

The background of the cover is a photograph of a forest. In the foreground, there is a dense carpet of small, purple flowers, possibly violets, covering the ground. Several large, dark tree trunks are visible, some leaning at angles. The upper part of the image shows a thick canopy of green leaves, with some light filtering through. The overall tone is natural and somewhat somber due to the dark tree trunks.

The Selsdon — Gazette —

Volume 72. No. 816

June 2020

THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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There is no August Gazette.

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Front cover image credit: 'Bluebell Season in Selsdon' - Malcolm Cragg, May '20.

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Committee: Sara Bashford
Yvonne Huber
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Su Yates
Peter Underwood
Ian Leggatt
Phil Roberts
Jenny Stawman
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One Committee Vacancy

Councillors for Selsdon & Addington Village Ward

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

Councillors for Selsdon Vale & Forestdale Ward

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

Councillors for Sanderstead Ward

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

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



Editor's Note

Welcome to the June edition of the Selsdon Gazette, still on-line only due to the safeguarding guidelines. As we enter the third month of the Covid crisis and lockdown has tentatively been eased a little, we must still be mindful of social distancing and only the essential use of public transport otherwise, we will see a rise in the number of deaths and new infections.

I was pleased to hear from readers about the VE Day article featured in our last edition with their reminiscences and to receive an email from a lady from Texas - certainly we have a wide readership! On this note please can I encourage you to also consider contributing, whether it is a story, poem, activity to try, recipe or photo for the cover. I would particularly like to hear from children about what they have been doing and to share photos of anything they have made. If you feel grateful to any 'Coronavirus Hero' (you do not have to mention them by name) please send me an email (selsdongazettesra@gmail.com) so that we can all recognise them.

In this issue we have useful articles about car maintenance during the lockdown, gardening jobs for June, foods in season and how to avoid and deal with ticks. We learn more about the work of the volunteers with the local partnership (selsdoncovid19.co.uk) helping our most vulnerable residents and Des Donohoe takes us down memory lane by telling us the stories behind two local landmarks, namely Tudor Library and the Addington Hills water tower. I hope that you enjoy your read.

Best wishes and I do look forward to hearing from you!

Chris Jones

~~

✿ SUBMISSIONS FOR THE JULY 2020 EDITION SHOULD
BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN
20TH JUNE - PREFERABLY BEFORE! ✿

SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS

I hope by the time this is posted online that we will be able to exercise a bit more freedom to visit our friends and family within guidelines.

The gazette will continue to be online for a few more months but the committee took the decision to print a flyer to accompany the subscription envelopes which should explain how you can pay this year's annual subscription. The vast majority of our "gazette team" were able to help with the delivery task as part of their daily exercise.

If you do not receive this flyer and subscription envelope or you mislaid the delivery – or threw it out with the junk mail that still seems to keep arriving regardless of lockdown – a copy of each follows this News 'n' Views or can be downloaded from the SRA website directly. If you no longer have the originals and cannot print a copy from a downloaded version, then please copy the identifying information on the front of the envelope to one of your own and use that instead. Please indicate the total amount in the envelope and how you wish it to be allocated - £5 minimum household sub plus any additional donations, which are, of course, welcomed. That envelope can then be delivered to any of the listed addresses.

Likewise, you can make your own form if you wish to pay by Standing Order. If you cannot download the form to print it, then please just copy the layout and information from the form on the back of the flyer, making sure you get the bank details correct and clearly show your address as the reference for our records.

The committee is still managing to "attend" meetings with our Councillors and MP via Zoom which is an interesting experience!!

Flowers

We usually use a company to replace and maintain the plants in the high street for the summer but this year we are looking into planting and watering the railings containers ourselves to save money. At the moment we are having trouble getting compost but, hopefully by June, deliveries (and queues!) will improve. With the shops closed (for now?) we may need to ask for volunteers to water them or help us access a water supply? We will let residents know what we decide.

Take great care of yourselves and hope to meet each other soon.

Sheila Childs, SRA Chair

Selsdon Residents Association (SRA)

May/June 2020 - Gazette and Membership Subscriptions Update

This flyer has been produced to remind every household in the SRA membership area that, due to Covid-19, the usual paper copies of the Gazette cannot be produced or delivered - but you can read it instead online. You can find it on our website: www.selsdon-residents.co.uk.

We can also be found on Facebook – just search for [Selsdon Residents Association](#).

We also try to update notices on the boards by the pedestrian crossing and in Sainsburys foyer and library etc from time to time.

We have no way of knowing how many of you have found the online Gazette or the notices yet, other than by phone calls or feedback to our emails – the Editor's selsdongazettesra@gmail.com and/or the SRA's mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com Do please let us know your thoughts!

We are most grateful to our new Editor, Chris Jones, for coping so well when taking over the Gazette at such a difficult and very different time. Please do let us know your suggestions (plus articles, of course) for future issues. Currently, we do not envisage the restart of the Selsdon Gazette being delivered directly to you before September so, until then, we can accept coloured photographs and artwork for the online version.

We were mindful that many of our usual deliverers would possibly not wish to venture out to deliver this message. We are, therefore, very grateful to those volunteers who have taken on the task, to be completed, we hope, by mid-June. This timescale has been chosen to coincide with what would have been the usual delivery time of the 'little brown envelopes' for the SRA annual subscription.

This year, the SRA is offering you various ways to pay as we want to make it easier to give us your annual household subscription (minimum of £5 per household) together with, please, any additional donation you wish to add for the Christmas Lights etc.

1. You can use the envelope in which this was delivered for cash or cheque payments.

Because of the Covid-19 situation, we ask that you deliver it to any committee member's address listed on the envelope or to the Tudor Library/Selsdon Post Office or through the letter boxes of either the Selsdon Centre or Selsdon Contact at Sainsburys (Selsdon branch, of course!).

We have also decided to start offering the facility to pay either via a Standing Order to your bank or direct from your computer or smart phone via online banking.

n.b. We cannot alter the amount you indicate you wish to pay.

2. To pay by Standing Order, you will need to complete the form on the reverse of this flyer (or download a copy from our website) and send it to your bank. They will arrange for the order to be paid into our account annually, until you cancel it.

Alternatively, please send the completed Standing Order form to the Treasurer (or deliver it to any of the Committee addresses listed at the foot of the form). The SRA will then send the form to your bank for their action. We will simply note your personal details and payment instructions for our records.

3. To pay using personal online banking facilities, our account details are on the Standing Order form. Whichever method you choose, **your address is required as your reference for our records** but your name is optional - although it is useful and helpful in the case of any queries.

All personal details are stored to comply with our Data Protection policy – see the envelope and SO form

We look forward to hearing from you and receiving your financial support in these uncertain times.

Thank you, in anticipation, from the SRA Committee

“Working for the Community”

The SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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

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You can cancel your Standing Order at any time by contacting your bank.

General Data Protect Regulation 2018

The SRA will electronically store your personal information obtained from this form. We need your address so that we know that you are a Selsdon Resident and that we are your Residents Association. 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 send completed form to: SRA Treasurer, 24 Southviews, CR2 8SH,
or deliver to any of these Committee Members:**

Sheila Childs - 6, Cowley Close, CR2 8LU

Sara Bashford - 20, Wagtail gardens, CR2 8TA

Linda Morris - 48, Ravenshead Close, CR2 8RL

Yvonne Huber - 121, Farley Road, CR2 7NL

Janet Sharp - 16, Brent Road, CR2 7NR

Peter Underwood - 12a, Abbey Road, CR2 8NG

Ian Leggatt - 53, Queenhill Road, CR2 8DW

“Working for the Community”

SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (SRA)

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Please tick here to agree to this.

Please deliver your completed envelope to the SRA

c/o Tudor Library/Selsdon Post Office or

Selsdon Contact or Selsdon Centre @ Sainsburys (Selsdon branch)
and Burchells Chiropody - 30 Farley Road (when re-open after lockdown)

or to any of the following addresses

SRA Treasurer – 24, Southviews

Sara Bashford - 20, Wagtail Gardens

Sheila Childs - 6, Cowley Close

Yvonne Huber - 121, Farley Road

Linda Morris - 48, Ravenshead Close

Ian Leggatt - 53, Queenhill Road

Janet Sharp - 16, Brent Road

Peter Underwood - 12a, Abbey Road

Sunday 6 September - FSW Open Day & Selsdon Community Picnic

Our Friends of Selsdon Wood/Selsdon Residents Association annual event this year is scheduled for Sunday 6th September and, at the moment, we are hoping that the lockdown will be over, and we can celebrate by then being a community, getting together once again. We are waiting until June to decide whether the event can take place and will announce our decision in the July Selsdon Gazette.



We do hope you will be able to join us if the event happens - maybe we will get a bumper attendance if there has not been much else happening between now and then!

Let's stay positive for now and hope we all meet up healthily in September!

Linda Morris, Vice Chairman of SRA

~~

COUNCILLORS' NOTES

SELSDON COMMUNITY PLAN

Work on the Selsdon Community Plan had a brief pause due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This was because Council resources that had been allocated to the development of the Community Plan had been diverted to address the Coronavirus crisis.

As the lockdown restrictions are being gradually lifted, Cllr Ward arranged an online meeting to try and reactivate the process for the development of the Community Plan. This took place on 14th May and included representatives from various community groups in the area. The aim is to have the first draft of the Community Plan in the next few weeks, with the final version being completed in the Summer. The team are already working on plans to implement some of the things that were suggested by residents in the earlier consultation process.

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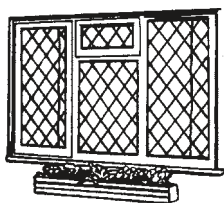
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VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

One of the few good things to come out of the Covid-19 pandemic has been the strength of community spirit. There are many examples of neighbours helping neighbours and people coming together to make sure support is in place for those most in need. One of the big community events planned for this year was VE Day. Whilst we were not able to celebrate with large public gatherings, there were many groups of residents throughout Selsdon who came together to mark the occasion on 8th May. There were many informal street parties where people took the opportunity to join with neighbours and remember those who gave their lives 75 years ago.

The Museum of Croydon joined in the celebrations with online events to mark the occasion.

CORONAVIRUS

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected many areas of life. Here is an update on some areas related to the Council.

Supporting Nurses at Croydon University Hospital

Cllr Stranack, Cllr Ward and Cllr Pollard were pleased to be able to allocate some of their community ward budget to support nurses in Croydon. We provided £1,000 to pay for the provision of a kettle/coffee machine and refreshments in each clinical area in the hospital. We hope this helps nurses and other clinical staff to cope with the pressures they are currently facing.

Cultural Relief Fund

We welcomed the Council's decision to support Croydon's creative community with a fund to help cultural organisations that have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Croydon's £135k Cultural Relief Fund will provide emergency funding to support cultural organisations in danger of closing, and also programme funding for cultural activity during the health crisis.

Cultural organisations were hit early by economic impact of the Covid-19 lockdown, with theatres and other entertainment venues among the first to close their doors.

Grants will be available to groups who are based or work in the borough, with most bids expected to be around £2,000-5,000. Applicants can find out more by contacting the council's culture team at culturegrants@croydon.gov.uk to discuss their application.

Recycling

The Council has managed to maintain door-step refuse and recycling collections throughout the pandemic. This was good news for all residents and we would like to thank Veolia for their magnificent efforts to maintain this service in very difficult circumstances.

There have, however, been some issues with the Council's new system for paying for garden waste collections. Please let us know if you are having issues with this – we will do what we can to help resolve any problems.

We were pleased that the neighbourhood recycling centres reopened on 13th May. This is something we had been asking for as it is a service that is particularly useful for residents who are having a clear out during lockdown.

Regular meetings with Council officers and the NHS

As your local councillors we have attended a number of online meetings to hear from representatives from the Council and the NHS. In these sessions we have raised questions about measures they are taking to keep residents safe, and in particular those in vulnerable groups. We will continue to review Council actions in relation to the current pandemic and other Council-related matters.

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

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

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

Helen.pollard@croydon.gov.uk
Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk
Stuart.millson@croydon.gov.uk
Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk

PLANNING APPLICATIONS MAY 2020

20/01648/PIP – 128 Coombe Lane, Croydon, CR0 5RF
Erection of 7 x 2-bedroom mews houses

20/01889/FUL – 129 Addington Road, South Croydon, CR2 8LH
Change of Use from Retail (A1 Use Class) into Professional and Financial Purposes (A2 Use Class)/Office (B1a Use Class)

20/01761/FUL – 226 Addington Road, South Croydon CR2 8LD
Erection of extensions to rear of the existing building to provide a 2-bedroom dwelling with private amenity courtyard and additional refuse and cycle provision.

20/01715/LP – 99 Benhurst Gardens, South Croydon CR2 8NY
Construction of a rear roof extension with the installation of 2 rooflights to the front roof slope.

20/01506/HSE – 1 Chapel View, South Croydon, CR2 7LG
Alterations, erection of two storey rear extension

20/01586/HSE – 108 Farley Road, South Croydon, CR2 7NE
Erection of a replacement single storey rear extension

20/01662/HSE – 236 Croham Valley Road, South Croydon, CR2 7RD
Demolition of existing rear extension and detached garage, and erection of single storey side and rear extensions.

20/00465/HSE – 40 Boxford Close South Croydon CR2 8SY
Part garage conversion, erection of two storey side extension with new double garage, single storey front extension, front dormer, loft conversion with rear dormer windows, and a raised patio area to the rear.

20/01502/FUL – 49 Dulverton Road, South Croydon CR2 8PJ
Extension to the rear of the building with associated internal alterations at ground floor. Increase to the ridge height of the existing roof to provide an extension at the first floor with internal alterations and the installation of a lift.

20/01470/FUL – 119 Old Farleigh Road, South Croydon CR2 8QD
Demolition of existing bungalow and erect a terrace of 2 x three-bedroom houses and 1 x two-bedroom house with shared access and driveway

using the existing entrance from Old Farleigh Road and 2 x one-bedroom house to the rear accessed via the existing entrance and via undercroft.

20/00902/LP – Amenity Land, Hawthorn Crescent, South Croydon CR2 2PD
Erection of eight houses and reconfiguration of car parking, with associated landscaping and servicing

20/01635/HSE – 59 Arundel Avenue, South Croydon CR28BJ
Erection of single storey outbuilding in the rear garden for a self-contained granny annex.

(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

Coronavirus

I would like to thank everyone for their efforts so far in preventing the spread of the Coronavirus, especially the heroic efforts of our NHS and care staff. At the time of writing this article (mid-May) it appears that we are moving past the worst of the pandemic globally. Please make sure you continue to stay safe and keep others safe as well. You can read the latest advice from the Government here - <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>



Planning Applications

Brick by Brick (BxB) is a company that was created and is owned by the council for the purpose of building homes in the borough. All of London, including Croydon, has to build more homes and I support building homes in the borough - provided they are appropriate to the area in which they are built.

Recently, Brick by Brick has lodged a planning application for a block of flats just a few steps away from Green Belt and the entrance to

Hutchinson's Bank, where over the past four decades some world-leading conservation work has been carried out. It is as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Site of Nature Conservation Importance. It is reckoned that it is home for at least 40 species of butterfly, possibly as many as 59.

As the Council's planning committee has never refused planning permission for a Brick by Brick application, I believe that this planning application is therefore almost certain to go through. To me, this is yet another example of an appalling decision from Brick by Brick to build a block of flats and tarmac over yet more green space in the borough. I fear that the loss of green space is going to continue to happen if things do not change. The Council's Leader, who is chosen in secret by a small group of councillors, does not seem to listen to residents' concerns and the Council's planning committee keeps allowing blocks of flats on the borough's green spaces.

There is nothing at all in national planning policy that compels the Council to concrete over the borough. The Council has chosen a housing target that's 8,500 higher than even the London Plan requires. Sutton and Bromley operate under the same national policies as Croydon, but they are not building on green areas in the same way.

I am therefore supporting the resident led campaign for a Directly Elected Executive Mayor (DEM).

Whilst the current 'Leader' is chosen by a few councillors, a DEM is chosen by a majority of all of the voters of Croydon. This means that a DEM would have to listen to the whole borough and be answerable to the public who voted for them.

We need to collect around 15,000 signatures on paper, which then triggers a borough-wide referendum, the result of which is binding. If the referendum is a 'Yes' the change to a DEM legally has to happen.

A campaign to have a DEM has been set up by a group of local residents, under the name DEMOC. While we are nearly there with the signatures it's really important to get as many as we possibly can - so please do support this important campaign if you haven't already.

This is a non-party political campaign and is being run by residents who want to change how the council is run.

You can download the petition from democ.org.uk or find the form directly

at democ.org.uk/sign-petition?download=2:petition (there is an address at the bottom to post it back to).

Chris Philp

Member of Parliament, Croydon South: 020 7219 8026
chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk

(Editor notes -The SRA is not a part of the DEMOC campaign detailed above, believing residents can choose to join and support individually: as the SRA is a non-political organisation.)

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**Message from Jack Killian,
Police Community Support Officer**

Hello Residents,

Crime is lower than usual at the moment due to the circumstances, but as time goes on and life gets somewhat back to normal, the crime levels I'm sure will increase. Always be aware of your surroundings and make sure all your belongings and property are secure. I'm always available for advice if you have any questions about crime prevention.

PC McCarthy is unfortunately leaving the team on Tuesday 25th May. The ward is changing sergeants and PC McCarthy is leaving to go to South Croydon with our current sergeant PS Adams. He will only be there for a month or so and then he'll be transferring into an acting police sergeant role with street duties. Street duties is on the street training for new PCs that have come straight out of training school. I will be staying and we will be gaining two PCs who were officers for Shirley South. So, we will be full strength once again. PC Bennett and PC Di Mengeses will be your new officers. And the new sergeant for the ward is PS Whitehead.

If you need to contact myself or the team for any reason then the details are still the same and are below.

I hope everyone is well, staying safe and socially distancing as much as possible.

Kind Regards,

PCSO Jack Killian 7114SN Selsdon & Forestdale Safer Neighbourhood Team
Telephone number – 0208721246 jack.killian@met.police.uk

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Local Voluntary Partnership, Covid-19

Groups involved in the project include: -

Selsdon Contact – Registered Charity – 47 years working in the Selsdon Community

Selsdon Centre for the Retired – Registered Charity – Over 20 years working in the Community

Croydon Jubilee Church, Selsdon Baptist Church, St. John the Divine, St. Columba's and St. Francis Church.

Selsdon and Sanderstead Rotary Club

Selsdon Residents Association

Croydon High School

Businesses – Vintage 62, Sainsbury and Aldi – Selsdon, and Bashford Butchers

GP Surgeries – Queenhill, Selsdon Park and Farley Road Medical Practices

This latest report comes from this group set up to provide practical support to the most vulnerable in the community during this time of crisis.

Over the last eight weeks the 'Selsdon Food Hub' Project has delivered:

- Over 400 emergency shopping bags to clients
- 800 chilled 'ready meals' to clients
- Over 2,600 befriending calls made to clients
- 160 'Blue Box' calls made to clients with special needs.

Before the covid19 lockdown Selsdon Contact had 334 clients and 267 volunteers. Some of these volunteers were over 70 which limited what they could do. So, a network of 76 Street Champions was set up. Some of these are now beginning to get called back to work but the group is confident that they have enough cover at the moment

By working together, the community partnership has continued to perform some minor miracles: -

- A door delivery service of free 'essentials' shopping bags to hundreds of the most vulnerable residents in the town.
- Over a thousand 'befriending' telephone calls to the lonely and isolated in the area.
- A team of 'street champions' set up so that every street has a good neighbour -willing to offer practical help and support.
- The local Fire brigade offering to do shopping delivery and a prescription collection service.

- A local butcher offering to provide 140 free 'meat packs' to feed the hungry.
- A virtual weekly pub quiz to bring people together.
- A local school opening their kitchens and the caterers making 150 meals to feed the hungry.

Here are some links to the positive publicity the group has been receiving: -

<https://insidecroydon.com/2020/03/21/sainsburys-joins-with-charities-to-help-selsdon-food-hub/>

<https://insidecroydon.com/2020/04/06/volunteers-in-selsdon-deliver-280-food-parcels-in-two-weeks/>

<https://insidecroydon.com/2020/04/22/fire-brigade-provides-a-different-kind-of-emergency-service/>

<https://insidecroydon.com/2020/04/30/wednesday-night-is-quiz-night-for-selsdons-band-of-volunteers/>

To keep up to date with the latest developments you can go to the group's website or join the following groups: -

Website: - www.selsdoncovid19.co.uk

Facebook: - Coronavirus Selsdon Support

WhatsApp:- Selsdon Covid 19 Support

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Tudor Library, Selsdon's Oldest Surviving Shop!

This June is the 1st anniversary of Tudor Library under the new ownership of Mr and Mrs Shah. This change of ownership was recorded in the June 2019 Selsdon Gazette, with a big thank you from the SRA on behalf of all of Selsdon to the retiring Mr and Mrs Patel. They had truly made Tudor Library a hub of Selsdon, especially since the post office had recently moved there making the shop even more useful to Selsdon's residents. The article went on to welcome Mr and Mrs Shah, the new owners of Selsdon's longest running shop. But I doubt that these new owners were aware of how important their shop was, and had been from its earliest days. It also happens to be the only shop in Selsdon that has continued trading and serving Selsdon's needs for over 85 years!



Tudor House, was built with three shop units as it is today. The mock Tudor beams were a popular feature in the 1930s when this then new shopping development was built. To the right of today's Tudor Library use to be the Eden Tea Room. At this same location, Glimpses of Old Selsdon XXVI relates that in January 1935, an earlier bread and cake shop was there, *"prior to the Tudor Library appearing, a precursor to Monty's the baker that many will recall"*.

Well I do recall Monty's the bakers, and of course Tudor Library, as they were when I was a child.

During the war, shopping was an almost daily chore. My earliest memories were of walking from Abbey Rd and along the Addington Rd with my Mum, past Cowley Nursery and old Mr King's little shop to buy the purchases of the day. This started off by queuing up for the daily bread at Monty's the bakers, savouring the aroma of their freshly baked bread. And once a year on Maundy Thursday, an earlier start to ensure that we could get some real, hot cross buns – still hot from the baker's oven - before they were all sold out.

After the bakers it was next door into the Tudor Library for my Dad's Daily Herald. Newsagents were so important then, to get the latest news of what was happening in those critical war time years. And in the absence of TV for evening relaxation, it was books for my Dad to read. For in those war time years Tudor Library truly was, a lending library!

After the war ended and newsprint became more available, Tudor Library became more important to us children – comics became available! For the older boys, Hotspur, Rover and Wizard. For us younger boys it was the Dandy and Beano. Only one each, but after reading, it was swaps time with our friends, so we all got our money's worth.

In the post war years rationing continued, which included sweets and sugary treats, but sometime in the late 1940s a summer time treat occasionally became available - Lyons ice cream in a crispy wafer cornet! This was made by the Lyons Corner House, and in the absence of shop fridges, had to be sold fairly quickly. The word would spread around, "Quick Tudor Library's got ice cream!" so off we went to join the queue that quickly formed. If too late, it was likely to be next summer before another delivery of ice cream!

Then in 1950 the world changed for us boys. A new, space age comic came out – the Eagle! Full colour pages and interesting news about how science and engineering were making Britain great. And we couldn't get to the Tudor Library quick enough, each week to read the adventures of Dan Dare and the evil Mekon who lived on Mars, the Red Planet!



The following year, 1951, was the show case of all we had read about in the Eagle, at the Festival of Britain and its Dome of Discovery. It was also the year that I started at a new school, a grammar school, where homework and neat writing were compulsory. So, in place of the desk top ink pot and scratchy, school issue pens that I had been using at Selsdon Primary, it was Tudor Library to the rescue.

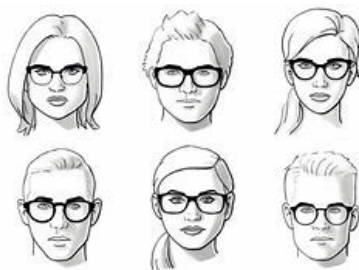
For years I had been fascinated by the display in the glass cabinet, of the finest Sheaffer and Parker fountain pens with real gold nibs. Whilst I could not persuade my Mum to buy one of those, I did get a Platinum pen and a bottle of Quink blue ink with which to fill it. How proud I was to become the owner of a fountain pen!

So many thanks to Tudor Library for providing good service and such a variety of things, over so many years, to a young school boy.

Des Donohoe (des.oldselsdon@gmail.com)

Face recognition

Have you met people who say:” I never forget a face”, perhaps that’s even you! Face recognition ability varies substantially; some people are really good, others are poor, and most people are somewhere between these extremes. People on the lowest end may have a condition known as ‘Face blindness’. On the opposite end of the distribution are ‘super recognizers’, who have extraordinarily good face recognition (more about them later!).



The inability to recognise faces is ‘prosopagnosia’ (from Greek: “prosopon” = “face”; “agnosia” = “not knowing”). Prosopagnosia is not the same as forgetting names, and nothing to do with intelligence rather it’s the problem

of not being able to use someone's face to determine their identity. People with prosopagnosia can usually see perfectly well, and as such they can often tell other similar objects apart, such as two cars.

Not only might they not be able to recall which waiter is serving their table but also not recognise someone they should know well if they aren't seen in context or perhaps are wearing different clothes. They often have trouble following the plot of television shows and movies, because they cannot keep track of the identity of the characters.

In fact, in the most extreme cases such people often fail to recognise the faces of their children, spouse, parents, close friends, work colleagues and sometimes even themselves in a mirror!

One of the tell-tale signs of prosopagnosia is great reliance on non-facial information such as hair, gait, clothing, voice, and other information. A famous person with this condition is **Stephen Fry**. He talks about this on a BBC radio programme (Rutherford and Fry) available online. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000b4wc>



If you are born with this condition (to whatever degree) you may have developed coping strategies from early on so it doesn't hold you back and therefore not even know you have it. It is more apparent to people who get it via brain damage, usually due to head trauma, stroke, or degenerative disease. See www.faceblind.org.uk to learn more about this condition, take a test or contact researchers.

So of course, there are people on the other end of the scale. Currently it is believed by researchers that only 2% of the population may be '**super-recognisers**'. If you can easily identify someone's face that you haven't seen since you were a child or pick out a face in a crowd that you've only seen once then this might be you! Such skills can run in families.

Just for fun you can take part in an anonymous, quick online test with Greenwich university at www.superrecognisers.com or take part in further tests on the same site and find out how good you are against the population, and/or contribute to a research programme:

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Roy Brady MCiphe

This study involves:

- 1. Cambridge Face Memory Test (15 min)**
- 2. 30/60 Face Recognition Test (15 min)**
- 3. Glasgow Face Matching Test (15 min)**

You do not have to do all tests in one go. If you finish the three tests, you will have the opportunity to download a certificate listing your scores on each test, and a general population comparison.



If you are one of the 2% of the best scores you may be able to help researchers find ways to help those on the other end of the scale or you could use this talent in a job to help keep others safe. For example, Scotland Yard has a 'Super Recogniser Unit' set up in 2015 which can match faces from CCTV footage to suspects. Whereas computer Face recognition software needs a clear face-on shot to be accurate (think of passport photo regulations) a 'Super recogniser' can identify faces from different angles, in monochrome, partially covered and disguised even at different ages.

The human brain is certainly an amazing and complex thing and we are always learning more about what it can do!

Janet Sharp

~~

Selsdon and Me

My first encounter of Selsdon was in 1976 or 1977 when I attended a two-day meeting at the Selsdon Park Hotel. At that time, I was still living in Hamburg /Germany but my job brought me to meetings in Britain at least once a month. Most of these trips were for a single day, often only to a meeting room in a Heathrow hotel and I remember looking longingly out of hotel windows during the more boring parts of such meetings, thinking how nice it would be to spend more time exploring this country. The view up the M4 from the Trust House Hotel is particularly ingrained in my memory but was easily beaten by the view out on to the Selsdon Park golf course!

In 1978 my employer sent me to London for a two-year term during which we lived in a terraced company house in Worcester Park, but for the first six weeks we stayed in a City hotel whilst picking up the ropes from my predecessor who lived in the same house. I came through Croydon on my way to Gatwick and was impressed with the shops – shame they've gone downhill since. Later, we once drove through Selsdon and Addington on our way to Chingford – quite an undertaking before the M25. I was impressed with Selsdon and Addington but not Forestdale – the brick wall and blocks of flats against Selsdon Park Road are not its best feature. At the end of that term, my wife and I took the fateful decision to stay in Britain. That meant finding a new job and a new house. For the latter, the nicest one we could find and afford turned out to be in Forestdale and almost 40 years later we are still here!

We love that it is green and quiet with Selsdon Woods only five minutes' walk away. Within months of moving in, we were adopted by the kitten which our then neighbours had freshly acquired. Things got a bit tricky when the neighbours moved away a few years later but they were very good and left the cat with us, soon to be joined by another one which was only meant to be a transport job for Cats Protection. We've had between two and three cats ever since – the area is ideal for cats as we are well away from the road and there is no through traffic anyway.

When we came here, links with Selsdon were few and far between – dry cleaner and baker were the only shops we used, the nearest decent supermarket was Sainsburys in Purley. We were a different parish, ward and constituency to Selsdon. Our bus ran direct up Gravel Hill and down Coombe Road into Croydon. Over time, things changed. First the bus route, then '7-11' arrived in what is now the Julian Huxley pub and eventually Sainsburys appeared too. Now we are the same ward, share a police Safer Neighbourhood team and I have used and supported both Selsdon Contact and the Selsdon Centre for the Retired. Coronavirus brought us even closer together and hopefully the intensified spirit of community will survive well beyond the virus.

Christian Kuepers

Looking after your car in the lockdown



Many of you will not be using your car as much as usual, or may not wish to, but are wondering how to maintain it whilst it is not being driven on a regular basis, so here are a few simple tips to keep your car in top condition and ready to use when you need it again:

Fuel – before parking your car up for a long period, it's a good idea to top up with fuel. Not only will this help with other measures, but a full tank doesn't attract condensation, which could cause issues if allowed to build up over time.

Parking location – if your vehicle is parked outside, avoid leaving it under a tree, as drips of sap can damage the paintwork and it helps to avoid bird droppings, which again, are very destructive to the paint. You should wash off any bird droppings as soon as possible.

Also, try and park it on a hard surface, as moisture from grass or dirt can affect the underside of the car.

Battery maintenance – if you are still using the car fairly regularly, e.g.: to do your weekly shop, it will be fine. However, if you are not going to use the car for a period of 10 days to 2 weeks, then it is advisable to either connect your car's battery to a mains-powered battery charger, or start the engine once a week and allow it to run for about 15 minutes. This will re-charge the battery and help keep the engine in good condition. It's important to allow the engine to run for at least 15 minutes so the battery can charge properly.

But please note: NEVER leave your car unattended with the engine running.

Hybrid vehicles – in addition to the hybrid battery that drives the car our hybrids have the same 12-volt battery as conventional vehicles - simply press the start button, so the ready light comes on, and allow to run for 15 minutes. This will keep the conventional battery topped up – the hybrid battery requires no maintenance and will be ready when you need it.

Brakes – sometimes when a car is parked up for a long period with the parking brake on, the brakes can seize. To prevent this, it's good practice to release the parking brake and move the vehicle a short distance back

and forth, at the same time as running the engine. You shouldn't leave the parking brake off unless the vehicle is on private land with the wheels secured safely in position.

Tyres – before driving the car after a long period parked up, check all of the tyre pressures and inflate if needed.

Garages – NEVER run a car engine inside a household garage as the exhaust fumes can be toxic. If you keep your car in a garage, pull it out on to the drive to run the engine to charge the battery.

If you have two or more cars in the household, consider alternating them when you make any trips.

Getting back on the road – before you start a journey in a car you haven't used for a long time:

Check that the road tax is still current.

Taxing the car will cancel any SORN (Statutory Off-Road Notice).

If your MOT is due to expire shortly, please do not worry. The Government have introduced a 6-month extension from 30 March – as long as your vehicle remains in a roadworthy condition, you will still be able to drive it.



Jobs for the Garden in June

1. Plant our summer bedding plants

Bedding plants provide a temporary decorative seasonal display for beds, borders, containers and hanging baskets. Bedding can be sown from seed, bought as young seedlings (plug plants) or purchased as pot-grown specimens, often in multi-packs and cellular trays, ready for planting



2. Weeding

Use a hoe over a flower bed to kill most weed seedlings. If you choose a dry day the seedlings will dry out on the surface rather than re-rooting in moist soil. Alternatively, pull up annual weeds by hand before they set seed or using a fork dig out as much of the root (or bulb) of perennial weeds.

3. Watering the garden

Ideally water plants early in the morning, to avoid evaporation loss during the day. On warm summer days, evening watering is also likely to be effective, the dry soil soaking it in readily and low humidity at night reducing risk of disease.

4. Pinch out the side shoots on tomatoes

For cordon and vine tomatoes, not bush varieties, pinch out the sideshoots (usually at 45 degrees to main stem) that appear between the main stem and branches (at about 90 degrees to main stem). Any greater than pencil-thickness should be cut off as they often don't snap cleanly. It is really important to pinch out the side shoots as leaving them to grow will seriously reduce your yield. The plant will concentrate on producing a lot of growth instead of concentrating on producing fruit.

5. Summer hanging baskets and containers

Check baskets/containers every day in summer, watering always unless the compost is wet. Drying out is an increasing risk as the plants grow and days remain warm or windy. You can tell if this has happened as your plants will start to droop.

6. Mow your lawn regularly

At this time of year, the lawn is actively growing and requires feeding, moss-killing, weeding and regular mowing.

7. Stake tall and floppy plants

During the warmer months, perennials are in full bloom and therefore vulnerable to collapse as their long stems and heavy heads make them top-heavy and prone to flopping. Make sure these plants have plenty of support to stay upright and prevent damage during windy or rainy days by using frames or canes and tying the stems securely using twine.

8. Prune spring flowering shrubs

Early-flowering shrubs are pruned after flowering, examples include flowering currant (*Ribes*), Forsythia, mock orange (*Philadelphus*), Weigela. Cut back flowered growth to strong young shoots lower down. Each year cut out up to 20 percent of ageing stems to near the base.

9. Harvest lettuce, radish, other salads and early potatoes

It is best to harvest salad leaves in the morning when they are at their freshest. Try to only harvest what you need for each day as baby leaves

can wilt quickly. If you need to store them, dampen leaves with tap water and put them in a plastic bag in the salad compartment of the fridge.

10. Snip off and spray your roses

June is the perfect time to deadhead your roses after they have flowered. This is a quick and easy job which stimulates the growth of new blooms and extends the flowering season. Don't forget to spray your roses too to ensure they remain healthy throughout the drier months.

11. Ventilate and shade greenhouses

Open doors, roof and side vents. To shade the plants in the greenhouse you can consider blinds, temporary shading paint or mesh netting.

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Seasonal Food in June

Fruits in Season

Apricot, black cherry, cherry, strawberry, melon, mulberry, pear, plum, peach, nectarine, raspberry, currant, gooseberry.



Vegetables in Season

Garlic, asparagus, chard, carrot, cucumber, chicory, onion, green bean, broad bean, lettuce, early potato, tomato, pea, rhubarb, radish, rocket, celery, courgette.

Strawberries are definitely my summer treat. For better flavour, I have been told to let the strawberries come to room temperature before eating them. As with any other delicate berries, they should be washed and handled gently and as little as possible to avoid bruising them. The strawberries should be washed before they are hulled.

What can we do with strawberries?

Whole strawberries can be dipped into melted dark chocolate and set aside until firm – delicious.

Summer salads can be garnished with slices of strawberries.

Strawberries can be sandwiched between sponge cakes or pastries such

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as mille-feuille.

Interestingly, they can be sprinkled with a few drops of balsamic vinegar or a very light dusting of freshly ground black pepper to enhance their flavour.

They can be added to homemade ice cream or sorbet.

Of course, they can be used to make jam. Remember, that the berries are low in pectin, so add some lemon juice or bottled pectin to help the jam set.

My all-time favourite is using them to make Eton mess, where the berries are stirred into crumbled meringues and whipped cream. Meringues made in the traditional way, can take a long time to bake but I have found a recipe which makes meringues in 3 minutes.

Three-minute meringues

1. Hand beat one egg white lightly.
2. Beat or knead in 300g of icing sugar until it resembles soft modelling clay.
3. Make marble sized blobs of this mixture.
4. Place 2 blobs on a piece of kitchen towel or greaseproof paper and microwave for 1 – 1 ½ minutes until they have ballooned, are firm on top and can be peeled off the paper.

For Eton mess, cut the strawberries in half or into thick slices if they're big. Whip the cream until it forms soft peaks. Crush the meringues and fold into the strawberry and cream mixture. Spoon the Eton mess into individual dishes. Enjoy!

CJ

~~

Coughs and Sneezes

'Coughs and sneezes spread diseases'. I am sure we remember the saying from our childhoods. Undoubtedly, Covid-19 will go down in the history books but do you remember the illnesses of the 1950s? Also, the cures which were sometimes worse!

As the debate rages as to whether children can return to school safely, I think of measles, mumps, influenza and whooping cough which would certainly infect a whole class of thirty or forty children.

How many of us know these names today?



The biggest fear at this time was polio. Almost every class included a child in callipers and some people had to spend their days trapped in an iron lung. Polio vaccines were developed in the 1950s. The first was an injection developed and tested in 1952 by Jonas Salk, which was available to the world in 1955. Then Albert Sabin developed the vaccine administered on a sugar lump.

Measles could also be a killer; in 1941 a total of 1145 people died of the disease in the UK. A vaccine was developed by Maurice Hilleman, who went on to produce vaccines for mumps, chickenpox, hepatitis A and B, pneumonia, meningitis and influenza.

As sick children stayed at home reading comics and being fussed over by their mothers, there were also the home remedies to face. Actually, I remember a doctor who was likely to recommend brown paper smothered with goose fat placed on the chest for coughs and congestion.



Luckily there was Vicks VapoRub instead! Sore throats were also meant to be cured with a teaspoon of goose fat (yuk)! The salt water gargle is still a favourite in some homes. I shudder when I think of castor oil, cod liver oil and syrup of figs. I still recollect the sting of iodine being applied to a grazed knee and I cringe at the thought of hot milk with the horrible knob of butter floating on the top for coughs.

Some of the medicine cupboard standards from yesterday must still going strong today - Beecham's Pills, Vapex inhalers, Scott's Emulsion, Potter's Catarrh pastilles, Alka Seltzer, Veno's, Germoline and Virol Malt Extract to name a few.

I had two aunts who died very young as a result of tuberculosis. In 1953 an immunisation programme was introduced into the UK which effectively eliminated tuberculosis (although in recent years it has reoccurred). 1950 was the year of the first organ transplant. Ruth Tucker received a

kidney; which was rejected later as at that time there were no anti-rejection drugs. The first successful transplant was in 1954 and 1952 saw the first mechanical heart.

Medical science has progressed enormously and will continue to do so, but I can remember the days when every school girl wanted to be a nurse and every school boy wanted to marry one!

Marie Fuggle

~~

Ticks

If the mere mention of creepy-crawlies sends a shiver down your spine, you're not alone. However, knowing about these tiny creatures, where they live, how to spot them, and how to safely remove them from you or your pet is important.

So, here's what you need to know...

What are ticks?

Ticks are small spider-like, egg-shaped, blood-sucking parasites. They have eight legs and vary in size from about 1mm to 1cm long. Ticks are common in woodland, grassland and heath areas, but can also be found in your garden if you live in an area with lots of wildlife (like deer or mice).



You are most likely to come across ticks between spring and autumn, but they are active throughout the year.

Ticks don't fly or jump, but climb or drop on to you or your animal when you brush past the area which they are sitting in. They usually crawl around in long grasses waiting to bite animals, and can then stay attached to their hosts skin for up to 10 days before dropping off again.

Being bitten by a tick is not painful and so people are often unaware. Whilst it is a bit disgusting (yes it has happened to me!) it normally causes

no harm however spotting them *early* is important as there is a small risk as they can carry Lyme disease.

After finding and removing a tick watch for any symptoms of Lyme disease for about a month such as a circular rash on the skin and/or flu-like symptoms e.g. muscle and joint pain, headaches, feeling sick and fatigue. Left untreated, the disease can develop into conditions such as viral-like meningitis, facial palsy, arthritis and nerve damage.

If you spot any symptoms go to your doctor immediately. Good news is that Lyme disease can be treated with antibiotics if caught early.



How to avoid tick bites

To reduce the risk of being bitten:

- *cover* your skin while walking outdoors and tuck your trousers into your socks (or try walking gaiters if you want to look cooler!)
- use *insect repellent* on your clothes and skin – products containing DEET are best
- stick to paths or shorter grass whenever possible
- wear light-coloured clothing so ticks are easier to spot and brush off
- After your walk inspect your skin and clothes for ticks, including your head, neck and particularly skin folds as they like *moisture* (also do this for your children and pets).
- It's important to carefully *remove* any ticks you find as soon as possible.

How can I safely remove a tick?

- Do not squeeze or crush the tick as this can increase infection chances. Do not try to burn the tick off or try to smother it!
- Use fine-tipped tweezers, fine scissors opened to a 'V' or ideally a tick removal tool (You can buy these from some pharmacies, vets and pet shops).
- Grasp the tick as close to your skin as possible.
- Slowly pull or twist upwards.
- Dispose of it down the toilet when you have removed it.



- Clean the bite with antiseptic or soap and water.
- Note the date on your calendar and be aware of your general health for the next month.
- You do not need to do anything else unless you become unwell. Go to the GP if any symptoms appear.

One last thing...

Hopefully this article won't stop you getting outdoors amongst nature! Getting out and getting fresh air every day is the best medicine for most ailments; it is life affirming and enhancing. The risk of getting a tick bite or even getting ill from one is low, just arm yourself with knowledge, be sensible and aware.

Janet Sharp

~~

Something for Bored Children at Home – Wild Art Competition



The RSPB and the Cameron Bepolka Trust have an exciting competition for talented young artists. They would like children to create a piece of art inspired by nature. There are two categories to choose from. Real life is for entries using the more traditional approach of paints, pastels, acrylics, pens and pencil. The Go Wild

category is for those who want to experiment with textiles, sculpture, recycled and eco-friendly materials, collages – anything goes!

The competition is split into three age groups: under 8s, 8 – 12, and 13 years and over. To enter email a photo of your artwork to competitions@rspb.org.uk with the heading WildArt 2020 competition.

The winner for each category in each age group will receive an art gift voucher worth £100. There are also runner-up prizes. Closing date Friday 28 August 2020.



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

Please remember to state your name, address, contact number and publication anonymity requirements in **all** correspondence to the Editor. Anonymity can be granted on request, but anonymously sent letters/e-mails will not be published. Publication dates may mean a delay between receipt of your letters and when they appear.

Dear Editor,

I have just spent a whole hour down Memory Lane as I read two of the articles written by two gentlemen who lived in Selsdon during the second world war.

Well I also lived in Selsdon at the same time. My grandparents bought a house in Farley Rd (even remember the number) and my parents bought a new house in the Upper Selsdon Rd (remember that number also). Not a bad memory considering I am now 84.

My sister and I used to walk to the Selsdon Primary School every day and when the air raid siren sounded, we would be herded into the shelters by our teachers - along with our school books and teaching went on as usual. I also remember Miss Beech as did one of the other writers and the Principal at that time was Ms Almond, very frightening lady but we called her "nutty almond".

My father was stationed in Egypt for six years but would send us Egyptian cotton for mother to make us dresses, and tins of boiled sweets. I remember mother selling our piano to some Canadians who started playing it as they drove away.

We moved in with my grandparents in Farley Rd. where we had an Anderson Shelter in one room and a Morrison Shelter in the other. We used to play with the boy next door and a fun game was spitting on our finger then flashing it through a candle. It was mentioned by one of the other writers that a "doodlebug" landed in Farley Rd which was the same time as we had our fingers flying through the candle. We also used to run out when the siren sounded the 'all clear' and see who could pick up the largest piece of shrapnel - sometimes it was still hot.

One day mother asked my sister Anne and myself if we would like to be evacuated as the school was organising this. I jumped at the idea not realising it would be over a year before we would be home again.

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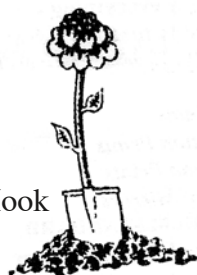
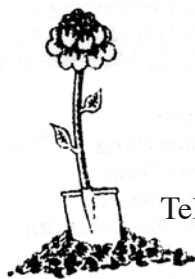
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My sister also agreed to go. So, there we were, gas masks around our necks and a small suitcase with our clothes. Mother had no idea where we were going and, of course, we did not either. We eventually arrived in Hirwaun, Wales where some ladies of the Church had cups of tea and cake waiting for us. We were taken to a lovely home and started school there but because all our friends had gone to Penderyn we wanted to go there too. It was all arranged and we began life there. I won an award at the Eisteddfod by reciting a poem in Welsh. We would go for long walks over the Brecon Beacons and once we found a waterfall that you could walk behind - my mother nearly had a fit when she visited us and we took her there!

There is so much more I could tell but will just add that we lived on the Upper Selsdon Rd and when my grandfather died, we sold our house and bought the grandparents one on Farley Rd. Left Selsdon Primary and passed the 11 plus which took me to St Anne's College in Sanderstead where my sister also went. From there I worked at the Bank of England, was married at St John's Church and then took off to Kano, Nigeria. Did a tour there and went back to Lagos for another tour. I remarried much later and am now residing in Texas, USA.

Spent some years in Canada, plus the Caribbean - all work related - a wonderful life and full of exciting memories.

Wendy Gwynn nee Gallagher

Now two letters following up on our VE Day article last month.

Dear Editor,

I hope you don't mind me contacting you. I posted a photo of a VE Day party at Selsdon Hall (?) taken in 1945 to the local Facebook group for Selsdon and someone suggested I send it to you, and you are welcome to stick it in your next edition with any pictures of the 75th anniversary if you wish. I was wondering if anyone might recognise a relative or neighbour.

My grandparents lived in Greville Avenue and my dad was in the navy, and I think he was home on leave when the VE Day party happened - he's the chap in the sailor suit next to the lady holding the giant V. I'm afraid I don't know who the other people were. His name was Leslie Knott.

I'm not sure which hall it is - you would probably know better than me which hall is most likely. Only thing is that you can make out some stage design 'flats' on either side, so it must have been taken on a stage where some local Am Dram had been happening!



I grew up in Warlingham, but live in Lincolnshire now.

Best wishes,

Valerie Selden

~~

Dear Editor,

I thought you may be interested in the attached photo of the 1945 VE Day Street party outside my parents' house 36 Benhurst Gardens, Selsdon.

My parents' names who were well known in Selsdon are Vera and Sydney Huggett.



My mother Vera Huggett, sister Olive Simpson (nee Huggett) and brother Brian Huggett are all in the photo.

Others identified are;

Bottom Row second from right - Brian Huggett, behind his right shoulder - Olive Huggett

Bottom Row third from right - Geoffrey Hislop, behind his right shoulder - Dennis Maile

Bottom Row fourth from right facing front - Daphne Dunston

Bottom Row sixth from right facing front - Joan Cox

Bottom Row seventh from right facing front - xxx Palmer

Lady back far right leaning forward in flowery dress - Mrs Clements

Lady back far left in light coloured dress - Vera Huggett

Lady on right side of Vera Huggett in dark jacket with light blouse collar - Mrs Trotman

Mervyn Huggett

Dear Editor,

(A further instalment from Jessica about 'life under lockdown'.)

Well a truce is now working in our home. We are doing outdoor jobs in the garden and if we are unified in "Saving the Planet", well it's great. After several hours of cutting and sweeping, planting and now a little watering, we are enjoying the air and sunshine, here we are sitting in two comfortable, fold away armchairs, sipping tea and listening to the birds singing. A cool breeze is blowing gently over us and the sun is beautifully warm. Unfortunately, we haven't been "unlocked properly" so haven't yet visited a garden centre, but we have managed to obtain several packets of seeds, and they are coming along nicely in the warmth of our tiny greenhouse. So even if we will not be Selsdon's answer to the missing "Chelsea Flower Show", which is at present screening on the internet, (mid May for three days), there will be a splash of colour here later on, and we shall be enjoying it all the more because we made the effort.

Today we read on the internet, what has happened in Sweden. Roughly 50% of people live alone there. A nurse has spoken out and says that she has seen hardly any elderly people in the critical care unit where she works, because they are dying in "Care Homes". I do hope she is trying to scaremonger and make a name for herself. Life without my grandparents would have been so dull and unloving. We children could not wait to go and see any of our grandparents. What a loss that would have been. At least there is the internet so we can see our grandchildren and laugh, tease and joke with them.

Yes, despite the threat and the sadness, it is a great time too.

Jessica Blake

(As so many of us are separated from direct contact with our families I have included the following as a token representation of all our thoughts at this time.)

Dear Editor,

To our lovely nanny and grandad,

I know these times are strange and not seeing you both is very hard but we wanted to say that we love you very much and can't wait to be able to give you a massive hug when we are allowed.

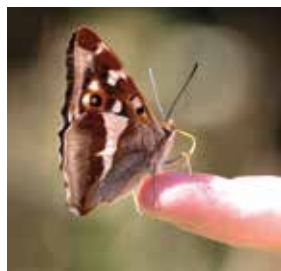
We love you so very much.

Samuel and Eden xxx



~~

Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth - Encounters with butterflies



Amongst the butterflies the Orange-tip appears for a few weeks in spring, but several other species on the wing at the same time can be seen throughout the six months or so of the butterfly season. The Purple Emperor butterfly flies in July and is most likely to be seen at the tops of particular “master” trees where the males congregate to have aerial battles and to await the arrival of the females. Like many butterflies they need salts which they get by descending to ground level to sample moist patches or urine and other materials left by animals. On one occasion, when I was with Martin Wills, we entered a woodland to look for butterflies and saw a couple of people examining something on the ground. As we got nearer, we could identify the object of their attention as a female Purple Emperor. As a ranger’s

vehicle was coming up the path Martin persuaded the butterfly to move on to his finger where it quite happily probed his skin for salts. I took several photos then the insect was transferred to my finger to allow Martin to take his pictures. Not bad for a species often considered to be elusive.

Another butterfly encounter occurred a few years ago on the Denbies hillside, near Dorking, where Chalkhill Blue butterflies had an exceptional year. There were so many insects that a sweep of a butterfly net would probably have caught fifty or more at once. We estimated that there were around 50,000 of the butterflies on the wing that day.



Clouded Yellow butterflies are migrants which appear in the UK in summer or autumn, usually in small numbers. While on a visit to the RSPB reserve at Elmley on the Isle of Sheppey to look for birds we were delighted to see hundreds of the butterflies along the grassy edges of the track which led from the car park and across the reserve.

Painted Lady butterflies are familiar to many school children who may have been involved in raising them at school. They are migrants arriving in most years in moderate numbers but in 2009 they arrived in millions and suitable wild and garden flowers were soon covered in them. It was some time before it was realised that the offspring of these butterflies do a return migration, flying at height where they are detected as a swarm on radar.



Closer to home the Hutchinson's Bank reserve in Featherbed Lane is one of the best places to see Small Blue butterflies in particular and it usually has one of the best totals of species in Surrey. Further along Featherbed Lane, towards the White Bear, is the companion reserve, Chapel Bank, where one

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passes through a small glade before entering the main part of the reserve. This glade was originally filled by scrub which was removed and treated so that it would not reappear. Now there are orchids and violets and other flowers which are attractive to Fritillaries. There have been hundreds of Dark Green Fritillaries and a fair number of Silver-washed Fritillaries, and even an occasional White Admiral in this area.



One last example involves the Brown Hairstreak butterfly. Malcolm Bridge was due to lead a trip to Merstham to walk around Slynnes Mere but was not sure he would be able to arrive on time. He asked if I would help by starting the walk if he was late and to give me an idea of the area, we went down the day before. During our walk we stopped to talk to a lady walking her dog and during the conversation Malcolm suddenly pointed to a female Brown Hairstreak flitting around

the small Blackthorn at our feet. We managed to get several photographs so that the next day I was able to show the group a picture of what had been seen. Malcolm arrived on time and we pursued our walk around the area. We failed to find another Brown Hairstreak but when we reached the spot where the picture was taken, we examined the small Blackthorn and found several eggs which had been laid.

What will be seen on a butterfly walk is not completely predictable but the potential is always there for something unexpected.

~~

Poetry Corner

June should be the month for our Big Lunch (on the first weekend in June, The Big Lunch encourages people to sit down and have lunch with their neighbours). Sadly, I doubt if it will happen this year, so here is a poem I wrote after our street party last year. **Mary Gill**

STREET PARTY

End of June, the sun is shining –
perfect weather, perfect timing.
Today the neighbours plan to meet
and hold a party in our street.
Bring out the garden chairs and tables.
Set up the amp and mind those cables.
Inflate balloons, hang up the streamers.
Who made that bunting? – love the colours.
The barbecue is set to go now,
see the charcoal start to glow now.
Bangers, burgers - time for feeding-
something veggie, something vegan.
crisps and cakes, ice-cream and candy,
lemonade and coke and shandy.
Pimm's and beers - for grown-ups only.
Sit down, relax and drink it slowly.
Dads and kids are playing cricket,
the traffic cone's a handy wicket.
No cars to interrupt their pleasure.
Mums can gossip at their leisure.
Now it's football, now it's hoopla,
and there's no sign of a computer.
All the generations mixing,
race relations don't need fixing.
Learning all about each other,
understanding one another-
a sociable and friendly throng –
this is our street – we all belong.
It's over - parting's such sweet sorrow,
but all the kids have school tomorrow.
Still, we're agreed, it's been great fun;
next year, we'll hold another one.

The Dawn Chorus

As spring progresses into summer and with the quieter roads, I am sure that many of us have been woken by the annual 'Dawn Chorus' of the birds, as they defend their territories and sing to attract a mate.

The breeding season coincides with the warmest part of the year, when there is plenty of food and longer daylight hours to find it.

The dawn chorus peaks half-an-hour before to half-an-hour after sunrise – but why at dawn?

The dim light of dawn is not a good time to go foraging. Food, like insects and seeds, may be difficult to find, so perhaps it's a better time to try and attract a mate. Singing also brings the risk of attracting a predator, so it is better done before the bright morning light betrays the singer's position.

The air is often still at this time and, with less background noise, song can carry up to 20 times as far. As the light strengthens food becomes easier to find, so hungry birds begin to move off and the chorus gradually diminishes.

There is another chorus at dusk, which is considered quieter, though some birds – like sparrows and blue tits – seem to prefer to sing at this time of the day. It may simply be that we take less notice of it than the dawn chorus, when we are keen to enjoy a few more moments in bed!

I have attempted to describe the tweets of our most common birds to help you identify them but I would strongly recommend the audio version found on the RSPB website! Go to <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/natures-home-magazine/birds-and-wildlife-articles/features/the-voices-of-spring/> then BIRDSONG ID.



House sparrow – The simplest of birdsongs, just a series of cheeps and chirps, one at a time, hardly sophisticated but quite enthusiastic in its own way (length of verse: can go on for several minutes).

Starling - A rather quiet and very odd song, lots of beeps and clicks, mixed with long sliding whistles (length of verse: sometimes a minute or more).

Blue tit – Typically sings 'sispi si-hi-hi-hi, the first notes higher in pitch than the longer closing shimmer (length of verse 2-3 seconds).

Blackbird – Each verse is different, but all in a rich, fluty, warm baritone.

The pacing is relaxed, and more often than not he finishes each verse with a little squeaky twiddle (length of verse 2-3 seconds).

Great tit - Famously rendered as 'teacher teacher teacher', seesawing between two notes of different pitch. There are many variations, but the ringing tone and seesawing is typical (length of verse: 3–6 secs).

Wood pigeon - A low, lowing five-note phrase, repeated 2-4 times each verse, to the rhythm of 'I don't want to go, I don't want to go' (length of verse: 6-10 seconds).

Green finch - A lively sequence of trills of different speeds, such as 'dibbi-dibbi-dib', 'ju-ju-ju-ju-ju', interspersed with a nasal 'dweeeeez' (length of verse: 6–15 secs).

Goldfinch - Fast, tinkling long verses with little apparent structure, interspersed with its call note 'tickle-it' (length of verse: 4-12 seconds).

CJ (*with many thanks to the RSPB website!*)

~~

Count Your Blessings!

I was very fortunate to have lived in Selsdon as a youngster in the late 1940s and 50s. My Dad was a great walker. We never had a car, so he would take me and my brother for long walks in the countryside around Selsdon. You are equally lucky that all those places still exist. Selsdon Wood, which we all knew as the Bird Sanctuary, Littleheath and Croham Hurst Woods, Shirley Hills, Farleigh Common and many more places.

At this present time when we might all be suffering some anxiety as a result of corona virus and being confined to our homes, there are very real benefits to be gained from a walk in the countryside. At the time of writing, we are allowed out for exercise and what is easier to do than to go for a walk! There have been so many items in newspapers and on TV, promoting the benefits of exercise such as walking for both physical and mental health, that I do not need to tell you again. So just count your blessings, that you have so much beautiful, and interesting countryside, right on your doorstep. A second blessing is that British Summer Time is now with us, so longer, sunnier and warmer days. And not forgetting the Spring flowers.

Great masses of bluebells, especially in Selsdon Wood, but also elsewhere. You can find out more about Littleheath Woods here <http://www.folw.co.uk/the-woods.php> , Selsdon Wood here <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/> plus there will be more information in the Selsdon Gazette.

Of course, you might be more adventurous and with the help of a map, go exploring. This can be very interesting if for example you are interested in local history. One bit of local history that we found when exploring with my Dad, was the water tower on Addington Hills. This can now be seen from the Croydon trams which pass by. There is even a tram stop near it, to save a long walk up Gravel Hill (but not to be used under the current travel rules!).

This tower was built in 1888 near the top of Gravel Hill, to supply water under gravity to support another water tower in Coombe Hill Park in Croydon. There is an interesting story about this earlier water tower and its importance to Victorian Croydon at <http://parkhillpark.org.uk/towering-ambitions-for-croydons-water-supply/>



In 1939 an outbreak of typhoid occurred in Croydon, causing the death of 43 people and illness to many more. Just like with coronavirus, the search went on to trace back contacts, to find out what and where the source of the typhoid was. Tests of drinking water established that the source was the water tower at the top of Addington Hills, but how did it get there? Eventually it was traced back to a workman involved in construction work at the tower. It turned out that whilst showing no symptoms, he was a carrier of typhoid and unknowingly had passed the disease onto Croydon residents. Since then the water tower has been fenced off, as it still is today. You can see a photo here of this Croydon landmark, now serving a useful purpose as a telecom tower! <https://croydoncentralparks.wordpress.com/2019/02/12/addington-hills-water-tower/>

Des Donohoe (des.oldselsdon@gmail.com)

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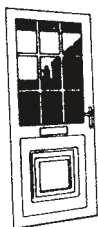
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Could you write for the Gazette?



Do you have a hobby, interest or story to share with our readers? Don't be shy. We are looking for more voices to contribute articles to the Selsdon Gazette. No long-term commitment necessary. Would you be interested? All ages welcome. For a full breakdown on terms and guidance please contact the Editor at **selsdongazettesra@gmail.com**

In summary ideal contributions would be:

From a Selsdon resident, your own words (copyright free!), no more than 650 words, clearly written and suitable for a family/community audience. Topics to write about should be interesting, useful, educating or entertaining to read but ideally contain some local angle or way for readers to engage with your words.

We can't guarantee submissions will be published as the Editor will decide based on edition theme, if there is space and if an article is suitable.

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Useful Information about Services during Lockdown (updated 21/5)

GROCERIES

SAINSBURY'S

Monday to Saturday: 08:00 - 22:00

Sunday: 10:00 - 16:00

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday shopping is only available for elderly customers, disabled customers and carers from 08.00 to 09.00.

NHS and social care workers will be able to shop for half an hour before the shop opens from Monday to Saturday. Anyone with NHS ID will be able to shop from 07.30 to 08.00 on these days.

ALDI

Monday to Saturday: 08:00 - 22:00

Sunday: 10:00 - 16:00

All day, every day, key workers in the NHS, Police and Fire Service will take priority ahead of queues upon showing a valid ID. This is in addition to early access on a Sunday, where they can enter stores 30 minutes prior to opening.

Open 30 minutes early Monday - Saturday for the Elderly (over 70) and vulnerable for browsing only.

ICELAND

Monday to Saturday: 10:00 - 19:00

Sunday: 10:00 - 16:00

The last hour of trade is reserved exclusively for NHS customers on production of an official NHS ID

CO-OP in Forestdale

Monday to Sunday: 07:00 - 22:00

Dedicated shopping for vulnerable customers from 8am to 9am Monday to Saturday and from 10am to 11am on Sundays.

New limit on contactless card payments: increased to £45, making it easier to use this service in all stores and helps to protect customers and staff.

PHARMACIES

Lloyds Pharmacies in Selsdon can deliver prescriptions.

Tel: 020 8657 1292

Goldmantle Chemist in Forestdale will deliver prescriptions. Tel: 020 8651 1270

Day Lewis in Selsdon can also deliver.

Tel: 020 8657 6172

PET SHOPS

Village Pets in Sanderstead is open with reduced hours listed on their Facebook page, and will do local deliveries.

Please visit their **Facebook page** or call: 020 8657 1791

TELEPHONE BEFRIENDING

Croydon Neighbourhood Care Association offers anyone over the age of 80 the opportunity to have telephone befriending during these difficult times. Email: info@cnca.org.uk
Tel: 07926 525472

If you have any concerns about an older or vulnerable person, you or they can contact CVA on 020 8253 7076 or 07540 720102 Monday to Friday 10 - 4pm or email connectwellcroydon@cvalive.org.uk

DENTISTS

Dentists are closed, but please contact your dentist for emergency consultations on the phone if available, or they will signpost you for further assistance.

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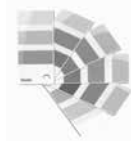
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A SELECTED LIST OF SELSDON ORGANISATIONS

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

CHURCHES

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

DOCTORS, DENTISTS & EMERGENCY CARE

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

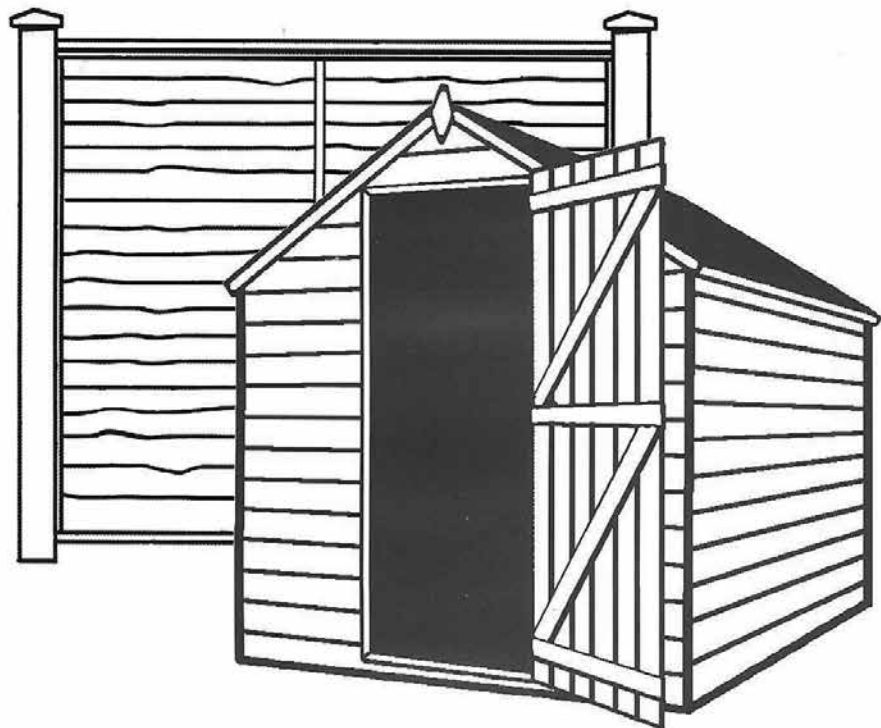
CLUBS, GROUPS & CHARITIES

CONTACT (neighbourhood care)	Andy Stranack	8651 4944
Selsdon Centre for the Retired	Craig Anderson	8651 1111
Croydon Hearing Resource Centre	Office	8686 0049
Bourne Society	Roger Packham	01883 349287
Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society	Brian Lancaster	8668 6909
Croydon Recorded Music Society	Liz Brereton	8656 7382
Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind		8668 2486
Cruse Bereavement Care Helpline		8916 0855
Friends of Littleheath Woods	Ian Leggatt	8651 1140
Friends of Selsdon Wood	see website: 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 Plantation Partners	Michael Lishmund	020 8651 2760
1 st Selsdon & Addington Scout Group:	Website: www.1stselsdon.org.uk	
Beaver Colony (6-8yrs)	Maddie Dunn	07703 531652
Cub Pack (8-10yrs)	Louise Baker	07737 404668
Scouts Troop (10-14yrs)	Douglas Gordon	07514 651711
Cromham Valley Explorers	Anthony Woodin	020 8651 3780
2 nd Selsdon & Addington Scout Group:	Website: www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk	
Selsdon Art Group	Mrs F Hooper	07973 412952
Selsdon Bridge Club	Tony Cherrett	01883 730304
Selsdon Community Hall	Tim Potter (Centre Manager)	8657 4300
Selsdon Afternoon Townswomen's Guild	Elizabeth Veasey	8657 1092
Selsdon Floral Club	Maureen Browning	8651 5821
Selsdon Social Club	Beryl Gascoigne	8660 2611
Selsdon Tennis Club	Geoff Littlewood	8651 4748
66 (Selsdon) Squadron Air Training Corps	Rob Cleeter	8651 5958

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