# April 2020 Selsdor Jazette Volume 72. No. 814 R

### THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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The view expressed by contributors to the Selsdon Gazette are their own and are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Selsdon Gazette or the Selsdon Residents' Association. All letters printed as received.

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Front cover image credit: Spring arrives in Selsdon - Malcolm Cragg, April '20.

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# SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com

#### Executive Committee 2019/2020

President: R.H.R.Adamson Vice-Presidents: P. Holden. R.F.G.Rowsell. Chairman: Sheila Childs Vice-Chairman: Linda Morris Hon. Secretary: Janet Sharp Hon, Treasurer: Iris Iones Committee: Sara Bashford Yvonne Huber Ernie Sweeney Su Yates Peter Underwood Ian Leggatt Phil Roberts Jenny Stawman Arthur Wilson

#### **One Committee Vacancy**

#### Councillors for Selsdon & Addington Village Ward

Cllr Helen PollardHelen.pollard@croydon.gov.uk0207 617 7310Cllr Robert WardRobert.ward@croydon.gov.uk07783 152363

#### Councillors for Selsdon Vale & Forestdale Ward

Stuart Millson	Stuart.millson@croydon.gov.uk	07783 152376
Andy Stranack	Andrew.stranack@croydon.gov.uk	07816 123204

#### **Councillors for Sanderstead Ward**

Cllr Lyn HaleLynne.hale@croydon.gov.uk0208 405 6721Cllr Yvette HopleyYvette.hopley@croydon.gov.uk0208 404 3462Cllr Tim Pollardcouncillor@timpollard.co.uk0208 251 8500

Full details of the roads falling within each of the Selsdon wards can be found on the home page of the SRA website http://selsdon-residents.co.uk

# **Editor's Note**



Welcome to the April edition of the Selsdon Gazette which is my first as editor. My name is Chris Jones and as I have lived in Selsdon for over 30 years and I have always looked forward to receiving my copy of the Gazette each month and am very pleased to become editor. I must thank Janet for all her hard work editing the last three editions and showing me the ropes.

We are entering a very difficult time for all of us with the outbreak of the coronavirus. Terms like 'social distancing' and 'self-isolation' have entered our vocabulary and we must act responsibly for the good of our community. With this in mind, I have included some articles that will help our changed lifestyles. There are some recipes using store cupboard ingredients, local areas for walks and jobs for the garden at this time of year.

There is also an appeal from the Coronavirus Selsdon Support Group which is appealing for donations to help those in need and is offering a volunteer service to pick up shopping or medication, offer a friendly chat, post mail or walk the dog!

With more time at home for many of us I would encourage you to contribute to the Gazette, whether it is a photo taken in Selsdon for our front cover, a poem, a recipe, a book review or ideas for keeping the children busy. I would particularly like to receive some uplifting stories e.g. an article about a 'Coronavirus Hero' who has helped you (you do not have to mention them by name). Please note that to make the next edition these must be with me by 20 April.

**Best Wishes** 

Chris Jones

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MAY 2020 EDITION SHOULD BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN 20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL - PREFERABLY BEFORE! ☞

### SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS

The committee originally took the decision in March to print and deliver this April Gazette, but unfortunately with the more rigorous 'stay at home' policy we realised that we could no longer carry out the delivery. So we decided to make the April edition available on-line at selsdon-residents.co.uk and we hope to set up a Facebook page Selsdon Residents Association . This means of issuing the Selsdon Gazette will probably persist for the near future, so be sure to pass on this information to anyone waiting for the delivery through the door and do submit articles to the editor.

We, like many other committee meetings we attend, decided to cancel the AGM due to take place on the 1 April at St Johns Church Hall. This date certainly turned out to be no April fool!! Our committee members have all said they are willing (and able) to stand for another year and I personally thank them for all their work and support they have given over the past year. We do still have one vacancy to complete our team so we would love to hear from anyone interested.

The front covers of the Gazette had to be printed in black and white, except for Christmas edition, and the number of pages has been restricted to keep costs down as the Gazette made a loss this year. This is mainly due to loss of advertising revenue.

The Gazette can always be found online at <u>www.selsdon-residents.co.uk</u> which we hope will be updated in the coming months.

The Christmas Lights had to have an extra £2000 spent on them this year for new wires across the road and next year we have to replace the two "Selsdon" signs costing another £2000 but we feel we have one of the best (some would say *the* best) lights in the borough, so whilst funds allow we will continue with your support.

We have decided to increase the subscription (due in June) after many years from  $\pounds$ 3 to  $\pounds$ 5 per household to help fund the Gazette and the Lights. This leaves me to say stay safe and well.

Sheila Childs, SRA Chair

# Can you help keep the Selsdon Christmas lights shining brightly?

Without increasing our income we do not know for how any more years we can keep our fantastic Christmas lights. To help raise funds the SRA have joined *Easyfundraising* under the name 'SelsdonChristmaslights'.

If you ever **shop online** you can raise a donation for us, <u>at no cost to you</u>, by using the well trusted 'Easyfundraising' app or site, as your starting point, over 4,000 retailers and other websites (most of your <u>usual</u> shops and websites!) will donate to us when you buy.

Whether you do your weekly supermarket shop online or just the occasional 'special' purchase –to coin a supermarket phrase, 'every little helps' if you use Easyfundraising and support us.

Please tell as many people as possible about this easy and financially painless way to support our local worthy cause. The more people you can pass the link\* to, hopefully, the more we will raise. https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/selsdonchristmaslights/?utm\_campaign=raise-more

\*To avoid possible typos in copying the link, we have placed a directly clickable link on the SRA website.

#### WHAT TO DO

- 1. Use the link above to go to the correct easyfundraising webpage
- 2. Make a free account
- 3. Search for a retailer and select
- 4. A donation is made by the retailer to Selsdon Lights when you pay for your goods

Thank you, in advance, for your support – from the SRA Committee

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#### 2020 AGM Documents

The extraordinary circumstances of the Covid-19 outbreak meant that, due to health risks associated with public gatherings, the SRA had to cancel this year's AGM and in March placed paper notices detailing this around Selsdon, on our website, and on local online news sites such as Nextdoor and Facebook.

The SRA rules do not take account of such unprecedented events. It was decided to publish the AGM documents: <u>2019 minutes</u> with the latest <u>reviewed Accounts</u> in this April edition of the Gazette. The Committee will continue this year, until the next AGM in 2021, based on presumed consent of the following:

re-election of the Committee, approval of the increase of the SRA Subscription rate to £5 per annum and approval of the SRA and Gazette accounts and last year's AGM minutes.

In the light of the current circumstances it is hoped residents will be understanding and supportive of this decision.

We will try to keep our noticeboards and our website up to date with SRA news.

Best wishes to you all, Janet Sharp (SRA Secretary)

#### SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION Annual General Meeting NOW CANCELLED

#### PROPOSED 2020 SRA AGM Agenda

- 1. Apologies for absence
- 2. Police report
- 3. MP Chris Philp
  - Please mention to advertisers where you saw their advert
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- Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019. (Copies available at the meeting)
- 5. Matters arising from the Minutes
- 6. The Annual report for 2019 (Printed in March Gazette and available at the meeting)
- 7. Treasurers Report with adoption of the Accounts for 2019 (Copies available at the meeting)
- 8. The Selsdon Gazette Editor Report
- 9. Christmas Lights
- Annual Subscription to resolve the cost per household for 2020/2021 (proposed to increase to £5 from £3)
- 11. Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee for 2020/2019
- 12. Adoption of the Hon. Accounts Reviewer for 2020
- 13. Any other business

### SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

**Minutes for Annual General Meeting (AGM)** – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 8pm at St John's Church Hall, Upper Selsdon Road

Before the meeting began the attending residents were welcomed and asked to sign the register at the door. A total of 41 attendees were recorded. Copies of the 2019 agenda and 2018 Annual report, as well 2018 AGM minutes and 2018/2019 SRA and Gazette Accounts were available at the meeting.

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Ray Rowsell (Vice-President), Dudley Mead, Choi Kim (Gazette Treasurer)

#### 2. Police report.

The Police were not able to attend the meeting due to their shifts clashing. PSCO John Rosemeyer has moved from Selsdon to the New Addington ward. Selsdon is now be covered by two Police Wards (Selsdon & Addington Village and Selsdon Vale & Forestdale) as they chose to emulate the Council ward boundary amendments. So far this doesn't seem to have affected Selsdon (as crime remains low) but does mean that the SRA has to attend separate Police meetings despite asking for these to be merged. The SRA continues to champion Selsdon and any points of concern are discussed and 'The Gazette' will report on any issues or pass on advice to residents as appropriate.

3. **2018 AGM Minutes** – These were approved by attendees by a show of hands. Proposed by Sheila Childs.

4. Matters arising from the 2018 minutes – There were none.

#### 5. Annual report for 2018 (printed in the February Gazette).

The report was approved by attendees by a show of hands. Proposed by Sheila Childs.

#### 6. Treasurer's report and adoption of 2018/2019 Accounts.

Iris Jones (Treasurer) said that overall income to the SRA for donations to the Christmas Lights and for subscription has reduced. Furthermore, the quantity of High Street Trader donations for the Christmas Lights has been affected by the increasing number of empty shops (10). Those traders who gave were listed for public thanks in the Gazette. We hope that these lights do bring custom to our high street. Iris thanked the Councillors for their large one-off donation to the 2018 Christmas lights from the Community fund. Committee member Peter Underwood raised the point that without this large donation the SRA accounts would be in deficit. The Chairman thanked Iris Jones for her work as Treasurer. Thanks also given to Angela Jones who reviewed the Accounts. Approval of the Accounts was proposed by resident Jean Shaw and seconded by lan Leggatt (Committee). Approved by a show of hands.

#### 7. The Selsdon Gazette

Heather Govier (Editor) said she was pleased to get written contributions from residents. She noted that 'times gone by' contributions seem to be popular. She was sad to lose Ted Frith who wrote about Selsdon's past from research. She is now placing copies of the Gazette online at the SRA website (selsdon-residents.co.uk). These have proved popular with expats though the paper subscription is still available via Mary Gill. Heather and Mary were thanked for their work with a round of applause.

Carlo Rappa's efforts as Gazette Advertising Manager and Choi Kim's as

Treasurer help the Gazette to remain mainly self-financing. Thanks were given to them both.

A large team of volunteers work to make the Gazette happen. A round of applause was given to Wendy Mikiel (Distribution Manager) and her team for their hard work.

#### 8. Christmas Lights and Floral displays

The high street was decorated with flowers again for two seasons - summer and winter. This was funded from the SRA accounts. This may be the last year that we can afford to display these.

Thanks must be given to the Councillors Community fund one off grant for the 2018 Christmas lights which helped to fund this great event. The 2018 Christmas lights switch on went well with particular thanks to Cllr. Robert Ward at short notice for loan of a Sports car to transport Father Christmas. Many thanks to our Father Christmas for coming to Selsdon for so many years!

We are very grateful to The Village Club for continuing to host the event and thanks to the helpers who blow up and distribute the balloons (including John Ruskin pupils) and to the Rotary club who helped steward. Thanks also to the Baptist Church for supporting and providing refreshments. Additionally, the 'village green' space of the triangle land by the Community centre was decorated (on a low-tech basis) by the Committee.

The future of the lights? - Linda said that the current Christmas lights do need to be renewed and the contract is being negotiated. In future there will be more costs as further Health and Safety checks (which incur cost) are now required. We may get a better deal by moving from a 3-year contract to a 5-year contract. Unless we can meet the costs via donations each year the Selsdon Christmas Lights may not appear in the future, but we hope to keep them going for as long as we can.

Thanks and applause were given to Linda Morris for organising this.

#### 9. Annual Subscription for 2019/2020

It is proposed to maintain the subscription level at  $\pounds$ 3. Proposed by Phil Roberts (Committee) and seconded by Yvonne Huber (Committee). This was approved by a show of hands.

#### 10. Election of Officers for 2019/20

Sheila is happy to continue as the Chairman, there being no other candidates. Linda Morris (Vice-Chair) formally proposed her re-election and this was approved by a show of hands.

Sheila said that Committee member and former Councillor Dudley Mead will be stepping down from attending Committee meetings after 38 years. As well as writing for the Gazette he is a font of knowledge. Committee member John Waddington has also had to step down from the Committee due to ill health. They will both be much missed.

A full Committee comprises 14 residents. The Committee now has three vacancies. Two people at the meeting Jenny Stawman and Arthur Wilson have offered to join. A third Shanta Lekh was considering joining. They were invited to introduce themselves.

Jenny said that she has lived in Selsdon for 30 years and raised her three children here, her husband has lived in Selsdon his whole life. Arthur now lives in Selsdon and wants to get involved with the Community. Shanta has lived in the area for 30 years and is interested in helping to improve the area but isn't yet sure if she wants to stand. She will come to a meeting first.

Sheila has met with Arthur and Jenny prior to this meeting to discuss the role and now proposes to elect them to the SRA Committee. Current Committee members Sara Bashford, Ernie Sweeney, Su Yates, Peter Underwood, Ian Leggatt, Phil Roberts and Yvonne Huber have also agreed to continue to stand. Sheila said that her officers Linda Morris (Vice-Chairman), Iris Jones (Treasurer) and Janet Sharp (Secretary) were also happy to continue in their roles. Sheila proposed that the Committee and Officers, as well as Jenny and Arthur be elected as a block of 12. Their election was approved by a show of hands. There remains one Committee vacancy.

If anyone would like to consider joining the Committee or can help the Selsdon Residents' Association in any other voluntary capacity in future they can contact Sheila Childs for more information.

#### 11. Adoption of the Hon. Accounts reviewer

Angela Jones is now stepping down from this role. Volunteers for 2020 were asked to contact Sheila Childs.

#### 12. Any other business

a) Phil Roberts said that the Sanderstead and Selsdon Rotary have agreed to fund two defibrillators, one for Selsdon Sainsburys and the other for Hamsey Green. Sheila asked him to write an article about this for The Gazette. London Air Ambulance do special courses for 12 peo-

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ple at a time at a cost of £400. They also keep a map of the locations of the machines. Cllr. Robert Ward said that he has done the training several times and it is very easy to use as the machines are designed to be used by anyone with minimal guidance without formal training.

- b) Wine for tonight's AGM refreshments was donated by Wetherspoons. Their new manager Lev has arranged a Christmas Lights collection from his customers and has placed hanging baskets outside. They are trying to extend their opening hours.
- c) Update The Selsdon Garage site was purchased by the current owners in 1997 and so far, they claim to have spent £1M on it with no financial return. The site is considered 'difficult', it has concrete foundations and the Council's insistence of the inclusion of affordable housing means that they are struggling to get a bank loan to fund the project. The development plans have therefore stalled.
- d) There was a query from the floor about the other empty high street shops. Cllr. Robert Ward said that there have been applications for a Pie and Mash shop and a Beer house. A regeneration Officer from the Council went with him to speak to the local shop owners to find out what ideas they have. It was agreed that Selsdon community stakeholders should have a 'say' in any Council plans as happened in South Norwood. The local Councillors will work with the Council over the next few months to help make this happen. Metro bank were directly asked by the Councillors if they were interested in moving to the old Santander site in Selsdon but they said no. Other suggestions from the floor were having a Citizens Advice Bureau. Another suggestion was whether Age UK have an office based in Selsdon? Cllr. Robert said that Adult Social Services have a general objective to deliver services locally dependent on demographic needs. However, having 'Contact' in Selsdon may mean that we are covered for this provision.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9pm. She thanked all who had attended the meeting and invited them to stay for a quick drink and a chat.

(Deficit)/Surplus of Income Over Expenditure	Total Expenditure	<b>EXPENDITURE</b> Insurance Hire of Halls Printing & Stationery Sundries Christmas Lights Hanging Baskets Council Barriers 90th Party Donations Subscriptions	Total Income	SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (SRA)         INCOME         Subscriptions         Christmas Lights:         Traders' Donations         Croydon Council         90th Party Contributions         Sponsors for Hanging Baskets         Nationwide Building Society Interest	Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Years Ended 31 December
(1,680)	12,964	370 483 96 10,041 1,536 269 0 128	11,284	€ 2,415 3,106 1,028 4,500 0 0 37	2019
2,784	9,881	370 395 139 68 7,058 1,200 0 503 90 58	12,665	€ 2,352 2,848 5,500 424 388 37	2018
5,253	9,945	392 330 7,057 1,440 0 500 21	15,198	€ 2,568 3,306 926 7,200 818 37	2017

SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION/GAZETTE CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The land the Handling October Decidente Approximation		Add Surplus/Less (Deficit) - Gazette Account Add Surplus/Less (Deficit) - General Account	Prior Year Adjustment - Christmas Lights ((expired)	Accumulated Fund brought forward	NET ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES		Gazette printing/postage owing	Electricity for Christmas Lights (estimated)	Liabilities: Contractors (estimated)		Petty Cash - General Account	Cash at Bank - General Account	General Account at Nationwide Building Society	<u>Assets:</u>		Balance Sheets as at 31st December	SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION/GAZETTE CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS	(Deficit)/Surplus of Income Over Expenditure	Postage Total Expenditure	Gazette Printing	Expenditure	Postal Subscriptions Total Income	Bank Account Interest	Income Advartising Income	SELSDON GAZETTE (GAZ)
	45,312	0 (1,680)	0	46,992	45,312	(2,155)		(350)	(1,805)	47,467	39	10,672	36,756	11	2019	SBA	AL ACCOUNTS								
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Iris Jones - Hon. Treasurer, Selsdon Residents' Association

Choi Kim - Hon. Treasurer, Selsdon Gazette

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### **COUNCILLORS' NOTES**

#### SELSDON GARAGE SITE

Selsdon Councillors, planning and regeneration Council officers met with the developer who owns the Garage site on 28<sup>th</sup> February. The meeting went well, and it seems we are getting closer to a solution for the redevelopment of the site. Will provide more information about this when we have confirmed details.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Since the last Gazette, the impact of the Coronavirus has increased significantly. As Councillors, we have been doing what we can to support community groups who provide services to the most vulnerable people in Selsdon. We hope you stay safe in these uncertain times.

We might not be able to meet up with residents now we are social distancing, but we are always available on email.

#### MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS, COUNCILLOR SURGERIES ARE SUSPENDED FOR APRIL

If you have any issues you wish to discuss with your councillor, please get in touch by email:

Helen.pollard@croydon.gov.uk Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk Stuart.millson@croydon.gov.uk Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk

#### PLANNING APPLICATIONS MARCH 2020

20/00810/HSE – 108 Foxearth Road, South Croydon, CR2 8EF Erection of a first floor rear extension

20/00902/LP – 42 Chapel View, South Croydon, CR2 7LE Demolition of existing garage and erection of single storey side extension



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19/05986/HSE – 14 Crest Road, South Croydon, CR2 7JQ Alteration, erection of a two storey side extension, ground floor rear extension, ground floor front extension, dormer along the rear roof slope and an outbuilding to the rear of the existing garden

**MP Chris Philp's Report** 

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Here is an update on various things that I have been working on locally and nationally on behalf of our neighbourhood.

#### Westfield on hold

Years of indecision has brought Croydon's proposed Westfield development to a standstill.

The original plans for were Westfield were confirmed and planning permission granted in early 2014, and the company had intended to start construction in 2016 with the development opening early this year.

However, the plans have been blocked and prevaricated over so many times that it is now unclear when work on the new Westfield can begin.

I have supported the Westfield development since it was first announced. Not only will it transform Croydon, giving us a modern shopping centre with all the top brands and create thousands of jobs, it will also help improve Croydon's image and encourage other major firms to invest in the Borough.

Westfield have made their own commitment to the project clear by investing  $\pounds$ 1.4bn should it go ahead. If it does go ahead it will mean 7,000 new jobs and 1,000 new homes for the borough.

Since planning was first granted in early 2014 I have worked with the Government to make sure that Westfield does go ahead. I have organised meetings with council, Government and the GLA to ensure that potential

legal boundaries were removed. In early 2018 the Government granted  $\pounds$ 10 million for the project from its Housing Infrastructure Fund, which has gone unspent.

Despite this support, the Council has repeatedly moved the goal-posts on the development and now refuses to accept responsibility.

Westfield have now sadly removed the scheme from their development pipeline, which is deeply concerning. I will be meeting Westfield shortly to see what can be done to restart the project. The current Whitgift centre is dying on its feet and urgent action is now needed.

#### **DEMOC** Campaign

I am supporting the resident led campaign for a Directly Elected Executive Mayor for Croydon. A directly elected mayor would make decision making in the borough more accountable to residents and give us real say in what the Council does. You can read more and download the petition at <u>democ.org.uk/sign-petition</u>

At the moment the Council continuously ignores us, especially on planning issues. A DEM is the only way to make them listen. We are nearly at the threshold of signatures which by law triggers a Borough-wide referendum on moving to a DEM.

#### Chris Philp

Member of Parliament, Croydon South 020 7219 8026 <u>chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk</u>

(Editor notes -The SRA is not a part of the DEMOC campaign detailed above, believing residents can choose to join and support individually: as the SRA is a non-political organisation.

### WHAT'S ON

Many of the previously advertised events are very likely to be postponed or cancelled due to the social distancing introduced by the government in the light of the coronavirus pandemic.

#### SELSDON CENTRE

As a result of the well-known issues surrounding the corona virus, the Selsdon Centre regretfully shut its doors to our folk on16th March 2020.

As to the future, please continue to let us have emails and other messages if you, or someone you know, is having particular problems at this difficult time and we will respond to those as well as we can.

We will reopen our doors as soon as we are advised it is safe to do so. In the meantime, keep safe and follow the Government advice.

Directors Selsdon Centre



### A Time for Gardening – April 2020

Well – who would have thought we would be finding ourselves in such unusual times. But looking for some positives, we will all hopefully have super-duper looking gardens and these gardens will have done their bit to support us and our mental health throughout these difficulties.

A few jobs to be doing at this time of year:

- ~ keep the weeds under control don't they grow fast
- ~ tie in climbing and rambling roses and young trees that have become loose
- $\sim$  sow seeds for hardy annuals, herbs and wild flowers
- ~ increase the amounts of water given to house plants
- ~ feed shrubs, roses and fruit canes
- ~ sow new lawns and repair bare patches

- ~ remove the flower stalks from daffodils, but not the leaves
- ~ plant dahlia tubers outside if it's mild weather
- $\sim$  check what's happening in garden ponds, removing blanket weed if it has appeared

If you have the space it's the time to sow the seeds for salad leaves, carrots, peas, beetroot, spinach and chard. Hopefully there won't be any further frosts, so pumpkins, squash, sweetcorn, basil and beans can also go into the ground, which is now warming up nicely. It's the time to plant maincrop potatoes – the earlies would have been done a few weeks ago. Good Friday is the traditional day for planting potatoes, but not when it's much earlier in March! Tomatoes and cucumbers can be planted but these tender souls will need to be under cover still, as we probably won't be experiencing Mediterranean temperatures yet.

Hanging baskets and decorative pots can be planted up but will need to be kept in a sheltered spot or green house for a few weeks, unless Summer has started really early.

Who knows in this topsy-turvy world we are living in?

If permitted in these times, a visit to the local garden centre maybe an ideal short trip out whilst managing to maintain safe personal space, otherwise there are many excellent providers of plants and seeds via the postal service. If you do not have access to the internet and would like details of these, please contact us via the editor. Our website is: www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

The rhododendrons will be coming into bloom, and if permitted out, the gardens of Heathfield House at the top of Gravel Hill or Coombe Gardens in Coombe Lane will be pleasant open areas to visit for a gentle stroll.

#### Bill, Ben and Little Weed

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Roy Brady MCiphe

#### WORMS



I always knew worms were fascinating, but not much more than that, until I visited Charles Darwin's house at Downe, just seven miles from us near Biggin Hill. His beautifully restored house and garden is now run by English Heritage and usually open at weekends during the winter and longer in summer.

It was here that Darwin spent forty years researching and writing his great books and also studying earthworms. He got his son Horace to play a bassoon close to the worms and saw no reaction but when he placed them on a piano they responded and proved that though deaf they could feel vibrations. In the fields around the house, Darwin calculated that there could be 53,767 worms to the acre and over a year they could move eight tons of soil.

Worms are nature's natural ploughers bringing nutrients to the surface of the land, they also aerate the soil and make drainage channels. They have no eyes or lungs but breathe through their skin. If cut in half, the front section will regenerate. In Darwin's garden there is a stone apparatus that he used to measure how much it sank into the soil and how quickly it became covered due to the worms' activities.

Darwin's book on worms "The Formation of Vegetable Mould" actually out sold "On the Origin of Species" during his lifetime.

... and finally. A child was spotted eating worms, after a telling off the father asked the boy what they tasted like. "Slugs," he said.

Reproduced with the kind permission of Colin Jones, President , Sanderstead Horticultural Society

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#### Something for Bored Children at Home – Wild Art Competition



The RSPB and the Cameron Bespolka Trust have an exciting competition for talented young artists. They would like children to create a piece of art inspired by nature. There are two categories to choose from. Real life is for entries using the more traditional approach of paints, pastels, acrylics, pens and pencil. The Go Wild category is for those who want

to experiment with textiles, sculpture, recycled and eco-friendly materials, collages – anything goes!

The competition is split into three age groups: under 8s, 8 - 12, and 13 years and over. To enter email a photo of your artwork to <u>competitions@</u> <u>rspb.org.uk</u> with the heading WildArt 2020 competition.

The winner for each category in each age group will receive an art gift voucher worth £100. There are also runner-up prizes. Closing date Friday 28 August 2020.

#### **Store Cupboard Recipes**

With the food shortages seen in the supermarkets this year I thought that I would include some simple recipes making use of tinned and dried ingredients found in our cupboards.

#### Tomato Pasta Ingredients for 2

1 tsp vegetable oil Finely chopped onion Finely chopped garlic glove 400g tin of chopped tomatoes 2 tbsp tomato puree Pinch of mixed herbs 210g dry pasta



#### Method

Heat the oil in a frying pan or saucepan. Cook the onion on a medium heat until soft.

Add the garlic and cook for a further minute. (Do not have the pan too hot as it will burn the garlic and give a bitter taste).

Add the tin of tomatoes, tomato puree and mixed herbs and simmer for 15 minutes until the sauce is thick and rich. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Cook the pasta according to the pack instructions, mix in with the sauce and serve topped with fresh herbs and/or grated cheese.

#### Options

Add a tin of tuna or some sliced vegetables (e.g. mushrooms, peppers or courgettes) when you add the tin of tomatoes.

Pour the sauce over fish fillets and bake in the oven at 180C (gas mark 4) for 15-20 minutes.

# Sweet Potato and Chickpea Curry Ingredients for 4

1 tbsp oil 1 tsp cumin seeds Finely chopped onion 2 crushed garlic cloves <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> -1 tsp chilli flakes (to taste) 50g peeled and grated root ginger 600g tinned chickpeas 400g tinned tomatoes 750g peeled and cut into bite sized pie



750g peeled and cut into bite sized pieces of sweet potato 200g rice

#### Method

With a medium heat setting warm a large saucepan and add the oil. Once hot add the cumin seeds and fry for a minute. Add the onion and a pinch of salt (to stop burning the onion) and cook for 5-6 minutes. Add the garlic, chilli flakes and ginger and fry for a further three minutes.

Drain and rinse the chickpeas. Add to the pan with the tomatoes and sweet potato. Add about 500ml of water to cover the chickpeas and sweet potatoes and bring to a simmer, stirring to mix everything together.

Cover with a lid and simmer over a low heat, stirring now and again, for 25-30 minutes., or until the sauce has thickened and the potatoes are soft and beginning to break apart. Top up with a little water during the cooking if needed. Meanwhile cook the rice according to the pack instructions. Taste the curry and season with salt and pepper. Serve immediately with the rice.

#### One for the children – Honey Flapjacks Ingredients – makes 12

200g butter 200g brown sugar 200g honey 400g porridge oats 50g nuts or dried fruits or glace ginger or chopped/ desiccated coconut (optional) 20cm x 30cm (8in x 12in) greased cake tin



#### Method

Add the butter, sugar and honey to a saucepan and heat. Stir occasionally until the butter has melted and the sugar has dissolved.

Add the oats and if using the optional ingredients add these now. Mix well. Place the oat mixture in the prepared cake tin and spread to a thickness of about 2cm. Using the back of a spoon smooth out the surface.

Bake in a preheated oven at 180C/350F/Gas mark 4 for 15-20 minutes until lightly golden around the edges, but still slightly soft in the middle. Let it cool in the tin, then turn out and cut into squares.

#### Get out in the Local Countryside

At the time of editing we were being encouraged to reduce our social interactions but we were being allowed to get outdoors for exercise so I thought I would remind everyone about the wonderful areas of countryside surrounding Selsdon.

# Ŕ

#### Littleheath Woods

Littleheath Woods is often called Selsdon's secret wood as it is almost completely surrounded by houses and for many passers-by the treetops are the only sign of the wooded area hidden away behind the residents' gardens. However, there are thirteen entrances to the woods that allow easy access to this green oasis away from the bustle of South Croydon.

The woods cover 25 hectares (61 acres) and contain a wide variety of habitats. There are areas of mature woodland, areas with young trees planted by the Friends of Littleheath Woods, and areas of coppiced





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woodland at different stages of regrowth. There are also ponds and two meadows. These areas are all connected by a network of paths that meander through the woods.

The land covered by the woods is quite varied with soils that are predominantly chalk, clay, sand or pebbles. The terrain also changes from the highest point in Gee Wood at 161m above sea level down to the lowest point in Fallen Oak Field at 125m.

The wide range of terrain, soils and habitats means that the woods are home to a wide variety of plants and animals. Visitors can choose to wander along the tree lined paths, rest on one of the many benches dotted through the woods or picnic out in the meadows. As the woods change through the seasons there are always new sights to discover.

#### Selsdon Wood Nature Reserve

Selsdon Wood Nature Reserve, commonly known as the Bird sanctuary, is 200 acres of countryside on the very edge of Greater London. Selsdon Wood is a wonderful place for a walk whatever time of year.

In the spring, the ground is carpeted with anemones, followed by bluebells. In the summer the lush green leaves keep it shady and cool. Autumn is the time for blackberries, fungi and nuts. And in winter when it snows the wood is silent and magical.

Approximately a quarter of the area is open field, criss-crossed by paths and maintained with an annual mowing. The remainder is ancient woodland, dominated by oak with areas of coppiced hazel. It is home to deer, foxes, badgers, squirrels and over 100 different species of bird.

The main entrance and car park are in Old Farleigh Road. There are two walking routes on site, the Red (1.6km) and Green (3km) walking routes These are marked by wooden posts and start at the car park.

#### **Sanderstead Plantation**

Thanks to the Sanderstead Plantation Partners for this contribution

Many of you have driven down Addington Road from the Sanderstead pond roundabout and noticed the woodland on your left-hand side. This is the Sanderstead Plantation. It covers more than 20 acres of the north facing slope and contains the highest point in the Borough of Croydon at its south-west corner. Sanderstead Plantation provides a haven for wildlife, we see badgers, foxes and, until recently, two deer had taken up residence here for a few months. It is one in the string of green islands with which our area is blessed. It is deceptively large and, indeed, sometimes seems immense to those who maintain it. The top half of the woods are on Thanet sands whilst the bottom is on chalk and this provides for a surprising variation in the nature of the woodlands across the plantation. This variety is increased with a grassy area in the south-east corner, which was formerly a garden before being reintegrated into the woods. Some of the woods, dips and gulleys can seem quite secluded in the summer making it an enchanting place. This is a fine amenity with a network of informal paths which many of the local people, especially dog owners and families with children, enjoy and which we would like even more people to enjoy.

We are the Sanderstead Plantation Partners, a group of volunteers who have been around for almost 20 years. Usually we meet every Wednesday morning with the aim of maintaining and improving the woods as a local amenity.

The woodland has a largely mature canopy frequently comprising of oak, ash and large beech but also, in some places, non-native species such as sycamore and sweet chestnut with occasional horse chestnut and lime trees. With the mature canopy, the understory of smaller tree species is not well developed but several glades have been created over the years and here elder, cherry and hazel are encouraged. Sycamore is a successful self-setter and whilst formerly growing well in the woods now performs badly owing to intensive squirrel damage, so we now actively suppress such growth. Similarly, we control invasive species such as laurel and rhododendron. However, we encourage other native species, and, over the years, we have planted and nurtured almost 2000 saplings. Until recently there was a stand of mature larch at the eastern end of the wood, but they were of an age where they were becoming unsafe and so were felled a couple of years ago. A pile of the resulting cut trunks can still be seen at the south-west entrance to the woods.

There is also a variety of ground flora, the make-up of which indicates that the plantation is not of recent origin. We have seen a marked increase in the numbers of bluebells and wild garlic of late.

Unfortunately, we are also seeing plants native to the British Isles, such as ivy and brambles, becoming rampant. This would appear to be happening across the country. Keeping these under control has become one of our major headaches.

### **Kings Wood**

Kings Wood sits between Old Farleigh Road and Limpsfield Road and is a beautiful ancient woodland. It's relatively flat and criss-crossed by pathways, making it an easy terrain for all ages. There are numbered posts dotted along the pathways, which are also plotted on the Kings Wood map (displayed at several junctions). This is presumably to stop you getting lost in the Manhattan-like grid, or perhaps to try your hand at orienteering. Using the posts as an aid, you can navigate your way to the central square to find the well-hidden pond, which was restored back in 2002.

### **Bramley Bank Nature Reserve and Heathfield Estate**

Heathfield Estate at the top of Gravel Hill was originally owned by Raymond Riesco and was acquired by Croydon Council in 1964. In the 40 years that Mr Riesco owned the land he changed it from a run-down farm to model estate set around a mansion and beautiful ornamental gardens. When Mr Riesco died in 1964 the Croydon Corporation bought the remainder of the estate. The gardens were opened to the public and they are maintained by the parks department.

Bramley Bank Nature Reserve is an area of natural woodland that stretches from Ballards Plantation towards Littleheath Wood. This woodland is managed as a nature reserve by The London Wildlife Trust.

## **Riddlesdown Common**

Riddlesdown is a hillside of meadows and woodland that is open to the public all year round. In the spring and summer, it is alive with a myriad of different birds and insects, and is punctuated with drifts of wildflowers, many rare. On a crisp autumn morning the colours of the changing trees are spectacular, especially the sentinel beeches of the ancient Coombes Wood. With the free-draining chalk soils underfoot, Riddlesdown is accessible in winter, when the landscape becomes moody, tranquil and reflective.

The wildlife enthusiast will find the 'Common' teeming, and rarities abound; the walker can set a steady pace across the Downs for a good few hours; the curious stroller will enter a land of resplendent views and peace.

# **CROYDON LIBRARIES ONLINE RESOURCES**

Croydon libraries closed on Friday 20 March, but residents can use their library card to unlock access to a hugely diverse offering of books, magazines and films online. There is also a link on the Croydon Library website to access these resources if you have not got a library card. Books already on loan have had their return date extended to 30 April to avoid generating fines for late return.

More than 40,000 eBooks and audio books are newly available across several platforms and thousands of up-to-date newspapers, both national and regional, can also be read online, in over 100 languages and more than 700 magazines.

Music videos are available to watch, and hundreds of films can be streamed for free across a range of genres, including classic and animated films, dramas and comedies.

Croydon library cards also offer access to a variety of online courses including languages, as well as children stories, quizzes and games.

Library card holders can access all the virtual library online offering through the MyLibraryApp, which can be downloaded for free from the App Store and Google Play.

Anyone without a library card that would like to access the resources can apply online through a link on the Croydon Library website/coronavirus page and will receive instant access to the services.

The home library service is currently continuing to operate.

**Ziptales** is a fun on-line resource that uses stories, quizzes and games to make reading a pleasure for children.

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We welcome your letters so do **please get** in touch if you have something to share with Selsdon residents.

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requirements in <u>all</u> correspondence to the Editor. Anonymity can be granted on request, but anonymously sent letters/e-mails will not be published. Publication dates may mean a delay between receipt of your letters and when they appear.

## The Train Now Standing (by email)

I thought the following may be of interest to a few readers albeit not quite in Selsdon, but Selsdon Road is probably near enough to be considered. At the corner of Selsdon Road and Carlton Road there is a new block of flats and built into the surrounding wall is a representation of a Bullied Pacific steam locomotive could be of the Battle of Britain Class or similar, at the moment it is surrounded by temporary barriers. The wheel arrangement of 4-6-2 (Pacific) is clearly noticeable as the wheels are shown quite large, and from a distance the shape of the locomotive is depicted in the wall construction.

Hope this is of interest.

### Regards D.J.Redrupp



#### Dear Editor

In these times of loneliness and isolation, there is a tiny ray of comfort for those who do not have family or friends. There is a charity called "SILVERLINE" and it will arrange for a phone call to an older person, once a week. People can volunteer to be the one to phone. It could be a lifeline in present times to someone isolated.

SILVERLINE. 0800 470 8090

### Jessica Blake

# In Our High Street Why is Selsdon's Wetherspoons named 'The Sir Julian Huxley'?

Sir Julian (1887-1975) was the grandson of the prominent biologist T.H. Huxley, son of the biographer Leonard Huxley and the brother of novelist Aldous Huxley. He was educated at Eton and studied zoology at Balliol College, Oxford. He developed and headed the biology department at the Rice University in Texas, before serving in the British Army. He later became professor of zoology at King's College, London. Whilst he served as the secretary to the Zoological Society of London, he was involved in the transformation of Regent's Park Zoo and the development of Whipsnade. He is best known in the biological field for his work in bringing together Darwin's theory of Natural Selection and Genetics. He was the first Director of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in 1946-48. He was knighted in 1958.

His connection to Selsdon is the Selsdon Wood Nature Reserve which was opened in 1936. The money to buy the land was raised by subscription, and one of the notable subscribers was Sir Julian Huxley. The reserve is now managed for the National trust by Croydon Council Parks Department.

# Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth

## Some Nature Books

When it is not possible to get out to study natural history you can always delve into a suitable book. Here are a few that I have enjoyed!

### Konrad Lorenz - King Solomon's Ring

Konrad Lorenz won the Nobel Prize for Medicine & Physiology. If there is one book that every naturalist should read this is it! As Julian Huxley says in his foreword to the book "... Lorenz has given himself over to his self-appointed task of really understanding animals .... "He studies animals and birds in conditions where they are free to leave if they wish and considers the behaviour of fish in an aquarium. Among his discoveries was the phenomenon of "imprinting" where the first moving object seen by a young animal is taken to be its parent. He became the parent of a gaggle of geese! The anecdotes are full of humour and are illustrated by the author's own inimitable sketches. He has written a second book **Man Meets Dog**, described in The Times as "This book is wise, witty and humane. Dog lovers should read it – and so should dog haters"

#### Niko Tinbergen – Social Behaviour in Animals

Tinbergen's area of study is similar to Lorenz's and covers a wide range of creatures including Herring Gulls, bees, butterflies and Sticklebacks. Written in a different style to Lorenz's, though still very readable, it shows what can be understood about animal behaviour by careful observation.

## Ken Willmott et al - Butterflies of Surrey Revisited

The local Surrey & South West London branch of Butterfly Conservation decided that the out-of-print original book on the butterflies of Surrey by Graham Collins needed updating and this is the result. Five main authors were involved in writing the species descriptions, and the book has distribution maps and much more information. It is full of wonderful detail for anyone interested in the butterflies of this region.

## Eric Ennion – The House on the Shore

Dr Eric Ennion was an artist whose painting style was immediately identifiable. This book describes the activities at the bird observatory which he established at Monks' House on the Northumberland shore.

## Roger Tory Peterson & James Fisher – Wild America

James Fisher was a writer and BBC broadcaster on natural history. In USA Roger did the same but was famous for developing field guides with paintings of species with markers indicating salient ID points. After James took Roger round UK showing him British nature Roger returned the compliment by arranging a trip around America. This fascinating book is the result.

### Roger Tory Peterson – The Bird Watcher's Anthology

RTP edits this collection from various writers covering a range of natural history topics from various places in the world. Something to awake your sense of wonder!

### Roger Tory Peterson – Birds over America

To some extent this is autobiographical in that it covers some of his bird watching adventures as he visits many different places in USA.

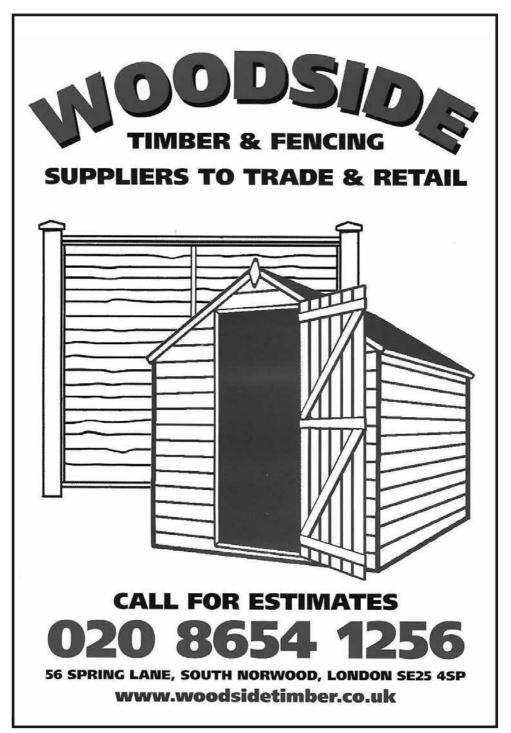
### Ernest Neal – Woodland Ecology

This is a small volume, written by a teacher and suitable for anyone with an interest in woodland habitat and the relationships among plants and creatures within it. The author also wrote a book on The Badger.

### James A Brimble – London's Epping Forest

When I first moved to London many years ago, I was fascinated by this woodland and made frequent visits, often being caught out as the sun went down when I was still some way from my route home. The book has many small maps and describes many of the features of the forest.

# Ted Forsyth



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# Poetry Corner IMPERFECT SPRING

It's Spring and the sky's sprung a leak, on and off, it's been raining all week, but the warm April showers have sprung the spring flowers from their prison once midwinter bleak. At last, here's the sun that they seek.

There's a spring in my step and the scene has been decked with a veil of spring green. As hope springs eternal now the season is vernal, the flirtatious birds start to preen their feathers to burnish the sheen.

The earth rises from the dead, even I spring, renewed from my bed. See the birds are nest making, the dawn's brighter breaking, the last frost of winter is shed as the sun rises high overhead.

The child in my heart stands and cheers at every spring thing that appears but there's one note of sadness overshadows the gladness as sweet sounds of spring fill my ears – I have not heard a cuckoo in years.

### Thanks to Mary Gill

~~

# Press Release for Immediate Release

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 Contact: Andy Stranack Telephone: Office – 020 8651 4944 Mobile – 07816 123204 E-mail: Andy@Selsdoncontact.org.uk Selsdon COVID19 – Food Support Group to Launch on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

#### Selsdon Contact, Selsdon Centre for the Retired, Monks Hill Food Stop, the local Selsdon Churches, GP Surgeries, Vintage 62 and Sainsbury are all working together to provide a bag of shopping to the most vulnerable residents living in the Selsdon area.

If you can spare a few tins or some toilet rolls to help a vulnerable resident you can drop a donation next to the Jubilee Café, Lower Ground Floor, 132 Addington Road, South Croydon from 12 noon on Friday.

Andy Stranack, Manager at Selsdon Contact said: -

"We have just over 3,000 over 70's living in the Selsdon area, at Selsdon Contact and Centre for the Retired we come into regular contact with many of these residents. In Selsdon we want to make sure that no one is left isolated in their own homes without food.

If residents have a spare tin or toilet roll, we would be very grateful if they could donate items, we are particularly looking for the following items: -Tinned or Packet Soup, Sugar, washing powder, Tinned Fish/Meat, Toilet Roll, Long Life Milk, Pasta, Baked Beans, Tea Bags, Soap, Rice, Tinned Veg, Coffee, Tinned Pies, Instant Mash, Powdered Milk. We will also need fresh produce on a regular basis (milk/bread and vegetables).

If you have not got any food but can donate some money you can bring it into the Contact Office (next to the Jubilee Café). We are open Monday – Friday 10am -3pm. Alternatively you can make donations through our the secure pay of the Website <u>https://www.selsdoncontact.org.uk/</u>.

To keep up to date with the latest developments you can join the following groups: -

Facebook: - Coronavirus Selsdon Support

WhatsApp: - Selsdon Covid 19 Support (07960738858)

Please remember the food stop service on Monks Hill (St. Francis Church) and the Vine Food Bank service in New Addington are also in operation and need Donations.

Groups involved include: -

Selsdon Contact – Registered Charity – 47 years working in the Selsdon Community

Selsdon Centre for the Retired – Registered Charity – Over 20 years working in the Community

Croydon Jubilee Church, Selsdon Baptist Church, St John the Divine, St Columba's and St. Francis Church.

Businesses – Vintage 62, Sainsbury – Selsdon

GP Surgeries – Queenhill, Selsdon and Farley Road Medical Practices

# Could you write for the Gazette?



Do you have a hobby, interest or story to share with our readers? Don't be shy. We are looking for more voices to contribute articles to the Selsdon Gazette. No long-term commitment necessary. Would you be interested? All ages welcome. For a full breakdown on terms and guidance please

contact the Editor at selsdongazettesra@gmail.com

In summary ideal contributions would be:

From a Selsdon resident, your own words (copyright free!), no more than 650 words, clearly written and suitable for a family/community audience. Topics to write about should be interesting, useful, educating or entertaining to read but ideally contain some local angle or way for readers to engage with your words.

We can't guarantee submissions will be published as The Editor will decide based on edition theme, if there is space and if an article is suitable.

Please note if you wish to promote a single club or organisation's activities please instead contact our Advertising Manager <u>selsdon.adverts@gmail.</u> <u>com</u> as we offer very attractive rates to advertise! Indeed, our publication can only run if we get paid advertisers. We may occasionally offer in our own words, free short 'mentions' for local non-profit organisations.

As well as wanting potential articles we still welcome 'Letters to the Editor'. We hope to hear from you!

# Are you looking for a venue to hold your community group or business meetings?

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## **A SELECTED LIST OF SELSDON ORGANISATIONS**

The information provided is, we hope, accurate, but we cannot take any responsibility for any mistakes. Any alterations should be sent to the Editor.

#### **CHURCHES**

Forestdale & Selsdon Community Church St John the Divine (Church of England) Selsdon Baptist St Columba's (Roman Catholic) St Francis (Church of England) Croydon Jubilee Church Upper Selsdon Road Hall (Christian meeting place) Church of Jesus Christ of LDS

Parish Office Office

Monks Hill Office

**Bishop Hawkins** 

#### **DOCTORS, DENTISTS & EMERGENCY CARE**

Farley Road Medical Practice Queenhill Medical Practice Selsdon Park Medical Practice Croydon University Hospital (formerly Mayday Hospital, 24/7) New Addington Minor Injuries Unit (Mon-Fri 14:00-22:00/Sat-Sun 12:00-22:00) Purley War Memorial Hospital (Urgent Care Centre, 08:00-20:00, 365 days/year)

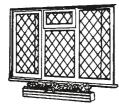
#### **CLUBS, GROUPS & CHARITIES**

CONTACT (neighbourhood care) Andy Stranack Selsdon Centre for the Retired Craig Anderson Croydon Hearing Resource Centre Office Roger Packham Bourne Society Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society Brian Lancaster Liz Brereton Croydon Recorded Music Society Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind Cruse Bereavement Care Helpline Friends of Littleheath Woods Ian Leggatt Friends of Selsdon Wood see website: www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section Girlguiding UK: http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get\_involved.aspx Parkinson's UK Croydon & District Jacky Green Police (Selsdon & Ballards SNT) Beat Officer: RSPB, Croydon Local Group John Davis Rotary Sanderstead and Selsdon Wendy A Parr Probus Club of Croydon South John Barker St John's Dramatic Society Caryl Rapps Jane Guglielmi St John's Wives Michael Lishmund Sanderstead Plantation Partners 1st Selsdon & Addington Scout Group: Website: www.1stselsdon.org.uk Beaver Colony (6-8yrs) Maddie Dunn Cub Pack (8-10yrs) Louise Baker Scouts Troop (10-14yrs) Douglas Gordon Croham Valley Explorers Anthony Woodin Mrs F Hooper Tony Cherrett Selsdon Art Group Selsdon Bridge Club Selsdon Community Hall Selsdon Afternoon Townswomen's Guild Tim Potter (Centre Manager) Elizabeth Veasey Selsdon Floral Club Maureen Browning Selsdon Social Club Beryl Gascoigne Selsdon Tennis Club Geoff Littlewood 66 (Selsdon) Squadron Air Training Corps Rob Cleeter



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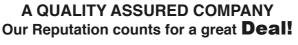
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