

The Selsdon — Gazette —

Volume 76. No. 857

March 2024

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**You are invited to the Annual
General Meeting of the Selsdon
Residents' Association**

Wednesday 20th March at 8pm

St John's Church Hall

Upper Selsdon Road

THE SELSDON GAZETTE

Editor: selsdongazettesra@gmail.com

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Copy for the Gazette should reach the Editor by 20th of each month and email attachments should be in Word or PDF format. Advertisements must reach the Advertising Manager by 15th of each month, with payment in full received by close of business that day.

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.

The publication of advertisements in the Selsdon Gazette does not imply any warranty on the part of the Selsdon Gazette or the Selsdon Residents' Association as to the quality of services offered by the advertiser. Residents should make such enquiries as they think necessary about any provider of goods or services.

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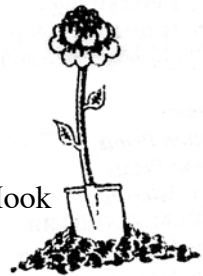
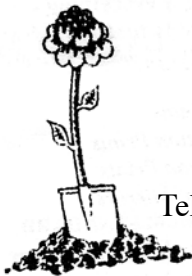
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Chris Jones

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Councillors for Selsdon & Addington Village Ward

Clr Robert Ward Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk 07783 152363

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

Councillors for Selsdon Vale & Forestdale Ward

Clr Andy Stranack Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk 07816 123204

Clr Fatima Zaman Fatima.zaman@croydon.gov.uk 07458 092567

Councillors for Sanderstead Ward

Clr Lynne Hale Lynne.hale@croydon.gov.uk 0208 651 2229

Clr Yvette Hopley Yvette.hopley@croydon.gov.uk 0208 640 7033

Clr 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



Hello everyone and welcome to the March Selsdon Gazette. March is a busy time for the SRA with its Annual General Meeting on 20 March. It would be great to see as many residents as possible as we value their inputs concerning the SRA's activities. You will find our audited annual accounts in this Gazette. Please come along and enjoy a drink and chat with us.

Recently we have encountered some difficulties delivering the Gazette by the middle of the month to some of our residents. We are looking for a new Distribution Manager, a Distributor for the Ridge Langley/ Arundel Avenue area and deliverers. Please consider volunteering for any of these roles; most would only involve a couple of hours each month. Please contact me if you would like more information selsdongazettesra@gmail.com .

We have two competitions to announce this month. Firstly, there is an Easter Egg Hunt for children up to 11 to find easter egg pictures on the windows of some of our High Street shops. Secondly, there is a sunflower growing competition open to all. Can you grow the tallest sunflower in Selsdon this year? You will find details of both competitions in this Gazette - please take part!

Also, in the gazette this month, Ian Leggatt gives us the up to date information about the sale of Birch (Selsdon) and the planting of more trees from the Woodland Trust with our local scouts, in Selsdon Recreation Park this time. PCSO Tina Nash warns us about a spate of burglaries in our area, Ted Forsyth in his Nature Notes, gives us further information about butterflies, Mary Gill's poem celebrates water as a precious resource and our friends from the Sanderstead Horticultural Society look at the past of that beautiful spring flower, the tulip. Our local nonagenarian (and Selsdon Gazette deliverer!) gives us another set of recollections growing up in Selsdon. We have

☞ SUBMISSIONS FOR THE APRIL 2024 EDITION SHOULD
BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN
20TH MARCH - PREFERABLY BEFORE! ☞

also included some information about the need for photo ID for the forthcoming elections and about the Council's library consultation. Last, but not least, March sees World Poetry Day, so our quiz this month tests your knowledge about some popular poems and poets.

I hope that you enjoy your read and I look forward to meeting you at our AGM and hearing from you soon with your photos taken in the Selsdon area, emails about the good and bad in Selsdon, etc.

Chris Jones

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SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS

Selsdon's Green Places

You will see elsewhere in this Gazette that Birch Selsdon is now for sale. Access to the grounds has not been possible since the golf club and hotel closed but it is apparent that the re-wilding continues. What a haven for wildlife it must now be! We do still have our other spaces – Littleheath and Selsdon Woods - to enjoy, not forgetting those of us who have gardens too. You might wish to join in the Big Croydon Bird Watch being organised by RSPB (Croydon) again this May, when you can choose any day during the month to do a Big Day Bird Watch seeking out as many birds as possible at your chosen venue in Croydon either on your own or as a team of up to four people. Please pencil something into your diary and start planning now! More information to follow in due course – keep a watch on SRA, FSW and FoLW websites and our social media as we get it from the RSPB.

As a start, FSW are hopeful of having a nesting pair of tawny owls in the wood this year – watch the FSW Facebook page for the latest on this 'romance'! FSW are also commissioning some tree trunk figures in Selsdon Wood – possibly the start of a new trail of interest which can be added to as funds permit.

SRA Annual General Meeting – 20th March 8pm in St John's Church Hall

We do hope to see lots of you at the AGM this year to celebrate what we have done for the Selsdon community during 2023 and to hear what we plan for this year and the future, especially as our centenary in 2026 draws closer. However, we need your support to keep going! The present

committee members are willing to stand for election again but we do still have one outstanding vacancy which we have been unable to fill for some time. Is there really no-one out there who would like to join us in doing their bit for the community – and perhaps start to learn the ropes for when age inevitably catches up with us eventually. No special skills are needed – only a willingness to attend meetings on just ten Monday evenings a year and to help with the events we organise e.g. the Christmas lights (switch-on planned for 29th November this year) and the Community Picnic and Fun afternoon (8th September), gardening on the Triangle and caring for the high street planters and railing troughs, tree planting in open spaces, and litter picks etc.

We also liaise with the local Police and we are pleased they have indicated their intention to attend the AGM and answer your questions then.

As always, we will conclude the meeting with drinks and time for a chat, so please do come along and meet your SRA and your fellow residents.

Selsdon Gazette Distribution Manager (DM)

This is perhaps the most important part of News 'n' Views so please read it and consider carefully if you can help by taking on this vital role to keep the Gazette going to the community – or if you can persuade someone else to do so who perhaps lives near but not in the SRA area.

Unfortunately, Phil Roberts is unable to continue to be our DM but has indicated he will try to hold the fort (but only for a short while!) until we can find a replacement. The DM is the key to our whole distribution chain, being the person to whom the printer delivers the Gazettes. This is by prior arrangement and usually within the first 10 days each month except August, when there is no Gazette. The DM then batches them up ready for twelve local area distributors to collect and to give to their set of road deliverers. All of this process should happen within a few days (usually around 7th – 12th of the month) so each of the residences in the SRA catchment area hopefully receives their Gazettes by the third week of the month at the latest. However, before you complain that yours has been late at times, it must be remembered that everyone in the Gazette chain is a volunteer: a degree of flexibility of the dates can happen in cases of holiday or ill health or other emergency occurring at the 'wrong' time of the Gazette month for the distributors or deliverers!

As well as the receipt of the initial delivery of about 4000 Gazettes and re-batching them for the local distributors, the DM liaises with the SRA

Committee to maintain the necessary cohort of volunteers to ensure each address receives its monthly copy as soon as possible. We are always in need of more volunteers to maintain the delivery chain, if not as a regular distributor or deliverer but maybe just as someone who is willing to stand in occasionally. Perhaps if you don't want to volunteer as the new DM, then you would consider adding your name to this list so the new person has a good start in building their team when links in the chain slip out.

If you are interested in volunteering either as DM or as a local distributor/road deliverer, please contact:

The Editor, Chris Jones: selsdongazettesra@gmail.com

Subscription Letter Boxes

We will be adding the subs envelopes to the June Gazette and will publish the list of addresses where you can leave your sub. Please can you let us know if you are one of those 'letter-boxes' (Thanks, if you are!) and no longer wish to provide this service: we will assume if we haven't heard from you by the end of April, you are content to continue to be listed.

Linda Morris, Vice Chair, SRA

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SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 20th March 2024 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

AGENDA

1. Number of members present
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the AGM held on 29th March 2023
4. Matters arising from those minutes
5. Annual Report for 2023
6. Hon. Treasurer's Report with adoption of the accounts for 2023
7. Police report
8. Editor's report – The Selsdon Gazette
9. Christmas lights
10. Annual subscription – to resolve the cost per household for 2024/25 (proposed to remain unchanged at £5 per household)
11. Election of Officers & Members of the Committee for 2024/25
12. Adoption of the Hon. Accounts Reviewer for 2024
13. Any other business

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The Gazette Needs Help

Distributors needed for (1) York/Abbey Roads & Greville Avenue

(2) Norfolk Avenue, Byron Road & Mountwood Close

Could you spare a couple of hours a month? You would need to pick up about 350 copies from our Distribution Manager and then pass these to about 8 deliverers in bundles of about 50 gazettes.

Deliverers needed for (1) Sundale Avenue (2) Littleheath Road, low numbers (3) Nightingale Road

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Selsdon Residents' Association

Children's Egg Hunt Competition 2024



During the week from Thursday 28 March until Wednesday 3 April, six shops along our High Street will display a coloured egg in their shop window. All you have to do is to complete the form below with the correct location of each egg and your name, address and age*. Then get your parents/guardians to take a photo of the form and get them to send it by Friday 5 April to the Gazette Editor at selsdongazettesra@gmail.com

The winners will be drawn at random from all the correct forms received.
 (*Any data collected will be destroyed after the competition.)

Colour of Egg seen	Name of Shop where egg is displayed
Red	
Orange	
Yellow	
Green	
Blue	
Purple	

Name _____

Address _____

Age _____

Reminder



British Summer Time starts this year when the clocks go forward at 1am on Sunday 31 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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Selsdon Residents' Association

Grow the Tallest Sunflower Competition '24

**Open to all residents of Selsdon,
especially those with green fingers!**



March is the month sunflower seeds can be grown indoors with May being the month to plant your seedlings outside in full sun. Flowers appear between July and September. Take a photo of your tallest sunflower, preferably with you alongside it. Measure its height from ground level to its tallest point and send the measurement and photo to the editor of the Gazette selsdongazettesra@gmail.com by the 20 September with the grower's name and address. The tallest sunflowers will win the prizes.

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COUNCILLORS' NOTES

OLD GARAGE SITE

The planning department at the Council has approved plans for the development of the site. 21/04116/FUL - Demolition of existing garage, showroom and upper uses. Reuse of existing undercroft level and erection of a stepped 6 storey building (inclusive of ground floor) comprising 35 flats (Class C3) and a ground floor commercial unit (Class E). (Amended description). 230 Addington Road South Croydon CR2 8LE.

ADDINGTON PARK

An application has come forward from Smith and Smith Ltd, their application states 'Smith and Smith Ltd host and organise events throughout the UK focusing on the music genre 'soca' from the Caribbean carnival islands. Hosting indoor club events, brunch events, outdoor events and travel for the last 20 years+'. We are in conversations with the local residents' association regarding the application. Please refer to the Council website for further updates.

LIBRARY CONSULTATION

Last month Croydon Council proposed to consult residents on changes to its library service that will make it easier for more people across the borough to enjoy books and activities. Proposals include longer opening hours including weekends, improved facilities in fewer library buildings, and more staff to provide a new outreach service.

To make these improvements, four library buildings; Bradmore Green, Broad Green, Sanderstead, and Shirley are proposed to be closed. This proposal is based on analysis of the buildings including visitor numbers, size and condition of the buildings, the size and needs of the communities they serve and running costs.

Six libraries (Central, Ashburton, Thornton Heath, Norbury, Selsdon and Coulsdon) are proposed to be open five to six days a week, including Saturdays, and will deliver an extensive offer of books, wifi, PCs, study spaces and events. These libraries have all proved to be well-used, accessible buildings that meet local needs. Future investment in these sites is recommended to improve the facilities and extend the opening times and services available.

To have your say please go to www.getinvolved.croydon.gov.uk

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

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

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

Selsdon and Addington Village

Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk

Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk

Selsdon Vale and Forestdale

Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk

Fatima.zaman@croydon.gov.uk

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

24/00306/HSE - 96 Croham Valley Road, CR2 7JD

Demolition of existing garage and conservatory, alterations, erection of two storey side/rear extension and replacement garage.

24/00394/LP - 46 Nightingale Road South Croydon CR2 8PT

Erection of a detached outbuilding.

24/00120/HSE - 16 York Road South Croydon CR2 8NQ

Demolition of rear conservatory and garage and erection of L-shaped single storey rear extension. Erection of ramp and railings along the side. Roof alterations including erection of 2 x dormers/gables on the side elevation to replace the existing single dormer window. Roof modified to include a double gable to side elevation.

(Remember that you can use this website to view planning applications

http://www.localplanningapps.co.uk/croydon/sra/anupdate/planning_table.html



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Advice from our Local Police Wards

Burglary

We have visited many victims of burglary over the past few weeks and on particular roads it has become apparent that most of these suspect burglars are gaining access to the rear garden and smashing the glass in the patio doors. In some cases, we have seen the handles and locks removed.

How you can help us...



We would like you to contact us (see below email) with anything unusual that you believe is strange for your road. Is there a car parking in your road that isn't normally there, is there someone you have seen walking in your road taking an unusual interest in particular properties even taking photos?

Have there been people knocking on doors offering a particular service pretending to be from the Council, utility companies or even the Police? If you open the door, always put the chain on first. Always ask for ID and check it with the company before letting them in your home.

Of course, fitting CCTV, a burglar alarm and a camera doorbell is always a good deterrent. However not everyone can afford all of those security items, we all need to work within our budgets to secure our homes and boundaries. If you can only afford one of those items it will help to keep you and your family safe.

Distraction Burglary

Distraction burglars pretend to be someone they are not in order to gain entry to your home. Recently we had men knocking on doors in Selsdon pretending that the resident had a problem with their roof or guttering. In some cases, they even bring along a tile which they smash on the floor in front of the resident's home making the resident believe that they have a problem with their roof when in fact their roof is fine. They then knock on their door with a friendly manner trying to encourage them to part with their hard-earned cash.

PLEASE DON'T FALL FOR IT.

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

Emergencies – 999, Non-emergency crime - 101

Selsdon & Addington Village:

SelsdonandAddingtonVillageSNT@met.police.uk

Selsdon Vale & Forestdale:

SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk

Good Time for Gardening – March

The origins of tulips

Almost half of the known tulip species are native to central Asia, where they thrive in the extremes of baking hot summers and harsh, cold winters. The small, often bright red blooms were a potent emblem for nomadic people and a welcome sign of spring. By the 11th century, Persian poets were celebrating the beauty of the tulip. Three centuries later, tulips were being transported from the wild to the palace gardens of Ottoman sultans, where they were highly prized. It is likely that ambassadors and envoys from western Europe first encountered them here.



There is no precise record of when the first tulip left Asia but the scarcity and beauty of this flower led to a huge desire for tulips in Europe in the 17th century, particularly in France and most famously in Holland.

'Tulipomania'



A large part of the fascination with tulips was down to the way they sometimes magically transformed from a single-coloured flower one season to being exquisitely flamed with contrasting colours the next.

Demand for the most beautiful and rarely seen varieties of tulips in Holland led to a craze known as 'tulipomania'. Coinciding with the Dutch Golden Age, this craze saw the wealthy in Europe's richest country wanting to fill their fashionable gardens with coveted flamed tulips.

Boom and bust

Tulipomania reached a climax in Holland in 1637 when the most sought-after tulips were commanding thousands of guilders per bulb and the price for a single 'Semper Augustus' – the most prized of all – reached 10,000 guilders. This was enough to buy a magnificent house and trappings in the most desirable district of Amsterdam.

The gamble of acquiring a bulb, in anticipation of it flowering with the desired 'break' in colour, added to its allure. Unfortunately, the breaking was caused by a virus, not discovered until the 1930s, which also weakened and eventually killed the bulb, making them an even riskier purchase.

Prices escalated to unsustainable levels and tulipomania collapsed in a matter of months. Suddenly bulbs were fetching a tiny fraction of their old value and many people were left in financial ruin.

Recommended places locally to see tulips in April – Emmetts (NT) and Pashley Manor.

Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid

www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

Sanderstead Horticultural Society has its Spring Show on Saturday 23rd March from 2pm at All Saints Church Hall (by Sanderstead Pond).

~~

Woodland Trust – Planting Free Trees in Selsdon Recreation Ground

The weather gods were very kind to your SRA and the 2nd Selsdon and Addington Scouts on a bright but cool Sunday morning in Selsdon Recreation Ground at the end of January.

As trees are very much for the future, we are very pleased that our young community volunteers from the 2nd Selsdon and Addington Scout Group complete with parents and carers plus support from your Selsdon Residents' Association planted over 150 small trees, or 'whips' in the Rec. The whips were a mixture of Goat Willow, Hawthorn, Crab Apple, Holly, Hazel and Downy Birch and were supplied by The Woodland Trust (<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>) and funded by lead partners Sainsbury's, Lloyds Bank, OVO Energy, Bank of Scotland and Sofology.

The whips were planted to supplement the existing bank of trees which back on to Bullfinch Road and have now mostly reached maturity. To improve the biodiversity of the belt the variety of trees selected will form an understory and will make the tree belt more diverse and hospitable to our birds, fungi, insects, microbes and mammals. The trees will also remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and lock it away in their wood and leaves which in turn will return to the soil when they fall and rot down. The whips will be mulched with woodchip and marked with stakes. A map will be provided to the Council to avoid, we hope, the possibility that the trees are mown down along with the grass when the grounds maintenance contractor visits.



2nd Selsdon and Addington Scouts with parents, carers and family plus Committee members of your Residents Association

Ian Leggatt, for the SRA

~~

Here we have more recollections from Dennis Baker, our nonagenarian telling us about life in Selsdon after the war.

More Memories of Selsdon from Dennis Baker

During the war St John's Church lost its hall and the East wall as a result of enemy action. The main body of the church was mainly intact so a temporary wall was built half way down the chancel to preserve the building until the end of hostilities when the East wall could be rebuilt. When this was done, the temporary wall was removed and the mark on the inner wall where it had been was left as a reminder of what had happened to the church during the conflict.

In the late 1940s I was a member of the St John's Youth Fellowship and, looking at the photo now, I am a little amazed at how many members we had. The reason for this is because, as there was no church hall, we had to hold our weekly meetings in the tower room. As the name suggests

the room was on the first floor of the church tower so as you can imagine there was not a lot of room, the numbers who could attend were quite small. Our activities were restricted to talks, discussions, readings, paper and pencil or mind games and playing records on a gramophone.



Some of us were members of the YHA and at times, a weekend away was organised. We would meet late on Friday and ride our bikes to a nearby hostel and spend the night there. On Saturday we would explore places of interest in that district spending Saturday night at a different hostel. On Sunday more exploration before returning home late in the afternoon. Our two main activities during each year were the summer fair and the nativity play.

The summer fair was held in the grounds of the library and this was a large house on the corner of Langley Oaks with good gardens and lawns at the back. This has long been demolished and replaced by, in my opinion, a very ugly council building that in no way blends in with the surrounding properties. We provided the trestle tables for the fair, setting them up and helping generally with the running of the event. The tables were stored in the room above the tower room. We would climb the ladder and then open the trap doors in the middle of the room. Having done this, we would stand on the edge of the opening and lower the tables to others in the room below who took them out of the church and loaded them onto

a cart borrowed from the scouts. Then on to the library to set them up ready for the fair. The reverse happened after the fair. There was no such thing as Health and Safety in those days. No one wore a hard hat or had a safety harness, we just made sure we did not take the quick way down. It would not be allowed to happen today. While we were there, we took the opportunity to go all the way up the tower and stand on the roof and admire the view over the district.



The nativity play took place in the church. A stage was built over the choir stalls and because of its location it was very small as can be seen from the photo. Our costumes were made or borrowed and were on the whole not bad. We made up and dressed in the vestry or tower room. Our efforts I believe were appreciated by the congregation.

Looking at those pictures from so long ago, I remember how happy we all were, the reason being the elephant had left the room. When the war started, we were all very young and this was going to be a big adventure. We had all read adventure stories and had our favourite hero who always won through no matter how dire the situation he found himself in and, of course, our troops always won even though the forces against them seemed overwhelming. This feeling continued throughout the war. Then the elephant entered the room. We all lost friends and neighbours and



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Selsdon Residents' Association/Gazette Consolidated Annual Accounts

SELDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION/GAZETTE CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS									
Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Years Ended 31 December	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019				
	£	£	£	£	£				
SELDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION									
INCOME									
Subscriptions	4,170	3,430	3,508	3,982	2,415				
Christmas Donations	5,450	4,483	4,336	4,574	3,106				
Traders' Donations	548	855	458	915	1,028				
Collections	381	496	298	76	199				
Crovedon Council	0	0	0	2,000	4,500				
Nationwide Building Society Interest	491	159	85	37	37				
Cancellation of Provisions for Hire of Street Barriers	1,000								
Total Income	12,020	9,423	8,485	11,564	11,284				
EXPENDITURE									
Insurance	204	280	370	370	370				
Hire of Halls	98	35	36	60	483				
Subscription Envelope Printing	469	45	734	0	0				
Stationery, Postage and Sundries (2021 includes Subscription Envelopes)	665	1,184	534	156	138				
Christmas Lights	6,447	8,993	7,760	9,184	10,041				
Planters	85	215	162	198	0				
Provisions for Hire or Purchase of Street Barriers	1,000	500	500	500	0				
Donations	0	0	200	500	0				
Subscriptions	0	141	212	18	128				
Total Expenditure	9,058	11,393	10,507	10,486	11,160				
Surplus/(Deficit) of Income Over Expenditure	2,962	(1,970)	(2,022)	1,078	125				
SELDON GAZETTE ACCOUNTS									
Income	£	£	£	£	£				
Advertising Income	15,288	15,370	15,748	13,267	14,403				
Bank Account Interest	340	105	27	67	114				
Subscriptions	200	175	195	110	179				
Total Income	15,826	15,650	15,970	13,444	14,696				
Expenditure									
Gazette and Leaflets	18,267	16,769	15,683	11,644	17,813				
Reimbursement from Residents' Association for Leaflets	0	(734)	0	0	0				
Postage and Sundries	0	54	120	270	120				
Total Expenditure	18,267	16,823	14,969	11,914	17,933				
(Deficit)/Surplus of Income Over Expenditure	(2,441)	(1,173)	1,001	1,530	(3,239)				
SELDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION/GAZETTE CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS									
Balance Sheets as at 31st December									
	SRA	GAZ	TOTAL	SRA	GAZ	TOTAL	SRA	GAZ	GAZ
	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022	2021	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Assets:									



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some of us family members due to enemy action and that little worry at the back of the mind was who will be next, will it be me. Now we had survived and were young with our lives ahead of us and everything was possible. The young men would have to do their national service and some of them would lose their lives. I was fortunate when I was doing mine, the Korean war was being fought but I was not ordered to take part. The fellowship ended and members scattered far and wide like autumn leaves before the first gale. We mostly lost touch but there were the occasional chance meetings.

From time to time, I have been told or read of the death of former members and wonder how many of us are still alive. If any of those who are still with us read this article, I would like to think that they have achieved those hopes and ambitions they had all those years ago when we were so young and that, like me, they have a loving spouse, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. I wish them well for the years that are left and may they have happy memories of the things we did and achieved when we were members of the youth fellowship.

Dennis Baker

PS Does anyone know what happened when the library was demolished, to the tortoise that used to be found ambling round in the back garden?

~~

The Mayor of London and London Assembly Elections on 2 May



You will need to bring a photo ID with you to vote at a polling station on Thursday 2 May. The Elections Act 2022 introduced this requirement for voters in Great Britain.

Voter ID

There are many forms of existing photo identification which will be accepted, details of these are listed below. However, because some voters will not have one of these existing accepted forms of identification, voters can apply for a new form of photo identification which can be used for the sole purpose of voting in person, known as a Voter Authority Certificate.

You may already have a form of photo ID that is acceptable.

You can use any of the following:

- Passport
- Driving licence (including provisional licence)
- Blue badge
- Certain concessionary travel cards
- Identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- Biometric Immigration document
- Defence identity card
- Certain national identity cards

Take your ID with you when you go to vote, you will not be able to vote if you do not have acceptable photo ID. Voters only need to show one form of photo ID to vote, but it must be the original version and not a photocopy. People will be able to use an expired photo ID if they are still recognisable from the photo.

Applications for the Voter Authority Certificate can be made online

<https://www.gov.uk/voter-authority-certificate>.

Alternatively, if you are registered to vote, you can complete a paper application form (<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/application-for-a-voter-authority-certificate>) and return it by post to:

Electoral Services

The Town Hall
Katharine Street
Croydon, CR9 1DE

The completed form must arrive at the Electoral Services by 5pm six working days before the election.

If you need any help with applying for a Voter Authority Certificate, contact the Electoral Services Team on 0300 373 595 or email electoral.services@croydon.gov.uk



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Selsdon Park Hotel / De Vere / Birch – In Administration

Our beloved Selsdon Park Hotel has had a tough time over the past few years. From a run-down hotel we had hoped that the purchase by De Vere would bring about a renaissance to the old girl and once again guests would enjoy the stately house and grounds and provide jobs for our residents and bring trade to our high street. Sadly, De Vere Selsdon Estate were not able to make a go of it and the grand old dame was sold in 2022 to Birch as part of a joint venture with real estate investment company Aprirose. With a lifestyle hotel already in operation at Cheshunt, Birch/ Aprirose were seeking to expand the portfolio with a similar venture south of the river. After sinking over £15million into a refurbishment providing new bars and restaurants, rebuilt Lido, refurbished accommodation and rewilded ex golf course, not to mention stock proof fencing all around the rambling grounds, in less than one year Birch (Cheshunt) and Birch (Selsdon) were placed into administration. Birch (Selsdon) operated as a 'members only' hotel with around 650 members paying a monthly subscription after a joining fee. Non-members could book rooms and use one of the restaurants but 'walk-ins' were policed at the entrance gate.

Floor plans of the hotel can currently be found on Rightmove, (search 'rightmove selsdon park hotel' in your browser).



Rewilded' Rear Elevation

Moorfields Advisory Ltd are appointed Administrators for both Birch (Cheshunt) and Birch (Selsdon) and they have appointed Savills to market

both hotels.

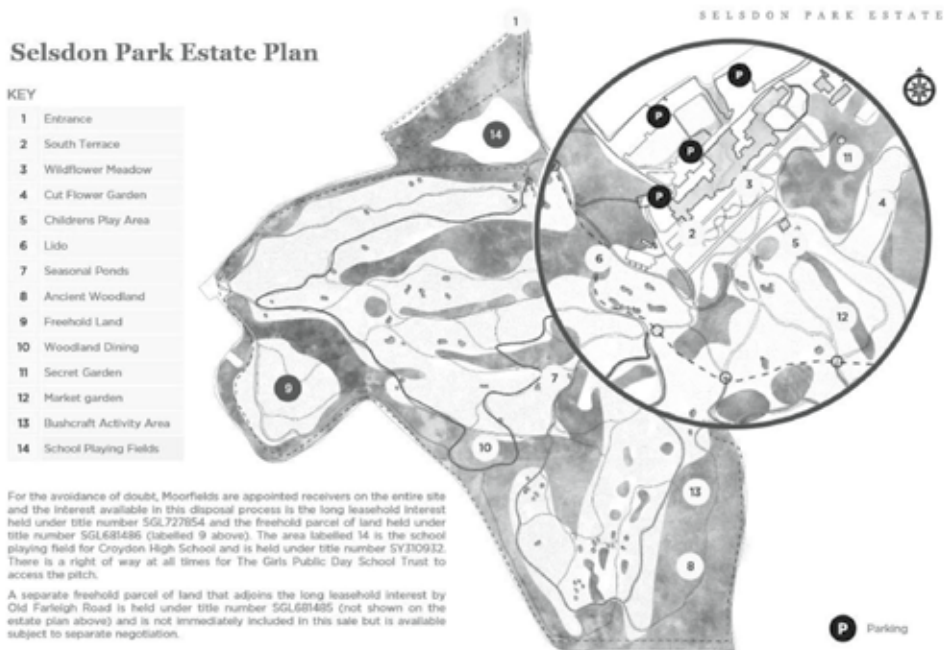
With regard to 'our' property, Savills has been appointed to advise on the disposal of the long leasehold interest in Birch Selsdon and part freehold interest in the estate, with no guide price.

They say "The Selsdon Park Estate offers a unique opportunity to acquire a prominent former lifestyle hotel. The hotel has undergone substantial improvements over the last two years and there remains several value-enhancing initiatives in place to improve top-line performance and Net Operating Income (NOI)." and, from the Sales Brochure: "We anticipate strong interest from the market for this opportunity, appealing to a diverse range of capital sources and accommodating various business plans and asset preferences." On the authority of Joint Fixed Charge Receivers of Moorfields Advisory Ltd, Milan Vuceljic and Andrew Pear, for and on behalf of Selsdon Estates Property Limited (in Receivership) & Selsdon Estates Op Co Limited (in Administration) (the "Owner"), Savills (UK) Limited has been appointed to arrange the sale of the Owner's economic interest in entities that own the long leasehold interest and part freehold interest in the Selsdon Park Estate, 126 Addington Road, South Croydon CR2 8YA (the 'Hotel' or the 'Property'). Selsdon Park Estate presents a full- service hotel and former members club sitting within extensive parkland on a c.198 acre site and provides investors with the opportunity to acquire a recently refurbished Hotel with extensive value-enhancement opportunities. Ideally located in Selsdon, approximately 12 miles south of Central London and 3.5 miles south of Croydon. Dating back to the 17th century, a Hotel has been operating since 1925, with the latest iteration, Birch Selsdon, opening in 2023, providing a 181 key, lifestyle Hotel and members club with two restaurants, Lido snack bar, three bars, six meeting and events rooms, co-working space and wellness facilities including gym, outdoor lido and tennis courts. The former Birch Selsdon represented the second hotel under the Birch brand following the opening of Birch Cheshunt in 2020. Prior to this, Selsdon Park was operated by De Vere Hotels since 2003 and before that Le Méridien Hotels. The Property ceased trading in November 2023 and is available with vacant possession unencumbered by brand and management, providing significant operational and property upside opportunities in a key Greater London location. The Property is held long leasehold (until December 2186) and part freehold."

An Estate plan is enclosed within the sales brochure:

As Savills state above, the hotel and main grounds (ex-golf course) are held under a long lease until December 2186. There is a Freehold plot

of land (9 below) included in the sale and which, from the Land Registry plan, appears to be located roughly behind Nos 16 to 58 Onslow Gardens in Sanderstead and abutting Sanderstead Court.



Also available but for separate negotiation is a further plot of Freehold land fronting Old Farleigh Road roughly between Benhurst and Woodland Gardens. There are various dilapidated buildings on this wooded plot, including the old Stables with a barn which is reputed to date back to the early 17th Century, although it is thought to have been relocated here sometime between 1809 and 1868.

Area 14 in the plan above shows part of the land which Croydon High School bought from the Selsdon Park Estate in 1963 to build their school on and their playing fields sit incongruously adjacent to the school site but separated by the main access road from the Addington Road to the house and grounds. The school has a 'right of way at all times....to pass and repass over and along a strip of land', the access road.

All of the land for sale appears to be currently designated Green Belt. It is heartening that Savills are stressing the attributes of the building and grounds as a hotel / leisure base for someone wishing to invest in our

beloved Selsdon Park Hotel, under whatever guise they wish to rename it as. Your SRA will be following any news of the sale or proposals for re-use of the land and / or buildings.

Ian Leggatt

For the SRA

Postscript re Ownership: Savills state that owner of the Selsdon Park Estate is Selsdon Estates Op Co Limited (in Administration). Land Registry records obtained in January and February 2024 list various owners of the plots of land which are for sale. The long leasehold Selsdon Park Hotel, including grounds, 66 Addington Road, South Croydon, CR2 8RB is registered as being held by Lagonda Selsdon Propco Ltd. This company has two current Officers. Over 75% of the shares are owned by an entity called Selsdon Estates Property Llp. Companies House records show that this company has overdue accounts and 20 active directors. The Freehold of the hotel and grounds are held under a separate title with the registered owners being Imperial Tobacco Pension Trustees Ltd and Imperial Investments Ltd.

The freehold plot of land (9 above) is recorded by Land Registry as being owned by Venice Spareco Limited (In Receivership). This plot last changed hands in November 2006 for £150k, exc VAT. 'Persons with significant control' are listed as being Selsdon Estates Property Llp.

The separate plot of freehold land fronting Old Farleigh Road, which is available for individual negotiation is, according to Land Registry records, owned by Venice Spareco 2 Limited (In Receivership), and this plot of land last changed hands in November 2006 for £1m plus VAT. 'Persons with significant control' are listed as being Selsdon Estates Property Llp. All the companies above apart from Imperial Tobacco and Investments share the same two officers.

Companies House records show a further company: Selsdon Estates Property Limited which is an Isle of Man registered company. No details of ownership or directorship are available for public viewing.

~~

Poetry Quiz

World Poetry Day is celebrated on 21 March 2024. Here is a quiz to test your knowledge about well-known poems and poets.

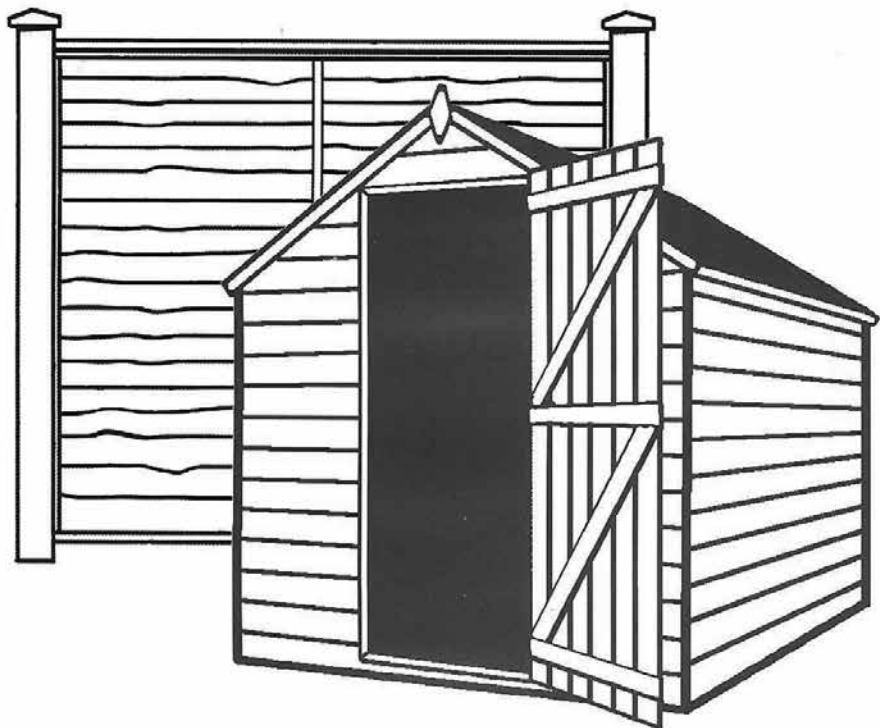
1. How many lines are there in a Sonnet?



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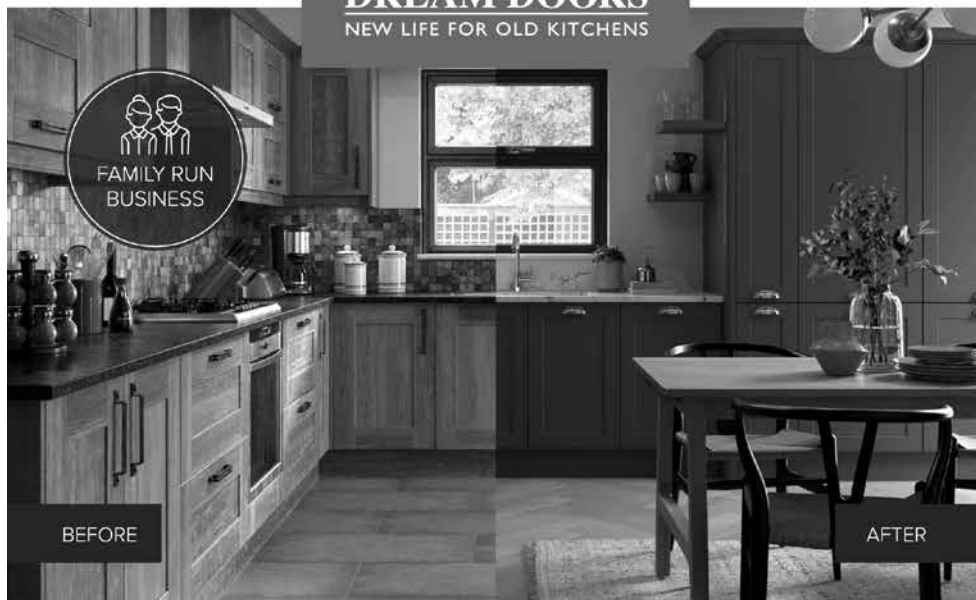
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2. Which successful musical is based on the poems of TS Eliot?
3. A type of five line humorous poem is named after which Irish city?
4. What two letter word is the title of one of Rudyard Kipling's most famous poems?
5. 'Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink' is a line from which poem?
6. Name the cottage on the edge of the Lake District's Grasmere, that is famous for being the home of the poet William Wordsworth?
7. Can you name the poet who created this famous line? 'If I should die, think only this of me.'
8. Who wrote these lines? 'How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.'
9. Who wrote the poem "And did those feet in ancient time", best known today as the hymn Jerusalem?
10. Which poet wrote the following line? 'Do not go gentle into that good night.'

Answers after Nature Notes

~~



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

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

~~

I received this plea from a resident wanting to find a new home for his two rabbits – I wish I had room!

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'Pumpkin' and 'Marshmallow' are both male, cuddly and loved to be handled. They are brothers from the same litter, have been neutered and all their vaccinations are up to date. They come with a two tiered hutch. No funds are required, just a loving home.

Contact: Adam and Bridgette 07701019934

Here our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, ponders how our parakeet population has thrived.

Today, while looking through our sitting room window, I noticed the beautiful tree at the end of our drive is now covered in white blossom. There is a lot of ivy winding around its bole and branches and I did wonder if the ivy is making the blossom change colour, because it used to be pink blossom. Is it possible for ivy to make a tree's blossom change colour? I love this particular tree because it is the first to show leaf buds, in the winter/spring; the blossom is lovely, and when it fades the leaves are coming out and they are a beautiful deep, crimson red. It is a type of plum tree and some years we can see plums on it, but that depends on the right mix of sunshine and showers. Best of all, when the autumn arrives the tree's leaves look an even deeper red, and when finally, the leaves come off, they are some of the last leaves to shed.

There are some green parrots flying about. They are meant to be parakeets, but they now look bigger than they used to look. There used to be a flock of over 40 birds flying around, but by the end of the first winter most of them had died off. Now they seem to have acclimatised and they look larger. People used to say someone had turned their parrots out, to let them fly freely. If it was true, then it seems the birds have put their beaks together and wondered why other birds survive and they barely could. It must have been difficult if they were bred in captivity, used to being fed and kept in the warm, to suddenly not have their normal food and have nowhere warm to sleep in the winter months. Perhaps they noticed other birds built nests. Did they notice that other birds tried to avoid predators and would eat insects if there were no seeds about, that they drunk from garden fountains, tried peanut holders, etc., fluffed up their feathers when cold? They obviously decided to copy other birds, then they could keep warm, fed and watered. Well, that is what I suspect happened!

Best of all, it is a joy to see groups of green parakeets sitting among the red leaves of my neighbour's plum tree.

~~

Poetry Corner

World Water Day is celebrated on Friday 22 March in 2024. Here Mary Gill warns us not to take water for granted.

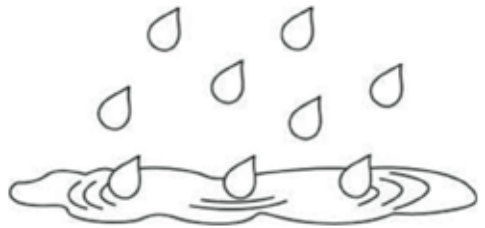
HYMN TO WATER

Oh, liquid light of life that flows
from deep within the Earth,
within whose arms the foetus grows
securely held in sweet repose
until the day of birth –
preparing for its birth.

Thou sparkling essence of Life's source,
thou precious sacred dew,
replenishing the vital force.
How recklessly Mankind ignores
the debt he owes to you;
the need he has for you.

Without your presence Life will end
and yet we treat thee ill.
Thy purity we should defend,
not let our fetid filth offend
each river, lake and rill;
polluting ev'ry rill.

Oh, liquid Light that falls as rain
and rises as the dew,
we beg forgiveness for the pain,
we vow respect to thee again.
We should be cleansing you
as we are cleansed by you.



~~

Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth – Butterflies (2)

Many species of butterfly can be seen flitting over grassland but some actually require grass for breeding. Small Skippers lay their eggs inside

grass stems, usually Yorkshire Fog grass. The very similar Essex Skipper tends to avoid Yorkshire Fog but will lay eggs on a wide range of other grasses. Large Skipper prefers the coarser Cocksfoot Grass. Grizzled and Dingy Skippers are most likely to be found on bare patches of ground and differ from the other skippers in choosing to lay eggs on various flowers. The larger butterflies – Meadow Brown, Ringlet and Marbled White (a member of the Brown group despite its name) will carefully glue eggs to grasses but will also squirt eggs out while in flight and let them fall where they may. It is thought that butterflies are able to detect grasses which are infected by a fungus and choose these so that their caterpillars can absorb the fungus and presumably gain some protection from predators. Male Dark Green Fritillaries patrol grassland in search of females, who choose to lay eggs on Violets, including Dog Violet though the preference is for Hairy Violet.

The lifestyle of another group of butterflies is closely associated with selected trees and bushes. White-letter Hairstreaks lay on Elms, Purple Hairstreaks on Oaks, Brown Hairstreaks on Blackthorn twigs and Green Hairstreak decides to be different by laying on Gorse, Rockrose and Bramble. Purple Emperor males hang around at the tops of “master” trees, fighting aerial battles with other males while waiting for females which lay their eggs on Goat Willow and similar species. Silver-washed Fritillary and White Admiral both imbibe aphid honeydew from the tree tops but egg laying takes place on a tree trunk near Dog Violets for the fritillary and on wispy bits of Wild Clematis for the White Admiral.

Most of the butterflies which appear at the beginning of the year have probably been hibernating as adults – Brimstone, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma and some Red Admirals. Brimstone lays on Buckthorn bushes while the others tend to use nettles.

Adult butterflies on the whole do not feed on the same plants used by their caterpillars. In early spring Brimstones can be found nectaring on Dandelion flowers but will move to other species as they appear. Bird’s-foot-trefoil is an early flower which soon makes clumps visited by many butterfly species. In autumn Marjoram is a favourite of many butterflies and several species not mentioned so far make use of it – Small Copper, Common Blue, Brown Argus and, of course, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown,



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etc. Bramble flowers attract many species including White Admiral and Silver-washed Fritillary, but they are soon fertilised and start developing blackberries. Once the berries are ripe and begin to burst they are again able to attract butterflies. From spring through to autumn there are many grassland flowers able to provide nectar – Scabious, Knapweed, Agrimony, Kidney Vetch, Ragwort. Blossom on trees and bushes is of interest and we cannot forget the Buddleia bush which grabs the attention of so many autumn butterflies.

~~

Answers to the Poetry Quiz

1. 14
2. Cats
3. Limerick
4. If
5. The Rime of the Ancient Mariner (by Samuel Taylor Coleridge)
6. Dove Cottage
7. Rupert Brooke
8. Elizabeth Barrett Browning
9. William Blake
10. Dylan Thomas

~~

GARDENS MATTER

DARK SECRETS

In these dull days of winter when our outside plots are looking distinctly grey, gardeners' thoughts turn to their summer blaze of colour and many nature-aware gardeners are now choosing to "decorate" their gardens with plants that are insect friendly and have nectar/pollen rich flowers.



What is usually overlooked is the importance of night-time pollinators. Scientists are only just beginning to understand how important nocturnal pollinators are - some moths being more efficient than day flying pollinators. It isn't all moths either:

flies, bats, beetles and even mosquitos all contribute.

Many flowers release stronger perfumes at night specifically to attract these garden helpers. So perhaps consider planting some, not only will the insects benefit but you also can enjoy warm scented summer evenings.

The top 6 night scented plants are Sweet Rocket, Tobacco Plant, Four-o-Clock Flower, Star Jasmine, Evening Primrose and Night Phlox. Night Scented Stock and Honeysuckle are good too.

Chris Hyde

Information drawn from an article in the RHS publication "The Gardener"

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Saturday 13th April

SPRING FLOWER WALK

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



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What's Coming Up

Saturday 25th May Rotary Sponsored Walk, St Mary's Church Hall,
Farleigh - 60% Sponsorship to the charity of your choice.

Saturday 14th September Hobby Fair at St John's Community Hall. Why
not come along & encourage folks to join your group or organisation.
Refreshments available.

Don't miss out, get involved & join Rotary Sanderstead & Selsdon for a
very good, fun, time.

Wendy A Parr – Secretary – 07774 186 792.
Secretary@rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com

SELSDON FLOWER CLUB

We have pleasure in announcing that our Flower Club is continuing in our 54th year with the following programme:

13 th March	Practice - Easter Arrangement
10 th April	Demo - Melanie of Kane's Florist

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 £30 per annum (£15 half year). We have demonstrations and practices. All abilities welcome.



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

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SELSDON AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

We are a friendly group of over sixty members. We meet from 1.30-4.00 on the third Friday of each month in the Community Hall, St. John's Church, Upper Selsdon Road, Selsdon.

At our meetings we invite speakers who bring a wide range of interests and ideas to the group.

On April 19th the topic will be Stained Glass and Coloured Glass. Members can take part in a wide range of interest groups that are held during the month such as handicrafts, literary and drama discussions and visits are made to the theatre and to restaurants. There is always time for tea and a chat!

Why not come and join us?

Christine Holland: 02086574861

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SANDERSTEAD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

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 local 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 2024/5 include: The Oceans Between Us; The Highs and Lows of a Stuntwoman's Life; The Life of a Cruise Lecturer; The World of Antiques; Life in No. 10 Downing Street; Highway 35 - Meeting Disaster Head On With Hope; The Glass House; Spitfire Women of World War 2; Women who have improved the female status; and Cultured Pearls and Diamonds. We have an annual tea party in August, a Christmas Lunch and a Xmas party with entertainment. In 2023 our stall selling preloved bags at the Gruffy Fair in June made over £180 stall for our charity of the year – the SE Cancer Help Centre in Purley.

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 outings are also arranged and last year we visited the Weald and Downland Museum and the company in Croydon that makes the costumes for Strictly Come Dancing. We are planning a trip to the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance in March 2024. 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. Please follow the contact instruction on our website: www.sandersteadwi.org or tel. Linda Etheridge on 020 8657 6721



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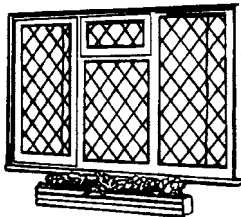
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A SELECTED LIST OF SELSDON ORGANISATIONS

CHURCHES

St John the Divine (C of E)	Parish Office	020 8657 2343
Selsdon Baptist Church	Office	020 8651 4308
St Columba's (Roman Catholic)		020 8657 3747
St Francis (Church of England)	Monks Hill	020 8657 7864
Croydon Jubilee Church	Office	020 8651 2807
Forestdale Salvation Army Church		020 8657 0078
Selsdon Christian Fellowship		020 8668 9779
Church of Jesus Christ of LDS		020 8651 2211

DOCTORS & EMERGENCY CARE

Farley Road Medical Practice		020 8651 1222
Queenhill Medical Practice		020 8651 1141
Selsdon Park Medical Practice		020 8657 0067
Croydon University Hospital		020 8401 3000
New Addington Minor Injuries Unit		020 8251 7225
Purley War Memorial Hospital		020 8401 3515

POLICE

Selsdon & Addington Village: SelsdonandAddingtonVillage@met.police.uk
Selsdon Vale & Forestdale SelsdonandForestdale@metpolice.uk

CLUBS, GROUPS & CHARITIES

CONTACT (Neighbourhood Care)	Jasmine Singh	020 8651 4944
Selsdon Centre for the Retired	Craig Anderson	020 8651 1111
Croydon Hearing Resource Centre	Office	020 8686 0049
Croydon Vision		020 8668 2486
Cruse Bereavement Care Helpline		080 8808 1677
Friends of Littleheath Woods	Ian Leggatt	020 8651 1140
Friends of Selsdon Wood	www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk	
Sanderstead Plantation Partners	michaellishmund@gmail.com	
Friends of Kingswood	www.friendsofkingswood@hotmail.co.uk	
Girlguiding (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section)		0800 999 2016
	https://girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved	
1 st Selsdon & Addington Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts)		
	www.1stselsdon.org.uk	
2 nd Selsdon & Addington Scout Group		
	www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk	
Croham Valley Explorer Scout Unit	Christopher Dean	tinkerscorner@aol.com
Arts Society Croydon Area	Jean Aarons	https://tascroydonarea.org.uk
Rotary Sanderstead & Selsdon	Wendy Parr	07774 186792
RSPB Croydon Local Group	John Davis	020 8640 4578
Selsdon Art Group	Fiona Hooper	07973 412952
Selsdon Bridge Club	Bob Steadman	07545 384899
Selsdon Centre Bridge Club	Betty Borfiga	020 8656 4212
Selsdon Community Hall	Cottie Campbell	selsdonhall.info@gmail.com
Selsdon Flower Club	Maureen Browning	020 8651 5821
Selsdon Townswomen's Guild(pm)	Christine Holland	020 8657 4861
Sanderstead Horticultural Society		www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk
Sanderstead Local History Group		sandersteadlhg@gmail.com
Selsdon Tennis Club	Geoff Littlewood	020 8651 4748
St John's Wives	Jane Guglielmi	020 8657 6672
66(Selsdon) Squadron Air Training Corps	Rob Cleeter	020 8651 5958

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