



The Selsdon — Gazette —

Volume 76. No. 854 December 2023



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Councillors for Selsdon & Addington Village Ward

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

Cllr Joseph Lee Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk 07716 092463

Councillors for Selsdon Vale & Forestdale Ward

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

Cllr Fatima Zaman Fatima.zaman@croydon.gov.uk 07458 092567

Councillors for Sanderstead Ward

Cllr Lynne Hale Lynne.hale@croydon.gov.uk 0208 651 2229

Cllr Yvette Hopley Yvette.hopley@croydon.gov.uk 0208 640 7033

Cllr Helen Redfern Helen.redfern@croydon.gov.uk

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

Editor's Note



Welcome to the December edition of the *Gazette* and its colourful front and back covers provided by our competition winners, Evie and Charlie. Well done to both and all those local children who entered. By now the Selsdon Christmas Lights will be shining along our High Street to cheer us up as the days get ever shorter. The Selsdon Residents' Association provide the lights using donations from our generous residents. Long may they continue to do so!

This month we have our regular contributors, the police giving advice as to how to protect against theft from our cars and vans, Ted Forsyth explains the physics behind seeing colour in nature, our gardening gurus tell us how to add colour to our winter gardens and Mary Gill laments the senseless felling of trees. Ian Leggatt looks into another housing development, this time to the side of Upper Selsdon Road and our very own *Gazette* Treasurer, Jenny Bradley, describes taking up the challenge of walking The Vanguard Way in the first part of her account of the journey. After describing her school days at Selsdon Primary School in the late 1950s in last month's gazette, Elizabeth Coleman recollects some of the games she enjoyed playing at lunchtimes.

As we all start looking forward to the Christmas Holidays, I had to include a quiz about traditional Christmas food and a selection of Christmas Cracker jokes. I was pleased to hear from Maria Emmett, the owner of The Golden Ark, with an article about how Christmas is celebrated in different parts of the world. I hope that she inspires you all to send me a contribution to your gazette, whether a photo taken in Selsdon, an interesting article, a moan about something that bothers you, praise for something that you appreciate or even your first attempt at a poem. My email is selsdongazettesra@gmail.com

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. I hope that you enjoy your read and I look forward to hearing from you.

Chris Jones

🌀 SUBMISSIONS FOR THE JANUARY 2024 EDITION
SHOULD BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN
20TH DECEMBER - PREFERABLY BEFORE! 🌀

SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS

Gazette

We still need an Advertising Manager and would love to hear from anyone who would consider this post. We are also in need of deliverers. Why not make a New Year's resolution to get fit and help your community by delivering the Gazette once a month to approx. 50 houses? Phil Roberts or myself are happy to speak to you about what is involved (phone numbers at front of Gazette).

Planning

Our planning committee check every week on the council's website and decide if any action is to be taken. A recent application to change the operating hours for Fireaway Pizza from 11am-11pm to 8am -3am has been challenged by the SRA on grounds of nuisance noise for the residents above the shop and, if granted, might allow other food outlets to follow suit.

Travel

Amazing news that the one-day travel card has been saved by the power of the people!! Apparently, there are still some issues with ticket machines and PayPal which should be resolved.

The recent diversion to the 433 bus was poorly managed and we have put our concerns forward as it may have to happen again before January for the utilities to the new "Mews" houses behind Wetherspoons.

More recently the 64 and 433 were both on diversion. Again, we put our concerns forward.

Victoria Bus Station: From 15 November the bus station (TFL buses in front of train station) is closed for "essential" work for 6 weeks. The Coach Station is not affected.

Gatwick: The new train station is now open and this should ease congestion for all those travelling through there for flights.

Easyfundraising News

We have received some good news from Easyfundraising; The Selsdon Christmas Lights have been paid £101-55 from their £1.3 million Donation Day pay-out.

Please consider supporting the Selsdon Christmas Lights when you are doing your Christmas shopping online or your weekly supermarket shop online. To raise a donation when you shop online, at no cost to you, start with the Easyfundraising app or website <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/selsdonchristmaslights> . Over 8000 brands including M&S, Argos, John Lewis, Tesco and more will donate to the Lights as you shop.

WHAT TO DO

1. Use the link above to go to the correct easyfundraising webpage
2. Make a free account and if you request that the automatic reminder link is added to your tool bar then it will appear on your screen whenever you go to a participating seller's website.
3. Search for a retailer and select.
4. Now on the retailers site make your purchases as usual.
5. A donation is made by the retailer to Selsdon Lights when you pay for your goods.

Thanks, in advance, for your support

Christmas Lights

I write this before the 24th November switch-on and hope you had a good evening. Many thanks to all your donations which saw an amazing 18% increase this year. Fantastic!!

We would like to thank the following traders for their donations so far:

Royal Tandoori	Gem Nails
Tudor Library	AS Grooming
KIBa	The Golden Ark
Hubbard and Torlot	Sun Lounger
Mr Dry Clean	Raz Barbers
Selsdon Nails	

We are expecting contributions from our other local traders and will list these in the January Gazette, and, of course we hope to collect more donations at the Switch-On.

Birch

Unfortunately, we have received reports that Birch (Selsdon) is in

administration and the staff are being paid until the end of November. Birch (Cheshunt) is already closed.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and healthy New Year from your Residents' Association Committee.

Sheila Childs,
Chair

~~

COUNCILLORS' NOTES

SUCCESSFUL BID

Fantastic news about Croydon Council being successful in its bid to the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities for £18.5 million of government funding. The money was awarded to the Reconnecting Croydon scheme, which will see six infrastructure and public realm projects funded to reconnect and revitalise Croydon's streetscape. This will be used to transform Croydon town centre and restore pride in our public spaces and reconnect areas to our town centre, so that the residents and visitors will be able to travel feeling safe and have an enjoyable time.

The projects will provide improved connections throughout the town centre, so residents and visitors will be able to travel more easily through safer, greener and more pleasant routes.

The projects will cover the South End restaurant quarter, East Croydon station, West Croydon station and Old Town and Croydon Minster. Central to the bid is the delivery of a new civic square for the Fairfield cultural complex, connecting Queen's Gardens and Surrey Street Market.

COUNCIL BUDGET 2024/25

The Council has set out new proposals for our 2024/25 budget and want Croydon residents to have their say on their budget proposals which will see them spend around £400m, whilst making essential savings of £31m. The Council still needs to save money as a council whilst still being able to provide efficient services and want to hear from residents and businesses. The consultation is open for six weeks and closes on 19 December and can be found on <https://www.getinvolved.croydon.gov.uk/budget24-25>.

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

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

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

Selsdon and Addington Village

Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk

Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk

Selsdon Vale and Forestdale

Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk

Fatima.zaman@croydon.gov.uk

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

23/03804/CONR -164 Addington Road South Croydon CR2 8LB
Variation of Condition 2 on planning permission 03/00646/P for Use of ground floor for purpose within Class A3 (Food & Drink) and erection of extract ducting at rear (amended description) approved on 21.10.2004, to new opening hours of Monday to Sunday 08:00 to 03:00.

*(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



News on Purley Pool

It is essential that there is a swimming pool in Purley. The previous pool there was used by 11 local schools, many charities, and people across the Borough of all ages. I am therefore determined to see a new pool opened, which will also provide a welcome lift to Purley town centre.

The old pool had deteriorated to the point that it could not be re-opened. However, I am pleased to say that a development agreement has

been signed-off between the Council as the Freeholder and the long-leaseholder Polaska to deliver the new pool and leisure centre.

The project will see a brand new six lane pool, training pool, 80 station gym, studio facilities, café and car park opened, as well a new public square and open route between the station and high street. There will be housing built on the site too, reserved for older people (many of whom will likely downsize from local larger houses, making those available for young families).

The project is due to be completed in just over two years from now. I will obviously study the planning application carefully when it arrives, but the delivery of a new pool and leisure centre is clearly to be welcomed in principle. I will keep you updated as this project progresses.

London Travelcard Campaign Success

I'm delighted to report that the campaign to save the London Travelcard has been successful. Earlier in the year, I had encouraged my constituents to sign my petition against the Mayor of London and TfL's plans to scrap the Travelcard - the paper ticket that gives passengers unlimited travel on across all public transport services in London. It was no surprise that over 2,000 Croydon South residents signed in just a few days, which I then presented to the Mayor of London.

Many of you raised concerns that scrapping the travelcard would make travelling into and around London from Croydon more complicated, especially for children who are not regular travellers and do not own a ZIP card. Some raised concerns that friends and family living outside of London would find it harder to visit, whilst, for others, such as those without access to technology and contactless cards – which includes some older people - it was clear that the travelcard is a lifeline.

With over 12 million sold last year alone, it is clear that Travelcards remain a popular way to travel.

It is right that Travelcards will continue to be available, and I thank everyone who signed the petition for their support - it shows that these campaigns can be successful in bringing about change.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and all the very best wishes for 2024.

Chris Philp

Member of Parliament, Croydon South: [020 7219 8026](tel:02072198026)

chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk

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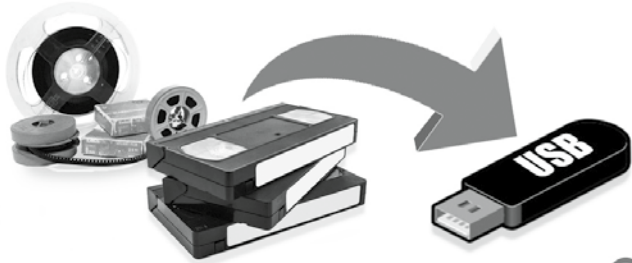


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Selsdon Residents' Association, together with six other local associations have written the following letter (dated 7 November) to Mayor Jason Perry and our MP, Chris Philp, about the proposed Purley development.

Dear Jason and Chris,

The seven local Residents' Associations (RAs) listed at the bottom of this e-mail are very supportive of the re-opening of the Purley pool and leisure facilities. It was of course very disappointing to learn that it was not financially possible to refurbish the existing leisure facility, despite all the previous pre-Mayoral election information that £3.4 m would be sufficient to upgrade the existing pool complex.

However, the seven RAs, have three main concerns, which we list below:

1) **Polaska Assets Ltd;** we are aware that Polaska Assets Ltd was assigned the remainder of the Head Lease from J Sainsbury plc in 2004 and we understand the term for the existing complex/land was subsequently extended by the Council in 2004, expiring on 25 March 2129. So about 106 years remaining on the Head Lease (source the Council's Cabinet report on 25 October 2023). A 'Polaska Assets Ltd' was registered in the UK at Companies House on 24 August 2022 and, according to the Companies House website, they have filed no accounts since and the 'confirmation statement is overdue'.

Four questions here:

- a) **Are the Council fully confident that Polaska is financially viable and able to fund and undertake a project of this size?**
- b) **What is Polaska's experience in projects of this nature and is the Council confident in their company management structure and ability to deliver this project?**
- c) **Will the later living flats be for sale, or for rent?**
- d) **Are the Council making any financial contribution, or loan to Polaska for these 'Later Living' flats? Or are Polaska solely funding them?**

2) **Public Parking;** as you will be aware the current Purley multi storey carpark can accommodate 412 vehicles plus 12 blue badge vehicles - so 424 spaces in total. From the information currently available there will be very little long-term parking in Purley (more than 3 hours) if the multi storey car park is demolished. The RAs are not fully clear how many parking spaces are to be provided by Polaska for the new development because the Pool website does not state a number for both public parking and the 'Later Living' flats. We again stress, that the nearby Mosque is being constructed with no parking. Where will all these visitors park, especially on a Friday, plus the parking spaces required for visitors to

the Purley town centre? There is a development proposed for the Purley station car park site which have just had revised plans submitted and of course the Purley tower scheme Phase 1 is nearly complete but phases 2 and 3 are yet to be built. Again, where will the station commuters park, especially during development?

It is the 7 RAs view there should be at least 200 public parking spaces, to provide parking for the town centre, in addition for the new Mosque use and the opening of the leisure centre, which will of course result in greater use of the car park than existing. In addition, we believe there should be at least 30 parking spaces for the 'Later Living' residential accommodation.

3) Height of proposed buildings; the RAs are somewhat alarmed for the proposals to build one building at 12 storeys high (or possibly now 11 storeys). As you will be aware there is no provision within the Croydon Local Plan (CLP) 2018 for another landmark building of this height in Purley. It also needs to be remembered the land levels on the footway (pavement) on Whytecliffe Rd South, outside the proposed 12 (or 11) storey building, is about 6 metres higher than the footway on Brighton Rd, where the 17-storey tower will be built. So, in effect the top of this proposed 12 storey 'tower' will come up to roughly the 14th floor of the Mosaic Place tower development. The residents of Purley and surrounding areas, do not want another tall building and are horrified at the prospect of losing so many short- and long- term car parking spaces.

We hope you can answer these three main points (especially the questions in bold font) that we have raised, as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

For and on behalf of Riddlesdown RA, Hartley & District RA, East Coulsdon RA, Old Coulsdon RA, Coulsdon West RA, Selsdon RA, and Croham Valley RA.

~~

2024 Calendar For donation of £5

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Croydon Parking Strategy Consultation

The Council have undertaken a consultation exercise on their 'Draft Parking Policy 2023'. The document can be found here: <https://www.getinvolved.croydon.gov.uk/draft-croydon-parking-policy-2023> . The SRA have submitted the following comments:



"The Selsdon Residents Association wishes to respond to the Croydon Council Draft Parking Policy 2023. Utilising the stated aims of the draft parking policy our comments are in bold italic below:

- Support and enhance the ways in which people will be able to visit local businesses, high streets and town centres in Croydon ***with adequate time allowed for free parking and sufficient number of parking bays provided.***
- Make parking more accessible to people with disabilities
- Introduce virtual parking permits for residents ***but not at the detriment of those unable or unwilling to use smart phone apps.***
- Improve intelligence-led enforcement procedures to target illegally parked vehicles and blue badge fraud, targeting known hot spot areas and events
- Make service improvements to areas known for high rates of parking non-compliance.

What does this mean?

- Modernise and simplify parking controls and zones to:
 1. make it easier to understand tariff rates, parking availability and locations
 2. enable future pricing structures to be fairer and competitive compared to neighbouring boroughs and shopping districts.

In addition, we would raise the following points:

- 1. The Equality Analysis undertaken identifies adverse impact on some older and disabled people. How is that going to be managed going forward?***
- 2. The Department of Transport and the Prime Minister, on 29th September 2023, stated that the Governments long-term plan is to back drivers, how is that stated aim going to be incorporated into the Croydon Council Parking Policy?"***

SRA Committee

The Gazette Needs Help



Distributors and Deliverers needed

I am glad to report that we now have two volunteers to act as distributors for Selsdon Vale, but we would like one more. Ridge Langley also needs a distributor.

Could you spare a couple of hours per month?

You would need to pick up about 350 copies from our Distribution Manager in Dulverton Road and then pass these to about 7 deliverers in bundles of about 50 gazettes.

Finally, we need two volunteers to deliver gazettes to Kingfisher Gardens, Turnstone, Owl and Kittiwake Closes and one volunteer to deliver the odd numbers along Sundale Avenue from January.

Please contact our Distribution Manager, Phil Roberts (07985 175452) or email: sra.philroberts@gmail.com

SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

GAZETTE CHRISTMAS COVER COMPETITION

for Selsdon's primary and nursery school children

RESULTS

Many thanks to all those children who took part. It was a very difficult job choosing just two of them, one for the front and one for the back cover. Well done to Faith, Jiselle, Shanelle, Jessica, Ryan, Harriet, Lola, Nicholas, Violet, Charlie, James and Evie.



The winners were
Front Cover: Evie
Back Cover: Charlie



All entries can be seen on the SRA Notice board by Iceland

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Advice from our Local Police Wards

Prevent Theft from a Vehicle



1. Always lock it

2. Close windows and the sun roof to prevent 'fishing'

Leaving windows and the sunroof open invites fishing for items through the gap by hand or with, say, a bent coat hanger, which could also be used to unlock a door for them to get in.

3. Secure your number plates with tamper-resistant screws

The easiest way to change the identity of a stolen vehicle or avoid speeding tickets and parking tickets is to fit stolen number plates. Using security screws to attach your vehicle's number plates makes it harder for thieves to get your number.

4. Fit locking, anti-tamper wheel nuts to secure alloy wheels

Stolen wheels are valuable, either as parts or for their scrap value. Using locking wheel nuts reduces the risk of your vehicle's wheels being stolen.

5. Secure anything that's on the outside of your vehicle

Anything left on roof-racks, tailgate racks, holiday top boxes or in tool chests are easily stolen when the vehicle is parked. The use of cable locks, padlocks and self-locking tools chests, which are secured to the vehicle, makes them more secure, but still, don't leave things in them if you can avoid it.

6. Take it with you or hide it

Your mobile phone, coins for the car park, sunglasses, or other items that can earn quick cash are irresistible to the opportunist thief. Remember, the cost of replacing a window is often much more than that of what's stolen. And it should go without saying that wallets, handbags, purses and credit cards should never be left in an unattended vehicle.

7. Hide electrical items and leave no clues

Leaving sat nav mounts, suction cup marks on windows or cables on view gives it away that you have left a Sat Nav, smartphone or other device in your car. Even if they can't see the Sat Nav or iPad they might still break in to see if it's stored in the car, out of sight.

8. Tool theft from vans

Vans are often targeted by thieves for the tools stored inside. If you have to leave tools in a van overnight, it's a good idea to mark them clearly with your name / company name and address using paint pens and seal with a clear lacquer spray. Alternatively, you can use a variety of other property

marking systems. Items that are clearly marked are less desirable and more difficult to sell on.

Consider using a lockable cabinet within your van to store tools – a number of security rated products are available. Small cameras are also designed to record inside vehicles.

You can also take photographs of items of value, make a note of the serial numbers and consider registering them online at a property register site.

9. Park in well-lit and busier areas

It can take less than 30 seconds to break into a vehicle. Parking in well-lit areas and busy streets increases the chances of a thief being seen, so they'll probably steer clear.

10. Take your documents with you

Having a vehicle's registration and insurance documents could let a thief pretend to be the owner. Which means they could sell it on quite easily. So, never leave any documents in the vehicle.

11. Choose your car park wisely

If possible, always try to park in well-lit and staffed car parks or those with a Park Mark safer parking award.

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

Emergencies – 999

Selsdon & Addington Village:

SelsdonandAddingtonVillageSNT@met.police.uk

Selsdon Vale & Forestdale:

SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk

~~

A Good Time for Gardening – December

We are now in the grip of winter, all be it, a rather wet one at the moment. Rather than look out onto your garden/patio/balcony/drive and think how dull and dismal it looks, why not enhance the area with a splash of colour provided by winter-flowering plants. There's a huge range to grow, including climbers such as winter clematis and winter honeysuckle, shrubs like mahonia and daphne, and bedding plants like winter pansies – there's a flowering plant for every part of the garden. What's more, many winter-flowering plants, like snowdrops, pansies, cyclamen, winter heather and hellebore, are suitable for growing in pots, so you can add colour anywhere you fancy in the coldest, darkest months, extending the

traditional growing season of spring to autumn.

Some winter-flowering plants also benefit pollinators, providing pollen and nectar for species such as bumblebees, which are increasingly found foraging in the winter months. These flowers can therefore provide a lifeline for these unseasonably active pollinators, who otherwise would go hungry. However, not all winter flowers are bee-friendly so please choose carefully.

Here are some shrubs you could select for your winter garden:

Winter honeysuckle, *Lonicera fragrantissima*, is a woody shrub that bears fragrant, cream-white flowers on almost leafless branches, which are a magnet for winter-active bumblebees. These are sometimes followed by dull red berries.



Christmas rose, *Helleborus niger*, is the first of the hellebores to flower, usually in January, but occasionally as early as Christmas. It bears large, round, white flat-faced flowers that are very attractive to bees, above low-growing mounds of leathery, deep green foliage. It's perfect for growing at the front of a partially shaded border.

Winter aconites bear golden yellow buttercup-like, pollinator-friendly flowers, surrounded by divided leafy bracts, from mid- to late-winter. Clumps quickly spread and makes a dramatic yellow carpet just as the first snowdrops begin to bloom. They are perfect for planting beneath trees or naturalising in grass.

Daphnes are colourful shrubs, usually blooming in late winter and early spring. They're fantastic for small gardens, with various types perfect for different situations, such as in window boxes, large containers, mixed borders, areas of dry shade and gravel gardens. There are both evergreen and deciduous varieties. Most bear clusters of small flowers in shades of red or pink and sometimes white or green, which are attractive to bees. Others to consider include mahonia, winter clematis, winter heathers, hardy cyclamen, quince, viburnum, winter jasmine and witch hazel which will all bring colour, scent and interest to your winter garden.

Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid

www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

Costains 2nd Selsdon Housing Development

We saw, dear reader, back in the September 2020 and February 2021 Selsdon Gazettes that Costains the builders were the founders of the Selsdon as we now know it.

The speed of development seems dizzyingly rapid compared to our current experience of Public Enquiries, Planning Approvals and Appeals, Affordable Housing targets and Financial Viability Appraisals, labour and materials cost increases. All now seem normal and thwart the developers desire for quick and adequate returns.

Costains first approached the then local Coulsdon and Purley Urban District Council in 1925 for planning permission to construct 146 new houses in Selsdon. Approval was granted on March 5th and the first houses in Upper Selsdon Road, Byron, Queenhill and Farley Roads were occupied by September 1925. On July 18th 1925 a planning application for a further 208 houses in Rylandes, Foxearth, Brent and Littleheath Roads was approved. Costains continued over several years to add further houses down Farley Road as well as many shops in Addington Road. By 1931 Richard Costain and Sons was hungry for more building opportunities in Selsdon. Despite the recession they decided to target a slightly more affluent and discriminating purchaser with the erection of 150 pairs of semi-detached houses in the neighbouring Parish of Sanderstead.



Extract from OS map of 1900
Church Way, then a mere track,
running north / south, outlined.

Their site was on the south west side of Upper Selsdon Road and comprised some 36 acres of farmland which was part of the Langley,



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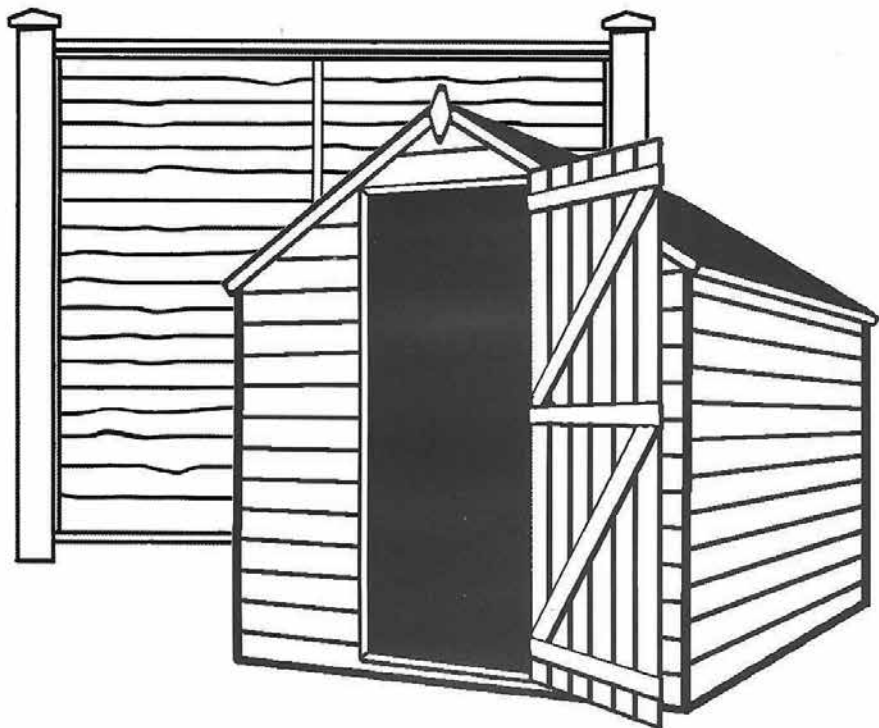
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formerly Sanderstead, Estate. 9 fields and woodlands comprising 80 acres of the Sanderstead Estate had been owned by Atwood Wigsell and then, in 1919, a Captain Esme Arkwright.

The captain had financial difficulties and a John Hossack borrowed money from Messrs Spurr and Asplin of Grays, Essex, to purchase the land. By 1930 Messrs Spurr and Asplin were the owners of the 36 acres which they sold to A H Jennings of Belvedere. Mr Jennings then sold the land to The Walton Heath Land Company in 1931, a company formed by W P Costain back in the early 1920s to acquire interests in various estates around London. We would call it a Land Bank. The roughly rectangular but undulating site was bounded by Selsdon Road (now Upper Selsdon Road) to the north east, Church Way to the west and Sanderstead Plantation to the south. Two large detached houses with grounds were adjacent to the site at the Upper Selsdon Road end.



Extract from OS Map of 1912

(Upper) Selsdon Road running diagonally from top left to its junction with Addington Road and with the grand houses of Langley Oaks and Ingleside to its south west.

No Farley Road. The cottages of Selsdon Farm along the Addington Road, middle right. The track from Addington Road to Gee Wood now passes the Baptist Church to where it meets Foxearth Road.



Extract from OS Map of 1961

Norfolk and Arundel Avenues can be seen running from Upper Selsdon Road through to Church Way.

The later extension, Langley Oaks Avenue, linking to Upper Selsdon Road by the old Library.

The woodlands of Sanderstead Plantation and The Hooks are still in evidence today and are designated Metropolitan Open Land

Costains wanted to build 150 houses proposing 50 each of three differing styles and specification. The Council wanted more variety and eventually, in December of 1931, planning consent was granted for 108 houses comprising four different styles of houses with six alternative specifications. The plan of the Croham Heights Estate was laid out with Norfolk and Arundel Avenues in a convoluted arrangement somewhat constrained by the presence of the two grand houses and the topography. Arundel Avenue accessed onto Upper Selsdon Road and Norfolk Avenue on to Church Way. Once again, the naming process of the roads lacked imagination: Costains had offices in London at Arundel and Norfolk streets. Langley Oaks Avenue was not on the drawing board at that stage. A further 42 houses were agreed later.

The new houses were marketed as 'Croham Heights' making great play on the elevation of the plots leading to healthy living. Costains described their new venture thus:

"Sixty years of building good homes have taught us to build them where people want to spend a lifetime. The beautiful Surrey hills on which the homes of Croham Heights stand were a favourite beauty spot for Londoners wanting to go afoot and awheel for their weekend 'breather'. It is still a beauty spot, and bounded as it is by woodlands and open heath and golf courses, it will remain so for the unending delight of those whose homes nestle on the hills. Typical English homes, these, in a typically English setting: mellow brick and timber, red roofed and fronted with wide walled gardens. It is a fact that doctors have little to do at Croham Heights except to bring in to the world a healthy generation of children who will inherit good homes. It is also a fact that people have settled at Croham

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Building commenced in March 1932 with the further houses on what is now Langley Oaks Avenue receiving planning permission in March 1933. By the end of 1934 almost all the houses had been constructed.

The 4 styles of house were: Elmwood, Ashwood, Oakwood and Teakwood with the cheapest Elmwood priced at £945.

More of those later....

Ian Leggatt.

Thanks again to the journals of Ted Frith. Any errors are mine. Extracts are from OS maps from the National Library of Scotland.

Do any residents have copies of the Costains sales brochures which they would allow me to carefully scan and record?

~~

The Vanguard Way – From the Suburbs to the Sea, Part 1

For many years I had seen signposts for the Vanguard way near East Croydon station without having a clue what it was. When I moved to Selsdon and saw more of the signposts in the woods, I was more curious, and a quick google revealed that the Vanguard way is a 66 mile walk from East Croydon to Newhaven divided into sections. There are detailed maps and guides freely available on the internet as well as regular signposts along the whole route. The guides include very useful information about train stations, bus routes and pubs along the way which we ended up making full use of.

The final incentive to start the walk was the second Covid lock down in November 2020 which happened to coincide with my birthday. Parties were banned unless you lived in Downing Street, and the only way you could meet a friend was by walking in the fresh air. I printed off the first stage of the walk, in preparation.

20th November 2020, I met my friend and ex neighbour, Noelle, at East Croydon Station. Despite being very familiar with the way to get from

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there to Selsdon, we enjoyed following every detailed twist and turn on the printed guide. We passed through Lloyd Park and on to Littleheath Woods where we stopped to enjoy the thermos of mulled wine which I had brought with me. The route then followed side roads and paths to get to and through Selsdon Woods and on to the entrance to Farleigh Golf Club where we decided to stop as the light was failing.

29th December 2020 we walked along the road up to Farleigh Golf Club to begin stage 2 of our journey. The route took us down the muddy path at the side of the Golf Clubhouse where we surprised 3 small deer who ran across our path. We passed through Chelsham and somewhere to the east of Warlingham were instructed to pass diagonally across a large field with a muddy pond in the middle surrounded by barbed wire.



About halfway across the field, we realised that we had attracted the attention of a large herd of young long-horned cattle who were heading steadily towards us while playfully clattering horns with each other. We carefully backed away from the cattle towards the pond and climbed to relative safety under the barbed wire. Luckily the cattle were not too bright and stayed staring at the wire while we edged our way around the pond, although by the time we reached the other side we were knee deep in mud! We sheepishly took a slight detour from the printed instructions but rejoined the route in order to squelch down to Woldingham station for a train back to East Croydon.

13th February 2021. We had planned to continue the walk but due to sub-zero temperatures and very icy conditions, Noelle sensibly recommended that we cancel. I, on the other hand decided that the clear blue skies were too beautiful to waste and set off on my own for a walk through King's

Wood. As I walked along a pavement in Hamsey Green, I slipped backwards on black ice and broke my left wrist! Clearly Noelle had been right.



Our next four walks were pleasant and uneventful (29th May 2021 - Woldingham to Limpsfield Chart; 21st July 2021 - Limpsfield Chart to Edenbridge; 21st August 2021- Edenbridge to Forest Row; 23 October 2021 – East Grinstead/ Forest Row to Poundgate) We were joined by friends for all or parts of these days. We enjoyed midday picnics and flasks of coffee, and evening meals and drinks in country pubs. On 21st August we had past the halfway point. The train journeys at the beginning and end of the walks were getting considerably longer.

To be continued next month

~~

Following last month's article from Elizabeth Coleman about going to school in the late 1950s, she now recollects some of the games played in the playground.

PLAYGROUND GAMES AT SELSDON SCHOOL IN THE FIFTIES

I was born in 1950, so was at Selsdon Primary School from 1955 to 1961. When the girls played together in the playground at Selsdon school in the fifties, we said rhymes together as part of the game. (Girls and boys almost always played separately.)

SKIPPING GAMES

I LIKE COFFEE (Skipping individually)

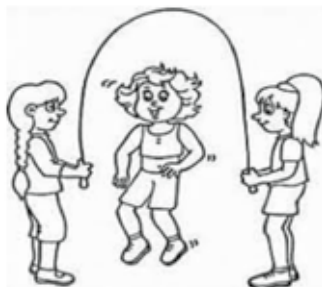
'I like coffee, I like tea,
I like Mary in with me.'

(Mary comes in and skips with you.)

I don't like coffee, I don't like tea,
I don't like Mary in with me.'
(Mary jumps out from the skipping rope)

I'M A GIRL GUIDE (Skipping with one girl at each end of the rope)

I'm a Girl Guide
Dressed in blue.
These are the things that I must do.



Salute to the Captain,
Curtsey to the Queen,
Turn right round and count 16.

OTHER GAMES

WHAT'S THE TIME MISTER WOLF?

One game we played was "What's the time, Mister Wolf?"
One girl was the wolf, standing facing away from the others, who approached her as near as they dared, saying, "What's the time Mister Wolf?"

The wolf would say different times, like "One o'clock", "Six o'clock", but would eventually shout "Dinner time!" and turn round and try to catch one of the other girls for dinner.

CONKERS

We would gather horse chestnuts, get our fathers to drill through them, put a string through them, and play conkers.



CAT'S CRADLE

A game for two people. You got a loop of string, and made a "cat's cradle", then "tram lines" etc, till you got back to a cat's cradle upside down and started again. (Easier for you to look up on the internet than for me to explain.)

MAKING SLIDES ON ICE

When it was icy, the headmistress told us not to make slides in the street,

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as it might cause older people to fall over. However, there was an area of the playground where we were allowed to slide on the ice.

SOMERSAULTS ON THE RAILINGS

We weren't allowed to somersault over the railings, but we did!

HANDSTANDS AND CARTWHEELS

When the weather was good, we were allowed to play on "the field" above the school. Handstands including "handstand and over," and cartwheels were popular.

LOOKING FOR 4-LEAVED CLOVERS

There was a lot of clover, and we would sometimes look unsuccessfully for a four-leaved clover.

DAISY CHAINS

There were lots of daisies, and we would make daisy chains.

DO YOU LIKE BUTTER?

You would hold a buttercup under a child's chin, and if there was a yellow reflection, this would mean that she liked butter.



AUTOGRAPHS

Some of us had autograph books and collected autographs. People often wrote little poems, the most popular of which were:

'Roses are red, violets are blue,
Sugar is sweet and so are you.'

I still have my old autograph book, and one of the boys adapted it a bit:

'Roses are red violets are blue,
With a head like yours you belong in a zoo!'

The other popular one was:

'YYUR
YYUB
ICUR
YY4me'

(Too wise you are, too wise you be. I see you are too wise for me.)

I would be interested to know what games children play in the playground of Selsdon Primary School now.

Quiz about Christmas Food

We are familiar with the song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' so here are twelve questions about Christmas food for you to get your teeth into.

1. The most popular Christmas dinner main is turkey, but what is the most popular vegetarian alternative?
2. In 'The Christmas Song' what was 'roasting on an open fire'?
3. In Japan, which famous fast food restaurant brand is a traditional Christmas treat?
4. How many mince pies does the average Brit eat over Christmas? a) 6 b) 11 c) 21 d) 27
5. What is the name of the traditional Italian cake eaten at Christmas?
6. What would you stick into an onion when following a traditional bread sauce recipe?
7. Which fruit was often found in children's Christmas stockings in the UK and considered to be a luxury?
8. Stollen is the traditional fruit cake of which country?
9. Bounceberry is another name for which Christmas berry?
10. Who dishes up the figgy pudding in Charles Dicken's classic 'A Christmas Carol'?
11. Which alcohol is traditionally added to the base of a Christmas trifle?
12. What is a "Pfefferkuchenhaus"?



Answers after Nature Notes



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

Please remember to state your name, address, contact number and publication anonymity requirements in **all** correspondence to the Editor. Anonymity can be granted on request, but anonymously sent letters/e-mails will not be published.

One reader wanted to know if others had spotted this problem in their gardens.

Dear Editor,

Green Alkanet (a member of the forget-me-not family, Boraginaceae, and is related to borage and comfrey) has been thriving this year and is invading our garden. I even saw it in the flower box by the Post Office. It is difficult to dig out. Have any other gardeners noticed it?

Cherry Lewis

~~

Cherry also wanted to remind us that every life matters.

My former neighbours were Cliff and Vera Impey. They were past middle age and had no children. Sadly, Vera contracted cancer of the jaw. She received treatment but did not live much longer. Cliff lived on for a few more years alone. He used to visit a neighbour who had dementia, but that is another story.

Cherry later found out that they had had important jobs. They worked at soldering wires for the manufacture of incubators. So many premature babies were nurtured in these incubators made by this lovely couple.

~~

Dear Editor,

The article on Don't Mess With Croydon in the November Gazette is somewhat misleading.

There is no app called 'Don't Mess With Croydon' on the iPhone App

Store. There is an app 'Love Clean Streets'.

It would seem that the web site www.croydon.gov.uk/doitonline/report-it is a catch all page actually addressed <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/>.

But many of the topics on the list shown in the article cannot be reported using that page (or if you can, it takes a lot of searching!). You need to search instead for 'Don't Mess With Croydon' - eventually this gets to <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/environment/dont-mess-croydon>. But even that is not suitable for most of the listed topics. For them there seems no option other than to download the 'Love Clean Streets app'.

Regards,

Brian Matthews.

Many thanks for this Brian. I put Don't Mess With Croydon into my search engine and came up with two routes:

1. Download the LoveCleanStreets app and select Croydon as my home local authority

2. Report 'street cleansing' issues online. When I clicked on the link and selected reporting an issue without opening an account, I was allowed to select a category under the headings: Parks, green spaces and grounds maintenance; Street cleansing issues; Roads, footpaths, kerb issues; Graffiti; Trees and woodland; Parking problems. All the problems listed in the November gazette could be accessed this way.

So, we can report issues via the LoveCleanStreets app or online starting with 'Don't Mess With Croydon'. The important thing here is to report issues to improve our environment.

Here our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, gives us a Christmas story.

He was sound asleep, cosied into a new style of blanket they had been trying out for a week or two, at the factory where the Christmas presents were made and wrapped. Father Christmas was disturbed by something, yawned and stretched, then rolled onto his other side and in the warmth of his snuggly blanket, went straight back to sleep.

Head Elf was perturbed. He called across the packing floor to some of the remaining elves, sprites and gnomes, "He just doesn't want to wake up, he is so snug in our latest cosy blanket". Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer

Wishing you a very *Merry Christmas* from all the churches in

Selsdon & Addington

Worship with us this Christmas!

Saturday 16th December

- **2:30pm-4pm** Christmas Messy Church at St. Mary's Addington

Sunday 17th December

- **10:30am** All-Age Nativity service at Selsdon Baptist Church
- **6:30pm** Christmas service, followed by mince pies and mulled wine at Croydon Jubilee Church
- **6pm** Nine Lessons and Carols at St. John's
- **6:30pm** Carols by candlelight at Selsdon Baptist Church
- **6:30pm** Nine Lessons and Carols at St. Mary's Addington

Monday 18th December

- **7pm** Quiet service at St. John's

Thursday 21st December

- **6pm** Longest Night service at Selsdon Baptist Church

Your Local Churches

Addington Methodist Church,
Huntingfield, CR0 9BA
St. Columba's (Roman Catholic),
37 Queenhill Road, CR2 8DW

Croydon Jubilee Church (Regions Beyond),
Selsdon Hall, 132 Addington Road, CR2 8LA
Forestdale Innovation Church (Regions Beyond),
Forestdale Primary School, Pixton Way, CR0 9JE (for Sunday services) or the Forum, Bardolph Av, CR0 9BG

St. Francis (Anglican),
146 Tedder Road, Monks Hill, CR2 8AH
St. John's (Anglican),
Upper Selsdon Road, CR2 8DD
St. Mary's Addington (Anglican),
Addington Village Road, CR0 5AS
Selsdon Baptist Church,
Addington Road, CR2 8LL

There are Sunday services at the churches in Selsdon and Addington Village throughout the year. Why not visit them in person or check out their websites or social media pages to find out more about them?

Christmas Eve

Sunday 24th December

- **8am** Said Eucharist at St. Mary's Addington
- **10am** Mass at St. Columba's
- **10am** Sung Eucharist at St. Mary's Addington
- **4pm** Crib service at St. John's
- **4pm** Crib and Christingle Service at St. Mary's Addington
- **4pm** All-Age Christingle Service at Selsdon Baptist Church
- **6pm** Family Mass at St. Columba's followed by mince pies and mulled wine.
- **6pm** Christingle service at **Addington Methodist Church**
- **8:30pm** Carol service followed by Mass at **9pm** at St. Columba's
- **11pm** Midnight Mass at St. John's
- **11:15pm** Midnight Communion at St. Francis
- **11:30pm** Midnight Mass at St. Mary's Addington

Christmas Day

Monday 25th December

- **9am & 10:45am** Masses at St. Columba's
- **10am** Christmas Day service at St. John's
- **10am** Christmas Morning Eucharist at St. Mary's Addington
- **10:30am** Christmas Day service at **Addington Methodist Church**
- **10:30am** Christmas Day Communion service at **St. Francis**
- **10:30am** Christmas Day All-Age Celebration service at **Selsdon Baptist Church**

Boxing Day

Tuesday 26th December

- **10am** Mass at St. Columba's



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trotted up to Head Elf. He scraped his front hooves two or three times across the chilly floor and made a slightly angry bray.

“What is wrong?” asked Head Elf with some concern. Rudolph never got angry, but he did seem both annoyed and upset now. Suddenly Rudolph bellowed, “Have you seen the time? Father Christmas should have left here at least half an hour ago. Now he might not be able to deliver all the toys before morning, and many of the children will miss out!”

The Elves, Sprites and Gnomes spun about to face the clock. “Oh no!” they all exclaimed, “what shall we do?” Head Elf looked very upset. “Do we still have the **old** sleigh? If we do, is it in working condition?” The gnomes rushed outside to check. Phew it was fine!

Rudolph suddenly smiled at Head Elf. “Shall we risk it?” There was much nodding of heads, twitching of ears and soon everyone was smiling. The new fully loaded sledge was parked outside in the snow. Quickly Head Elf scurried outside and uncoupled the waiting reindeer. It made them fret and buck a bit, but he bent towards them and whispered to them and they all smiled, nodded and stamped their hooves with glee. Head Elf called for two of the new red blankets and soon Head Sprite and Head Gnome were warmly wrapped in them.

Rudolph then whispered in Head Elf’s ear and Comet and Dasher were removed from the other deer and coupled up to the old sleigh. The other deer were then re-coupled in an order of speed, to the new sleigh. Rudolph brayed at the other elves, sprites and gnomes to redistribute the parcels between the two sledges and then Blitzen and Comet coupled to different sleighs were each passed a map. They all agreed to meet at a valley up in Finland in a few hours’ time. “Go quickly” called Head Elf. The reindeer in both sleighs sprang into the sky so quickly that they scarcely heard.

Rudolph trotted quickly over to Father Christmas and brayed very loudly, which made Father Christmas wake with a start, however Rudolph, who had been eating very garlicky carrots ready for his journey, made sure Father Christmas stayed awake by giving him a big smelly lick across both his cheeks.



“Why on Earth did you do that?” Father Christmas

protested, as he raised his hands to wipe the offending licks away. "Because you are nearly an hour late leaving, and there will be lots of sad children if you do not hurry."

"What!" exclaimed Father Christmas, "how on earth did that happen?" Father Christmas was very upset he had allowed himself to stay asleep, but Head Elf passed him a flask of coffee so he could wake completely, and a map telling him when and where he was meeting the others.

Father Christmas climbed swiftly onto Rudolph's back with a large bag of toys. "Happy Christmas."

Phew they had all been such a help to him. Fancy the deer going without him! He would have to rethink giving lovely warm blankets for Christmas, because they made him too cosy. With the Head Gnome and Head Sprite delivering, as well as himself, no child would be missed out now.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS. (Jessica Blake)

~~

Poetry Corner

This month Mary Gill gives her view on the sometimes, indiscriminate felling of trees; this is particularly poignant after the cutting down of the sycamore at Sycamore Gap on Hadrian's Wall on 28 September 2023.

MASSACRE

(Observing the felling of some neighbourhood trees.)

These trees have stood a hundred years, reaching for the sky,
but men have murdered them in minutes - I weep to see them die.
Silently, they stood and grew through rain and sun and gust
but roaring motorised machines have ground them into dust.

We care as little for the works of nature as of man -
mindlessly we cut them down with no coherent plan.
We see them as embarrassments, as checks we can't permit -
too hurried to work round them - to carve our path to fit.
The past is the foundation of the present - not a wall -
rebut it or remove it and the edifice will fall.



Here is a seasonal poem to make you chuckle.

Snowball

I made myself a snowball
As perfect as could be,
I thought I'd keep it as a pet,
And let it sleep with me.
I made it some pyjamas,
And a pillow for its head,
Then last night it ran away
But first – it wet the bed!



Shel Silverstein

~~

Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth – More about Colour

You might have seen the experiment, or an illustration of it, involving passing a beam of white light through a triangular glass prism and seeing the light split into a rainbow of colours. After a rain shower the rainbow in the sky is produced in the same way with raindrops acting like the prism to bend or refract the different colours in sunlight.



When sunlight acts to illuminate vegetation most of the colours are absorbed but part is reflected and that is the colour that we see. While most leaves of grass, flowers and trees are green there is actually a small range of frequencies which we call green so that different shades of green are possible. The green in vegetation is produced by the pigment in chlorophyll and when this is withdrawn in autumn leaves on trees display different colours depending on the remaining compounds in the leaves.



We recognise butterflies partly by the colour patterns caused by pigments on their wings. A magnified view shows that the wings are covered in minute scales which provide the colour. For a few species such as Purple Hairstreak and Purple Emperor the structure of the scales is such that the colours we see are refracted (more correctly, diffracted) light

rather than solid pigment and will appear to change as the viewing angle changes. Some beetles also have this type of iridescent “colouring”.

At each end of the rainbow of colour there are other “colours” which our eyes do not record. At one end there is infrared which can be used in artificial light bulbs to illuminate night scenes without disturbing the fauna whose vision does not react to infrared. We require instruments to view the scene.

Similarly, at the other end of the rainbow we have ultraviolet to which our eyes do not respond but which is certainly visible to various insects who can see colour patterns on flowers which we cannot. Some fungi are said to glow in the ultraviolet light from a special torch but I cannot see what part this would play in nature.

One glow which has a definite function is that produced by female glow-worms. These are beetles which attract their male partners by utilising a chemical reaction to create a glowing tip to their abdomen.

Colour is determined by how the eye reacts to the signals it receives and this will be different for different species. Even in humans it is thought that in very rare cases some individuals may respond to what for most of us remains invisible.

~~

Answers to the Christmas Food Quiz

1. Nutroast
2. Chestnuts
3. KFC
4. d) 27
5. Panettone
6. Cloves
7. An orange
8. Germany
9. Cranberry
10. Mrs Cratchit
11. Sherry
12. A gingerbread house.

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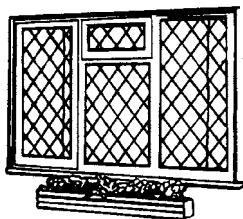
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CHRISTMAS CRACKER JOKES

1. Why did the turkey join the band?
2. What does Father Christmas do when his elves misbehave?
3. What kind of music do elves listen to?
4. How does Santa keep track of all the fireplaces he's visited?
5. What did Cinderella say when her photos didn't arrive on time?
6. Where does Mistletoe go to become famous?
7. What does Santa clean his sleigh with?
8. What do snowmen like to do on the weekend?
9. Why was the Advent Calendar afraid?
10. What do angry mice send to each other at Christmas?
11. Why is Parliament like ancient Bethlehem?
12. How did King Charles III sign his Christmas cards to his family?



Answers at the end of the gazette

~~

I am very grateful to Maria Emmett, owner of The Golden Ark on our High Street, for this article about how Christmas is celebrated elsewhere.

Christmas Traditions from around the World

Christmas lights, Christmas trees and decorations make Christmas special, but it is the family and friends' get-together, together with the food and drinks that brings the season to its best! Let's see how the season is celebrated in other parts of the world.

Every year, in mid-December the city of San Fernando in **The Philippines**, holds Ligligan Parul (or Giant Lantern Festival) featuring dazzling parols (lanterns) that symbolize the Star of Bethlehem. A very colourful celebration. San Fernando is known as the Christmas capital of this country!



In **Sweden** the Yule Goat has been a Swedish Christmas symbol dating back to ancient pagan festivals. The most famous Yule Goat is the one built in the city of Gavle; it is made of wood and straw and is more than 42 feet high, 23 feet wide, and weighs 3.6 tons. Each year, the Swedes build

their goats for the first day of Advent to celebrate the holiday season. In **Iceland**, they celebrate the 13 days up to Christmas. Each night before Christmas, Icelandic children are visited by the 13 Yule Lads. After placing their shoes by the window, the little ones will head upstairs to bed. In the morning, they'll either have received a sweet (if they're good) or be greeted with shoes full of rotten potatoes if they're bad. You better be good!

In **Ireland**, they tend to leave a tall red candle in a front window overnight on Christmas Eve, a welcoming symbol of warmth and shelter for the festive season. The traditional Christmas feast in Ireland may normally include homemade roast goose, vegetables, cranberries, and potatoes. Nollaig Shona! (Gaelic for Merry Christmas!).



In **Portugal and Brazil** families come together on Christmas Eve to eat dinner as late as 10 p.m. The very exciting bit comes at exactly midnight – the exchange of presents! There is also a toast to wish each other a Merry Christmas. Many people will attend Midnight mass, Missa Do Galo (Rooster's Mass as it happens at the cock's crow). This is a Christian tradition where family members, neighbours and friends all meet up. After the mass there will be fireworks in a main square and even the odd extended party.



In **South Africa**, families generally meet around food for Christmas. Most families come together for a cookout, called braaiing during the festive season. Marinated steaks and boerewors sausages serve as the main course, followed by a traditional dessert of malva pudding served with a custard sauce. Christmas trees are beautifully decorated with home-made ornaments, featuring African beaded baubles. For such a large country, tradition does vary in different regions.

The unusual Christmas snack: It's fried, crispy, and they say it's delicious – yes, it's fried caterpillars!

In **Medellin, Colombia**, the Christmas Lighting is a traditional daily event throughout December and January. Over the years it has become a huge city party, full of lights, which extends for miles. It truly lights up the city and warms your heart! It is worth a visit.

Across the country, people gather outside their homes to light candles on the 7th of December. This is "Noche de las velitas" (the Night of Lighting of little candles). The main gatherings happen around Christmas Eve for Lechona (baked pork stuffed with rice and peas). Natilla and buñuelos cannot be missed!

In **Norway**, Christmas Eve involves hiding your mops and brooms – not

because people don't want to clean, but because Norwegians are a little superstitious and want to prevent evil spirits, who return to Earth that night, from stealing the brooms and going on joyrides in the sky.

Orthodox Christmas is observed on 7th January (orthodox birth of Jesus), while in the Gregorian Calendar it occurs on the 25th December. Orthodox Christians fast for 40 days before Christmas and attend a vigil on Christmas Eve. It is a time for reflection, inner thoughts, and healing.

~~

Local Author – Kay Allardyce

Kay Allardyce works in Croydon and Sutton, and was born in Croydon. Her book launch was on 2 December 3-5pm at Croydon Physio, 1 Upper Selsdon Rd, CR2 8DD for her book 'Thanks for my Kidney, Mum!!'



Kay's words on why she wrote the book

In 2007 I was diagnosed with chronic kidney disease (CKD). My future, once bright with promise and possibility, suddenly became uncertain and daunting. Amid my uncertainty was an overwhelming desire to educate myself about my illness and to help others facing CKD and possible kidney transplantation surgery.

I've now had sixteen years living with CKD, and ten years post-transplant, the kidney of which I was very fortunate to receive from my mother. I am now a mother myself to two children, both born following my transplant. I pray that my story offers useful information and can give hope to others facing a diagnosis of CKD or another chronic health disorder. I believe there is lots we can learn from others' lived experiences. For those who face the challenges of pregnancy and childbirth after a kidney transplant, I hope this book gives you hope and encouragement that, like me, it is possible.

~~

Selsdon Centre for the Retired A Christmas Miracle?

The Selsdon Centre is still going strong doing what it does best, which is to engage with the elderly residents of Selsdon by feeding and entertaining them, ensuring they have company with friends of a similar age for a few hours each day the Centre is open.

We love looking after them and they love coming to us! The Selsdon Centre has been doing this for over 40 years and we'd love to continue being there for all who need us. Some of our clients (and volunteers) have been attending/assisting for more than 20 years, which, in our throw-away-disposable age, is quite an achievement, we think you'll agree!



Hopefully our Santa will turn up with a Christmas miracle, meaning we can continue our great and much-needed work going for years to come, as our older residents will always need some company, some laughs and a change of scenery in a warm, safe space. We want to keep them away from those terrible feelings of isolation, which can be all too common these days. We always need new customers, so if you know of any neighbours, family or friends who may benefit from visiting the Centre, please put us in touch or ask them to come along for a cuppa to see what's going on. Our email address is: selsdon.centre@btinternet.com. Or call: 0208 651 1111 (to leave a message on our answerphone) we'd be delighted to welcome everyone to help banish that loneliness that the winter blues and dark winter nights can bring.

Also, we'd like to thank everyone who's helped at the Centre this year, and at any time over the previous 40+ years. Thanks also to those who signed petitions to help save the Centre, and all those who've attended and/or donated to us. We'd also like to thank those singers/musicians who've been at the Centre. You've given our clients so many happy memories and helped create new ones! There's nothing like seeing our clients smiling, singing-a-long, waving their arms, chair dancing and just enjoying the moment at a live music event! The like of which, value-for-money-wise, cannot be bettered anywhere! Every donation given, every visitor attending, every customer spending, every volunteer helping in each and every capacity is so very much appreciated. We can't run this place without you and we are extremely grateful! Much more than you'll ever know!

We'd like to say Merry Christmas to all Selsdon Gazette readers and supporters and wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year. The Centre will close after lunch at 2pm on Wednesday 20th December and will re-open on Monday 8th January 2024 as usual.

~~

SELSDON FLOWER CLUB

We have pleasure in announcing that our Flower Club is continuing in our 54th year with the following programme:

10th January
14th February
13th March
10th April

AGM and Enrolment with Tea, cake and a chat
Practice - Valentine Arrangement - Ring of Roses
Practice - Easter Arrangement
Demo - Melanie of Kane's Florist

We are a small friendly club who meet on the second Wednesday afternoon of each month at 2 pm at the rear of St. John the Divine Church, Selsdon. Subscription £30 per annum (£15 half year). We have demonstrations and practices. All abilities welcome.



SELSDON AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

We are a friendly group of over 60 members. We meet from 1.30-4.00 on the third Friday of each month in the Community Hall, St John's Church, Upper Selsdon Road, Selsdon.

At our meeting on January 19th, we will hear about the work of the RSPB from John Lawrence and the meeting on February 16th will be on the subject of Gilbert and Sullivan, with our speaker John Fox. We have a wide range of interest groups that meet in members' homes for creative activities, drama and literary discussion as well as a lunch club. As a charity we make donations to various good causes. The membership is just £35 a year and we pay £1 for tea and biscuits.

Why not join us?

Christine Holland 02086574861

~~



COULD YOU BE A FRIEND OF SELDON CONTACT?

You may be aware that Croydon Council has withdrawn funding to the voluntary sector. We have therefore lost our contract with the Council,

meaning a loss of £30,000 annually. We have benefited in the past from generous legacies and so are not in imminent danger of closing down but need to address this shortfall to ensure a future for Selsdon Contact. Many have asked how they might contribute to Contact on a regular basis and, with this in mind, we are launching a Friends of Selsdon Contact scheme. A great way to support our work now that Council funding has been withdrawn. Here's how it works –

To become a friend, you can either –

Set up a standing order for a monthly sum – say £5 per month; or

Make an annual donation, either by cheque or bank transfer – say £60 per year.

If you are a tax payer, we can claim Gift Aid on your donation adding another 25% at no further cost to you. As a Friend of Selsdon Contact you will receive an invitation to an annual thank you tea, and, of course, the knowledge that Selsdon Contact will be here for the foreseeable future. Your contribution could make a big difference.

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

Telephone 0208651 4944

Email info@selsdoncontact.org.uk

Facebook Selsdon Contact www.selsdoncontact.org.uk

Contact: Selsdon Churches Neighbourhood Care Registered Charity
11243 Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Wishing our clients, volunteers and supporters a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

~~

CHRISTMAS CRACKER ANSWERS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Because it had the drumsticks! | 7. Santatizer! |
| 2. He gives them the sack. | 8. Chill! |
| 3. Wrap | 9. Its days are numbered |
| 4. He keeps a logbook | 10. Cross Mouse Cards! |
| 5. One day my prints will come | 11. It takes a miracle to find three wise men |
| 6. Hollywood! | 12. The Artist Formerly Known As Prince. |

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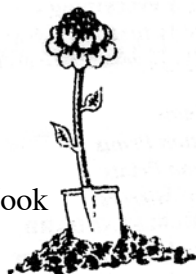
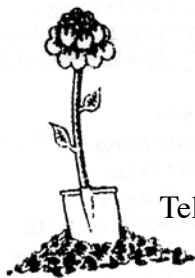
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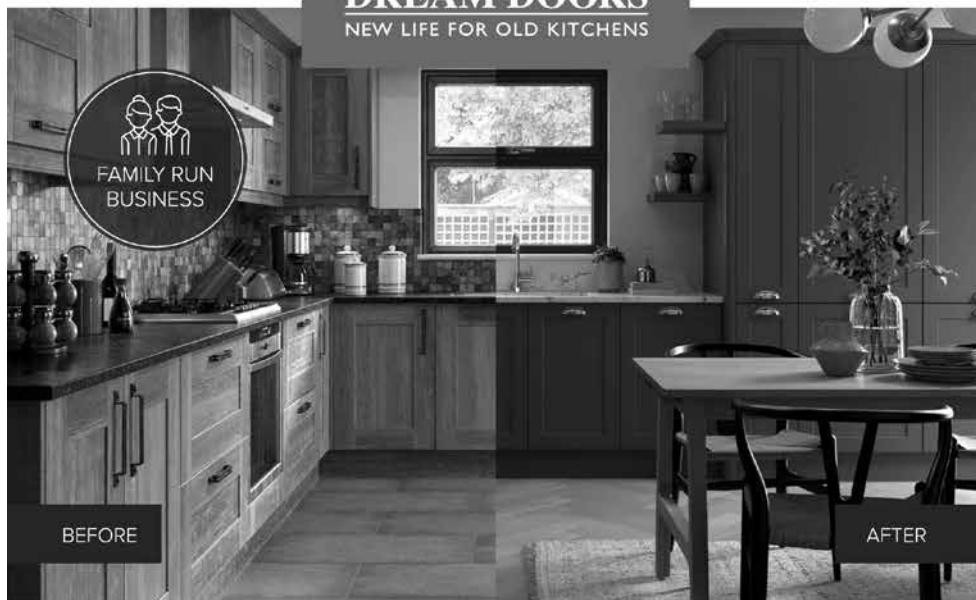


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Selsdon Baptist Church	Office	020 8651 4308
St Columba's (Roman Catholic)		020 8657 3747
St Francis (Church of England)	Monks Hill	020 8657 7864
Croydon Jubilee Church	Office	020 8651 2807
Forestdale Salvation Army Church		020 8657 0078
Selsdon Christian Fellowship		020 8668 9779
Church of Jesus Christ of LDS		020 8651 2211

DOCTORS & EMERGENCY CARE

Farley Road Medical Practice		020 8651 1222
Queenhill Medical Practice		020 8651 1141
Selsdon Park Medical Practice		020 8657 0067
Croydon University Hospital		020 8401 3000
New Addington Minor Injuries Unit		020 8251 7225
Purley War Memorial Hospital		020 8401 3515

POLICE

Selsdon & Addington Village: SelsdonandAddingtonVillage@met.police.uk
Selsdon Vale & Forestdale: SelsdonandForestdale@metpolice.uk

CLUBS, GROUPS & CHARITIES

CONTACT (Neighbourhood Care)	Jasmine Singh	020 8651 4944
Selsdon Centre for the Retired	Craig Anderson	020 8651 1111
Croydon Hearing Resource Centre	Office	020 8686 0049
Croydon Vision		020 8668 2486
Cruse Bereavement Care Helpline		080 8808 1677
Friends of Littleheath Woods	Ian Leggatt	020 8651 1140
Friends of Selsdon Wood	www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk	
Sanderstead Plantation Partners	michaellishmund@gmail.com	
Friends of Kingswood	www.friendsofkingswood@hotmail.co.uk	
Girlguiding (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section)		0800 999 2016
	https://girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved	
1 st Selsdon & Addington Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts)	www.1stselsdon.org.uk	
2 nd Selsdon & Addington Scout Group	www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk	
Croham Valley Explorer Scout Unit	Christopher Dean	tinkerscorner@aol.com
Arts Society Croydon Area	Jean Aarons	https://tascroydonarea.org.uk
Rotary Sanderstead & Selsdon	Wendy Parr	07774 186794
RSPB Croydon Local Group	John Davis	020 8640 4578
Selsdon Art Group	Fiona Hooper	07973 412952
Selsdon Bridge Club	Bob Steadman	07545 384899
Selsdon Centre Bridge Club	Betty Borfiga	020 8656 4212
Selsdon Community Hall	Cottie Campbell	selsdonhall.info@gmail.com
Selsdon Flower Club	Maureen Browning	020 8651 5821
Selsdon Townswomen's Guild(pm)	Christine Holland	020 8657 4861
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Sanderstead Local History Group		sandersteadlh@gmail.com
Selsdon Tennis Club	Geoff Littlewood	020 8651 4748
St John's Wives	Jane Guglielmi	020 8657 6672
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