Selsdon

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THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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Front cover image credit: Freya from Greenvale Primary School **Back cover image credit:** Katie from 9th Selsdon Brownies

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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 December edition of the Selsdon Gazette with its cover in colour, designed by two young Selsdon residents who entered our annual competition. The winner this year was Freya Frampton, aged 10, from Greenvale Primary School and her design is on our front cover. The runner-up was Katie Linford, aged 7, from 9th Selsdon Brownies and her design is on our back cover. Congratulations to both of our winners and thanks to all those children who entered the competition this year.

It has been a busy, few weeks for the SRA with its splendid Christmas lights along the High Street and the visit of Father Christmas to see the young children from Selsdon. We have also had a Christmas Market in the High Street, organised by our Councillors, with a choir performing and Father Christmas paying another visit to us.

With the prospect of a more normal Christmas break with friends and family, I have included a story from Jessica Blake about Father Christmas tackling climate change, some Christmas cracker jokes, a quiz about well-known pantomimes and what to do with left over Christmas pudding! Ian Leggatt traces Selsdon's beer drinking establishments, Ted Forsyth tackles the problems with fungus identification, Mary Gill introduces us to a special poem called a pantoum and we learn more about the original Christmas gifts of frankincense and myrrh in our gardening section.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year and please make one of your new year's resolutions to make a contribution to your Gazette, whether it be a letter, poem, article or photo. Please email them to me at selsdongazettesra@gmail.com

I hope that you enjoy your read.

Keep safe

Chris Jones

Submissions for the January 2022 edition should be with the Editor no later than 20^{TH} December - Preferably before!

SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS

Is this really the Christmas edition already? As I write this, the sun is shining and it is relatively mild still for the time of year so ideal weather for a last autumnal walk. I think this is almost the best time to appreciate all the trees we have around us in Selsdon when I look out and see the view from my home across the wood. Let's hope that the long-range forecast of icy blasts etc are incorrect and we just get a light overnight dusting of the white stuff to make it all look pretty for a day or two when we are not having to travel around too much over the festive season.

Christmas lights

We hope the dazzling lights across the main road all stay on ok and give any visitors to Selsdon a bright and cheery welcome. Due to the council cutbacks, our councillors were unable to give the SRA any financial help with the cost of the lights – the total cost being around £8000pa, taking into account routine maintenance plus the PA system, barriers and other expenses associated with the Greet and Meet Father Christmas event we arranged for 19th November. We are grateful to those residents and traders who have donated this year to help with this outlay. To date, we have received £ 315 from the following traders - A S Grooming, Garden Craft, Gem Nails, Golden Ark, Kiba, Selsdon Food and Drink, Tudor Library, the Vape Hut and Vintage 62. We hope there is still more to come! We were also very grateful to the Sanderstead and Selsdon Rotary Club for providing the sleigh and bringing Father Christmas to meet the children in his grotto near Iceland. The Rotarians also turned out in force to augment the committee and other help we had with the grotto, the barriers and the crowd management. Lastly, we must thank Greenvale Primary School and Enterprise Electronic for providing the joyful singing and the sound system for the event.

The Selsdon Triangle

Have you noticed the Triangle outside Sainsburys was also given a festive touch by a team from the SRA with seasonal decorations they had made? Thank you to them for their time and hard work. The part of the Triangle bordering the Addington Road has also been officially 'adopted and

gardened' by a new volunteer 'Triangle Team' since the Spring as it was clear this area would not be sufficiently cared for by the council. Thank you for that team's efforts and plant donations – although it is sad that some plants were removed as soon as they were planted. Let's hope that won't happen again and we can continue to try to make that area look a little more welcoming to Selsdon in 2022.

The Golden Ark

Mention of the Golden Ark in the traders list above reminds me to congratulate them on behalf of us all on their positive approach to the Covid lockdown and their bounce back since, which has brought them success in receiving the accolade of 'Croydon Borough Pub of the Year 2021'. It just goes to prove that there is a place for independent businesses on our high street so let's hope more decide to take a chance on us and set up shop before too long – and not just take-aways!

Buses etc

The SRA continues to attend meetings of the East Surrey Transport Committee which works hard to ensure a reasonable public transport system in the area. There are still ongoing discussions about changes to bus routes through Croydon and the 433 may again be affected. We will watch out for more news and let you know of anything significant as soon as we can. In the meantime, do be aware that the flow of buses around the Town Hall/ St George's Walk and Park Lane area could well be changed in the next few weeks or so. Please do check bus stops and the TFL website carefully for anything about these changes as they are often made with very little wider publicity.

In conclusion, I wish you all a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year on behalf of all the SRA Committee.

Linda Morris, Vice Chairman, SRA

COUNCILLORS' NOTES

AWARDS FOR TWO SELSDON RESIDENTS



Two Selsdon residents were recently honoured by The Worshipful the Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Sherwan Chowdhury, by being presented with Mayor of Croydon Awards. These awards are for "outstanding achievement or exceptional service to the Borough and people of Croydon".

Mrs Samantha Pearson and Mr Charles Marriott, shown here with the Mayor and local Councillor Robert Ward, were presented with their certificates in a ceremony in the Braithwaite Hall in Croydon Town Hall. Both Sam and Charles have made outstanding contributions over a number of years to improve the area where they live and the lives of local residents. Congratulations to them both for this well-deserved recognition.

The Mayor is inviting second round nominations for The Mayor of Croydon Awards which celebrates the invaluable work of Croydon's voluntary community. We're looking for people who have given up their own time to help other people or the community going above and beyond what should be expected.

If you know someone who deserves praise and recognition for their voluntary work, please get in touch with your local Councillor. There are four categories:

- Certificate of Recognition Service by organisations, businesses and voluntary and community groups
- Certificate of Recognition Covid (group or individual award)
- Certificate of Recognition Community (individual award)
- Certificate of Recognition Long Term Contribution (individual award)

SELSDON CHRISTMAS MARKET

By the time you read this edition of the Gazette, the second Selsdon Christmas Market will have taken place on Saturday 27th November. We hope many of you were able to visit the market and support the local businesses who are making Christmas in Selsdon so special.

LOW TRAFFIC STREETS

Here is some information about Low Traffic Streets in Croydon. Some Selsdon residents have been caught out by these new restrictions on traffic, and have had the unpleasant surprise of a fine they were not expecting. The roads are not in Selsdon, but Selsdon residents might use the Low Traffic Streets when they are driving about the borough.

What are Low Traffic Streets?

Croydon Council has introduced low traffic streets which stop throughtraffic on some roads. Access is maintained for residents, deliveries, and other essential journeys. This is designed to reduce traffic, making it safer for residents to use the road near their homes while maintaining social distancing.

Where are the Low Traffic Streets in Croydon?

- Albert Road at the junction with Eldon Park Road
- Albert Road at the junction with Harrington Road
- Auckland Road at the junction with Cypress Road
- Dalmally Road at the junction with Blackhorse Lane
- Elmers Road at the junction with Blackhorse Lane
- Fox Hill at the junction with Braybrooke Gardens
- Holmesdale Road at the junction with Park Road (stadium side or west side)

- Holmesdale Road at the junction with Park Road (east side)
- Holmesdale Road at the junction with Oliver Grove
- Kemerton Road at the junction with Jesmond Road
- Lancaster Road at the junction with Southern Avenue
- Stambourne Way at the junction with Auckland Road
- Sutherland Road at the junction with Canterbury Road
- Sylvan Hill between Southolme Close and Treeview Close
- Warminster Road at the junction with Lancaster Road
- Woodvale Avenue at the junction with Avenue Road

How will I spot a Low Traffic Street?

There will be a sign like this at the start of the street:



Many residents have complained that the signs are not clear enough – your local councillors have raised this issue with the current Labour administration, and it is hoped the signage will be made clearer. In the meantime, we advise you to be vigilant.

Do Low Traffic Streets work?

There are questions about whether the Low Traffic Streets work as they push traffic elsewhere – they might be moving the problem rather than solving the problem. It remains to be seen if they will work in Croydon.

TERRACE OF HOUSES TO BE BUILT IN A BACK GARDEN

On 21st October the Planning Committee approved another development in the back garden of a property in Selsdon. A terrace of four houses will be built in the back garden of a semi-detached house at 55 Crest Road. The houses will be on Croham Valley Road as shown in the site plan and visual on page 11.

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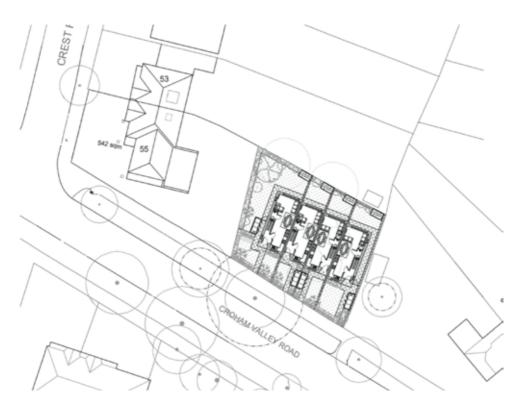




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192 local residents strongly objected to this development on the basis that it is out of character with the surrounding area, too dense, there will be a loss of trees, and there is no parking. A representative of Croham Valley Residents' Association and Cllr Helen Pollard spoke to oppose the plan at

the Planning Committee, but their concerns were brushed aside, and the development was approved by the Labour councillors who make up the majority of the Committee.

Whilst it is accepted that more homes are needed in the borough, these should not harm the character of the area in which they are sited. There was already approval for a previous scheme for the site, which proposed a detached house. This would have been more in keeping with the character of the area, and provided parking. It is a shame that a terrace will be built instead.

SELSDON GARAGE

Your local councillors are still in communication with the owner of the Selsdon garage site, and trying to encourage a planning application that the Council will approve. Unfortunately, it is a slow process, but we will let you know when there are any significant steps towards developing this derelict site.

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

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

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

Helen.pollard@croydon.gov.uk	07941 573727
Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk	07783 152363
Stuart.millson@croydon.gov.uk	07783 152376
Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk	07816 123204

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

31/05379/HSE – 33 Arundel Avenue, CR2 8BJ Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension.

21/04694/FUL – Land to rear of 62-66 Arundel Avenue, CR2 8BB Erection of a detached house with off-street parking (Fronting Langley Oaks Avenue)

21/05594/HSE – 26 Copse View, CR2 8HH Erection of outbuilding in rear garden (retrospective)

21/05459/HSE – 34 Dulverton Road, CR2 8PG Erection of single/two storey front/side/rear extensions

21/05158/HSE – 51 Queeenhill Road, CR2 8DW Erection of a single storey outbuilding ancillary to the existing dwelling

21/04617/HSE – 105 Selsdon Park Road, CR2 8JJ Erection of hip-to-gable end extension to side of main roof slope and dormer extension on rear of main roof slope incorporating a Juliet balcony, installation of two rooflights onto front roof slope, and associated alterations.

21/05200/HSE – 153 Selsdon Park Road, CR2 8JJ Demolition of detached garage and proposed single storey rear and two storey side extension with front porch extensions

21/04967/HSE – 22a Sylvan Close, CR2 8DS Alterations, including erection of side/rear extension, infill rear extension, porch, raised terrace, demolition of existing conservatory and construction of basement extension

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

MP Chris Philp's Report Member of Parliament for Croydon South

Save Purley Pool

Despite other pools reopening in the borough, Croydon's Labour Council has just published shocking plans to permanently close Purley Pool. The Pool is a much-loved and much-used local resource, with

schools and charities using it. It is critical for people from Coulsdon, Kenley,

Purley, Sanderstead and South Croydon who would otherwise have to take very long journeys. The pool and leisure centre are a key part of our community and I believe that they should be immediately re-opened.

The cost of the repairs needed to re-open the pool, at £200k immediately, and perhaps more later, is small compared to the developers' Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money that is being raised in the south of the Borough. (The Community Infrastructure Levy (the 'levy') is a charge which can be levied by local authorities on new development in their area. It is an important tool for local authorities to use to help them deliver the infrastructure needed to support development in their area. Most new developments which create net additional floor space of 100 square metres or more, or create a new dwelling, are potentially liable for the levy). The council has spent £300 million on failed commercial property speculation, including a further £20 million in recent months. They have their priorities wrong and should be spending this money on residents' services, such as Purley Pool.

The closure plans are avoidable, and for the sake of relatively small amounts of money, the Pool should be kept open. You can sign this petition: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PurleyPool. Please do share this petition with your friends and family. This is such an important issue and we have successfully stopped plans to close the pool in the past - we must get the council to change their minds again and save Purley Pool.

COVID-19 and Seasonal Flu

I am thankful that we find ourselves in a much better position this year as we enter the Winter months compared to last year. Thanks to the phenomenal success of our healthcare professionals and volunteers in the vaccination rollout, the data shows the link between cases, hospitalisations, and deaths has weakened significantly. Regardless, we must remain proactive and vigilant for a severe uptick of both COVID-19 and seasonal flu which will both thrive during the winter.

With the risk of both flu and coronavirus circulating, it is more important than ever for everyone, to come forward as soon as possible to get their COVID-19 vaccines, and their flu vaccine. The South West London Clinical Commissioning Group is currently advertising a number of walk-in and pop-up vaccination clinics for anyone who has not yet received their 1st or 2nd COVID vaccine dose. To book your flu vaccine, please contact

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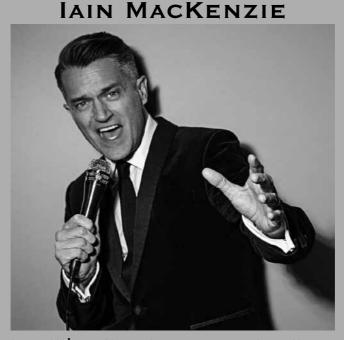
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Merry Christmas 2021

I would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year as 2021 comes to an end. The continued battle against COVID this year showed the strength of our community and I cannot thank everyone who played their part enough. For many, Christmas is a time for family, and we are lucky to enjoy a more normal festive period this year than we did last year. Unfortunately, however, many will spend Christmas alone. In this time of goodwill, I encourage you to keep in touch with anyone who may be spending this time alone and for anyone finding themselves alone to reach out to organisations that can provide support like the Samaritans on 116 123.

I look forward to a brighter 2022 and continuing to campaign enthusiastically on the issues that matter most in our area.

Chris Philp

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

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Reports from the Selsdon and Forestdale Police Ward

This is from our local Police Community Support Officer, Jack Killian.

Dear Residents,

During the last month there have been three thefts from motor vehicles so please keep your valuables out of sight if left in the car/van. There was a burglary on Old Farleigh Road. Entry was gained from the rear patio door; jewellery and a TV was stolen which is very rare. Please be vigilant around this time of year for burglaries, as this is statistically when burglaries peak between now and Christmas. Make sure your house is secure and has appropriate security measures in place such as an alarm, CCTV, lights and a well fenced perimeter.

We attended Father Christmas's visit to Selsdon High Street and the Selsdon Christmas Market and enjoyed meeting so many of you.

Season's Greetings to you all and stay safe.

Jack Killian 7114SN

Police Community Support Officer

Telephone: 020 8721 2464

Email: <u>SNMailbox-SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk</u>

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

Tina Nash

Selsdon and Addington Village Neighbourhood Team

Telephone: 020 8721 2468

Email: Selsdonaddvill@gmail.com

Selsdon: on the Beer Map

The Selsdon of 1809 consisted of a dozen or so cottages adjacent to Selsdon Park Farm which occupied the site which is now Aldi. The cottages would have housed the farm workers and also staff employed up at the big house, formerly Selsdon Park Hotel, now De Vere Selsdon Estate. Whilst home brewing was probably carried out, there were no pubs, or 'public houses' in Selsdon. The small village was dry as was, and still is, Sanderstead. The nearest pub or inn would be a fair walk down muddy tracks to South Croydon

or a stroll down to Addington.

Forward over 100 years and the late 1920s saw the commencement of the building of the fledgling Selsdon as we know it today. The high street on Addington Road was being populated with a variety of shops and eventually efforts were made to make alcohol available to the increasing number of Selsdon residents.

The building which is currently Day Lewis Pharmacy, on the corner of Addington Road and Old Farleigh Road, was originally 'Selsdon Wine Stores'. It was owned by the brewers Barclay Perkins, and they sought permission, in 1936, for its use as a public house to be called 'The Sign of the Crossroads'. Permission was refused. In March 1937 a planning application was made to build a public house in Addington Road (location unknown) which was refused as was a further application made in March 1938. Selsdon Wine Stores were first granted an Off Licence permit in 1939 with the proviso that they could not sell less than 3 bottles of beer per transaction.



Formerly 'Selsdon Wine Stores', photo attributed to 1965

In 1946 the issue of a pub for Selsdon was raised again at a meeting held in the Selsdon School and organised by the local branch of the Communist Party. Their Public Relations Officer suggested the need for a public house in Selsdon. Ajournalist at the gathering suggested it should be called 'The Stalin Arms'. The Temperance movement was strong in Selsdon and permission to build a den of iniquity was a battle for the thirsty Selsdon residents. It wasn't until September 1956 that Selsdon got its first pub, The Good Neighbour. The Good Neighbour became The Stag in 1983 and was eventually demolished with the resulting cleared space becoming the Aldi car park.



The Good Neighbour

The Village Club has long been a watering hole for Selsdon residents and its membership now exceeds 550. The building is believed to have started life as an entrance lodge to Heathfield House. The Club was formed in the early 1930s as a facility to enable local traders to meet and talk business over a drink. The members originally used premises across the road at the rear of Selsdon Park Farm in what was nothing more than a barn, with no toilets. They moved to a building at the rear of Baileys (Selsdon) Garage in 1938 and in 1956 took over the old Sanctuary Tea Rooms opposite, their present premises.



The Village Club, courtesy of WhatPub

Wetherspoons entered the high street with The Sir Julian Huxley, named after a member of that famous family who, amongst other things, was the first director general of UNESCO and a supporter of the campaign to save Selsdon Wood from development. The building was formerly the 'South Suburban Co-operative Society (the Co-op)' until the early 1980s.



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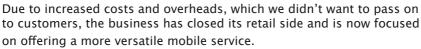
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The Sir Julian Huxley, courtesy of WhatPub.

More recently the high street has acquired a micro pub, The Golden Ark, selling real ale, spirits and wine. The beers change regularly and demand is high for the small volumes stocked. Ale is available for takeaway, either in one of their containers or bring your own. How environmentally friendly is that? The Golden Ark has recently been awarded CAMRA Croydon Borough Pub of the Year 2021, finally putting Selsdon firmly on the Croydon Beer Map.



The Golden Ark, courtesy of WhatPub

lan Leggatt

Thanks to the journals of Ted Frith. Any mistakes in transcription are mine. Photos from the excellent Frith Collection. The website of the Selsdon Gazette contains a link to the Frith collection of over 60 photos of old Selsdon. The website of the Village Club has a fuller description of their history.

Father Christmas comes to Selsdon



With the Christmas lights shining along the High Street, families with excited young children waited for the arrival of Father Christmas on his sleigh on a mild Friday evening on 19 November. Many thanks to Selsdon Baptist Church who supplied free drinks, mince pies and snacks.

More thanks to the large choir from Greenvale Primary School, suitably decorated, who sang Christmas songs outside The Village Club to get the crowd in the festive spirit. Then the countdown began as Father Christmas was spotted about to cross the lights and make his way down the High Street,



waving to all the children. Again, more thanks go to Sanderstead and Selsdon Rotary Club for bringing Father Christmas to Selsdon on his lit-up sleigh pulled by a reindeer.



Once Father Christmas had passed down the High Street, the sleigh was turned round to deliver him to his grotto just outside Iceland so that he could meet all the children queueing to see him. There was a mixed reaction from the children as they approached Father Christmas, some telling him about items on their Christmas list while others were very wary of this strange

man with white whiskers! After giving out lollies to all those in the queue, it was time for Father Christmas to mount his sleigh again and return home to continue his Christmas preparations.

Thanks to all those who have sent donations to the Selsdon Residents' Association to pay for the impressive Christmas lights which really put Selsdon on the map! One final 'thank you' to the SRA committee and their families and friends who organised the event and made it such a success.

CJ



A Good Time for Gardening - December

It's more a time for hunkering down with a good gardening magazine or plant catalogue. So, this month's article is about those two Christmas favourites frankincense and myrrh, or as a young child once said in a school nativity, "Frankenstein and Purr!".

SPICY-SMELLING frankincense and myrrh have been intertwined with humanity throughout recorded history, from the frankincense pellets found in the ancient tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamun to the myrrh-infused brandy concoction used to preserve the body of Vice Admiral Horatio Nelson. The substances' musky plumes of smoke are most often associated with embalming, perfumes and religious rituals around the world, including ceremonies in the ancient temples of Jerusalem and modern Roman Catholic liturgies.

Both of them are gum resins, which are sticky secretions from trees. Frankincense, also known as olibanum, comes from select trees in the Boswellia genus, and myrrh usually comes from Commiphora trees. The plants belong to the same botanical family and commonly grow on the Arabian Peninsula, in India, and in north eastern Africa. Both trees are usually gnarled and look stunted, without very many leaves. To access the aromatic resins, slices are gashed into frankincense and myrrh trees at harvest times and the milky resins that ooze from their bark are collected. Once exposed to air and sun, myrrh dries and hardens to reddish-brown

pea-sized chunks, whereas frankincense dries to pale yellow, tear-shaped droplets about half that size.



Everything from the bark of the tree to the sap inside is fragrant, so both frankincense and myrrh are used as incense and perfume. Historically, myrrh was also an embalming fluid. Both have religious value; they were melted to honour the gods and ward off evil spirits. Despite thousands of years of documented use, the plants still keep a fair share of secrets from botanists. Their documented uses, so far discovered, are, acting

as a sedative, soothing anxiety, toning and lifting the skin, fading and healing scars, soothing inflammation and relieving pain associated with rheumatism, arthritis etc.

Today, gold, frankincense, and myrrh seem like unequal gifts. Frankincense and myrrh are staple essential oils. A 500ml bottle of frankincense oil costs £363, while myrrh oil is £291 ... the price of gold, around £45 per gram. Expensive gifts for your Christmas list.

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

Pantomime Quiz



This year many more of us can enjoy a trip to the theatre to see a seasonal pantomime – 'Oh yes you can!'. So, this month's quiz will test your knowledge of pantomimes. Can the youngsters outscore their parents – 'Oh yes they can!'.

- 1. In which panto does the character of Buttons feature?
- 2. What fruit does Snow White's wicked stepmother use to try poisoning Snow White?
- 3. What is the name of the lead female character in Beauty and the Beast?
- 4. How many years should Sleeping Beauty sleep for unless her spell is broken?
- 5. In the pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk' what does Jack trade for magic beans?
- 6. In Cinderella what did the Fairy Godmother turn into a coach to take

- Cinderella to the Prince's ball?
- 7. Which pantomime was also the name of a character voiced by Antonio Banderas in the 'Shrek' films?
- 8. The story of Snow White was written by the Brothers Grimm. Where were they from?
- 9. Which hospital is entitled to all royalties on JM Barrie's Peter Pan since they were signed over by the author in 1929?
- 10. In the pantomime Aladdin, what was the name of Aladdin's brother?
- 11. What name is given to the leading man in a panto, usually played by a woman?
- 12. A witch living in a gingerbread house, features in which panto?
- 13. In the pantomime Dick Whittington, who does Dick marry?
- 14. In Aladdin what is the name of the evil uncle who steals the Magic Lamp and tries to rob the Treasure Cave?
- 15. The sound of bells call Dick Whittington back to London. Which bells are they?



Answers after Nature Notes

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The Selsdon Centre for the Retired

After reopening the Selsdon Centre on 17th May we are really pleased to report we have had an extremely busy time with various events, delicious lunches, craft activities, bingo, afternoon tea and music entertainment to name but a few!

In October, Councillor Hopley, Councillor Hale and Councillor Pollard funded a beautiful new cooker and oven and last month The Co-op Community Fund presented a cheque for £1,778.39 – both donations we are incredibly grateful for.

We really appreciate our wonderful team, our lovely loyal clients, all our volunteers and our trustees for making the past 6 months such a success for our Centre.

We are very much looking forward to the year ahead and all the exciting events and entertainment we have planned for our lovely clients and our community.

If you, or someone you know, would like to come along and enjoy a delicious lunch, good company and activities the centre has to offer, please call the office team or pop in to the Centre on a Monday,

Wednesday or Friday between 10am and 2pm to speak to the team who would be delighted to welcome you.

We are always on the lookout for more volunteers and trustees to help take the centre forward with our future developments.

If you have any questions, or if you wish to hire our centre for meetings or consider a role as a trustee or a volunteer in 2022, please feel free to call Craig, Jane, Sarah or Susan at the office on 0208 651 1111.

The Centre will be closed from Monday 20th December until Wednesday 5th January. We would like to wish all our lovely loyal clients, staff, volunteers and community a very happy festive break and a healthy and enjoyable 2022!

Trustees of the Selsdon Centre

Contact Selsdon Community Centre 132 Addington Road South Croydon, CR2 8LA Tel: 020 8651 4944

Fax: 020 8657 2268

Email: info@selsdoncontact.org.uk



With Christmas approaching, we would like to take this opportunity to say a big

THANK YOU

To all our volunteers for everything you do for us.

We have had another very busy year and without your support CONTACT would not be as successful as it is. Your help is much appreciated by both the office staff and all our clients.



We would also like to wish all our clients, volunteers and the wider community A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Contact: Selsdon Churches Neighbourhood Care Registered Charity 1124346 Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Registered in England No 6582829



Local Church Christmas Services

Services at St John's Church, Upper Selsdon Road

Sunday 19th December 6 pm Nine Lessons and Carols Mon 20th December 7pm Quiet Service Fri 24th December 4 pm Crib Service, 11.30 pm Midnight Mass Sat 25th December 10 am Christmas Day Sun 26th December 8 am and 10 am Boxing Day Service



Services at Selsdon Baptist Church, Addington Road

Sunday 19th December 10.30 am All-age family nativity, 6.30 pm Carol Service by candlelight

Tuesday 21th December 6 pm Longest Night Service Christmas Eve Friday 24th December 4 pm Messy Christingle Christmas Day Saturday 25th December 10.30 am Christmas Celebration for all the family

Sunday 26th December 8 am &10 am Boxing Day Services



Services at St Columba, Queenhill Road

Masses

Fri 24th 10am, 6pm, midnight preceded by carols at 11.30pm Sat 25th 8 am, 10 am Sun 26th 8 am, 10 am, 6.30 pm. Sat Jan 1st 10 am, 6.30 pm Sun 2nd 8 am, 10 am, 6.30 pm.

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Services at St Mary's Addington, Addington Village Road

Sunday 19 December 6.30 pm Nine lessons and Carols Friday 24 December 4 pm Crib and Christingle Service, 11.30 pm Midnight Mass Saturday 25 December 10 am Christmas Morning Eucharist Sunday 26 December 10 am The Feast of St Stephen Eucharist

Services at St Francis, 146 Tedder Road

Sunday 19th December 10.30 am Christmas family service Friday 24th December 11.15 pm Midnight Communion Saturday 25th December 10.30 am Communion Service Sunday 26th December 10.30 am Boxing Day Worship

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Services at Addington Methodist Church, Huntingfield

Sunday 19th December 3 pm Carol Service Friday 24th December 4 pm Christingle Service Saturday 25th December 10.30 am Christmas Day Service

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Walking together through grief

A group held at Selsdon Baptist Church, Addington Road.

The next Bereavement Support Group will run from Wednesday 19 January 2022 for 5 weeks until 16 February. It will be held in the coffee lounge at Selsdon Baptist Church and runs from 2 - 3.30pm.

This group is open to all and is suitable for anyone who has suffered loss of any kind.

For more information or to book a place please call Dawn on 07718 189033 or Jane on 07561 869620 Or email - bereavement@selsdonbaptist.org.uk

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Sanderstead & Selsdon Your local Rotary Club

We are so excited to welcome Santa back to Sanderstead, Selsdon & Hamsey Green throughout December.

This year our first visit will be on Wed 1st December with our last on 24th December. Details of our dates & maps showing where Santa will be are on our website

We will be out & about, week one - 1st to 3rd, week two 6th to 10th, final week 13th to 17th



December – evening collections begin at 18.00 & hopefully will close at 20.00. Friday 24th December Xmas Eve – outside Elmfield Way Shops from 09.30 - 12.30, so don't miss out, come along & see Santa. If you wish to make a donation please visit - https://www.givey.com/rss

Xmas morning we will be delivering parcels to local elderly, house bound residents. What a great start to Xmas. Rotary Rocks

https://www.rotarysandersteadselsdon.com/christmas - see Glympse for a map which will allow you to see where Santa is at any time.

Father Christmas has asked me to pass on his Festive Greetings Happy Christmas everyone.

If you would like to know more about Rotary please visit Facebook www.facebook.com/rotarycroydonsouth/

Website - https://www.rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com/ or ring 07774 186792



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 <u>all</u> correspondence to the Editor. Anonymity can be granted on request, but anonymously sent letters/e-mails will not be published.

Worried about car theft – this letter is for you.

Dear Editor,

I read with interest your article on stolen cars due to keyless entry. I also purchased a second-hand car, which came with this feature. Whilst it sounded very good to walk up to the car with keys in your pocket and simply get in, I soon came to realise from the local press the increase in thefts by individuals with a laptop or tablet, if the keys were within range.

This led me to take a closer look and I found relatively simply that it is possible to disable this feature in a lot of cars, preventing this type of theft. A simple "google" led me to forums describing how to disable the keyless entry by a series of button presses on your key fob while sitting in the car.

Alternatively I suspect a call to the local dealer might provide the necessary instructions.

Name and address supplied

A query from one resident here.

Dear Editor,

I was interested to see that the name De Vere was mentioned in the November issue of the Gazette. However, I notice that the name has disappeared from the entrance to the hotel. Now reading Selsdon Estate. Perhaps an update from the councillors is needed.

Name and address supplied

Dear Editor,

(We have a seasonal contribution from Jessica, this time describing changes faced by Father Christmas due to some of the issues raised by the recent COP26).

Father Christmas's Climatic Problems

Father Christmas sat back in his chair in front of the blazing fire. He patted his rotund belly and rubbed his beard while thinking deeply. The factory was churning out goods at a great rate. There had been talk about shortages, but it had not affected the production of toys, his elves just made things in a different order. Yes, all was progressing well. One of the reindeer had hurt their leg but it was healing nicely and would be healed well before Christmas Eve.

Father Christmas spread his feet towards the fire and sighed as the warmth cheered him a little, and yet he felt there was something wrong. He could feel there was a problem, but he just could not think what it was.

November rushed past but still Father Christmas couldn't think what was not quite right. He even called a special meeting of all his gnomes, sprites and elves and asked them to think about it. What was it that was bringing sleepless nights to Father Christmas?

Suddenly a voice spoke up from the back of the meeting room. It was an elf holding a new smart telephone device. Father Christmas always left modern electronics to his staff.

"Well young Elf, have you thought what could be wrong?"

"Sir, it says on my phone news channel that there are going to be shortages this Christmas, and also there has been a meeting in Glasgow called the COP-26 where it has been decided that changes need to be made to save the planet."

Heads nodded to the young Elf's announcement. "I was wondering," he shyly said, embarrassed by being the centre of attention of all those large ears, "have we had many letters or any children being brought to see us by aeroplane?"

Father Christmas scratched his chin and looked at the Chief Elf. They all looked at one another around the entire meeting place and many began to frown.

Chief Elf, who also held an electric device in his hand, began to prod on the flat keyboard. Then he looked up in amazement. "Sir, although it is earlier than normal, so far, out of all the children in the world, only 50 have sent us their Christmas List."

Gasps of surprise and horror filled the room. Whatever was the matter?

Young Elf cleared his throat. "Do you think it could be shortage of ink Sir? Perhaps the children do not have any ink to write to us yet?"

A gnome spoke up. "If there are shortages of ink, perhaps we could let children know they can write to us in crayon, or simply in pencil? As you know Sir, we have a large elf and gnome network now and it would be easy to let everyone know."

"Why that is a splendid idea," chortled Father Christmas, "and for those children who arrive on aeroplanes or even by petrol driven sledge and are disappointed that they cannot come and meet all of us this year because their folks are cutting down on flights to save the planet, let's give out sledge shaped or aeroplane shaped shortbread biscuits covered in chocolate, along with their presents on Christmas Eve." He frowned again. "Oh, Head Gnome, do we have some gluten free shortbread biscuits for the children who have allergies?"

Head Gnome spoke up. "All that is well in hand Sir, and we are finding out more substitutions as we go along. All our biscuits are manufactured electrically through wind powered electricity. There is still lots of icy wind blowing up here in the Arctic even if the ice is melting. As the Earth is warming up, we shall need more water to quench our thirst, and to put out fires."

"That is what I like," smiled Father Christmas, "Plenty of optimism."

"Sir," came a quivering voice from the back, and an elderly Sprite raised his walking stick.

"What are your thoughts on this," queried Father Christmas in his kindly way.

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"The young sprites would be happy to answer the phone if any children would care to phone in their Christmas wishes or if their parents would care to phone on their children's behalf."

"Could you spare some sprites to 'man the telephones' without getting behind with your normal tasks?"

"Yes Sir. We will be pleased to help in this way."

Father Christmas smiled at his assembled helpers. "We will call a meeting about 'saving the planet' immediately after Christmas and see what we can do between now and next year to change things. Meanwhile we don't want to disappoint the children. Thank you all for being so helpful. I do appreciate it."

The meeting broke up, and Father Christmas sank gently down into his armchair and was soon snoring peacefully as he built up his own supply of energy. It was not long now to Christmas Eve and the fun of taking toys to the children. His busy team had found and solved his problem.

Jessica Blake

Poetry Corner

Mary Gill has written us a pantoum for our Christmas edition. For those of us who do not know what a pantoum is – it is a poem of any length, composed of four-line stanzas in which the second and fourth lines of each stanza serve as the first and third lines of the next stanza. The last line of a pantoum is often the same as the first.

X-MAS X-CESS

A Pantoum

Oxford Street, the third week in a dank December, harassed Humanity caught in frenzied stampede, matching the gift to age, persuasion and gender, spending expansively buying what nobody needs.

Harassed Humanity caught in frenzied stampede, locust-like, they advance in a biblical swarm,

spending expansively buying what nobody needs, overwrought retail therapy – bank overdrawn.

Locust-like, they advance in a biblical swarm, foiled plastic wrapping that's masquerading as gold, overwrought retail therapy – bank overdrawn, the over-promoted products are already sold.

Foiled plastic wrapping that's masquerading as gold, purchasing labels bound to over-priced tat, the over-promoted products are already sold, if this one's run out you'll need to settle for that.

Purchasing labels bound to over-priced tat, the packaging priced in excess of the contents, if this one's run out you'll need to settle for that, then travel back home with a surfeit of presents.

The packaging priced in excess of the contents, Oxford Street, the third week in a dank December, then travel back home with a surfeit of presents, matching the gift to age, persuasion and gender.

We have a second poem from Martin Rackauskas who was inspired to compose a poem after reading Mary's entertaining Veggie Verse (October 2021).

Selsdon ever changing

Selsdon ever changing, with memories of the past. Long may they live, long may they last.

Just look at the crossroads, how busy they are.
But to see all the changes, no need to look far.



Police in the middle, with stripes on each arm. The vehicles and the carriages, all driving so calm.

Today's a lot different, traffic lights there. And when they turn green, don't cross - don't dare!

You could shop for your meals, in one little street.
The proud owners standing, displays all so neat.

The ironmonger's, the butcher's, the fishmonger's shop.
All close together, with just a short hop.

So, look at it now, traditions have gone. Why all these changes. What has gone wrong?

A 'sign of the times', through evening and day. But they might all come back, I wish - in some way.

It's not all that bad, the shops of today. Just ask the young people, 'this is, the modern way'.

Selsdon ever changing, with memories of the past. Long may they live, and, Long may they last.



~~

Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth Resupinates, Crusts, Jellies & other Fungi

Identifying fungi using a field guide is difficult at the best of times but is made easier if you can decide a general category within which your investigation can begin. Typical categories are boletes, bonnets, brackets, including those in the heading of this article. Some fungi seem to fit equally into more than one category, as when a fungus lying flat on a

branch overlaps at the edges to form a bracket – Hazel Bracket, for example – and in this particular case it shows that the common English name can be a little misleading since hardly any of this fungus forms the bracket part of the name.

My dictionary defines the word "supine" as lying on your back", and that effectively is what resupinate fungi do – they lie flat along a twig or branch or up a tree trunk. Most resupinates are difficult to identify and might require microscopic examination. Young specimens might have a different appearance to older and more mature ones and many occur on the underside of logs where there is more moisture, so you need to actively search for them. But some are reasonably distinctive and a name can be ascribed to them without too much difficulty.

A long splash of white on an elder branch or trunk identifies Elder Whitewash, but as it is not confined to elders it might be less recognisable when found on another tree species. Turning over wet branches on the

ground will occasionally reveal a brilliant blue or purple colour – this is the unmistakeable Cobalt Crust if seen in perfect conditions.

The equally brilliant orange colour of Wrinkled Crust (is it a crust or a resupinate?) leads you quickly to a name. However, many resupinates are some variation of white, though their textures will be different and a simple hand lens might be enough to suggest where to look to get an identification.

Crusts could be thought of as resupinates which are reluctant to lie flat – they rear up from the branch or



Wrinkled Crust



Yellowing Curtain Crust

trunk on which they appear, frequently adopting an arrangement like a series of distorted leaves. Yellowing Curtain Crust is one example in which slicing across a fresh specimen will release some yellowish fluid. Similarly with Bleeding Oak Crust a small amount of red fluid will appear when the specimen is damaged, do not expect a great out-pouring of blood! The bewilderingly similar Hairy Curtain Crust does not give this reaction to damage and this in itself points towards an identification.

Jelly fungi often have a texture like the dessert jelly but all have their own particular structure. Jelly Ear grows on elder where it looks vaguely like a large floppy ear. The botanical name, from which we get the alternative English name of Jew's Ear, is a supposed reference



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to Judas Iscariot who committed suicide by hanging, though I doubt that it was on an elder! During most of the dry months of the year jelly fungi are generally invisible as they shrink back to a dry state and only revive again in the autumn through to spring when there is plentiful supply of rain water. Some are parasitic on more or less invisible resupinates while others have (in some cases) a resemblance to folds on the surface of a brain – Leafy Brain, Yellow Brain, Crystal Brain and White Brain. Another is Witches Butter which is black, and a relative which is similar but does not have a common name. Purple Jellydisc is not particularly conspicuous as it is small and dark-coloured but it is worth looking for on logs of birch, beech and sycamore.



Beech Jellydisc

Fallen branches of beech will often have groups of the small pinkish Beech Jellydisc in the form of flattish cylinders, but this year we found another species Peziza micropus which is the same colour but is larger, flatter, and more disc-shaped.

Even when you have narrowed your search for an identification to a particular area of a field guide your work is only just beginning. While photographs or drawings of fungi can be useful, the descriptions can draw your attention to the important characteristics of your specimen which might not be obvious in the illustrations. Learn to examine the fungus closely

– does it have pores or gills, what texture does it have, does it have a characteristic smell, particularly when cut or damaged? And when damaged does it change colour? There are many other aspects to consider but even then, an ID can be elusive and microscopic examination of spores might be necessary, or in some cases looking at DNA or reaction to various chemicals.

Answers to the Pantomime Quiz

- Cinderella
- 2. An apple
- 3. Belle
- One hundred
- 5. A cow (Buttercup)
- 6. A pumpkin
- 7. Puss in Boots
- 8. Holland/The Netherlands

- 9. Great Ormond Street Hospital
- 10. Wishy Washy
- 11. Principal boy
- 12. Babes in the Woods
- 13. Alice Fitzwarren
- 14. Abanazer
- 15. Bow Bells

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- dedicated on-site staff team including House Manager
- freshly cooked midday meals 7 days a week
- on-site Carers 24 hours a day
- domestic and laundry services
- social spaces for activities (lounge and garden)



If you would like to make an enquiry please contact us on **020 8655 6724**, **sjohnson@eldonhousing.co.uk**.

Information is also available from our website - www.eldonhousing.org

Christmas Cracker Jokes

Here are a few jokes to make you cringe. Answers at end of gazette.

- 1. What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?
- 2. Why was the snowman rummaging in a bag of carrots?
- 3. What did the stamp say to the Christmas card?
- 4. Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing?
- 5. What do you get if you cross a Christmas tree with an apple?
- 6. What is green, covered in tinsel and goes 'ribbet, ribbet'?
- 7. Why is Santa Claus so good at karate?
- 8. What says 'Oh, Oh, Oh'?
- 9. What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney?
- 10. What do you get if you cross a snowman with a vampire?



LITTLEHEATH WOODS

Littleheath Woods is only about 500 yards from Selsdon High Street and became vitally important to many people during the recent lockdowns, as did all of our Green Spaces.

But Green Spaces aren't just for lockdown and they need our care if they are to survive and continue to provide a local amenity. As the Council has now withdrawn nearly all support from Friends Groups who manage the local woodlands on their behalf, increased help from the local community is desperately needed.

Perhaps you could spare a few hours on a Tuesday morning to join a work party, or a couple of hours once every 2 months for a Committee Meeting. Alternatively, you could support our work financially by becoming a "Friend" for only £5 per household per year.

For details about the Friends and/ or Littleheath Woods, please visit: www.folw.co.uk



Friends of Selsdon Wood Working to conserve our wood

2022 Calendar For contribution £5

To reserve your copy phone 020 8657 0423 or email govierh@gmail.com



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Christmas Leftovers - Puddings

Easy Christmas Pudding Ice Cream

Ingredients

1 litre tub vanilla ice cream, slightly softened 200g leftover Christmas pudding, crumbled toffee sauce or amaretto, to serve

Method

Whizz the ice cream in a food processor until smooth, fold in the Christmas pudding and scrape into a freezer-proof container. Freeze for at least 2 hrs then scoop into bowls and top with the toffee sauce or amaretto.

Christmas Pudding Strudel (serves 6) 10 mins prep, 25 mins cook

Ingredients

250g/9oz Christmas pudding, crumbled 250g tub mascarpone

2 tbsp Baileys

4 sheets filo pastry

25g melted butter

icing sugar, for dusting

cream or custard, to serve



Method

Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Mix the pudding, mascarpone and Baileys. Lay out a sheet of filo on a large flat baking tray, brush with some melted butter and lay another sheet on top. Repeat with more butter and filo until you have 4 layers.

Place the filling in a log in the centre and brush the border with butter. Roll up to enclose the filling, then brush with the remaining butter. Can be chilled for 1 day until ready to bake. Bake for 20-25 mins until golden brown, dust with icing sugar and serve warm with cream or custard.

Many thanks to the Good Food magazine for the recipes.

Eating in the 1950s and 1960s

As we prepare for feasting over the holiday period, here is a look back to our eating habits in the 1950s and 1960s.

- 1. Pasta was not eaten.
- 2. Curry was a surname.
- 3. A takeaway was a mathematical puzzle.
- 4. A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower.
- 5. Crisps were plain; the only choice we had was whether to put the salt on or not.
- 6. Rice was only eaten as a milk pudding.
- 7. A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining.
- 8. Brown bread was something only poor people ate.
- 9. Oil was for lubricating; fat was for cooking.
- 10. Teas was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.
- 11. Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days and was regarded as white gold. Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.
- 12. Fish didn't have fingers.
- 13. Eating raw fish was called poverty, not sushi.
- 14. None of us had ever heard of yoghurt.
- 15. Healthy food consisted of anything edible.
- 16. People who didn't peel potatoes were regarded as lazy.
- 17. Indian restaurants were only found in India.
- 18. Cooking outside was called camping.
- 19. Seaweed was not a recognised food.
- 20. 'Kebab' was not even a word, never mind a food.

- 21. Prunes were medicinal.
- 22. Surprisingly, muesli was available, it was called cattle feed.
- 23. Water came out of a tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it, they would have become a laughing stock!
- 24. And the things that were never on the table in the 50s and 60s: elbows and phones!

Christmas Cracker Answers

- 1. A Christmas Quacker
- 2. He was picking his nose
- 3. Stick with me and you will go places
- 4. They keep dropping their needles
- 5. A pineapple!
- 6. Mistle-toad!
- 7. Because he has a black belt!
- 8. Santa walking backwards
- 9. Claustrophobia
- 10. Frostbite

We have returned!



St. Columba's Community Café returned in the first week of September 2021!

Please note that we are open on the first Wednesday of every month from 10.00am -

1.15pm.

3rd November

1st December

5th January 2022

A special date for your diaries to celebrate

Christmas

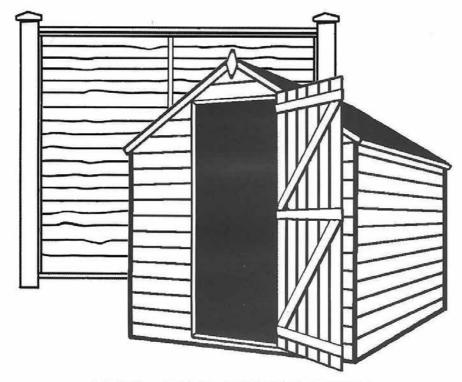
Our Christmas lunch at £10pp on Wed 15th December

We welcome you and your friends back to our Community Café for a delicious fayre of scones, cakes, soups with bread, main courses and desserts, plus teas and coffees.

1st Wed Every month

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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 0	1883 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	r) 8401 3238

CLUBS, GROUPS & CHARITIES

Jasmine Singh

8651 4944

CONTACT (neighbourhood care)

CONTACT (heighbourhood care)	Jasinine Singii	0031 4944
Selsdon Centre for the Retired	Craig Anderson	8651 1111
Croydon Hearing Resource Centre	Office	8686 0049
Bourne Society	Roger Packham	01883 349287
Coulsdon Masonic Lodge	Colin Lynch	07801 453474
Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society	ety Brian Lancaster	8668 6909
Croydon Recorded Music Society	Liz Brereton	8656 7382
Croydon Voluntary Association for the Bli	nd	8668 2486
Cruse Bereavement Care Helpline		8916 0855
Friends of Littleheath Woods	Ian Leggatt	8651 1140
	see website: www.friendsofsel	
Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Sec		
Girlguiding UK: http://www.girlguidin		0800 169 5901
Parkinson's UK Croydon & District	Jacky Green	01737 355487
Police (Selsdon & Ballards SNT)	Beat Officer:	8721 2464
RSPB, Croydon Local Group	John Davis	8640 4578
Rotary Sanderstead and Selsdon	Wendy A Parr	07774 186792
Probus Club of Croydon South	John Barker	8657 2093
St John's Dramatic Society	Caryl Rapps	8651 1326
St John's Wives	Jane Guglielmi	8657 6672
Sanderstead Plantation Partners	Michael Lishmund	
1 st Selsdon & Addington Scout Group:		lstselsdon.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
2 nd Selsdon & Addington Scout Group:	Website: www.2ndSandASo	
Selsdon Art Group	Mrs F Hooper	07973 412952
Selsdon Bridge Club	Tony Cherrett	01883 730304
Selsdon Community Hall	Tim Potter (Centre Mar	
Selsdon Afternoon Townswomen's Guild	Elizabeth Veasey	8657 1092
Selsdon Floral Club	Maureen Browning	8651 5821
Selsdon Social Club	Madreen Browning	0031 3021
Selsdon Tennis Club	Geoff Littlewood	8651 4748
66 (Selsdon) Squadron Air Training Corps		8651 5958
oo (beisdon) bquadron / the Training Corps	KOO CICCICI	0051 5950

