

A black and white photograph of a field of snowdrops. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. The leaves are long and narrow, and the background is a dense field of similar plants.

The Selsdon — Gazette —

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March 2022

THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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Front cover image credit: 'Snowdrops' taken by Marie Fuggle

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mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com

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Cllr Helen Pollard Helen.pollard@croydon.gov.uk 07941 573727

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 Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk 07816 123204

Councillors for Sanderstead Ward

Cllr Lyn Hale Lynne.hale@croydon.gov.uk 0208 405 6721

Cllr Yvette Hopley Yvette.hopley@croydon.gov.uk 0208 404 3462

Cllr Tim Pollard councillor@timpollard.co.uk 0208 251 8500

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



Editor's Note

Welcome to the March edition of the Selsdon Gazette!

Despite being battered by recent storms, Dudley and Eunice, I have noticed some spring bulbs making an appearance. Hence my choice of snowdrops to adorn the cover of this edition. Many thanks to Marie Fuggle for sending it to me. I am sure that there are other people taking snaps of the Selsdon area, so please send me a copy and I might be able to use it for the Gazette cover.

With the Annual General Meeting of the Selsdon Residents' Association taking place on 30th March at 8pm, I have included the agenda and the annual financial accounts. Please put the date in your diary and come along as it would be so good to meet you all after a three-year gap.

This month we have news from our councillors about Croydon's Local Plan Review which has implications for how the Selsdon area develops up to 2039. We have our regular contributors: Ted Forsyth looking at woodpeckers, Mary Gill with a poem celebrating World Water Day in March, Tina Nash PCSO advising us about catalytic converter thefts and in our gardening section we are told to start preparing our flower and vegetable beds for the growing season. Ian Leggatt looks back at the shops on Selsdon High Street - how many can you remember?

World Book Day occurs in March so we have a quiz testing your knowledge of literary characters and their addresses. The answers to the photo quiz set last month by our secretary, Janet, are also given.

Finally, my regular plea to everyone, whatever your age, to email me with an article, letter, photo, quiz or poem (selsdongazettesra@gmail.com). It would be lovely to hear from you!

I hope that you enjoy your read.
Have a great month and keep safe

Chris Jones

✎ SUBMISSIONS FOR THE APRIL 2022 EDITION SHOULD
BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN
20TH MARCH - PREFERABLY BEFORE! ✎

SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS

Clock

You may have noticed that the clock on the triangle is not working. The maintenance contract with the council when it was installed, ran out several years ago. We are in conversation with the council to get a repair done but so far without success and suspect it will be very low on the Croydon Council agenda but we will keep trying.

Shops

We have a new children's clothes shop opened called Oopsie Daisies in the old post office and the café once known as Star Burger is once again open under new management as Eat Well Café. The computer /phone shop seems permanently closed now. We are still waiting of news about the garage site.

Selsdon Recreation Ground

A new under 5 nursery called Tots Stars opened in the old pavilion on 17th Feb and will be also having a "stay and play" on Saturdays and school holidays. The building has been transformed and will be serving tea, coffee and snacks

Postal Gazette Volunteer

Our volunteer who organises the postal gazette service is moving from Selsdon and we need a new replacement. Could anyone volunteer?? Each month a few gazettes are posted to ex-residents who pay an annual fee, so a supply of envelopes and stamps are needed and the cost of which is reimbursed. It can all be done from home and in your own time and our present volunteer is happy to walk you through it. Anyone who can help please call me on 02086512285.

Jubilee Celebrations

The bunting is ordered and will go up in June and we will also be running another scarecrow competition this year with the Jubilee as a theme where possible (anything red, white or blue possibly!!).

AGM 30th March St Johns Church Hall 8pm

Looking forward to meeting you for a short formal part and then a glass of wine.

Sheila Childs, SRA Chair

.....

URGENT - SRA needs a new Secretary from April



Janet Sharp has held the SRA quill for 10 years. She now feels it is time to pass it on to someone new - although, thankfully, she has agreed to remain as a member of the SRA team which will help keep down the average age of the committee! We do hope there is someone out there who will step forward at the AGM to take on the Secretarial role. We all feel we really need some fresh blood to help us along.

The main task of our Secretary is to help the committee meetings run smoothly. The meetings are traditionally on the second Monday evening of the month - but usually not in August or December. They are currently either held via Zoom or in one of the Selsdon Baptist Church meeting rooms at 7.30 / 8pm until 9/10pm.

Our Secretary books the meeting room as required, drafts the agenda and the minutes for the Chair to agree, and distributes these to the committee members by email in good time for required actions to be noted and reports etc received back, hopefully ready for the next meeting. Janet says she spends probably around five hours on the duties of the post each month.

Do you feel you have sufficient ability with words (and IT) to start to make the role your own? If you need some more details please telephone Sheila, Linda or Janet (our numbers are on page 2) or send an email to mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com.

~~

2022 SRA AGM Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Police report
3. 2020 Report The advertised 2021 AGM was cancelled (as a precaution due to Covid 19 pandemic and so this report was issued under the planned agenda headings.) Copies printed in the March 2021 Gazette and SRA website and notices placed on SRA social media and local public noticeboards.
4. Matters arising from the 2020 report.

5. The Annual report for 2021 (Printed in January Gazette and available at the meeting)
6. Treasurers Report with adoption of the Accounts for 2021/22 (Printed in the March Gazette and available at the meeting)
7. The Selsdon Gazette - Editor Report
8. Christmas Lights
9. Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee for 2022/23. There is one general Committee vacancy. The position of Secretary has been advertised.
10. Adoption of the Hon. Accounts Reviewer for 2022/23
11. Any other business

.....

SRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING*

Wednesday 30th March 2022

Church hall, St John the Divine, Upper Selsdon Road

Doors open 7.40pm, 8pm start.



***COVID RESTRICTIONS ALLOWING – SEE SRA WEBSITE, FACEBOOK PAGE and NOTICEBOARDS FOR UPDATES NEARER THE TIME**

Selsdon residents are invited to attend this annual opportunity to meet the SRA Committee, Gazette Editor, local councillors and local Police to talk about your neighbourhood. We have one Committee vacancy to be filled this year.

The AGM lasts about an hour, with a chance for drinks and chat afterwards. Please arrive in good time for 8pm start. COVID Health and Safety Precautions will be in place.

We hope you can join us and perhaps bring a neighbour.

We enjoy meeting you all 😊

.....

SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION/GAZETTE CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Years Ended 31 December

SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

INCOME

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| Subscriptions | | | |
| Christmas Lights: | | Residents' Donations | |
| | | Traders' Donations | |
| | | Collections | |
| Croydon Council | | | |
| Nationwide Building Society Interest | | | |

Total Income

| | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| | 3,508 | 3,962 | 2,415 |
| | 4,136 | 4,574 | 3,106 |
| | 458 | 915 | 1,028 |
| | 298 | 76 | 199 |
| | 0 | 2,000 | 4,500 |
| | 85 | 37 | 37 |
| | 8,485 | 11,564 | 11,284 |

EXPENDITURE

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Insurance | | | |
| Hire of Halls | | | |
| Printing via Gazette Printers | | | |
| Stationery, Postage and Sundries (2021 includes Subscription Envelopes) | | | |
| Christmas Lights | | | |
| Hanging Baskets | | | |
| Council Barriers | | | |
| Donations | | | |
| Subscriptions | | | |

Total Expenditure

(Deficit)/Surplus of Income Over Expenditure

| | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| | 370 | 370 | 370 |
| | 35 | 60 | 483 |
| | 734 | 0 | 0 |
| | 534 | 156 | 138 |
| | 7,760 | 9,184 | 10,041 |
| | 162 | 198 | 0 |
| | 500 | 0 | 0 |
| | 200 | 500 | 0 |
| | 212 | 18 | 128 |
| | 10,507 | 10,486 | 11,160 |
| | (2,022) | 1,078 | 125 |

SELSDON GAZETTE ACCOUNTS

Income

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| Advertising Income | | | |
| Bank Account Interest | | | |
| Subscriptions | | | |
| Total Income | | | |

| | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| | 15,748 | 13,267 | 14,403 |
| | 27 | 67 | 114 |
| | 195 | 110 | 179 |
| | 15,970 | 13,444 | 14,696 |

Expenditure

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Gazette and Leaflets | | | |
| Reimbursement from Residents' Association for Leaflets | | | |
| Postage and Sundries | | | |
| Total Expenditure | | | |

(Deficit)/Surplus of Income Over Expenditure

| | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| | 15,583 | 11,644 | 17,813 |
| | (734) | 0 | 0 |
| | 120 | 270 | 120 |
| | 14,969 | 11,914 | 17,933 |
| | 1,001 | 1,530 | (3,238) |

COUNCILLORS' NOTES

CROYDON'S SECOND 'REPORT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST'

In late January Croydon Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton, published a Report in the Public Interest into the refurbishment of the Fairfield Halls.

These Reports are issued extremely rarely, because the threshold to commission them is so high – but that hasn't stopped the current Labour administration being issued with two of them in just 15 months. Croydon is the only Council to have been issued two reports in such a short space of time.

As a result of this Croydon Council was forced to hold an Extraordinary Council Meeting, at which Grant Thornton presented their Report and answered councillors' questions.

During the Meeting which was held on 3rd February, the independent auditors confirmed that:

- The Labour-run Council handed the Fairfield Halls refurbishment contract to their friends at Brick By Brick, without letting any other company bid;
- At no point did they give Brick By Brick a list of things they wanted done, nor did they attempt to properly work out the cost of the works;
- The total cost of the works rocketed to £67.5m, more than double the £30m budgeted. What's more, this huge increase was never agreed by Cabinet or Council;
- No evidence of a Sales Agreement – alongside other fundamentally important documents – between the Labour-led Council and Brick By Brick could be found.

Questions raised by Conservative councillors were either shut down or given incorrect and misleading answers and incomplete reports, with details which the Labour administration didn't want us to see, redacted. This whole cover up approach meant that scrutiny and challenge, which could have allowed corrective action to be taken, were completely blocked.

The auditors have described the weaknesses in the council's financial, legal and governance processes and management of this project as "fundamental failings by the council" and it highlights that a significant amount of public money was spent without proper authorisation.

Spring into St John's Selsdon

Sun 27th March 10.00am

Mothering Sunday Service

Holy Week Services

Tue 12th April 7.30pm

Passover Seder Meal

Wed 13th April 8.00pm

Tenebrae

Thursday 14th April 7.30pm

Maundy Thursday

Fri 15th April

Good Friday

(range of services starting at 10.00am with CTSA Service)

Saturday 16th April 8pm

Easter Vigil

Sunday 17th April 10am

Easter Sunday Eucharist

Sunday 29th May 11.30am

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www.stjohnsselsdon.org.uk

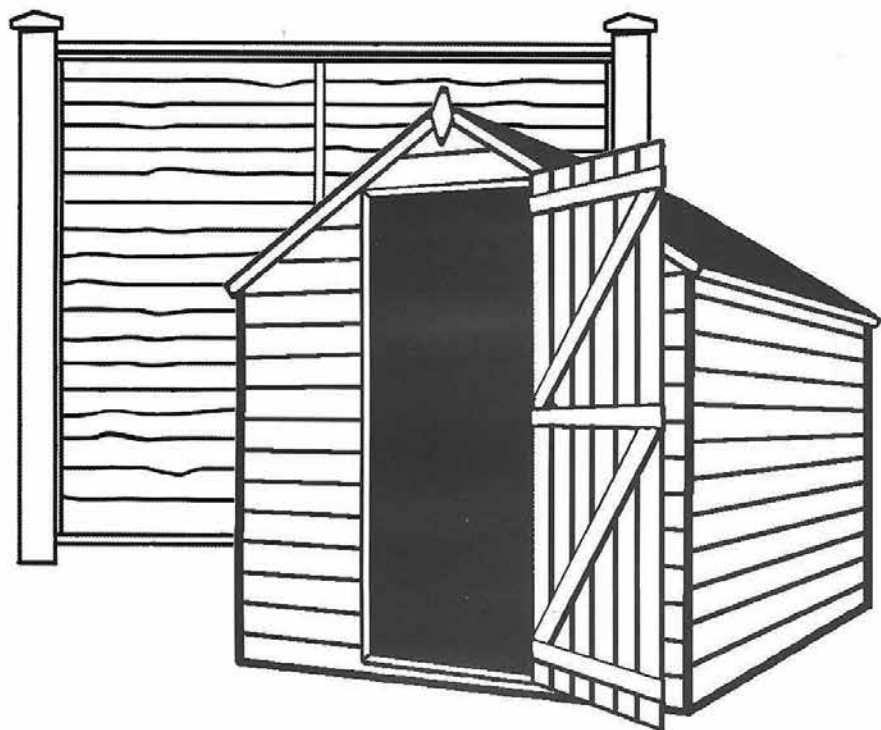
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Having notified the Monitoring Officer of our intention, the Conservative Shadow Cabinet recommended that the Report in the Public Interest concerning the refurbishment of Fairfield Halls, be sent to the Police. Despite the Labour Councillors claiming that they ‘fully accepted’ the report which labelled their actions as unlawful, every Labour Councillor attending voted against sending the report to the Police. Croydon’s Conservative Opposition were, however, determined not to leave the matter there and shortly after the Meeting contacted the Police. If you would like to watch the whole meeting, which took place on Thursday 3rd February, then you can do so via the meeting link on the Council’s website at: <https://webcasting.croydon.gov.uk/croydon>

LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

In January to mid-February there has been a consultation on proposed changes to the Local Plan – the document that determines what can and cannot be built in Croydon. There are some controversial changes proposed to the Local Plan and a summary of the comments from Cllr Robert Ward and Cllr Helen Pollard who represent Selsdon and Addington Village Ward, is below.

The work that was carried out in Selsdon before lockdown, to complete the Selsdon Community Plan, was worthwhile as it has been used in the development of the latest version of the Local Plan. Nevertheless, it doesn’t mean that the Local Plan reflects the Selsdon Community Plan, and there are still some major areas where the Local Plan seems to be incompatible with the Selsdon Community Plan.

In the following extracts from the revised Croydon Local Plan, (<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-01/proposed-submission-of-croydon-local-plan-2019-to-2039-tracked-changes.pdf>), deleted text is shown as struck through and insertions are in bold italics.

Comment 1: Intensification

Strategic Policy 2 (page 41): Homes

SP2.1 In order to provide a choice of housing for people in socially-balanced and inclusive communities, the Council will apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development of new homes to meet the **future needs of the area**.

Quantities and Locations

SP2.2 In order to provide a choice of housing ~~for people in Croydon,~~

the Council will seek to deliver ~~32,890~~ 37,736 (or 2,100 per annum over 18 years) homes between ~~2016-36~~ 2019-2039.

Delivering Homes SP1.0C (page 32)

There are residential areas where the characteristics and infrastructure provision have led to the identification of potential for sustainable housing growth and renewal.

- a) Areas of Focussed Intensification are areas where a step change of character to higher density forms of development around transport nodes and existing services will take place in locations where access to local transport and services is good.**
- b) Moderate Intensification – are areas where density will be increased, whilst respecting existing character, in locations where access to local transport and services is good.**
- c) Evolution and gentle densification will be supported across all other residential areas.**

The justification for SP1.0C is the need to build 37 736 homes in the borough by 2039 (Policy SP2). However, there is no justification for the figure of 37 736 or indeed any explanation as to why it has increased from the previous 20-year figure of 32 890. This policy therefore fails the soundness test as it appears to be a figure plucked from thin air in order to drive the wholesale change in the character of Croydon.

The last few years have seen some major changes in population as a result of Brexit and Covid19 and yet neither of these factors have been acknowledged in this version of the Local Plan. The net outflow of EU residents due to Brexit is bound to have reduced the expected growth in population in the borough. The increase in working from home due to Covid has seen many families leave London (and Croydon) – where has this been taken into account? Covid has also caused increased demand for homes with gardens – again, no mention of this in the revised Local Plan. These two factors are hugely important when planning for the future and yet they have been completely ignored.

Census data will be published in April/May 2022 and the consultation is being carried out before this important information is available. This is another reason why the consultation should be postponed until the Summer.

Comment 2: Heritage

Strategic Policy 4 (page 130): Urban Design, Heritage and Local Character

SP4.1 Development should be inclusive and of a high quality respecting and enhancing Croydon's varied local character and heritage assets contributing positively to public realm, landscape and townscape to create sustainable communities

SP4. Developments will be required to:

- a. Be informed by the distinctive qualities, **heritage, character, identity, topography, diversity, local needs** and opportunities of the relevant Places of Croydon;
- b. **Preserve and enhance Heritage Assets and their settings**, Protect Local Designated Views, Croydon Panorama, the settings of Landmarks, other important vistas and skylines: ~~and~~
- c. Enhance social cohesion, **health** and well-being, and
- d. **Include well designed spaces for the proposed uses, ensuring any mixing of uses carefully integrates high quality amenity, access and servicing.**

SP4.15 (page 133) The Council and its partners will promote improvements to the accessibility of heritage assets to allow enjoyment of the historic environment for all.

Intensification Areas

SP4.16 In the locations identified as Areas of Focussed Intensification and Moderate Intensification, high quality developments that increase density and evolve character will be supported. They will be expected to enhance and sensitively respond to positive aspects of existing local character by being of high quality.

The inclusion of Heritage in this section is welcomed.

The section on Page 133 at point SP4.16 is also welcomed, but there is no definition of 'high quality', or 'evolve character', or how they should 'enhance or sensitively respond to positive aspects of existing local character by being of high quality'. This leaves too much room for subjective judgement. In the past many developments have been labelled 'good quality' and granted permission, and yet they have poor design and materials that quickly look scruffy when the development is built. There should be more specifics about quality etc in SP4.16

Comment 3: Intensification Areas

See Delivering Homes SP1.0C in Comment 1

An attempt has been made here to define the types of development that

will be permitted but they are still too vague and will allow poor quality and insensitive developments to be built. Furthermore, there is a contradiction in the change in the character caused by the intensification and the need to 'maintain the local character of the area including any heritage asset'. This tension would not exist if the Local Plan had not set such unjustified high housing targets.

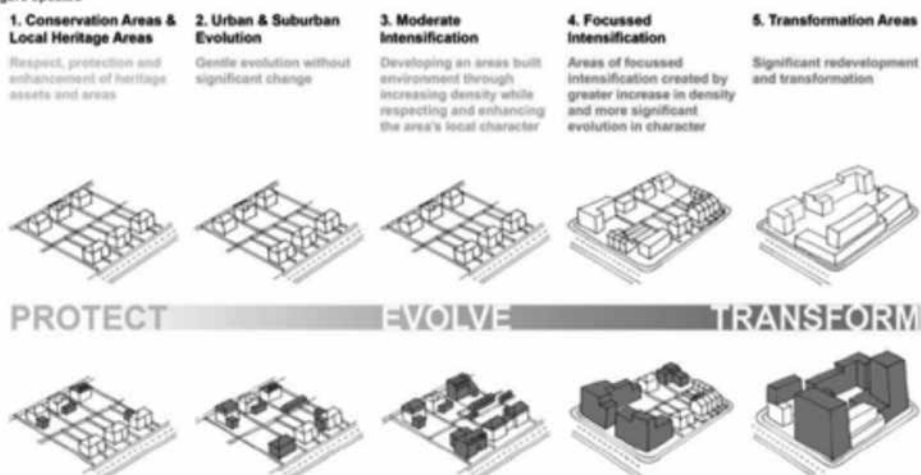
SP4 (page 141) Areas of Intensification

6.7a In order to meet the development needs of the borough, sustainable locations to support sustainable growth have been identified on the policies maps as Focussed Areas of Intensification and Moderate Intensification. Whilst delivering tangible benefits including providing a richer mix of types and sizes of accommodation to suit different lifestyles, policies seek to ensure that development is of a good design, whilst reducing car dependency and promote local economic activity.

Detailed Policy DM10 (page 149): Design and Character
DM 10.1 Development should be of high quality, reflecting and maintaining the local character of the area including any heritage assets having regard to:

- The area's developmental pattern, layout and siting;**
- The area's appearance, existing materials and roofscapes, scale, height, massing and density of existing built form and**
- The heritage assets and natural features of the surrounding area and the Place of Croydon in which it is located.**

Figure 6.4: Visual presentation of the five character management options.
 Figure updated

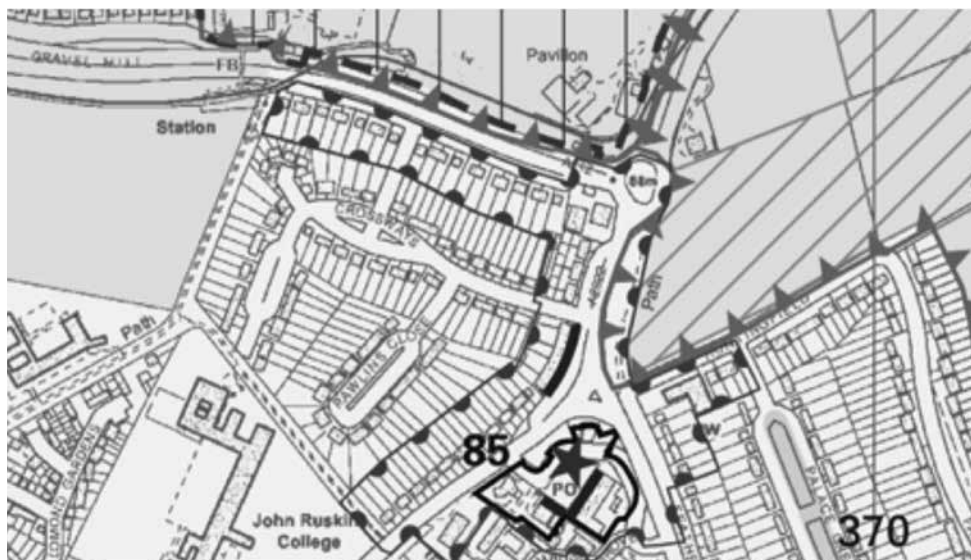


Homes 11.188 (page 184)

An area of sustainable growth of the suburbs with some opportunity for windfall sites will see growth mainly confined to infilling. **An area of focussed Intensification has been designated to the east of Selsdon, near Gravel Hill Tram Stop, which is also located within proximity to Selsdon District Centre. This is considered a highly sustainable location, where density residential development and renewal will be encouraged. This is due to its proximity to the tram network and services/facilities within the District Centre. Further an area of moderate Intensification has been designated to the North of Selsdon. This currently a low density residential area, which is considered to have good access to the tram network (via Coombe Lane Stop) as well as local services within Selsdon District Centre. Due to this it is considered a sustainable location for moderate renewal, intensification via new residential development that results in a reasonable increase in the density of the area The more dense eastern and more suburban western area will continue to be distinct characteristics of the area.**

Intensification Areas Planned for Selsdon

The area surrounded by half-moons below is area of focussed intensification



The area enclosed by half-moons below is area for moderate intensification.



Comment 4: Green Grid

Detailed Policy DM26A (Page 254): Other Important Green Space

DM26A.1 Other important green spaces are identified in the borough that add to character and wellbeing of the residents.

These spaces will be protected unless

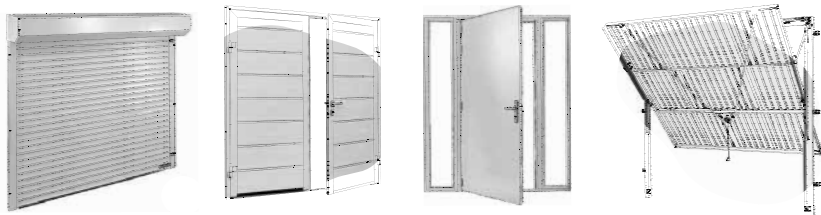
- a. An equivalent green space is reprovided as part of any development that allows for the local community to continue all existing lawful use of the Other Important Green Space;**
- b. The existing Other Important Green Space is no longer used by the local community so is no longer an important open space; or**
- c. Other equivalent green space is available for the local community to continue all existing lawful uses of the Other Important Green Space within the distances set out in Table 9.1b.**

This is welcomed but two more green spaces in Selsdon should be designated 'Important Open Space' as per DM26. These are:



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- Land adjacent to 124 Croham Valley Road

Both of these sites are well-used green spaces that have covenants to prevent development.

Comment 5: Transport

Policy SP8 (page 271): Transport and Communication

SP8.1 In order to deliver a transport and communications network capable of supporting growth over the plan period the Council will apply a resumption in favour of development for new transport schemes which meet the requirements of Policy SP8 and other applicable policies of the development plan. The transportation and communications network should support the community, environmental, and economic health of the borough by connecting communities, promoting physical activity through transport, reducing vehicle emissions, and creating vibrancy through foot traffic in the borough's centres. A functioning and accessible network is essential to accommodating growth.

There is no mention of how transport links will be improved in Selsdon, which has poor transport links. Whilst areas near the tram stops have reasonably good transport links, the rest of Selsdon is poorly served by public transport.

Comment 6: Selsdon Intensification

It is hard to see that intensification along the lines described above (see Comment 3) will be compatible with maintaining protecting and enhancing the suburban character of the area. The recent increase in demand for homes with gardens (due to Covid and subsequent increased working from home) is not compatible with these plans.

Comment 7: Selsdon Community Plan

11.186C (page 384) The Selsdon Community Plan (2020) outlines the key economic, social and environmental issues facing the area; as well as sets out the key priorities for investment in facilities, services and infrastructure identified by the local community, as this area is expected to change and grow in the future. A summary of the key issues identified by this are; a need to

protect, enhance and promote use of green spaces (including children's play area); a need to enhance public transport and provide bus shelters, increasing provision of parking near shopping areas, a need to provide new/enhanced community facilities for all ages and sports facilities, a need to limit fast food places and increase variety of other uses to promote viability, vitality of the District Centre. The Community Plan is a key piece of evidence that has informed the content of the Local Plan.

11.186 refers to the fact that the Selsdon Community Plan has been taken into account. If this is the case, then the two green spaces outlined above (Foxearth Spinney and Croham Valley Road), should be protected. The SCP states:

'Improving and preserving Selsdon's green spaces was by far the top priority and included comments about restricting development on green and open spaces. It came out on top not only in an opening question about what people liked about the area, but also in a question asking people to rank priorities for improvement by theme and was mentioned frequently in other questions.'

PERMISSION GIVEN FOR INTENSE DEVELOPMENT AT THE GALLOP

Even under the current Local Plan, the Labour-run Council is approving developments that cram lots of houses on to a plot that previously had only one home.

Current footprint/site plan

Proposed footprint/site plan



At a Planning Committee meeting in January, Labour Councillors voted in favour of demolishing a pair of bungalows and building 9 houses. A representative of Croham Valley Residents' Association and Cllr Robert Ward, Conservative Councillor for Selsdon and Addington Village Ward, spoke against the development. Sadly, these representations were ignored and the development was approved.

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

Councillor surgeries have been reinstated and are held on the first Saturday of the month 10am - 11.15am (no surgery in August) 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:

Helen.pollard@croydon.gov.uk **07941 573727**

Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk **07783 152363**

Stuart.millson@croydon.gov.uk **07783 152376**

Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk **07816 123204**

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

22/00267/GPDO – 133 Addington Road, CR2 8LH

Conversion of the ground floor Class E unit into a studio flat

22/00198/HSE – 173 Addington Road, CR2 8LN

Erection of a single storey rear extension and first floor bay window

21/06350/HSE – 43 Byron Road, CR2 8DZ

Erection of gable end roof extension to existing property. Erection of single-storey front and rear extension and two-storey side extension with gable end following demolition of existing garage

22/00088/HSE – 51 Croham Valley Road, CR2 7JG

Erection of single storey front/side/rear extensions; conversion of garage and loft space into habitable spaces with roof lights in the front and rear roof slopes

22/00156/FUL – 67 Croham Valley Road, CR2 7JG

Partial demolition of the existing dwellinghouse and erection of two-storey detached dwellinghouse with associated alterations to the front garden area to provide two car parking spaces using existing crossover.

22/00386/HSE – 2 The Ruffetts, CR2 7LQ

Erection of two-storey side extension, outdoor fence and front landscaping

(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)).

~~

MP Chris Philp's Report

Member of Parliament for Croydon South



Surrey Hills AONB Consultation

I take pride in the fact that London is the world's first National Park City. In Croydon, 10 parks have been awarded the Green Flag Award, a status accredited to well managed and accessible open spaces. On our doorstep, we are lucky to have large natural spaces such as Farthing Downs, Happy Valley, Coulsdon Common, Kenley Common, and Riddlesdown. That is why I am delighted that the Government's advisor on the natural environment is consulting to expand the boundaries of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to include these areas.

AONB status for some of our most loved and used spaces would be invaluable in highlighting the respect and protection they deserve. More generally, my concern for our green spaces comes from the shocking loss of 300 hectares of Green Belt land across Greater London since 2017. The Surrey Hills AONB boundary has not been reviewed since 1958 and there have been repeated calls to reconsider the boundary. Including some of our local areas in the AONB could help preserve the natural environment and heritage while providing an opportunity to support people's health and wellbeing through access to nature.

By the time of publication, the public consultation had closed, however, I would like to thank everybody who took part in this very important opportunity for our area.

Southern Rail

I have been in touch with Southern Rail to ask that they urgently increase their services into London now that life is returning to normal. I will keep you posted on progress.

Chris Philp

Member of Parliament, Croydon South: 020 7219 8026

chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk



DEPUTY MANAGER

CONTACT is a thriving charity based in Selsdon Community Centre, providing practical help, advice, support and information to people of all ages in the Selsdon area.

We are currently looking to recruit a Deputy Manager to work within our team of dedicated volunteers.

Providing comprehensive support to the Manager and your colleagues, you will assist with the daily business of the charity, managing contact with our clients and dealing with day-to-day issues.

We are looking to appoint a self-starter with a good office, finance, and management background. Do you have experience of running a busy office environment? Are you passionate about working in the voluntary sector and supporting and easing the lives of the more vulnerable?

We are looking for someone with good IT skills, particularly Word and Excel, who will join our happy team, supporting the manager in managing the office, and share responsibility for client care, activity and quality.

The initial contract will be for a period of six months with the possibility of extending to a permanent position.

The hours are 15, spread over three days per week.

The salary will be £25,025 pro rata

An application pack is available from the Contact office on the lower ground floor at Sainsbury's, Selsdon (Mon-Fri 10am to 3pm) or by e-mail at info@selsdoncontact.org.uk

The closing date for applications is Sunday, 27th March 2022

Reports from our Local Police Wards

Unfortunately for us, I received this from our PCSO, Jack Killian.

Dear Residents,

I am leaving my role as PCSO for Selsdon and Forestdale as I am going on to become a Police Constable. It's been a pleasure to meet some of you and to the ones I haven't met hopefully my updates have been helpful to keep up to date with what has been occurring in your local area. Thank you again and hope you all stay safe in the future.

Meanwhile Tina Nash, PCSO for Selsdon and Addington Village, has sent the following advice about catalytic converter thefts and the recent crime figures from 18/01/2022 to 19/02/2022.

Catalytic converter thefts are still a big problem for both wards and the surrounding areas. We are asking residents to please be vigilant. The criminals committing these offences are prepared to use violence against anyone who challenges them. In the last few weeks, Police Officers have been assaulted and Police vehicles damaged when they have captured or attempted to capture these thieves.

If you see or hear anyone tampering with your vehicle, please call 999 immediately. DO NOT attempt to intervene yourself.

If you can, give the operator a description of the suspects. How many of them were there? What were they wearing? Which way did they run? What vehicle did they get into? Did you get a registration number?

This information helps Officers while on the way to your call.

We are aware of how frustrating these thefts are and how costly they can be to vehicle owners, especially to those residents who we know have been victims more than once.

Remember Stay Safe.

Selsdon and Addington Village SNT

Tina Nash 7287SN Police Community Support Officer

Tel: 0208 721 2468

E-Mail: Selsdonaddvill@gmail.com

Selsdon Vale and Forestdale SNT

PC De Meneses 3255SN

Tel: 020 8721 2464

E-mail: SNMailbox-SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk

Address: Addington Police Station, Addington Village Road, CR0 5AQ

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- ❖ social spaces for activities (lounge and garden)
- ❖ laundry facilities

Our Extra Care schemes offer:

- ❖ 1-bedroom or studio self-contained flats with the benefit of alarm pull cords in all rooms
- ❖ dedicated on-site staff team including House Manager
- ❖ freshly cooked midday meals 7 days a week
- ❖ on-site Carers 24 hours a day
- ❖ domestic and laundry services
- ❖ social spaces for activities (lounge and garden)



If you would like to make an enquiry please contact us on **020 8655 6724**, **sjohnson@eldonhousing.co.uk**.

Information is also available from our website – **www.eldonhousing.org**

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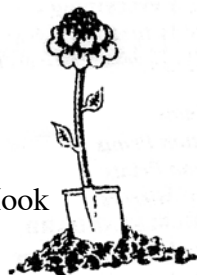
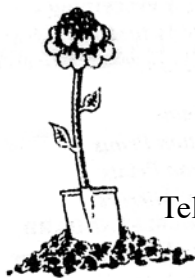
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Selsdon Vale and Forestdale Ward

| DATE | PLACE | CRIME | TIME |
|------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| 26/01/2022 | Pixton Way | Vehicle Plates stolen | 16:00 |
| 08/02/2022 | Sundale Avenue | Theft from Motor Vehicle | 09:22 |
| 08/02/2022 | Friarswood | Theft from Motor Vehicle | 10:00 |
| 08/02/2022 | Pixton Way | Vehicle Plates stolen | 11:00 |
| 08/02/2022 | Albatross Gardens | Theft from Motor Vehicle | 18:55 |
| 08/02/2022 | Sundale Avenue | Criminal Damage | 09:20 |
| 17/02/2022 | Benhurst Gardens | Theft of Motor Vehicle | 05:30 |
| 19/02/2022 | Courtwood Lane | Criminal Damage | 03:30 |

Selsdon and Addington Village Ward

| DATE | PLACE | CRIME | TIME |
|------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| 21/01/2022 | Featherbed Lane | Vehicles Plates stolen | ? |
| 31/01/2022 | Addington Village Rd | Vehicle Interference | 10:00 |
| 02/02/2022 | Selsdon Park Road | Theft of Motor Vehicle | 00:00 |
| 02/02/2022 | Freelands Avenue | Criminal Damage | 16:00 |
| 04/02/2022 | Palace Green | Criminal Damage | 22:00 |
| 08/02/2022 | Palace Green | Theft from Motor Vehicle | 16:00 |
| 15/02/2022 | Gravel Hill | Theft | 09:00 |
| 16/02/2022 | Sylvan Close | Theft | 11:35 |

2022 Selsdon Wood Photo Competition

Each entrant may submit up to 6 photographs taken in Selsdon Wood between 20th August 2021 and 19th August 2022. As usual the winners will be chosen by a secret ballot of the visitors to the FSW Open Day on 4th September. Winners will receive cash prizes of £50 first, £20 second and £10 third. Closing date - 20th August 2022.



Please submit your photographs to our competition organiser, Heather Govier, in electronic format by email to govierh@gmail.com or via the FSW Facebook page. Please send full sized images (not reduced edits). Alternatively, you could submit prints to Heather Govier, 219 Osward, Courtwood Lane, Croydon. CR0 9HG. To see winning and shortlisted photographs from past years check the Photo Competition page of our website www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk

Shopping in Selsdon, part 1.

We regularly see delivery vehicles touring our streets, whether it's a grocery shop from Sainsburys, Ocado or Tesco's or a delivery of an on-line order via DPD, UPS, Hermes, Amazon or even our reliable Postie, and we are told the High Streets are dying. Leaving aside Banking, which our stalwarts at the Post Office in Tudor Library now provide much of, we are fortunate in Selsdon to have a vibrant collection of shops offering a vast variety of services and goods.

What of the intrepid pioneers of Selsdon Garden Village aka Croham Heights? Soon after Planning Permission was granted to Messrs Costains on March 5th 1925 the first of 146 Costain houses in Byron, Queenhill and Farley Roads were being occupied in September of that year. Those original Selsdonians (Selsdonites?) would have been living on a building site with no paved roads, Farley Road / Croham Valley Road did not open until 1926 and there were no Deliveroo apps or static shops to get their daily victuals from. There were Piggeries and Smallholdings down on Selsdon Vale so pork and eggs and 'in season' vegetables would presumably have been readily available but it would be a trek to any shops in Addington or Sanderstead Village or down to South Croydon with no buses to ease the journey. Car ownership was a rarity among the new Selsdonians.

With a foresight that our current development system seems to lack, Costains had the problem in hand though: Planning Permission was granted November 24th 1925 for two blocks of shops in the Addington Road which we now know as 'The Broadway'. The first block of 5 shops, with accommodation over, was opened in late 1926.



View from the Triangle showing both Broadway blocks. Photo attributed to very early 1930s

The shops comprised:

| No | Name | Business | Currently |
|----|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Welstead Surrey Dairies | Dairy | 119, KIBA (Kitchens) |
| 2 | Hearn & Sons | Butchers | 121, Blooms (opticians) |
| 3 | H Richards | Chemist | 123, Lloyds (Pharmacy) |
| 4 | Worth | Tobacconist & P.O. | 125, Selsdon Nails (Salon) |
| 5 | Marion England | Ladies Hairdresser | 127, Vintage 62 (Unisex Hair Salon) |

The second identical block was completed in 1927 but only Nos 6, 7 and 10 were occupied.

| No | Name | Business | Currently |
|----|-------------|-----------|----------------------------------------|
| 6 | Normans | Drapers | 129, Oopsies Daisies (Children's Wear) |
| 7 | A J Butcher | Newsagent | 131, Elite Computers |
| 8 | | | 133, (vacant) |
| 9 | | | 135, Mind (Charity) |
| 10 | C H Howard | Grocer | 137, Aesthetics (Beauty Salon) |

Number 8 became B Nash, Greengrocers, sometime later. Number 9, was occupied by W V Taylor, a Fishmonger, in 1930.



The shop unit, far right, is yet to become W V Taylor, Fishmonger. Photo attributed to 1927/9

Thanks to Ted Friths Journals and back copies of the Selsdon Gazette, and a walk down the High Street, we can build snapshots over time to see how the shops have changed:

| No | 1938 | 1955 | 2008 | Feb 2022 |
|-----|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 119 | United Dairies | United Dairies | Spectrum (TV & Radio) | KIBA (Kitchens) |
| 121 | Hearn & Sons (Butchers) | Hearn & Sons (Butchers) | Blooms (Opticians) | Blooms (Opticians) |
| 123 | A Anderson (Chemist) | A Anderson (Chemist) | Lloyds (Pharmacy) | Lloyds (Pharmacy) |
| 125 | J Miller (Tobacconists) | Worths (Tobacconists) | Frost (Estate Agents) | Selsdon Nails (Salon) |
| 127 | Callaways (Ladies Hairdress) | Peggy Doreen (Ladies Hairdress) | Touché (Ladies Hairdress) | Vintage 62 (Unisex Hair Salon) |
| 129 | Normans (Drapers & PO) | Normans (Drapers & PO) | Buckingham (Drapers & PO) | Oopsies Daisies (Children's Clothing) |
| 131 | A J Butcher (Stationers & News) | A J Butcher (Stationers & News) | Clarkes (Newsagents) | Elite Computers |
| 133 | B Nash (Greengrocer) | B Nash (Greengrocer) | Gordon Gray (Estate Agent) | (Vacant) |
| 135 | W Taylor (Fishmonger) | Sandys (Fishmonger) | Mind (Charity) | Mind (Charity) |
| 137 | Cave Austin (Grocers) | Shoe Craft (Shoe Repairs) | Floor Studio (Floor Coverings) | Aesthetics (Beauty Salon) |

It is perhaps interesting to see that some shops have changed name but not function. Possibly supermarkets have rendered the likes of local butchers and fishmongers obsolete and that there is a trend towards personal 'one to one' services on the high street, which supermarkets cannot provide. There is a thesis in there for someone.

Would we see a similar pattern of change or evolution of the high street if we look at the other shops along Addington Road or across the street, and what is the little building adjacent to the second Broadway Block?

To be continued....

Ian Leggatt

Thanks again to the journals of Ted Frith for the history of early Selsdon Shops and to Croydon History groups on Facebook for the photos. Thanks also to Linda Morris for loan of a back issue of the Selsdon Gazette. Any errors in transcription are mine.

A Good Time for Gardening – March



As I write this, the sun is beaming down and there is beginning to be warmth in the rays. Walking around Selsdon, snowdrops, crocus, hellebores, iris reticulata and even a few daffodils are in bloom. Spring is most definitely on its way.

A few jobs to keep the garden looking neat and tidy:

- ~ check garden supports and possibly put a few extra ones in, as March can be a breezy month and tying new growth in can prevent it snapping off
- ~ check that paths haven't become slippery over the winter months
- ~ feed trees, shrubs and hedges with a slow-release fertiliser by lightly forking it into the soil
- ~ prune roses to encourage strong, new growth and give them a feed
- ~ cut back cornus (dogwoods) and other shrubs, grown for their colourful, winter stems, down to their bases, as well as ornamental grasses
- ~ keep an eye out for slugs as the weather continues to warm up. They love soft, new growth on plants and seedlings
- ~ cut the old leaves off hellebores to remove any disease and to make the flowers more visible
- ~ deadhead hydrangeas before the new growth appears. Cut back to about one third of last season's growth
- ~ dig compost into vegetable beds to prepare them for the growing season, covering them with black plastic to keep it drier and warmer in preparation for planting
- ~ feed blueberry plants with an ericaceous fertiliser
- ~ cover strawberries with a cloche to encourage early fruiting
- ~ recut any lawn edges if necessary
- ~ mow the lawn if it needs it, but set the blades higher than usual
- ~ begin weeding as the weather warms – it's easier if you remove them whilst they're young
- ~ top dress containers by removing the top few centimetres of soil and replacing with fresh compost

Date for your diary – **Saturday 26th March**, from 2 pm – **Spring Flower Show** at All Saints Church, Onslow Gardens, Sanderstead

Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid

www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

SELSDON FLOWER CLUB

We are a small friendly club who meet on the second Wednesday afternoon of each month at 2 pm at the rear of St. John the Divine Church, Selsdon. Subscription £25 per annum. We have demonstrations and practices. All abilities welcome.



| | |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| March 9 | Practice - Spring flowers in water (with glass beads) |
| April 13 | Demonstration - Graham Harmer |
| May 11 | Practice - Summer Holiday Arrangement |

Please contact the Secretary, Maureen Browning on 020 8651 5821 for more details.

~~

Maureen has kindly written the following article to help us arrange our springtime flowers.

Flower Arranging in the Spring



For those with a love of nature, the annual appearance of buds on trees and plants epitomises the magic of the emergence of spring. After a long cold and dark winter, we are desperate for a bit of colour. This always gives flower arrangers much encouragement to start our spring arrangements.

If you decide to have a go, it is best to use seasonal plant material where possible. First come up with a plan. There are traditional classic ways to create flower arrangements but any design will do as long as you like it. Various colours can be used, together, or as shades of one colour. Yellow is a classic spring colour and arrangements can incorporate decorations including fluffy chicks or painted eggs etc., many of which can be bought in supermarkets or high street shops. It's possible to be fairly economical with flower arrangements if using supermarket flowers and twigs and garden foliage. You can use whatever comes to hand.

Flowers traditionally used in spring arrangements are irises, tulips,

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daffodils and narcissi, but roses and alstroemeria are wonderful for arranging also.



Examples of foliage to be used could be: twigs, ivy, ferns, eucalyptus, pussy willow, catkins and herbs such as rosemary or any other foliage from bushes in the garden. Some supermarkets include a small amount of foliage in their flower bunches for those with small or no gardens. It's always good to use British flowers where possible from a florist but supermarkets do however sell a wide variety of beautiful flowers from all parts of the world and work out a bit cheaper.

All types of containers can be used such as baskets, dishes (plastic, glass or ceramic) or even wine glasses or teacups. "Oasis" foam, which can be bought from most garden centres is used to support the flowers, although pin-holders, crumpled wire or beads are becoming more popular, being more environmentally friendly. The Oasis must be kept moist to lengthen the life of the arrangement or water poured into the container.

When using spring flowers, it is best to remember that they are grown when the weather is quite cold so it's best to place your finished arrangement somewhere cool.

Easter trees and door wreaths are becoming very popular. An Easter tree can be made using contorted Willow decorated with small painted eggs, sweets or with battery lights similar to a Christmas tree. This can be great fun for kids to help.

For those who would like to have a go at flower arranging this spring, I hope this has given you a bit of a guide and inspiration.

Maureen Browning

~~

A Selsdon Entrepreneur!

Dennie Smith is passionate about our community and reviving the high street. She wrote to me about her new venture in Selsdon.

Now that I have just turned 60 years old, many would (and do) tell me that I should be thinking about retirement. But instead, after having just launched

my 4th business, retirement is the last thing I want to think about.

I bought my first business when I was 53 years old. It is a unisex hair salon Vintage62 located in Selsdon. However, one business was not enough, and after hearing about my salon clients' experiences on Tinder, I decided to create my own online dating site 'Traditional Dating Club' followed by another 'Geek Meet'.

After returning from numerous lockdowns, I decided to take another gamble and have just launched a children's boutique 'Oopsie Daisies'. It seemed like a natural fit when I remembered that I regularly get clients who are parents / grandparents with young ones, and that there is nowhere nearby selling children's clothes.



You're never too old to try new adventures, and age is merely a number.

~~



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Walking together through grief

A group held at Selsdon Baptist Church, Addington Road

The next Bereavement Support Group will run from **Wednesday 4 May for 5 weeks until 1 June**. It will be held in the coffee lounge at Selsdon Baptist Church and runs from **7- 8.30pm**.

This group is open to all and is suitable for anyone who has suffered loss of any kind.

For more information or to book a place please call Dawn on 07718 189033 or Jane on 07561 869620
Or email - bereavement@selsdonbaptist.org.uk



We will follow Government Covid safety guidelines.

~~

World Book Day Thursday 3 March 2022

In 2022, we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of World Book Day. World Book Day was created by UNESCO on 23rd April 1995 as a worldwide celebration of books and reading. It is marked in over 100 countries around the globe. The first World Book Day in the UK and Ireland took place in 1997 to encourage young people to discover the pleasure of reading.

For this month's quiz we are going to test your literature location knowledge. For each of the addresses given below can you give the name of a literary character living at the address. To make it slightly easier, we've added the author's name in brackets, to give you a quick clue.

1. 221b Baker Street (Conan Doyle)
2. 4 Privet Drive (Rowling)
3. Manderley (Du Maurier)
4. Satis House (Dickens)
5. Pemberley (Austen)
6. Bag End (Tolkien)
7. 32 Windsor Gardens (Bond)
8. Wuthering Heights (Brontë)
9. Green Gables (Montgomery)
10. Elsinore Castle (Shakespeare)



Many thanks to triviaquiznight

Answers after Nature Notes

An Afternoon Tea at the Selsdon Centre for the Retired

We know how to put on an event! Here are some pictures of our first Afternoon Tea. We held a sell-out get-together at the Selsdon Centre for the Retired late last year and a great time was had by all – as you can see from the pictures.

The amazing, lovingly-prepared fresh cooked cakes, scones and sandwiches were presented on heavily laden 3-tiered tea plates on beautifully decorated tables, laid with freshly laundered white table linen. The tea was served on gorgeous mixed vintage China cups and saucers with pretty china side-plates which were generously donated to us by Priscilla's Tea Room in Sanderstead. Our live entertainment was provided by the singer Louise who was accompanied by Pianist John. The pair added a relaxed vibe to the afternoon, which helped the event go with a swing.

Our main sponsors for this event were Selsdon Jam Pan, a small local company making and selling a range of jams and preserves. They are available in both Priscilla's Tea Rooms (Sanderstead and Hamsey Green) and Planet of the Beans, Selsdon is also a stockist. All products are also available on-line (selsdonjampan.co.uk). Everyone loved their strawberry jam which we served alongside our home-baked scones. We even had some gift packs as raffle prizes and we've only heard good things about these too!



We must thank our loyal volunteer helpers and drivers for their constant support. As without them, we would not be able to put on events like these. We are eternally grateful to each and every one. On that note, we are always looking for volunteers to help. We have 2-hour volunteering slots available and need drivers, escorts (to sit with drivers while picking up our customers) and kitchen helpers to serve lunches and drinks. We're open Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 10am and 2pm.

Please apply, it's very rewarding and it's important we keep this fantastic resource going. We can give you the full information when you call or email.

Our next afternoon tea event is planned for Friday 25th March and we're selling tickets for this now. We hope some of you will come along to see for yourselves what we can do; by enjoying a few hours of fun with us at the Selsdon Centre for the Retired.

Tel: 0208 651 1111. Email: Selsdon.centre@btinternet.com

Tuesday Coffee Club at Sanderstead Methodist Church

(on the 403 bus route)

The coffee club for members of the church and local community opened in January 2019. We met every first and third Tuesday of the month until March 2020 when the first lockdown meant that we all had to stay at home. From March 2020 until May 2021, we kept in contact by telephone calls. First it was every Tuesday and later, when we were able to go out again, it was twice a month.



In May 2021 we were delighted to open again. The plan was to hold meetings in the church garden as much as possible. We were very lucky that nearly every coffee club Tuesday of the summer was fine and sunny, and we enjoyed being outside.

By the autumn we were back inside, wearing masks when walking around, keeping the windows open and generally being careful. We restarted doing jigsaw puzzles, providing newspapers, and playing scrabble and other games. In January 2022 we held a lunch to celebrate the club being open for three years.

We have some loyal members who live in Selsdon. New members are welcome. We meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month. If you would like some company, conversation, and coffee (or tea) in a friendly environment please drop in to Sanderstead Methodist Church, 102 Limsfield Road, CR2 9EF, between 10.00 and 11.30 am and try out the club. It costs £1 for a drink and a cookie. For some pictures and more details visit the website: www.sandersteadmethodist.org.uk

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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'.

This month we are so excited about our Reachout event on Sat 19th March where one hundred local elderly folks will be invited to attend a three-course lunch with entertainment & afternoon tea to follow. This year we will be celebrating the Queen's Jubilee. It will be a fun event for everyone.

On the morning of Good Friday, 15th April, we will work with Business Partners & local shops to run our Easter Egg Hunt event in Sanderstead, Selsdon & Hamsey Green. Families will be encouraged to visit local shops to collect a letter which will make up a sentence which will allow the children to claim a small Easter Egg. Watch this space & our facebook page for more info.

Our Annual Rotary Ramble will this year be held on Sat 21st May starting and ending at St Mary's Church Hall in Farleigh. This year as before 60% of your sponsorship will go to the chosen charity with the remaining 40% to our Rotary charity.

It is great to continue working with Business Partners to provide extra Defib Units across our areas of operation. So far, we have defib units outside Waitrose in Sanderstead, Sainsburys in Selsdon & the Corner House Tea Room in Hamsey Green. We are now working with Priscilla's and the local football team to provide a unit in the recreation ground, with Kingsmead Stables to install a unit outside their building & All Saints Church to install a new unit outside the hall. We will provide opportunities for everyone to come along and learn how to save a life.

If you would like to work with us then please get in touch 07774 186792.

Wendy A Parr

~~

Selsdon Connections – Guess Who Quiz? - answers from February

1. **Anneka Rice** - Broadcaster and TV personality. Alumni of Selsdon based Croydon High School.
2. **Kate Moss** – Supermodel. Lived on the borders of Selsdon (both Sanderstead and Forestdale) during her childhood.
3. **Lord Selsdon** - Currently Member of the House of Lords. His

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connection to Selsdon is that his grandfather was once a South Croydon MP hence the hereditary title.

4. **Sir Julian Huxley** - Biologist and writer, an early advocate of conservation and an influential populariser of science. His connection to Selsdon lies in his public support of the 10-year campaign to create a 'bird sanctuary'. He was a keen bird watcher and was very influential in shaping the modern RSPB. He went on to become the first Director-General of UNESCO (1946) and a founding member of the World Wildlife Fund. As you will know he also has a pub in Selsdon named in his honour!
5. **Jacqueline du Pré** – World renowned Cellist. Alumni of Selsdon based Croydon High School
6. **George Smith** - MP, banker and director of the infamous East India Company and great-great-great-grandfather of Queen Elizabeth II. He transformed the Selsdon farm into a manor house, 'Selsdon Park'
7. **General de Gaulle** – Leader of Free French Army (and later President of France). In outbreak of WWII he first lodged at the Selsdon Park Hotel, and then with a French family (the Boissiers) in Arundel Avenue.
8. **Ted Heath** – MP (and later Prime Minister). In the early 1970s Selsdon hotel was used as the meeting place for Heath and his shadow cabinet where they wrote their Conservative manifesto promoting a free market economy. They published under the name 'The Selsdon Group' and those choosing to follow these tenets continue the group today though none, then or now, were actually associated with the area!
9. **Kirsty MacColl** - Singer/Songwriter. She grew up in Beech Way, Selsdon, attending local schools.
10. **Susanna Reid** - Broadcaster and TV personality. Alumni of Selsdon based Croydon High School.

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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.

We thought that Mrs Cullen's (November Gazette) had resolved her problems about a missed bulky waste collection – unfortunately not!

Dear Editor,

Due to the continuing threats and harassment, I am continually receiving

from Croydon Council Tax Department I am now forced to take legal action to end this matter.

I have never received a refund from Croydon Council for the Bulky Waste Collection I paid for in July 2021 but never received.

On 20 October 2021 I was finally sent an email with a photograph taken by the Veolia driver showing my Bulky Waste very clearly standing on my driveway. It proved that the waste had been presented on the correct day, and I believed this would bring this matter to an end.

I decided to remove the amount owing from my council tax payments and I informed Croydon Council of my decision. But I am still being hounded for payment of "overdue Council Tax" and threatened with Court action. I have told Croydon Council repeatedly to take the £52.28 refund owed to me, and pay this towards my 'overdue' council tax.

The Council's incompetence is affecting my credit rating, and its constant harassment and threats are affecting my health. I am almost 70 years old and I have paid my council tax for 45 years with no problems.

I am now forced to seek legal advice, and I will start by making an appointment to meet with the Citizens Advice Bureau. I hope that this meeting will help me build a case against Croydon Council so that I can take you to the Small Claims Court, or even to Croydon Court, to put an end to this matter.



Here is a plea to all dog walkers using the woods in Selsdon.

Dear Editor

Yesterday (30th January) I had the distressing experience of seeing a dog attack on a young roe deer in Selsdon Wood on the Addington path near Quail gate. The dog owner managed to carry the terrified injured animal to my front garden where my neighbours and I were able to keep it safe and as comfortable as we could while trying to get help. After 3 hours a lovely man came all the way from the Kent Wildlife Service in Uckfield to take the deer. (He arrived quicker than the RSPCA). Sadly, in spite of initially hoping for a good outcome the deer's wounds were too serious and the vet had to put the animal down.

Please, please can I ask all dog walkers in Selsdon Wood to keep their dogs on leads and under control. There are so many people with dogs

using the woods who seem unaware that their dog's natural instinct is to chase and worry deer and the deer often die of fright even if they appear uninjured.

We are so privileged to have these beautiful wild animals on our doorstep visiting our road surely, we can make a small conscious effort to protect their safety. After all, you would be upset and mortified if your pet dog caused the injury or death of a wild animal.

Name and address supplied



Our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, is looking forward to Spring.

Dear Editor,

Spring is springing beautifully this year. It is such a joy to see the catkins followed by snowdrops, then the little daffodils and irises, then more and more blossoms. There are hyacinths and wallflowers, lilac blossoms, fruit blossoms and so much more.

Silly it might be, but a couple of days ago I saw an ant and felt pleased!

Have I gone mad? No, it is just they are simply everywhere in early spring and summer, and then they develop wings and suddenly fly away in late summer. It is always a pleasure to see a cloud of them go, but now I have seen the first one marching across my patio, I know spring is not far away. Soon I will be cursing them again, especially if I receive several bites at once when I accidentally disturb an anthill while gardening. But that solitary ant is a sign of warmer weather and summer - and a reminder to buy some ant powder, for when they try to come indoors! They just seem to gather under the floor before building anthills outside in the garden. Having seen a great army of ants marching across the ceiling of the flat we had rented in Australia, when we achieved a lifetime ambition and went to see The Great Barrier Reef, I am a bit 'ant wary'. We had been out for the day and I had rustled up some tea, then decided to have a rest before clearing everything away, despite the warning signs in the kitchen. My husband raised the alarm. 'Ten thousand saw we at a glance (to slightly misquote William Wordsworth)', all marching about twenty ants wide in a very long column. Never has washing up been done so swiftly and the dishes practically thrown into the cupboards. The March of the Ants had nearly reached the kitchen, when a disappointed ant general called, "Halt, about turn." Of course, we couldn't hear him, but suddenly they halted and began marching back the way they had come and they disappeared

in orderly fashion through a previously unnoticed crack where the ceiling joined the wall. Well, I learnt a valuable lesson too. Never leave any food or scraps or dirty dishes out, when sojourning in the tropics, no matter how tired I am feeling!

Referring again to spring, we've also seen bees on sunny days for two or three weeks now. They are really enjoying the Winter Heather.



This year we shall be able to plan outings and visits again- so long as nothing goes wrong - no more Covid, hopefully. That will be even more wonderful than spring, and I thought nothing could ever be more wonderful than that.

Jessica Blake

~~

Poetry Corner

Mary Gill has written her monthly poem to mark World Water Day on 22 March.

ON THE WATER'S EDGE



On the edge:-
the river plunges recklessly
dashing itself on the brutal rocks below-
shattered into foaming spray
by the impact.
Then, gathering itself together
resumes its journey.

On the edge -
the sea hurls itself against the shore.
Waves collapse across the beach
or face callous rejection
by the hard-faced cliffs.
Then, exhausted by the onslaught,
retire to prepare for the next invasion.

On the edge -
the benumbed water begins to freeze
growing stiff and brittle.
Movement ceases
as the beautiful paralysing crystals
of ice invade the whole body.
Until the sun's mercy sets the prisoner
free.

On the edge -
the sultry moisture takes flight
rising eagerly towards the star
that has warmed its heart.
Drifting upwards where the air is
sparse and cold.
Condensing into tears of
disappointment
it falls back to Earth as rain.

Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth

Woodpeckers

Green Woodpecker. This is the largest of the British woodpeckers, and like other members of this group of birds, builds its nest in a hole which it makes in a suitable tree. As it is a large bird it is not surprising that the hole it produces is larger than those of the other species. I have only once, in Richmond Park, watched a Green Woodpecker at work creating its nest hole, though I have seen other completed or abandoned holes whose size and shape suggested they belonged to this species. On the RSPB reserve on the shingle of Dungeness, where there are no suitable trees, the birds nest in holes in telephone poles. The noise produced by this woodpecker is the loud laughing call which gives it the alternative name of “yaffle”. It usually feeds on the ground, snacking on its favourite ants, but it will pick at ants foraging on branches and will also eat other invertebrates. There are at least two pairs in Selsdon Wood. Male and female look alike but can be separated by examining the “moustache” which is solid black in the female but has a red centre in the male.

Great Spotted Woodpecker. Most likely of all the woodpeckers to be seen and heard in UK woodland. This species produces the loud drumming on branches during the breeding season. The noise tails off at the end as though the bird is tiring. It also produces a loud “tchick” when disturbed and when the bird is very excited this can be repeated rapidly. Young birds in the nest make a loud chorus of begging calls which can be heard from some distance and thereby draws attention to the position of the nest. The red under the tail of both sexes does not help in identification but the male has a small red patch on the back of the neck. Juvenile birds have a red cap which separates them from the adults. Feeding on almost anything, they readily visit bird feeders, but have the unfortunate habit of raiding the nests of tits, particularly when built in artificial nest boxes. I would guess there are at least 20 pairs in Selsdon Wood.



Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. A sparrow-sized woodpecker which is disappearing from its usual haunts all over UK. At one time I could guarantee to find this species in all the local woods – Selsdon Wood, Littleheath, Kings Wood, Croham Hurst, etc. In the 1970s I was involved in the BTO attempt, using thousands of volunteers, to create an Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland which was eventually published in 1976. At one point I was asked to take over the survey area from another volunteer who was unable to continue. This involved New Addington so I began my new survey by walking up from Kent Gate Way through

Rowdown Woods. After about 100 metres I found a pair of Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers at their nest. Elsewhere I have seen birds dangling from the very tips of thin branches. Like its larger relative it drums on branches but the noise is all on one note and lasts about 50% longer so that it is possible to separate the two species just by listening to the drumming. I have only once heard the very quiet “tchick” call but the more common call is a ringing “kee, kee, kee”. There is no red under the tail of either adult but the male has a dull red cap.

Wryneck. In past centuries this relative of the woodpeckers was a common bird in the summer but it is most likely to be seen during migration nowadays as birds from the continent pass through on their way to Africa. Seen at close range it is a marvellous mixture of greys, browns, black and yellow which gives it a camouflaged appearance when seen on the ground where it spends much of its time in search of ants. It nests in holes but is unable to produce its own and will frequently make use of an abandoned woodpecker nest hole. My encounters with this species have usually been in September when looking for migrating birds. I have seen them at Minsmere, Dungeness, Portland Bill and most frequently at Church Norton near Pagham. A possible exception to the migrating sightings occurred when I attended a Field Studies Course at Kindrogan in Perthshire. Having settled in, we went for a walk to explore the local area. A bird which rose from the vegetation and landed on a bare branch was a Wryneck. This was at a time when the species was believed to be breeding in Scotland.

Habitat destruction will always be a problem but possibly a warming climate will allow some of these birds to return to previous breeding haunts.

~~

Answers to Book Quiz

1. Sherlock Holmes
2. Harry Potter (and the Dursleys)
3. Rebecca (and Maxim de Winter, the new Mrs de Winter and Mrs Danvers)
4. Miss Havisham (and Estella)
5. Mr Darcy (and eventually Elizabeth Bennett)
6. Bilbo Baggins and Frodo Baggins
7. Paddington Bear (and the Browns)
8. Heathcliff, Cathy and The Earnshaws
9. Anne (and Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert)
10. Hamlet (and Gertrude, Claudius and the ghost of Hamlet's father)

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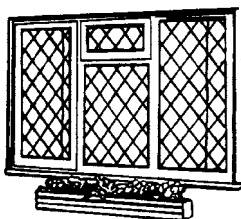
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A SELECTED LIST OF SELSDON ORGANISATIONS

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

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| 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 |

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 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 |
| Coulsdon Masonic Lodge | Colin Lynch | 07801 453474 |
| Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society | Brian Lancaster | 8668 6909 |
| Croydon Recorded Music Society | Liz Brereton | 8656 7382 |
| Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind | | 8668 2486 |
| Cruse Bereavement Care Helpline | | 8916 0855 |
| Friends of Littleheath Woods | Ian Leggatt | 8651 1140 |
| Friends of Selsdon Wood | see website: www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk | |
| Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section | | |
| Girlguiding UK: http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved.aspx | | 0800 169 5901 |
| Parkinson's UK Croydon & District | Jacky Green | 01737 355487 |
| Police (Selsdon & Ballards SNT) | Beat Officer: | 8721 2464 |
| RSPB, Croydon Local Group | John Davis | 8640 4578 |
| Rotary Sanderstead and Selsdon | Wendy A Parr | 07774 186792 |
| Probus Club of Croydon South | John Barker | 8657 2093 |
| St John's Dramatic Society | Caryl Rapps | 8651 1326 |
| St John's Wives | Jane Guglielmi | 8657 6672 |
| Sanderstead Plantation Partners | Michael Lishmund | 020 8651 2760 |
| 1 st Selsdon & Addington Scout Group: | Website: www.1stselsdon.org.uk | |
| Beaver Colony (6-8yrs) | Maddie Dunn | 07703 531652 |
| Cub Pack (8-10yrs) | Louise Baker | 07737 404668 |
| Scouts Troop (10-14yrs) | Douglas Gordon | 07514 651711 |
| Croham Valley Explorers | Anthony Woodin | 020 8651 3780 |
| 2 nd Selsdon & Addington Scout Group: | Website: www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk | |
| Selsdon Art Group | Mrs F Hooper | 07973 412952 |
| Selsdon Bridge Club | Tony Cherrett | 01883 730304 |
| Selsdon Community Hall | Tim Potter (Centre Manager) | 8657 4300 |
| Selsdon Afternoon Townswomen's Guild | Elizabeth Veasey | 8657 1092 |
| Selsdon Floral Club | Maureen Browning | 8651 5821 |
| Selsdon Social Club | | |
| Selsdon Tennis Club | Geoff Littlewood | 8651 4748 |
| 66 (Selsdon) Squadron Air Training Corps | Rob Cleeter | 8651 5958 |

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