



The Selsdon Gazette

Volume 75. No. 848

May 2023

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SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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Su Yates

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Ian Leggatt

Phil Roberts

Jenny Stawman

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Janet Sharp

Chris Jones

Councillors for Selsdon & Addington Village Ward

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

Cllr Joseph Lee Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk

Councillors for Selsdon Vale & Forestdale Ward

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

Cllr Fatima Zaman Fatima.zaman@croydon.gov.uk

Councillors for Sanderstead Ward

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

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

Cllr Helen Redfern Helen.redfern@croydon.gov.uk

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



Editor's Note

Welcome to the May edition of the Gazette. By the time you receive this gazette, King Charles III would have been crowned and we would have judged the entries for the SRA Competition 'To Make a Crown' for Selsdon's nursery and primary children. Hopefully, we will have good weather on the day of the coronation and you will be able to send me photos and accounts of your street parties and celebrations.

Spring coincides with the AGMs of many organisations, so in this gazette there is a quick review of our own AGM and I have used the AGM reports from the Chairs of the Friends of Littleheath Woods and the Friends of Selsdon Wood to look at the work that both organisations have carried out in the past year. We are blessed to have so much accessible green space in Selsdon to enjoy.

As usual we hear from our local elected councillors, MP and local police officers. We have the final instalment of the obituary for a former Chair of the SRA, Ray Rowsell. In his Nature Notes, Ted describes habitats on a very small scale. Mary Gill has written a poem about the joys of a full life and in our Gardening tips we have a list of jobs to do in the, hopefully, Spring sunshine. The theme of adopting a positive outlook has been taken up by Janet Sharp in her article about taking pleasure in small things. We have also received many notices from our many local clubs for you to get involved with and I was particularly pleased to get letters to the editor with valuable information and reflections.

The cover photo this month is of the splendid blossom we can see this time of year. Hopefully, this will inspire more of you to contact me with photos, articles, news, questions, feedback, etc. (selsdongazettesra@gmail.com). Please, also remember that if you use a business featured in the gazette, to tell them that you saw their advert there.

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

Chris Jones

🌀 SUBMISSIONS FOR THE JUNE 2023 EDITION SHOULD
BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN
20TH MAY - PREFERABLY BEFORE! 🌀

SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS

AGM

67 residents attended this year's AGM at St Johns Hall in March and were able to meet with the team from Birch and hear about the new plans for the hotel which all seem very positive and, as you read this, the first guests should have been welcomed. The Police were also in attendance and we thank them for their time as they were able to reassure us that we have one of the lowest crime rates in the borough.

The annual subscription was voted to remain at £5 per household (although more can be paid!) even though we are running at a loss. A resident asked why only approx. 670 paid the subscription out of a possible 4000 houses that our volunteers deliver to. There is no one answer to this but we would urge you all to help by either returning the envelope you will receive in the June Gazette or paying online when possible. This would help us balance the books and aid us in continuing with the Xmas lights, Selsdon Wood picnic and fair, High Street flowers etc. The SRA is one of the oldest associations in Croydon and will be 100 soon and I feel very proud to be a part of this.

Thanks to all my committee for all they have done in the previous year and I look forward to working together in the coming year.

Coronation

Bunting should be appearing in the High Street in time for the coronation on 6th May. We would love to receive any pictures you have of a local celebration which could appear in the gazette.

Selsdon Wood Open Day

This will be a chance for you to come along on Sunday 3rd September to meet us and your neighbours from 12 to 4pm. You could even have a stall for a small donation of £5. Any questions can be sent to selsdonwood@gmail.com

Police Panel

These are held approx. every 3 months. The police and the committee would love to see a few more residents join this panel. Anyone interested or would like to discuss; I am happy to speak to them.

Sheila Childs, Chair

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SRA SPRING CLEANUP

On Saturday 25 March a band of about 20 Selsdon Residents met at the Selsdon Clock and were provided with litter bags and litter pickers. For the next couple of hours, they moved through Selsdon gathering discarded rubbish to give Selsdon a spring clean. After their shift, they were rewarded by Wetherspoons with a free cup of tea or coffee.

Many thanks to Andrew Baxter for organising this litter collection and to the volunteers who turned up. We hope to see you at the next one!

COUNCILLORS' NOTES

POT HOLES – INFORMATION AND HOW TO REPORT THEM

We have had a fairly mild winter, with two cold spells which have often been followed by mild wet periods, unfortunately these are the worst type of conditions for creating pot holes in our local roads. Although the Council is in financially challenging circumstances, we still want to provide our basic statutory services well. On that front, here is some of the basic facts about what we will be spending on our roads in 2023/24 and the best way to report potholes: -

- In summary the Council has a reactive maintenance budget for potholes and minor highway works of £2,601,776.61 for 23/24.
- We encourage people to report potholes through the 'Love Clean Streets' app which can be downloaded onto any smart phone.
- Council Officers undertake routine safety inspection of our roads and paths to proactively deal with defects and instigate repairs.

- The Council's roadworks are undertaken by an external contractor (FMC)
- The Council also has a major surfacing programme for 23/24.

In the first instance, we would encourage residents to download the 'Love Clean Streets' app. As your local Councillors, we use this App all the time as it gets the quickest response to pothole repairs, fly tipping and a host of other issues.

If you have no joy with the App or cannot access it, please do contact us and we can report the pothole to Officers on your behalf. If the pothole has a white painted ring around it, this means that it has been noted and reported to the Council and is scheduled for repair.

THIS IS CROYDON LAUNCHES WITH SOUL SYMPHONY CHOIR TAKING PART

Croydon London Borough of Culture launched on the 1st and 2nd April with a performance of the 'Oratory of Hope' being performed at the Fairfield Halls. On the Sunday afternoon the Fairfield was buzzing with a number of community performances taking place. Selsdon was excellently represented by the Soul Symphony Choir. The Choir meet and practise every Tuesday evening at St. Columba Church and a number of local Selsdon residents take part <http://www.soulsymphony.co.uk>

The 'This is Croydon' programme aims to reach out across Croydon and shine a spotlight on the diversity and talent of London's largest Borough. For more information about the events that are coming up visit <https://culturecroydon.com>.

ULEZ UPDATE

On August 29th this year the Mayor of London plans to extend the Ultra Low Emission Zone to cover all Outer London Boroughs. This is being done to improve air quality in London. In general, this will mean that if you own a petrol car that was purchased before 2005 or a diesel car purchased before 2015 you will need to pay £12.50 a day if you choose to drive it. Different rules apply if you drive minibuses and vans. For more information, please see <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone>.

Your local Councillors, Croydon Mayor (Jason Perry) along with a number of other Outer London Boroughs oppose this new charge. We believe that

the way to improve air quality in London is to improve walking routes and public transport links. A number of Boroughs are challenging the London Mayor's decision to extend the ULEZ zone and a judicial review of the decision is due to take place in July.

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

Councillor surgeries are held on the first Saturday of the month 10am - 11.15am (no surgery in August/January), but due to the King's coronation this will take place on Saturday 13th in May. 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

23/00902/ADV – Social Club, 151 Addington Road South Croydon CR2 8LH
Erection of a vinyl banner

23/01366/HSE - 44 Byron Road South Croydon CR2 8DY
Loft conversion with erection of hip to gable extension and rear box dormer and insertion of roof lights to front roof slope. Alterations to conservatory

23/01218/HSE – 209 Farley Road South Croydon CR2 8NP
Replacement of single storey rear extension

23/01227/FUL – 9 Kingswood Way South Croydon CR2 8QL
Erection of a new single-storey dwelling following demolition of existing garage with associated parking, garden amenity, cycle and refused storage

23/01317/LP - 19 Palace Green, Croydon CR0 9AJ
Erection of hip to gable and rear dormer and installation of 1 roof light to the front slope.

23/01324/GPDO - 6 Ruffetts Close South Croydon CR2 7JS
Erection of single storey rear extension projecting out 6 metres with a maximum height of 3.19 metres.

23/01293/LP - 6 Ruffetts Close South Croydon CR2 7JS
Loft conversion with erection of hip to gable extension and rear box dormer and insertion of front roof lights.

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

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MP Chris Philp's Report

Member of Parliament for Croydon South



Marking a year of progress in Croydon

Many residents in the south of the Borough have become increasingly concerned about planning over the past few years, so, to mark a year of progress in Croydon under the new administration, I thought it was worth reflecting on the positive practical changes that have been made to local planning recently.

These are changes that I have been fighting for over many years, together with local residents and Residents' Associations.

As everyone knows, over the past few years the previous administration issued many planning consents – usually paving the way for replacing family homes with blocks of flats. This risked changing the character of our neighbourhood and putting huge pressure on our essential local services.

Since last May's election, there has been a step-change. Our Mayor, Jason Perry, quickly acted to ensure planning policy better protects our neighbourhood, including scrapping the hated SPD2 rules in one of his first acts in office. On top of this, the planning committee is no longer controlled by a single party. This means that planning applications are now

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examined properly, and planning policy is carefully applied.

The practical results of these changes are apparent from the sheer number of applications rejected in recent months, the majority of which would have simply been waived through in previous years. Developers who were targeting Croydon are now backing off and trying their luck elsewhere.

Over the years, I joined many of you campaigning against the overdevelopment of our neighbourhood. I am so pleased that results are now being delivered

Update on the fight against ULEZ

I am delighted the High Court ruled last month that there is sufficient evidence to suggest that Sadiq Khan's ULEZ plans may be unlawful.

While the full legal case is not expected to be heard until July, this announcement marks a significant milestone in the fight against the expansion of ULEZ to Croydon and other parts of Greater London.

I know how concerned many residents and businesses are about the introduction of this swingeing car tax. That's why I am continuing to call on Sadiq Khan to abandon his ULEZ expansion plans once and for all.

Chris Philp

Member of Parliament, Croydon South: [020 7219 8026](tel:02072198026)
chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk

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News from our Local Police

PC Vincent Selsdon Vale and Forestdale

Selsdon Vale and Forestdale Ward Officers will be conducting a school visit for year 6 children this month regarding their personal safety and problems that they may face going into year 7.

We have increased patrols on foot and in vehicles in relation to preventing crime in the ward. We are currently targeting the Forestdale Shopping area where we have seen an increase in anti-social behaviour.

PCSO 7287N Tina Nash Selsdon and Addington Village Ward

We are still receiving reports of a male walking around the ward in the early hours of the morning trying car door handles. Residents on Crossways, The Ruffetts and Freelands Avenue have reported 6 incidents in the last week 15/04/2023. If you see anyone trying car door handles or trying to break into residents' vehicles, please call 999 especially if it is in the early hours of the morning. If you go to your car and find that it has been broken into but nothing has been stolen, we still need to know about this, please call it in on 101 the non-Emergency number for Police. We appreciate your help.

If you would like to meet your local teams, we will be at St Francis Church Hall, Broadcombe CR2 8HR on Wednesday 10th May between 10:00 – 12:00 and then again at St Marys Church Hall, Addington Village Road CR0 5AS on Thursday 11th May between 10:00 – 12:00. We look forward to meeting you.

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

Emergencies – 999

Selsdon & Addington Village:

SNMailbox-SelsdonandAddingtonVillageSNT@met.police.uk

Selsdon Vale & Forestdale:

SNMailbox-SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk

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A Good Time for Gardening – May

Garden Centres and Nurseries are full of bedding plants at this time of year, but care must be taken when planting them in your flower beds.

Hardening Off

Young plants bought from nurseries or grown from seed or cuttings at home for summer display outdoors when the weather improves, need to be acclimatised to cooler temperatures, lower humidity and increased air movement for about two to three weeks before they are planted outdoors. This 'toughening up' process is known as hardening off. If plants are suddenly placed outside, the shock can severely check the plant's growth. Although plants usually recover eventually, hardening off is thought to be preferable to a sudden shock.

Hardening off can be achieved by placing plants outside in a sheltered spot during the day then bringing them indoors at night for a couple of weeks. Or, they can be placed in a cold frame, opening the lid during the day. But, remember, to be on the safe side, do not plant out tender plants before the date of the last frost which is usually late spring in the south of England.

Other Jobs for May in the Garden

1. Lower the cutting height on lawnmowers after the first three cuts
2. Sow radishes, beetroot, parsnips and maincrop carrots direct outside.
3. Earth up potatoes. This protects early shoots from frost damage and ensures the developing potatoes aren't exposed to light, which turns them green and poisonous.
4. Open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days, as they are vulnerable to overheating from spring until autumn, meaning few plants are likely to survive unharmed.
5. Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs.
6. Stake up your perennials. Push plant supports into the soil around the edge of clumps of perennials to keep them standing upright in the border. This is best done before the plant shows any sign of needing it.
7. Get strawberries ready for harvest. Prepare the strawberry bed now to keep fruits clean and mould free later. Adding straw protects the fruit and conserves moisture around the roots. Pick out any slugs and protect the crop from birds with netting once you see the immature fruit start to set.



Many thanks to Crocus Chris for stepping in for Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid, who are on holiday.

Obituary Part 3, Ray Rowsell 1928-2022



Pa was not only friendly and sociable, but also an extremely community-minded person. He was part of the group who tried to resist the demolition of all the smallholding bungalows that lined Selsdon Park Road from where the Mormon church is now, all the way down to near the Esso garage. Unfortunately, they didn't succeed

in this, and in 1968 our lovely little home (see photo) went to bungalow heaven. In return, the developers of Forestdale built an architect-designed house for us on Ashen Vale (Swallowdale). It was designed to look like one house but is actually two – a 3-bedroomed and a 2-bedroomed semi. My maternal grandmother lived in the smaller house until her death in 1994.

Pa was extremely active in the Selsdon Residents' Association – as committee member, Chair and later as Vice-President. He loved working with people such as Paul Shaw, Dudley Mead and Fred Crosskey. This latter shared his love of the Goons and their Goonish humour formed part of many a meeting! I too was on the SRA committee at one point, and it was lovely to work with my dad on community matters. Selsdon meant so much to him and I remember several people saying to me, "Well, he's the 'Mayor of Selsdon'!".

Pa was such a caring person – but, as with everything in his life, it was all done quietly and without fuss. He looked after his parents as they got older – even his father, who had not been a pleasant person to live with when he was a child. He was such an example to us of how you should always look after others, even when they have not been kind to you.

Our mum became ill in 2004 and, following a six-month decline, died in December of that year at the age of 83. Her funeral was on Christmas Eve – we will always be grateful to Gary Morriss, who enabled us to have the service before Christmas. Pa coped so amazingly with looking after her – we are still in awe of how he did it. The day she died was the only time I ever saw him cry.

It didn't matter to him whether those he was kind to were his actual relatives or not. One of my mum's cousins lived in Wales with her

husband and five children. Things became very bad in the home, and I'm told that my dad drove through the night to go and rescue her and the children. The youngest child came to live with us for six months – and the eldest, when I told her of his passing, said simply – 'Uncle Raymond was a legend'. He also did much to help another of Ma's cousins, whose husband took his own life and left her in a very sad and difficult situation. This involved many trips to Cornwall, where she was living at the time.



Pa and Cyrilla fishing

My parents shared a love of gardening, of nature and of music. They always supported each other throughout their lives together, and did whatever they could for the two of us without ever being pushy or forcing us to follow any particular path. We both went to the Old Palace School (not independent then, but a direct grant grammar) – initially, because I hated my primary school so much and was so desperately unhappy. Henrie and I still don't know how they managed this on my dad's very average wage! My mum never worked after I was born, but clothes were homemade and we made great use of the fruit and vegetables we grew. And we were never short of eggs! They loved their hens and Pa was sad when the last one died about five years ago. Whenever he came home from work, he would change into his gardening clothes and go and destress in the garden for a couple of hours. Even last year, at the age of 93, he was still potting out plants and planning next year's bulbs. Pa loved words! The three of us would do crosswords together and he always had a hefty tome with the answers in (more fun than Googling!) – and his jokes were almost always plays on words. I remember him telling me how apparently, I told my teacher, when I was six, that I could spell 'somniaambulate' because Daddy had taught me how when we were in the pigsty! He also loved playing bridge and watching cricket.

Another abiding love of Pa's was cats. His mother's side of the family shared this love and I remember him saying that his maternal grandmother had seven, including Tit Willow and Dongy. He thought, as a child, what a funny name this latter was – until she explained to him that it was short for Don Giovanni! Pa's final puss was a feisty chap called Tiger Tim – who just appeared one day at the back door and invited himself to stay. Sadly, Tiger had to be put to sleep last June, and we think that that was the

catalyst for Pa's final decline.

A few months before his death, he heard of the passing of a friend. 'I can't get over it', he said of the friend, 'he just wasn't the dying kind'.

Pa was unfailingly kind, gentle and calm (always a low reactor); he was intelligent, perceptive and a wonderful listener; he was humorous, cheerful and positive. He was stoic - even losing his eyesight a couple of years ago was just described as 'a bit of a bind'. Even though he never overtly said this, it was clear that his overriding philosophy of life was, 'Whatever happens to you, dear, you just have to get on with it.'

I know I'm biased – but he truly was the most remarkable of people and he will forever remain our role model and our guide. He was immensely proud of us both and all that we have achieved. He was extremely tickled that the end result of his love affair with the Thames – transmitted to us both – is that Henrie is now a lock-keeper on the upper part of the river!

He was absolutely 'not the dying kind' and will always be with us.

Many thanks to Ray's daughters Cyrilla and Henrietta for sharing their memories of him.

~~

Find the Pleasure in Simple Things

Robert Louis Stevenson was a Poet, Novelist & Essayist (1850 - 1894) who suffered from serious bronchial trouble for much of his life but continued to write prolifically and to travel widely in defiance of his poor health. Famous in his own lifetime for his many works such as 'The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde', he is quoted as saying:
"There is no duty we so much underrate as the duty of being happy."

He published a list of 12 things to do to maintain a positive attitude. Top of the list was:

"Make up your mind to be happy. Learn to find pleasure in simple things."

Oscar Wilde (1854 – 1900) was an Irish poet and playwright. He admired Stevenson greatly and agreed with his philosophy. Wilde said:

"Simple pleasures are the last healthy refuge in a complex world".

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So, what are “simple pleasures”? Perhaps these are things that we take for granted; harmless, free and everyday but if we notice them, seek them out and celebrate them we can have small moments of happiness every day, no matter how complex our lives may otherwise be. Have a think about simple things that make you happy. A warm shower, mist on cobwebs, a lovely cup of tea, a cat sitting on your lap, the first flower of spring... whatever. Small things that are comforts and joys of life.

Here are Stevenson’s 12 tips.

1. Make up your mind to be happy. Learn to find pleasure in simple things.
2. Make the best of your circumstances. No one has everything, and everyone has something of sorrow intermingled with gladness of life. The trick is to make the laughter outweigh the tears.
3. Don’t take yourself too seriously. Don’t think that somehow you should be protected from misfortune that befalls other people.
4. You can’t please everybody. Don’t let criticism worry you.
5. Don’t let your neighbour set your standards. Be yourself.
6. Do the things you enjoy doing but stay out of debt.
7. Never borrow trouble. Imaginary things are harder to bear than real ones.
8. Since hate poisons the soul, do not cherish jealousy, enmity, grudges. Avoid people who make you unhappy.
9. Have many interests. If you can’t travel, read about new places.
10. Don’t hold post mortems. Don’t spend your time brooding over sorrows or mistakes. Don’t be one who never gets over things.
11. Do what you can for those less fortunate than yourself.
12. Keep busy at something. A busy person never has time to be unhappy.

Janet Sharp

PS - It has since occurred to me that the ‘simple pleasures’ idea is what the song ‘my favourite things’ is about. If we all wrote down things as they happened, I think we would end up with a long list!

I asked the Chairs of the Friends of Littleheath Woods and the Friends of Selsdon Wood to let us know what has been happening in the past year and their plans for next year.

Another busy year in Littleheath Woods:

Work Party Activity

We are delighted to report that our work party numbers have been boosted by 3 new and energetic recruits over the last 12 months. Chris continued to organise us efficiently, assisted by Adrian. What is perhaps not recognised is that organising our activities requires many extra hours in preparation for each work party and to keep the group active and thriving. Indeed, a quick scrap paper calculation shows the committee and work party volunteers putting in around 1,500 hours during the year. Unfortunately, we lost many work party days due to weather: 2 cancelled due to heat, 1 because of snow and 7 were rained off. We did manage to carry out the following work:



- (a) After the damaging winter weather of 2021/22 most of April & May 2022 were spent clearing fallen trees & branches.
- (b) An area next to Croham Valley Path, adjacent to the power lines, was cleared in preparation for planting of hazels to create another coppice block.
- (c) A very large oak came down at the Edgecombe end of Fallen Oak Field and was cleared over a number of weeks but the skeleton left so that field once again has a fallen oak in it.
- (d) We continued with holly control in various locations as well as controlling “woodland creep” along the edges of both fields.
- (e) The butterfly ‘scrape’ in Fallen Oak Field was cut by us with a brush cutter and more plants introduced. (We are monitoring how this develops as the soil is neutral to acidic which is not favoured by most wildflowers.)

Looking forward

- (a) The saplings planted in the two contractor cleared areas adjacent to

the Vanguard Way struggled due to the summer heat, drought and vandalism and some replanting may be needed.

- (b) We are currently awaiting an ash tree survey which will hopefully take place April/May. We do know that a large number of our ash are suffering from die back and a number of trees may have to be felled for safety reasons.
- (c) With Croydon Council now unable to provide any funding to us, apart from the cost of basic Third-Party cover, we are ever more reliant on membership subscriptions, donations and Easyfundraising. Please remember to go through www.easyfundraising.org.uk and select 'Friends of Littleheath Woods' before you make any on-line purchases. You create your account at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> and nominate Friends of Littleheath Woods as your chosen beneficiary. Please don't forget to add Easyfundraising to your toolbar to automatically raise funds when you do any online shopping with participating retailers.
- (d) At our AGM we will be proposing to keep our household membership at £5. If you wish to renew your membership for the year 23 / 24 you can complete the membership and Standing Order (SO) form available on our website and deliver to either Chris at 51 Foxearth, Ian at 53 Queenhill or Shirley at 42 Farley Road. You may prefer to subscribe via online banking. Our details are on the SO form.
- (e) You can keep up to date with us via our website (www.folw.co.uk) and our Facebook page (Friends of Littleheath Woods) where we would love you to share your photos and comments.

Ian Leggatt. Chair, Friends of Littleheath Woods.

~~

Friends of Selsdon Wood 
Working to conserve our wood

Work carried out last year included:

- a. **Clearing fallen trees** - Many tree and branch falls across paths and seats were cleared throughout the year. In a couple of cases there were trees too large for us to handle and these were reported to the Council.
- b. **Maintenance of the Butterfly Bank** - In May a selection of plug

plants was added to the Butterfly Bank - Kidney Vetch, Marjoram, Wild Thyme, Rock Rose, Hairy Violet and Small Scabious. These were watered-in after planting and further watered in the following months. In the Autumn the area was tidied by the removal of dead vegetation and repairs were made to the fencing on several occasions.

- c. **Removal of Invasive Species** - A clump of Spanish Bluebells was removed from the side of F1 in May. Invasive Laurel was also cut down on several Work Sessions. The cut material was placed in trees above ground level to prevent the possibility of re-rooting and left there to die back. In May the Iris in the Jubilee Pond was thinned out. Much pond weed was also removed and barley straw was floated on the pond to keep it at bay. However, it soon grew back. Bracken was cleared in David's Crook in August and Bramble in the Centenary Plantation in January 2023.
- d. **Replacing and Restoring fallen Guide Posts and Name Boards** - Fallen path name boards in David's Path, Beech Grove and Bluebell Grove were replaced and two guide posts were re-erected using Metposts - spiked metal sheaths which can be hammered into the ground to form the bases of the wooden posts. A Middle Gorse sign that had been taken down by Council contractors was remounted.
- e. **Outreach Support Work** - We met with Oliver Connolly, Director of Grow Wild Outreach a support service that supports people with disabilities and mental health needs to help them contribute and take part in local environmental projects. They support people from Croydon Monday to Friday and would like to support Selsdon Wood in any way possible. The group visited the wood on several occasions and were shown how to clear bracken & brambles. They also helped clear away arisings cut back by our team.
- f. **Clearance around Seats and Benches** - Clearance of encroaching vegetation was carried out in the summer months around many of the field perimeters.
- g. **Replacement of Rotten Seats and Benches** - Graffiti was removed from one seat in July and 5 dedicated benches were installed this year - all replacing very old benches that were so rotten they were unusable. The structure of all the new benches is such that they come in pieces which can be transported to the site without recourse to the farmer's tractor. The bench is then assembled at the site. Many thanks to Jim Dunning who organises all this work including liaison with those



who have requested and are funding the bench, liaison with the supplier of benches and plaques, and coordination of all the installation work.

- h. **Creation and installation of Nesting Boxes** - Bird Nesting Boxes, built by Jim Dunning, were erected in Pool Grove, East Gorse, Broom Path and by the Jubilee Pond. A fallen Bat Box over the store door was reinstated and another that had been taken down by Council contractors was remounted.
- i. **Planting of Juniper Saplings** - Four Juniper Saplings were donated and planted in David's Crook in October. Two were caged to stop nibbling by deer and all seem to be thriving.
- j. **Work on the Bird Feeding Station in the Jubilee Plantation** - In January 2022 a Bird Feeding Station was set up in our wood in dedication to David Malins, a very active founder member of FSW who died in 2021. The board with a dedication to David and pictures of birds to aid ID was installed in June 2022 and repaired in August after water got into it. Many thanks to Steve & Ruth Budd who have kept the feeders replenished ever since they were installed. They have recruited another FSW member, Chris Green, to share the work and to eventually take over the organisation.
- k. **Repair of the Gate Post and Leaflet Dispensers in the Car Park** - The emergency entry gate beside the car park had a broken post and kept falling over. This was repaired by inserting a piece of scaffold pipe. The two leaflet holders in the car park had broken lids and thus let in water. These were repaired with custom lids.
- l. **Litter Picking** - The FSW Facebook site and our newsletter have encouraged more people to help with litter picking in the wood. Several Friends now do this on a regular basis as part of their daily walks. In July a Work Team cleared up litter left by fire makers just off the Bridle Path and a fire in the crater in Steve's Larch was put out with 40-50 litres of water brought up by trolley from the toilet block. Material dumped in the car park was cleared in January 2023. The FSW dog poo bin at the top of Field 1 is well used, and emptied by the Friends on alternate days.

We continue to educate volunteers of all ages in the principles and practices of nature conservation and encourage the public interest in Selsdon Wood:

- (a) All our scheduled walks have been well attended and the presenters have provisionally agreed to come back in 2023 when we plan to run a similar programme.
- (b) To support users of the wood, especially newcomers, we continue to produce three main leaflets (Membership Application, General

Information, Red & Green Walks) and a pocket-sized map. All are available to download from our website.

As can be seen we have had a busy and successful year.

My thanks to all members of the management group for their commitment to the FSW and for all the work they have done throughout the year.

Heather Govier, Chair of Friends of Selsdon Wood.

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## International Museum Day



International Museum Day is celebrated on 18 May 2023, but how much do you know about them? Test yourself with these questions.

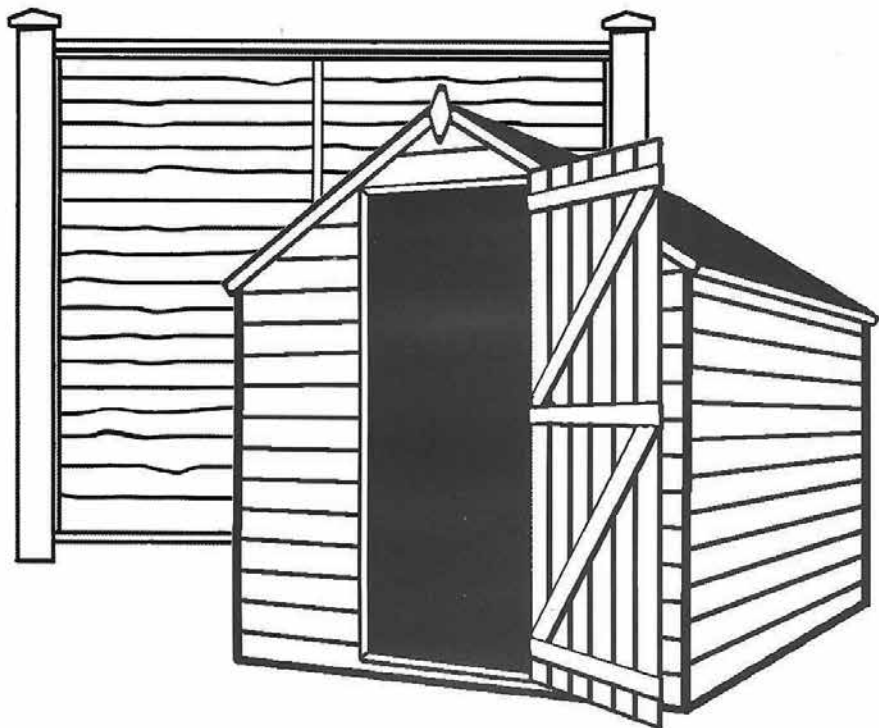
1. What is the name of the Viking Museum and visitor attraction centre in York?
2. Being one of the British Museum's most popular attractions, what exactly are the 82 late 12th-century carved items found on a beach on the Isle of Lewis, in 1831?
3. Which building, designed by Chinese-American architect I.M. Pei, serves as the main entrance to the Louvre Museum in Paris?
4. The Tate network comprises four galleries in England, two are the Tate Britain and Tate Modern in London, can you name the locations of the other two galleries?
5. What is the street address of London's National Gallery?
6. Name the world-famous museum of art and culture in Saint Petersburg, Russia?
7. The Gallery of the Academy of Florence, an art museum in Florence, Italy, is best known for which piece of art?
8. Which open-air museum in County Durham, England, features examples of everyday life in urban and rural North East England at the climax of industrialisation in the early 20th century?
9. Which London Museum was called the South Kensington Museum before it was renamed in 1899?
10. What name is given to the group of American museums administered by the Government of the United States 'for the increase and diffusion of knowledge'?

### Answers after Nature Notes

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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.

Dear Editor,

Following a very interesting article in March's edition of the Selsdon Gazette, by John Birkett, RSPB Local Group, I thought some readers might be interested in our wonderful sightings of the starlings' murmuration each evening around dusk, usually from November to January or February.

Our garden faces North/North East so we are in a perfect position to view this from our patio window, where we are very lucky to have an enormous almost unbroken expanse of sky. A small flock of starlings appear and gradually more and more join the group until sometimes there are as many as 300. It's obviously extremely difficult to count as they swirl and swoop about creating a dazzling display of varying patterns in the sky. This can continue for as long as ten minutes, diving around, with more and more joining until there are often as many as 500. It is just amazing to watch. In some areas they can be in their thousands.



Then, all at once, they swoop down into the top of a line of conifer trees at the end of a garden about four houses along the road, ready to roost. They are then gone out of sight for another 24 hours until they are ready to carry on doing the same the next evening.

There are various explanations for this, but the one most logical is that the birds try to move to the centre of the crowd to avoid their predators. The more birds swirling around, the more they can confuse the predator. Safety in numbers as it were!! It is said that they also gather to keep warm at night. There are a number of places to see this and another beautiful murmuration can be often seen over Brighton Pier, which we have seen.

They seemed to have stopped now but I hope that some readers will get the chance to see this next year. We will definitely be looking out for them again.

*Maureen Browning*

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Dear Editor,

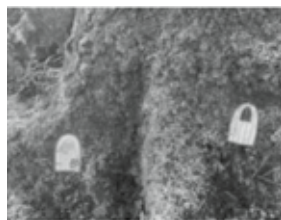
I read in the March edition of the Selsdon Gazette that a couple sharing a home could be eligible for a discount on council tax if one of them was suffering from a mental disability. I passed the information to my sister living in Bromley whose husband has been suffering from dementia for the last three years. I am happy to report that they have now got that discount and it has been back dated.

Many thanks for your help.

*Name and address supplied*

~~

Dear Editor,



I would just like to say a big thank you to the person(s) responsible for the new fairy houses in Littleheath Woods. The new fairy houses are situated on Fields path & Gruttendens path, if you are interested in seeing them. There are still a few original ones dotted about the woods but they are mainly unpainted wooden doors.

I am a registered childminder & regularly walk my dog there with the children I look after.

They loved all the fairy houses in lockdown, most of which have since disappeared. It is so lovely for all the children & they get so excited when they find a new one & I must confess so do I, so a big thank you.

I would also like to thank the person(s) responsible for the last 2 years hanging bags of mini eggs for the children to find at Easter, again a great incentive for children to enjoy our fantastic woods.

*Name and Address supplied*



Dear Editor,



Are we seeing the end of the postcard? Whilst on holiday recently, I wanted to send my usual postcards to my daughters, one living in this country and one in Europe. I had previously bought stamps for both cards. I duly stuck the stamps on the postcards after I had written them. Unfortunately, I had not realised that postal charge to Europe had increased from £1.85 to £2.20 (yes, a 19% increase!) so I had to purchase extra stamps to cover the increase.

The new stamps are the larger ones with the bar code attached. If I had attached a £1.85, 20p, 10p and 5p stamp to my postcard there would have been little room for a message. I will think twice about sending postcards in the future – what a shame!

*Name and address supplied.*

~~

We received a further communication from Zoe Murphy about the imminent expansion of the ULEZ zone.

Hello all

With less than six months to go until the ULEZ expands across London, we want to ensure that as many people as possible are aware of the changes that are coming and, most importantly, what support might be available to them. I've helped a few elderly people recently who hadn't been aware that their particular circumstances meant that they were eligible for a temporary exemption (until 2027).

There is a lot of information on the TfL website.

Please ensure your friends and family check their vehicle and consider whether they might benefit from the scrappage scheme or be eligible for a temporary exemption.

<https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/ulez/expansion-2023>

I appreciate your support.

**Zoe Murphy** Community Partnerships Specialist | City Planning  
[zoemurphy@tfl.gov.uk](mailto:zoemurphy@tfl.gov.uk)

Dear Editor

In early April Council workers/contractors strimmed and mowed the area adjacent to Sainsbury's known as The Triangle.

Unfortunately, included in their work was the section between the clock tower plinth and the Sainsbury's slip road which was vivid with celandine in full flower plus some plants that the Triangle Team Gardeners had introduced to extend the flower bed. Even more galling is the fact that there was hardly any grass there anyway.

We had hoped that, following conversations with the Council, contractors would refrain from working in the Triangle area between the footpath across it and the Addington Rd but this message doesn't seem to be getting through. Despite the setbacks we will persevere.

Currently the Team consists primarily of Selsdon Residents' Association committee members plus/including representatives from Friends of Selsdon Wood and Littleheath Woods. Anyone else who would like to get involved would be very welcome, please contact the team through the SRA.

*Triangle Gardening Team*

~~

Here our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, looks forward to the coronation.

On return from a day shopping around London, I walked down through Green Park, seeing the seats being repainted dark green on top - I wonder if anyone had painted the underneath earlier in the week? The wrought iron arm rests were picked out in black. It all looks very smart.

There are banks of toilets starting to be put in place, but these are sealed off at present. The stands are being erected and a probable news team, were rehearsing and checking for sound at the end of The Mall. The gardeners were doing a wonderful job with mauve wallflowers and scarlet tulips, the memorial outside the Palace looked freshly painted, especially the golden top, and all down The Mall the Union Jacks were fluttering.

When I walked into St. James's Park and saw the amusingly shaped,

modern, little cafe tucked in behind the wall at the back of the gardens facing the palace, it made me laugh. Also, I read a notice about the pelicans, which usually live on the lake, in the park. They are in a special enclosure on Duck Island, all six of them, to keep them safe from Bird flu! That filled me with a sense of relief. My grandfather used to take me there, when I was a small child, just to see the pelicans.

It was interesting to read about the new, especially built Coronation Coach. King Charles III, does want a smooth passage, so this new carriage is well sprung, has air conditioning, windows which can be put up and down; yet it still looks highly decorative. It was actually built for him in Australia. Finally, perhaps we will get to visit the carriage museum at the Palace, after the Coronation.

I would love to see the big “proper” Coronation Coach with all its golden carvings, or should I now refer to that work of art as, “just the old one” I wonder?

At the time of writing this, we are just about two and a half weeks prior to the Coronation. I really hope the rain stays away and it is a wonderful weekend for everyone, especially for the King and Queen. By the time the magazine is published, all those workmen will be taking everything down again. Long Live the King!

*Jessica Blake*

~~

## Poetry Corner

This month *Mary Gill* reflects on a life enjoyed to the full.

### CELL MATES

Imprisoned behind barricades of forgetfulness  
you will find everything that she ever was: –  
the less than eager schoolgirl  
who couldn't wait to go out into the world;  
the liberated young woman who found a job she loved,  
a job at which she excelled.  
She rose to heights none of her schoolteachers would  
have predicted.

You will find a radiant bride  
being joined in holy matrimony  
to a man she could never have imagined even meeting  
never mind falling in love with.

You will hear the music she enjoyed,  
note the books she read so avidly,  
the hobbies that fulfilled her spare time.

You will see the busy mother  
who made compromises so that her children  
could know the security she had enjoyed at their age.



Imprisoned alongside these vital creatures:  
the middle-aged woman  
who restarted her career and rose a little higher;  
the doting grandmother who could not believe  
such love existed;  
the widow who grappled with life alone and won.  
You will find the loyal friend,  
the caring neighbour,  
the dedicated volunteer  
and Corrie's greatest fan.

And then...

But we will not dwell on this,  
for it was here that the barricades  
began to come down.

~~

## **Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth – (Micro) Habitats**

When we think of habitats, we normally have in mind woodland, marshes, seashore, mountains, grassland, etc. All can cover large areas which are not uniform, so smaller patches can have properties which differ from other parts of the larger habitat area. These micro-habitats support their own varieties of creatures which might not occur elsewhere.

A single flowering plant in grassland could be considered as a habitat

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in its own right as its flowers will support visiting butterflies, bees, pollen beetles and other insects some of which will lay their eggs on the flower head or even in the tissues of the plant. For example, Small Blue butterflies lay eggs in the flower head of Kidney Vetch while Skipper butterflies insert their eggs directly into the stems of grasses. Admittedly insects are mobile and will remain with an individual plant only so long as it continues to supply what it was offering – pollen, nectar, ripe flower buds, etc. Some plants can be attractive to aphids and once one aphid has arrived it will not be long before there is a whole colony of aphids which in turn will attract the attention of ants seeking the honeydew excreted by the aphids.

Species almost demanding a micro-habitat are the slime moulds which are single-celled creatures and as such are normally invisible. We can see them in the later stages of their life when they have come together to create spores or when they form some other structure. In Selsdon Wood there are several species which are recorded reasonably frequently. The most obvious is the bright yellow *Fuligo septica* which has various common names including Dog Vomit slime mould, Snake Poo, and Flowers of Tan. I have occasionally seen it on logs in woodland but most usually on grass in David's Crook. A second species, also found sometimes in David's Crook, looks like coarse cooked porridge – *Mucilago crustacean*. On the bark of a standing tree, you might find something that looks like a hemispherical piece of expanded polystyrene. This is *Reticularia lycoperdon*, known as the False Puffball slime mould. Bright pink small blobs on the end of a fallen branch or on a tree stump are *Lycogale terrestris* – Wolf's Milk slime mould. This last one can change colour to become a greyish green. As all these species mature and produce spores the surface tends to break up and the black spore mass appears. They do not look their best for more than a few days. For a long time almost the only readily available book was a slim paperback entitled "Where the slime mould creeps" by Sarah Lloyd which is based on her searches in Tasmania (not a disadvantage as many species are widespread internationally). Another paperback "Myxomycetes – A handbook of slime moulds" by Steven L Stephenson & Henry Stempen is based on American studies. The British source, long out of print but republished as an enlarged hardback in 2020, is "The Myxomycetes of Britain and Ireland" by Bruce Ing. As an expert on slime moulds, it is amusing to realise that Bruce used to live in the village of

Mold! While all the books discuss sites to look for slime moulds, Bruce also suggests cutting pieces of bark for later examination for developing slime moulds.

To build up our knowledge of slime moulds in Selsdon Wood it really needs someone to develop an interest in searching for them and to take macro photographs of the smaller and more delicate species.

~~

## Answers to the International Museum Day Quiz

1. The Jorvik Viking Centre
2. 82 chess pieces called The Lewis Chessmen
3. The Louvre Pyramid
4. Tate Liverpool and Tate St Ives
5. Trafalgar Square
6. Hermitage Museum
7. Michelangelo's sculpture David
8. Beamish Museum
9. The V&A (the Victoria and Albert Museum)
10. Smithsonian Institution

~~

## Bird's Eye View

**John Birkett, RSPB Croydon Local Group**



Spring is sprung and the birds are getting into full voice, announcing their presence and defending territories. To me, there is no better sight and sound than skylarks rising high and singing their hearts out. Sadly, there are only a few places around Croydon where we can enjoy this spectacle; the main ones being the Riddlesdown complex (including the Sanderstead to Whyteleafe Countryside Area), Farthing Downs and Kenley Common/ Aerodrome. These ground nesting birds, along with meadow pipits, are vulnerable to disturbance. To help protect them, dog owners are asked to keep their dogs under control, potentially on short leads and people to stay on the marked paths. All too often, though, these guidelines seem to be ignored with dogs being encouraged to run through the grassy fields that are the birds' home. I also know that some of the notices have been torn down. We are being told more and more that enjoying the countryside is



beneficial to our health, so it is disappointing to see that some areas have to be fenced off to try and protect the birds from the selfishness of a few. And to make matters worse, I have recently seen a report of disturbance being caused by someone flying a drone over the downs.

Rant over. Why not get yourselves out and about early one morning to listen to the dawn chorus? Or go out a bit later in the morning and just soak in the ambience of birds flying around and singing. And keep your eyes to the skies for large birds flying over. You never quite know what will turn up. If you do, we would like to hear about your discoveries.

To find out more about Croydon's birds and the group's activities visit our website (<http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/croydon/>) or come along to one of our meetings. You could also let us know what you see in your local area by emailing [johnbirkett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:johnbirkett@hotmail.co.uk) or check out the [Croydon Birders website](#).



Red kite by Lucinda Offer



## **Selsdon Contact Neighbourhood Care - Celebrating 50 Years**

We will be celebrating 50 years over the weekend 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> July with a couple of events. Please do come and celebrate Selsdon's proud history of community support and volunteering.

St John the Divine, Selsdon  
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Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm

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An evening Celebrating 50  
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St. John the Divine, Selsdon  
**SONGS OF PRAISE**

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 3pm

A Service of Thanksgiving to  
celebrate  
50 years of  
Selsdon Contact

Please get in touch if you would like our help or if you might be able to spare a few hours to volunteer or support us.

Contact's office is to be found on the lower ground floor in the Community Centre, below Sainsbury's and is open from 10 am until 3 pm Monday to Friday.

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Facebook: Selsdon Contact [www.selsdoncontact.org.uk](http://www.selsdoncontact.org.uk)

~~

## **Selsdon Centre wins the Quiz Night**

Happy to report that the first Quiz 'n Curry Night Fundraiser to be held by the Selsdon Centre for the Retired went fantastically. Funds are still being counted but the event hosted at St John's Church Hall on behalf of the Centre was a resounding success!

We'd like to formally thank St John's Father Younis and his wife Nancy for cooking the delicious curry and allowing us the use of his lovely hall. Also, many thanks to the volunteers for helping with serving and the huge volume of clearing up.

We must also be very grateful to the local Raffle prize donors: Wetherspoons; El Patio; Vintage 62; Jane's Selsdon Slimming World group; Heather Bailey Optometrist, COOK, Churchill Retirement Living and all the personal donors, who helped bring much-needed funds to the Centre. We'd also like to thank everyone who attended the Quiz. Their financial input is helping to keep the Centre going for our customers, allowing them to come and eat, meet and chat with other like-minded locals.

Look out for details of our next events on posters at the Centre, on Facebook or on our website: [www.selsdoncentre.org.uk](http://www.selsdoncentre.org.uk). If you'd like to donate to the Centre or sponsor an event, please contact Susan to discuss further on [selsdoncentre@btinternet.com](mailto:selsdoncentre@btinternet.com) or make a PayPal payment on our website (donations page). Please mention Gift aid if applicable so we claim an extra 25% at no extra cost to you.

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## SELSDON FLOWER CLUB



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

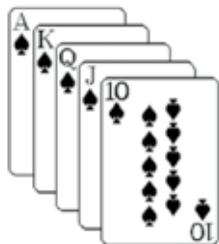
We are a small friendly club who meet on the second Wednesday afternoon of each month at 2pm at the rear of St. John the Divine Church, Selsdon. Subscription £30 per annum. We have demonstrations and practices. All abilities welcome.

|                       |                                                    |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 10 <sup>th</sup> May  | Practice - Royal Theme (Coronation)                |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> June | Demo - Sue Tausig                                  |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> July | Afternoon Tea - practice - small table arrangement |

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

~~

## BRIDGE AT SELSDON CENTRE FOR THE RETIRED



Come and play bridge at the Selsdon Centre for the Retired every Monday (except Bank holidays) from 2-4pm. New players are always welcome even if you are a little rusty! Unfortunately, we cannot teach bridge to beginners. Each session costs £2 to attend. You can use the Sainsburys car park if you give your registration number to the Head of the Centre. More information contact Betty Borfiga by phone 020

8656 4212, by email [twoeliza.beth@gmail.com](mailto:twoeliza.beth@gmail.com) or pop into the Centre before a session between 1.30 and 2pm.

## **SELSDON AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMENS GUILD**

We are a friendly group of over 60 members. We meet from 1.30-4.00 on the third Friday of each month in the Community Hall of St. John's, Upper Selsdon Road, Selsdon.

So, what are our meetings like?

A brief business meeting is followed by a speaker. This year we are looking forward to topics that include The History of Croydon Airport, The Woodland Trust, Bee Keeping and the RSPB. In the summer there is a party with a singer and at our Christmas Party we will also enjoy musical entertainment. Tea break gives us time to meet other members and this may be followed by a Beetle Drive, a presentation by the drama group or sale of handicrafts.

During the month there are opportunities to meet in members' homes for handicrafts, knitting, quilting, drama, book club, and rummikub. Visits are made to a variety of eateries by the lunch club and theatre trips are also arranged. There is plenty to interest everyone, so why not come and join us?

***Christine Holland 02086574861***

~~

### **Important Notice – to all patients of The Farley Road Medical Practice Open Meeting Tuesday 30th May 2023**

The Patient Participation Group is holding an Open Meeting on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May from 6pm until 7.30pm at the Selsdon Centre for the Retired (next to Sainsbury's and the Library).

There will be talks by Dr Jasper, the Practice's Social Prescriber, The Practice Pharmacist and a representative from Contact.

RSVP to reserve your place on [swlicb.farley.admin@nhs.net](mailto:swlicb.farley.admin@nhs.net) or call 020 8651 1222 and leave your details

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# Bring Your Own Craft Selsdon Baptist Church 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the Month

1.45 – 3.30pm

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



~~

## Charity Shops



Under the current economic-climate we seem to have more charity shops opening on our high streets. In Selsdon we have three: St Christopher's, Mind and the Chartwell Charity Trust. It made me wonder if there are advantageous rules for charity shops compared to normal retailers. Here is what I found out.

### What is a charity shop?

Charity shops are retail outlets selling mainly donated goods to raise funds for their parent charities. Charity shops can only be set up by charities. Charity shops are faced with the same issues as someone running a small business: security, health and safety, trading law, in addition to problems specific to the sector, such as sourcing stock and your volunteer workforce. Points to consider when setting up a charity shop include:

1. Create a budget for the shop, with likely income (from sales) and expenditure (from rent, wages, repairs, bills, insurance, etc.). Remember that 60-80% of a shop's income will go to running costs, such as rent and wages.
2. Charity shops have to pay rent on their premises, and bills for services like electricity and gas, like any other business.
3. Charity shops do get some tax concessions, as all shop profits go to fund the work of the charity, which provides public benefit. The key concessions are no VAT on the sale of donated goods, and 80 per cent mandatory non-domestic rate relief, which is funded by central Government.

## **When was the first charity shop opened?**

In the 19th century, The Salvation Army ran second hand clothing shops to provide the urban poor with cheap clothing. At the outbreak of World War Two, other charities such as the British Red Cross also started to operate shops as a way to raise money for the war effort and relieve hardship. Modern charity shops as we understand them – retail units selling overwhelmingly donated goods to raise as much cash as possible for the parent charity – did not appear until after World War Two. The first of these was opened by Oxfam in 1947 and is still in operation today. Oxfam were swamped by donations from the public following its appeal for aid to alleviate the post-war situation in Greece. The success of this appeal yielded so many donations that it was decided to set up a shop in Oxford to sell a portion of these and to use the profits to further fund aid in Greece.

## **How many charity shops are there?**

At the time of writing, the estimate is around 11,200 shops in the UK: 84% are in England; 8% are in Scotland; 5% are in Wales; 3% are in Northern Ireland. There are more than 400 shops in the Republic of Ireland.

## **Who works in charity shops?**

There are around 26,800 paid staff and 186,800 volunteers nationwide.

Why do people shop in charity shops?

- To support the activities of the parent charity
- Environmental and ethical benefits of the reuse of goods
- The range of unique goods available
- Retro and vintage fashion seekers
- The price



## **Where do the goods in charity shops come from?**

More than 90% of charity shop sales are from donations. Some shops sell 'bought-in' goods – new goods which are sold for profit. The average charity shop sells around 6% new goods.

## **What tax concessions do charity shops get?**

Charity shops benefit from tax concessions under UK tax law because all the profits go to fund the work of the charity, which provides public benefit. Charity shops receive exemption from corporation tax on profits, a zero VAT rating on donated goods sales and 80% mandatory non-domestic rate relief on property taxes. This is funded by central Government.



## What happens to the money that is raised?

Money that has been raised goes to the parent charity, to further their charitable work.

Many thanks to the website <https://www.charityretail.org.uk/> with help compiling this article. CJ

~~

## How to avoid being scammed when you need a boiler repair



The Plumbing and Heating industry has a problem, we can't hide from it, we can't bury our heads in the sand and pretend it doesn't exist. It's there and unfortunately for far too many people, it's all too real. Every year thousands of homeowners get scammed by dishonest tradespeople or companies claiming that either perfectly good parts need to be replaced to complete a boiler repair, or worse still, the boiler is

beyond repair and must be replaced.

Below are a few things you can look out for to avoid being scammed when you need your boiler repaired.

### **Making the choice**

If your boiler has broken down, understandably you would want it to be repaired promptly, especially in the winter! The temptation can be to just call the first company you come across hoping to get the issue resolved as quickly as possible, but this is almost always a bad decision.

There are a few things to check before you decide who to invite to repair your boiler.

### **Check their website**

A reputable company will always have a decent, professional-looking website that will probably have a few pictures of their team in their uniform rather than generic photos. Also, have a look at what they do, repairing a boiler and installing a boiler are two very different skills and a company that does both should have separate pages dedicated to each service they offer, they should also have a clear and easy to find pricing menu with T&Cs that you can check before calling them.

## **Check online reviews**

Most companies are online now and have their own digital space; any company that has a habit of overcharging or scamming customers will have negative reviews somewhere.

Check Google for the Company name reviews and anything written about them should be easy to find. You could also try checking with trading standards or for any endorsements the company might have.

## **Check Gas Safe**

Lastly, before calling make sure the company you're thinking of working with is on the gas safe register and competent to work on gas boilers; CCN1 and CENWAT are an absolute minimum requirement to repair a gas boiler.

## **Making the call**

Now you have one or two companies that look good and seem legitimate, it's time to make the first introduction and dig a little bit deeper.

### **Ask about the pricing**

When you call, double-check you understand the pricing structure fully. Ask them to explain any minimum charges, charges for collecting materials and if they add a mark up to materials. There's nothing wrong with a markup being added. A markup may be added to materials to cover the time spent building a relationship with honest suppliers and the time the company will spend defending you if any of the parts fail within the warranty period, but if a company seem reluctant to discuss these things it's a sign they could be untrustworthy.

### **Ask about insurance**

If someone is going to come into your home and repair your boiler, they should have Public Liability Insurance to protect your home against any damages that can occur.

Things go wrong and mistakes happen to the best of us, that's what insurance is for. If a company doesn't have any insurance or refuses to let you see an insurance certificate, it's a sign they're amateurish and should be avoided.

### **Ask about guarantees**

Any company offering a boiler repair service should back it up with a 12-month workmanship guarantee. There are far too many customers having to phone up an alternative company the day after another company has repaired the boiler, taken huge sums of money, and refused to come back when the boiler has broken down again within a few hours of them leaving. Check what is and isn't covered by the guarantee. Many companies will not cover low water pressure on boiler repairs, otherwise they would up be going back for free every 6 months to top the pressure

up again. It's OK if some things are covered while others aren't, but again, it's the company's willingness to share this with you so you can make the right decision for you that you should be looking for.

## **The job**

You've now done your online research, asked the questions, and feel confident with your decision but when the tradesperson arrives, there are a few tell-tale signs to look out for to spot the cowboys.

### **Asking to be left alone**

It's no secret that as tradespeople we like to be left alone to work, it can be quite distracting and sometimes leads to mistakes if a customer is hanging over your shoulder and constantly asking questions while you're trying to repair the boiler. But it is your home and if you want to sit in the room and keep an eye on the engineer it's absolutely your prerogative to do so. If an engineer makes an issue of you being present or asks you to leave the room while they work, politely decline or invite them to leave.

### **Telling you the boiler cannot be repaired**

Sometimes a boiler repair can be uneconomical and you could be advised it makes more sense to install a new one rather than repair your current one, however, this is again your choice, and if an engineer insists you need a new boiler because the old boiler cannot be repaired always seek a second opinion and never pay any deposit or sign an agreement until you have. You might be better off replacing the boiler rather than repairing it, the point is it's your choice and all boiler parts can be sourced eventually, so you should always be given the option of a repair.

### **Taking the old part with them to collect the new part**

If the engineer diagnoses that a replacement part is needed and they take the old part out of the boiler to bring with them, ask them why. It might be to show the sales clerk at the merchants, as many boilers have many variations and it's not always easy to make sure you get the correct part. But it might be that they're putting the part in a box and bringing it back pretending it's new. Alternatively, they may well be going to get the part repaired or exchange it for a refurbished part. There is nothing wrong with using refurbished boiler parts for boiler repairs, in fact, we often advise our customers to, but the savings in doing so must be passed to you and you should always be given the choice.

So that's it, follow the above advice, do your research, ask a few questions and be vigilant when the boiler is being repaired and you'll make it hard for them cowboys to con you.

***Author Mr Lee Moloney, Founder & Owner, Heatsy Ltd***

# Croydon, the London Borough of Culture 2023-24 Flagship Event (1st & 2<sup>nd</sup> April): Oratorio of Hope

The composer, Jeff Moore, took the poem, For Us and We, written by Croydon's Poet Laureate, Shaniqua Benjamin, to provide the lyrics of Oratorio of Hope. Here we have reproduced those lyrics:

For you and me, for us and we.  
For who we are and who that we can be.  
Rise up to celebrate all we are,  
And sing with voices always to be free.

Step into my kind of beautiful.  
We glimpse the world each day.  
For this is Croydon, the one I see,  
We need, for you and me, for us and we.

For you and me, for us and we.  
For who we are and who that we can be.  
Rise up to celebrate all we are,  
And sing with voices always to be free.

Step into my kind of beautiful.  
We glimpse the world each day.  
For this is Croydon, the one I see,  
We need, for you and me, for us and we!

Celebrate our neighbourhood!  
Proud to call it home.  
For this is Croydon, the one I see,  
We need, for you and me, for us and we!

This is Croydon, for you and me, for us and we!  
This is Croydon, for you and me, for us and we!

This is Croydon, for you and me, for us and we!  
This is Croydon, for you and me,  
And this is Croydon, for us and we,  
For you and me and us!  
For us and we!



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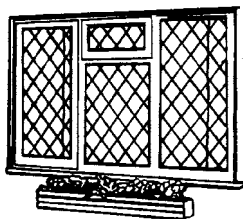
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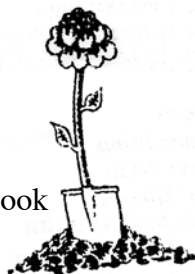
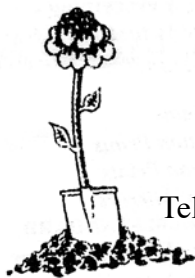
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# A SELECTED LIST OF SELSDON ORGANISATIONS

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

## CHURCHES

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

## DOCTORS, DENTISTS & EMERGENCY CARE

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

## CLUBS, GROUPS & CHARITIES

|                                                                                                                               |                                                                                           |                                                                                                 |               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Arts Society Croydon Area                                                                                                     | Jean Aarons                                                                               | Website: <a href="https://tascroydonarea.org.uk">https://tascroydonarea.org.uk</a>              |               |
| CONTACT (neighbourhood care)                                                                                                  | Jasmine Singh                                                                             |                                                                                                 | 8651 4944     |
| Selsdon Centre for the Retired                                                                                                | Craig Anderson                                                                            |                                                                                                 | 8651 1111     |
| Croydon Hearing Resource Centre                                                                                               | Office                                                                                    |                                                                                                 | 8686 0049     |
| Bourne Society                                                                                                                | Roger Packham                                                                             |                                                                                                 | 01883 349287  |
| Crest Badminton Club (Fri pm)                                                                                                 | Sue Fairchild                                                                             |                                                                                                 | 020 8657 3761 |
| Coulsdon Masonic Lodge                                                                                                        | Colin Lynch                                                                               |                                                                                                 | 07801 453474  |
| Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society                                                                                  | Brian Lancaster                                                                           |                                                                                                 | 8668 6909     |
| Croydon Recorded Music Society                                                                                                | Liz Brereton                                                                              |                                                                                                 | 8656 7382     |
| Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind                                                                                   |                                                                                           |                                                                                                 | 8668 2486     |
| Cruse Bereavement Care Helpline                                                                                               |                                                                                           |                                                                                                 | 8916 0855     |
| Friends of Littleheath Woods                                                                                                  | Ian Leggatt                                                                               |                                                                                                 | 8651 1140     |
| Friends of Selsdon Wood                                                                                                       |                                                                                           | see website: <a href="http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk">www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk</a> |               |
| Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section                                                                                   |                                                                                           |                                                                                                 |               |
| Girlguiding UK: <a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved.aspx">http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved.aspx</a> |                                                                                           |                                                                                                 | 0800 169 5901 |
| Parkinson's UK Croydon & District                                                                                             | Jacky Green                                                                               |                                                                                                 | 01737 355487  |
| Police (Selsdon & Ballards SNT)                                                                                               | Beat Officer:                                                                             |                                                                                                 | 8721 2464     |
| RSPB, Croydon Local Group                                                                                                     | John Davis                                                                                |                                                                                                 | 8640 4578     |
| Rotary Sanderstead and Selsdon                                                                                                | Wendy A Parr                                                                              |                                                                                                 | 07774 186792  |
| Probus Club of Croydon South                                                                                                  | John Barker                                                                               |                                                                                                 | 8657 2093     |
| St John's Dramatic Society                                                                                                    | Caryl Rapps                                                                               |                                                                                                 | 8651 1326     |
| St John's Wives                                                                                                               | Jane Guglielmi                                                                            |                                                                                                 | 8657 6672     |
| Sanderstead Local History Group                                                                                               |                                                                                           | <a href="http://www.sandersteadlhg.co.uk">www.sandersteadlhg.co.uk</a>                          |               |
| Sanderstead Plantation Partners                                                                                               | Michael Lishmund                                                                          |                                                                                                 | 020 8651 2760 |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Selsdon & Addington Scout Group:                                                                              | Website: <a href="http://www.1stelsdon.org.uk">www.1stelsdon.org.uk</a>                   |                                                                                                 |               |
| Beaver Colony (6-8yrs)                                                                                                        | <a href="mailto:beavers.1stelsdon@gmail.com">beavers.1stelsdon@gmail.com</a>              |                                                                                                 |               |
| Cub Pack (8-10yrs)                                                                                                            | <a href="mailto:cubs.1stelsdon@gmail.com">cubs.1stelsdon@gmail.com</a>                    |                                                                                                 |               |
| Scouts Troop (10-14yrs)                                                                                                       | <a href="mailto:scouts.1stelsdon@gmail.com">scouts.1stelsdon@gmail.com</a>                |                                                                                                 |               |
| Croyham Valley Explorers                                                                                                      | Anthony Woodin                                                                            |                                                                                                 | 020 8651 3780 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Selsdon & Addington Scout Group:                                                                              | Website: <a href="http://www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk">www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk</a> |                                                                                                 |               |
| Selsdon Art Group                                                                                                             | Mrs F Hooper                                                                              |                                                                                                 | 07973 412952  |
| Selsdon Bridge Club                                                                                                           | Tony Cherrett                                                                             |                                                                                                 | 01883 730304  |
| Selsdon Centre Bridge Club                                                                                                    | Betty Borfiga                                                                             |                                                                                                 | 020 8656 4212 |
| Selsdon Community Hall                                                                                                        | Tim Potter (Centre Manager)                                                               |                                                                                                 | 8657 4300     |
| Selsdon Afternoon Townswomen's Guild                                                                                          | Christine Holland                                                                         |                                                                                                 | 8657 4861     |
| 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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