

The background of the cover is a photograph of several clusters of small, pink, star-shaped flowers, possibly from a species of Dianthus or similar, growing on thin green stems. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing more vibrant pink and others more pale. The background is filled with out-of-focus green grass and foliage, creating a natural, textured look.

The Selsdon — Gazette —

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June 2019

THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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Front cover image credit: Pyramidal Orchids by Lyn Ellard. Although this photograph was taken in 2015, these flowers are a regular feature in the fields of Selsdon Wood and seen on the June walk each year.



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

Councillors for Selsdon & Addington Village Ward

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

Councillors for Selsdon Vale & Forestdale Ward

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

Full details of the roads falling within each of the new 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 2019 issue of the Gazette.

You will have noticed that this month's Gazette contains your annual subscription envelopes and after the usual SRA News'n'Views there is a listing of the drop off points for these (p10). The SRA also pays tribute to the Patel family who are retiring after over 3 decades of running the Tudor Library (p11). A letter from the Patels to their customers is included in the letters section (p55).

The regular Councillors' Notes is followed by a piece from local MP Chris Philp about Southern Rail services (p17).

In the latest chapter of his views of Selsdon Through the Eyes of a War Baby, Des remembers playing hooky from school, where that took him and the punishment he received (p21). This is followed by more history from Phil Muntton who reminisces about his childhood in Selsdon (p27).

Next is a review, by Theo Spring, of Happy Birthday - last month's production by St John's Dramatic Society (p30).

Jessica Blake gives us some useful and reassuring advice about A&E at Croydon's hospital (p34) and we then have the second instalment in Bill Gale's letters from America (p37). In Nature Notes this month Ted Forsyth tells us about orchids (p39).

In the regular letters section (p35) the saga of the Selsdon Park Hotel continues - with further information about their dogs and the painting of the labradors that was in the entrance hall.

✎ SUBMISSIONS FOR THE JULY 2019 EDITION
SHOULD BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN
20TH JUNE ✎

There is more about the condition of Old Farleigh Road and the bin soap opera continues - hopefully this is now the last episode. The final letter concerns the 433 bus service. Does anyone know anything more about its deterioration?

Apologies again to crossword solvers but we had no room for one this month.

Regards,

Heather

~~

SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS

I'm sorry to have to start this month's article with a messy topic - dog poo in the woods and other open spaces. It seems that people are getting lazier about dealing with their pets' poo in public places these days. The SRA and Friends of all open spaces get complaints about this but we realise there is no easy answer as long as some people continue to be inconsiderate.

FSW have been in discussion with the Council about the provision of additional 'poo bins' in the wood in the hope this might help ease the problem there. These would have financial implications (purchasing/siting/routine emptying) which the council budget does not generally allow for. However, FSW have agreed to finance the siting of up to three extra bins (@ £600) as long as the council provide them and empty them regularly. This is not perhaps what FSW originally intended to spend their funds on but, in the hope it makes for a cleaner walk, we consider it money well spent.

If you walk a dog in a public place, please remember any litter bin (not just the specific 'poo' bins) can be used for bagged 'doings'. Another way you can help is to keep your dog on a lead if first arriving via the car park: dogs might be 'desperate' and run off to relieve themselves before you realise where they have 'gone'. Then

you have to hunt to find the pile to bag it. Please do not think it is OK to leave it in the field as it is not pleasant for people with children playing there to find mess on their shoes or to have to search for a clean patch of grass to sit on. Dogs can be kept on a lead and still get exercise – children can't! Also, please remember that dogs should always be on a lead or obedient dogs completely under their owner's control when near people as many are afraid of even the smallest or kindest dog or feel uneasy or unsafe if a dog is running around or barking or jumping up at them, even if the dog walker considers 'they are just being friendly'.

One last point re: poo – just a reminder that bags with poo in are not suitable tree decorations and neither should they be disposed of in the undergrowth. If you really cannot face carrying the poo bag with you, then please do not bag the poo; instead, flick it well off the path into the undergrowth so it will not get trodden on by walkers and will rot away in due course. This is deemed acceptable practice in suitable areas.

SRA subs envelope collection points are listed in this Gazette and will be in the July edition too so please can I ask you to let us know if you wish to offer your letter box as a new point or if you want your address removed from the list. I hope I have already deleted all those who gave me notice during the year – I am sorry if I have forgotten to take any address off. If you have arrived in Selsdon in the past year, apologies if the person who lived at the address before you did not tell us they were moving away or forgot to explain to you about these envelopes suddenly appearing, mostly during the summer months! If you do get them, please pass them on to any committee member (addresses inside the front cover) or leave at the Selsdon Centre, in Sainsburys' foyer: it is safe to use the Centre's letter box out of office hours.

Bus route changes – You will no doubt recall there was a plan and public consultation by TfL to re-route some of Croydon's buses. At the time of writing, we only know that the 75 will continue to pass through West Croydon to Fairfield - in response to public pressure. We await news on the other potential changes in due course from TfL - and from the East Surrey Transport Committee who work on our behalf in such consultations.

Christmas Lights – Thanks to the volunteers at the AGM, we now have a full SRA committee so we are again able to make plans for the Christmas Lights – yes, already, so please put the date 22nd November in your diary! A new lighting display has been ordered (even better and brighter than before, we hope!), Greenvale School have offered to make decorations for the trees on the Triangle (but you can always make some more please, as I suggested in an earlier News'n'Views), and the new catenary wires will be fitted in time for the lights' installation. As has already been reported, this is now a significant ongoing additional expense for the SRA because, as well as new wires having to be bought this year and possibly renewed more often than before, the wires now have to be formally checked at regular intervals to satisfy H&S and insurers. Nevertheless, we feel we should try to continue with the lights tradition here for as long as possible, particularly as we had the especially strong lamp posts fitted for them. With the support of some of the traders, a lot of the residents who send their donations in their subscription envelope or via the various collections we hold during the lights season, and the Selsdon councillors' community funding, and as long as there is no other major drain on our finances (such as a large scale planning operation such as we had when fighting Tesco and then Sainsburys before they arrived), we should have sufficient funds for at least about 7 more years. I think by then I will have organised them for long enough – so do start thinking if/when you would like to take over! I'm always open to offers!

Following on from our initial trial of decorating the Triangle last Christmas, which seemed to work well, we made enquiries about adding a string of coloured lights to the trees around the edges. Whilst not being as expensive as we thought they might be, in the end, we felt it was imprudent to add to the overall cost as obviously there is always a rise in the costs anyway when we take out the next contract even if only to maintain the same quality of display. However, we understand we could, of course, easily add these lights as an extra, even at short notice, if some additional kind donors or sponsors come forward to pay specifically for these. Do any of you feel extra generous or perhaps we should invest in a lottery ticket or two?

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Selsdon Community Fun Picnic afternoon – The other main activity in recent years for the SRA committee has been to encourage the residents to come to this event. Those who did come said they had fun and enjoyed meeting other people from the area – but so few came that we do wonder whether it was worth the effort. We are trying a different format this year: we are combining the SRA event with the FSW Open Day on Sunday 8th September. The Selsdon Rotary Club has agreed to give its support and help run the fun races. The Scouts will also have other activities and games as usual as well as their regular FSW Open Day refreshment stall – so no need to bring a picnic if the weather doesn't look appropriate for picnic hampers, wine and blankets on the grass! We are hoping to have a climbing wall as a new attraction but we cannot get confirmation of that until late June at the earliest for reasons too complicated to explain in the space available here! Look out instead for news on posters and on the websites* in due course.

The FSW invites local charities, crafts people and hobbyists and any others who would like to have a stall to display items of interest or run an 'activity' of some sort. We would like to have some new faces this year – maybe a children's entertainer or magician, interesting pets etc? Would you like to have a stall or know someone who might? They don't have to live in Selsdon to take part. Please contact me via the FSW email address and I will send more details to anyone who is interested: for the stall to be included in the publicity for the day in the July Gazette (there is no August issue and the September one is unlikely to be delivered by the Open Day) I need to know by 19th June at the latest. We hope to see every Selsdon resident there anyway – why not come to the community picnic instead of having a street party this year?

Linda Morris, Vice Chairman, SRA and Secretary, FSW

SRA - website: <https://selsdon-residents.co.uk>

Selsdon Gazette - email: SelsdonGazette@hotmail.co.uk

FSW - website: <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk>

email: selsdonwood@gmail.com

FoLW - website: <http://www.folw.co.uk>

2019 SRA SUBSCRIPTION ENVELOPES DROP-OFF POINTS

Please deliver your annual subscription (and any additional donation) to one of the addresses listed below **or to any of the committee members – their addresses are at the front of the Gazette**. If you are visiting the library or shopping at Sainsbury's, you are reminded you can always drop the envelope into the Selsdon Centre (just use their letter box if closed) if that is more convenient for you.

Make sure your address and the amount you are paying is clearly shown on the outside so we can add you to the paid-up list. Our 'price' is held again this year – we believe it is still excellent value at only £3 per household subscription, plus any extra donation you care to give towards the Christmas lights.

Thank you for your support!

6. Abercorn Close	38 Foxearth Road	16 Ridge Langley
204, 326 Addington Road	2, 68 Greville Avenue	1 The Rise
19, 66 Albatross Gardens	17 Ingham Road	1, 20 Rylandes Road
9 Ambleside Gardens	23, 71 Kingswood Way	24 Southviews
95, 106 Arundale Avenue	8 Kittiwake Close	171 Sundale Avenue
96, 125 Benhurst Gardens	6 Langley Oaks Vale	11 Swallowdale
21 Birdwood Close	10 Lapwing Close	10 Sylvan Close
9 Brent Road	26, 29 Littleheath Road	7 Teal Close
29 Byron Road	1 Mallard Road	5 Turnstone Close
12 Courtlands Close	1 Martin Close	28 Upper Selsdon Road
6 Cowley Close	5, 14 Mountwood Close	20 Wagtail Gardens
4 Crozier Drive	3 Nightingale Road	9b, 32 Woodland Gardens
10, 20 Dulverton Road	43 Norfolk Avenue	3 Wyncote Way
4 Elm Park Gardens	3, 25 Peacock Gardens	
5 Ferns Close	17 Redwing Close	

We are very grateful to the residents at all these addresses who have previously agreed to pass on to us the envelopes you drop into them. We have once again taken the liberty of assuming their ongoing support. However, if any now wish to be removed from the list, please let us know before the copy deadline of 20th June for the next Gazette so the deletion can be organised in time to catch that issue. We also apologise if anyone has moved into one of these addresses in the past year and was not warned this community duty comes with the house! Please do let us know, though, if you do not wish to carry on with it and we will remove the address from the list!

Iris Jones, SRA Treasurer and all the SRA Committee

~~

FAREWELL TO THE TUDOR LIBRARY PATEL FAMILY

from the SRA on behalf of all of Selsdon

I expect most of you will have seen the notice that appeared in the newsagent's window in early May – that Mr and Mrs Patel are retiring after 35 years of early mornings and service to the Selsdon community. We were aware they had wanted to go for some time but that they had had trouble finding the 'right' buyer. They believe the new owners, Mr and Mrs Shah, fit the bill. Please let's make them welcome so they stay for a good few years too. Their shop is truly the hub of Selsdon now (perhaps apart from Wetherspoons and the newer craft beer venue!), especially since the post office has moved there and become so useful to us all.

We certainly need these traditional outlets to help keep our shopping area alive. We thank Mr and Mrs Patel for taking on the post office and trust that you will all continue to use it and the paper shop aspects of the business so that Mr and Mrs Shah will have a happy and profitable time here too.

All good wishes to the Patels in their retirement – may they enjoy many a long lie-in!

COUNCILLORS' NOTES

SELSDON 'GARAGE' SITE

One of the questions we are most frequently asked as councillors is 'When are they going to redevelop the 'garage' site at 230 Addington Road next to Aldi?'



Here's a photo of the site at the moment. What was once a lovely 20s style building is now lying derelict and has been this way for many years.

Given the level of interest in the site, we have made every effort to try and move the redevelopment forward.

What puzzled us was why the site had not been redeveloped. Planning permission had been granted in 2016 for a scheme which included 26 flats so what was stopping the developer from moving forward?



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Cllr Pollard asked council officers to convene a meeting to meet the developer and ask that question. This took place on 11th February 2019 and included the councillors, a member of the planning department, and the developers themselves.

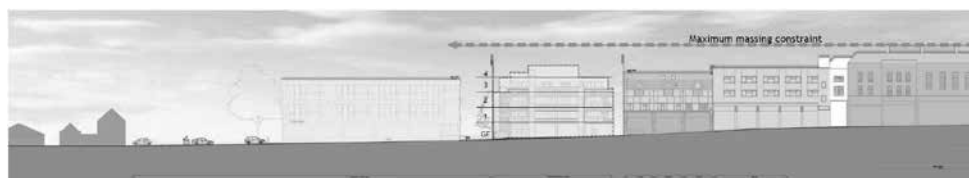
The developer stated that the scheme with 26 flats would not be financially viable to build in current economic conditions. We had discussions about what would have to change in order to make the scheme financially viable. The outcome of the meeting was that the developer would review the scheme and come up with a proposal that they felt would be financially viable. We knew this would mean making it bigger and therefore its impact on the surrounding area would be greater, but we wanted to see the proposal and establish whether this is something local residents could accept if it meant the site was finally redeveloped. It also has to comply with planning guidelines.

So, here are details of the revised proposal:

ALDI 'Garage' site



Scheme given planning permission in 2016:

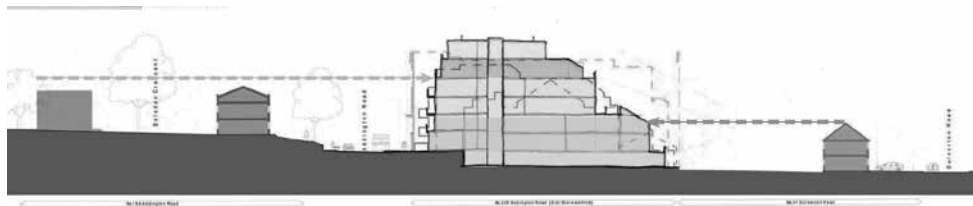


Proposed scheme:



The proposed scheme has 43 flats and is taller than the previous scheme.

Here's a cross section of the new scheme (with Addington Road to the left of the building and Dulverton Road on the extreme right of the image):



The current status of the project is that the proposal is being considered by the Planning Officer.

This is not yet a formal planning application so it is not possible to formally respond, but we would be interested in your thoughts on the proposal as summarised above. Please send your comments to helen.pollard@croydon.gov.uk

Meet Your Councillors

The Selsdon Team of Councillors will be holding surgeries in the Selsdon Centre (next to Sainsbury's) on the first Saturday of the month from 10am – 11.15am (except August).

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

Helen.pollard@croydon.gov.uk

Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk

Stuart.millson@croydon.gov.uk

Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk

PLANNING APPLICATIONS April 2019

19/02102/HSE – 41 Chestnut Grove, South Croydon, CR2 7LL -
Conversion of garage into habitable room, erection of single storey

side/front extension, front porch and front hardstanding

19/02072/LP – 126 Littleheath Road, South Croydon, CR2 7SE - Construction of a single storey rear extension

19/02185/HSE - 31 Crest Road, South Croydon, CR2 7JR - Single storey side/rear extension

19/02062/HSE – Roselea Cottage, Ballards Farm Road, Croydon, CR0 5RL - Demolition of the existing side garage and construction of two storey side extension

19/00470/FUL – 253 Addington Road, South Croydon, CR2 8LR - Application for a vehicular crossover/dropped kerb so that the driveway in front of the house may be used

19/02027/HSE – 246 Croham Valley Road, South Croydon, CR2 7RD – Alterations: erection of a two storey side extension comprising a lower ground and ground floor level and alterations to the land levels at the rear

19/01890/LP – 2 Thorold Close, South Croydon, CR2 8SA - Erection of single storey side extension and alterations to the front and rear elevations

19/00102/HSE – 66 Chapel View, South Croydon, CR2 7LF - Demolition of an existing detached garage and erection of a single/two storey side/rear extension

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UPGRADING THE SERVICE ON **SOUTHERN RAIL**

by Chris Philp, Member of Parliament for Croydon South

The Southern Rail Network is one of the busiest in the country. Each day it carries over 300,000 passengers, many of whom are from Croydon. It is heavily relied upon by commuters, who use it to get to and from work each day and change from stations such as Sanderstead, South Croydon and East Croydon.

Local rail users have been hit by serious delays in recent years. Many of these have been due to strikes, or mismanagement from those in charge of Southern. However, approximately half of all delays on the line are caused by track and infrastructure problems. These include issues with the track bed, with points and with signalling failures.

Things have been getting better for passengers. An initial investment in 2016 saw the creation of a rapid response team, led by Chris Gibb. This was set up to proactively fix faults in the track and signal systems before they can cause disruption. Rail users have since been benefiting from the results of the rapid response team, and Chris Gibb is now managing other upgrades to the line.

However, it is important that we implement long-term measures to prevent a return to the misery that commuters have faced in the past. Towards the end of 2016 I led a group of MPs to see the Prime Minister. This resulted in a £300 million investment programme for upgrading the track. This will mean brand new track and signalling equipment for the line. There will also be vital improvements to the embankments, preventing flooding and plant overgrowth onto the tracks.

The line has historically been underfunded by successive governments. Without the work being put in, the line would continue to degrade, and delays would steadily get worse. However, these improvements mean there will be improved performance, greater reliability in services, and fewer delays and cancellations.

Even with this investment, the line is still running at 99% capacity. As a result, rush-hour trains are often overcrowded, and any disruption creates a tailback of delays. The line was built by the Victorians; it was not designed for the level of use it currently receives. Ever since the year 2000 the number of passengers has doubled, and it looks set to continue to increase. We therefore need to create the capacity to run more trains.

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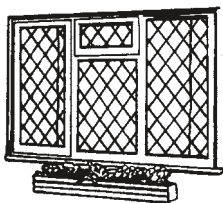
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East Croydon is the source of a bottleneck that affects the whole network. Services converge from across Surrey, Sussex and parts of Hampshire through East Croydon, before diverging to Victoria, London Bridge and Blackfriars. Network Rail has described it as “the most challenging bottleneck on Britain’s railway network.”

A further bottleneck is at the Windmill Junction, near Selhurst. Southbound trains are regularly delayed waiting outside the station, as they wait for the junction to clear.

This project would entail expanding East Croydon from 6 to 8 platforms and widening other areas of track in the vicinity. It would also involve grade separating Windmill Junction, meaning that the track would be at different heights to allow access. Not only would this prevent a lot of delays, but it would allow for more services to run, increasing capacity by 30%.

We are still awaiting final confirmation on the funding for these projects. I am campaigning hard to ensure that this goes ahead – I understand how important improving our train service is to residents. These changes would be one of the biggest rail infrastructure upgrade projects in the whole country. I will keep pressing for this and will keep you updated.

~~

SELSDON SCHOOL DAYS 1944 TO 1950 – PLAYING HOOKY

Looking at the photo above I note one obvious difference to how I remember it as a school boy. Traffic lights!

In the 1940s and early 50s very few people owned cars. Even if they did, the very strict petrol rationing meant that they could rarely use them. Hence there was negligible traffic on the roads. Even so, we had a “speed cop,” a traffic policeman on a powerful 500 cc Triumph Speed Twin motor bike, who came up morning and afternoon from



Kenley Police Station to shepherd us across the road. On my first day I came out of school at 3 o'clock, and saw my Mum waiting on the other side of the road by the top of Kingsway Ave. There was no traffic so naturally I ran across the road, only to be "arrested" by our very unfriendly speed cop and lectured about how to safely cross a road.

Our speed cop continued with this mundane task for a few more years until increased road traffic got him back to his real job, catching speeding drivers. I'm sure that his lectures put the fear of God into them, as he had me!

He was replaced by a more friendly beat copper, no longer riding bicycles, but on what became jokingly known as a Noddy Bike. This was an LE Velocette motor bike, which was not much faster than the then replaced police push bike! I always thought they were called Noddy Bikes after the Enid Blyton characters, Noddy and P.C. Plod, but apparently that was not true.

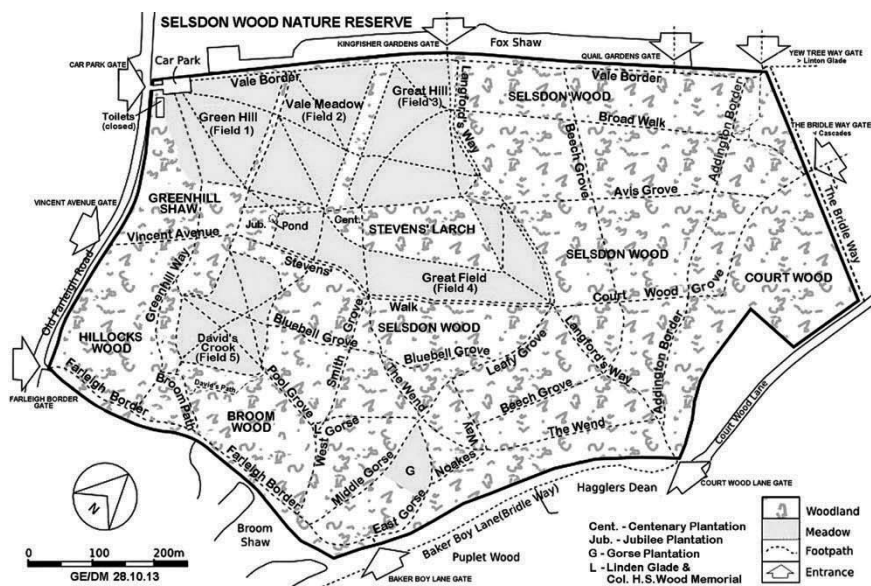


After Plod, we got a Lollypop Lady, Mrs Hudd, to shepherd the children over the now busier main road. Mrs Hudd lived in Greville Ave and had a son, Graham, who was a Selsdon School pupil and a friend of mine. Mrs Hudd was very popular with both mums and the school kids. She was a real character, loved by all, and sadly missed when she got replaced by traffic lights.

So back to pre-traffic lights days, our not so friendly speed cop, and my earliest days at Selsdon School.

In the absence of cars we walked everywhere, and my Dad being a great walker, I became familiar with all the local woods and foot paths. And because there was virtually no traffic I had been used to playing outside with my friends, free to roam without any supervision. When I started school I hated being cooped up in a classroom so after a while I came up with a cunning plan!

I was by then walking to school, no longer being taken by my Mum, so one nice sunny morning instead of walking to school I played hooky and went to Selsdon Wood.



But I didn't need a map because I knew my way around this woodland and when I thought it was about 3 o'clock, I went home.

The problem was, that not having a watch, I had no real idea of the time. When I arrived home it was only about half past ten!

I got a severe ticking off and was marched off to school where I got another ticking off from Miss Smith my class teacher. For punishment she made me stand in the corner, in front of the class until lunch time.

But not put off, I waited a couple of weeks and did it again. The same thing, again arriving home in mid-morning. Another, but more severe ticking-off from my Mum, then from Miss Smith, and another hour standing in the corner. So I then decided that playing hooky was not such a clever idea after all!



My Dad would take my brother and I to see the annual, springtime carpet of bluebells in the Selsdon Wood and I was reminded of my boyhood adventures, by this picture of its wonderful bluebells.

It might now be too late to see this year's magnificent display, but do make sure you don't miss it next year! There is always something of interest to see in this our local woodland. You can find out by following this link: www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk which includes a detailed leaflet, the map above and much more.

Des Donohoe

Editor's Note - The bluebells have finished now but they were excellent this year and very long-lasting, as the earliest sighting was mid-March and they were still looking splendid by mid-May.

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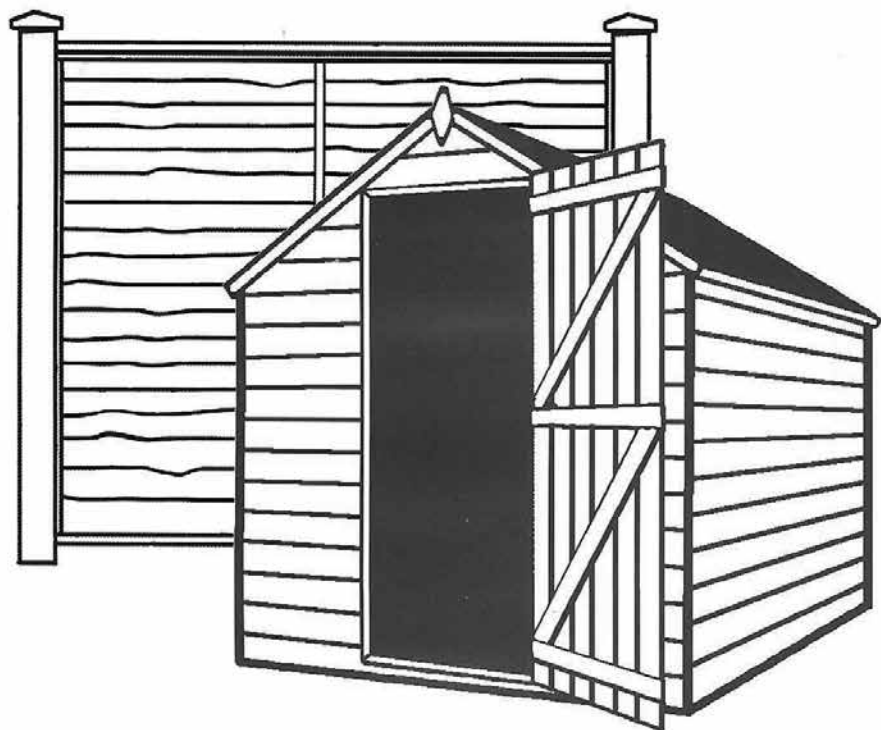
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## **SCOUTS, SPORTS AND SOCIAL LIFE IN SELSDON.**

Life in Selsdon for us as young people in the late fifties and into the sixties was much simpler than today. My family did not have a TV so the radio was our only source of in-house entertainment and I remember comedy as being my favourite with the Goons, followed by the Navy Lark, Hancock and Round the Horn being particular favourites. Otherwise we had to make our own entertainment and with our cul-de-sac Ingham Road and the adjacent Littleheath Woods most of our time was spent outside playing football, cricket and tin can tommy - a glorified version of hide and seek. We would spend hours in the woods climbing trees, collecting chestnuts, building dens in the bracken or playing in the Fallen Oak or Brent Road fields. Behind our house there was my favourite tree which I would climb to a branch where I could sit and watch birds with my binoculars or simply just read a book!

If the weather was bad we would take it in turns to go to each other's houses to play board games or even Mah Jong and Bridge! This was with a group consisting of Richard Godfrey, Ian Wright, Frank Chester, Chris Banks and myself plus occasional others. Bad weather did not deter us from using Ingham Road as a superb toboggan run! Starting in the woods at the top of the hill we had our own Cresta Run, much to the annoyance of the few car owners in the road as our activities encouraged sheet ice to form. This enabled us to reach the main Addington Road at the bottom but made it impossible for cars to even enter the road. Much of Selsdon would use the road for their winter sports, especially in the big freeze of 1963 and even adults would join in the fun!

The more organised activities for us boys revolved around cubs and scouts run in the hall at the back of St. John's Church. It was a very well-run group - Miss Inge (Kim) ran the cubs with the help of Pam ?, while Norman Godfrey (Skip) ran the scouts with the help of Alan and others. The senior scouts was under the guidance of Mike Stanley who married the Pam previously mentioned. We learnt a great deal through all this voluntary guidance with the training

- wide games, annual summer camps and climbing expeditions to Snowdonia and the Ben Nevis area of Scotland. The latter trip involved travelling overnight by minibus on a Friday and returning the same way the following week - great fun but very tiring.

The other memories of scouts was playing British Bulldog in the field behind the church and the annual Remembrance Sunday parade in Croydon to the Parish Church when our marching skills were put to the test! I remember too the patrol camps for a weekend at Frith Wood off Featherbed Lane. We used to load a trek cart full of equipment and work as a team to pull it down the Addington Road (not so busy in those days). Luckily the cart was always lighter on the way back up the hill the supplies having been consumed including the obligatory contraband quart bottles of woodpecker cider that kept our spirits up despite any bad weather. I am not suggesting that the scouts had a culture of drinking but it is true to say that as seniors we would change in to long trousers from our shorts to have a drink in the Good Neighbours Pub on the way home! I also remember some of us attaching all the knockers of the flats above the shops of Selsdon Parade with a length of scout rope, pulling it at one end then running away to have a giggle when all the residents came out at the same time! We were certainly not angels all of the time - despite our scout promise!

As I got older, sport played an increasingly important part of my life. Cricket with the Selsdon C.C. based at the Rec near Greville Ave. used to fill Saturday and Sunday afternoons during the summer for many of us teenagers. We were useful for fielding in places where the older and (slower?) members didn't want to run about. Inevitably we were used as cannon fodder going in to bat at numbers 8-11 and rarely if ever getting a bowl. We enjoyed it though and I remember the odd success including top scoring with 23 out of a total of 57 against a strong team from Warlingham! We even played on the day that England played Argentina in the World Cup of 1966! Names such as Colin Bowles, Peter Noakes, Jimmy Brewer and Bernie Belli come to mind as some of the older players.

Football, however, was my real love, but because Selsdon F.C. was mainly composed of older players we were forced to form our own

junior club which we named Kingswood after the road which linked Selsdon and Sanderstead from which most of our members came. We were reasonably successful with our home matches played at Sanderstead Rec, while most of our away matches seemed to be on the Purley Way playing fields or Lloyd Park in Croydon - usually against older players whom we normally beat. It was after a particularly good result at Purley Way when I scored a headed hat-trick that I was invited for a trial period for Crystal Palace. Sadly, I was never going to make the grade at a time when both Steve Kember and Roy Hodgson were on their books! Soon after I left for university where playing for Reading University was much more my level! However, being involved with Kingswood F.C did provide us with a social life since we had to run our own events - mainly dances - to raise funds for our kit, equipment and travel expenses. Being the sixties these dances - mainly in church halls - were very popular, and introduced us to girls! As most of us were Grammar School boys contact with the opposite sex was not a regular occurrence!

Indeed, the only other time I can remember was dance classes in the upstairs of St John's Church Hall where, unlike in my football playing, I proved to have TWO left feet! Helping to organise these music events had two subsequent benefits. Firstly, it encouraged a lifelong interest in music - I taught myself guitar and took up the fiddle again- and had my first public performance playing in the Pamado productions put on annually by the scouts. Later on in life I had a spell as a semi - professional folk musician in Scotland when the school at which I was teaching closed - it proved not to pay the bills though! Secondly, when I went to university I helped to organise college dances which booked some of the biggest names in that golden age of British pop, rock and folk music! But that is another story and nothing to do with Selsdon! I hope memories have been of some interest and if there is anyone out there who wants to get in touch please feel free to do so!

***Phil Munton - [philmunton48@sky.com](mailto:philmunton48@sky.com)***

~~

# **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**St John's Dramatic Society, St John's Community Hall, Selsdon**

**Reviewed by Theo Spring**

Beverly Cross's adaptation of Marc Camoletti's fast moving comedy requires a cast who are very sure of their lines, enabling them to make the most of the 'ping pong' dialogues included in the script. These they certainly achieved with the one-word retorts firing back and forth with alacrity.

The many comings and goings through the four on-stage doors (plus the 'hall' off stage) proved solid work by the set construction team as the flats remained firm however fast the cast used the doors. The set itself offered a charming living room in the country cottage belonging to Jacqueline and Robert. They have booked a maid from a local agency and Robert has invited both his best friend and his mistress, hoping to persuade his wife that they are an item. Unaware that his wife and the best friend already are an item, the shenanigans are complicated by the names of both the maid and the mistress being Bridget. Arriving separately, confusion ensues as sleeping arrangements are re-assigned, many times!

Best friend Robert is the flappable kind with Stuart Scott being loving, incredulous and finally unfaithful by turns. Believably in love with Jacqueline he, rather predictably, eventually skedaddles with Bridget the mistress, whose birthday is being celebrated and who is given glamour and seduction by Lucy Hanson.

Mary-Rose Goodliffe swivels through many characters, as instructed by Robert who is under instruction from his host. As the real maid, her accent enhances her role as does her speedy ability to catch on to the pretences she is asked to make. Throughout, however, her maid's training shines through and she is obviously at her happiest in the kitchen or 'maiding'. Seemingly the smartest of the 'guests' she is easily bribed as long as the going rate is doubled, or more.

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without rousing his wife's suspicions is Bernard. Played with calm and hauteur by David Sanders, nothing is meant to go wrong, once Robert has agreed that Bernard's Bridget is actually his Bridget. There is considerable comedy as Robert tries to signal to 'his' Jacqueline that he still loves her as she takes every opportunity to misread his signs. Amorous and scheming herself, Claire Connery's Jacqueline has the added task of providing dinner for her guests and, with the real maid mistaken as the mistress and the mistress mistaken as the maid, frolics ensue.

The management of the dining table and the laying of it is well achieved, without detracting from the goings on, and in some instances, assisting them, but it was cleverly managed on this small stage.

Changing for dinner was expected at the cottage that evening in the 1980s and Wardrobe Mistress Caryl Rapps used the opportunity to really dress the cast up for dinner - even Bridget the maid, who only had her maid's uniform was cleverly transformed by the use of her black 'petticoat' turning into a slinky evening gown.

Director Peter Whittle, whose long experience in the theatre has often included comedies such as this, was blessed with a talented cast, all of whom made the most of the comic opportunities and provided a most happy and light-hearted evening.

~~

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The A & E Department is now a lovely, tall, light and airy building. The ceilings are painted cream with big bronze leaves curling across and down the top of the walls, which can be calming.

First stop on arriving is the Triage Nurse, who takes your basic details and decides how urgently you need treatment. We watched policemen stand in the queue for the person they escorted in, but if the patients can stand it is better to answer the nurse's questions themselves. From the Triage Nurse who types as you answer her questions, it is a short step to going to give the rest of your details to the pleasant people behind what looks like a post office counter. So much has already been sent from the Triage Nurse by then and also to a special system by Lamsom Tube, which goes around the hospital. Reminds me of watching the tubes run along the ceilings of shops when I was a child, to take your payment to the shop cashier and return your change and receipt.

Then it is time to sit and wait. For those who suffer from "white coat syndrome", there shouldn't be anything too shocking to watch or listen to as ambulances are unloaded elsewhere, and children too

Marie Winter

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In trying circumstances it is reassuring to know the ropes a little. The staff were really kind which soothes too. So hope these pointers are a help - but it is still better to have some change with you for parking or food purchasing, if you can. It is nice to sit and watch the garden and interesting to see the ambulances and police cars arriving and departing.

***Jessica Blake***

~~

## **LETTER FROM FLORIDA - PART 2**

Last month, I introduced you to Hernando County, near the Gulf Coast of Central Florida, with its miles of inland waterways teeming with wildlife. One special form of wildlife is the manatee, a gentle giant of the seas and the rivers where they congregate in the winter months. Vegetarian to a 'V', they were once endangered, bumped and injured by speeding boats, but their protection is now guaranteed and their chances of survival greatly improved.

It has been said that manatees reminded sailors of mermaids. I have never understood this. Everyone knows that mermaids are beautiful sea creatures with flowing hair, fish tails, and a lot more besides. No way do they resemble manatees, and any sailor

suggesting otherwise should be hauled off the ship and despatched to that well-known high street chain of opticians.



Weeki Wachee mermaid



Manatee

What you may not know is that since 1947 mermaids have performed daily for visitors in the Weeki Wachee Springs State Park. They act, sing, laugh and perform graceful ballet routines deep under the spring water, in front of a rapt audience in a theatre on the other side of a glass viewing area under the deep spring, where fish and the occasional visiting turtle pass by. It's just magical, and an 'Old Florida' attraction long before Disney came to Orlando (and a great deal cheaper!). The story of the Little Mermaid is their speciality. Children love it and it's impossible not to be moved by their grace and their skill at holding their breath under water, miming to songs and dialogue, and even eating apples and bananas or drinking bottles of coca cola. Oh yes, and they do look very good!

When you have finished marvelling at the mermaids, you can step across to the river and take a canoe down the five miles of crystal clear Weeki Wachee River to the sea. Manatees can be seen in the winter months and plenty of other wildlife besides, but it's very rare, you'll be glad to know, to spot an alligator.

Now for a piece of pure nostalgia from the late 60's. Do you remember the Byrds and the song Mr Tambourine Man, a No 1 hit

in 1965? They were touted as America's answer to the Beatles, all long hair and funny glasses. In fact, they were much better, sang complex harmonies, and played 12-string jingle-jangle guitars, but that's another story.

While we were staying near Weeki Wachee Springs last November, two of the founder-members of the Byrds, now in their 70's, Roger McGuinn (who played a solo gig at the Fairfield Hall a few years ago) and Chris Hillman, were due to perform in concert at Clearwater to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their ground-breaking country music album Sweetheart of the Rodeo. Seats weren't cheap and I hesitated. But I reflected that we were unlikely ever to see them perform together again. We weren't disappointed - it was magic!

### ***Bill Gale***

**Editor's Note** - Anyone interested in seeing the photos in sunny Florida colours is welcome to email Bill Gale on [bill.gale19a@gmail.com](mailto:bill.gale19a@gmail.com)

~~

## **NATURE NOTES**

### **ORCHIDS**

Early Purple orchids are woodland plants which should be in flower by late April. A rival for the earliest orchid to flower is the Early Spider orchid which can be found in large numbers at Samphire Hoe near Dover where the spoil from the digging of the Channel Tunnel was dumped. Pyramidal orchids are relatively common grassland plants, as are Common Spotted orchids, both occasionally making a sudden appearance in gardens possibly from the dust-fine seed blown in from another site. As all orchids need the help of an underground fungus to enable them to grow most

seed does not succeed in producing a plant but the vast quantity of seed released does at least give them a chance.

In favoured places many species can appear – one such local place is Farthing Downs where a grassy slope within the woodland can produce Fragrant, Fly, Bee, Man, Twayblade and possibly other species. Marden Meadow in Kent has a field covered in Green-winged orchids. In Lullingstone Country Park in the middle of a golf course there is a bank on which grow Fragrant and Lizard orchids (and this bank also has a colony of Dark Green Fritillary butterflies).

Further afield other Kent wildlife reserves produce Lady orchid, Monkey orchid, Burnt orchid, Greater Butterfly & Lesser Butterfly orchids. On Box Hill can be found Musk orchid, Frog orchid, Autumn Lady's-tresses and Bee orchid.

In High Elms in Bromley there is a bank in the middle of the woodland where Bee orchid, Greater Butterfly orchid, Fly orchid and White Helleborine can be found. In the nearby woodland it is possible to find White, Violet and Broad-leaved Helleborines and Birds Nest orchid. Fragrant orchids grow in another grassy area under the electricity pylons.

Along the Featherbed Lane grass verge there have been over 50 Bee orchids seen together with Pyramidal and Common Spotted orchids. At the northern end, beyond the pumping station, a few White Helleborines grow on the narrow bank under the trees. Some even grow in Forestdale close to the wall of a garage. At the southern end of Featherbed Lane, in the Chapel Bank reserve, as many as nine species of orchid have been recorded including Greater Butterfly orchid, when it has not been eaten by slugs or deer, and in the “set aside” field at the far end there have been up to eighty of the relatively rare Man orchid.

On a visit to the London Wetland Centre you could find Marsh orchid, Bee orchid and others.



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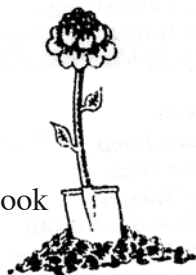
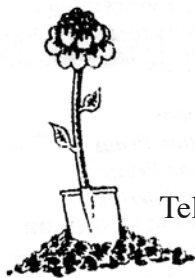
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On Riddlesdown, apart from seeing Pyramidal and Common Spotted orchids along the way a walk to the far end, where the path starts to enter trees, you might find a few Green-flowered Helleborines growing at the edge of the path.

North of London, visiting wildlife reserves will often produce other species some of which are rare and are specially protected – Military orchid, Red Helleborine, Lady's-Slipper. This last species has one site in Yorkshire and the others are restricted to two or three sites.

If there is one plant which has to be considered as rare in Britain it must be the Ghost orchid. There have been no records for many years but in one area where it did grow it re-appeared after a gap of over 60 years so there is always a chance it will be found again. There is a suggestion that it can flower underground so this might be another reason for lack of sightings.

There are over 50 potential orchid species to be found in Britain and Ireland and several books have been written by people who have spent a year trying to find them all – it needs a lot of travelling! (My thanks to Martin Wills who has shown me many of these orchids).

***Ted Forsyth***

**Editor's Note** - See the SRA website Nature Notes page for an illustrated version of this article. <http://selsdon-residents.co.uk/nature-notes.php>

~~

## **WHAT'S ON**

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

~~

### **CROYDON BOWLING AND SPORTS CLUB**

will be holding an OPEN DAY on 23<sup>rd</sup> **June 2019 10.00 - 16.00**

Why not try our facilities for FREE!!! We have 6 indoor and 12 outdoor rinks and welcome new and experienced bowlers. You can also see our other facilities, including bridge, croquet and snooker. You can join our fantastic Social Club. We hold regular events, quizzes, dances, parties, cabarets and theatre trips. If you are coming along please try to bring a pair of flat soled shoes (no heel) but no worries, if you have not got your own we do have some you can use. All other equipment will be supplied on the day.

Membership is FREE for two months to new members on our OPEN DAY, plus we offer generous student rates. A warm welcome to all at any time.

For further information contact Alan 0777 2022 156 to make an appointment, or email [alan9483@aol.com](mailto:alan9483@aol.com)

The address of the club is 10 Nottingham Road, South Croydon CR26LN

~~

**CROYDON AND DISTRICT PARKINSON'S GROUP** runs seated/standing/supported exercise classes at Purley URC Hall (next to Purley Hospital) 1 -2 p.m. every Monday, and a new class has just started on alternate Thursdays at St. Mildred's Church Hall close to Addiscombe Tramlink, 12.45 - 2.15 p.m. The Group also holds monthly social meetings at the Purley location, usually on the third Monday of the month 2 - 4 p.m.

Don't suffer Parkinson's on your own, come and join those who understand the problems it causes and find out about all the services and help available, both locally and nationally. Contact our Secretary, Jacky Green, on 01737 355487 or email [jackygreen234@hotmail.com](mailto:jackygreen234@hotmail.com) ***for further details.***

~~



## **THE RSPB CROYDON LOCAL GROUP**

### **Monthly Illustrated Wildlife Talks in South Croydon**

Whitgift Sports Club, Croham Manor Road - off Croham Road. South Croydon, CR2 7BG. Second Monday of each month, 2pm and again at 8pm. Admission £4. Everyone is welcome, not just RSPB members. Free refreshments. A selection of RSPB goods, nuts & seeds are on sale. Parking limited on site but free in adjacent roads. 64 & 433 buses stop nearby in Croham Road.

#### **Monday July 8<sup>th</sup> 2019: “W H Hudson – an RSPB Legacy”**

Author and conservationist **Conor Mark Jameson** explores how this impoverished immigrant from South America rose to prominence in Victorian and Edwardian Britain, what his contribution was in the early stirrings of conservation activism in the UK, his place in literature, and how his legacy can still be felt today.

For more information contact John Davis on 020-8640 4578 or see

[www.rspb.org.uk/groups/croydon](http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/croydon)

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

~~

## **FRIENDS OF SELSDON WOOD**

Do join us for our lepidoptera & bat walks in July:

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July @ 11am ‘Butterflies’ with the Friends**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July @ 9.00pm ‘Bats & Moths’ the Friends**

*Meet in Selsdon Wood car park, Old Farleigh Road.*

*To make enquiries or to check the above, see the Walks and Workday pages of the website [www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk](http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk)*

*Or phone 020-8657 0423 or e-mail: [selsdonwood@gmail.com](mailto:selsdonwood@gmail.com)*

Selsdon Wood is owned by the National Trust and we have our own page on their website at

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/selsdon-wood>

~~

## **THE SELSDON CENTRE FOR THE RETIRED**

Find us inside the Sainsbury's building in Selsdon, Surrey



We are open five days a week from 10:00 – 15:00, serving hot lunches for retired local residents.

As well as providing a place for the elderly to meet, we have numerous other activities going on including

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Our I.T. expert is available to give lessons in a quiet room in the Selsdon Centre on Friday mornings, if booked in advance.

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**We look forward to welcoming you at the Centre soon!**

Tel: 0208 651 1111 Email: [selsdon.centre@btinternet.com](mailto:selsdon.centre@btinternet.com)

[www.selsdon.centre@btinternet.com](http://www.selsdon.centre@btinternet.com)

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## **CROYDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (CSO)**

### **Summer Classics and Finale of the Croydon Concerto Competition 2019**

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> **June 2019, 7.30pm (doors open 7pm)**

Trinity Concert Hall, Croydon, CR9 7AT

Conductor: Darrell Davison

**Tchaikovsky: Symphony no. 2 'Little Russian'**

**Delius: Marche caprice**

**5 Soloists playing concerto movements including Elgar: Cello Concerto and**

**Brahms: Piano Concerto no. 1**

(see [www.croydonsymphony.com](http://www.croydonsymphony.com) **for further details**)

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

Securely online via Paypal at: [www.croydonsymphony.com/buytickets/](http://www.croydonsymphony.com/buytickets/)

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

~~

## **THE ARTS SOCIETY SANDERSTEAD**

**Tuesday June 25th 2019, 10.30 - 11.45am** - Sanderstead United Reformed Church Hall, Sanderstead Hill CR2 0HB

**'SUSAN KAY-WILLIAMS - The History of Colour in Textiles from 1856 to the present time.'**

Susan is the chief executive of the Royal School of Needlework and a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, the Chartered Institute of Marketing and the Society of Dyes and Colourists. She is an author and an experienced lecturer, visiting the USA, China, Canada, Japan and Taiwan as well as lecturing for the V&A and across the UK.

Coffee is served from 9.30 - 10.15am. Please register on arrival. There is a small fee of £5.

For more information on joining our society so that you can take advantage of our wider programme of day visits, foreign or home tours, Special Interest Days (SIDs), and other social events please ask for details at the Hall or ring:

SUE DAVENPORT 020 8660 9122

website: [www.theartssocietysanderstead.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietysanderstead.org.uk)

~~

### **SELSDON PRIMARY SCHOOL REUNION**

If you, your parents or grandparents attended Selsdon Primary school between 1939-1946, we invite you to attend this year's reunion of the '*Wartime Children*'. This lunchtime reunion will be held on:

**Wednesday, 16 October 2019 at Farleigh Golf Club, Old Farleigh Road, Warlingham, CR6 9PE** - From noon onwards – lunch to be served at 12.30pm

This annual event is becoming more popular. Starting a few years ago with just half-a-dozen or so, last year it attracted over 30 ex-pupils, despite the passing years! The last seventy years passed like a flash as fond childhood reminiscences were exchanged. A stoic generation indeed.

For those wishing to attend this year's event, a menu will be sent to you nearer the time so you can order your dining requirements beforehand.

For more information please contact Jill Maynard

Email: [jill.m.maynard@gmail.com](mailto:jill.m.maynard@gmail.com) Phone: 020 8657 3858

~~

## **'HOLIDAY at HOME' AT SELSDON BAPTIST CHURCH**

Once again Selsdon Baptist Church is hosting a 'Holiday at Home' for Selsdon Seniors. This year our theme is 'Wonderful Wales' and it will be held at the Church and in the Halls from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July, on alternate days, through to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August.

Many Selsdon Seniors have attended over past years and it is ideal for those who cannot get away on a proper holiday. Come and enjoy being waited for morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea. There is also the opportunity if you wish, to be active with quizzes, crafts and puzzles or maybe you would prefer to simply relax.

Music will also feature in our programme this year

If you would like to attend or would like to know more, please contact the Church Office on 020 8651 4308 to apply for a booking form. Places are limited so do not delay!

We hope to see you there

The H@H Team at Selsdon Baptist Church

~~

## **SANDERSTEAD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**

SLHG meetings All Saints Church hall at 2pm. The hall is on bus routes and there is a free car park. Small fee of £2 each visit to cover hall and refreshments - no annual fee. All welcome

**June 26 - Secrets of the Bayeux Tapestry** - Phil Revnell

**July 31 - Roman Road - discovering the route from Farleigh to Beckenham** - Frank Mercer

Contact Joyce Hoad (Chair) [joycehoad@virginmedia.com](mailto:joycehoad@virginmedia.com)

or [chris.harman@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:chris.harman@tiscali.co.uk)

~~

## **CATERHAM ART GROUP - EXHIBITION AND SALE OF PAINTINGS**

Our annual exhibition is on at the United Reformed Church, Harestone Hill, Caterham, CR3 6SX, on Friday 26 July-10am to 5pm, Saturday 27 July - 10am to 5pm and Sunday 28 July - 11.30am to 4pm. Free admission and easy local parking, refreshments available.

Come and see this display of our Artists' exciting new and original artwork in a variety of subjects, styles and media. Also for sale a large selection of unframed paintings, prints and cards. We look forward to welcoming you.

For more information about our activities or joining the group, please visit:

[www.caterhamartgroup.org.uk](http://www.caterhamartgroup.org.uk) **FACEBOOK - Caterham Art Group**

~~

## **MUSIC EVENTS FROM THE PHOENIX COLLECTIVE-SAVE THE DATES!**

- ▷ Do you write songs? Are you a singer or choir leader who would like some help arranging a piece to sing? If so, put this date in your diary! The Selsdon-based Phoenix Collective are excited to announce a visit by American a cappella expert Chris Rupp (founder of the NBC Sing-Off winners, Home Free), on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Chris will work with individuals or groups on aspects of song-writing and a cappella arranging.
- ▷ Are you a primary class teacher wanting to learn how to teach music? Are you a primary music specialist looking to refresh your practice with new ideas and insights? If so, come to the 'Music in the Primary Classroom' course on 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> October 2019! This is hosted by Selsdon Resident Cyrilla Rowsell (author of the Jolly Music series) and Gerard Klaassens, a creative music educator from The Netherlands.

More details to follow but **SAVE THE DATES NOW!**

[www.the.phoenixcollective.co.uk](http://www.the.phoenixcollective.co.uk)

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[admin@selsdonprimary.org.uk](mailto:admin@selsdonprimary.org.uk)

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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.

**Heather Govier, Editor**

~~

**9<sup>th</sup> May**

Dear Customer Re: Retirement

We are writing to inform you that after 35 years of running Tudor Library, we have made the decision as a family that the time is now right for Mr and Mrs Patel to retire. We are proud of our association with Selsdon and the local community, and it has been a pleasure to get to know all of you, customers old and new.

We have wanted to make sure that as a business, Tudor Library continues to support Selsdon and our local community, and are delighted to have sold the business to Mr and Mrs Shah, whom we believe are the right fit for the business and will continue to run Tudor Library and care for the community.

We hope to make the transition as smooth as possible, and the services that we provide will remain uninterrupted. We shall be around for the next month helping the new owners settle in and look forward to seeing many of you.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our customers and friends, for your continued support, and will fondly remember our years running Tudor Library and supporting Selsdon.

Kind regards.

***Mr Natubhai R Patel Mrs Urmila N Patel***

***Mr Jitesh N Patel Mrs Heena J Patel***

Editor's Note - This is the letter sent by the Patels to registered customers which was forwarded to me by Frank Kippin. The Patels gave permission for me to reproduce the letter here adding: We have had an amazing time in Selsdon, and will be

remaining in South Croydon so will hopefully continue to meet many of our customers and friends, just on the other side of the counter! It has been an emotional week, and we have been very touched by all of the well wishes, flowers, letters and cards we have received.

~~

**2<sup>nd</sup> May**

Dear Heather,

I received the April issue today and here I am again talking again about the owner of the former Selsdon Park Hotel, just a month after our previous correspondence.

Allan Sanderson opened the original hotel in 1925, oversaw the building of several extensions and managed the business until he handed the reins to his son, Basil, in 1960, as it remained the family business until 1997, I believe it's reasonable to assume that the painting was of their two dogs. Dogs played a significant part in the Sandersons' lives as they also operated three greyhound tracks, raced several dogs, and employed three greyhound kennel girls.

When I worked at the hotel in 1951/52 it was quite usual to see two large dogs meandering around the public areas (but never in the restaurant); sometimes one would adopt an armchair. I couldn't identify the breed but they were not Labradors.

Unlike you, Heather, I can't remember noticing the painting because I was always too busy scurrying between the floors as a room service waiter. However I can corroborate your account of the dogs relaxing by the fireplace. If you are referring to events after 1960, it would indicate that the doggy tradition was maintained after Basil Sanderson took over from his father.

That's all I can offer on this subject.

Sincerely, ***Michael***

**Editor's Note** - I'm certainly talking post 1960 when they had the Labs by the fire and when I saw the painting. I did not move in to this area until 1975. In 1960 I was still wandering the hills of the Peak District!!!

~~

**7 May**

Hi Heather,

Further to earlier correspondence (letter published in the May Gazette) I today received a letter explaining why my claim for damage to my cycle has been rejected.

Apparently, a defect to the surface on the highway has to be at least 40mm deep. As you can imagine, 40mm to a cycle tyre can be catastrophic. My road cycle tyres are quite narrow, of which 6mm is in contact to the road surface.

They also state in the letter that the defect had not been reported previously, whereas as we all know the state of this road has been subject to examination before.

To be honest, the claim I made (which was less than £30.00) is not important, but more as a principle.

My offer still stands; perhaps Mr Tony Marchant or Lyndon Jones (the people that dealt with my claim), would like to take up the challenge to cycle with me one morning along Farley Road.

***Terry Maher***

~~

**13 May**

Dear Heather,

I have read the correspondence about the bins and I hope the others have had more success than I. Since the introduction of the bins nearly a year ago I have repeatedly requested for them to remove the blue wheelie bin for exactly the same reasons. I was promised that a surveyor would come and evaluate the property. This person never made an appearance.

Losing interest as clearly the council didn't want to be bothered, I let the matter rest until this year...

Earlier this year it was suggested I contact our Councillor about the matter so thought it be worth having another go. This resulted in 17 emails between the Councillor, myself and Kate O'Brien for the Council. Kate was very helpful and appeared to be making

progress. It then became a music hall joke.

I received an email stating that the bins have been removed and replaced with boxes; this is not what I asked for. The funny thing is that this didn't happen at my house so I don't know where they went. I was also told that a surveyor had evaluated our property and agreed that the bin should be collected, but certainly nobody made contact with us.

I emailed Kate explaining that that didn't occur. I then received further emails asking me to confirm which wheelie bins and boxes I wanted to keep for use.

I have explained this in so many emails and letters over the last 11 months that I finally have given up and will probably do what the councillor suggested, i.e. take it round to the dump, and not what I threatened, which was to cut it up for recycling.

***D. Redrupp***

~~

**17 May**

Hi Heather,

I wanted to get in touch to highlight just how badly the 433 bus has deteriorated this year.

I don't know what's changed but I've lost count how many times I've waited more than half an hour when going to and from work, when they are supposed to run every eight to ten minutes. I've got in touch with Abelio, the company that runs the 'service' (I use that term loosely) and they have passed my complaint to the Department for Transport (DFT) but neither have come back to me with any information.

I wanted to see if anyone else knew what's happened and whether they have heard anything from Abelio or the DFT? It cannot continue like this, and seeing as the 433 is the only bus to service Selsdon Vale, The Ridge, and Forestdale, this decline needs to be nipped in the bud. I'd be interested to hear from other Selsdon residents.

Regards, ***Tim Jopling***

~~

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## **A SELECTED LIST OF SELSDON ORGANISATIONS**

The information provided is, we hope, accurate, but we cannot take any responsibility for any mistakes. Any alterations should be sent to the Editor, as well as contact details of any organisation omitted.

### **CHURCHES**

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

### **DOCTORS, DENTISTS & EMERGENCY CARE**

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

### **CLUBS, GROUPS & CHARITIES**

|                                                                                                                               |                                                                           |               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| CONTACT (neighbourhood care)                                                                                                  | Andy Stranack                                                             | 8651 4944     |
| Selsdon Centre for the Retired                                                                                                | Craig Anderson                                                            | 8651 1111     |
| Croydon Hearing Resource Centre                                                                                               | Office                                                                    | 8686 0049     |
| Bourne Society                                                                                                                | Roger Packham                                                             | 01883 349287  |
| Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society                                                                                  | Brian Lancaster                                                           | 8668 6909     |
| Croydon Recorded Music Society                                                                                                | Liz Brereton                                                              | 8656 7382     |
| Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind                                                                                   |                                                                           | 8668 2486     |
| Cruse Bereavement Care Helpline                                                                                               |                                                                           | 8916 0855     |
| Friends of Littleheath Woods                                                                                                  | Ian Leggatt                                                               | 8651 1140     |
| Friends of Selsdon Wood                                                                                                       | Heather Govier                                                            | 8657 0423     |
| Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section                                                                                   |                                                                           |               |
| Girlguiding UK: <a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved.aspx">http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved.aspx</a> |                                                                           | 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 Club of Croydon South                                                                                                  | Wendy A Parr                                                              | 07774 186792  |
| Probus Club of Croydon South                                                                                                  | John Barker                                                               | 8657 2093     |
| St John's Dramatic Society                                                                                                    | Caryl Rapps                                                               | 8651 1326     |
| St John's Wives                                                                                                               | Jane Guglielmi                                                            | 8657 6672     |
| Sanderstead Plantation Partners                                                                                               | Michael Lishmund                                                          | 020 8651 2760 |
| 1st Selsdon & Addington Scout Group:                                                                                          | Website: <a href="http://www.1stselsdon.org.uk">www.1stselsdon.org.uk</a> |               |
| Beaver Colony (6-8yrs)                                                                                                        | Maddie Dunn                                                               | 07703 531652  |
| Cub Pack (8-10yrs)                                                                                                            | Louise Baker                                                              | 07737 404668  |
| Scouts Troop (10-14yrs)                                                                                                       | Douglas Gordon                                                            | 07514 651711  |
| Croham Valley Explorers                                                                                                       | Anthony Woodin                                                            | 020 8651 3780 |
| Selsdon Art Group                                                                                                             | Mrs S Hooper                                                              | 07973 412952  |
| Selsdon Bridge Club                                                                                                           | Tony Cherrett                                                             | 01883 730304  |
| Selsdon Camera Club                                                                                                           | Roy Stansbury                                                             | 8657 5131     |
| Selsdon Community Hall                                                                                                        | Tim Potter (Centre Manager)                                               | 8657 4300     |
| Selsdon Afternoon Townswomen's Guild                                                                                          | Elizabeth Veasey                                                          | 8657 1092     |
| Selsdon Floral Club                                                                                                           | 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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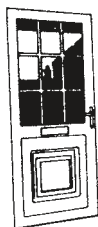
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