

The Selsdon — Gazette —

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February 2022



THE SELSDON GAZETTE

Editor: selsdongazettesra@gmail.com

Website: www.selsdon-residents.co.uk

Advertising Enquiries: Carlo Rappa, selsdon.adverts@gmail.com

Gazette Finance Manager: Jenny Bradley, sragazettejb@gmail.com

Distribution: Enquiries to Wendy Mikiel, wmikiel@hotmail.com 020 8651 0470

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

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Front cover image credit: 'Snowman' taken by Neale Fox

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mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com

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Vice-Chairman: Linda Morris

Hon. Secretary: Janet Sharp

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Ernie Sweeney
Su Yates
Peter Underwood
Ian Leggatt
Phil Roberts
Jenny Stawman
Arthur Wilson
Trevor Stotten

Councillors for Selsdon & Addington Village Ward

Cllr Helen Pollard Helen.pollard@croydon.gov.uk 07941 573727

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

Councillors for Selsdon Vale & Forestdale Ward

Stuart Millson Stuart.millson@croydon.gov.uk 07783 152376

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

Councillors for Sanderstead Ward

Cllr Lyn Hale Lynne.hale@croydon.gov.uk 0208 405 6721

Cllr Yvette Hopley Yvette.hopley@croydon.gov.uk 0208 404 3462

Cllr Tim Pollard councillor@timpollard.co.uk 0208 251 8500

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



Editor's Note

Welcome to the February edition of the Selsdon Gazette! Just in case we get snow again this February like last year, I decided to use a photo of a snowman in Selsdon Woods from last year as the cover photo for this gazette. I know the photographer was Neale Fox, but we do not know the snowman creators - do you?

With covid restrictions easing, it is likely that the Annual General Meeting of the Selsdon Residents' Association will take place on 30th March at 8pm, so please put the date in your diary. The agenda is included in this Gazette and the financial accounts will be in the March edition.

This month we have included details about the celebrations planned for The Queen's Jubilee and information about Croydon's Local Plan Review which will have implications for how the Selsdon area develops up to 2039. We have our regular contributors: Ted Forsyth looking at natural decay needed in our woods, Mary Gill with a poem on the role of storytelling in poetry and in our gardening section we are told it is time to get the pruners out. I am pleased to have some articles from some newcomers, with Phil Munton recollecting the importance of the woods in Selsdon in his childhood and Janet describes her typical day visiting the Selsdon Centre for the Retired. My monthly quizzes have inspired our Secretary, Janet, to devise one on local celebrities - will you be able to recognise all ten of them?

The Winter Olympics start in February so we have a quiz about the sports you can watch there and March 1st will see both St David's Day and Shrove Tuesday, so will you be eating Welsh cakes or pancakes?

Finally, my regular plea to everyone, whatever your age, to email me with an article, letter, photo, quiz or poem (selsdongazettesra@gmail.com). It would be lovely to hear from you!

I hope that you enjoy your read. Keep safe

Chris Jones

✎ SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MARCH 2022 EDITION
SHOULD BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN
20TH FEBRUARY - PREFERABLY BEFORE! ✎

Value for Money



When we recently refilled the SRA notice boards on the High Street and Sainsbury's foyer, amongst the items we were asked to put there was a new poster from the Friends of Littleheath Woods (FoLW). This mentioned the vital importance of our green spaces, especially in giving us all somewhere to go during the lockdowns and in our break times when WFH. FoLW go on to say that green spaces need our care if they are to survive as a valuable local amenity, especially since the Council has withdrawn nearly all its support for the Friends Groups, who largely manage them now on their behalf.

FoLW and FSW (Friends of Selsdon Woods), the two Selsdon Friends groups (there are also Friends of Kingswood, of Sanderstead Plantation and of Croham Hurst nearby) have both set very low subscriptions in the hope that £5 per household for each group per year will not be too extravagant a drain on your finances. Rather than deciding which group to support, why not send a fiver to each? Where else would you get such value for £10?



It seems to depend which side of Addington Road you live on, which wood you usually favour for your exercise – so perhaps make a belated resolution to visit and/or help in the 'other one' this year and discover the delights of that wood too. Details of both (including their work and free guided walk programmes) are on their websites: www.folw.co.uk and www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk

Also, on the subject of good value for money, unfortunately, many Selsdon residents have still not yet paid their **21/22 SRA subscription**. Are you one of those? The subscription is only set at £5 per household – but we do hope residents will perhaps add a little more to help pay for the Christmas lights, other community expenses (e.g., flowers etc on the High St), donations to worthy community causes and, if necessary, support for this Gazette if there is ever a shortfall in the income from advertisers to maintain the free delivery of this to you all. Details of how to pay are on our website www.selsdon-residents.co.uk or contact us by email or phone (see details on Page 2)

We look forward to seeing you all at the SRA AGM on 30th March – whether you have paid your sub or not!

Platinum Jubilee Plans



The SRA is hoping to have some bunting again in the Addington Road to brighten Selsdon, at least at the time of the celebratory weekend at the beginning of June. We are now making plans and enquiries as to

whether we will have to finance whatever we do ourselves or if there is an official fund we can tap into, but we have had no answers yet. We do firmly believe this significant event does however warrant our recognition of it, so we are pressing ahead regardless as we don't want to leave ordering the bunting until it is all stuck in containers somewhere between its origin and here! We hope also to replace the Winter/Spring planting in the railing containers and the two planters outside Iceland with bedding plants in a patriotic colour scheme. Any offers to help with that (plants, donations and/or offers to water them etc during the summer) would be most welcome.

We are also planning a re-run of the **Scarecrow competition**. This year the theme will be 'Jubilee' so start collecting your bits and pieces now to ensure your scarecrow is ready to be displayed and judged around the end of May. Exact details of judging etc will be published in the March or April Gazettes. For now, all you need to know is that the rules are the same as before – nothing new to be used other than anything purchased that has come from our local shops. If you are buying from the charity shops though, then we will extend the range to those in all the Croydon area and West Wickham to give you more chance of finding just the right things you need to make your scarecrow(s) the best and most original in Selsdon!



Gazette distribution – New/additional help needed

Wendy Mikiel was delighted by the response to her recent request for some new Gazette deliverers. Welcome to those who have decided to join this invaluable band of helpers each month or who have indicated they are willing to be on stand-by in case of illness, holidays, or retirements. She does however still need some more volunteers to do the job of collecting the Gazettes from her (usually up to 4 boxes containing 120 each, so no large crates to lift!) and then batching up and distributing the correct number to each deliverer.

Ideally, Wendy gets the Gazettes from the printer by about the 10th of the month (or soon after) and she tries to get them out to the distributors quickly enough so they can pass them on to the deliverers for the next weekend, in the hope that will help get them delivered to each house as soon as possible in the month – preferably by the third week of the month (but remember, no Gazettes to deliver in August!).

To replace some distributors who have retired and to help ease the load of others, Wendy needs some new people to join the group. Please could you offer some time for this – something like 30 minutes to collect them, 1 hour to batch them and then another hour or two to contact the deliverers and then deliver to them? If you think you could help, please contact Wendy for more details and to discuss availability and preferred distribution area.

Finally, a thank you to Mr Dry Clean who we missed when we listed local businesses who had contributed to the Christmas Lights.

Linda Morris, Vice Chairman SRA

URGENT - SRA needs a new Secretary from April



Janet Sharp has held the SRA quill for 10 years. She now feels it is time to pass it on to someone new - although, thankfully, she has agreed to remain as a member of the SRA team which will help keep down the average age of the committee! We do hope there is someone out there who will step forward at the AGM to take on the Secretarial role. We all feel we really need some fresh blood to help us along.

The main task of our Secretary is to help the committee meetings run smoothly. The meetings are traditionally on the second Monday evening of the month - but usually not in August or December. They are currently either held via Zoom or in one of the Selsdon Baptist Church meeting rooms at 7.30 / 8pm until 9/10pm.

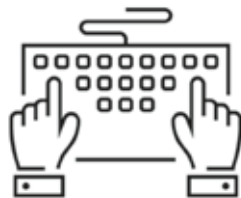
Our Secretary books the meeting room as required, drafts the agenda and the minutes for the Chair to agree, and distributes these to the committee members by email in good time for required actions to be noted and

reports etc received back, hopefully ready for the next meeting.

Janet says she spends probably around five hours on the duties of the post each month - sometimes more if we need her to look back through the minute book to see how a particular recurring or similar problem or action was handled previously.

Janet found that, as Secretary, she gained confidence, experience and more background understanding of the SRA - its history, relationships with the council, police and residents etc- through the role. She was thus able gradually to suggest and develop additional aspects of the job as she wished and as the Chairman felt was required. She is a treasure we will miss.

Do you feel you have sufficient ability with words (and IT) to start to make the role your own? Maybe you have been a club Secretary before or even been a minute-taker and organiser at work? Please don't be shy in putting yourself forward to be elected at the AGM. If you need some more details of the range of things that Janet helps the committee team



(especially the Chairman and Vice-chairman) with, then do please contact anyone (or more) of us and we will try to give you more information to help you make up your mind whether to stand or not.

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We can email a more detailed list of the tasks and responsibilities, currently handled so well by Janet, in advance of the AGM if you want to mull over whether you believe you could 'do your bit for the community of Selsdon' by taking over from her then. Please send an email to mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com or telephone Sheila, Linda or Janet (our numbers are listed on page 2).

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SRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING*

Wednesday 30th March 2022

Church hall, St John the Divine, Upper Selsdon Road

Doors open 7.40pm, 8pm start.



*COVID RESTRICTIONS ALLOWING – SEE SRA WEBSITE, FACEBOOK PAGE and NOTICEBOARDS FOR UPDATES NEARER THE TIME

Selsdon residents are invited to attend this annual opportunity to meet the SRA Committee, Gazette Editor, local councillors and local Police to talk about your neighbourhood. We have one Committee vacancy to be filled this year.

The AGM lasts about an hour, with a chance for drinks and chat afterwards. Please arrive in good time for 8pm start. COVID Health and Safety Precautions will be in place.

We hope you can join us and perhaps bring a neighbour.

We enjoy meeting you all 😊

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2022 SRA AGM Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Police report
3. 2020 Report (The advertised 2021 AGM was cancelled (as a precaution due to Covid 19 pandemic) and so this report was issued under the planned agenda headings.) Copies printed in the March 2021 Gazette and SRA website and notices placed on SRA social media and local public noticeboards.
4. Matters arising from the 2020 report.
5. The Annual report for 2021 (Printed in January Gazette and available at the meeting)
6. Treasurers Report with adoption of the Accounts for 2021/22 (Printed in the March Gazette and available at the meeting)
7. The Selsdon Gazette - Editor Report
8. Christmas Lights

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WEST END'S RAT PACK: LIVE FROM LAS VEGAS

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DUKE ELLINGTON, COUNT BASIE, NAT "KING" COLE,
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9. Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee for 2022/23. There is one general Committee vacancy. The position of Secretary has been advertised.
10. Adoption of the Hon. Accounts Reviewer for 2022/23
11. Any other business

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COUNCILLORS' NOTES

QUIET MONTH

The last month has been quiet on the Council front. Lockdown and Christmas meant there were few events and meetings.

As your local councillors, we continue to receive complaints from residents about missed bin collections. When people go online to report the missed collection, the Council's app states that the bin was 'not presented' so the missed collection can't be reported. This seems to be Veolia's way of avoiding collecting bins.

It is infuriating for residents to be told their bin was not put out when it had been put out. Some have provided photographic evidence which the Council will struggle to contradict. We are happy to follow up any issues like this and make sure the Council meets its obligations. It is especially poor that the Council is not collecting some garden waste bins which residents have paid extra for.

Here is an extract from an email, sent to Cllr Pollard on 30th December, by the Council. It refers to missed collections in the Selsdon area:

Due to unprecedented National HGV driver shortages and the Omicron variant of Corona Virus; coinciding with the Winter Holiday period we are prioritising our collection services.

The Council has been working alongside Veolia for collection agreements over the next three weeks. This means we will not report your collection issue as we are prioritising side-waste over the Festive Period.

Not very helpful!

Please get in touch if you are having problems with bin collections.

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

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

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

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

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

22/00023/FUL – 133 Addington Road CR2 8LH

Conversion of dwelling to two flats, and the installation of an external door at the rear

21/05598/FUL – 166 Addington Road CR2 8LB

Conversion of existing 4-bedroom flat into two flats, across first and second floor, with associated works. | 166 Addington Road South Croydon CR2 8LB

21/06296/LP – 131 Benhurst Gardens CR2 8NZ

Demolition of existing garage structure and erection of 1x one-bedroom dwellinghouse within the garden of 131 Benhurst Gardens.

21/06350/HSE – 43 Byron Road CR2 8DZ

Erection of single-storey front and rear extension and two-storey side extension following demolition of existing garage

21/06223/LP – 43 Byron Road CR2 8DZ

Erection of hip to gable and rear dormer roof extensions and installation of 1 rooflight on the front slope

21/06349/HSE – 29 Crest Road CR2 7JR
Erection of single/two storey side/rear extensions

22/00045/HSE – 143 Croham Valley Road CR2 7RE
Erection of a part single-storey part two-storey side extension and single-storey rear extension

22/06242/HSE – 183 Croham Valley Road CR2 7RF
Loft conversion to existing bungalow with front dormer. Single storey rear extension. Rear dormer to be built under 'permitted development'

21/06227/LP – 183 Croham Valley Road CR2 7RF
Rear roof extension

22/00078/HSE – 30 Littleheath Road CR2 7SA
Erection of a first-floor side extension over existing ground-floor side extension, part single-storey part two-storey rear extension and rear dormer to facilitate loft conversion

21/06155/HSE – 16 Mountwood Close CR2 8RJ
Erection of additional floor to create two storey dwellinghouse

21/06317/HSE – 12 Osprey Gardens CR2 8TB
Erection of front porch; alterations to flat roof of existing garage and conversion to a habitable room.

22/00020/LP – 16 Queenhill Road CR2 8DN
Erection of hip to gable and rear dormer and installation of 3 roof lights to the front slope.

22/00077/HSE – 8 Riesco Drive, CR2 5RS
Demolition of existing right side car port; alterations and erection of single storey side and two storey rear extension

21/05940/HSE – 20 Upper Selsdon Road CR2 8DE
Conversion of garage to habitable room

(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



Recent stabbing in Croydon – appeal for information

As I am sure you are aware, at the end of last year police were called to Ashburton Park where a 15-year-old boy, Zaian Aimable-Lina, was stabbed and tragically died from his injuries. This cowardly attack has caused considerable concern across our communities and I would like to express my condolences to the family and friends of Zaian.

Zaian had his whole life ahead him but became yet another victim to knife violence in London. I have called on London Mayor Sadiq Khan to do more to tackle knife crime that has burgeoned on his watch. Community engagement is one of the police's best resources in tackling this issue, which relies on residents coming forward with any information they may have. No matter how insignificant you may think it, if you have information that can help with investigations into this incident, or any others, then please contact the police immediately on 101 or pass information anonymously via Crimestoppers.

Thankfully, 20,000 extra Police are in the process of being recruited nationally (around one third of whom have been hired so far) and about 200 of these should come to Croydon. This will enable higher levels of patrolling, more resources for investigations and the establishment of a specialist Croydon town centre team.

Southern and Thameslink Disruption

I am concerned with the standard of customer service that many residents received as a result of disruption on critical Southern, Thameslink Rail and Gatwick Express services, run by GTR early in the new year. At the beginning of January commuters were subject to severe disruption because a number of trains, including all to London Victoria, had been cancelled or diverted. Following my engagement with GTR on behalf of residents, I am pleased that GTR committed to rapidly reinstating services to Victoria and other London stations (which should have been done by the time you read this). Despite this, however, I am concerned disruption may continue.

Rising COVID-related absences were blamed for the staffing chaos and while GTR have introduced a new timetable, this remains patchy. I am maintaining pressure on GTR to return services to normal as quickly as possible, and I will continue to monitor this closely. I am calling on GTR to closely engage with customers and quickly produce a clear plan to compensate customers who have been forced to rely on taxis or other means of transport. If you have

been affected by GTR's poor standard of service, please do not hesitate to contact me at chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk and I will of course be happy to make representations on your behalf.

Chris Philp

Member of Parliament, Croydon South: [020 7219 8026](tel:02072198026)
chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk

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Reports from our Local Police Wards

Hello Residents,

The below crime table is from 01/01/2022 to 18/01/2022.

Crime	Date	Time	Place
Theft From Motor Vehicle	12/01/2022	18:30 – 18:40	Albatross Gardens
Theft From Motor Vehicle	12/01/2022	18:30 – 18:40	Albatross Gardens
Theft From Motor Vehicle	12/01/2022	18:00 – 20:00	Albatross Gardens
Theft From Motor Vehicle	12/01/2022 – 13/01/2022	15:00 – 12:15	Albatross Gardens
Residential Burglary	13/01/2022	21:30	Old Farleigh Road

The start of the year we have been hit by 4 catalytic converter thefts. Four males with eastern European accents have been witnessed committing the thefts across Croydon. If you see 4 males in a vehicle driving around suspiciously, please call 101.

Hope you all have a good 2022 and stay safe.

Jack Killian 7114SN

Police Community Support Officer

Telephone: 020 8721 2464

Email: SNMailbox-SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk

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

Tina Nash











Selsdon and Addington Village Neighbourhood Team

Telephone: 020 8721 2468

Email: Selsdonaddvill@gmail.com

Selsdon Connections – Guess Who?

Here are ten people connected with Selsdon in some way. Can you identify them? Answers next month or if you can't wait check out our website: <https://selsdon-residents.co.uk> on the 'selsdon our area' page to see if you are right!

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7		8	
9		10	

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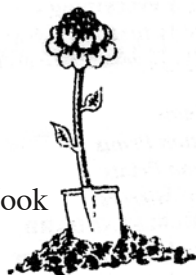
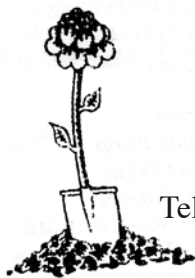
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Croydon's Street Champions Scheme

Last year, over 2800 volunteers across the borough mobilised to help clear litter, leaves and large rubbish from Croydon's streets, pavements and parks. By the end of 2021 there were 654 registered Street Champions and they were joined by individuals and groups from all walks of life, coming together to participate in neighbourhood street tidies, park picks, and national events such as the Great British Spring Clean. They managed to clear a massive 7155 bags of litter.



A heartfelt thanks goes to these incredible Street Champions and volunteers who have worked so hard this year and given so much time and energy.

To organise a litter-picking event, or become a Street Champion, contact champions@croydon.gov.uk

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Croydon Local Plan Review – Implications for Selsdon

An important Croydon Council document is undergoing a very short public review process upon which, by the time you receive this Gazette, you will have little time left to comment.

What is the Croydon Local Plan Review?

The Croydon Local Plan review will update the previous version published in 2018 and will be the vision and strategy for Croydon's growth up to 2039 and it will set out how the council will continue to deliver much-needed new homes, jobs and community facilities. It will be the guidance for Planning Applications in the Borough.

What are the timescales for the review?

The first stage of the review is closed. The results of that are now contained in a further consultation on the draft Local Plan which runs from 6th January to 17th February. It is proposed that the Local Plan Review will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination in March 2022 and is anticipated to be adopted as Council Policy later in 2023.

What are the implications for Selsdon?

The Plan considers 'Selsdon' as an area based predominantly on the two Wards. Thus, the area extends either side down the Addington Road / Selsdon Park Road to Gravel Hill.

It is proposed that the Forestdale Centre be designated an area of 'Focussed Intensification' whilst Selsdon be designated an area of 'Moderate Intensification'.

Selsdon



What is 'Focussed Intensification' and 'Moderate Intensification'?

Focussed Intensification:

"In the areas of focussed intensification, development should sustainably optimise site capacity. They may be significantly larger than existing and should:

- Achieve a step change of density, scale and height within the area of focussed intensification which enhances and contributes to a gradual change in character;
- Have active well detailed frontages;
- Address the higher density of the development by providing amenity and communal facilities for intensified use including utilities

- infrastructure, play space, parking, cycle storage and refuse storage within the capacity of the site;
- d) Demonstrate innovative and sustainable design implementing mitigation measures to counter any identified flood risk; and
 - e) Enhance landscape character, biodiversity and create opportunities for ecological, walking and cycling corridors. “
- “Developments in areas of focussed intensification should contribute to an increase in density and a change in character. They will be expected to enhance and sensitively respond to positive aspects of existing local character by being of high quality and respectful of the existing place in which they would be placed.”

Moderate Intensification:

“Developments within the areas of moderate intensification should be larger than the existing by delivering at least an additional storey. The increasing density should:

- a) Respect and enhance the character of the area and
- b) Provide amenity and communal facilities for intensified use including utilities infrastructure, play space, landscaping, parking, cycle storage and, refuse storage within the capacity of the site.”

So, what are the plans for Selsdon?

There are three potential scenarios for Selsdon proposed:

“Strategic option 1 – All residential growth to take place in the existing urban area. Number of homes in Selsdon in 20 years (the proposed Place target) 870 to 1,070

Description of the option:

Most development in Selsdon will be on windfall sites. Those areas within 800m of Selsdon Town Centre or a tram stop will see some evolution of their existing character (apart from in Conservation Areas, which will see little change). Elsewhere there will be less change. The council will investigate the feasibility of a rapid transit route/tram extension with Transport for London to support housing growth, as well as improve connectivity and air quality to improve quality of life for all.”

“Strategic option 2 – Major redevelopment of the Purley Way area to reduce some pressure off residential growth in the existing urban area. Number of homes in Selsdon in 20 years (the proposed Place target) 580 to 710

Description of the option:

Most development in Selsdon will be on windfall sites. There will be less change to the existing character of Selsdon. The council will investigate the feasibility of a rapid transit route/tram extension with Transport for London to support housing growth, as well as improve connectivity and air quality to improve quality of life for all.”

“Strategic option 3 – Limited release of Green Belt land for residential development to reduce some pressure off residential growth in the existing urban area.

Number of homes in Selsdon in 20 years (the proposed Place target) 580 to 710 *(plus 1,300 to 1,540 new homes on an urban extension on Green Belt land at Gravel Hill)*

Description of the option:

There will be less change to the existing character of Selsdon. This is because some pressure is taken away from existing residential areas because of limited release of Green Belt land for development, including an urban extension at Gravel Hill. The council will investigate the feasibility of a rapid transit route/tram extension with Transport for London to support housing growth, as well as improve connectivity and air quality to improve quality of life for all.”

What should we bear in mind when reviewing the above information?

There is no indication of the current number of homes in the area attributed to Selsdon.

The area considered in the review extends far beyond the boundaries of the SRA.

The definition of ‘Windfall Sites’ is assumed to be as per the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which defines **windfall** sites as: ‘Sites which have not been specifically identified as available in the Local Plan process. They normally comprise previously-developed sites that have unexpectedly become available.’

High quality development’ is not defined.

Next Steps

Your SRA will continue to monitor the progress of the Croydon Local Plan review and report back at appropriate stages. In the meantime, you can contact us for planning related matters at selsdonplanning@gmail.com

Ian Leggatt, SRA Planning Sub Committee

Croydon - London Borough of Culture 2023

What is London Borough of Culture?

The Mayor's London Borough of Culture award brings Londoners together. It puts culture at the heart of local communities, where it belongs, illuminating the character and diversity of London's boroughs and showing culture is for everyone.



How it works

London boroughs submit bids to receive more than £1m of funding to deliver a programme of ambitious cultural activities celebrating the unique character of local people and places, and to develop a plan to make culture an integral part of the borough's future.

A panel of experts and City Hall officers read and moderate the bids. Recommendations are made to the Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, and the Mayor, Sadiq Khan, who make the final decision.

Croydon's Successful Bid for 2023

Croydon's bid for the award, 'This is Croydon', was centred on sustainability. Residents of the town and those who work in it will get to enjoy a vibrant programme of activities themed around nature, inclusion, progress and growth. Local community art commissions, a music festival and a 're-use and recycle' fashion show will form a small part of a 10-event cultural programme and wider community projects.

Being London Borough of Culture is an important achievement in terms of funding, with £1.35 million awarded to back this year-long programme of activities. Our local Councillor, Robert Ward, wants to make sure that the Selsdon area is properly represented and gets its share of the money that is on offer. He has highlighted the following points made by the Council:

- 1 – The Council wants to know of the local creative and cultural community who may want to be involved in 2023 – they encourage them to join the Croydon Culture network and participate in the online engagement pages for the creative and cultural sector in Croydon. This includes feedback on their current plans to date. Culture groups can sign up at <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/libraries-leisure-and-culture/arts-entertainment-and-culture/culture-network-newsletter>

2 – The Council would like to know of any planned activity which may have the potential to be supported or promoted through London Borough of Culture 2023. Their online engagement pages allow for feedback on potential plans and further information on their Ignite Fund open access grant scheme which will be available to support activity during the year. The online engagement for culture groups only is <https://www.getinvolved.croydon.gov.uk/lboc-culture-network>

Local groups in Selsdon should consider what community projects that celebrate the local area and people that they could put forward to bid for funding.

~~

A Good Time for Gardening – February

February - signs of spring's imminent arrival everywhere you look. Bulbs are slowly emerging from the ground; the days are getting longer and there is a little bit of warmth in the sun when it's out ... particularly if you're behind glass!

A few jobs for when the sun is shining ...

- ~ look out for sprouting dandelions and dig them up whilst young, (although they can be a glorious sight when massed together –a weed is just a plant that hasn't learnt to grow in a straight line!)
- ~ prune back the old foliage from ornamental grasses, down to a few centimetres from the ground
- ~ prune wisteria back to 2 or 3 buds
- ~ prune overwintered fuchsias back to 2 or 3 buds
- ~ prune winter flowering jasmine after flowering to encourage new growth for next year's blooms.
- ~ trim winter flowering heathers once the flowers disappear
- ~ remove faded flowers from winter pansies, this will encourage a flush of new flowers when the weather warms up
- ~ lift and divide snowdrops whilst they are still 'in the green,' if you want to move them
- ~ start chitting early potatoes – stand them on end in egg boxes and place in a bright, cool, frost-free place
- ~ prune autumn fruiting raspberry canes to the ground. Cut the tips of summer fruiting canes that have grown beyond their supports
- ~prune blackcurrant, redcurrant and gooseberry bushes



- ~ winter prune apple and pear trees but not plum, cherry, or apricot trees
- ~ Keep feeding the birds. The weather is still cold so hang fat balls and keep bird feeders topped up
- ~ trim hedges before the birds start nesting
- ~ Wash empty pots by scrubbing them with hot water and a mild detergent. Rinse them well afterwards.

If the weather doesn't allow going outside then plan what you hope to plant, as this helps you to decide the quantities of seeds and plants needed.

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

~~

Plans Announced for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend 2022



There will be year-long Platinum Jubilee celebrations throughout the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and around the world as communities come together to celebrate The Queen's historic reign.

In 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, seventy years of service, having acceded to the throne on 6th February 1952 when Her Majesty was 25 years old.

Throughout the year, Her Majesty and members of the Royal Family will travel around the country to undertake a variety of engagements to mark this historic occasion culminating with the focal point of the Platinum Jubilee Weekend in June.

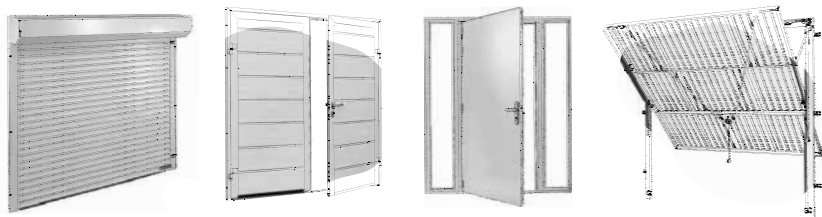
An extended bank holiday, from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June, will provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate the historic milestone. The four days of celebrations will include public events and community activities, as well as national moments of reflection on The Queen's 70 years of service.

On 10 January the Platinum Pudding Competition started with members of the public invited to create a dish to dedicate to the Queen's reign. Fortnum



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& Mason launched this bake-off competition to create a brand-new dessert that will become a national dish and be recreated for generations.



This isn't the first time a foodie competition has been launched for the Queen, either. Coronation chicken was created in 1953 to mark Her Majesty taking to the throne. It's hoped the winning Platinum Jubilee pudding could become as iconic as Victoria Sponge cake, named after Queen Victoria. The Platinum Jubilee pudding competition will be judged by top chefs and bakers, including queen of baking Mary Berry. 'I'm so thrilled to be panel chair for this exciting competition to make the perfect pudding fit for the Queen, and to work alongside such a wonderful team of judges,' she said. 'I hope everyone who enters has lots of fun and I wish them the very best of luck.'

Joining Mary on the judging panel will be Masterchef judge Monica Galetti, Junior Bake Off judge Liam Charles and the Queen's very own head chef Mark Flanagan, to name a few.

From 12 to 15 May, more than 500 horses and 1,000 performers will take part in a 90-minute show at Windsor Castle, taking the audience on a journey through history from Elizabeth I to present day.

Thursday 2nd June

The Queen's Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour): Over 1,400 parading soldiers, 200 horses and 400 musicians will come together in the traditional Parade to mark The Queen's official birthday, usually held on the second Saturday in June.

Beginning at Buckingham Palace, the Parade will move down The Mall to Horse Guard's Parade, joined by Members of the Royal Family on horseback and in carriages. The Parade will close with the traditional RAF fly-past, watched by The Queen and Members of the Royal Family from the Buckingham Palace balcony.

Platinum Jubilee Beacons: The United Kingdom's long tradition of celebrating Royal Jubilees, Weddings and Coronations with the lighting of beacons will be continued to mark the Platinum Jubilee. Beacons will be lit in more than 1,500 locations throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories.

For the first time, beacons will also be lit in each of the capital cities of the Commonwealth countries to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Friday 3rd June

Service of Thanksgiving: A Service of Thanksgiving for The Queen's reign will be held at St Paul's Cathedral.



Saturday 4th June

The Derby at Epsom Downs: Her Majesty The Queen, accompanied by Members of the Royal Family, will attend the Derby at Epsom Downs.

Platinum Party at the Palace: The BBC will stage and broadcast a special live concert from Buckingham Palace that will bring together some of the world's biggest entertainment stars to celebrate the most significant and joyous moments from The Queen's seven-decade reign. Members of the public will be invited to apply to attend this special event and the ballot will be released in February.

Sunday 5th June

The Big Jubilee Lunch

On Sunday 5 June people across the country will be invited to sit down together to take part in the Big Jubilee Lunch, with street parties held across the UK. A Big Jubilee Lunch can be big or small - street party or picnic, tea and cake or a garden barbeque.



The Platinum Jubilee Pageant: A pageant featuring over 5,000 people from across the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth will take place against the backdrop of Buckingham Palace and the surrounding streets. It will combine street arts, theatre, music, circus, carnival, and costume as well as cutting-edge visual technology and celebrate the service of Her Majesty's reign, as well as honouring the collective service of people and communities across the country.

Primary and secondary school children are invited to **create a picture of their hopes and aspirations** for the planet over the next 70 years. A selection of these will be transferred on to silk flags, which will be carried by secondary school pupils in the pageant.

In July, three displays marking the Queen's accession to the throne, the coronation and jubilees will be put on at Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, and the Palace of Holyroodhouse. It will include portraits as well as the jewellery and outfits worn for each occasion.

The Queen's Green Canopy



As the Platinum Jubilee year begins, over 60,000 trees have already been planted in the UK through the project in the two months since the planting season began. Green-fingered communities and cities from Cornwall to Glasgow have come together to make 2022 a truly special year to “plant a tree for the Jubilee” as a celebration of The Queen’s 70 years of service to the nation and the Commonwealth.

The Queen’s Green Canopy is generating the planting of large, celebration trees, majestic new avenues of trees, urban planting, and expansive new forests that will benefit future generations. Every planting is being recorded on a digital Queen’s Green Canopy map which will be presented to Her Majesty at the end of the Jubilee year.

The Queen’s Green Canopy is also working to protect 70 ancient trees and woodlands that are a valuable part of the UK’s heritage and history and has launched a special training programme to teach unemployed young people new skills in tree planting and management, as well as a Young Foresters Award to highlight the value of trees to school children. The Queen’s Green Canopy will continue throughout 2022 and into March 2023.

Many thanks to www.royal.uk/platinum-jubilee-central-weekend for this information.

~~

Mum2Mum Markets Come to Selsdon

'Mum2mum Markets' are baby and children nearly new sales where parents can sell on their no longer needed baby, children's (0-6 years) and maternity items to make space and money for the next essentials, and parents can save a fortune buying good quality nearly new instead of brand new and paying full price.

There are four events planned at St John's Church Hall from 2-4pm:

Saturday 5th February

Saturday 5th March

Saturday 2nd April

Saturday 11th June

Entry is just £2 for adults and children are free.

Winter Olympics (4 February - 20 February 2022) Quiz

How good is your knowledge about winter Olympics sports? Can you match the winter Olympic sport with its description?

Description	Winter Olympic Sport
1. This sport combines rifle shooting with cross-country skiing.	A. Figure Skating
2. This sport pairs ski jumping with cross-country skiing.	B. Luge
3. This sport involves racing on twisty, narrow iced tracks, originally in four man teams.	C. Freestyle Skiing
4. This sport involves riding a small sled while lying face down and head first.	D. Biathlon
5. This sport has included categories in singles, pairs, team and ice dance.	E. Skeleton
6. The Netherlands won its 42nd gold medal in this racing sport at the 2018 Winter Olympics.	F. Bobsleigh
7. Introduced as a medal sport in 1998, this Winter Olympic game is known as "chess on ice".	G. Speed Skiing
8. In this sport, a single competitor or two-person team rides a flat sled while lying face up and feet first.	H. Nordic Combined
9. This sport has included categories in parallel giant slalom, big air, halfpipe, cross and slopestyle.	I. Snowboarding
10. This sport has included categories in aerials, moguls, cross, halfpipe, and slopestyle.	J. Curling

Answers after Nature Notes

Recollections from a 1960's Selsdon Schoolboy 1

Having lived in Selsdon in my formative years I have reflected recently on the way the village, as I used to know it, has had a profound effect on the rest of my life. This influence has been positive in several different ways and has enabled me to recall much of my early life with both gratitude and affection. Now in my mid-seventies I am putting together a sort of autobiography in which I have found myself referring to my childhood for explanations for how my interests in, and philosophies of, life have developed.

When I left Selsdon in 1967 I never returned save for occasional visits to my Mum who lived in the same house, 41 Ingham Road, all her married and widowed life until she passed away in 1994. The first four years of my life outside the village were spent at Reading and Leeds Universities and because I was a typical student of that era my interests were mainly caught up with the social life of the late sixties and early seventies, a period I still regard as one the best, both socially and culturally.

Leaving Leeds after gaining my Diploma in Education I took up my first teaching post in Wetherby, a small market town between Leeds and York. Although larger than Selsdon it had much the same community spirit that I soon began to appreciate, not least because of several enjoyable and lively pubs! The school I worked at for four years was one of the few remaining so called 'progressive' establishments, like Summerhill, where all the pupils called the staff by their Christian names. It was a novel idea for me but in most respects, it worked well to enable close relationships and trust to develop between staff and students. For me the best part about the school was its location in an attractive rural setting with grounds that included a beautiful woodland area like, but not as large as, Littleheath Woods which I used to enjoy accessing from Ingham Road as a boy and which played such a large part in my early life. This sort of amenity, I suddenly realized, was one which I had sorely missed in my college days.

From my very youngest days my family took regular walks, starting from our back gate, down the path which served as the boundary line between the Monks Hill area of Croydon and Purley and Coulsdon of which Selsdon was the eastern most part. This path led past a WW 2 bomb crater near an electricity pylon, across the Addington Road and down 'Piggy Lane' as we used to call it since it went through several small holdings some of which raised pigs. This led to Selsdon Wood as it is

now referred to, although I am sure we called it something else in those days - the Sanctuary? Being very small I used to think these woods were enormous and I have recollections of being afraid of getting lost, à la Mole and Ratty in the Wind in the Willows, an early favourite book of mine.

If anything, though, Littleheath Woods were my favourite, so conveniently accessed from our back gate or up the hill to the top of the road. Just behind our back garden was a large oak tree with a smaller holly tree right next to it. This could be climbed to the level of the first very large branch about fifteen foot up where I used to avidly read my books, watch birds (a lifelong interest) or watch people walk below without knowing I was there!

Half my childhood days were spent in those woods, after school, at weekends, and during those long school holidays when from after breakfast to tea, time was spent building dens in the bracken, collecting chestnuts, playing cricket or football in Brent or Fallen Oak fields or getting up to mischief such as letting off bangers - fireworks bought illicitly from King's the little shop near to where the Good Neighbour pub used to be. We once packed the gun powder from some fireworks into some old bicycle handlebars, lit a crude fuse and then, luckily, stepped behind a tree before it exploded. We found the 'shrapnel' embedded in the other side of the tree, which is why I survive to tell this tale - to be continued at a later date!

Phil Munton

~~

A Day at the Selsdon Centre for the Retired

"It's going to be a good day!"

I must get up as I must get ready to see my friends at the Selsdon Centre today and the minibus will be coming to pick me up at around 10.30. I wonder who's driving today and who will be on the bus? It's always good to catch up with my friends from the Centre! We have a lovely chat on route then lots more talking and laughing when we get there! We have a cup of tea or coffee after we've settled ourselves in and a couple of biscuits or maybe a piece of cake. After a drink or two, I might wander into Sainsburys to do a bit of food shopping. There's also a



fridge to keep it all nicely chilled which I can use if I like. The Centre has an open-door policy, so I come and go as I please, I just let the staff in the office know my plans.

I have already chosen my food for today and as it's a Friday, I have ordered one of Janet's home-cooked meals. Today it is chicken casserole, mashed potatoes and fresh mixed veg. Janet also always makes a lovely dessert too. It's such good value at £8 (for both courses and tea/coffee), and always tastes delicious! Today it's homemade apple crumble and custard. So good not to have to think about cooking for myself! On a Wednesday we can order Ian's famous home-made soup, which is also delicious but that's to look forward to for next week.

After lunch we can join in with a few different activities - arts/crafts, or various board or card games – or sit and read the paper, knit, or do a jigsaw. Sometimes we have live entertainment; we've had some great singers in, and I look forward to these days especially. I wonder if anyone will play the piano today?

BINGO

14	29	38	52	74
4	18	33	46	62
7	16	★	60	71
9	27	44	51	67
12	23	35	47	73

Another favourite day, which I enjoy and is always very popular at the Centre is a Bingo Day! It only costs £3 to play Bingo and usually goes on until around 2.30/3pm.

We play lots of games and have the chance to win one or more of many different prizes. On these days we have Fish and Chips instead of home-cooked food, but it's from an excellent local supplier and everyone enjoys it very much. We get to know all the staff and

volunteer-helpers well. I find that they're all very kind, funny and generous with their time! They look out for us all, which is great as I live alone. My trips to the Centre make me happy and I know it's going to be a good day.

Written by Joyce, one of the regular customers of the Selsdon Centre for the Retired.



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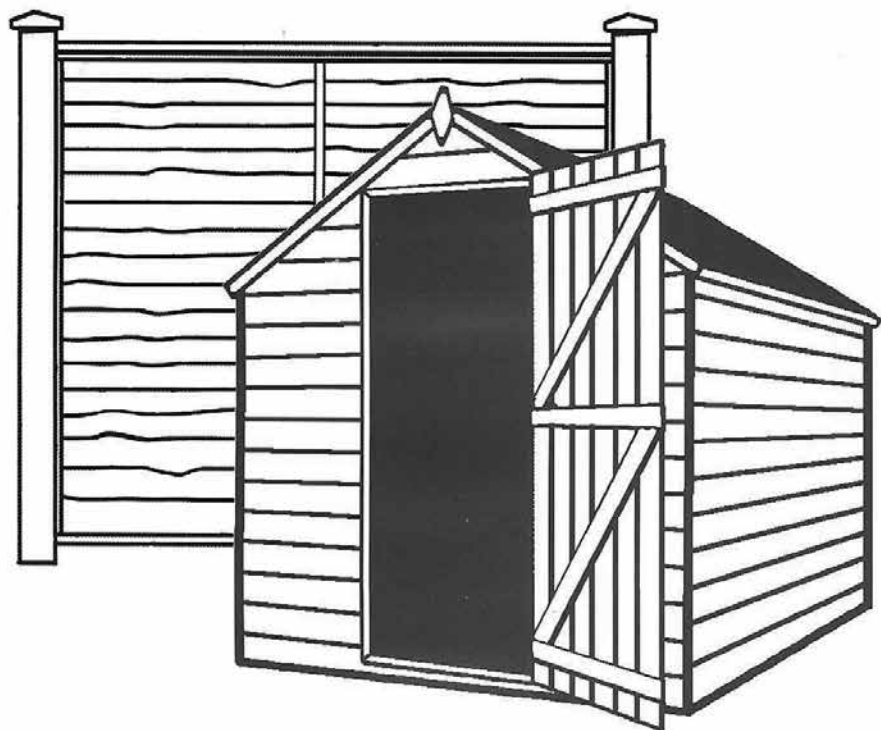
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**Sanderstead
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We had a fantastic December, Santa had a blast visiting his young chums, and the street visits provided over £11,500 so kindly donated by you.

Thank you so much for your kind donations.

What of 2022? We will kick off with our annual Quiz Night on Saturday 5th March at All Saints Church Hall in Sanderstead; this is a fun evening. Why not contact me & enter a team?

Next up is our Reachout Day on Saturday 19th March. This exciting event features over one hundred elderly folks to be transported to the hall ahead of a three-course meal being served, followed by entertainment. We look forward to this event, great fun & our guests always have a great time.

April will see our Easter Egg hunt in conjunction with the local shops across our patches.

Much more to come. If you are interested in joining us & finding out more about Rotary, please get in touch – Wendy A Parr 07774-186 792.

Rotary Rocks

~~~

## **Would you like to be involved?**



All of your local Rotary Clubs have been doing their best to help those affected by the pandemic over the last two years and we at the Croydon Whitgift Club have been no exception. Fund raising has been severely restricted due to the social rules, but we have managed to dig deep so that we could reach those in most need. During this time, we

have focussed our help on mainly local charities such as food banks and other groups giving support to those affected by Covid.

Our Club meets on a Wednesday morning via Zoom or face to face, when possible, at Coombe Lodge where we discuss our plans over breakfast.

The idea of meeting early is so that those working can come along before going off to work and although many of our members are retired, we all enjoy this format. We are a small, friendly and very informal Club, with a good mix of men and women but if we could increase membership, we feel that we could do so much more.

Our fund-raising activities include taking Santa and his sleigh around the streets of Croydon, which in 2021 we and those that came out to support us thoroughly enjoyed. We also organise other fund-raising activities, are working on new community events and are currently looking to start a Rotakids club at a local school which will be another exiting way of connecting with our community.

If you would like to “put something back” then you need look no further.

For more information, call Bill Ainscow on 07533 107 727 or e-mail [A.W.L@btconnect.com](mailto:A.W.L@btconnect.com)

We hope you are all keeping safe and well and look forward to hearing from you.

~~

## **St David's Day, Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022**



If you are lucky enough to be in Wales on March the first, you would find the country in a festive mood. Every self-respecting man, woman and child would be celebrating St. David's Day in one way or another. But who was St. David, and why is he so important to the Welsh?

Well, Saint David, or Dewi Sant, as he is known in the Welsh language, is the patron saint of Wales. He was a Celtic monk, abbot and bishop, who lived in the sixth century. During his life, he was the archbishop of Wales, and he was one of many early saints who helped to spread Christianity among the pagan Celtic tribes of western Britain.

St David was born in the year 500, the grandson of the King of Ceredigion. According to legend, his mother St Non gave birth to him on a Pembrokeshire clifftop during a fierce storm. The spot is marked by the ruins of Non's Chapel, and a nearby holy well is said to have healing powers.

St David became a renowned preacher, founding monastic settlements and churches in Wales, Brittany and southwest England – including,

possibly, the abbey at Glastonbury. St David reputedly made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, from which he brought back a stone that now sits in an altar at St David's Cathedral, built on the site of his original monastery. St David and his monks followed a simple, austere life. They ploughed the fields by hand, rather than using oxen, and refrained from eating meat or drinking beer. St David himself was reputed to have consumed only leeks and water – which is perhaps why the leek became a national symbol of Wales.

The most famous miracle associated with St David took place when he was preaching to a large crowd in Llanddewi Brefi. When people at the back complained that they could not hear him, the ground on which he stood rose to form a hill. A white dove, sent by God, settled on his shoulder.

St David died on 1 March – St David's Day - in 589. He was buried at the site of St David's Cathedral, where his shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the Middle Ages. His last words to his followers came from a sermon he gave on the previous Sunday: 'Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do.' The phrase 'Gwnewch y pethau bychain mewn bywyd' - 'Do the little things in life' - is still a well-known maxim in Wales.

*Many thanks to <https://sdow> (Saint David of Wales).org for this information*

~~



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.

*Further problems about her refuse collection service from Caroline Beechey, but this time with a happy ending!*

Dear Editor,

I am writing to let you know the farce of Croydon's collection of garden waste is continuing after four weeks. This morning I watched as the lorry



stopped outside my house, there was no attempt to check the bin let alone empty it. There was no monitoring of the collection at all despite Croydon's promise to do so.

I have looked at Croydon's website and yet again this states that the collection in this road has been completed which is not correct.

I fail to see how Croydon can charge extra for a service that is not being delivered.

*Caroline contacted her MP, Chris Philp, who replied:*

Thank you for your email and I'm so sorry to read of this – how frustrating!

Quite rightly, if you pay for a service, you should expect the service.

I will let the Council directors know about this again, to see what further can be done.

*Good News then followed from Caroline!*

Thank you (Chris Philp) for what you have done. My garden waste was finally emptied at the weekend and this week's collection was better than normal. No doubt due to your intervention. Let's hope that this continues.



*Here is some invaluable information for any over 70s renewing their driving licence.*

Dear Editor

My licence expired on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and you can apply to renew it 90 days in advance. If you have more than one medical condition to declare you are not allowed to apply online but only by post. Sent by special delivery my application arrived at DVLA on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

After 8 weeks had past having tried contacting them by e mail and online without any joy, I decided to phone them. I was lucky to get onto a telephone line waiting list. After one hour waiting, I was finally connected to the medical team and we had a very cordial conversation. The medical team informed me they had not received my application until 30<sup>th</sup> November. My application was in a queue and they could not tell me when it would be processed.

What they did that day was to send me an e mail saying it may be possible for me to continue driving after the 19 January under section 88 criteria,

whilst my application was being processed, together with information leaflet INF 188/6. They confirmed this by letter in the post a few days later. In my case my Optician who I have seen regularly for many years gave me written confirmation that my eyesight met the section 88 criteria. I will carry a copy of the DVLA and Opticians letter around with me until my new licence is issued as proof that I am entitled to drive.

If any of your readers find themselves in a similar situation then they can download the information booklet from this link. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publication/inf1886-can-i-drive-while-my-application-is-withdvla>

*Name and address supplied*



*Our regular contributor, Jessica Blake takes a look at the forthcoming St Valentine's Day.*

Dear Editor,

In the second week after Christmas, I went into a card shop/stationer's and found all the Christmas cards removed and on one aisle, which was nearly all the shop frontage except for the front door, the staff were restocking with Valentine's Day cards. The other side to that aisle seemed to be receiving similar treatment, but had just started to be cleared of Christmas cards and I couldn't tell for sure.

It seemed strange to me that so many people needed to declare love for others on paper, so I came home and looked up what I could find about St. Valentine and who he had been.

Here are some of the findings.

Firstly, he was someone who had truly existed. He was primarily a physician and then he became a priest, and finally he was martyred during the persecution of Christians, under the rule of Emperor Claudius II Gothicus around AD 270.

Believers say that God worked through him to perform miracles and teach people how to recognise and experience true love. (Some records say there were two Valentines who were both executed in that century but

that could be due to muddled records as it was such a long time ago. The Feast of St. Valentine was established by Pope Gelasius I in AD 270 approximately - soon after St. Valentine was executed. However, another version says Pope Gelasius I declared the feast day in AD 496, so again confusing records. Valentine is believed to be buried at the Basilica di San Valentino, Terni, Italy.

According to legend, St. Valentine signed a letter to his jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended and healed from blindness; "From your Valentine". I assume he was in jail while awaiting to be executed. How accurate this is I have no idea, but I enjoyed reading it.

Back to the shelves of Valentine cards. It seems so vital to some people that they receive cards on February 14<sup>th</sup> that they believe themselves to be unloved if they do not receive one. This cannot possibly be true. People have so much to do and if they are in a happy relationship and are busy or forget, they have not become unloving people but, they have probably just grown up! Even cards cost money. Actions speak louder than pieces of card.

However, many people in offices and other workplaces receive cards, some by pranksters, some to falsely raise hopes. Similarly, some school children people send them from spite and as a joke.

Some years ago, I knew a mother who was so concerned that her daughter would be the only girl in the class who did not receive a card on Valentine's Day, she would send her daughter one anonymously and in a strange handwriting.

So for everyone who receives no cards, and I think that will be the majority, don't feel sad! Just remember "Actions Speak louder than words" and you do not need a card to love someone or to prove that they love you, just be kind and loving yourself.

There is nothing to stop the reader from sending a card. We need to keep the shops in business, but it could be replaced by "Are your daffodils in flower yet Day?" or "Should have snow soon and that will be fun Day."

***Jessica Blake***

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## Poetry Corner

*The week from 29<sup>th</sup> January to 5<sup>th</sup> February 2022 has been designated for the promotion of the oral tradition of storytelling, the very first way of communicating life experiences and the creative imagination. So, Mary Gill's poem this month reflects these sentiments.*

### POETRY BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE

Poetry once belonged to the people,  
preserved in the people's tongue,  
the perfect way to help them remember  
the legends of how they'd begun.

In the distant, pre-literate ages  
no one could write down the words,  
no-one could read on yellowing pages  
the tales that their ancestors heard.

But poets recited the ancient legends,  
they told of the demons and gods.  
They told the best jokes and taught the lessons  
and everyone hung on their words.

Poetry spoke to the heart of the people,  
gave meaning to all that was known.  
The masters of rhyme had a perfect retrieval  
of the sagas of ages long gone.

Now Poetry's lost to pretentious performers  
whose aim is to cloud and confuse -  
metaphors plucked from the esoteric  
and praised just for being abstruse. -

Performers whose aim is to baffle the people,  
to make them believe they are dumb.  
If they don't get the hang of this grandiose babble  
such poets believe they have won.

Smug and superior, churning out verses  
that no normal mind could unpick,





they put people off of a once proud tradition,  
to be mocked and discarded as thick.

So let in the light, take it back to the people,  
desist from these arcane harangues,  
for what is the point of your public narration  
if scarcely a soul understands?

~~

## Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth

### Decay

Death and decay are part of life and that is certainly true in a woodland. In winter storms small branches break off and fall to the ground. Occasionally a large branch will become detached and not infrequently a whole tree will fall.

However, Selsdon Wood is a managed wood and these events are not equally likely everywhere in the wood. On the eastern side of the wood, next to the golf course and along part of The Wend, there is an area in which a contractor coppices the woodland on something like a seven-year cycle, cutting the hazel and re-planting so that most of the material in that area is less than seven years old. Decay will occur on small twigs and branches left on the ground and possibly on the few standard trees remaining in the area. On the opposite side of The Wend there are many more trees and the opportunity for decay is greater.

Elsewhere, mainly along Pool Grove, West Gorse, Leafy Grove and Courtwood Grove, recent winter tree work by contractors has removed many large trees with the intention of opening up that area to let more light in, encouraging the growth of low vegetation and, hopefully, increasing biodiversity. Unfortunately, this also means that few trees have a chance to reach some sort of maturity where natural processes of decay can occur.

Why do we need decay in a woodland? Woodpeckers are able to create their own nest holes but even they might choose to start on a tree which is already showing some signs of rot, for example on a birch tree which is supporting a growth of Birch Polypore fungus. Other bird and animal species will use old woodpecker holes but many will have to rely on holes of various sizes produced by decay.



Species which use holes in trees include Grey Squirrel, various bats, Tawny Owl, Jackdaw, Starling, Ring-necked Parakeet, Great Tit, Blue Tit,

Marsh Tit, Nuthatch and even Tree Creeper, though all it really needs is to build its nest behind a loose piece of bark.

Other agents play their part in the decay process. Bacteria, fungi and a myriad of invertebrates are involved. Beetles lay eggs which result in wood-munching grubs which in turn are whittled out to feed other creatures, leaving cavities to be exploited by something else.

Dead trees which are allowed to remain standing are valuable for the invertebrate life they support. Fallen trees and branches might give an impression of untidiness, perhaps being one of the differences between a park and a nature reserve, but they add to the biodiversity in a woodland directly by the invertebrates and fungi they produce, and indirectly by encouraging the creatures which feed upon them.

Eventually the nutrients are returned to the soil to sustain the life of all the creatures using the woodland.

~~

### **Answers to Winter Olympics Quiz**

- |    |   |     |   |
|----|---|-----|---|
| 1. | D | 6.  | G |
| 2. | H | 7.  | J |
| 3. | F | 8.  | B |
| 4. | E | 9.  | I |
| 5. | A | 10. | C |

*Many thanks to funtrivia.com*

~~

### **SELSDON FLOWER CLUB**

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 £25 per annum. We have demonstrations and practices. All abilities welcome.

- |            |                                                       |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| February 9 | Practice - Winter Arrangement of your choice          |
| March 9    | Practice - Spring flowers in water (with glass beads) |
| April 13   | Demonstration - Graham Harmer                         |
| May 11     | Practice - Summer Holiday Arrangement                 |

Please contact the Secretary, Maureen Browning on 020 8651 5821 for more details

# Shrove Tuesday, Tuesday 1 March 2022

Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day, is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent – the 40 days leading up to Easter – was traditionally a time of fasting and on Shrove Tuesday, Anglo-Saxon Christians went to confession and were “shriven” (absolved from their sins).

Shrove Tuesday was the last opportunity to use up eggs and fats before embarking on the Lenten fast and pancakes were the perfect way of using up these ingredients.

Here is an easy recipe for making pancakes.

## Ingredients

100g plain flour

2 large eggs

300ml milk

1 tbsp sunflower or vegetable oil, plus a little extra for frying

lemon wedges to serve (optional)

caster sugar to serve (optional)

## Method

Put 100g plain flour, 2 large eggs, 300ml milk, 1 tbsp sunflower or vegetable oil and a pinch of salt into a bowl or large jug, then whisk to a smooth batter.

1. Set aside for 30 mins to rest if you have time or start cooking straight away.
2. Set a medium frying pan over a medium heat and carefully wipe it with some oiled kitchen paper.
3. When hot, cook your pancakes for 1 min on each side until golden, keeping them warm in a low oven as you go.
4. Serve with lemon wedges and caster sugar, or your favourite filling. *Once cold, you can layer the pancakes between baking parchment, then wrap in cling film and freeze for up to 2 months.*

## Reheating Pancakes

To oven reheat, stack the pancakes on a heatproof plate, cover with foil. Warm at 180C/fan 160C/gas 4 for 10-15 mins from cold or 5-10 mins from room temperature. To microwave, stack, cover with microwaveable cling film, pierce the film. Reheat on High for 1 min.

## Sweet and Savoury Pancakes

Onion, cheese & bacon: Fry a chopped onion, then add chopped streaky bacon and cook until golden. Tip onto pancakes, grate over cheddar, fold up and eat hot.

Tropical fruit & ginger: Fresh tropical fruits, stem ginger syrup and Greek yogurt.



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Information is also available from our website – [www.eldonhousing.org](http://www.eldonhousing.org)

# Things To Know About Placing an Advert in the Gazette

Please contact our Advertising Manager, Carlo Rappa ([selsdon.adverts@gmail.com](mailto:selsdon.adverts@gmail.com)), for details about costs and advert formats and sizes. We deliver to 4000 local households. Please bear in mind the following:



1. Payment for the advert must be made by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month of the intended publication. For example, payment for an advert starting in the June issue must be received by the 15<sup>th</sup> of May.
2. If deadline is missed, the advert will not be published in the intended issue and will be considered for the following Issue.
3. Copy of the advert should be preferably received in PDF format and to the correct size by the 19<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding that of the intended issue. If this deadline is missed, the advert will not be published, even if payment has been received, but it will be considered for the following issue.

~~

## Plant a Native Shrub or Tree for Wildlife!

Many invertebrates have suffered huge declines since the 1950s, contributing to decreases in animals that eat them e.g. birds, bats, hedgehogs and toads. Flying insects are food for bats and some birds. They start life as larvae, fed by many birds to their chicks.

Native invertebrates are adapted to eat native plant species.

Why not plant at least one UK grown native shrub or small tree in your garden this year?

Alternatively, ask if it might be possible to plant a native shrub or small tree in your local allotment, school or sports ground or park.

Buy UK grown native shrubs and trees online, e.g., from the Woodland Trust. Plant November – March.

Hawthorn can support 300+ insect species

Cherry plum for early pollinators

Beech – 64 insect species eat its leaves

Sallow – good for early pollinators and insect larvae

Hazel – leaves eaten by more than 70 insect species

Guelder rose – flowers for pollinators e.g., hoverflies

Dogwood – flowers for pollinators, fruit for birds

Field Maple – good for pollinators and lichens

Silver Birch – leaves eaten by 230 insects



*Thanks to Bromley Biodiversity Partnership for this information.*

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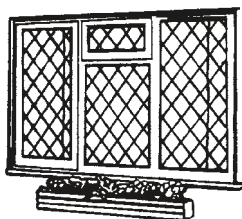
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# **A SELECTED LIST OF SELSDON ORGANISATIONS**

The information provided is, we hope, accurate, but we cannot take any responsibility for any mistakes. Any alterations should be sent to the Editor.

## **CHURCHES**

|                                                   |                |              |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Forestdale & Selsdon Community Church             |                | 8657 0078    |
| St John the Divine (Church of England)            | Parish Office  | 8657 2343    |
| Selsdon Baptist                                   | Office         | 8651 4308    |
| St Columba's (Roman Catholic)                     |                | 8657 3747    |
| St Francis (Church of England)                    | Monks Hill     | 8657 7864    |
| Croydon Jubilee Church                            | Office         | 8651 2807    |
| Upper Selsdon Road Hall (Christian meeting place) |                | 8657 2417    |
| Church of Jesus Christ of LDS                     | Bishop Hawkins | 01883 349914 |

## **DOCTORS, DENTISTS & EMERGENCY CARE**

|                                                                               |  |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Farley Road Medical Practice                                                  |  | 8651 1222 |
| Queenhill Medical Practice                                                    |  | 8651 1141 |
| Selsdon Park Medical Practice                                                 |  | 8657 0067 |
| Croydon University Hospital (formerly Mayday Hospital, 24/7)                  |  | 8401 3000 |
| New Addington Minor Injuries Unit (Mon-Fri 14:00-22:00/Sat-Sun 12:00-22:00)   |  | 8251 7225 |
| Purley War Memorial Hospital (Urgent Care Centre, 08:00-20:00, 365 days/year) |  | 8401 3238 |

## **CLUBS, GROUPS & CHARITIES**

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| CONTACT (neighbourhood care)                                                                                                  | Jasmine Singh                                                                                   | 8651 4944     |
| Selsdon Centre for the Retired                                                                                                | Craig Anderson                                                                                  | 8651 1111     |
| Croydon Hearing Resource Centre                                                                                               | Office                                                                                          | 8686 0049     |
| Bourne Society                                                                                                                | Roger Packham                                                                                   | 01883 349287  |
| Coulsdon Masonic Lodge                                                                                                        | Colin Lynch                                                                                     | 07801 453474  |
| Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society                                                                                  | Brian Lancaster                                                                                 | 8668 6909     |
| Croydon Recorded Music Society                                                                                                | Liz Brereton                                                                                    | 8656 7382     |
| Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind                                                                                   |                                                                                                 | 8668 2486     |
| Cruse Bereavement Care Helpline                                                                                               |                                                                                                 | 8916 0855     |
| Friends of Littleheath Woods                                                                                                  | Ian Leggatt                                                                                     | 8651 1140     |
| Friends of Selsdon Wood                                                                                                       | see website: <a href="http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk">www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk</a> |               |
| Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section                                                                                   |                                                                                                 |               |
| Girlguiding UK: <a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved.aspx">http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved.aspx</a> |                                                                                                 | 0800 169 5901 |
| Parkinson's UK Croydon & District                                                                                             | Jacky Green                                                                                     | 01737 355487  |
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| RSPB, Croydon Local Group                                                                                                     | John Davis                                                                                      | 8640 4578     |
| Rotary Sanderstead and Selsdon                                                                                                | Wendy A Parr                                                                                    | 07774 186792  |
| Probus Club of Croydon South                                                                                                  | John Barker                                                                                     | 8657 2093     |
| St John's Dramatic Society                                                                                                    | Caryl Rapps                                                                                     | 8651 1326     |
| St John's Wives                                                                                                               | Jane Guglielmi                                                                                  | 8657 6672     |
| Sanderstead Plantation Partners                                                                                               | Michael Lishmund                                                                                | 020 8651 2760 |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Selsdon & Addington Scout Group:                                                                              | Website: <a href="http://www.1stselsdon.org.uk">www.1stselsdon.org.uk</a>                       |               |
| Beaver Colony (6-8yrs)                                                                                                        | Maddie Dunn                                                                                     | 07703 531652  |
| Cub Pack (8-10yrs)                                                                                                            | Louise Baker                                                                                    | 07737 404668  |
| Scouts Troop (10-14yrs)                                                                                                       | Douglas Gordon                                                                                  | 07514 651711  |
| Croham Valley Explorers                                                                                                       | Anthony Woodin                                                                                  | 020 8651 3780 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Selsdon & Addington Scout Group:                                                                              | Website: <a href="http://www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk">www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk</a>       |               |
| Selsdon Art Group                                                                                                             | Mrs F Hooper                                                                                    | 07973 412952  |
| Selsdon Bridge Club                                                                                                           | Tony Cherrett                                                                                   | 01883 730304  |
| Selsdon Community Hall                                                                                                        | Tim Potter (Centre Manager)                                                                     | 8657 4300     |
| Selsdon Afternoon Townswomen's Guild                                                                                          | Elizabeth Veasey                                                                                | 8657 1092     |
| Selsdon Floral Club                                                                                                           | Maureen Browning                                                                                | 8651 5821     |
| Selsdon Social Club                                                                                                           |                                                                                                 |               |
| Selsdon Tennis Club                                                                                                           | Geoff Littlewood                                                                                | 8651 4748     |
| 66 (Selsdon) Squadron Air Training Corps                                                                                      | Rob Cleeter                                                                                     | 8651 5958     |

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