

# The Selsdon — Gazette —

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January 2020



# THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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There is no August Gazette.

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**Front cover image credit:** Trevor Snowden, Looking From a Leafy Surrey Suburb towards the Concrete of Croydon.

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# **SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

selsdonresidents@yahoo.co.uk

## ***Executive Committee 2019/2020***

President:	R. H. R. Adamson	
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	Yvonne Huber, 121 Farley Road CR2 7NL	8657 4576
	Ernie Sweeney, 2 Mountwood Close CR2 8RJ	8657 3815
	Su Yates, 10 Foxearth Road CR2 8ED	8657 9284
	Peter Underwood, 12a Abbey Road, CR2 8NG	8651 0601
	Ian Leggatt, 53 Queenhill Road, CR2 8DW	8651 1140
	Phil Roberts, 44 Dulverton Road, CR2 8PG	07511 431207
	Jenny Stawman	
	Arthur Wilson	

## **One Committee Vacancy**

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

Cllr Helen Pollard	Helen.pollard@croydon.gov.uk	0207 617 7310
Cllr Robert Ward	Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk	07783 152363

### ***Councillors for Selsdon Vale & Forestdale Ward***

Stuart Millson	Stuart.millson@croydon.gov.uk	07783 152376
Andy Stranack	Andrew.stranack@croydon.gov.uk	07816 123204

### ***Councillors for Sanderstead Ward***

Cllr Lyn Hale	Lynne.hale@croydon.gov.uk	0208 405 6721
Cllr Yvette Hopley	Yvette.hopley@croydon.gov.uk	0208 404 3462
Cllr Tim Pollard	councillor@timpollard.co.uk	0208 251 8500

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



## **Editor's Note**

Request! Volunteer?  
Edit! The Selsdon Gazette.  
O.K.! I am here.

Happy New Year, Be Prosperous and Healthy.  
Worthwhile resolutions. Good Luck with them, Dear Reader, and with your personal resolutions, too.

Allow me to introduce myself: I'm Derek Barnes and I live in Selsdon. Since moving here twenty-odd years ago I look from my window each day and my heart leaps with pleasure. Selsdon can be so beautiful, and I'm lucky enough to have an aspect that constantly changes. It's almost like having a succession of landscape paintings drifting past my kitchen window every day; watercolours by Cozens JR, Turner, Constable and others. Unless it's foggy. And there's often too much water and not enough colour.

Another attraction has been The Selsdon Gazette, which has always had a welcome reception in my home, as in thousands of others. Our copy might have four or more readers and, I suspect, this experience applies to many other Residents.

I'm an avid reader, I enjoy music and languages. And I like to be amused; even the simplest things can make me laugh. My belief is that amusing things are often enlightening in some way, and that they should be valued as such. Enlightenment is often entertaining, while dry, dusty textbooks are, mostly, neither of those.

My intention is to enhance, not change, the magazine that we enjoy, and to build a little on what The Gazette can share and give to us all. Accordingly, practically and correspondingly, I ask for your help in this, as you'll see inside, and in following editions. Watch for new mini-bits, and old bits that might have been interred prematurely. Remember, Residents, that it's your magazine, too, so please chip in.

Finally, Dear Reader, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Selsdon Residents' Association for bestowing on me the honour of editing this august publication.

**db**

## **Inside this Edition**

A new year, new goals, new things to learn; Janet Sharp's article, Life Long Learning, is an excellent practical guide to keeping our bodies active and our minds interested. What was that thing you always intended to learn? Janet points out the ways.

We have received a good parcel of information and news from Councillor Helen Pollard, including important local development proposals.

This month's Local Policing section has answers to the questions that Residents ask about local patrols and other preventative measures. For the first edition of 2020 I'm devoting extra space to this. We are lucky to have such a communicative Officer in Jack Killian of the Selsdon and Forestdale Safer Neighbourhood Team, who has spent some time putting this piece together. I, personally, find both this and his letter most reassuring. I commend them to your attention.



Ian Leggatt tells us about World Health Organisation findings in respect of threats to our local trees, and what the loss of them would mean to us, in a follow-up article on our arboreal co-residents.

Jessica Blake has written about the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Suez Canal, including details that are not widely known.

Something that we've all been waiting for...the Short Story Competition results and Award!

Des Donohoe continues to relate his fond and interesting memories of Selsdon.

An engaging Valentine recipe, and easy ways to cook nice rice.

 SUBMISSIONS FOR THE FEBRUARY 2020 EDITION  
SHOULD BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN  
20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY - PREFERABLY BEFORE! 

## **SRA News 'n' Views**

### **Croydon Council Street Champions**

The Croydon Council Street Champions is a network of residents who volunteer to improve the area they live in by working with the Council. The Council provides support by helping volunteers organise litter-picks and responding to reports of fly tipping. They also provide equipment and materials for the litter-picks including brooms, litter-pickers, gloves and bags - so there is no expense to volunteers, just their time and effort. All rubbish is collected by the Council afterwards. You can email [champions@croydoncouncil.gov](mailto:champions@croydoncouncil.gov) or phone 0208 726 6200/ 07825 103 788 for more advice or to volunteer. Let's make Selsdon part of this push to clean up Croydon.

### **Christmas Lights**

We have also received further donations from the local traders Paul Meakin and Salon 7. Our thanks go to them and everyone who helped or donated towards the lights this Christmas. Also to The Selsdon Townswomens Guild, whose kind contribution should have been acknowledged in our previous edition.

I think it was another great display and we have received lots of compliments. It's an expensive undertaking but let's hope we can afford to keep this going in future as it helps to promote Selsdon as a flourishing community.

Wishing you all the very best for 2020 from myself and all the committee.

**Sheila Childs**, Chair

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One of our distributors has moved out of the area and we have no-one to deliver 42 Gazettes to houses on Addington Road. We rely on volunteers. Can you help? This means hand delivering the Gazettes 11 times a year (not August) to the houses; they would be given to you by one of our main distributors and it will take up to half an hour each month. If you are able and willing to help us or want to find out more information please contact me on 0208 651 0470 or by email at [wmikiel@hotmail.com](mailto:wmikiel@hotmail.com) I would be very grateful for your help and hope to hear from someone soon!

***Wendy Mikiel***

Selsdon Gazette Main Distributor

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### **Councillors' Notes**

#### **Selsdon Community Plan**



We want your views on the future of Selsdon to help us produce a community plan that will set out priorities for how the area can improve. This five-year plan, which will cover the areas of Selsdon, Forestdale and Addington Village, is being led by a team made up local groups,

churches, ward councillors, Croydon Council, local businesses and schools who are working together to help change Selsdon for the better by:-

- Building a pleasant, modern, healthy environment respectful of its heritage, fit for the future
- Nurturing sustainable local businesses to secure high quality jobs for local people
- Creating a connected, collaborative, welcoming community of which residents are proud



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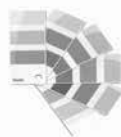
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This survey will use ideas and suggestions made by the community in November and you can view a short report summarising feedback on the Council website. From 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019 the Council will be gathering more views via an online survey which will be on the Council website. At the time of going to press the exact link was not available, but it can be found on the council website on the 'Get Involved' page – there is a link to this page on the Council website homepage.

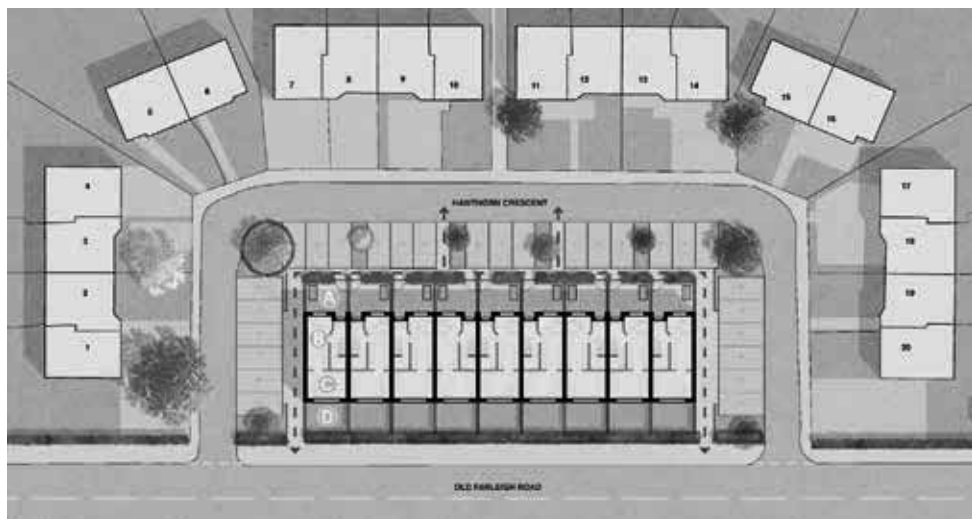
### **Transfer of Land to Brick By Brick**

In the near future the Council is likely to transfer parcels of land in Selsdon to its wholly-owned subsidiary company, Brick By Brick. Brick By Brick are planning to build on these green spaces, despite opposition from local residents. They did a similar thing in the town centre in 2017 so Cllr Helen Pollard requested details of the previous land transfer for Heathfield Gardens so she could give Selsdon residents an idea of the process. Cllr Pollard is often asked about timings and thought this would help clarify the situation. It should be noted that there was vehement opposition from local residents to the development at Heathfield Gardens, but the Labour Council went ahead regardless.

A Freedom of Information Request was submitted to the Council on 2nd November. The deadline for a reply passed on 29<sup>th</sup> November and, as yet, Cllr Pollard has *not* received a response.

### **Hawthorn Crescent – Development on Green Space**

Since the Council unveiled plans to build on the green space at Hawthorn Crescent, there has been strong opposition from local residents. The Council nevertheless proceeded with a consultation event which gave details of the plans for the buildings that would be built on the area of grass in the Crescent. Local residents are trying to save the grassed area, not only because it is a valued green space, but also because it is the site of a Second World War air raid shelter. The shelter could accommodate around 100 people and, after the war, was an area where children played. Local residents are keen to protect this precious heritage asset and potentially unearth it in the future. We wait to hear whether the Council will abandon their plans to dig up the shelter in order to sink the foundations for buildings.



*The Council plans to build 9 terraced houses on the green space at Hawthorn Crescent*

## **Christmas Market for Selsdon**



*Cllr Robert Ward, Father Christmas, The Mayor and Cllr Helen Pollard at the Christmas Market*

On 30<sup>th</sup> November there was the first ever Selsdon Christmas Market. The market was held on the raised area of the parade which was closed off for the event. It was a crisp wintery day which gave the market a festive feel. There was a good variety of stalls with some tempting Christmas products as well as craft stalls and stalls from local businesses. The market attracted a high number of visitors and there was a real buzz as people got in to the festive spirit. There was a strong community feeling as people met friends and family as they browsed through the market.

Given the success of the market, councillors, business leaders and community leaders are already planning future markets. We hope to have a market next Christmas and possibly another one in the spring/summer.

## Meet Your Councillors

The Selsdon Team of Councillors will be holding surgeries in the Selsdon Centre (next to Sainsbury's) on the first Saturday of the month from 10am – 11.15am (except August).

If you have any issues you wish to discuss with your councillor please come to the surgery or get in touch by email:

[Helen.pollard@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Helen.pollard@croydon.gov.uk)

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

[Stuart.millson@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Stuart.millson@croydon.gov.uk)

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Alterations, erection of first floor/roof extensions to include gable end and dormer extension on rear roof slope, erection of extension at side with accommodation above within the proposed roofspace at first floor level and within the existing roof area and erection of a single storey rear extension and dormer extension on front roofspace.

19/05697/HSE – 55 Greville Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 8NN

Alterations and erection of a single storey side extension

19/05444/HSE – 157 Croham Valley Road, South Croydon, CR2 7RE

Erection of a single storey rear extension

19/05632/HSE – 14 Brent Road, South Croydon, CR2 7NR

Alterations to ground levels and construction of a new retaining wall in rear garden

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### **Selsdon and Forestdale Safer Neighbourhood**

I've been asked to give out information about catalytic converters as it's becoming a problem again especially in the Sanderstead area. So, it's a cause for concern if the perpetrators do come down to Selsdon and Forestdale area as that is what they were doing a couple of months ago. So, do take this advice on board especially if you own a hybrid car. Or pass on the information to someone you know that owns a hybrid car.

Over the last week or so we have seen an increase in motor vehicle offences in the South Croydon area. Catalytic Converters are being stolen from specific vehicles.

Makes & Models being targeted - (All Hybrid vehicles)

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- Honda Accord & Jazz
- Toyota Prius & Auris.

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### **How the theft works:**

A catalytic converter is located in a box on the exhaust pipe under a car. In order to steal it, thieves slide under the car and use high-powered cutting tools to detach the box from the pipes around it. The metals are expensive and includes metals such as palladium, rhodium, and platinum. The thieves sell the converters for a couple of hundred per piece, depending on the size of the converter and the current rate on the metals inside it. It could cost you up to £2000 to replace a catalytic converter, and it is illegal to drive your car without one.

### **What we advise:**

- Parking your car in a garage overnight
- Ensuring your car is parked to make accessing the catalytic converter harder
- Trying to park in a location that is well-lit and overlooked
- Installing CCTV to cover where your car is parked
- Marking your catalytic converter with a forensic marker, which can make it harder to sell on by thieves

If you own one of the above makes, look to speak to your manufacturer about in a “Catloc”, a device which makes it harder for thieves to detach the catalytic converter from the bottom of the car. You should also register your converter and mark it with a forensic marker, which will make it harder for thieves to dispose of. Visit [securedbydesign.com](http://securedbydesign.com) for more details.

***Kind Regards,***

***Jack Killian***

***Police Community Support Officer***

***PHONE NUMBER: 0208 721 2464***

***WARD EMAIL: SNMailbox-SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk***

***ADDRESS: Addington Police Station, Addington Village Road, CR0 5AQ***

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## LIFE LONG LEARNING



How many times have you wished you learned a certain skill whilst at school – have you thought regretfully “it’s too late for me now”? Scientists have proven that you’re never too old to learn something new. Education can be conducted beyond school – at any age!

Lifelong learning is voluntary, rather than compulsory, and is completely self-motivated for personal or professional development.

Lifelong learning can be conducted in a variety of different ways, whether it’s through formal training, or something far less structured. For example, ‘You Tube’ offers a variety of amateur ‘lessons’ of differing standards on nearly every topic. Formal professional classes (free and paid) can be found and fitted in when best for you - evenings, part-time, day, weekend, online and distance learning.

There are many different ways you could continue adding to your knowledge – at work or at home. What are you interested in? History, Yoga, new technology, hobbies – the possibilities are endless!

### ***What are the benefits of lifelong learning?***

- For your **career**: To gain a new qualification, To add to your transferable skills, To increase your employability and promotion prospects, To earn more money, To fill a skills gap
- For **enjoyment**: To broaden your knowledge, for Personal and professional satisfaction, make friends with similar interests
- For your **health**: Mental stimulation, To alleviate worries/cares by creating space to focus on positive challenges, Develop your physical co-ordination, balance and muscle strength
- For the **community**: Discovering your talent/creativity/innovation and sharing those skills can help others and leave a legacy

### ***Tips for lifelong learning***

- **Utilise technology** – Whatever subject you’re interested in,

there are a wealth of online resources out there to help you learn. Listen to podcasts, download eBooks, take a distance learning course or join forums to continue your development.

- **Ask your employer** – If you're in work, ask your employer to help you with personal development planning. Chances are they already offer a lot of training internally, and may even subsidise the cost of a new certification if it helps add value to the business.
- **Stay motivated** – Because this form of learning is completely voluntary, it will often require *self-motivation and dedication* to stay focused. Offer yourself incentives to keep going, or ask a friend or family member to help you stay on track.
- **Add some structure** – Try setting aside the same amount of time for studying each night, or each week, make sure you stick to it, and try and write down a goal for each session. *Take your learning seriously*, and you're far more likely to stick to it.
- **Take every opportunity** – Keep looking – there are plenty of opportunities out there to add to your knowledge, from taking a class in a local church hall, to joining reading groups or even watching webinars. The level of challenge is up to you.
- **Don't make excuses** – Finally, there are no barriers to lifelong learning. Free courses are out there in everything from accountancy to marketing, coding and tech and much more. And there's nothing stopping you simply picking up a book or watching a video tutorial to learn about a new subject. So, no matter how young or old you are, and no matter how much time you have, there's something out there for you.

### ***Some places to start:***

- Your local Library – trained librarians can help you access computers, books, magazines and other resources to aid your choice of learning
- The Open University - distance learning.
- FutureLearn.com - hundreds of short free online courses to take.
- National Careers service – career focused courses
- The University of the Third Age (U3A) consists of local groups of older people whose members run informal courses, study groups and talks.

- Learn Direct has a network of local centres offering computer-based teaching.
- Local Notice boards – for small groups teaching in your local area
- Calat – Croydon’s adult learning and training provision.
- Local colleges and universities

**Janet Sharp**

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## **Appeal – Discovering Selsdon’s music culture**

A lot of the musicians, singers and bands that we liked have, sadly, moved on to the de-composition side of this mortal coil. All things, apparently, come to pass; their music lives on, however. As do lots of old ears, throats, fingers, hands, feet, heads and shoulders (knees and toes too, of course) that were around for the explosion of new and amplified music, if not for the actual birth of rock and roll.

Here, in Selsdon, there’s a rich store of music history. Many readers played and sang; wrote music and lyrics. Besides yourself, I’m asking your friends and, in fact, anyone who has a story or information ...we all love music stories, especially local ones ... please share it with us. Starting next edition we hope you can help us create a regular music column. And also, “musos”, get yourselves out of your attic or garage, and join other musos in their garages and attics to practise and rehearse. An idea that is appealing to me, and I hope you too, is having a summer concert with local people, like yourself maybe, putting on a show. Imagine it “Rock by Rock at Selsdon”, starring You! and You! and don’t forget yourself. Let me know if you can contribute, help or are at all interested.

**dB**



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## Warlingham walk and spot the wildlife!

If you like to get into the countryside for a walk it is worth remembering that we in Selsdon live on the border of Green Belt! If you are worried about getting lost on one of the many footpaths around the area start with an established trail. If you have a Smartphone I can recommend "ifootpath.com". This free app has one walk in our area. "The Horseshoe Warlingham and Farleigh Trail". You can either print the map in advance or follow it 'live' with your phone as you go.

This is a 5 mile walk starting from the pub (or the playground behind it!). The paths are a mixture of stone and dirt and can get muddy in places depending on what the recent weather has been like (sturdy boots recommended). It takes you in the direction of Selsdon (great view of the back of the hotel), past 'The King's Wood' (spot the deer) through part of Farleigh Golf course (spot the Skylarks), past riding stables (spot the .. you get the idea), past 'The Harrow' and back. It has some short climbs, kissing gates and some stiles. It would be manageable with children and/or dogs! The approximate time for the walk would be 2 to 2.5 hours. Once you have completed it once you might like to add your own variations and detours.



Enjoy!

**Janet Sharp**





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## **Announcement!**

### **The Very Short Story Competition Results and Award**

We invited readers to write a story in no more than 100 words. This isn't easy! We received four entries, reprinted below. Our thanks to those who had the courage to put pen to paper.

Interestingly, all four entries have different qualities which make each one enjoyable. I have added the titles. Su Yates writes movingly of loneliness at Christmas. Fiona Bowles appeals to our love of the underdog and the wildlife in our midst. Ken Dudley recalls the youth club which found an outlet for a teenager's temptation to commit criminal damage. Leah Patten finds comedy in the bizarre, a woman who acts strangely and defies convention.

#### **An Age Concern?**

She looked sadly at the calendar. It was that time of year again. Why had she listened to her friends? She had adjusted to retirement, welcomed it even: she had made the even bigger adjustment to widowhood but this was something different.

"Tell them you get lonely at times", the friends had urged.

She told herself that they had their own lives and after all, doesn't everyone get lonely at times?

It had been 5 years now since she had last seen anything of them.

"We know you are lonely" he had replied "but it's not our problem".

***Su Yates***

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## **A Brush With Civilisation?**

The countryside is a fearful place full of killers and guns, so I moved my family to the peace of urban life in a street full of takeaway shops and black bins galore.

People living here own a variety of dogs, but only 1 or 2 not a whole pack, and Boxing Day has become a much less traumatic time for me.

So if you meet me in passing, don't be afraid of me because I look different, or am a different colour from you, stop and talk to me, my name is

THE URBAN FOX.

***Fiona Bowles***

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## **"You're Right!"**

Youth club was about to close for the night, it had been a good evening numbering about 60 young people, with plenty of chatter and laughter.

One of the boys had just completed his game of table tennis, came up to me and said "You're right Ken" [that gave me a bit of a shock!].

He said it again "You're right, it's a good idea encouraging us to play table tennis, because once we have finished smashing the ball around, then on the way home we don't feel like throwing a brick ***through someone's window!***"

***Ken Dudley***

-----

## **Rubber Glove**

A peculiar woman by the name of Rubber Glove stopped on the busy high street and made a futile attempt to summon a flash mob.



“Come on everyone!” she yelled, trying to stir hype in the pessimistic passers-by, “let’s do the Unconventional Dance!”

She proceeded to stand on her head and flailing her limbs, a very unconventional dance indeed. Shoppers gave her disturbed and sorry glances and quickened their pace. Parents hurriedly pulled their children from sight. Mr Jones, her elderly neighbour, was on the phone.

“Yes, it’s Mrs Glove again”. The police were very familiar with his voice.

### ***Leah Patten***

And the winner is.....Leah Patten, for the sheer originality of her story, and the surreal image of the dancing rubber glove, upsetting our concepts of the conventional. It made me laugh and that’s no bad thing at Christmas.

Our congratulations to Leah, who is 16! She receives a box of Celebrations chocolates. Once again, thanks to all those who contributed.

### ***BILL GALE***

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## **What have trees ever done for us (part 2)**

I hope by now you will have taken part in Croydon Council’s public consultation over the proposed revisions to the recently agreed 2018 Local Plan. “Due to be adopted in 2022, the review will update the vision and strategy for Croydon’s growth up to 2039 and set out how the council will continue to deliver much-needed new homes, jobs and community facilities.” Our Council’s further review is in response to meet Mayor Khan’s declared requirement for more housing. Our open spaces and Green Belt remain at

risk of development and in last month's Gazette I described the measurable benefits of Trees in improving our health.

What about the other tangible and intangible benefits of trees and green spaces? The Lancet recently published research, which was funded by the World Health Organisation, into Green Spaces and Mortality: Green Spaces were found to have a beneficial effect **on health and well-being**. So much so that "Interventions to increase and manage green spaces should therefore be considered as a strategic *public health intervention*."



The City of Manchester love their trees and have evaluated the benefit of trees in a wider context. As well as improved air quality they suggest that exposure to and even just the sight of trees can result in, amongst other benefits, reducing stress, aiding recovery from illness, alleviating depression, encouraging physical activity, saving lives, reducing obesity and bringing people together.

I hope we will appreciate our urban trees and green spaces and ensure their protection.

If you are inspired to spend some time amongst local mature trees and open green spaces please come and enjoy Littleheath Woods.

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You can find out more information about the woods, how to get there and what to expect, at [www.folw.co.uk](http://www.folw.co.uk)

***Ian Leggatt***

Chair, Friends of Littleheath Woods

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## Expansion plans at John Ruskin College following recent merger



In February 2019, John Ruskin College (JRC) merged with East Surrey College incorporating the Reigate School of Art under the group name of 'Orbital South Colleges'. The merged College aims to share resources and offer a comprehensive range of core skills, technical and professional qualifications and vocational courses, as well as Apprenticeships ranging from Entry Level up to Degree Level courses (at ESC site) including Degree Apprenticeships. The JRC caters for ages 16+ which includes mature learners and a new Special Educational Needs department. The JRC has a state -of- the- art digital media suite, a professional photography studio and commercial on- site Hair, Beauty and Spa salons. The Health, Care and Early Years Department also has a virtual nursery facility.

There are exciting plans for the new academic year (less than 9 months away). To house a larger number of students, to an expanded range of courses, we've been told that **a large new building will be constructed** on the front lawn of the 10 acre site. This is planned to begin soon and finish in good time for students entering in **September this year** (currently enrolling).

Their next open day is Tuesday 25 February 2020, See their website [johnruskin.ac.uk](http://johnruskin.ac.uk) for more details

### JRC origins and evolution- A centenary year

John Ruskin College started life in 1920 as the *John Ruskin Boys' Central School* located in Scarbrook Road, Croydon. In 1935 the school moved to Tamworth Road (see image), and in April 1945 it became the *John Ruskin Grammar School for Boys*. It moved to Upper Shirley Road in 1955, and was retitled the *John Ruskin High School* in 1971 when it became mixed sex. (The Upper Shirley Road site surrounded the Shirley windmill a 19th-century tower mill (see photo). The upper forms transferred to Selsdon Park road to form the present John Ruskin College, (utilising the premises which formerly housed the John Newnham Secondary Selective School). The Shirley school site was demolished in 1991 to become a housing estate (the Windmill was protected and remains).



The school is named after **John Ruskin** (8 February 1819 – 20 January 1900) who had family links to Croydon. He was the leading English art critic of the Victorian era, as well as an art patron, draughtsman, watercolourist, a prominent social thinker and philanthropist. He actively promoted art education and museums for the working classes. He wrote on subjects as varied as geology, architecture, myth, ornithology, literature, education, botany and political economy. Today, his ideas and concerns are widely recognised as having anticipated interest in environmentalism, socialism, sustainability and craft.

## Selsdon Park Road - a site of education since 1951. (69 years)

The land housing the college was formerly part of Stones Farm, Addington (renamed Heathfield Estate). (See Image of remaining Heathfield estate land)

Upon this agricultural land was built an airy and modern school which opened in 1951 (the land surrounding it to become housing). The new school was called

### **The John Newnham School** (named after a

local dignitary) and was a Secondary Selective which became a comprehensive in 1971. It was closed in 1987. The **John Newnham** building was used for a while for training and as offices but was subsequently refurbished and reopened to house the **John Ruskin** College.



There is an active alumnus of both the John Newnham school as well as the John Ruskin Grammar school who connect via the internet for reunions and chat.

***Janet Sharp***

~~

## **The Grass is Always Greener – Early Post War Years.**

A few months ago I wrote about the Parr family, our good neighbours in Abbey Rd, and especially David Parr my best mate. David's Aunt Vera was married an Irish Guardsman. Of course his name was Patrick, Uncle Pat to me. I remember him as a giant of a man, resplendent in his war time military uniform.

After the war they lived at West Wickham and Mrs Parr, David, my Mum and I, would get the 64 bus to its then terminus, opposite Featherbed Lane at Addington. We would then walk to West Wickham and back along the Addington Rd.

Now, this is a very busy main road. Then it was a narrow, tree lined

country lane with no pavements and the trees arching over to create a tunnel of greenery. But of course, with few car owners and petrol rationing, there was no traffic to worry about!

Today's road bypasses the old village of Addington, via Kent Gate Way, but our walk took us past The Cricketers pub and the ancient, St Mary's Church.



Then crossing over the bottom of Spout Hill, we continued past the old village blacksmiths. Work horses were still much in use then, for ploughing, milk carts, pulling heavy loads such as delivering coal, brewer's drays, etc. It was fascinating watching the blacksmith at work shoeing the horses in the workshop shown below.

Next came the Addington cricket ground, one of the oldest cricket clubs in England. The club started in 1743 and is still there today. It is the reason for the village pub (as it originally was) being named "The Cricketers."

Continuing our walk through history we would come to the county border and pass from Surrey into Kent. Here on the south eastern side of the road was a bit of Victorian engineering. A large smoke stacked building with a constant thumping as its huge engine





*The Old Village Blacksmiths*

pumped water from deep underground to a water tower on a hillside above. Through windows in the building's walls one could see a large flywheel driving the pump, up and down, 24/7 as we say today. A modern pump house is still there, but instead of coal and steam the quiet motor is probably now electric powered. Those days and memories are long gone, and so are the Parrs. But not forgotten, and in 1950 the next part of this story continued.

Today we hear a lot about austerity and Tory cuts. The doom mongers obviously did not live through the early post war years under the Labour government! Rationing got worse than during the war, not helped by dock strikes and war weariness. By then many had had enough and emigrated to Canada, Australia and elsewhere. Vera and Patrick took the opportunity and the 6 week cruise to Oz, at the special offer price of only£10! Having settled there, their glowing reports persuaded Mr and Mrs Parr to up root with David and Pauline and join the exodus.

Mr Parr worked in the City of London and one important reason for him wanting out, was the appalling daily grind on crowded and antiquated trains to and from London Bridge. He told us this story of his last journey home from the city in 1950. As he crossed over the River Thames he took off his bowler hat and threw it into the river, shouting, *"I'm free, I'm free!"* Everyone in the commuting crowd thought he was mad. Perhaps he was – mad with exhilaration and expectation!

I have already mentioned the continuation of food rationing. Those that emigrated to Oz were encouraged to send food parcels back to us, half-starved in the UK. For several years Mrs Parr sent us parcels at Christmas and Easter, of tinned peaches and apricots, delicacies which we could not get here in Selsdon. This was preceded by a long newsy air mail letter to my Mum, telling her that a parcel was on its way. The parcels of heavy tins had to come by ship, a six-week voyage. Forewarned, we could not wait for the postman to arrive with these special treats, especially at Christmas time!

**Des Donohoe** ( [des.oldselsdon@gmail.com](mailto:des.oldselsdon@gmail.com) )

~~

### **Poetry is Fun (if you want it to be)**

*"Once more unto the breach, dear friends..."*  
Or, maybe...

*"To write a poem  
In seventeen syllables  
Is not too diffic"*

Not mine, but it's what started me playing with this format. It's called Haiku and the only rules, that I know of, are simple; three lines, the first being of five syllables, the second of seven, and the last line goes back to five syllables. For fun, try changing just the third line

above so that it meets the rule with complete words. I'll publish the best one if you send them in, so give it a go.

If you do try, use something that you want to say, or a thought you'd like to express, then write it down. Get it on paper straight away and then play with the words, moving, rejecting and so on until it all fits. This Haiku, I find, concentrates the mind on reducing something to its core, its essence.

There was another example of Haiku at the start of Editor's Notes. It's such a simple thing, like many of the best games or music, and it's absorbing. Most of all it's fun, I find. A teenage male relation was, as they do, ignoring some messages I'd sent him; until, to amuse myself I sent...

*To answer texts  
And wotsaps is a pain, duh  
But it gets respect*

Another, this time on being over-immersed in a game...

*Co-ordinating  
Thumbs ensures good career path.  
Thumb-print forger, mm?*

Or romantic (?)

*Dry is the desert.  
Do I see an oasis?  
Mirages deceive.*

Or...anything you want. If you like, send them in, please. Most importantly, enjoy doing some.

***duff Bard***

~~

## **Selsdon Centre for the Retired**

If you are retired or elderly and enjoy meeting people or wish to make new friends, we would love to welcome you to our Centre, off the main entrance by Sainsbury's. You can eat a meal prepared by someone else or just pop in for a cup of tea. We also have a range of daily activities. Our mini bus with tail-lift access, driven by volunteers and accompanied by an escort, can collect any local people unable to reach the Centre independently. [www.selsdoncentre.org.uk](http://www.selsdoncentre.org.uk)

Our friendly staff would welcome the opportunity to show you around so please do drop by when the Centre is open on any weekday between 09:30 and 15:30.

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November the Directors and staff at the Selsdon Centre held a social event to say a very big thank you to the many volunteers without whom the centre couldn't run as smoothly, providing lifts, daily activities and lunch time meals etc. Drinks and nibbles were enjoyed by all those who attended including Sandra Hanley, Store Charity Co-ordinator representing Sainsbury's, who has supported the centre during Sainsbury's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday year offering to volunteer if the centre was short on any occasion. 2019 was the fortieth anniversary of The Selsdon Centre.

Mr Alan Brookes, The Chairman of Directors said he hoped the volunteers all enjoyed their time at the centre and thanked them for helping to make the atmosphere so friendly and welcoming to all those who visited

All the volunteers were entered into a raffle to win 2 vouchers, one for a meal and one for afternoon tea kindly which were donated by De Vere Selsdon Estate Hotel.

If you have a few hours to spare on a weekly or monthly basis, do pop in and speak to Craig, Jane, Laura or Sarah at the Centre or call on 0208 651 1111. We'd love to see you!

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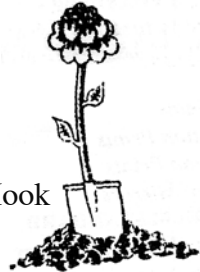
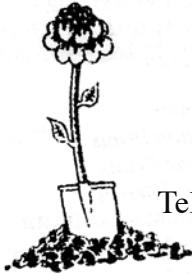
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## RSPB – Take Part in the ‘Big Garden Birdwatch’

The Big Garden Birdwatch helps the RSPB to monitor trends and help understand how birds are doing. Their results will aid experts and law makers in taking steps to protect them. It's easy to take part.

### **Watch the birds for one hour**

Choose an hour between 25 and 27 January to watch the birds in your garden or local park.

#### **1. Count the most birds that land at once**

Only count the birds that land in your garden or park, not those flying over. The same birds may land more than once, so you can avoid double counting by recording the highest number of each bird species you see at any one time – not the total number you count over the hour.

#### **2. Tell us what you saw**

Every count is important, so don't worry if you don't see anything. Observing which birds aren't around is as important as seeing those which are. Submit your results online at [rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](https://rspb.org.uk/birdwatch) from 25 January until 16 February or if you'd prefer to send them by post, download a submission form from [rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](https://rspb.org.uk/birdwatch). Make sure you post your findings by *11 February*.

-----  
If you enjoy this you may be interested to know that the RSPB Croydon Local Group also provide monthly illustrated Wildlife Talk and can give special talks to local groups.

Meetings take place at Whitgift Sports Club, Croham Manor Road -off Croham Road. South Croydon, CR2 7BG  
Second Monday of each month, 2pm and again at 8pm.  
Admission £4. Everyone is welcome, not just RSPB members. Free refreshments.

**Monday February 10<sup>th</sup> 2020: “50:50”.** The intrepid Biking Birder, Gary Prescott, will regale us with tales of 50 UK Reserves he is planning to visit on his beloved cycle, aiming to see fifty bird species on each trip.

For more information contact John Davis on 020-8640 4578 or see [www.rspb.org.uk/groups/croydon](https://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/croydon)

## **What's On - a changing selection of local groups, clubs and meets.**

### **SMARTWATER WILL FLOW**

At Selsdon Library, between noon and 4pm, on Saturday 18th January, one of our local PCSCs, Jack Killian, will be explaining and demonstrating how the burglary prevention aid, Smartwater, can help protect your property and discourage burglars. Not only that, but PCSO Killian will be offering free Smartwater for us to use at home.

### **SELSDON FLOWER CLUB**

2020 is our Fiftieth Anniversary Year

We are a small friendly club who meet on certain Wednesday afternoons at 2pm at the rear of St. John the Divine Church, Selsdon. Subscription £25 per annum. We have demonstrations, workshops and practices.

**22nd January** AGM - Enrolment - Tea and Cakes

**26th February** Practice - Winter Arrangement

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

### **THE ARTS SOCIETY SANDERSTEAD**

Talks commence at 10.30 on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the United Reformed Church Hall, Sanderstead Hill, South Croydon, CR0 0HB. Coffee is served from 9.45 to 10.15am. There is no meeting in August or December. Visitors are welcome on payment of a small fee.

**January 28th** The Art of Captain Cooks Voyagers - Prasannajit De Silva

**February 24th** Prague - The City of the Winter Queen - Douglas Skeggs

For more information phone 0208 660 9122 Email: [suedavenport72@gmail.com](mailto:suedavenport72@gmail.com)  
[www.theartssocietysanderstead.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietysanderstead.org.uk)

### **SELSDON ART GROUP**

We are a friendly and sociable painting group open to anyone who is interested in art, from complete beginners to experienced artists. Throughout the year we have a varied programme of events, including painting evenings, demonstrations, talks, sideshows, and occasionally days out for painting/sketching on location.

Why not join us and become part of a group of fellow artists who are happy to help each other, and share knowledge and experience?

We meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month, 7.30pm - 9.45pm, at the Selsdon Centre for the Retired. All levels of ability and mediums are very welcome.

For membership details etc., please contact our Secretary/Organiser, Mrs Fiona Hooper on 07973 412 952.

**February 13th 2020 - PRACTICAL EVENING** - Try an animal in any medium



## NON-EVENT

Although January 17th is the 91st anniversary of *Popeye The Sailor's* first appearance, no notices of an event have been received.

A fictional cartoon character created by Elzie Crisler Segar, Popeye first appeared in the daily *King Features* comic strip *Thimble Theatre* on January 17, 1929, and "Popeye" became the strip's title in later years. Popeyr has also appeared in theatrical and television animated cartoons, having assorted adventures whilst searching for his "Pappy".

~~



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. Publication dates may mean a delay between receipt of your letters and when they appear.

## SELSDON FESTIVE LIGHTS

Thank you so much for a brilliant night. Your Father Christmas was amazing. After my 3 year-old gave him the biggest hug Father Christmas done a couple of signs and, as parents of a deaf little boy, it made us feel like he was included on another level. So thank you.

Thanks, Jane H

*[Editor's note: Details were supplied, as well as a rather nice photo. Space and format prevent it being published right now but we hope it's the first of many more that you will send to us. Please do continue sending your interesting photos to the Gazette, to help build the archives and for possible future publication.]*

~~

## 23 December, **SELSDON'S A LOW-CRIME PLACE; LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.**

I'm writing to address some queries that your readers have made about Selsdon and Forestdale Local Policing Team. The Team is made up of 2 Police Officers and 1 Police Community Support Officer. When on shift we patrol Selsdon and Forestdale regularly, in vehicles and on foot. We know some of the "crime hotspots" in the area that are mainly used for drug dealing and drug consuming. When seen this is where stop and searches take place.

If people tell us of other areas around Selsdon and Forestdale where drug or anti-social behaviour activities are taking place we, as a team, can take measures such as regularly patrolling such an area, in uniform or even in plain clothes operations, to quash the issues. To increase effectiveness in combating crimes, we work alongside both the Sanderstead and Purley Oaks teams who also patrol the area, either with us or on their own.

To help with burglary concerns we can give free Smartwater, which is a burglary prevention tool. To receive one or to get more information please do email me; it's [jack.killian@met.police.uk](mailto:jack.killian@met.police.uk) I can visit your home with the kit and give a crime prevention house tour to help you make your home as safe as possible.

We have a phone number: **0208 721 2464**. This is a landline number but it goes through to the mobile phone that I always have on my person when on shift; so you should get an answer. or at least a call back within a couple of days.

We also have an email: [SNMailbox-SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk](mailto:SNMailbox-SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk) This is for any helpful information you might have for us. Details that you could provide to assist us stop these people more efficiently are listed in the regular Local Policing section of the Gazette.

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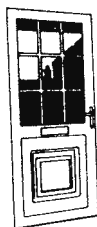
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Kind regards,

**PCSO Jack Killian 7114SN**, Selsdon and Forestdale Safer Neighbourhood Team

~~

## **150 YEARS SINCE THE OPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL**

On the 17<sup>th</sup> November 1869 the Suez Canal had its official opening day. Before that time the big tea clippers and other vessels sailing to the East had to travel around the Cape of Good Hope, thus the opening of the Suez Canal made the passage much faster. It is not quite as straight a canal that one may visualise but is around 120 miles long (193 km). It is also broken up by three lakes, Lake Manzala, Lake Timsah and The Great Bitter Lake which also contains the Little Bitter Lake, but it doesn't count as four lakes apparently! The boats wait in the lakes until passage is clear from boats coming in the opposite direction.

The canal was barely 26 feet deep (8 metres) and 72 feet wide (22 metres); and it was 200-300 feet wide at the surface. Although passing places were built around every 5-6 miles of the canal, during the first four years alone there were 3,000 groundings and many collisions. After a time, many boats carried lanterns to try and show where other shipping were, and the canal was frequently closed for dredging and widening.

After a time, it became "One Way"; one sailed out to the East via the canal but had to return via the Cape of Good Hope. The canal has also been closed through wars and disputes on several occasions, but now we have air flight the canal is not quite so important, though many will dispute that fact.

A statue was designed for the canal. It was modelled on an Arab

woman wearing a veil, but although the official opening of the canal was attended by most of the Heads of State and the Royalty of most countries in Europe, the ruler of Egypt “Khedewi Ismail Pasha” became bankrupt and the statue was jettisoned in the name of economy. The statue was huge and was named, “Liberty Enlightening the World”. Another more interesting translation was “Egypt Bringing Light to Asia” but the French sculptor had his own enlightening, and when the Egyptians didn’t require it after all, he instead offered it to the Americans, as a gift, and they renamed it, “The Statue of Liberty”. A fleet of ships was once stranded in the canal for more than eight years. It was at the time of the Six Day War between Egypt and Israel. The Egyptian government blocked either side by mines and scuttled ships; fifteen international ships were stranded in The Great Bitter Lake. The crews were rotated home on a three-monthly basis. Eventually the marooned ships were allowed to leave the canal in 1975. By then only two of the vessels were seaworthy enough to make the voyage under their own power.

There is another strange connection, which may be of interest. We have all heard of Tesco the grocers. It was founded by a Jewish man called Jacob Edward Cohen, the son of a Polish immigrant. According to Wikipedia, “Jack” Cohen, as he liked to be known, bought a consignment of tea for his first shop from a company called T. E. Sheldon and took the first three initials of TES and added the first two of his own name, hence TESCO. The reason these two apparently unconnected facts are mentioned in the same article is because “Jack Cohen” during the first world war was on board “HMS Osmanieh”, a passenger and cargo ship, which had been taken over by the Royal Navy as a supply and troopship. It hit a German mine and was blown to pieces, at the entrance to Alexandria harbour, as it was heading for the Suez Canal. A German submarine had laid the mines two days before and no one was aware of it. The “HMS Osmanieh” sunk within seven minutes and 209 people were drowned. A nurse, who found Cohen in the water, helped him stay afloat and saved him. He was 21 and the year date was 17<sup>th</sup> December 1917. In 1919 he returned to England after contracting malaria and in 1919 was demobilised. That was

the year he then began trading, using his demob money to buy goods for his first market stall; and so Tesco is now 100 years old.

Two events linking 150 and 100 years ago. Both still have input on many lives.

***Jessica Blake***

~~

## **Grumps' Missing Parts**

Sunday lunch with the family and friends, one of “whom” was the wireless set.

Four-Way Family Favourites was a very popular radio programme which had changed its name from “Forces Favourites”. It was super, and it kept families in touch with loved ones serving overseas, developing into a more general programme, increasing its popularity and widening its audience.

It was a record request show and, typically, the requests came in by letters “read out over the air...to husband John from Jane and Jonny, please play...” a song or tune which brought them together for a few minutes, in heart and mind, at least. And, over there in Germany John would be glued to the wireless set. Being, originally, “Two-Way” both ends could request a play.

One particular joy, to me, was hearing R&B, Blues and other American music, including movie soundtracks. My very first musical memories are of “Hit the Road Jack” and “Millionaire”; Ray Charles and Eartha Kitt, of course.

Meanwhile, in the real world, while requests were read and music played, Sunday lunch was nearly ready.

Three generations of us, and friends, would sit down before the music show had finished. Beer, small beer, cider and pop were poured and we tucked in, chatting. “Family Favourites” finished and, for the next hour or so, the radio was the centre of attention.

Together we'd listen to "The Navy Lark" and the World's Greatest Ever Radio Programme. "Round The Horne".

This weekly routine was wonderful; we laughed so much, sang along with the songs and, when it was over, looked forward to the next episode of Sunday Lunch.

I grew up to the sound of the wireless. It was a major factor in the construction of a zeitgeist in which I'm not alone. I once heard the actor Robert Lindsay, famously "Citizen Wolfie Smith", on Desert Island Discs. He described his young Sunday lunches almost exactly as I have, mine. He's a little older and he grew up in the Midlands. The fact that Sunday lunch was exactly the same in his house is an illustration of how much more we shared a common experience in those days.

The Missing Part is good BBC Radio. It could bring us all together in fun, laughter, enjoyment and appreciation of others, and all at the same time; every week.  
All gone for a mess of pottage.

## ***Grumps***

~~

## **Recipe - Valentine's granita**

It may still be January but Valentine's Day is just around the corner! The shops are going to start filling up with dine-in deals and lots of creamy, chocolatey treats. But sometimes I think all the rich, romantic food can get a bit much. So I've come up with a fresher idea that's still indulgent. A strawberry, lime and rum granita. It's a bit like a slightly softer, broken-up sorbet. I like to serve it in a glass for dessert. But it would just as easily work as a twist on a cocktail, if you're trying to impress.





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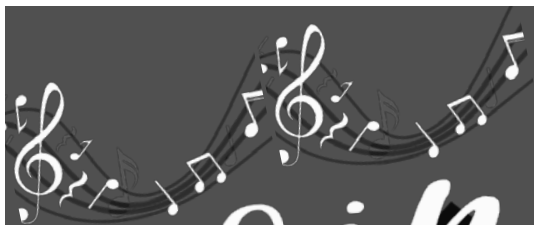
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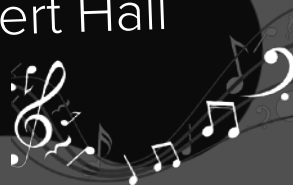
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## **Before you start**

Remember this needs to freeze. So play it safe and make it a day or so before you want it.

**Ingredients:** 10 strawberries, half a tsp lime zest and 100ml lime juice. (I used three limes to get that much juice.), 175ml water, 112g sugar, 50ml white rum.

- 1) Pop your sugar and water in a pan over a low heat so the sugar can dissolve. (This will only take around minute.)
- 2) Then stick that into a jug with your lime zest and juice, rum and chopped-up strawberries. (I like to leave a couple strawberries for decoration at the end.)
- 3) Let it cool down before you pour the mix into a container that won't leak.
- 4) Now just stick it in the freezer. All you have to then is give it a stir every now and again.
- 5) Once it's frozen, it's ready to serve. If it's frozen completely solid, then just break it up with a fork. I think it's a nice touch to put a strawberry on the edge of the glass – if you want to look like you're making a bit of an effort.
- 6) All that's left is to serve and enjoy.

***Jess Bashford***

## **Easy Rice**

It grows simply, is harvested simply, and is simple to cook

Here are two quick and simple ways to cook rice. One is “quick and dirty”, the other works for kitchen table or dinner parties. Let's start with that:

### **Steamed Saffron Rice**

1 cupped palm-full of Basmati rice per person (big hands have bigger frames to support, and the opposite, usually; it's a ratio that works, and is easily adjusted with practice).

1 saucepan with lid, preferably heavy but always the right size for the meal.

4 black peppercorns

2 cloves

Tiny pinch of nutmeg

A pinch of good salt

Dessert spoonful of butter

1 thread of saffron OR level teaspoon of turmeric

**NOTE:** the only essential ingredients are rice, butter and saffron or turmeric. Saffron is delicately flavoured and costly, so perhaps it's best saved for lightly spiced dishes.

### **Method**

Put the rice in a large sieve, run cold water through it till clears. **Let it drain.**

Whatever size saucepan that you need to use, it is very important that you don't use too much water at this point. About half an inch deep is all. Put your thumb in, nail down; if the water comes halfway up to the first knuckle from the nail, it's good. About 1.25 cm, I'm told.

Bring the covered pan of water to boil and remove from heat

Add the butter and turmeric (or saffron and optional ingredients, too).

Stir and return to heat. Add the rice and stir gently until it starts to boil.

Immediately reduce the heat to minimum and cover.

Do something else for 15 minutes. **DO NOT LOOK! DO NOT LIFT THE LID!** If the heat is too much, and the lid is too light (I have this) it starts "spitting"; move the pan a little off the gas and change its position occasionally.

### **Time's Up**

Remove from heat.

Uncover and fluff the rice up with a fork.

Serve. Eat.

Enjoy the rice and savour the compliments, too

**Notes:** Occasionally, with this method, a little dry skin of cooked rice is attached lightly to the pan. After removing the rest, simply put some cold water in the pan, cover and leave 5/10 minutes. The residual grains come off easily.

Also, I only use Basmati rice. Buy a good-sized bag and you'll save more money than you might have thought.

### **Standing on my head with a hand behind my back rice**

1 cupped palm-full of Basmati rice per person

A little butter or olive oil

1 uncovered saucepan of appropriate size with plenty of water

A pinch of good salt (not a good pin...)

1 decision – you can rinse the rice now with cold water, or at the end with boiling water)

### **Method**

Bring the water to boil, then stir in the salt and butter

Add rice, stir and let it simmer, stirring occasionally, for about 10 minutes

Meanwhile, boil a full kettle of water

YOU MUST now try a grain or two. It will take a few tastes, maybe, but you'll know when it's done.

Remove rice from heat, drain immediately with a large sieve

Rinse with boiling water from the kettle.

Drain.

Serve. Eat.

Enjoy

### ***dim braising***

~~

## **ROTARY SANDERSTEAD & SELSDON**

It's a New Year and the time for making New Year's Resolutions. One I made a few years ago was to try to find a way to ensure that the little I give to 'good causes' would be spent by those organisations to support their objective rather than on advertising or staff salaries. Difficult on my own to learn about a good cause, if they don't advertise, and impossible for me to discern how they would spend the money I give them. This leads me to Rotary. They (or now I can say we) do all that investigation and select projects where any money given will make a difference and not just go into the pool of money and then disappear.

Of course, that is not the only thing that Rotary do. You have probably come across Rotary as we do our *Christmas collections* with Santa on his sleigh, or maybe you visited the *Craft Fair* we organise which is held at All Saints Church Hall in November, maybe you joined in our Ramble or attended our *Quiz Night*. Just some of the many things we do to raise thousands of pounds over the year to help those good causes, and in doing all these things and the many other events we have *fun*. If we didn't have fun, we wouldn't do it. We make friends along the way, friends who are members, friends who we help and friends who help us.

If you would like to make friends with us, and the many people we meet along the way then why not send us an email, or give us a call, or even stop us in the street (we'll be the ones wearing the t-shirt with the Rotary logo) and just ask and we will be happy to tell you more.

### **Brian Morgan, Rotary Sanderstead and Selsdon**

For more information see Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/rotarycroydonsouth/> or our website

<https://www.rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com/> or ring Wendy A

Parr 07774-186 792 or email to

[Secretary@Rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com](mailto:Secretary@Rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com)

P.S - Thank you so much for your Christmas contributions to Santa on his rounds, (what a fantastic time Santa had), from all those who will benefit from the funds you so kindly donated!

### **Upcoming Rotary events**

Quiz Night 7<sup>th</sup> March & Hobby Fair Sat 16<sup>th</sup> May.

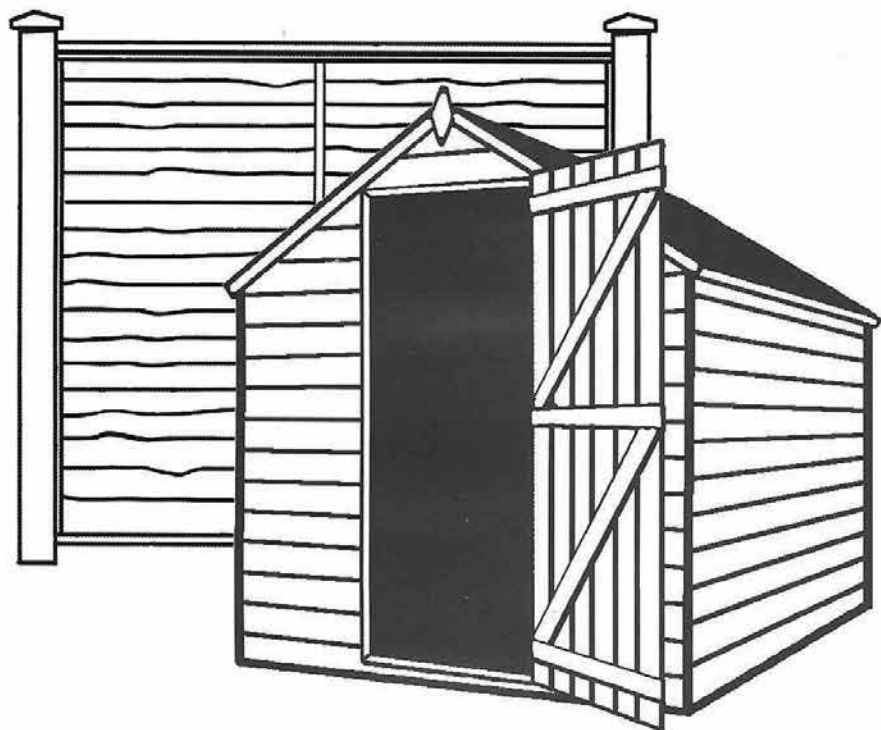
We are so excited to be hosting a new **Hobby Fair** in May at St John's Church Hall, Selsdon at which we will showcase local sports, crafty, cultural, educational, interesting groups, clubs and organisations *just for you*. So don't miss out, put the date in your diary **Sat 16th May**. If you would like to have a **stand** or know someone who would, just get in touch.

~~

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## Almost Poetic

So what, Serendipity?

We look around at others  
And know who's good or bad  
We've been taught the good things,  
And their absence in a man  
Makes us cautious, cool, withdrawn.

Their presence, on the other hand,  
Helps us open up; commonalities are there  
But one strange thing about us, that few realise;  
We don't recognise the good things  
That we each, every one of us, give to life.

Our friends and our kinfolk  
And the people that we help  
Don't see us in the same harsh light  
That we generally see ourselves  
They look at us more kindly, as parents might.

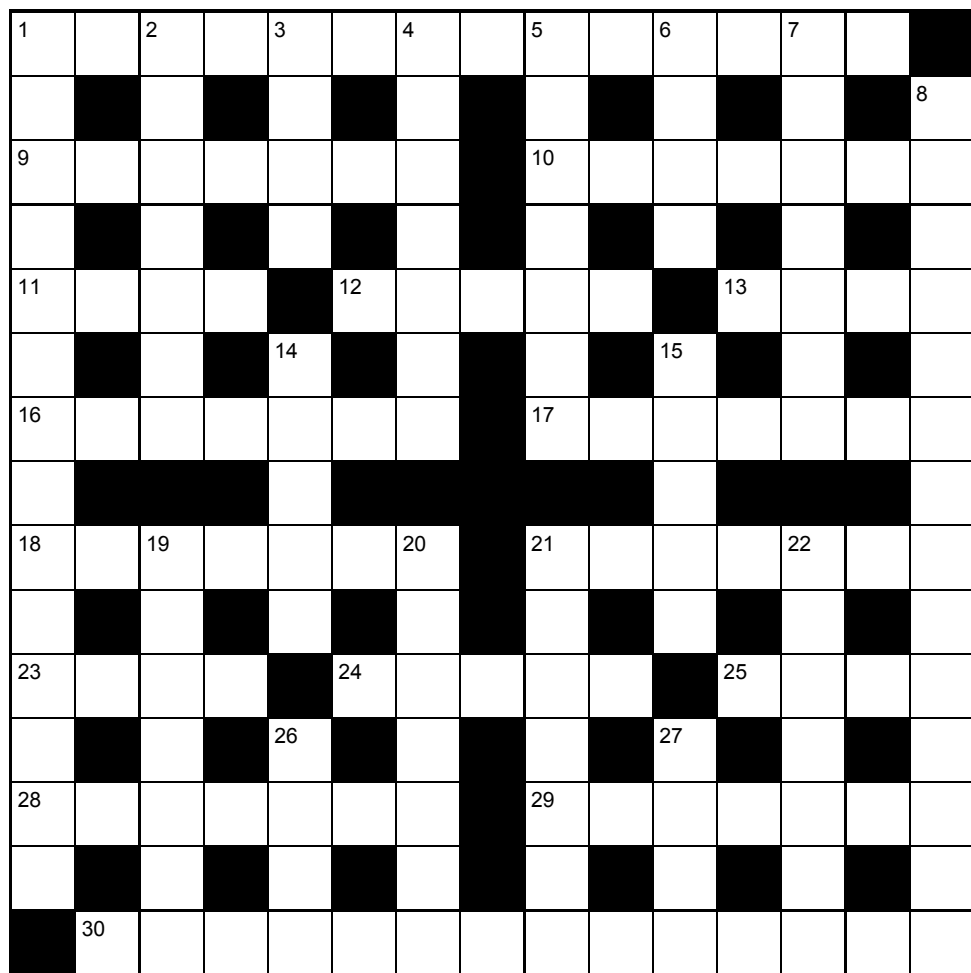
So what is clear and plain to them,  
Our character, strength and beauty,  
How good we are for our fellow men...  
But look up, look at your friends,  
You know they're just exactly the same.

We're shy and self-effacing,  
Reserved about our good points,  
Surprised we've come so far,  
So we don't see all the good things,  
The joy we give to others by just being,

Just by being.

# CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

January 2020: Crossword No XC253802



## ACROSS

- 1 March off before obnoxious display of attractive offers (5,9)
- 9 Decried fighting in third game of best of three? (7)
- 10 Hopin' to find something for the pain (7)
- 11 Some polypropylene is substandard (4)
- 12 Fund for young Tom (5)
- 13 Little child needs strength, it's said (4)
- 16 Force one may chiefly associate with Heartbeat (7)

- 17 Study with class and fit in (7)
- 18 Forestall Anne Boleyn's fate? (4,3)
- 21 Vicar, is it? Call again (7)
- 23 Old boy wants old pound coin from the past (4)
- 24 It enables you to visit several stations (5)
- 25 Present the woman with accolade finally (4)
- 28 One curtailed diction strangely – that's stupid (7)
- 29 English supporter is first to tackle poet (7)
- 30 They will take on big guns at start of bestselling book (3,5,6)

## DOWN

- 1 Novel – old, weird Christie novel (5,4,5)
- 2 Drink with a trainee policeman before work (7)
- 3 Manufactured cheese turns up (4)
- 4 Rich trifle excited oriental (7)
- 5 Elected leader finally in charge is able to keep in shape (7)
- 6 Drinks up on board ship (4)
- 7 Mounting fear? (7)
- 8 From time to time bury glove by telly, oddly (14)
- 14 Friend acquires ring of bronze perhaps (5)
- 15 Rogue found in part of church when speaking (5)
- 19 To get rid of a slob, I changed hospital (7)
- 20 Intended to provide funds, lacking new opening for enterprise (7)
- 21 Tire man out making clothing (7)
- 22 Kind that is wearing glasses (7)
- 26 Small label for men only (4)
- 27 Bishop meets one Greek character or another (4)

## December 2019 SOLUTION

### Crossword No XC253701

## ACROSS

1 landowner. 6 boss. 9 cash cow. 10 termini. 11 Utah. 12 bottleneck. 14 region.  
 15 consommé. 18 Stafford. 19 Coates. 22 restrained. 24 pole. 26 patriot. 27  
 appoint. 28 knot. 29 clientèle.

## DOWN

1 lacquer. 2 nostalgia. 3 ouch. 4 now now. 5 rotation. 6 barber-shop. 7 smite.  
 8 pickle. 13 conformist. 16 meteorite. 17 artistic. 18 strips. 20 sweetie. 21 Nepali.  
 23 Satan. 25 spun.



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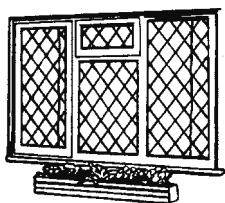
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# **A SELECTED LIST OF SELSDON ORGANISATIONS**

The information provided is, we hope, accurate, but we cannot take any responsibility for any mistakes. Any alterations should be sent to the Editor, as well as contact details of any organisation omitted.

## **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

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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**

CONTACT (neighbourhood care)	Andy Stranack	8651 4944
Selsdon Centre for the Retired	Craig Anderson	8651 1111
Croydon Hearing Resource Centre	Office	8686 0049
Bourne Society	Roger Packham	01883 349287
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 Club of Croydon South	Wendy A Parr	07774 186792
Probus Club of Croydon South	John Barker	8657 2093
St John's Dramatic Society	Caryl Rapps	8651 1326
St John's Wives	Jane Guglielmi	8657 6672
Sanderstead Plantation Partners	Michael Lishmund	020 8651 2760
1st Selsdon & Addington Scout Group:	Website: <a href="http://www.1stselsdon.org.uk">www.1stselsdon.org.uk</a>	
Beaver Colony (6-8yrs)	Maddie Dunn	07703 531652
Cub Pack (8-10yrs)	Louise Baker	07737 404668
Scouts Troop (10-14yrs)	Douglas Gordon	07514 651711
Croyham Valley Explorers	Anthony Woodin	020 8651 3780
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	Beryl Gascoigne	8660 2611
Selsdon Tennis Club	Geoff Littlewood	8651 4748
66 (Selsdon) Squadron Air Training Corps	Rob Cleeter	8651 5958

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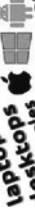
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