

The Selsdon — Gazette —



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THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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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

Welcome to the January edition of the New Year, 2021, and let us hope for a better year than 2020. In this issue I have included the latest news about the financial plans of the council as these will have an impact on everyone living in Selsdon.

We take a look back at 2020 with a review of the work carried out by the SRA, the Friends of Selsdon Wood and Contact. To test whether you have been paying attention during the year, we have a quiz of the events in 2020 for you to try and we look at the words that we used most in 2020.

We look forward to 2021 with our usual gardening contribution, a poem about those New Year's resolutions and an article about Burn's Night happening in January.

As always, I am very happy to receive letters from our readers and this month I have a review of the year from one reader and a heart-warming tale of the endeavours of a seven-year-old trying to help the homeless. Any contribution whether it is a recollection, poem or activity to try can be sent to me by email to (selsdongazettesra@gmail.com)

Other articles include one about where some of our street names came from, another about a local celebrity, Kate Moss, and where to get information about local walks and care services. I hope that you enjoy your read.

Happy New Year, keep safe and I do look forward to hearing from you!

Chris Jones

✿ SUBMISSIONS FOR THE FEBRUARY 2021 EDITION
SHOULD BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN
20TH JANUARY - PREFERABLY BEFORE! ✿

SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS

Gazette

Thank you to the residents who have stepped up and volunteered to deliver the Gazette following last month's appeal. All roads are covered for now but Wendy always needs people to cover holiday (what's that!!?) and sickness so she would love you to be a reserve.

The Gazette has lost a few advertisers due to some retirements and also the effect Covid has had on some businesses, so if anyone knows of a business that might be interested in advertising, we would love to hear from you. The Gazette is heavily reliant on its income from advertisers to cover printing costs - the whole delivery process is carried out by volunteers. You can contact Carlo Rappa at selsdon.adverts@gmail.com with any questions.

Croydon Libraries

The recent announcement from Croydon Council about cutbacks in services has meant that they propose to close libraries. We are fairly confident that Selsdon will stay open for now but Sanderstead is one of those under threat and so we will be supporting them in their fight to stay open. Anyone wishing to get involved in the campaign to save libraries can email save Libraries Campaign at SaveCroydonLibraries@gmail.com

Christmas Lights

These were truly a bright spot this winter and we have received a lot of positive comments for which we are very appreciative as planning starts earlier each year. Hopefully 2021 will see Father Xmas return to Selsdon to turn on our lights again.

A late thank you to the Co-op Funeral Care for their donation to the lights.

Planning

We now have a planning sub-committee that looks at all matters in our area and it is proving to be a busy time for them as planning is increasing almost weekly. Together with the councillors we will keep you updated when we can.

Selsdon Community Plan Committee meet regularly to discuss ways of improving the area and have a few projects in the pipeline but some, like the Xmas Market, have not been able to take place this year due to restrictions. The pink "Love Selsdon" banners on our lampposts look good and help remind and encourage us to shop local.

Your Committee continues to work hard to keep you updated in these socially distanced times and encourages us all to keep Selsdon safe.

Sheila Childs, SRA Chair

COUNCILLOR'S NOTES

CROYDON COUNCIL IS 'BANKRUPT'

In last month's Gazette we reported the Council was in serious financial difficulty, following a 'Report in the Public Interest' from its auditors. Since then, the situation has worsened and the Council effectively became bankrupt on 11th November. This is when its most senior financial officer issued a Section 114 notice (under the Local Government Finance Act 1988) which means:

'the expenditure of the authority incurred (including expenditure it proposes to incur) in a financial year is likely to exceed resources (including sums borrowed) available to it to meet that expenditure.'

The Notice highlighted the Croydon's Labour Council's failings in the financial management of the Council:

- It had identified savings that weren't actually there;
- Its failing development company, Brick by Brick, is not paying back its loans, interest or dividends;
- A failure to deliver urgent savings;
- Departmental costs continuing to spiral out of control;
- A lack of pace, urgency or radical options.

Quotes from the S114 notice report

- 'Croydon's financial pressures are not all related to the pandemic.'
- 'In year savings not delivered – £17.7m of the £27.9m of the 'new' savings presented to Cabinet on 21 September 2020 and the Council meeting on the 28 September 2020 were incorrectly identified as new savings and as a result the forecast overspend has not reduced by as much as previously reported.'
- 'Brick by Brick - The strategic review of Group Companies currently being undertaken has identified that there is a greater risk than previously anticipated around Brick by Brick being able to make interest and dividend payments due to the Council this year and for previous years. The non-delivery of this income adds to the financial pressures and the Council's inability to deliver a balanced budget this financial year.'
- 'Budget Development Meetings – The Council's internal Budget Development Meetings designed to identify budget savings in the medium term 2021/24 is failing to deliver the amount of necessary

- savings proposals and reduce growth demand to date.’
- ‘Spending controls – Despite the Council having put in place spending controls over the summer 2020, non-essential costs have continued to be incurred.’
 - ‘I am not seeing the necessary level of pace, urgency or radical options to be presented to members to take decisions upon to give me confidence that the Council can make the level of savings required to deliver a balance budget in year.’

A S114 notice has serious implications for our residents. Other than statutory responsibilities, no expenditure can take place. This will put a huge strain on vital services; services that are most heavily used by the most vulnerable residents of Croydon.

The cuts that will be made as a result of the Council being effectively bankrupt include:

- Our parks are going to be left to grow wild.
- £1/2 million cut to funding of the voluntary sector
- Ward budgets cancelled
- Sports clubs will be asked to maintain sports pitches.
- Branch Libraries to be closed
- Croydon Museum closed until 2023
- Nursery Transport for children with disabilities to be cut
- Voluntary Sector to provide Adult Social Care packages
- Voluntary Sector to run Council’s Gateway Services/Welfare advice
- No more 24-hour CCTV coverage
- Anti-Social Behaviour. and Neighbourhood Enforcement Teams to be cut
- Council’s Graffiti Team already made redundant.
- Parking Charges to increase
- Croydon Careline charges to increase.
- Violence Reduction Network to lose 3 posts

These are the ones we know of so far, but the Council has still not balanced its budget so further cuts should be expected.

SELSDON COMMUNITY PLAN

The Selsdon Community Plan Steering Group (SCPSG) met again in November and project teams have started working towards the delivery of the ‘quick win’ projects:

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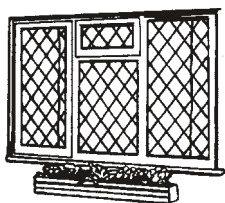
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Information is also available from our website – **www.eldonhousing.org**

1. Greening and planting projects on the high street and green spaces in Selsdon
2. Summer / Christmas Market
3. Signage to Selsdon Places of historic interests, including local walks
4. Selsdon Public Art Initiative
5. Selsdon Community Hub Project
6. Digital Strategy and Roadmap
7. Finance sub group
8. Communications sub group

In April, the Council allocated each councillor a budget of £8000 to spend on projects to support initiatives in their ward. Whilst some of our budget for 2020-21 had already been spent on community projects, we had held back a significant amount to support work on projects identified as part of the Selsdon Community plan, as outlined above.

Now that the Council has issued a S114 notice, the councillor ward budgets are considered 'non-essential'. This means we no longer have the funds to support many of initiatives we had hoped to fund which means it will be much harder to move things forward. We will try and get funding from other sources, but there is concern we will no longer be able to support the delivery of everything we planned.

If you would like to help on any of these projects please get in touch with one of your Councillors.

SIGN POSTING THE HIGHLIGHTS OF SELSDON

One of the projects as part of the Selsdon Community Plan is to signpost key places. Here is a list of the things we would like to signpost and raise awareness for residents and visitors.

- Shopping Centres (High St, Forestdale shops/Crossways)
- Playgrounds (Courtwood, Monks Hill, Selsdon Rec, Addington Park)
- Green spaces (Selsdon Wood, Littleheath Wood, Selsdon Rec, Addington Park, Spring Park, Hutchinson's Bank, Bramley Bank, Heathfield Garden) (Priority 2: Heathfield, Copse View, Abbots Green, Palace Green, The Green (by Featherbed Lane))
- Heritage destinations (Addington village cricket ground, St Mary's church, The Forge)
- Library/community facilities (Selsdon Library and the Selsdon Centre, Contact Centre)

- Public art. Clock and the railings on Selsdon triangle, the bear in Selsdon woods, St Mary's church memorials and graves of Archbishops of Canterbury

If you think we have missed anything important, please let Cllr Helen Pollard know.

FREE PARKING TO END ON THE HIGH STREET

From January 2021 the one-hour free parking in high streets where there are ticket machines will cease.

The Council carried out a consultation about the changes to parking charges, including the removal of free parking for 30 mins to 1 hour on high streets. The consultation received 626 responses.

The top 5 concerns expressed to the consultation are:

- Impact on the local communities and shops from ceasing the 30-min and 1-hour free parking arrangements in district centres.
- Impact on those who cannot afford a newer or electric car, including the poorest, elderly and vulnerable.
- Impact on the local economy and businesses, in already difficult Covid-19 times.
- Unfairness to people on low income and struggling financially, who cannot afford paying parking charges.
- The Council is doing this to raise more income.

The Council has completely ignored the responses they received in the consultation and is going ahead with the changes on 1st January 2021.

This is a blow to local businesses in Selsdon and throughout Croydon. At a time when they are trying to recover after the closures due to the pandemic, the Council is making it more expensive for residents to visit the high street. Your local councillors have opposed this change and will continue to put pressure on the Council to re-introduce 1-hour free parking on high streets.

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS, COUNCILLOR SURGERIES ARE SUSPENDED.

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

Helen.pollard@croydon.gov.uk

Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk

Stuart.millson@croydon.gov.uk

Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk

PLANNING APPLICATIONS JANUARY 2021

20/05924/HSE – 233 Addington Road, CR2 8LQ

Demolition of the existing garage and erection of single/two storey side extension and single/two storey rear extension

20/06211/HSE – 292 Addington Road, CR2 8LF

Erection of detached 2- bedroom bungalow at rear for use in connection with the existing dwelling house

20/05949/FUL - 70 Arkwright Road CR2 0LL

Alterations and partial redevelopment of the site; retention of the existing 2-storey dwelling house, erection of a two- storey side extension, rear ground and first floor extensions, front and rear roof dormers and a rear roof light to facilitate the conversion of the property into 6 flats, along with alterations to the exterior of the building, landscaping, refuse storage, car and cycle parking and associated works.

20/05796/HSE – 109 Benhurst Gardens CR2 8NZ

Construction of a single storey side and extension.

20/05676/FUL – Rear of 131 Benhurst Gardens, CR2 8NZ

Demolition of existing garage structure and the erection of a two-bedroom dwelling within the garden of 131 Benhurst Gardens.

20/06032/HSE – 18 Chestnut Grove, CR2 7LH

Alterations, erection of single storey wrap-around extension

20/06043/HSE – 23 Courtlands Close CR2 0LR

Erection of a front extension to create a flat roofed bay window.

20/06043/LE – 54 Dulverton Road CR2 8PG

Conversion of a single dwelling house into 2 self-contained houses (existing).

20/05891/LP – 80 Foxearth Road, CR2 8EE

Alterations, erection of a hip-to-gable roof extension and rear dormer

20/05647/HSE – 18 Ingham Road, CR2 8LT

Demolition of existing garage and proposed single storey side and rear extension

20/05541/FUL 64 Kingswood Way CR2 8QQ

Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of a two storey 5-bedroom dwelling, including basement.

20/06201/LP – 53 Mallard Road CR2 8PX
Alterations, erection of a rear dormer

20/06177/GPDO – 16 Norfolk Avenue CR2 8BN
Erection of a single storey rear extension projecting out 4 metres from the rear wall of the original house with a height to the eaves of 2.5 metres and a maximum height of 3.6 metres

20/06198/LP – 20 Old Farleigh Road CR2 8PB
Alterations, conversion of existing garage to habitable accommodation and erection of a 3m extension to the rear

20/06115/FUL – 1 The Ruffetts, CR2 7LS
Erection of two buildings comprising five new flats and a pair of semi-detached dwellings with associated car parking and landscaping

20/06065/HSE – 103 Upper Selsdon Road, CR2 0DP
Demolition of existing side extension, erection of two-storey side extension with single-storey front projection and alterations to existing porch.

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

*Planning Application to build a large Crematorium at Farleigh is now on the Tandridge District Planning website (no. 2020/2007). This land is within the Green Belt and an Area of Great Landscape Value. It is also very close to the Farleigh Conservation Area 'Great Farleigh Green' (Farleigh Common).



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MP Chris Philp's Report

Member of Parliament for Croydon South



New Threat to Borough's Libraries

The borough's libraries are once again under threat of closure. Sanderstead and Bradmore Green in Coulsdon are two of at least five libraries across the borough that could be shut down due to the council's bankruptcy. This would mean the loss of almost half our local libraries.

Last year I set up a campaign to stop plans to close libraries in Coulsdon, Sanderstead, Purley and Shirley. At the time the Council denied these plans (which were not originally going to be released to the public) and promised to keep all the borough's libraries open. This is a promise that looks set to be broken.

I am calling on the council to dispose of its commercial assets (such as the hotel) to bring down its debt, and to reduce the £43 million annual cost of servicing its £1.5 billion debt.

The potential loss of our libraries is only the start of the cuts residents will face as a result of the Council's bankruptcy. The Council now needs to find £64 million in savings in order to balance its budget. Croydon is the only London borough council that has gone bankrupt - which is the result of years of spending decisions.

Free swimming for under 16s and over 60s cut

Another blow for residents that is a result of the Council's bankruptcy is the loss of free swimming for under 16s and over 60s. This has been cut by the Council as part of the attempt to re-balance the budget.

I have been contacted by a number of residents about this, and I appreciate that there is a great deal of concern. Aside from the obvious health benefits of free swimming for both younger and older residents, for many with mobility issues access to the pool is vital. I will be paying close attention to this situation, and I hope that free swimming can be reintroduced as soon as possible.

Happy New Year

I sincerely hope that everyone had a happy and safe Christmas. 2020 was

an incredibly difficult year for all of us, and I would like to thank residents for the fantastic way they have responded to the pandemic. The roll out of the vaccine started last year, and is targeted at those who are most at risk. With more and more people being vaccinated I hope that the end of the pandemic is in sight and we can return to normal soon.

In the meantime, I would like to wish everyone a very happy new year.

Chris Philp

Member of Parliament, Croydon South: 020 7219 8026

chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk

~~

Message from Hamida Ali, New Leader of Croydon Council

(Extracts taken from Your Croydon 18/12/20)

Croydon Council provides services to more than 386,000 people. We know how much you rely on us, and how important it is that we spend your money wisely. We are now facing an unprecedented financial challenge with a £64.2m budget gap next year and although we have taken significant steps to address this, we need to do more.

Our absolute priority is to provide the everyday services that we all rely on and, if times get tough, to be there when you need us. To do that, we need to live within our means. We are committed to offering the value for money and quality of care that our residents need and expect.

From collecting the bins to keeping our streets clean and safe, and protecting our most vulnerable residents, we will deliver essential services and deliver them well. Most of the council's money – 57% – goes on supporting and protecting children and adults who need our help, with the rest on other local services like collecting your bins, leisure, libraries and looking after parks. We will still continue to do these things, but we have to make significant savings and we will concentrate our efforts where they make the biggest difference for people in Croydon.

To do this, we will change the way we work. We are completely clear that this will be hard: in the current financial climate it is not possible to carry on as we are, and so some services will stop and others will change.

Before we set our budget next February, we want to hear your views on changes we are proposing. This will help us to understand any impact on you and we want to hear any other ideas you might have.

We aren't going to fix our financial problems overnight – we are at the

beginning of a three-year savings programme, and there will be some difficult decisions to make. That's why we want to be clear about what we need to do, to work with all our staff, residents and partners and keep you informed and involved every step of the way.

Our staff

We need to reshape our council so that we can deliver essential services while living within our means. This means we need to make changes to the structure and size of our workforce – to ensure it can support and sustain our new ways of working. Our staff are absolutely central to those decisions and we want to hear from them so we can build the future council together.

Waste and recycling

We will collect your bins and concentrate on offering a good, efficient kerbside waste and recycling collection service. Most households now have two 240-litre wheelie bins to make it easier to recycle more from their doorstep. This means we could reduce the number of household reuse and recycling centres in the borough from three to two.

Tackling antisocial behaviour

Our enforcement team will carry out our statutory duties in tackling fly-tipping, noise nuisance and other antisocial behaviour. We will use CCTV to monitor issues out-of-hours and work with Croydon police to deliver the services our community needs. Through our violence reduction unit, we will continue to work with our partners across Croydon to tackle the root causes of violence.

Parks and open spaces

We are proud of our 127 parks and open spaces and we will prioritise keeping them clean and safe. We will reduce the amount we spend by having a single maintenance team, stopping bedding schemes and extending our 'meadowing' approach to grass-cutting. We'll also be talking to local groups about how we can spend less on maintaining facilities such as bowling greens.

Sports and leisure centres

We will continue to work with our operators GLL so that residents across the borough can access a wide range of sports and leisure activities in good quality, modern facilities. Covid-19 has had a major impact on the leisure industry nationally – including in Croydon – with lockdowns and

restrictions on numbers using sports centres. We are working closely with GLL to work out the best approach to our leisure and sports centres in the next few years, including what is going to be affordable and sustainable. We can't subsidise centres that lose significant sums of money every year, such as Purley, and this could mean we close some facilities and reduce hours at others. We will also look at where there might be a case to invest in a leisure centre or sports facility to make it more cost-effective and profitable in the longer term.

Libraries

Since bringing our libraries in-house we have invested significantly in this service, upgrading the IT equipment and broadband, and our members can now access six million books through our membership of the libraries consortium. This includes 41,000 e-books, newspapers, magazines and training materials and in the last few months we've seen a major shift in the way people access this service and use our digital collections, with 800 new online members in April alone. As part of our savings proposals, we are considering reducing the number of library buildings from 13 to eight – but before we make any decisions, we will carry out a full public consultation starting in January 2021.

Museum of Croydon

We want our museum and archives service to work more closely with libraries to deliver services within the community. Closing the museum gallery spaces for two to three years will enable us to focus our smaller resources on the archive service, research room, exhibition gallery and atrium downstairs.

Children's services

With 93,000 under-18s, young people are a priority for Croydon and in March our services for children and families were rated 'good' by Ofsted. We will focus on supporting families to stay together, helping those in need as early as possible. We are reviewing the way we deliver services and will make some changes, including redesigning our children's centre model.

Transport for nursery children with special educational needs

We are proposing to stop specialist nursery transport for a small number of children with special educational needs. This service is used by 21 families and we would offer it until September 2021, allowing them time to make alternative arrangements.

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Adult social care

We will protect vulnerable adults as a priority and support them to live full, healthy lives as independently as possible, meeting all of our duties under The Care Act. We will continue to work in partnership with the NHS and others, listening to residents to provide joined-up health and care. To bring our spending in line with other authorities, we will review placement costs, contracts and accommodation, and increase the use of Direct Payments to enable people to have more choice and control. We will continue to invest in our dedicated workforce to deliver quality services locally and invest in new and improved digital solutions to enable people to do more for themselves.

Welfare services

We will prioritise tackling ingrained poverty and inequality and we will work with our partners across Croydon to ensure that together, we are meeting our communities' needs. We will make the most of our resources, avoid duplication and make it as easy as possible for residents to access our services while offering value for money.

Between 9 December and 24 January, the Council is gathering feedback on their savings proposals at www.croydon.gov.uk/savingsproposals

The Selsdon Gazette would like to clarify that it is non-political publication, so we do try to balance the views of our councillors and MP by including the statement from the Labour Leader of the Council.

Editor

~~

Message from Jack Killian Police Community Support Officer

Hello Residents,

The team has been out and about as usual but it has been quite quiet in terms of operations around Selsdon and Forestdale over the last month. We have mostly been helping the Addington teams with different warrants and operations. We did have 2 night shifts a couple of weekends ago focusing on drink driving/drug driving because this is a problem especially around this time of year. We managed to get 2 arrests with one being for drink driving and the other for drug offences.

Thefts from motor vehicles, including catalytic convertors, continue to top the list of crimes in the Selsdon and Forestdale area.

Hope you are all staying safe and well and wishing you all a happy new year!

As always, any information you feel is helpful for us to know, drop me an email or give us a call on the phone number below.

Jack Killian 7114SN

Police Community Support Officer

Telephone: 020 8721 2464

Email: SNMailbox-SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk

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

~~

Helping to make Selsdon a better place

A look back at last year and a plea for help on 30th January 2021

Christmas lights – From 9th November to 6th January the seasonal lights, paid for by our residents and some traders, shone brightly in the main shopping area again, safely suspended from the new wires which caused us extra expense in 2020. I'm glad to say I had no adverse comments about the new green lights in the two Selsdon signs: it was chosen as a festive colour and not for any Irish connection! We are contracted for two more years for these lights at an annual cost of about £7500 per year. It is possible we will have some additional costs for the H&S wire checks and tensioning of the wires as time goes on and then the SRA will have to consider what we can afford for the next contract from November 2023. We hope for your continuing support and thank all the traders who contributed this year.

Shopping area floral displays – We hope you appreciated the petunias and geraniums in the railing troughs and 'leftovers' we put into the planters outside Iceland when we heard the council would not renew the plants in those for us. Sheila and I kept them watered and dead-headed throughout the summer, with some help from the nearest shops. Luckily, despite the early hot sun, they survived and gave a good show in the end. We are grateful to Chapel View Plants for supplying the petunias and trailing

geraniums at a very reasonable rate. I grew the bedding geraniums from seed and we are now trying to save some over the winter to start off next year's display. The overall cost of the plants, fresh compost, water crystals etc was about 20% that of the contractor-provided plants previously: but they kindly left the troughs for us to use, for which we are very grateful. We hope they don't want them back now!

Chapel View also sold us the pansies for the winter planting in the troughs. We are grateful to Jane Ward for planting them up for us. We have hard pruned the roses in the planters and hope, with some extra soil and fertiliser when the time is right, they will bloom better next summer. If not, we will consider a suitable replacement scheme for the next year. The actual planters could do with some TLC. Does anyone have any half-used tins of brown wood preservative so they could paint them (or at least the parts you can reach between the seat planks) for us? We have to ask you this as the Council can no longer afford to deal with the plants or the planters so it's up to us all to look after them if we want to keep them to make the area look pleasant. Please contact us if you can offer any help or materials.

Selsdon Triangle – We felt it best not to ask the schools to help decorate the Triangle trees for Christmas due to Covid but we are grateful to our Secretary who continued her new tradition of decorating the clock area. I'm not sure she wants to do it every year though! If anyone else would like to help or take this on, please let her know.

The aforementioned Council cuts mean that it is unlikely the Triangle area will be tended to this winter (or beyond). We have therefore offered to give it a 'short back and sides' in the winter ready for a regeneration of growth in the Spring. The SRA would appreciate your help with this on **Saturday 30th January between 10 and 12.30** - weather permitting! If we don't get all the work done, or the weather prevents anything at all being done, then we will try again the following Saturday 7th February. Hope to see you there!

The main things that need doing are weeds scraped from the clock area, unwanted saplings taken out (or at least cut down to ground level) from amongst the hedge and shrubs, general weeding of the area under the yews etc plus the pruning of the shrubs. You would have to bring your own gardening gloves, kneelers and tools suitable for these tasks. The council has offered to take away the rubbish we produce on the day.

We will ask you to work only in family/ household groups or in socially distanced pairs for Covid security reasons plus the usual H & S precautions of not getting in each other's way when doing this communal

work.

You don't need to stay for the whole time – please just give us whatever time you can spare as many hands make light work and the activity will soon warm you up! Maybe we can even persuade Wetherspoons to give us some take away coffees as they didn't have to provide it for the lights switch on!

Linda Morris and the SRA - contact via mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com or call Sheila Childs on 020 8651 2285

~~

The Work of the Friends of Selsdon Wood in 2020

In the December issue of the Gazette, Ian Leggatt wrote about the withdrawal of Council funding for local Friends groups. While this applies equally to the FSW, our current financial position means that we are able to bear the cuts for the coming year although we too will struggle if the lack of financial support continues.

In addition, the cuts will mean that Council work in the woods, such as coppicing, the widening of rides and the removal of fallen trees is unlikely to take place in the near future. However, the Friends are still here to help where possible on a voluntary basis.

Early this year, before Covid, our major activity involved work on our coppicing strip alongside Steven's Walk. We cut and cleared brambles and low vegetation, planted 50 whips (small sapling trees) and created a fence around the site to prevent deer from eating the young shoots. All of the new trees were also protected by tubes and supported by stakes. When Covid restrictions started, all scheduled FSW Walks and Workdays were cancelled and this continued until the end of the year. However, our Workdays Team continued to work in small, Covid-safe groups at times convenient to them and this will continue throughout 2021 until all restrictions are lifted.

Our summer season work has included:

- **Clearing fallen trees** - Stormy weather in late summer and autumn meant that a number of trees were brought down and some were blocking paths. We have cleared nine substantial falls including

massive fallen birch trees in Farleigh Border and Avis Grove.

- **Replacing or restoring fallen guide posts** - Many of the wooden posts signing the red and green walking routes around Selsdon Wood had rotted through at the base. To restore these, we used Metposts - metal sheaths for the base of the wooden posts with spikes which can be hammered into the ground. In addition, we cleared vegetation around some of the undamaged posts which had become overgrown.
- **Restoring some of the fallen waymarker signs and creating new ones** - The signs which name the various paths are mounted on backplates and erected with long screws that do not damage the trees. The backplates are surrounded with steel bands to stop squirrels gnawing them. Four new signs have been erected and we have several more to put in place over the next few months.
- **Clearance in the Gorses area** - Without intervention the gorse gets swamped with brambles and bracken. In past years clearance has been a communal workday effort and we have also been supported by TCV (a local community volunteer support group). This year large group activity has not been possible but we have worked within Covid rules on a number of occasions to clear some of the invaders.
- **Clearing vegetation blocking the view of the Jubilee Pond** - Our thanks to a new member who has been involved with this work. In coming months, we plan to clear out some of the iris and debris from this pond to make it a viable ecosystem once again.
- We also keep the toilets relatively clean (and on one occasion replaced a lock which had disappeared) and many Friends collect litter on a daily basis.



So, you see we have been pretty busy throughout 2020. We are hopeful that things will be back to normal in early 2021 allowing Workdays to resume on the first Sunday of every month. We could really use more help and would love you to join us. We supply the tools and you can choose tasks which suit your strengths and abilities.

More detail of the work with photographs can be found on the Workdays page of our website www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk

For further information contact our Workdays leader, Ted Forsyth, at tedforsyth@btinternet.com or tel: 8651 0558

Heather Govier, Chair FSW

~~

A Good Time for Gardening – January 2021



January ... named after the Roman god of beginnings and transition, as well as endings. He is usually depicted with two faces as he looks both to the future and into the past. Let us concentrate on the face that is looking forward and leave 2020 way behind us.

Although, it needs to be said, that many of our gardens had a wonderful amount of attention in 2020 due to us being so restricted in our movement and travels. A god of transition and if you look really carefully our gardens are already changing and moving forward ready to burst into glorious colour and superb growth.

Just a few things to be doing in and around the garden at this time of year.

- ~ Recycle your Christmas tree by shredding it for mulch (but only if it was a real one!)
- ~ Clean pots and greenhouse ready for all that wonderful Spring sunshine
- ~ Dig over any areas that needs doing
- ~ Disperse worm casts in lawns by brushing them with a stiff broom
- ~ Check dahlias, begonia and canna tubers for rot or drying out
- ~ Prune apple and pear trees
- ~ Start forcing rhubarb by keeping it in darkness ... forcing it to do what though!!
- ~ Plan vegetable crop rotations
- ~ Start chitting** early potatoes. This can be done in egg boxes on a cool window sill.
- ~ Sow chilli seeds
- ~ Check hellebores for black spot and remove those leaves if any is found.
- ~ Keep putting out food and water for the birds and take the time to sit and watch them with a steaming cup of coffee and the seed catalogues close at hand.

**** What does chitting mean, you may ask – to cause a potato to sprout by placing it in a cool, light place.**

If the weather changes from grey and wet and is suitable for a trip out, RHS Wisley has an amazing amount of shrubs and trees in bloom even this early in the year. The Witch Hazels smell divine and the sunlight on the dogwood stems is beautiful. In the Alpine House they hold the national collection of snowdrops, an amazing variety, although these are now kept under lock and key, as a while ago visitors were so enamoured of these flowers that they kept helping themselves to the plants!!!

Bill, Ben and Little Weed have now moved on and this article has been written by their replacements Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid
www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

~~

A MESSAGE FROM CONTACT

Selsdon Community Centre
132, Addington Road CR2 8LA
Telephone: 020 8651 4944
Email: info@selsdoncontact.org.uk
www.selsdoncontact.org.uk

Happy New Year 2021

Contact, your local neighbourhood care scheme, has been working in Selsdon for over 40 years. We do this by supporting the most vulnerable people of all ages in the community.

Last year was one of the most challenging for us, but thanks to our loyal army of volunteers, we managed to continue supporting the community during both lockdowns.

Key events included setting up a food hub to provide essential shopping to our clients; partnering with the Croydon High School Catering Department and the Fire Brigade to deliver a hot meal once a week and our ongoing befriending calls to our clients.

One of the biggest achievements of last year, was working with Croydon Jubilee Church to set up a Street Champion in every road in Selsdon;

many of whom are still assisting clients in a number of ways.

Finally, at the end of the year, we gifted all our clients with a Christmas goody bag. We were delighted to receive over 50 Christmas goody bags from London Needs Cooling Ltd, an Air Conditioning company based in Selsdon. They were very much appreciated by our client couples.

Although we have had to suspend a number of services, we hope to resume these when safe to do so.

In the meantime, we are still available to assist where possible and will continue our work in the community.

Jasmine Singh

~~

Local girl - Kate Moss

It is well known that international supermodel Kate Moss comes from Croydon. Rarely is her name mentioned by outsiders without this reference.

Probably they love to contrast her glamour with the imagined perception of Croydon – a gritty, urban, concrete estate or a featureless suburb. She does little to debunk this myth about Croydon. In reality

she grew up in a detached house in Church Way not far from Sanderstead Village pond, and then for a time in Forestdale when her parents split. She attended Riddlesdown High School which is surrounded by beautiful chalk downland. There may be some people in Selsdon who remember going to school with her.



Rising to fame as a teenager, despite her small stature (for a model) she quickly became famous and in demand by the largest fashion houses and brands. She was working and moving in an adult world from age 14 and had to grow up quickly. The paparazzi, who continue to follow her every move to this day, loved to picture her coming out of night clubs.

She has at times been controversial, for example, she received criticism for seeming to promote an unhealthy skinniness or 'size zero' such as her famous quote, *"Nothing tastes as good as skinny feels."* Her drinking and drug abuse were also well reported. However, her quoted motto; *"Never*

complain. Never explain.” has worked in her favour and given her a certain untouchable allure.

Born in 1974 she will be 47 on 16th January. She has met many famous celebrities and royalty over the past 33 years. She has reached the status of British ‘icon’ and as such was chosen to feature in the closing ceremony of the 2012 London Olympic Games. According to the 2009 Forbes ‘Rich List’ her net worth at that time was £40 million but is likely now to be much more. She has supported many charity ventures over the years particularly Comic Relief.

Janet Sharp

~~

What’s in a Name?

Whilst completing the envelopes for the myriad Christmas cards I was sending out I wondered at the diversity of street and road names as I was writing. How did they get their monikers?



Locally, Addiscombe celebrates the East India Company with Canning, Clyde, Elgin, Outram and Havelock Roads on land where the East India Co had an Engineering College. In our own area Addington and Selsdon Park Roads are fairly obvious. The former goes from Selsdon to Addington. The latter from Addington to Selsdon, when Selsdon consisted predominantly of Selsdon Park Farm and Selsdon Park. Mountwood Close remembers Mountwood which covered that area.

Kingfisher, Wagtail, Sandpiper etc are all on the ‘Bird’ estate developed by Messrs Wimpey. Given that much of Selsdon as we now know it was constructed by Costains back in the 1920s and they laid out and named many of the roads it is perhaps not surprising that most have a connection with Costains. Foxearth and Littleheath Roads are named after two of the individual woods on the Ordnance Survey map of 1912 and which now are part of Littleheath Woods. One assumes Queenhill Road can be attributed to Queenhill Shaw, another wooded area of Littleheath Woods shown on the 1912 map. Byron Road owes its name to the Costains works in Liverpool whilst Brent Road commemorates a Costains development which was taking place in north west London. Rylandes Road perhaps

takes its name from Richard Rylandes Costain. In the early 30s Costains had just completed a block of flats in Streatham, Benhurst Court, so our Gardens and Close were so named. Likewise, a block in Bloomsbury, London, had been called Endsleigh Court. Elm Park Gardens can trace its name to the Elm Park Costains development in Essex.

The origins of our Farley Road though are open to conjecture. Was the audibly challenged draughtsman verbally instructed to write the name 'Farleigh' on the plan which officially named our Farley Road?

It would seem that Costains were not terribly inventive when asked to name a new road.

Ian Leggatt

With thanks to the journals of Ted Frith. Any mistakes in transcribing his notes are mine.

~~

Burns Night, Monday 25 January 2021

For the people of Scotland and anyone of Scottish heritage, Burns Night, held on or around 25th January each year is one of the most important (and fun!) events of the year. The day celebrates the Poems and Songs of Robert Burns, who is also often called Rabbie Burns, with a celebration meal and festivities that includes poetry reading and singing.



Who Was Rabbie Burns?

Burns was thought to have been born on 25th January 1759, the son of a farmer. He tried to follow his father into a career in farming but his literary talent and political tendencies soon began to show. He wrote much of his best work whilst still farming, the publication of his first book brought enough money for him to move to Edinburgh and to produce a second book of poetry. The income from this and a job as a tax collector allowed him to marry and settle down. He continued to write over 200 songs, the best known of which is 'Auld Lang Syne', and poetry, most famously 'Tam O'Shanter'. He died in 1796 and is revered as a national poet of Scotland.



Having your own Burn's Night Supper would be a lovely way to celebrate and adding a bit of Scottish fun to your day is a great thing to do in the cold, grey depths of January. A traditional celebration of Burns Night consists of a special meal called a Burns Night Supper along with readings of his works, however if you want to include your children you probably won't offer them the traditional whisky toast!

The meal should of course be of Haggis. In case you don't know, haggis is a kind of sausage made from a sheep's heart, liver and lungs. This should be served with Neeps and Tatties (potatoes and mashed swede).

If you can't face haggis, then you could still have the traditional starter of Cock-A-Leekie soup or some traditional deserts such as Clootie Dumpling (a pudding prepared in a linen cloth or cloot) or Topsy Laird (a Scottish sherry trifle)

The meal can be informal or formal; a formal meal includes much ceremonial poetry reading, whisky drinking and bagpipe playing. An informal meal can be exactly what you want it to be.

(Haggis, swede and potatoes drawing by Gillian Kyle Scottish Food Art)

CJ

~~

Quiz of the Year 2020

Test your knowledge of the year 2020 by trying these 12 questions (12 questions to match the 12 months in a year!).

1. Between February 8 and 9, a powerful storm hit the UK. What was it called?
2. Which fitness guru and known as 'The Body Coach' became very popular during the lockdown of 2020?
3. First aired in March on BBC One, which drama series was based on the books by Malorie Blackman charting an alternative history whereby African people had colonised Europe instead of the other way round?
4. What is the name of the new James Bond film which was meant to be released in cinemas in 2020?
5. Boris Johnson and Carrie Symonds welcomed a new baby son on April 29, what is his first name?



6. Which town was Dominic Cummings driving to in order to test his eyesight after being infected with coronavirus?
7. In May, it was announced that a former British Army officer was to be knighted after raising money for charity in the run-up to his 100th birthday. What is his name?
8. In which US city did George Floyd die after being subdued by police officers?
9. In August, 220 people were killed and 300,000 made homeless by an explosion of ammonium nitrate being stored where?
10. Which movie released in 2020, starring Anna and Elsa, became the highest grossing animated film of all time?
11. Which private company became the first to launch a rocket into space?
12. Name the TV presenter and renowned quizzer whose 2020 best-selling crime thriller was recently bought by Steven Spielberg.

Answers after Nature Notes

~~

Seasonal Food in January

Apples, Beetroot, Brussels Sprouts, Carrots, Celeriac, Celery, Chicory, Jerusalem Artichokes, Kale, Leeks, Mushrooms, Onions, Parsnips, Pears, Red Cabbage, Salsify, Savoy Cabbage, Spring Greens, Spring Onions, Squash, Swedes, Turnips, White Cabbage.

~~



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.

Dear Editor,

(A 'positive' look back on 2020 from Jessica who wrote the 'life under lockdown' articles for us.)

ENDING OF A DIFFICULT YEAR - HORRAY!

This year may have been difficult; no one cares to live with the threat of severe illness or death even in the normal way, without that threat including everyone in the entire world, but it has been interesting in a way too.

There are so many exercise routines to follow on You-tube, even for Seniors, that we find ourselves overall, fitter than when we began "Lockdown". With so many walks to make and find variations to, zig-zag walking (avoiding getting too close to others, by either crossing the road or walking in the kerb) is a laugh to us. There is also visiting friends on foot to save petrol, and waving at people who are walking at the same time as yourself most days, who we now look out for.

It was great hearing from friends who didn't wish us to feel lonely. Of our children, the one living closest to us did our shopping for months, bless him, and now has taken away parcels and posted them, to stop us fretting about the others not receiving things from us at Christmas, when we've packaged several deliveries together as Christmas presents. We are still receiving things through the post. Regular delivery men know where to leave packages if we are out.

Thank Heaven for home delivery companies like Amazon, which we have learned to trust in. There are so many delivery companies, we just don't worry; all our Christmas shopping was done this way. When I hand deliver the local Christmas cards, I wear a plastic disposable glove to open friends' letter boxes.

Now I know I can join Midnight Communion online on Christmas Eve from my local church, I feel happier. At Easter I watched the Pope from Rome, which was different. Yet, that too has been a learning curve. We have walked through some famous museums from around the world, without the crowds, and are now considering watching a concert or two, also via the internet, a Carol Concert would be brilliant. I can barely believe we would have "risked" buying much at all this way, even this time last year. My relative even did an art class on the internet. I must see what is



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Roy Brady MCiphe

on there in that category to look forward to doing in the new year.

Are we not really lucky to have all these facilities just when we so badly need them?

So, with the fun of Zoom and other apps like it, let's hope most of us get to see family, where ever they live, this Christmas. We may not be able to give them hugs and kisses, but we can share in their laughter for a short time - and it's better than not seeing them at all.

Merry Christmas and stay safe until every single one of us has had both our anti-virus injections, in the New Year. Should you feel sad or lonely, then remember, this is everyone living in this entire world under threat. We are not alone if sometimes we feel down, but share this in common with every living soul. It is nice to be united in this world, instead of forever being divided about something or other.

Jessica Blake

~~

Dear Editor,

I know all grandparents are proud of their grandchildren but my 7-year-old grandson, Franklin, has made me super proud and touched my heart with his kindness.

At the beginning of December, the family drove up to London to admire all the Christmas lights. As they walked round, he noticed all the homeless people getting comfortable in shop doorways. He asked his Mum and Dad why the people were sleeping in doorways. He was so touched he said he wanted to set up a sweet stall to get money to help them.

The next day Franklin and his Mum went to Aldi to buy sweets etc. He packed the shopping in the bag and paid with his pocket money. We helped him make up the sweet bags and sat at the end of the drive with him and explained to anyone walking passed why he was selling the sweet bags. Everyone was so generous. Family, friends, school friends and the general public all donated to help his cause.



Franklin stood in front of his class mates and explained what he saw in London and why he wanted to help.

He has collected just over £300 and his aim is to spend some of the money in the local charity shops to buy jumpers, coats & warm socks. The remainder of the money will be donated to Croydon Nightwatch.

I wanted to share this with you because I thought it was such a wonderful kind and thoughtful thing for a 7-year-old to do.

Kind regards and keep safe.

Linda McBrine

~~

Dear Editor,

Firstly, may I say a big thank you for overseeing the production of a great publication, The Selsdon Gazette. It has always proved to be a great means of keeping us residents informed of what is happening in our area as well including some articles of real interest. We have lived in the same house in Selsdon for just over 47 years our two sons attended Selsdon Primary School and then went onto Riddlesdown High – they are both now married and one has three children of their own and the other has two.

The main reason for my writing is in connection with the Croydon Council / Brick by Brick 'debacle' in particular and the totally incomprehensible handling of the local authority's finances involving, essentially, our money. I looked with interest at the diagrammatic illustration of the flow of money on page 11 of the Gazette and couldn't help but come to the conclusion that it seems to suggest, for want of a better description, an "incestuous relationship between Croydon Council and Brick by Brick." If that were eventually proved to be the case then surely there would be an argument for criminal proceedings against those most closely involved. As far financial mis-management is concerned I know that if those responsible for ensuring the financial viability of a private sector company were 'guilty' of such lack of control leading to administration, then as directors their personal assets become liable to seizure. This was made clear to colleagues and myself many years ago when the organisation we ran became the 'victims' of a number of potential defaults (note potential) due

to hostilities in the part of the world where they were based. Due to the likelihood of insolvency occurring we had no alternative but to proceed to Administration. This directive came from one of Grant Thornton's rival top accountancy firms. Surely there should be some similar type of corporate law governing how a local authority should conduct its business. Otherwise without some form of mandatory 'checks and balances' a council (in this case Croydon) can, without meaningful opposition from an alternative political party do exactly as it wants with impunity.

I noted the comments made by the new Leader of Croydon council in the Gazette in which she cited a number of reasons for council finances being in such a parlous state and she concluded that part of the statement by saying, and I quote, "we've got to be honest that the council has also made some mistakes." With due respect to Hamida Ali, I suggest that the statement "the council has also made some mistakes" is the single most understatement I have heard in 2020.

I am happy for this to be passed to Grant Thornton or the council itself if deemed appropriate.

John Marchant

The opinions expressed in this letter are entirely those of the writer, as the SRA is non-political. Editor

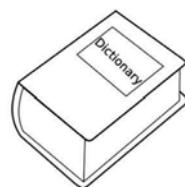
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Words of the Year 2020

This year has seen so many seismic events that Oxford Dictionaries has expanded its usual 'Word of the Year' to encompass 47 "Words of an Unprecedented Year". Its words were chosen to reflect 2020's "ethos, mood, or preoccupations".

The President of Oxford Dictionaries stated: "It's both unprecedented and a little ironic - in a year that left us speechless, 2020 has been filled with new words unlike any other."

The list of 47 includes antimasker, BC (before covid), bushfires, coronavirus, Covid-19, covidiot, WFH, lockdown, circuit-breaker, support bubbles, keyworkers, furlough, net zero, pandemic, PPE, R number, self-isolate, superspreader, Black Lives Matter, take a knee, unmute, wet market, workation and moonshot.



They found that the use of the word pandemic had increased by more than 57,000% this year.

At the same time, “Lockdown” has been declared the word of the year for 2020 by Collins Dictionary, after a sharp rise in its usage during the pandemic. According to the dictionary, lockdown is defined as “the imposition of stringent restrictions on travel, social interaction, and access to public spaces”. Other pandemic-linked terms on its 10-strong list included “furlough”, “key worker”, “self-isolate” and “social distancing” as well as “coronavirus”.

Non-virus related words reflected the social and political upheavals of 2020. Following the death of the unarmed black man George Floyd in the US the abbreviation “BLM”, for the Black Lives Matter movement registered a 581% increase in usage, according to Collins.

“Megxit”, the term modelled on the word Brexit which was used for the withdrawal of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex from royal duties also makes the list.

Social media also plays its part with “TikToker”, describing someone who shares content on platform TikTok.

Previous Collins words of the year

2019: Climate strike

2018: Single-use

2017: Fake news

2016: Brexit

2015: Binge-watch

2014: Photobomb

~~

Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth – Seeds

The seeds produced by plants, trees and bushes come in many different forms but all have one thing in common – once the seed is in suitable soil conditions gravitational and other signals will cause roots to descend into the soil, a stem to grow upwards and leaves to develop on the stem. Plants like primroses and orchids have seed like dust which is easily dispersed by wind, while others like dandelions and willowherb have their seed attached to fluffy devices which allow the seed to drift on the breeze for some distance before dropping to the soil. Wild clematis is packaged

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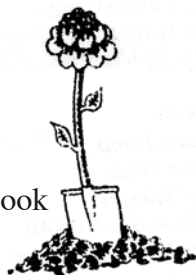
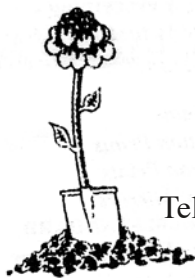
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in this way in the form of the Old Man's Beard (or Traveller's Joy) which adorns hedges in the autumn.

Plants which produce soft fruit like raspberry, strawberry, Bramble, honeysuckle and wild rose rely upon animals or birds to disperse the seeds – the soft part being digested and the seeds being excreted with a ready-made helping of fertiliser. I have watched bullfinches eating the fruits of honeysuckle but they seemed to prefer the shrivelled and dried-up fruits rather than the juicy specimens. Strings of fleshy berries are produced by Bittersweet (Woody Nightshade), Black Bryony and White Bryony.

On more substantial vegetation we might expect equally substantial seed. Blackthorn, Buckthorn, Hawthorn all have the juicy flesh surrounding a large hard object which contains the seed, but the Midland Thorn usually has more than one of these "stones" inside the soft flesh. Birds will swallow these fruits whole and usually cough-up the stones in the form of a pellet but not neatly packed like the pellet of an owl. Similar arrangements exist on Wild Cherry, Bird Cherry, Laurel, Whitebeam, Wild Service, Dogwood, Holly, Elder, Ivy and Rowan.

Field Maple, Norway Maple, Sycamore, Hornbeam, Elm, Lime and Ash all have the seed attached to "wings" or similar devices which carry the seed on the wind some way from the tree.

Hazel, Oak, Sweet Chestnut, Horse Chestnut, and Beech have various forms of nut which are too heavy to be affected by a breeze. Squirrels will bury nuts at a distance from the tree, intending to collect them during the winter and will inevitably miss some, while Jays will do the same with acorns.



Conifers such as Pine, Spruce and Larch, but also the deciduous Alder, hold their seed within cones. Some foreign species might need to be exposed to fire before they will open to release the seed.

Some species prefer to be different. Yew (see photo) is usually considered to be a conifer but produces a fleshy fruit (called an Aril). Spindle fruits are a bright combination of pink and orange. The long dangling flowers on Buddleia develop into a similarly long seed head full of fine seed. Goat Willow (Pussy Willow) produces the familiar furry catkins.

The pendulous seed head of the Birch attracts Goldfinches and Siskins in the winter. The yellow-flowered Agrimony has seed in capsules which cling to animals (and clothing) and are transported elsewhere as does Goosegrass (Cleavers), and the larger Burdock has fruits with barbs which are equally likely to stick to passing animals.



Crab Apple fruits are large and contain a few pips which are released as the fruits rot on the ground or are pecked at by thrushes – even slugs will help by eating the flesh. Gorse, Broom and Vetches contain the seeds within a pod which dries and opens up in late summer heat to release the seeds.

It is obvious that plants have evolved many solutions to the problem of holding the developing seed and arranging for its dispersal when ripe.

~~

Answers to the Quiz of the Year 2020

1. Storm Ciara
2. Joe Wicks
3. Noughts & Crosses
4. No Time to Die
5. Wilfred
6. Barnard Castle
7. Captain Tom Moore
8. Minneapolis
9. Beirut, Lebanon
10. Frozen II
11. SpaceX
12. Richard Osman

~~

Poetry Corner

Mary Gill thought that the theme of her poem would be appropriate for this time of year!

RESOLUTIONS

Resolved and resolute, I made my resolutions.
Identified my problems and sought out their solutions.
So when the New Year came I was resolved
To work on every one until it's solved.

I need to get much thinner –
That one's simple – eat less dinner.
I ought to be much fitter –
Join a gym! Don't be a quitter.
Be a better friend and neighbour.
Don't keep putting off till later

All the chores that I find boring
 And which I have been ignoring.
 Learn a language; take up running.
 Smile at colleagues I've been shunning.
 Give up meat and wine and sugar.
 Keep decluttering with vigour.
 Throw out excess shoes and dresses.
 Always keep in mind that less is
 More for any well-dressed dummy
 Who can't be a yummy mummy
 Now that she's a doting granny
 Who's afraid of looking tacky.



New Year's Eve it seemed so easy,
 But right now I'm feeling queasy.
 Just the thought of that endeavour
 Makes me wish that I had never
 Made my reckless resolutions
 To make startling improvements
 To my life-style and demeanour-
 To be kinder and much greener.

Now the New Year's here I waver.
 Cannot face this changed behaviour.
 Put it off till I feel calmer.
 No I do not mean mañana-
 Need to get my act together –
 So, what's Spanish for forever?

PAM AYRES (*Poem about the coronavirus and the older generation*)

I'm normally a social girl
 I love to meet my mates
 But lately with the virus here we can't go out the gates.
 You see, we are the 'oldies' now
 We need to stay inside
 If they haven't seen us for a while
 They'll think we've upped and died.

They'll never know the things we did
 Before we got this old
 There wasn't any FaceBook
 So not everything was told.

We may seem sweet old ladies
Who would never be uncouth,
But we grew up in the 60s –
If you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll
The pill and miniskirts
We smoked, we drank, we partied
And were quite outrageous flirts.
Then we settled down, got married
And turned into someone's mum,
Somebody's wife, then nana,
Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace
Because our lives were full
But to bury us before we're dead
Is like red rag to a bull!
So here you find me stuck inside
For 4 weeks, maybe more
I finally found myself again
Then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me
I'd while away the hour
I'd bake for all the family
But I've got no flaming flour!
Now Netflix is just wonderful
I like a gutsy thriller
I'm swooning over Idris
Or some random sexy killer.
At least I've got a stash of booze
For when I'm being idle
There's wine and whisky, even gin
If I'm feeling suicidal!

So, let's all drink to lockdown
To recovery and health
And hope this awful virus
Doesn't decimate our wealth.
We'll all get through the crisis
And be back to join our mates
Just hoping I'm not far too wide

To fit through the flaming gates!





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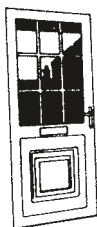
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Six Word Story Challenge

In the 1920s, Ernest Hemmingway bet ten dollars that he could write a complete story in just six words. He wrote:

For sale: baby shoes, never worn.

He won his bet! In these six simple words, a heart-breaking narrative is told – from the few words but also from what is left out.

Now I am throwing out the challenge to all the readers of the Selsdon Gazette to write their own six-word story.

Here are some more examples that I found on the internet to inspire you to accepting the challenge.

*Google: how to inflate a liferaft!
Man steal drugs, drugs steal man
Strangers. Friends. Best Friends. Lovers. Strangers.
Torched the haystack. Found the needle
Wrong number, 'says a familiar voice'
Sorry soldier, shoes sold in pairs
I'm beside myself; cloning machine works.*

Surely everyone has a six-word story to be told? Hopefully my inbox will be inundated with your stories which I can use in next month's Gazette. Please email selsdongazettesra@gmail.com

Editor challenges. Readers respond. Packed Gazette.

~~

Help for carers

Contact – this Neighbourhood Care scheme provides practical help, advice, support and information for anybody living within the Selsdon area through a large network of volunteers. As well as helping those living alone, they also offer Carer Support and help for young families: Information, advice and support on services and benefits and how to apply - assisting with the application if required. Providing day and evening respite for carers. Selsdon Community Centre, 132 Addington Road, Selsdon, South Croydon, CR2 8LA Telephone: 020 8651 4944, Email: info@selsdoncontact.org.uk www.selsdoncontact.org.uk

Carers UK – The charity has an online forum where carers can talk about

what's on their mind, day and night, with people that can provide support. They also have an online tool to help determine the benefits you may be entitled to and how to claim. See www.carersuk.org/forum – if you have a specific question about tax credits and services available their helpline Mon & Tues 10am-4pm is 0808 808 7777 or email advice@carersuk.org

Family action – This charity runs young-carer services offering counselling and recreational activities to give young carers a break. www.family-action.org.uk

Scope – Scope's discussion forum caters for carers of disabled adults or children. It is a space to share needs and concerns. www.community.scope.org.uk

Emotional support helpline – this is a confidential listening service for anyone feeling isolated or vulnerable. 01708 765 200 www.supportline.org.uk

Headway emergency fund – this charity helps families and those suffering in the immediate aftermath of a brain injury. It can help with travel, accommodation etc. 0808 800 2244 www.headway.org.uk/supporting-you/

Janet Sharp

~~

Exploring the local area – some ideas

If you have discovered that you like to get out in the fresh air, and want to go for a walk somewhere new, we have some ideas on our website. www.selsdon-residents.co.uk

You will find a whole page with links to information of local, free and interesting places to walk and guides/maps/apps so that you don't get lost!

There are ideas of places for those who want to 'wander at will' and also some guided walks. These walks could help you to discover the history of local 'village centres', or explore the beauty of woods and parks even discovering a fresh view of national local attractions such as Chartwell or Biggin Hill. Some you can even explore by bike such as the Wandle river trail. Most guided walks have included places to stop for refreshment. Take your pick to see wonderful views and features such as watermills/beautiful churches etc perhaps even a close-up glimpse of a Spitfire in flight.



Of course, this web page gives only a small selection of free nearby places to go and things to see and I am sure you can tell us of many more - the website is a constant 'work in progress'! We welcome your ideas and feedback.

If you are reading this on a printed Gazette and are thinking: 'But I don't have access to a computer! How can I access these walking guides/suggestions?' - remember help is at hand. Despite Croydon's dismal finances we are lucky to still retain community libraries where not only can staff/volunteers provide you with free books to borrow or pamphlets to take home but also computer facilities to use (they might even teach you how if necessary).

Check out the SRA website and find some new places to walk and enjoy!

JS

~~

The Little Book of Big Scams

For this month's extract from the Little Book of Big Scams I thought that I should concentrate on online crime as so many of us are using online banking with all the banks on our high street closing.



ONLINE CRIME

Most people now have access to the internet. We use our home computers, phones and other devices to shop or bank online, contact our friends and relatives, along with numerous other tasks. With all the convenience the internet brings, it is important to be aware of potential online risks.

The vast majority of all frauds now use computers or technology in some way. There are many criminals who take advantage of the anonymity the internet offers to deceive, hack and steal.

There are a number of ways cyber criminals can attack you and your device. They may search the internet to find insecure devices, send an email containing malicious software or even set up fake websites.

How to protect yourself

This does not mean we should not use the internet. A few simple security measures can reduce your chances of becoming a victim.

- Be wary about the personal information you post online, and ensure you check your privacy settings on social media sites.
- Use three random words to make sure your password is strong, e.g. 'FishBoatTulip'.

- Storing passwords in your browser is a good tactic.
- You can also use a password manager if you want.
- Have a strong and separate password for your email account.
- If available, set up two-factor authentication on all important accounts.
- Use anti-virus software on all devices and update it regularly.
- Update your software when new patches are released.
- Back up your important data regularly using an external device or cloud storage service.
- Secure your tablet or smartphone with a screen lock.

BANKING AND CARD FRAUD - ONLINE BANKING

The use of online banking or people using banking apps on smartphones and tablets has grown. People use them at home or when they are out and about. To stay safe while banking online you must protect your password and personal details to stop criminals from accessing your accounts. Many banks provide onetime passcodes sent to your device when setting up new payments. These should never be shared with anyone, even from the bank. If you are speaking to your bank on the phone, and they ask you for it, you are certainly speaking to a criminal, not your bank.

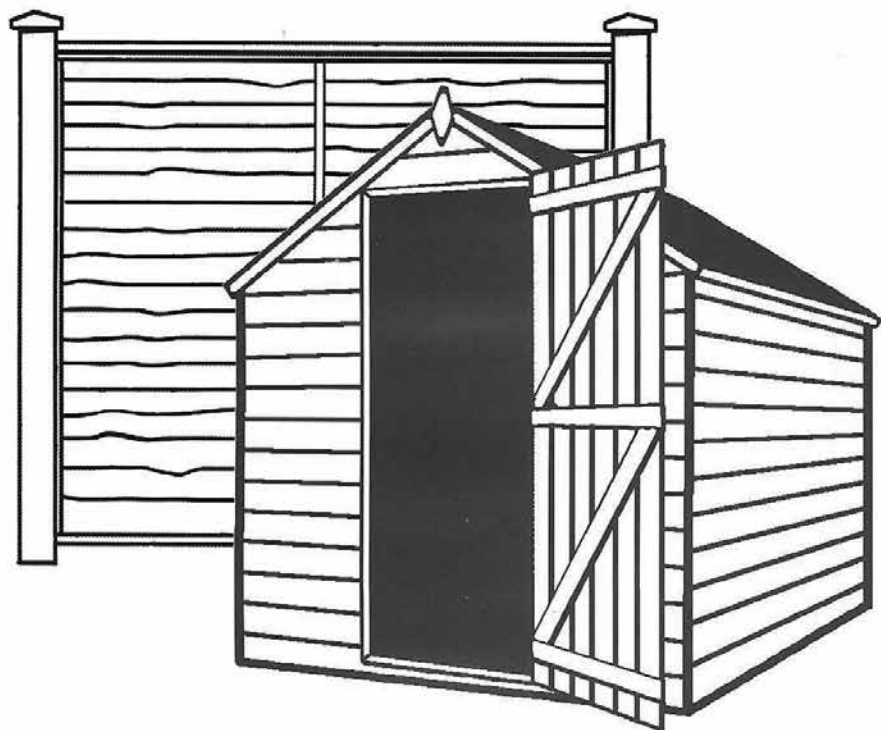
How to protect yourself

- Choose, use and protect passwords and memorable words with great care. Watch the Metropolitan Police's video on passwords at 'www.met.police.uk/littlemedia' for further advice.
- Keep online banking software and banking apps up to date. Always download updates when prompted.
- When logging in whilst in public, take extra care to shield any PIN codes or passwords.
- Always log out of your online banking account or banking app when you have finished using it. Closing the app or web page or turning off your device may not be sufficient.
- Do not use publicly available Wi-Fi networks for banking. It is very difficult to tell if a hotspot is secure.
- Do not share any security codes with anyone.
- If your bank has called you. Take a reference number, and then hang up before recalling on a number you know to be safe after a few minutes to clear the line.

You can download the booklet on <https://www.met.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/central/advice/fraud/met/the-little-book-of-big-scams.pdf>

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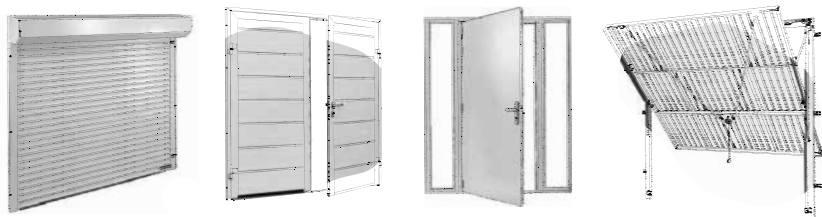
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A SELECTED LIST OF SELSDON ORGANISATIONS

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

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
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
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Rotary Sanderstead and Selsdon	Wendy A Parr	07774 186792
Probus Club of Croydon South	John Barker	8657 2093
St John's Dramatic Society	Caryl Rapps	8651 1326
St John's Wives	Jane Guglielmi	8657 6672
Sanderstead Plantation Partners	Michael Lishmund	020 8651 2760
1 st Selsdon & Addington Scout Group:	Website: www.1stselsdon.org.uk	
Beaver Colony (6-8yrs)	Maddie Dunn	07703 531652
Cub Pack (8-10yrs)	Louise Baker	07737 404668
Scouts Troop (10-14yrs)	Douglas Gordon	07514 651711
Croham Valley Explorers	Anthony Woodin	020 8651 3780
2 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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