

The Selsdon — Gazette —

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THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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There is no August Gazette.

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

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Front cover image credit: Embroidery inspired by Selsdon Wood by Carol Dougherty. My textile picture was inspired by a lovely summer walk in Selsdon woods in August 2018. It was one of those super days when the sun was filtering through the branches creating bright spots and shade, and blue sky overhead.



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Two vacancies remain - anyone interested in being co-opted, please contact us.

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

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



Editor's Note

Welcome to the January 2019 issue of the Gazette.

This month's cover photo is a reminder that summer will be back again eventually - a beautiful embroidery by Carol Dougherty inspired by an August walk in Selsdon Wood.

We start with a piece by 3 pupils from Greenvale Primary about the Christmas Lights switch on. I am delighted to include the work of some of Selsdon youngsters and would love to publish more. Please do send me any writing and/or artwork on local issues produced by your children, grandchildren or pupils.

There are then items about three local groups, Croydon Bowling Club, Selsdon Afternoon Townswomen's Guild and Soul Symphony Choir, the latter reporting their success at the recent Beckenham Festival. This is followed by news of a recently-formed musical group, The Phoenix Collective, and their forthcoming training course.

Des Donohoe continues his series of articles on "Selsdon Through the Eyes of a War Baby" with a New Year's "Auld Lang Syne" reminiscence about past friends. This is followed by Ted Forsyth's fascinating Nature Notes, which this month looks at animal senses.

Finally we include a press release, submitted by the local Councillors, for the TWiCE campaign to educate people about how to control their debts.

The first letter in this issue was received the day after KFC opened on the High Street and noted the amount of litter that had resulted. Perhaps we need more bins prominently and suitable placed?

There is also another letter about sparrowhawks following those published in the last two months of 2018. This time there is photograph of one demolishing a pigeon. Perhaps these days they should be renamed pigeonhawks!

Regards,

Heather

 SUBMISSIONS FOR THE FEBRUARY 2019 EDITION
SHOULD BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN
20TH JANUARY 

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SRA NEWS ‘n’ VIEWS

Brightening Selsdon!

The first acknowledgement of the annual effort to make Selsdon shine out again was given last month in the News’n’Views article. Now, I would like to add to that. Firstly, of course, I would like to endorse wholeheartedly the thanks from Sheila to all those she mentioned who helped make the Christmas Lights Switch-On an event to remember once more!

Specifically, I would like to thank the team of balloon blowers from the SRA, the Village Club who hosted us, the students from John Ruskin College who helped give the balloons out, erect Santa’s grotto and act as stewards and be generally helpful, the PA team (Mike and Ainslie - if you need to hire their sound system they can be contacted on 07918-626156 and 07785-785005), Selsdon Primary School choir whose turn it was this year to provide the seasonal singing to welcome Santa, and last, but not least, the Police who helped his arrival go smoothly.

With regards to the lights, we must say a special thank you to our supplier, The Festive Lighting Co. and to Skanska for their help in putting up the lights and ensuring the switch-on went without a hitch. Sheila has already mentioned the cost and the likelihood it will be significantly more next year as we have to replace the catenary wires and, possibly, the Selsdon signs as well as having to negotiate a new contract which could well mean, naturally, an increase in costs. We are always indebted to the traders who support us to a greater or lesser degree. The others whose donations were received too late to be listed last month are: Costa Coffee, Selsdon Funeral Service, Gem Nails, Aladdin's Cave, Selsdon Nail Salon and Vintage 62. We also owe a big debt of gratitude to all the residents who add a donation for the lights to their annual sub or put something in the buckets on the night, the collecting boxes on the day afterwards outside Sainsburys, or into the box the manager kindly puts on the bar of the Sir Julian Huxley. Special thanks to the person who donated the profit from the sale of candles she had made – a very generous, unsolicited gesture.

The final thanks must go to our Secretary for her work in preparing decorations for the Clock and Triangle and her team of helpers putting them up - hopefully out of reach of the vandals! Did you notice the holly, wreaths and snowflakes? Could you help us make even more of a show next Christmas, perhaps, by collecting foil pie trays and making stars from them, clean pizza bases to be cut out as snowflakes or anything else you can offer to help this aspect of 'brightening Selsdon'? If you start now, during the dull, dark winter days when you can't get out so much, we should have a good stock ready to hang when the lights next go on.

We hope the community and traders' support will continue throughout 2019 to make Selsdon a brighter place following our Christmas efforts and the start of an initiative by the councillors. The SRA hope to 'do their bit' by continuing to finance the flower displays outside the shops. A few traders already support this but we really need more financing help to have a truly floriferous display.

Lastly, we still have enough poppies to re-use them in November –

we waste nothing!

Thank you for your help and support in 2018 and best wishes for a wonderful 2019 to everyone from all the SRA. We look forward to seeing you at the AGM on 13th March: do put the date in your new diary now! Also, please think about filling our increasing number of committee vacancies, rather than waiting for 'someone else' to come forward! Speak to Sheila, if you're interested!

Linda Morris, Vice Chairman, SRA

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COUNCILLORS' NOTES

Selsdon High Street Plans

Your Selsdon Councillors are continuing to lobby the Council to provide as much support as possible to local businesses. Two Council officers came to the Christmas Lights switch-on event on 23rd November and managed to talk to a number of local businesses about the type of support they need. We will be meeting the council officers in the new year and will ask them what they will be doing to move things forward.

Selsdon parade is not the only area in Croydon that is suffering from the high cost of running a business in a district centre. Croydon South MP Chris Philp has been asking the government to reduce the cost of running a business by reducing business rates. This tax hits local businesses hard at a time when online businesses are paying very little tax. His campaign has paid off as the government announced in the October budget that shops with a rateable value under £51,000 will see their business rates cut by 1/3. This means most high streets shops will be entitled to the rates reduction. The Treasury has estimated that 90 percent of small retailers stand to benefit from this reduction. We welcome this reduction in business rates and hope it helps Selsdon businesses to continue offering a wide range of services to local people.

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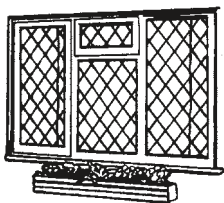
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Bins update

At the end of November, Cllr Helen Pollard met with the Council director responsible for bins. He explained that the Council had been expecting difficulties with bin collections during a three-month period of transition to the new system. Given the number of complaints we have had about bins, it is safe to say that there has been at least three months of difficulties! Unfortunately, we continue to hear about problems residents are having with bin collections. It has to be hoped that the transition period does not last much longer. Please let us know if you are still having problems with bin collections and we will do what we can to help.

Planning Application – 148 Ballards Way

An application for planning permission was submitted for 148 Ballards Way to replace a bungalow with a four-storey block of flats. There were 67 objections from residents and Croham Valley Residents' Association. These mainly related to the impact on neighbours, the design and scale of the development, and the impact on wildlife as it is next to a Nature Reserve. Cllr Helen Pollard referred the planning application so that it could not be approved by council officers, and would have to go before the Planning Committee for a decision.

The Planning Committee meeting was held on 6th December and Cllr Robert Ward spoke in objection, alongside David Rutherford from the Residents' Association. Over the last few years very few planning applications have been refused no matter how out of place the development is. Unfortunately, this application was no exception and the Planning Committee gave it permission. This is extremely disappointing and shows how little regard the current Council administration has for the views of local residents.

Christmas Lights

Christmas might now be a distant memory as we look towards 2019, but it is worth remembering the strong sense of community in Selsdon. This was clearly demonstrated at the Christmas Lights Switch-On in November. The event is managed by Selsdon Residents' Association and it brings the local community together in

a relaxed and cheerful atmosphere.

It was good to see children from local primary schools, students from John Ruskin College and lots of families there. It was a real pleasure to attend this event as your local councillors. We each helped in our own way; Andy helped at a stall at the Baptist Church; Helen and Stuart helped put up the decorations in Santa's grotto; and Robert did a star turn as the elf driving Santa's 'sleigh'!

We are very proud to represent such a strong and vibrant community and we look forward to working with you and the Residents' Association to ensure that community spirit is maintained.

Helen, Robert, Stuart and Andy

PLANNING APPLICATIONS NOVEMBER 2018

18/05184/FUL – 284 Addington Road, South Croydon, CR2 8LF - Alterations, erection of a first floor side/rear extension, ground floor rear extension, roof alterations to accommodate a loft conversion and raised patio.

18/05571/HSE – 66 Greville Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 8NL -Erection of single/two storey front/side extension, associated alterations.

18/05699/FUL – 55 Crest Road, South Croydon, CR2 7JR - Erection of a two storey dwelling at the rear of the existing garden, with associated vehicle access, parking and landscaping.

18/05716/HSE – 96 Croham Valley Road, South Croydon, CR2 7JD - Erection of replacement utility extension, alterations and garage conversion for use as annexe

18/05735/HSE – 28 Byron Road, South Croydon, CR2 8DY - Alterations, first floor side extension and erection of a ground floor single storey extension

18/05331/HSE – 229A Addington Road, South Croydon, CR2 8LQ - Formation of vehicular access

18/04726/HSE – 59 Croham Valley Road, South Croydon, CR2 7JG - Ground floor single storey side extension

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

Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk

Stuart.millson@croydon.gov.uk

Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk

~~

POLICE BOX

Staffing at the Selsdon Vale & Forestdale Local Policing Team comprises:

Sergeant Paul Harrison

PC Colin Mayes

PC James McCarthy

All hold the position of DWO - Dedicated Ward Officer.

Contact details:

While 999 (emergency) and 101 (non urgent) numbers will always reach the police, if you want to contact them on local area matters of wider concern you can use:

Selsdon Vale & Forestdale **LPT (Local Policing Team)**, Addington Police

Station, Addington Village Road, CROYDON CR05AQ

Tel - 0208 721 2464

Email - sntzd-selsdonvale&forestdale@met.police.uk

THE SELSDON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

We arrived feeling really excited at Selsdon High Street to watch the Christmas lights being switched on. The excited chatter made us feel warm inside. There were people playing and talking about the lights and some were even drinking hot chocolate! The atmosphere was merry and festive.

We heard the choir singing in the background and then the Head-teacher from Selsdon Primary School began a countdown from ten. Everything fell silent, and the festive music stopped. At this moment some of the lights began to glow bright and Santa appeared in a car driving down the high street. The children's faces beamed with happiness at seeing him and the choir began to sing again. The atmosphere was wonderful and the snow machine gave a wintery magical feel to the dark evening.

After the lights had been switched on we looked up the high street and there was a happy, festive buzz of excitement – it was then we knew that Christmas is nearly here!

George Thibeault, Dionis Vani and Beth Shackleton (all aged 9)
- Greenvale Primary School

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CROYDON BOWLING CLUB - A HISTORY

Croydon Bowling Club will be celebrating its 270 years as a bowls club in Croydon in 2019.

The first reference to the playing of bowls in Croydon dates from 1749, when it was recorded that men were playing bowls on common land at the back of the Three Tuns Inn, Surrey Street. However on a map of the Manor of Waddon 1695 there is a clearly marked bowling green on the edge of the Duppas Hill gravel pits. It could be that when the gravel pits were extended the bowls club moved to the Three Tuns – we shall never know...

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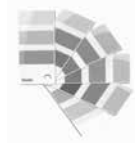
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Following the demolition of the Three Tuns and the closure of its green in 1907 the bowlers of Croydon re-established the club on ground to the rear of 88-90 High Street. The present site at Nottingham Road was purchased and Croydon Bowling Club was registered as a company in 1920.

A new indoor pavilion was opened in 1937 but closed during the period 1939-45 due to the requisition for war use. The first hint of war came when the indoor and outdoor “boys” were given 2/6d a week increase and a week’s leave because both had joined the territorials in May 1938. In October they were called up for service.

In 1939 the police authorities asked for permission to use a room as a police post in the event of war. The Ministry of Works made the indoor pavilion into a store in 1940 and would not evacuate until 1950 when it was handed back to the bowls club.

Croydon Bowls and Sports Club have the best facilities in Surrey. We have 6 indoor and 12 outdoor rinks, plus a Croquet Green, we cater for all levels of play, from casual and friendly matches up to national competitions. Our fixture list is in excess of 150 competition matches a year, home and away. We offer free “taster” sessions and coaching from our volunteer, fully qualified, coaches. Our Social section run a variety of events throughout the year; dances, quizzes, race nights, theatre and bowling holiday trips. We also cater for darts, table tennis and snooker.

We welcome “new” bowlers of any age and are keen to promote the sport for everyone. Why not give us a try – there are several levels of membership.

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SELSDON AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

We are a very active Guild with just over 90 members, so we must be doing something right! We meet in the hall of St John the Divine in Upper Selsdon Road on the 3rd Friday of the month between 1.30pm and 4pm. The meeting begins with several business matters, after which we settle down to enjoy our speaker. After this we have tea or coffee and biscuits followed by a little more business including raffle winners and twice a year there is a presentation of some kind by our drama group.

In October 2018 we had a most interesting speaker in Hilda Burden, a miniaturist. She had created the room of a typical Victorian terraced house for every decade of the 20th Century. She presented each one in a box, explaining them in great detail and members were able to view them close-up during the tea break. After tea there were readings by the drama group of individual poems by Pam Ayres, which were very enjoyable.

The November meeting was our 68th birthday so we all had a piece of delicious birthday cake and a small glass of wine or a soft drink. The speaker was Peter Thompson, a barrister, who spoke very wittily on "You the Jury". He recommended looking at jurors' faces, especially their eyes, when they return to court after their deliberations, for one can usually obtain a good idea then of what decision they have come to.

By the time you read this we shall have had our December meetings which is a Christmas lunch and a proper celebration of our birthday at The Chateau in Coombe Road. We usually have a quiz of some kind and everyone on the winning table gets a small prize.

The next article about the Guild will be in the April Gazette but you are very welcome to attend as a guest this month's meeting on Friday 18th January. The speaker will be Eleanor Redshaw, whose talk is entitled "My Grandmother was a Suffragette" and after tea there will be an auction.

That is all for now except to wish you, the readers, a Happy New Year.

Elizabeth Veasey

~~

LOCAL CHOIR TRIUMPHS



On Saturday 24th November, Soul Symphony Choir, led by Joanne Miller, took part in the Beckenham Festival, competing against four other choirs from across Kent ... and won the Festival Trophy.

Soul Symphony were entered into two separate classes within the festival, Gospel Choir and Open Community Choir and came first in both classes. In the Gospel Choir class they sang 'Asante Sana Yesu' a cappella and in Swahili and 'Total Praise' by Richard



Smallwood. The festival adjudicator, Jane Wilkinson, commented that 'Total Praise' had "an atmospheric opening," and the final crescendo of blended voices made the hairs rise on the backs of people's necks. In the Community Choir class, the songs were 'Fix You' by Coldplay and 'Let the Sunshine' by Labyrinth, both arranged by Mark De-Lisser. The choir was accompanied by Giles Holland.

Jane Wilkinson also commented that Soul Symphony came across as a "truly inclusive choir." She was impressed by "the expressive soloist and clear articulation of all participants." She felt that the performances were "incredibly warm" and that the choir sang out with an "easy tone that is enjoyable to listen to," along with "joy and commitment."

Soul Symphony is a community choir that meets on Tuesday evenings from 7:15pm at The Holy Family RC Church hall in Limpsfield Road, near to Waitrose. All are very welcome; no previous singing experience is required. If you are interested in joining please visit www.soulsymphony.co.uk for more information.

Gillian Gandolfo

~~

THE PHOENIX COLLECTIVE!



The Phoenix Collective is a newly-formed group of musicians who are all passionate about music, the arts and education in general. We are all trained in the Kodály (pronounced Cod-Eye!) approach to music education, which teaches musical skills, knowledge and understanding through singing, and our purpose as a group is to put on a wide variety of short music courses for adults around the country.

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Singing is a powerful means of human expression. The voice is individual – free, portable and everyone has one! Unfortunately, many people believe you have to be ‘talented’ in order to be able to sing – I blame the ‘X-Factor culture’! However - if you can speak, you can sing – exactly the same physiology works for both functions. I wish I had £5 for every time someone tells me ‘I can’t sing’ – I would be lying on my own private desert island if this were the case! Almost always it turns out that the person was told as a child that they couldn’t sing – that they should mime, or not join the choir, or play the triangle instead.

But singing is a natural form of expression as a human being – and it’s also a great joy, as many people who have joined choirs have discovered. There are now so many types of communal singing opportunities – rock choirs, church choirs, choral societies, community choirs. It was good to read recently of the success of the local Soul Symphony Choir at the Beckenham Festival.

The Phoenix Collective is excited to announce its first course! This is entitled, ‘The Holistic Voice’ and will take place at Royal Russell School on 30th-31st March 2019.

There will be four workshops on offer:

- Alexander Technique
- Vocal Technique
- Kodály Musicianship
- Gospel Singing

Alexander Technique - is not specific to singing – it helps people improve their posture and general well-being as a result. Many people suffer from voice loss at work (often teachers!), or feel tired and strained when they speak or sing. AT can help overcome such problems and will show how to use both singing and speaking voices effectively.

Vocal Technique - Allan Hubert-Wright (English but lives and works in France) will be looking at vocal physiology – how the voice works and will give advice on healthy voice use. He will also get participants singing the same song in different styles!

Kodály Musicianship - will help de-mystify music. What is meant by pulse? Rhythm? Pitch? Participants will learn how to pitch their voices accurately using very simple songs, and will be starting to read and write music by the end of the weekend!

Gospel Singing - Ken Burton is a familiar face on television (Songs of Praise and choral competitions). He went to Trinity School then studied music. He is a lively, endearing presenter and will be teaching the participants to sing easy gospel music.

Ken's choir, The London Adventist Chorale (they have won major competitions and have sung at royal and other national events) will be performing a concert on the evening of Saturday March 30th at St John the Evangelist church in Shirley Church Road. This concert is open to the public.

So do please visit our website **www.thephoenixcollective.co.uk** in order to find out more about us, our work in general and The Holistic Voice course.

Bookings may be made through the website (Early Bird rates apply until 31st January and group discounts are available).

I have lived in Selsdon all my life and have taught in local schools as well as being an SRA committee member – my father, Raymond Rowsell, is a Vice-President of the organisation. I have taught both children and adults (including a founder member of The Bootleg Beatles!) both in the UK and abroad and am the author of the Jolly Music scheme for primary schools.

I am so excited about this new venture and would love to meet residents of Selsdon and surrounding areas who are interested in learning more about music!

Cyrilla Rowsell

For more information about the course and about music learning in general, please contact Cyrilla through the Phoenix website or on 07752-951590.

SELSDON'S AULD LANG SYNE

Every New Year's Eve we sing Auld Lang Syne which means long, long, ago. When I was at Selsdon School I thought that history was boring – just dates, names and events from long, long ago. This year I will be an octogenarian and looking back, I realise that I am part of history. But now I don't call it history, I call it nostalgia!

Every now and again something is said, or happens, and I say to my now grown up children, "Now that reminds me of ..." but instead of boring my kids, they say, "Dad you ought to write all this down because once you are gone, all of these stories are lost for ever." But of course up to now I never did. It would take too much time. But then something else was said that changed all that. So another story!

A few years back I got to know a gent named Frank who is a Selsdon resident. Naturally I told him that I was brought up as a child in Selsdon. Then last September Frank asked me if I had been at Selsdon School during the war, because a reunion was being held. I answered in the affirmative and told him that I remembered learning the ABC and 2 x table in the school air raid shelters, whilst doodle-bugs flew overhead. It was then suggested that perhaps I could write an article for the Selsdon Gazette. As it happened I managed to stretch it to three! These appeared in the October, November and December Gazettes of 2018.

When I later received a copy of the November Gazette I read a report on the school reunion. It mentioned a few names of old residents which did not ring any bells with me. However there was also a poem, which named a number of teachers who had been at Selsdon School during the war years, some of whom I did remember from those long ago days. There was also a letter to the Editor from my friend Frank Kippin who had started all this off!

December came, and out of the blue I received an e-mail from a Michael J Fox, a resident of California. To my amazement, he had read my two articles about my Selsdon school days. With this e-mail

was a five page, encyclopaedic listing of events, places and people who were, or had lived in Selsdon going back very many years. And there on page 5 was a notation: **Abbey Rd, Michael DONOHOE and Desmond** – it was me and my brother!

This made me sit up and pay more attention, and brought me back to how I started this little story – Auld Lang Syne, of which the opening line is, *Should auld acquaintance be forgot*. Whilst I could not recall a Michael J Fox, I did now remember a boy in Selsdon some 70 odd years ago, who I knew just as Michael Fox. An auld acquaintance who I had forgotten!

Reading his listing and accompanying detail, the memories came flooding back with these details. A bombing incident: – ***115 Sundale Ave. This house (opposite Benhurst Gardens) was destroyed by a direct hit in March 1944; Geoffrey Sarson's grandparents were killed.***

When I had written my first memoir for the Selsdon Gazette - Selsdon Through the Eyes of a War Baby - I had written: "... And there was a short cut to the shops by going over a bomb site in Sundale Ave (previously a row of terraced houses), into Dulverton Rd and then along the footpath into the Addington Rd by where Aldi now is."

The very same bombing incident referred to by Michael Fox, above!

And he goes on to write, that at the time of this bombing incident he was living in Sundale Ave: - ***The bomb referred to above damaged our house extensively and we moved to 101 Benhurst Gardens, where the road turns by Benhurst Close. I lived there until August 1945, with Dick Poore and his father. In 1945/6 I used to help Nobby Clark, the Express Dairy milkman on Saturdays, mainly because he let me 'drive' the horse. Come 1947, I had to go to school on Saturday mornings.***

I also used to help Nobby Clark the milkman, and for the same reason – because I was allowed to take the reins and tell Emily the

horse to “Gee-up!” And especially for the thrill of sitting, high up on the milk cart, when Emily got up speed going down the steep hills of Ingham Rd and Kingsway Ave on our return to Sundale Ave. No doubt Michael knew where I lived because he delivered the milk to our house, just as I knew where he lived because I delivered milk and collected payment for the week’s deliveries, at his house. Isn’t it a small world, all this was 70 years ago!

But there is much more than this. Michael is 4 years older than me, so his school friends and acquaintances were not mine, but many of their younger brothers and sisters, were my friends. For example he notes: - **Margaret ROBERTSON and Jean FINCH in Benhurst Close** (who lived just around the corner from Michael when he got bombed out from his house in Sundale Ave).

I knew Margaret Robertson; her house backed onto Selsdon Rec and there was a gate from her garden into the Rec. I first got to know her because she was a first class cricketer, unusual for a girl in the early 1950s. She was both a good bowler and batsman. Oops! Sorry, we are not in the 1950s, a good bats person! Margaret had three brothers; the oldest, Johnny, was also a very good cricketer. I was not up to their standard but I regularly played cricket with them in the Rec.

Johnny Robertson became my best friend from circa 1950 until some years later when the family moved away from Selsdon. I even went on summer holidays with them, once to Hythe and another time to Westward Ho! on the north coast of Devon.

And Jean Finch, of course I knew her too. She lived opposite my

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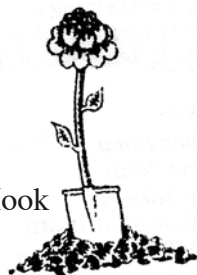
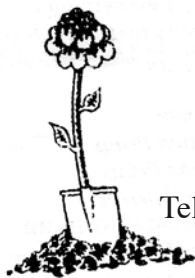
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friend Johnny Robertson. But the main reason was that Jean had a younger sister, Brenda Finch. We were both about eleven, perhaps twelve then, and I don't mind admitting that I had a schoolboy crush on the very attractive Brenda!

Unfortunately our friendship never blossomed so I never got the chance to sing these two lines from the final verse of Auld Lang Syne :-

And there's a hand, my trusty Fere!
And gie's a hand o'thine!

Nostalgia and Happy days! So Michael J Fox, as the song says "Thanks for the memories".

Des Donohoe

Editor's Note – More from Des next month. All Des's articles are archived on the SRA website in the History of Selsdon Section, where they are enhanced with full colour photographs.

~~

<p>LEN PHILLIPS THE big band</p>	<p>IN CONCERT MARCH 29TH 7:30PM TRINITY SCHOOL CONCERT HALL</p>
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<p>Join 17 of Britain's finest musicians plus singers Matthew Ford (John Wilson Orchestra) & Joanna Eden (the UK's answer to Diana Krall - Time Out), for an evening of the best sounds from the great swing era. Heard regularly on BBC Radio 2, band members have between them worked with Bubl�, Bennett, Crosby, Heath, Mancini & Mackintosh.</p> <p>"A marvellous orchestra masterfully directed by Joe Pettitt" David Jacobs CBE "It was a pleasure to be up close & personal with the Len Phillips Band" Len Goodman "The perfect ingredients for a superb evening of music" Eastbourne Herald</p> <p>Tickets �16 (over 60s �14.50/children �10) Call 01342 523 003 or visit www.lenphillipsbigband.co.uk</p>	

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Those New Year resolutions....

According to Wikipedia, a **New Year's resolution** is a tradition, most common in the Western Hemisphere but also found in the Eastern Hemisphere, in which a person resolves to change an undesired trait or behaviour, to accomplish a personal goal or otherwise improve their life.

As 2019 starts, many people around the world will be optimistically setting themselves **New Year's resolutions**. According to a YouGov poll, the **most common** aspirations for the coming year are to eat healthier, get more exercise and to save more money. 40% of us make New Year's Resolutions and 80% will fail in 30 days. With only an 8% success rate, it's time to try something different.

How about setting yourself a goal to be a good neighbour to Contact's clients at least once a month? We are always looking for drivers to take the elderly and less mobile to GP appointments etc, or to drive our shopping bus. Or perhaps you might be able to commit to being an escort on the shopping bus once a month.

Volunteering has many surprising benefits. The more we give, the happier we feel. Volunteering increases self-confidence. You are doing good for others and the community, which provides a natural sense of accomplishment. **So why not give it a try in 2019**

If you feel you could help with this valuable community support, please call Jasmine in the Contact Office on 8651 4944. Or if you prefer call into our office on the lower ground floor of the Selsdon Community Centre and we can provide you with more information.

NATURE NOTES

SUPERSENSES

Sight

In the human eye there is a particularly sensitive area known as the fovea which produces a sharp image. A Golden Eagle has two foveae, one of which appears to allow for clear peripheral vision but the main one, which is tubular in shape, seems to act like a telephoto lens which gives the bird visual acuity up to eight times that of a human, allowing it to spot a Mountain Hare at an enormous distance. A hovering Kestrel can pick out small mammals, lizards and even beetles on the ground. While mammals have two eyes, which the brain links together to give binocular vision, some spiders can have eight. The spider's brain must still produce a sense of distance to enable the spider to catch its prey but it is possible that some of the eyes only produce signals in response to movement of prey. Dragonflies have multi-faceted eyes which must give them some advantage in seeking prey or avoiding predators, and again the brain must combine the potentially multiple images to give the depth resolving advantage of binocular vision with, presumably, something extra in addition. A Great-Spotted Woodpecker on a bird feeder or a Starling looking for food on the ground is focussing at a short distance from its food but still has the ability to detect a high-flying bird of prey passing overhead. The eyes of bees respond to wavelengths of light which extend into the ultraviolet end of the spectrum. Some flowers have evolved to produce patterns which are visible in ultraviolet and direct the bee towards the pollen and nectar.

Sound

Owls tend to rely more on hearing rather than sight though Little, Short-eared and Barn Owls hunt while it is still light. The Little Owl tends to hunt from a perch and is probably as much a watcher as a listener. Short-eared Owls can be seen flying close to the ground over suitable habitat and will target the squeaks from small mammals in the vegetation. The Barn Owl is similar – it will hunt during the day but more frequently at dawn and dusk. The large Ural Owl can detect the noise made by a small mammal moving under snow and can accurately pinpoint where the mammal is. A Fox also

has this ability and will listen until it is sure and will then pounce to break through the snow layer and hopefully catch its prey. Bats use sound but it is not the sound made by the insect prey, rather it is high-pitched sound emitted by the bat which is then reflected from the surroundings including the prey. In effect the bat “sees” by reflected sound.

Smell

Moths, being largely nocturnal, cannot rely on sight to find their mates so instead the female releases a pheromone which drifts in the air and can be detected by males several kilometres away. A Turkey Vulture flying over a dense forest cannot see carcasses on the ground hidden under the trees so instead it has developed the ability to detect its meal by scent. Stinkhorn fungi produce an odour which even humans can detect but the primary purpose is to attract flies which walk over the smelly surface and inadvertently remove spores which they deposit elsewhere. Bloodhounds have the ability to follow a trail left by a human by detecting the minute amounts of odour drifting in the air. Other dogs have been trained to use their sense of smell to find hidden drugs or explosives, while yet other dogs have been able to detect illnesses in humans by sniffing articles of clothing.

Taste

Several butterfly species lay their eggs on particular species of tree or bush – Brimstones on Buckthorn, Brown Hairstreak on Blackthorn, White-letter Hairstreak on Elm, Purple Hairstreak on Oak. They recognise that they have the correct species by tasting the leaves by walking over them. Young salmon parr which were born in a UK river leave and make their way to the sea where they develop to adulthood before returning to the same river, presumably by detecting a familiar taste in the water.

Humans inevitably view nature through their own senses but to understand the natural world it is necessary to be aware that other animals will be experiencing something at least slightly different.

Ted Forsyth



TWiCE Campaign

ENTREPRENEUR REVOLUTIONISING CROYDON FROM DEBT CAPITAL TO SAVINGS CAPITAL

Frank Mukahanana who built a company dubbed by the Financial Times as the ‘**antidote to Wonga**’ has recently launched the TWiCE Campaign to help people win the battle of keeping more of their money.

TWiCE is a community outreach campaign designed to change the financial landscape of Croydon by providing people in the Borough with free financial education, because they believe that everyone deserves a fair shot at financial success.



Through community workshops and a streamlined online platform, Mukahanana and the team believe everyone can start learning how money works, and how to make money work for them. TWiCE will instil healthy financial habits, turning Croydon from a debt capital to a savings capital, and reducing personal indebtedness in the Borough by up to £200m in the next five years.

For many people in Croydon, the solution to their financial worries is not simply to belt tighten or look for better paying work. It is more complex than that. TWiCE community workshops are designed to bring people together to find real, tangible solutions that meet their needs.

When people are worried about their money and have little to no margin to work with, it can often lead to feelings of entrapment. People in debt are **three times more likely** to have or express



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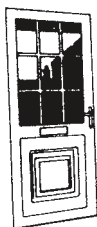
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symptoms of mental illness due to the constant pressure on their finances. TWiCE community programs will create a safe and open environment to continue the conversation around mental health and personal finance, and start helping people support those around them.

TWiCE will steer the Borough away from a debt culture, and create a savings culture. Following on from the successful launch in September 2018, TWiCE will be hosting another unmissable event in central Croydon on January 18. Croydon's main decision makers and influencers will be in attendance as TWiCE delivers financial insights, sharing a renewed financial perspective for the New Year. If you are interested in learning more about how TWiCE is making a difference in Croydon visit our website **www.twicecampaign.org** where you can also register your interest in attending our New Year event. Alternatively, please get in touch with us **support@twicecampaign.org** - we would love to hear from you.

~~

WHAT'S ON

You will find here information of events that are taking place in our area that may not have been mentioned elsewhere in the Gazette.

FRIENDS OF LITTLEHEATH WOODS

It can be difficult to find the motivation to get out and walk in the winter months so why not join The Friends of Littleheath Woods on one of our walks? Ten years ago we identified Littleheath's veteran trees, measured and aged them. We want to do this again but need several pairs of hands. So do come along on this walk and help us find out how much the trees have grown and if they are still strong and healthy.

Saturday 16th February 2019 - Veteran Trees

Meet at the junction of Queenhill and Littleheath Roads at 10am.

~~

DOES DISCOVERING THE PAST INTEREST YOU?

INTERESTED IN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE BE THEY RICH OR POOR?

WANT TO DISCOVER MORE LOCAL HISTORY?

If so then 'The Sanderstead Local History Group' would like to invite you to our monthly meetings held 2-4pm at All Saints Church Hall Onslow Gardens Sanderstead the last Wednesday in the month. The hall is on bus routes and there is a free car park. A small charge of £2 each meeting to cover hall hire and refreshments. No annual fee. We are a small friendly group but have room to grow!

The SLHG was formed after the Bourne Society, possibly largest Local History Society in England, had produced a village History for villages in their area which included Sanderstead, Warlingham, Chelsham and Farleigh.

Information is on the Bourne Society website re the area covered and local history books they have produced plus details of the SLHG meetings.

The members who had worked on Sanderstead history enjoyed their research and decided to continue to meet and that is why the group is called the Sanderstead Local History Group.

Our members are interested in 'history' and help to decide on our varied topics. The talks, many in powerpoint to be able to show illustrations, are given by members and have proved to be very interesting.

In 2018 we had a theme – 'year ending in 18' with talks as varied as Sir Walter Raleigh, Thomas Chippendale and King Canute.

For 2019 we have arranged a variety of talks.

Jan 30th - Your childhood memories- Bring a photo of you as a child if you have one.

Feb 27th - John Ruskin. Writer, Artist & Social Thinker - by Daphne Palmer

March 27th - The History of the White Bear PH, and Fickleshole

Farm Chelsham owned by the Alwen family - by Joyce Hoad

April 24 - Shirley Windmill and the Alwen family - by Chris Harman
Hope to see you in 2019.

Contact Joyce Hoad (Chair)

joycehoad@virginmedia.com or chris.harman@tiscali.co.uk

~~

CROYDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (CSO)

Russia – Romance & Revolution

Saturday 16th February 2019, 7.30pm (doors open 7pm)

Trinity Concert Hall, Croydon, CR9 7AT

Conductor: Darrell Davison Solo Piano: Alan Brown

Prokofiev: Cinderella Suite (excerpts)

Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto no. 3

Shostakovich: Symphony no. 5

Tickets (£15 - adults and £5 - children under 16, including interval refreshments) for the raked seating at Trinity School Concert Hall are available:

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Or by phone from the CSO Hon Ticket Secretary: 020 8680 2639
Trinity School has free on-site parking and is on bus routes 119, 194, 198 and 466.

~~

SELSDON FLOWER CLUB

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

23 January 2019 - Enrolment and AGM with tea, cakes and a chat

20 February - Practice - Season /own choice

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

~~



THE RSPB CROYDON LOCAL GROUP
Monthly Illustrated Wildlife Talks in South Croydon

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. A selection of RSPB goods, nuts & seeds are on sale. Parking limited on site but free in adjacent roads. 64 & 433 buses stop nearby in Croham Road.

Monday February 11th 2019: “The Narbonne Regional Park”.

This new park is fast becoming a major European birdwatching destination, as will be explained by **Philippa Benson**. It includes a very wide range of different habitats within a relatively small area. Due to its location on the western Mediterranean flyway, nearly 40% of the Western Palearctic species can be seen there.

For more information contact John Davis on 020-8640 4578 or see www.rspb.org.uk/groups/croydon

Note: on request we give illustrated bird talks to local organisations.

~~

THE ARTS SOCIETY SANDERSTEAD

Tuesday 22nd January 2019, 10.30am -11.45am

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The multi-talented Frank Brangwyn's design work was probably influenced by A.H. Mackmurdo, William Morris, Siegfried Bing and Japanese Arts and Crafts. The lecture will cover the various disciplines the artist mastered from mosaics, stained glass, furniture, carpets, ceramics, glassware, jewellery to architecture and interior design. Special reference will be given to works to be found near our society.

Libby Horner is a world leading authority on Brangwyn and is currently compiling the catalogue raisonné of all his works - estimated to be in excess of 12,000 items.

Please register as a guest when you arrive.

For more information ring Sue Davenport on **020 8660 9122**

Web site: **www.theartssocietysanderstead.org.uk**

~~

CONCERT

Croydon Symphonic Band - Wednesday 6th February 2019 8pm -
Trinity School Concert Hall, Shirley

Programme will include film music by John Williams including 'The Cowboys' and 'The Witches of Eastwick'; Tritsch-Tratsch Polka by Johann Strauss; a selection from the show 'Sweeney Todd'; March 'The Fairest of the Fair' by Sousa and original band music by Nigel Hess and Adam Gorb.

Tickets are priced £10 for adults and £6 for concessions and are available in advance with a discount from the box office **0208 657 8591** or on the door.

Croydon Symphonic Band is an amateur community band which welcomes all wind and percussion players of all standards without audition.

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EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS & ACTIVITIES AT SELSDON LIBRARY

Weekly Activities

Storytime for 0-5 Years, 10.30 – 11.00 Tuesday. Stories with crafts. Admission free. No booking required.

Rhymetime for 0-18 months. Fridays and Saturdays at 10.30-11.00am. Songs and rhymes for babies, toddlers and their families. Admission free. No booking required.

Adult Crochet Group, every Thursday 2:00-4:00pm. Work on your latest project, share skills, and catch up with friends. Admission free. No booking required.

Chess Mates, Adults, every Friday 2:30pm. Come along for a game of chess at Selsdon Library. New players of any level are welcome. Admission free. Booking required.

Digital Zone. Please ask a member of staff for details. Come along and learn basic IT skills to help with your online shopping, filling out online forms for your blue badge, recycling bin and travel cards and setting up your own email account. Admission free. Booking required.

Monthly Activities

Adult reading groups, third and last Thursday of the month at 11:00-12:00. First Saturday of the month 2:30pm. Join our friendly reading groups where you can discuss books and give your own opinion. Admission free. No booking required.

One-Off Activities

Tracing your family tree, Monday 21st of January at 2-3:00pm.

This is a talk by Sylvia Dibbs and Liz Moss of the East Surrey Family History Society, followed by questions from participants, with answers offered by Sylvia and Liz.

The illustrated talk provides an introduction to the methods used and the fascinating sources available to begin researching your own family history and growing your family tree. Admission free. Booking required. For adults.

The Lancaster Bomber and Me! Saturday 26th of January at 1:00-2:00pm. As a young boy John Wilson was fascinated by Lancaster bomber, at the age of six he decided he wanted to be a rear gunner in a Lancaster. All those guns to play with, what could possibly go wrong! He did not know it was the shortest career in the RAF. Come along to Selsdon Library and hear more. Admission free. Booking required. For adults.

Holistic Exercises, Thursday 17th & 31st of January at 10:30-11:30pm. Try out some holistic exercises at Selsdon Library and get your body in shape. Admission free. No booking required. For adults.

Chinese New year Craft session, Saturday 2nd of February at 2:00pm-3:00pm. It's 2019! The year of the pig, so come on down to Selsdon Library and have fun making lots of exciting crafts for Chinese new year. Admission free. No booking required. For families.

Harry Potter Book Night: Potions Session, Thursday the 7th of February at 4:30-5:00pm. You're officially invited to our special potion session at Selsdon Library for an evening filled with magic! Admission free. Booking required. For children age 7+

Love Birds crafts, Saturday 9th of February at 2:00pm-3:00pm. Show someone how much you love them by making your very own love bird craft this Valentine's Day. Admission free. No booking required. For families.

Selsdon Library

E-mail: Selsdonlibrary@croydon.gov.uk Tel: 020 3700 1017

For details of regular activities for children and adults in all Croydon Libraries please see: <http://www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/libraries>





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.

Heather Govier, Editor

~~

4th December

I would like to note that KFC has been open for a day and already the high street looks like a tip. I've voiced my annoyance to LBC in the past about the lack of bins along the high street and also knew that when this shop opened the place would look like a rubbish tip which it does tonight 4/12/18.

Grant Longhurst

***Editor's Note** – I passed this message on to the local Councillors for comment and received the following response from Andy Stranack. Thanks to Andy for looking into this and for his litter patrol.*

I checked with the Officers about the wording of the licence and unfortunately there is no condition on the licence about street cleaning. I am now checking with the Director of Streets (Steve Illies) to see what enforcement action can be taken. Having said that, I have been doing my own spot checks outside the store on a daily basis (at different times). The only litter I have come across is one discarded chicken bone.

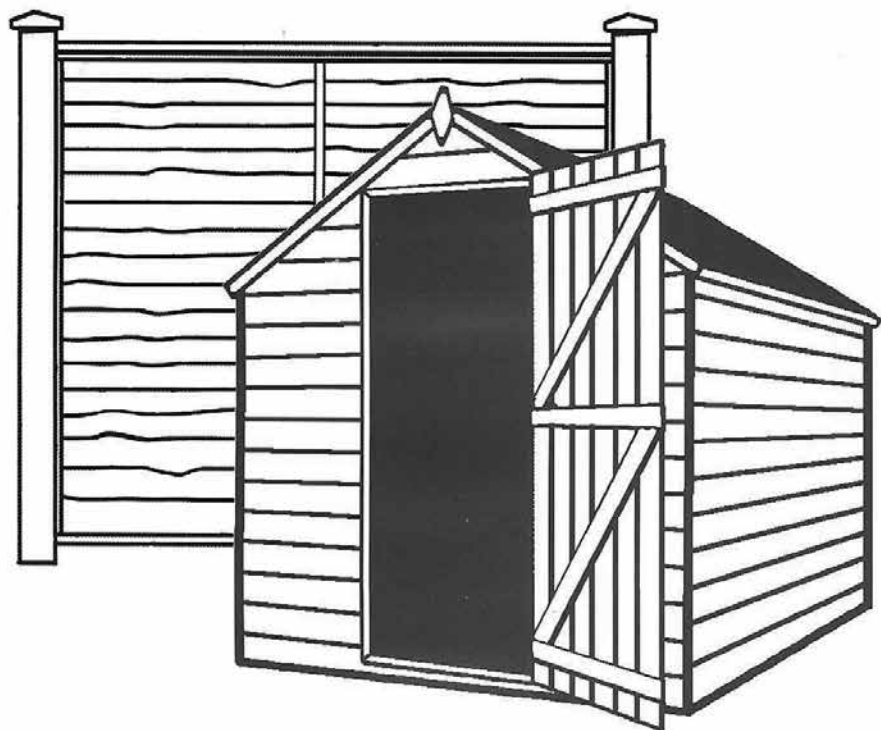
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6th December - Dear Heather

Sparrowhawks are certainly active in the Kings' Wood area. I have seen a sparrowhawk seize and fly off with a blue tit. Three years ago, whilst standing at the kitchen sink, I saw a sparrowhawk sweep

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down from our roof onto an unsuspecting fat pigeon, probably twice her size. She immediately killed the pigeon and started to de-feather and eat the bird (see photo). After a couple of minutes, keeping a wary lookout, with great difficulty she dragged the carcass in three stages for about thirty yards to the shelter of a large conifer. The feathers were evident at each stopping place.



Recently, several times, a sparrowhawk has been bathing in our pond – then afterwards, seen shaking off the water and slowly drying out on the bough of a nearby tree.

Pam Holden

~~

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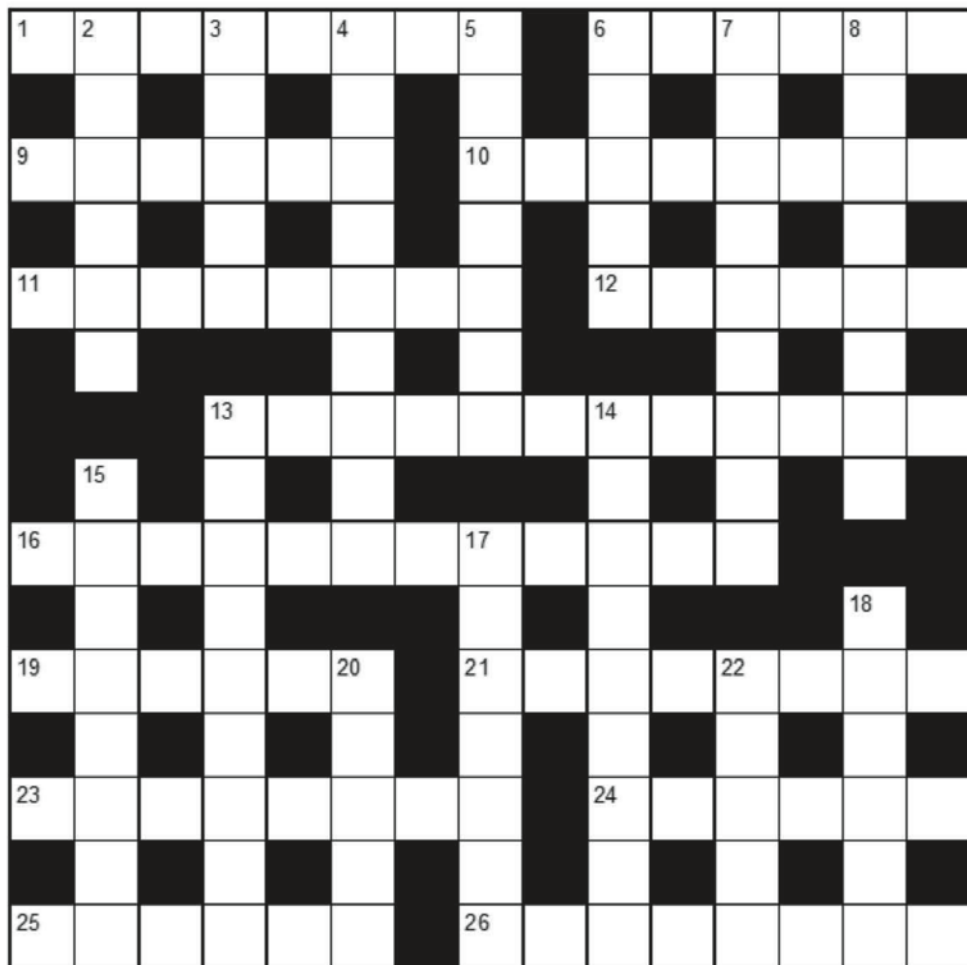
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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD – January 2019

Set by Alberich – www.alberichcrosswords.com

Crossword No XC257309

Gazette Ref: 057



ACROSS

- 1 Heard van crashing from terrace (8)
- 6 He's entering wager by request (6)
- 9 Alternatively, daughter is captivated by month in the country (6)

- 10 Old woman can have energy drink (8)
- 11 Tease the awfully arty type (8)
- 12 Agent gets around centre of Leeds fast (6)
- 13 Telling off for wearing casual clothes (8-4)
- 16 Felt sympathy for semi-democrat in trouble (12)
- 19 Say no to rubbish (6)
- 21 Drinking vessel on table may be put away in here? (8)
- 23 Friend is to help, we hear, with fence (8)
- 24 Model posed around university, being pretentious (6)
- 25 Its passengers have already departed (6)
- 26 Was barely seen in public (8)

DOWN

- 2 Upset, East European director initially ran away (6)
- 3 Examine car before start of trip (5)
- 4 Ned's sense is confused with stupidity (9)
- 5 Owls' noses (7)
- 6 Supporter starts to send some money (5)
- 7 Easily angered, he had to tangle with editor (9)
- 8 Expel student and put him in prison (4,4)
- 13 Foolishly I am rude about old city's writer (2,7)
- 14 Mark exam questions, written on this? (9)
- 15 Reporting anger in bay? (8)
- 17 Disease from insects, first off (7)
- 18 Tramp needs time with Barnaby (6)
- 20 Destroy part of camera's equipment (5)
- 22 Work a long time producing piece for the stage (5)

DECEMBER'S CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Crossword No XC257208 - Gazette Ref: 056

ACROSS

7 platinum. 9 insane. 10 ire. 11 bestowed. 12 spoilt. 13 dossier.
15 liaisons. 16 self-possessed. 20 cinnabar. 22 almost. 25 sphere.
26 untitled. 27 wag. 28 ermine. 29 handicap.

DOWN

1 Cluedo. 2 status. 3 snowdrop. 4 fiesta. 5 espouses. 6 inclined.
8 Middlesbrough. 14 see. 16 slippery. 17 lingerie. 18 exacting.
19 ego. 21 brewer. 23 metric. 24 seesaw.

~~

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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

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)	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	Heather Govier	8657 0423
Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section		
Girlguiding UK: http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved.aspx		0800 169 5901
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: www.1stselsdon.org.uk	
Beaver Colony (6-8yrs)	James Gordon	07855735722
Cub Pack (8-10yrs)	Louise Baker	07737 404668
Scouts Troop (10-14yrs)	Ken Jackson	07789 641112
Croham Valley Explorers	Anthony Woodin	020 8651 3780
Selsdon Art Group	Mrs S Hooper	07973 412952
Selsdon Bridge Club	Tony Cherrett	01883 730304
Selsdon Camera Club	Roy Stansbury	8657 5131
Selsdon Community Hall	Tim Potter (Centre Manager)	8657 4300
Selsdon Afternoon Townswomen's Guild	Elizabeth Veasey	8657 1092
Selsdon Floral Club	Sheila Last	8651 1005
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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