

# The Selsdon — Gazette —

Volume 75, No. 846

March 2023



# THE SELSDON GAZETTE

**Editor:** [selsdongazettesra@gmail.com](mailto:selsdongazettesra@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.selsdon-residents.co.uk](http://www.selsdon-residents.co.uk)

**Advertising Enquiries:** Carlo Rappa, [selsdon.adverts@gmail.com](mailto:selsdon.adverts@gmail.com)

**Gazette Finance Manager:** Jenny Bradley, [sragazettejb@gmail.com](mailto:sragazettejb@gmail.com)

**Distribution:** Enquiries to Phil Roberts, [pjsroberts@hotmail.com](mailto:pjsroberts@hotmail.com) 07511 431207

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There is no August Gazette.

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

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**Front cover image credit:** Jubilee trees are planted in Selsdon Recreation Park by the SRA.

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# **SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com

## ***Executive Committee 2022/2023***

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Vice-Chair: Linda Morris  
Secretary: Trevor Stotten  
Hon. Treasurer: Iris Jones  
Committee: Yvonne Huber  
Ernie Sweeney  
Su Yates  
Peter Underwood  
Ian Leggatt  
Phil Roberts  
Jenny Stawman  
Arthur Wilson  
Janet Sharp  
Chris Jones

### ***Councillors for Selsdon & Addington Village Ward***

Cllr Robert Ward Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk 07783 152363  
Cllr Joseph Lee Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk

### ***Councillors for Selsdon Vale & Forestdale Ward***

Cllr Andy Stranack Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk 07816 123204  
Cllr Fatima Zaman Fatima.zaman@croydon.gov.uk

### ***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 Helen Redfern Helen.redfern@croydon.gov.uk

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



## Editor's Note

Welcome to the March edition of the Gazette. There seems to be a lot of depressing news at the moment with the rise in the cost-of-living, the planned ULEZ expansion and the expected hike in council tax for next year and so, it is good to hear from so many local groups catering for many interests and offering friendship. In this gazette we have information from the Croydon Camera Club, the Croydon RSPB group, the Sanderstead's Women's Institute, a Craft Get Together at Selsdon Baptist Church, the monthly Craft market at the Community Hall, the AGM and Spring Walk of the Friends of Littleheath Woods, the Shirley Singers, Contact and the Selsdon Centre for the Retired!

We have local news both past and present, with a look at the small holdings before the Selsdon Vale was built and the current redevelopment of the Selsdon Estate. There is advice for getting your paperwork and affairs in order, information about whether you are eligible for a discount or support with your council tax and the scrappage scheme for ULEZ non-compliant cars.

Ted's Nature Notes this month takes a look at the migratory birds that we might notice, Mary Gill's poem reflects on the tranquillity of a flowing stream, the Gardening tips gives us jobs to do in March and this month's quiz is celebrating International Women's Day happening in March.

With the AGM for the SRA set for Wednesday 29 March we have included the agenda for the meeting and the summary of the financial accounts for the SRA, including the Gazette. The SRA would love as many residents as possible to join them for the AGM, so please put the date in your diary and come along for a chat over a drink and nibbles.

Finally, my usual plea for you to contact me with any photos, articles, news, questions, feedback, etc. The Gazette is richer and more relevant when I hear from local residents about issues that are affecting them, and to keep the gazette on a sound financial footing, if you know of any businesses who might want to advertise in the Gazette which is delivered to 4000 households in Selsdon, please direct them to our Advertising manager, Carlo ([selsdon.adverts@gmail.com](mailto:selsdon.adverts@gmail.com)).

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

**Chris Jones**

☞ SUBMISSIONS FOR THE APRIL 2023 EDITION SHOULD  
BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN  
20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH - PREFERABLY BEFORE! ☞

## SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS

### **Birch (Selsdon)**

Birch (Selsdon) is due to start taking reservations from 29<sup>th</sup> March. They have been invited to give a presentation at our AGM, coincidentally also on that date. It will be good to hear more from them, hopefully at our AGM. In the meantime, 'Inside Croydon' have had this message from them about the cessation of access for the public to walk there.... *"Soon, we will begin to enclose the space as we transition the golf course into a wildland with free roaming cattle, pigs and horses, and an abundance of natural habitats. Keeping our animals and the public safe is our priority, so access is now no longer permitted, and once the fence has been erected, it must not be crossed. This is a privately owned estate with no public right of way. Should you still wish to continue to enjoy access to the estate, we will soon be publishing details of how to join Birch (Selsdon)."* We have heard that membership is £150 per month – not sure if that is single membership or for a family, though!



### **Trees in Selsdon Recreation Park**

The SRA has planted three trees in the Selsdon Recreation Park to commemorate last year's Jubilee and the forthcoming Coronation. Two (a copper beech and a sweet chestnut) were grown by a resident and another sweet chestnut was re-homed from the Wilderness heritage garden in Shirley as it was surplus to requirements there. If you walk through the Rec, please take a bottle of water to give them a drink. We hope people living near them and the nursery school will also nurture them, especially in those long hot days of summer we are all looking forward to.

## **Spring Clean Selsdon on 25<sup>th</sup> March**

Please come along to support the litter pick being arranged again by Andrew Baxter on Saturday 25 March. Meet at the clock at 9.45-10am to pick up litter pick tools and bags but please bring your protective gloves so you can pick up broken glass etc. safely. Thank you in advance to those who come and to all our other litter pickers who carry out this work at other times and in other locations in the area.

## **Dick Adamson**

Sadly, we heard too late to be able to include in this issue a tribute to Dick, our Honorary President, had died in December. He had lived in Dulverton Road for 67 years before moving in September, with his wife to be closer to their family in Daventry. We hope to gather more information about him to put an obituary in the next issue of the Gazette. Please let me know if you have anything that would help with that.

## **AGM**

Please do come along to the AGM on 29<sup>th</sup> March (7.45pm for 8pm) to support us in our work. The majority of the committee are willing to stand again but it would be good to be able to welcome some new members “to learn the ropes”. We certainly need to know we have some people who can take over as some of the committee feel that soon they will have to stand down after so many years in the service of Selsdon residents. Remember to bring your February (Minutes of the AGM 2022 and the Annual Report of the SRA 2022) and March (Financial accounts) Gazettes with you to the AGM so you can refer to the relevant papers. Looking forward to seeing you on 25<sup>th</sup> and / or 29<sup>th</sup> – and to welcoming Sheila back by then, as it is time, she had her turn to write the News again!

***Linda Morris, Vice Chair***



**SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION - Annual General Meeting**  
**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 8pm**  
**@ St John's Church Hall, Upper Selsdon Road**

*This is a chance for residents to tell the SRA directly  
what more there is you would like us to try to do for Selsdon.*

**PLEASE COME ALONG** (and perhaps bring a neighbour too) to show us your continuing support and to enjoy a drink and a chat after the business part of the meeting is over.

Mark the date on your calendar now so you don't forget!

**There will be elections for the Officers and Committee Members**  
***Are you interested in standing for election?***

If you want to find out more, please call Sheila Childs (Chair) on 020 8651 2285 or Linda Morris (Vice Chair) on 020 8651 4010  
or email [\*\*mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com)

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. \*Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. \*Annual Report for 2022
5. Hon. Treasurer's Report with the adoption of the \*accounts for 2022
6. Police report
7. Editor's report – The Selsdon Gazette
8. Christmas Lights
9. Annual Subscription - to resolve the cost per household for 2023/24 (proposed to remain unchanged at £5 per household)
10. Election of Officers and Members of the Committee for 2023/2024
11. Adoption of the Hon. Accounts Reviewer for 2023
12. Any Other Business

*\*The relevant documents for these items should be in the February and March Gazettes so please remember to bring your copies with you.*



**SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION/GAZETTE CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

**Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Years Ended 31 December**

**SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

|   | Notes                | 2022<br>£      | 2021<br>£      | 2020<br>£     | 2019<br>£     |
|---|----------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>   |                      |                |                |               |               |
| Subscriptions   |                      | 3,430          | 3,508          | 3,962         | 2,415         |
| Christmas Lights  | Residents' Donations | 4,483          | 4,136          | 4,574         | 3,106         |
|   | Traders' Donations   | 855            | 458            | 915           | 1,028         |
|   | Collections          | 486            | 298            | 76            | 199           |
| Croydon Council   |                      | 0              | 0              | 2,000         | 4,500         |
| Nationwide Building Society Interest                                    |                      | 159            | 85             | 37            | 37            |
| <b>Total Income</b>   |                      | <b>9,423</b>   | <b>8,485</b>   | <b>11,564</b> | <b>11,284</b> |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>  |                      |                |                |               |               |
| Insurance   |                      | 280            | 370            | 370           | 370           |
| Hire of Halls   |                      | 35             | 35             | 60            | 483           |
| Printing via Gazette Printers   |                      | 45             | 734            | 0             | 0             |
| Stationery, Postage and Sundries (2021 includes Subscription Envelopes) |                      | 1,184          | 534            | 156           | 138           |
| Christmas Lights  |                      | 8,993          | 7,760          | 9,184         | 10,041        |
| Hanging Baskets   |                      | 215            | 162            | 198           | 0             |
| Provisions for Costs of Council Street Barriers                         | (1)                  | 500            | 500            | 0             | 0             |
| Donations   |                      | 0              | 200            | 500           | 0             |
| Subscriptions   |                      | 141            | 212            | 18            | 128           |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>  |                      | <b>11,393</b>  | <b>10,507</b>  | <b>10,486</b> | <b>11,160</b> |
| <b>(Deficit)/Surplus of Income Over Expenditure</b>                     |                      | <b>(1,970)</b> | <b>(2,022)</b> | <b>1,078</b>  | <b>125</b>    |

**SELSDON GAZETTE ACCOUNTS**

|  |  | £              | £             | £             | £              |
|--|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| <b>Income</b>  |  |                |               |               |                |
| Advertising Income                                     |  | 15,370         | 15,748        | 13,267        | 14,403         |
| Bank Account Interest                                  |  | 105            | 27            | 67            | 114            |
| Subscriptions  |  | 175            | 195           | 110           | 179            |
| <b>Total Income</b>                                    |  | <b>15,650</b>  | <b>15,970</b> | <b>13,444</b> | <b>14,696</b>  |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                                     |  |                |               |               |                |
| Gazette and Leaflets                                   |  | 16,769         | 15,583        | 11,644        | 17,813         |
| Reimbursement from Residents' Association for Leaflets |  | 0              | (734)         | 0             | 0              |
| Postage and Sundries                                   |  | 54             | 120           | 270           | 120            |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>                               |  | <b>16,823</b>  | <b>14,969</b> | <b>11,914</b> | <b>17,933</b>  |
| <b>(Deficit)/Surplus of Income Over Expenditure</b>    |  | <b>(1,173)</b> | <b>1,001</b>  | <b>1,530</b>  | <b>(3,238)</b> |

**SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION/GAZETTE CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

**Balance Sheets as at 31st December**

|  | SRA<br>2022<br>£ | GAZ<br>2022<br>£ | TOTAL<br>2022<br>£ | SRA<br>2021<br>£ | GAZ<br>2021<br>£ | TOTAL<br>2021<br>£ | SRA<br>2020<br>£ | GAZ<br>2020<br>£ | TOTAL<br>2020<br>£ |
|--|------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                                  |                  |                  |                    |                  |                  |                    |                  |                  |                    |
| General Account at Nationwide Building Society | 36,912           |                  | 36,912             | 36,799           |                  | 36,799             | 36,793           |                  | 36,793             |
| Gazette Account at Yorkshire Building Society  |                  | 22,191           | 22,191             |                  | 23,251           | 23,251             |                  | 22,034           | 22,034             |
| Cash at Bank - General Account                 | 8,448            |                  | 8,448              | 10,017           |                  | 10,017             | 11,658           |                  | 11,658             |
| Nationwide Account Interest Due                | 125              |                  | 125                | 80               |                  | 80                 |                  |                  | 0                  |
| Late Trader Contribution                       | 100              |                  | 100                | 0                |                  | 0                  |                  |                  | 0                  |
| Petty Cash in Hand - General Account           | 38               |                  | 38                 | 77               |                  | 77                 | 34               |                  | 34                 |
|  | 46,623           | 22,191           | 67,814             | 46,973           | 23,251           | 70,224             | 48,485           | 22,034           | 70,519             |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                             |                  |                  |                    |                  |                  |                    |                  |                  |                    |
| Council Barriers (estimated)                   | (1,000)          |                  | (1,000)            | (500)            |                  | (500)              | 0                |                  | 0                  |
| Electricity for Christmas Lights (estimated)   | (420)            |                  | (420)              | (300)            |                  | (300)              | (290)            |                  | (290)              |
| Gazette advertising paid in advance            |                  | (6,894)          | (6,894)            |                  | (6,781)          | (6,781)            |                  | (6,565)          | (6,565)            |
|  | (1,420)          | (6,894)          | (8,314)            | (800)            | (6,781)          | (7,581)            | (290)            | (6,565)          | (6,855)            |
| <b>NET ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES</b>             | <b>44,203</b>    | <b>15,297</b>    | <b>59,500</b>      | <b>46,173</b>    | <b>16,470</b>    | <b>62,643</b>      | <b>48,195</b>    | <b>15,469</b>    | <b>63,664</b>      |
| <b>Accumulated Fund</b>                        |                  |                  |                    |                  |                  |                    |                  |                  |                    |
| Accumulated Fund brought forward               | 46,173           | 16,470           | 62,643             | 48,195           | 15,469           | 63,664             | 47,117           | 13,939           | 61,056             |
| Add Surplus/Less (Deficit) - Gazette Account   |                  | (1,173)          | (1,173)            |                  | 1,001            | 1,001              |                  | 1,530            | 1,530              |
| Add Surplus/Less (Deficit) - General Account   | (1,970)          |                  | (1,970)            | (2,022)          |                  | (2,022)            | 1,078            |                  | 1,078              |
| <b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b>                        | <b>44,203</b>    | <b>15,297</b>    | <b>59,500</b>      | <b>46,173</b>    | <b>16,470</b>    | <b>62,643</b>      | <b>48,195</b>    | <b>15,469</b>    | <b>63,664</b>      |

I confirm that the above Income & Expenditure Accounts and Balance Sheets are a true and fair representation of the transactions of the Selsdon Residents' Association and the Selsdon Gazette for the years ended 31 December and of their respective assets and liabilities as at those dates.

Note 1: For 2021, a provision was made in the Accounts for the estimated cost of barriers erected by the Council for the Christmas event in Selsdon High Street. No invoice was received during 2022 and no payment made. The event was repeated in 2022 and a second provision, for the same sum, made as a prudent measure pending any invoices being received.

Jeff Bayton CPFA (Retired) - Hon. Accounts Reviewer

28/01/2023

# **COUNCILLORS' NOTES**

## **COUNCIL TAX**

As residents are probably aware the government has given permission for Croydon Council to increase Council Tax by 10% more than other Councils without requiring a referendum. This will mean a total council tax increase of 14.99 per cent this year. The Council's budget, which includes the rise will be approved in early March. There are schemes to protect the most vulnerable.

This very regrettable increase is due to the bankruptcy of the Council caused by the previous administration. It is a one-off to bring the Council finances back on a sustainable basis. In future years there is no intention for there to be any increase beyond the government cap. The Council is also in negotiation with the government on solutions to the Council's unsustainable £1.6 billion of debt.

## **THE PENN REPORT**

The long-awaited Penn Report into how the Council got into financial difficulties will be considered at a meeting on 23rd February and hopefully published soon thereafter. The Kroll report into financial irregularities related to the Fairfield Halls refurbishment, will be considered at a meeting on 23rd March. Dependent on the content of these reports, referrals to the Police and/or to professional bodies may follow.

## **ULTRA LOW EMISSION ZONE ('ULEZ')**

The Mayor of London has announced that he wants to extend the ULEZ across all London boroughs, including Croydon, from Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023. The Mayor of Croydon, Jason Perry, has declined to authorise the signature of an agreement which would enable the GLA to install cameras on Council property.

Several other outer London boroughs have launched a judicial review of Mayor Khan's decision. Croydon is unable to join them due to financial constraints.

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## **SELSDON GARAGE SITE**

A revised planning application has been submitted which can be found on the Council's planning website as application 21/04116/FUL. The configuration has been slightly changed and the number of flats has been reduced from 37 to 35. Residents can comment on the proposal on the website up until 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

## **THE CORONATION BIG LUNCH**

It was great to see so many families, friends and neighbours across Croydon come together to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee last year, with more than 140 Big Lunch Street parties held in our borough over the bank holiday weekend. In May we will celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. If you want to hold a street party, you can apply to the council now for a temporary road closure, free of charge.

## **CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS**

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

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

### **Selsdon and Addington Village**

[Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk)

[Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk)

### **Selsdon Vale and Forestdale**

[Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk)

[Fatima.zaman@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Fatima.zaman@croydon.gov.uk)

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

23/00456/LP – 304 Addington Road South Croydon CR2 8LF  
Hip to gable loft extension with construction of a rear dormer.

22/05234/HSE – 7 Littleheath Road South Croydon CR2 7SH

Erection of patio platform and replacement of boundary wall with associated works (retrospective application)  
23/00360/HSE – 30 Littleheath Road South Croydon CR2 7SA  
Alterations to front elevation to include single/two front/side extension and single storey rear extension. Installation of rooflights in front and rear roof slopes.

23/00303/LP – 48 Littleheath Road South Croydon CR2 7SB  
New front porch and solar panels to front and side roof; conversion of garage to habitable space

23/00454/FUL – Hallinwood Bungalow 46 Quail Gardens South Croydon CR2 8TF

Demolition of existing property and the erection of 7 dwellings with shared access from Quail Gardens, along with amenity space, drainage, infrastructure and other associated works.

23/00087/FUL – 54-56 Selsdon Park Road South Croydon CR2 8JD  
Demolition of existing day nursery buildings (Use Class E(f)) and the erection of two four storey buildings comprising 23 residential apartments (Use Class C3), utilising the existing access off Selsdon Park Road, with associated parking provision, cycle/refuse store and communal/private amenity spaces

*(Remember that you can use this website to view planning applications  
[http://www.localplanningapps.co.uk/croydon/sra/anupdate/planning table.html](http://www.localplanningapps.co.uk/croydon/sra/anupdate/planning%20table.html))*

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## **MP Chris Philp's Report** **Member of Parliament for Croydon South**



### **New NHS trial to free up hospital beds in Croydon**

The winter period is always challenging for the NHS and social care, and it is particularly challenging this year because flu is in high circulation. It has therefore never been more important to get people out of hospital on time – to benefit patients and help our fantastic NHS staff make space for those who need urgent care.

That's why I am delighted to confirm that Croydon is one of just six areas

in the country selected by the Government to benefit from a trial of new innovative solutions to free up hospital beds, make sure patients are getting the right care at the right time and allow ambulances to get back on the road quicker.

As part of the trial, One Croydon Alliance will pilot the use of a fully integrated team between acute and community, an integrated IT system, integrated financial systems and integrated leadership, and improve coordination between hospitals and community care settings like rehabilitation services.

In total, up to £14.1 billion additional funding will be invested by the Government nationwide over the next two years to improve urgent and emergency care and tackle the backlog in the NHS – the highest spend on health and care in this country's history. This is all great news for local residents and will support the work I have been doing with local NHS leaders to get extra capacity provided across Croydon South, which has already led the creation of a new elective operations centre at Purley Hospital and will eventually see the old CALAT site in Coulsdon developed into medical facilities.

### **Development of Selsdon Park Hotel**

It was fantastic to recently be involved in discussions about the exciting plans for the development of Selsdon Park Hotel. I understand that once completed, Selsdon Park Hotel will contain almost 200 bedrooms, a lido, a wellness space, a co-working hub, activity studios, several communal spaces, three bars and two restaurants fronted by reputable chefs who place a strong emphasis on using home grown and local produce. Alongside this, the grounds are also set to include art studios, an arcade, a kids' club, as well as running and cycling trails.

I wish the owners of Selsdon Park Hotel every success in their new venture, which looks set to be a fantastic local amenity benefitting Selsdon residents and beyond.

***Chris Philp***

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

[chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk)

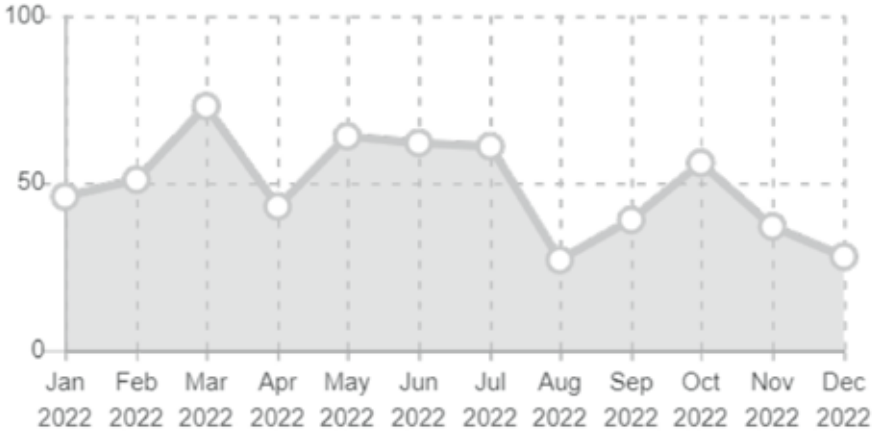


# Statistics from Local Police Wards December 2022

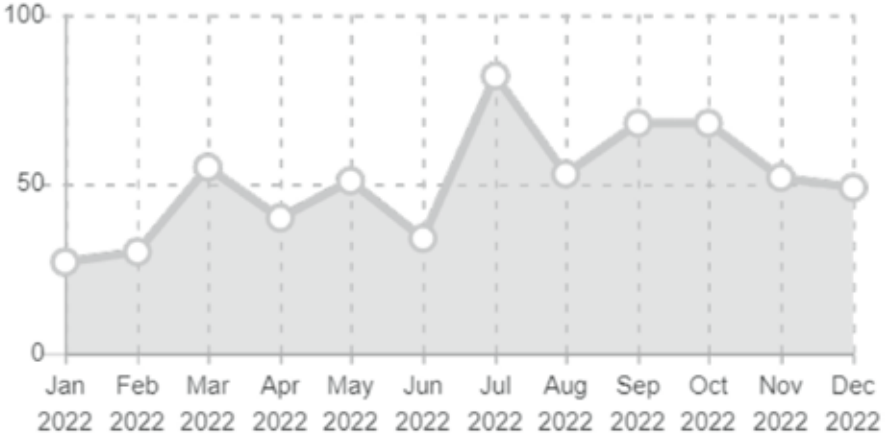
Here are the number of the top crimes reported during December 2022 for our local police wards.

| Crime                        | Selsdon and Addington Village | Selsdon Vale and Forestdale Village |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Violence and sexual offences | 8                             | 15                                  |
| Anti-social behaviour        | 5                             | 9                                   |
| Vehicle crime                | 5                             | 8                                   |
| Public order                 |                               | 4                                   |
| Burglary                     | 2                             |                                     |

Selsdon and Addington Village – Crimes per month



Selsdon Vale and Forestdale – Crimes per month



Selsdon and Addington Village SNT    Selsdon Vale and Forestdale SNT  
Tina Nash 7287SN PCSO                      PC Andrew Vincent  
Tel: 0208 721 2468                              Tel: 020 8721 2464  
Address: Addington Police Station, Addington Village Road, CR0 5AQ  
[SNMailbox-SelsdonandAddingtonVillageSNT@met.police.uk](mailto:SNMailbox-SelsdonandAddingtonVillageSNT@met.police.uk)  
[SNMailbox-SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk](mailto:SNMailbox-SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk)

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## A Good Time for Gardening – March

Spring should definitely be evident by now. It's just wonderful how these early plants cope with such extremes of temperature.

Take time, before the plants start growing vigorously, to tidy up flower beds and borders. Especially keep an eye on the weeds, as they seem to start growing earlier than everything else in the garden. Make this a general tidy up, removing leaves and other debris. Old growth on grasses etc can be cut back, or these can be left for the wildlife to use. The sparrows love bits of pampas grass to line their nests.

Make sure that greenhouses are clean and ready for any seedling and cuttings. The cleaner the glass is, the more light that will be let in, as well as removing homes for potential pests and disease. Washing pots and seed trays also helps to prevent disease. Allow the breeze to waft through the greenhouse for a few days after this, so it dries thoroughly.



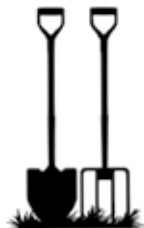
Time to go on a bug hunt ... look closely at the crowns of plants and check for slugs, snails and other beasties sheltering there for the winter ... all ready to munch on the new tender shoots over the next few weeks.

Consider installing a water butt to make the most of any rainfall. This is the best type of water for plants, especially camellias and blueberries.

When there is a little bit of warmth in the sunshine it is the ideal time to check fence panels, gates and trellises for any signs of damage. Fixing now will stop the weight of growing plants bringing these down and also, they are easier to access should you be treating them with preservative.

Also check over the garden tools. Make sure they are clean and sharp. This will help to preserve them and help prevent the spread of disease. Remember to include secateurs in this cleaning task. Once clean and sharp, spray with WD40.

***Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid***  
**[www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](http://www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk)**



## Distributors and Deliverers Needed



Many thanks to those who came forward in my last appeal for helpers in the distribution of the Selsdon Gazette. For those who stepped up and you have not heard from me regarding a round, you have not been forgotten about.

We are still, however, specifically looking for 2 distributors to cover the Selsdon Vale area. This involves collecting boxes of the Gazette (therefore a car driver is essential) from me and distributing them to our delivery volunteers. This will entail about 8 drops so about 30 minutes of time per month.

We are also looking for a deliverer to cover Abercorn Close. So, if you live in the area and can spare a little time each month, please get in touch with me.

I can be contacted on 07511 431207 or email me [pjsroberts@hotmail.com](mailto:pjsroberts@hotmail.com)

***Many thanks Phil Roberts, Distribution Manager***

~~

*The Honorary Vice President of the SRA, Ray Rowsell, passed away at the end of last year. Selsdon was very dear to his heart and he did so much for his community over the years. His 'Roundabout' column in the Gazette and the 'Rowsell Chronicles' were things he loved doing and were so enjoyed by many. His daughter, Cyrilla, has kindly offered to write an obituary for him in two parts.*

## Obituary Part I, Ray Rowsell 1928-2022



Our dad was born on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 1928, in Wrights Road, South Norwood. He was, to all intents and purposes, an only child. He had a much

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older half-sister Elsie – and he knew of another half-sister, Iris, who was illegitimate. His mum was quite a girl! She married three times – her first husband died very young while she was expecting Elsie. Her second husband died in February 1928 – in April of that year she married my grandfather (he was 26, she was 43) and in the July Pa was born! Doing some family research recently, I discovered, through DNA ancestry, Iris's offspring and also the fact that my grandmother had had a second illegitimate daughter by the same father, that we knew nothing about. Amazing for my dad to discover this so late in his life.

His childhood wasn't great – he was fostered out at one point, when his dad left the home to be with a 15-year-old (it was in the papers!). He had vivid recollections of his father waking him up to see the Crystal Palace burn down on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1936.

When my grandad returned, they decided to move to Selsdon, which was then a very new development. In 1938 when Pa was nine, they moved to 2 York Road. He said it was a whole new world – being in the countryside!

Pa remembered my gran packing sandwiches and a drink and, at the age of around 12, he would go off on his bike for whole days – including down to Brighton and back! He also played cricket on Selsdon Recreation Ground, where my grandfather used to umpire, and sang in the choir at St John the Divine in Upper Selsdon Road.

On his explorations he met with the Rhodes family, who lived in and worked one of the many smallholdings that then stood in Selsdon Park Road. Ivy and Henry ran a pig and poultry farm and had two children, Avery and Freddie. Freddie and Pa were the same age and became the best of friends. We still have their journals in which they would write up films they'd seen. Because his home was not the best place to be, Pa spent most of his time with this family and it's where he developed his love of gardening and growing fruit and vegetables.

Pa was stationed at RAF Benson for two years' national service - I'm told that he went in to this experience as a cowed, under confident and reserved young man – but came out changed. It was here that he started his great love affair with the River Thames. He and his comrades would spend any spare time on the river. He became a great fan of Jerome K Jerome, exploring his home village of Ewelme and the surroundings, and was a member of the JKJ Society for many years.

Sadly, in 1946, at the age of 18, Freddie Rhodes died at Mayday Hospital following surgery. After this Pa became very close to Freddie's sister, Avery (six years older than him) and on May 5<sup>th</sup> 1951 they married at St Mary's Addington.

Ivy and Henry gave them some of their land and they had a small two-bedroom bungalow built (6 Selsdon Park Road).

I was born in May 1956 and was all set to be an only child as my mum had been told she couldn't have any more children – but, lo and behold, my adored sister Henrietta appeared on my mum's 43<sup>rd</sup> birthday in 1964.

We had a lovely childhood - collecting warm eggs from under hens, helping to pot up plants, harvesting and selling fruit and vegetables. We found birds' nests in the long hedgerow which grew between our long, long garden and the bridle path, and identified wild flowers with the aid of our Observer's books.

We have fond memories of seaside holidays at Bexhill and Winchelsea – flying kites with Pa, going fishing, exploring rock pools, going to circuses and fairs – and the enormous excitement of going 'abroad' on our first holiday to Wales in 1967.

*To be continued...*

~~

## Life lessons – Get your affairs in order

One of the lessons of life is that we are best to prepare in advance for what is to come. Sadly, we know that we will face illness, old age and death for our loved ones and ourselves at some point. It is something we often prefer not to think about (as though we were 'ill wishing') and therefore put any organisation or planning onto the 'backburner' and think we will deal with it 'when the time comes'. Unfortunately, we can't always know in advance when that will be.

### Wills



Do you have a Will, do you and your loved ones know where it is and is it up-to-date?

A will is a legal document where you say what you want to happen to your money, property and belongings (your estate) when you die. To be legal, a will needs to be prepared and written in the right way. Your will should be easy to find when needed. (A safe and secure way is by lodging your will with the Probate Service.) It is important to update your will when your circumstances change.

Your will is used to:

name your executors (who will manage your financial affairs)

distribute your estate (say who your house, pets, belongings or savings will go to)



provide for children under 18  
reduce inheritance tax

### **Sort out your paperwork**

Your executor/s will need to be able to find all the personal documents and the paperwork and/or passwords relating to your assets. Does your filing system need some work?

### **Funerals**

Understandably, some people find it depressing and unsettling to discuss their funeral before they die. However, even giving your loved ones/ executors a preference on cremation or burial would be very useful, for as soon as a death is registered this choice must be made for the official record. Funerals can also be very expensive so it is worth giving this some forethought.



### **Lasting Power of Attorney**

Sometimes through illness, injury or old age we can no longer care for or manage things for ourselves. You can nominate one or more trusted people to make decisions on your behalf when you are unable to do so. You can create a document ahead of time to activate these decisions when you need it called a 'Lasting Power of Attorney' very easily and relatively cheaply via the Government website. There is one for Property and Financial affairs and another for Health and Welfare. If you are unable to manage your affairs and you don't have a lasting power of attorney in place, your loved ones will have to apply to the courts to have someone appointed to manage your affairs, costing time and money.

Whilst it isn't easy to think about (and action) all of the above it is really important and worthwhile to do so and there are charities and websites that can help you.

Two excellent places for advice on putting your financial affairs in order, wills and what to do when someone dies are:

[MoneyHelper.org.uk](http://MoneyHelper.org.uk)

A new government-approved advice service, providing impartial advice on money and pensions choices free online, phone 0800 138 7777 or face-to-face.

[Citizensadvice.org.uk](http://Citizensadvice.org.uk)

A charity that provides free, independent, confidential and impartial advice, online, phone 0800 144 8848 or face-to-face.

**Janet Sharp**

# Council Tax Discounts and Support

## Sole occupier discount and disregarded persons

If you are the only adult living in your property, you can apply for a sole occupier discount of 25% off your bill. The sole occupier discount can be awarded where there is only one adult over the age of 18 living at the property. This will give a council tax reduction of 25%.



## Who is eligible for this discount

There is usually no discount if 2 or more adults live in your home. However, certain people are not counted because of their circumstances. These people are termed 'disregarded'. If there is only one adult living in the property after we have excluded the 'disregarded' people, you will be entitled to a discount of 25%. If all occupants are disregarded you will be entitled to a 50% discount or possibly an exemption.

## Who is disregarded

The following people are 'disregarded' or 'not counted' when the council works out council tax discounts:

- young people who are 18 years old, if child benefit is still in payment for them
- 18- and 19-year-olds in further education
- recent school or college leavers if they are under 20 years old
- full-time students
- some foreign national spouses and dependents of full-time students
- foreign language assistants
- apprentices
- youth training trainees
- people who are 'severely mentally impaired'
- some carers
- prisoners and other people held in detention
- residents of nursing homes, care homes and some hostels
- members of religious communities, for example nuns and monks
- patients living in hospital long term
- members and their dependents of international headquarters and defence organisations such as NATO
- members of visiting armed forces and their dependants
- foreign diplomats

You can only get this discount based on your normal living situation. You cannot get it if other people usually live with you but are away on a temporary basis. For example, you cannot get this discount for the times when the other residents are on holiday or are working away from home.

### **Disability**

If you or someone you live with has a disability, you may be entitled to a reduction in the amount of council tax you pay. This is called a reduction for disabilities.

### **Council Tax support**

If you're on a low income or receive benefits, you can apply for council tax support to help pay your council tax bill. Your bill could be reduced by up to 100%.

You can apply if:

- you own your home
- you rent
- you are unemployed or working

By using the online benefits calculator you can see how much council tax support you could get ([https://www.croydon.gov.uk/council-tax/Get money your bill](https://www.croydon.gov.uk/council-tax/Get%20money%20your%20bill)).

Or you can phone 020 8726 7000 (Monday – Friday 9am -4pm) or email [Croyhben@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Croyhben@croydon.gov.uk)

~~

## **Selsdon Residents' Association**



Can you please help with a 'Litter Pick' around the shopping area of Addington Road.

Meet at the Selsdon Clock on Saturday 25 March at 9.45-10am where collecting equipment will be provided by the Council.

Please contact Andrew on 07873 587593 or [ambax62@icloud.com](mailto:ambax62@icloud.com) for more information.

## Selsdon Garden Village Trust – Addington Smallholders Ltd

Dear Reader, it is easy to be sucked down into the 'Rabbit Warren of Research' when attempting to put together these monthly missives. After putting to bed, I thought, last month's piece on the origins of our Selsdon Vale, Forestdale and Ashen Vale I stumbled into another rabbit hole, courtesy of Ted Frith's 'Selsdon Journals' and the chance find of another photo of the Selsdon Vale smallholdings.

Ted makes mention several times in his writings of unconnected events surrounding the Selsdon Garden Village Trust (SGVT) and Addington Smallholders Ltd (ASL). Efforts to join the dots have revealed the surprising scale of the smallholder's enterprise:

In 1937, at the AGM of the SGVT, it was recorded that the number of smallholders amounted to some 111. 77 on the Addington Estate (now Forestdale), 29 on Selsdon Vale and 5 on Ashen Vale. 15 acres of land were vacant. On 1st January 1936 the foundation stone had been laid for a Farm House Cafe based at the site of the ASL depot situated at the junction of Featherbed Lane and Selsdon Park Road. The building was designed by Malcolm Sharpe (\*) on the site of a depot and contained a shop with cafe / snack bar, a flat on the 1st floor for the manager, and a small hall at the rear of the property for social gatherings. The ASL had previously sold their produce via an agent, Douglas Turney, and he was appointed Manager of the shop / cafe. In the Census return of 1939, the occupants of The Farm House are listed as Laura and Douglas Turney. Douglas, date of birth 15/6/1889, was single whilst Laura was widowed. Her dob was 28/1/1862 and her occupation is listed as 'Unpaid Domestic Duties'.



Also listed in the 1939 Census as being at the Farm House Cafe were another couple, Daisy and Charles Cressey. Their address is given as The Quantocks which happens to be the name of one of the smallholdings just across the lane from Rensark and The Haven on Selsdon Vale which we learnt of last month.

Plan showing old Selsdon Vale left to right, with approximate path of Sandpiper Road overlaid. Old Farleigh Road on the left. Cluster of buildings to top side of Selsdon Vale are Rensark to the left and The Haven next door. The Quantocks diagonally opposite.

And then, another run of the Rabbit Warren of Research appears: A photo attributed to the 1960s taken from the top of Field 1. Tree lined Old Farleigh Road diagonally top left with the houses of Birdwood Close in the centre running horizontally, just below them is the smallholdings of Rensark to the left and The Haven right clearly showing the animal sheds of Rensark. Centre, left to right, is the tree lined Selsdon Vale down at the valley bottom.



Helen Krasner has confirmed the accuracy of the photo; indeed, it is her only photo of her old home.

### ***Ian Leggatt***

*Thanks once again to the journals of Ted Frith, Helen Krasner and special thanks to Phil Swallow for assistance in some background material. If anyone has any further information re the Farm House Cafe, The Addington Smallholders or memories of Selsdon Vale pre-Bird Estate please get in touch, via the Editor.*

*\* Malcolm Grahame Sharpe, 1868 – 1948, was instrumental in shaping much of modern Croydon in so much as he was a key player in saving many of our green spaces from development. We can thank him for, amongst other places, Croham Hurst, Selsdon Wood, Littleheath Woods, Purley Beeches and Kenley Common.*



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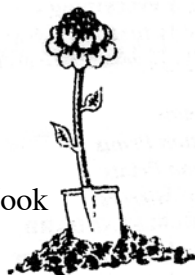
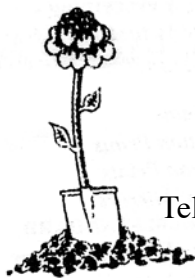
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# Great Women Quiz

March 8 is International Women's Day so here is a quiz to test your knowledge of a few great women.

1. Which novelist wrote Emma and Mansfield Park?
2. With what slogan are Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters associated?
3. Which 19th century English woman campaigned for prison reform?
4. Who was the legendary 19th-century pioneer of women's rights in the British medical profession, in which she qualified and was eventually finally allowed to practise as a doctor and after whom a very famous women's hospital in London was named?
5. Who was the only person to win Nobel prizes for physics and chemistry?
6. In 1926, what was Gertrude Ederle the first woman to do?
7. Her refusal to give up her seat to a white person on a Montgomery bus in 1955 sparked the civil rights movement. Who was she?
8. Name the second female Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.
9. Who was Time magazine's person of the year in 1952?
10. What is the forename that Mother Teresa was given at her baptism?



## Answers after Nature Notes

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## BIRCH (SELSDON)



After many months of refurbishments and rewilding the previous Selsdon Park Hotel is due to open this spring as Birch (Selsdon). This is a 'sister' hotel to the award-winning Birch (Cheshunt). Birch offers guests the chance to pause and reset, so that they leave inspired, re-energised, and with new ideas and stories to tell.

The 200-acre estate has been rewilded to recreate a northern hemisphere savannah, free from human intervention. Self-sustaining herbivores including long-horned cattle and Exmoor Ponies will roam free (at a

natural density for the site) and it is hoped that, in time, endangered species native to this part of England such as nightingales, nightjars and dormice will return in abundance.

Along with 181 bedrooms, Birch (Selsdon) boasts a pottery studio, screen-printing workshop and an interactive kitchen to get creative in. There is also a reading room, arcade and screening room to switch off in. A lido (opening summer 2023), tennis courts and wellness space with gym, studios and treatment rooms. For feasts and flavours there are two restaurants and three bars.



As Birch's ethos is to reuse and minimise waste where possible, the lampshades are made from recycled glass and the fabrics from recycled textiles. Each bedroom is furnished with bedside tables crafted using wood from the Selsdon estate.

Birch's all day dining and signature restaurants will take their cue from the estate and feature freshly foraged ingredients as well as seasonal produce from the onsite kitchen garden.

As well as overnight stays, Birch (Selsdon)'s membership programme allows local people to access the whole estate for work, pleasure or both, enjoying everything on offer from co-working to wellness.

~~



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

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

One reader wanted to share with local residents this information that he had received from Transport for London about the Scrappage Scheme accompanying the expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone.

The £110 million fund has been designed to support Londoners on certain lower incomes, disabled Londoners, London-based charities, sole traders and businesses with 10 or fewer employees prepare for the expansion of Ultra Low Emission Zone London-wide on 29 August this year. Successful applicants will receive funding to scrap or retrofit their old, polluting vehicle.

To accompany the scrappage scheme, the Mayor and TfL are also announcing a range of ULEZ support offers from businesses for all Londoners, including additional exclusive offers for successful applicants of the scrappage scheme. This will enable Londoners to benefit from discounts and promotions on subscriptions, rentals and purchases of bicycles, e-bikes, cargo bikes, cars and vans.

It follows the Mayor's decision to expand the ULEZ London-wide from August. Already around 85 per cent of vehicles seen driving in outer London meet the standards, meaning the majority of drivers will not need to pay. The new scrappage scheme and grace periods will help drivers of the remaining non-compliant vehicles prepare.

Londoners receiving certain means-tested benefits and non-means-tested disability benefits can apply for cash grants of up to £2,000 to scrap their non-compliant cars or motorcycles. As a new feature, successful applicants can also choose to receive a higher value package comprising up to two free annual bus and tram passes and a lower cash grant.

Disabled people who want to scrap or retrofit a non-compliant wheelchair accessible vehicle will be able to apply for grants of £5,000 to reflect the higher cost of these vehicles. Disabled people can also apply for a nominated driver if they do not drive themselves. The nominated driver does not need to live at the same address as the applicant.

Charities, sole traders and businesses with 10 or fewer employees registered in London can apply to scrap a van (£5,000 grant) or a minibus (£7,000 grant), retrofit certain vans or minibuses (£5,000 grant) or scrap and replace a van or minibus with a fully electric vehicle (£7,500 or £9,500 grant respectively).

In addition to the scrappage scheme, further support will be provided for disabled people, through new and extended grace periods. The two new grace periods provide exemptions until October 2027 for recipients of

certain disability benefits (or their nominated driver) and for all wheelchair accessible vehicles and some vehicles with other adaptations. The grace periods are available to all eligible people regardless of whether they live in London, and they will apply to the current ULEZ zone as well once approved.

The new disabled benefits grace period means that anyone who receives benefits that automatically make them eligible for a blue badge will also qualify for the new grace period. More Londoners currently claim benefits that would make them eligible for this grace period than currently hold a blue badge.

**Zoe Murphy**

*Community Partnerships Specialist*

*Zone R3, 8th Floor, 5 Endeavour Square, Westfield Ave, Stratford E20 1JN  
[zoemurphy@tfl.gov.uk](mailto:zoemurphy@tfl.gov.uk)*

Many thanks for this information. Name and address supplied.

~~

Dear Editor,

I would like to publish a thank you in the Selsdon Gazette for Gordon who lives in Upper Selsdon Road for all his hard work over the last couple weeks in Selsdon. Like many of us, he was not happy with the overhanging trees and dropped leaves which were making the pathways look a mess, not to mention damaging cars passing by. So, he called the Council and asked if he could cut back the trees himself. They gave him permission and supplied him with a high viz jacket and bags to put the branches and leaves in and they said they would arrange to collect them when he called to say he had filled them. He then spent many days clearing our street and he even carried on to clear parts of Queenhill Road.

I must say that when you walk down Upper Selsdon Road now, it looks so much better. A shame it came to a resident having to carry out the work that Croydon Council should be doing but I am sure I am not alone in wanting to thank him.

I wish that there was a community award for which I could nominate him!

Name and address supplied

I received this letter from Timothy who needs financial help to keep his rescue centre for reptiles open.

My name is Timothy Ashton and I run the Reptile Shed in Hamsey Green. We are a reptile rescue, rehabilitation and education centre. Due to the cost-of-living crisis and the ever-soaring energy prices, we are suffering severe financial difficulties and are facing the very realistic prospect of having to close our doors and rehome all of our rescued reptiles. The Reptile Shed not only provides a loving and secure home for our many animals (many of whom have horrific backstories) but it also provides an opportunity for many Special Educational Needs individuals and Croydon youths, to gain invaluable work experience, volunteer, and be involved with the community as well as a very worthwhile enterprise. In light of our ongoing financial challenges (and having seen another ailing Croydon business do the same), I created the following Go Fund Me page [Go Fund Me the Reptile Shed](#)

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to see what we do and to read my reviews from customers who love the work we do. You are very welcomed to pop in or email us if you want more information or to talk in more detail etc.

I would love to hear from you.

Thank you

~~

Here our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, recalls a mysterious noise in the night.

At the beginning of January, my husband and I were awoken by a thump in the night. There was no further noise, and as it is very quiet where we live, we just rolled over and went back to sleep. This took place in the icy, snowy part of January. A couple of nights later it happened again. Just a

big thump and then there was nothing.

The next day we decided it was not so slippery underfoot, so we went for a walk. It sounds daft now, but on our return, we looked out at the garden, we just hadn't looked properly all around before, and suddenly the problem was solved. An animal had pushed over one pot and then another a couple of nights later. The pots were quite big and as they had been on the top of a bank, they had made a thud as they fell.

We debated whether it could have been a fox or a badger. It could not have been a dog as a dog would have had to climb a tree to get into the garden! We have never seen a badger locally, so it had to have been a fox. We had heard the screaming that serenading foxes make, just after Christmas. It was still a relief to know what had made the noise.



About a fortnight to three weeks ago, we suddenly saw the foxy bride and groom. He showed up first, a splendid fellow, wearing his really smart red coat. A big lad, he was the size of a small Alsatian dog, his coat was gleaming with health. Suddenly we spotted the branches of a bush moving, and out stepped foxy bride. Her red coat was gleaming too, but she was much smaller than him.

At one stage he seemed to place his head over her shoulder. She suddenly dashed across the garden and came tearing back with something white in her mouth. I believe it to have been a half slice of white bread, probably dropped by a magpie. She raced passed the dog fox and disappeared into the bushes. If a fox could look surprised, he was. But in a split second he had wheeled around, chased after her and disappeared into the bushes too. I hope they shared it!

***Jessica Blake***

## Poetry Corner

*This month Mary Gill marvels at the calming effect of water flowing on a stream.*

### SERENITY

On the mossy bank  
I lay entranced by the stream –  
the rippling water-  
murmuring over the stones  
its mesmerising music,

my gaze absorbed by  
fish shadows darting downstream  
interweaving with  
the quivering reflections  
of the overhanging trees.

Here, outside of time,  
the soothing sounds of water  
in gentle motion  
subdued the storm in my heart  
and gave my mind space to breath.



## Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth – Spring and Summer Migration



Many birds which breed in Europe will have spent their winter somewhere in Africa. To get to their winter quarters the birds will have converged on to one of several routes in order to cross the Mediterranean, usually those routes which minimise distance across the sea so there will be concentrations of birds at each end of the Mediterranean and also crossing from Italy. During

return migration in spring the same routes will be followed in reverse, with different species choosing to make the journey at different times. At the time of writing this note in mid-February there are already reports of



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## Swallows and House Martins in Portugal.

Some information about where birds migrate to and the routes they take has been obtained by attaching light metal rings to the legs of birds. When a ringed bird is caught, or the data on the ring is otherwise retrieved, a little bit of light is shone on the mystery of migration. To get more than one data point requires using thousands of rings, most of which will never be retrieved, but with modern miniature electronics it is possible to attach a very light radio tag and trace the bird while it is migrating. The BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) has done this with several Cuckoos so if you do a web search for BTO CUCKOOS or BIRDTRACK CUCKOOS you will see information on the current positions of the birds returning to UK. From the viewpoint of the UK the earliest arrivals involve Ring Ouzels, Sand Martins and Wheatears appearing in March or even earlier, with many other species making an appearance in April or even May.

Thousands of Black Kites cross from Africa to Spain in February and subsequent months accompanied by smaller numbers of many other species. Though their ultimate destination will lie further north on the European continent inevitably some individuals will deviate from the main route and may follow a route taking them over UK.

In 2022, in April, more than 100 Golden Orioles were found scattered over the British land mass. This is weather dependent and the birds do not remain for long but it is worth listening for the unmistakeable fluty notes of the birds or keeping your eyes open for a glimpse of the vivid yellow and black colouring of the males. Females tend to be a greenish colour. The species has been recorded more than once in Selsdon Wood.

While Ospreys tend to be early arrivals back at their nests, other raptors prefer warmer weather and their appearance can occur in any month up to June. In recent years there have been visits from, probably solitary, Short-toed Snake Eagle, Booted Eagle, Egyptian Vulture and others.

Swifts usually arrive in flocks and can be joined by species like Alpine Swifts and Hobby Falcons so it can be worth carefully examining any swifts that are seen.

Many of the species mentioned so far do not usually breed in Britain but there are many which do, and though most will not stop to breed in Selsdon Wood some could be seen briefly while on migration. Garden Warbler, Willow Warbler and Lesser Whitethroat do not usually stay long enough to attract a mate and hold territory but are detected often enough for it to be a possibility. In the past our summer residents have included

Tree Pipit, Spotted Flycatcher and even Tree Sparrow and there is always the possibility they might return. For other species the wood might not provide the appropriate habitat and any sighting is likely to be of birds on the move. This is true of birds like Honey Buzzard which tend to fly over towards the end of May or June as they need to feed on well-developed nests of bees and wasps.

The rule during migration seems to be “Expect the unexpected”.

~~

## Answers to the Great Women Quiz

1. Jane Austen
2. “Votes for Women”
3. Elizabeth Fry
4. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson
5. Madame Curie
6. Swim across the English Channel
7. Rosa Parks
8. Theresa May
9. Queen Elizabeth II
10. Agnes

~~

### Contact

**Selsdon Community Centre**  
**132 Addington Road**  
**South Croydon, CR2 8LA**  
**Tel: 020 8651 4944**

Fax: 020 8657 2268

Email: [info@selsdoncontact.org.uk](mailto:info@selsdoncontact.org.uk)



## Selsdon Contact Neighbourhood Care Celebrating 50 Years

We are celebrating 50 years this year with a series of special events.

We kicked off on 15<sup>th</sup> February with a Valentines afternoon tea when 45 of our clients enjoyed the first chance for a big get together since our Christmas party in December 2019. Good to see old and new friends and enjoy some delicious cakes provided by our talented volunteers.

We have other events planned – a visit to a garden centre including lunch, a celebratory Coronation tea in May and many more.



Our major celebrations come in July. Selsdon Contact was formed on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1973 offering practical help, advice, support and information to the residents of Selsdon and is supported by all the churches in Selsdon and Addington.

There will be a Summer Concert at St. John's Church on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July. Music from the Norwood Wind Ensemble and the Songsations choir.

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July we will be celebrating 50 years with a Songs of Praise service at St. John's at 3 pm in the afternoon.

**Dates for your diary and we would love to see you at these events.**

~~

## **Bird's Eye View**

**John Birkett, RSPB Croydon Local Group**



As I write this, the bright late-winter sun is burning off the overnight frost. From where I sit, I can see a neighbour's ivy-covered tree. The ivy berries are now ripening, forming a good food source at this time of year. Blackbirds and redwings are flitting around grabbing the berries, while a couple of woodpigeons are sitting in the tree hoovering up what they can reach from their perches. All this is probably upsetting the pair of magpies that nest in the same tree. Meanwhile, a charm of 20 goldfinches have landed in a silver birch nearby and are foraging around in there. My overwintering male blackcap turns up on a feeder from time to time, while a couple of chaffinches and a starling are searching the lawn for food.

A few days ago, a small flock of siskin decided to land in an alder tree by the front garden; a bird that has been in short supply round here this winter.

With spring not far off, I am now hearing more birds announcing their presence. Several robins and a couple of dunnocks have been singing away and occasionally seeing off rivals. At dawn and dusk, I may be lucky enough to hear a song thrush singing its repeating phrases. And a pair of collared doves are also beginning to get it together.

It may not be as bird rich as going to a major nature reserve, but just looking out from your kitchen window can give you pleasure and comfort in times of stress (and you can stay in the warmth of your own home). We would be interested in hearing about your sightings ([johnbirkett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:johnbirkett@hotmail.co.uk)). And you can check out what is being seen in Croydon on the Croydon Birders website. Or you could come along to one of our monthly meetings at Croham Road Baptist Church.



**The RSPB Croydon Local Group**  
**Monthly Illustrated Wildlife Talks in South Croydon**  
**New location now in 2023 - details on the website (below)**

Second Monday of each month, 7.30pm.

Admission £5. Everyone is welcome, not just RSPB members.  
Free refreshments. A selection of RSPB goods, nuts & seeds are on sale.  
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Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April @ 7.30pm - **“Return of the Red Kite and Peregrine”** by **Keith Betton**. Note the date – Easter Monday has necessitated a change from our usual second Monday.

For more information contact John Davis on Tel: 020-8640 4578,  
E-mail: [johndaviswine1@gmail.com](mailto:johndaviswine1@gmail.com)  
Also 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.**

**Bring Your Own Craft**  
**Selsdon Baptist Church**  
**1st Monday of the Month**  
**1.45 – 3.30pm**

We warmly invite you to come and join us. Bring whatever project you are working on – colouring, knitting, sewing, etc., and enjoy friendship with us.





## The Friends of Littleheath Woods

### Invite you to their AGM

Wednesday 10 May 8pm  
St John's Garden Room  
Upper Selsdon Road

## The Friends of Littleheath Woods

### Spring Flower Walk

Saturday 29 April

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



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## Selsdon Centre for the Retired still needs you! Please help!

Many of you know the Selsdon Centre well and, hopefully, many will have popped in for lunch or to have a warm drink with friends. Maybe you've been to one of our fabulous live music events, which we often put on with an accompanying afternoon tea. Or perhaps you love Bingo with fish 'n chips instead? We enjoy putting these events on for you as we know a lot of pleasure is gained from them, which is why we do them! But do you realise that it costs a lot of money to host these events; we'd love to be able to do more as we're such a valuable local resource which helps many locals, and we rely entirely on our own fundraising efforts to make these special events happen. We're doing all we can to increase our income but it's not enough. With the current cost of living crisis, we need more. So, we are appealing to any suitable local companies which may want to help us by sponsoring any of our events? One or more? In return, we can give local free advertising connected with the event plus publicity on our website and social media pages for a relatively small sum. Your company has the pleasure of knowing that its charitable efforts are going a long way towards making our elderly community happy by allowing them to continue having fun at





the Centre. Everyone needs fun in their lives now, don't they? We fully understand money is tight, but hope you can find it in your hearts to help us by becoming a sponsor or becoming a donor to the Centre. Please also mention Gift Aid when you donate and we will give you a form to complete so we can collect the tax on your donation (at no extra cost to yourself). After all, every little helps. All enquiries to Susan at [selsdon.centre@btinternet.com](mailto:selsdon.centre@btinternet.com) or call 0208 651 1111 to leave your details in an answerphone message to discuss your interest further.

Keep checking the website for our most up-to-date information or check our posters at the Centre. We look forward to welcoming more of you to our next event.

We'd also like to thank CNCA (Croydon Neighbourhood Care Association) for their donation towards our Christmas lunch, which generously helped to subsidise our costs for this much enjoyed event and a great time was had by all.

~~

## **SANDERSTEAD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

[www.sandersteadwi.org](http://www.sandersteadwi.org)



Sanderstead WI is a friendly group of over 70 members who meet from 2pm to 4pm on the first Wednesday of the month in the church hall of Sanderstead United Reform Church, 3 Sanderstead Hill, Croydon, CR2 0HB. We are currently welcoming new members.

Our meetings start with WI business including cascading details of courses and workshops set up by our county and national bodies. This is followed by refreshments, and then a speaker. Talks for 2023/24 include the Life of a Cruise Lecturer, the Highs and Lows of a Stuntwoman's Life, Lewes and Bonfire Night, The Oceans Between Us, the Media: Saints or Sinners, the History of Great Ormond Street Hospital, and My Journey to the North Pole. We have an annual tea party in August and a party at Christmas with entertainment.

This year we shall also be holding a stall selling preloved bags at the Gruffy Fair in June. In addition, there are the following special interest groups you can join: Gardening (maintaining the rose garden at Sanderstead Library), Scrabble, Canasta, Board Games, Book Club, Walkers and Strollers, Lunch Club, Table Tennis and Arts-n-Crafts. Special



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outings are also arranged and so far, we have arranged a trip to the Weald and Downland Museum in May and a tour in June to the company in Croydon that makes the costumes for Strictly Come Dancing. So, there is something to suit all tastes!

Further details of our forthcoming activities can be found on our website which is regularly updated and visitors are welcome to attend our meetings before deciding to join. Email [webmaster@sandersteadwi.org](mailto:webmaster@sandersteadwi.org) or telephone Linda Etheridge on 020 8657 6721

~~

## Croydon Camera Club



I recently got asked why I joined Croydon Camera Club: the obvious answer is that I like taking photos, but that does not tell the full story.

The truth is that I have liked taking photos since I was a child. I guess back then I liked the power it gave me; how when I had a camera in my hand, I could boss the adults around for the sake of the photo. I liked how people said I “took a good photo” and at family events my Nan would give me her camera to take photos for her.

In the beginning, I was using a film camera, so I learnt the hard way to keep fingers, hair and wrist strap out of the frame. But I was intimidated by more complicated SLR cameras; I didn’t feel I had the skill or the know-how to use them. However, with the introduction of digital cameras I could see any mistakes right away and retake the photo. Now I could take as many shots as I liked, well at least until either the card was full or the battery was dead!

I always thought photography was a solo hobby, until I came across the Croydon Camera Club website and decided to visit one evening. I joined up there and then! Why? Well, I guess the real reason is that I no longer wanted to take just “good photos”. I wanted to stop using “auto mode” on my camera, to really learn about photography and how to let my creative side come through. Joining the club has done this.



Seeing the images others are producing has given me the confidence to try taking different types of shots that I would not have attempted before. I now only use auto mode occasionally and as a result I have seen a vast improvement in my photography. I'm therefore now happy to call myself an amateur photographer, which I never would have before.

So if you want to take better photos or be with other like-minded people; or if like me, you're the person who's too busy taking photos at events to enjoy the action, maybe the "event" you're missing is Croydon Camera Club! Whatever the reason check out the club's website [www.croydoncameraclub.org.uk](http://www.croydoncameraclub.org.uk) and come visit us one evening. I can promise we don't bite; we do snap but we only snap photos!

*Caroline Avern (both photos featured taken by Caroline)*

## **Croydon Camera Club**

**Where:** Shirley Methodist Church Hall, Eldon Avenue, CR0 8SD. If you're driving, the church has a small car park and there's ample free on-street parking adjacent. The Hall is approximately 1.5 miles from East Croydon Station as you travel along the A232 heading towards Shirley. Alternatively buses 119, 194, 466, 198 and 130 stop close by.

**When:** Wednesdays, 7:45 for 8:00pm-10pm between early September and late July, except during the Christmas & Easter breaks. Tea, coffee and biscuits are served at the interval, during each meeting.

All you need do is turn up on an evening which looks good to you - our programme of events, examples of our images and plenty more can be viewed at [www.croydoncameraclub.org.uk](http://www.croydoncameraclub.org.uk).

If you're interested in photography, novice or expert, you're always welcome. Newcomers may join us for several evenings, at no cost, to see if the club is right for you, before making any longer-term commitment. We look forward to seeing you!...

~~

## **Reminder**

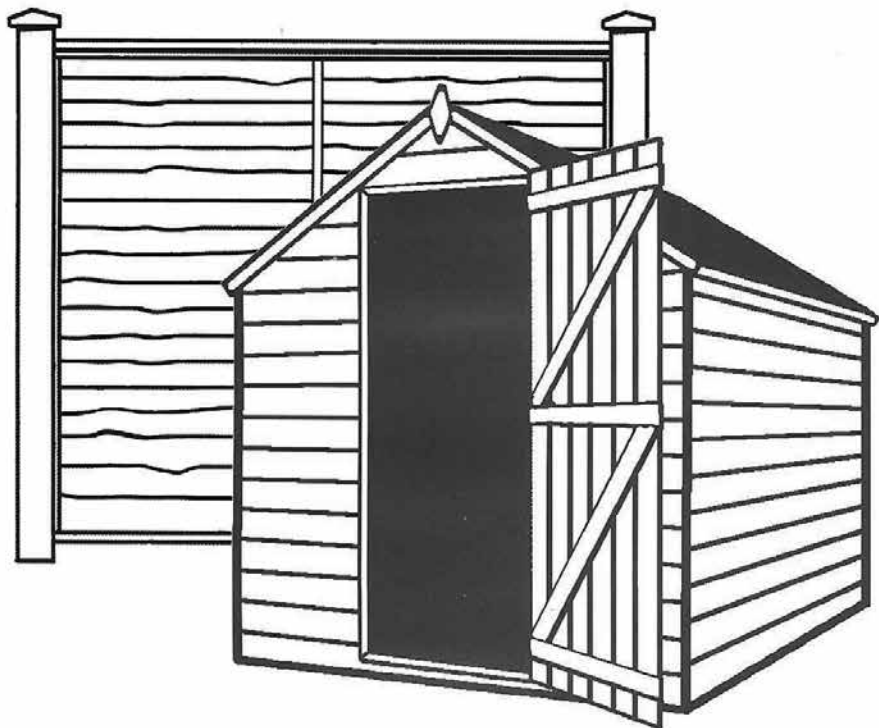


British Summer Time starts this year when the clocks go forward at 1am on Sunday 27 March. On the last Sunday of March, the **clocks** 'spring forward': they go forward by one hour. There may still be a chill in the air but remember the saying "Spring forward, Fall back".

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## **Shirley Singers**



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We practise every Monday evening in Shirley Parish Hall, Wickham Road, Shirley, Croydon, Surrey CR0 8TB. From 7.45 to 9.45pm. Further information is available from Christine (Choir Manager) Tel: [02084064226](tel:02084064226)

We usually give two concerts a year and, all being well, we plan to give a Spring Concert on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in Shirley Methodist Church.



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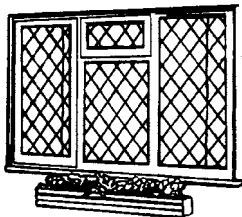
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# **A SELECTED LIST OF SELSDON ORGANISATIONS**

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**

|   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| Arts Society Croydon Area   | Jean Aarons   | Website: <a href="https://tascroydonarea.org.uk">https://tascroydonarea.org.uk</a> |  |
| CONTACT (neighbourhood care)  | Jasmine Singh   | 8651 4944  |  |
| Selsdon Centre for the Retired  | Craig Anderson  | 8651 1111  |  |
| Croydon Hearing Resource Centre   | Office  | 8686 0049  |  |
| Bourne Society  | Roger Packham   | 01883 349287   |  |
| Crest Badminton Club (Fri pm)   | Sue Fairchild   | 020 8657 3761  |  |
| Coulsdon Masonic Lodge  | Colin Lynch   | 07801 453474   |  |
| Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society  | Brian Lancaster   | 8668 6909  |  |
| Croydon Recorded Music Society  | Liz Brereton  | 8656 7382  |  |
| Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind   |   | 8668 2486  |  |
| Cruse Bereavement Care Helpline   |   | 8916 0855  |  |
| Friends of Littleheath Woods  | Ian Leggatt   | 8651 1140  |  |
| Friends of Selsdon Wood   | see website: <a href="http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk">www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk</a> |  |  |
| 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 Sanderstead and Selsdon  | Wendy A Parr  | 07774 186792   |  |
| Probus Club of Croydon South  | John Barker   | 8657 2093  |  |
| St John's Dramatic Society  | Caryl Rapps   | 8651 1326  |  |
| St John's Wives   | Jane Guglielmi  | 8657 6672  |  |
| Sanderstead Local History Group   | <a href="http://www.sandersteadlhg.co.uk">www.sandersteadlhg.co.uk</a>                          |  |  |
| Sanderstead Plantation Partners   | Michael Lishmund  | 020 8651 2760  |  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Selsdon & Addington Scout Group:  | Website: <a href="http://www.1stselsdon.org.uk">www.1stselsdon.org.uk</a>                       |  |  |
| Beaver Colony (6-8yrs)  | <a href="mailto:beavers.1stselsdon@gmail.com">beavers.1stselsdon@gmail.com</a>                  |  |  |
| Cub Pack (8-10yrs)  | <a href="mailto:cubs.1stselsdon@gmail.com">cubs.1stselsdon@gmail.com</a>                        |  |  |
| Scouts Troop (10-14yrs)   | <a href="mailto:scouts.1stselsdon@gmail.com">scouts.1stselsdon@gmail.com</a>                    |  |  |
| Croham Valley Explorers   | Anthony Woodin  | 020 8651 3780  |  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Selsdon & Addington Scout Group:  | Website: <a href="http://www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk">www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk</a>       |  |  |
| 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   |   |  |  |
| Selsdon Tennis Club   | Geoff Littlewood  | 8651 4748  |  |
| 66 (Selsdon) Squadron Air Training Corps  | Rob Cleeter   | 8651 5958  |  |



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BENNY GOODMAN / GLENN MILLER / ELLA FITZGERALD

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