

## **SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION, 2020 Report**

**Using the 2020 SRA AGM headings we update you on our local activities.**

### **1. April AGM 2020 - Apologies for absence!**

Due to the Covid 19 crisis and the subsequent lockdowns that took hold from March the advertised 2020 SRA AGM (due 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020) was cancelled. Notices were placed in the Gazette, on local noticeboards, via the SRA website, Facebook and Twitter feeds and other local social media platforms. In that Notice we re-elected the Committee and raised the Subscription rate to £5 per household per annum. The SRA email was given for residents to contact with any queries or objections. No objections were raised. (Sadly the 2021 AGM will also be cancelled but we hope to update you here!)

### **2. Police report –**

The SRA membership is now largely split over two Police wards. Selsdon and Addington Village (PCSO Tina Nash) and Selsdon Vale and Forestdale (PCSO Jack Killian). During the year the SRA Committee stay in contact with the local Police teams attending meetings where possible. We are grateful to PCSO Killian for his regular reports. The main crimes during the year were thefts from vehicles, notably catalytic converters. Crime stats and prevention advice can be viewed at [www.met.police.uk/a/your-area/met/croydon](http://www.met.police.uk/a/your-area/met/croydon)

### **3. MP Chris Philp –**

The SRA has published regular reports from our MP in the Gazette. He gave praise for the community spirit of residents during the lockdown and the good adherence to the distancing rules. We look to him to fight Croydon's corner on a national level and step in on local issues when help is needed e.g. the bankruptcy of Croydon Council and the inevitable effect on services! (e.g. Purley leisure complex and Sanderstead library to name but two!) See [www.chrisphilp.com/contact/](http://www.chrisphilp.com/contact/) Email: [chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk)

### **4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019. –**

These were placed on the SRA website in March 2020. The SRA email was given for residents to contact with any queries or objections.

### **5. Matters arising from the 2019 Minutes – None raised.**

### **6. The Annual report for 2019 – this was printed in March Gazette. No comments received.**

### **7. Treasurers Report with adoption of the Accounts for 2019. –**

These were placed on the website and printed in the Gazette. Thanks to the Treasurers Iris Jones (SRA) and Choi Kim (The Gazette) and to Jeff Bayton reviews the Accounts. No comments received. There was a deficit of spend over income for both the SRA and the Gazette which has been covered by money held in a Savings Account. It was decided to increase the membership subscription rate slightly in 2020. (As the 2021 AGM is also cancelled the 2020 Accounts will be circulated in a similar manner. The savings associated with the cancellation of the highstreet switch on event, room hire savings and the short shut down of Gazette printing plus an increase in donations has allowed the Accounts this year to remain stable.)

### **8. The Selsdon Gazette and Social media -**

The Selsdon Gazette is a non-profit publication delivered to the door (with grateful thanks to all volunteers involved, particularly Wendy Mikiel) to about 4000 households in Selsdon. Gazette printing costs are (almost) covered by the advertising with special thanks to our Advertising Manager Carlo Rappa. We would like to give thanks to our advertisers for sticking with us in 2020 - we are always looking for more! Thanks to Choi Kim for working as Gazette Treasurer, she will step down from the role at the end of the 2020 and hand over to Jenny Bradley for 2021. In 2019 Heather Govier stepped down as Gazette Editor and in 2020 we welcomed Chris Jones to the role (with interim editions from Derek Barnes and Janet Sharp). Paper copies of the Gazette were halted for April, May and July 2020 but editions were still published on our website [www.selsdon-residents.co.uk](http://www.selsdon-residents.co.uk) (with thanks to our new Web administrator Trevor Stotten). Doorstep

deliveries resumed from September 2020. We welcome your contributions of local stories or news. Email: [selsdongazettesra@gmail.com](mailto:selsdongazettesra@gmail.com) Paper copies of The Selsdon Gazette are available at Selsdon Library and an archive is also held by the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society (to which the SRA pays an annual subscription).

The SRA also now has accounts on Twitter and Facebook (thanks to Ian Leggatt, Trevor Stotten and Peter Underwood) for 'breaking news' see <https://www.facebook.com/selsdonresidentsassociation/> and '@selsdonresassoc' Please 'like' and subscribe!

## **9. Christmas Lights –**

The 2020 Christmas Lights shone brightly on the high-street but the usual public celebration and gathering in November had to be cancelled due to the ongoing virus threat. As usual we need to raise the funds for this as a Community. In 2020 some of the lights and safety fixings were replaced. We were given donations by residents, high-street traders, local churches and groups and from the Councillor's community fund. To aid this (and capitalise on all the lockdown online purchasing) we joined 'Easyfundraising' so that if residents choose to shop online they can raise a donation with their usual retailers, at no cost to them, by using the well trusted 'Easyfundraising' app or site, as the starting point. Our cause name is 'SelsdonChristmaslights'.

## **10. Annual Subscription –**

The continuation of the SRA is reliant on continuing membership subscriptions and donations! In 2020 the membership per household was raised to £5. No-one raised an objection to this. To aid the process we gave the option for people to set up an online banking payment or create a standing order. Any donations for our Christmas lights can also be given in the same way. We also delivered the usual envelope for those preferring to give cash. Find out how to donate at [www.selsdon-residents.co.uk/about-the-sra](http://www.selsdon-residents.co.uk/about-the-sra)

## **11. Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee -**

In 2020 the Committee continued as in 2019 and for 2021 will be joined by Trevor Stotten. The SRA Committee is Chaired by Sheila Childs and the Vice-Chair is Linda Morris. The Secretary is Janet Sharp and the Treasurer is Iris Jones. The other Committee members are; Ernie Sweeney, Yvonne Huber, Sara Bashford, Su Yates, Peter Underwood, Ian Leggatt, Phil Roberts, Jenny Stawman, Arthur Wilson and Trevor Stotten. The SRA can be contacted on [mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com](mailto:mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com) or via Chair, Sheila Childs 0208 6512285.

The SRA's aim is to advance and protect the interests of the residents of Selsdon. It was formed in 1926 and 2021 is **95 years old!** It is run by volunteers on goodwill and funds raised by subscription and donations (no-one gets paid!) The Committee act as a point of contact for external bodies, can add collective weight to any individual resident concerns about the area and are a useful 'watching eye'. They meet once a month to discuss Selsdon issues and respond and take action where necessary. They also plan special events and community improvements if possible. Individual representatives will also attend council, police, transport and other meetings on our behalf. SRA news is passed to the community via public noticeboards (by the library and on the high street) social media and via The Gazette.

## **12. Adoption of the Hon. Accounts Reviewer –**

Thanks are given to Jeff Bayton for reviewing the accounts in 2020/21 and for continuing in this role for 2021/22.

## **13. Any other business**

### **SRA Activities:**

- a) Lampposts and railings on the High Street were enhanced by floral baskets. To save costs these were filled and watered by members of the Committee. The large planter near Iceland needs refurbishment and the Council have now 'offered' this job to the SRA for 2021. Volunteers to help with this when the weather improves are welcome.

- b) The 'bring your own' Community picnic usually held in conjunction with the Selsdon Wood Open Day was cancelled in 2020. It is hoped that 2021 can continue as before with fun games, refreshments and stalls on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September**. Save the date!
- c) The remembrance Poppies returned to the High Street Lamp posts in November. Some of 2019 Christmas decorations made by Greenvale Primary school craft group made a return in 2020 to the Selsdon Triangle to increase the festive cheer in addition to the high-street lights.
- d) We are fortunate that even in lockdown we were allowed to get outside to walk/run for exercise. We have placed some ideas of local areas to go on our website [www.selsdon-residents.co.uk/places-to-walk-and-visit](http://www.selsdon-residents.co.uk/places-to-walk-and-visit)
- e) The SRA continues to pay for access to an online planning app designed to summarise the Council Planning site to aid our residents see for themselves in good time what relevant local planning applications have been made. Find the link from the 'About the SRA' page of our website or from <http://www.localplanningapps.co.uk/croydon/sra/anupdate/planningtable.html> keep checking this and if you can see a problem with an application make your suggestions/objections known in good time. Sensible changes to plans will save a lot of grief later! In 2020 The SRA have created a planning sub-Committee (Chaired by Ian Leggatt) to try and combat the increasing planning applications and understand the legislation and documentation. Email: [selsdonplanning@gmail.com](mailto:selsdonplanning@gmail.com)

### Selsdon Councillors:

The four Councillors who cover the north and south Selsdon wards work together well and take turns to attend the monthly SRA meetings. Councillor Helen Pollard writes the monthly update in The Gazette. A notable victory was gaining the rejection of the unsightly planning application at Hawthorn Crescent. The ongoing development plans for the derelict site at Bailey's/Selsdon Garage seem to have halted at the end of 2020. This continues to be an eye-sore and source of contention for all!

Our Councillors have been trying to re-invigorate the high-street with ideas from the Community. Christmas 2019 saw the first Christmas market on the high-street but sadly this could not be repeated in 2020 due to the Covid risk. A new Selsdon village walk has been created and can be accessed from the Council website [croydon.gov.uk/neighbourhoodwalks](http://croydon.gov.uk/neighbourhoodwalks). A Selsdon Plan has been written and it is hoped that this document can be the basis on external funding applications (particularly given the lack of finance available from the Council). If you would like to consult your local Councillors please see the Gazette or SRA website for their details: [www.selsdon-residents.co.uk/about-the-sra](http://www.selsdon-residents.co.uk/about-the-sra)

### Last but not least...Covid 19:

2020 has been a very difficult year, particularly for those working on the frontline or who have lost a loved one. Thanks to each and everyone in Selsdon who has supported their neighbours during the crisis with friendship and/or practical help. Praise is particularly due to **Jaz Potter**, from the Croydon Jubilee Church, together with **Andy Stranack**, formally of Selsdon Contact, in the setting up of the 'Selsdon Covid-19 Support Group'. This brought different organisations and volunteers together to ensure the most vulnerable were looked after. Jaz was recognised for a special 'Crisis Response' awards by the Mayor Sadiq Khan in December. In total the 'Selsdon COVID-19 Support Group' provided: - Over 400 Emergency Food Bags, More than 2000 weekly ready meals (delivered by volunteers and the local Fire brigade), 60 volunteer Street Champions in every street in Selsdon, In excess of 5000 'befriending' telephone calls to 23 elderly and vulnerable Selsdon residents, A weekly 'Zoom' Quiz to keep the community entertained. Jaz received £5000 in funding to support the continuation of such work which she has handed to 'Selsdon Contact' who support the elderly and vulnerable.

Many local businesses, charities, churches, arts venues and voluntary groups have struggled during 2020 with the lockdown and with the effect on their membership and finances. We hope that you will continue to support them with your money, time and attention. Use them or lose them!

The vaccines have given us hope that the lockdown will end sometime in 2021! We hope, therefore, to see you in person either at our Community day in September or at our next AGM in 2022! If you have an idea or would like to volunteer to help the community in some way we would be glad to hear from you.

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