



The Selsdon — Gazette —

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THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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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: Celebrating 50 years for Selsdon Contact Neighbourhood Care.

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A stylized map graphic with several callout bubbles. The central bubble is a large key shape containing the text: "Your largest local independent agent". To its left is a bubble for "SANDERSTEAD" with address "13 Limsfield Rd" and phone "020 8657 5000". To its right is a bubble for "SELSDON" with address "216 Addington Rd" and phone "020 8651 1234". Other bubbles scattered across the map are labeled "SOLD" and "LET BY".

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

Councillors for Selsdon Vale & Forestdale Ward

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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



Welcome to the July edition of the *Gazette* which covers July and August as we do not produce a *Gazette* in August to give our army of distributors a well-earned rest. On this month's cover we have a photo of the Selsdon Contact minibus as this July they celebrate 50 years in Selsdon. Many thanks to them for providing a very welcomed service to many of our residents.

Please remember to keep Sunday 3 September free to come along to the Friends of Selsdon Wood Open Day and the Selsdon Residents' Association Bring Your Own Picnic and Fun Afternoon. There are details about what you can expect in this gazette. This annual event gives us the chance to get together to celebrate this special green space in Selsdon and to enjoy the stalls and events provided.

Included this month is a review of the Birch Press Day attended by Su Yates so that you can learn what has been happening to the previous Selsdon Park Hotel. Janet Sharp takes a look at the flint found in many Selsdon walls and buildings and Ian Leggatt covers the transformation of the Selsdon Vale from small holdings to housing estate. Our regular contributors cover Butterflies in Ted's Nature Notes, the face behind a clown's make up in Mary Gill's poem, how to adapt your planting for dry conditions in the Gardening tips and a bumper quiz about holiday locations.

It was so uplifting to hear about the fundraising activities of a ten-year old girl from Greenvale Primary School - an inspiration to us all. Talking of school children and with the summer holidays coming up, I have listed some free days out in this area. I would love to hear from any school child about what they have been up to this summer. This can be in the form of a report, photo or poem covering your activities or places that you have been visiting in the Selsdon area. My email address is selsdongazettesra@gmail.com. It would be so good to include these in the September edition.

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

Chris Jones

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

SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS

A22

Last month we warned you of the closure of the A22 but since then I have heard that the 412 will terminate at Purley Station (south side) and you will have to walk through the station towards Tesco and the hospital starting 22 July to 3 September.

Friends of Greenvale Primary School Second-hand Bookshop

This a community bookshop run by the school and parents which helps to raise money for Greenvale and also provide a place for anyone to donate and buy replacement books, whilst saving many from landfill as many charity shops now take fewer books. Opening times need to be checked on their Facebook page but generally are Wednesdays 4-7pm or Saturdays 10-4pm.

Selsdon Wood Fair

The Gazette is not published in August so we wish you all a great summer and hope to see lots of you on Sunday 3rd September between 12-4 pm. Subscription envelopes will be happily received there too.

Gazette

I asked recently for volunteers for Gazette distributors and deliverers especially on Selsdon Vale. We are still in great need so that our existing volunteers do not have to do extra work. Phil Roberts, our Distribution Manager, will be happy to take your call to chat.

A big, big thank you to all our volunteers that make the Gazette possible.

Happy summer

Sheila Childs, Chair

SELSDON GAZETTE DISTRIBUTORS NEEDED



Our Distribution Manager, Phil Roberts (07511 431207), is still looking for a volunteer to become a distributor for the Selsdon Vale area. What does this job entail? Each month, Phil will ask you to collect copies of the Gazette from his house. You would then have to drop them off to about ten deliverers. If we get more than one volunteer, then the number of drops would be less.

If you have a car and can spare a couple of hours each month please contact Phil to find out more.

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Sunday 3 September (from midday to 16.00) Friends of Selsdon Wood Open Day and SRA Community BYO Picnic and Fun & Games Afternoon

Yes, the Selsdon community event of the year is happening on 3rd September!



There will be goods for sale from the Woodturners and craftspeople, quality White Elephants, books and Tombola stalls to assist you to shop locally and help good causes at the same time. The Guides and Brownies and Friends of Littleheath Woods will also have stalls – and others we have no room to mention here so please come and see for yourself! Hot drinks and snacks will be provided as usual by the Scouts to augment your BYO picnic.

There is room for those of you who would like a space for a table or two to sell or display your own items.

We make no charge for the 'pitches' but simply ask for a donation to FSW funds to enable us to repair

seats, paths and buy tools needed to do the work the council relies on us to carry out in order to maintain the wood as a pleasant environment for all to enjoy. Please contact FSW to enquire or book your place by sending an email to selsdonwood@gmail.com or text to 07979 00 2547 and we will then reply to you with more details.

Please come along to judge the FSW Annual Photo competition (see FSW website for details of entry – and remember to send your entries to govierh@gmail.com by 20th August). Winners will receive cash prizes of **£50 first, £20 second and £10 third.**

FSW will offer a short-guided walk (12.15 -13.15) and a nature-themed Storytime session for the children (13.45-14.15) and there will of course be the afternoon fun activities (for all ages!) organised by the Selsdon and Sanderstead Rotarians.

We are also to be entertained from **13.20-13.40 by a young lady, Lauca, from Sanderstead, who is a great singing talent.** It might be that the start times of the walk and Storytime will have to change if there are additional events arranged since this piece has been written in June, so **please watch the notice boards and social media for details of the programme for the day nearer the time.** Additional stall holders will also be advertised in this way, if they want the advance publicity.

We hope for good weather and a good attendance - but please come whatever the colour of the sky and the temperature to show the Selsdon community spirit is still thriving regardless!

Linda Morris pp FSW and SRA

~~

Community Action - Could this be you?

Do you care about Selsdon and Croydon?
Do you have ideas about how to make Selsdon better?
Are you willing to get together with others to help your community?



If the answer to the above is YES or even MAYBE – read on!

We have a **VACANCY** on the Selsdon Residents' Association Committee.

What is involved?

The Committee have 10 monthly meetings (Monday evening), plus an AGM each year. Members help with annual events like the Christmas Lights Switch On, and perhaps take on an area of ongoing responsibility to improve the area or keep a watching eye on external factors, depending on their interests. It is not overly time-consuming. You don't need to be retired!

What is in it for me?

It feels good to see your home area look good! Within a group of others with the same goals you have a better chance of making a positive change, improve communication and help make others' lives better. Additionally, if you believe in karma then your positive actions for others will come back to you!

Would I be suitable?

The SRA needs a volunteer from the Selsdon membership catchment area who is sensible, reliable, committed to helping the community, able to work in a team and willing to be active and put their skills and ideas to good use. One person can make a difference!

Don't be shy to find out more. Speak to our SRA Chair, Sheila Childs on 8651 2285

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COUNCILLORS' NOTES

As your elected representatives, it is our commitment to keep you informed and engaged in the events and developments within our community. This month, we bring you updates on the Farley Road leak and repair, Licence update application at Addington Park, and the latest planning applications in Selsdon.

FARLEY ROAD UPDATE

As many of you may know, the top of Farley Road was recently re-laid, however, we have encountered some issues with the road tarmac, which has deteriorated and become defective. We have promptly reported this matter and are requesting the contractor responsible for the works to revisit and rectify the situation.

CELEBRATING SELSDON CONTACT 50TH BIRTHDAY

On behalf of all of us, we would like to extend our warmest wishes to Selsdon Contact on reaching its 50th anniversary. Selsdon Contact has been an invaluable asset to our local community, providing consistent support and assistance to our residents on a regular basis. We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for everything they do for the people of Selsdon.

LICENCE APPLICATIONS FOR EVENTS AT ADDINGTON PARK

Large Picnic - August 27, 2023

Festival in the Park - September 16, 2023

Circus - September 28 to October 1, 2023

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

23/01436/FUL – 150 Addington Road South Croydon CR2 8LB
Proposed Extensions and Alterations to Existing Building to Retain Ground Floor Shop and to Form 3 Self-Contained Units

23/02138/FUL - 182-184 Addington Road South Croydon CR2 8LB
Construction of a three-storey rear extension, roof extension and change of use of the first-floor chiropractic clinic (Class E) to create 2 residential flats and commercial floor space at rear ground floor level. Provision of associated refuse and cycle storage.

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23/01911/HSE - 2 Albatross Gardens South Croydon CR2 8QX
Demolition of garage. Erection of single storey front/side/rear wraparound extension including alteration to front porch.

23/01999/HSE - 36 Benhurst Gardens, CR2 8NS
Erection of first floor side extension

23/01840/HSE - 22 Brent Road South Croydon CR2 7NR
Erection of front porch, single storey side/rear extension and first floor side/front extension. Alterations to roof and garage front elevation.

23/02307/FUL - 34 Farley Road South Croydon CR2 8DA
Erection of an attached two storey dwelling house, including associated alterations, following the demolition of the rear ground floor utility room and side garages.

23/01967/HSE - 36 Old Farleigh Road South Croydon CR2 8PE
Conversion of garage into habitable space.

23/01166/HSE - 22A Sylvan Close South Croydon CR2 8DS
Erection of single storey front, rear and side extensions, rear dormer, raised patio and steps to the garden.

23/02078/HSE- 10 Upper Selsdon Road South Croydon CR2 8DE
Erection of a two-storey side extension, hip to gable and dormer roof extensions, roof lights in the front roof slope and single storey rear extension.

23/02244/HSE - 19 York Road South Croydon CR2 8NR
Erection of 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](http://www.localplanningapps.co.uk/croydon/sra/anupdate/planning%20table.html)



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MP Chris Philp's Report

Member of Parliament for Croydon South



Policing in Croydon Town Centre

In recent months, a number of people have raised the issue of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Croydon Town Centre, especially near East Croydon Station at around the time that schools and colleges leave in the late afternoon and early evening. This has sadly included several incidents of mobile phone theft.

Firstly, I am pleased that Mayor Jason Perry has announced the introduction of a new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to tackle ASB in Croydon Town Centre. Under the PSPO, anyone caught engaging in antisocial behaviour in the town centre could face a fixed penalty notice or prosecution in the Magistrates' Court which could result in a criminal conviction and a fine. The PSPO means the police will also have the power to issue on-the-spot fines or prosecute offenders who refuse to comply with the order.

As Policing Minister, I am acutely aware of the importance of having visible police presence of our streets. That's why, to support Mayor Perry's introduction of a new PSPO, I have had several conversations with our BCU (South Area Basic Command Unit for Bromley, Sutton & Croydon) Commander Chief Supt Andy Brittain about increasing the police presence on the streets of our Borough, including Croydon Town Centre after the end of the school day and other town centres. The Metropolitan Police now has a record number of officers due to extra Government funding and I want to see them visible on our streets. I intend to keep raising this with our local Police to make sure that all the extra officers make a visible difference.

Purley Pool

Having joined many residents to campaign against its closure a few years ago, I know how important Purley Pool and Leisure Centre is to so many local people. I am pleased to report that the reopening of the facility remains a top priority for Mayor Perry, and he is fully committed to delivering it. As a result of the physical deterioration being worse than expected, the re-opening of the site is complicated and will take time. This has been further hampered by the Council's finances being worse than previously thought.

Purley Pool and Leisure Centre is an invaluable facility for the community. An independent report is being written that will outline the options to deliver the most cost effective and efficient way of re-opening the facility. I will update you when more information is available.

Chris Philp

Member of Parliament, Croydon South: [020 7219 8026](tel:02072198026)

chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk

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News from our Local Police

Here PCSO Tina Nash warns us about two crimes on the rise at the moment.

NUMBER PLATE THEFT

Over the past few months, we have been receiving reports of an increase in Number Plate thefts.

These have been happening in and around the Selsdon, Forestdale, Sanderstead and New Addington areas.

Number plates are used to commit further crimes in order to disguise a vehicle's true identity. If you find that you are a victim of this crime, please report it to the Police on 101 and make sure that you keep a copy of your Crime Number. If you start receiving Parking Tickets, Red Route tickets, ULEZ tickets or any other form of ticket, you will need to contact the authority who has issued the ticket and give them your Crime Number explaining that your Number Plates were stolen.

BURGLARY

While we try as hard as we can to keep our homes safe there is always someone who wants to spoil it. Most burglars like to gain entry to a property from the back garden so that they are not seen by overlooking neighbours. On these lovely warm evenings please make sure that you remember to lock up before you go to bed. Get in a routine of making sure everything is locked.

We understand that it can be difficult when it's so hot and we all want fresh air circulating around our homes, but an open window is too tempting for an opportunist burglar.

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

Emergencies – 999

Selsdon & Addington Village:

SNMailbox-SelsdonandAddingtonVillageSNT@met.police.uk

Selsdon Vale & Forestdale:

SNMailbox-SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk

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A Good Time for Gardening – July/August

Creating a garden that can withstand hot, dry weather is something that, living in the south-east, we are all needing to consider more and more. Here are a few thoughts about how to achieve such gardens.

Let nature flourish more; enjoy the naturalness of the garden more. Tidy and primp less frequently. Therefore, reduce the amount of hedge cutting and mowing that is undertaken.

Soil preparation is important. Compost, manure, garden waste, organic fertiliser are the keys to soil that will be as self-sufficient as possible. After preparing the soil, it then needs to be protected. Mulch as much as possible, using bark or gravel, as this helps to slow evaporation of water from the soil. High level planting will also aid moisture retention and the soil won't be exposed to too much sun.

Love your plants from afar – tough love! If plants are watered generously and frequently, they will come to expect this. If they are treated mean they learn to survive better. If they've had to put out roots to find water, they will become more able to tolerate the hotter, drier weather. The caveat to this is that, when starting plants off, they may need generous watering to help the roots establish. A good soaking, now and then, creates more self-sufficient plants, as they make their roots look for their own source of moisture deep in the soil rather than remaining near the surface. Obviously, if they start to die, then take remedial steps. This could involve moving them to a different area in the garden.



Choose your plants carefully. Silver leafed plants reflect sunlight and often tend to be drought tolerant. A good combination for such plants is small, silver and hairy leaves. Mediterranean herbs, such as thyme, sage, rosemary etc are ideal, give a

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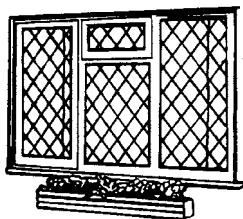
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Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid

www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

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The Selsdon Gazette was invited to attend a press launch on 26 May for the new hotel, Birch. My colleague, Su Yates, from the Selsdon Residents' Association represented the Gazette and here are her views of this new venture.

My Visit to Birch (Selsdon)

As part of their "Soft Launch", Birch have been offering a £20 food/drinks voucher per person plus a free Early Birch Brekkie (for those staying overnight and normally priced at £21 per person) until the 30th June, to compensate for "not everything being perfect yet". On walking along the drive, heavy plant machinery and workmen can be seen amongst the trees and indeed a lot of foliage has been cleared possibly for the new cycling and running tracks. The sign on the drive declares an 8¾ mph speed limit but I could not decide if this was fact, humour or an attempt to make guests slow down and embrace the moment? Further down the driveway,



as promised, there is a gated entrance, complete with sentry box, unmanned at the time of my visit.

Once inside the hotel it soon became clear that some members of staff were only at the start of their training confirming that indeed not everything was perfect yet. The Lido, which is due to be opened the end of July (complete with a Yoga deck) was shrouded from the Hotel so I did not get to see the much talked about revised look. The former golf course is in the process of re-wilding and only the bunkers remain visible. A

perimeter fence was in the process of being erected and once complete, 3 Sussex cattle, 3 Exmoor ponies and 3 pigs will be introduced to the site and allowed to roam free. The pigs and badgers (who have already made themselves at home) will dig over the golf course restoring it to its natural glory. Deer are already on site from the nearby woods and chickens will arrive at a later point plus possibly geese. A pond will be constructed at the 7th hole.

Birch invites you to “escape the everyday and rewild body and soul”. The new Managing Director, Ayo Akinsete, has stated “In our post-pandemic world where boundaries have become even more blurred and it’s harder than ever to switch off, we need a reminder of the best things in life. Birch (Selsdon) is a place to pause, to try new things, to reconnect with yourself and others, and to have fun. We want guests and members to leave feeling inspired, upbeat, calm and nourished but also empowered to cope with the everyday juggling act of life. Birch is an amalgamation of all the best bits...”

Much has been written about how environmentally conscious Birch is. It offers 181 bedrooms of varying sizes (no tv sets just radios) and 3 types of bathrooms depending on how much has been replaced. I was advised that they had recycled where possible so some bathrooms are brand new whilst others have used some of the existing baths, basins etc. This seems a little at odds with the public spaces which have been mostly gutted and replaced with a very modern décor. The interiors have been redesigned by A-rnd, led by Alessio Nardi and Lukas Persakovas, who specialise in furniture, interior design and visual art. Also, the interior designers Sella Concept and Sebastian Cox, who is responsible for the re-wilding project, have designed bespoke furniture items, bedrooms and communal areas using wood from the estate. Staff do not wear a uniform as such; Birch have collaborated with the clothing supplier Universal Works to create a distinctive look, that comes in five different colours, stressing it is not a uniform and uses re-worked archive stock. Ayo Akinsete wanted “clothing for our team that the guests will want to wear”. There is still a flavour of the former Selsdon Park Hotel in the layout i.e., the ornate ceilings, beautiful windows and large fireplaces. The Orangery has sage green limewashed walls and a very large blue bespoke sofa divides the room into zones. Ideal for corporate working and the area was abuzz with people working at their lap tops.

The Meadow Bar has apricot limewashed walls and a new bar running the length of one wall. The ochre, peach, terracotta décor runs throughout giving a light fresh air to the hotel with modern artworks mounted on the

walls under the original moulded ceilings.

The All-day Brasserie, Vervain, has soft brown lime washed walls with a vibrant apricot painted ceiling and has kept the beautiful windows that many of you will recall.

There are 2 restaurants and 3 bars. Elodie, their signature restaurant has décor that includes Dominic McHenry's geometric totems and the tables are tastefully fully laid but as yet, it is not open. When it is, it will be offering a tasting menu. Vervain is designed to be an all-day restaurant where you can "dine 2 or 3 times a week". Both restaurants will offer menus by Michelin-star chef Lee Wescott. There are plans for nomadic dinners to take place outdoors deep in the hotel grounds where there are five picnic sites plus hammocks slung amongst the trees.

For my lunch in Vervain, I chose the Birch soup (£12) - a cold soup that was poured at the table over a central display of edible flowers. It all looked so beautiful and tasted divine but the menu stated it came served with sourdough bread which it didn't,

neither did it come with a spoon to eat it with! I didn't fair much better with the Birch pasta (on the menu at £19) as sadly it was way out of my comfort zone re. the amount of chilli it contained and I could not eat it. Had the chilli content been listed on the menu I would have chosen something else but alas, it did not come with a warning. The braised cabbage looked interesting at £18 or, if I were a meat eater, the beef sirloin steak at £36. All side dishes were extra.



A Richard Wood's art installation "Bungalow" sits on the back lawn and forms a stark contrast to the grandeur of the hotel. There was no sign of the promised Emma Stothard art works. Birch is about bringing like-minded people together and providing them with the space to reconnect with themselves and each other. So, what else does Birch offer

other than what I have already covered. Well, there will be a coffee/snack type bar opening in the Snug for use by members and hotel guests only. Tennis courts; wellness space; reading room; pottery and screen-printing studios as well as an arcade; cookery studios; a screening room and their famous Birchlings children's club. When the Birchling unit is open (for

families with children) it will have an entrance to a secret garden for the children to use. Birch is a dog friendly hotel and dogs are also allowed in the restaurant.

Membership to Birch (Selsdon) is £150 a month with a £300 joining fee. Applicants are not vetted as such but anyone wishing to join will need to show what they can bring to Birch and in turn what Birch can give back to them. Prospective members will be matched to the Birch existing membership. One off visits can be made for lunch and drinks and they plan to host both corporate events and weddings.

Birch (Selsdon) is a sort of 'hug a tree' experience with lots of additional and interesting benefits. I wish it well but should leave the final words to the Managing Director – "what we do in a lifestyle hotel is sell an experience – you're not coming here just to sleep".

Su Yates

~~

WELL DONE EMILY!



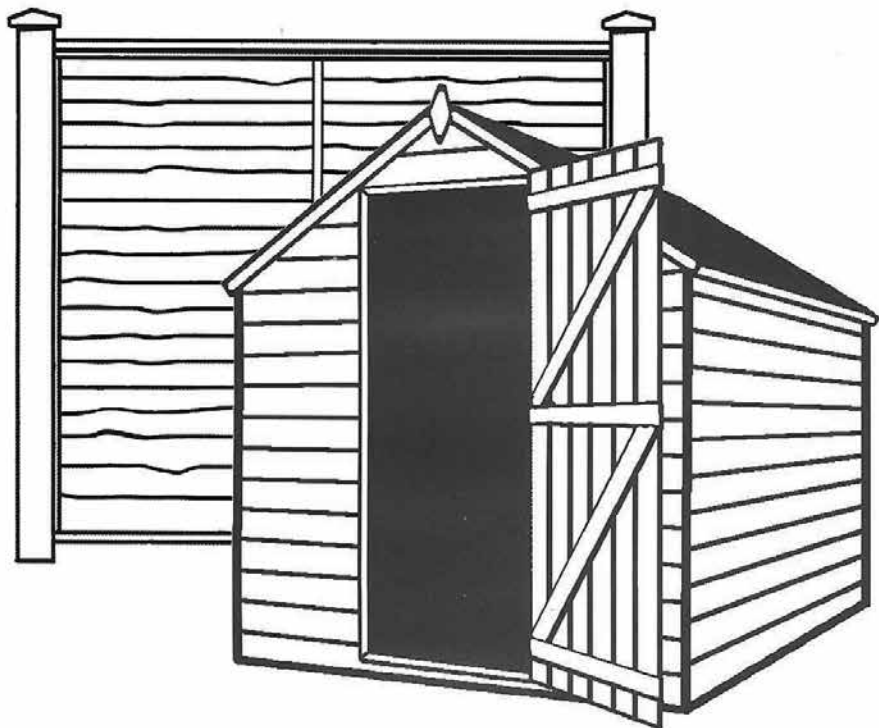
On 26th May Emily, a 10-year-old pupil at Greenvale Primary School, had her very long hair cut during a school assembly. She had decided to donate her hair to the Little Princess Trust Charity. This charity shares donated hair with children and young people experiencing the devastating effects of hair loss due to conditions like alopecia and cancer chemotherapy. They produce and fit the highest quality, real-life wigs. Ahmad, a hairdresser from A.S Grooming in Selsdon performed the cut and Emily's Headteacher, Daniel Bowden, was on hand to give Emily support.

Not only had Emily donated her hair, but she had also been collecting sponsors through her Just Giving page (<http://bit.ly/3FXB8DZ>). The money that she raises will be going to her Nana's NHS charity to help people undergoing cancer treatment. CDDFT Charity is the official charity for County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust. They use donations to buy medical equipment, support training, innovation, education and much more that would not be available from the NHS

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without charitable funding. The charity works to help enhance patient care and their care experience is set across eight main hospital sites and in community settings, including in patient's homes. So far Emily has raised over £1300 for the charity. She also received a special certificate from the Little Princess Trust.



Emily is a very young and enthusiastic person who is full of ideas on how to help others. She has raised over £500 for Cancer Research UK by climbing Roseberry Topping in North Yorkshire (320m), completing The Race for Life and baking cakes to sell. During the lockdown she also raised money for The Arc Centre in Selsdon by walking 3km.
What an incredible girl!

~~

Flint – History in Plain Sight

Found naturally in chalk, flint is almost pure silica and derives from the skeletal structure of many marine organisms from the seas of Cretaceous period (145 to 66 million years ago) when dinosaurs were still roaming the earth. Flint is a very hard, black mineral similar in composition to glass, which when worked correctly, is capable of a very sharp cutting edge.

Why is it special?

Elaborate tools such as axes, adzes, spear points and arrowheads were made from flint by early man, enabling great technological advancement for humans. An ovate flint hand axe was found on a Norfolk beach in 2000 by a local man walking his dog. The hand axe was discovered securely stratified within a thick peaty deposit which was subsequently dated to around **700,000** years old. This single discovery showed that humans had been present in Britain some 200,000 years earlier than had previously been known – in fact the earliest known location for humans in the whole of north-west Europe! **An object of world significance.** As you may know at nearby **Croham Hurst**, Neolithic flint tools were found showing that this area was inhabited at least 6000 years ago.

Where can we see flint used locally?



The first extensive exploitation of flint for building is Roman, for the core work of composite walls. In the 1950s Mr. R.I. Little excavated a Romano-British settlement in **Kings Wood**, half a mile to the south-west of Selsdon. The rapid development of Croydon has hidden much of the evidence of the Roman occupation and the exact route of the full London to Brighton Road has been lost to time but we know it did go through Croydon and was a main Roman throughfare. I imagine more finds are hiding beneath the earth.

Saxon and Norman churches also made extensive use of coarse but unsplit flint, and lime mortar, a practice which continued in the flint regions (Dorset, Wiltshire, Hampshire, Sussex, Kent, Surrey, Berkshire, Suffolk and Norfolk) throughout the Middle Ages. More sophisticated and architectural use of flints dates from around the beginning of the 14th century, when knapping and squaring of flints produced flat surfaces which could be framed in limestone, the practice known as 'flushwork'. Flushwork became highly fashionable and at times adventurous in the late 15th century and it continued to be popular for about 100 years.

Examples of local flint churches are:

Church of St Mary the Blessed Virgin, Addington Village (photo):

St Mary's was founded in 1080 A.D. and was associated with Barlow Trecothick, a former Lord Mayor of London and with the Archbishops of Canterbury. It is the oldest public building still in use in Croydon and is Grade 1 listed. The church tower has a belfry with six bells inside, the earliest dating from around 1380, as well as two 17th century bells.

Church St Mary the Virgin, Farleigh: Built circa end 11th century, at least for the building of the first stone church. The present building is of field flints, with the original rough yellow plaster or mortar coat outside, and with dressings of local firestone.

Church of All Saints, Sanderstead: All Saints was built in 1230 with the tower added in 1310. It has the original door of double oak planks, early 14th century wall paintings. Grade 1 listed.

Church of all Saints, Warlingham: All Saints dates from 1250, enlarged by the Victorians.

A revival in the use of flint had to wait until an interest in the Romantic developed in the late 18th century. The flint garden grotto of the great houses is a symbol of the taste of the time. In the Victorian period a

whole range of flint buildings, coupled once again with limestone or brick, reappeared. This new fashion in flint extended from cottages and church restorations to fortifications and even great country houses.

Local Victorian examples are:

Selsdon Court, Addington Road Sanderstead. Whilst the house itself was demolished in 1958. Remains of walls are still in evidence.

In the Victorian era Sir George Gilbert Scott had a hand in redesigning the Saxon churches of **St John Parish/Minster Church in Croydon** and **Church of St Mary the Virgin, Hayes** Bromley (down the road from Addington village). Other flint churches in South Croydon were also built in this era.

Selsdon Park was built in 1809 on the site of the 15th century farmhouse by William Coles. **The Flint Cottage (known as ‘Cosy Corner’)** was one of the estate lodges and there are remains of **stable buildings** along Old Farleigh Road.

I would assume that the **Flint walls that face Old Farleigh Road** and the **Addington Road** are from this period also.

Are flint walls important?

Traditional walls can often have a strong bearing on the character of an area. In Old Farleigh Road the homes and businesses that have such a wall as part of their boundary are tasked with maintaining them (but only with essential work otherwise they should minimise disturbance). The important legacy of flint construction presents a challenge to modern owners and conservators. (Flint craftsmen are not the easiest of skilled tradesmen to find, though West Dean College in West Sussex runs an English Heritage validated building conservation masterclass where flint forms one of the subjects.) For the DIY'er there is a lot of detail on <https://buildingconservation.com> , but in essence if repairs are needed, do not use strong cement mortar and the flints need to touch one another and not be too far apart.

Keep your eyes out for the flint structures still hiding in plain sight around the area today.

Janet Sharp



Selsdon Vale, 1950's Smallholding Life and 1970's Building Engineering

Back in February, dear reader, we looked at the origins of the Selsdon Vale area, aka The Bird Estate, built by Wimpey on land which was previously mainly smallholdings comprising poultry farms and piggeries. You may remember we briefly heard of Ilfra Tors Piggery. Last month's Gazette contained a lovely poem written by an occupant of said smallholding back in the 1950s and which perfectly captured hers and her family's life. Angela Mernone 'nee Glover' recorded her experiences of living and working on the land on Selsdon Vale from 1952 to 1959. What of Ilfra Tors?

Ilfra Tors was one of the larger smallholdings on Selsdon Vale on land sloping between Ashen Vale woodland down to Selsdon Vale track. The extract from an OS map below locates Ilfra Tors next to Vaal Cot and opposite another Piggery, 'Woodley'.



Extract from OS map 1:1250 / 1:2500, 1944 – 1972

What was life like for those intrepid souls making a living from the land? We have previously learnt of the Selsdon Garden Village Trust and the Addington Smallholders Limited selling their wares through a farm shop back in the 1930s but things sound a bit different in the 1950s: Angela's brother Steve records his memoirs in an article which can be found on the website of The Selsdon Woods. I quote from his memoirs:

I was born in April 1952 to Eveline (aka Peggy) and Ralph (aka Bob) Glover, a serving Royal Marine, in Deal, Kent. Very shortly afterwards, my father retired (at the age of 39) and bought a property called Ilfra Tors in Selsdon Vale, off Old Farleigh Road in Selsdon, which came with its own plot of land, and all the family, including my older, teenaged sister, Angela, moved in later that year. The property comprised a 3-bedroom chalet bungalow, with reception room, kitchen and bathroom, and a large outbuilding housing a garage with a room above it, and a workshop at the side.

The property and plot of land were situated on the slope of a valley, and I recall helping Dad fill in the potholes with ash and clinkers from our fireplace, at the beginning of Selsdon Vale (which was a very straight road). An ice cream man and his van braved the potholes and made regular and very welcome visits along Selsdon Vale, stopping outside the bungalow to swap broken ice cream wafers and cones for our animals with Dad, in return for freshly laid eggs from our chickens.

My father co-owned and ran a small pig and poultry business on the land with his partner, whose surname was Bell. I recall Dad building sites for the pigs and coops for the chickens towards the bottom of the slope of the valley - the opposite side of the valley led up to what we used to call the bird sanctuary'. I also remember as a tiny tot accompanying him in his lorry with pigs in the back to and from the livestock market in Guildford, and stopping off outside a pub on the Hog's Back for probably a well-earned glass of cider for Dad and a bottle of pop for me!

I was nicknamed locally the Butcher's Boy' as my dad was very generous with meat and produce from the farm for family, friends and neighbours when times were hard. I recall family members walking all the way from Wallington town centre to spend a few hours with us 'on the farm' before returning home again on foot, most probably laden with little parcels of produce under their arms.

When leaving Ilfra Tors, turning left up the footpath, there was a solitary lamppost with an old abandoned Army pillbox nearby. Unfortunately for me, what could have been a ready-made secret play hideout in the woods was mostly unusable, being deep in mud and water for much of the time. Further up was another lonely lamppost, with a large Victorian house at the top of the path. In the 1950s, Selsdon Vale was very much still in the countryside and, as such, was very dark at night, with dim lighting only shining out of the odd isolated house and occasional lamppost. I remember my teenage sister having to carry a torch with her as she stumbled along the footpath when returning home after dark.

Very sadly, my father unexpectedly collapsed and died of a heart attack at the age of 46 in 1959 while working on our land. Unfortunately, my mother had to sell the house, land and his share of the business, and we all moved out later that year (or possibly early 1960) to a semi-detached house in Farley Road, Selsdon.



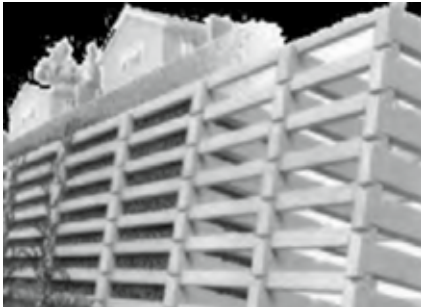
A snow covered Ilfra Tors from the 1950s

Moving forward to the 1970s the area was redeveloped and 'The Bird Estate' built. Where was Ilfra Tors?

Using the excellent mapping resources of The National Library of Scotland it can be established fairly accurately what area the Ilfra Tors plot covered. Part of Osprey and Wagtail Gardens, from 19 to 26 Osprey, 25 to 32 Wagtail and from 33 Goldfinch Road to its junction with Peacock Gardens comprised the Ilfra Tors land. The piggery buildings were situated roughly in what is now the back gardens of those properties in Wagtail Gardens. Steve records that his family plot was *situated on the slope of a valley* and inspection of an OS map shows a contour difference of some 75 feet (23 metres) from the roadway of Selsdon Vale up to the woodland of Ashen Grove. As a previous resident of Selsdon Vale I know that the land there

does not merely 'slope' from Ashen Grove down to the valley floor. It cascades with high retaining walls reminiscent of Moorish terracing in the Spanish Sierras, stepping down from back garden to back garden but built using concrete rather than stone.

So, what is this system of retaining wall? The units are commercially available as 'Criblock' (they do what they suggest) and can be quickly and easily constructed on a poured concrete base. The precast concrete units utilise the strength of the reinforced concrete interlocking cribs plus the weight of the stone filling and can easily retain several metres height of soil. The ground of Seldon Vale is chalk and is free draining thus preventing build-up of water behind the wall which could lead to instability.



Concrete 'cribs' awaiting backfilling with stone



Glimpse of 'Criblock' on Seldon Vale

Ian Leggatt

With thanks to Steve Glover for allowing me to plunder his memoirs of Ilfra Tors and Seldon Vale in the 1950s and for the use of the photo of his old house. Thanks to NLS (National Library of Scotland) which enables geolocation of current and old OS maps and to Google Maps for locating the housing which now occupies the location of the Ilfra Tors site. Information on Criblock from the Retaining Wall Solutions website. Any errors in transcription are mine.

As the holiday season approaches, test your knowledge of popular worldwide holiday locations.

BUMPER HOLIDAY QUIZ

1. What are the two destinations that the Orient Express originally travelled between?
2. In which country would you find the original Legoland?
3. Which lake is called the 'jewel of the Italian Lakes'?
4. Where would you find Wenceslas Square?
5. In which European city will you find the Spanish Steps?
6. The Shelbourne Hotel, built in 1824, is the oldest and most lavish hotel in which capital city?
7. ATOL protects you when you book a holiday with a UK travel company; what do the letters 'ATOL' stand for?
8. Which is the only US State to have a one syllable name?
9. Which European capital was built on 14 islands?
10. What is the only country in the world not to have a rectangular or square flag?
11. Which famous cocktail originated in the Raffles Hotel, Singapore?
12. In 1993, 'Ayers Rock' also became known by its Aboriginal name, what is this name?
13. In which country would you find the currency 'baht'?
14. In which country is the world's highest waterfall?
15. Which country has the longest coastline in the world?
16. What is the only country in the world to be ruled by an Emperor?
17. What is the largest country in Africa?
18. In 1976, Saigon in Vietnam changed its name to...?
19. What is the most southerly capital city in the world?
20. Which River formed the Grand Canyon in Arizona, USA?



Answers after Nature Notes

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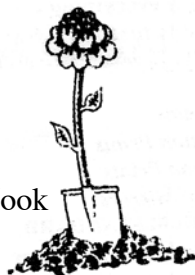
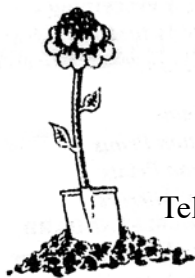
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We welcome your letters so do **please get in touch** if you have something to share with Selsdon residents.

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

~~

I received this letter from an avid *Games of Thrones* fan who spotted my 'deliberate' mistake in last month's Father's Day Quiz. Did you spot it too?

Dear Editor

Well done to whoever took the trouble to devise a special Father's Day quiz but I have to take issue with one of the answers. Being a *Game of Thrones* enthusiast, I have to point out that Ned Stark wasn't Jon Snow's father, he was in fact his uncle. An easy mistake to make as Ned Stark let everyone believe that Jon Snow was his illegitimate son in order to protect him. Jon Snow's real father was Rhaegar Targaryen which meant he had a legitimate claim to the Iron Throne and was therefore in danger.

Sorry to be pedantic.

Name and address supplied

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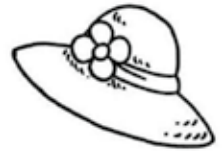
Here our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, tries to dispel all the news and gloom about at the moment.

JUMPING FOR JOY

Many things in life can cheer one up, however there is so much bad news, most of us are probably a bit down without realising it: so, get rid of BBC, who are the number one culprit to my mind, scrap newspapers, and delete all bad news from the internet. Then what will you have left? A world of happy and peaceful ostriches or would that leave us too quiet and peaceful?



Well just look at the beautiful blue sky above us, and the hot and sunny weather. As a child, I remember gazing out from the windows at home at yet another rainy day, and wondering if mum would ever get around to taking us for a walk. Mum didn't seem to have wellington boots and was never pleased if my brother and I jumped in the puddles and splashed her with cold water. I wonder why? Still clothes too were "on ration" so perhaps she preferred high heels and looking glamorous and didn't like cold, wet, mucky feet. Now the weather is wonderful and we buy shady hats and suntan lotion. At least I thought we did, until a trip to London this week. I wore a sun hat and I appeared to be the only person, in the teeming masses of the metropolis, to feel it necessary to do so. Have none of them ever had sunstroke? The hat seemed to be stared at by so many people. Someone even sat opposite me on the train and asked me where I had bought it! Well, I was tempted to ask her why a woman of that age was wearing shorts to the office! Fortunately, I behaved myself. For some years one was not supposed to be married and work, and women couldn't even wear wedding rings, but had to slip them into their bag or purse when at the office!



It was wonderful to stroll across Green Park, in the dappled shade. Two policemen had dismounted from their horses and removed the saddles, and two beautifully groomed horses were grazing happily on some very green grass. The policemen were wearing their police riding helmets but had only shirtsleeves on. It was just so peaceful. In the distance some school pupils seemed to be playing "tag" encouraged by their P.E. teachers, and they were racing around happily. Lots of people were resting on the freshly painted seats. (We saw the seats being painted just before the coronation.)

We were in London to celebrate our wedding anniversary, eating at a restaurant our children had treated us to. They had bought us vouchers there, and prearranged it all for us. What a wonderful surprise! The date was a special date for us and has now been made even more so, because over that night my niece gave birth to a baby boy, and he was born on our special day, because he was born just before midnight. Even more wonderful, she has named him Leo after our dear relative, who died in his nineties and whose funeral I couldn't attend because I was stuck in bed with a virus, in January this year. Now I have a photo of a tiny little fellow

in a woollen hat, whose name will bring to mind a kindly man, whenever I see the little fellow.

Yes, I could jump for joy - if the ancient ankles will allow it - and I will jump in my garden where the sweet-smelling peonies are now at their best.

Jessica Blake

~~

Use up your old postage stamps



After 31 July 2023, regular stamps without a barcode will no longer be valid (special stamps with pictures on and Christmas stamps without a barcode will continue to be valid). You can either use up these stamps before the deadline or swap them for the new barcoded ones.

The stamps that are changing are the familiar ones with the profile of Her Late Majesty, The Queen, on a plain coloured background. The barcodes will enable new services through the Royal Mail app by connecting physical stamps to the digital world.

To swap your non-barcoded stamps for the new barcoded versions you simply complete a Stamp Swap Out form (available online at www.royalmail.com/sending/barcodedstamps or at your local Post Office). This form together with your non-barcoded stamps can then be sent back to Royal Mail free of charge by writing on the envelope Freepost SWAP OUT. No other address details are needed.

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Poetry Corner

This month Mary Gill reflects on what may lie behind the happy face of a clown.

THE LONELY TEARS OF A CLOWN

Consider this circus clown with his neck ruffle -
the one that we license to tear up the rule book -
who treads the border between comedy and insanity -
projecting a light-hearted disregard for propriety,
pretending to a carefree carelessness,
when so much pain is imprinted on his heart.

What does this entail for his mental equilibrium?

From what disturbing darkness does his manic humour stem?

Unlikely that we will ever know, for,

in the time-honoured way of circus clowns,

who portray the professional buffoon,

he will contrive to shed his tears alone.

When the show is done, and the crowds dispersed,

he will climb out of his clown façade,

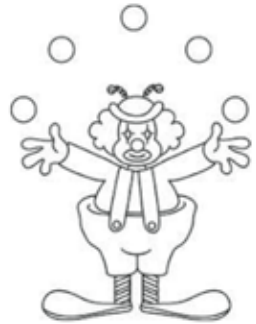
and – unrecognised by the remnants of his audience,

slip away to take solace in the leafy peace

of a nearby woodland. Breathing in the calming air,

held in the gentle embrace of the trees,

he prepares for the next performance.



~~

Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth – Butterflies

Different species of butterfly are on the wing and breeding at different times of the year. We begin with the species which hibernate as adults – Brimstone, Peacock, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell and Red Admiral – and emerge in spring to seek mates and lay eggs. From the eggs hatch caterpillars which munch their way through their chosen food plant, often nettles, and when they reach a stage where their inside is bigger than the outside the skin splits and a bigger caterpillar emerges. This process is repeated several times until it is time to form a pupa within which the caterpillar transforms into an adult butterfly. Brimstone is univoltine, i.e., it produces one brood per year, but other species can have several broods.

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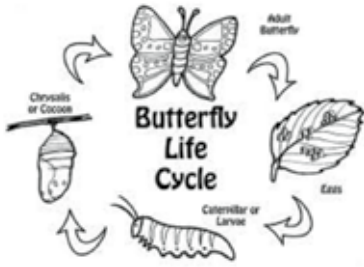
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Rather than hibernate, other species get through the winter variously as egg, caterpillar or pupa so that the adults appear over a number of weeks. In spring Orange-tip, Holly Blue and Speckled Wood are amongst the first to appear. Speckled wood can winter as larva or pupa resulting in multiple periods when fresh adults are on the wing.

The other British butterflies emerge throughout the year, dependent to some extent on the appearance of their foodplant(s). Weather plays a big part in the behaviour and breeding success of butterflies. A severe frost or a long, wet period can decimate populations as can long hot drought conditions. In 1976 there was a very hot dry summer when grasses quickly turned brown and the foliage of trees under stress began an early change to autumn colour. Species like Skippers and Meadow Browns, whose caterpillars feed on grasses, simply starved, as did the adults who could not find flowers to supply nectar. The full effect was not seen until the following year when it became obvious that the numbers of some species had drastically declined. If several years in succession produce similarly high temperatures, then some species could vanish completely.

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However, since female butterflies can lay many hundreds of eggs, one or two good seasons can almost restore the populations.

2022 had a very hot summer with some temperatures reaching record levels of over 40°C. If you have been following butterflies during 2023, have you been conscious of reduced numbers of certain species? It would be interesting to compare the effect on a spring species like Orange-tip with a late season butterfly like Meadow Brown or Brown Hairstreak.

While small numbers of Red Admirals breed in this country more come in as migrants. When conditions are right pure migrants such as Painted Lady & Clouded Yellow butterflies and Hummingbird Hawkmoths can arrive in very large numbers and can succeed in producing broods though they are not able to create a self-sustaining colony as they cannot survive the winter. Adult Painted Ladies from one of these broods are known to perform a reverse migration back to their North African(?) base.

Local variations in weather conditions - frosts, rain, low & high temperatures – will have local effects on butterfly populations but climate change could be another story. New species could arrive from the continental populations and settle successfully in Britain provided the necessary foodplants are available. Some existing British species could be lost. Time will tell!

~~

Answers to the Bumper Holiday Quiz

1. Paris and Istanbul
2. Denmark
3. Lake Como
4. Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic
5. Rome
6. Dublin
7. Air Travel Organisers' Licensing
8. Maine
9. Stockholm
10. Nepal
11. The Singapore Sling
12. Uluru
13. Thailand
14. Venezuela



15. Canada
16. Japan
17. Algeria
18. Ho Chi Minh City
19. Wellington
20. Colorado

~~

SUMMER HOLIDAYS FREE DAYS OUT

1. Coombe Wood

Coombe Wood is a Green Flag Park. It has a pond and waterfall as well as woodland, ornamental gardens and a giant staircase, it is a scenic spot for a picnic.

2. Wandle Park

A stroll along the river Wandle, with the water trickling under a Victorian bridge as ducks swim by is sure to relax you and the park's pond is full of life.

There is an exciting playground area for children and a skate park.



3. Museum of Croydon, Croydon Clocktower Katharine Street, Croydon CR9 1ET

Exhibitions open Wed and Fri 11am-4pm

CITIZEN UK: CROYDON'S CARIBBEAN INFLUENCERS 14th Apr - 21st July 2023

Museum of Croydon in partnership with the National Portrait Gallery, artist Kyam and Croydon Poet Laureate Shaniqua Benjamin explore stories of the Caribbean community and influencers who have made an impact on the borough. In collaboration with local volunteer Citizen Researchers, we creatively tell these inspiring stories using archive material, poetry and portraits. Artwork: [@kyamarts](#)

4. Littleheath Woods

Entrances are on Ingham Road, Foxearth Road, Croham Valley Road and Edgecombe. Croydon Council have produced a self-guided walk taking in a taste of Littleheath Woods and a snapshot of Selsdon history (go to 'Croydon Neighbourhood walks').

5. Croham Hurst Woods

Until 1901 the Hurst was owned by the Whitgift Foundation, but a proposal to build on it caused such public outrage that it was sold to Croydon Council. The Hurst provides a variety of habitats for many species of birds, mammals and insects.

6. Croydon Minster

Even if you're not a regular churchgoer you're welcome to call into Croydon's impressive parish church at any time. The church is steeped in history -six Archbishops of Canterbury were buried in the Minster. You can call in on any day of the year, except Thursdays, to look around for free. Outside of service times, the Minster is open daily except Thursdays from 10am until 3pm.

7. Millers Pond

Located in Shirley, it is an ornamental pond in a small park behind the houses in Shirley Way, The Lees, Bennetts Way, Farm Lane and Worcester Close.

8. Selsdon Wood Nature Reserve

Main entrance off Old Farleigh Road. Woodland and open meadows covering 200 acres.

9. Addington Hills

If you head to the viewpoint at Addington Hills, you'll be able to take in views of The Shard, The Gherkin and Canary Wharf. On clear days, you will probably be able to catch a glimpse of Wembley Stadium, too.

10. Lloyd's Park

At Lloyd Park, off Coombe Road, you can have something to eat at the Lloyd Park Café. The park also has a disc golf course a children's playground, an outdoor gym, a small pond and football pitches and tennis courts for hire (book in advance). 114 acres of mature woodland and trees.

11. South Norwood Recreation Park

14 acres with entrances in Selhurst Road, Tennyson Road and Cargreen Road. There is a skate park, sports ground, football pitches, tennis court and a children's playground.

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- + Hedge Reduction
- + Planting
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12. South Norwood Country Park

You can explore the paths around the 125-acre South Norwood Country Park by bicycle or foot. Main entrance is off Albert Road but if using the tram get off at the Harrington Road stop on Route 2. It is part of the Waterlink Way, a designated cycle path which connects parks in south east London and runs through South Norwood Country Park. It takes you past lakes, wetlands and meadows. There's a children's playground, wild flower meadows and viewing mound.



With more than 100 species of birds recorded here each year, the RSPB cites this as potentially Croydon's premier bird watching site. Birds spotted in the past include several species of warblers, a flock of shovelers in winter months and occasionally something more exotic, such as shelducks, pintails and goosanders. There is also a reasonable chance of seeing a kingfisher. Watch out for woodpeckers, finches, tits, reed buntings and little egrets too.

13. Happy Valley and Farthing Downs

if you can't bear to be separated from your phone then you can put it to good use on a high-tech nature trail around Happy Valley and Farthing Downs in Old Coulsdon. QR codes along the route are scanned by walkers using mobiles or tablets. The codes bring up web pages about the wildlife and history of Happy Valley and Farthing Downs. The trail can also be followed using the GPS feature on visitors' smartphones.

With panoramic views of London's skyline, ancient history, wildlife-rich chalk grassland and expansive countryside walks, Farthing Downs offers something for everyone.

Situated at the tip of the North Downs on the edge of London and Surrey, this chalk spur is home to an array of birds, butterflies and wildflowers; combined with neighbouring Happy Valley, Farthing Downs has the most extensive population of greater yellow-rattle in London which can be seen among brightly coloured orchids, bedstraws and scabious in spring and summer.

Farthing Downs is open all year round and is easily reached by public transport direct from Central London. You'll find a visitor car park, site information and toilet facilities at the southern edge of the site just off Ditches Lane.

14. Croydon Airport's Visitor Centre Museum (Airport House, Purley Way, Croydon, CR0 0XZ)

Starting life as a World War One aerodrome as defence against Zeppelin airship attacks, Croydon Airport became Britain's major international airport in 1920 and at the time was the only international aviation gateway in and out of Britain.

Airport House was the world's first modern airport terminal and air traffic control tower. You cannot catch a plane from here anymore but you can call into the visitor centre and learn about its history.

It is open on the first Sunday of the month, from 11am to 4pm. It's free to get in but donations (£6 recommended per person) are welcome.

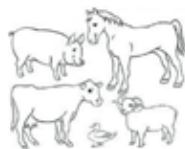
15. Shirley Windmill

In a quiet residential area off Postmill Close, this windmill is one of only four windmills open to the public in Greater London. Although it hasn't worked since about 1890, most of the original machinery is still in place and has been restored. Even if it's not open when you call by, it is still an impressive site worth admiring from the outside.

The windmill is open for guided tours on the first Sunday of the month, from June to October between noon and 5pm. It is also open on Open House London Day on 17 September. It's free to get in but donations are welcome.

16. Crystal Palace Park Farm

Located in the historic Crystal Palace Park, this charming city farm is home to a wide range of animals. A great day out for children, who get the opportunity to meet and greet the animals as well as learn about the running of a working farm.



Opening Times - The Farm is open daily from 12.00pm to 3.30pm, excluding Wednesdays.

The Farm is also open on bank holidays.

17. Horniman Museum, 100 London Road, Forest Hill SE23 3PQ

As well as a natural history collection and a music gallery of instruments from around the world, there is an aquarium, butterfly house and a hands-on area for children plus beautiful gardens, an animal walk and a nature trail outside.

The Horniman Museum and Gardens are free to enter. There is a charge to visit the Aquarium, the Butterfly House, and the Brick Dinos exhibition. It's open daily from 10am to 5.30pm.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2023

READY, SET, READ!



Join for free the Summer Reading Challenge at Croydon Libraries, running from Saturday 8 July until Saturday 9 September.

How it Works

Online:

Go to summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Sign Up. Click on 'Join now' to create an account

Read Books. Set your reading goal and read anything you like! Each time you finish a book, add it to your profile and leave a review.

Earn Digital Rewards. Unlock special online badges and a certificate to print at home when you reach your Challenge goal!

At your local library:

Sign up. Visit your local library and ask to sign up – a librarian will give you a special collector folder when you start your challenge.

Read Books. Set a reading goal and read anything you like.

Earn Rewards. Each time you finish a book, visit the library. You will collect special stickers and rewards for reading books (Check with your local library service which rewards they will be offering).

~~

The Sanderstead Local History Group

The SLHG would like to welcome you to our historical talks which are not limited to Sanderstead or local History. Our meetings and other details are listed on our web site 'Sanderstead Local History Group'.

This friendly group meet at 2pm in the Small Hall at All Saints Church Halls, Onslow Gardens, Sanderstead, on the last Wednesday of each month. Free car parking- near bus routes. Come to those talks which interest you for a small charge to £2 per visit to cover the cost of hiring the hall and providing tea/coffee and biscuits.

The presentations, mostly by members, are on a subject of their choice. You are never required to give a talk although we are always looking for new topics and are ready with advice for any potential speaker.

The programme for the remainder of 2023.

- 28th June: Phil Swallow- The history of water works in Croydon
- 26th July: Joyce Hoad -Gentleman's Mansion to Selsdon Park Hotel -from 1924 [This is final part of the 'History of Selsdon from 871 AD -2022']
- August: No meeting.
- 27th September: Dee and Val Palmer - A history of spinning and weaving
- 25th October: Janet Hartley- Russian Revolutionaries in London
- 29th November: Informal members' meeting. No meeting in December.

~~



What's Coming Up?

1 September: Rotary Art & Photographic competitions See our website for more details.

2 September: Hobby Fair at St John's Church Hall, Selsdon

3 September: Friends of Selsdon Wood Open Day

30 September: Rotary Sanderstead & Selsdon Sanderstead Community Day 11am–4.30pm

Sanderstead Recreation Ground, Limpsfield Road.

We have entertainment, food, stalls & Fun for all the Family.

So come along & enjoy the day.

11 November: Craft Fair, All Saint's Church Hall, Sanderstead

If you would like to join Rotary and provide support and service to good causes, please contact us on 07774 186792. Look at our website <https://www.rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com> or visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/rotarycroydonsouth>



Selsdon Contact Neighbourhood Care - Celebrating 50 Years

2023 – Our Golden Year

Volunteers Week - 1st – 7th June

Sainsburys kindly allowed us to promote Volunteers week outside their store with a display and bucket collection.

Thank you to those who contributed – we raised nearly £400 – which is gratefully received following the loss of statutory funding via Croydon Council. Of course, people tend not carry cash these days and we are investigating better ways to allow the generous people of Selsdon to support Contact.

The main object of the week was to highlight the benefits of volunteering. Benefits, not only to those being helped, but to those offering the help. Helping others makes you feel great in return.

Could you spare an hour or two? It could be weekly, helping in the office, or maybe just once a month as an escort on the shopping bus or at our coffee morning. Maybe you are a driver and could occasionally take someone to a medical appointment or drive our minibus on outings and shopping trips.

If you feel you can help, please speak to Jasmine or Nina on 8651 4944 or pop in to see us. We are situated on the lower ground floor of Selsdon Community Centre and are open from 10 am until 3 pm Monday to Friday.

* info@selsdoncontact.org.uk

Facebook: Selsdon Contact www.selsdoncontact.org.uk

Forgotten to Pay your SRA Subscription?

Please use the standing order form printed on the back cover of this Gazette and deliver it to an address below. Remember to use the first line of your address as the reference. Alternatively, you can pay online from your bank account to ours using the bank details on the SO form. If you want to use cash or a cheque, please put the cash/cheque into an envelope with your name and address on the front and deliver to one of these addresses:



Peter Underwood 12A Abbey Road.
Tudor Library/Selsdon Post Office Addington Road.
Chris Jones 11 Benhurst Road.
Janet Sharp 16 Brent Road.
Sheila Childs 6 Cowley Close.
Burchells Chiropody 30 Farley Road.
Yvonne Huber 121 Farley Road.
Su Yates 10 Foxearth Road.
Jenny Stawman 42 Kersey Drive.
Trevor Stotten 116 Littleheath Road.
Jenny Bradley 60 Old Farleigh Road.
Ian Leggatt 53 Queenhill Road.
Linda Morris 48 Ravenshead Close.
Selsdon Centre Office off Sainsbury's foyer
Treasurer 24 Southviews.
Croydon Physio 1 Upper Selsdon Road.
Sara Bashford 20 Wagtail Gardens.

Many thanks.

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SELSDON CENTRE FOR THE RETIRED

Summertime and the living are easy! Lots has been going on over the last few months but it's going to be quiet for a couple of months whilst our customers, volunteers and staff take their holidays and everyone catches their breath and enjoys the long, light evenings in many different ways!



We've just had fantastic concerts by the Yehudi Menuhin School of Music and Elvis came to see us and a fantastic time was enjoyed by one and all. Elvis sang and danced to all the classic Elvis hits and it brought back many happy memories of a wonderful performer, who definitely lives on through this type of tribute. Thanks for coming to see us Elvis (Mark Goddard). Our customers were treated to some amazing performances by the Yehudi Menuhin Music students who also enjoyed chatting with each of our clients afterwards. Such a talented bunch, we hope it will be a regular get together - watch this space!

Our Bingo and Fish and Chips days (once a month) continue to be enjoyed very much and we have some lovely little prizes and a Raffle each time too. We have the food prepared locally by the award winning McDermotts and it's always a hit with everyone at the Centre. Details from the Centre notice board or office (Tel 0208 651 1111) or email selsdon_centre@btinternet.com for further details. If you have any unwanted boxed gifts you'd like to donate for our raffle or Bingo, we'd be grateful. Just pop them into the office during open hours.

The Selsdon Centre also continues to hold various exercise classes, Cruse bereavement meetings and a nail-cutting service amongst others. Check the posters outside for all news of upcoming events or look at the website www.selsdoncentre.org.uk to see if there's anything of interest for you.

Our lovely chefs Janet and Ian continue to support the Centre by cooking fantastic fresh home-cooked food or soup on a regular basis and these days are also very popular with our locals - who wouldn't love to have delicious food at a great price, they don't have to cook for themselves! Just call our office and leave a message on our answerphone if you'd like to come to enjoy a lunch with us and we'll give you all the information and get you booked in. It's always fun and great to meet up with other locals for a chin-wag! Last, but not least! We'd love to thank our wonderful volunteers; the Centre can't run without your help. You are all amazing! If you fancy being part of the volunteer team (kitchen or driving/escort), pop into the office to have a chat about what's needed.

Hope to see you there soon.

IF YOU DIE WITH NO WILL:

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- Guardians for your infant children could be appointed by the court

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A SELECTED LIST OF SELSDON ORGANISATIONS

The information provided is, we hope, accurate, but we cannot take any responsibility for any mistakes. Any alterations should be sent to the Editor.

CHURCHES

Forestdale & Selsdon Community Church		8657 0078
St John the Divine (Church of England)	Parish Office	8657 2343
Selsdon Baptist	Office	8651 4308
St Columba's (Roman Catholic)		8657 3747
St Francis (Church of England)	Monks Hill	8657 7864
Croydon Jubilee Church	Office	8651 2807
Upper Selsdon Road Hall (Christian meeting place)		8657 2417
Church of Jesus Christ of LDS	Bishop Hawkins	01883 349914

DOCTORS, DENTISTS & EMERGENCY CARE

Farley Road Medical Practice		8651 1222
Queenhill Medical Practice		8651 1141
Selsdon Park Medical Practice		8657 0067
Croydon University Hospital (formerly Mayday Hospital, 24/7)		8401 3000
New Addington Minor Injuries Unit (Mon-Fri 14:00-22:00/Sat-Sun 12:00-22:00)		8251 7225
Purley War Memorial Hospital (Urgent Care Centre, 08:00-20:00, 365 days/year)		8401 3238

CLUBS, GROUPS & CHARITIES

Arts Society Croydon Area	Jean Aarons	Website: https://tascroydonarea.org.uk	
CONTACT (neighbourhood care)	Jasmine Singh		8651 4944
Selsdon Centre for the Retired	Craig Anderson		8651 1111
Croydon Hearing Resource Centre	Office		8686 0049
Bourne Society	Roger Packham		01883 349287
Crest Badminton Club (Fri pm)	Sue Fairchild		020 8657 3761
Coulsdon Masonic Lodge	Colin Lynch		07801 453474
Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society	Brian Lancaster		8668 6909
Croydon Recorded Music Society	Liz Brereton		8656 7382
Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind			8668 2486
Cruse Bereavement Care Helpline			8916 0855
Friends of Littleheath Woods	Ian Leggatt		8651 1140
Friends of Selsdon Wood		see website: www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk	
Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section			
Girlguiding UK: http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved.aspx			0800 169 5901
Parkinson's UK Croydon & District	Jacky Green		01737 355487
Police (Selsdon & Ballards SNT)	Beat Officer:		8721 2464
RSPB, Croydon Local Group	John Davis		8640 4578
Rotary Sanderstead and Selsdon	Wendy A Parr		07774 186792
Probus Club of Croydon South	John Barker		8657 2093
St John's Dramatic Society	Caryl Rapps		8651 1326
St John's Wives	Jane Guglielmi		8657 6672
Sanderstead Local History Group		www.sandersteadlhg.co.uk	
Sanderstead Plantation Partners	Michael Lishmund		020 8651 2760
1 st Selsdon & Addington Scout Group:	Website: www.1stelsdon.org.uk		
Beaver Colony (6-8yrs)	beavers.1stelsdon@gmail.com		
Cub Pack (8-10yrs)	cubs.1stelsdon@gmail.com		
Scouts Troop (10-14yrs)	scouts.1stelsdon@gmail.com		
Croyham Valley Explorers	Anthony Woodin		020 8651 3780
2 nd Selsdon & Addington Scout Group:	Website: www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk		
Selsdon Art Group	Mrs F Hooper		07973 412952
Selsdon Bridge Club	Tony Cherrett		01883 730304
Selsdon Centre Bridge Club	Betty Borfiga		020 8656 4212
Selsdon Community Hall	Tim Potter (Centre Manager)		8657 4300
Selsdon Afternoon Townswomen's Guild	Christine Holland		8657 4861
Selsdon Floral Club	Maureen Browning		8651 5821
Selsdon Social Club			
Selsdon Tennis Club	Geoff Littlewood		8651 4748
66 (Selsdon) Squadron Air Training Corps	Rob Cleeter		8651 5958

The SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

STANDING ORDER *(Annual Payment - repeat payments due on 1st June)*

To: Selsdon Residents Association (SRA):

A/c No 40336343 Sort Code 20-24-61

To (your Bank).....

Branch Address

Your A/C Name

Your A/C Number Sort Code-.....-

Reference:

n.b. Please use the first line of your address for the reference

We need this so that we can record your subscription knowing that you are a Selsdon Resident and so entitled to be a member of this Residents' Association

General Data Protect Regulation 2018

The SRA will electronically store this personal information obtained from this SO, so we have a record of your bona fide membership. We respect your right to privacy and will not share, sell or profile your personal data.

You may contact the SRA at mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com at any time to request a copy of your personal information that we hold electronically and, at your request, we will amend or delete that information. Deletion will mean that we will no longer contact you.

Please tick this box to give us your permission to retain your personal details for our records.

Please pay the Selsdon Residents' Association now and on 1st June annually until further notice from me, the sum of

£ 5.00 Annual Subscription

£..... Optional additional annual donation*/ Christmas Lights*
 (*delete as appropriate)

£..... **Total**

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