

The Selsdon — Gazette —

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April 2019

THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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There is no August Gazette.

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	Phil Roberts, 44 Dulverton Road, CR2 8PG	

Two vacancies remain - anyone interested in being co-opted, please contact us.

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

Councillors for Selsdon & Addington Village Ward

Cllr Helen Pollard	Helen.pollard@croydon.gov.uk	0207 617 7310
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	Andrew.stranack@croydon.gov.uk	07816 123204



Editor's Note

Welcome to the April 2019 issue of the Gazette. Our cover, in this April showers month, shows a lovely rainbow over Selsdon High Street.

This month Des looks back on the days when Selsdon was a close-knit community (p10). His articles have certainly attracted a lot of interest and encouraged others to share their recollections and this month Phil Munton follows up on his piece about the Ingham Road bombing with further memories of the years 1948-1953 (p15).

This is followed by more local history as Ian Leggatt tells us about the boundary markers in Littleheath Woods (p19).

Two local organisations, the Rotary Club of Croydon Jubilee (p23) and the Selsdon Afternoon Townswomen's Guild (p29), report on their activities over the past few months and this is followed by an appeal for volunteer befrienders (p30).

Nature Notes this month (p24) is about plant sex!!!

One letter this month (p47) asks about the folks who used to own the Selsdon Park Hotel. Do get in touch if you can help. The second letter offers more recollections of times gone by from David Owen and his mother, centenarian Daphne Owen.

I have also received notification that a wallet was found on a bench in the Selsdon Bird Sanctuary on 15th February. There is no ID in it - nothing except a gift card, vouchers and some cash. If you think this belongs to you please get in touch with me or call 07850 269323.

Regards,

Heather

✎ SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MAY 2019 EDITION
SHOULD BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN
20TH APRIL ✎

SRA NEWS ‘n’ VIEWS

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 13th March in St John's hall. The same night that Theresa May struggled to win the vote in the Commons we were able to gain a unanimous vote for our current committee to stand for a further year. We were also fortunate to gain two new committee members so we welcome Arthur Wilson and Jenny Sawson onto the committee.

Attendance was 44 which is about average but, encouragingly, we saw a few new faces so thank you to all who braved the strong winds to attend and stayed after the meeting for a glass of wine and chat. Unfortunately, the police were unable to attend due to their duty roster but did assure us of the very low crime figures for Selsdon. There is a prospect that the current individual Ward Panel meetings for each of the Selsdon Wards may be combined and we will only need to attend one instead of the current two meetings.

The councillors spoke of the work they are doing to help the traders of Selsdon but stressed that it is a long process.

I would like to thank the committee for another successful year and look forward to the next 12 months.

Sheila Childs

~~

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COUNCILLORS' NOTES

TRAFFIC CENSUS

You might have noticed tubes/cables across Brent and Foxearth Roads in recent months. These cables, and similar ones in other parts of Selsdon, are part of a traffic census to collect the speed of vehicles on the road. The data is being gathered to determine the effects of the recently imposed 20mph zone in the area. Cllr Pollard has requested details of the findings of this census and will put this information in the Gazette when it arrives.

GROUND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Cllr Pollard attended a meeting at the Council where there was scrutiny of the recent decision to end the contract with idVerde to maintain parks and green spaces. The service has been brought back in-house from 1st February 2019.

idVerde have been doing a particularly bad job over the last few years and have been incurring penalties of around £20K a month.

Going forward, grass cutting will be carried out on a frequency basis, not when the grass reaches a certain length. It was interesting to hear that there will be service levels for all parks and these have been requested for the parks in Selsdon.

FAIRFIELD HALLS

The refurbishment of Fairfield Halls is still underway and, regrettably, is much delayed. The Selsdon Councillors have always supported the redevelopment of Fairfield Halls; however they did not support full closure as we felt the redevelopment work could be done whilst keeping parts of the building open. This would have allowed continuity of programming and the venue could continue to generate income to defray some of the costs.

Nevertheless it was decided to close Fairfield Halls, despite fierce opposition from local people who treasure the venue. The reason for

the decision was that phasing would incur additional cost. We now find it is running 18 months behind schedule and will cost the taxpayer an additional £11m on top of the original £30m budgeted cost.

The developer for this project is the Council-owned entity, Brick By Brick, which has no experience of projects of this size (or indeed projects of any size!). We can only hope that when it does eventually open, Fairfield Halls delivers the diverse and top-quality entertainment this town deserves.

The cost to the tax payer will be exacerbated by the Labour Council's failure to deliver the development of hundreds of flats on the site of Croydon College Annexe behind Fairfield Halls. This would have subsidised the Fairfield Halls project by millions of pounds. This will now not happen and the tax payer will have to foot the bill.

Meet Your Councillors

The Selsdon Team of Councillors will be holding surgeries in the Selsdon Centre (next to Sainsbury's) on the first Saturday of the month from 10am – 11.15am (except August).

If you have any issues you wish to discuss with your councillor please come to the surgery or get in touch by email:

Helen.pollard@croydon.gov.uk Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk

Stuart.millson@croydon.gov.uk Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk

PLANNING APPLICATIONS March 2019

19/00861/FUL – 5 Selsdon Parade, Addington Road, CR2 8LH - Change from A2 to A3 Pie, Mash and Eel restaurant

19/01058/HSE – 187 Ballards Way, Croydon, CR0 5RJ - Alterations, erection of first floor/roof extensions to include gable end and dormer extension on rear roof slope

19/00845/HSE – 31 Crest Road, CR2 7JR - Single storey rear extension

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19/00825/GPDO – 31 Crest Road, CR2 7JR - Erection of a single storey rear extension

19/00859/HSE – 33 Crest Road, South Croydon, CR2 7JR - Renewal of planning consent ref 16/00626/P. Demolition of existing detached garage; erection of single/two storey front/side extension.

19/00903/GPDO - 183 Ballards Way, Croydon, CR0 5RJ - Erection of a single storey rear extension which projects out 5.15 metres from the rear wall of the original property with an eaves height of 2.95 metres and a maximum height of 3.5 metres.

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POLICE BOX

The Selsdon Vale & Forestdale Local Policing Team (LPT) comprises:

Sergeant Paul Harrison, PC Colin Mayes, PC James McCarthy
All hold the position of DWO - Dedicated Ward Officer.

The Selsdon and Addington Village LPT comprises:
PC Carl Gates, PC Barry Swift, PCSO Tina Nash, PS Bob Batchelor

Contact details:

While 999 (emergency) and 101 (non urgent) numbers will always reach the police, if you want to contact them on local area matters of wider concern you can use:

Selsdon Vale & Forestdale LPT
or **Selsdon and Addington Village LPT**
Addington Police Station,
Addington Village Road, CROYDON CR0 5AQ
Tel - 0208 721 2464

SELSDON AS A COMMUNITY 1940/50

We read a lot in today's newspapers about loneliness - there is now even a Government minister for loneliness. How sad that modern society has got like this. When I was growing up in Selsdon I knew by sight all of my neighbours in Abbey Road and Greville Avenue: probably 90% by name and to speak to, and had been into the homes of about 50%. So what has changed?

A few things, but one major factor is the motor car. Where I now live everyone has a car, including the teenagers over 17 who drive to college in their own motors. I have lived at my current address for 50 years this year, but have never spoken to the majority of my neighbours. Why not? Because they leave their house, jump in the car, and drive off. If I am lucky I might get a wave, and a "Hi!" before they disappear up the road. So what was so different in my Selsdon of the 1940s and 50, and still much the same into the 60s when I moved away?

When I was still in a pram my Mum took me to Selsdon's shops on most weekdays. We met neighbours in the street and had a little chat. In the shops we queued, giving more time for chatting.

By the age of three, and certainly by four, I spent hours outside playing with other boys and girls in Selsdon Rec or out in the street. If it was raining I went to their houses, or they came to mine. By the age of 14 I was helping the local milkman and knocking on customer's doors to collect the payment for the week's milk bill. So my familiarity with Selsdoners expanded to cover more residents and more streets, those covered by Nobby Clark's milk round - Sundale Avenue, Benhurst Gardens, Elmpark Gardens, Ingham Road and more. Below are some of my neighbours from Abbey Road and Greville Avenue at our VJ Day party in the Rec in 1946 (Victory over Japan). Even now, after more than 70 years I can still name the majority of them and remember where they lived.

Note the absence of men, only 5 in the photo, mostly of very mature years, and one grown up teenager. This is because the men folk were still away in the armed forces.

Each person creates a trigger for my memory and tells a story.

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The man on the far right, with the dog, was a widower who lived at the bottom of Abbey Road. I never knew his name but we kids all knew his dog, Patch. Patch was his faithful companion and I am sure that our elderly neighbour also greatly enjoyed the fun that we got from playing ball with Patch.

And at the end of the next row in front, in the white shirt, is not a man but a grown up youth. His family name was Gibbs and his dad had been in the RAF but sadly got killed very early on in the war.

I nearly forgot. Centre of front row, wearing a Selsdon School tie, is 6 year old me!

There were a lot more of our local neighbours, who for various reasons were not at this party. For example, Mr Brown of Abbey Road and his son Jimmy. Mr B was a policeman who cycled each day, to and from his police station on his police issue bicycle. He was on duty, as was Jimmy, another cyclist. However Jimmy's bike was painted red as he worked for the Post Office, delivering urgent telegrams. Not quite as quick as present day e-mails!

The Selsdon community of those times involved not just knowing people, but also helping people. I can give some examples of things that my Mum did, not because she was an exception but only because I knew of them first hand.

Mrs Blagden was our next door neighbour. When her three children were of school age, she returned to work as a Matron at a Croydon hospital. I cannot remember which one because then, there were two, Croydon General, and Mayday. When her three boys came home from school my Mum went in and made their tea and made sure everything was OK until Mr or Mrs Blagdon got home from work.

Mr Blagden was very good at making things out wood and had an extensive set of woodworking tools. He in return would make things for us. A new, wooden sink draining board for example, when our original one began to rot. And for me a lovely wooden sword, when with my friends, we took up sword fighting. This was after seeing a film about swashbuckling pirates, starring Burt Lancaster!

There was a very elderly lady living around the corner, in Greville Avenue. Eventually she became bed-bound. My Mum used to go in, wash her, dress her, feed her and do a bit of dusting etc. After a couple of years the poor old lady died. My Mum laid her out and did all things necessary to make her look nice for when relatives and friends came to the house to say their farewells.

These are but a few examples of the community spirit that was the norm in those times. Of course the war brought people together, but cars, TV, i-pads and the mobile phone have a lot to answer for!

Finally, there may be some amongst you readers who might like to comment on the topics about which I am writing. Or you may also have your own memories of past times in Selsdon. If you do I would be very interested in hearing from you, so e-mail me at des.oldselsdon@gmail.com.

Des Donohoe

~~

LIVING IN SELSDON 1948-1953

I was born on the 15th February 1948, a few months before the creation of the NHS, not at home but at a nursing home in South Croydon - coincidentally in the same road where a notorious double murder had taken place before the war - Birdhurst Road - the case was never solved! My Mum and Dad were Les and Chris Munton who had married in 1939, just seven weeks before the outbreak of war. They had bought their first and only home in Ingham Road, a new development just round the corner from Selsdon Primary School. This was, therefore the only home I knew before I left the village for good in 1967.

By accounts from my parents the day I was born was very spring-like - not dissimilar to the weather we experienced in February 2019! However, within a few days there was the equivalent of 'The Beast from the East' with snow and freezing temperatures for some weeks - not as bad as the previous snows of early 1947- but bad enough!

Obviously, I have very little recollection of the first two years of my life but I do know that I was brought up in an unremarkable but loving family unit together with my older sister Mary at 21, Ingham Road (this house was badly damaged in 1944 by a V1 rocket, as reported in the Gazette last month).

My father worked as a clerk in the South Eastern Gas Board - first in Wellesley Road, Croydon and then later in Stafford Road, Wallington. Until I was well into primary school my mother was a full time housewife and both my parents struggled in my early years with not much money and rationing etc. as did a lot of families in the early post-war years - but I will always be grateful for the sacrifices they must have made in that difficult period!

As I have said my first memories were not until my third year when three events stick in my mind.

First, I was born with a slightly deformed thumb and I remember being left at Croydon General Hospital for a night or two to have an operation to straighten my tendon. I think I must have made a lot of noise crying when my Mum left me there!

Second, I recall my first car crash! In those days very few people in Ingham Road had a car and, being a cul-de-sac, the place was a perfectly safe playground for all sorts of activities. The road was not adopted by the council until the late fifties and at first, although metalled with whitish coloured concrete, it was not the smoothest of surfaces! I had been given a second-hand pedal car by a colleague of my Dad and because the top of Ingham Road has a very convenient hill I decided to test drive my pedal car on it! Unfortunately, my little three year old legs couldn't keep up with the pedals which went faster and faster coming down the hill and the rough surface made steering difficult and I ended up crashing into one of the old green lamp-posts which was in situ at the bottom of the hill! No bones were broken but it gave me a badly twisted ankle for some days and something else to cry about!

The third memory involves my paternal grandmother who was staying with us. I had fallen ill with a mystery illness in which I was bedridden and unable to move for the best part of two weeks. All this time my grandmother would read stories to me until one day I remember her shouting to my Mum that I had made an observable



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effort to raise myself up - I subsequently recovered quite quickly and never really thought any more about it. It wasn't until the 1980s in a doctors' surgery in Wigton, Cumbria that I discovered from a doctor reading through my medical notes that I had suffered from polio in 1952. Our GP at the time was Dr. Bookless who some people may remember as a great doctor but who had his own way of doing things! The suspicion is that he thought that moving polio victims was not a good idea if you could help it. He may have been right as I never suffered any lasting effects!

The next memory milestone was my starting at Selsdon Primary School at the beginning of 1953. It was so easy to walk the two minutes round the corner and it meant I could go home to lunch as well! My first two terms were in the reception class in a single story building at the east end of the main school. My first teacher was Miss/Mrs? Macdonald and I remember being very happy after the first few days. I was even happier after we celebrated the Queen's Coronation with a party at school which included my favourite jelly and blancmange! Imagine my parents surprise when a picture of me and my classmate Derek Rich was on the front of the front page of the Purley and Coulsdon Advertiser the following week!

Phil Muntton philmunton48@sky.com

Editor's Note - Many of us who date back to that time will have memories of family or friends blighted by polio. How lucky Phil was to avoid permanent paralysis ☺ And how thankful we should all be for the NHS vaccination programme, introduced in the mid 1950s, that has now eradicated this disease in the UK.

~~

LITTLEHEATH WOODS – GRAVESTONES, MONOLITHS OR MARKERS?

The Borough of Croydon came into being on 9 June 1883. It was formed largely from the territory of the former parish of Croydon, with the exception of the detached portion of Croydon Crook (Selsdon) which was surrounded by Addington, Farley and Sanderstead Parishes. It was promoted to the status of County Borough, with effect from 29 July 1889 and was enlarged, by taking

in the parish of Addington, in 1928. The County Borough ceased to exist when The London Borough of Croydon was created on 1 April 1965. Littleheath Woods straddles the Parish Boundaries of Addington and Croydon and these Borough markers were installed in 1928 when Addington Parish was subsumed by the enlarged County Borough. You may have seen some of these markers on your visits to the Woods.



There are six of these markers in Littleheath Woods, some easy to find, some not so. They were recorded on subsequent Ordnance Survey (OS) maps as a 'B.P.' but, with the quantity of building which was going on in the area after 1928, perhaps some are not in their original Parish Boundary position. Maybe an opportunity for a family treasure hunt on a warm spring afternoon while you admire the Bluebells? No prizes but a sense of exhilaration when you bag all six!

If you get the bug then our neighbours on Croham Hurst can provide even more fiendish fun with perhaps nine markers to find. I haven't managed to locate them all but keep on looking,

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is £45 which includes the car, the driver, one passenger, a run pack, route guide and finisher's plaque. Additional passengers are £5 each. Space is limited to 120 cars.

All surplus will go to local charities
Closing date for entries is 24 April 2019

Contact details: dhiraj@dsandco.com croydonjubilee@virginmedia.com

Tel: Dhiraj 020 8686 7757 (9am - 5:30pm) 020 8654 4545 (6pm - 9pm)

Tel: David 020 8688 0273 (6pm - 9pm)



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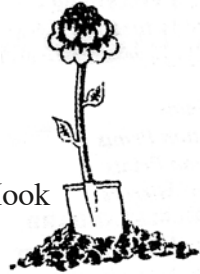
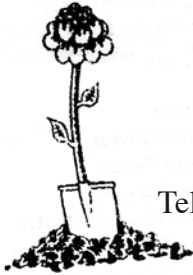
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and with one hiding in plain sight on Croham Valley Road you can get off to a great start. The Croham Hurst markers are Parish Boundary markers defining the extent of Croydon, Addington and Sanderstead Parishes and date from 1888 through to 1920.

Thanks to the website of Croydon Council, the Living History Local Guide No 6, 'Selsdon and Croham', and the National Library of Scotland online OS maps for the above information. Photos by me.

AGM

The Friends of Littleheath Woods are holding their Annual General Meeting in the Scout Hut at the rear of St Johns Church in Upper Selsdon Road on Tuesday 30th April at 8pm. Please do come along and join us for the evening and renew your annual family membership of The Friends for £5.

Ian Leggatt, Friends of Littleheath Woods

Editor's Note - There is one known marker in Selsdon Wood too - see the entry for 1928 in <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/history.php>

~~



ROTARY CLUB of CROYDON JUBILEE **FUN WITH PURPOSE**



Purpose: Had it been suggested four years ago that a BIG Band night featuring music from the Ted Heath, Count Basie and Ella Fitzgerald era would continue to attract an enthusiastic audience in Sanderstead four years on, I would have been sceptical indeed. But such is the case and we, in Jubilee, thank you so much for your support. This year the bulk of the surplus arising from the concert will go to the Alzheimer's Society.

You have enabled us to help the work of so many charities and local good causes. Combined with other efforts we have made, some **£20,000** has been donated to local charities such as Prostate Cancer, Surrey Air Ambulance, South Croydon Centre Trust for lonely elderly folk, Macmillan Cancer Support, British Red Cross,

Multiple Systems Atrophy Association and many, many more. You may remember our donation recently of a quantity of blankets and duvet to HOMELESSNESS IN CROYDON, - a contact that enabled us to donate further to them and very recently to Redgates Special Needs School for interactive white boards for use by the children. So a huge thank you for your generosity.

Fun: Fund raising for all these good causes is not a completely serious business though. The Big Band is but one and one that is enjoyed by many. So come and join us on Friday 14th June 2019 – Warlingham Rugby Club – Nigel Garrard Big Band – 7.15 pm for 8,00 to 10.30 pm – Tickets £16 pp. Contact David C: 01883 819 087.

Are you a vintage car enthusiast? Then join us on our Jubilee Car Run on 28th April from Denbies Wine Estate in Dorking through to the Brogdale collections and the National Fruit collection at Faversham in Kent. Contact Dhiraj: 020 8686 7757 (9-5.30pm). Tickets £45 (incl. Car, Passenger, Run Pack and Finisher's Plaque). A beautiful run through Surrey and Kent in the spring sunshine.

Combine that with a recent Hog-Roast and Race night and a forthcoming Golf Day - a forthcoming visit to the Croydon Tramway Depot and the Biggin Hill Memorial Museum and the fun element of our Rotary club is self-evident.

We mean what we say – FUN WITH PURPOSE.

We continue to concentrate our fundraising on enjoyment, fellowship and sharing our ideals with all. Our “Friends of Rotary” initiative affords a chance for a membership for an initial first year, to enjoy our fun and fellowship by attending our meetings (a minimum of twice a month), attending all our social activities, assisting in service projects and fundraising activities all at a reduced subscription, payable in advance, of £25 for the year. Meals would have to be charged for. **Meetings on Mondays at 7.00 for 7.30 pm at Croham Hurst Golf Club, Croham Road CR2 7HJ (Bank holidays excluded).**

Do come along and meet us – we would be delighted to see you and tell you more about our activities.

Cliff Quartly: jubilee.rotary@gmail.com



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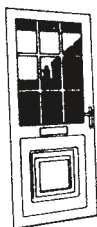
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SELSDON AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

I am writing this in March as I promised that another article about us would be in the April Gazette. Just to remind you, the Guild meets in the hall of St John the Divine in Upper Selsdon Road on the 3rd Friday of the month between 1.30pm and 4pm.

As I mentioned before, our Christmas meeting in December was at the Chateau in Coombe Road. This was very enjoyable with a delicious lunch to celebrate our November birthday properly.

Our January speaker was a local lady, Eleanor Redshaw, who gave us a most interesting talk entitled "My Grandmother was a Suffragette". Eleanor had also brought many items that had belonged to her grandmother, relating to her experiences at that time. The Townswomen's Guild itself had its beginnings in the Suffragist movement, which fought for women's right to vote in a peaceful way, not through violence as did the Suffragettes. Women must always use their vote, because it was fought for with much suffering in times past.

Our February speaker was Ian Bevan, whose talk was entitled "Nell Gwyn to Willy Wonka!" This was really fascinating, as it told us the story of the oldest theatre in London, The Theatre Royal in Drury Lane, right from the time of Charles II in 1660 up to productions such as "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" in 2014-2017.

The February meeting also gave us an opportunity to nominate members for the Committee, which will run from April this year to March 2020. If it proved necessary we would vote for the new Committee in March at the Annual General Meeting, where other important matters are discussed. But on this occasion it was not all business as the Drama Group presented three short sketches, which members found amusing - they laughed a lot anyway.

The next article about the Guild will be in the July Gazette but you are very welcome to attend as a guest this month's meeting on 26th April, the 4th Friday, as 19th April is Good Friday. The speaker will be Angela Young, whose talk is entitled "The Able Seaman and the Titanic".

Elizabeth Veasey

**Would you like to give back to your local community?
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We are always looking for Volunteer Befrienders to join us and support the work we do and would love to hear from you if you have an interest in Mental Health or would like to support someone in this way.

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This is also a great volunteering opportunity for anyone seeking experience in the Health and Social Care sector or if you have had a career and generally have the spare time and want to make a difference within your local community.

Applicants must be 18 years and over and ideally live within Croydon and the surrounding boroughs.

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This service is especially for people who are unable to supermarket shop for themselves, carry their own shopping and would otherwise be dependent on family, friends and/or neighbours choosing their shopping for them.

There is currently a greater demand for our service and we require additional volunteer bus escorts to join our team.

Shopping Bus Escorts

Escort duties involve going on the minibus to collect clients from their homes, helping them around the store, packing at the checkout, loading the shopping back onto the bus and then returning clients home again. This will be on a rota basis.

The shopping trips become very sociable occasions and many friendships are formed as a result of the shopping trips.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer shopping bus escort, please contact our office on **8651 4944**. Alternatively, call into our office and we will provide you with the necessary application forms and further information.

Look forward to hearing from you

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NATURE NOTES

MALE/FEMALE

Bees collect pollen from flowers and intend to take it back to their hive or nest but in flying to the next flower they inadvertently transport some pollen from one flower to another. As the insect searches for nectar some of the pollen is brushed on to the stigma (the pollen collecting part of the female part of the flower) and leads to fertilisation. Many plants have a similar structure in which the male and female parts appear close together and pollen transfer occurs with the help of bees or other insects. A single plant having both male and female parts is described as monoecious.

Trees follow a similar pattern with some species, such as Oaks, making use of insects but others may rely more on wind pollination. In spring the masses of drooping catkins seen on Hazel bushes are the male flowers – the females on the same bush are separate and less conspicuous. Maples, including Sycamores and London Plane, and the Blackthorn (which produces Sloe berries) are all monoecious. Conifers (and Alders) have male and female flowers on the same tree, possibly both in cone-like structures but it is only the female parts which will develop into cones holding the seeds.

Perhaps 10% of all plants follow a different path – the male and female parts appear on different individuals. These are dioecious – the prefix “di” indicating the need for two plants of opposite sex. This is important for gardeners who want an autumn show of berries on their bushes. The common Holly is one such species- berries will only appear on a female tree if there is a male somewhere in the vicinity. The Bay Tree (*Laurus nobilis*), which produces aromatic leaves used in cooking, will only produce flowers if there are two suitable plants – even then it might have to be protected by being brought indoors in the winter. Goat Willow, White Poplar, Yew and Juniper are dioecious. Buckthorn, the leaves of which provide food for the caterpillars of the Brimstone butterfly, requires bushes of two sexes to be successful in producing berries. The Ash tree falls into this category with a difference – while male and female flowers are generally on separate trees occasionally a female tree will have a branch covered in male flowers and vice versa. For those of you with an interest in such things, Cannabis is dioecious!

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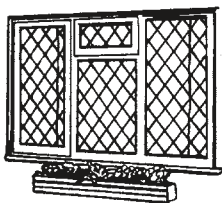
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In many parts of woodland the ground cover is produced by a dense carpet of the green Dog's Mercury. Close examination shows that there are two individual plants – one which produces relatively insignificant flowers in a feathery shape (the males) and another in which the flowers are tiny balls (the females). Stinging Nettles are dioecious as are Red and White Campion in the fields and Mistletoe up in the tree canopy.

While this is interesting, the main conclusion relates to gardening and perhaps to woodland conservation. There is occasionally a need to involve more than one tree, bush or plant in the growing process.

Ted Forsyth

~~

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WHAT'S ON

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~~

THE SELSDON CENTRE FOR THE RETIRED

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ST JOHN'S DRAMATIC SOCIETY are proud to present their next production "**Happy Birthday**" from 9th - 11th May at St John's Hall. The play is an amusing tale of mistaken identity, and will feature several of our regular talented actors.

The Box Office will be open from 12th March - tel: 07545 564717

We look forward to welcoming you and your friends to what promises to be an enjoyable evening.

~~

LITTLEHEATH WOODS WALK

'Spring Flowers', Saturday April 20th 2019

Join the Friends of Littleheath Woods as we search for the first

flowers of the year. We will see how the changing climate is affecting the timing of the flowers.

Meet at 10am at the junction of Queenhill and Littleheath Roads.

~~

SELSDON PRIMARY SCHOOL WARTIME REUNION - 2019. **DATE CHANGE.**

Please note that this popular event will now be held at the Farleigh Golf Club on Wednesday, 16th October 2019. Details will follow in due course.

~~

COMPANY CLUB welcomes lively over 45's to social events including theatre, cinema, meals out, quizzes, barbeques, walks etc. New members evening - 1st Thursday of the month. Contact Linda 020 8668 1382 Glenn 020 8656 9007 Shirley 020 8651 5835. www.companyclub.co.uk

~~

SELSDON CENTRE BOOK CLUB

If you like reading, and discussing what you have read, why not come along to our book club? We are a small group and members suggest a 'book of the month' (from classics to contemporary, plays to poetry) which we discuss, followed by tea/coffee and biscuits.

We meet on the third Thursday of the month in the Selsdon Centre at 2.45 pm, and there is free parking in Sainsbury's car park. New members are always welcome. The cost is £3.50 for each session or by subscription.

Forthcoming meetings are on **April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17, November 21** (None in December)

If you would like to know more please contact Maureen on 020 8651 2336 or. email stagg435@btinternet.com

~~

FRIENDS OF SELSDON WOOD

Our next walk is on Saturday 4th May @ 2pm 'Bluebells and Birds' with the Friends - A 2 hour gentle walk - meeting in Selsdon Wood car park, Old Farleigh Road.

*To make enquiries or to check the above, see the Walks and Workday pages of the website www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk
Or phone 020-8657 0423 or e-mail: selsdonwood@gmail.com*

SANDERSTEAD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

April 24 - Shirley Windmill and the Alwen family - by Chris Harman

Hope to see you in 2019.

Contact Joyce Hoad (Chair) joycehead@virginmedia.com
or chris.harman@tiscali.co.uk

~~

SELSDON FLOWER CLUB

We are a small friendly club who meet on certain Wednesday afternoons at 2 pm at the rear of St. John the Divine Church, Selsdon. Subscription £15 per annum (£7.50 half year). We have demonstrations, workshops and practices.

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St. John's Dramatic Society

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at 8pm



written by
Marc Camoletti
(Adapted by
Beverly Cross)

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THE RSPB CROYDON LOCAL GROUP

Monthly Illustrated Wildlife Talks in South Croydon

Whitgift Sports Club, Croham Manor Road - off Croham Road. South Croydon, CR2 7BG. Second Monday of each month, 2pm and again at 8pm. Admission £4. Everyone is welcome, not just RSPB members. Free refreshments. A selection of RSPB goods, nuts & seeds are on sale. Parking limited on site but free in adjacent roads. 64 & 433 buses stop nearby in Croham Road.

Monday May 13th 2019: “Behind the Scenes at Kew”. Peter Gasson currently leads a team at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, which gives him a wonderful in depth knowledge of what goes on at this world famous institution – like housing the world’s biggest dung-heap! But it’s the world of wood that will be our main focus, with some breath-taking macro lens and microscopic images to share.

For more information contact John Davis on 020-8640 4578 or see www.rspb.org.uk/groups/croydon

Note: on request we give illustrated bird talks to local organisations.

~~

THE ARTS SOCIETY SANDERSTEAD

Tuesday 23rd April 2019, 10.30 - 11.45am - Sanderstead United Reform Church Hall, Sanderstead Hill CR2 0HB (next to Sanderstead Library, parking in surrounding roads, 403 Bus Route)

“SANDY BURNETT” - The Age of Jazz” The Early years of jazz from its beginnings through to the start of World War 2.

Sandy Burnett studied music at St Catherine’s College, Cambridge and worked as music director for the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre and in London’s West End. He spent a decade as one of the core team of music presenters on BBC Radio 3. He enjoys a varied career that embraces broadcasting, conducting, playing double bass and communicating his passion for music.

Coffee is served from 9.30 - 10.15am. Please register when you arrive. There will be a small fee of £5.

For more information on joining our society so that you may take full advantage of our wider programme of day visits, foreign and/or home tours, Special Interest Days and other social events, please ask for details at the hall or ring: **Sue Davenport 020 8660 9122**
website: www.theartsociety.sanderstead.org.uk

EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS & ACTIVITIES AT **SELSDON LIBRARY**

Weekly Activities

Storytime for 0-5 Years, 10.30 – 11.00 Tuesday. Stories with crafts. Admission free. No booking required.

Rhymetime for 0-18 months. Fridays and Saturdays at 10.30-11.00am. Songs and rhymes for babies, toddlers and their families. Admission free. No booking required.

Adult Crochet Group, every Thursday 2:00-4:00pm. Work on your latest project, share skills, and catch up with friends. Admission free. No booking required.

Chess Mates, Adults, every Friday 2:30pm. Come along for a game of chess at Selsdon Library. New players of any level are welcome. Admission free. Booking required.

Digital Zone. Please ask a member of staff for details. Come along and learn basic IT skills to help with your online shopping, filling out online forms for your blue badge, recycling bin and travel cards and setting up your own email account. Admission free. Booking required.

Monthly Activities

Adult reading groups, third and last Thursday of the month at 11:00-12:00. First Saturday of the month 2:30pm. Join our friendly reading groups where you can discuss books and give your own opinion. Admission free. No booking required.

Selsdon Library

E-mail: Selsdonlibrary@croydon.gov.uk Tel: 020 3700 1017

For details of regular activities for children and adults in all Croydon Libraries please see: <http://www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/libraries>



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St John's Church

Easter Services

Palm Sunday - 14th April

****10am Parish Eucharist and procession of
Palms for all ages**

**6pm "The Cross Of Christ"
with St John's Choir**

Monday – 15th April

and Tuesday 16th April

7.30pm A service for Holy Week

Wednesday - 17th April

Tenebrae at 8pm Sung by St John's Choir



Maundy Thursday – 18th April

**7.30pm Liturgy of the Lord's Supper with washing of feet,
stripping of altars and watch until Midnight**

Good Friday - 19th April

**1pm Reflections for Good Friday – followed by
2-3pm (approx.) The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion**

Holy Saturday – 20th April

****10am till 12 Noon Messy Easter**

8pm The Paschal Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter

Easter Sunday – 21st April

8am Said Eucharist in traditional language

****10am Parish Eucharist for All ages – and an Easter Egg Hunt**

****Everyone is welcome at all our services!**

**If you're bringing children,
you may particularly enjoy these!**

St John's Church, Upper Selsdon Road, South Croydon, CR2 8DD



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.

Heather Govier, Editor

~~

28 February

Hello Heather

I had not realised that Selsdon Park Hotel was formerly a farm until I found the late local historian Ted Frith's fascinating history of Selsdon in your well-illustrated FSW website link - <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/history.php>

Does anyone remember the name of the owners of the Selsdon Park Hotel who had an oil painting of their two Labradors in the hotel entrance?

Regards

Frank Kippin

Editor's Note - I remember the painting and the actual dogs that used to lie by the fireplace, but I do not think I ever knew the owners' names. Please get in touch if you do.

~~

20 March

Dear Heather,

My mum, Daphne Owen (nee Vigar), had her 100th birthday in February. She came to Selsdon in March 1930 after my maternal grandparents purchased a then new-build semi-detached house for £800 (that's not a typing error) on plot 62B in Littleheath Road

on what was then known as Richard Costain & Sons' Croham Heights Estate.

Apart from when she was in the WAAF from 1939 until 1948, serving at Bletchley Park and then in the Middle East, she taught in Coulsdon and Croydon before retiring into voluntary work in 1982. In 1959 she moved into a more central location in Selsdon and remains here with carer and family support.

So what of the home at plot 62B?

When it became available three decades later I bought it myself, as I rather like Selsdon too. Being a child of the early fifties quite a bit of Des Donohoe's account of life in Selsdon in the March Gazette sounds very familiar. I too remember the Express Dairy delivering our milk by horse drawn van, and you could visit their shop, or that of their competitor United Dairies, in the shopping area. Then there were visits to the library at Langley Oaks. Mum paid the gas and electricity bills in the Segas and Seaboard showrooms, which are also long gone. I had my hair cut by the barber over the South Suburban Co-op, which is now the Sir Julian Huxley. The banks were actually still expanding their presence, although ATMs were yet to be invented. There was not much in the way of takeaway food shops and not a single nail salon. How did we survive without them? Remarkably well!

David Owen

Editor's Note - Congratulations to Daphne from the Gazette ☺



~~



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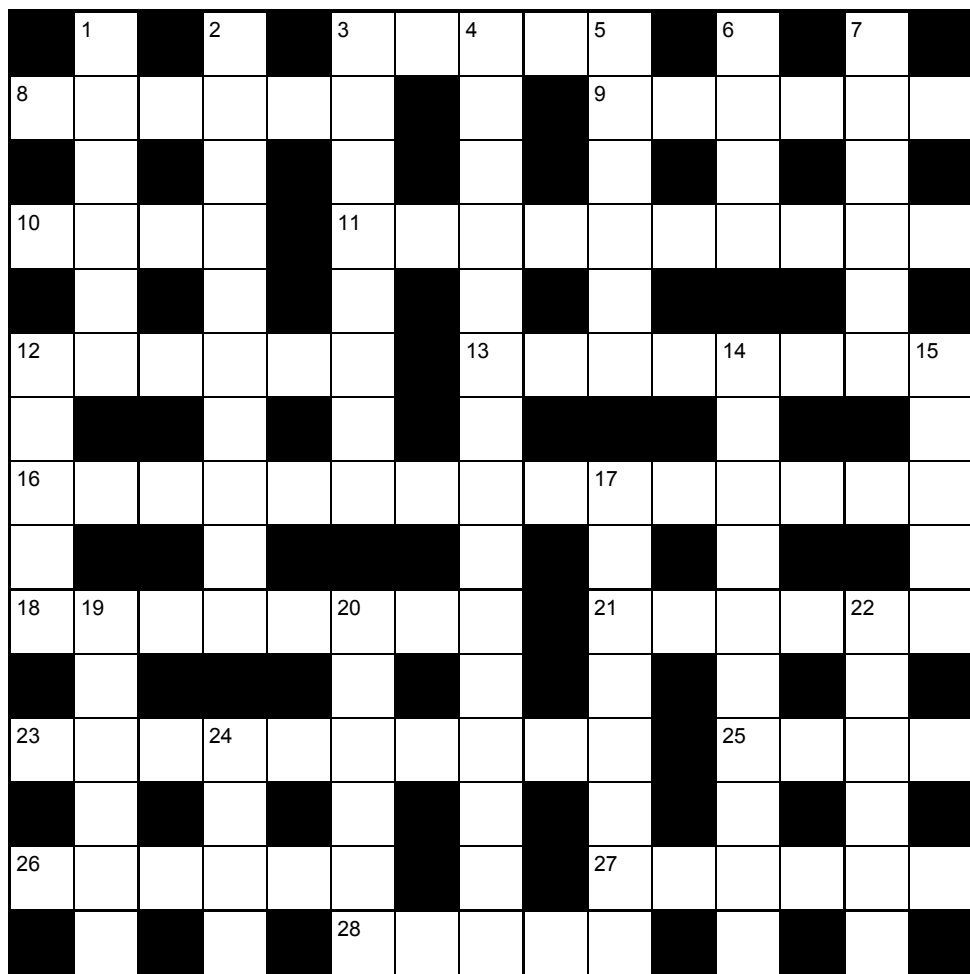
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Roy Brady MCiphe

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD – April 2019

Set by Oldie - Gazette Ref: 59



ACROSS

- 3 American backs man in Arab country (5)
- 8 Son is engrossed in magazine with cartoons relating to space (6)
- 9 Speaker is to sponsor a Tory partly (6)
- 10 A southern island associated with a large land mass (4)
- 11 A fan of Di Canio, a deviant (10)

- 12 Bus carrying Polish back from area outside the city (6)
- 13 Nun, one I'd upset making suggestive comment (8)
- 16 Crooked general poisoned senior citizen (3-3,9)
- 18 Dicky learned about very fragrant plant (8)
- 21 The wife is to lament you and I being absent (6)
- 23 Ownership of property (10)
- 25 I had emptied lorry in a lazy manner (4)
- 26 Trisha could be a goddess (6)
- 27 Acquiring English silver, ran for president (6)
- 28 Poem, say, set in cathedral city (5)

DOWN

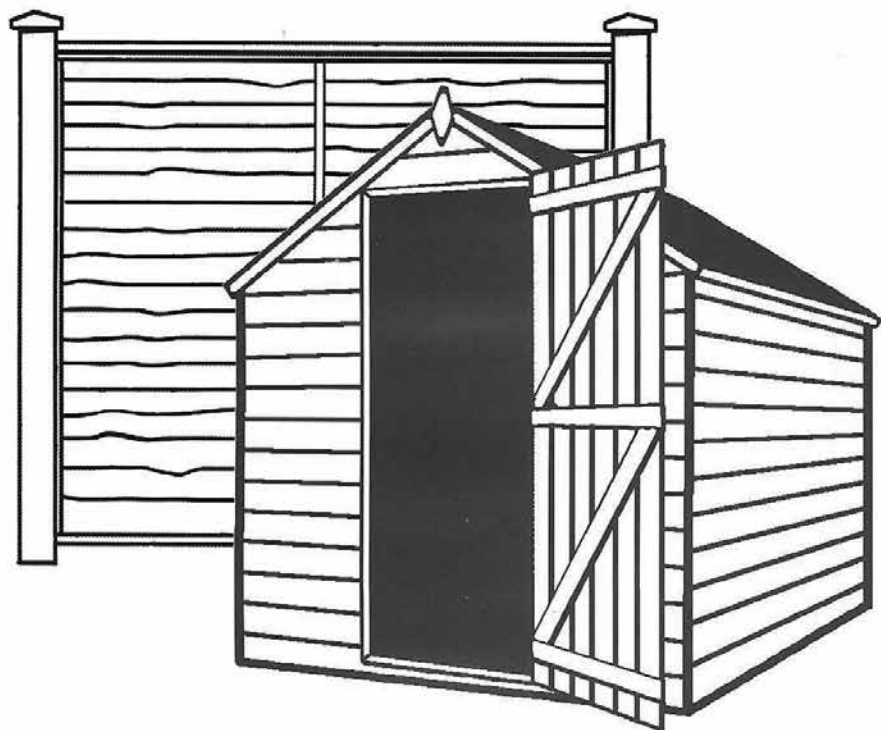
- 1 Island providing no hush unfortunately (6)
- 2 Flawless description of Jesus's conception (10)
- 3 Game starts to stir Chelsea mob (8)
- 4 The exact thing (8,7)
- 5 Idea is unacceptable, one accepted (6)
- 6 Pub by new farm building (4)
- 7 Did origami and went bankrupt (6)
- 12 Head of schools to intimidate student with threatening look (5)
- 14 Self-centred social tiger almost comes a cropper (10)
- 15 Head off from dance with Iris (5)
- 17 Theological college gives tutorial at start of year (8)
- 19 Stir up a riot, chiefly by river (6)
- 20 Lust for some French passion (6)
- 22 A French boy goes round old dump (6)
- 24 Chris finally had a meal to satisfy appetite fully (4)

~~

Note there was no crossword in the March issue

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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, as well as contact details of any organisation omitted.

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)	Andy Stranack	8651 4944
Selsdon Centre for the Retired	Craig Anderson	8651 1111
Croydon Hearing Resource Centre	Office	8686 0049
Bourne Society	Roger Packham	01883 349287
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	Heather Govier	8657 0423
Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section		
Girlguiding UK: http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved.aspx		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 Club of Croydon South	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
1st Selsdon & Addington Scout Group:	Website: www.1stselsdon.org.uk	
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
Selsdon Art Group	Mrs S Hooper	07973 412952
Selsdon Bridge Club	Tony Cherrett	01883 730304
Selsdon Camera Club	Roy Stansbury	8657 5131
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	Beryl Gascoigne	8660 2611
Selsdon Tennis Club	Geoff Littlewood	8651 4748
66 (Selsdon) Squadron Air Training Corps	Rob Cleeter	8651 5958

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