



# The Selsdon — Gazette —

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April 2022

# THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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**Front cover image credit:** "Volunteers Maintaining the Selsdon Triangle"

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# **SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com

## ***Executive Committee 2021/2022***

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R. F. G. Rowsell.

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Vice-Chairman: Linda Morris

Hon. Secretary: Janet Sharp

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Committee: Yvonne Huber  
Ernie Sweeney  
Su Yates  
Peter Underwood  
Ian Leggatt  
Phil Roberts  
Jenny Stawman  
Arthur Wilson  
Trevor Stotten

## ***Councillors for Selsdon & Addington Village Ward***

Cllr Helen Pollard Helen.pollard@croydon.gov.uk 07941 573727

Cllr Robert Ward Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk 07783 152363

## ***Councillors for Selsdon Vale & Forestdale Ward***

Stuart Millson Stuart.millson@croydon.gov.uk 07783 152376

Andy Stranack Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk 07816 123204

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

Cllr Lyn Hale Lynne.hale@croydon.gov.uk 0208 405 6721

Cllr Yvette Hopley Yvette.hopley@croydon.gov.uk 0208 404 3462

Cllr Tim Pollard councillor@timpollard.co.uk 0208 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! With longer days and spring sunshine, it is time to enjoy our gardens and open spaces. Many thanks to our volunteers from the SRA and Friends of Littleheath Wood shown on our front cover this month, for weeding, pruning and planting at the Selsdon Triangle.

As usual this month we have the news from our councillors but, sadly, this will be the last Councillors' Notes written by Councillor Helen Pollard as she is standing down at this year's May elections. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her comprehensive and informative notes promptly emailed to me each month. With election day on 5 May for local councillors and a democratically elected Mayor (a first for Croydon) we have information about the voting process and details about the new mayor's responsibilities.

We have our regular contributors: Ted Forsyth looking at migration, Mary Gill with a poem celebrating National Shakespeare Day, Egi De Meneses PC for Selsdon Vale and Forestdale Police Ward and in our gardening section we are told about all the benefits from spending an hour or two in the garden. Ian Leggatt continues his look back at the shops on Selsdon High Street - how many can you remember this time? Janet Sharp tells us about the Selsdon Wood Preservation Society formed in the 1920s to keep Selsdon Wood safe from development. There is also news about the takeover at the Selsdon Park Estate and the new opening hours at Selsdon Library.

This year's University Boat Race between Oxford and Cambridge is at the beginning of April, so we have a quiz testing your knowledge of this historic annual event. Will you pass the university test? Finally, the information that you have all been waiting for - details of the Selsdon Scarecrow Competition, this year with a Jubilee

✎ SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MAY 2022 EDITION SHOULD  
BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN  
20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL - PREFERABLY BEFORE! ✎

Celebration theme. Start designing your scarecrow/s and collecting suitable clothing from home or the local charity shops (do they sell crowns?) so that construction can begin in May.

I hope that you enjoy your read.

**Chris Jones**

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## **SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS**

### **AGM 30<sup>th</sup> March**

I would like to thank everyone who helped or attended the AGM for their support.

A few weeks before the meeting we had another applicant for the position of Chair but we were unable to inform the residents via the Gazette in time for the vote at the AGM. At the time of writing the AGM has not yet happened and therefore I am writing this as Chair - but in the May edition we may have a different Chair. The result will be available on our website and social media pages.

We welcome Trevor Stotten, who is already a committee member, as our new Secretary. Our thanks go to Janet Sharp for her 10 years as secretary and luckily for us she is staying on as a valuable committee member so we have not lost all her knowledge.

### **Planning - Selsdon Park Estate (Selsdon Park Hotel in old money!!)**

A lot of residents attended a meeting with the new owners, Birch Group, and were reassured that it will remain as a hotel and no housing is planned. Overall, we are optimistic for its future next year and hope to work with them in the coming months.

### **Planning - Quail gardens**

Another planning application is in to demolish the empty bungalow and build 8 terraced houses. Our planning committee will be keeping a close eye on this and details can be found on the council planning site.

### **Friends of Selsdon Wood: Clearance of tree falls**

During the February storms there were 24 blockages on paths in Selsdon

Wood caused by fallen trees. Thanks to the Friends of Selsdon Wood volunteers most of these had been cleared as we went to print. What a superb job and well done to the Friends!

***Sheila Childs, SRA Chair***

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## **COUNCILLORS' NOTES**

### **SELSDON NEIGHBOURHOOD WALK**

First signs of Spring are appearing in Selsdon. This picture is from The Spinney, which is one of the landmarks on the Selsdon Neighbourhood walk.



There is a guide (<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/planning-and-regeneration/planning-policy/conservation-and-heritage/neighbourhood-walks-and-heritage-walks/explore-selsdon-neighbourhood-walk>), paid for from Cllr Ward's Councillor ward budget before they were cancelled due to the Council's bankruptcy. There is a downloadable print at home version and also a version you can read online, even reading it as you walk round.

There is also the shorter, but hillier, Addington Village Walk (<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/planning-and-regeneration/planning-policy/conservation-and-heritage/neighbourhood-walks-and-heritage-walks/addington-village-heritage-walk>)

Please take advantage of the wonderful assets that we have in the area. Do tell your friends as well.

### **ANNUAL COUNCIL TAX INCREASE**

By the time you read this article, you should have received your annual Council Tax increase letter. The Council Tax increase is part of the Council's annual budget-setting process and this year Council Tax is being increased by 2.99%. The decision to implement this increase was voted through by Labour Councillors at a meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March. Despite having substantial government bail-outs in recent years due to the massive

losses incurred by poor investment decisions, the Council was once-again unable to make ends meet this year. They had to have another £25m loan from the government to enable them to balance the books. Sadly, this is yet another debt the Croydon Council Tax payer will have to pay back in the future.

## **FAREWELL**

### ***Councillor Helen Pollard is standing down after serving as a councillor in Croydon for 16 years***

After 16 years I thought it would be appropriate to draft a farewell message and reflect on my time as a Councillor in Croydon.

There are many facets to being a Councillor. Firstly, there is the campaigning to enable you to be elected. In Croydon that would mean joining a political party - most people vote for councillors who represent a national political party. Campaigning involves meeting people during canvassing sessions. Many people are worried about canvassing, but in my experience, most people are keen to meet their local representatives and tell them what needs to be done to improve things in Selsdon and Croydon.

Another facet of being a Councillor is being a community representative. In Selsdon, I have enjoyed developing the Selsdon Community Plan along with fellow Selsdon Councillors, especially Cllr Robert Ward who has driven a lot of the work. But we only played a small part in its development. It has been great to work with the Steering Group which includes community representatives and Council Officers. The completion of this plan just before the first lockdown will give a greater voice for Selsdon residents in future decision making in the Council, and it should help to secure more investment in Selsdon high street and other parts of Selsdon. We have already had very positive discussions about the redevelopment of the 'Garage' site and hope this derelict site is replaced by a suitable development soon. The two Christmas markets were also a consequence of the work done to work with local businesses to support the future of the high street.

As a local Councillor I have completed a lot of casework. This comes in a number of ways, including Councillor surgeries, emails and in-person meetings. Recent Selsdon casework has involved sorting out lots of issues with missed bin collections, cutting back trees, potholes



and helping with housing issues. However, a large part of my ongoing casework has involved planning. The various iterations of the Croydon Local Plan have seen Selsdon threatened with the loss of some of its precious green spaces. I am pleased to have been able to get involved and prevent the Council from building blocks of flats on some of the green spaces on Monks Hill, Foxearth Spinney and on a green space in Croham Valley Road.

As Croydon becomes ever more densely populated, the green spaces are even more important. The neglect of Croydon's parks and green spaces for the last 8 years by the Labour-run Council has been a great sadness to me. I was the Conservative Opposition Spokesperson for Culture, Leisure and Sport for a number of years, and in that capacity, I campaigned to try and secure investment in parks in Selsdon and throughout the borough. One of the frustrations I have had, is that the Council is often happy to carry out expensive (£100k +) consultations (in the case of Park Hill Park there were three consultation exercises!) but there seems to be no money for investing in, or maintaining the parks. This situation will only get worse now that the Council is effectively bankrupt and will be paying off huge debts for years to come.

One of my duties as a Councillor has been to sit on various committees in the Council. I have sat as a reserve member of the Planning Committee which decides which developments can have planning permission. Whilst I was a reserve member of this Committee for a few years, I attended a greater number of Planning Committee meetings supporting residents in objecting to unwanted developments in their neighbourhood. With Labour running the Council and seemingly intent on concreting over the leafy suburbs in the south of the borough, most requests to refuse planning permission have been overruled. Consequently, more and more blocks of flats are springing up where there used to be only one or two houses. It is sad to see the loss of so many gardens to these developments, and the adverse impact it is having on the character of the area.

As a member of the Conservative opposition in Croydon, I have made huge efforts to scrutinise the work of the Labour-run Council to ensure they are delivering good service for Croydon residents. It is a matter of public record that I, and my Conservative Councillor colleagues, have asked many questions to try and get to the bottom of the opaque way the Council was run. Sadly, many of the questions we asked were not answered. It is only now that we are finding out the full extent of the

disastrous financial decisions the Council has made in recent years. This is bad news for Croydon because the Council has now had to take out huge loans to pay off the £900m debt.

One of the great pleasures I have enjoyed as a local Councillor is to meet so many members of our diverse community. I have been invited to events by many different religious, cultural and sporting organisations and these have demonstrated what a rich and thriving community we have. I have worked with residents' associations and 'friends of parks' groups, and have been impressed by the commitment of these and other volunteers to protect their area and maintain it for future generations.

As I stand down as a Councillor, I know that there are two excellent candidates standing in Selsdon and Addington Village Ward in the Council Elections this May. As well as his work on the Selsdon Community Plan, Cllr Robert Ward has worked tirelessly to uncover the murky financial dealings of Croydon Council over the last few years. I can only hope that someone is eventually held to account for the unwise, and possibly unlawful, decisions that have led to the current situation. The candidate replacing me is Joseph Lee. Joseph has already shown great commitment to Selsdon and was instrumental in the success of the Selsdon Christmas Market in December 2021. I wish them both well in the forthcoming elections.

## **CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS**

Councillor surgeries have been reinstated and are held on the first Saturday of the month 10am - 11.15am (no surgery in August) at The Selsdon Centre (next to Sainsbury's), 132 Addington Rd, South Croydon CR2 8LA.

We are happy to 'meet' residents online so if you have any issues you wish to discuss with your councillor please get in touch by email:

<b>Helen.pollard@croydon.gov.uk</b>	<b>07941 573727</b>
<b>Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk</b>	<b>07783 152363</b>
<b>Stuart.millson@croydon.gov.uk</b>	<b>07783 152376</b>
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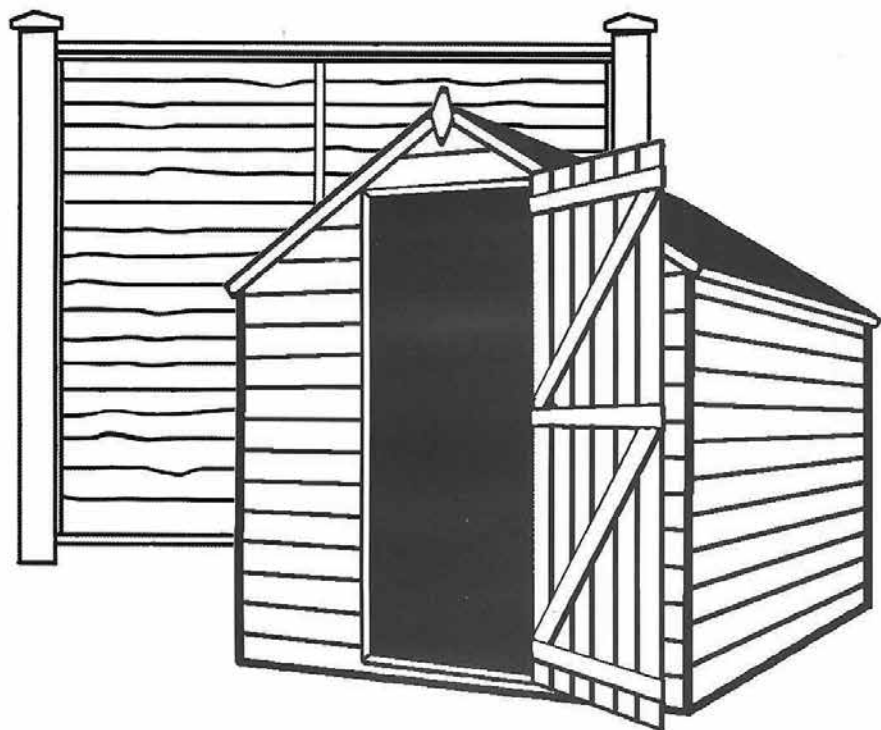
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## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

22/00389/LP – 1 Abbey Road, CR2 8NJ

Conversion of garage into habitable accommodation

22/00267/GPDO – 133 Addington Road, CR2 8LH

Conversion of the ground floor Class E unit to a studio flat

22/00708/HSE – 72 Chapel View, CR2 7LF

Erection of single storey front and two storey side extensions

21/06286/HSE – 17 Chestnut Grove, CR2 7LL

Erection of single/two storey side/rear extension with decking at rear

22/00763/HSE – 34 Crest Road, CR2 7JQ

Alterations to include hip to gable end roof extension; erection of dormer extension in rear roofslope and installation of roof lights in front roofslope. Erection of single/two storey side/rear extensions and loft conversion and replacement raised decking to rear

22/00695/HSE – 30 Crossways, CR2 8JL

Erection of two-storey side extension and single storey front extension including alteration to front porch and garage conversion

22/00954/HSE – 32 Farley Road, CR2 8DA

Erection of first floor rear extension and dormer extension

22/00487/HSE – 50 Farley Road, CR2 7ND

Erection of single/two side/rear extension

22/00354/HSE – 47 Greville Avenue, CR2 8NN

Erection of single storey side/rear extension

22/00813/HSE – 1 Herondale, CR2 8SN

Erection of single storey side extension

22/00690/LP – 18 Kingsway Avenue, CR2 8NE

Erection of single storey rear extension

22/00660/HSE – 122 Littleheath Road, CR2 7SE

Erection of first floor rear extension and garage conversion. Installation of side windows and alterations to internal layout

22/00727/FUL – 46 Quail Gardens, South Croydon CR2 8TF  
Demolition of existing property and the erection of 8no. terraced dwellings with shared access from Quail Gardens, along with amenity space, drainage, infrastructure and other associated works.

22/00020/LP – 16 Queenhill Road, CR2 8DN  
Erection of hip to gable and rear dormer and installation of 3 rooflights to the front slope

22/00765/GPDO – 33 Queenhill Road, CR2 8DW  
Erection of a single storey rear extension projecting out 6 metres from the rear wall of the original house with a height to the eaves of 2.5 metres and a maximum overall height of 2.5 metres

22/01010/HSE – 24 The Ruffetts, CR2 7LQ  
Alterations to garage to include installation of a bay window and roof alterations; conversion and use as a habitable space

157 Sundale Avenue, CR2 8RS  
Erection of single storey rear extension

*(Remember that you can use this website to view planning applications <http://www.localplanningapps.co.uk/croydon/sra/anupdate/planningtable.html>)*

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## **MP Chris Philp's Report**

### **Member of Parliament for Croydon South**



### **Terrible Planning Proposals from Croydon Council**

In February Croydon Council released their draft Local Plan, the key planning policy document for Croydon. It is set every 5 years or so by the council, and it is used when making decisions about whether to approve or refuse planning applications. I was shocked to read the proposals, and I would like to thank everyone who responded to the council's consultation to voice their opposition.

The plans include "intensification" (i.e., knocking down family houses and building even larger blocks of flats) across our area on a scale we have never seen before. The south of the Borough is a peaceful suburban

and rural area and the council's intention to build thousands of new flats around here is inappropriately high and would entail a large amount of destruction.

Croydon's Labour-run Council wants to build around 38 000 new homes by 2039 but have no plans to ensure vital infrastructure like GPs, public transport, schools, and the sewage & drainage systems aren't pushed to breaking point. Croydon's policy of "intensification" is not driven by national policy - neighbouring boroughs like Sutton and Bromley are nowhere near as destructive despite operating under the same national policy framework.

I had hoped that following Croydon's decision to switch to a Directly Elected Executive Mayor the council would listen to these concerns. Unfortunately, the Labour council has chosen to continue its approach, targeting the south of the Borough and ignoring us all. On May 5th, we have a chance to force a change in how Croydon is run. I am supporting council candidates who will listen to residents.

### **Chris Philp**

Member of Parliament, Croydon South: 020 7219 8026  
chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk

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## **Reports from our Local Police Wards**

*We have a contribution from PC De Meneses this month.*

Hello Residents,

Let me start off by introducing myself for those of you who do not know me, I am PC Egidio De Meneses your local ward officer for Selsdon Vale and Forestdale. Please feel free to call me Egi as I know my name is complicated to pronounce.

Unfortunately, PCSO Jack Killian has left the team however, he has not left the force as he is now training to become a PC so you may see him in the near future as a PC patrolling the streets. I have been working as part of this team for the past 3 years now. We also have PC Tom McCahon as part of our team. Our Sergeant James Edwards has advised us that we will be getting someone to replace Jack by the end of this month.

In terms of the crime statistics for the month we have had a slight increase



in vehicle related crime i.e., the major issue being catalytic converter thefts. As we all know this is a problem that is nationwide and they do not target specific people, they only target specific vehicles. We are working towards trying to resolve the problem. On many occasions it is a case where the suspects target vehicles while the residents are inside their property and this is not an ideal situation to be in. Kindly do not engage with the suspects if you are a victim as they are armed and dangerous. Our team has recently managed to recover 3 vehicles that were stolen found around the area of Sundale Avenue. So, if you do spot a vehicle that looks suspicious and has been lying around unused for a quite a while, please do not hesitate to contact us on 101.

Finally, I would like to thank PCSO Tina NASH who has been kindly helping out in the absence of Jack and managing Selsdon and Addington Village at the same time.

Kind Regards, ***PC Egi DE MENESES 3255SN***

Selsdon and Addington Village SNT

**Tina Nash 7287SN PCSO**

Tel: 0208 721 2468

E-Mail: Selsdonaddvill@gmail.com

Selsdon Vale and Forestdale SNT

**PC De Meneses 3255SN**

Tel: 020 8721 2464

SNMailbox-SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk

Address: Addington Police Station, Addington Village Road, CR0 5AQ

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## **Croydon ReUse**

Croydon ReUse and Croydon Council have partnered to deliver the borough's first Textile Repair Café at Centrale & Whitgift, which opened on 15<sup>th</sup> March. Croydon ReUse's café offers workshops at an affordable price to local residents who want to repair, refashion and recycle old textile items rather than throw them away.

The café's new home in Croydon at the Whitgift Centre – opposite the Marks & Spencer's entrance (Poplar Walk) – has been donated by Centrale & Whitgift for a trial period of six months, with Croydon Council providing administrative and day-to-day support, and workshops facilitated by Croydon ReUse volunteers. All workshops will be led by a member of





the community sharing their skills on basic repairs or customisation. There are typically around six spaces in each hands-on workshop, providing participants with attentive and tailored support. Residents can start signing up now for workshops via the **Green Croydon website**.

Following in the footsteps of repair cafés internationally, Croydon ReUse hope to expand its offering beyond textiles in the near future to include electronics, electrical items, furniture and other repair skills. If you can offer your time and expertise to provide workshops in these and other craft skills, then Croydon ReUse would love to hear from you.

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**LET'S MAKE SELSDON BRIGHT**  
with a  
**JUBILEE SCARECROW COMPETITION**  
**MAY - JUNE 2022**



Please don't forget to make your scarecrow and use this competition as part of your Jubilee Celebrations to help make Selsdon look patriotic!

Please show us your support by joining in the creative fun!

**Closing date for entry forms to be received is 9th May**

Please set up your Scarecrows to be in time for judging 16<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May and display them at least until after the Jubilee weekend.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Resident's Name:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |
| Address:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |
| Telephone number:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |
| Email address:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |
| Scarecrow's name (if it has one!) or its Jubilee link                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |
| Please copy this entry form layout to help us sort the entries for the judges' route.<br>Once completed please send it by email to <a href="mailto:SRA scarecrow@gmail.com">SRA scarecrow@gmail.com</a><br>If you do not have email, please deliver it to a SRA committee member or to the SRA c/o KIBA, 119 Addington Road, CR2 8LH |  |

The SRA was pleased last year that some of you made the effort to make people smile with your scarecrows – and that some of them lasted well beyond the closing date for judging! This year, we have set the theme of ‘Jubilee’ so you can choose to represent any aspect of this via your scarecrow – red, white and blue, or platinum colours, the Queen (or other royalty), 70 etc. We look forward to seeing your varied and creative interpretations! The scarecrows can be any size and you can make one or a group but they must only be made using items you have at home with bought items only being allowed if from a charity shop. *Judging will take place at any time during the week 16<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May with three judges touring Selsdon during that week but not necessarily together so please do not change your scarecrow during those dates!* A map will be drawn up by 1<sup>st</sup> June and publicised on our website, social media pages and the notice boards showing all the scarecrow locations and the winning entries so you all know where to go to see them. Hopefully, they will survive well into the summer so they can be enjoyed for quite some time.

**Thanks from the SRA to all who take part!**

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## **Mayor of Croydon and Croydon Council Elections**

On Thursday 5 May 2022, residents in Croydon will be voting for a Mayor of Croydon and 70 ward councillors to Croydon Council.

Mayoral election process and completing the Mayoral ballot paper.

The voting system in a Mayoral election uses the supplementary voting system which means electors can vote for a first and second choice candidate.



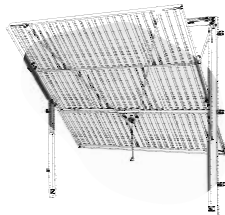
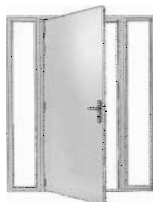
The Mayoral ballot paper is white and will list all the candidates standing in alphabetical order. Next to the list of candidates will be two columns. You should vote once in the first column for your first-choice candidate, and once in the second column for your second-choice candidate.

If you vote more than once in either column, your vote will not be counted. You do not have to vote for a second-choice candidate. If you only want to vote for a first-choice candidate, you need to cast your vote in the first column.



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- Guardians for your infant children could be appointed by the court

## **IF YOU CAN'T MANAGE YOUR OWN AFFAIRS in the future:**

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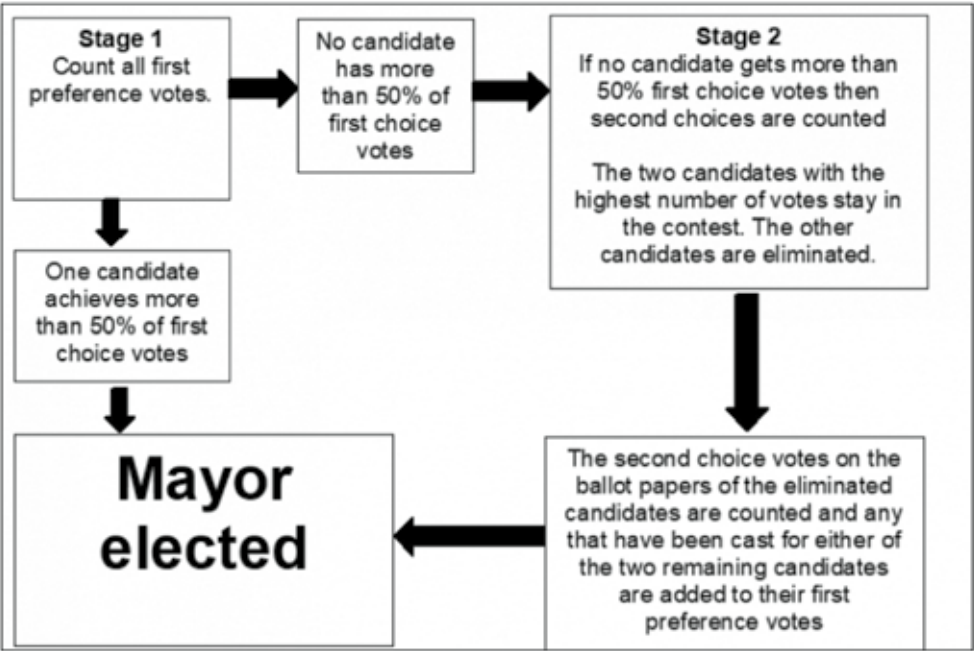
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You cannot make a second choice only and leave the first column blank. If you do this your vote will not be counted. If you do not vote in column two, your first choice will still be counted. If you vote for the same candidate twice, your second-choice vote will not be counted.

**How the votes are counted**

If a candidate gets more than 50% of first-choice votes then they are elected as Mayor.

If nobody gets more than 50% of first-choice votes, then the second-choice votes are counted. The two candidates with the highest number of votes stay in the contest. The other candidates are eliminated. The second-choice votes on the ballot papers of the eliminated candidates are counted. Any that have been cast for one of the remaining candidates are added to their first-choice votes. The candidate with most votes after this is elected as Mayor.



**Elected Mayor’s role and responsibilities**

The elected Mayor provides political leadership and direction to the Council and the borough. They have responsibility for council policy and the delivery of services. They represent the whole borough and will speak on its behalf locally, regionally, nationally.

## Council election process

Croydon is divided into 28 wards. Each ward is represented by either 1, 2, or 3 councillors on Croydon Council. You will be able to vote for the same number of candidates as there are councillors representing your ward. (Both the Selsdon and Addington Village Ward and the Selsdon Vale and Forestdale Ward have 2 councillors each)

The ballot paper will be yellow and it will confirm at the top of the paper the number of candidates you can vote for.

If you vote for more than that number, then none of your votes will be counted.

If you can vote for up to 3 candidates, but only want to vote for one candidate, you can.

The councillors are elected using the first past the post system, so the candidate(s) with the highest number of votes in each ward contest will be elected.

## New Timetables for Croydon Libraries

Croydon's 13 libraries will launch a new timetable from 4 April, with all buildings to remain open and council-owned, following resident feedback from two rounds of public consultation held last year.

The new timetable takes into account the way residents currently use libraries and ensures that at least one library in the north, south and central parts of the borough is open and staff available each day (Monday to Saturday).

Most libraries will be open two fewer days per week, except Central Library which will be open five days per week.

Once the new timetable has been in place a few months, library staff will be speaking to the local community to get feedback on how the new opening hours are working, and if needed, times can be reviewed to ensure they are meeting local needs as much as possible.

The council is also progressing with Open+ which will see residents able to access libraries out-of-hours. This will be available initially at two libraries (Selsdon and Norbury), and in time at three additional Croydon libraries, providing extended opening hours through registered library membership cards.



| Library       | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday       | Saturday |
|---------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|--------------|----------|
| Selsdon       | 10am-6pm | Closed   | 10am-6pm  | Closed   | Closed       | 9am-5pm  |
| Central       | 10am-6pm | 10am-6pm | 10am-6pm  | Closed   | 10am-6p<br>m | 9am-5pm  |
| Sanderstead   | 10am-6pm | Closed   | 10am-6pm  | Closed   | 10am-6p<br>m | Closed   |
| Purley        | Closed   | 10am-6pm | Closed    | 10am-6pm | Closed       | Closed   |
| New Addington | 10am-6pm | Closed   | Closed    | 10am-6pm | 10am-6p<br>m | Closed   |

~~

## Saving Selsdon Wood

In the early 1920's Selsdon was on the brink of changing from farm and field to housing and golf course. In Nature's corner was a core group of 5 called the 'Selsdon Wood Preservation Society'. The five were Mr Lawrence Chubb, Miss AM Bonus, Mr EA Earl, Miss WM Hudson and Mr MG Sharpe. The group ran a very successful media campaign as well as directly targeting famous and respected supporters/influencers. The campaign took 10 years to raise the funds necessary. *What do we know of these people to whom we owe a debt of gratitude?* We can assume that they were tenacious, resourceful and generous with their time. As with most volunteers it is likely that they were helping other causes or working at their careers at the same time. Thanks to internet I have managed to find out a little about some of these. This month I will start with Miss AM Bonus (if you know more about her, please get in touch) and two extraordinary members of her family who may also have played a part.

### A 'Bonus' for Selsdon

Miss **Alice Mabel Bonus** (1873-1938) was 51 years old in 1924 when she became joint treasurer of the '**Selsdon Wood Preservation Society**'. Her name is in the lease when it was finally transferred to the National Trust thereby saving it forever (the NT land/properties are 'inalienable' which is a unique ability in law to be untouchable by future governments and councils for any land grab).

Alice was single, independently wealthy, highly educated and well connected. She was one of 8 children. She was orphaned early and she



and her sisters were raised in Croydon as 'wards'. No photo of Alice but (thanks to ornavernum.org.) I have found family information and some photos of her parents, Charles and Mary.



One of her childhood addresses was a school in Croydon where perhaps she also worked as a teacher. One of the benefits of her inherited wealth was that she did not have to follow the conventional path expected of women of her generation. Furthermore, she had the rather extraordinary example of her aunt (Anna

Kingsford) to show what a clever and determined woman could do if she put her mind to it.

**Anna (Annie) Kingsford (nee Bonus) 1846-1888** was an acclaimed author, women's and animal rights campaigner, Doctor, vegetarian ambassador, famed occultist, and visionary mystic.

Excerpts of her books and biographies can be seen online. She was famous in her day and mixed in the highest circles. A published writer since her teens, she forced her parents' acceptance of her choice of husband. With his blessing and leaving behind her daughter, at the age of 27 she went to Paris for 6 years to study medicine. Her intention of taking the qualification being to give her the legitimacy and authority to speak publicly on matters. She was one woman amongst a hundred male medical students and her strong anti-vivisectionist stance making this particularly difficult. She persevered and returned to the UK as one of the first few female Doctors in the UK.



Her life story would make a fascinating film and has been most recently discussed in 'Anna Kingsford and the Intuitive Science of Occultism' by Christine Ferguson 2021. It is noted that her last letter to the press, dated September 14, 1887, was on the subject of "**Fur and Feathers.**" The title of this letter may be a coincidence, but this was the name of the female Croydon based society that began two years later and was to become the **RSPB** and which her Croydon based nieces were likely members. The RSPB were early supporters of the Save Selsdon Wood Campaign to create a 'bird sanctuary'.

Alice's younger sister was (Mary) **Isabel Bonus** 1875-1941. She was also





independent and unconventional. She grew up with Alice in Croydon at Woodford House School, Dingwall Road and attended a local church which may be where she met May Ethel Muir **(M.E.M) Donaldson**. They were long term collaborators, and likely life partners. Isabel moved to Scotland with May perhaps attracted by the famous Glasgow School of Art. As a successful illustrator she provided the bookplate illustration for a 1904 edition of William Morris' poetry book 'The Defence of Guenevere'.

MEM Donaldson achieved great and lasting acclaim for her beautiful books including her own photography on Scottish life and heritage. May's first book, *Isles of Flame*, with watercolour illustrations by Isabel, was published in 1913. They continued to work together on the books that followed.

In the preface of one of her books she wrote:

*"It is my greatest regret, that owing to the prohibitive cost of reproductions in colour, it has been impossible to illustrate the book with the exquisite water-colour pictures of my friend, Miss Isabel Bonus, with whose rare talent, readers of my previous books, and other people's, are familiar."*



They built a house in Scotland which after Isabel's death was left to ruin. It is likely that Isabel would have supported her sister's campaign for Selsdon Wood's preservation amongst their wealthy and influential friends in Scotland because the triumph of the saving of Selsdon Wood was noted in the 'Scottish Times'.

**Janet Sharp**

~~

## **Christmas came back to Selsdon!**

The Selsdon Centre for the Retired held its rescheduled Christmas lunch on 4th March, as it had been postponed from December at short notice. We had to make the difficult decision to close the Centre without having had our 2021 Christmas lunch as we decided we'd rather keep our

customers safe than possibly spread the dreaded Covid bug among our lovely guests.

The Centre was packed with customers who were all looking forward to enjoying Christmas lunch with all the trimmings. The tables were laden with Christmas crackers, sparkling glassware, crockery and cutlery and looking festive in red, white with gold and silver touches. Janet, our volunteer chef, prepared a fabulous roast turkey dinner with roast potatoes, pigs in blankets, carrots, sprouts and parsnips. She was ably assisted by a legion of loyal volunteers who were on hand to help in the kitchen and then serve the magnificent feast along with the Centre staff. Our guests were welcomed with a glass of sherry and snapped their crackers around the table whilst telling their terrible cracker jokes and playing with the tiny prizes, for which we never seem too old! Christmas paper hats were worn along with big smiles and the atmosphere was buzzing as lunch was served with a drink or two and new memories were made. After lunch we drew the eagerly anticipated Christmas Raffle and five lucky winners



took away a fantastic prize each. Ticket sales for the draw added a chunk of much needed funds to the Centre; many thanks to the prize donors, we're always grateful for your generosity in giving donations or for buying tickets. After a long day and a huge clearing-up effort, the Centre was returned to its ready-for-business state to wait for Monday's customers' return. If you'd like to volunteer at the Centre, please contact the office team on 0208 651 1111 or email [selsdon.centre@btinternet.com](mailto:selsdon.centre@btinternet.com) for details of our current needs. Office opening hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 10am and 2pm. We'd love to hear from you.



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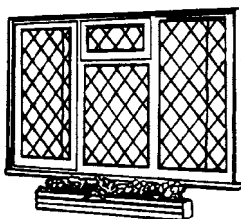
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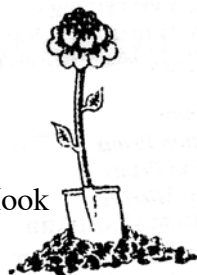
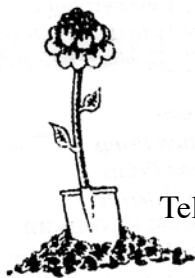
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**Wednesday May 11th 2022 at 8pm**

in the Garden Room at St John's Church, Upper Selsdon Road

Come and meet the committee and Friends of Littleheath Woods and hear about the work being done in the woods, ask questions, make comments or requests.

If you would like to support our work by renewing your membership or becoming a member of the Friends, please place your subscription (£5 per household) in an envelope with your name, address and contact details and post at any of the following addresses:

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42 Farley Road

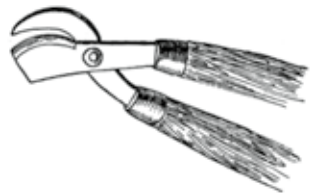
or visit our website ([www.folw.co.uk](http://www.folw.co.uk)) where you can download a Standing Order form.

~~

## **A Good Time for Gardening – April**

Tasks in the garden ... so much more enjoyable in the warmth of the Spring sunshine ...

- ~ ensure that the greenhouse is ready for this year's growing season
- ~ check that patio plants aren't drying out in the warmer weather
- ~ lift and divide border plants to improve their strength and to create new plants
- ~ pinch out the tips of fuchsias and sweet peas to create bushy growth
- ~ divide primroses when they've finished flowering
- ~ tie in climbing roses, honeysuckle and clematis
- ~ prune penstemon, cutting the old shoots back to just above the new growth/lowest set of leaves
- ~ cut out the old foliage from ornamental grasses and trim Winter heathers
- ~ prune forsythia as soon as it has finished flowering



- ~ deadhead daffodils and tulips as the flowers finish but leave the leaves there to put nutrition back into the bulbs for next year
- ~ apply a high-nitrogen fertiliser to the lawn for a boost at the start of the season and specialist lawn weed killer wherever moss and weeds are a problem
- ~ brush away any worm casts; cut the lawn more regularly, lowering the mower blades towards the end of the month
- ~ add fresh compost to containers to give the plants a boost
- ~ give houseplants some TLC – they may require more water with the longer and warmer days.

Gardening has amazing benefits ... spending time outdoors can boost your body, mind and support your inner well-being. It is a fabulous all-round activity and uses most of the muscle groups. Gardening for just 30 minutes can burn up to 300 calories. Use all five senses in the garden. There are soothing sounds to be heard, amazing new growth and colours to be seen, gorgeous scents to be smelt, some tastes to be experienced from early harvests and digging your hands into the soil gives a connection with the earth. Many plants give a pleasant tactile experience – pussy willow buds, silky buttercups, moss. And to really bring happiness to the garden, try smiling at your plants – the physical act of smiling releases endorphins and creates a feeling of happiness.

***Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid***

[www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](http://www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk)

~~

## **Shopping in Selsdon, part 2.**

So, dear reader, we left our fledgling shopping parade last month with, on the 'odd' side, two blocks of shops with 2 floors of accommodation over which were built in 1926 and 1927 respectively. The photo below attributed to the early 30s shows a small pitched roof building next door to the second set of shops. It is not there today so what was its purpose? What are and when were the buildings we know today constructed?

Second question first:

Travelling down Addington Road from the Broadway buildings we see a mixture of building styles:

Selsdon Parade, numbers 1 to 8, was built in 1939 in a modest but subtly grand Art Deco style. Note the brick infill panels to the facade and the





View from the Triangle showing shops 6 to 10 The Broadway  
(Nos 129 to 137 Addington Road). Photo attributed to very early 1930s

pediments over some windows and brick faux columns with moulded capitals and plinths. Now comprising 9 units the original range of 8 shops with 2 floors of accommodation over was designed by Architects Marshall & Tweedy who were busy in this period designing Art Deco shopping parades in the home counties and luxury flats in London. The Croydon Gas Company bought 3 of the shops in the Parade and their showroom was at No 6 where cookery demonstrations were given in the lecture hall on 4 afternoons in the first week of opening in March 1939. The company boasted "Not only can the residents use the showrooms to see the latest types of gas fridges, irons, pokers and fires, all of which are on view, but they can also pay their gas bills and order coke, thus saving a journey to Croydon." With the approaching onset of war, the other Parade shops were not occupied for some years.



The Parade, Addington Road, 1955

Beside The Parade there is a small gap containing a fire escape from the upper storeys of a rather strange lopsided building of little architectural merit, no 143 / 145 which closely adjoins a mock Tudor frontage 3 storey building, Nos 147 / 149, vaguely resembling the old Selsdon Wine Stores, now Day Lewis Pharmacy, at the crossroads. A further gap led to The Sanctuary Tearooms which completed the 'odd' range of Selsdon Shops.

We are able to say that the Parade was built as infill development as we have a photo of 1936 of the lopsided building clearly showing a very proud owner outside No 145 (Hubbard and Nash) with an unfinished shopfront at No 143 and construction work underway at No 147



143

Hubbard & Nash, attributed to 1936

147

With the help of Ted Frith's journals, back copies of the Gazette and a walk down the High Street we can see how the shops have changed:

| <b>No</b> | <b>1938</b>                                | <b>1955</b>                           | <b>2008</b>                   | <b>Feb 2022</b>                              |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1         | 1939 Vacant                                | Watermans (Dry Cleaners)              | Flowers of Selsdon (Florists) | Vacant                                       |
| 2         | 1939 Vacant                                | Cave Austin (Grocers)                 | Rapid It (Computers)          | Selsdon All in One (Grocery & Off Licence)   |
| 3a        | 1939 Vacant                                | Le Gift Shop                          | Aphrodite (Beauty Salon)      | Vacant                                       |
| 3b        | 1939 Vacant                                | Achille Serre (Dry Cleaners)          | Selsdon Fish & Chips          | Ellies Kebab                                 |
| 4         | 1939 Vacant                                | Pearks Stores (Grocers)               | Anika's (Restaurant)          | Selsdon Spice (Restaurant)                   |
| 5         | 1939 Vacant                                | Gerrards (Fruiterers)                 | Yorkshire Building Society    | Shaws Pie and Eel House                      |
| 6         | Croydon Gas Company (early 1939)           | S E Gas Board (Showroom)              | Roy Flint (Bakers)            | Selsdon Cafe & Restaurant                    |
| 7         | 1939 Vacant                                | Blenheim Radio                        | Jimmy Michael (Hairdressers)  | Seven (Salon)                                |
| 8         | 1939 Vacant                                | Hooker & Rogers (Estate Agency)       | Vacant                        | Planet of the Beans (Cafe)                   |
| 14        | Bakers Stores (Grocers)                    | Bakers Stores (Grocers)               | Thai Express                  | El Patio (Restaurant - formerly Las Fuentes) |
| 14        | Hubbard & Nash (Hardware)                  | Hubbard & Nash (Hardware)             | Vacant                        | Gem (Nails and Spa)                          |
| 14        | Cecil Ireland (Gents Outfitters)           | Cecil Ireland (Gents Outfitters)      | KIBA (Bathrooms and Kitchens) | Barbers & Tattoos                            |
| 14        | Bowditch & Grant (Auctioneers and Valuers) | Miller Parris & Mitchell (Solicitors) | Kennedy Hawke (Estate Agency) | Priority Risk (Health & Safety)              |
| 15        | Sanctuary Tea Rooms                        | Sanctuary Tea Rooms                   | The Village Club              | The Village Club                             |

So, to our first question, what became of the building next to The Broadway and illustrated in the photo at the top?

In May 1929 Planning consent was granted to a Mr Ronald Bailey to build a Garage adjacent to the recently constructed shops on The Broadway. The garage was a simple building with pitched roof and built from timber

and asbestos, it had a gable end fronting on to Addington Road. The building did not last long in that position. The enterprising Mr Bailey soon saw that car ownership was increasing as Selsdon expanded and he borrowed to purchase a plot of grassland across the road. Planning was granted in May of 1937 to build a garage at 230 Addington Road and at the end of 1938 the new garage was finished. The old garage was dismantled and rebuilt at the rear of the new one. Is this it, still at the rear of 230 Addington Road? I will leave it to you to make comparisons.



View of the side of 230 Addington Road from the access ramp down to the rear of Aldi.

### ***Ian Leggatt***

(Hubbard and Nash were a regular haunt for me as a DIYer where you could buy nails by the lb and twine by the yard. I reckon they also had Fork Handles. Could they have foreseen that their shop would eventually be a Nail Bar?) Does anyone have similar memories of this retail gem?

*Thanks again to the journals of Ted Frith for the history of Selsdon Shops and to Croydon History groups on Facebook for most of the photos. Thanks also to Linda Morris for loan of a back issue of the Selsdon Gazette. Any errors in transcription, and the photo of the old Garage, are mine.*

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**Roy Brady MCiphe**

# The Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race Quiz

The 2022 Boat Race between the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge will take place on Sunday 3 April. How much do you know about this annual event?

1. Will 2029 mark the 200th, 150th, or 125th anniversary of the first ever boat race?
2. To the nearest mile, how long is the boat race course?
3. How many people take part in the race?
4. If Surrey denotes one of the Thames' banks along the race's stretch, which historic county marks the other bank?
5. What is the Cambridge reserve men's crew called?
6. What is the name of the Oxford men's reserve crew?
7. Which bridge is the starting point?
8. Which football stadium does the race pass?
9. The race finishes just before which bridge?
10. The phrase 'Boat Race' has entered Cockney rhyming slang meaning what?



*Thanks to FreePubQuiz.co.uk*

## Answers after Nature Notes

~~



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## **This year's topic is 'What would nature say?'**

It could be your favourite animal, insect, flower or special place. Let your creativity flow and write a poem as long or as short as you like. It can be in any style and it certainly doesn't have to rhyme. So, what are you waiting for?

Get inspired by nature and share your words of wisdom with the world!

All the entries will be judged by the RSPB. The best will be published in RSPB's magazines and will also be read on Fun Kids radio between 25–29 July 2022!

Each winner will also receive an RSPB gift card worth £50 that can be redeemed in the RSPB shop.

There will be one winner selected in each age category:

7 years and under

8–12 years old

and 13–18 years old

### **How to enter**

If you would like to enter WildVerse, record and upload your poem to FunKidsLive.com by 30 June 2022. Make sure an adult provides a signed statement to say the work is all yours. For more details plus terms and conditions, visit [rspb.org.uk/wildverse](https://rspb.org.uk/wildverse)

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## **Local Author**

*Last month we carried a feature about a local entrepreneur, Dennie Smith. This month we interview a local writer of children's books, Michael Forteath.*

### **Q – What's your connection to Selsdon or when did you move to Selsdon?**

We moved to Selsdon in 1998, our two children were christened at St John's and went to Selsdon Primary. My wife Claire and I were both involved with the school; she supported the PTA and I was a governor there for a number of years.



**Q- How did you come up with the idea for the books?**

It was just a random idea. We had a had a giant lop-eared rabbit called Mojoe, who was amazingly sociable and used to nudge your hand if she wanted a cuddle and would just jump in your lap, and in some ways was more like a small dog. In 2014 I just thought she would be a great character in a children's book so just started writing. I wrote the first couplet below on the 64 bus into Croydon and the rest just followed:



*When you glanced at Mojoe she was no ordinary doe,  
she did things and went places no one could know.  
Behind her black and white fluff and adorable nose,  
were stories of valour and battling with foes.*

**Q – How many of the stories have you written?**

I have nine that are written; they still need a bit of tweaking, but they are fun to read. I have a couple of others in outline, a few others are just titles.

**Q – Do you have a favourite?**

I love Mojoe the Super Rabbit, as it introduces you to Mojoe and the other key characters in the series, but I think 'Mojoe and The Ballerina' and 'Mojoe and The Missing Case' are two of my other favourites; although I like them all in fairness. It's been great watching people's reactions as they read the drafts.

**Q – What would you say to other people thinking about writing?**

To be honest, I wasn't very good at English at school, I did ok, but it never came easily. I would say just start writing, if you enjoy it that's the main part. I had huge fun writing the stories so far, and in a busy life it's actually quite a calm place for me when I am writing.

**Q – When can people get a copy?**

Mojoe the Super Rabbit was released on the March 31<sup>st</sup>. I hope people have as much fun reading and sharing the stories with the children as I had writing them, and who knows if I see you in Selsdon I'll happily sign them for you.

## New Owners at the Selsdon Park Hotel

The De Vere Selsdon Park Hotel has recently been acquired by the real estate investment company, Aprirose. This is a 200-acre parkland estate with a 150-room hotel, meeting and conference facilities, leisure centre, tennis courts, running trail and 18-hole golf course. Aprirose are again working with Birch, a separate lifestyle concept, having already invested in them back in 2018 when the former Theobald's Estate in North London was transformed into Birch, Cheshunt.

Selsdon residents living close to the Selsdon Park Estate were invited to an informal information evening at the hotel on Wednesday 9 March. Chris King, one of the founders of the Birch, outlined the ethos of Birch and their plans for the estate and then answered questions from the residents.

He told the audience that the Birch Community is based on four pillars:

**Food**, with a strong emphasis of using 'grow your own' and local produce where possible.

**Art**, championing the work of local artisans and craftsmen.

**Nature**, featuring nature walks, foraging walks and possibly keeping livestock like pigs, sheep and chickens.

**Wellness**, with a variety of classes e.g., yoga, dance.



Birch would hope to open its doors this time next year and want to be a part of the Selsdon Community. There is a lot of work to do with securing the estate and carrying out remedial work in the hotel. He did confirm that the golf course would go and, hopefully, be returned to nature. The leisure facilities needed to be reconfigured and improved together with a refurbished outdoor swimming pool.

Chris did say that there would be other opportunities in the coming months for residents to meet with Birch and see what they are doing and the progress that they have made.



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

Please remember to state your name, address, contact number and publication anonymity requirements in all correspondence to the Editor.

Anonymity can be granted on request, but anonymously sent letters/e-mails will not be published.

*I received this letter of thanks for Ridgeway Primary School, from Susan Freegrove from the Selsdon Centre for the Retired*

Dear Editor,

Credit when credit's due!

The Selsdon Centre for the Retired was delighted to welcome a Choir and half a dozen music students for a concert today (7th March 2022). It was great to see our guests clapping along and singing to the songs they knew! They immensely enjoyed the entire experience. The children also performed a song in French!

The 26 students were very talented and extremely well behaved. They were a pleasure to see in the Centre. They were from Ridgeway Primary School in Sanderstead, South Croydon and I also wanted to let the parents, teachers and Governors know that they have an amazing Music teacher in Mrs Lyne. She co-ordinated a fantastic 40-minute performance whereby our guests were thoroughly entertained by two pianists, a flautist, two guitarists and a soloist singer, as well as the Choir (and percussionists). The children only had two weeks to prepare and practise for today and their incredible achievement is testament to the enthusiasm, dedication and sheer hard work of this wonderfully talented teacher. Be very proud if you're a parent, teacher or Governor of one of these children from Ridgeway Primary - they are a credit to you all. When the young soloist sang Somewhere over the Rainbow so poignantly, there wasn't a dry-eye in the house! We, at the Centre, look forward to welcoming back them again whenever they wish to return. A huge thank you, once again, to Mrs Lyne and all the children and accompanying staff for coming to entertain us.

*Here we learn that it is illegal to draw water from a fire hydrant and the effect this has on nearby water supplies.*



Dear Editor

Some readers may have recently noticed that our water hydrant covers

have been painted yellow. LFB tell me they have 115,000 to paint in the Greater London Area which is to help firefighters to more easily locate hydrants, especially at night.

As I understand it the LFB (London Fire Brigade) own our street hydrants, and the Water Company (in my case) SES (Sutton and East Surrey Water Company) test and maintain the hydrants using special equipment. They are the only two legitimate users. If another unauthorised user draws water from the hydrant they can be prosecuted, as their actions disturb the sediment in the water mains which can taint the water supply to our properties. This can cause our drinking water to discolour to white or brown. Those most affected are the properties nearest to the hydrant. If this occurs, try running the water several minutes and it should clear. The water should then be safe to drink, but if in doubt contact your water company.

SES will prosecute unauthorised users if the public can provide them with photographs of the person whilst committing the offence together with their vehicle registration number. They warn that this should be done without the offender knowing as experience shows they can be very rude and aggressive. Two incidences have occurred where I live, one over a year ago and the second this week. I did not witness the event myself but neighbours on both occasions saw a person connecting a hosepipe from the hydrant outside my house. Unfortunately, they thought they must be entitled to do so and did not attempt to identify them or tell me until it was too late.

On both occasions my water was discoloured the first time being the worst.

*Name and address supplied*



*Here is some useful information concerning parking your car at Fairfield Halls.*

Dear Editor

The Fairfield Halls car park has reopened (139 spaces). Pay fees via the RingGo App, site No 16435. Registered on the App is my EV (electric vehicle) car number plate and this automatically entitled me to a 90% discount! Details of lesser discounts for other types of cars are shown on the App too.

Additional information to my previous e mail

These discounts are LBC wide and apply to LBC car parks and parking meters. If in doubt whether a particular parking space is covered, do a test booking on the RingGo App up to the stage before you have to pay, then cancel.

*Name and address supplied*

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*I received this distressing news from one resident.*

Dear Editor

It was about 3 weeks ago I noticed that new tree saplings had been planted and secured to prevent deer from damaging them.

It is with sadness and anger I must report that all the hard work and time that the Friends of Littleheath Woods had put in, had been vandalised this morning. The tree saplings, ripped out of the ground and tossed aside, the surrounding structures, also pulled from the base and left scattered nearby. The location is about 30 yards from the entrance to the woods at Ingham Road.

Isn't there enough destruction in the world without our wildlife also being targeted?

Regards

*Penny - a daily dog walker who is so lucky to have such green area around us.*

*Penny got back to me to report the following*

I have now seen that a good Samaritan has tried to replant the saplings but how long they will survive without any protective covering, they just camouflage into the surrounding woodland and with animals and footfall, may be a fruitless effort.



*Our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, has been enjoying the spring sunshine.*

Dear Editor,

To sit silently and just feel the quiet is so soothing. I felt so uplifted I just wanted to share it

.

On a warm and sunny Spring Day, a really joyful thing to do is to visit Emmetts Gardens at Ide Hill, in Kent.

From the road it looks as if there is just a lane winding away from the road, although there is a single house to one side, which could be a gate house?



There is a sign post but it is fairly discreet and easy to miss. These Gardens belong to the National Trust. Just follow along the lane. Almost immediately clumps of daffodils start to appear, planted either side of the road, and in bigger splashes of yellow colour through areas of woodland.

It doesn't take long to arrive at the car park and then enter through the entrance and shop, past the shrubs and other gardening bits for sale and begin the walk up the short hill and hence into the gardens proper. The gardens are full of daffodils, there had been snowdrops but last week they were just about over, and next up after the daffodils will be some large areas of tulips. Funnily these tulips are protected by a couple of strands of electric fencing all around, the reason being because badgers like to eat tulips for supper in the cool of the evening. This bit of wiring just surprises the creatures away.

At the end there is a path opposite and once you get into that area it is simply amazing. Some of the azaleas are already in bloom, but it is the daffodils which are so wonderful. Although there are different varieties, it is the mini daffodils which grow so profusely on the high hill of this garden. The National Trust has installed wooden seats and even a "quiet area". Here you are encouraged to just sit quietly on one of the seats and be at peace. After a minute or two your ears just listen to the quiet and then focus on the birdsong and even the buzzing of bees collecting their nectar from the daffodils. The quiet and the natural sounds seep into your body and mind, and after all the endless bad news, one finally feels rested and peaceful.

You no longer need book in advance for the gardens, but the cart, which takes people with walking problems and their family or friends, is not available every day, so best to go online or telephone if you need motorised assistance up the short hill.

In some places, the daffodils have been planted to look like a yellow waterfall flowing down the hillside. After the daffodils, then tulips will come, followed by magnolias and bluebells and in the summer the meadows will be full of wild flowers. Should you have children with you, there is an open games cupboard for them to help themselves to whatever they fancy to play with in the field, and then return their choice to the cupboard when they tire of it. Around one side of the field are picnic tables and chairs. Otherwise, there is a cafe in the old stable block. There are some clean toilets too, near the cafe. Dogs seem to go on a leash.

If any reader decides to visit after reading this, I hope you feel as peaceful and refreshed as I did.

## Poetry Corner

*Mary Gill has based her poem about Croydon on a speech from Shakespeare's Richard II to mark National Shakespeare Day on 23 April.*

### THE BARD ON CROYDON

This ancient place of inns and palaces;  
this hub of Tramlink; this birthplace of Moss<sup>1</sup>;  
this nest of Eagles<sup>2</sup> – Vieira's merrie men;  
skyscrapers built by Mammon for itself  
against aesthetic and all decent taste.  
This Surrey breed of men, whose little world;  
this jaded gem set in the Southwark See;  
so often serves to be the butt of jokes;  
wisecracks offensive, yet we can but hope,  
are only envy of less happy towns.  
This tangled plot, this ground; our home – this Croydon.



Brit School, this teeming womb of superstars;  
Adele and Amy<sup>3</sup> famous for their songs;  
applauded for their talent round the globe.  
The great Roy Hodgson, Tracey Emin too;  
Dame Peggy Ashcroft – all in Croydon dwelt.  
This town of such dear souls, this dear, dear town,  
home of the Home Office – known across the world –  
is now despised – I weep pronouncing it –  
like to a den of thieves – a murder mile.  
Croydon aiming for its city status,  
so long and so unjustly is denied;  
Yet, here it was, that June and Terry<sup>4</sup> strove  
to keep up with the posher folk in Purley.  
That Croydon that was once a source of pride  
hath fallen to its knees- let's raise it high!

## Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth Spring Migration

My first ever foreign holiday was in south-west Spain during a February visit when I was able to watch the spectacular migration of birds returning to Europe from their wintering places in various parts of Africa. They were mostly



larger birds including thousands of Black Kites, hundreds of eagles such as Short-toed and Booted, and small numbers of Osprey, Red Kite and Black Stork. The most obvious of the smaller species were the Bee-eaters whose voices were often heard before the birds were seen.

The bigger birds migrate during the day (i.e., diurnal migration) as they often require to use the uplift from thermals. Nocturnal migration is the choice of many smaller birds – they rely on muscle power, avoid much of the exhausting heat involved in flying long distances during the day, and also avoid the attentions of predators. Bad weather can bring down flocks of birds before they reach their destination and, in this country, this is perhaps most obvious at places on the south coast but tired birds can decide to land anywhere. Wind drift can cause individuals to deviate from the intended route and unexpected species can appear hundreds of miles from their breeding area. Atlantic storms regularly have the effect of depositing American species somewhere in UK, though most frequently along the western seaboard anywhere from the Scilly Isles to Fair Isle. At the time of writing, mid-February, there was an American Robin in Eastbourne.

To see some of the misplaced birds in the local area probably requires an early visit before the birds are disturbed, and a lot of luck. During March Ring Ouzels begin returning and might be found in open areas, as can Wheatears but they like to perch on something even if it is just a stone – I would expect them to perch on the fence around the butterfly bank. We even had a report of a Black Stork at the top of the Selsdon Wood car park field in 2021. The majority of migrants return in April and May and include our local breeding Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs. Frequent early visits might produce nothing until on one morning the wood seems full of these species as though they have dropped in overnight (and they probably have!). In April 2021 there was a huge influx of Golden Orioles which led to them being seen in almost every county in England though they no longer breed in this country. They were not seen in Selsdon Wood, though they have been recorded several times in the past. As an optimist I expect that, sooner or later, we will see an Alpine Swift

in the skies over Selsdon Wood. This is a large white-bellied bird with a wingspan of about 22 inches. Forgetting to look at the sky means that you are likely to miss flying migrants, particularly if they are high in the sky. Birds which settle for a time in the woodland will often be detected first by their voices. The fluty notes of the Golden Oriole are unlikely to be mistaken for anything else. A singing Chiffchaff is easily identified by its voice but Willow Warbler and Wood Warbler, which are sometimes mis-identified when relying on sight alone, have totally different songs. When trying to find migrants in woodland use your ears and listen for unusual sounds – you might then be able to track down the source of the sound and get enough detail to lead to an identification – you might even manage to get a photograph.

As the weather warms up and particularly when a wind blows from the South we can get evidence of insect migration with the appearance of day flying Hummingbird Hawkmoths and Silver Y moths, and Clouded Yellow and Painted Lady butterflies.

With a little bit of luck someone will find a Spotted Flycatcher flitting out from the woodland edge to catch a fly, and that Buzzard high in the sky should be examined carefully – it might be a Honey Buzzard. In recent years there have been some really unexpected large birds wandering around various parts of England, including Short-toed Eagle, Lammergeir (also known as Bearded Vulture), and Egyptian Vulture. With suitable weather conditions, almost anything could appear.

~~

## **Answers to Boat Race Quiz**

1. The 200th anniversary
2. 4 miles (4.2 miles)
3. 18 (two crews of eight with one cox in each boat)
4. Middlesex
5. Goldie
6. Isis
7. Putney Bridge
8. Craven Cottage (home to Fullham FC)
9. Chiswick Bridge
10. Face

**Contact**  
**Selsdon Community Centre**  
**132 Addington Road**  
**South Croydon, CR2 8LA**  
**Tel: 020 8651 4944**  
Fax: 020 8657 2268  
Email: [info@selsdoncontact.org.uk](mailto:info@selsdoncontact.org.uk)



## **Office Volunteers**

Selsdon Contact's office is as busy as ever now we are fully open again and we need to find volunteers prepared to give a little time to work in the office on a regular basis. The office hours are 10 am to 3 pm but if you don't feel you could commit to a whole day perhaps you could cover one morning or afternoon a week.

The work is very varied - no two days are ever the same. There is a lot of telephone work and you would be helping link volunteers to clients, e.g., finding drivers to take clients to medical appointments and to collect prescriptions, finding volunteers for befriending, and much, much more. In addition, there is the usual office paperwork – record keeping, filing, basic computer work, photocopying, faxing, etc  
Full training and support are provided and the job satisfaction is 100% (just ask our friendly office team). Come and help the community and have fun, too!

## **Smoke Alarms**

Contact provides various forms of practical help including a Smoke Alarm Scheme. Contact volunteers supply and fit 10-year smoke alarms free of charge to clients of Contact. The scheme is very beneficial and much appreciated by clients. In addition, the alarms have an annual safety check and we help if our clients have a problem with their alarm.

We are looking to add to the existing team who install and service the smoke alarms. If you have general DIY knowledge and can spare a few hours to help, please get in touch. The training is short and can be done with one of the current volunteers.

If you feel you could help with this valuable community service, please call Jasmine in the Contact Office on 8651 4944. Or if you prefer call into our office on the lower ground floor of the Selsdon Community Centre and we can provide you with more information.



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Information is also available from our website – **[www.eldonhousing.org](http://www.eldonhousing.org)**



# **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             |                | 8657 0078    |
| St John the Divine (Church of England)            | Parish Office  | 8657 2343    |
| Selsdon Baptist                                   | Office         | 8651 4308    |
| St Columba's (Roman Catholic)                     |                | 8657 3747    |
| St Francis (Church of England)                    | Monks Hill     | 8657 7864    |
| Croydon Jubilee Church                            | Office         | 8651 2807    |
| Upper Selsdon Road Hall (Christian meeting place) |                | 8657 2417    |
| Church of Jesus Christ of LDS                     | Bishop Hawkins | 01883 349914 |

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

|                                                                               |  |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Farley Road Medical Practice                                                  |  | 8651 1222 |
| Queenhill Medical Practice                                                    |  | 8651 1141 |
| Selsdon Park Medical Practice                                                 |  | 8657 0067 |
| Croydon University Hospital (formerly Mayday Hospital, 24/7)                  |  | 8401 3000 |
| New Addington Minor Injuries Unit (Mon-Fri 14:00-22:00/Sat-Sun 12:00-22:00)   |  | 8251 7225 |
| Purley War Memorial Hospital (Urgent Care Centre, 08:00-20:00, 365 days/year) |  | 8401 3238 |

## **CLUBS, GROUPS & CHARITIES**

|                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                 |               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| CONTACT (neighbourhood care)                                                                                                  | Jasmine Singh                                                                                   | 8651 4944     |
| Selsdon Centre for the Retired                                                                                                | Craig Anderson                                                                                  | 8651 1111     |
| Croydon Hearing Resource Centre                                                                                               | Office                                                                                          | 8686 0049     |
| Bourne Society                                                                                                                | Roger Packham                                                                                   | 01883 349287  |
| Coulsdon Masonic Lodge                                                                                                        | Colin Lynch                                                                                     | 07801 453474  |
| Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society                                                                                  | Brian Lancaster                                                                                 | 8668 6909     |
| Croydon Recorded Music Society                                                                                                | Liz Brereton                                                                                    | 8656 7382     |
| Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind                                                                                   |                                                                                                 | 8668 2486     |
| Cruse Bereavement Care Helpline                                                                                               |                                                                                                 | 8916 0855     |
| Friends of Littleheath Woods                                                                                                  | Ian Leggatt                                                                                     | 8651 1140     |
| Friends of Selsdon Wood                                                                                                       | see website: <a href="http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk">www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk</a> |               |
| Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section                                                                                   |                                                                                                 |               |
| Girlguiding UK: <a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved.aspx">http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved.aspx</a> |                                                                                                 | 0800 169 5901 |
| Parkinson's UK Croydon & District                                                                                             | Jacky Green                                                                                     | 01737 355487  |
| Police (Selsdon & Ballards SNT)                                                                                               | Beat Officer:                                                                                   | 8721 2464     |
| RSPB, Croydon Local Group                                                                                                     | John Davis                                                                                      | 8640 4578     |
| Rotary Sanderstead and Selsdon                                                                                                | Wendy A Parr                                                                                    | 07774 186792  |
| Probus Club of Croydon South                                                                                                  | John Barker                                                                                     | 8657 2093     |
| St John's Dramatic Society                                                                                                    | Caryl Rapps                                                                                     | 8651 1326     |
| St John's Wives                                                                                                               | Jane Guglielmi                                                                                  | 8657 6672     |
| Sanderstead Plantation Partners                                                                                               | Michael Lishmund                                                                                | 020 8651 2760 |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Selsdon & Addington Scout Group:                                                                              | Website: <a href="http://www.1stselsdon.org.uk">www.1stselsdon.org.uk</a>                       |               |
| Beaver Colony (6-8yrs)                                                                                                        | Maddie Dunn                                                                                     | 07703 531652  |
| Cub Pack (8-10yrs)                                                                                                            | Louise Baker                                                                                    | 07737 404668  |
| Scouts Troop (10-14yrs)                                                                                                       | Douglas Gordon                                                                                  | 07514 651711  |
| Croham Valley Explorers                                                                                                       | Anthony Woodin                                                                                  | 020 8651 3780 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Selsdon & Addington Scout Group:                                                                              | Website: <a href="http://www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk">www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk</a>       |               |
| Selsdon Art Group                                                                                                             | Mrs F Hooper                                                                                    | 07973 412952  |
| Selsdon Bridge Club                                                                                                           | Tony Cherrett                                                                                   | 01883 730304  |
| Selsdon Community Hall                                                                                                        | Tim Potter (Centre Manager)                                                                     | 8657 4300     |
| Selsdon Afternoon Townswomen's Guild                                                                                          | Elizabeth Veasey                                                                                | 8657 1092     |
| Selsdon Floral Club                                                                                                           | Maureen Browning                                                                                | 8651 5821     |
| Selsdon Social Club                                                                                                           |                                                                                                 |               |
| Selsdon Tennis Club                                                                                                           | Geoff Littlewood                                                                                | 8651 4748     |
| 66 (Selsdon) Squadron Air Training Corps                                                                                      | Rob Cleeter                                                                                     | 8651 5958     |

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