

The Selsdon — Gazette —

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February 2023



THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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Front cover image credit: Snowy view of the once Selsdon Park Golf Club by Val Hughes.

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SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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Executive Committee 2022/2023

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Hon. Vice-Presidents: P. Holden

Chair: Sheila Childs

Vice-Chair: Linda Morris

Secretary: Trevor Stotten

Hon. Treasurer: Iris Jones

Committee: Yvonne Huber

Ernie Sweeney

Su Yates

Peter Underwood

Ian Leggatt

Phil Roberts

Jenny Stawman

Arthur Wilson

Janet Sharp

Chris Jones

Councillors for Selsdon & Addington Village Ward

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

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

Councillors for Selsdon Vale & Forestdale Ward

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

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

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 Helen Redfern Helen.redfern@croydon.gov.uk

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



Editor's Note

Welcome to the February edition of the Gazette.

As I write this it is another very cold day with many strikes being planned but I am determined to look forward to brighter days in 2023! The SRA has set a date for its AGM in March so this Gazette includes lots of notices concerning that, namely the agenda, the minutes from last year's AGM and the annual report detailing the work done by your SRA in 2022. The SRA would love as many residents as possible to join them for the AGM on 29 March so please put the date in your diary.

Ever wondered about the history of Selsdon Vale (The Bird Estate), well Ian Leggatt has been doing some research and gives us a full account of its development. Maybe there are some residents who can recall the building of the estate and would like to forward their recollections (photos would be a bonus) to me at the Gazette (selsdongazettesra@gmail.com).

With the school half term in February I have included the list of 50 things you should have done in the great outdoors by the time you are 113/4 produced by the National Trust and there is a calendar of events happening in 2023. February also sees the anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens so there is a quiz to test your knowledge of some of his well-loved novels.

We have our usual Nature Notes from Ted, Poem from Mary and as Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid from the Sanderstead Horticultural Society were away on holiday, Crocus Chris is giving the Gardening Tips this month. We hear from local groups telling us about what they are doing and inviting you to join in.

Finally, two pleas from me. Firstly my usual one, for any photos that you take around Selsdon which I could use for the cover of the Gazette and secondly, if you know of any businesses who might want to advertise in the Gazette which is delivered to 4000 households in Selsdon, please direct them to our Advertising manager, Carlo (selsdon.adverts@gmail.com).

I hope that you enjoy your read and I look forward to hearing from you.

Chris Jones

🌀 SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MARCH 2023 EDITION
SHOULD BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN
20TH FEBRUARY - PREFERABLY BEFORE! 🌀

SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS

Elections at the AGM

Up to now the SRA has, to my knowledge for over 30 years and probably for all its 96 years, followed the traditional custom and practice regarding the election of officers and committee at AGMs generally accepted by similar voluntary organisations. This has not previously been questioned. However, following the last SRA AGM being faced with a contested election for the Chair and, subsequently, some adverse comments as to how this was handled, we were asked to review the whole process ready for the next AGM on 29th March. This was done at the first available committee meeting.

After discussion there, it was agreed that residents interested in serving in any capacity on the committee should advise the Chair by email to mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com or by phone (numbers in the list on page 2) of their intention to stand by **19th February** if possible. The early date is required so applicants have sufficient time to discuss what is involved in joining the committee and to get their names published with the committee papers in the March issue of the Gazette. Later applications to stand will be accepted until 28th February if you do not see this note in time but, unfortunately, it will not be possible to publish those names in the March Gazette. After 1st March there will be a full list of candidates with their proposer and seconder* displayed on our notice boards and website etc. with the details about the AGM together with its agenda. We hope by presenting themselves in advance of the AGM, people might be more encouraged to come forward to serve on the committee than just to stand up to be counted (literally!) on the night.

** The seconder must not live at the same address as the candidate or be related to them and the candidate, their proposer and seconder must be subscribed members of the SRA as defined in para 3a of the constitution.* It was also agreed that, as we were now seeking nominations/applications in advance of the AGM, it would be possible to print ballot slips identifying all the candidates rather than using scraps of recycled paper as before.

We would, however, need to have the name of the independent proposer and seconder of each candidate when they put themselves forward so we are sure they are all eligible to have their names on the printed ballot slip. Also, regarding telling the residents a little about themselves and why they were standing, it was agreed that to be equally fair to all candidates, this should only be done at the meeting itself as it would be impossible to expect all the candidates to provide this information to all residents in advance for the Gazette or elsewhere. The candidates would each be allowed 5 minutes at the AGM to speak and answer questions posed from the floor. The number of questions permitted will naturally have to be limited by the person chairing this part of the meeting to ensure the same number for each person due to time constraints.

At the time of writing this, all existing officers and committee members, bar one, have informed Sheila that they are willing to be re-elected but we hope that this new format for nominations/applications might encourage you to step forward if there is a vacancy or if you wish to be considered for election anyway.

Defibrillators

Thanks to the Sanderstead and Selsdon Rotary Club, defibrillators are to be placed for emergency use outside the nursery in Selsdon Rec, and at St John's Church.

Floral decorations

Once again, we are trying to nurture some of the geraniums from the troughs and planters over the winter to reduce costs on our decorations next summer. Please remember us if you grow or buy geraniums and could offer one or two to augment what we manage to save. We have also planted some more daffodils and plants near the clock and have re-homed a rose from where it was being stifled by the shrubs there to the planter outside Iceland. It looks as though it survived that shock to its system!

We hope the Spring displays everywhere – in the streets, your gardens and our woods - will be peeping through by the time you read this and we will all be feeling more cheerful after what has been such a dismal winter so far!

Take care and keep well!

Linda Morris, Vice Chair

COUNCILLORS' NOTES

REPORTING POTHoles, FLYTIPS AND MORE

At this time of year, we start to see potholes appearing in our roads. The most efficient way to report these to the Council is using the LoveCleanStreets App. The App had some shortcomings in the past, but the Council's IT department has put considerable effort into ironing out the issues.

A precise location is important. The App will include this automatically if you are standing near the pothole, but you can also input this manually or modify the location suggested by the App if it is not quite right. You will then be able to see if someone has already reported the problem. A photo is helpful but do not put yourself at risk to obtain one. You will receive an email confirming that you have submitted a report.

The App can be used to report flytips and many other issues. For some you will receive an email informing you of when the issue has been resolved. Your Councillors have been using the App and can confirm that it works.

ADDINGTON PARK CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND UPGRADE

Work has been completed on the upgrade of the children's playground in Addington Park. Children and parents who have tried out the new equipment are very positive, and word is spreading that the playground is back in use.

CONSULTATION ON NEW STREET CLEANSING AND WASTE COLLECTIONS CONTRACT

The council has launched a six-week consultation to give residents the chance to give their views on the current service and help shape future rubbish, recycling, and street cleansing services ahead of the current contract with Veolia ending in 2025. This feedback will help the Council decide what services the council will be looking for from potential bidders. An online survey can be accessed via the council website, and printed copies and a large font version are available by request by calling the council at 020 8726 6000, 9am- 4pm Monday – Friday. The consultation will close on 25th February 2023.

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

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

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

Selsdon and Addington Village

Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk
Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk

Selsdon Vale and Forestdale

Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk
Fatima.zaman@croydon.gov.uk

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

22/04867/LP - 110 Farley Road South Croydon CR2 7NE
Garage conversion into two habitable rooms and a bathroom with associated works. Alterations to front porch.

22/04867/LP – 44 Norfolk Ave South Croydon CR2 8BP
Alterations. Erection of single storey side extension. Erection of single storey rear extension. Insertion of one window to front elevation at ground floor level to replace existing garage door.

23/00115/HSE - 110 Old Farleigh Road South Croydon CR2 8QE
Erection of granny annex

22/05051/HSE - 7 Sylvan Close, South Croydon, CR2 8DS
Erection of single-storey rear extension, rear dormer extension and hip-to-gable roof alterations.

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

I had an email from one resident wanting me to ask our MP, Chris Philp, some questions.

“On Thursday 22nd September, The EU Law Revocation and Reform Bill was put before Parliament. Included in this Bill was the reform or removal of 570 EU laws put in place to protect nature. With your responsibility to Croydon South and the natural spaces contained within:

- 1. What provision are you putting in place to ensure Croydon South’s natural spaces (Selsdon Bird Sanctuary, Littleheath Woods, Sanderstead Plantation and Kingswood amongst them) are protected from development?*
- 2. Given the Conservative pledge to halt natural decline by 2030, what are you going to do to ensure these 570 laws are not only replaced but made far stronger to ensure our children and grandchildren can benefit from our nature into the future?*

Chris Philp has included answers to these questions in his monthly article.

MP Chris Philp’s Report

Member of Parliament for Croydon South



Encouraging local planning news

One of the biggest issues facing residents in the south of the Borough over the past few years was the previous council indiscriminately issuing planning consents. Since last May’s election, there has been a step-change. Inappropriate applications to destroy family homes and replace them with blocks of flats are now often rejected by the new planning committee or officers using the new planning rules.

Applications of this type were recently rejected in Selsdon Road, Arkwright Road and Croham Valley Road, to name but a few.

Of course, we need more homes, but they should be in appropriate places. I will continue to fight to protect the character of our neighbourhood – and I am so pleased that after many years of being ignored our views are finally being heard.

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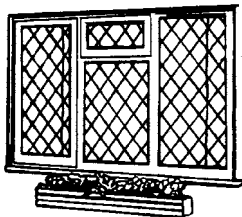
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New NHS facilities in the south of the Borough

With the effects of the pandemic still impacting healthcare, I have been working with local NHS leaders to get extra capacity provided in our neighbourhood.

This work has led the creation of a new elective operations centre at Purley Hospital - thanks to £15 million of Government funding - which has helped ensure Croydon is in the top five Trusts for elective care waiting times nationally.

The two existing surgical rooms at Purley Hospital are now used for minor general surgery, hand surgery, varicose vein surgery and gynaecological procedures. To expand on this, under the new plans for the hospital, a new building will be constructed with eight surgery rooms and diagnostic facilities to offer a range of same-day one-stop surgical procedures. This will increase the surgical capacity at Purley Hospital by five times when completed, which is fantastic news for local residents.

Protecting Croydon's natural spaces

Protecting Croydon South's natural spaces has been one of my key priorities since I was first elected. That's why I have worked so hard to ensure that local planning decisions respect our neighbourhood's landscape and wildlife. It is also why I have been working closely with my colleagues in the Government to ensure that the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill currently going through Parliament will give more assurance that areas of environmental importance must be protected in planning applications and appeals.

Elsewhere, I am pleased that the Government has acted to significantly increase environmental protection including through the recent Environment Act. This sets in law a series of new and enforceable targets to ensure progress is made on cleaner air and water, less waste, and more tree planting - which will create a more resilient natural environment in Croydon South and across the country.

With 2023 now in full swing, I look forward to working with local leaders to securing further progress across the issues that matter most to you.

Chris Philp

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

SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION - Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 29th March 2023 at 8pm
@ St John's Church Hall, Upper Selsdon Road

This is a chance for residents to tell the SRA directly what more there is you would like us to try to do for Selsdon.

PLEASE COME ALONG (and perhaps bring a neighbour too) to show us your continuing support and to enjoy a drink and a chat after the business part of the meeting is over.

Mark the date on your calendar now so you don't forget!

There will be elections for the Officers and Committee Members
Are you interested in standing for election?
Please let us know by 28th February (see this month's News 'n' Views)

If you want to find out more, please call Sheila Childs (Chair) on 020 8651 2285 or Linda Morris (Vice Chair) on 020 8651 4010
or email [**mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com**](mailto:mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. *Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 6th July 2022
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. *Annual Report for 2022
5. Hon. Treasurer's Report with the adoption of the *accounts for 2022
6. Police report
7. Editor's report – The Selsdon Gazette
8. Christmas Lights
9. Annual Subscription - to resolve the cost per household for 2023/24 (proposed to remain unchanged at £5 per household)
10. Election of Officers and Members of the Committee for 2023/2024
11. Adoption of the Hon. Accounts Reviewer for 2023
12. Any Other Business

**The relevant documents for these items should be in the February and March Gazettes so please remember to bring your copies with you.*

Minutes of the Selsdon Residents Association AGM

6th July 2022

1. Apologies for absence and welcome by Sheila Childs (SC).

Apologies: Peter Underwood, Janet Sharp, Trevor Stotten & Councillors Stranack, Lee, Ward and Quadir.

2. Police Report – none received.

SC reported that Selsdon was a low crime area. The most frequent crime is vehicle crime, especially theft of catalytic converters.

3. 2020 Annual Report

Printed in the Selsdon Gazette and on the website – no questions received.

4. Matters arising from the 2020 report

No matters arising.

5. 2021 Annual Report

Printed in The Selsdon Gazette and on the website – no questions received.

6. Matters arising from the 2021 report

No matter arising

The 2020 and 2021 reports were proposed by Ian Leggatt and seconded by Richard Harlow. The room voted in favour with none against.

7. Treasurers Report

A copy of the 3-year accounts was provided at the meeting, as no AGM for two years due to Covid.

Iris Jones (IJ), Treasurer, provided an update - 2021 income down by £3k due to lack of donations.

Expenditure was the same.

Jeff Bayton was thanked for reviewing the accounts as were the people whose letter boxes are used for subscriptions.

Linda Morris (LM) – promoted the community fund and said requests were welcomed from local charities.

SC – commented that savings had been made as the Baptist Church provide a room for committee meetings free of charge, but spending had taken place on flags and ways to enhance the community. She also noted that the councillors' budget had stopped and thanked IJ for her hard work. Acceptance of the accounts were proposed by Jenny Stawman and seconded by Chris Jones. The room voted in favour with none against.

8. The Gazette

The Editor, Chris Jones (CJ) gave an update and thanked the following – Carlo Rappa – Advertising

Jenny Bradley – Finance

Wendy Mikiel (WM) – Distribution

The army of distributors

The printer, Mark - for turning a Word document into a booklet

Cllr Helen Pollard - excellent councillors' notes

Mary Gill – Poems

Ted Forsyth – Nature Notes

Police – Police ward reports

Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid – Gardening tips

Ian Leggatt – Local History

FOSW & FOLW – Woods and walks

Jessica Blake – venturing out after lockdown

The Gazette is self-financing, so please tell organisations if you got their details from the Gazette. It is delivered to 4000 homes. CJ asked for people to consider contributing, photos, problems, local news and good news.

SC – The Gazette is making a slight loss in 2022, it was making a profit in 2020. It needs more advertisers to balance the books. To counter this, less pages are being printed per edition.

SC – A new distribution manager is needed as WM wants to step down soon.

9. Christmas Lights

LM announced the Christmas lights switch on will be 25th November 2022.

It will revert to Father Christmas switching on the lights down the high street to bring back the magic. However, there won't be balloons due to cost and environmental concerns.

The catenary wires will need to be checked this year, so will incur cost.

Electricity prices are increasing. In 2021 approx. £250, 2022, £609, in 2023 estimate is double the 2022 amount. The SRA is counted as a business, so there is no cap.

The event will cost approx. £1500, so any additional donations gratefully received.

10. Subscriptions and rule changes.

There was no proposal to put up subscriptions. They will stay at £5 per household. This was supported by the meeting.

Ian Leggatt (IL) explained the SRA was set up in 1926. The current rules are no longer fit for purpose, so needed upgrading to make them more inclusive. The changes are-

The rules are now called a constitution

The Chairman is now the Chair

Executive officers are now officers, and the committee are members

The catchment area has been defined and voting rights made clear

Honorary Presidents and Vice Presidents roles have been defined

Remote meetings can be held.

A smaller Quorum is needed to make urgent decisions when necessary.

Acceptance of the changes were proposed by Phil Roberts (PR) and

seconded by Jenny Bradley. The room voted in favour with none against

11. Election of Officers and Members

As there were two candidates (SC and PR) LM explained how the vote would work for the position of Chair - by secret ballot, using the initial of the candidate— either S or P - Qualifying members only got 1 vote. Votes were collected by CJ and counted.

PR expressed his view about the lack of a hustings, which had originally been planned.

LM replied and explained that due to Peter Underwood, who was due to host it, having Covid, this had been cancelled. It had been communicated to PR by email, but no reply had been received. The statement from each candidate had previously been printed in the Gazette, so there had been opportunity for electors to read the details provided by each candidate.

LM announced the outcome and SC was returned as Chair.

SC thanked the room for the vote and then dealt with the other positions Vice Chair – Linda Morris - Proposed by Jenny Stawman and seconded by Ian Leggatt. The room voted in favour with none against.

Treasurer – Iris Jones - Proposed by Linda Morris and seconded by Su Yates
The room voted in favour with none against.

Secretary – Trevor Stotten - Proposed by Iris Jones and seconded by Jenny Stawman. The room voted in favour with none against.

The Committee all agreed to stand again and were proposed en bloc - Proposed by Chris Jones and seconded by Sara Bashford. The room voted in favour with none against.

A request for new members was made and Chris Jones was put forward and agreed to join the committee. Proposed by Jenny Stawman and seconded by Su Yates. The room voted in favour with none against.

12. Adoption of Accounts

Thanks were given to Jeff Bayton for auditing the accounts and also for painting the planters in the high street.

The adoption of the Accounts - Proposed by Richard Harlow and seconded by Kathy Leggatt. The room voted in favour with none against.

13. AOB

Local residents want to set up a Friends Group for Queenhill Playspace to help protect it from future development and are looking for support from local residents. It was gifted by the Costain Family to the people of Selsdon and had previously had in it a bandstand and golf course.

There will be a community picnic organised by the SRA, FOSW and Rotary on 4th September 2022 – all are welcome.

SC thanked Sara Bashford for taking the minutes.

SRA ANNUAL REPORT 2022

The Selsdon Residents' Association (SRA) was formed in 1926, and so is now **96 years old!**

The SRA's aim is to advance and protect the interests of the residents of Selsdon. It is run by volunteers on goodwill and funds raised by subscription and donations. Our membership covers about 4,000 households. The map of the roads covered is on our website www.selsdon-residents.co.uk

The SRA Committee

The annually-elected Committee meets once a month as a committee to discuss Selsdon issues, and respond and take action where necessary. It acts as a point of contact for external bodies, can potentially add collective weight to any individual resident's concerns about the area, and are a useful 'watching eye'. The committee also plans special events and community improvements. Individual representatives will also attend council, police, transport and other meetings throughout the year on our behalf. SRA news is passed to the community via public noticeboards (by the library and on the high street), social media and The Selsdon Gazette.

AGM 2022 - Apologies for the delay!

Due to the continuing Covid-19 crisis, the SRA public AGMs in 2020 and 2021 were cancelled. Reports of our activities were placed in the Gazette and on our website. In 2022 we hoped to meet for our AGM again face-to-face and booked St John's Hall for Wednesday 30th March, but Covid struck again, postponing the AGM until Wednesday 6th July.

SRA 2022 Activities:

- a) Floral displays were displayed in the troughs attached to the railings outside the shops opposite Wetherspoons. To save costs, these were planted and watered by members of the Committee especially during the spells of intense hot weather. The large planters (repainted twice by a caring resident) near Iceland were also tended by members of the Committee. Such jobs will be ongoing, so volunteers to help with this, when the weather improves, are welcomed.
- b) The 'bring your own' SRA Community Picnic held with the Friends of Selsdon Woods on their Selsdon Wood Open Day on Sunday 4th September had attractions such as fun games, refreshments, guided walks and stalls. The weather was fine, and there was a good turn-out.

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There was patriotic bunting for the Jubilee on the railings and the Triangle and clock in the summer for the Jubilee. Sadly, someone liked the flags so much that a whole strand of them was stolen from the corner railings almost as soon as they were put up. Remembrance Poppies returned to the High Street railings and clock in November. The Selsdon clock area was also decorated in October to publicise Baby Loss Awareness Week, and again for Christmas to complement the lights on Addington Road.

- c) The Selsdon Triangle (the planting of the upper section – yew trees, beds, shrubs - and the clock area) are, with Council permission in view of Council funding shortages, now being maintained by a group of Selsdon volunteers. You may have noticed some work being undertaken to tidy and add to the plants in the area.
- d) Subscriptions and donations are still collected in cash or by cheques each year via a network of local drop-off 'letterboxes' – thanks to all the volunteers offering these points and to our Treasurer, Iris Jones, for dealing with the cash and cheques – no mean feat now we have no local bank!. However, the SRA now also supports online banking which is a great help. The details available via our website.
- e) The SRA organise and fundraise for the eye-catching and unique Selsdon Christmas Lights. We think these are the best in Croydon, but they come at a price! The costs include not just the lights themselves but the storage, placement, the health and safety permissions, the electricity and the cost of the PA system, sweet lollies etc. for the Community Event. This is funded by goodwill donations of residents, charitable groups and some traders. To aid this (and capitalise on all the modern-day online purchasing) the SRA are members of 'Easyfundraising' so that, if residents choose to shop online, they can raise a donation with their usual retailers, at no cost to them, by using the well-trusted 'Easyfundraising' app or website. Our cause name is 'SelsdonChristmaslights'. Non-residents are also welcome to use this when buying online, but we have also made it possible for anyone who loves the lights to help by donating using online banking – details available via our website too.
- f) Community Christmas Event on Friday 25th November - This year, to lift our spirits again following all the lockdown restrictions, the Committee responded to requests to revert to the idea of a community

switch-on, with Father Christmas 'switching them on' as he proceeded down the Addington Road in his Rotary Club sleigh before settling into his grotto outside Iceland to speak to the waiting children, the majority of whom seemed to still fervently believe in him! It was the turn of the Selsdon Primary School choir to sing the carols outside the Village Club. Any feedback on this event would be welcome. Should we keep it like this?

Even though there were not the Covid restrictions of recent years, we decided to continue in the spirit of trying to be more environmentally friendly and not have helium balloons again. It was great to see so many people turn up - our special thanks go to the choir, Rotary, Village Club and all the volunteers (churches, schools and local groups), who helped with their time or with donations, as well as the Police, who agreed to be in attendance on their rest day.

The Committee took the decision to turn the Christmas lights off at 11pm each night instead of midnight, & make January 1st the last day instead of 6th January, in an effort to use less power and thus reduce the costs as much as possible. Last year's bill was £609, and we had been warned the bill could be double this as our supply, like businesses, is not capped in the same way as domestic electricity.

- g) The Committee were able to hold meetings in person rather than on Zoom at Selsdon Baptist Church's meeting room. They have waived the hire fee for which we are very grateful.
- h) During the year the SRA Committee stay in contact with the local Police teams inviting them to attend meetings where possible and attending ward panel meetings when they are held. The SRA membership is now largely split over two Police wards - Selsdon & Addington Village and Selsdon Vale & Forestdale. We are grateful to them for any reports they provide to the committee and the Gazette. The main crimes during the year were again thefts from vehicles, notably catalytic converters. We are still thankfully a low crime area.
- j) We are fortunate that even in lockdown we were allowed to get outside to walk or run for exercise. We have placed some ideas of local areas to visit on our website. We hope you have been enjoying some of these, and welcome suggestions of others to add to the list. The SRA continues to pay for access to an online planning app (updated weekly) designed to summarise the Council Planning

site to aid our residents seeing for themselves in good time what relevant local planning applications have been made. Find the link from the 'About the SRA' page of our website, or from <http://www.localplanningapps.co.uk/croydon/sra/anupdate/planningtable.html>. Keep checking this and, if you can see a problem with an application, make your suggestions/objections known in good time. Sensible changes to plans will save a lot of grief later! The SRA have a Planning Sub-Committee (chaired by Ian Leggatt) to try and review the increasing number of planning applications, and understand the legislation and documentation. Email: selsdonplanning@gmail.com

Back garden developments and intensification (with no provision for parking) is an ongoing issue for our Planning Sub-Committee. Please keep your ears to the ground, and let us know if anything of concern occurs with regard to development in your area.

Local developments - The development plans for the derelict site at Bailey's/Selsdon Garage seem to continue with no clear end in sight! The Selsdon Park Estate was sold in 2021. The new owners, Birch Hotels, are renovating the building and working on the grounds for a new type of leisure venue on the site. Their aim was to open in March 2023.

The Selsdon Gazette and social media -

The Selsdon Gazette is a non-profit publication delivered to the door (thanks to all volunteers, particularly Phil Roberts for taking on the central distribution role) of about 4000 households in Selsdon. Gazette printing costs are hoped to be covered by the advertising (thanks to Advertising Manager Carlo Rappa). We would like to give thanks to our advertisers for sticking with us but we do need more to ensure we break even, at least. As well as household deliveries, Gazette editions are available online via our website. Our editor, Chris Jones, would welcome your contributions of local stories or news. Email: selsdongazettesra@gmail.com

The SRA also has group profiles on Facebook & Twitter (thanks to Ian Leggatt & Trevor Stotten for these) - for breaking news items, please look at www.facebook.com for Selsdon Residents Association and '@selsdonresassoc' on Twitter. Please 'like' and 'follow' the profiles too.

Accounts

A full balance sheet for 2022 will be presented at the next AGM, which is due to be held on 29th March 2023 at St John's Church Hall, Upper Selsdon Road at 8pm. The continuation of the SRA depends on your

voluntary annual subscriptions. Our thanks go to the Treasurers Iris Jones (for the SRA) and Jenny Bradley (for The Gazette) and to Jeff Bayton who reviews the Accounts.

Local news

Keeping our High Street alive - many local businesses, charities, churches, arts venues and clubs and voluntary groups have struggled during recent years, with the covid restrictions and the effect on their membership and finances. We hope that you will continue to support them with your money, time and attention. We have listed some local groups on our website. **Please use them or risk losing them!**

The Covid Pandemic is still around us, continuing to cause a long and ongoing period of worry and social isolation for many. We trust that you are still watching out for, and help, your neighbours in need.

We hope you stay well and that we can see you in person at our AGM. If you have any ideas, or would like to volunteer to help the community in some way, we would be glad to hear from you via [mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com](mailto:selsdonresidents@gmail.com).

Trevor Stotten (SRA Secretary)

~~

Selsdon Vale

Selsdon Vale, aka 'The Bird Estate', was built by Wimpey commencing in the late 1970s. The land had previously been smallholdings comprising many poultry farms and piggeries. The area of Selsdon Vale, on the Bainbridge Tithe map of 1800 comprises several fields between Old Farleigh Road and the what is now the Bridleway which marked the boundary of Croydon Crook and Addington Parishes. The fields running in a north easterly direction from what is now Old Farleigh Road were called Hither Fox Shot Hill, Middle Fox Shot Hill and Further Fox Shot Hill, the latter leading to Ashen Grove and the border with Addington Parish. The land was owned and farmed by the original Selsdon Farm, situated where the building which was more recently known as the Selsdon Park Hotel was.

After the First World War it was recognised that ex Servicemen returning from battle needed to have occupations and accommodation. Earlier philanthropists such as the Lever Brothers (Port Sunlight 1888), George

Cadbury (Bournville 1879) and Joseph Rowntree (Newearswick 1902) had pioneered the provision of decent housing and employment for their workers in a garden village setting. The Surrey Garden Village Trust, a company registered in 1920, had by 1924 bought around 300 acres of land in the Selsdon area, this being facilitated by the death of Selsdon Park owner William Noakes in 1923 and the breaking up of his large estate.



The Vale bottom can be seen as the diagonal clear zone across the centre of the extract. The dotted diagonal line through Court Wood and beyond is the line of the current Bridleway. The small building adjacent to the spot height of '372', centre bottom, is Cosy Corner, the lodge at the junction of Kingswood Way and Old Farleigh Road. The Triangle is visible. Farley Road is unbuilt. OS Map Extract C1900 showing 'hills'.

The Trust initially purchased what is now the Forestdale and Ashen Vale areas, some 200 acres. The land ran from Featherbed Lane through to the boundary of Croydon and Addington Parishes. The land was divided into plots of ½ acre upwards for sale to “Ex Service Men (and others)” although the terms of conditions imposed by the Trusts subsidiary, Addington Smallholders Ltd, limited plot holders to build only one house per plot and for the plot to be used for “food production” and “village industries”, the reality was that most plots were acquired for residential purposes and the land was farmed more as a hobby than for profit. The Trust laid down flint surfaced roads to access the plots and these are the origins of Yew Tree Way and Courtwood Lane. By 1927 all the plots were either occupied or about to be taken. Egg production was prospering and a co-operative trading association set up. The Trust decided to purchase an additional 100 acres of land which we now know as Selsdon Vale and Ashen Vale.

In 1928 the construction of a new street, to be called Selsdon Vale, was approved. The road ran along the bottom of the Vale straight from

Old Farleigh Road to the Addington Border, near Hallinwood Kennels at the junction of the Bridleway between Selsdon Vale and Forestdale and adjacent to the entrance to Selsdon Wood. The original Hallinwood property is still in existence, the plot being now diminished in size by subsequent development. Our current Sandpiper Road, from its junction with Old Farleigh Road and to the first bend by Greenvale School, together with Albatross Gardens and Goldfinch Road are on the same alignment as the original Selsdon Vale road:



The route can be clearly seen on an Ordnance Survey map of 1936.

Ted Frith records that in 1929 some of the original smallholders had given up but one City accountant had built a detached house on one 2-acre plot and had produced 10,000 eggs in his first year. The Croydon Advertiser reported in 1929 that over 100 acres were in cultivation.

Life on Selsdon Vale in the 1930s sounds, by modern standards, to have been harsh. An inhabitant from those days, one Ena Robbins, remembers *“the road was surfaced with flints – no good for roller skates and very hard on the knees if you fell off your bicycle. There were few houses or bungalows to start with, little traffic apart from the milkman with his horse and cart who came twice a day and two postal deliveries. We walked to school (very new and very big to a 5-year-old) through the fields, through a belt of conifers which were felled to make way for the houses in what is Greville Avenue and down York Road. We did this*

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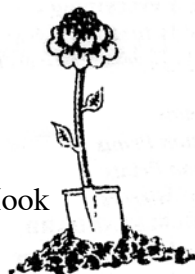
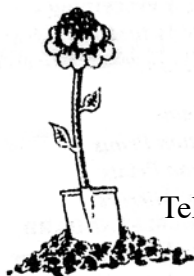
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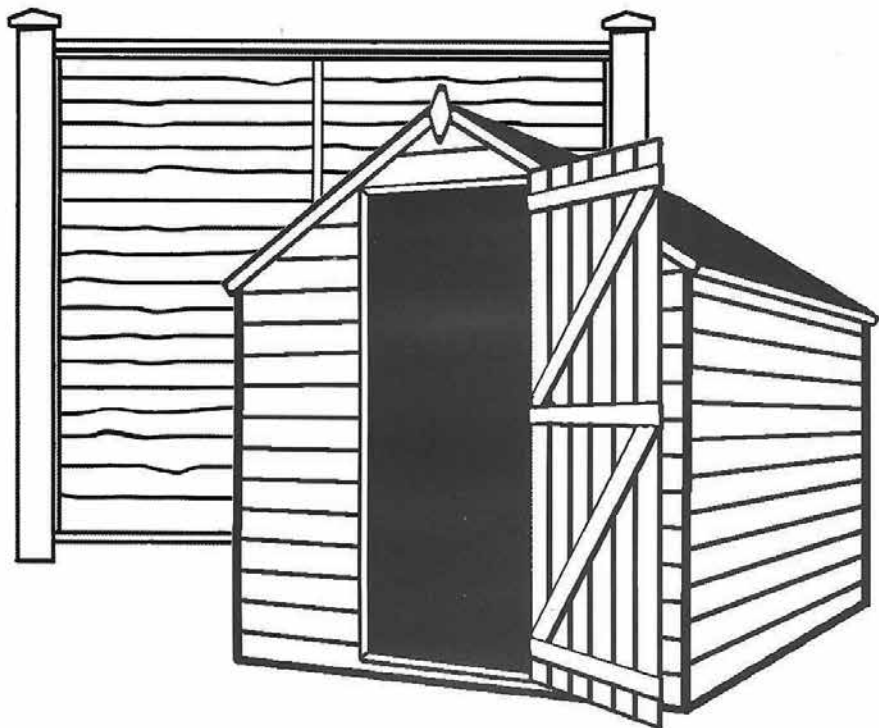
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For further information please contact Carlo Rappa, our advertising manager Selsdon.adverts@gmail.com

Costs for placing a quarter page advert for six months start at £200 + one off cost of £22 for making a printing plate for the advert.

For a half page advert for six months the cost is £225 + the £22 plate charge.

For a whole page advert for six months the cost is £300 + £22 plate charge.

If you would like to place an advert for an event in a single issue of the Gazette the costs are:

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There are discounts available if you are a registered Charity, a Church, a School, a Social Club or Voluntary Group.

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twice a day as there were no school lunches.....Gradually more houses and bungalows were built in Selsdon Vale, although the road was known as "The Smallholdings" few of the residents made a living from the land. Some were retired from service abroad and set up chicken farms others, like my father, held down a day job and enjoyed keeping ducks, geese etc as a hobby.... It was a long walk to the shops, along the Vale, up Old Farleigh Road to the Village and back again with the shopping. Few people owned a car or refrigerator in those days and shopping was done on an almost daily basis...."

In the 1930s two brothers moved there having survived TB and being told they needed country air to survive. The Krasners had adjoining smallholdings named 'Rensark' and 'The Haven' which were the first two plots down at the Old Farleigh Road end of Selsdon Vale. ('Rensark' is Krasner backwards). They evidently did well with Poultry: In 1946 Pullets (baby chicks) were advertised for sale by two Selsdon Vale poultry producers 'Woodside' and 'Rensark' Poultry Farms. In 1950 the Croydon Advertiser carried an advert: "Boy 15 – 16 wanted by Haven Poultry Farm in Selsdon Vale - £2 5s a week. Good Prospects for a keen and honest lad". The Haven appears to have been a thriving enterprise at one time but by the time of the sale of the land to George Wimpey and Co the owners, who had ceased farming, were delighted to be able to buy a big house in Croydon. It is not known what prices the Selsdon Vale smallholdings were eventually sold for however, in 1951, it was recorded:

Smallholdings for sale:

"2 ½ acres with detached brick bungalow, 2 – 3 beds, in splendid order, convenient transport £6,100"

"2 acres 3 beds excellent outbuildings and equipment, productive orchard + chickens and goats. £5,000"

Addington Smallholders Ltd was granted permission in the High Court in 1966 to sell the properties and land. Forestdale was then built by Wates, a Norbury based building company. Our Selsdon Vale (Bird Estate) was later built by George Wimpey / Taylor Wimpey, with Ashen Vale built by Aubrey Estates. The Addington Smallholders went into voluntary liquidation in 1966 and the Trust in 1970.

At the time of the sale of the Selsdon Vale land to Messrs Wimpey the plots and buildings adjacent to the old Selsdon Vale road give an indication of their purpose, location and topography: Rensark and The Haven, Hillside Orchard, Woodside Piggery, The Apiary, Ilfra Tors Piggery, West Ridge and The Sanctuary Nurseries, amongst others.



Selsdon Vale Smallholding C1966

Wimpey, with a nod to the adjacent Bird Sanctuary, decided to name their new roads after birds. Was I alone in expecting to see Kittiwakes and Osprey over my Selsdon Vale semi?

Ian Leggatt.

Thanks again to the journals of Ted Frith and Living History Local Guide No 6 'Selsdon and Croham'. Special thanks to Helen Krasner for sharing her memories. As an 'old Selsdonian' and having moved through properties on Forestdale and then Selsdon Vale, and with family on Ashen Vale, I have for a long time wondered what the land had previously been used for. An abiding memory is taking a walk one day in the late 70s from our one bed flat on Friars Wood to see what all the building work was which was going on adjacent. The sun shone and I remember the glare of the exposed white chalk from the massive excavations carried out by Wimpey to put in the roads and foundations for all the new semis and detached houses, one of which would ultimately be our family home for 15 or so years.

A Good Time for Gardening – February

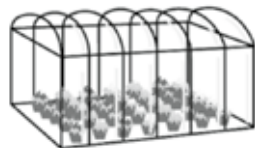
It is time to get out your secateurs to tidy up some plants in the garden and to think about sowing seeds in the greenhouse.



- Cut back last year's growth on all the deciduous grasses like miscanthus at the end of February if the weather is not too cold
- Cut back old stems on herbaceous perennials when fresh new growth is emerging. Cut as close to the base as you can without damaging the new growth
- Once winter heathers have flowered, cut them back a little with a sharp pair of shears to keep them neat and bushy
- Cut cornus and salix back hard to encourage colourful new stems for next year's display.
- Weed around the base of trees and pull off any suckers
- Sow a new batch of winter salad such as mizuna
- Keep harvesting leaves and sideshoots of kale before it runs to seed
- Place cloches over strawberries to bring them into flower early
- Plant out forced hyacinths that have finished their display, choosing a sunny spot.
- Stop bulbs in pots from getting waterlogged by covering them with a sheet of clear plastic, raised above the pot.
- Plant new lily bulbs in deep pots for showstopping displays on the patio this summer. Plant them using multi-purpose compost with a handful of grit mixed into pot to improve drainage. Leave 5cm in all directions between each lily bulb.
- Hunt out overwintering snails huddled in empty pots and hidden corners, to reduce populations

In the greenhouse

- Monitor greenhouse temperatures with a max-min thermometer to ensure heaters are working efficiently
- Sow sweet peas in deep pots and keep them frost-free in a greenhouse or on a sunny windowsill
- Sow summer bedding and tender annuals, including cosmos, lobelia, dahlias, nasturtiums and snapdragons
- Pot on and pinch out autumn-sown sweet peas to encourage side shoots to form



- Sow tender crops such as tomatoes and chillies in a heated propagator or on a warm sunny windowsill
- Plant dahlia tubers in trays to encourage shoots to develop, which you can then use as cuttings
- Start planting summer bulbs in pots indoors, including liatris, begonias, gloxinias, lilies, eucomis and agapanthus
- Cut off hippeastrum (amaryllis) flowerheads once they fade, but leave the stalk to die down naturally

Crocus Chris

Many thanks to Gardeners' World

~~

A Dickensian Who's Who Quiz

7 February is the birthday of the celebrated author and social critic Charles Dickens. He created some of the world's best-known fictional characters but can you match each of the following Dickensian characters to four of his popular novels?

The Books are:

- A. Great Expectations B. A Tale of Two Cities
 C. Oliver Twist D. David Copperfield



The characters are:

1. Abel Magwitch	An escaped convict who later earns a fortune
2. Agnes Wickfield	A patient, and rather passive, Victorian lady
3. Nancy	A former pickpocket and noble prostitute
4. Mr Bumble	A self-important and bloated church official
5. Charles Darnay	A wealthy gentleman put on trial for treason
6. James Steerforth	A handsome, yet condescending, charmer and wit
7. Uriah Heep	A sycophantic law clerk known to connive
8. Miss Havisham	A wealthy spinster who was left at the altar
9. Lucie Manette	The wise daughter who loves her doctor father
10. Madame Defarge	A bloodthirsty revolutionary who enjoys knitting
11. Fagin	A fence and trainer of juvenile pickpockets
12. Philip Pirrip	An orphan turned clerk who has a conscience

Many thanks to funtrivia

Answers after Nature Notes

What to do in the Half Term Holidays

The National Trust has an extensive programme of half term events at many of its properties. Enjoy some fresh air and go wild in the woods, or get creative indoors and discover intriguing stories from ages past. They have produced a list of 50 things you should do before you reach 113/4 years old. No matter your age, how many can you tick off?

This is the list updated in 2020.

1. Get to know a tree
2. Roll down a really big hill
3. Camp outdoors
4. Build a den
5. Skim a stone
6. Go welly wandering
7. Fly a kite
8. Spot a fish
9. Eat a picnic in the wild
10. Play conkers
11. Explore on wheels
12. Have fun with sticks
13. Make a mud creation
14. Dam a stream
15. Go on a wintery adventure
16. Wear a wild crown
17. Set up a snail race
18. Create some wild art
19. Play Poohsticks
20. Go paddling
21. Forage for wild food
22. Find some funky fungi
23. Get up for sunrise
24. Go barefoot
25. Join nature's band
26. Hunt for fossils and bones
27. Go stargazing
28. Climb a huge hill
29. Explore a cave
30. Go on a scavenger hunt
31. Hunt for bugs
32. Float in a boat



33. Go cloud watching
34. Discover wild animal clues
35. Discover what's in a pond
36. Make a home for wildlife
37. Explore the wonders of a rock pool
38. Bring up a butterfly
39. Catch a crab
40. Go on a nature walk at night
41. Help a plant to grow
42. Go swimming in the sea
43. Help a wild animal
44. Watch a bird
45. Find your way with a map
46. Clamber over rocks
47. Cook on a campfire
48. Keep a nature diary
49. Watch the sunset
50. Take a friend on a nature adventure

Thanks to the National Trust

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

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

I had this letter from a reader about what we can learn from nature.

Dear Editor,

A friend read this out at a meeting I recently attended and I thought it was wonderful - and worth sharing.

The Goose Story by Harry Clarke Noyes ARCS News, Vol 7, No.1, January 1992.

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Next fall, when you see Geese heading south for the winter, flying along in V formation, you might consider what science has discovered as to why they fly that way; as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a V formation, the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own. People who share a common direction and sense of

community can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they are travelling on the thrust of one another.

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front. If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed the same way we are.

When the Head goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point. It is sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs with people or with geese flying south. Geese honk from behind to encourage those upfront to keep up their speed. What do we say when we honk from behind?

Finally, and this is important, when a goose gets sick, or is wounded by gunshots and falls out of formation, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly, or until it dies. Only then do they launch out on their own, or with another formation to catch up with their group. If we have the same sense of a goose, we will stand by each other like that.

Reprinted from materials provided by Bonnie J. Collins

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Here our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, recalls keeping warm in winter now and in the past and looking forward to spring.

As I write this article, the weather forecast is for snow. Already the temperature is beginning to drop. In our home, as with so many other people, we are trying to adhere to the government's heating guideline of

18 degrees Celcius. Years ago, if you worked in an office, it was 19/20°C, but some large firms say they will run their heating this winter at 16°C. That seems very chilly. However, even if it is 16°C, you can make your hands slightly warmer on a radiator, or wear fingerless gloves! A swift walk in the lunch break is good, because every time you go outside, it feels really warm, in comparison, when you re-enter a building.

During recent discussions with friends, who are a similar age to ourselves, we all looked back to our childhoods and agreed, the only place we had a fire in our childhoods was in the lounge. Kitchens warmed up as you used them, although the boiler for the hot water was in our kitchen. (It was a form of coke fire with a cover, not the discreet ones of today.) This was useful when paper handkerchiefs came into being, because we threw them into the boiler and burned them when we had colds, which we felt was a more hygienic method of disposal. (Nowadays that would of course, not be considered “green”.) Halls and stairs were not warmed. Neither were bathrooms warm except from the steam rising from the water, nor toilets and they are probably better cool, because you don’t stay so long in them that way! There were fireplaces in other rooms, but you had to be very poorly to have a fire lit in a bedroom. Most nights of the year we all slept with the bedroom windows open, and if the weather was very cold, we awoke to thick frost on the inside of the windows. Fortunately, we slept with lots of blankets and an eiderdown covering us. Perhaps it was because we were children but we didn’t remember feeling particularly cold.

Today we wondered if perhaps we were beginning to adjust to the cold. Our heating goes off for several hours during the day. Nor are we heating the rooms where our children used to sleep, nor the dining room as we are not in it for long, nor our bedroom at night, except on a frost setting. But we do use an electric blanket. When it snowed in November, we were so cold that we used to watch TV in the evenings wearing extra cardigans and covered with a blanket. Fortunately, the snow didn’t last for six weeks as it did in 1963! Even this week it is only due to snow for about a day. However, it might last for longer actually on the ground.



While walking along a road today, we saw the first snowdrop in bloom. We were delighted. The bulbs are coming up in gardens, catkins are dangling a lovely bright green colour on some trees. Even the days are beginning to draw out again. All hopeful things, with the Spring not so far away. Soon the Spring catalogues will come popping through the letterbox, with fashion, gifts, holidays, clubs; oh, there is so much to look forward to! Only, as we are all economising to pay the fuel bills and everything else which has gone up, my husband

and I shall not be buying or at least until the bills have been paid! When at school we learned to make dresses and skirts the old-fashioned way, only using material, scissors, pins and needles and matching cotton, it doesn't need a sewing machine, but it does need good lighting in the evenings. Jumpers are knitted, as are socks. Personally, I do not fancy home knitted underwear, which would surely be itchy, although a pair of extra thick socks would be welcome. As a small child I did wear a knitted swimming costume. Cannot remember if it was itchy so suppose it was ok.

Whichever way we all try to save heat and fuel this winter; it seems amazing that already the price of fuel has begun to go down. Hope part of the saving is passed on to all of us soon. Hoorah, perhaps I'll search through those catalogues after all!!

Jessica Blake

~~

Poetry Corner

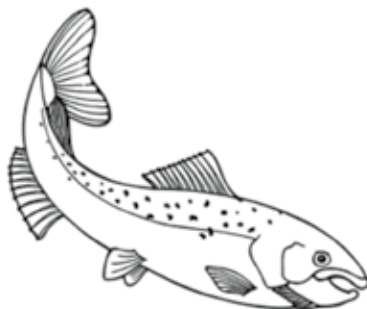
This month Mary Gill looks at the great lengths that a salmon will take to lay its eggs.

Every year, millions of salmon leave the sea to swim up their natal rivers. The rivers' running water and habitat provide both plenty of oxygen and shelter for the eggs and juvenile salmon, which increases their rate of survival. Many salmon cover great distances during their freshwater journey and almost all of them die of exhaustion after the spawning has commenced.

SALMON RUN

Through the haze of spray,
exchanging salt water for fresh,
the fish weave their way upstream -
returning to their birthplace.

Soaring over obstacles, recklessly
defying the tumult of the currents,
their motivation unimaginable -
scent and genetic instinct choose the way -
here they will spawn and die,
for reasons lost in the mist of time.



Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth – Rumps and Tails

There are many details which can help in identifying a bird species but when the individual is seen only briefly there is not enough time to collect more than a minimum amount of information. Occasionally the one detail which is obvious is the colour of the rump. A medium-sized bird rising from grass and flying away displaying a bright yellow rump can only be a Green Woodpecker but with this species there are other characteristics which would aid identification.

In woodland, a small darkish bird somewhat similar in size to a Robin, half hidden as it perches amongst leafy branches, might reveal its identity as a female or juvenile Bullfinch when it moves and shows that it has a white rump. Even the bright plumage of the male Bullfinch is of no help when most of the bird is hidden.

Some small birds prefer to search for food on the ground and may do so in small groups or even in large flocks. Such flocks can have more than one species, in particular the related Chaffinch and Brambling often occur together in winter flocks. While there are many differences in their plumages one that is very obvious is that the Brambling has a white rump while that of the Chaffinch is greenish. The Goldfinch also has a white rump but its other details are more obvious and make it a very distinctive species.

Marsh and Hen Harriers are birds of prey which fly low in search of prey on the ground. The females of both species are dark coloured birds which can be separated at a distance by the female (and juvenile) of the Hen Harrier having a narrow white rump (hence they are known as “ringtails”) while the Marsh Harrier is the same brownish colour as the rest of its plumage. The males of both species have different distinctive plumage.



Not so long ago you would have to go to the west of the country to see Buzzard, Red Kite or Raven. Buzzard was the first to spread eastwards and can now be seen frequently in the east of the country, with breeding in many areas though not yet in Selsdon Wood. Since raptors tend to be seen most frequently in the air, rump colour is not the most obvious detail of their plumage. The Buzzard has broad wings and has a broad fan-shaped tail with a broad dark terminal band on the tail and several other thinner bands.

The Honey Buzzard, which might be seen on migration, also has a dark terminal band on its slightly longer tail but has several other dark bands nearer to the base of the tail.

Red Kite has also spread eastwards and is more common than Buzzard in some areas. One of its distinguishing characteristics is the deeply forked tail with which it is able to make rapid movements to pick up prey from the ground, frequently without landing.



Black Kite is a migrating species which passes over the Straits of Gibraltar in thousands. Inevitably a small number drift over to UK and might be seen (with a lot of luck!). They also have tails which are forked, but not as deeply as that of the Red Kite, so that the fork might not be noticed. Because of its colouring and general shape, it is more likely to be mistaken for a Marsh Harrier than a Red Kite.

In recent years the Raven is being seen more frequently away from its traditional home in the west of the country. A few weeks ago, two Ravens landed in Hutchinson's Bank and were immediately noticed by the local Carrion Crows and Magpies which proceeded to mob them. The Ravens took off separately with the Crows in hot pursuit so that it was easy to



compare the two species and see how much larger the Raven was than the Crow. While the tail of the Crow is fan shaped, that of the Raven is wedge or diamond-shaped. I have also heard the characteristic Krok, Krok call of the Raven over Selsdon Wood so perhaps we will soon be recording local breeding of this species.

~~

Answers to the Dickensian Who's Who Quiz

Great Expectations: Abel Magwitch, Miss Havisham, Philip Pirin

A Tale of Two Cities: Charles Darnay, Lucie Manette, Madame Defarge

Oliver Twist: Nancy, Mr Bumble, Fagin

David Copperfield: Agnes Wickfield, James Steerforth, Uriah Heep

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2023

FEBRUARY

- 4 February - 18 March Six Nations Rugby Union Championships
- 11 February - Brit Awards
- 19 February - Bafta Awards



MARCH

- 9-12 March - Crufts Dog Show
- 12 March – The Oscars
- 14 – 17 March – Cheltenham Festival, National Hunt race meeting
- 17 March – Red Nose Day
- 26 March – Oxford & Cambridge Boat Race

APRIL

- 6 – 9 April – Masters Golf in Augusta
- 7-10 April – Easter Weekend
- 13 – 15 April - Grand National meeting, Aintree Racecourse, Liverpool
- 15 April - 1 May – World Snooker Championship in Sheffield
- 23 April - London Marathon

MAY

- 6 May – The Coronation of King Charles
- 13 May – Eurovision Song Contest in Liverpool
- 14 May - Women's FA Cup Final, Wembley Stadium
- 23 – 27 May - Chelsea Flower Show, London
- 28 May - RideLondon (festival of cycling), London-Surrey, south-east

JUNE

- 2 – 3 June - Derby Festival, Epsom Downs Race Course
- 3 June – Men's FA Cup Final, Wembley Stadium
- 16 June – 31 July – Men's Ashes
- 17 June - Trooping the Colour, London
- 20 – 24 June - Royal Ascot, Berkshire
- 21 – 25 June – Glastonbury music festival

JULY

- 1 July - Pride in London
- 1 – 23 Cycling Tour de France
- 3 – 16 July - Wimbledon Tennis Championships
- 4 – 9 July - RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show

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7 – 9 July - Formula 1 British Grand Prix weekend, Silverstone
14 July – 9 September - The BBC Proms, Royal Albert Hall, London
20 – 23 July - The UK Golf Open Championship, Royal Liverpool Golf Club
20 July – 20 August – Fifa Women’s World Cup in Australia and New Zealand
29 July – 4 August - Cowes Week, Isle of Wight
July – October - Buckingham Palace Summer Opening, London

AUGUST

1 – 5 August - ‘Glorious Goodwood’ Festival, West Sussex
4 – 26 August - The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Edinburgh
4 – 28 August - Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Edinburgh
19 - 27 August – World Athletics Championships in Budapest
27 – 28 August - Notting Hill Carnival, London

SEPTEMBER

Dates to be confirmed - Open House Festival, London. In this two-week festival gain access to beautiful buildings, unique spaces and landscapes as London opens its doors to visitors.

8 – 17 September - Heritage Open Days, across England. Heritage Open Days celebrates England’s fantastic architecture and culture by offering free access to places that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission.

8 September – 28 October – Rugby Union Men’s World Cup

10 September - Great North Run, Newcastle Gateshead

15 - 19 September - London Fashion Week, London

OCTOBER

1 – 31 October – Black History month

Dates to be confirmed - BFI London Film Festival, Southbank, London

25 October – 26 November – Cricket World Cup in India

NOVEMBER

5 November - Bonfire Night, Britain-wide

Dates to be confirmed - London Jazz Festival, London

Dates to be confirmed - Winter Wonderland at Hyde Park, London

17 November – Children in Need

DECEMBER

Dates to be confirmed - Christmas at Kew, London

Happy New Year from the Selsdon Centre for the Retired!

What a year 2022 was at the Selsdon Centre; What a great 2023 we're planning for you!



What you might have seen or may have missed! We had some of the Ridgeway School Choir in to entertain us in style by singing in four different languages; We also had the Nursery class from Croydon High School for Girls to sing - they were wonderful and even made time to come and chat with our customers too; We were royally entertained by the fabulous Tom Carradine (The Cockney singer) and he's coming back for a second knees-up soon (check out our website for full details or look for posters outside the Centre). The Rah Rah Community Theatre group came in three times and gave us three wonderful, very different and very funny shows - enjoyed by all! We also had a fantastic, award-winning female barbershop quartet to sing for us, a first at the Centre along with a host of different professional singers, each bringing their own style for us to enjoy.

We had the informative Woodland Trust in to educate us on their works and we have another session planned for the coming year when they return. We will also be entertained by A Royal Scandals historical talk and the Croydon Ecological Society will also make their debut talk at the Centre.

We are aiming to resurrect our Arts and Crafts session on a Wednesday, so pop in if you fancy doing something mindful and creative. Different techniques and creative makes offered and we aim to be suitable for all abilities.

We would love to see more of you come along to the Centre to have a spot of lunch and then join in the fun or just to have a chat with other local residents from the area. We will also be running our very popular Bingo and Fish & Chips (from McDermotts) usually on a Friday each month and these are very popular so book early to avoid disappointment! There are prizes to be won!

Keep checking the website (www.selsdon.org.uk) or email: selsdon@btinternet.com or phone: 0208 651 1111 for further details or to book any of our events or to discuss volunteering at the Centre with our office team.

Contact
Selsdon Community Centre
132 Addington Road
South Croydon, CR2 8LA
Tel: 020 8651 4944
Fax: 020 8657 2268
Email: info@selsdoncontact.org.uk



Selsdon Contact Neighbourhood Care

Celebrating 50 Years

Selsdon Contact is celebrating 50 years this year - offering practical help, advice, support and information to the residents of Selsdon.

How times have changed. Back in 1973 when Contact was created, it was initially run by Anne Hill as our first co-ordinator from her dining room table in Arundel Avenue ably assisted by Audrey Pattinson. It was launched with a system of road wardens covering the Selsdon parish, keeping their neighbours informed of how Contact could help if needed and welcoming newcomers moving into the area.

By 1990, as Anne and Audrey stepped down, Janet Jones became our first paid co-ordinator with the help of Social Services funding and in 1992 Contact became a registered charity and moved from the 'dining table' into a small office in the old library complex, shared with the Hard of Hearing group.

Following development of the Sainsbury's complex, Selsdon Contact moved into an office on the lower ground floor next to the Jubilee Café which we are pleased to hear is re-opening in February.

Our office hours are 10 am to 3 pm Monday to Friday and, although the office is small, there is always a warm welcome from Jasmine, our Manager, her new Deputy, Nina, and our team of office volunteers. Ready to help with your queries, loan out our extensive stock of equipment and wheelchairs or, perhaps, welcome your offer to help!

Look out for further news and events in our celebratory year.

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

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QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 4th March 2023 - 19.00pm for 19:30pm

St John's Church Hall, Upper Selsdon Rd, South Croydon CR2 8DD

Teams of 6, tickets at £15.00 per person, including supper

Cash Bar available, so please no BYOD

To book a seat or team ring 07774 186 792

What's next in 2023 – DEFIB UNITS

- We are in the process of fitting more defib units in Hamsey Green, Sanderstead & Selsdon. The new defib units are being fitted outside Sanderstead Library, TotStars Nursery Selsdon Recreation Ground & St John's Church Selsdon. These defib units work alongside All Saints Sanderstead, Waitrose Sanderstead, Sainsburys Selsdon, Kingsmead Equestrian Stables & the Corner House Tea Room in Hamsey Green.



If you would like to get involved & make a difference call 07774 186 792

Visit us on [facebook.com/rotarycroydonsouth](https://www.facebook.com/rotarycroydonsouth)

Or our website rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com

~~

SELSDON FLOWER CLUB

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

We are a small friendly club who meet on the second Wednesday afternoon of each month at 2 pm at the rear of St. John the Divine Church, Selsdon. Subscription £30 per annum. We have demonstrations and

practices. All abilities welcome.

February 8 - Winter Theme in a Box or Basket

March 8 - Spring Arrangement of your Choice



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

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## 1<sup>st</sup> Selsdon & Addington Scout Group



Do you have a couple of hours a week to spare? Are you over 18? Do you enjoy working alongside a team? Could you support young people to take risks, try new challenges and have fun? Could you make a huge difference to your local community in Selsdon by joining us at the 1st Selsdon and Addington Scout Group as an Assistant Section Leader in either the Beaver Colony or the Cub Pack? No experience necessary and training provided. Perhaps you know someone that you think may fit the bill and could pass this on?

Contact James, the Group Scout Leader, via the website: [1stselsdonscouts.org.uk](http://1stselsdonscouts.org.uk) for more information or informal chat about coming along to a no commitment taster evening.

We meet at our Scout hut behind St John's Church, Beavers (aged 6-8, Tuesday 6-7.15pm) and Cubs (aged 8-10.5, Wednesday 7-8.30pm)

Join the adventure - #itsgoodforyou

## English Pronunciation Poem

English is the world's most commonly spoken language and also the language that's learned by most people (1.5 billion). However, for some, learning English can be particularly challenging; the following poem shows why.

I take it you already **know**  
of **tough** and **bough** and **cough** and **dough**.  
Others may stumble, but not **you**,  
On **hiccough**, **thorough**, **lough** and **through**.  
Well done! And now you wish, perhaps,  
To learn of less familiar traps.

Beware of **heard**, a dreadful **word**  
That looks like **beard** and sounds like **bird**.  
And **dead** – it's said like **bed**, not **bead**.  
For goodness sake, don't call it **deed**!  
Watch out for **meat** and **great** and **threat**.  
They rhyme with **suite** and **straight** and **debt**.

A **moth** is not a **moth** in **mother**,  
Nor **both** in **bother**, **broth** in **brother**,  
And **here** is not a match for **there**,  
Nor **dear** and **fear** for **pear** and **bear**.  
And then there's **dose** and **rose** and **lose**  
Just look them up — and **goose** and **choose**.  
And **cork** and **work** and **card** and **ward**.  
And **font** and **front** and **word** and **sword**.  
And **do** and **go**, then **thwart** and **cart**.  
Come, come I've hardly made a **start**.  
A dreadful language? Man **alive**,  
I'd mastered it when I was **five**!



*Quoted by Vivian Cook and Melvin Bragg 2004, by Richard Krogh, in D Bolinger & D A Sears, Aspects of Language, 1981, and in Spelling Progress Bulletin March 1961, Attributed to T S Watt, 1954.*

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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**

|                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                 |                                                                                    |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Arts Society Croydon Area                                                                                                     | Jean Aarons                                                                                     | Website: <a href="https://tascroydonarea.org.uk">https://tascroydonarea.org.uk</a> |  |
| 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                                                                       |  |
| Crest Badminton Club (Fri pm)                                                                                                 | Sue Fairchild                                                                                   | 020 8657 3761                                                                      |  |
| 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                                                                       |  |
| Police (Selsdon & Ballards SNT)                                                                                               | Beat Officer:                                                                                   | 8721 2464                                                                          |  |
| RSPB, Croydon Local Group                                                                                                     | John Davis                                                                                      | 8640 4578                                                                          |  |
| Rotary Sanderstead and Selsdon                                                                                                | Wendy A Parr                                                                                    | 07774 186792                                                                       |  |
| Probus Club of Croydon South                                                                                                  | John Barker                                                                                     | 8657 2093                                                                          |  |
| St John's Dramatic Society                                                                                                    | Caryl Rapps                                                                                     | 8651 1326                                                                          |  |
| St John's Wives                                                                                                               | Jane Guglielmi                                                                                  | 8657 6672                                                                          |  |
| Sanderstead Local History Group                                                                                               | <a href="http://www.sandersteadlhg.co.uk">www.sandersteadlhg.co.uk</a>                          |                                                                                    |  |
| 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)                                                                                                        | <a href="mailto:beavers.1stselsdon@gmail.com">beavers.1stselsdon@gmail.com</a>                  |                                                                                    |  |
| Cub Pack (8-10yrs)                                                                                                            | <a href="mailto:cubs.1stselsdon@gmail.com">cubs.1stselsdon@gmail.com</a>                        |                                                                                    |  |
| Scouts Troop (10-14yrs)                                                                                                       | <a href="mailto:scouts.1stselsdon@gmail.com">scouts.1stselsdon@gmail.com</a>                    |                                                                                    |  |
| 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                                                                          |  |

# CHRIS of CROYDON

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