



The Selsdon — Gazette —

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January 2024

THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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Front cover image credit: Christmas post box topper outside Tudor Library.

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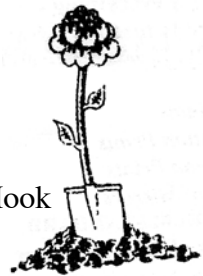
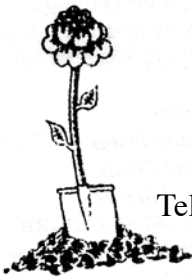
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Cllr Robert Ward Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk 07783 152363

Cllr Joseph Lee Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk 07716 092463

Councillors for Selsdon Vale & Forestdale Ward

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

Cllr Fatima Zaman Fatima.zaman@croydon.gov.uk 07458 092567

Councillors for Sanderstead Ward

Cllr Lynne Hale Lynne.hale@croydon.gov.uk 0208 651 2229

Cllr Yvette Hopley Yvette.hopley@croydon.gov.uk 0208 640 7033

Cllr Helen Redfern Helen.redfern@croydon.gov.uk

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



Editor's Note

A Happy New Year to you all and welcome to the January edition of the Gazette. Even though the Selsdon Christmas Lights are no longer shining along our High Street as you read this, I think that you will all agree that they were a dazzling display before and during the Christmas period.

As we look forward to the new year, we have many articles about venturing into the great outdoors. The gazette treasurer, Jenny, completes her account of walking the Vanguard Way, Janet Sharp urges us all to get involved in preserving our native trees and woodland and Ian Leggatt tells us about planting the first batch of 'whips' in Queenhill Playspace with the brownies and guides' help. Even Ted Forsyth in his Nature Notes tackles the subject of Poop!

At this start of 2024 we have a quiz looking back to events in 2023 for you to try and an article about the Words of the Year 2023 from the Collins' and Oxford Dictionaries; how many do you use? 2024 also sees the Chinese New Year, with the Year of the Dragon celebrated in February and we look at the personalities born under this auspicious Chinese zodiac sign.

Our regular contributors have not disappointed us this month; we have the police figures for crimes in our area for October and advice how to make others feel safe when out, Mary Gill gives us a warning about relying on the 'cloud' for storing information in her poem, Ian Leggatt looks at the houses built by Costains in Arundel and Norfolk Avenues and there are gardening jobs, even in January, to do!

Now for your New Year Resolutions. I would love to receive a contribution for the gazette from you. It could be a photo taken in the Selsdon area, an article about anything you have got up to, a moan about something that is bugging you or praise for something that you feels deserves it. Contributions are welcome from all ages so please consider it. My email is selsdongazettesra@gmail.com

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

Chris Jones

🎁 SUBMISSIONS FOR THE FEBRUARY 2024 EDITION
SHOULD BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN
20TH JANUARY - PREFERABLY BEFORE! 🎁

SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS

The Christmas Lights switch-on was another successful evening and they have brightened up these dark days. I have to thank everyone involved (too many to mention but you know who you are!!!) especially Santa and his Elf. I was told that Selsdon lights were one of the best, if not the best, Christmas lights in Croydon.

Good New and Sad News

Good news was announced at the Selsdon Centre Christmas lunch in December – that the Trustees have secured funding from the Lottery enabling them to stay open for the foreseeable future. There will be fund raising and also events for us all to support them in the future.

It was very sad to hear of the sudden closure of Birch. The hotel and grounds are the most historic site in Selsdon. We hope to hear of any developments in the coming months.

Transport

2024 begins with major disruption to Thameslink and Southern Rail trains in February half term holidays (10th to 18th), so best to check any trips you have or are planning to take. All changes are now in journey planner Network Rail tells us.

This will mean the following stations will have no **Southern trains** for seven days between Saturday 10 to Friday 16 February:

South Bermondsey, Queens Road Peckham, Peckham Rye, East Dulwich, North Dulwich, Tulse Hill, West Norwood, Gipsy Hill, Crystal Palace, Sydenham, Forest Hill, Honor Oak Park, Brockley, New Cross Gate, Birkbeck, Beckenham Junction.

The following stations will have no **Thameslink trains** for seven days between Saturday 10 to Friday 16 February:

Tulse Hill, Streatham, Mitcham Eastfields, Mitcham Junction, Hackbridge, Carshalton, Sutton, West Sutton, Sutton Common, St Helier, Morden

South, South Merton, Wimbledon Chase, Wimbledon, Haydens Road, Tooting

Police

A reminder that the number to call is 101 to report a non-emergency crime or contact them online at www.met.police.uk

Residents' Association

The South Croydon Community Association is on the brink of collapse from lack of new volunteers and lack of traders' interest. The SRA is so fortunate to have a strong committee but what will be needed in the coming years is new (and younger!!) blood to continue the work. The SRA will be 100 years old on 2nd January 2025, an amazing achievement and we want to see it continue to thrive. Please consider joining us for the next 100 years!!! You can come to our AGM on Wednesday 20th March to meet us at 8pm in St John's Hall, Upper Selsdon Rd - a glass of wine for you will be provided by Wetherspoons.

Happy New Year

Sheila Childs,
Chair

~~

COUNCILLORS' NOTES

SELSDON RECREATION GROUND PLAYGROUND REFURBISHMENT

The play equipment at Selsdon Recreation Ground is set for a major refit with all new play equipment and new safety flooring. FM Conway are our contractors who will undertake the work and they have undertaken consultation work with park users and parents over the last few months to get an understanding of the type of play equipment that is required at the new facility. They have produced some computer images of the new play area, you can see the images by going to the web link here <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-11/Selsdon-recreaton-ground.pdf>

HEATHFIELD HOUSE SQUATTERS EVICTED

On the 11th of December the Council received reports that squatters had broken into and disabled the alarms at Heathfield House. Initial reports were that up to 18 people had moved into the house. Councillor Ward had been visiting the site regularly to report on a water leak (which is now

being repaired) and was able to confirm that there was no activity at the site in the week preceding the 11th. Officers acted quickly and started the legal processes required to evict the squatters, bailiffs attended the property on the 15th December and evicted 8 squatters. There seems to be little damage to the fabric of the property and the Council now has 24/7 security on site.

OBJECTION SUBMITTED TO EXTENDED OPENING HOURS FOR FIREAWAY PIZZA

Alongside Selsdon Residents' Association, Cllr. Andy Stranack has submitted an objection for the planning application to extend the opening hours of Fireaway Pizza from 8am until 3am. The pizza outlet which is located at 164 Addington Road has been trading for some time, but recently submitted an application to increase its opening hours. As your local Councillors we want to encourage business on the high street, but there are residential properties above and in close proximity to this location. Opening until 3am would increase noise as customers entered/exited the premises and could increase the incidents of anti-social behaviour in the area.

BIRCH HOTEL CLOSES

We are all closely monitoring the situation at the Birch Hotel. The official news is that Milan Vuceljic and Andrew Pear of Moorfields Advisory were appointed Joint Administrators of Selsdon Estates Op Co Limited on 17 November 2023. They have made the difficult decision to close the site and are now looking at all options going forward, including the sale of the site to another hotel operator. The Council's Economic Development Unit has sought and been given permission to contact existing staff to offer them advice and guidance on finding new job opportunities.

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

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

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

Selsdon and Addington Village

Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk

Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk

Selsdon Vale and Forestdale

Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk

Fatima.zaman@croydon.gov.uk

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

23/04417/LP - 91 Norfolk Avenue South Croydon CR2 8BW

Erection of a hip to gable roof extension and rear dormer, including one rooflight to the front roofslope.

23/04392/LE - 12 Thorold Close South Croydon CR2 8SA

Single storey rear extension

(Remember that you can use this website to view planning applications

http://www.localplanningapps.co.uk/croydon/sra/anupdate/planning_table.html)

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MP Chris Philp's Report

Member of Parliament for Croydon South



Planning in Croydon

Croydon Council's new Planning Committee continues to take a different approach under the chairmanship of Cllr Michael Neal and the planning policies introduced by Mayor Jason Perry, all of which I have been strongly supporting.

Under Croydon's new character and design focused approach to planning, applications to destroy family homes are now almost always rejected, following proper consideration of planning policy. A few examples of refusals in just the last few weeks include:

- 13A Russell Hill, Purley, CR8 2JB – Proposal to demolish an existing family home and construct a block of eight flats. Refused using delegated powers, October 2023.
- 62 The Ridge Way, South Croydon, CR2 0LF – Proposal to destroy one family home and construct eight new houses on same plot. Refused using delegated powers, October 2023.

Of course, we do need more housing and flats, especially for younger people – but we should not be destroying much-needed family homes and changing the character of green suburbs. Flats, including in very high blocks, are better suited to Croydon town centre and more central London areas.

I am glad that well-reasoned objections are finally being listened to. I am glad that all the campaigning has paid off – many thanks to everyone who supported it over many years.

Supporting our young people

It was fantastic to help launch the new Squirrels Group at the 29th Purley Scouts Group recently, based at Purley Baptist Church. There are many fantastic Scouts Groups across Croydon South, and you can find your local group here <https://www.scouts.org.uk/groups/?loc=Mapperly>. Several



of these groups now cater for children as young as 4 as well as older children up to 18. Please get in touch with them if you know anyone interested in joining!

I was also delighted to welcome several Scouts groups from Croydon South to Westminster for Parliament week. I really enjoyed showing them around and answering their

questions, and I am very encouraged by how engaged our youngsters are.

Funding Success for Croydon Town Centre

I also want to share the fantastic news that the Government has awarded Croydon £18.5 million of funding to help transform Croydon Town Centre. The Levelling Up funding will provide improved connections throughout the town centre to allow residents and visitors to travel more easily via safer, greener, and more pleasant routes.

The South End restaurant quarter, East Croydon station, West Croydon station and Old Town and Croydon Minster are all set to benefit, whilst a new civic square for the Fairfield cultural complex is also part of the plans. I congratulate Mayor Jason Perry for securing this funding – and I look forward to continuing to work closely with him to deliver tangible benefits to Croydon.

SELSDON HALL CRAFTERS
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21st September 19th October
30th November 14th December

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

Chris Philp

Member of Parliament, Croydon South: 020 7219 8026

chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk

~~

Christmas Lights Switch On, Friday 24 November

This year we were blessed with a dry, not too cold Friday evening for the visit of Santa to our High Street for the annual switch on of our Christmas lights. And, as usual, they did not disappoint.

Before the arrival of Santa's sleigh, we were entertained by the choir from Greenvale Primary School singing lustily seasonal tunes from the Village Club. Selsdon Baptist Church were giving out free hot chocolate and snacks from their driveway and Paul Meakin provided purple balloons for the children.



As Santa passed down the High Street all the lights came on successfully at 5pm. I think everyone would agree, we do have an impressive colourful display to brighten the long evenings. After turning his sleigh around, Santa arrived at his grotto outside Iceland to greet the waiting children. This year he had a helper, Mrs Elf.

In this photo you can see him giving Scarlett Rose a lolly for being 'nice' and not 'naughty'.

We must thank all those who sent or gave the SRA donations for the Christmas Lights. Special thanks to Linda Morris for organising the event, no mean task! Additional thanks to the Police for attending and all the volunteers who acted as stewards for

the event, which would not happen without their help.

CJ

Statistics from Local Police Wards October 2023

Here are the number of the top crimes reported during October 2023 for our local police wards.

Crime	Selsdon and Addington Village	Selsdon Vale and Forestdale
Violence and sexual offences	21	13
Vehicle crime	9	11
Shoplifting		10
Ant social behaviour	8	8
Other theft	7	
Total number of crimes reported in June 2023	59	60

Tips from the Metropolitan Police for making other people feel safer on the streets

Some of this advice might seem obvious, but there are some simple things we can do to help other people feel safer when they're out in public.

- Keep your distance

When walking behind someone, particularly at night, try to leave a good amount of distance between yourself and the person ahead of you.

Remember that the closer you are, the more threatening you might seem.

- Don't stare

A stranger staring at you can be intimidating and unsettling. Focus on something else to show you're not a threat. Look out of the window, message a friend, or read a book or newspaper.

- Cross the road

Somebody running up behind you, particularly at night, can be frightening. If you're out for an evening run, or walk, and see someone walking ahead, cross the road, call out to let them know you're about to run by them or make sure to leave a good amount of space when you pass them.

- Keep comments to yourself

What you might think of as just a bit of fun, or flattery, can be insulting, upsetting or even scary to someone else. Keep any comments or opinions to yourself.

- Keep your friends in line

If you're in a group of people where someone is harassing another person

on the street, try to calm the situation. They may just need to be told that they're behaving inappropriately.

- Be an active bystander

If you notice someone is uncomfortable with another person's behaviour, show your support by being an active bystander. It can be as simple as standing between a person and their harasser to block their line of sight. Ask that person if they need any help, and back up anyone else who is intervening.

- Share these tips

Sharing these tips with other people can go a long way towards making us all feel safer on the streets.

Please do not hesitate to contact your local police team if required:

Emergencies – 999

Selsdon & Addington Village:

SelsdonandAddingtonVillageSNT@met.police.uk

Selsdon Vale & Forestdale:

SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk

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A Good Time for Gardening – January

January might be the middle of winter but as the days lengthen the garden starts to grow. Now is a great time to plan for the coming gardening year and to order seeds and plants. Enjoy the fresh air, on dry sunny days, and check your winter protection, stakes, ties and supports are still working after any severe weather. Also put out food for birds and leave some garden areas uncut, a little longer, to provide shelter for wildlife in your garden.

Here are some jobs you can do for the garden in January

- Prune apple and pear trees

Pruning an apple or pear tree can be daunting for many gardeners. Rather than be put off completely or panic and inadvertently harm the tree back by excessive pruning, instead follow these easy steps and enjoy a well-shaped, productive tree.

1. Aim to take between 10-20% of the overall canopy off in any one winter. Work around the tree evenly and keep an eye on your pruning pile - if it's looking a little big, STOP - you can always go back next year and do some more.

2. Your aim is to take out a bit of old wood each winter, to stimulate new. But the majority of the fruiting wood should be quite young - one to four years old, which is the wood that fruits best. Also aim to create an open centre to your tree. This allows more light into the canopy to ripen the shoots and fruit. Improved air movement discourages diseases.
3. Avoid a 'hair cut' by trying to stagger your pruning cuts throughout the canopy. That way, the regrowth too will be even. If you only prune the top branches, this is where all the new growth will shoot up from, giving you a thicket of young, non-fruiting shoots that you'll just end up pruning off every year in exasperation. Think of it as a thinning out process, selectively removing or shortening a branch here and there as you move around the tree. Focus on areas where the growth seems more crowded.
4. Avoid very big and very little pruning cuts. Even with very old trees, resist the temptation to prune off large limbs. These are at risk of decay. As a general rule, think twice before cutting into branches that are more than 10-12cm (4-5in) in diameter. If you must prune that branch, trace it away from the tree to see if there is a narrower section, perhaps where it forks and prune there instead. Avoid leaving a stub. Equally, this is not about fiddly pruning. Most of your pruning cuts will be to branches that are between 1-5cm (½-2in). A fully pruned tree might only need 10-20 pruning cuts in total.



- Clean pots and greenhouses ready for spring

Cleaning greenhouses, whether glass or plastic, greatly improves the growing environment for plants. By removing the algae, moss and grime it lets in more light and helps control pests and diseases too.

- Dig over any vacant plots that have not been dug already

Soil cultivation or digging may be hard work but, if taken slowly, it need not be back-breaking.

- Disperse worm casts in lawns
- Inspect stored tubers of begonias, cannas and dahlias for rots or drying out.
- Recycle your old Christmas tree for mulch
- Start forcing rhubarb
- Start planning your vegetable crop rotations for the coming season

Thanks to the RHS for information for this article.

Costain's 2nd Selsdon Housing Development, part 2. The Houses

We saw, dear reader, back in the December 2023 Gazette that Costains built 4 types of 'upmarket' houses in Arundel and Norfolk Avenues between March 1932 and the end of 1934. These 4 styles were available with 6 differing specifications.

The four styles were Elmwood, Ashwood, Teakwood and Oakwood.

A variety of house styles and specification



The house styles are built with simple but effective tweaks which makes them appear individual. The double height bays are rounded or angular, some topped with hip or plain gables with tiles or timber facade, some with flat roofs. Some bay fascia boards are plain, some scalloped, all deep. Note also the differing shapes of tiny windows over the garage heads and side bedrooms. Walls are finished in pebbledash, plain brick or render, some with brick detailing to the corners.



The Elmwood, although cheapest of the 4 styles at £945, was still larger than the houses previously built in Byron, Queenhill and Farley (top end) Roads where, back in 1926, one of the first Costains' houses at what is now 20 Queenhill Road was bought for £650 and that included a subsidy of £75 to Costains paid by Coulsdon and Purley Urban District Council. The Elmwood comprised three double bedrooms, two large entertaining rooms, a fully fitted kitchen, bathroom and a large garage.

The Ashwood, priced at £1,055, had three double bedrooms plus a single bedroom, a 'tiled kitchen with complete range of cabinets and labour saving fittings' and could be bought for 30 shillings and 6 pence a week.

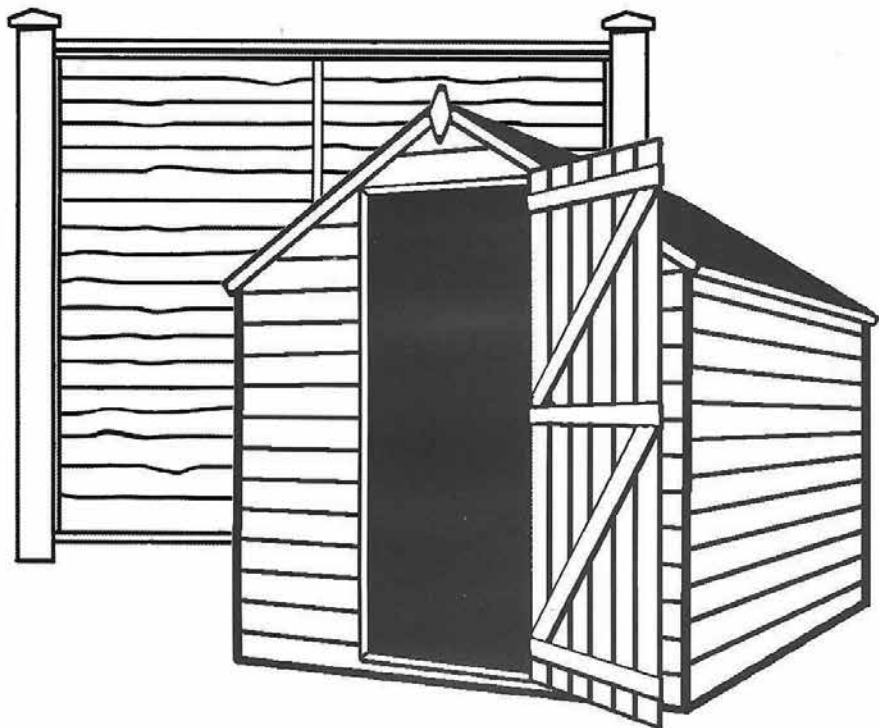
The Teakwood was priced from £1,180 and had four double bedrooms with an additional maid's room adjoining the kitchen. The ground floor had the addition of a cloakroom / lavatory and a 17ft long garage was attached and under the main roof. Some Teakwood houses were later marketed at £900 because of smaller gardens.

The Oakwood was also a semi-detached with garage attached with bedroom over. It was described in 1987 in a book called 'Suburban Style' by Barrett and Phillips thus: *"the hall, although far from large, incorporates a staircase with two quarter turns and the landing is narrowed to accommodate a miniscule 'gallery'. Such effects are symbolically important vestiges of baronial halls and denotes a house not built entirely to utilitarian standards. This is less true elsewhere in the house:*

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space is rather short in the fourth bedroom and, more importantly, in the kitchen. The cooker and sink are crammed into corners, and although there are built in cabinets, room has to be found for a coke boiler and three doorways. With no space for a table, a drop down flap presumably provided the only other workspace.” The authors noted that “the two storey bay, tiled roof and gable, red brick and plain oak places the house firmly in the English Vernacular style”. The price of the Oakwood house is unknown.

A small deposit secured the sale of these houses with a further small payment on signing the contract. Arranged mortgages could be had with a preferred Building Society or sourced by the purchaser. The Bank of England had reduced its interest rate to 2% in June 1932. Building Society loans were at around 4% interest. The ratio of house price to average earnings was, in 1929, 5 times. A recent comparison by the asset managers, Schrodgers, estimated that in 2020 it was 9 times.

Ian Leggatt

As ever, I am indebted to the journals of Ted Frith for the germ of this article. Photos derived from Google Maps. If any of our current Norfolk or Arundel Avenue residents have a copy of the original Costains sales material I would grateful if you could allow me to copy it. Please contact the Editor.

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Last month we left Jenny Bradley’s account of walking the Vanguard Way at the half way point. Here she completes the walk.

The Vanguard Way – From the Suburbs to the Sea, Part 2

30th December 2021. We took the train to Crowborough followed by the bus to Poundgate. The driver kindly took us past the official stop (The Crow and Gate Pub) and dropped us at the start of this section of the route. Our intention was to walk to Blackboys but that was not allowing for the truly epic depth of mud along the route which slowed us down to a snail’s pace as we sank knee deep. By the time the light began to fail, we decided to take the link to Buxted station and as we were almost an hour too early for the advertised train, we settled into the comfort of the nearby Buxted Inn for a refreshing glass of wine.

We returned to the station (by now in darkness) only to find that all remaining trains that night were cancelled. We stood aghast wondering if we were going to have to spend the night on the station. However, by a great stroke of luck, one of the other disappointed passengers had been driven there by a friend who was about to drive him to East Grinstead to catch a train on the other line. They very kindly invited us to join them, and we squeezed muddily into the back of the car together with a stranded student trying to get back to university that night.

As the country opened up again after COVID, we found we had less time for walking in the Spring and Summer of 2022 and our next two walks were 17th September 2022, Buxted to East Hoathly (where we found an American Civil War re-enactment in progress) and 21st January 2023, East Hoathly to Berwick.



1st July 2023. Our final walk included my favourite views of the whole trail: The beautiful Cuckmere Meanders, the chalk white horse on the side of a hill, near Litlington and then the magnificent Seven Sisters Cliffs.

As it was midsummer, we were able to walk longer than usual (13 miles in total) and as we walked through Seaford to Newhaven, we had a great sense of achievement. The

very end of the route was something of an anticlimax as it wound up rather disappointingly in a grim industrial estate in an unsignposted backwater of Newhaven. It was however, the only time we had arranged not to trek home on the train, and we were picked up by a friend who, knowing the area, appeared out of nowhere. We drove home in style.

In total our Vanguard Way project took the best part of 3 years although I have met people who have done the whole thing in 4 days (with overnight stays).



It was satisfying and enjoyable as well as being muddy and we would wholeheartedly recommend it. In fact, now we have the distance walking bug, we intend to tackle the London Loop in 2024. This one might take us 10 years.

~~

Cherish our Trees!

In 2021 The Woodland trust created a report on the 'State of the UK's Woods and Trees', the first report of its kind laying out the facts and trends on the current state of the UK's native woods and trees. The key findings were that **woods and trees are vital for a healthy, happy society not only for our pleasure but for the environment. Sadly, woods and trees are subject to a barrage of coinciding threats.** The UK is one of the least wooded parts of Europe but whilst **woodland cover is gradually increasing, woodland wildlife is decreasing due to a loss of native trees and isolation (poor connectivity).** Critically not nearly enough is being done.

What do they recommend?

- 1) **Expand woodland tree cover**
- 2) **Enhance and protect existing woods and trees**
- 3) **Improve the evidence** – Recording our trees is the first step towards cherishing them and caring for them. A database can be used locally or internationally to highlight the importance of trees, promote their value and encourage their conservation.
- 4) **Investment**

How can we help?

- Consider becoming a member of The Woodland Trust, and/or your local woods' support group. I have placed website details at the end of the article. You can help 'on the ground' or financially.
- Make sure you keep your eye out for any building developments that do not take account of the importance of the trees and alert appropriate bodies as appropriate.
- Provide the data! Help with proactive work to identify and monitor our

trees – see below. This will help with gaining investment and protection on a larger scale.

The Ancient Tree Inventory – your help is needed!



The Woodland Trust says that there are more ancient trees in the UK than most other European countries but the UK's ancient trees have no automatic right of protection. They created an online database and are asking the public to help fill it. But how do you tell what should be added? The ones to register are classed as Ancient, Veteran or Notable (for specified reasons).

The Woodland Trust website contains guides about how to spot important trees by species with example photos, dimensions, videos and even provide interactive old ordnance survey maps where you can spot the location of old trees and layer this onto modern maps and see if they are still there!

Trees grow old in different ways and at different rates. Yew may live up to 3,000 years, while ash may live for just 350 years. Crown 'retrenchment' and the hollowing of the trunk as a tree ages, are entirely normal and are not a sign of ill health. It may take several hundred years for this special habitat to be created. **Very old trees don't look pretty!** This may mean they are overlooked or even deliberately removed. Ancient trees are full of nooks and crannies, holes and dead and rotting wood. This makes them special - as the years go by, they provide the perfect homes for thousands of species of plants, animals and fungi, including many that are rare.

Where are Selsdon's important trees?

As I write this article, the Woodland Trust website national database has **no trees of significance recorded for Selsdon!** Even if much of Selsdon was farmland 100 years ago we know that field and road boundaries often retained notable landmark trees and these may still be in place. Can you help record some of our special veteran trees to the register? Key features to look for are especially wide trunk, branches starting to decrease/grow downwards and colonisation by mushrooms. Tools needed are a camera phone and long measuring tape.

Not 'old' but 'notable'?

Some trees may not be extremely old but may be culturally, historically, or ecologically important to our community and therefore there are additional tree categories of Heritage, Champion and Notable as well as Ancient and Veteran. For example: especially tall or landmark trees. Your photos and stories are important too. Let's put Selsdon's trees on the map! I'm

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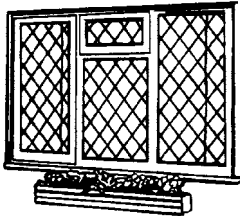
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Janet Sharp

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/state-of-uk-woods-and-trees/>

<https://www.folw.co.uk/how-you-can-help.php>

<https://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/>

~~

Woodland Trust - Free Trees for Selsdon, an update

As promised, the Woodland Trust delivered 3 large boxes containing over 300 trees in the middle of November. The trees, a mixture of Holly, Hazel, Crab Apple, Downy Birch, Hawthorn and Goat Willow, were not bare rooted but 'plug plants' with a generous amount of soil around each tree rootball. Sizes varied from 20cm high for the hawthorn to 60cm for the hazel.



On a fresh Sunday morning, coinciding with the start of National Tree Week, the 3rd Selsdon Brownies and Guides, plus helpers and siblings and your SRA, assembled in Queenhill Road Playspace to carry out the first plantings of the week.

The areas to be planted up were marked out with sticks at approximately 2m centres and the trees were grouped by species. Our resident 'green' expert, Peter Underwood, gave a demonstration on how to take out a small hole in the grass, carefully place the rootball of the tree plug 2cm below the ground level and

replace the soil, firming with the foot. Lastly came the 'tug test' which was important, Peter explained, to prove that the tree was in firm contact with its surrounding soil and its roots would then be able to grow happily into its new home. We planted just over 150 new trees. On the next page is a photo of Faith Haswell planting a whip with me.

The following Sunday, the end of National Tree Week, would see us in Selsdon Recreation Ground planting another 150 trees with the 2nd Selsdon and Addington Scouts and Cubs but the weather forecast was looking rather chilly. Temperatures were plummeting and the Met Office was suggesting -5c

on Saturday with -4c on Sunday, planting day. There is no point attempting to plant in frozen ground for so many reasons and, reluctantly, the planting was postponed. Bizarrely the weather then took a turn for the better and the Saturday and Sunday ended up being damp but mild, ideal for planting. Thanks, forecasters! With Christmas almost upon us as this is written, we hope that January will allow the planting to proceed. Meanwhile, the remaining trees are sleeping in a frost free garage.



A plan locating the planted trees in Queenhill Road Playspace has been provided to Croydon Council so we hope that they survive the next grass cutting by the council Grounds Maintenance contractor. By that time the trees will be mulched with woodchips and the planting zones also marked with timber stakes. You may have seen or heard that Selsdon Recreation Ground is to have its play equipment refreshed, hopefully early 2024. The proposals, below, can be seen in more detail on the Council Website:

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-11/Selsdon-recreation-ground.pdf>

or search Croydon Council website for Playground Investment Programme for more information.

The refreshed playground will not clash with our proposed tree planting.



Ian Leggatt, For the SRA

Quiz of the Year 2023

Test your knowledge of what happened in 2023 by trying to answer these 23 questions.



1. Which former Pope was buried on 5th January 2023?
2. What is the title of Prince Harry's memoir published in January?
3. Which film won Best Picture at the BAFTAs 2023?
4. Who did the BBC praise as a 'brilliant broadcaster' and 'incredible comedian' after his death in March?
5. The second series of Clarkson's Farm was released in early 2023. What is the name of this farm?
6. In April, which city became the first in the UK to launch a tourist tax?
7. What's happened at 3pm on 23rd April?
8. In April which country became the 31st country to join NATO?
9. Where was the Eurovision Song Contest held?
10. Which country's song won?
11. The King's Coronation was planned using which secret code name?
12. On 5 July 2023, the NHS marked how many years of service?
13. How was a Just Stop Oil protestor removed from an Ashes test match at Lords?
14. Nigel Farage hit back at which bank that claimed his account was below their wealth limit?
15. Spain defeated England in the final of the 2023 Women's World Cup. What was the score?
16. Which high street bargain retailer went into administration in August?
17. What type of tree standing next to Hadrian's Wall was cut down?
18. The price of a first class stamp rose from £1.10 to what price?
19. Which country won the Men's Rugby World Cup in 2023?
20. Which Greek Island suffered serious wild fires which caused many tourists to flee it?
21. Which actor from the sitcom Friends passed away on the 28th of October 2023?
22. Released on 2 November 2023, what is the title of the song dubbed "the last Beatles song"?
23. Former Prime Minister David Cameron made a comeback in which cabinet post?

Answers after Nature Notes



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

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

One reader is unhappy about parking along the High Street.

Dear Editor.

Would you please add a comment to the January edition regarding Selsdon parking.

Most days, there is a delivery to Iceland where four parking bays are blocked off with jumbo bags of rubbish awaiting the arrival of an articulated lorry. Parking in Selsdon is limited enough without the loss of four bays when residents need to park.

My previous experience in other boroughs is that deliveries of this nature need to be completed by 07.00 hours.

I imagine that parking fines are not issued to Iceland when facilitating their deliveries after 07.00 hours.

Kindest regards,

David Elkins (Selsdon Resident)

PS I forgot to mention that if the arctic lorry fails to use the four parking spaces, as this morning, it double parks blocking in any vehicles already parked and causes a traffic problem on this busy road.

Never see a parking warden on scene to issue tickets nor police to move the lorry on.



Here is some news from Richard and Rachel of Save Purley Pool

Dear Editor,

We wrote round earlier this year about the proposed redevelopment of the Purley Pool site and many of you contributed to the consultation, for which

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thanks. The plans have now been updated and there was an opportunity to comment until 17th December. In addition, there is likely to be a 13 week statutory consultation early in 2024.

The main interest of Save Purley Pool is ensuring a 6-lane 25 metre pool for the centre of Purley and encouragingly this is still in the plans, and would be scheduled to be built first, thus minimising the risk that it would be dropped once work was underway. However, we believe it is important for the Council to hold the developers properly to account for delivery of the new Centre, and that they (the developers) have the finances and technical capability to deliver. We also hope the proposals for the whole site will provide the widest possible benefit to the centre of Purley. We will continue to be involved in the meetings and express these views.

Thanks again for all your support as it has only been through considerable public pressure for a pool that we have got this far.

Best wishes from

Save Purley Pool, Richard and Rachel

~~

Poetry Corner

This month Mary Gill gives a warning about using the ‘cloud’ to store all we know and treasure.

HEADS IN THE CLOUD

We’ve surrendered human knowledge to the cloud,
all our works and memories are stored there.
Some should bring us shame, some should make us proud,
a lot of common sense, some wisdom – precious – rare;
the ways we need to act to save our Earth,
the secret to the universe and life,
trite and trashy thoughts, things of lasting worth,
how to bring world peace – cease all human strife.
But clouds are power hungry and the cost
is greater than we have the means to pay,
so, all our priceless knowledge will be lost
when finally, it dawns – that rainy day.
All the treasured products of our senses
will vanish on the day the cloud condenses.



Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth – Poop!

Aphids suck plant juices and excrete sweet honeydew which is attractive to ants. Judging by the rate at which aphids increase in numbers, they obviously get sustenance from their diet but there are still nutrients in what passes out of their system and keeps ants coming back for more.



Rabbits eat grass and herbs and leave their compact dry droppings in a pile often on raised areas of ground. They practise coprophagy which means that they eat their excreted dry pellets to extract as much nutrient material as possible. Hares are similar in their habits.

Badgers eat a mainly carnivorous diet largely composed of earthworms. Unlike the rabbit's neat dry pellets, the result of the badger's digestion has a very soft consistency. However, a badger is a very clean animal and creates a latrine area where a number of small pits contain the deposited material.

Foxes have a habit of placing their scat in a prominent position, even just a few inches above the ground level, to advertise their territory. It does not really need to be visible as the scent is easily detected as a walk in the wood will confirm.

Tawny Owls swallow their vole prey whole and rely on their digestion to process the food. They cannot digest everything, so a pellet is produced containing a mixture of fur and bones. This is regurgitated, often at a roost site, so looking for owl pellets can confirm the presence of a roost even when the owl is not there. The digested part of the meal is excreted in the form of "whitewash". As this often takes place at the nest site it can look as though the decorators have paid a visit.



The diet of birds like Thrushes might include soft-bodied creatures such as earthworms, snails, slugs and beetles but they will also eat a lot of berries. Material like the stone in a hawthorn berry will not be digested and will be eliminated by regurgitation but unlike the owl, which has fur to contend with, there is nothing that will allow the Thrush to produce a pellet that maintains its shape. At most you might occasionally find a small strip of undigested material which easily breaks up and vanishes.

Large birds like young Buzzards will move to the edge of the nest to squirt their excreta over the edge but with smaller birds in open nests the adult will be presented with a neat faecal sac and will usually dispose of it away from the nest site.

In countries where Fieldfares nest, they will attack a predator near their nest by aiming their excreta at the offending bird or animal. An avian predator needs clean feathers to enable it to fly and a mammalian predator has similar concerns so the strategy is effective in deterring the attacker.

On one occasion while visiting one of the Welsh islands several of us had to get from one end of the island to the other to catch the boat to return to the mainland. As we hurried across the island, we had to pass a breeding colony of Gulls which proceeded to rise into the air en-masse and released a whitewash downpour. Luckily it was not close enough to cause us any problems but it did show what a group of birds can do against a predator.

Disposal of waste products is a necessary function for every creature. In Africa where large herds of herbivores produce hundreds of tonnes of dung each year, removal of this material is carried out by vast numbers of very active dung beetles which take away and bury the material, intending to use it as food for their grubs but in the process also enriching the soil to ensure regrowth of the grasses which feed the herbivores.

They do say that "Love makes the world go around" but I have a feeling that is not the whole story!

~~

Answers to the Quiz of the Year 2023

1. Pope Benedict XVI
2. Spare
3. *All Quiet On The Western Front*
4. Paul O'Grady
5. Diddly Squat Farm
6. Manchester
7. The Government Emergency Alert system
8. *Finland*
9. Liverpool
10. Sweden
11. Operation Golden Orb
12. 75 years
13. England wicket-keeper Jonny Bairstow picked up one of the protestors and moved him off the pitch
14. Coutts
15. Spain 1 England 0
16. Wilko

17. Sycamore
18. £1.25
19. South Africa
20. *Rhodes*
21. Matthew Perry
22. Now and Then
23. Foreign Secretary

~~

Chinese New Year 2024 – 10 February



Chinese Lunar New Year's Day falls on February 10, 2024. In Chinese culture, a big New Year's Eve dinner is enjoyed on the evening of Friday, February 9, 2024. Symbolic foods are prepared, which represent wishes for health and longevity, prosperity, family togetherness, happiness/sweetness/laughter, and progress.

Everyone wears red, a lucky colour, and visits family and friends with auspicious gifts of oranges and other fruits (except pears, which represent separation!), flowers/plants, candies, and special food items like sweet rice cakes, taro cake, or turnip cake.

Adults (more specifically, married adults) give out red envelopes (*hóngbāo*) filled with lucky money to children and elders, and everyone enjoys fireworks, parades, banquets, and brightly lit lanterns at night.

The Chinese New Year will last until February 24th, the Lantern Festival. As an official public holiday, Chinese people can get eight days' off from work, from February 10th to February 17th.

The Chinese zodiac gives each year an animal sign and 2024 is a Year of the Dragon, specifically, the Wood Dragon. The Dragon enjoys a very high reputation in Chinese culture and it represents auspiciousness and imperial power since ancient times.

Other years of the Dragon include 1916, 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012, 2024...

Dragon people are considered most eccentric in the Chinese zodiac. Dragons are idealists, perfectionists, they are born thinking they are perfect and inflexible. Dragons are also aggressive and determined, going after what they want is second nature to them.

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Famous people born In the Year of the Dragon include Julius Caesar, Joan of Arc, Martin Luther King Jr., Pelé, both John Lennon and Ringo Starr, Jeff Bezos (Amazon founder), Boris Johnson and Adele. The Dragon is also the most popular zodiac year. During the Year of the Dragon, there is a noticeable rise in birthrates in China, as many parents wish to have a child whose zodiac sign is the Dragon.

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Words of the Year 2023

Collin's Dictionary has announced its Word of the Year as 'A I'. Here is their list of the top 10 words or phrases in alphabetical order, plus their definitions in full. How many do you use?

A I	the modelling of human mental functions by computer programs. Considered to be the next great technological revolution, AI has seen rapid development and has been much talked about in 2023.
Bazball	a style of test cricket in which the batting side attempts to gain the initiative by playing in a highly aggressive manner
Canon event	an event that is essential to the formation of an individual's character or identity
Debanking	the act of depriving a person of banking facilities
Deinfluencing	the use of social media to warn followers to avoid certain commercial products, lifestyle choices, etc
Greedflation	the use of inflation as an excuse to raise prices to artificially high levels in order to increase corporate profits
Nepo Baby	a person, especially in the entertainment industry, whose career is believed to have been advanced by having a famous parent
Sema glutide	a medication used to suppress the appetite and control high blood sugar
ULEZ	A ULEZ is an area, especially one in a big city, where most vehicles have to pay to enter and vehicles that produce a lot of pollution have to pay more. ULEZ is an abbreviation for 'ultra-low emission zone'.
Ultra-processed	of food prepared using complex industrial methods from multiple ingredients, often including ingredients with little or no nutritional value

After more than 32,000 votes, and a team of language experts, Oxford's Word of the Year 2023 is...

rizz

2023 marked the era of personal – and professional – PR. And what does it take to command attention? A whole lot of charisma, or the shortened form, 'rizz'.

Pertaining to someone's ability to attract another person through style, charm, or attractiveness, this term is from the middle part of the word

'charisma', which is an unusual word formation pattern. Other examples include 'fridge' (refrigerator) and 'flu' (influenza).

The shortlist for the Oxford Dictionary Word of the Year

beige flag (*noun*)

A character trait that indicates that a partner or potential partner is boring or lacks originality; (also) a trait or habit, esp. of a partner or potential partner, viewed as extremely characteristic, but not distinctly good or bad.

de-influencing (*noun*)

The practice of discouraging people from buying particular products, or of encouraging people to reduce their consumption of material goods, esp. via social media.

heat dome (*noun*)

A persistent high-pressure weather system over a particular geographic area, which traps a mass of hot air below it.

parasocial (*adjective*)

Designating a relationship characterized by the one-sided, unreciprocated sense of intimacy felt by a viewer, fan, or follower for a well-known or prominent figure (typically a media celebrity), in which the follower or fan comes to feel (falsely) that they know the celebrity as a friend.

~~

Selsdon Centre for the Retired Saved by the Sleigh bells

The Selsdon Centre for the Retired has been given a 3-year lifeline thanks to a Christmas miracle grant from the National Lottery.

We've just had the news that funding has been allocated to us to help with funding for the near future. We were lucky enough to receive this news in late December and what a wonderful gift it is! News was announced at our annual client Christmas lunch and it made our clients, staff and volunteers extremely happy.

We are now considering many plans to keep our much-loved Centre going, and we will keep you updated in the New Year as plans are

formalised. Also, it would be great to hear your thoughts for helping make us more successful in reaching new clients along with keeping our current clients happy, maybe increasing our numbers wherever possible. We welcome suggestions or feel free to email selsdon.centre@btinternet.com. You could always pop-in to the office during opening hours and ask for a form to complete for the suggestion box or a donation form as we need to keep raising funds as we go along. Watch this space for more news. Keep an eye on our website, the Centre notice board and don't stop believing that you can have your own Christmas miracle! Thanks so much to all who signed our petition, donated to our Centre, volunteered in any capacity and supported us throughout a difficult year. We need each and every one of you. Thanks, must also go to the Selsdon Gazette for its help in keeping you updated with our news. 2024 looks like being a Happy New Year for us!

Here is the letter I received from the Chairman of the Selsdon Centre, Nick Bonneywell.

December 2023

GOOD NEWS!

I wrote to you last August warning of the serious financial situation we found ourselves in, which meant that we faced having to close the Selsdon Centre in March 2024. The situation arose because the local authority, Croydon London Borough, had withdrawn its annual revenue grant for several years and had imposed extra rent charges.

Following this, there was a local public meeting, at which 50 people attended, to express their anger and disbelief that this was a possibility. We also had many letters of support including from seven of the local clergy, as well as our clients and volunteers. We also had a petition signed by over 1600 people, all of which we took with us to a meeting with the Mayor of Croydon in support of our request for funding.

Following that initial meeting we had further meetings with the Deputy Mayor of Croydon, senior staff at Croydon Council and some voluntary organisations who have an interest in social care provision, hopefully some new funding. Unfortunately, none of this was fruitful in securing the funding we needed in the short term.

However, I am delighted to report that we have just received confirmation that a National Lottery bid we submitted some time ago, has been approved and will start on April 2024. This is a 3-year agreement and meets a significant proportion of our annual running costs and will enable us to continue to operate the Centre for the foreseeable future. Not only will we survive, we will thrive.

However, it does mean that we will have to engage in an extensive programme of fundraising to ensure the long-term future for the Centre. We hope you will be able to support us in this effort and engage in the programme. If you can make a one-off donation or a regular monthly sum which can be gift aided, that would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the office staff on 020 8651 1111 if you can help in this way.

We hope to be able to announce further plans and initiatives shortly. In the meantime, the Directors and the staff wish you a Very Happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year and for many more years to come!!

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Selsdon Contact would not be able to give the support to our nearly 300 clients without our fantastic band of volunteers. But we are always ready to welcome new volunteers - of all ages.

There are many practical ways you can help – but in particular we are looking for drivers. One of our most valued services is offering lifts to medical appointments. Or perhaps you might become one of our minibus drivers taking clients on the shopping bus or one of our outings. You can help as often as you feel able – perhaps you could only manage an hour or so a month. If you are using your own car, you can claim any expenses. If you think you could help in this way, please do contact Jasmine or Nina in our office (contact details below)

You could make a big difference – could this be your New Year's Resolution?

Perhaps you don't have the spare time to become a volunteer but could you become a Friend of Selsdon Contact. We do need to cover the costs of running our office and the minibus. Friends of Selsdon Contact make an annual donation or monthly contribution towards these costs. Perhaps as little as the cost of a cup of coffee a month. It all adds up. You can find out more from our office.

Contact's office is to be found on the lower ground floor in the Community Centre, below Sainsbury's and is open from 10 am until 3 pm Monday to Friday.

Telephone - 020 8651 4944

E-mail - [info@selsdoncontact.org.uk](mailto:info@selsdoncontact.org.uk)

Facebook: Selsdon Contact

[www.selsdoncontact.org.uk](http://www.selsdoncontact.org.uk)

*Selsdon Churches Neighbourhood Care Registered Charity 1124346*

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## CROYDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



Croydon Symphony Orchestra is the local, amateur community orchestra (and a registered charity). The Croydon Symphony Orchestra (CSO) are making a welcome return to the Fairfield Halls for their next concert entitled 'The Magic of Vienna' on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.30pm.

This concert is a gala evening of Viennese Classics including Brahms Festival Overture, Mendelssohn Wedding March, some Mozart arias and of course Johann Strauss favourites. The concert includes two solo semi-finalists from their 2023 Croydon Concerto Competition (Heming Li soprano, and Elizaveta Saul violin) and will be supporting the charity 'International Needs'.

Tickets are £25, £22 and £18 (with under 16s free when accompanying an adult). Available from the Fairfield Halls box office at:

[Croydon Symphony Orchestra - The Magic of Vienna | Fairfield Halls | Croydon](#)

They do hope some of our readers can join them for this concert. Further details of the orchestra can be found on our website:

[Croydon Symphony Orchestra – Croydon's finest amateur ensemble](#)



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Santa had the best time switching on the Christmas Lights, having breakfast & supper with his chums & visiting his young chums in December, across Sanderstead, Selsdon & Hamsey Green. So many 'Shout-Outs', Santa had a blast chatting with his young friends on his rounds.

Thank you for your generous donations which allow us to provide support & care to those in need throughout the year. On our Facebook page we will run the twelve days of Christmas blog which tells you just how we spend the money you give to us.

On behalf of all those who benefit for your kind and generous donations, thank you so much.

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



What of 2024, we will have our Quiz Night on Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> March, watch this space for details of the big night. More events to come in the new year.

If you would like to be involved with Rotary Sanderstead & Selsdon, do visit our website – <https://www.rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com/> or call our Secretary on 07774 186 792.

**Rotary & Santa Rock .....**

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## **Alfred Russel Wallace. Science, Friendship and Feathers**

Just down the hill from Selsdon near South Croydon station is a blue plaque Croydon home lived in by one of the worlds most distinguished scientists. Alfred Russel Wallace (1823-1913) is mostly remembered for his idea of ‘evolution by natural selection’ made entirely independently of Charles Darwin. He was a man of many talents - an explorer, collector, naturalist, geographer, anthropologist, social activist and political commentator. When he died, aged 90, he was the most famous biologist in the world.



### **Contribution to science**

While working as an English master at Leicester, he met Henry Walter Bates and in 1848, (likely inspired by the work of Britain’s foremost naturalist Charles Darwin and his travels in South America), they left for an expedition to the Amazon, with the object of collecting natural history specimens and gathering facts “towards solving the problem of the origin of species”. They funded the research by selling finds to stay-at-home collectors. After a year the two went their separate ways, both continuing their overseas field work in areas previously unexplored by European naturalists. Wallace, over more than a decade, amassed over a hundred thousand animal specimens (despite an early shipwreck destroying his Brazilian specimens) of mostly birds, beetles and butterflies, including more than 5,000 species new to western science.

Wallace published two books of his findings during this time. He also noticed a striking pattern in the distribution of animals around the Malay Archipelago. He proposed an imaginary line dividing the region in two parts. Later known as Wallace's Line, this marked the boundary between the animal life of the Australian region and that of Asia.

Wallace was a relatively young man when he began to develop his ideas about the distribution of species, and by extension, their evolution and wrote to Darwin to help him promote his ideas to the London scientific world. Wallace's draft work risked eclipsing Darwin and prompted Darwin to finally publish his book. Many scholars have maintained that Wallace got the short straw in the history of evolutionary thought due to the success of Darwin's '*On the Origin of the Species (1859)*', however Wallace always maintained that credit was fairly given – that Darwin deserved the acclaim that he received. Wallace dedicated '*The Malay Archipelago*', published in 1869, to Darwin, "not only as a token of personal esteem and friendship, but also to express my deep admiration for his genius and his works".

### **Living in Croydon and Darwin's friendship**

In 1878, whilst in his 50s, Wallace moved to Croydon living in two rented houses ('Waldron Edge' Duppas Hill Lane from 1878 – 1880 site is now part of the flyover) then 'Pen-y-Bryn' (now numbered 44) St Peter's Road, South Croydon 1880-1881. From his archived letters it appears he was at this time short on funds and found Croydon a good place to send his children to school. He attended lectures at the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society. Writing in the Croydon Guardian in 2010, Paul Sowan, vice president of the CNHSS,



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said: *"We're very proud of him as a member of the natural history society, especially because quite apart from his scientific work he had a social conscience. He made tremendous, but unsuccessful, efforts to get women allowed into our meetings. They're allowed in now of course, we let ladies in about 1900."*

Wallace was in regular correspondence with Charles Darwin. In Croydon, Wallace worked on his next great biogeographical work: *Island Life* (October 1880). It is clear from his letters to Darwin that he is in need of a job to fund his family and has just failed to get a post in Essex. In January 1880 Darwin writes to him *"I wish you could obtain some quiet post and thus have leisure for moderate scientific work."*

In 1881, thanks to persuasion of Darwin, Arabella Burton Buckley and Prof Thomas Henry Huxley (grandfather of Sir Julian Huxley) the Gladstone government gave Wallace a pension of £200 a year for 'lifelong scientific labour'. Wallace writes to Darwin on Jan 8 1881. *"The amount you say Mr. Gladstone proposes to recommend is considerably more than I expected would be given, and it will relieve me from a great deal of the anxieties under which I have laboured for several years. Today is my fifty-eighth birthday, and it is a happy omen that your letter should have arrived this morning."*

He writes again to Darwin *"I am assured both by Miss Buckley and by Prof. Huxley that it is to you that I owe in the first place this great kindness, and that you have also taken an immense amount of trouble to bring it to so successful issue, I must again return you my best thanks, and assure you that there is no one living to whose kindness in such a matter I could feel myself indebted with so much pleasure and satisfaction."*

This money enabled him to build a home at the top of Frith Hill, Godalming where he grew nearly a thousand species of plants. In 1886 he went for a nine months' lecturing tour in the United States; on his return, desiring a milder climate, the family moved to Dorset. Wallace wrote over 20 books and published more than 700 articles and letters on a wide variety of topics.

## **Feather obsession!**

It seems likely that Wallace's collections and writings may have fuelled the Victorian obsession with bird plumage which the early RSPB based in Croydon was trying to outlaw. More recently, in 2009 an American flute player obsessed with bird feathers for making fly fishing lures, broke into the British Museum of Natural History's AR Wallace bird collection and

stole 300 specimens. This has been detailed in a true crime book 'The Feather Thief' and traces the origins of the feathers. An interesting read!

## **Janet Sharp**

*The Feather Thief* - Kirk Wallace Johnson

Stephen Webster - <https://www.thehistorypress.co.uk/articles/what-prompted-charles-darwin-to-publish-his-theory-of-evolution/>

William B Ashworth - <https://www.lindahall.org/about/news/scientist-of-the-day/alfred-russel-wallace/>

James McNish - <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/who-was-alfred-russel-wallace.html>

Mike Didymus - <https://www.yourlocalguardian.co.uk/news/5049076.groundbreaking-scientist-immortalised-in-stamps/>

Wallace Letters Online - [https://www.nhm.ac.uk/research-curation/scientific-resources/collections/library-collections/wallace-letters-online/index.html?utm\\_source=wallacelettersonline&utm\\_medium=short-url](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/research-curation/scientific-resources/collections/library-collections/wallace-letters-online/index.html?utm_source=wallacelettersonline&utm_medium=short-url)

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## **SELSDON FLOWER CLUB**

We have pleasure in announcing that our Flower Club is continuing in our 54th year with the following programme:

|                           |                                                  |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 10 <sup>th</sup> January  | AGM and Enrolment with Tea, cake and a chat      |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> February | Practice - Valentine Arrangement - Ring of Roses |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> March    | Practice - Easter Arrangement                    |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> April    | Demo - Melanie of Kane's Florist                 |

We are a small friendly club who meet on the second Wednesday afternoon of each month at 2 pm at the rear of St. John the Divine Church, Selston. Subscription £30 per annum (£15 half year). We have demonstrations and practices. All abilities welcome.



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# A SELECTED LIST OF SELSDON ORGANISATIONS

## CHURCHES

|                                  |               |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| St John the Divine (C of E)      | Parish Office | 020 8657 2343 |
| Selsdon Baptist Church           | Office        | 020 8651 4308 |
| St Columba's (Roman Catholic)    |               | 020 8657 3747 |
| St Francis (Church of England)   | Monks Hill    | 020 8657 7864 |
| Croydon Jubilee Church           | Office        | 020 8651 2807 |
| Forestdale Salvation Army Church |               | 020 8657 0078 |
| Selsdon Christian Fellowship     |               | 020 8668 9779 |
| Church of Jesus Christ of LDS    |               | 020 8651 2211 |

## DOCTORS & EMERGENCY CARE

|                                   |  |               |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------|
| Farley Road Medical Practice      |  | 020 8651 1222 |
| Queenhill Medical Practice        |  | 020 8651 1141 |
| Selsdon Park Medical Practice     |  | 020 8657 0067 |
| Croydon University Hospital       |  | 020 8401 3000 |
| New Addington Minor Injuries Unit |  | 020 8251 7225 |
| Purley War Memorial Hospital      |  | 020 8401 3515 |

## POLICE

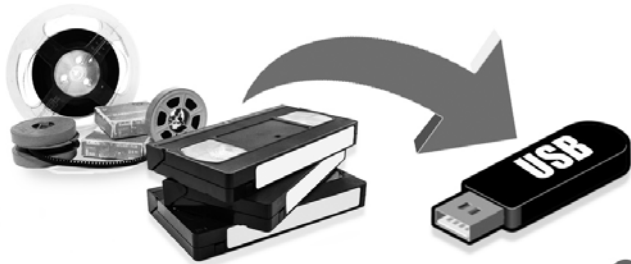
Selsdon & Addington Village: SelsdonandAddingtonVillage@met.police.uk  
Selsdon Vale & Forestdale SelsdonandForestdale@metpolice.uk

## CLUBS, GROUPS & CHARITIES

|                                                                         |                                                                                                |                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CONTACT (Neighbourhood Care)                                            | Jasmine Singh                                                                                  | 020 8651 4944                                                                                              |
| Selsdon Centre for the Retired                                          | Craig Anderson                                                                                 | 020 8651 1111                                                                                              |
| Croydon Hearing Resource Centre                                         | Office                                                                                         | 020 8686 0049                                                                                              |
| Croydon Vision                                                          |                                                                                                | 020 8668 2486                                                                                              |
| Cruse Bereavement Care Helpline                                         |                                                                                                | 080 8808 1677                                                                                              |
| Friends of Littleheath Woods                                            | Ian Leggatt                                                                                    | 020 8651 1140                                                                                              |
| Friends of Selsdon Wood                                                 | <a href="http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk">www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk</a>             |                                                                                                            |
| Sanderstead Plantation Partners                                         | <a href="mailto:michaellishmund@gmail.com">michaellishmund@gmail.com</a>                       |                                                                                                            |
| Friends of Kingswood                                                    | <a href="http://www.friendsofkingswood@hotmail.co.uk">www.friendsofkingswood@hotmail.co.uk</a> |                                                                                                            |
| Girlguiding (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section)               |                                                                                                | 0800 999 2016                                                                                              |
|                                                                         | <a href="https://girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved">https://girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved</a>  |                                                                                                            |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Selsdon & Addington Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts) |                                                                                                |                                                                                                            |
|                                                                         | <a href="http://www.1stselsdon.org.uk">www.1stselsdon.org.uk</a>                               |                                                                                                            |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Selsdon & Addington Scout Group                         |                                                                                                |                                                                                                            |
|                                                                         | <a href="http://www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk">www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk</a>               |                                                                                                            |
| Croham Valley Explorer Scout Unit                                       | Christopher Dean                                                                               | <a href="mailto:tinkerscorner@aol.com">tinkerscorner@aol.com</a>                                           |
| Arts Society Croydon Area                                               | Jean Aarons                                                                                    | <a href="https://tascroydonarea.org.uk">https://tascroydonarea.org.uk</a>                                  |
| Rotary Sanderstead & Selsdon                                            | Wendy Parr                                                                                     | 07774 186794                                                                                               |
| RSPB Croydon Local Group                                                | John Davis                                                                                     | 020 8640 4578                                                                                              |
| Selsdon Art Group                                                       | Fiona Hooper                                                                                   | 07973 412952                                                                                               |
| Selsdon Bridge Club                                                     | Bob Steadman                                                                                   | 07545 384899                                                                                               |
| Selsdon Centre Bridge Club                                              | Betty Borfiga                                                                                  | 020 8656 4212                                                                                              |
| Selsdon Community Hall                                                  | Cottie Campbell                                                                                | <a href="mailto:selsdonhall.info@gmail.com">selsdonhall.info@gmail.com</a>                                 |
| Selsdon Flower Club                                                     | Maureen Browning                                                                               | 020 8651 5821                                                                                              |
| Selsdon Townswomen's Guild(pm)                                          | Christine Holland                                                                              | 020 8657 4861                                                                                              |
| Sanderstead Horticultural Society                                       |                                                                                                | <a href="http://www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk">www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk</a> |
| Sanderstead Local History Group                                         |                                                                                                | <a href="mailto:sandersteadlh@gmail.com">sandersteadlh@gmail.com</a>                                       |
| Selsdon Tennis Club                                                     | Geoff Littlewood                                                                               | 020 8651 4748                                                                                              |
| St John's Wives                                                         | Jane Guglielmi                                                                                 | 020 8657 6672                                                                                              |
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