



The Selsdon Gazette

Volume 72. No. 810 December 2019

THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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There is no August Gazette.

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

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Front cover image credit: December 2019 Selsdon Christmas Lights by Vernon Peake at Festive Lighting

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	Su Yates, 10 Foxearth Road CR2 8ED	8657 9284
	Peter Underwood, 12a Abbey Road, CR2 8NG	8651 0601
	Ian Leggatt, 53 Queenhill Road, CR2 8DW	8651 1140
	Phil Roberts, 44 Dulverton Road, CR2 8PG	07511 431207
	Jenny Stawman,	
	Arthur Wilson,	

One Committee Vacancy

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

Councillors for Sanderstead Ward

Cllr Lyn Hale	Lynne.hale@croydon.gov.uk	0208 405 6721
Cllr Yvette Hopley	Yvette.hopley@croydon.gov.uk	0208 404 3462
Cllr Tim Pollard	councillor@timpollard.co.uk	0208 251 8500

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



Editor's Note

Welcome to the December 2019 issue of The Selsdon Gazette.

We are grateful to those who heeded the call for a new Gazette Editor volunteer. We will have a new Editor for the January 2020 edition. We hope to have the SRA website back with new content in the New Year. We are still looking for a volunteer to fill the last SRA Committee vacancy and we also need a Gazette deliverer (see advert). Volunteers are always welcome!

At Christmas when many of us decorate trees in our home it should remind us that we are very lucky to live amongst local trees and greenery. We do need to speak up in nature's defence against the pressures of development. It could be said that our green spaces are the lungs of Croydon, certainly a hub of wildlife and biodiversity! So this Gazette edition is a 'tree special'!

We are very lucky to still be able to raise funds each year (just) to display Christmas lights in Selsdon and hold a fantastic Community event. If you have donated and participated in this we are grateful. If you have photos and memories to share please send to the Gazette mailbox.

We hope you enjoy this festive edition of the Gazette and wish you good health and much festive cheer.

Best wishes,

Janet Sharp (SRA Secretary)

✎ SUBMISSIONS FOR THE JANUARY 2020 EDITION
SHOULD BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN
20TH DECEMBER - PREFERABLY BEFORE! ✎

SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS

Editor

Our appeal for a new editor brought forth three offers of help and we can now welcome Derek Barnes to the Gazette team. You will be seeing his name in the January edition all being well. Thank you to everyone who responded.

Decorations on the Selsdon 'Triangle'

Thanks are due to the Craft group of **Greenvale Primary** and their teacher Cathy for the beautiful woven wool handmade decorations on the Yew tree by the traffic lights on the Selsdon Triangle. Please check them out! These were placed by SRA volunteers with some other sparkle as temporary festive decorations.

Christmas Lights

Selsdon lights should be shining brightly over the high street following the 22nd November switch on by Father Christmas. We would like to thank everyone who helped on the day (you are too many to mention by name but you know who you are!!) Our thanks also go to those of you who put extra in the subscription envelopes towards the cost of the lights and those who gave at our collection outside Sainsbury's on Saturday 23rd November.

A big thank you to the following high-street traders who have also donated so far (as at November 19) this year

Tudor Library	Selsdon Funerals
Aladdin's Cave	Star Restaurant
Co-op Funeral	Gem Nails
Golden Ark	AS Grooming
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£4500 has been given to the lights from the 4 Ward Councillors from their community budgets. This year the light

cost £9000 as we needed new support wires at an additional cost of £2000 but these should last up to 5 years. Without all this support the lights would not be possible so a big, big thank you especially to my committee who work all year to make these events happen.

Police

They have reported an increase in theft of catalytic converters in recent months across the borough, Selsdon still remains a very low crime area.

They gave us advice for anyone to report emergencies which is 999 for emergencies only and 111 for non-emergencies such as stolen vehicle.

Other phone numbers for emergencies are:-

Urgent Medical Advice phone 111 who can arrange for you to be seen.

Mental Health Crisis Line 08007312864

Household emergencies:-

Gas or electricity 0800111999

Thames Water Leaks 0800714614

Hopefully no one will be needing any of these services !!

Sheila Childs

Good Health and Happy Christmas and New Year!

~~

DISTRIBUTOR URGENTLY NEEDED TO DELIVER THIS GAZETTE

One of our distributors has moved out of the area and we have no-one to deliver 42 Gazettes to houses on Addington Road. We rely on volunteers. Can you help? This means hand delivering the Gazettes 11 times a year (not August) to

the houses; they would be given to you by one of our main distributors and it will take up to half an hour each month. If you are able and willing to help us or want to find out more information please contact me on 0208 651 0470 or by email at wmikiel@hotmail.com I would be very grateful for your help and hope to hear from someone soon!

Wendy Mikiel

Selsdon Gazette Main Distributor

~~

COUNCILLORS' NOTES

Consultation on Croydon's Local Plan review begins

The Council is aiming to build up to 46,040 homes within the borough between now and 2039.

Details of options the Council is considering for developing these homes are included in the draft Local Plan. One of the options being considered is dedesignation of the green belt at three sites in the borough including the fields by Gravel Hill (the other two sites are at Mitchley Hill in Sanderstead and Lodge Lane in New Addington). The green belt sites would be developed into housing estates to accommodate some of the 46,040 homes.

In all the options there would be intensification of suburbs throughout the borough and the Council accepts this will change the character of Croydon.

A series of public consultation events took place in November and December and the December events are;

- New Addington Library, 3 December, 5.30pm-7.30pm
- Addington Road, Selsdon, 4 December, 11am-2pm
- South Norwood Market, 7 December, 10am-2pm



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Roy Brady MCiphe

- Ashburton Library, 10 December, 5.30pm-7.30pm
- Addiscombe High Street, 11 December, 11am-2pm

(Editor notes: due to print deadlines these dates will have passed by the time you get your *Gazette* however you can still speak in person or online see below)

The council's spatial planning officers will also be available to speak to residents at Croydon Arts Store in the Whitgift Centre Wednesday-Saturday between 8 November and 20 December.

The consultation will close on **Monday 13 January 2020** and the results will be analysed. In late 2020 there will be another public consultation on the council's preferred options, which will then be publicly examined in spring 2021, with adoption taking place in 2022.

Selsdon Community Day

The Selsdon Community Day was held on 9th November 2019 to gather the thoughts and ideas of residents on how they see the future of Selsdon and the surrounding areas, including Forestdale, Addington and Monks Hill.

Well over a *hundred people* came along and there were lots of good ideas to get us started. The picture shows the 'video capture booth' where people could give their thoughts and have them recorded as a video. There will be other opportunities to contribute, including via the Croydon Council web site.

We will be using all this information to help build a Community Plan which will then lead to actions to make a difference. We believe this is an important first step on a journey which will deliver a more prosperous and thriving Selsdon area as it enters the 2020s.

The day was supported from your local councillors' ward budget. Thanks to everyone who came along, those who

helped organise and run the event, and to Selsdon Baptist Church who kindly hosted the event.

Here's a photo of Cllr Helen Pollard giving comments by video;



Christmas Market for Selsdon

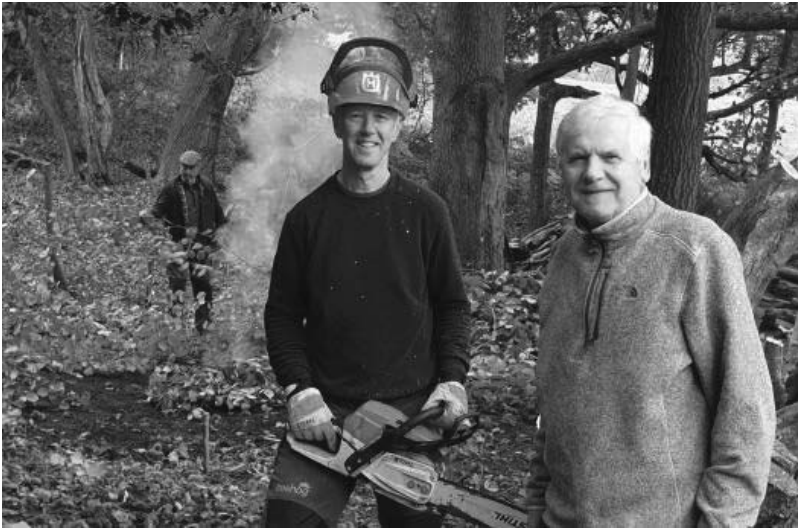
By the time you read this the first Selsdon Christmas Market would have taken place on 30th November. We hope you were able to go along and soak up the Christmas atmosphere. We will report on how it went in the next edition.

Chain saw training

The Friends of Littleheath Woods do great work to keep this well-loved and well-used community asset in sustainable good health for the residents of Selsdon and beyond to enjoy. Maintaining a healthy forest environment requires skills and a good deal of hard work. One important aspect of the work of the Friends is the need to clear fallen trees.

This work is made more efficient by using specialist equipment, in particular a chainsaw. To use this equipment safely, the operator needs to attend training to achieve City & Guilds NPTC certification. The Friends identified the need for additional trained resource so Cllr Pollard and Cllr Ward were pleased to cover the cost of training from the Selsdon and Addington Village Ward budget.

Photo: Cllr Ward with one of the volunteers using the chainsaw to clear fallen trees.



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 November 2019

19/04902/LP – 14 Crest Road, South Croydon, CR2 7JQ
Alteration, proposed hip-to-gable extension and erection of a rear dormer

19/04967/NMA – 14 Brent Road, South Croydon, CR2 7NR
Amendments to 19/01138/FUL to change finish material to smooth render, increase width of roof lights and increase width of windows

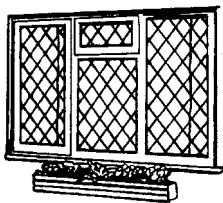
19/04937/GPDO – 36 Chapel View, South Croydon, CR2 7LE
Erection of a single storey rear extension which projects out by 5 metres from the rear wall of the original house with an eaves height of 2.8 metres and a maximum height of 3.6 metres

19/04476/HSE – 165 Selsdon Park Road, South Croydon, CR2 8JJ
Erection of a two storey side extension and a single storey rear extension

~~

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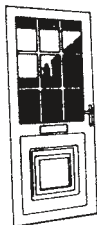
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What have Trees ever done for us?

In our leafy locale they are all around us. Trees lining the streets, trees in our gardens, trees in our treasured green spaces such as Littleheath Woods, Foxearth Spinney and Selsdon Wood, trees in and around the golf courses, trees at the Triangle, trees on the De Vere Estate, trees in the grounds of our schools. Have you ever wondered how many trees there are in Selsdon or what is the point and benefit of Trees?

Whilst the numerical answer could be obtained from a forensic and time consuming search of Google Earth an organisation called Forest Research has launched a Citizen Science project which aims to build an urban tree canopy cover map for Britain on a Ward by Ward basis. Using a piece of computer software called 'i-Tree Canopy', which was developed in the US, Forest Research estimates an average canopy cover of **15.8%** for English towns and cities. Examination of the canopy cover at a ward level can help improve management of urban trees and identify which areas within a town or city could benefit from future tree planting.

Within the Selsdon area we have two Wards: Selsdon and Addington Village (S&AV) and Selsdon Vale and Forestdale (SV&F) which are bisected by the A2022 Addington Road / Selsdon Park Road / Kent Gate Way. Using the i-Tree Canopy software and analysing 1000 random points in each ward it is assessed that S&AV ward has a tree canopy cover of **37.5%** (with a potential error of 1.53%) whilst SV&F ward has a tree canopy cover of **46.7%** (with a potential error of 1.58%)

The i-Tree Canopy software assesses the practical benefits of the trees, in quantity and monetary terms, of their capacity for annual removal of Carbon Dioxide, Ozone, Nitrogen Dioxide and Particulates of 2.5 microns or less, the annual sequestration of Carbon Dioxide and the amount of stored Carbon Dioxide:

Tree Benefit Estimates (GB £s, Tonnes and lbs):

Selsdon and Addington Village Ward (S&AV) = 37.5%

Abbrev	Benefit Description	Value	Amount
CO	Carbon Monoxide removed annually	£15.24	437lb
NO2	Nitrogen Dioxide removed annually	£26.25	1.19T
O3	Ozone removed annually	£1,366.81	11.86T
PM2.5	Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns removed annually	£2,825.45	1,152.82lb
SO2	Sulphur Dioxide removed annually	£4.59	1,501.14lb
CO2seq	Carbon Dioxide sequestered annually in trees	£92,518.27	2,424.93T
CO2stor	Carbon Dioxide stored in trees (total)	£2,323,481.02	60,899.08T

Selsdon Vale and Forestdale Ward (SV&F) = 46.7%

Abbrev	Benefit Description	Value	Amount
CO	Carbon Monoxide removed annually	£17.89	512.14lb
NO2	Nitrogen Dioxide removed annually	£30.80	1.40T
O3	Ozone removed annually	£1,603.74	13.91T
PM2.5	Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns removed annually	£3,315.23	1,351.47lb
SO2	Sulphur Dioxide removed annually	£5.38	1,759.8lb
CO2seq	Carbon Dioxide sequestered annually in trees	£108,556.12	2,842.78T
CO2stor	Carbon Dioxide stored in trees (total)	£2,726,251.48	71,392.76T

Of particular benefit to us Humans is the ability of trees to *remove* minute particles of *pollution* from the air. We are subjected to pollution from many sources. The World Health Organisation (WHO) considers airborne particulates a Group 1 Carcinogen. Fine particles with a diameter of 2.5 microns or less can penetrate into the lungs and blood stream causing heart attacks, respiratory disease and premature death. Particulates of 2.5 microns or less include the soot produced during the combustion of solid and liquid fuels: vehicles are a major source. (As a guide, in old money, 1 inch equals approximately 25,000 microns.)

The role of trees in *managing surface water* is not to be underestimated, especially in light of recent flooding in parts of the UK. Broadleaved trees can slow down the rate at which rain hits the ground. The trees' roots penetrate the ground and create passageways for rainwater to permeate the earth. The root system stabilises the soil and protects the ground against erosion and it is reckoned that a mature Oak tree can transpire 40,000 gallons (151,000L) of water per year. That is the equivalent of over 16 large builders' skips or 840 general waste wheelie bins worth of water removed from the ground every year.

The research and production of this article has taken some time during which events have caused me to alter the content and thrust considerably. Croydon Council are now seeking our comments on proposed further revisions to the recently agreed Local Plan. These revisions concern the provision of 46,000 new homes in the Borough of Croydon over the next 20 years to satisfy the ambitions of the London Mayor and we are asked to comment on three 'Strategic Spatial Options'.

- Strategic Spatial Options 1 and 2 both involve using Green Belt land for supporting infrastructure (such as schools or a new tram depot)
- Strategic Spatial Option 3 in addition, involves the use of Green Belt land in New Addington, Selsdon and Sanderstead for 5,300 homes.

Whilst it could be argued that analysis of these three sites will show that they are largely free from a high degree of tree canopy cover I would suggest the concept of building on the Green Belt should be challenged. Support the idea in this Local Plan consultation and we will see, over time, the gradual erosion of valuable Green Belt. We need more trees, not less.

I am sure you will be learning more in these pages about the consultation process (which ends on **8th January 2020**) and

where and how to take part. Please have your democratic say in how you want Croydon to be developed over the next 20 years.

You can find out more about Forestry Research and UK Urban Canopy Cover at <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/i-tree-eco/urban-canopy-cover/> where you could select a local ward to take part in this exciting piece of Citizen Science and help Forest Research build their map of urban trees.

Ian Leggatt

Chair, Friends of Littleheath Woods

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Have your say on Croydon's future – Deadline 13th January

As you read this we will have just had a General Election and you may be fed up with all the talk of change and plans and just want to switch off and get ready for Christmas! Being cynical that might be why the current 6 week consultation on planning is taking place now! As individuals we need to take the time to get involved on a local level as the plans for Croydon are being decided. This will be 'on our own patch'. Please inform your friends and neighbours in Croydon who might not read this Gazette.

Step 1 – Learn of the plans.

Go online to the Council's website and click getinvolved.uk.engagementhq.com and scroll to the 'Local plan review consultation'. See 'Strategic options' and 'Sustainability appraisal'. As Helen and Ian have stated above over 46,000 new homes are due to be built in Croydon over the next 10 years and the Council are looking for land. If you are not online and you are reading this article before 20th Dec visit the Croydon

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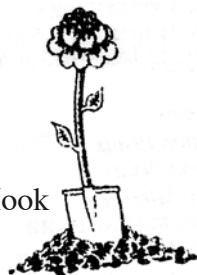
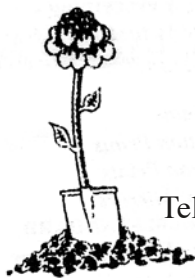
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Arts Store in the Whitgift Centre Wednesday-Saturday to speak to Officers in person.

Step 2 – Look at current examples of proposed/planned housing.

Developers ‘Brick by Brick’ have created a housing scheme in Selsdon (not yet approved) for Hawthorn Crescent (just off Old Farleigh road) - go to hawthorncrescent.commonplace.is to view the plans. Elsewhere in Selsdon we have noted that private developers can sometimes get permission for a simplified scheme on a contentious plot then when that is approved return later to the Planning office with a new plan for a bigger or more intensive development. As the Croydon planning website can be difficult to navigate the SRA pay for access to website that gives us quick links to the up to date planning applications in our area and this can now be accessed by all at www.localplanningapps.co.uk/croydon/sra/anupdate/planningtable.html

Step 3 – Consider your view on the Local Plan review, and get back to the Council by 13th January with your comments

There is a problem of a lack of affordable housing within a commuting distance of London. The Council are under pressure. It could be argued by some that we, as residents of a ‘green’ area, may just be being selfish in saying ‘NO’ to this being ‘released’ for development/intensification. We must give reasoned arguments and if possible present alternatives to the Council.

Ian makes a strong case see also CPRE.org.uk ‘A positive vision for London’s Greenbelt’. Also Woodlandtrust.org.uk and Commonground.org.uk

Step 4 – Ideas for Croydon in general.

Look at the separate survey called ‘The Big Conversation’ from the same webpage. You can complete online or printed copies of the survey plus a collection point will be available

at all Croydon libraries. The deadline for this is the end of January.

This survey asks what you want from a future Croydon and is not specific to the housing/development issue. Be aware of any loaded questions (e.g. Should everyone have decent housing? – If you say yes does that mean that you approve of the proposed development plans?) It might be me but it took me over an hour to complete the survey! However it is worth stating your views and ideas and shoehorning in (if necessary) any additional points you want to make within the limits and confines of the questions asked. E.g. Hospitals, schools, parks, libraries etc.

Janet Sharp

~~

A day in London – The British Library & Nearby at St Pancras.

Half term is over and the Christmas-New Year vacation looms ahead. A visit to the British Library alone or as a family can make for an interesting day. In fact there are about ten libraries within the building, each oriented to a particular group of studies. Admission to the entire Library is free, though some specialised activities and larger exhibitions may require modest payment.

Consider what else justifies a family visit! There is a programme of exhibitions on historical studies, recent ones have included *Captain Cook's Discoveries*; *Indian Art*; *The History of Writing*, *How Sound Recording Developed* (did you know one country used miniature disc recordings as postage stamps!); and many other subjects. Currently running is a world review of countries with Buddhist backgrounds.

Usually there is at least one free exhibition running, and

another with an entrance fee –which (apart from food) is about the only 'pay-for' item in the building. At this time of year it's good to know that cloak room and lockers are adequate and free.

In a room of very early documents is a part of the oldest known existing Bible; other parts are in other countries and an on-line version of the whole volume is being assembled on an international basis.

A programme of scheduled activities ranges from a tour of the library to lectures and talks on almost any subject you can think of. The dates and times for these are listed on-line and while many are free, some require advance registration and a small modest fee.

School Visits. Both Primary and Secondary level group visits are welcomed to a special introductory programme of films and visuals on the lower ground floor. These must of course be pre-arranged, and are attuned to the age-group of the school.

For High Schoolers it's good to know where you will need to look for your anticipated college reading! A college ID and proof of home address is normally sufficient to get a 'readers ticket' to enter the actual libraries.

Getting there and back (see below) takes time, so it's good to know that there are several cafes and a restaurant right there is the building. If you prefer one of the usual chain eateries, there are branches of most of them in the main Euston Road outside, and in the two adjacent rail terminals. Behind the Library is the Francis Crick Institute for high level study in life science. In the entrance hall is an open (and free) exhibition explaining just what human DNA is and does. Snack lunches and sit-down meals are available on the 1st floor.

Adjacent to the British Library are the giant Kings Cross and St Pancras stations, the latter is also the UK terminal for Channel Tunnel trains. Both buildings are remarkable in themselves for their size and style. St Pancras contains a statue to Sir John Betjeman who saved the building from demolition. Its arch, when built in the mid-Victorian era, was by far the world's largest, and the station's hotel was the first in the world to have a lift, albeit so slow that the 'rising room' as it was called, contained armchairs!

Along Euston Road a few minutes' walk is the Wellcome Museum. If your day includes any other activities elsewhere in the Capital, there are several Underground lines at St Pancras, as well as many bus routes on Euston Rd.

How to get there

The ride involves entering the Congestion Charge zone and traffic is dense. Car Parking is hard to find and expensive. So you will probably go by train, about half an hour's ride from East Croydon to St Pancras Station, which is adjacent to the British Library.

There are about 8 trains an hour from East Croydon direct to St Pancras; so you will not have to wait very long for one. These are the white-coloured 'Thameslink' trains, clearly distinct from the usual 'Southern green' ones.

On week-ends & holidays any time, also Mon-Fri daily after 0930, you can get an Oyster (or contactless) cheap day-return (about £12, children much less). But If, on the same day, you make other journeys as well (bus, rail, tube, tram) in the London area, your whole day's Oyster *maximum charge* is **capped at £13** - with local rides to/from Selsdon included!

David Huntley.

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Christmas trees and cards

Why do we have Christmas trees? There could be many answers. Romans used fir trees to decorate their temples during Saturnalia, a feast in honour of Saturn, the god of agriculture, and the predecessor to Christmas. In northern Europe, people planted cherry or hawthorn plants, or created pyramids of fruit or candles. Evergreen trees were thought to keep away evil spirits and illness, and were put up during the winter solace, the shortest day of the year, (known as midwinter when one of the Earth's poles has its maximum tilt away from the Sun which this year is Sunday 22nd December) to remind them that the spring would return.

It is thought the first person to bring a tree indoors was the German theologian Martin Luther. Walking through a forest, he was so taken by the beauty of stars twinkling through the pines that he took a tree home and attached candles to each branch. Germans decorated their trees with edible goods and glass decorations. 'Christmas trees' made it to Britain in the 1830s, and in 1841, Prince Albert set up a tree in Windsor Castle. In 1846, the Royal family was sketched standing around their Christmas tree, after which the practice became very fashionable.



Decorating a home Christmas tree in modern Britain is now a valued tradition. Whether one person takes responsibility for creating a stylish masterpiece, or the whole family pitches in to create an eccentric extravaganza that's made with love, dressing the tree is an 'event'. Many of us have treasured decorations that are boxed and carefully stored all year.

Recycling your real tree

Joanna Dixon from Croydon Council advises that once Christmas is over your unwanted real Christmas tree can be collected between Monday 13 January and Monday 27 January 2020.

All you have to do is remove the decorations and tree pots and place your tree as close to the front boundary of your property as possible, making sure that it is visible from the kerbside, without blocking access or the pavement at the start of the two-week period. Properties with communal bins should put their trees outside the bin store but make sure they do not block access. If your property has no frontage then present your tree with your normal rubbish on your collection day.

Alternatively if you subscribe to the garden waste collection service, cut it up and put it in your bin and present it on your normal garden waste collection day.

If your tree is missed during this special two week period you can take it to the Household Reuse and Recycling Centre at Factory Lane, Fishers Farm or Purley Oaks or put it out next to your rubbish bin on your next collection day (in which case please note your tree won't be recycled).

Christmas Cards

This tradition is linked to Henry Cole who was a prominent civil-servant, educator, inventor and the first director of the Victoria & Albert Museum in Kensington, London. In the 1840s, he was instrumental in reforming the British postal system, helping to set up the Uniform Penny Post which encouraged the sending of seasonal greetings on decorated letterheads and visiting cards. He sent the first commercial Christmas card in 1843. The V&A museum holds the national collection of cards for all occasions, with over 30,000 examples, more than half of which celebrate Christmas!

www.reducereuserecycle.co.uk say that although many people send their Christmas greetings by e-mail these days, most of

us will still receive lots of Christmas cards and these do not need to be discarded when Christmas is over.

Firstly keep the stamps from the envelopes and send to one of the many charities who want them to raise funds – details are listed on their site. When Christmas is over, you can easily reuse your Christmas cards or recycle them. The good quality paper that the cards are made from makes them perfect for crafting.

1. Use them to make next year's gift tags or card tree ornaments.
2. Make paper chains or Xmas bunting.
3. Choose images to make your own cards for next year using card blanks.
4. Cut up and make simple Jigsaw Puzzles.
5. Some shops/supermarkets will take old cards to raise cash for charities. Keep a look out for those participating this year otherwise put them in your Household Recycling.
- do not include cards with glitter on them or any embellishments such as bows, jewels, googly eyes etc.

~~

Why some trees are felled in Selsdon Wood

Selsdon Wood is classified as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) and must be managed to maintain a wide range of flora & fauna. Trees will form a dense canopy that can cut out light, which prevents other plants and wildlife thriving. Biodiversity can only be maintained by a programme which includes felling some trees. As part of this, a programme of coppicing also maintains an ancient tradition.

The woodland is managed by Croydon Council's Trees and Woodlands Officers.

They follow a set management plan which ensures the wood's sustainability. Like all Croydon's woodlands, the management

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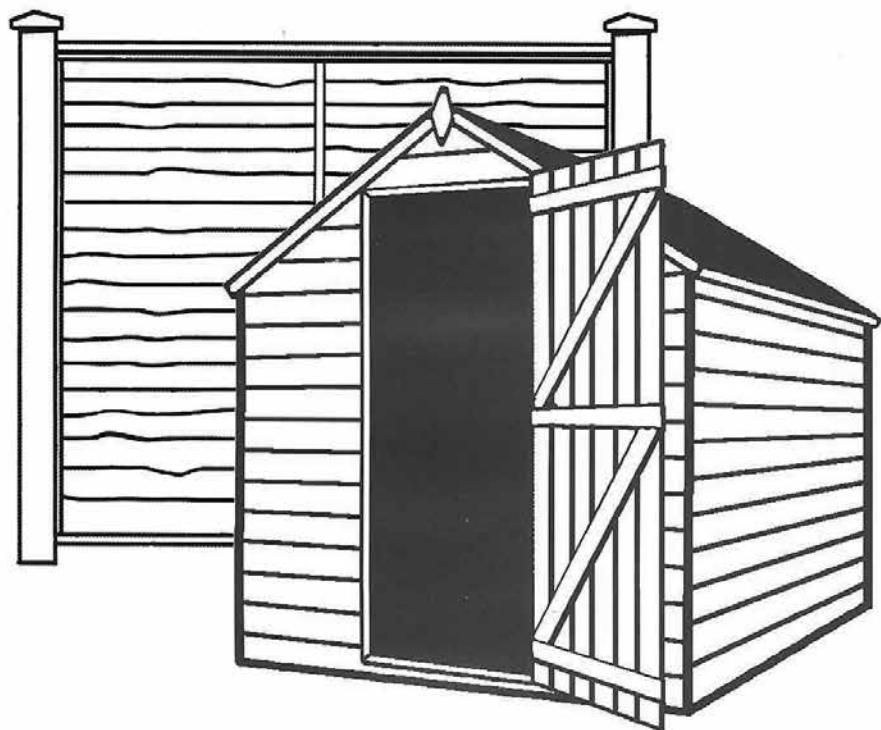
All successful applicants will be required to complete an Enhanced DBS disclosure form and bring evidence of identity, Right to Work in the UK and qualifications.

For more details and how to apply please see our website <https://selsdonprimary.com/staff/job-vacancies> or contact the office on 0208 657 4038

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of Selsdon Wood is approved by the Forestry Commission, and is carried out under their grants and with a felling licence.

Whenever possible, felled timber is sold to help offset the considerable costs incurred in managing the woodland. For more details please contact the Trees and Woodlands Team, e-mail - treesandwoodlands@croydon.gov.uk

David Malins (*Friends of Selsdon Wood*)

~~

Twelfth night traditions

As we are all aware the appearance of Christmas decorations and celebrations seem to begin earlier each year! You can now spot Christmas trees appearing in windows before December and advent has even begun. Traditionally however Christmas lasts 12 days (hence the song!) and then you take down your tree and decorations however this depends on when you start counting 'Christmas' having arrived! For some, such as in the Church of England, this is *5th January* as Christmas was deemed to start at sunset on Dec 24th, Christmas Eve. Other denominations start from Christmas Day 25th which means that Twelfth Night falls a day later on the *6th January* which is the Epiphany (the day when the nativity story says that the three wise men visited the infant Jesus).

The 'Wassail' is celebrated on Twelfth Night (variously on either January 5 or 6). Some people still wassail on "Old Twelfth", January 17, as it would have been before the introduction of the Gregorian Calendar in 1752.

To Wassail means to communally share wishes of 'Good health' with the people and the place that you live. Perhaps unbeknown to the general public, this ancient English tradition is still thriving today. There are now many new, commercial

or “revival” wassails springing up all over combining the traditional elements of the festival with entertainment and folk music. None in Croydon to our knowledge!

Twelfth night in Shakespeare’s time was a traditional time for the performance of plays or ‘mumming’ and perhaps he took inspiration and commercial advantage of this to premiere his new play in 1601. His play ‘Twelfth night’ or ‘What you will’ is a tale of high jinks and confusion.

The tradition of ‘wassailing’ falls into two distinct categories: the house-visiting wassail and the orchard-visiting wassail.

The house-visiting wassail is the practice of people going door-to-door, singing and offering a drink from the communal wassail bowl in exchange for gifts/alms (sometimes with tricks involved like Halloween trick or treating); this practice still exists, but has largely been displaced by carolling. The carol “We Wish You a Merry Christmas” gives an example of the exchange in their demand for “figgy pudding” and “good cheer”, i.e., the wassail beverage (a warm and spicy alcoholic fruit drink), without which the wassailers in the song will not leave; “We won’t go until we get some, so bring some out here”. This is still practiced in some parts of Scotland and Northern England on New Years Day as “first-footing”.

The orchard-visiting wassail refers to the ancient custom of visiting orchards in cider-producing regions of England, reciting incantations and singing to the trees to promote a good harvest for the coming year. The ceremonies of each orchard wassail vary but they generally all have the same core elements. A wassail King and Queen lead the song and/or a processional tune to be played/sung from one orchard to the next, the wassail Queen will then be lifted up into the boughs of the tree where she will

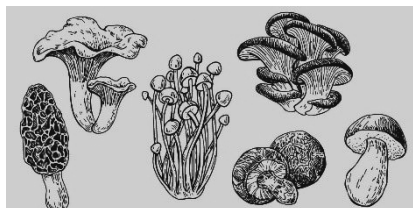


place toast soaked in the Wassail drink from the shared cup as a gift to the tree spirits (and to show the fruits created the previous year). Then an incantation/poem is usually recited. Then the assembled crowd will sing and shout and bang drums and pots & pans and generally make a terrible racket and then off to the next orchard!

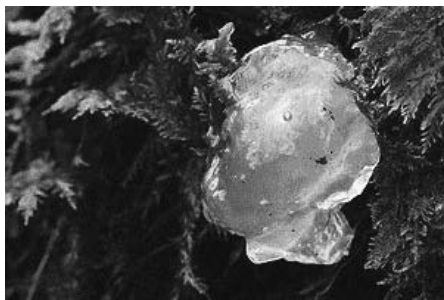
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NATURE NOTES - Fungi

The majority of mushroom-type fungi (cap & stem) fruit in autumn or winter but they require appropriate conditions – particularly moisture. Weather this year was largely dry until the beginning of October when there was a change and the “monsoon” set in with heavy rain, or at least showers, for many days. As a result fungi began to appear above ground and on fallen branches and twigs.



In Selsdon Wood a Dryad's Saddle fungus, which had fruited earlier in the year, re-appeared on the decaying tree stump where it has been recorded for several years. Turning over a small fallen branch revealed a sticky mass of **Crystal Brain fungi**



(see photo example). Like most jelly fungi they tend to be invisible when dry but the rains of autumn cause them to swell. Other jellies to look for include White Brain, Yellow Brain, Leafy Brain and the black Witches Butter. As they are often parasitic on other types of fungi which lie flat on branches and trunks (resupinates) the jelly fungi can just as easily appear on branches still attached to a tree.

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The small Twig Parachutes can appear in large numbers on decaying twigs but there is another species, Collared Parachutes, which can be identified by noticing the collar where the top of the stem meets the underside of the cap. The Crepidotus group of fungi are small, virtually stemless caps which grow either singly or in large groups on bramble stems and on tree stumps. Most species in this group are white though some are a creamy brown colour.

Yellow Stagshorn forms small upright jagged fingers on conifer stumps. Relatives of this species include Small Stagshorn and Pale Stagshorn. Green Elfcup favours fallen pieces of oak branch but you are more likely to come across the green-coloured wood more often than the fungus itself. Another colourful fungus which grows directly on tree trunks, particularly oak though it does grow on other species, is the red Beefsteak bracket fungus. At times it can appear to be oozing copious amounts of bright red blood! A large yellow species appearing on trunks is the Chicken of the Woods but it tends to appear in the middle of the year rather than in autumn.

Occasionally found growing in moss in winter is the bright Scarlet Elfcup, while mossy logs will often display black & white Candlesnuff, the thin black stems of Dead Moll's Fingers or the thicker stems of **Dead Man's Fingers** (see photo example).



Having mentioned cap & stem fungi in the first sentence perhaps it is time to draw attention to some of these. In late autumn/early winter one of the joys of fungi hunting is to find a group of Waxcaps. They are often colourful and include the pink ballerina of the Pink Waxcap, the variably coloured Parrot Waxcap – often bright green, the Blackening Waxcap which begins as green, turns orange and ends as black, the pure white Snowy Waxcap, and a host of others.

They prefer short grass, or perhaps grass which has been cut, and in some years will not appear at all, and yet in other years they will produce a colourful display.

On decaying twigs, branches and stumps members of the *Mycena* genus (bonnet caps) can appear in small or very large groups. Most are whitish in colour and can be tricky to identify. As with other species, visual examination will not always give a positive identification and it might be necessary to resort to a microscope or to employ chemical tests.

Ink caps have a common attribute – they release their spores as a black ink. However, with the current use of DNA sequencing and molecular biology mycologists are discovering that they are not all closely related so many have been transferred to a new genus. The scientific name in a new field guide will not match that in an older book though the old name might be quoted as a synonym. This shuffling of scientific names seems to apply to all fungi.

Like the mushrooms sold in supermarkets, most cap & stem fungi have a series of gills under the cap but there is another group, the boletes, which instead have pores. They are much more substantial than the delicate bonnet caps. Some react with a blue or red colour when cut or damaged and so aid identification.

It is impossible to mention every fungus which might be found locally - instead I will refer you to two brilliant books. 'Mushrooms' by Peter Marren discusses fungi in general and is a wonderful read. 'Fascinated by Fungi' by Pat O'Reilly is somewhat similar but does include more on identification, and there is an associated website www.first-nature.com. For identification I recommend the photographic guide 'British Mushrooms & Toadstools' by Paul Sterry & Barry Hughes. If you are looking for Christmas presents any of these books would be worthwhile.

Ted Forsyth

Humbug?

Once a year is enough for me. Christmas!
Presents...what to do after lunch...family fun???
It's hard work sometimes.



The children would prefer Christmas every day perhaps. Like birthdays, it's a good time to re-populate their drawers with socks, gloves, scarves and underwear. Mostly home-knitted by a loving relation. But where's the exciting stuff? Youngsters 'twiddling their thumbs' has taken on a new meaning – now they do it with electronic gadgets. We want something to let their thumbs recover and is more sociable such as a good family pastime, especially when it's cold and wet outdoors.

Therefore, I beg to draw your attention to the King & Queen of indoor family pastimes...Board Games. Before you think "Monopoly", forget it; it takes too long and creates class divisions (well, arguments, anyway).

In my house we've had great fun and lots of laughter playing board games; as well as serious competitions, deep planning and, yes, the occasional dispute. RISK is good for "disputes" as you make alliances and secretly plan to renege on them! As a twenty-something I did this, playing with friends. Minus one, after my former ally got up and left when I betrayed our alliance. Great game.

I still have stacks of games in the attic; quite a balanced collection as both varieties, intact and scattered, are well represented. Let's go and explore...*

Compendium of Games; absolutely essential, covers every reasoning age. Ludo, Snakes & Ladders, draughts, dominoes, chess and the rest. Add a pack of Happy Families and you're all set for the younger ones. Two normal decks for Canasta (fab fun for four), lots of old foreign money as tokens; adults

away, too!

M25; was motoring round the real thing as much fun as this game? Never; how could it be? This has all the back seat drivers you could desire! Quite good fun, I remember, but dated now. Any age.

MovieMaker; pretty good game; beautifully drawn cards (stars, stories etc.) can fill a good afternoon. 8+ to ancient.

Pass the Bomb; speaks for itself. The “parcel” is more dangerous than usual: tick, tick, ti... Fun.

Cluedo; super game; develops logical thought processes. Who? What? Where? As a detective, was it Miss Scarlett or Col. Plum wot did it? Where? The lead pipe, a dagger, radio-active maggots? Excellent game. The downside, for me, was that I seldom lost, so my boys wouldn't play.

Connect 4; not a board game, but essential if you want to let them win something. I couldn't beat my boys. Ever. They loved it, unsurprisingly.

RISK; Conquer it! Rule it! Raise armies and materiel; position your forces and let loose the dogs of war. My budding-tyrant grandson beats me at this! You can still play the long game, but it's improved by the addition of Task cards, such as Defeat All Green Armies, or Destroy Grandad so He Can Make Sandwiches, etc.. For age groups that can plot, connive and win battles.

Formula 1; my personal all-time favourite, seldom seen these days. A good alternative to setting up Scalextric and more cerebral. It's great fun figuring how to baulk your opponents at the next bend or chicane, burning out their brakes and stripping their tyres! Very competitive with much more to it than first appears. 10 upwards.

Scrabble; first, catch seven letters; rack them; make words. Simple and superb. Very engaging and absorbing game. Throw away all two- and three-letter “accepted” abbreviations as they make a nonsense of the game. A worldwide favourite, with interesting local variations; for instance, the English language version “Z” gives 10 points, the Polish, just 1. They



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use lots of Zs. Dzdzwonice, for instance: an earthworm.

Others; take a look around as there are too many to mention. Charity shops are treasure troves, but check that games are complete. Especially jigsaw puzzles.

*Our uploaded edition has hyperlinks for details and pictures. www.selsdon-residents.co.uk then click link to the Gazette.

Additional Info

I was hoping to provide more information and contact details for local board-gaming groups. If you know of any, please let us know of them. Don't be shy, share it. Any good new games? Let us know.

db

~~

A Déjà Vu Day!

When I retired from work I took up cycling again to keep fit, healthy and mobile. As a result I joined the Anerley Bicycle Club. It just so happened that the 1st October (2019) fell on a Tuesday and it was my turn to lead that week's Tuesday bike ride. It is only now, in hindsight, that I realise that it was a déjà vu day! We start our bike rides in Purley and as usual I cycled past Purley Memorial Hospital, where 80 years earlier on 1st October 1939 I had been born.

My choice of destination for our ride was High Elms Golf Course with its welcoming tea room in the club house. Heading towards South Croydon along the Brighton Rd, we took a right turn past the



bus garage. This led us onto Upper Selsdon Rd and the long climb up to Selsdon. I had climbed this hill many times as a teenager cycling to and from school. Soon we were passing by Croham Hurst Woods where as a young boy I often went walking with my Dad and brother Michael. A mile further on, we were passing a modern eyesore on the corner of Langley Oaks Ave. What happened to that lovely red brick building with its polished wood floors and wide, balustraded stairs leading to the upper floor?

Who else remembers the old Selsdon Library where I used to get my weekly dose of Enid Blyton's Famous Five, and when a little older, the thrilling adventures of Biggles, the war time fighter ace from the pen of W.E. Johns? Puffing up another short climb and past St John's Church, we had the relief of a long, but for me, a barely recognisable downhill, to Addington. There were only two things that appeared unchanged from my childhood memories of the Addington Rd. First was Tudor Library. A new shop front, but otherwise the only shop from the 1940s that is still trading. And of course, how could I forget my school boy years at Selsdon Primary?

At Addington, as we turned right into Featherbed Lane another memory came to the fore. Opposite is a parade of shops and back in the 1940s there was a newsagents, Chapman's by name, which was also a bicycle shop. My first 2 wheeled bike came



from there, a 2nd hand, child's Elswick. It changed my life and I would not be writing this today if it had not been for that

bike! At the other end of Featherbed Lane we passed by the White Bear public house. After a brief stop for a photo, the trigger was the heavens opening with an autumn cloud burst.

Before we could find anywhere to shelter from the rain we were soaked through, so we decided to just keep going. Continuing on country lanes, through Nash, past the Norman parish churches of Keston and Downe in pouring rain, we finally arrived at our tea stop at High Elms. At which point the sun came out! So like drowned rats we all sat down to a hot cuppa after which my club mates and lassies serenaded me with an out of tune rendition of “Happy Birthday” and presented me with a surprise birthday card.

Well this certainly was a day to remember!

Des Donohoe (des.oldselsdon@gmail.com)

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WHAT’S ON

THE CROYDON SYMPHONIC BAND

The Croydon Symphonic Band welcome all woodwind, brass and percussion players of all standards to its rehearsals in West Croydon on Wednesday evenings at 8pm. The band will be presenting their winter concert in the newly refurbished Phoenix Concert Hall at Fairfield on 12th February 2020.

Further details are on the Bands website www.csb.org.uk or by calling Sue Reeves on 0208 657 8591.

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.

Monday Jan 13, 2020: “Orchids of Italy’s Gargano Peninsula” - Andrew Cleave. The Gargano Peninsula is home to over 50 species of orchids and hybrids, several of them endemic to this area. Flowers, birds, butterflies, lizards and beautiful scenery make this a photographer’s paradise.

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

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

Please remember to state your name, address, contact number, and publication anonymity requirements in **all** correspondence to the Editor. Anonymity can be granted on request, but anonymously sent letters/e-mails will not be published. Publication dates may mean a delay between receipt of your letters and when they appear.

~~

15th November

DOGS BEING TERRIFIED FOR DAYS ON END BY FIREWORKS

The Croydon Guardian have today published this story about our dog’s frightening time during the fireworks season.

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<https://www.yourlocalguardian.co.uk/news/18036551.owner-calls-stricter-laws-retired-racing-dog-left-shaking-hours-due-fireworks/>

Every evening 'Dreamy', our rescue greyhound has been lying there, shaking for hours, day in and day out, unable to go out when it is dark, as she now associates that time with noise. Dogs' hearing is magnified around 8 times our hearing. We had to get tranquillising tablets, calming paste, a calming plug-in and all we could do was stay in every evening and play calming music.

This has been the worst year in this area. I am sure a lot of animals suffer and our petitions to the government never seem to work!

Yours faithfully,

ANNE GILES

(Editor notes- the RSPCA.org.uk have an advice and welfare section regarding this problem as well as a petition calling for some regulatory changes)

~~

12th November (abbreviated)

SELSDON AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Our meeting in June was a party to celebrate 90 years of Townswomen's Guilds at which Sheila Plant gave a wonderful account, off the cuff, of Beatrix Potter and her work. The speaker at our July meeting was Richard Griffin who spoke about his experiences as a Royal Protection Officer. He thought it would mean travelling around in a Rolls Royce but his first assignment was protecting Prince Edward for three years on a bike when the latter went to Cambridge! After that he became a Protection Officer for the Duke of Edinburgh and

eventually the Queen and spoke warmly of both of them.

In August we had a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Nurses but also welcomed Lee Bennett, Director of Services for The Garwood Foundation. This was founded in 1952 and is a local independent charity providing a wide range of services for local children and adults with a range of physical and learning disabilities, their families and their carers. (garwoodfoundation.org.uk)

In September Peter Thompson came back to speak about his early life as a barrister and in October Elizabeth Lanyon spoke about George IV and the Drama Group presented extracts from *Pride and Prejudice*. In November we shall be having an early Christmas lunch to celebrate our 69th birthday.

If you would like to join us in the New Year we meet at St John's Church Hall in Upper Selsdon Road from 1.30 to 4.00pm on the third Friday of the month.

ELIZABETH VEASEY

~~

Recipe - Christmas canapes

Here are some canapes that you could serve with drinks at any Christmas party.

But since every party's different, I'm not going to be giving you quantities with this recipe. Because you can prepare as many or as little of these as you need for the amount of people you're feeding. And you'll know the appetites of the people you're feeding much better than me.



Mini Italian mouthfuls

These are really easy, little skewers of Italian-style flavour. So you're going to need some cocktail sticks.

Ingredients: Fresh tomatoes, garlic, basil leaves, mozzarella pearls (or small, torn-up pieces of a ball of mozzarella), black olives (sliced in half), salt, pepper, olive oil.

- 1) Chop your tomato into bitesize pieces (small enough to fit on a cocktail stick with a small bit of everything else). Then add them to a small amount of olive oil, seasoned with a little bit of crushed garlic, salt and pepper. You can cover them and put them to one side to absorb some of the flavour
- 2) Now you can start assembling your skewers. On each cocktail stick, you'll need to skewer a mozzarella pearl, a basil leaf (I usually fold them in half and thread them on), half a black olive, and a piece of your seasoned tomato.
- 3) Then you're good to go. I like to serve mine all spread out on a big plate. The good thing about these is that people can eat them with one hand, in one mouthful, with no napkin. So their other hand can keep holding on to their cocktail.

French flavours toast

These are another quick assembly job really, but they pack a punch of flavour.

Ingredients: pears, bread (I use normal, sliced brown bread), some Roquefort.

- 1) Cut your bread into small disks, that'd only take one mouthful to eat. (I use a small biscuit cutter. Or I cut out

the size circle I want from some baking paper, pop it on top of the bread, and cut round it with a knife.)

- 2) Stick your bread disks under the grill for a couple of minutes so they get crispy. But keep an eye on them to make sure they don't burn.
- 3) When they're ready, take them out. Then all you have to do is top them with a small bit of Roquefort and some sliced pear. But make sure both of them are at room temperature. Again, depending on the size disks you cut, people should be able to pop these in in one mouthful so they can keep their hands free.

The main event morsels

Your favourite bits of Christmas dinner in one stacked-up mouthful. But this canape needs a little bit of planning ahead. It'll be a stack of potato, stuffing, then whatever you like on top of them (doesn't have to be turkey and sauce).

Ingredients: small potatoes, vegetable oil, butter, salt, pepper, stuffing, then it's up to you.

- 1) You're going to need to get big enough potatoes to cook like jacket potatoes. So the day before you need your canapes, stick your potatoes in the oven for around an hour at 220 degrees. When they're at the point where you'd eat them as jacket potatoes, take them out and let them cool. Then put them in the fridge until tomorrow.
- 2) The next day choose whatever stuffing you like best (sage and onion for me every time). Mix it up how the pack says, lay it out flat on a baking tray and use the pack again to see how long and at what temperature you should cook it. When it's done, take it out and cut it into disks. (It's up to you if you let it get cold for your canape, or if you put it back into the oven at a low temperature to keep it warm

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until you're ready to start stacking.)

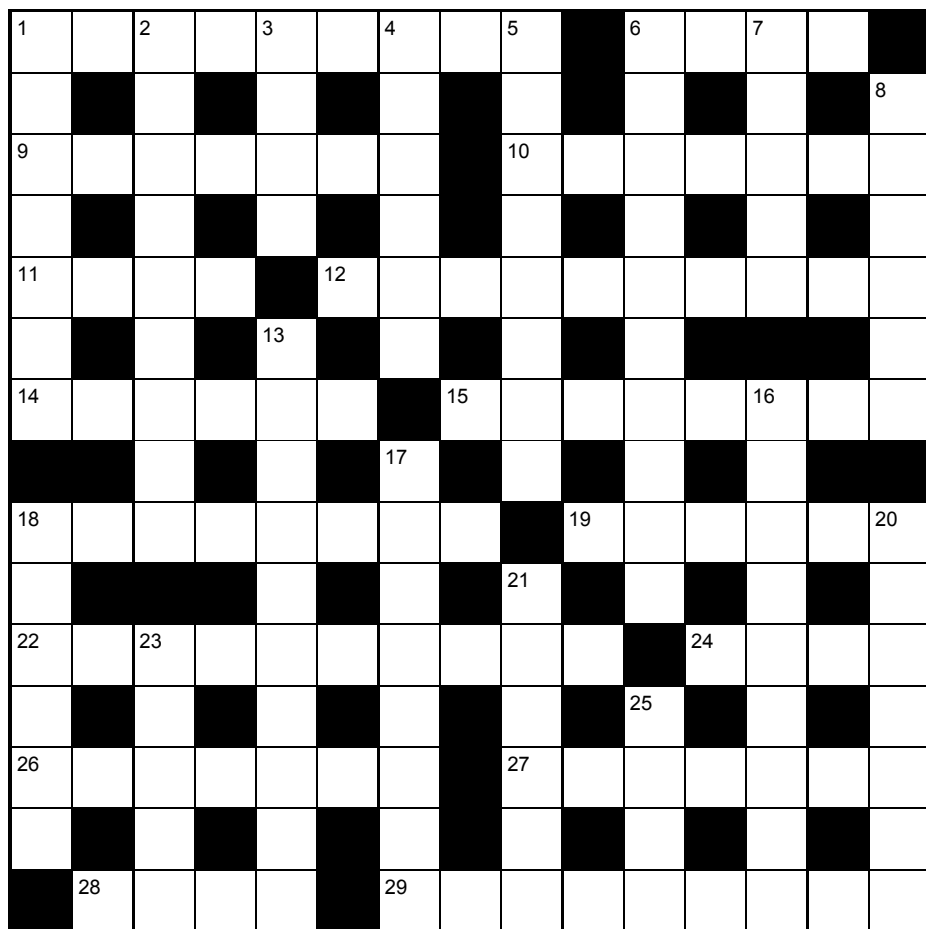
- 3) Take your potatoes out of the fridge and slice them into disks. (Just make sure they're big enough to fit your stuffing disks on top.) Then season them with a bit of salt and pepper.
- 4) Get a pan on the hob and heat up some oil. Then you can lay your potato disks down and let them start to turn golden. When one side has turned golden, flip it and do the same on the other side. When both sides are almost done, I like to add a little bit of butter to the pan. Just for some extra Christmas indulgence.
- 5) When your potatoes are golden, take them out the pan and pat them with some kitchen towel to soak up a little bit of the oil. Once you've done that, you can start stacking.
- 6) Lay your stuffing circles on top of your potato disks, then top them with whatever bit of the main event you fancy. You could top it with turkey and cranberry sauce, or some pigs in blankets. I go for a mix of chopped up chestnuts, bacon and brussel sprouts. (Because, controversially, that combination is up there as my favourite bit of Christmas dinner.) Then I top it with a blob of bread sauce. Pick whatever thing you like best.
- 7) Once everything's stacked up, you can serve them. As long as your stack hasn't got too high, they're another canape your guests should be able to fit in in one mouthful.

So all that's left is to eat all three of your festive treats. And for me to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Jess Bashford

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD – December 2019

Crossword No XC253701



ACROSS

- 1 New lad Ron works for one with property (9)
- 6 One employs stud (4)
- 9 Accountant needs to demonstrate acquiring source of capital – an easy one (4,3)
- 10 Interim changes for Euston, Waterloo etc. (7)
- 11 State handout a help to some extent (4)
- 12 Courage to canoodle in traffic jam (10)
- 14 Area of Christianity perhaps left one out (6)

- 15 Criminal has battle to get soup (8)
- 18 Workforce on ring road in Midlands town (8)
- 19 English composer caught with conspirator (6)
- 22 Again made a great effort to be moderate? (10)
- 24 Could be North European (4)
- 26 Organised a trip to one who lives his country (7)
- 27 Nominate a quiet location (7)
- 28 Hitch perhaps, making speed in the main (4)
- 29 Tell niece about the customers (9)

DOWN

- 1 Person without, say, varnish? (7)
- 2 Lost again, recollecting pleasant memories (9)
- 3 Cry of pain when taking top off settee (4)
- 4 Said to give mild rebuke for two presents (3,3)
- 5 Turning list into muddle (8)
- 6 American composer's dance quartet (6-4)
- 7 Beat small, small child (5)
- 8 Choose the French relish (6)
- 13 Traditional sort shakes up Microsoft around start of November (10)
- 16 Remote moving object associated with space ultimately (9)
- 17 Creative traits wrongly associated with one Conservative (8)
- 18 Gets undressed for journey aboard ship (6)
- 20 Item of confectionery that is for loved one (7)
- 21 Gurkha seen in alpine resort (6)
- 23 Chap embraces a fallen angel (5)
- 25 Second joke is drawn out and twisted (4)

Solution to November 2019 Cryptic Crossword Set by Oldie – Gazette Ref: 60

ACROSS

- 7 repairer. 9 ageism. 10 cage. 11 non-starter. 12 recall.
 14 warfarin. 15 absurd. 16 fruity. 19 Aviemore. 21 minute.
 23 unpleasant. 24 shag. 25 pestle. 26 disposed.

DOWN

- 1 senate. 2 fame. 3 wrangler. 4 rafter. 5 recreation. 6 asperity.
 8 renown. 13 Austerlitz. 15 advanced. 17 remotest. 18 herald.
 20 orates. 22 trader. 24 shoo.

Our Local Kites.

There was a photo of a Kite on the cover of the November Gazette (seen over Selsdon Wood), and what magnificent birds these are, and so very distinctive with their forked tails. The first Kites that I saw was some 20 or more years ago. They had been re-introduced in the Chiltons and when driving to or from North Wales on the M40 we would always see some wheeling in the sky above. The motorway providing a ready source of food - dead animals.



But some 3 years ago I first noted kites flying in the skies above the Limpsfield Rd, near Botley Hill Farm. I regularly cycle along the Limpsfield Rd and adjacent lanes, with my cycle club. The Kites are now a fairly common sight. I have on two occasions written about these sightings for our bike club journals, the relevant parts being reproduced below.

Thursday Ride 8th September 2016.

We rode out to Lullingstone Country Park via our favourite climb, Beddlested Lane. The road was closed due to fly tipping but we rode up the climb anyway, to join the Limpsfield Rd near the top of Botley Hill. But wait what's this? Could it be ... yes ... looking over the field to the left I had to stop riding. Three Red Kites wheeling around the sky. Never seen Red Kites in Surrey before so we all stopped to watch the kites and three buzzards fly around. The buzzards have a nesting site in the woods adjacent to the Pilgrims Way. Surely the Kites must also be nesting in the local area!

Tuesday Ride 8th May 2018.

On this beautiful sunny day the Surrey Hills and Kent Weald were at their best. What a magnificent view over the countryside as we headed west, on a detour along the Pilgrims Way towards the bottom of Titsey Hill. Stopping here by the church, I caught sight of about six kites wheeling around in the blue sky above. These birds of prey, clearly identifiable by their forked tails, are a very new introduction to England, and one of the few breeding grounds is here, around Botley and Titsey Hills.

Des Donohoe (des.oldselsdon.gmail.com)

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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	see website: www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk	
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 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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