

# The Selsdon — Gazette —

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May 2021



# THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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

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

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

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

### ***Councillors for Sanderstead Ward***

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

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

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



## Editor's Note

Welcome to the May edition of the Selsdon Gazette. Lockdown restrictions eased on 12 April and I had the pleasure of a much-needed haircut and a little 'retail therapy' in non-essential shops for the first time since last November! Please remember to try to support our local shops and businesses which have reopened and need our custom.

The SRA have decided to extend the deadline for the Cheerful Scarecrow Competition so that people have more time to prepare their scarecrows but please ensure that you use materials and clothes that you have at home or buy locally from our traders and charity shops. The deadline for entries is now 28 May (entry form available in this gazette) and judging will take place between 1-6 June. After such a traumatic year it would be lovely to see some cheerful scarecrows in porches and front gardens. Come on Selsdon, have a go and put a smile on the faces of your neighbours!

We are really grateful to all our advertisers who have stayed with us throughout this covid-19 year; without their support the Gazette could not be published. If you decide to use any of their services, please remember to mention that you saw their advert in the Gazette.

In this month's edition we have a very outdoors feel with articles about local walking routes, trips further afield to East Kent and the installation of butterfly 'scrapes' that you may have seen in our local parks and woods. As Ted's Nature Notes take a look at the wildlife inhabiting holes in the countryside this month, I have chosen Josh Patel's photo of parakeets as our cover for the gazette. For a change, this month's quiz will test your number powers but please resist the temptation to use a calculator!

I hope that you enjoy your read, keep safe and I do look forward to hearing from you! Any contribution, however short, can be sent to me by email to ([selsdongazettesra@gmail.com](mailto:selsdongazettesra@gmail.com)).

**Chris Jones**

✎ SUBMISSIONS FOR THE JUNE 2021 EDITION SHOULD  
BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN  
20<sup>TH</sup> MAY - PREFERABLY BEFORE! ✎

# SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS

## Volunteers

It has been reported that at least 19 million people volunteer in the UK. This "army" is so important to our society and Selsdon is blessed to have so many organisations run by volunteers to keep our area well served. I would like to give a big shout out to all who give their time; a value cannot be put on it.

The Gazette is one such local organisation; totally run by volunteers and at the moment we are short of distributors who collect parcels of gazettes from Wendy each month and deliver to a section of our 'foot soldier deliverers' (a car is essential). Don't be shy please phone Wendy 0208 651 0470 or email [wmikiel@hotmail.com](mailto:wmikiel@hotmail.com)

## The Big Lunch

As we slowly come out of lockdown The Big Lunch Project is encouraging communities, friends and neighbours to get together no matter how small or big a number (social rules applied!) but the idea is to be together. This has been running for several years and some may use it as a fund raiser but most will be happy for a good old get-together. The official date is the weekend of 5-6th June but it can be any weekend that month. You can sign up at the website to get a pack for ideas and tips.

Let's get together for a chat and some food (and drink?) two of my favourite things. What's not to like!!

***Sheila Childs, SRA Chair***

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## COUNCILLOR'S NOTES

### SELSDON COMMUNITY PLAN – UPDATE

#### Signs

Work continues with the implementation of initiatives that came out of the Selsdon Community Plan. Costings are being obtained for signs to direct people to the highlights of Selsdon including green spaces, historic buildings etc. Once we have the costings, we can set about

getting funding to pay for the signs. One Gazette reader suggested that we should put up some 'Welcome to Selsdon' signs so these are being included in our plans. Thanks for the suggestion!

### **Do you need a street tree?**

At a recent meeting of the Selsdon Community Plan Steering Group (SCPSG) there was discussion about how we can get the Council to replace street trees that have been removed. We would like your help in identifying where there are empty 'tree pits' so we can get the measure of how many trees we will need. Please email [selsdoncommunityplan@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:selsdoncommunityplan@croydon.gov.uk) with details of the location of tree pits that need a new tree in Selsdon. Unfortunately, because the Council has had to cut all but essential spending, they do not have the resources to replace trees, but we are hoping that funds can be found from other sources.

### **Can you build a website?**

We would love to have a website so people can keep up with what's happening with the implementation of the Selsdon Community Plan. At the moment we don't have anyone on the team who can build a website. We just need a simple site which summarises what is being done. Would you be able to help us by creating a website? If so, we would be very grateful – please email [selsdoncommunityplan@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:selsdoncommunityplan@croydon.gov.uk) to let us know.

### **Connecting with local businesses**

A WhatsApp group has been set up for local businesses. This is a great way to share information about support that is available for businesses from the Council. It is also great for keeping everyone in the loop about local events, for example the Selsdon Easter Egg Hunt which took place in April. If you would like to be included in this Group, please email [selsdoncommunityplan@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:selsdoncommunityplan@croydon.gov.uk).

## **TWO PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPROVED DESPITE STRONG LOCAL OPPOSITION**

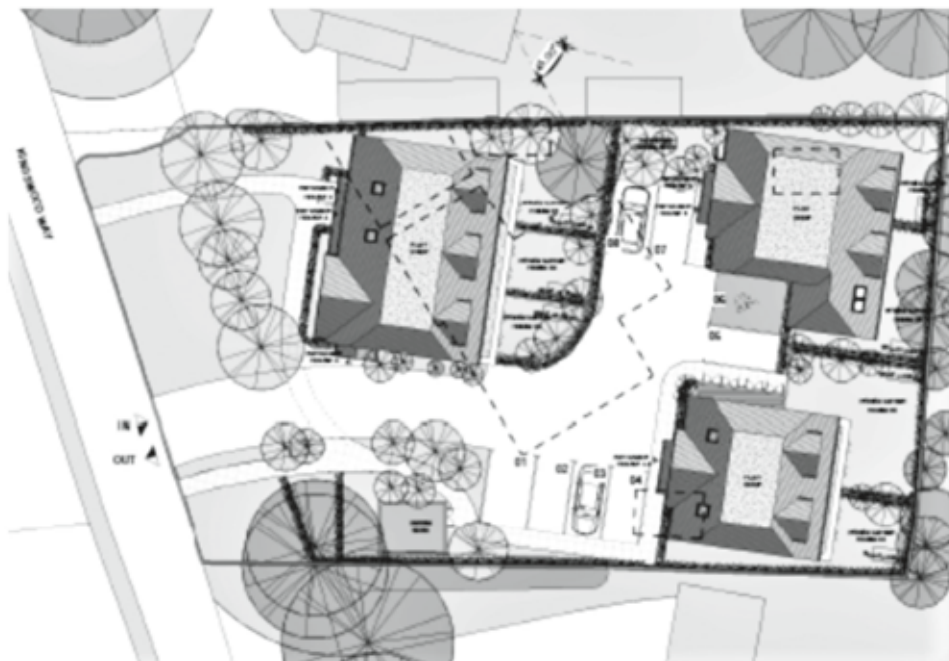
In the last few years, the Labour administration of Croydon Council has pursued a policy of 'intensification'. In practice this means they actively support the replacement of a single detached house with a block of flats or multiple smaller properties. This is happening throughout the south of the borough despite strong opposition from local residents who are dismayed



by the way it changes the character of their area.

In a Planning Committee meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March, two more 'intensified' developments were approved for Selsdon.

### **3 Kingswood Way – one house to be replaced with 7 houses**



The above picture shows how a terrace of three houses, plus two pairs of semi-detached houses will be squeezed onto the site that previously had one home.

74 local residents objected to this development in an area that is characterised by family homes on spacious plots. There is not enough parking for all the houses so there will be a lot of cars parked in the surrounding area, and that part of the road is very narrow. Despite this, and Cllr Stranack speaking in opposition to the development, it was voted through by the Labour members of the Planning Committee who outnumber the Conservative members who voted against it.

### **219 Farley Road – One house to be replaced with a block of 9 flats**

*An artist's impression of the development at 219 Farley Road*

104 local residents objected to the development on the grounds that it



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is out of character with the area, there is insufficient parking (with only 5 spaces), it overlooks neighbouring properties, and the high volumes of traffic that would be turning in and out of a dangerous part of Farley Road. Cllr Helen Pollard spoke in opposition to the development, and so did a representative of the Croydon Valley Residents' Association. All the objections were ignored and the Planning Committee gave the development planning permission. Sadly, this sets a precedent and we can expect to see further similar developments in the area in future.



An artist's impression of the development at 219 Farley Road



## CROYDON TOWN CENTRE GROWTH ZONE IS SCALED DOWN

The money has run out, so what should Croydon Council do? There are statutory functions such as collecting rubbish and fixing the roads, but beyond a few legal requirements, most of the Council's work adds value to the community but isn't required by law. As a result of the Council's failure

to manage its finances, we in Croydon find ourselves facing the potential closure of recycling centres, of libraries and increases in parking charges, traffic fines and controlled parking zones.

One area that seems to be on the future scrapheap as far as the Council are concerned is economic development. Anyone who has been to the town centre recently has seen how dire it has become as a shopping area (even before Covid). There have been lots of failed promises around Westfield, instead replaced with an obsession to build flats, both in huge town centre towers and in the removal of family homes for smaller blocks in places like Purley, Selsdon, Sanderstead, Kenley and Coulsdon.

One project the Council did plan was a town centre Growth Zone to help develop existing businesses and encourage new ones to locate in Croydon. Great in essence, and had cross-party support, but it is now a victim of the Council's bankruptcy. Originally the Council intended to borrow £310m out of an overall project value of £520m. The projects included improvements to transport networks, public realm spaces and employment and skills programmes.

In the new Council budget passed by Labour on 8th March the Growth Zone funding has been reduced to a mere £4m over the next three years. Such a spectacular reduction in funding comes in stark contrast to the Council having borrowed hundreds of millions for projects like Brick by Brick, hotels and shopping centres. In fact, the Grant Thornton report in the public interest that revealed the financial failures of the Council said that the cut in the Growth Zone was one of the few measures the Council had actually taken whilst ignoring the gross over borrowing and spending elsewhere.

As part of the 2021-22 budget the cut in funding to the Growth Zone means that there will now be £0 spent on employment and skills for training or recruitment whereas at the launch in 2018 it was £980,000. Also, the Council's revenue budget that covers the day-to-day spending is cutting Croydon Works and making six people redundant from the economic development team. Croydon Works was itself billed as being a 'valuable route to employment for local people'. Now though it seems to have only been a route to unemployment for those dedicated staff members keen to help Croydon residents into training or work.

On a brighter note, the Government announced in the Budget on

3rd March its support for businesses with the extension of furlough for workers, the extension of the business rates holiday and a restart grant to hospitality, retail and leisure businesses of up to £18,000 following on from the grants last year. Disappointingly, Croydon were in the bottom 10% in England for distributing Covid grant money to businesses during lockdown one and the worst in London – Croydon Council couldn't even manage to give away free money!

## **ITV REPORT ABOUT THE REGINA ROAD FLATS – COULD IT HAPPEN IN SELSDON?**

Many of you will have seen the ITV news story in March that reported on the appalling conditions in one of Croydon Council's blocks of flats in Regina Road. This sent a shiver down the spine of Council tenants in Croydon,

many of whom have experienced similar problems with their Croydon Council housing. Indeed, as your local councillors, we are often asked to help Council house residents to resolve issues with poor maintenance conditions.



Having raised this terrible situation as a matter of Urgent Business with the Leader of Croydon Council at a Cabinet Meeting, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Lynne Hale, was pleased to hear that an investigation will be taking place. This will try and get to the bottom of what went wrong and look at how widespread the issue of outstanding serious disrepairs is in Croydon.

Croydon has had three Labour Cabinet Members responsible for Housing over the past 7 months and not one of them seems to have been aware of either the problem or of the multitude of complaints which residents have been lodging. The unusable mouldy rooms, the risk of electrocution, soaking wet floors and furnishings all caused by the long-term ingress of water suggests negligence on the part of the landlord – Croydon's Council.

Whilst we all know about the parlous state of the Council's finances, the Council cannot claim this was a factor in the problems with the maintenance of Council housing. In fact, the money used for repairing Council owned properties comes from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) which is funded from rent and service charges paid by tenants. The latest figures show a healthy balance, and the HRA budget for repairs and improvements is set at £27m with a separate programme of responsive repairs resourced through revenue funding totalling an additional £12m. However, the Council has admitted that it underspent on maintenance works to the tune of £300,000 in 2020/21 whilst at the same time overspending £700,000 in the past two years on legal costs.

You have to wonder if the Council has got its priorities wrong. Surely the monies paid by tenants should have been used to effect the necessary repairs straightaway. A prompt response to the initial complaint about a leak could have averted so much misery – and cost a lot less. Clearly the Council's complaints process is utterly unfit for purpose and the shameful state of the flats in Regina Road needs urgent attention.

Whilst these flats are not in Selsdon, there are many Council homes in Selsdon and we need these issues addressed immediately so no more Council tenants have to put up with unsafe living conditions. Your local Councillors will monitor the progress of the investigation and ensure changes are made to prevent a repeat of this situation.

## **MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS**

**PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS, COUNCILLOR SURGERIES ARE SUSPENDED.**

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

Helen.pollard@croydon.gov.uk  
Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk  
Stuart.millson@croydon.gov.uk  
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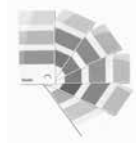
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21/01543/HSE – 304 Addington Road, CR2 8LF

Erection of two storey side extension, ground floor rear extension, new rooflights

21/01491/HSE – 102 Arundel Avenue, CR2 8BH

Erection of single storey side and rear extension and first floor side extension

21/01227/HSE – 90 Ballards Way, CR2 7LA

Erection of a two-storey side extension, including terrace at first floor level and a first floor rear extension

21/01228/HSE – 18 Chestnut Grove, CR2 7LH

Alterations including erection of a two storey side extension and single storey side extension

21/01655/HSE – 70 Elmpark Gardens CR2 8RU

Erection of single storey side and rear extension

21/01484/HSE – 53 Foxearth Road, CR2 8EL

Erection of two storey side extension ground floor rear extension, hip to gable roof extension and rear extension, new roof lights

21/01203/DISC – John Ruskin College, Selsdon Park Road, CR2 8JJ

Discharge of Condition 5 (Cycle parking) and 6 (EVCP) attached to planning permission 20/00791/FUL for Removal of existing sheds and the construction of an ancillary building with a height of approximately 7.3 metres and two storage containers in the car park of John Ruskin College

21/01310/HSE – 14 Lichfield Way, CR2 8SD

Erection of a first-floor rear extension

21/01462/HSE – 170 Littleheath Road, CR2 7SF

Erection of single storey rear extension

21/01730/GPDO – 5 Sundale Avenue CR2 8RQ

Erection of a single storey rear extension projecting out 4 metres from the rear wall of the original house with a height to the eaves of 2.79 metres and a maximum height of 3.64 metres

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

# **MP Chris Philp's Report**

## **Member of Parliament for Croydon South**



### **Police tackling catalytic converter thefts**

As many of you are aware, there has been a lot of concern about catalytic converter thefts in our area. This isn't just a problem for Croydon; last year 15,000 catalytic converters were reported stolen, 6,000 more than the year before. I have been in contact with local authorities, including the head of the local Metropolitan Police, about these thefts, and I'm very pleased to say that the police have made important progress.

The police have launched a series of raids that led to four arrests, the seizure of £60,000, and 10 vehicles. These raids took place in East London, Kent and Essex. These raids, along with a number of other arrests, are part of a much wider operation to tackle what is a very difficult crime to police.

The police will now move on to phase two of their operation to put a stop to these criminals. This includes work with Toyota to ensure a marking scheme for catalytic converters.

I would like to thank all the officers involved in this operation, and for the members of the public who have assisted them throughout. These thefts have been going for too long, and we need to stop them as soon as possible.

### **ITV report on "unliveable" council flats**

A report by ITV last month has revealed Croydon has some of the worst council flats in the country. As part of ITV News' investigation, they spoke with Dame Judith Hackitt, who led the independent investigation into building safety following the Grenfell tragedy. In describing the living conditions, she said, "I don't think I've ever seen anything that bad". These flats are home to some of our community's most vulnerable members. This is not acceptable, and the council needs to act now to put this right.

### **Passenger Benefit Fund underway**

A few months ago, I wrote that the Passenger Benefit Fund, the £15m

in fines from Govia Thameslink Railway, was being spent to improve stations in the south of the borough. I am pleased to say that many of these improvements have now been delivered. The improvements include waiting shelters, refurbished toilets, more seats, information screens, automatic doors, more cycle parking, refurbished waiting rooms, station planters, and LED lighting. Purley Oaks Station for example has now received new wooden seating, and its waiting room has been refurbished. You can read more about the improvements here - <https://www.southernrailway.com/improvingyourstations>

**Chris Philp**

Member of Parliament, Croydon South: 020 7219 8026  
chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk

~~

## **Extract from 'Your Croydon' 15 April 2021**

Two weeks ago, the council commissioned an independent investigation into unacceptable conditions that some of our tenants were living in at Regina Road and to find out why this had been allowed to happen.

We have now received the initial findings and we have asked the investigators to do some further work to help us improve the services we give all our residents in council properties.

This inquiry is just the start of a much longer-term and wider-reaching improvement programme we are undertaking, which includes a review of our housing services, and we will make sure we keep our residents updated on the work we are doing.

The safety and wellbeing of our tenants is our top priority and the actions we have already started to take and are planning for the future demonstrate how seriously we are taking this situation and our determination to make things better.

The actions we have taken so far include rehoming the tenants from those flats and we have begun to replace their damaged household items. We have checked in on their neighbours to make sure they were not dealing with similar issues and we have conducted a full safety inspection of the building.

As a precaution we will be undertaking similar checks in all our high-rise blocks and we have begun to review our repairs and complaints procedures.

We are committed to making sure that all our tenants are treated with dignity and respect and that they are receiving the excellent housing services they need and deserve.

~~

## **Message from Jack Killian/ Police Community Support Officer**

Hello Residents,

I hope everyone is well and enjoying the first lot of restrictions being eased (responsibly of course). The crime figures from mid -March to mid- April were low with the good news that we haven't seen a catalytic converter theft around Selsdon and Forestdale since the 10<sup>th</sup> March. Obviously, make sure you still remain vigilant of gangs driving around and scouting out areas and if you see these people contact us on the details below. We need to know information about the vehicle being used, its registration number and descriptions of the people. This would be a massive help to us and Operation Basswood.

As for us, it's also been a quiet month for the team with no operations taking place. We've just been out on foot or in vehicles patrolling the area with most of our focus being on Covid-19 restrictions easing and people going back to pubs, restaurants and congregating in parks. As for the most part everyone seems to be behaving themselves, which hopefully continues when further restrictions are lifted in the near future.

Stay safe everyone!

**Jack Killian 7114SN**

Police Community Support Officer

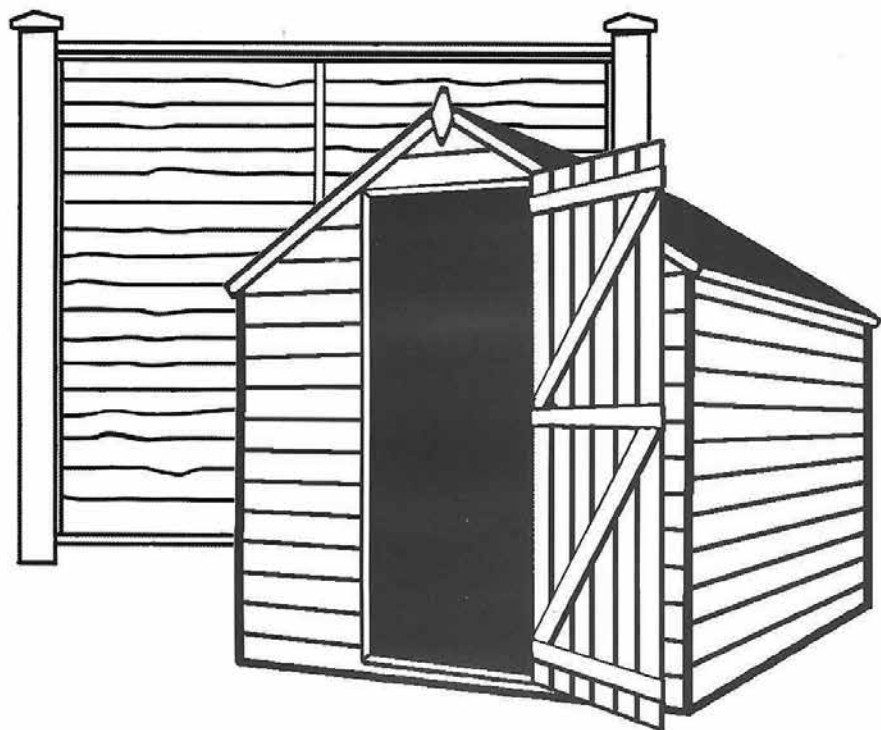
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Email: [SNMailbox-SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk](mailto:SNMailbox-SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk)

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## ‘Wayfinder’ routes for walking or running

Did you know that ‘Striders of Croydon’ – a Croydon based running club (with a grant from Croydon Council) have created 3 public circular routes for running or walking? With the excellent printable directions and ‘on-route’ waymarking (colour coded arrows on fence posts) you can adapt, start wherever you want and go as far as you want:



<http://www.stridersofcroydon.org.uk/wayfinder-routes/wayfindermaps/>

- ‘Yellow’ route’: approx. 2.5 miles around Lloyd Park.
- ‘Green route’: approx. 5 miles combining the above route over Lloyd Park with the addition of Addington Hills, or 2.5 miles for the green route only.
- ‘Red route’: approx. 4 miles when combined with a short section of the Green Route consisting of Addington Hills, (passing Heathfield) and then onto Bramley Bank, into Littleheath Woods and onto Croham Hurst and then back to Addington Hills via Conduit Lane and Oaks Road.

Longer walks can be enjoyed by combining elements of each of the three routes. The *Vanguard Way* and *London Loop* are also intersected by these routes. These routes and other suggestions can be found on the SRA website [www.selsdon-residents.co.uk](http://www.selsdon-residents.co.uk)

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**Closing date for entry forms now EXTENDED to**  
**28th May**

to allow good time for delivery of this Gazette to you

**Judging will be sometime on 1st – 6th June**

Resident's name:	
Address:	
Telephone number:	
Email address:	
Scarecrow's name (if it has one!)	

If not printing it, please copy this form layout to help us sort the entries.

Please send it, duly completed, by email to [SRAscarecrow@gmail.com](mailto:SRAscarecrow@gmail.com)

If you do not have email, please deliver to a SRA committee member  
or to the SRA c/o Selsdon Co-Operative Funeral Care, 178 Addington Road, CR2  
8LB by 28<sup>th</sup> May

## **‘Walking together through grief’**

**A group held at Selsdon Baptist Church,  
Addington Road.**



The next Bereavement Support Group will run from Wednesday 23 June for 5 weeks until 21 July. It will be held in the coffee lounge at the Church and runs from 2 - 3.30pm.

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

*We will follow Government Covid safety guidelines*

For more information and to book a place please call  
Dawn on 07718 189033 or Jane on 07561 869620  
Or email - [bereavement@selsdonbaptist.org.uk](mailto:bereavement@selsdonbaptist.org.uk)

~~

**Contact**  
**Selsdon Community Centre**  
**132 Addington Road**  
**South Croydon, CR2 8LA**  
**Tel: 020 8651 4944**  
Fax: 020 8657 2268  
Email: [info@selsdoncontact.org.uk](mailto:info@selsdoncontact.org.uk)



### **CONTACT UPDATE**

By the time you read this we will be further into the ease of Lockdown restrictions.

It may appear that we have been off the Radar, in actual fact we have been working tirelessly, behind the scenes.

During this time, we have had a variety of requests made by our clients and we are pleased to say that with the assistance of our loyal band of volunteers, we managed to fulfil those requests.

Though our office is not open to the public, we have begun to attend the office on a rota basis, to catch up with work we cannot carry out at home. If you would like to see us, please make an appointment and we will endeavour to see you to assist.

You may already know that we are in the process of obtaining a new minibus. Currently, the new bus is undergoing conversions. We look forward to the arrival of the new bus, and resuming our services, which includes the much-needed shopping bus scheme, coffee mornings and hopefully, not in the too distant future, local outings.

Our Loan Equipment store, has been made readily available for not only our clients, but the general public, for short term loan use of wheelchairs/ zimmer frames, in order to get to their Covid 19 vaccine appointments etc. In the meantime, weather permitting, we hope to recommence our tea/ coffee/cake in the garden visits to our clients.

Thank you to the many Street Champions who volunteered during the past year to support our clients. If you are still active and would like to continue volunteering with us, would you kindly call us, so that we can progress your application.

We have had to set up a new Facebook page and would ask you 'Join our group', if you are either a Contact volunteer or friend to keep abreast of up-to-date activities and any changes.

Please log onto SELSDON CONTACT, where you will see previous posts and can keep informed.

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## **St Johns Church, Selsdon Is now open for Services on**

Thursdays 10am - Small Eucharist Service  
Sundays 10am - Eucharist Service  
Mondays–Thursdays, 10 am–1pm Private  
Prayer, the church will be open for people to  
come in and pray and light a candle.

We are pleased to announce that The Reverend Canon Younis Francis, presently Vicar at Norbury, St Philip, also in the Diocese of Southwark, has been appointed Rector at Selsdon, St John the Divine with St Francis, subject to completion of the necessary procedures. Further details, including the date of the Licensing service, will follow in due course.



Late April and May is the time when the tulips add a vibrant splash of colour in the garden. So, for this month some information about tulips.



**Tulip mania** was a period of time in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century when the prices for some bulbs of the recently introduced and fashionable tulip reached extraordinarily high levels and then dramatically collapsed. It is thought to be the first speculative bubble in history. At the peak of tulip mania, some single tulip bulbs sold for more than 10 times the annual income of a skilled artisan.

Tulip bulbs, along with other new plant life such as potatoes, peppers, tomatoes and other vegetables, came to Europe from the Ottoman Empire via Vienna in 1554. The tulip was different to other flowers known in Europe at that time because of its intense petal colour. As a result, tulips rapidly became a coveted luxury item and were incredibly valuable. The skilled artisans earned about 300 guilders per year. In 1635, 40 bulbs sold for 100,000 guilders. By way of comparison, a 'tun' of butter (2,050 lbs) cost around 100 guilders, a skilled labourer might earn 150 – 300 guilders and 'eight fat swine' cost 240 guilders.

By 1636, the tulip bulb became the fourth leading export product of the Netherlands, after gin, herrings and cheese. The price of tulips skyrocketed. Many men made (and lost) fortunes overnight. In February 1636, tulip bulb contract prices collapsed abruptly and the trade of tulip bulbs ground to a halt. The collapse began in Haarlem, when buyers did not show up for a routine bulb auction. There possibly was an outbreak of bubonic plague in Haarlem at this time, which could be the explanation for this.

**Seeking the Black Tulip** ~ The legend of the Black Tulip began in 1850, with the publication of the Alexander Dumas novel 'La Tulip Noire.' It is a powerful tale of love, jealousy and obsession. However, it includes in the story a magnificent prize, offered to the first person to produce a pure, black tulip.

Generations of tulip growers have tried to produce the darkest tulip possible – the Holy Grail of tulips. ‘Black Parrot,’ ‘Queen of the Night’ and ‘Black Beauty’ are valiant efforts, but they have tinges of purple within the

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# Paul Meakin

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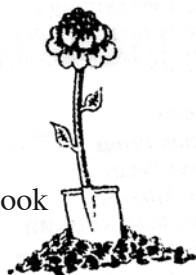
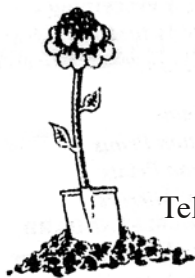
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petals. New tulip seeds take six to seven years of growth before they will produce a new flower. The search continues ... Geert Hageman created one in the 1970s and he eventually registered his new bulbs as the 'Paul Scherer' in 2000. This variety is darker than any that came before, and are widely considered to be the darkest breed of tulips today. However, the breed still contains a faint purple hue and so is not truly black. The search continues and eleven new 'Black Tulip' breeds have been registered since 2000. The latest was the frilly edged 'Fringed Black' in 2012.

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

~~

## The Viking Trail by Bike or Hike!

Jessica Blake wrote a Gazette item about a trip down to Normans Bay in East Sussex during last summer's lockdown. Now, a year on, another summer provides an opportunity for you to explore the historic south coast of England. Where better than a visit to the Isle of Thanet in Kent. Here, Julius Caesar's incursion was recorded, and so began the written history of Britain which continues to this day.



For cyclists or walkers, this signposted route follows the coast for some 20 miles, with an option to continue along the coast, or head back to complete a 35-mile circular tour of the Isle of Thanet.

Last summer, with the easing of the lockdown, I took a group of cycling friends to enjoy this scenic route and immerse them in a bit of history! We took our bikes down on the back of our cars to a free carpark at Herne Bay, only 200yds from the Viking Trail. There is also a main line railway station at Herne Bay.

The westerly end of the Isle of Thanet is marked by the imposing ruin of what started as a Roman fort. The next invaders, the Anglo Saxons, when converted to Christianity by St Augustine, re-cycled the fort and built a magnificent abbey church, now in ruins and called the Reculver Towers balancing on



the edge of the storm battered seashore.

When the Romans built their fort at Reculver, it really was on an island, separated from the mainland of Kent by the Wantsum Channel. Then, a 600yds wide river, now silted up by coastal erosion to just a narrow drainage ditch. The eastern end of the channel is the much-reduced River Stour, flowing into Pegwell Bay, south of Ramsgate.

There is so much history that I must fast forward some 15 miles to Ramsgate at the other end of this island story. But if you want to read about the local smugglers, shipwrecks on the Goodwin Sands and much more, I will detail more of this interesting history in an upcoming Gazette.

Whilst today, Brexit's long tailbacks of lorries and illegal immigrants have put Dover in the news, 200 years ago it was Ramsgate that was the most important cross channel port.



Today Ramsgate is mainly a marina for yachts and pleasure boats. However, it is recorded that during the Napoleonic Wars *“The Household Cavalry and Royal Dragoons marched 6-abreast through Ramsgate to embark on 34 vessels, heading for Ostend in the Spring of 1815. From there they continued on, to join Wellington and fight at the Battle of Waterloo”*

But now Ramsgate is remembered mainly for its pivotal role with the armada of 4,200 “little ships” during the Dunkirk Evacuation in 1940. Then, close to 350,000 British and Allied troops were saved from death or capture and lived to fight another day.

From Ramsgate, it is only a couple of miles to Pegwell Bay and the estuary of the River Stour at the eastern end of the Isle of Thanet. It was here in 54 BCE that Julius Caesar beached his fleet of ships and landed his legions and cavalry. He is claimed to have said “Veni, vidi, vici!” - I came, I saw, I conquered! Not strictly true. He and his army only paid a short visit, it was another 80 years before the conquering bit was done by the legions of Emperor Claudius who built their fort here, the ruins still visible at Richborough.

But more visible is this memorial to the later landing and invasion by the fearsome Vikings!



This replica of a Viking ship was built in Denmark in 1949, rowed and sailed across the North Sea, to recreate a real-life voyage by Vikings who had landed some 1,000+ years earlier at Pegwell Bay. However, the 20<sup>th</sup> century sailors, without the aid of Satnav, ended up in one of the bays at Broadstairs, which ever since has been known as “Viking Bay”. Rescued by

the Daily Mail, the boat was transported to this, its intended location at Pegwell Bay. As you can see, it would have needed a lot more than us seven to row this sizeable ship!

We cyclists returned to Reculver by the inland, signposted route, but an alternative signposted route of the Viking Coastal Trail continues along the coast to Dover. Hence there are several options for walking, hiking or cycling in daily stages for holiday away days.

**Des Donohoe** ([des.oldselsdon@gmail.com](mailto:des.oldselsdon@gmail.com))

~~

## Brilliant Butterflies

During my daily exercise under lockdown, I have noticed some activity in Selsdon Recreation Park and Littleheath Woods. An information notice in Littleheath Woods explains what is going on:

*The Brilliant butterflies project is working with Croydon Council and local communities to create more wildflower areas to support declining numbers of butterflies and insects. Sites have been selected for a butterfly ‘scrape’.*

*The scrape will help increase butterfly numbers by introducing additional*



wildflowers to the meadow such as kidney vetch and bird's-foot trefoil that will attract new species to these sites such as common blue and marbled white. On some sites this could include rarer butterflies, such as small blue which is a conservation priority species.

Topsoil is scraped away to expose low nutrient subsoil which provides excellent conditions for wildflowers. The scrape will be seeded and planted with wildflowers, which will take some time to establish over the next year and be maintained.

The Brilliant Butterflies Team will be:

- Creating a butterfly scrape
- Seeding and planting plug plants
- Providing free training workshops in butterfly identification and recording

To get involved contact:

[brilliantbutterflies@wildlondon.org.uk](mailto:brilliantbutterflies@wildlondon.org.uk)

Brilliant Butterflies is a partnership between the London Wildlife Trust, the Natural History Museum and Butterfly Conservation. It is funded by a Dream Fund Award, thanks to players of People's Postcode lottery. They have found that butterflies and insects are in serious trouble; the State of the UK's Butterflies 2015 report evidenced that 76% of species have declined over the last 40 years. A Wildlife Trust's 2019

report, Action for Insects, indicated that the abundance of insects in Britain may have fallen by 50% or more since 1970. To change this, Brilliant Butterflies are working with local people to create new wildlife havens in the southern fringes of Croydon and Bromley by restoring a nationally rare habitat, chalk grassland.

Scrape in Littleheath Woods



These grasslands are characterised as lime-rich but nutrient-poor, with thin soils that struggle to hold moisture. This might not sound like a particularly productive landscape, but the more challenging conditions mean that prolific plant species such as many dominant grasses find it difficult to take hold.

This allows for the development of a more distinctive community of herbs, flowers and grasses, including many species rarely found across the rest of the country.

In fact, the species diversity on chalk grasslands is impressively high, with up to 40 species per square metre. It is this high diversity that leads to a great variety of insect species on chalk grasslands.

The Friends of Littleheath Woods have received a delivery of wildflower plug plants from Brilliant Butterflies and intend planting them into the scrape in Fallen Oak Field on 20 April. They have also been growing their own seedlings of kidney vetch, cowslip and field scabious which they hope to transplant later. A similar scrape has been made in Selsdon Woods.

Constructing a scrape



CJ

~~



## National Numeracy Day 19 May 2021

National Numeracy Day is all about recognising that numbers play a big part in all our lives and helping people sharpen their skills and build their confidence. Being better with numbers isn't a special talent, it's something we can all learn.

So, the quiz this month is all about numbers! Try it without a calculator to really test your maths.

1. What number is two fifths of 75?
2. Which distance is greater; 7 miles or 13 kilometres?
3. What is the mean of the following set of numbers: 5, 27, 43, 7, 2 and 6?
4. If you throw two dice at the same time, what is the probability of getting a 6 on both? (express the answer as a fraction).
5. What was the year 1976 as a Roman Numeral?

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**Roy Brady MCiphe**



6. Geoff thinks of a number. He deducts five from it and then divides the result by three. His answer is 25. What number did he start with?
7. Megan is six years older than Sam and Dennis is 27 years younger than Sam. If Megan is 52, how old is Dennis?
8. If a recipe requires 400 grams of potatoes for four people, how many kilograms would be required for twelve people?
9. A dress has a thirty percent discount applied and is on sale for £63. What was the original price of the dress before the reduction?
10. I only work 2 days a week and on Wednesday I earn £50 less than Thursday. If I earn £600 overall, how much do I earn on Thursday?

### Answers after Nature Notes

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## Selsdon Triangle – Underground Toilets, and more.

The request by our Editor in the March Gazette (page 41) for any ‘hard facts’ about the underground toilets at the Selsdon Triangle prompted me to consult the font of built knowledge, the Ordnance Survey. Their map of 1955 (extract below) records the underground toilets as being situated at the lower corner of the Triangle, at the intersection of Old Farleigh Road and the Slip Road.

The ‘Lavs’ can be clearly seen opposite Nos 2 and 4 Old Farleigh Road.



Further inspection will reveal the presence of a Police Call Box (PCB), Telephone Call Box (TCB) and a Shelter (believed to be a bus shelter) on the Triangle. Other nomenclature refers to GP (guide post) which would have been a directional sign to, say, Addington, Sanderstead or Farleigh and 'rp' which referred to the 'revision point' signifying the change since the last revision of the OS map.

I am indebted to Des Donohoe who reminds me of his reminiscences of wartime Selsdon which have been published previously in the Gazette (see [https://selsdon-residents.co.uk/selsdon-through-the-eyes-of-a-war--baby.php](https://selsdon-residents.co.uk/selsdon-through-the-eyes-of-a-war-baby.php) chapter 3)

*"Yes, I do remember the underground toilets at the triangle, having visited them more than several times as a youngster when doing the daily shop with my Mum." Des also remembers an important feature of the Triangle which does not reveal itself on the OS map – a WW2 underground shelter. "When the doodle bugs were coming over in 1944, the siren (one of which was by the corner of Old Farleigh and Addington Rd) had us running from queuing at the Co-op for the nearest shelter - the Triangle". "The shop on the corner of Addington Rd/Old Farleigh is I believe now a chemist's shop. It used to be an off licence. At the rear is an alley way/drive way which continues along behind the shops for quite a way. The toilets/shelter were almost opposite the entrance to that alley way. Just a little further down the triangle hill. As far as I recollect, the shelter was higher up the hill, with the toilets below on the hill. This makes sense because the air raid shelter was quite long and being a bit further up the Triangle, there was more depth (length) to fit it in".*

Des, in his published work in the Gazette, lists several sites in Selsdon with an underground bomb shelter:

1, Selsdon Recreation Ground, where the concrete roof can still be seen adjacent to the play area, 2, Hawthorn Crescent, which was recently a surprise to the Council's building arm Brick by Brick when they proposed a terrace of houses on top of the shelter, 3, Selsdon Primary School, at the back of the playing fields adjacent to Littleheath Woods, 4, The Triangle, as above, 5, The Baptist Church on Addington Road, buried in the bank opposite what is now Iceland, and, 6, Queenhill Road Recreation Ground.

***Ian Leggatt, with grateful thanks to Des Donohoe.***

## Volunteer as a Telephone Befriender

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We provide training and ongoing support. Please note that you must be aged 18 or over to volunteer. Please call or email us for more information.

**Imagine Independence, CVA Resource Centre, 82 London Rd, CR0 2TB**

**Contact us on 0208 253 7078/7069 or**

**croydon@imagineindependence.org.uk**

**Visit our website: [www.imagineindependence.org.uk](http://www.imagineindependence.org.uk)**

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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. Publication dates may mean a delay between receipt of your letters and when they appear.

Dear Editor,

### **Lockdown Views**

You have asked for personal views of our experiences during Lockdown(s) and the Pandemic 'experience'. As a longish term Selsdonian I felt duty bound to rise to the challenge and respond.

My views are personal, from the perspective of a resident of Selsdon for 30 odd years, plus a good few years in Forestdale previously and being involved with the Friends of Littleheath Woods for some 25 years and the Selsdon Residents Association for the last five (?) years. Query in parenthesis because one of my strong associations going forward with and after this pandemic will be how the weeks, which at the time, appeared to drag, have now seemed to have just flown by.

Walking in the area and working in Littleheath Woods I sense a more considerate and friendlier population. People generally will now be more likely to stop and chat, keeping their distance, or, if on a narrow path or pavement, stand aside to let one pass comfortably. As a resident I am grateful for the support of wonderful neighbours and I believe that the marvellous community response to the pandemic has been heart-warming. From telephone befriending and support to a meals' delivery service for vulnerable residents and the formation of a whole army of street champions, it is testimony to all the good things about Selsdon. As a relatively new boy on your Residents' Association, I have been surprised at how much hard work goes on behind the scenes whether it is to organise the Christmas Lights or the little touches like setting up, planting and watering the flower troughs which adorn the High Street railings in summer. As to getting the Gazette to your door step you probably would not believe the number of people involved in the whole process. I realise now that these are difficult things to do in a normal year but require above average effort in a pandemic. The community spirit is alive and thriving in Selsdon. Perhaps it has taken a crisis to bring it to the fore.

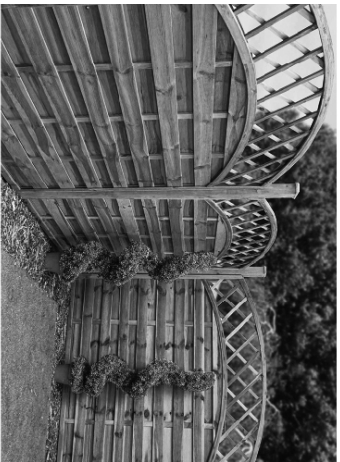
***Ian Leggatt***





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*Can any of our readers help solve the pheasant question?*

Dear Editor

Re Alan Cook's letter about sighting a pheasant in Greville Avenue - a couple of months ago I was amazed to see a pheasant in our front garden in Nightingale Road. We too wondered where it had come from.

**Mary Gill**



*Here is a lovely letter about two good Samaritans in Selsdon*

Dear Editor,

I would like to put on record my sincere thanks to a couple of local residents for their kindness. In the early hours of Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, my 16-year-old ginger cat, Harry was killed on the Addington Road, on the brow of the hill near Selsdon heading towards Sanderstead.

A very kind lady, found him and moved him off of the road onto the verge. Another kind lady then brought his body to the Selsdon Veterinary Centre who scanned his microchip and called me to advise me of the sad news. Whilst we were devastated by Harry's loss, without the kindness shown by these residents, we would never have known what happened and we would have been searching for him for weeks and hoping in vain for his return.

The Vet did not have any details of who had brought Harry in but I would like to publicly thank both individuals for their acts of kindness towards our much-loved pet.

*Kind regards* **James Walsh**



Dear Editor,

*(Another episode from Jessica about life under lockdown)*

The Sun is shining and not only warming us up, but buoying us all up with hope. After a dark winter, we are now rejoicing in hot Spring days. Find a sheltered spot out of the still very cold wind and one could almost consider



stripping off and popping on a pair of shorts. Popping is the correct word to use, as a little extra weight has been added to many a sturdy frame in the last year, and the skirts or skin tight trousers may well pop. I knew “skinny” anything in trousers was not a good idea, but would I listen to me? Not when we were “Zooming” family “bake off “competitions; then we were needing to eat our exhibits because there was not enough room in the freezer to store so much cake!

My son-in-law suggested my Easter Bunny cake looked like a “bit of road kill”. It took quite a while to rough up all that chocolate fur with a fork too. Think I will save a tiny piece just for him, and let him eat his words, so to speak. He made four very nice-looking scones. I hope he makes them again when we next visit my daughter and him.

Soon we shall lift the calendar from its hook and begin to pencil in possible dates to visit the family and old friends. That is such an exciting step forward. It is great that they actually want us to visit them. We have missed them so much; it will be our pleasure to see their dear faces and actually hug them once more.

Now I just need to fetch my sewing basket, and begin to move the buttons over a little on the skinny trousers, while listening to the beautiful birdsong coming from all around the garden.

**Jessica Blake**

~~

## Poetry Corner

It is Dementia Action Week during 17-23 May so Mary Gill has written a poem for this.

### DEMENTIA

Through a life time we build our empire.  
All the memories  
All the knowledge  
All the Wisdom we have gained.  
Our mental borders expand with experience

And bolster us against the threat of anonymity.  
Beloved faces and voices  
Underpin our security –our sense of self.  
A fortress of familiarity keeps us safe.

Then one day, unnoticed -  
Somewhere in the foundations we have laid so carefully  
A brick is loosened.  
One brick, and then another  
Until there are gaping holes in the fabric of our being.  
With no defence against the brutal barbarian  
We sit helpless as it demolishes our  
Carefully constructed identity.

Our store of memories is ransacked  
Its contents stolen or shattered-  
Wrenched out of context.  
The people we love lose their names  
And associations.  
The places we knew are strange  
And full of fear.



Pleasures are confined to the fleeting moment.  
There is no anticipation  
No recollection.  
For all that it sustains us  
It might never have happened.  
The only compensation  
Is that the disappointments are just as transient.

Overwhelmed by our confusion  
Perhaps we will not dread the total oblivion that awaits us  
When every brick has been razed to the ground  
And we no longer remember that we have forgotten.

# Dementia Action Week 17 – 23 May

Dementia is an umbrella term used to describe a range of conditions affecting the brain. There are over 200 subtypes of dementia, but the five most common are: Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, dementia with Lewy bodies, frontotemporal dementia and mixed dementia (a combination of different types of dementia).

**Alzheimer's disease** is the most common form of dementia (around 60% of diagnoses in the UK), although it is comparatively rare for under-65s. It is a physical condition caused by changes in the structure of the brain. This is due to a build-up of proteins, resulting in 'plaques' and 'tangles' which damage the brain cells' ability to transmit messages and which eventually lead to deterioration in the brain cells. Signs of Alzheimer's tend to develop gradually over time and can affect concentration, memory, communication and word finding and skills such as reading, writing, numeracy, planning and sense of direction. Medication is available which may help to increase concentration and slow progression but it does not prevent or cure Alzheimer's disease.

Around 17% of people diagnosed with dementia will have **vascular dementia**. It is the second most common form of dementia in the over 65 age group. It is caused by problems in the blood supply to the brain cells, commonly due to strokes or a series of small strokes, known as Transient Ischaemic Attacks (TIAs), which cause areas of localised cell damage in the brain. Changes in a person's condition as a result of TIAs or a larger stroke are often sudden, before their condition plateaus. But the damage caused often means the person does not function in quite the same way as they did before. This is often referred to as a step wise progression.

Regardless of which type of dementia is diagnosed and what part of the brain is affected, each person will experience dementia in their own unique way.

The symptoms of dementia can include:

- **Memory problems**

People with dementia might have problems retaining new information. They might get lost in previously familiar places and may struggle with names.

Relatives might notice the person seems increasingly forgetful, misplacing things regularly.

- **Cognitive ability, i.e., processing information**

People with dementia may have a problem with their concentration level which can also impact on their short-term memory. They may also have difficulty with time and place, for example, getting up in the middle of the night to go to work, even though they're retired. There may be a difficulty when shopping with choosing the items and then selecting the right money to pay for them. For some people, the ability to reason and make decisions may also be affected. Some people with dementia may get a sense of restlessness and prefer to keep moving than sit still; others may be reluctant or lack the motivation to take part in activities they used to enjoy.

- **Communication**

People with dementia may repeat themselves often or have difficulty finding the right words. Reading and writing might become challenging. They can lose

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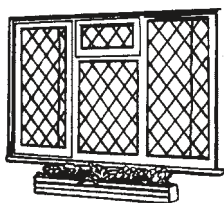
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interest in seeing others socially. Following and engaging in conversation can be difficult and tiring, and so a formerly outgoing person might become quieter and more introverted. Their self-confidence might also be affected.

- **Mood and behaviour**

People with dementia might experience changes in personality, behaviour, mood, and have some elements of anxiety and depression due to the changes they are experiencing.

Dementia is a global concern but it is most often seen in wealthier countries, where people are likely to live into very old age. It is estimated that the number of people living with dementia in the UK by 2025 will rise to over one million. Rates of diagnosis are improving but many people with dementia are thought to still be undiagnosed.

If someone is showing symptoms associated with dementia it is important to visit a GP as soon as possible. Some conditions might look like dementia but are treatable if addressed quickly. These include: infections, thyroid problems, delirium, confusion, vascular problems related to circulatory issues, vitamin B12 deficiency, sleep apnoea, stress, anxiety and depression.

To establish if dementia is present, a GP will take a medical and family history of the person and will screen them for mental health and cognitive issues by: asking questions, testing concentration, assessing short term memory, identifying mood and behaviour changes.

The GP may then request blood tests, an MRI or CT scan to examine the structure of the brain.

Once the GP has ruled out potentially treatable causes of the changes observed, they may also refer the person to a memory service/clinic, or to a specialist for further investigation and assessment.

If a diagnosis of dementia is given, the GP should then ensure that the person with the diagnosis and their family are made aware of any specialist advice and support services in their area, as well as referring them for further assessments and interventions that may help.

**CJ**

~~

## **Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth - Hole Users**

Badgers and foxes occupy large holes in woodland soil with foxes sometimes making use of part of the badger's sett. With these two predators present throughout the wood it is difficult for a large population of rabbits to build up so only a few relatively small holes will be occupied by rabbits. Elsewhere, in more open areas, a sizeable rabbit warren can exist with multiple entrances to interconnecting underground chambers – these will attract the attention of stoats and weasels which will not hesitate to follow their prey underground. I have twice encountered weasel in Selsdon Wood but have not come across the larger stoat.

Bare patches, perhaps in the middle of a path, will sometimes have very small holes surrounded by a pile of soil which mark entrances to homes of mining bees. Bumble bees prefer to make their nest holes amongst grasses or at the base of a hedge, while solitary bees will happily occupy the hollow ends of bamboo or other small crevices between materials laid out to create a bee hotel in a garden. A swarm of honey bees can occupy a hole in a tree or even take over a nest box intended for small birds like blue tits. Hornets too, like holes in trees but I have had hornets enter a garage through a small gap then build a football-sized nest inside the garage.

Coal tits, Blue tits, Great tits, Marsh tits will enter quite small holes in trees while the declining Willow tit (now locally extinct) digs its own hole in decayed wood. Nuthatch will adopt a hole but if the entrance is too large it will plaster the edge to reduce its size. Tree Creeper prefers a gap behind loose bark.

The three woodpeckers make their own holes which, apart from satisfying their own needs, will leave the previous season's holes to be used by another species of bird, bat, insect or small mammal.

As branches fall and decay attacks the body of the tree, larger holes begin to appear and a succession of occupiers will arrive. Starlings will use holes at the smaller end of the scale but as decay penetrates into the centre of the tree and larger cavities appear stock doves, jackdaws and eventually tawny owls will become interested.

When climbing Elm trees as a youngster I used to find stock dove eggs lying on a mat of twigggy adventitious or epicormic growth lying close to the tree trunk, so the birds are not limited to using holes in trees. Similarly, where there are not enough large hollow trees in woodland, tawny owls can take over an empty crow's nest. Little owls nest in holes but prefer open country

so a hollow tree would either have to be on its own or at the very most be situated on the edge of woodland. As the name suggests, barn owls often make use of space in barns, not necessarily holes just so long as there is a protected flat surface upon which eggs can be laid, though they can be persuaded to make use of a large nest box. Kestrels are also open country birds and will nest in natural tree holes or in open nest boxes which are little more than a tray with a roof.

Bats will find all sorts of "holes" in which they can congregate in large numbers. Hollow trees are frequently used but I have heard of a pipistrelle roost of over 300 bats in the roof of a house. One bird I have left to last is the Rose-ringed or Ring-necked Parakeet. It is large, colourful and powerful and its raucous cries can be heard throughout Selsdon Wood. It is persistent and will worry an existing tenant until it is able to take over

Tawny Owl





Ring necked parakeet



the desired hole, and will defend the hole against squirrels trying to oust them. They will certainly have an effect on bats using holes in trees and through sheer numbers might eliminate possible nest sites for some of our native species. I class them with grey squirrels as undesirable aliens. I recently watched Parakeets gathering at the top of a Beech tree prior to roosting in the evening. I managed to see 23 of the birds but there were more hidden in the trees behind, for when they took off the total was more like 60 birds. They all flew off down Courtwood Lane but whether they stopped to roost in Selsdon Wood or flew on to Littleheath or Addington Hills I have no idea. I would be

interested to know where the roost is and how many birds use it.

*If you know where the birds roost and roughly how many birds use it please contact Ted through the gazette email and I will pass the information on to Ted.*

~~

### Answers to Numeracy Quiz

1. 30   2. 13km   3. 15   4. 1/36   5. MCMLXXVI  
6. 80   7. 19   8. 1.2kg   9. £90   10. 325

~~

## Exploring Croham Hurst Woods

There is growing evidence that exercise, especially in green spaces (like Croham Hurst Woods), has a very beneficial impact on depression and dementia. One of the indications of Alzheimer's is that the sufferer keeps getting lost. Mental stimulation is now a recommendation, such as learning a language. But here is a much more interesting mental stimulation. To avoid getting lost stimulate your brain by learning to read a map and use one on challenging walks!

So, with OS Explorer map No. 146, let's get started. What does it tell us? Bottom right shows that the clearly marked Vanguard Way passes through Littleheath Woods. So, for a longer walk we can either add this in, before or after our walk around Croham Hurst. Croham Hurst was and still is, my favourite local wood. It might be small but packs a lot into a little space. I was very young on my first family walks to the wood, so we used to get the



54 bus from Selsdon and get off at the bridle way which meets the B275 – bottom centre of map. The 412 bus now follows this part of the route.

The map's contour lines show us that the same bridle path along the eastern perimeter, is at about 110 metres of altitude. But the central path at its highest point (near the marked tumulus), is at 144 metres. Actually, marked by a "spot height" dot, just visible beside the marked pathway.

This high point is a must visit spot, with an information plaque marking and explaining that an ancient burial mound was discovered here. Also, looking south west, is a magnificent view away into the distance.

After our walk we would leave the wood by the dotted footpath (top left) which leads out onto Croham Valley Rd, with a bus stop opposite, to take the 64 bus (now the 164) back to Selsdon.

As I grew up my Dad would take us on longer walks. In addition to Littleheath Woods, another option is – leaving Croham Hurst onto Croham Valley Rd, beside the bus stop is Conduit Lane. This leads to Lloyds Park and the Addington Hills (now with option of tram back to Addington!). And, the most important part of any country walk – a tea stop!

Unless out of business as the result of Covid, at the end of Conduit Lane go right, and a short way along on the right is the Coach House Café in Coombe Wood. It is great, as shown above in their web site at <https://www.coachhousecafecroydon.co.uk/>

So get your walking boots on! Des at [des.oldselsdon@gmail.com](mailto:des.oldselsdon@gmail.com)



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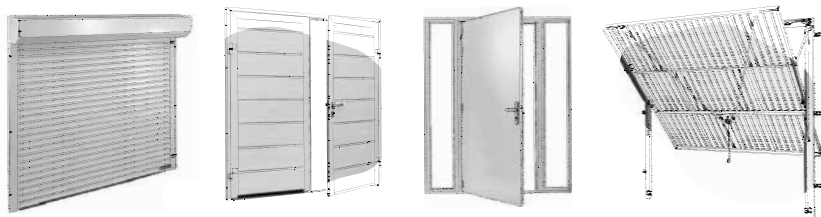
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The information provided is, we hope, accurate, but we cannot take any responsibility for any mistakes. Any alterations should be sent to the Editor.

## **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**

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
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 Plantation Partners	Michael Lishmund	020 8651 2760
1 <sup>st</sup> Selsdon & Addington Scout Group:	Website: <a href="http://www.1stselsdon.org.uk">www.1stselsdon.org.uk</a>	
Beaver Colony (6-8yrs)	Maddie Dunn	07703 531652
Cub Pack (8-10yrs)	Louise Baker	07737 404668
Scouts Troop (10-14yrs)	Douglas Gordon	07514 651711
Croham Valley Explorers	Anthony Woodin	020 8651 3780
2 <sup>nd</sup> Selsdon & Addington Scout Group:	Website: <a href="http://www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk">www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk</a>	
Selsdon Art Group	Mrs F Hooper	07973 412952
Selsdon Bridge Club	Tony Cherrett	01883 730304
Selsdon Community Hall	Tim Potter (Centre Manager)	8657 4300
Selsdon Afternoon Townswomen's Guild	Elizabeth Veasey	8657 1092
Selsdon Floral Club	Maureen Browning	8651 5821
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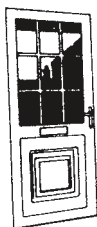
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