



The Selsdon — Gazette —

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January 2023

THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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

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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 January edition of the *Gazette* and the Year 2023! I hope that by the time you receive this *Gazette* through your doors that you are still managing to keep to your New Year's resolutions! This is the time to look forward with days lengthening, holiday plans being considered and, hopefully, snowdrops appearing.

I was glad to receive a lot of contributions for this month's *Gazette*. The Christmas Lights switch-on was a little too late in November to catch the December *Gazette* print date, so we include a feature here: it felt so good for Selsdon families to gather together once again to welcome Father Christmas and to listen to the mighty choir from Selsdon Primary School singing carols. Ian Leggatt, inspired by the snow week we had just before Christmas, has looked back through the records to see how Selsdonites coped with a similar event in 1927. Linda Morris encourages us to get out into our local green spaces and to try a bit of 'parkbathing', while in our gardening section there is a selection of winter flowers to look out for. I had not heard from Des Donohoe for a time but he has written an article about the joy of walking, even at 83 years old, and in the letter section he tells us about an unusual visitor to his garden. In his regular Nature Notes, Ted describes feeding occurring in nature that we might not see. Mary Gill has her regular poem but is joined by a young poet encouraging us to be positive.

With the start of 2023 we have a quiz testing your knowledge about events in 2022, we celebrate the Chinese New Year and we look at the words of the year 2022 from the Collins and Oxford dictionaries - how many do you use? Many local groups have described their activities and would welcome new members, including the Croydon Society of Model Engineers, the Soul Symphony Choir, the Younger Generation Theatre Group, the Selsdon Flower Club and the Rotary Club of Sanderstead and Selsdon. Special congratulations must go to Selsdon Contact who will celebrate 50 years in 2023. So, if one of your resolutions was to take up a new interest you will be spoilt for choice.

Finally, a plea for any photos that you take around Selsdon which I could use for the cover of the *Gazette* and any news about clubs and events in the area.

I wish you all a Happy and Healthy 2023!
I hope that you enjoy your read and I look forward to hearing from you.

Chris Jones

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

SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS

Gazettes

As I write this on 20th December, I still have not been able to deliver all of my Gazettes as a lot of houses have a number of steps without a rail and are still quite icy. So, apologies if your gazette was later than usual, the safety of our volunteer deliverers comes first.

Walks

We are extremely lucky to have two long distance paths going through Selsdon: The London Loop and The Vanguard Way. You can receive a newsletter with updates from colin@vanguardway.org.uk, all ready for those spring walks!

Croydon Flyover

TFL and Croydon Council will be starting work on the flyover and associated roads on 6th January 2023. The work will focus on five structures on the A232 road that cross the A236 roundabout. Local residents should receive a letter but we have no information how long this will take.

Selsdon Hotel

The Birch Group who now own the hotel have been consulting with local residents as they are starting to erect a stock-proof fence in January within their boundary, along the golf course to retain animals. The good news is that they have confirmed that there is no intention to build houses on the site. A coffee morning for local residents is planned but no date set yet, but we will post the date and time on our website and Facebook when we hear.

Trees

Our plans for the two new trees in Selsdon Recreation Park were thwarted by the weather, but we still have time to plant them in better weather.

Trader Donations

Since going to press with the last Gazette, we have received further donations from local businesses to help with the cost of the Christmas Lights. These businesses include:

Raz Barbers
Mr Dry Clean
The Royal Tandoori
Alladin's Cave
The Golden Ark
Kiba

SRA AGM

We are planning to hold the SRA AGM on Wednesday 29 March at St John's Church Hall. It would be lovely to see more residents there, so please keep the date free.

Sad News

We have just heard from Ray Rowsell's daughters that their wonderful and beloved Dad passed away peacefully on 17 December. Selsdon was very dear to Ray's heart and he did so much for his community over the years. His 'Roundabout' column in the Gazette and the 'Rowsell Chronicles' were things he loved doing and were so enjoyed by many. We plan to include a fuller obituary to the SRA's Honorary Vice President in the February Gazette.

Wishing you all good health for 2023!

Sheila Childs

Chair

~~

COUNCILLORS' NOTES

COUNCIL ISSUES ANOTHER SECTION 114 NOTICE

When Mayor Perry took office, he launched an 'open the books' exercise to forensically examine the Council's accounts. The problems around Brick by Brick, Fairfield Halls and Regina Road were already known about, but the 'open the books exercise' has uncovered more financial problems that the Council faces including: -

Parking and Traffic income over-estimate	£13.8m
Housing Revenue Account/General Fund alignment correction	£9.5m
Housing Benefit budget error	£9.0m
One off benefit of NHS income built into the ongoing budget	£5.0m
Minimum Revenue Provision correction	£2.6m
Correction of private sector landlord licensing income wrongly credited to the general fund (covers the cost of the scheme once this is in place)	£1.5m
Capitalisation of salaries correction	£1.3m
Housing structural deficit	£5.2m
Total additional cost of corrections	£47.9m

The Mayor is confident that by implementing in year savings and using existing reserves the Council can balance the budget in the 22/23 financial years. Issuing a section 114 notice now allows the Council to enter into negotiations now with Central Government about the support required to set a balanced budget for 23/24.

The Mayor has issued the following statement about the Council's financial situation: -

“On 12th December we had an Extraordinary Council Meeting to discuss the council's financial situation. I want to reassure you that I and my cabinet colleagues are continuing to work hard to get a grip on Croydon's finances, tackle the significant problems of the past that continue to impact our budget today, and to find a way for our council to become sustainable for the future. Thank you to everyone who has participated in our budget engagement exercise and shared views on our approach – if you haven't already, please do take part in our survey. It is really important to me to listen to local people before we make any of these very difficult decisions.”

Please also remember there is a package of local help for those who may be struggling this winter. From the network of warm spaces to help and advice on coping with the cost of living, and free holiday food and activity clubs for children in receipt of free school meals, there is support available from the council and our partners. The council may have its challenges, but we are still providing essential support for our residents. You can find all this information on our web page <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/>

SELSDON PARK HOTEL RELAUNCHES AS BIRCH HOTEL IN EARLY 2023

Birch: part hotel, part member's club, is coming to Selsdon, Croydon in early 2023.

Located on the site of the former Selsdon Park Hotel, the establishment will be relaunched as the second property in Birch's lifestyle brand, building on the success of the original Birch site, which was named Hotel of the Year 2020 by the Sunday Times.

The team are currently recruiting for staff, with vacancies for Receptionists, Kitchen, Chefs, Landscapers & Grounds Maintenance, Restaurant staff, Maintenance and Wellness – amongst others, currently available.

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

22/05046/HSE - 48 Farnborough Avenue South Croydon CR2 8HD
Erection of two-storey side extension. Erection of hip-to-gable roof alterations with rear dormer.

22/05070/HSE – 34 Greville Avenue South Croydon CR2 8NL
Demolition of conservatory. Erection of single storey rear extension

22/04840/HSE – 13 Thorold Close South Croydon CR2 8SA
Demolition of existing rear conservatory; Erection of single storey side/rear extension and conversion of existing garage for use as a habitable space.

*(Remember that you can use this website to view planning applications
[http://www.localplanningapps.co.uk/croydon/sra/anupdate/planning table.html](http://www.localplanningapps.co.uk/croydon/sra/anupdate/planning%20table.html))*

MP Chris Philp's Report

Member of Parliament for Croydon South



Another ULEZ Betrayal

In spite of overwhelming opposition, the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has now confirmed that the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) will be expanded to all London boroughs - including virtually all of Selsdon.

As many of you know, in July I wrote to Khan to formally express your disappointment with the plan to extend the ULEZ to Greater London. I also raised your objections in a submission to Transport for London's public consultation on the topic. It was clear to me then, as it is now, that a £12.50 daily charge for drivers of older vehicles in our area is deeply regressive, penalising residents who cannot afford to switch to an electric vehicle by forcing them to either pay up or turn to unreliable TfL services.

I therefore was pleased that around 60% of all Londoners and 70% of Greater Londoners raised objections to the new tax in TfL's public consultation, while 80% of business owners and workers in Greater London opposed the plans. Having previously stated that he will not press ahead with his plans if the public overwhelmingly rejected them, Khan's announcement represents a clear betrayal of Londoners.

I am sorry to be the bearer of bad news and I share your frustration about how this will impact you, your visiting family and friends, and businesses in Selsdon. I will continue working to oppose this ill-considered policy.

Fixing Croydon's Finances

When Jason Perry was elected Mayor of Croydon earlier last year, we knew that a difficult task lay ahead to fix Croydon's finances. What was not clear, however, was the scale of the problem.

One of Jason's first actions as Mayor was to order the Council to 'open the books' and look at its finances in forensic detail. These investigations revealed a shocking picture: Croydon Council is not only bankrupt, but the previous administration had hidden the true picture of its financial mismanagement. Examples of this mismanagement included setting estimates for parking income based on unrealistic projections, which means that Croydon's parking revenue is £10 million less than budgeted for.

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This means that between 2014 and 2022, under the previous administration, Croydon's debt doubled to £1.6 billion. We, as a Borough, must now pay £47 million every year just to service this debt – roughly four times what it costs to collect the whole of Croydon's bins for a year.

Faced with very little alternative, it is right that Croydon Council has issued a S114 Notice to inform the Government that it will be impossible for the Borough to set a balanced budget for next year. I am now working with Mayor Perry and my ministerial colleagues in the Government to develop a workable plan to bring Croydon back to financial stability.

Through working together, we can once again make Croydon a place we can all be proud of.

I hope that you all had an enjoyable festive period and I wish you all the best for the year ahead.

Chris Philp

Member of Parliament, Croydon South: 020 7219 8026

chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk

~~

Travel Safe Advice from the Metropolitan Police

Millions of people travel on various forms of transport every day – whether it be buses, trains, the Underground, taxis, minicabs, pedicabs, two wheels and on foot. Here are some useful tips designed to help you stay safe.

Buses

Sit downstairs or close to the driver on a double-decker night bus, where they can see you.

Tubes and trains

Always try to avoid sitting in an empty carriage where you are more vulnerable.

Cycles

If you choose to travel by bike, do be extra careful, especially in traffic, and keep your distance from buses and large vehicles, as they may turn suddenly and not see you. And remember that we drive on the left.

Walking

Take great care when crossing the road. Always try to cross at marked crossing points and remember to look both ways as traffic, including cycles, may be coming from a different direction.

At night, avoid walking alone in places such as parks and side streets or any unfamiliar environment. If you must walk, then stick to busy places where there is a lot of activity and good lighting.

Taxis

Taxi cabs have a 'TAXI' light on the front, and fares are displayed on the meter. What's more, they can be hailed in the street, booked in advance by phone, online or via mobile phone apps, and can also be found at taxi ranks; for example, outside stations, airports, hotels and nightspots.



Minicabs

These look like any other private car. Most of them are licensed, from reputable companies and bookable by phone, online or via mobile phone apps. However, some are unlicensed and look for customers on the streets, usually at night.

While it's tempting after a night out to jump into the first 'minicab' you see, never get into an unbooked car because there will be no record of your journey or driver, and it puts you at risk of attack including sexual assault and robbery. They will also be uninsured in the event of an accident.

Booking your minicab means your trip will be carried out by a licensed, insured driver in a licensed, insured vehicle. A record of your journey, driver and vehicle will also be logged so that, in the event of any issues, the driver can be traced. Always be sure to make note of or take a picture of the vehicle's number plate and licence number.

Download Transport for London's free [Cabwise](#) app on your smartphone to book your nearest minicab or black cab.

Pedicabs (rickshaws)

These are legal but be careful as some drivers have been known to demand extremely large sums of money for very short rides.

So, remember, always use a booked and licensed minicab, taxi, bus or the Underground – and avoid dark, quiet areas.

~~

Selsdon Snow, 1927

As I write the snow is several inches deep in the back garden, but the snow on the road outside is beginning to clear, thanks in part to a visit by the Council gritting lorry and also due to a slight warming of the air. Social media is full of pretty pictures of snowy scenes and photos of cars abandoned in the road after a light dusting of the white stuff. It was not so mild in 1927 when the original Selsdonites were subjected to some abnormal weather conditions.

After a rainy Christmas Day the temperature dropped and snow and winds created a blizzard on Boxing Day which lasted into January. A resident of Queenhill Road reported that the snow was up to his bedroom window. Upper Selsdon Road was closed with 10-foot deep (3.8m) snow drifts at Arkwright Road and the Limpsfield Road at Hamsey Green was also closed for a week. Approximately 130 casual labourers were deployed around the affected area of the Urban District Council to clear the snow which, by this time, had frozen solid. It is not known how those early inhabitants of Selsdon managed to continue with their normal lives, whether commuting to Croydon or London or even visiting the sparse local shops which at that time consisted of only the two blocks of shops on the Broadway.



The Broadway, early 1930s

The shops comprised Welstead Dairies, a Butchers, a Chemist, a Tobacconist, a Ladies' Hairdressers, a Drapers, a Newsagent and a Grocers. All the essentials of everyday living but not very accessible in 10-foot snowdrifts.

There were precious few cars, (not that they would have been much use) little TV ownership and no mobile phones or internet. 'The 'Good Old Days'?

Ian Leggatt.

Thanks again to the journals of Ted Frith for a random paragraph on the 1927 Boxing Day Blizzard.

~~

A Good Time for Gardening – January

Interesting times – days and days of temperatures below freezing, with snow on the ground and then a sudden change up to double figures again. How do our poor plants cope?



This month we're looking at the plants that give us colour throughout the winter months, starting with Winter Flowering Clematis. The evergreen foliage and beautiful floral display are sure to impress. They look wonderful trained up a trellis, obelisk or through shrubs where they can climb and entwine.

Another winter favourite, Pansies come in such a wide range of colours that there really is something for everyone. An ideal plant for beginner gardeners as they are so incredibly easy to grow. Perfect for planting in containers, baskets and window boxes for you to enjoy colour from October all the way through to March.

During spells of winter sunshine, the sweet fragrance and lemon-yellow blooms of Coronilla will remind you of bright spring days. The very best choice if you live in coastal areas or you have a particularly windy garden.

Whilst other plants are inactive, Hellebores bring a magical touch to your garden with their luxuriant blousy blooms and abundant evergreen foliage. They may look dainty in appearance but don't be fooled as they are sturdy plants that will survive the cold temperatures of winter and remain awe-inspiring.



Camellia are such a coveted, low maintenance and extremely hardy shrub perfect for planting in a pot or a border. Your winter and spring garden will

sparkle with their extravagant blooms that the bees and butterflies love. Their evergreen foliage also ensures that there is always something to look at in the garden.



There's not a plant that represents the Christmas season more than Holly. As the winter season starts to arrive, vibrant, waxy berries contrast beautifully with the evergreen leaves, the ultimate festive colour combination. If you're looking for something to really add a vibrant punch of colour into your winter garden, then Cornus is the plant for you with its fiery-coloured bark. Incredibly easy to grow with unrivalled striking colour which instantly adds shape and form to any garden.

A little-known cousin of the Witch Hazel family, Loropetalum has stunning evergreen foliage which makes the perfect backdrop for the fluffy fragrant flowers that smother the plant in winter and spring. Ideal for small town gardens and happy in both containers and borders.



Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid
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The Selsdon Christmas Lights Switch-on

Fortunately, the evening of Friday 25 November was dry and not too cold for Father Christmas to come along on his sleigh and switch on the Selsdon Christmas Lights. The choir from Selsdon Primary School kicked the event off with wonderful carol singing outside the Village Club; they really sang magnificently and got the waiting crowds in the festive spirit. Soon afterwards, Father Christmas was seen coming down the High Street in his illuminated sleigh supplied by the Rotary Club for Sanderstead and Selsdon. The countdown for the lights then began.



Once Father Christmas had passed down the High Street and the lights were shining brightly, the sleigh turned round so he could get to his grotto just outside Iceland, to greet all the children waiting to tell him what they would like for Christmas.

After listening to all the children and giving them lollies, it was time for Father Christmas to mount his sleigh again and return home to continue his Christmas preparations.

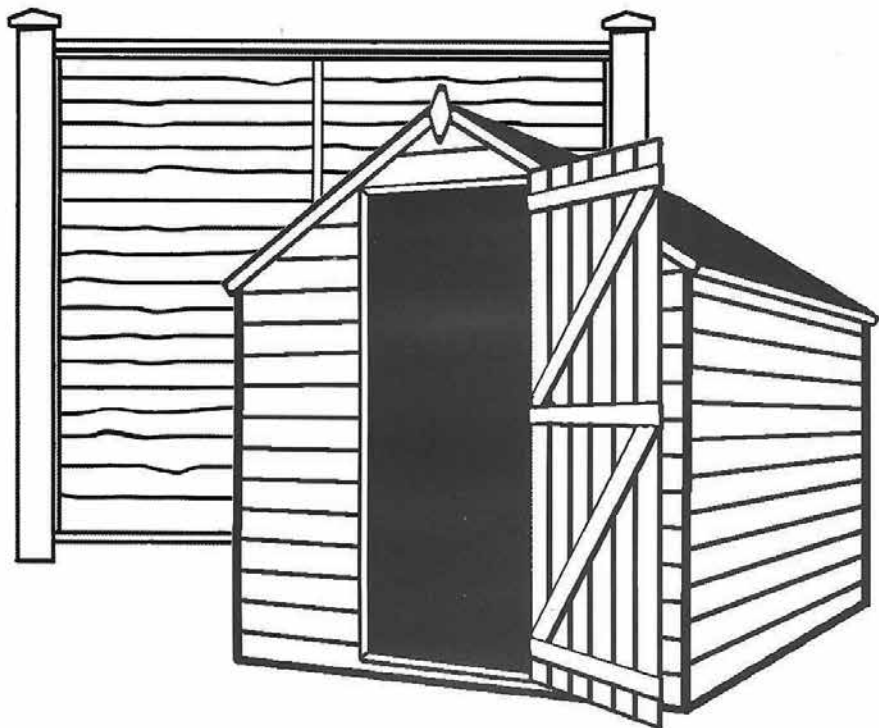


We must thank all those who sent or gave the SRA donations to pay for Selsdon's impressive Christmas lights. Special thanks must go to Linda

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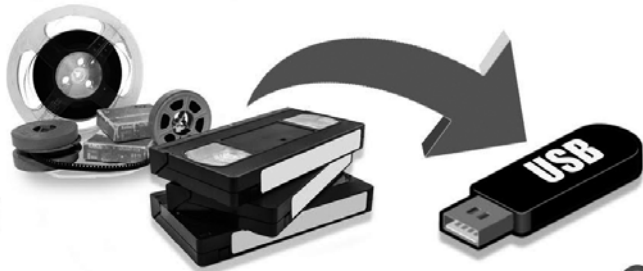
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Morris for, yet again, masterminding the event for the SRA. Thanks also go to the rest of the SRA committee, with their families, who helped make it a success. Thanks, must also be given to: Selsdon Baptist Church for supplying free tea, coffee and mince pies; Paul Meakin for supplying balloons for the children; our local police officers attending the event and keeping us safe and the families waiting patiently when Father Christmas was held up in the Selsdon traffic!

CJ

~~

ParkBathe

No, this is not an invitation to nudity in Selsdon, so please keep reading!

Recently, the Friends of Selsdon and Littleheath Woods were made aware of a new way to enjoy local green spaces. Whilst supporting the idea in principle, both felt that their existing guided walks programmes, (see the 2023 ones listed on their websites), was all they could undertake to provide with their existing resources and limited volunteers to lead such activities. However, we thought that perhaps there might be others of you out there who would be interested in doing some ParkBathing in any of our local green spaces – not just these two main woods, but maybe also in Kings Wood, Sanderstead Plantation, Selsdon Rec, Queenhill Playspace (plus adjacent parts of Croham Hurst) and even Foxearth Spinney as this activity does not need a large space in which to become aware of your surroundings more than usual. Using the smaller spaces would also perhaps put them on the map and encourage people using them to start to take care of them more. The SRA hopes that maybe the butterfly bank set



up last year, the two trees that they are planting in Selsdon Rec and the active use of the old pavilion now, might encourage a Friends group to be set up, there. Do contact Linda Morris if you wish for more details on that aspect of helping green Selsdon.

The idea of ParkBathing is to enjoy any green space for a short time in silence and without any other distractions such as dogs, children, phones etc. The mindful walks are led at a slow pace around the site for an hour so the

participants can learn to enjoy nature and their environment more for a stress-free period.

ParkBathe walks are suitable for all ages and abilities and provide practical exercises to encourage people who are sceptic about the benefits of being in nature to come along. The ensuing relaxation hopefully will then spill over into their everyday mind-set. There is a move for GPs to prescribe such stress-busting walks so it is more than just a 'new-fangled Green idea'! Why not give it a try – you could always finish with a chat with your new friends over a coffee at the café in the Rec or in the High Street?

If you think you would be interested in joining (or even leading) such a small group stroll (a max. of 10 is suggested, with 4-6 being ideal to maintain focus and avoid distraction), why not take a look at <https://linktr.ee/parkbathe> or contact Vanessa Potter via parkbathe@gmail.com as she is managing this community-led project in conjunction with the Council's Park Dept. The movement was originally part-funded by the National Lottery.

Vanessa is willing to take people on a trial session in their local space so please contact her if you feel you would like to test out this new way of benefitting from your local space. Perhaps you already have a small group of friends or neighbours you would like to do this with or you can leave it to her to advertise the trial session and see what interest that produces. Do let us know if you decide to try this – and the results you feel!

Linda Morris, SRA and Friends of Selsdon Wood

~~

A CONTINUING WALK-THROUGH LIFE

My Dad was a great walker, and as a young child living in the Selsdon in the 1940s, my brother and I spent many hours exploring the paths and bridleways of the many woodlands around our village.

In addition to the beautiful colours of the Autumnal tints, there were other reasons why this was a special time of year for me. First, because my birthday was on the 1st of October, and second, that in those days of wartime rationing we would go collecting chestnuts in Littleheath Woods. Later, in the evening we would all sit around the warmth of the coal fire, roasting the chestnuts for a very tasty treat. (Sweets were also rationed!)

When I grew up and had children of my own, I introduced them to the pleasures and health benefits of walking. Well, for them it was not exactly pleasure. They preferred building sandcastles on the sandy Welsh beaches, not my walks along the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path, or the Brecon Beacons!

However, the seed was sown, and now both are into walking Marathons, some of which are back in the areas of their childhood summer holidays, the much-disliked hills in Wales and the Welsh Marches.

Perhaps, just as a reminder of how much they hated their childhood summer holidays, this October at the age of 83, my two boys took me on a walking weekend which brought home to me the benefits that walking had bestowed upon me and them! This was not just a gentle stroll through magnificent countryside, but a full-on hike in the hills and valleys of the Welsh Marches!



I must be honest, this birthday “treat” was a surprise, sprung upon me without prior warning and I was very apprehensive about whether it was such a good idea. For my eightieth they had taken me for a week’s cycling in Snowdonia (cycling is my main activity since I retired) but I now had 3 more years of aches and pains and am not as nimble as I used to be. However, my apprehensions were ill founded and I loved it. So much so, that now, my New Year resolution for 2023 is to get back into the habit of more country walking. In fact, I have just this month taken the first steps to start this new habit!

Some 10 years ago, with one of my sons, we did a local, National Trust walk (two actually, in a figure of eight) and just recently on Sunday 4th December, I did part of the same walk with three of my cycling club friends instead of a Sunday bike ride. We drove to Westerham (free parking in the

main car park behind the parish church) and started the first part of our walk which took us to Chartwell. This is a short walk (2 miles each way) and suitable with shortened daylight hours of winter. The walk is available as a down-loadable map and detailed route instructions here: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/kent/chartwell/westerham-to-chartwell-trail>

In summer time, for a day out walking, from Chartwell you can continue with what I think is their most interesting and scenic local walk <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/kent/toys-hill/octavia-hill-centenary-trail-west>

Due to the very short daylight hours of December, we did not have time to do the whole walk. So, at Chartwell we joined the route at point 5 on the route instructions, where it goes from Chartwell/Mapleton Rd/ into Mariners. This is the very best part of all the local N.T walks, leading on to Crockham Hill and a circuit back to Chartwell. That is, from Point 5 to Point 12 on the relevant route instructions.

We just got back to Westerham before lighting up time – we spent too long having a hot cuppa in the local pub at Crockham Hill. It was a very cold day!

And to close, there is another NT walk in the same area, well worth doing. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/kent/chartwell/weardale-circular-walk-from-chartwell>

So, a Happy New Year to you all – and Happy Hiking!

Des Donohoe, ex-Abbey Rd, Selsdon Primary and Secondary!

~~



Quiz of the Year 2022

Test your knowledge of what happened in the year 2022 by trying to answer these 22 questions.

1. Which COVID variant was first detected in South Africa on 24 November 2021 and spread very fast at the beginning of 2022?
2. Where were the Winter Olympics held?
3. How many gold medals did Great Britain win at the 2022 Winter Olympics?
4. Who is the President of Ukraine?

5. Who slapped Chris Rock at the Oscar ceremony?
6. Which British singer cancelled her Vegas residency at the beginning of 2022?
7. Visiting the UK in mid-February, what were Dudley and Eunice?
8. Which company made 786 of its staff redundant, without prior consultation, on 17 March 2022?
9. In March 2022, which oldest recorded town became the UK's newest city?
10. Ukraine wins the Eurovision Song Contest in Turin, the UK came second with which song?
11. Who resigned after losing the confidence of the Mayor of London?
12. Which city was stripped of football's Champions League final?
13. Lost during Ernest Shackleton's exploration in 1915, researchers in the Antarctic announce they found which ship?
14. By what name was American singer Michael Lee Aday known professionally?
15. The Lionesses beat which team in extra-time in the final of the EUROS 2022?
16. What did Queen Elizabeth II always keep in her handbag for emergencies?
17. Sadly, which legend was lost to sport while holidaying in Thailand?
18. Which senior civil servant found social gatherings 'difficult to justify'?
19. It was announced that Ncuti Gatwa would be getting which role?
20. How many days was Liz Truss in office as Prime Minister?
21. Which member of the royal family took part in I'm A Celebrity 2022?
22. What was the most-watched Netflix series of 2022?

Answers after Nature Notes

~~



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

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

I had this letter from one regular contributor about a mystery visitor to his garden.

Dear Editor,

Our Fabulous, Fat, Feathered Friend!



You will probably remember Sunday 11th December, the day that the so-called weather event – The Troll from Trondheim - unleashed its sub-zero polar blast. We awoke to a very severe frost. At first, I thought it was snow, but that didn't arrive until about 5 o'clock that evening - nearly 2 inches of it!

As usual that morning, when I got up and pulled back the curtains - there was our fat, feathered friend awaiting his early morning breakfast! All puffed up to about the size of a football, to insulate

against the bitter cold of the sub-zero temperature.

But what is it? Have you ever seen one of these large, strange birds in your back garden?

No neither had we when it first appeared on our bedroom windowsill, one May morning nearly 2 years ago. We were awoken by a tap-tap-tapping on our bedroom window just as the dawn sun was lightening up the sky. This continued each morning until our visitor realised that if it waited a few hours longer, it would get a "late breakfast" if it performed its tapping routine on our downstairs, french doors.

Our first reaction to our strange daily visitor, was to find out what it was. This was quickly answered because my wife's brother held a professorship at Cardiff University, and his specialism was ornithology! So, his immediate reply was that our feathered friend was a **Red Legged Partridge**.

It is described thus:

"Also known as the 'French partridge', it was introduced to the UK from western Europe during the 1700s as a new gamebird. The red-legged partridge is quite a large, round bird and easily identified by its very distinctive plumage - sandy, grey-brown above, with intricate black and brown barring on its sides, and a white throat surrounded by a black necklace. It is known as the Red Legged Partridge because it has a bright red beak and pink-red legs.

Being a game bird it can be spotted in its favoured open scrub and farmland habitats, where it feeds on seeds, leaves and small invertebrates. When disturbed, it prefers to run instead of fly, but will fly short distances if necessary. It breeds in open scrub and farmland, laying its eggs on the ground."

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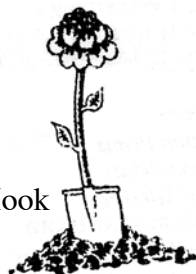
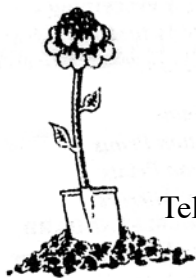
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How our lovely Red Leg found its way from open scrub to our enclosed garden in the Greater London metropolis is a mystery. It is not a stupid bird, quite the contrary. After it first appeared in May 2021, it did not take it long to find out that if it walked back and forth along the outside step of our french doors, tap – tapping at each end, it got fed. Most days it does this in the morning and evening – two meals a day! Without any companionship from any other Red Legs, but being well fed, it clearly appeared to feel at home in our enclosed garden!



But it has not lost its ability to fly. When threatened by local cats and foxes, our Red Leg is a very fast sprinter. Only when it gets to our surrounding garden fence, does it take to the air as a last resort. But it can, and does fly, when it feels so inclined. On summer evenings it likes to stand on the very top of our roof's ridge tiles,

making a sort of clucking noise. Perhaps this is a mating call, as yet and unlikely to be answered in this un-natural habitat.

But now things have changed. After the frosty morning and 2 inches of snow, the next morning we found this. No sign of our fat feathered friend! Only dull, grey, greedy pigeons.

We do hope so much, that our special long-term guest is safe, well, and will soon return.

Des Donohoe

In the November Gazette, Joyce Hoad described some of the Myths surrounding the Selsdon Park Hotel. I received this letter from one of our readers.

~~

Dear Editor,

Following Joyce Hoad's interesting history in the November issue, I thought I would forward a picture I found in an antique shop in Bath about 30 years ago.

The hotel management at the time were not too interested, they also have later pictures showing a much larger house. I have always enjoyed looking at this one.



Kind regards, Mike Gillott

Another reader was pleased to find out that he could get hold of the gazette online if his delivery of the printed version was held up.

Dear Editor,

I had not previously realised that the pdf version of the Gazette is put on the website well before the printed one reaches us. Presumably you put it on the site when it is sent off to the printers. Could you give me the approximate timetable for that so I can check the website?

Kind regards, Name and address supplied

We try to have the online version of the Gazette on the SRA website by the beginning of the month.

~~

In the December Gazette I reported that old postage stamps had to be used by 31 January or swapped for the new barcoded ones. However, one reader thought differently.

Dear Editor,

Widely reported extension has been granted. Consulting this website <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/news/2022/11/nonbarcoded-stamps-summer-2023-delay-royal-mail/> we learn the following:

“You now have until 31 July 2023 to use any non-barcoded everyday stamps – those with the Queen’s profile on – before they become worthless. Alternatively, you can swap them for barcoded versions for free through the Royal Mail scheme.

In February, Royal Mail announced it would scrap so-called ‘definitive’ stamps – ‘everyday’ stamps featuring the profile of the Queen against a plain-coloured background – from 31 January 2023. After this date you would only be able to use barcoded stamps with the Queen’s profile on, or non-barcoded Christmas or ‘special collection’ stamps.

However, in a U-turn following discontent from customers, Royal Mail has extended the deadline for a further six months, meaning you now have until 31 July 2023 to use these stamps. Royal Mail said it recognised that customers needed more time to use up their remaining non-barcoded stamps.”

or has it?

The Royal Mail website <https://www.royalmail.com/sending/barcoded-stamps> does not mention this. I am a tad confused BUT RM Group have NOT contradicted media reports.

Michael Howells

~~

Here our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, looks forward to spring

Although we are almost three quarters of the way through January, “Happy New Year!”.

By now all the New Year resolutions made so confidently in December, have mostly been broken, although probably there is the odd resolution one is attempting hard to adhere to.

If I fail to keep my new year resolution about dieting, then I naughtily give up something for Lent, such as not eating chocolate, or cake, which has the same effect as vowing to diet for January. It is very difficult but in persevering, it is giving me a second chance. Not quite what Lent is about. Not a very slim me either!

In January, we look for snowdrops. The bulbs are breaking through the ground but not in bloom at this point, if foxes haven't dug them up! This did happen once to me, when I used a fertilizer containing blood and bone. Maybe the one I used, had too much bone in it! The winter flowering jasmine is usually blooming and the heather is wonderful.

With our global warming currently forgotten because of ice and snow and turned down heating, thoughts of hoped for holidays in hot and sunny places keep us going through the dark days of winter. Once February is gone the small daffodils are up, nodding their golden heads at the oncoming spring light, along with the blue muscari. How wonderful Spring is, after winter. Not long to wait for Spring!

Poetry Corner

This month *Mary Gill* reminds us to dispose of our litter carefully.

CONFLAGRATION

Broken glass, abandoned on a hillside
by some too careless rambler weeks ago,
focusses the sunlight without purpose,
kindling a flame amidst the bracken -
long shrivelled by relentless heat and drought.

With terrifying speed, the fire takes hold,
increasing unobserved until too late.
Control is now beyond the pow'r of Man,
as hungry flames search restlessly for fuel.

The smell of fear is stronger than the stench
of the choking smoke and burning timber
as animals and humans flee their homes.
When there is nothing left to feed the fire
it dies beside its nemesis – the sea.



Surveying that dear place, they once called home
they see only a blackened wilderness.
Here and there a metallic skeleton
bearing witness to a human presence
but priceless, precious artifacts they prized -
sad victims of the fire - are all consumed.

We have another poem this month, written by a young girl for Senior Appreciation Day.

RESILIENCE by Gabriella-Rose Miller

Never ever give up or lose hope.
Don't be sad all day and cry and mope.
Cause God has a great plan just for you.
To help you with whatever you plan to do.

All you have to do is believe and have faith

That in Heaven there is something glorious to await.
Be grateful and enjoy this blissful moment in life.
Be kind to others and avoid unfriendly strife.

Even when you're old, when grey hair appears
God will sustain you, so do not fear.
Grey hair is a great big crown of glory
Nothing to be ashamed of or mocked in stories.

You need not ever be anxious of the time
As God will find you like a diamond in a mine.
Many things in life may appear dead or broken
But one man's loss is another man's great token.

With God's love we have a great purpose.
In him we have meaning so we're not worthless.

The broken can be mended
The sick can be healed
The unwise can be schooled
Yes, with God anything is possible.

Now let's show everyone the love we have mercifully received.
So much love and kindness that we will believe.



~~

Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth – Feeding

A tree feeds in two ways: The leaves capture energy from the sun and use photosynthesis to create sugars which are distributed to other parts of the tree including the roots, secondly the roots absorb nutrients and water from the soil, sometimes with the aid of mycorrhizal fungi, and combine these with the sugars to help the tree to grow.

Slime moulds are single-celled organisms which absorb bacteria and algae and for much of the time they are virtually invisible. They tend to be noticed only when the cells congregate together to create spores.

There are thousands of different kinds of fungi but a common factor is that the basic mycelium feeds by releasing organic acids and enzymes to digest organic and other materials which are then absorbed. Some fungi share these materials with specific trees through their roots while other

fungi will simply cause decay of the material upon which they are growing and feeding. Peniophora fungi form a thin, almost invisible, coating on branches and on occasion these are fed upon by another fungus such as Yellow Brain. There are other parasitic couplings but the Parasitic Bolete which grows on Common Earthballs may have more of a cooperative action rather than parasitic. The behaviour of the Powdercap Strangler is more extreme. It parasitises the Earthy Powdercap mushroom in such a way that the bottom part is composed of the stem of the original mushroom while the top part is the Strangler.

Aphids get their nutrients by piercing a plants cells and sucking up the sugary juice. This is of interest to ants which treat a group of aphids like a captive herd which they “milk” to get the sweet honeydew released by the aphids. Ants will collect plant material which they cannot digest but by feeding it to a fungal garden in the ant nest they can then feed on the fungus.

Scarlet Caterpillar Club is a bright red club fungus above the soil but below ground it is a parasite on buried insect larvae. Many small wasps or flies feed their own grubs by laying their eggs directly into the body of another living insect such as a caterpillar which continues to survive while parts of its inside tissues are eaten by the parasitizing grubs.

Ground Beetles and Slow-worms employ little subterfuge as they attack their slug prey directly. Moles, likewise, when they encounter an earthworm in an underground tunnel, will not hesitate to devour it.



Many small birds feed on a wide range of insect prey whether foraging for their own food or to feed nestlings. In spring there are many caterpillars feeding on leaves and these form a favourite food, but spiders, beetles, aphids and other insects are equally acceptable. Beetle grubs in decaying wood are collected by woodpeckers, nuthatches and tits. Treecreepers search for insects hidden in crevices in the bark on trees and

in winter tit flocks will pick out insect eggs, small pupae and occasional caterpillars waiting for spring to arrive.

As can be seen from this small survey there are many ways of acquiring nutrients and we have not even mentioned berries and nuts nor the prey taken by owls and raptors. If there is a chance for feeding some organism or creature will take that chance.

The Selsdon Gazette Needs Advertisers!



If you are a local business, please consider placing an advert in the Gazette. The Gazette can be accessed online on the SRA website and is delivered to about 4000 households in Selsdon for 11 months of the year.

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.

Please note the Gazette team has no control over the position of the advert in the Gazette. The adverts are placed randomly each month by the printer in order to reduce the production costs. The final printing of the Gazette is in black and white.

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Answers to the Quiz of the Year 2022

1. Omicron
2. Beijing, China
3. 1 in curling
4. Volodymyr Zelenskyy
5. Will Smith
6. Adele
7. Storms
8. P&O Ferries
9. Colchester
10. Space Man (sung by Sam Ryder)
11. Cressida Dick (Metropolitan Police Commissioner)
12. Saint Petersburg (UEFA moved the venue from Russia to Paris)
13. Endurance
14. Meat Loaf (September 27, 1947 – January 20, 2022)
15. Germany
16. Marmalade sandwiches
17. Shane Warne
18. Sue Gray
19. Doctor Who
20. 45
21. Mike Tindall
22. Stranger Things

~~

Words of the Year 2022

Collin's Dictionary has announced its Word of the Year as **Permacrisis**.

Here is their list of the top 10 words and phrases in alphabetical order, plus their definitions in full. How many do you use?



Permacrisis	An extended period of instability and insecurity, especially one resulting from a series of catastrophic events.
Carolean	Of or relating to Charles III of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or his reign.
Kyiv	The capital of Ukraine, on the Dnipro River.
Lawfare	The strategic use of legal proceedings to intimidate or hinder an opponent.

Partygate	A political scandal over social gatherings held in British government offices during 2020 and 2021 in defiance of the public health restrictions that prevailed at the time.
Quiet quitting	The practice of doing no more work than one is contractually obliged to do, especially in order to spend more time on personal activities; the practice of doing little or no work while being present at one's place of employment.
Splloating	The act of lying flat on the stomach with the legs stretched out.
Sportswashing	The sponsorship or promotion of sporting events in order to enhance a tarnished reputation or distract attention from a controversial activity.
Vibe shift	A significant change in a prevailing cultural atmosphere or trend.
Warm bank	A heated building where people who cannot afford to heat their own homes may go.

The Oxford Dictionary has given their Word of the Year Award to **Goblin mode**. 'Goblin mode' – a slang term, often used in the expressions 'in goblin mode' or 'to go goblin mode' – is 'a type of behaviour which is unapologetically self-indulgent, lazy, slovenly, or greedy, typically in a way that rejects social norms or expectations.'

In second place was **metaverse**.

The term 'metaverse' describes 'a (hypothetical) virtual reality environment in which users interact with one another's avatars and their surroundings in an immersive way, sometimes posited as a potential extension of or replacement for the internet, World Wide Web, social media, etc.'

In third place was **#IStandWith**

Used on social media to express solidarity with a specific cause, group, or person, '#IStandWith' has been identified as a way for people to communicate their opinions and align their stances on specific events. It is how people demonstrate activism online and speak out for what they believe in.

~~

The Younger Generation Theatre Group

The Younger Generation Theatre Group (YG to its friends) is a performing arts club for 9- to 18-year-olds. It was originally started over 30 years ago by Frank Graves, who wanted to set up a stage group for South London

children to get the chance to perform on a professional stage. The shows are a similar style to the Scouts' 'Gang Shows'. Each year a theme is chosen, then the production team put together a series of numbers that fit the theme. The show is a team effort: there are no individual stars. All of our cast are 'Stars' which is why in our programme we always have the cast in alphabetical order and, in the finale, everyone is dressed the same.

We rehearse the show every Sunday afternoon starting in April, at St Mark's Church Hall in Purley, culminating in performing the show in a professional theatre in August. For many years this was the Ashcroft Theatre at the Fairfield Halls, but while that was being refurbished, we performed at the Harlequin Theatre at Redhill. Next year we are hoping to return to the Ashcroft.



The shows include many styles of dance - tap, ballet, street, modern, acro - and a huge variety of genres of music. The show is created depending on the abilities of who we have signed up for the cast that year. Everyone is involved in at least six numbers as we build up the confidence of the young cast. Those involved in YG make lifelong friendships, and often continue with the group after they turn 18 to be involved as leaders.

YG is affiliated with NODA and received the NODA Flame award for "Outstanding Training for Young People in the Fields of Music and Dance". We have also received The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Over the years we have taken part in The Lord Mayor's Parade, the New Year's Day Parade in London, the Queen Mother's Birthday Parade and the Golden Jubilee celebrations.

YG is a charity, so we depend on fund raising activities. You may have seen us bag packing in Sainsburys, or running a soft toy tombola at a summer fete. We are also signed up with the Jack Petchey Award Scheme celebrating achievement amongst both the cast and leaders. We make the annual subscription as low as is feasible to cover costs – a fraction of the cost of similar stage school clubs.

Right now, YG is at a bit of a crisis point. We couldn't perform during the pandemic years and during that time a lot of our core cast members turned 18 and moved away. We are now trying to relaunch, but what we need more than anything else is enthusiastic young people who would like to join us, make some great friendships and show off to their hearts' content every Sunday.

If you are, or are the parent, guardian, uncle, aunt, or grandparent of someone who is just itching to get a chance to perform on a stage, please have a look at our website www.youngergeneration.co.uk where you will find a link to videos of some of our performances. Use the online form to contact us, find us on Facebook and Instagram, or if you prefer ring Diane on 07966 500628 who can answer any questions you may have. Our audition dates will be on 26th February and 26th March, starting at 13:40 and there is a £5 admin fee which can be paid on arrival. We look forward to hearing from you.

Karen Joel

~~

Selsdon Contact Neighbourhood Care 2023 – Our Golden Year

Contact

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Fax: 020 8657 2268

Email: info@selsdoncontact.org.uk



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

Back in the early days of the 1970s, Britain was experiencing hard times – strikes, three-day week and power cuts (sound familiar!). Many of Selsdon's residents at that time had moved to the area when the first houses were built in the 1930s and were now retired and looking for help and support in difficult times. The Revd. Jacques Wilmington, Vicar at St. John's, gathered together a group of people to see what could be done and the idea for a neighbourhood care group was formed.

It was launched on 10th July 1973 and thanks to the drive and energy of a team led by the redoubtable Anne Hill, Contact – Selsdon Churches Good Neighbour Scheme was born. There are still residents in Selsdon who helped at that time.

Over the years we have been supported by all of Selsdon's churches –

St. John's, St. Columba's RC, Selsdon Baptists, St. Francis, Croydon Jubilee Church. The need for a place for local retired people to meet was identified and, after extensive fundraising, the original Selsdon Centre for the Retired opened in 1979.

Despite the building of new housing in the 1970s, Selsdon still has the highest number of residents over 65 in the borough and Contact's services are both necessary and much used and appreciated. Our shopping bus, transport to and from medical appointments, information and advice, help with form filling, practical services such as our smoke alarm scheme, loan equipment and, perhaps most important of all, a friendly call. Our fantastic office volunteers undertook to call each and every one of our nearly 300 clients every week throughout the Covid lockdowns.

None of this would be possible without our lovely manager, Jasmine Singh, her team of office volunteers, the minibus drivers and those who take clients to medical appointments, pick up prescriptions, maintain smoke alarms, help with online applications, provide cakes and help at our coffee mornings, outings and social events and lots more besides.

We have been successful in bidding for funding through the LB of Croydon over previous years but, in their present financial crisis, this will cease in 2023. We have been fortunate with some generous legacies which will keep us ticking over for a short while but will need to look to fundraising for the future.

We will be holding a series of celebratory events in 2023 – one date for the calendar is Sunday 9th July when we will be holding a thanksgiving service at St. John's followed by a celebration tea.

Look out for further events.

Thank you, residents of Selsdon, for supporting us over the past 50 years. We would love to hear your memories of earlier days of Contact and look forward to your continued support.

Best wishes for 2023



What busy few weeks it has been on the run up to Christmas. Santa switched on the Xmas Lights in both Selsdon & Sanderstead, has held 'Breakfast & Supper sessions with Santa' at Chelsham Knights, whilst visiting Sanderstead, Selsdon & Hamsey Green throughout December, with Xmas Eve outside the shops in Elmfield Parade.



Just as we catch our breath, we are having breakfast & delivering Xmas food parcels to elderly housebound folks across our areas, on Christmas morning.

Santa cannot thank you enough for your generosity & coming out to see him on his journey. December is the most exciting month for Santa who visited so many of his chums &

managed over 150 'Shout outs'. Santa had a blast!

We are so very grateful for those who volunteered to help with the collections. If you are interested in volunteering, please get in touch with me directly. What of the new year? We will be holding our Annual Quiz on Saturday 4th March 2023 at St Antony's Church Hall in Hamsey Green. Our annual Ramble will be held on Sat 20th May; it starts & ends at St Mary's Church Hall Farleigh, where you can gather sponsorship for the charity of your choice, retain 60%, with the remaining 40% supporting our Rotary charities. Our annual Reachout day for the elderly will be held on 17th June at All Saints Church Hall in Sanderstead. More details will follow but do please put these dates in your diary now. There are many more events in 2023 & all details will follow.

We are very excited about the defib units which will be launched at All Saints Church Hall in Sanderstead in January, plus Sanderstead Library, the new Totstars Nursery in Selsdon & St John's Church Hall, Selsdon. All will be installed & launched in early 2023.



Watch our Facebook page in December after Xmas where we will feature

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just what we do with the amazing funds you so kindly donated in December.
Thank you for your ongoing support - Rotary & Santa Rock

Wendy A Parr (President)

Rotary Sanderstead & Selsdon (07774-186792)

Rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com

<https://www.facebook.com/rotarycroydonsouth/>

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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 TBA per annum. We have demonstrations and practices. All abilities welcome.



January 11 Enrolment and AGM -Tea, non-alcoholic Fizz,
nibbles and

an optional small arrangement.

February 8 Practice - Winter Theme in a box or basket

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

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Chinese New Year 2023 – 23rd January

Chinese New Year will fall on Monday 23rd January 2023. As a public holiday, Chinese people will get 7 days off work from 22nd January until 28 January 2023. Traditionally celebrations of Chinese New Year last for 16 days, starting from Chinese New Year's Eve to the Lantern Festival. So, the most notable dates of the Chinese Lunar New Year 2023 are these three days:

New Year's Eve on 22nd January 2023

New Year's Day on 23rd January 2023

The Lantern Festival on 6th February 2023



RABBIT 兔

The Chinese zodiac gives each year an animal sign and 2023 is a Year of the Rabbit, specifically, the Water Rabbit. The Rabbit is seen as a calm, gentle, quick and alert and this animal sign has become a symbol of peace, prosperity, and longevity in Chinese culture. Thus, 2023 is predicted to be a year of hope.

Recent years of the Rabbit are 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011

People born in a year of the Rabbit are called “Rabbits” and are believed to be **vigilant, witty, quick-minded, and ingenious.**

Famous people born in the Year of the Rabbit include Queen Victoria, Albert Einstein, Amy Johnson, Michelle Obama, David Beckham, George Michael and Lionel Messi.

The year of the Rabbit ends February 9, 2024.

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Croydon Society of Model Engineers (CSME)

The CSME has been associated with Selsdon for many years. This year and previously in 2021, they have had a stand at the Craft Fair in St John’s Church Hall, Selsdon. This was organised by the Selsdon & Sanderstead Rotary Club. This is the 90th anniversary of the formation of the CSME in 1932. In 1950 they met at the Waldrons, Duppas Hill, Croydon, and in the 1960s they moved to Lingfield Road Sports Ground, Addiscombe where they were able to construct an oval railway track for steam locomotives of gauges 3 ½” & 5” of 300 ft length. This fell into disrepair due to frost damage, vandalism and declining membership. In the 1980s the meetings were moved to the scout hut behind St John’s Church Hall, as the sports ground was required for development. Funds were short, so a move was then made to the Forum, Forestdale.

The picture shows this year’s stand and members at the Craft Fair St John’s Church Hall. The locomotives are live steam and displayed on the bottom left of the photo is the Burrell traction engine which was run on compressed air; the builder of this is also responsible for the numerous working wood models displayed. A much smaller scale depicted a village with 009-gauge railway, which folds into a standard box file, along with a train of detailed rolling stock. The GWR Diesel railcar is a very detailed



1/12th scale working model, this is a replica of 38 built for GWR in 1933 and still in service into the 1960s. Also on show is a miniature stationary steam engine and railway wagons; model boats also feature in the club. The club caters for anything in miniature or of specific interest, such as the 3D printer in action making a coaster representing the CSME logo. I joined the club in 1949 so detailed history before then is sketchy. The chairman then was John Stringer, inventor and manufacturer of the EW lathe at Addiscombe. Notable members at the time were Fred Miles of Onward Motors South Croydon and John Truett of Truett & Steel Ltd, Croydon. Other members on the club's books are John Sage, a shoe repairer, an ambulance driver, Steve Baker and son who were based at BR Selhurst and two brothers, Bill & G Thorn, one a tool maker the other a BT employee. One of our members helped construct a model of HMS Magpie which was presented to The Duke of Edinburgh. This proves you don't have to be an engineer to get involved, all are welcome!

D.J.Redrupp

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Soul Symphony Choir

Soul Symphony Choir is a fun, friendly and vibrant choir based in Croydon. It is directed by the talented Joanne Miller. We are recruiting for new

members, so come and sing with us.



Choir members enjoy helping our community and reaching out to those who may appear to be less integrated into society. We have shared a variety of uplifting music throughout Croydon and London, from Care Homes, churches and fundraising for charities to winning in Choral sections of the Croydon Performing Arts Festival and Sutton Music Festival.

Here is a very brief account from Joanne Miller about the Choir's recent presentation in a local Care Home together with photos from the event: "It was an absolute privilege to spend time with the Cedar View residents. Through Soul Symphony Choir's presentation, we brought different experiences into the Care Home for all to enjoy. The positive benefits of singing are significant, particularly for those living with dementia. It can unlock memories, reduce anxiety and bring people together. It was wonderful to see the joy on residents' faces with our feel-good songs." Claire Jones, the Lead Life Style Coordinator at Cedar View Care Home wrote: "I want to say a big thank you for your visit this past Sunday. Our residents, staff and relatives really enjoyed your visit and singing."



Soul Symphony Choir rehearse on Tuesday evenings from 7.00pm at St Columba's RC Church, 37 Queenhill Road, Selsdon CR2 8DW. There are no auditions, just come because you have the joy of singing. Register your interest by emailing info@soulymphony.co.uk or come along on Tuesday 17 January 2023 (or the week afterwards).

Soul Symphony Choir is a dynamic and enthusiastic choir with lots of energy. So come along, make new like-minded friends, and do something you love to do!

THE ANERLEY BICYCLE CLUB

Don't be confused by the name!

For many years the Anerley Bicycle Club has been based at Purley and is the nearest cycling club of note, to Selsdon. It was started in 1881 by schoolboys at Dulwich College, the founding father (a dad) and son lived in Anerley.

It is fair to say that the majority of the current membership are 50+ Many like me being retired. Hence there are organised rides most days of the week. (Except during this very cold spell!)

In recent years there has been a significant increase in the number of ladies in our club. Some rides are organised by the ladies, so no discrimination!

For more information about the Anerley Bicycle Club go to <https://anerleybc.org/category/join-us/>



For much more detail of what we actually do, and showing our diverse male and female membership, follow the top menu item “Gazette” which is our monthly digital magazine. The December issue provides a roundup of some of the things that we did this year (2022) and what we will be doing next year (2023) – including away days in Wiltshire and Snowdonia.

I am sure that there will be other Selsdon residents who might like to join those who are already members, or just to try one or more trial rides with us.

Des Donohoe (des.oldselsdon@gmail.com)

Thermostats, Understanding their Function



Thermostats are fitted to all manner of items, most commonly seen in laundry irons and in electric fires, either convector type or fan heaters. They are also fitted to domestic boilers and room temperature can be controlled by a wall mounted thermostat. They are simply a bimetallic strip or electronic temperature sensitive device, all adjustable by a knob of different shapes. A thermostat is basically an 'ON' / 'OFF' switch. Generally, the colder the ambient temperature the more often it will switch on. As an example, if the thermostat is set to 20 degrees Celsius and it is colder than that, then it will stay 'ON' until the room reaches the set temperature; turning the knob to a higher temperature will not make the room heat up any quicker.

Many electric heaters have an option of switching to different levels of heat delivery i.e., settings 1, 2 or 3. Selecting 3 will heat the area quicker, but will have no bearing on the thermostat, other than the thermostat will switch to the OFF position sooner. Fan and convector heaters have an additional thermostat which is hidden inside the heater so is non-adjustable, this prevents the apparatus overheating to a dangerous level should the outward airflow become blocked. Many appliances have this hidden thermostat such as welding sets and electric motors.

There are thermostats in our motor cars too, to control the engine temperature. The thermostat device is not electrical as previously mentioned but does control the flow of the cooling water. These used to be known as wax thermostats, whereby the wax contained in a capsule, expands or contracts so controlling the rate of flow of water past it. The wax thermostats used to cost about £5, plus a fitting charge. With modern technology it is now computer controlled so any replacements start at £250 and no longer simple to explain how they work, like it used to be!

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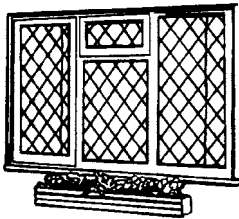
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A SELECTED LIST OF SELSDON ORGANISATIONS

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

Arts Society Croydon Area	Jean Aarons	Website: https://tascroydonarea.org.uk	
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: www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk		
Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section			
Girlguiding UK: http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved.aspx		0800 169 5901	
Parkinson's UK Croydon & District	Jacky Green	01737 355487	
Police (Selsdon & Ballards SNT)	Beat Officer:	8721 2464	
RSPB, Croydon Local Group	John Davis	8640 4578	
Rotary 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	www.sandersteadlhg.co.uk		
Sanderstead Plantation Partners	Michael Lishmund	020 8651 2760	
1 st Selsdon & Addington Scout Group:	Website: www.1stselsdon.org.uk		
Beaver Colony (6-8yrs)	beavers.1stselsdon@gmail.com		
Cub Pack (8-10yrs)	cubs.1stselsdon@gmail.com		
Scouts Troop (10-14yrs)	scouts.1stselsdon@gmail.com		
Croham Valley Explorers	Anthony Woodin	020 8651 3780	
2 nd Selsdon & Addington Scout Group:	Website: www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk		
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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