strength and help you relax and de-stress after your busy day. Contact: Veronica Moulder; Tel 07803 728868.

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

Don't forget
Litter Pick

Saturday 5th November starting at 2.00pm

Meet at the junction of Dunmail Drive and Mitchley Hill

The RSPB Croydon Local Group

Monthly Illustrated Wildlife Talks in South Croydon

Whitgift Sports Club, Croham Manor Road -
off Croham Road. South Croydon, CR2 7BG
Second Monday of each month, 7.30pm.
Admission £5.00. Everyone is welcome, not just RSPB members.
Free refreshments (bring your own mug). 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.

Monday Oct. 10, 2022: **Jenny Hibbert on "70 Degrees North and Beyond"**
Her talk will show the wildlife & landscapes she photographed as she sailed north for nearly a month, which included some interesting trips off the boat. With a predilection for exploring the coldest areas on the planet, Jenny will keep us well entertained charting this latest freezing excursion she describes as "a trip if a lifetime".

Monday Nov. 14, 2022: **John Buckingham on "The Birds of Kerala"**
John set up the Tonbridge RSPB Group in 1975 and is a trustee and member of council of Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory. The State Bird of Kerala is the Great Hornbill, and many of the forest dwelling birds are brightly coloured. So, with over 500 species of bird recorded in this, the greenest Province of India. and given John's grounding in birds, travel and photography, this talk about diversity in this lush region should not be missed.

Monday Dec. 12, 2022: **Ian Rumley-Dawson on "Wildlife on High Mountains"**
Although wind, rain, ice and snow blanket this environment for most of the year, Marmots, Pikas, Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goats and several species of wildflowers are well adapted to survive in these rigorous conditions. Ian will guide us through these harsh elements in his own inimitable style.

Monday Jan. 9, 2023: **TBA**
Monday Feb. 13, 2023: **TBA**
Monday Mar. 13, 2023: **TBA**
Monday Apr. 10, 2023: **TBA**

For more information contact John Davis on 020-8640 4578; also see the latest news on www.rspb.org.uk/groups/croydon

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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)

Cllr Alasdair Stewart
Tel: 07716 092472
Email: alasdair.stewart@croydon.gov.uk

Cllr Endri Llabuti
Tel: 07716 092461
Email: endri.llabuti@croydon.gov.uk

SANDERSTEAD WARD (Conservative)

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Tel: 020 8404 3462
Email: yvette.hopley@croydon.gov.uk

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Email: lynne.hale@croydon.gov.uk

Cllr Helen Redfern
Tel: 07783 152334
Email: helen.redfern@croydon.gov.uk

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 rail service is running to a restricted timetable due to Covid, 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 (Amended)

Bus 412 (Arriva) – the 412 starts in Park Street, Croydon and then travels via the Croydon Flyover in 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 and Selsdon - Closed on Wednesdays and Sundays.
Sanderstead – Closed on Mondays, Thursdays and Sundays.. But please check, as Libraries are operating on a phased return to service after Covid.
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, May, July, September and November. Contact a Committee member for details.

The AGM is to be held in April/May 2023 in St Edmund's Church Hall,

Mitchley Ave. Please check the RRA website, E- Blast, or RRA Facebook page for the date.

Riddlesdown Residents' Association

Children's Christmas Party

Christmas Disco & Games, Party Tea and a visit from Santa

Admission is **FREE** but spaces are limited

To book a place or for enquiries:

Email: eventsRRA@gmail.com

Phone/text: 07923 892344

3rd December 2-4pm

ST EDMUND'S CHURCH HALL, MITCHLEY AVE