

# The Selsdon — Gazette —

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December 2024

# 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.

The publication of advertisements in the Selsdon Gazette does not imply any warranty on the part of the Selsdon Gazette or the Selsdon Residents' Association as to the quality of services offered by the advertiser. Residents should make such enquiries as they think necessary about any provider of goods or services.

**Front cover:** Jessica Lowe, Winner of the Design the Cover Competition.

**Back cover:** Charlie & Rosie McQuillan, Runners up with their scene of Selsdon Wood at Christmas.

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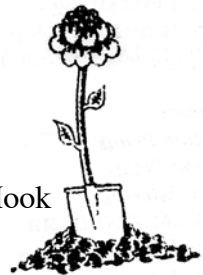
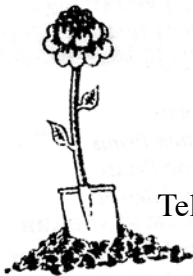
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# **SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com

## ***Committee 2024/2025***

Hon. President: Pamela Holden

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Vice-Chair: Linda Morris

Secretary: Trevor Stotten

Hon. Treasurer: Iris Jones

Committee: Yvonne Huber

Su Yates

Peter Underwood

Ian Leggatt

Phil Roberts

Jenny Stawman

Janet Sharp

Chris Jones

Geoff Bailey

Ken Davis

## ***Councillors for Selsdon & Addington Village Ward***

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

Cllr Joseph Lee Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk 07458 092567

## ***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 07783 152334

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**

Season's Greetings to you all and welcome to the December Selsdon Gazette with its colourful front and back covers provided by Jessica and Charlie & Rosie, our competition winners. Well done and thanks to all those children who entered our annual competition. By now the Selsdon Christmas Lights will be shining along our High Street to add some cheer as the days get even shorter. The Selsdon Residents' Association provide the lights using donations from our generous residents. Long may they continue to do so!

On a festive theme, we have some Christmas cracker jokes to make you grimace, a quiz testing your knowledge about our much loved robin, a Christmas tale from Jessica Blake for children, poems about the winter solstice and one about over indulgence at Christmastime! In our Gardening Notes we have advice about including colour in our winter gardens and Ted, in his Nature Notes, explains how to identify trees seen in winter.

Apart from our usual briefings from our local councillors, MP and local police, Ian Leggatt continues his series about Costains who built so many of Selsdon's houses; this time he looks at the quality of the materials used in the construction. Janet Sharp reflects on commemorative benches seen in so many picturesque places nowadays.

It is not only Selsdon looking forward to celebrating an anniversary, its 100 year one, but Gardencraft nestled down the end of the High Street is celebrating 50 years serving the community. Please remember that our Councillors and the SRA want to put on some special events and are asking you for ideas. I, also, would like to feature some articles from Selsdon residents about their experiences of living in Selsdon both now and in the past, so please consider writing a piece for the Gazette, however short! I would also like to receive any photos of Selsdon in the last 100 years which you may have, please scan them and send them to me ([selsdongazettesra@gmail.com](mailto:selsdongazettesra@gmail.com) ).

I look forward to hearing from you.

**Chris Jones**

✎ SUBMISSIONS FOR THE JANUARY 2025 EDITION  
SHOULD BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN  
20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER - PREFERABLY BEFORE! ✎



## **SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS**

### **New Business on our High Street**

Welcome to PROJECT365, which opened its doors in mid-November. It is a private class and coaching studio.

Novice or athlete, whether you are looking for physique development, building your athleticism or simply being part of a community that promotes regular movement for your wellbeing, they assure you that you will find what you are looking for at PROJECT365.

### **100th Celebrations**

The Selsdon Residents' Association will be 100 years old in January 2026. We will be celebrating, in our 100th year from February 2025 in a variety of ways leading up to the actual date of our 100 year old birthday. Keep your eyes peeled for notices in the Gazette each month as to how you can be involved. It will vary from perhaps a quiz, competition, a cuppa with us, a walk in the woods and of course our annual lights switch on and an autumn fair in September. Watch this space!!!

This is a remarkable achievement and we would like to thank everyone who takes part in keeping Selsdon the safe friendly place it has always been.

Councillor Robert Ward, with a band of helpers, is putting together an exhibition of Selsdon Old and New which will be displayed during the year, venue to be confirmed, so read your Gazette for details.

### **Selsdon Christmas Lights**

The Christmas lights should be shining brightly and a huge shout-out to everyone who makes this possible, too many to mention. A list of businesses contributing to the lights will be included in next month's gazette.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year

***Sheila Childs, Chair SRA***



# **COUNCILLORS' NOTES**

## **SELSDON 100 YEARS**

As previously mentioned, next year, 2025, is the centenary of Selsdon. Planning permission was given for the first houses in March 2025 with the first residents moved in later that year. There is a proposal to celebrate the occasion with an exhibition showing how Selsdon has grown from those first few houses in 1925 to the thriving area that it is today. However, this will not happen without support from residents. If you can spare the time to help with this project, please get in touch with one of your councillors.

We wish you all a good Christmas holiday and a Happy New Year.

## **CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS**

Our monthly surgeries take place in the Jubilee café downstairs from Sainsburys. A private room is available should there be a matter which cannot be discussed in public. The timing is 10am until 11.15am on the first Saturday of the month, except January and August.

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](mailto:Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk)

[Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk)

### **Selsdon Vale and Forestdale**

[Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk)

[Fatima.zaman@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Fatima.zaman@croydon.gov.uk)

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

24/03509/FUL - 249 Addington Road South Croydon CR2 8LR  
Erection of single storey garage.

24/03698/LP - 43 Bruce Drive South Croydon CR2 8SL  
Erection of single storey rear extension

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

# **MP Natasha Irons' Report**

## **Member of Parliament for Croydon East**

Dear Selsdon and Season's Greetings,

I want to say big thank you to everyone who attended my coffee morning on 16th November. It was wonderful to meet so many of you and to have an opportunity to discuss your priorities. We had an overwhelming response to our invitations and unfortunately couldn't accommodate everyone who wanted to attend. However, I will be holding more coffee mornings soon so hope to meet more of you in the coming months.

In parliament this month the long-awaited budget was announced. Some headlines include:

- The basic and state pension increasing by 4.1% so that almost 12 million pensioners see an increase in their income.
- The 2000 carers living in Croydon East will see the biggest rise in Carer's Allowance since its creation, with the weekly earnings limit raising to £196 a week.
- £1.3 billion of new grant funding for local councils, including at least £600 million new funding for social care and an extra £233 million to prevent homelessness.
- £1 billion for councils to extend the household support fund which tackles fuel and food poverty. This year alone Croydon Council received £3 million to deliver this scheme locally.
- £1 billion increase in funding for special educational needs and alternative provision to begin the work of putting these services on a sustainable footing. £1.8 billion to continue the expansion of government-funded childcare and over £30 million for the rollout of free breakfast clubs in schools next year.
- £22 billion increase in spending to support the NHS to deliver an additional 40,000 appointments a week and more investment to clear the backlog in repairs and maintenance issues.

Locally, following concerns by residents about the management of the waste facility on Featherbed Lane, I wrote to the Environment Agency. Following a site inspection, they have identified several breaches that they will now be acting on and conducting a wider investigation into the site. I will keep you informed with any future updates.

As ever, if there are any issues you wish to raise with me or to book an appointment at one of my advice surgeries, please email [natasha.ironson@parliament.uk](mailto:natasha.ironson@parliament.uk). X (formerly Twitter): @NDIrons

***Natasha Irons MP - Member of Parliament for Croydon East***



*Wishing a very Merry Christmas to everyone in*  
**Selsdon & Addington**  
*from all your local churches*



## Worship with us this Christmas!

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December

- **10am** Christingle service at St. John's
- **10am** Carol service at The Forestdale Church (*meeting at Forestdale Primary School*)
- **10:30am** Christingle café-style service at Selsdon Baptist Church (*bring an orange with you*)
- **6:30pm** Carol Service at Croydon Jubilee Church with mulled wine and mince pies from **6pm**
- **6:30pm** Carols by Candlelight with Soul Symphony and St. Francis choirs at St. Francis

### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December

- **7pm** A quiet Christmas service at St. John's

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

- **7pm** Join The Forestdale Church for carols outside **McDermott's Fish & Chips** before a Christmas singalong at The Kingsmen pub at **8pm**

### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December

- **11am-12pm** Be blessed by a choir from several local churches who will be singing carols at **Sainsbury's Selsdon**
- **6pm** Longest Night service at Selsdon Baptist Church (*for those who find Christmas a difficult time*)
- **2:30pm-4pm** Messy Nativity for 4-11 year olds at St. Mary's Addington

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

- **10:30am** All-Age Nativity service at Selsdon Baptist Church (*with real sheep*)
- **3:30pm** Carol service at Addington Methodist Church
- **6pm** Nine Lessons and Carols at St. John's
- **6:30pm** Nine Lessons and Carols at St. Mary's Addington
- **7pm** Join the congregation of Selsdon Baptist Church for Beer and Carols at **The Golden Ark** micropub on Selsdon high street (CR2 8LB)

### Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

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

### Christmas Eve

### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December

- **10am, 6pm, 9pm** Masses at St. Columba's (carols from **8:30pm**)
- **3:30pm** Christingle service at Addington Methodist Church
- **4pm** Crib service at St. John's
- **4pm** Crib and Christingle Service at St. Mary's Addington
- **11pm** Midnight Mass at St. John's
- **11:10pm** Carols followed by Midnight Mass at **11:30pm** at St. Mary's Addington
- **11:15pm** Midnight Communion with brass band at St. Francis

### Christmas Day

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December

- **9am & 11am** Masses at St. Columba's
- **10am** Christmas Day service at Addington Methodist Church
- **10am** Christmas Day service at St. John's
- **10am** Christmas Morning Eucharist at St. Mary's Addington
- **10:30am** Christmas Day service at Croydon Jubilee Church
- **10:30am** Christmas Day Communion service at St. Francis
- **10:30am** Christmas Day All-Age Celebration service at Selsdon Baptist Church
- **11am** Christmas Day service at The Forestdale Church (*meeting at The Kingsmen Pub*)

### Boxing Day

### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> December

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

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December

- **10am** Thanksgiving service at The Forestdale Church (*meeting at Forestdale Primary School*)
- **3pm** Community Carol Service at St. Mary's Addington

### New Year's Day

### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January

- **11:30am** New Years Day Service followed by lunch at St. John's

### 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  
**The Forestdale Church (Regions Beyond)**, Forestdale Primary School, Pixton Way, CR0 9JE (for Sunday services) or The Kingsmen Pub, The Forestdale Centre, CR0 9AS  
**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?**

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## News from our Local Police

In the month of November, officers were delighted to take part in the annual Remembrance Day and give our appreciation for all the soldiers that gave their lives during the war.

Officers also did a crime prevention stall in the local Sainsbury's to give crime prevention advice to many of local shoppers and residents in the run up to Christmas. It was a successful event and will be done more frequently.



We wish all of Selsdon's residents a Happy Christmas and New Year.

### Contacting the Police

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

**Emergencies – 999, Non-emergency crime - 101**

All phone numbers for each individual team are no longer used. Residents should use the following email addresses:

**Selsdon & Addington Village:** [SelsdonandAddingtonVillage@met.police.uk](mailto:SelsdonandAddingtonVillage@met.police.uk)

**Selsdon Vale & Forestdale:** [SelsdonandForestdale@met.police.uk](mailto:SelsdonandForestdale@met.police.uk)

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## Good Time for Gardening – December

It may look as if the garden has well and truly shut itself down for the winter months. However, there is still much to enjoy. Interest in winter may come from flowers, scent, berries, coloured stems or amazing evergreen foliage.

Some plants with a strong scent are:

- ~ daphne mezereum; this has purple-red flowers in February to April and likes chalky soil.
- ~ hamamelis x intermedia (witch hazel); there are several cultivars of this. It has fragrant yellow or orange flowers between December and March.
- ~ mahonia; yellow spikes of flowers in November and December.

There are clematis that thrive and bloom in the winter. They are from the clematis cirrhosa cultivar and predominantly have cream flowers. The blooms can be seen from November through to March.

Bergenia will return year after year to the borders, with pink or white flowers from January to March. Helleborus (Christmas roses) come in a range of colours from pure white, pale green through to deep maroon reds. These bloom from December to March.

Look out for trees with glowing winter bark. Snake bark maple has green and white striped bark and the paper bark maple has a peeling chestnut red/brown bark. Many eucalyptus trees have barks that look ghost like, being white, grey and very pale brown. Cornus (dogwood) stems can be seen in yellows, oranges and reds.



The obvious plants for December are the holly and the ivy. Some of these are a single dark green coloured, whilst others are variegated. Female holly plants produce berries, also known as drupes. To get berries you need to plant both a male and a female holly plant close together to ensure cross-pollination. If you only have room for one holly tree, there are self-fertile varieties. Ivy has flowers on it throughout the winter, sustaining those insects who are still on the wing.

If you forgot to plant your spring bulbs, just get them in as soon as possible now. Daffodils always seem to catch up and flower when they were supposed to and tulips are more than happy to be planted once the chillier weather has arrived.



**Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid**

**Please note new website address [www.sandersteadhs.org](http://www.sandersteadhs.org)**



## **SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

### **GAZETTE CHRISTMAS COVER COMPETITION**

Many thanks to all those children who took part (Sophie, Elena, Salome, James, Scarlett, Eliyah, Nicholas, Noah, Charlotte, Harriet, Poppy, Leo, Ryan, Lola).

It was a very difficult decision to just choose two of them. The winners this year were:

Front Cover: Jessica

Back Cover: Charlie and Rosie



Entries will be on show on the SRA notice board by Iceland.

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## **SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

### **needs your help**

In January 1926 the Seldon Residents' Association was formed with the aim of advancing and protecting the interests of Selsdon Residents. It is one of the oldest residents' associations in the UK. 2025 will be the hundredth year that it has been operating.

Do you have any ideas about how we can celebrate this achievement? Do you have any photos or recollections of early Selsdon?

Please send your ideas to Sheila Childs, the Chair of the SRA (address and phone number on page 2 of the Gazette) or by email to Chris Jones, the Gazette Editor [selsdongazettesra@gmail.com](mailto:selsdongazettesra@gmail.com)



## GARDENCRAFT's 50th ANNIVERSARY

Christmas Eve 2024 will mark the 50th Anniversary of Gardencraft in Selsdon. Bill Parker, my wife Gill's Dad, opened the shop in the summer of 1974 but the business registration didn't come through until 24/12/1974. Bill and his wife, Velda, chose the name Gardencraft because Bill was to be the gardening side and Velda the craft side.

After the war Bill became a green keeper in his home town of Bingley, Yorkshire and worked at the Sports Turf Research institute there, which is a consultancy for the development and management of sports surfaces worldwide. He brought his wealth of knowledge on grasses down South when he moved with Velda to her home turf in Selsdon and became a landscape gardener. Laying out a lot of the gardens on the newly built Fox Estate, Sanderstead. Growing a few plants himself for his customers and with his knowledge of all things horticultural he saw the need in Selsdon, for a plant and flower shop and Gardencraft was founded where he was able to give gardening advice as well as offering a large selection of plants. Something that he has passed on to us and we are proud to carry on today.



Velda was very talented with her hands and taught craft at a school in Purley so she trained as a florist in order to offer floristry services in the shop and, before long, she was creating floral arrangements and bouquets





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for weddings, funerals, birthdays etc. Presentation bouquets at that time started from £1.50 and were made in a flat, paper backed cellophane sleeve where the flowers were arranged inside, laid flat down and a hand tied bow secured the bottom of the bag. Funeral tributes, such as wreaths, crosses, pillows and hearts were made using a wire pre-shaped frame that was then covered in moss bound on with twine. Greenery was then wired on and each individual flower stem had to be wired, so that they were rigid enough to be pushed into the moss. We have used this mossing method for many years to make our Christmas wreaths. Nowadays 'oasis' (florist's foam) gives us the ability to be more creative in our designs and saves a lot of time!



This Christmas will also be our 50th year of selling Christmas trees and holly wreaths with some of our customers buying their tree from us for over 40 years. Quite a tradition for some and lovely to see our customers each year. We hand select our trees, ensuring that our customers are happy with their purchase, after all it will be part of the furniture for a few weeks and needs to bring pleasure for the duration. Times have changed for the Christmas tree with Norway spruce (*picea abies*) being the traditional choice years ago. They smelt better (in my opinion) but the needles are sharp, leaving a nasty 'Christmas tree rash' on our arms and they drop the needles quicker, especially with the heating on. We remember when we first stocked the (now popular) Nordmann fir, or so called 'non drop', which soon outsold the Norway spruce due to the softer needles and needle retention. These we now put through a netting machine for transportation unlike years ago when each tree had to be tied up by hand.

Valentine's day is obviously a busy day. It is surprising how many men leave it until the last minute, but come back every year because they know they can rely on us being open until late!

Our first Mother's Day was hands on for all the family and our good neighbours, and we couldn't believe how busy we were. We ran out of buckets to put the flowers in and had to borrow buckets and washing up bowls to stand the pocket money posies in that we had made for the children to buy. It is now our busiest day of the year with weeks spent planning, making bows, choosing containers and their contents and ordering the plants and flowers. Some customers, that bought the pocket money posies, still come back with their children (and grandchildren) to choose from our wide selection of hand planted arrangements and floral bouquets in a range of prices to suit everyone.

We try to stock as many varieties of plants as possible for bedding out in the spring along with shrubs and perennials. Bill used to grow a lot of bedding plants in wooden seed trays. The plants were dug out of these and sold in 10s and wrapped in paper or sold by the box. This was before the plastic and polystyrene trays and much more environmentally friendly. A lot of the flower pots were made of clay.

About 40 years ago, Selsdon had a Trade and Professional Association and as such we were the first high street in the borough to have hanging baskets on the lampposts, which they organised. We sourced the huge baskets and planted them; they were sponsored by the shops and certain shops were responsible for the watering of the one on their lamppost. Bill retired in 1990 when Gill and I took over. Gill had been working with her Dad since the shop opened helping with growing the plants and floristry and I helped whenever I was needed building up the knowledge on plants that I have today.

Sadly, Bill died in 1992. He didn't see the changes in the high street and the way in which people buy today. The opening of large garden centres, where people go for an outing, something to eat and can buy most things, or the large supermarkets and stores which have led to the demise of local high streets like Selsdon's butchers, fishmongers, greengrocers, bakers, clothes shops, shoe shops, car spares, hardware shops, pet shop, carpet shop, wallpaper shop and many more.

Sadly, the way we used to buy has nearly gone, with specialist shops giving advice and a warm welcome becoming few and far between. We are still hanging in there and would like to take this opportunity to thank our loyal customers, past and present, for their support over the last 50 years.

***Paul Terry***

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## **Special benches!**



There are memorial benches quietly giving service all over the country. They are part of our social memory mostly to commemorate the dead but also celebrate love for the place where the bench is situated. When you walk with a person of restricted mobility such a bench becomes

something of a life saviour. We always like to say ‘thank you’ to the one whose name is there!

Sometimes the inscriptions become hard to read.

A great website you may not know about allows you to find or log memorial benches for posterity. Hopefully keeping those dedications and memories alive and perhaps thereby protecting those benches from quietly ‘disappearing’. The website is designed and built by Terence and Elizabeth Eden. [OpenBenches.org](http://OpenBenches.org) is a free site currently supported by donations to remain ad free. Anyone can take a photo of a bench’s plaque and upload it to the site. It will automatically be added to the map.

They note that ‘There are blue plaques to commemorate the famous and influential figures of the past. For everyone else, there are memorial benches. A quiet reminder of the people gone but not forgotten. A spot to rest your weary legs and give silent thanks’.

***Janet Sharp***

## **A Bench is Waiting (by Kim Glover – [glovergardens.com](http://glovergardens.com))**

a bench is an invitation  
to sit and rest  
to unwind  
to take a breath  
to reflect

a bench is an invitation  
to become one with it  
to let nature  
and the world  
flow around you

a bench is a reminder  
that others  
came before you  
and others  
will come after

a bench is waiting  
for you  
to give it  
purpose  
for a moment

a bench is welcoming  
communal  
acknowledging  
the shared nature  
of a space



## Costains Selsdon Housing Developments. Quality Components?

We saw in the May 2024 Gazette that Costains were proud that one of their selling points, 90 plus years ago, was that their houses “contained all modern conveniences”.

Costains were amongst the first builders to construct speculative housing, where profitability must be achieved, with the new-fangled cavity walls. The outer single skin of facing bricks comprising hard burnt London Red Stocks was tied together to the inner skin of sand-lime or coke breeze blocks. A 2.5” / 64mm air gap and air bricks at the bottom and top of the cavity wall ensured good ventilation of the cavity. Costains, rather than the cheaper wrought iron cavity ties which time showed to be prevalent to rusting and disintegration, used bitumen coated wall ties which are still good today and anyone who has attempted drilling their facing brick wall will attest to the hardness of the brick.

The roofs were felted and battened and covered with clay tiles which were interlocking and smooth faced. Some were plain, some with a diamond motif. In my own loft are a couple of the original roof tiles, perhaps left when the roof was re-tiled with the ubiquitous Redland 49s. The 49s are made of concrete with a rough textured top surface that the moss seems to thrive on and they are heavier than the original clay tiles.

Clay tiles (weight 1.7kg) from my loft:



Left: Recently spotted in the front garden of a house in Foxearth Road. The same characteristics but different producer.





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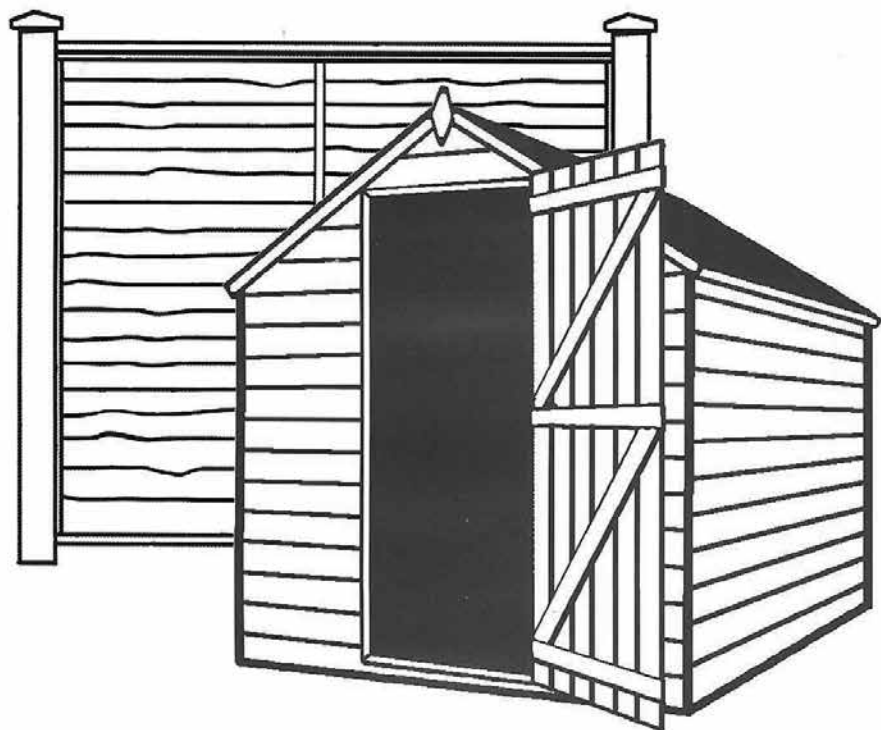
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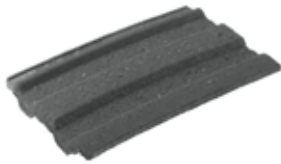
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A Redland 49 concrete tile. Weight approximately 3kg but other sources differ: varying from 30-40yrs up to 50-60yrs  
Photo from BMI Roofing and Waterproofing



Left: Plain tiles on a pair of semis in Queenhill Road.

Both plain tiles originate from the Pas de Calais region of France. They are made in the Courtrai style originally manufactured in Belgium. Tuileries du Nord was near St Omer. Tuilerie de Libercourt was near Lille. Both can be found on reclamation sites for up to £2.50 each.

There is a more sophisticated version of the plain tiles above which features a diamond pattern on the top face and which can be found on a few Selsdon houses and, although difficult to make out, on the two Broadway blocks of shops, below left. The same tile on a house in Rylandes Road, below right, where the diamond pattern is more distinct.



Tuileries Du Beauvais was situated in Argences, Normandy, in the Pays d'Auge region. The factory closed in 1983. Apparently 'rare' they are currently available from reclamation sites on ebay for between £1.80 and £3.00 each.

The Costain Specification for Croham Heights roofs was "The roof will be boarded and covered with waterproof felt secured with tile battens and tiled with Beauvais, Marseilles, Courtrai or other tile. Slate may be used to vary scheme"

These tiles were also used to cover the roofs of the other housing developments which Costain were involved in around London and the South East simultaneously. The volume of clay tiles making their way across the channel and onto the Costain sites must have been formidable. I am grateful for the loan of a Costain 32 page brochure for Croham Heights for the roofing specification details. There is much copy to share from this font of information.

***Ian Leggatt***

~~

## **Robin Quiz**

21st Dec 2024 is National Robin Day. This is an annual nationwide event raising awareness of small birds and other wildlife in winter and how you can help them through this tough time of year.



How much do you know about our friendly robin?

1. Which of the pair of Robins builds their nest?
2. What is the typical foundation of a Robin's nest? a) Twigs b) Leaves c) Moss
3. True or false: Young Robins are only fed by the male.
4. Who killed cock Robin?
5. In which of these countries would you not find breeding Robins? Morocco; Turkey; Finland; Iceland?
6. In which month are you most unlikely to hear Robin song? January; April; July; October.
7. What colour are the eggs of robins?

8. A robin's breast is typically orange. So, why do we tend to describe the Robin's breast as being red?
9. Until 1952, the official British name for the Robin was Redbreast. True or false?
10. Which fictional character, wearing a red tunic, first appeared in 1940 by the name of Dick Grayson?

*Thanks to the RSPB*

## Answers after Nature Notes

~~



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.

~~

Here a reader agrees with the letter in the October Gazette, expressing a reluctance to move to one of the new all electric cars.

Dear Editor,

I read with amusement the article from your reader, Jessica Blake; I totally agree with her findings, which in her case was applicable to a new battery powered car as compared with her older petrol driven car. My daily car, although classed as up market, is very basic with a computer that solely controls the ABS brakes, which has caused more trouble than anything. I don't understand why a computer has to control so much, i.e. why do the windows have to be so controlled, one expects that if you want the driver's window open, you don't want the passenger window to open instead. I hate to think when the self-parking goes wrong. A real boon would be a warning that tells you are about to enter a time restricted area, when one is too busy steering the car to note the sign or check the time.

Driving a car should be a pleasure without an excess of knobs and

gadgets to distract one's concentration. Where have the days gone that required a key to open the door and not a computer to control an automatic gearbox? A comment made to me recently was 'Save the planet run an old car'. The carbon cost in scrapping cars is enormous. We've yet to discover the impact of scrapping all the used car batteries.

*Denis (full name and address supplied)*

P.S. I note your article re. the closing of Alladin's Cave; I wonder if this is due to the new parking system, which I think is atrocious and I will never use. It was the only shop in the High Street that sold any item related to DIY. There used to be two shops dealing with DIY, namely Hubbard & Nash and Singletons, in addition there were two electrical shops, one of which was Bannisters with a much smaller shop opposite. In Sanderstead, the DIY Focus gave way to Waitrose. Now Selsdon is mostly for hospitality purposes. Any ironmongery needs requires a journey to B&Q at Purley Way or Wickes at Coney Hall. Perhaps we are all too old in Selsdon to think of DIY. I am 91, still mending fences and painting etc.

~~

Last month the Chair of the SRA, Sheila, encouraged us to complain about difficulty that we encountered with the 433 bus service to [customer.care@transportukbus.com](mailto:customer.care@transportukbus.com) Here is the experience of one of our residents.

Dear Editor,

Yet again today the 443 bus from Croydon to Addington failed to complete its journey by making the many people on the bus get off at Selsdon, whilst it turned around and returned to Croydon. This happens all the time on this route either as above or two stops before the bus should reach East Croydon. The drivers do not seem to know why, just that they receive instructions to do so. This just seems to be very bad bus management.

*Name and address supplied*

This was the reply our resident received.

Morning,  
I'm sorry your journey was delayed. The bus was curtailed due to





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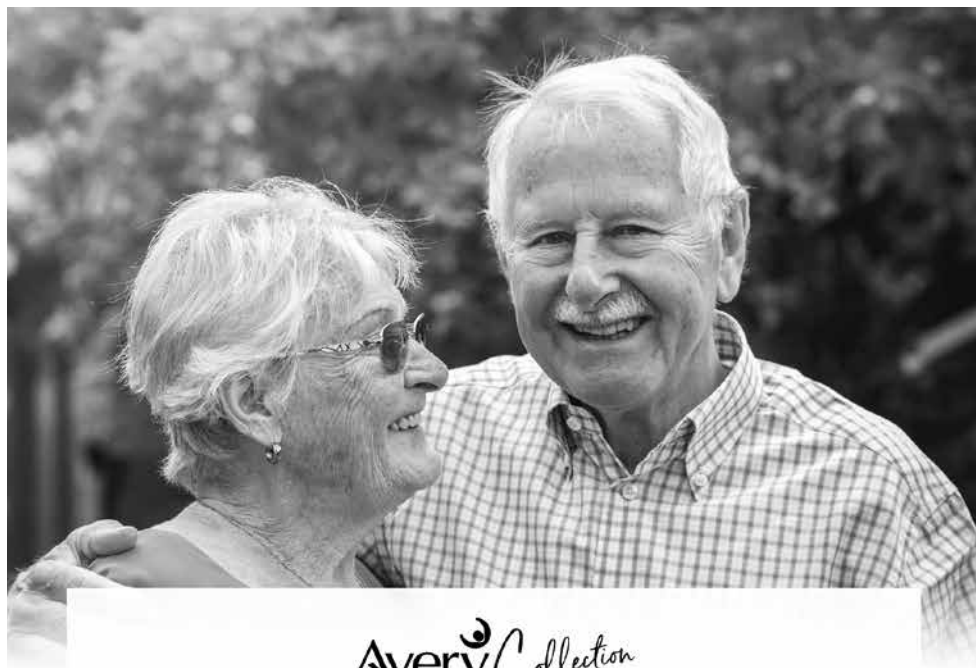
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Remember, the more complaints that they get, the quicker the improvement in service we hope!

~~

Here our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, gives us another one of her seasonal tales for children

## Technology Comes to the North Pole

It was Christmas Eve, Father Christmas was sitting in front of his roaring fire drinking his tea. Suddenly he frowned. There was something wrong. He could not hear the factory machines and chatting voices of his elves and gnomes, who were meant to be wrapping the Christmas presents.



Hastily he put his cup down and hoisted himself upwards. For one heart stopping moment he thought everyone had gone, but then he saw them all leaning over some objects on the table. He walked quietly across the room and looked over the Head Elf's shoulder. He was fiddling with a small, rectangular, glass covered device and several gnomes and elves also held them in their hands.

"Whatever is that you are holding, do you not feel you should complete the parcel wrapping before you stop work?"

"Not to worry Father Christmas, we had completed the wrapping before

we started to look into how this incredible piece of glass works. Have you ever worked one of these, Sir?”



Father Christmas was passed a rectangular piece of glass. When he looked closely at it, he saw the glass encased something and there were lots of pictures on the front of it.

He watched fascinated as the elves and gnomes fiddled and tapped. Suddenly the screen Father Christmas was staring at, lit up. He had seen the elf holding it, scrolling the screen upwards and now there was a strange map filling the screen.

“What is that a map of?” he asked in bewilderment.

“That Sir, is the map of the route you will be taking around the world later tonight,” stated the Head Elf.

“If you tilt the screen onto its side, more of the map will appear.”

Father Christmas did so. He was amazed. He could see a substantial amount of his route over Northern Europe actually showing on the screen. There were several large blobs on the screen too.

“If you wish to see more of the detail, just try to part the screen with your fingers over the first blob and it will come up bigger,” said an equally enthralled Head Elf.

Father Christmas tried that, and he recognised the town, now the detail was enlarged.

Suddenly he frowned slightly. “What happens with additional estates or new towns?”

“Just widen your fingers and the aerial view enlarges. Then close them down and it is just part of the route.”

“Does this machine do anything else?”

“Yes it does an enormous amount. Do you like it?”

“Oh yes! Is there anything else to show me for now?”



“For this first time, I will just show you where the phone numbers are.” Saying which, Head Elf touched the screen and up came a list. “Just tap on which number you want and listen to it ring.”

Head Elf passed the electric device to Father Christmas, and wishing him a Merry Christmas, told him it was his present from his Staff

“Why thank you all very much. This is an incredible thing.” He hastily slipped his outdoor clothing on and hurried out to harness up the reindeers. The mobile phone was thrust deep into his pocket. Gosh he was going to find his trip extra interesting this year.

The sledge took off and they were soon flying the route as per usual. The first town and all the outlying homes were rapidly deleted from the long list, after their deliveries. Several more towns had their sacks of presents delivered. Then his machine screen began to dim and he realised it wasn't working quite so well. Quickly he pressed the button for 'telephone' and raced through the short list till he reached Head Elf and pressed again. He could hear Head Elf's voice talking to him.



“Is everything OK, Sir, or are you just experimenting?”

“The screen is fading and I cannot hear your voice so clearly.”

“Oh no!” exclaimed Head Elf. He stood and frowned. Suddenly he smiled. “How far have you gone around the world now?” he asked cautiously?

“My next town is Dubai.”

“Sir, if you look at the top of your screen, there is a little outline of a rectangle. Can you see it?” the Head Elf asked a little anxiously.

Father Christmas could see it.

“How much of the rectangle is filled in?”

“A tiny little bit only,” came the puzzled reply.

“Sorry Sir, it means the battery is running out. You have two choices: either shut the phone down and continue in your normal way; or as you are nearing a modern town you should be able to recharge it there. Do you have a charging wire with you?”

“I have no idea what that looks like, so I will put this present away for now. It was a kindly thought of you all, but now I need to go very quickly so that no child misses out.”

“We shall build a new sleigh for you for next year, with its own charging point. See you later Sir.”

“See you,” Father Christmas responded, as he signalled to the reindeer to speed up. He continued around the world delivering his presents as he had always done, in a ‘Green’ manner and happily.

~~

## Poetry Corner

This month Mary Gill considers the Winter Solstice throughout the ages. In the northern hemisphere its date falls in December every year. In 2024 the winter solstice will occur on Saturday 21 December. The Winter Solstice marks the shortest day of the year.

### Why does this happen?

The apparent position of the Sun in the sky changes throughout the year. During the summer months it rises higher in the sky and is above the horizon for longer. In the winter the Sun's position is lower and its time in the sky is shorter. This variation happens because the Earth orbits at an angle: it is tilted 23.4 degrees on its axis.

During summer in the northern hemisphere the North Pole is tilted towards the Sun, and therefore this part of the Earth receives more direct sunlight and longer daylight hours. During winter in the northern hemisphere the North Pole is tilted away from the Sun, resulting in fewer daylight hours (7 hours 50minutes).

The good news is that after the shortest day, the days start getting longer and the nights shorter. At the spring and autumnal equinoxes the day and night hours are around the same length, each lasting around 12 hours. The number of daylight hours peaks at summer solstice (16 hours 39 minutes).

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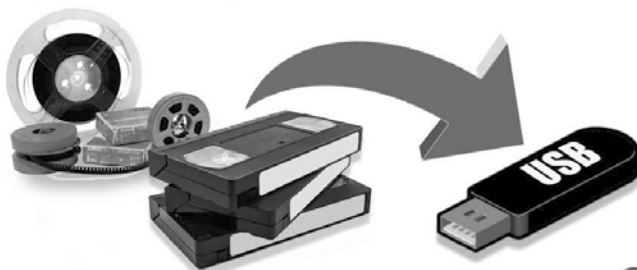
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## WINTER SOLSTICE

This is the day that the old year ceases.  
For centuries, in their snow-covered world,  
the people would gather to sing and dance  
with rituals to drive the dark away.

Their homes would be bedecked with evergreens.  
Lighted candles cheered the winter gloom.  
Lit fires afraid the warmth was gone for good,  
but in the morning, when the sun still rose,  
their chorus of delight extolled the dawn.

And, if you listen well this fateful time,  
you will hear the echo of their voices  
through the frosty ages still resounding  
and surely feel your spirits lifted too.



This is the shortest day -the turning point -  
promising that Spring is sure to follow,  
The waxing sun will warm the sleeping land  
preparing for the summer's ample harvest.

And so, they carolled merrily and feasted,  
praising Mother Nature's cycling seasons.  
They grasped the gift of hope she had bestowed -  
another Yule acclaimed with wassailing.

~~

Bill Knott, a former chef, writes about food and drink for a host of publications around the world. He penned this amusing poem in the 1980s about the excesses of the Christmas season.

### Dear Old Aunt Maud

Slices of cake and a half-eaten bird  
The Queen gave her speech, but nobody heard  
Except for the dog, who ran off with the ham  
And dear old Aunt Maud, who woke up for a dram.  
Leftover sprouts and cranberry sauce

Thank God for a dog who can eat like a horse  
 And Christmas cigars that no one will smoke  
 Except for Aunt Maud, who lights up for a joke.  
 Mince pies and sherry, Stilton and port  
 The table's too long, or the cloth is too short  
 The kitchen's a bomb site, the fridge is a mess  
 And dear old Aunt Maud has set fire to her dress.



Magnums of claret and flutes of Champagne  
 Bulgarian Cabernet washed down the drain  
 Decanters of brandy and bottles of stout  
 And dear old Aunt Maud suffers twinges of gout.  
 Turkish Delight and a surfeit of pud  
 "No really, I shouldn't, but maybe I could"  
 Out comes the Scrabble and out comes the cards  
 But dear old Aunt Maud wants a game of charades.  
 Chestnuts and pâté and slices of ham  
 Pickles and chutneys and strawberry jam  
 Walnuts, satsumas and grapes on the stalk

And the dog's taken dear old Aunt Maud for a walk.



Next day, as you waded through the seasonal mess  
 Reflecting that nothing succeeds like excess:  
 All the food that you served, all the wine that you poured  
 And most of it swallowed by dear old Aunt Maud.

~~

## Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth – Foliage and Fruit

Even in winter it is still possible to identify the species of an individual tree – by its overall shape (tall and columnar, spreading sideways, bare trunk with growth at the top, etc) – by examining the texture and patterning of the bark – by examining the winter bud arrangements on twigs. However, the easiest time to identify trees is when they are in leaf.



Conifers originate in places where the winter temperatures are very low and where the tree might be covered in snow and be subjected to high winds. To minimise loss of moisture the trees have evolved modified leaves which form bunches of thin "needles", the exact shape of the bunches varying from one conifer

type to another. Unlike deciduous trees, which lose all their leaves in the autumn, conifers retain their needles and their colour throughout the year, losing only a few needles at a time. There has to be an exception! The Larch loses its green colour and turns yellow but retains most of the needles in that state until regrowth starts in the spring. The seeds develop in various shapes of cone – Larch having small cones which are relatively open, Scots Pine being a larger conical shape which holds on tightly to the unripe seeds, the even larger Norway Spruce cones dangle from the tree like large straight green bananas. A cone-bearing tree which is actually deciduous is the Alder which has small cones rather like those of the Larch.

Two trees which can be lumped together are the Holly and the Cherry Laurel, both of which have thick waxy succulent leaves which are mostly retained throughout the year. The Holly is dioecious so that male and female parts are on separate trees and the berries appear on the female trees. A Holly without berries is most likely a male.

We have three types of Oak in the wood – native Pedunculate (English) and Sessile Oaks, and the introduced Turkey Oak. All three have leaves which are basically triangular in shape with lobed edges but all are variable. English Oak leaves have virtually no stalk but the acorn is held on a long stalk while on Sessile Oak the reverse is true – long stalks on the leaves but no stalk on the acorn. On the Turkey Oak the acorn cup is covered in thick whiskers.



Hazel, Elm and Lime have leaves based on a rough circular shape. Hazel fruit is the familiar nut and the leaves are smooth. Elm leaves feel like fine sandpaper and the fruits are thin papery discs with an embedded central seed. Lime fruits appear as small clusters of woody berries.

The Maples are represented by Sycamore with palm-sized leaves having five pointed lobes with finely-toothed edges, Norway Maple is similar but the lobes are very sharply pointed, and Field Maple with much smaller leaves with smooth edges to the lobes. All three produce pairs of winged seeds.

Two main Cherries are found. Wild Cherry which has very obvious strips of lenticels circling the trunk, flowers in bunches leading to bunches of red Cherries. Bird Cherry with flowers and black Cherries growing on long spikes. Some trees produce leaflets growing on either side of a central rib – Ash, Rowan, Elder. The common Ash produces its fruit in dense bunches of





“keys” which can remain on the tree through the winter and provide food for birds. Rowan’s fruit is in a dense bunch of orange berries, eagerly eaten by many birds. Elder has many tiny white flowers forming a flat cluster, leading to the dense purple-black Elderberries.

Hawthorn has a scientific name – *Crataegus monogyna* - which suggests one ovary, so the resultant berry has a single hard-cased seed within the fleshy coating. The leaves are small and deeply lobed. Midland Thorn leaves have very shallow lobes and the berries usually contain two of the hard-cased seeds. The two forms readily hybridise, producing mixed characteristics.

Along several of the paths in Selsdon Wood, a common tree is the Sweet Chestnut with bark which tends to grow in a spiral fashion around the trunk. The leaves are long and the chestnuts are produced in multiples within a fleshy covering coated in many stiff protective spikes. The Horse Chestnut is distinctive in the early months of the year, firstly for its distinctive sticky brown buds and later for the display of its upright columns of flowers. The flowers are generally white but hybrids with the American Buckeye produce deep reddish flowers.

There are at least 36 species of tree and bush in Selsdon Wood including Alder, Poplar, Buckthorn, Hornbeam, Whitebeam and Blackthorn. Check the website and look for Heather’s comments on the individual species.

~~

## **Answers to the Robin Quiz**

1. The female
2. b) Leaves. Hence the value of leaving piles of fallen leaves tucked around the garden in autumn.
3. False: Young Robins are fed by both of the pair.
4. “I said the Sparrow, with my Bow and Arrow”. The origins and meaning of this old rhyme aren’t clear – they may tell the story of the death of William Rufus, killed with an arrow, or may indeed be rooted in ancient myth.
5. Iceland
6. July. Male and female Robins sing all winter to defend feeding territories, and male Robins sing in spring to attract a mate as well as defend the breeding territory. All tend to stop singing in late summer

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- when they moult their flight feathers and become very vulnerable.
7. White/cream eggs with light brown speckles.
  8. The word 'orange' only came into usage in about 1500, hence 'red hair' being used to describe auburn hair
  9. False: It would be nice if it was true, but it is thought that the 'Robin' in Robin Hood comes from a number of old words such as *ruadhri*, meaning 'red king', whereas 'Robin' is the familiar version of the boy's name 'Robert' and familiar birds were often given familiar names.
  10. Robin, as in 'Batman and Robin'.

~~



## RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 2025

The Big Garden Birdwatch 2025 is coming on 24-26 January! Sit back, relax and watch your garden birds for an hour. Whether you're a newcomer or a regular – welcome! It all counts, and we'd love to know your sightings. You may even get some surprises.

**Save the date: 24-26 January 2025**

Register in mid-December to take part in the world's largest garden wildlife survey. In 2024, over 600,000 people took part – and you could be with them. Once you register, we'll keep you updated with top tips on how to get ready for your best Birdwatch ever.

On the day of the Big Garden Birdwatch itself, taking part couldn't be simpler! You just spend an hour watching the birds in your garden, from your balcony or in your local park, and tell us what you've seen. If you see very few birds or none at all, that's also really useful information for us, so please let us know.

### 2024 Results

#### The UK's top five birds

Celebrating its 21st year at the top of the Big Garden Birdwatch charts was the House Sparrow. These chirpy little characters were the most commonly sighted birds, with 1,442,300 counted over the Birdwatch weekend.

1. House Sparrow (1,442,300)
2. Blue Tit (1,094,401)
3. Starling (879,006)
4. Woodpigeon (835,408)
5. Blackbird (708,004)

## Christmas Cracker Jokes

1. What's the best thing to put into a Christmas cake?
2. How good is Santa at karate?
3. What did one cranberry say to another at Christmas?
4. Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?
5. Why doesn't Santa eat junk food?
6. How many letters are there in the Christmas alphabet?
7. What happens to naughty elves?
8. How much did Santa's sleigh cost?
9. How do you wash your hands at Christmas?
10. Why wouldn't Ebenezer Scrooge eat at the pasta restaurant?

## Christmas Cracker Answers

*Many thanks to Beano*

1. Your teeth!
2. He has a black belt!
3. 'Tis the season to be jelly!
4. A mince spy!
5. Because it's bad for his elf!
6. 25 - there's no L!
7. They get the sack!
8. Nothing - it was on the house!
9. With hand Santa-tizer!
10. It cost a pretty penny!

~~



## SELSDON AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

We are a friendly group of about 70 members. We meet from 1.30 – 4.00 on the third Friday of each month in the Community Hall, St. John's Church. Upper Selston Road Selston.

At each meeting we have a short business meeting which is followed by a visiting speaker, who bring a wide range of interesting topics. In January

we look forward to hearing about 'Murderous Women' and in February we will find out about 'Spitalfields through the ages'.

There are groups to join, such as handicrafts, knitting or drama, or you may wish to book a visit to Wimbledon Theatre or go on an Outing.

We always have time for refreshments and time to get to know one another.

**Christine Holland 02086574861**

~~



## The Selsdon Centre

### **Volunteer at the Selsdon Centre: Enrich Local Lives and Boost Your Well-being**

Are you seeking a fulfilling way to contribute to your community and enhance your mental health? The Selsdon Centre warmly invites you to join our dedicated team of volunteers. Just a few hours of your time can significantly impact the lives of others - and your own.

According to the NHS, volunteering not only reduces stress and combats depression but also creates a positive cycle of giving and receiving, benefitting both mental and emotional health. At the Selsdon Centre, you'll become part of a vibrant community team, offering activities such as social teas, Bingo, and IT instruction. Volunteers are at the heart of these efforts, ensuring each service is delivered with warmth and enthusiasm. We're currently seeking volunteers to serve teas, assist with lunches, and support various activities.

Tracey, a current volunteer, says, "Volunteering here has been



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incredibly rewarding. I've met wonderful people and learned so much. It's a joy to see the smiles on our members' faces, and I love the camaraderie and friendship with the other volunteers."

Whether you're working or retired, we offer flexible volunteering options to fit your schedule - whether that's occasionally or regularly. By joining our team, you'll have the opportunity to develop new skills, meet diverse people, and make a positive impact in our beloved Selsdon community. If you're ready to make a difference and be part of a friendly, dedicated team, please reach out to the Selsdon Centre via our website, email: [office@selsdoncentre.org.uk](mailto:office@selsdoncentre.org.uk) or call us directly on 0208 651 1111. We look forward to welcoming you into our community. Your time and talents can change lives - starting with your own.

***Susan Freegrove, Acting Centre Manager***

~~

#### **Contact**

**Selsdon Community Centre**

**132 Addington Road**

**South Croydon, CR2 8LA**

**Tel: 020 8651 4944**

**Fax: 020 8657 2268**

**Email: [info@selsdoncontact.org.uk](mailto:info@selsdoncontact.org.uk)**



SELSDON CONTACT would like to thank all our Friends of Contact, our many volunteers and our supporting churches. Matt and Maria in The Golden Ark hosted a lovely evening to thank our volunteer drivers who go the extra mile in helping our clients.

We've had a busy and successful year and look forward to another year providing support and advice and a fun time for our many lovely clients.

We would like to wish everyone In Selsdon a Merry Christmas and .a Happy New Year

If you would like to know more about Contact, or feel you could help, please contact Jasmine or Nina in our offices – see above.





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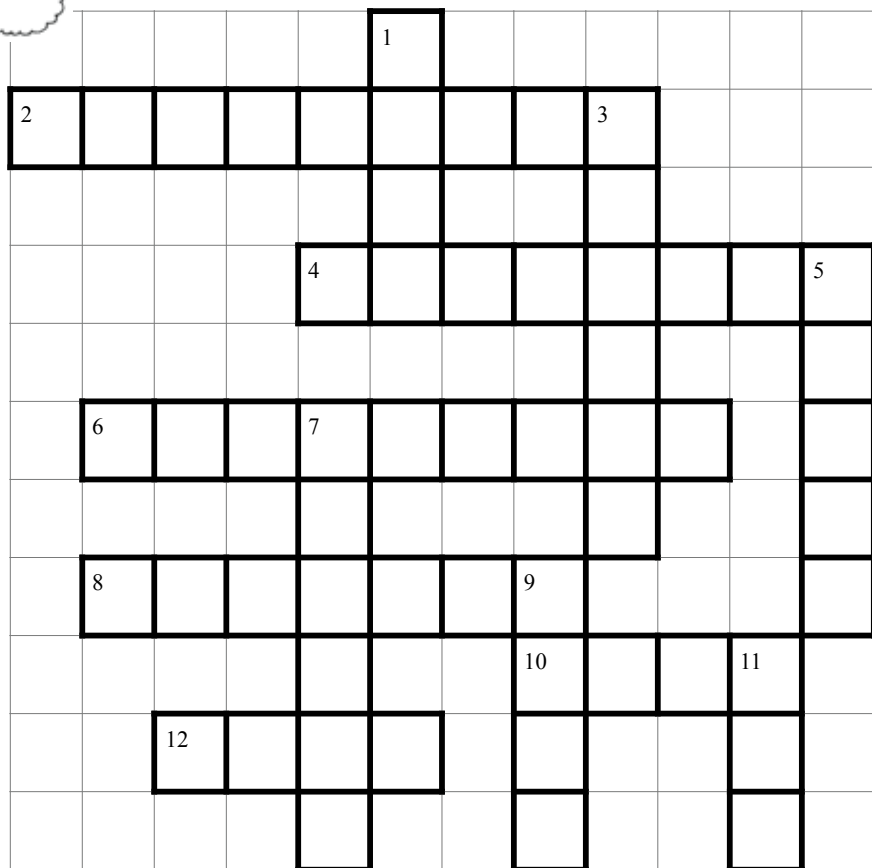
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# CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



## Across

2. 25th December is \_\_\_\_\_ Day
4. These are found around the tree
6. These are hung up on Christmas Eve
8. These are left for the reindeer to eat
10. Rudolph has a red one
12. A glass of this is left for Santa.

## Down

1. This is found at the top of the Christmas tree
3. Santa uses this to deliver presents
5. Another name for Father Christmas
7. Another name for Christmas songs
9. A white Christmas needs this
11. One of Santa's helpers

## Answers

Across: 2. Christmas, 4. Presents, 6. Stockings, 8. Carrots, 10. Nose, 12. Milk  
Down: 1. Star, 3. Sleigh, 5. Santa, 7. Carols, 9. Snow, 11. Elf

A Christmas Carol is a favourite book/film/play/musical at Christmas time, written in 1843 by Charles Dickens. If you want to know more about the life of this author, why not visit his former home in Doughty Street, Bloomsbury, London which houses the museum devoted to him and his works?

## **Out and About - Charles Dickens Museum**

Charles Dickens (1812-1870) was born in Portsmouth. His father, John, worked as a civil servant but was terrible with money. When Dickens was 12, John was sent to a debtors' prison. Charles was sent to work in a factory, sticking labels onto bottles that contained a polish called blacking. This experience filled his passion for social justice and education for the rest of his life.

As a young man in the early 1830s, Dickens began to work as a journalist and it is in this role that he cut his teeth as a writer. Although his early short "sketches" or articles were popular, the publication of the Pickwick Papers in 1836 cemented his fame.

Charles Dickens moved to 48 Doughty Street with his wife, Catherine (1815-1879), and their first child in 1837, the year Queen Victoria began her reign. Dickens arrived at Doughty Street a little-known young writer. When he and his growing family left three years later, he was an international superstar, having written The Pickwick Papers, Oliver Twist and Nicholas Nickleby.

Dickens later wrote that 48 Doughty Street had seemed to him "a frightfully first-class Family Mansion, involving awful responsibilities". Presented as an early Victorian home, the Museum is arranged over five floors reflecting the domestic layout Dickens would have known. The House is a showcase for the Museum's collection of over 100,000 objects. On display are personal possessions, including Catherine's engagement ring, and Dickens's

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handwritten novel drafts, as well as his writing desk.

The basement houses the kitchen, food preparation room, wine cellar and wash room. One surprising animal kept in this area was a hedgehog to eat insects like black beetles, which could damage food and materials.

The ground floor houses the dining and morning rooms, the first floor the drawing room and Dickens's study, the second floor the Dickens's bedroom, dressing room and another bedroom and the third floor has the nursery and servant's bedroom.

The Museum is open Wednesdays – Sundays from 10am -5pm (last entry 4pm)

~~

Although it is the season of goodwill, we still need to be vigilant for scams. I received this useful information from Santander to avoid being scammed.

## SCAMS

While fraud and scams are not new, advances in technology give criminals more ways to attempt to access your money. Knowing the techniques they use can help you protect yourself and your money.



### Tips for spotting fraud and scams

While there's no one-size fits all approach when it comes to protecting yourself, we've come up with a list of things that can help you spot and avoid fraud and scams.

- **Always take time to think before making a payment**, especially if it's a lot of money. Speak to someone you trust first, like a friend or family member.
- **Pay extra attention to the warnings your bank provide when making a payment.** They're in place to help you bank safely and avoid being scammed.
- **Anyone can be easily impersonated**, and criminals can make the caller ID, email address or name look exactly like the genuine caller. So, if you get an email, text or call, check it's genuine by phoning them back on a known and trusted number.
- **Always take time to complete extra checks when you make a**

**payment.** This is to make sure the person and the payment are genuine. This can be reading reviews, researching companies or websites, and checking the person or company is who they say they are.

- **Don't allow anyone remote access to your devices.** Criminals can ask you to click on a link or download an app which will give them control over your device.



### **Social engineering**

Social engineering can happen in person, digitally or over the phone. You don't know it's happening because criminals use sophisticated techniques. They may create fear, panic or build a friendship.

**Criminals use social engineering to make you do something that you normally wouldn't. This might be:**

- sending a payment to an account without checking that it's genuine
- giving away personal or security information without realising the other person is a criminal
- allowing someone access to your device. Criminals ask you to download legitimate apps such as AnyDesk or TeamViewer. They might ask you to click on a link. Once you give them control, they can see everything on your device. Never give anyone remote access to your device, unless you've checked the caller is real and you trust them. Even if access is granted, never open any banking apps or windows. Remote access gives the other person full access to view and act on everything you can.

### **Phishing (emails), smishing (text), and vishing (voice calls)**

The most common social engineering tactics are:

Phishing (emails)

Smishing (text)

Vishing (calls)

We know criminals can make messages look real, and sound very convincing when they call. Our advice would be never act on any request without checking that it's from a real source.

~~

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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 Church, Forestdale School		0777 255 9797
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](mailto:SelsdonandAddingtonVillage@met.police.uk)  
 Selsdon Vale & Forestdale: [SelsdonandForestdale@metpolice.uk](mailto: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	via <a href="http://www.folw.co.uk">www.folw.co.uk</a>
Friends of Selsdon Wood		<a href="http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk">www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk</a>
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2nd Selsdon & Addington Scout Group		<a href="http://www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk">www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk</a>
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Rotary Sanderstead & Selsdon	Wendy Parr	07774 186792
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	<a href="mailto:selsdonhall.info@gmail.com">selsdonhall.info@gmail.com</a>
Selsdon Flower Club	Maureen Browning	020 8651 5821
Selsdon Townswomen's Guild(pm)	Christine Holland	020 8657 4861
Sanderstead Horticultural Society		<a href="http://www.sandersteadhs.org">www.sandersteadhs.org</a>
Sanderstead Local History Group		<a href="mailto:sandersteadlhg@gmail.com">sandersteadlhg@gmail.com</a>
Selsdon Tennis Club	Geoff Littlewood	020 8651 4748
St John's Wives	Jane Guglielmi	020 8657 6672
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