

An aerial photograph of Selsdon village, showing a dense cluster of houses with red-tiled roofs, surrounded by lush green trees. In the background, a body of water is visible under a clear blue sky.

# The Selsdon Gazette

Volume 71. No. 804

May 2019

# THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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

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**Front cover image credit:** Photo taken by Christy Conway, the crane driver working on the Churchill development in Addington Road and submitted by Trevor Snowden. It clearly shows how green and rural our surroundings are. On the right horizon you can just make out the twin towers of the Queen Elizabeth bridge at the Dartford crossing, nearly 20 miles away.



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selsdonresidents@yahoo.co.uk

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	Phil Roberts, 44 Dulverton Road, CR2 8PG	
	Jenny Stawman,	
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## ***Councillors for Sanderstead Ward***

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

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

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

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

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



## Editor's Note

Welcome to the May 2019 issue of the Gazette. The cover photo is an unusual overhead shot of Selsdon taken from a crane. More are available - get in touch if you would like to see them.

We start with an important notice about the Big Selsdon Litter Pick (p12). This is an issue after my own heart so do please inform the organisers of litter blackspots to address on the day.

Lots of history this month. Des remembers what it was like going shopping in Selsdon when he was a lad (p15) and this is followed by a response from Martyn Stagg to Phil Munton's article in the March issue about the Ingham Road bombing (p23). Phil himself provides another instalment up with an account of his time at Selsdon Primary School (p27). This month's final fascinating slice of local history comes in a few letters (p54) in response to the request for information about the car belonging to first owner of the Selsdon Park Hotel published in the March issue. Several people have contacted me to tell me that the owner was Mr Sanderson and providing links to a number of fascinating online sources.

After an amusing diversion from Carousel (p29) we have a piece about the Shirley Windmill with dates for their coming Open Days (p31) and I am delighted to report that Jessica Blake is back after a few months' absence, this time with a problem that will be familiar to many in our area. Her piece about Home Sweet Home (p34) is followed by one from far away - our own letter from America (p35) - the first of two from Bill Gale.

✎ SUBMISSIONS FOR THE JUNE 2019 EDITION  
SHOULD BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN  
20<sup>TH</sup> MAY ✎

Nature Notes this month (p37) is about Hairstreak butterflies. We have spotted brown and purple in Selsdon Woods and would be interested to know if any of the other species have been seen locally.

Finally we are pleased to announce a win for the Soul Symphony Choir (p41).

Apologies that there is no room for the crossword but we will have one next month.

Regards,

**Heather**

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## **SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS**

The committee attend quite a few meetings in the borough; the most recent Croydon Communities' Consortium was attended by a fire officer who gave a very good talk on home safety. They are very happy to attend any local groups in order to promote good practices. Some of you may already be aware but the fire brigade will come to your property and assess how many smoke detectors are needed and fit them free of charge. They will also come back when the battery fails but the new alarms are sealed units with a life of 10 years so quite a wait!

The exciting part is they attend with the fire engine and uniformed officers (in case they have to be called out)!! The new advice in case of a fire is to close the door, evacuate and dial 999 but not to try to put it out yourself.

You can book an appointment with the Fire Safety Team between 9-4 Monday to Friday on 0800-028-4428 and they come out 7 days a week. What a service!!

What was previously the Yorkshire Building Society has a

planning application in for change of use to a Pie and Mash shop, not something you see a lot of!!

Hope you all had a lovely Easter! As I write the forecast is terrific - let's hope they were right.

*Sheila Childs - SRA Chair*

~~

## **COUNCILLORS' NOTES**

### **PLANNING PROTESTS**

On 1<sup>st</sup> April a huge crowd of residents from across Croydon flocked to the Town Hall to protest against the planning decisions being made by the Council Planning Committee. That evening the Council was being asked to approve the Suburban Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD2), the planning document that will form part of the guidelines to be applied when decisions are made about future planning applications. The main theme of the document is to allow more intense developments to be built in areas like Selsdon. Sadly, the protests about SPD2 fell on deaf ears and the new Planning Document was nodded through by the Labour councillors.

Protesters recognised the necessity of building more homes in Croydon but felt there should be more development on brownfield sites and greater input from local residents about where the homes should be built. In the meeting Conservative councillors proposed a motion to set up Area Planning Committees that would allow this to happen. This approach has worked well in other areas and is more sensitive to the needs of each locality. Regrettably, the motion was voted down by the Labour Councillors, to the dismay of the crowd who were watching the meeting.

So what does this mean for Selsdon?

It means that a detached bungalow in a residential street could be replaced with a block of flats. It means that residents will be encouraged to submit joint applications to convert 2-3 plots of land with detached houses, into mini estates with buildings on the street front and in the garden. It means that if your neighbour proposes to replace their house with a much bigger building that overlooks your home and garden, there will be very little we can do to stop it.

As your local councillors we will continue to resist insensitive development in Selsdon, but the decisions made at the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> April have made this much more difficult.

## **CAR PARK CHARGES**

Proposals have been put forward to change parking charges to reflect the impact a vehicle has on the environment. The cost of parking will increase, with every vehicle other than fully electric-only vehicles paying 30% more, and anyone wanting to pay cash at a parking meter or having a vehicle older than 2001 paying 30% more as well. Plug-in hybrids will pay the same as most petrol cars and all but the most polluting gas guzzlers.

It is good to encourage people to be more environmentally friendly but it is feared this policy will be a tax that penalises the elderly and low income residents who can't afford to buy a new vehicle. It could also hit small businesses that rely on vehicles to trade.

Any change that affects the cost of parking will hit Croydon's retail trade and other local businesses, so we have to hope that if the change goes ahead it does not affect the local economy, or our most vulnerable residents.

## **SELSDON LIBRARY**

Councillors recently had a briefing from the Council about



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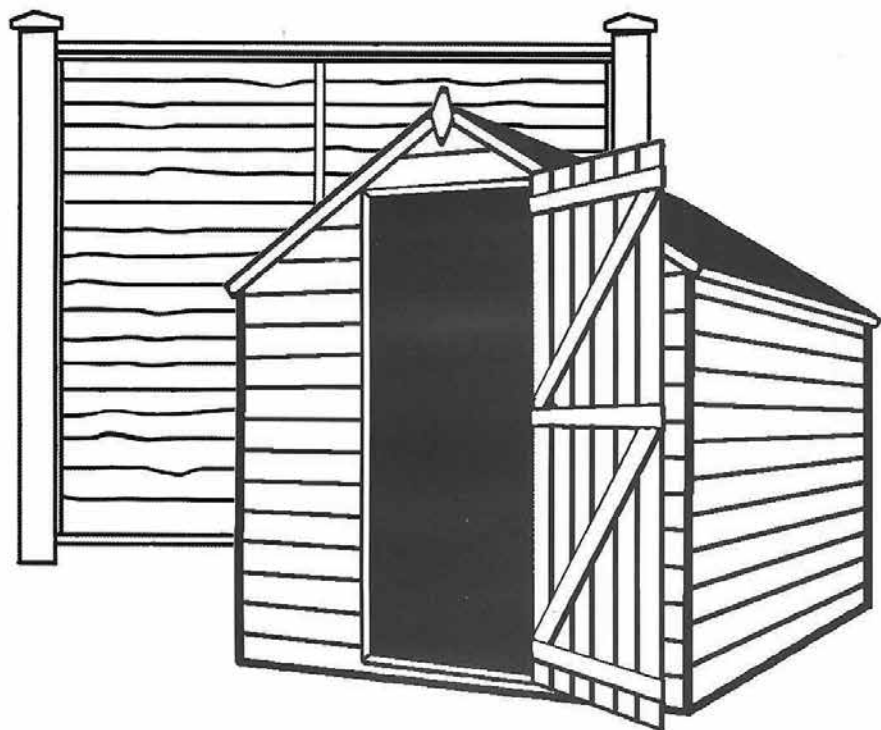
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the refurbishment of Selsdon Library. During the summer the library will be closed in order to install a new IT network which will improve wifi, refresh the ICT hardware, install new furniture and lighting, and prepare for extended opening hours.

Selsdon Library will be a pilot for extended opening hours which will be put in place without additional staffing. Residents will be able to access the Library using a library card and PIN for some hours outside the normal library opening times. They will be able to access computers and use self-service kiosks for borrowing and returning books. CCTV will be in place to monitor this.

The enhancements to the Library are welcomed but there will be a period when the library will be closed to allow the works to take place. The closure will take place from 1<sup>st</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2019. Whilst the technology for the out-of-hours access will be installed in the summer, it won't go live until the autumn.

## **WHERE'S WESTFIELD?**

There is increasing concern about the regeneration of the centre of Croydon. The Westfield development has stalled and there is no date for the start of the project. After many delays, the project was due to start this year with a view to opening in 2023, but in February it was announced that there would be a further delay and it is not known when the work will start.

The development has twice been given planning permission and all the necessary compulsory purchase orders have been agreed, but the developers need more time to put together a workable scheme. The rapidly changing retail landscape has presented many challenges for this project.

The recent announcement of the closure of some Debenhams

stores has made the situation even more worrying. The issue has been raised with the Mayor of London and the government and it is hoped the development will go ahead soon.

## **FAIRFIELD HALLS**

In the April Gazette we gave an update on Fairfield Halls. The project is running 18 months behind schedule and we had just found out that the cost of the refurbishment had escalated from £30m to £41m. Questions were asked about the additional £11m cost and it appears that £4m is due to additional costs for asbestos removal.

This raises a number of questions.

Firstly, what is the other £7m for? Cllr Pollard has asked for clarification on this.

Secondly, how can the asbestos removal have been so badly estimated at the outset? It is well known that buildings of this era had asbestos, and an asbestos survey was carried out before the project started.

Thirdly, the project is being managed by the Council's own subsidiary Brick by Brick, a company set up a few years ago and it has yet to complete a project of any size. Is it right that an organisation with so little experience was given a project of this magnitude?

We all want to see Fairfield Halls reopen but we don't want to pay for a poorly managed project. We will keep a close eye on the refurbishment project and report back with any further information.

## **Meet Your Councillors**

The Selsdon Team of Councillors will be holding surgeries in the Selsdon Centre (next to Sainsbury's) on the first Saturday



of the month from 10am – 11.15am (except August). If you have any issues you wish to discuss with your councillor please come to the surgery or get in touch by email:

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

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

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

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

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS April 2019**

19/01571/HSE – 158 Croham Valley Road, South Croydon, CR2 7RA - Alterations, erection of a single storey rear/side extension

19/01167/FUL – 101 Croham Valley Road, South Croydon, CR2 7JH - Erection of a single storey rear extension and a first floor side extension

19/01498/FUL – 5 Kingsway Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 8NF - Erection of attached 2 bed dwelling, provision of parking, cycle and refuse storage, associated alterations

19/01274/FUL – 2 Foxearth Road, South Croydon, CR2 8ED - Erection of two bedroom attached house

19/01138/FUL – 14 Brent Road, South Croydon, CR2 7NR - Proposed single storey front, side and rear extension; and first floor side extension

~~

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Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June  
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Many readers of the Selsdon Gazette may have noticed that the streets of Selsdon are not always as clean or tidy as they should be. Litter is not only an eyesore, but can also be a danger to people, pets and wildlife.

A number of people from Churches Together in Selsdon and Addington are planning to spend the morning of Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June out and about in Selsdon, picking up litter. As far as possible the litter will be sorted so that recyclable materials can be properly processed.

If you are aware of particular litter spots in Selsdon, the organisers will be very grateful if you could pass on the details to them before the end of May, so that they can plan for the volunteers to cover the areas which are most in need of having litter removed.

Please contact Selsdon Baptist Church office by 31<sup>st</sup> May with information as to where litter needs removing. The office number is 020 8651 4308; email [office@selsdonbaptist.org.uk](mailto:office@selsdonbaptist.org.uk)  
Thank you.

***Linda Wright***

~~

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**The Selsdon and Addington Village LPT comprises:  
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## **GOING TO THE SHOPS – SELSDON IN THE 40S AND 50S**

*(All photos taken Nov 2018)*

The green fields of Selsdon Farm were transformed into an extensive housing estate during the mid 1920s to the late 1930s. My parents bought a new semi-detached house in Abbey Rd in about 1935 which then cost £695. The ongoing house-building ceased as a result of World War II.

As one would expect, there was also a planned development

of a “high street” of shops. This of course was along the Addington Road. However this plan was also upset by the war, with not much more than about two thirds of the shops being completed and trading during most of the 1940s.

The whole block shown below had the flats above completed, but all 9 shop units at ground level were empty and boarded up until sometime after the war ended.



At the other end of the shopping centre, starting at Selsdon Garage, there were three shops; a wool shop, Tudor Library which is still there, and lastly, Monty's a baker's shop.

I hope that the two photos below will help to illustrate the changes, pre- and post-war.

You can see in the left-hand photo that there is a “newly” built block of shops and flats up as far as the drive-through entrance. Originally this was only a single storey row of open but empty shop units. There were no flats over them; these were a circa 1970s add-on. To better illustrate the halfway stage between what I was seeing during the war in the 1940s, and what you will see today, is this photograph

at [https://www.francisfrith.com/selsdon/selsdon-addington-road-c1965\\_s61304](https://www.francisfrith.com/selsdon/selsdon-addington-road-c1965_s61304). This shows the new post-war shops, but before the flats were built on top of them much later.

In the right hand photo below, starting from over the drive-through entrance, again there were 3 or 4 empty shop units, but these did have flats over.

The differences in design and construction materials of these flats provide a clear indication of the different phases of development, pre- and post-war. I should also add that the present-day shops are not those that first occupied the shop units. The many different occupiers over the years would need a whole chapter to record!



New shops with added flats over (at left)



Pre-war flats with new shops below

Finally, from today's Iceland to Barclays Bank, where there is a now a block containing some six different shops, there was in my young days just an open area of waste land with an Air Raid Wardens post on it. So in total, over 20 fewer shops than now.

Today we are used to supermarkets. The nearest that Selsdon had to one in the 1940s, was the South Suburban Co-operative Society shops. I say shops because there were two, next to each other - a grocery shop and a butcher. These were in the premises now occupied by Nationwide (the butcher's), and the pub, Sir Julian Huxley, which provided a large, double fronted grocery shop. The old shop on the corner was an off-licence.

Shopping choice was further restricted by rationing regulations. You were required to nominate the shops at which you would use your ration coupons, when purchasing many goods. So you would have to nominate a butcher for meat products, a grocery shop for tinned fruit/meat, dried items such as prunes, peas, legumes, etc. My mum nominated the Co-op for both meat and groceries, but our next door neighbour for example, used Ockleford's, a local butcher who had his own pig farm in Ashen Vale, and Cave Austin's for groceries.



Some other important staples were not rationed, but subject to regular supply shortages. These included bread products (Monty's Bakery), fresh and hence seasonal fruit and veg (Nash's and Cowley Nurseries), fresh fish and fish and chips. I cannot remember the original owner of the fish shop, but later it was Sand's or Sandy's whose son I knew at Selsdon Primary. There was a good range of shops in Selsdon - virtually everything that was normally needed - only lacking a candlestick maker! It also helped that most of the shop owners lived in Selsdon. No doubt this also helped, as was rumoured, in a little bit of black market dealings with favoured customers!

Food rationing covered a very wide range of products, too many to detail here, but one last item to mention is milk; 3



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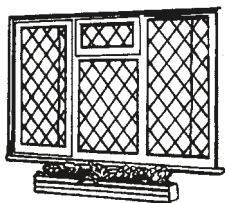
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pints a week for adults and children under 5, and 3.5 pints for children under 18. Additionally, each consumer (i.e. both children and adults) could get one tin of “Home Semi-skimmed Dried Milk” every 8 weeks. This was equivalent to 8 pints of milk. (Children pre-school age got full cream milk from the Children’s Welfare Centre at the Baptist Church Hall). I mention milk because something that you do not now see today, in the high street, is a milk shop. There were two in Selsdon!



Kiba was originally United Dairies shop.  
Red was their signage colour.



Kebab shop behind bus shelter was originally  
the blue Express Dairy shop

You may wonder why there were two dairy shops in Selsdon when the milk was delivered to our front doors, by the local milkman on his horse drawn milk float. I still wonder!

I did go with my Mum to these dairy shops on a few rare occasions, but to buy what I have no idea! My best guess would be to buy cheese. Before the war 70% of cheese was imported but this supply was virtually cut off during the war. So being in very short supply a “Government Cheddar Cheese” was introduced, presumably a mixture of whatever was available at any time. But not very often available for us to eat!

Shopping was virtually a daily chore. As was the queuing when you got to each shop for the meagre rations that you were allowed to buy – if they had it in stock! This resulted in a help thy neighbour system. In those days, long before the internet and social media, messages were by word of mouth. A neighbour knocking the door to say, “They’ve got sausages at Ockleford’s, get down there quick!” And off you went,

immediately. Even then, often when you got to the shop it had sold out.

Finally to end this introduction to wartime shopping, the poor old mums had to carry all the heavy shopping home in baskets or shopping bags, one in each hand! And I can assure you, a basket full of muddy potatoes weighs a ton – or so it seemed on the long walk home.

After the war finished, plus a couple or more years when petrol rationing finished, a business was started by an entrepreneur in Thornton Heath. He (or they) bought a couple of war surplus army lorries and went around knocking on doors. This new business was called “The Direct Potato Supply Company”. A half-hundredweight bag of potatoes delivered to your door once a fortnight. It went down a bomb!

***Des Donohoe***

~~

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## MORE ABOUT THE INGHAM ROAD BOMBING

Phil Munton's article in the March issue was interesting as I used to live in Ingham Road, but it contains a number of errors. In the photograph showing the front of the houses number 21 (later changed to 41) is on the left where the front is still standing and number 22 (42) is complete destroyed. The bomb came down on the site of 23/24 (43/44). This was an empty plot because war had broken out before they could be built. Norman Godfrey who lived at 26 (46) kept chickens and had his chicken run on this plot. He and his wife were away when the bomb came down. They returned to find their chickens wandering about and in the trees. He never told me if his house or that at 25 (45) were damaged in the blast but judging from what happened to Phil's parents' house I imagine there would have been some damage.

In December 1952 my parents, who had been living with my maternal grandparents, moved into their newly built house at 24(44) Ingham Road with my brother (who was 3½) and me (aged six months). I remember my father talking to someone about the problems they had when they moved into the house and referring to the huge heap of building rubble including a complete brick arch which had to be removed. I don't think he ever knew where it all came from, but I am guessing that builders who rebuilt the damaged houses took the quick cheap option of just dumping it on the vacant plot. The houses built at 23/24 (43/44) are the same inter-war style as the other houses in the road with conventional layout of two reception rooms and a kitchen downstairs and two large and one small bedroom, a bathroom and separate WC upstairs. The giveaway that they were built in 1952 is inside; houses built in the 1930s had wooden flooring on the ground floor but our house had solid flooring concrete with a thin bitumen coating because there was a post-war shortage of wood. Most people look at the houses and assume they are 1930s houses apart from one estate agent who noticed the solid floor. My parents continued to live there until September 1971 when they moved back to Ruffetts Close into the house next door to my grandparents.

With regard to the flying bomb, this had snagged a barrage balloon, snapping its mooring cable and was dragging the balloon with its cable behind it. The cable became entangled in the branches of a large oak tree in the strip of Littleheath Woods behind Ingham Road and this is what brought the bomb down. If it had come down 50 to 100 yards further on it would have landed on Selsdon School.

Ingham Road house numbering is unusual: originally the houses backing onto the school were numbered consecutively 1, 2, 3 up to 14 (the last house before the steep hill) and then crossed the road so the first house before the steep hill was number 15 and ran down to 26 on the corner of Ingham Close. The houses on the hill did not have numbers just house names. This was fine if you knew the road but was confusing for postmen and other people delivering to those houses. Another factor at this stage was that the road was technically a private, unadopted road so the numbering anomaly didn't bother the council until 1961 or 62 when Selsdon came under The Urban District Council of Purley and Coulsdon. When that council was abolished and became part of Croydon Council, they took on the road and decided all the houses should have numbers. They kept the sequential numbering system but left gaps, hence the bungalow at No.15 and the house at No.16 could be fitted in easily. The house that was 15 became 35 so it was simply a case of adding 20 to the old number to get the new number. To me as a child the house numbering was obvious and I assumed all roads were numbered this way which was fine until a friend from school invited me to his house in Rylands Road and I was unable to find his house because to me the houses appeared to be numbered randomly. I went home and my mother explained to that most roads have odd numbers on side and evens the other. I returned and found his house.

I remember Phil and his sister Mary as they were older children so I had little social contact with them, though he may remember me and my late brother.

**Martyn Stagg**



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# MY TIME AT SELSDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

## 1953 - 1959

My Mum, Christina Munton, didn't have far to drag me on my first day at school in January 1953, Ingham Road being just round the corner! I certainly wasn't a very willing pupil at first, but the bottom gate gave easy access to Mrs McDonald's first year classroom in a separate building on the eastern side of the school. However, like most of my contemporaries, I soon got over my school phobia, especially on finding many new friends and a playground where we were segregated from the enormous 7-11 year olds! The first memory of any note was the coronation party at which I was photographed with my friend Derek Rich (?) by the Coulsdon and Purley Advertiser - front page news on the 11<sup>th</sup> June!

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B

### COUNCIL SED

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ingham

### COMMITTEE ONSIDER

gham Council's Town Plan-  
e transfer of three sites at  
ea to the Green Belt some  
ham members at Monday's  
e, which has five Caterham  
gham, Coun. A. H. Bartley  
committee members of  
lities at Warlingham.  
which Coun. W. F. Kearley  
the proportion of Caterham  
um Warlingham, the council  
see for further consideration.

### Chairman recalls pledge

COUN. F. S. BACK, a 65 year  
old retired civil servant and  
former head of the local Town  
Planning Committee, was elected  
on Monday to the chairmanship  
of Caterham and Warlingham  
Council. He succeeds Coun.  
Miss E. M. S. Marshall, who  
made council history by being the  
first woman appointed to that  
office.  
The new vice-chairman is  
Coun. John Grainger, chairman  
of the Housing Committee and  
deputy leader of the Labour  
Group on the council.  
An Independent representative for  
the Caterham South ward, Coun. Dick  
Johard the mayor in October, 1952,  
and last year served on Labour's every  
council committee.  
"Looking forward his nomination at  
the council's annual meeting on Tues-  
day, June 16th will be a surprise," it  
is his intention for air to minister on  
the work he has done on this  
council.  
The nomination was announced by  
Coun. A. H. Bartley and was supported  
by the other four Councillors, A. H.  
J. James, the retiring Chairman, Mr.  
Miss E. M. S. Marshall, Coun. W. F.  
Coun. Back and placed the results of  
the election.

### GRAND C WEEK O

### Warlingha enhances

### 2,000 WAT

WARLINGHAM proved at  
pageantry in local celeb-  
past. The village's grand pro-  
week of Coronation events—w  
many years.  
Starting from Hamsey Green  
floats and other decorated ve-  
colour as it toured the streets, v  
turning into Warlingham Cou  
Extra police were on duty i  
cars formed at each end of  
Lampfield Road.  
Nearly 2,000 spectators turned  
up to witness the pageantry of  
Warlingham's Coronation Com-  
mittee, which was the first  
when, led by the local British La-  
bour Party, they also saw  
cheers on Warlingham Council.  
The parade was led by the  
Decorated float, which was the  
first to be seen.



Primary School seemed to go by in a flash with mainly happy memories. One of the first memories however was a rather

painful one. Jumping over skipping ropes was a popular activity at break time, but in the summer of 1954 some 'rather mean' girls pulled the rope taut just as I was jumping over - the result, a broken leg which kept me in plaster for the rest of the summer, including our annual holiday to Broadstairs, which remained our holiday destination for the next eight or nine years. For me, one good thing came out of it - from then on I went home at lunchtime which was made even more pleasurable since it led to my first paid job!

Nobby Clark, the Express Dairy milkman would come into Ingham Road at exactly the same time as I did at lunchtime. I loved horses and it didn't take me long to make myself indispensable in the deliveries to the road and the close. Duties included loading crates, delivering special orders, holding on to Emily the horse, and later Duchess after Emily broke a leg when falling in icy conditions one winter. I was particularly valuable for delivering to the 'posh houses' up the hill because it was too steep for the horses! One perk to all this was a ride on the float (no health or safety then) and of course my 'pay' - a small bottle of orange the same size as the bottles of milk that all primary kids got at breaktime - until Thatcher, the milk snatcher, stopped it as Education Secretary in the 1970s!

Education at Selsdon Primary continued with Mrs. Moir, in a classroom above the terraced flower beds which the senior pupils used to tend with mixed results, and then to the lower main building with Mrs. Sully, who was a bit of a dragon, then Miss Williams(on?) who I fell in love with and who really inspired me to learn not least by encouraging us to read by reading stories - Arthur Ransome's Pigeon Post was a particular favourite. Finally, in our last year I was in Mr. Younghusband's class - a kindly but firm teacher who was probably responsible for me passing the 11+ in 1959. Mr Younghusband also took us for football, a sport I came to love, in the main playground with two gates in railings at either end serving as goals for us to kick the tennis ball through - bigger balls were banned for fear of breaking the school hall windows! It was the precision needed to kick a

small ball that I am sure gave all of us co-ordination skills. I went on to become the school football team's captain and later in life a player in a number of local teams.

The only other memory of note was getting into trouble for throwing stones at girls on the field behind the school and of being terrified by Miss Bjork the headmistress when on the carpet in her office. I did also get interested in music - not particularly from the lessons of music and movement (pretend to be a tree and freeze!) - but from singing and the obligatory Christmas concerts and Nativity plays. With my parents' interest and encouragement I learned to play the violin from age 7.

I made many friends including Geoffrey Featherstone, my best pal till he moved to Hong Kong, John Brumell, John Wooton, Simon Noakes, Andrew Wood, the twins John and David White, Andrew Woods, Nicholas Holt, Michael Sycamore and the odd girl or two including Jill Percival, Sally Hughes and Lorna Chessum.

### ***Phil Munton***

**Editor's Note** - Mr Younghusband was still there in 1975 when I started as a teacher at the school - deputy headteacher at that time. It is interesting how significant the milkman (and his horse, Emily) was in many lives. They have been mentioned by Des several times and figured in a letter from David Owen in last month's Gazette.

~~

## **ROUNDAABOUT**

**In common (hopefully) with every other Selsdon household**, a copy of the Good Neighbour Guide recently fluttered through my letterbox. Produced by the Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association, it is cogent and well-presented. It cites a stream of common nuisances which

plague us all, ranging from fly-tipping to indiscriminate parking. The booklet lists a comprehensive range of useful contact telephone numbers, helpful if one wishes to report matters of concern or crime.

As exemplified by the recent reminiscences in the Gazette, Selsdon has always prided itself in being a supportive community. (Although possibly today most of us are preoccupied with our smart phones and computers!) Should you not have yet perused this useful booklet, please avail yourself of the next opportunity. Thanks are due to our local councillors, Helen Pollard and Robert Ward, for their support of this valuable project.

**Sellis observes** that Selsdon may be invaded by large numbers of London Cockneys. I enquire as to his reasoning for that assertion as Selsdon is some distance from Bow Bells. Sellis draws to my attention the planning application for a Pie, Mash and Eel Restaurant in Selsdon.

Sellis recalls his relatives who used to live in Bethnal Green when the Mile End Road was awash with such restaurants as the menu was a staple food for most residents. Since those days, the London Cockneys have moved out to Essex and Epping Forest.

I suggest that Sellis may wish to cultivate his Cockney accent. "Not 'arf" responds Sellis. I suggest that he sounds more like Dick Van Dyke in Maree Pappins than the more authentic Michael Caine in Alfie. I recall that some years ago a stall in Surrey Street also offered the same bill of fare.

As I totter upstairs to bed, Sellis calls out. "Mind how you go up the apples and pears - just in case you fall and become brown bread!"

Insufferable man.

*Carousel*

~~



## **SHIRLEY WINDMILL - OPEN DAYS**



OK, so not a Selsdon based activity or institution, but then how many windmills are there within 3 miles of Selsdon and only 7 minutes away by car? And there is a tenuous Selsdon link. \*

The Friends of Shirley Windmill ([shirleywindmill.org.uk](http://shirleywindmill.org.uk)) have announced their open days for 2019:

From 12 noon to 5pm the Friends are offering free guided tours of the mill on the following dates: 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 7<sup>th</sup> July, 4<sup>th</sup> August, 1<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September and 6<sup>th</sup> October.

Tours last approximately one hour and will deal with the history, operation and features of the mill. A William Alwen\* is credited with having the first Post Mill built in 1808 and he and his son, Richard Alwen, ran the mill until his death in 1850. Grandson Richard then milled until a fire in 1854 destroyed the mill. He had the mill rebuilt as we see it today. Skipping forward, the mill was listed in 1951 and subsequently incorporated within the grounds of John Ruskin School. In 1990 the school was demolished and Croydon Council sold land to a developer, which resulted in Postmill Close (just off Upper Shirley Road, CR0 5DY) and the houses which now surround the mill.

Parking is available locally but buses 130 and 466 have stops nearby while buses 119, 194 and 198 stop near the Wickham Road roundabout. Do check out the Friends of Shirley Mill website for more details.

\* The Alwens are buried in St Marys Church, Addington, so strictly speaking ,can be found in Selsdon, within the ward boundary of Selsdon and Addington Village.

***Ian Leggatt***

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## HOME SWEET HOME

A week or so ago a friend came to call and when leaving, flicked into her conversation the fact that a neighbour had accepted an offer that couldn't be refused for their house, and we were going to have to live with a block of flats. It came as such a shock. So far we had all avoided it. We can scarcely trip round our garden scantily clad on hot summer evenings with umpteen pairs of eyes staring at us from some new flats.

Yes, I do understand why people accept the large amounts they are offered for their homes, but oh, what it will do to the remaining residents? We were not given our home but worked long and hard, first to save the deposit and then to pay off the mortgage, which took twenty five years.

Well, it has had a positive effect and from top to bottom of the house - cupboards, wardrobes and drawers, we have begun the long task of preparing to empty as much as possible. It's no good reading books written by the Japanese young woman about if you love something keep it, because we love most things, so we go on the criteria if it isn't too painful, then it has to go - so local charity shops will probably be kept going by us for many a month. Yes, we could go on E-bay and sell but that adds more stress to a difficult time. Also putting things in charity shops helps with a variety of good causes, our only hope being people will ask an appropriate price so the benefit is greater for the charity.

As we sit here, bathed in sunlight coming through the window, on this glorious spring day, we gaze at our pretty garden with all the spring flowers and trees. We can remember planting every one of the things growing, except for the weeds, of course!

A friend once told me that she had been born in the house where she lives and planned to die there, because home was where she felt safe.

It looks as if our plans along similar lines will have to be revoked. People tell us that all building plans are being noddod through now. Even if it fails this time, another offer will be extended to someone else, who for one reason or another will feel compelled to accept.

Sadly we doubt we will ever find another place as special as here.

*Jessica Blake*

~~

## **LETTER FROM FLORIDA - PART 1**

Dear Readers,

As some of you will know, Florida is best viewed from a canoe, beach deckchair or out at sea, not from wet and wild rides in a Disney theme park, enjoyable though these are. The thousands of square miles of crystal-clear inland waters and dense forests are breath-taking in their serene beauty and abundant wildlife. We never cease to be enchanted by the pelicans gliding over the waves, dolphins leaping up alongside a speeding boat, and the lovely little sandpipers busily dipping their beaks into the sand by the water's edge before hurrying away as each wave surges in. Occasionally a wild gopher tortoise will amble into view before disappearing down its long winding burrow.

Yes, a car is essential. Buses are an endangered species. But driving is a dream. The roads are not spoiled by anything like the British patchwork quilt of road humps, potholes, and botched repairs. The miles of smooth and well-marked asphalt would make one of our utility companies salivate with the prospect of leaving its mark, just as an unruly abstract painter might look upon a blank canvas.



Dolphins near Clearwater

Let me tell you about the part of Hernando County we know well, a few miles from the Gulf Coast, an hour north of Tampa. Just as reading the Gazette and other local newspapers conveys something about life in Selsdon, so a reading of the weekly Hernando Sun provides a glimpse into the assumptions and traditions of this part of the United States. There are of course stories of decent people going about doing good in the community, of lovely children enjoying their holidays, and local council planning notices. But let there be no doubt, other regular features are so un-British, so alien to our way of thinking, that they are truly astonishing.

Take, for example, the whole page regularly devoted to the County Sheriff's deputies' weekly arrest summaries and photos of the criminals caught in possession of drugs, burglary, hit-and-run incidents, domestic violence, drink-driving, previous convictions, and so on. You'll soon see that the deputies aren't sitting on their proverbial fannies. No sireee! Elections are coming – better look busy!

The comments after arrest are recorded in colourful detail.



One guy shouts, "You guys are gonna take me straight to jail, and I'm not f..... coming out!". Having seen the case descriptions and the ugly mugshots, they're obviously all guilty of the crimes. Er, but hang on a moment, they haven't yet been tried or convicted! Care for a fair and unprejudiced trial, anyone? I can't see that catching on in the Gazette.

On another page you can learn about hunting opportunities for deer and wild hogs - ready for the next barbecue, presumably. And there's more. The list of smaller creatures waiting to be slaughtered includes squirrels, raccoon, skunk, beaver, quail, bobcat, otter, migratory birds, waterfowl and last but not least, armadillo. It seems all these can legally be blitzed with shotguns, muzzleloaders, handguns, bow and arrow, or crossbow. What chance does a trundling armadillo stand against such an armoury?

So much for the darker side of the American way of life. There is of course a lighter and happier side, about which I hope our revered Editor will allow you to read in next month's Gazette.

***Bill Gale***

~~

## NATURE NOTES

### HAIRSTREAK BUTTERFLIES

The Hairstreaks get their name from the thin streak on the underside of the wings, more visible in some species than in others but a characteristic of the group.

**Green Hairstreak** - This is an early season species as it can appear from the middle of April but there will still be adults around at the end of June. Though the upper surfaces of the wings are a dull brown they are seldom noticed as the butterfly perches on bushes with the distinctive brilliant green undersides visible. The insect maintains a territory and will

frequently return to the same perch. Colonies are usually small but I have seen what appeared to be hundreds flitting over the tops of Bilberry in Derbyshire. Apart from Bilberry they will lay eggs on Gorse, Bramble and several other plants.

**Purple Hairstreak** - This is a very common butterfly, from mid-July to late August, but easy to miss as it spends most of its time wandering over the leaves of Oak trees. As they fly from one branch to another, usually in the early to late evening when they are more active, light reflecting from the pale underwings makes them more visible. They settle with open wings so that the purple sheen on the upper surface is quite visible.

**White Letter Hairstreak** - The name of this species comes from the shape of the hairstreak which forms a distinctive letter W. The butterflies are on the wing from late June through July but, as the species relies on Elm trees, its numbers can be decidedly local. Prof Jeremy Thomas recounts watching a group from ground level and estimating about two dozen insects flying around at the top of an Oak where they were presumably feeding on aphid honeydew, but on climbing a nearby tree to get a better view he found the number was nearer to 70 butterflies. I have watched a dozen or so butterflies feeding on Goldenrod at High Elms in Bromley, and several individuals on other plants in various places.

**Brown Hairstreak** - Adults of this species can be found from late June to early September but sightings are not common as the insects spend most of their time at the tops of trees. They use master trees, Ash or other trees which are locally higher than neighbours, as a meeting place for males and females, but the females then fly off, possibly some distance away, to lay their eggs on Blackthorn bushes. Finding and counting the eggs in winter when the bushes are bare of leaves can show that the butterfly is surprisingly common in some areas despite the relative lack of sightings of the adults. A butterfly seen well will most likely be a female which has a rich brown colouring on the upper wings supplemented with a pair of bright orange patches.



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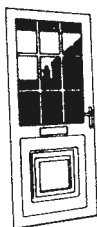
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**Black Hairstreak** - This is the rarest of the hairstreaks as it is confined to an area near Oxford. Flight period is short, perhaps the last week in June and first week in July. The butterfly can easily be mistaken for White Letter Hairstreak but spends most of its day seeking honeydew at the tops of trees, though they will also take nectar on Privet flowers. Eggs are usually laid on Blackthorn and, like those of the Brown Hairstreak, remain there throughout the winter.

For more information on these and all other British butterflies read the fascinating book by Prof Jeremy Thomas – Butterflies of Britain and Ireland.

*Ted Forsyth*

~~

## **LOCAL CHOIR TRIUMPHS AGAIN**

Award-winning Soul Symphony Choir, your local community choir directed by Joanne Miller, wins again! The Choir participated in Croydon Performing Arts Festival 2019 and won the Gospel category. Jeffrey Davies, adjudicator for the Choral Section said, “Ladies and gentlemen in orange, what a wonderful concert this was, it really was. This was a really impressive example of gospel feel... It had that emotional impact the whole way through. Asante Sana – lovely African opening. Super communicative faces were as I expected and your movement was just enough to let the song do the work. Holy is the Lord – fantastic soloist, Theresa. The gospel feel was authentic throughout.”

Soul Symphony Choir is one of the most exciting vocal ensembles in Croydon and its surrounding London boroughs. Come along to a Tuesday session and consider becoming a member. 7:15pm at Emmanuel Centre, Rockhampton Road, South Croydon, CR2 7AQ. Allow yourself to be energised by the uplifting sessions and mutual support from this choir community.

Soul Symphony Choir will host their spectacular annual Summer Choir Festival. Proceeds from the ticket sales will be donated to charity, so please support us. This Festival promises to be a magnificent show. **Saturday 20 July, 6.30pm** at Normanton Road, South Croydon CR2 7AF.

*Joanne Miller*



Soul Symphony Choir wins at CPAF 2019

~~

## **WHAT'S ON**

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

~~

### **SELSDON TENNIS CLUB – FREE TENNIS ON 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019**

Did you know that there has been a tennis club in Selsdon since the early 1930s? The land was donated by Costains when they started to build the Selsdon Garden Village around 85 years ago – just one court at that time, but now we have five excellent courts at 21a Queenhill Road, just above the playspace/recreation area. With the summer season about to



start, we are having an Open Day on 18<sup>th</sup> May from 11.00am to 4.00pm. Free tennis with racquets and balls provided - just wear sports clothing and non-marking soft-soled shoes and you're ready to go. We cater for all ages and abilities, with free coaching sessions for those who want to learn or revise their skills. There is also a 20% reduction in fees for those who join within a week of the Open Day. Look forward to seeing you on the 18<sup>th</sup> May, or if you cannot make that date, any other Saturday afternoon - please come down the drive between 21 and 23 Queenhill Road where you will find our car park and entrance to the courts.

~~

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

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



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

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

#### **1-2-1 computer training on laptops, iPads and tablets**

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

It is possible to book an individual hour long lesson or a block of 5 sessions, at very competitive prices!

So, if you are interested in brushing up your IT skills or would like a complete beginners' lesson, please do give us a call, email or pop in for more information.

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

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

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

~~

**ART CLASSES** run at the Shirley Methodist Church on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We start back next term on **May 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>** and run for ten sessions.

On Tuesdays it's Drawing and Painting starting at 10.00am to 12.30pm and after lunch from 2.00pm to 4.30pm. On Thursdays it's Life Drawing, from 10.00am to 12.30pm and then after lunch, 1.30pm to 4.00pm, it's Portrait Drawing.

For further information contact Stewart Ganley on [vangan4669@gmail.com](mailto:vangan4669@gmail.com) or mobile 07745586807.

~~

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

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

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

Music will also feature in our programme this year. If you would like to attend or would like to know more, please contact the Church Office on 020 8651 4308 to apply for a booking form. Places are limited so do not delay!

We hope to see you there

The H@H Team at Selsdon Baptist Church

~~

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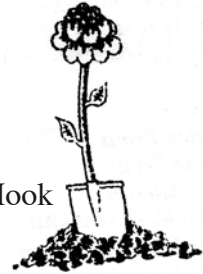
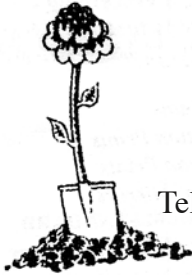
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## **SELSDON PRIMARY SCHOOL WARTIME REUNION – 2019** **DATE CHANGE.**

Please note that this popular event will now be held at the Farleigh Golf Club on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019**. Details will follow in due course.

~~

**COMPANY CLUB** welcomes lively over 45's to social events including theatre ,cinema, meals out, quizzes, barbeques, walks etc. New members evening - 1st Thursday of the month. Contact Linda **020 8668 1382**, Glenn **020 8656 9007**, Shirley **020 8651 5835**. **[www.companyclub.co.uk](http://www.companyclub.co.uk)**

~~

## **SELSDON CENTRE BOOK CLUB**

If you like reading, and discussing what you have read, why not come along to our book club? We are a small group and members suggest a 'book of the month' (from classics to contemporary, plays to poetry) which we discuss, followed by tea/coffee and biscuits.

We meet on the third Thursday of the month in the Selsdon Centre at 2.45 pm, and there is free parking in Sainsbury's car park. New members are always welcome. The cost is £3.50 for each session or by subscription.

Forthcoming meetings are **on May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17, November 21** (None in December)

If you would like to know more please contact Maureen on 020 8651 2336 or. email [stagg435@btinternet.com](mailto:stagg435@btinternet.com)

~~

## **FRIENDS OF SELSDON WOOD**

**Our next walk is on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June @ 11am - "Summer Flowers" with Malcolm Jennings - Meeting in Selsdon Wood car park, Old Farleigh Road.**

*To make enquiries or to check the above, see the Walks and Workday pages of the website [www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk](http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk) Or phone 020-8657 0423 or e-mail: [selsdonwood@gmail.com](mailto:selsdonwood@gmail.com)*

Selsdon Wood is owned by the National Trust and we have our own page on their website at <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/selsdon-wood>

~~

## **SANDERSTEAD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**

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

**May 29 - Barlow Trecothick, builder of Addington 'Palace' - Joyce Hoad**

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

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

Contact Joyce Hoad (Chair) [joycehoad@virginmedia.com](mailto:joycehoad@virginmedia.com)  
or [chris.harman@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:chris.harman@tiscali.co.uk)

~~

## **SELSDON FLOWER CLUB**

We are a small friendly club who meet on certain Wednesday afternoons at 2pm at the rear of St. John the Divine Church, Selsdon. Subscription £25 per annum. We have demonstrations, workshops and practices.

8 May	Demo - Sue Tausig
22 May	Practice - Tall and Elegant
12 June	Practice - Summer in Bloom

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

~~



## **THE RSPB CROYDON LOCAL GROUP**

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

#### **Croydon**

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

#### **Monday June 10<sup>th</sup> - NO MEETING – mid-season break.**

For more information contact John Davis on 020-8640 4578 or see [www.rspb.org.uk/groups/croydon](http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/croydon)

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

~~

## **THE ARTS SOCIETY SANDERSTEAD**

**Tuesday 28th May 2019, 10.30 - 11.45am** - Sanderstead United Reform Church Hall, Sanderstead Hill, CR2 0HB (next to Sanderstead Library, parking in surrounding roads, 403 Bus Route)

### **“Leslie Primo” - Angelica Kaufmann: an Artist in 18th Century England**

Leslie Primo holds a BA in Art History and an MA in Renaissance Studies from Birkbeck College, University of London. He gives lectures and guided tours, plus special talks at both the National and the National Portrait Galleries. Leslie also lectures at the City Literary Institute and has presented a series of talks at the National Maritime Museum and the Courtauld Institute.

Coffee is served from 9.30am - 10.15am. Please register when you arrive. There will be a small fee of £5.



For more information on joining our society so that you can take full advantage of our wider programme of day visits, foreign/home tours, Special Interest Days, Annual Lunch and other social events, please ask for details at the hall or ring

Sue Davenport 020 8660 9122 Website: [www.](http://www.theartssocietysanderstead.org.uk)

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

~~

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

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

More details to follow but SAVE THE DATES NOW!

[www.pnoenixcollective.co.uk](http://www.pnoenixcollective.co.uk)

~~

# **St John's Church Plant and Produce sale**



**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

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## **Forms, forms, forms**



Many of the Selsdon residents that Contact helps are eligible for Attendance Allowance, a Blue Badge or a Taxi Card, but the application forms they are asked to complete are not always straightforward. Just understanding what information is being asked for, let alone filling in the form (the Attendance Allowance form is 30 plus pages!), can be very daunting and often the form gets set aside 'to be dealt with later' and important help and assistance to which they are entitled does not get claimed.

Selsdon Contact helps people filling in these forms. With experience, we can advise on what information is being asked for and assist with completing the form. We are, however, in need of a couple more volunteers to help with this task. Full training would be given, there is no regular commitment and each visit would only take an hour or two of your time.

**If you feel you could help with this valuable community support,** please call Jasmine in the Contact Office on 8651 4944. Or if you prefer call into our office on the lower ground floor of the Selsdon Community Centre and we can provide you with more information.



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

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

**Heather Govier, Editor**

~~

**27 March**

By now, I expect you have received several responses to your February 6th letter asking for more information about A D Sanderson's ownership of a 1934 Rolls Royce.

I believe the answer will be found in the quotes below, concerning **Allan Doble Sanderson** - a businessman, inventive engineer, motor-racing driver and automotive enthusiast who parlayed his commercial successes to create Selsdon Park Hotel circa 1928.

I worked at the hotel in 1951 and frequently saw Mr. S. driving his early Jaguar XK120 around the property; it was on those rare occasions that he smiled. However, I regret that I never saw the 1934 Rolls-Royce. (See below for photos of both vehicles.)

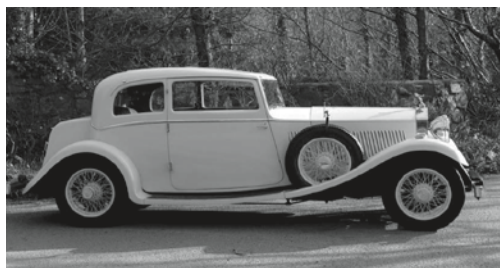
***Michael Fox - Selsdon resident 1937-1953***

*"Allan Doble Sanderson was a prominent businessman who owned the firm of London Lubricants which he sold in 1927, following the acquisition of Selsdon Park. He was also a motor-racing driver who competed at the famous circuit, Brooklands, and at racing venues on the Continent between*

*1920 and 1924."*

*"Allan Sanderson decided to pursue a new business career and in 1924 he embarked on an exciting, innovative commercial venture by purchasing Selsdon House and its estate grounds. His idea was to convert the 23-bedroomed Victorian country residence into an illustrious hotel. For this purpose he employed the architect Hugh Mackintosh, who spectacularly enlarged the building in 3 stages."*

*"Mr Basil Sanderson, son of Allan Doble Sanderson ... took over control from his father in 1960 and ... developed Selsdon*



*Park into one of the finest hotels in Europe."*

**Editor's Note** - The quotes come from a 16 page booklet, "Selsdon Park - The History" published by Basil A Sanderson in 1985. The full booklet is available on the SRA website History of Selsdon page <https://selsdon-residents.co.uk/history-of-selsdon.php>. The Principal Hotel Company, who bought the property from Basil Sanderson in 1997, recently refurbished it and adopted the new name, the De Vere Selsdon Estate.

See the website <http://www.realcar.co.uk/view-cars/2323> for more information about the Rolls and about A D Sanderson - clearly he was a bit of a lad!!!

See also the letter on next page offering another online source of information.

~~

**14 April**

Hi Heather,

The Sanderson family had the hotel until 1997. Potted history available from the following link: <http://www.londongardensonline.org.uk/gardens-online-record.php?ID=CRO075>

*Ian Leggatt*

~~

**16 April**

Hi Heather,

Reading last month's edition I note that Frank Kippin wants to know the original owner of the Selsdon Park. When it was sold to De Vere it was owned by the Sanderson family, headed by Basil. I understand at the time it was the only 4-star hotel owned by individuals. The accountants I worked for helped with the sale. I checked Google and my memory of the name was right. I assume it was Basil in the picture with the dogs.

*Regards, Neil Taylor*

~~

**20 April**

Hi Ed,

Selsdon Park was sold to Alan Sanderson in 1924 for £13000. East and West wings were built and it opened as hotel in 1930. Son Basil Sanderson took over to run the business soon after. He was community-minded and organised a funfair in 1938 in the grounds (where Croydon High School is





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today). They allowed Selsdon residents to use their outdoor swimming pool at certain times after the war free of charge. General de Gaulle stayed there for a few days after fall of France in June 1940 and also King Haakon of Norway.

***Ray Rowsell***

~~

**17 April**

Hi Heather,

I read with interest the article in the March issue regarding the potholes along Farley Road and the lack of road cleaners active in the borough.

I cycle every weekday from Selsdon to South Wimbledon using Farley Road. This has now become a death trap for cyclists from Foxearth Road down to Croham Valley Road as it has not been maintained in the proper fashion for years. It has got so bad I have now taken to cycling along the middle of the carriageway, probably to the annoyance of following motorists.

As for the official that inspected that part of the road and stated it is fit for purpose I throw out a challenge to them, come and cycle with me for just one morning to see how dangerous it really is. No cycle? Not a problem - I will loan them one, and let's see how they fare with the traffic whilst trying to avoid the holes and dangerous drain covers (either sunken or poking up).

I have, as I write, lodged a claim against Croydon Council for damage to my cycle because of lack of maintenance to Farley Road.

Road cleaners - why is it I see one at the same place on the junction of Sumner Road and Mitcham Road every morning?

Are the residents in that particular area really messy? I think not, but it is being hand swept every day, whilst we in Selsdon have more chance of seeing hens' teeth than a road sweeper/cleaner.

***Terry Maher***

**Editor's Note** - I invited **Councillor Helen Pollard** to reply. This is her response:

It is unfortunate that Farley Road is on such a sorry state, but it is far from the worst in the borough so I don't think it will be high up the 'to do' list for resurfacing.

As you will have read in a previous Gazette there is no longer a routine for regular cleaning of streets. Instead, the Council is relying on residents to report areas that need cleaning. Therefore the best way to keep our streets clean and, indeed keep our roads in reasonable repair, is to report issues as you find them. I agree this is not ideal but it is the reality we face under the current Council administration.

~~

## **APRIL'S CROSSWORD SOLUTION - Gazette Ref: 59**

### **ACROSS**

3 Sudan. 8 cosmic. 9 orator. 10 Asia. 11 aficionado.  
12 suburb. 13 innuendo. 16 old-age pensioner. 18 lavender.  
21 missus. 23 possession. 25 idly. 26 Ishtar. 27 Reagan.  
28 elegy.

### **DOWN**

1 Honshu. 2 immaculate. 3 scrabble. 4 definite article.  
5 notion. 6 barn. 7 folded. 12 scowl. 14 egoistical. 15 orris.  
17 seminary. 19 arouse. 20 desire. 22 unload. 24 sate.

~~

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for our full programme and information about Selsdon Wood



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

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

### **CHURCHES**

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

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

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

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

CONTACT (neighbourhood care)	Andy Stranack	8651 4944
Selsdon Centre for the Retired	Craig Anderson	8651 1111
Croydon Hearing Resource Centre	Office	8686 0049
Bourne Society	Roger Packham	01883 349287
Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society	Brian Lancaster	8668 6909
Croydon Recorded Music Society	Liz Brereton	8656 7382
Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind		8668 2486
Cruse Bereavement Care Helpline		8916 0855
Friends of Littleheath Woods	Ian Leggatt	8651 1140
Friends of Selsdon Wood	Heather Govier	8657 0423
Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section		
Girlguiding UK: <a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved.aspx">http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved.aspx</a>		0800 169 5901
Parkinson's UK Croydon & District	Jacky Green	01737 355487
Police (Selsdon & Ballards SNT)	Beat Officer:	8721 2464
RSPB, Croydon Local Group	John Davis	8640 4578
Rotary Club of Croydon South	Wendy A Parr	07774 186792
Probus Club of Croydon South	John Barker	8657 2093
St John's Dramatic Society	Caryl Rapps	8651 1326
St John's Wives	Jane Guglielmi	8657 6672
Sanderstead Plantation Partners	Michael Lishmund	020 8651 2760
1st Selsdon & Addington Scout Group:	Website: <a href="http://www.1stselsdon.org.uk">www.1stselsdon.org.uk</a>	
Beaver Colony (6-8yrs)	Maddie Dunn	07703 531652
Cub Pack (8-10yrs)	Louise Baker	07737 404668
Scouts Troop (10-14yrs)	Douglas Gordon	07514 651711
Croham Valley Explorers	Anthony Woodin	020 8651 3780
Selsdon Art Group	Mrs S Hooper	07973 412952
Selsdon Bridge Club	Tony Cherrett	01883 730304
Selsdon Camera Club	Roy Stansbury	8657 5131
Selsdon Community Hall	Tim Potter (Centre Manager)	8657 4300
Selsdon Afternoon Townswomen's Guild	Elizabeth Veasey	8657 1092
Selsdon Floral Club	Maureen Browning	8651 5821
Selsdon Social Club	Beryl Gascoigne	8660 2611
Selsdon Tennis Club	Geoff Littlewood	8651 4748
66 (Selsdon) Squadron Air Training Corps	Rob Cleeter	8651 5958

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