



The Selsdon — Gazette —

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THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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Councillors for Sanderstead Ward

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

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 Gazette. With the clocks going forward and the days now longer than the nights, we can all start looking forward to spring and summer. We are celebrating the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla on Saturday 6 May by launching the SRA Competition for Selsdon's primary school aged children to make a crown for the occasion. Please see inside this gazette for more details. I do hope that I receive lots of photos of super-decorated majestic crowns and any street parties that you hold.

Spring seems to have roused people from hibernation as I have had lots of contributions for this Gazette. We hear from our local police officers about ways to keep our homes safe from burglary and our cars safe from theft. Ian Leggatt looks at the development of Selsdon by looking at local maps through the ages and Janet Sharp concludes her series of articles about saving Selsdon Wood by describing the part paid by Sir Julian Huxley - yes, he who has a Wetherspoons named after him on our High Street. Peter Dolling has a follow up article about owning and running his electric car and Su Yates has discovered a very unusual cooker with local connections.

As usual we hear from our local elected councillors and MP but I must point out that the views that they express are their own and not those of the SRA, which strives to be non-political. We look forward to the colours that we can expect to see shortly in our woods and gardens with Ted's Nature Notes and Mary Gill has composed two poems reflecting on the importance of the home. In our Gardening tips we look at gardens you could visit nearby.

I was so pleased to be sent the photo of the badger visiting Selsdon which is our cover photo for this month. Hopefully, this will inspire more of you to contact me with photos, articles, news, questions, feedback, etc. (selsdongazettesra@gmail.com). Please, also remember that if you use a business featured in the gazette, to tell them that you saw their advert there.

I hope that you enjoy your read and I look forward to hearing from you.

Chris Jones

☞ SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MAY 2023 EDITION SHOULD
BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN
20TH APRIL - PREFERABLY BEFORE! ☞

SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS

AGM

As I write, I hope to have met some of you at the AGM at St Johns on 29th March over a glass of wine (or two) as I continue another year as Chair, but it's never too late to join our committee as we still have a vacancy.

Grants to Local Groups

A lot of local groups may not be aware that the SRA has always given small grants to local organisations/charities and we would love to hear from any groups we might be able to help. A quick email to mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com or a letter to myself (address at front of gazette) with details of your request and contact details. I will be happy to speak to anyone if you are unsure of what is needed.

NHS

You may not be aware that prescription charges are to rise by 30p per item from £9.35 to £9.65 starting 1st April. Over 60s still remain free for now.

Jubilee Coffee Shop

The Jubilee Coffee Shop, underneath Sainsburys, has reopened and they would love to see residents using this facility.

Litter Pick

A thank you to Andrew Baxter for organising a second litter pick and all the volunteers who took part. This is most welcome to help keep Selsdon clean and we hope the work will continue. More volunteers are always welcome. Look out for future dates in the Gazette.

Hoping you all had a happy Easter.

Sheila Childs, Chair

COUNCILLORS' NOTES

NEW BIRCH HOTEL OPENS UP IN SELSDON

The new Birch (Selsdon) hotel will open its doors after the Easter break. The new hotel and grounds will offer a new Lee Westcott (Michelin Star Chef) restaurant that will be open to the public. The facilities will also include: -

181 bedrooms of all shapes and sizes

Pottery studio, screen printing workshop

Screening room, arcade and reading room

Lido, yoga deck (plus padel courts planned)

Wellness space with gym, studios and treatment rooms

Colourful communal areas to work and meet

There are various different membership packages so that local residents can take advantage of the new facilities, more information can be found at <https://www.birchcommunity.com/selsdon>

QUAIL GARDENS PLANNING APPLICATION

Another planning application has been submitted for the development of seven family homes on the site of 46 Quail Gardens. The planning application can be viewed by visiting the Croydon Planning Portal and typing in the application number 23/00454/FUL. We have sent in our objections to this application and have requested that we get the opportunity to speak against it when and if it comes before the planning committee.

THIS IS CROYDON – BOROUGH OF CULTURE LAUNCHED

Croydon becomes the London Borough of Culture in April 23. The year long series of events has been designed to showcase the rich heritage and cultural diversity of the Borough. The year has already attracted millions of pounds of inward investment into the Borough from the Greater London Authority, Arts Council, English Heritage, the National Lottery and other funding partners. A series of events will take place in and around Selsdon and utilise buildings such as the library, the parks and green spaces around Croydon as well as some of the key heritage buildings in the local area. To keep up to date with all the activities going on please visit <https://culturecroydon.com>

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

Councillor surgeries are held on the first Saturday of the month 10am - 11.15am (no surgery in August/January) 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:

Selsdon and Addington Village

Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk

Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk

Selsdon Vale and Forestdale

Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk

Fatima.zaman@croydon.gov.uk

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

23/00457/HSE - 304 Addington Road South Croydon CR2 8LF

Erection of first floor side extension

23/00899/LP - 36 Benhurst Gardens South Croydon CR2 8NS

Loft conversion with erection of hip to gable extension and rear box dormer and insertion of front rooflights

23/00914/HSE - 131 Benhurst Gardens South Croydon CR2 8NZ

Erection of single storey side/rear extension to dwelling.

23/00851/HSE - 25 Bruce Drive South Croydon CR2 8SL

Erection of single-storey side and rear extension following demolition of existing garage.

23/00852/HSE - 104 Farley Road South Croydon CR2 7NE

Erection of gable-ended two-storey side extension and part single-storey front extension. Erection of single-storey rear extension. Erection of hip to gable roof extension and rear dormer.

23/00546/DISC - Land Development Site Former Site Of 3 Kingswood Way South Croydon CR2 8QL

Discharge of Conditions 5 (Materials) attached to planning permission

20/05474/FUL For Demolition of single-family dwellinghouse and erection of 3x 3-storey terraced houses, 2x 3-storey semi-detached houses and 2x 2-storey semi-detached houses containing 6x-3 bedroom and 1x 2-bedroom

23/00454/FUL - Hallinwood Bungalow 46 Quail Gardens South Croydon CR2 8TF

Demolition of existing property and the erection of 7no. dwellings with shared access from Quail Gardens, along with amenity space, drainage, infrastructure and other associated works.

23/00813/LP - 22A Sylvan Close South Croydon CR2 8DS

Erection of single storey side extension. Erection of rear dormer, installation of rooflights on front roof slope and removal of chimney.

Remember that you can use this website to view planning applications

[http://www.localplanningapps.co.uk/croydon/sra/anupdate/planning table.html](http://www.localplanningapps.co.uk/croydon/sra/anupdate/planning%20table.html)

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MP Chris Philp's Report

Member of Parliament for Croydon South



The Penn Report and Council Tax Increase

When Jason Perry became Mayor of Croydon last year, we knew that a difficult task lay ahead to fix Croydon's finances. All in all, Croydon's debt doubled to £1.6 million between 2014 and 2022.

Faced with very little alternative, Croydon Council voted to increase council tax by 15%, which amounts to an extra £4.50 a week for the average property. I appreciate that this will be difficult for residents, but, without the increase, the Council would have to make a further £20 million of cuts. To do so would put essential services used by our most vulnerable neighbours at risk.

I am supporting Mayor Perry in his efforts to put Croydon back on a sustainable footing, including through speaking to colleagues in Government to seek a reduction in the Council's long-term debt.

I know that many share my anger about the way those in power previously let our Borough down. That's why Croydon Council recently published the Penn Report, which looks at how our Borough ended up in this situation and suggests what action might be taken to hold those responsible to account.

The next step will be for the Appointments and Disciplinary Committee to decide how those responsible should be held to account. I hope that this will ensure that together we can move on and focus on restoring pride in our borough.

Over 7,000 Apprenticeship Starts in Croydon South since 2010

As an experienced entrepreneur, I have long believed that apprenticeships are excellent ways for students to enter the world of work, helping them to build new skills and gain vital industrial knowledge – all while being paid.

It is fantastic news that 7,360 new apprenticeships have been created in Croydon South since 2010 – as part of the Government's drive to enhance skills and productivity in our economy. In total, over 5.3 million apprenticeships have been created across England during this period.

As well as increasing the number of apprenticeships available, I am encouraged that my government colleagues in the Department for Education are also improving the quality of apprenticeships. £2.3 billion of additional funding has been announced for 2023-24 and 2024-25 – with colleges that deliver skills and training getting the most focused support.

Chris Philp

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

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Message from the Superintendent for Neighbourhood Policing in Croydon

Superintendent Mitch Carr

I took up my post at the end of January and wanted to write to the Selsdon community to introduce myself & provide a short update. I have the

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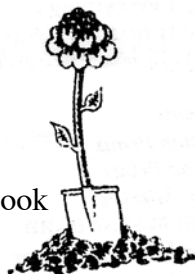
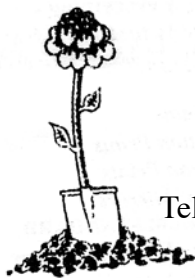
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privilege of being responsible for the local policing service across Croydon Borough. I grew up in Selsdon, attending Selsdon Primary. I lived here for 25 years & indeed members of my family still live here. While I will be working to ensure the best possible police service across the whole borough, you can be assured I will be keeping a special eye on Selsdon.

The good news is the two wards that Selsdon falls into (Selsdon & Addington Village and Selsdon Vale & Forestdale) are among the lowest crime wards in the borough. Sanderstead takes top prize but Selsdon is not far behind. The main reported incidents here are Theft from Motor Vehicles, Burglary & Anti-Social Behaviour. However, please be reassured that despite crime levels being statistically low your local team will be working tirelessly to prevent crime and catch offenders.

The Met accepts that recent events involving disgraceful actions and behaviour have impacted on public trust. However, I know from working alongside your local teams they are dedicated and committed police officers & PCSOs who will be working as hard as possible to keep you and your family safe. On a personal note, I will not accept anything less than the highest standards among the 350 officers I lead. The Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley QPM has stated that building the strongest neighbourhood policing is his number one priority, and I look forward to working alongside communities to deliver that in the coming months and years.

~~

Advice from our Local Police

Burglary

Over the past few months while visiting victims of crime it has become apparent that residents with PVC Front Doors are still failing to lock their front doors, before they go to bed.

Please see the picture

If you do not lock the door with a key this then enables a burglar to put some form of tool through the letterbox & pull down the handle from inside allowing them access to your home. There are simple steps to follow before you go to bed: Pull the handle up, lock it with the key & take the key out of the lock.



Car Crime

We are all aware that there are criminals out there that like to take the nice things that we have worked for, including our cars. It's not just high-end cars that are targeted. Latest figures from the Home Office have stated that car theft has increased by 50% in the last 5 years. Keyless entry was the most common method for accessing cars in 2020. The top cars stolen in 2022 were the Ford Fiesta along with the Range Rover Sport, Mercedes C-Class & E-Class & the BMW 3 Series. We have spoken to many drivers whilst on our patrols in and around the Ward, advising them to buy a steering wheel lock and make sure that your car is fitted with a tracker. We also recommend Faraday boxes and pouches so that when your keys are not in use you can put them away in a pouch or box. Both items are lined with metal to stop the signal from your key being transmitted outside your home. We are aware of pictures that have previously been circulated on the "Nextdoor App", where would be thieves are standing on residents drive ways with "Jamming equipment" no bigger than a bag trying to obtain the signal of the resident's car key. Don't make it easy for them. With your help we can stop people being victims of Burglary – Lock your PVC Door correctly. With your help we can stop cars from being stolen – buy a steering wheel lock and get a tracker. These items can be surprisingly inexpensive.

PC MARPLES

Your local officers for the Selsdon and Addington Village Ward have this month been out providing high visibility patrols to the local community, both along Addington Road and through Monks Hill and Forestdale. This includes our newly trained cycle officer, who recently conducted a 12-mile patrol around the Ward to provide a visible presence. Members of the team have also been attending the local coffee morning held at St Francis'

Church hall in Monks Hill on Wednesday mornings and at St Mary's Church hall in Addington Village on Thursday Mornings to provide advice and answers to any questions you may have. Do come along and see us.

PC VINCENT

The Designated Ward Officers for Selsdon Vale and Forestdale have been working hard to reduce ward crimes by using targeted foot and mobile patrols around crime hotspots that have been identified by analysing crime reports. Courtwood Lane and Selsdon Park Road have been some of the areas we are looking at due to Anti-Social Behaviour.

We are looking to target the two offences that seem to be the most common in our area, those being residential/commercial burglaries and theft of catalytic converters. We are speaking to every victim of burglary in order to provide reassurance and crime prevention advice. To try and curb the amount of catalytic converter thefts, we are actively patrolling roads on the ward that are targeted most prolifically. Along with these two priorities, we are consistently looking at intelligence and 'Crimestopper' reports to endeavour to stop local ward crime at the earliest possible opportunity.

Please do not hesitate to contact your local police team if required:

Emergencies – 999

Selsdon & Addington Village:

SNMailbox-.SelsdonandAddingtonVillageSNT@met.police.uk

Selsdon Vale & Forestdale:

SNMailbox-.SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk

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A Good Time for Gardening – April



We are spreading our wings a little further than the gardens in Selsdon for this month.

National Garden Scheme - www.ngs.org.uk – the NGS opens over 3,500 private gardens to

the public each year. Many visitors are familiar with the gardens that open their gates each year, but in 2023 1011 of them will be open to you, your group of friends and family by special arrangement.

In opening their gardens, visitors get a great day out and money is raised to help those in need. In 2022, the NGS was able to give £3.11 million to

its beneficiary charities, mainly those involving nursing and health. The money is raised through admission charges and refreshments. Visit the NGS website for more details, or look out for the yellow booklet of local gardens opening at the tills of Knights Garden centre at Warlingham.

London Open Gardens – www.londongardenstrust.org.uk – a chance to explore over 100 unique and hidden green spaces which are not normally accessible to the public, including historic, traditional, contemporary and experimental gardens across the capital. Some are formal squares or rooftop terraces with commanding city views, as well as community allotments and wildlife havens. Others, like the Postman's Park near to the Barbican are incredibly moving and thought provoking. Some gardens, like the stylish roof garden at 25 Cannon Street, near to St Paul's Cathedral, are new to the scheme.

The gardens are open over the weekend of 10th and 11th June. Tickets, which cover both days and every garden, are available online and cost £15.

Chelsea Physic Garden – www.chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk – London's oldest botanic garden celebrates its 350th anniversary in 2023. Since 1673, Chelsea Physic Garden has occupied four acres of land on the edge of the river Thames. It was first established by the apothecaries in order to grow medicinal plants and has had a wide-reaching impact around the world. The site was specially chosen, to make the most of the warm air currents in the area and it enjoys a micro climate. Barges could be moored alongside, allowing them to conduct plant finding expeditions and to teach the apprentices to identify plants, those that might cure and those that could kill! Children under 16 must be under close supervision of an adult.

Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid
www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

Selsdon Residents Association

Calling All Selsdon School Children



Enter the SRA Make a Crown Competition

To celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6 May, the SRA would like you to make a crown, take a photo of it and then email it to the editor of the Selsdon Gazette (selsdongazettesra@gmail.com). Do this by the closing date of **Saturday 6 May** and if your entry wins, it will feature in the June edition of the Selsdon Gazette.

This competition is open to any children living or attending a nursery or primary school in the SRA area. Make use of any materials you have at home but make sure it is your own work. Make your crown as eye catching as possible, but make sure that your photo(s) of it is taken in good light so the judges can see it clearly. The entries judged to be the best will receive a voucher.

In your email, please state your name, age and your Selsdon address or Selsdon nursery/primary school that you attend. Let us know what materials your crown is made from too.

REMEMBER 'THAT YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT, TO WIN IT!'

YOU'RE INVITED TO COLOUR IN THE CORONATION LOGO

The official logo for King Charles III's coronation, to feature in street parties, social media and souvenirs, has been revealed by Buckingham Palace.

It has been created by Sir Jony Ive, known for his innovative designs of Apple gadgets, including the iPhone.

This is a more traditional image, with flowers forming the shape of the St Edward's crown used in the coronation. The logo features a rose, thistle, daffodil and shamrock - emblems from across the United Kingdom.

I hope you will enjoy colouring in your own logo overleaf.



~

Here is the second part of the obituary for the SRA's Honorary Vice President, Ray Rowsell, written by his daughter Cyrilla. In this instalment we get to learn about the origin of the 'Roundabout' contributions to past Gazettes.

Obituary Part 2, Ray Rowsell 1928-2022

Pa had no 'education' to speak of, leaving school at 15, and became a clerk upon completion of his national service. He worked for the London Tea Centre in Kingsway, London (some of his wartime articles recall this

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time), where he met a young Petula Clark, and never forgot rustling his sandwiches at a lunchtime concert given by pianist Moura Lympany (for whom he had a passion!). Here he also met another young chap called Reg Dennis. They used to go out at lunchtime, exploring hidden London on foot, and co-edited an in-house publication – Pa wrote the words and Reg created the cartoons, and Rowsell and Dennis became Rowden and Sellis!

Rowden and Sellis used to go walking – they did most of the Offa's Dyke path (sadly, Sellis died before they could complete the last nine miles). They met interesting people along the way – heard the Hound of the Baskervilles howling across the valley (one possible origin of the story is the phantom hound of Hergest Court, Kington) – and played imaginary bowls on the bowling green at Raglan Castle, scaring other visitors away in the process!

Peter Dennis – aka Son of Sellis – has continued the cartoons, and sent us this upon hearing of the passing of 'Uncle Rowden'.



When Pa was writing his 'Roundabout' column for the Gazette, Sellis reappeared as his grumpy alter ego!

Gradually, he grew in confidence in the workplace – thanks to the mentoring of some bosses who clearly saw his potential. He worked for

many years in Scarbrook Road, Croydon (at the end of Surrey Street), for London Carriers. It was there that he met the greatest mentor and influence on his life – John Ross. Pa often told me of times when he had a problem he couldn't solve – so he would go upstairs to John's office to discuss it. On his way down he would feel so thankful that John had solved the problem for him – but then it dawned on him that he hadn't at all – he had skilfully led Pa to work out the answer for himself.

John was a big cheese in what was then the Marriage Guidance Council and clearly possessed amazing counselling skills. It was only later that we discovered that he was a German Jew (born Hans Rosenbluth) who had escaped to England with his mother and grandmother in 1933. John is also interesting because many will know of his son – the broadcaster and journalist Nick Ross (Crimewatch).

Pa was involved, in his role as Training Manager, with many training courses – some of them residential. He mentored many youngsters on YTS schemes and we have had so many messages from people with whom he worked. All remember him as kind, friendly, supportive and non-judgemental, and a great influence on their professional lives.

He moved to a company called Telfers (at that time they produced food for Sainsbury's) in Northampton. I was going to teacher training college there and the plan was for the family to move – but my mum then decided she didn't like it! So, Pa used to commute and stay in Northampton from Monday to Friday, and in my 2nd and 3rd years at college we shared a flat together.

More than once he applied for a job – his next one was with Freemans Mail Order in Clapham Road – where he didn't fulfil the criteria in the advertisement. Either he was too old, or didn't have the relevant qualifications. But he wrote well, was offered interviews and hired on the spot, as he always made such a good in-person impression.

Even after he was made redundant at nearly 60, he found work with a Croydon Action Group for the unemployed and again made a huge impact on his colleagues. The influence of John Ross was always with him and Pa too became a wonderful listener and adviser. Both my sister and I, in our teaching careers, have followed the way he did things – listening to our students, letting them learn in the way that suits them best, letting them discover things for themselves (SO much more powerful than being 'told'), and just letting them BE...be the person that they are, and not trying to change them in order to fit someone else's mould.

To be continued...

Dick Adamson – late Honorary President of the SRA

As was briefly reported in the March Gazette, the SRA heard 'on the grapevine' that our long-standing Hon. President, Dick Adamson, had died not long after moving away from Selsdon. The estate agent selling his house in Dulverton Road told me that he had lived there for 67 years! I wonder if there is anyone else in Selsdon who has lived in the same property for as long - or longer? As we approach our centenary year in 2026, it would be nice to have such information on record.



During Dick's time here, as well as being a Councillor for 12 years, he was the exemplary Selsdon resident, being a long-standing member and Chair of the SRA committee and acted as Treasurer for many years for that and the Gazette. Unfortunately, our archives are limited so we currently have no information pre-1991 giving his exact dates of service. Nevertheless, we can remember the example he set and all he did for the Selsdon community, Scouts, schools etc.

We are grateful to Pam Holden who has agreed to step up a rung on the committee ladder and become our Hon. President in his footsteps. We are not sure, though, what Dick would have thought of a woman in his shoes as he was rather 'old school' in his ideas! Let's hope he can still rest in peace!

Linda Morris, Vice Chair

~~

MY FIRST ALL ELECTRIC CAR (EV) PART 2



This article follows on from my previous article about my experiences of owning a Nissan Leaf from new (featured in the Gazette September 2022), a 100% electric vehicle (EV). Three years have passed and my car has just passed its first MOT. On average I drive only 5000 miles p.a., mostly short distances with a maximum 100 miles round trip and have had the car serviced annually.

In that period, I have only had one breakdown and no repairs and the Lion battery has not lost capacity. About a year ago I had parked my vehicle for several hours and upon returning I went to start the car but the display

gave weird messages. I knew I had around 60% charge in the Lion battery so I phoned the recovery service and they quickly diagnosed that the fault lay with the ordinary 12V battery being flat.

Within 15 minutes they had given the battery a booster charge and all was well. They could not tell me exactly why this had happened only that when I originally left the car I had accidentally knocked or left one of the controls on. Fortunately, so far this has not happened again.

Other topics to discuss

In cold weather a 100% charge gives me a theoretical maximum range of 150 miles, in hotter weather this increases to 160 miles or more. How many miles you can actually drive is another matter. An article in the Daily Mail on 9th March states you get a third less mileage, in my experience, on occasions this can be even more.

It is preferable to have a home charger, it's cheaper per kWh and more convenient. The Daily Mail stated that public chargers vary between 40 to 79p per kWh. My car on average travels 3 miles for each kWh of charge. From this information you can calculate the cost per mile, to compare with the cost per mile for a petrol or diesel car.

If you have to use a public charger during your journey plan in advance. Target places to stop which have many charging points within a short distance of each other with the right connections for your car. Make sure you know how the charger works. Do you need that network's App or does it accept contactless? Apps can tell you at a moment in time if a charger is in service and not in use. What it might not be able to tell you if it is 'iced', a non-EV vehicle occupying the charging bay. Try to calculate how long your car will need to be connected to the charger. You may hear that a rapid 125 kW charger can charge a car up to 80% in less than 30 minutes, but you need to know if your car can be connected to that type of charger and if it can be, is it capable of being charged at a rate of 125 kW or capped at say 50 kW which will take considerably more time.

Other changes that have taken place since I purchased my car. Government grants withdrawn for private purchases of car and home chargers. It has been announced, (RFL Road Tax) currently zero, from April 2025 existing owners pay £165 and new owners will pay £10 for the first year and thereafter £165.

I am 90% satisfied with my Leaf, this would be 100% if I had the larger battery model giving an extra 80-mile theoretical range. When I collected my car after its service I spoke to a sales man, to buy a new Leaf with the larger battery I would have to find another £20K, for the larger battery Ariya £44K and this model has a 6-months waiting list. No contest I will keep my existing car and run it into the ground.

If you are thinking of buying an electric car, make sure its actual performance will suit your requirements, read as many reviews as you can and talk to as many owners that you can. Currently the highest theoretical range is around 300 miles who knows if this will increase in the near future.

Peter Dolling

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## **Sir Julian S Huxley and the Modern RSPB**



In 1925 Julian Sorell Huxley (22/06/1887 – 14/02/1975) was a financial subscriber/supporter and celebrity endorser of what was then hoped to be a nationally important 'Bird Sanctuary or Reserve' in Selsdon, if the funds to purchase it could be raised.

At that time Julian Huxley was an influential Professor of Zoology. He was very good at conveying expert knowledge not only in academic

lectures but in writings to a lay audience via newspapers and journals in what has been termed 'popular science'. (There was a huge interest in adult self-education amongst the masses at this time as many people received limited formal education as children.) By 1930 his popular writings had made him famous among the general public and readers of 'The Spectator' had listed him as in the 'top five' brains of Britain. There is much to say about the man and his achievements more widely but our focus is on his link to our 'bird sanctuary'.

Julian Huxley had been a proponent of 'bird watching' since 1916. Scientific study by organisations, such as the British Ornithological Union (BOU), or by the public who admired birds required the collecting (killing) and mounting (Taxidermy) of specimens. A move was under way which he supported, to change that admiration of birds from physical collection into viewing birds in their natural habitat and leaving them undisturbed. He was able to help by promoting the creation of scientific standards for ornithological work/study 'in the field'.

In previous Gazette articles we have seen how the public had been enthused about saving birds by the members of the predominantly female led RSPB based in Croydon. The early RSPB had been at the forefront of bird protection but had been excluded by the scientific community, indeed the two had been at odds. More about this can be found for free online in a book called 'Moral Entanglements Conserving birds in Britain and Germany' by Stephan Bargheer. In his book Stephan notes that Julian Huxley in the 1930s felt that the elderly RSPB management had not moved with the times and this was why membership was dwindling.

At the RSPB AGM in 1936 a group of men headed by Julian Huxley aimed to change the society into a national society of bird watchers as well as work to preserve them. At that meeting one of the founding members, Etta Lemon, was 'moved' from the top spot, the leadership being passed to Robert Preston Donald and Julian took a seat at the governing table. He created ties between the British Trust for Ornithology and the RSPB so that study and protection went hand in hand. For the public, the shift to bird watching, its link to scientific study and fund raising for more bird sanctuaries was attractive. From then on, the RSPB started to regain membership numbers. Whether the society would have moved in this direction without this intervention by the man who combined scientific success and public popularity is not known. The RSPB is now the UK's largest nature conservation charity and the largest wildlife conservation

charity in Europe. It should not be forgotten that the people of Croydon and Selsdon's 'Bird Sanctuary' are a part of the origins of that success.

In this series looking at the saviours of Selsdon Wood we have uncovered some links to some very clever, determined and influential individuals. In looking through the subscription list for the preservation campaign, I noticed an unusual name, 'William Coker Iliffe'. A short bit of research later I found that he was an important figure of the time. He was a newspaper magnate and by 1928 he owned the Daily Telegraph and the Sunday Times. Census data shows that at the time of the Wood campaign he lived with his family (whilst probably maintaining a flat in London) on the outskirts of Selsdon Wood in 'Moorcroft Lodge' in Farleigh, Warrington. Given his geographical vested interest, it is perhaps it is little wonder therefore that the Selsdon Bird Sanctuary campaign featured so regularly in their print pages and gained such national interest!

This is the end of this series on Selsdon Wood saviours (for the time being at least) you can find all the previous articles (and much more) via the Online Gazette held on our website.

Saving Selsdon Wood Part 1 (A 'Bonus' for Selsdon) April 2022;

Part 2 (Sir Lawrence Chubb) May 2022;

Part 3 (Mr Sharpe, Mr Earl & Mr Beadell) June 2022;

Part 4 (Miss W M Hudson) July 2022.

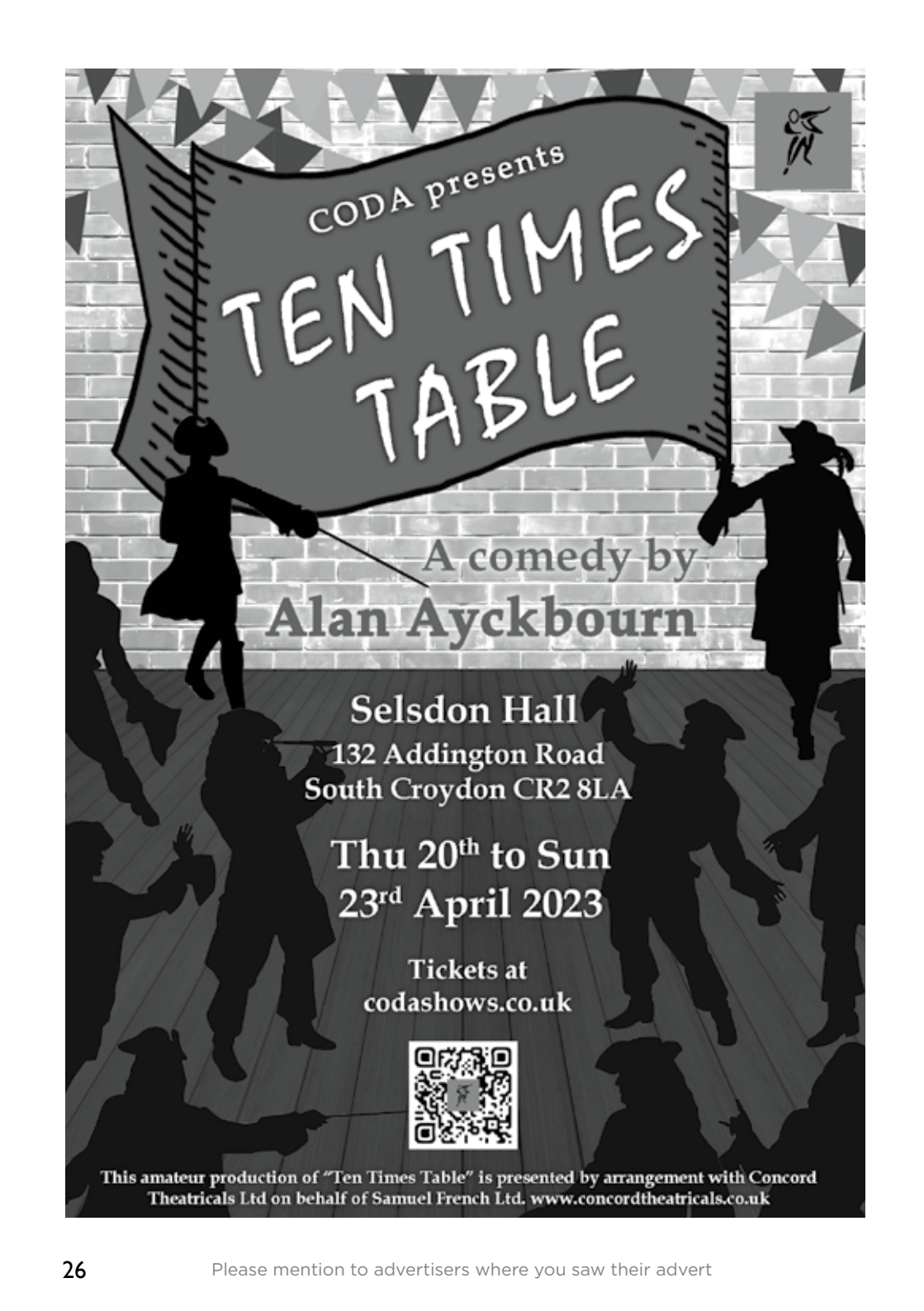
Selsdon Wood - RSPB Story and Etta Lemon, October 2022.

***Janet Sharp***

~~

## **Selsdon – A Place**

Dear Reader, Our Selsdon, prior to the arrival of Costains in 1925, comprised a big house [aka Selsdon House / Selsdon Park Hotel / Birch (Selsdon)] with Selsdon Park Farm (situated where Aldi now is) and a dozen or so Victorian cottages which housed the workers on the farm and the big house. The population of Selsdon can only have reached a few dozen. Costains's first houses were completed in 1926 and, as the saying goes, the rest is history. But what history? The ownership of the land hereabouts was generally concentrated in the hands of the owners of the big house. Where and how did Selsdon fit in the wider landscape? Selsdon was associated with Croydon but as an outlier Parish (Croydon



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Crook) surrounded by the Parishes of Addington, Sanderstead and Farley. How did the outside world see Selsdon? The answer until fairly recently is 'insignificantly'.



- Addington: St Mary the Blessed Virgin  
1080 AD
- Sanderstead: All Saints  
1230 AD
- Farleigh: St Mary's  
1080 AD
- Warlingham: All Saints  
1250 AD
- Chelsham: St Leonard's  
13th Century

*Extract from Speeds map of Surrey, 1610, which does not appear to warrant Selsdon of sufficient importance to note. By 1724 a map by Moll does note the existence of Selsdon.*

Selsdon is close to a number of important local Churches with ancient heritage: Churches need parishioners to worship in them and to pay for their construction and upkeep, so by default a living Church is associated with a thriving and sizeable community. In Speeds map shown, Selsdon is ignored. By the early to middle 18<sup>th</sup> Century Selsdon features in mapmaking.



This Extract is from a 'Map of Surrey' dated 1762 by the King's Cartographer, the late John Rocque, which records Selsdon Farm and the hamlets/villages associated with the Churches listed above and, importantly, indicates the routes joining the villages together. His cartographic skills extend to recording details such as fields and woodlands and individual buildings. Unfortunately, he now records our neighbour Farley, as opposed to Farleigh.

*The Venetian cartographer and publisher Antonio Zatta records in his map of Surrey of 1779 a hamlet called 'Farley', but no 'Selsdon'.*

We can see in Rocque's map the woodlands, which will eventually become Littleheath Woods and Selsdon Wood, and the routes which we now know as Featherbed Lane, Selsdon Park Road/Addington Road, Limpsfield Road and Courtwood Lane/Baker Boy Lane, linking the important hamlets with their churches. Our Upper Selsdon Road is reputed to have been an iron age trackway to the Sussex Ironfields via Farley/Farleigh, Chelsham, Titsey, Limpsfield Common and beyond. In the 15th Century it was described as "a waye going towards Sellesdun" and when it was just a Bridle Road it was called 'Breechfield Lane'. Of interest is the route, our Old Farleigh Road, where it meets the Addington Road at a crossroads with Upper Selsdon Road.

One man's hubris moved the road to its current location. It was not until just after 1800 that the then owner of Selsdon Farm, William Coles, wanted to expand his house and build a model farm down the lane. He obviously wanted to preserve some privacy for his expanded house and didn't want the thoroughfare from Croydon passing nearby, so had what is now the top end of Old Farleigh Road diverted to its current course where it formed a crossroads in 1926 with the construction of Farley Road by Costains. It didn't matter that he was going through a lengthy bankruptcy at the time which resulted in Coles selling the estate to George Smith in 1815. In the Rocque map one can also see a major route from Addington Village through to Farley (Farleigh). This appears to follow the route of our current Courtwood Lane and Baker Boy Lane bridleway. The route of our Addington Road up to Sanderstead appears slightly more convoluted than we currently enjoy and Sanderstead Hill and Church Way can be clearly made out.



Extract from Ordnance Survey map of 1805 showing Selsdon House and Selsdon Farm with the realigned route of the lane we know as Old Farleigh Road. The Addington Road to Sanderstead appears to be smoothed out. The routes of Courtwood lane/Baker Boy Lane can be made out together with Upper Selsdon Road, Church Way, Limpsfield Road and Sanderstead Hill.

Fast forward approximately 150 years to post WW2 and Selsdon is well developed and Costains have essentially finished their transformation of the Selsdon area. As we saw in recent Gazettes Selsdon Vale, Forestdale and Ashen Vale are smallholdings.



Extract from OS map of 1947. Upper Selsdon Road is now a 'B' road. Farley, Old Farleigh and Addington Roads are major roads. Church Way is now partially built upon. Courtwood Lane is made up but Baker Boy Lane is still just a Bridleway.

Selsdon has grown considerably from a few dozen inhabitants less than 100 years ago. As to population now, it is difficult to accurately pin down the Selsdon borders but this Gazette will now be delivered to around 4,000 households within the area under your Selsdon Residents' Association. Some Census 2021 information is becoming available so a current population count would be interesting.



Extract from current OS map. Farleigh, Chelsham and other hamlets noted on Rocque's map of 1762 are somewhat less important than in their heydays, but that is progress....

**Ian Leggatt.**

*Again, thanks to Living History Local Guide No 6, available for loan from our excellent local Library, and Ordnance Survey maps, via National Library of Scotland, all excellent sources of historical information.*



## “The Croydon”

Late last summer I visited Amberley Museum in the heart of the South Downs National Park ([amberleymuseum.co.uk](http://amberleymuseum.co.uk)). It has over 40 exhibit areas including a narrow-gauge railway, chalk pits, historic buses, rural crafts, plenty of “run around” spaces and various out buildings dedicated to the development of communications. One such building was Electricity Hall, offering lots of interactive displays to satisfy the curiosity of every member of the family, young and old. My eye was taken by the display of vintage household items, in particular a rather stunning little cooker in soft blue/grey enamel called “The Croydon”. My curiosity was sparked as to how



something with such a familiar name could be in the museum.

“The Croydon” a Revo Electric Company “Superspeed” circa 1934, was once part of the Croydon Corporation Electricity Department's hire fleet, hence its name and my mystery was solved. It had two solid hotplates, a low-voltage radiant hot plate and a grill beneath the hob. There was also a 3-pin kettle socket! Like most ovens of the time there was no internal thermostat, but situated on the outside of the door was a basic thermostat that registered “Slow-Mod-Hot-Very Hot”. There was not one that said “ouch”!

By the 1930s new homes in urban areas were being lit by electricity and electric showrooms were springing up to meet demand. Statistics show that only 8% of British households owned a cooker in 1939 and despite the fact that electric cookers had clean surfaces and clean fuel, figures show that there were only 1 ½ million electric ovens in Britain compared to 9 million gas ones.

“The Croydon” could be hired from Electric House in Dingwall Avenue. Electric House, (now London South Bank University), was built for the County Borough of Croydon in 1939. Its Art Deco design was made in Portland Stone by architect Robert Atkinson and it is now a Grade II listed building. Originally, with its imposing façade, it had approximately 60,000 ft of floor space to accommodate showrooms and offices. I wonder how many new residents of Selsdon Garden Village ventured out to hire their first cooker from those very grand offices?

**Su Yates**

# International Mother Earth Day

Saturday 22 April 2023 is the United Nations' International Mother Earth Day. This is a chance to remind us all about man-made changes which are detrimentally affecting our planet. Nature is suffering. Oceans are filling with plastic and turning more acidic. Extreme heat, wildfires and floods, have affected millions of people. Even these days, we are still facing COVID-19, a worldwide health pandemic linked to the health of our ecosystem.



The UN want to promote harmony with nature and the Earth by urging a shift to a more sustainable economy that works for both people and the planet.

How much do you know about the issues affecting the Earth?

1. Where does most of the world's breathable oxygen come from?
2. Trees convert which gas into oxygen?
3. What is another name for climate change?
4. How much of the food produced globally never makes it to the table  
-  $\frac{1}{8}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ?
5. What are the three 'R's' of sustainable waste management?
6. Which country has the highest recycling rate in the world?
7. Almost 40 million single-use what are used in the UK every day?
8. From space at night, which city is the brightest on Earth?
9. Which country obtains nearly all of its electricity from renewable sources?
10. Almost 50% of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is made up of what?

## Answers after Nature Notes

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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.

Dear Editor,

I write with regards to an article in your recent issue of the gazette relating

to the passing of one of our previous school governors, Dick Adamson.

Dick served as a school governor at our school for a number of years. When I arrived at the school in 2004, Dick was incredibly welcoming and made me feel very at ease as a new teacher at the school. His positive outlook on life and involvement in the school was key to making the school what it is today. In 2008, having stepped down from the governing body, Dick donated a very special trophy to the school which is known as the 'Dick Adamson award' and presented to a child (or children) in Year 6 who have demonstrated the school values during their time at our school. This year (2023) we will be awarding this to the 18<sup>th</sup> pupil since its introduction.

We are incredibly grateful to Dick for his work at Greenvale over the years. He was a truly generous man who wanted the very best for the school and the children for whom it served.

Kind regards,

***Dan Bowden, Headteacher Greenvale Primary School***

~~

Here our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, looks forward to a possible holiday far afield.

The blossoms are blowing in the breeze, daffodils are up in abundance, today is St. Patrick's Day as I am typing this, and next week is the spring equinox. Yippee!! Even better if you have children, who knows what this weekend will bring with Mothering Sunday on 20 March?

Fathers haven't that long to go before it is their turn for a visit in June, and maybe some "goodies". If the children live a long way away, you can always hope to receive a visit before long or an invitation to go and stay with adult children, especially as the days are lengthening and "Staycations" could be on the not-too-distant horizon.

However, the other day I had a holiday catalogue dropped through the door by the Postman and the thought of "Staycation" doesn't look quite so rosy now. One tour in the booklet offered a trip through Japan by different types of train including a hi-



speed one. I would like, just once, to see Mount Fujiyama through a haze of cherry blossom, and to visit a tea house with the bowing and ritual, the gravel gardens with interesting “objects d’art” and lots of people going through their exercise rituals such as, “Big Turkey pecks little toad then moves in semi-circular movement to right, to water garden, etc”.

If I could go there, I might go and look at a war memorial, but to be honest, there was too much horror committed in the past for me to want to spoil a happy holiday. I know what they did during WW2 from films such as “Pearl Harbour” and “The Bridge Over the River Kwai” and the novel “A Town Like Alice”, but I would still like to go and visit the people who are now our allies, and see their traditional way of life. We also know how the horrors of the war were ended. But, oh, how I would like to see the blossom trees in Japan and drink a ritual cup of tea; not too mention, looking at the Samurai Warriors and some of the incredible, armour, swords and chariots. I might also need to inveigle Mr. “Him Indoors” into a kimono museum or failing that - a shop which sells them!

To think I am only half way through the brochure!

**Jessica Blake**

~~

## Poetry Corner

*This month Mary Gill considers the saying ‘There is no place like home’ even for snails!*

### HOME

Home!  
Sanctuary for those who have found it  
but an aching longing  
for those who have not.

The one place we belong -  
a perfect fit for our soul,  
accommodating all our eccentricities.

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Home!

Where we never have to pretend,  
where we can relax into our true selves –  
warts and all.

Every living creature needs a place -  
the place that is our journey's end,  
where kindred spirits surround us.

Home!

There are no maps to show the way;  
the satnav offers no guidance.  
All we can do is follow our nose.

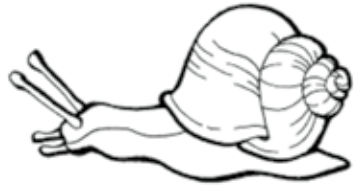
At the end of the day,  
when our lessons are learned  
and our work is done,  
we will make our weary way  
to the warm harbour  
where our spirit feels the welcome  
that only Home can offer.



## **EVICTED!**

In our slowly mobile homes  
round the garden plants we roam.  
Every night we come as thieves,  
greedily devour the leaves.

Gardeners hate us – try to kill us -  
with their poison salt they fill us,  
so there, amidst the pots and gnomes,  
you'll see our empty snail-shell homes.



~~

## **Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth – Colour**

Even before the New Year has begun the dangling yellow male catkins on  
Hazels are a sign that spring is not too far away. Though Blackthorn and

Hawthorn will produce wonderful displays of white flowers, the dominant colour of the early months of the year is yellow.

“Kissing is in season when the Gorse is in flower” and as you might guess the yellow flowers of Gorse are visible in every month of the year.

It is not long before the grassy areas are a sea of bright yellow Dandelions, providing a nectar source for the early insects including the yellow male Brimstone butterflies which are one of the first of the hibernating butterflies to be on the wing if the weather is warm enough.



As the Dandelions go to seed another yellow flower takes over in the fields. This is most likely to be Bulbous Buttercup though there are other Buttercups such as Creeping and Meadow which will be present. Along edges of woodland paths can be found the taller Goldilocks Buttercup which often appears to have mis-shaped flowers.

Small patches of the yellow-flowered Lesser Celandine will appear in various spots in the wood.

As the weeks go by more yellow flowers appear. Mounds of Bird’s-foot Trefoil attracting butterflies in the fields – while the flowers are largely yellow some of them show a fair amount of red. The long, thin stems of Agrimony are covered in a wonderful display of bright yellow flowers but later in the year each flower is replaced by a small conical seed capsule which I frequently find attached to my clothing. The yellow-flowered Ragwort is found in several fields, usually carrying a complement of orange Soldier Beetles or the black and red Six-spot Burnet Moths.

In the early weeks of the year most trees are leafless so that the woodland floor is exposed to a reasonable amount of light and warmth which encourages the appearance of some of our best floral displays. Firstly, the ground will become carpeted in the whitish flowers of Wood Anemone then this display is taken over by an equally profuse flood of Bluebells. Along some of the paths appears small amounts of what at first sight might be mistaken for Wood Anemones but closer examination will show that these are Wood Sorrel, with leaves that are like Shamrocks or Clover rather than the Buttercup-like cut leaves of the Wood Anemone. Taller and denser white-flowered plants along the path edges will be Greater Stitchwort. Orchids often have colourful flowers and the earliest of these is the Early Purple Orchid. It can be recognised by its spotted leaves even before the flowers appear. They can be found in Selsdon Wood near the Broad Walk/Beech Grove junction, near the bend in Courtwood Grove, and there is a small group in the cut-through from Langford Way to the Addington Border path. Late orchids include the colourful Bee Orchid which



occasionally turns up in the fields.

There are many more flowers and colours which could be mentioned but it would need a book to do it – see any book by Marjorie Blamey, though there are other flower guides with their own individual characteristics. Keep an eye on The FSW website for the latest first sightings for this year, and do not forget to keep looking at the Butterfly Bank.

~~

## **Answers to the International Mother Earth Day Quiz**

1. Oceans
2. Carbon dioxide
3. Global Warming
4. 1/3
5. Reduce, Reuse and Recycle
6. Germany
7. Plastic bottles
8. Las Vegas
9. Norway
10. Fishing nets

~~

## **Warning - Emergency Alerts Coming to your Mobile Phones**

A siren-like alert will be sent to mobile phone users across the UK in April to test a new government public warning system. It allows the government and emergency services to send urgent messages warning the public of life-threatening situations like flooding or wildfires.



The test is expected to take place in the early evening of 23 April. Phone users will have to acknowledge the alert before they can use other features on their devices. A message will appear on the home screens of people's devices during the test, with vibration and a loud warning sound that will ring for about 10 seconds, even if the phone is set to silent.

The system is being modelled on similar schemes used in the US, Canada, Japan and The Netherlands. Messages would only ever come

from the government or emergency services and will initially focus on the most serious weather-related events, with the ability to get a message to 90% of mobile users within the relevant area. Terror alerts could be added to the list of potential events that would trigger a notification.

The messages will include details of the area impacted and instructions about how to respond. They will only be sent where there is an immediate risk to life and many people may not receive an alert for months or years.

Cabinet minister Oliver Dowden told the BBC the warnings are sent in a “very targeted way” and other than the test, he hopes many people will never hear the alert again. People can opt out by searching their device settings for emergency alerts and then turning off severe and extreme ones. Officials say the alerts could be life-saving, though, advising against switching them off.

~~

## Plant Sale

Selsdon Baptist Church members and friends will be holding a charity plant sale, where there will be a selection of garden plants, house plants and vegetable seedlings available.



Whether you're a green-fingered old hand or a complete novice, come and see what's on offer and enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat. Our knowledgeable growers will be on hand to offer information and advice if required.



**10.30-12.30 Saturday 20th May**  
**Selsdon Baptist Church**  
**Addington Road**



## Selsdon Contact Neighbourhood Care - Celebrating 50 Years

Contact is your Neighbourhood Care organisation providing practical help, advice, support and information to the local community. A reminder of how we can help –

- Transport to hospital, dentist, clinic and GP appointments
- Fortnightly access to our Shopping Bus, which goes out to Sainsbury's at Warringham, plus support whilst in the store
- Visiting or befriending for those who are housebound
- Equipment Loan – wheelchairs, walking sticks etc
- Information and advice re statutory and voluntary services
- Support with form filling i.e., Blue Badge, and simple DIY i.e., changing light bulbs
- Smoke alarms – fitting and battery changes
- Monthly Coffee Mornings
- Outings to a variety of venues, afternoon tea events and a Christmas Party

Please get in touch if you would like our help or if you might be able to spare a few hours to volunteer or support us.

Contact's office is to be found on the lower ground floor in the Community Centre, below Sainsbury's and is open from 10 am until 3 pm Monday to Friday.

☎ 020 8651 4944 ✉ [info@selsdoncontact.org.uk](mailto:info@selsdoncontact.org.uk)

Facebook: Selsdon Contact [www.selsdoncontact.org.uk](http://www.selsdoncontact.org.uk)

~ ~

### Bird's Eye View

#### John Birkett, RSPB Croydon Local Group



I was going to start this by saying that winter is slowly giving way to spring. Unfortunately, as I write, it seems that another icy blast is about to hit us!

It has been a strange winter for birds; many of the expected visitors such as redwings, fieldfares and finches have not been around in anything like the numbers normally seen. The reasons are not fully understood,

but avian ‘flu is unlikely to be a factor. Perhaps it has simply been too mild in northern Europe to make the birds move. Whatever the reasons for that, we should soon be looking forward to spring migration. Having said that, the forecast northerly winds may slow down the first arrivals, which are often wheatears, sand martins and little ringed plovers. The wheatears could appear on our downlands or other areas of grassland, while the martins and plovers might just appear at wetlands such as South Norwood CP and South Norwood Lake. Some chiffchaffs now winter in this country, but they can also be early arrivals in spring, so listen out for their onomatopoeic song in gardens and woodlands.



Buzzard by Steve Grayson

The birds are now singing more and this is a good time to try to learn their songs. Start with some of the regular garden birds such as great tit (singing ‘teacher teacher’), song thrush (which repeats phrases three times) or goldfinch (with its jingling song).

And don’t forget to keep an eye out for species such as red kite, sparrowhawk, buzzard and even raven that could be displaying near you.

We would love to know what you see in your local area by emailing [johnbirkett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:johnbirkett@hotmail.co.uk) and to find out what has been seen recently you can check out the Croydon Birders website.

## **The RSPB Croydon Local Group Monthly Illustrated Wildlife Talks in South Croydon**

Croham Road Baptist Church, South Croydon

May 8 2023, 730pm: **“The Pet Detectives”** by Colin Butcher

The United Kingdom Pet Detectives is the only Private Detective Agency in the United Kingdom that specialises in recovering stolen or missing animals. Colin Butcher, Company Director and Chief Investigator has been recovering stolen and missing pets for over twenty years and has a wealth of experience in the investigation of pet crime. His first successful assignment was back in 1994 when serving as a Detective Sergeant with Surrey Police he recovered two German Shepherd puppies stolen from a breeder’s kennels. As a Detective Inspector in Surrey Police Colin

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was awarded a prestigious Chief Constable's Commendation for his outstanding contributions to the advancement of the Criminal Investigation Department. His knowledge and experience in the investigation of serious and major crimes is vital when dealing with the more complex investigations such as ransom demands, pet charity fraud and pet killings. This evening's talk should be enthralling, and something completely different.

As usual we hope to have refreshments in the half time interval (please bring your own mug for your tea or coffee). There should also be various stalls for you to browse and stock up on seeds and nuts or, hopefully, handmade cards. You can also meet with Group members and tell us about the birds you have seen in the Croydon area.

Everyone welcome, not just RSPB members. Just come along with your £5 entrance fee (and your mug) and sit back and enjoy a cracking good time.

To find out more about the RSPB Croydon Local Group please visit our website (<http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/croydon> )

For more information contact John Davis on Tel: 020-8640 4578,  
E-mail: [johndaviswine1@gmail.com](mailto:johndaviswine1@gmail.com)

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## **Selsdon Centre for the Retired**

Times are tough for many now. We are doing all we can at the Selsdon Centre to make sure that we keep going for our customers; to ensure they get a hot meal with friends when they come in to see us. This is becoming harder to provide though, as we no longer have any annual funding from Croydon Council. After giving us money to help support our vital work with elderly Selsdon residents for 40 years, they stopped giving anything since 2019 without warning. We understand that they are now in financial difficulties themselves, but we carry out an essential role by giving our community the chance to socialise with other like-minded people in a safe, warm environment. We do all we can to raise funds for the Centre and have been successful at doing this by providing entertainment in the form of live music or Bingo events. We offer our delicious home-made soups or home-cooked, nourishing meals but still we need more as for us too, costs of food and energy have rocketed.

Anything anyone can do to help us continue this local lifeline will be much appreciated. Please consider offering anything you can in the form of

cash donations, a legacy, sponsorship for a music event or raffle prizes for one of our event days. We have a donations button on our website ([selsdoncentre.org.uk](http://selsdoncentre.org.uk)) if you can help and have already a PayPal account. It is a simple way to donate. We need to ensure our friends and neighbours have somewhere to attend for some warmth with delicious food and entertainment from time to time.

As we continue our fundraising, we have a few tickets left for our first Curry & Quiz night on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 7pm start. We will have this in St John's Church Hall along with other fun and games being offered! A great night is planned, and we are looking forward to it. Tickets are just £10 per head with ALL proceeds going back to the Selsdon Centre so we're hoping for a very successful event. Please pop into the office if you would like a couple of tickets. We can make up tables of 6 if necessary or call 020 8651 1111 for more details or email [selsdon.centre@btinternet.com](mailto:selsdon.centre@btinternet.com) if easier.

Lastly, a big thank you to all our current, past and future supporters. Your Centre needs you! We all need our Centre, let's keep it going for many years to come!

~~



### **What is your local Rotary Club up to now?**

Oh, my word, it is all happening as we move into Spring. We have just had the final, for this round at least, defib units installed at St John's Community Hall & the new Tot Stars Nursery on Selsdon Recreation Ground. We have now installed nine defib units as follows:

Kingsmead Stables & the Corner House Tea Room in Hamsey Green  
Outside All Saints' Church Hall, Waitrose & the Library in Sanderstead  
Outside the Forum in Forestdale

Sainsburys, Tot Stars & St John's Community Hall in Selsdon

All our units are available 24/7, if you have to use the unit, please ring the phone number inside the cabinet so that we can replace pads for the unit to restore it to full use. We thank all our partners who have worked alongside us to allow the installation of these vital units.

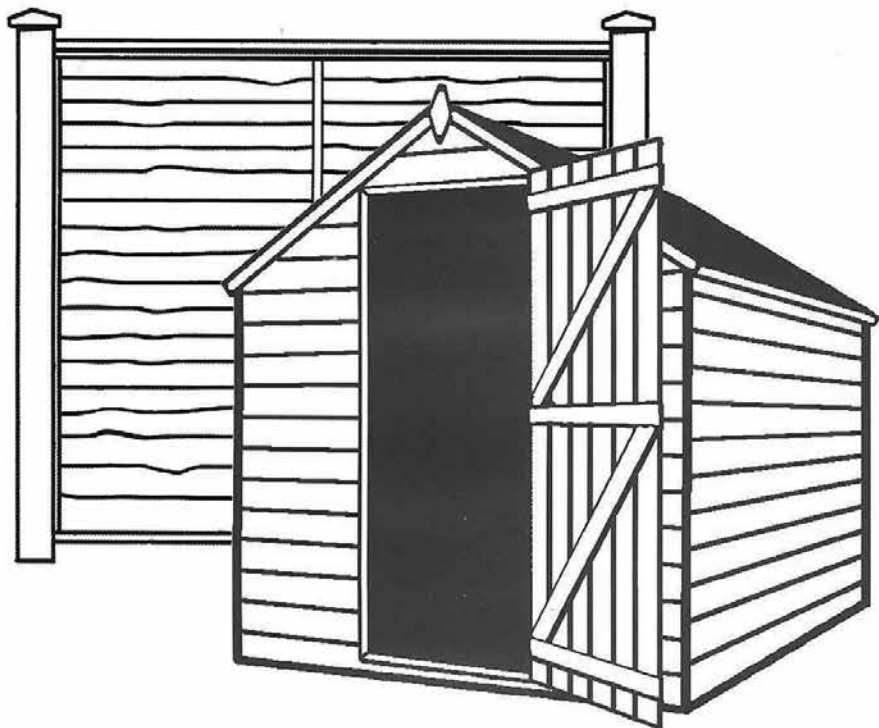
One of our members has been collecting sewing machines which are refurbished & sent to Africa to allow folks to use the machines to bring



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funds into their household. You as ever have been so generous and now 30 machines have been sent to Africa via the charity, 'Tools with a Mission'. Thank you for your support.

What's coming up, well, the first weekend in April we will be distributing bulbs/plants to those who would otherwise not have visitors, we aim to bring a little Spring cheer into the lives of those we visit.

King Charles has asked that we join with his Helping Out Day on Bank Holiday Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May. So, we will be arranging our annual 'Reachout day' & will invite over 100 housebound folks to join us for a meal & entertainment and to help us celebrate the King's Coronation – we will have a blast.

Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> will see our annual Sponsored Walk take place, starting & finishing at St Mary's Church Hall in Farleigh. Walkers obtain sponsors with 60% of the money they raise going to the charity of their choice and the remaining 40% will go to Rotary Charities. Everyone wins and with glorious weather, this walk around the beautiful Surrey Hills countryside is a day to remember. So don't miss out, get in touch and sign up to support your good cause.

If you would like to get involved, volunteer or join our Club, or for any information about the above event, please contact us on 07774 186 792 or via email to [secretary@rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com](mailto:secretary@rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com)

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## **Important Notice – to all patients of The Farley Road Medical Practice Open Meeting Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

The Patient Participation Group is holding an Open Meeting on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May from 6pm until 7.30pm at the Selsdon Centre for the Retired (next to Sainsbury's and the Library).

There will be talks by Dr Jasper, the Practice's Social Prescriber, The Practice Pharmacist and a representative from Contact. RSVP to reserve your place on [swlicb.farley.admin@nhs.net](mailto:swlicb.farley.admin@nhs.net) or call 020 8651 1222 and leave your details

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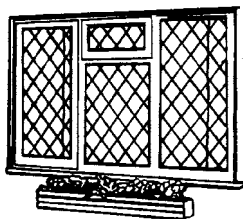
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# **A SELECTED LIST OF SELSDON ORGANISATIONS**

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             | 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**

|                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                 |                                                                                    |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Arts Society Croydon Area                                                                                                     | Jean Aarons                                                                                     | Website: <a href="https://tascroydonarea.org.uk">https://tascroydonarea.org.uk</a> |  |
| 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                                                                       |  |
| Crest Badminton Club (Fri pm)                                                                                                 | Sue Fairchild                                                                                   | 020 8657 3761                                                                      |  |
| 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 Local History Group                                                                                               | <a href="http://www.sandersteadlhg.co.uk">www.sandersteadlhg.co.uk</a>                          |                                                                                    |  |
| 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)                                                                                                        | <a href="mailto:beavers.1stselsdon@gmail.com">beavers.1stselsdon@gmail.com</a>                  |                                                                                    |  |
| Cub Pack (8-10yrs)                                                                                                            | <a href="mailto:cubs.1stselsdon@gmail.com">cubs.1stselsdon@gmail.com</a>                        |                                                                                    |  |
| Scouts Troop (10-14yrs)                                                                                                       | <a href="mailto:scouts.1stselsdon@gmail.com">scouts.1stselsdon@gmail.com</a>                    |                                                                                    |  |
| 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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