



# The Selsdon — — Gazette —

Volume 72. No. 809

November 2019

# THE SELSDON GAZETTE

**Editor: Volunteer Needed** [selsdongazette@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:selsdongazette@hotmail.co.uk)

**Website:** [selsdon-residents.co.uk](http://selsdon-residents.co.uk) **New website manager required**

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There is no August Gazette.

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

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

**Front cover image credit:** Red Kite seen over Selsdon Wood by Steven Budd. Entry for the 2019 FSW Photo Competition. See <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/photo-competition.php>

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# **SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

selsdonresidents@yahoo.co.uk

## ***Executive Committee 2019***

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Vice-Chairman:	Linda Morris, 48 Ravenshead Close CR2 8RL	8651 4010
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Committee:	Sara Bashford, 20 Wagtail Gardens, CR2 8TA	8651 3871
	Yvonne Huber, 121 Farley Road CR2 7NL	8657 4576
	Ernie Sweeney, 2 Mountwood Close CR2 8RJ	8657 3815
	Su Yates, 10 Foxearth Road CR2 8ED	8657 9284
	Peter Underwood, 12a Abbey Road, CR2 8NG	8651 0601
	Ian Leggatt, 53 Queenhill Road, CR2 8DW	8651 1140
	Phil Roberts, 44 Dulverton Road, CR2 8PG	07511 431207
	Jenny Stawman,	
	Arthur Wilson,	

## **One Committee Vacancy**

### ***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

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

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

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



## Editor's Note

Welcome to the November 2019 issue of The Selsdon Gazette.

Due to ill health our wonderful Editor, Heather Govier, has had to step down from the role. We wish her well and give sincere thanks for the time she has spent bringing us the Gazette each month!

We urgently need a replacement volunteer so we can continue this great publication. We hope we can always provide space for local news and local voices and help bring the community together. Please see our advert for details.

Furthermore, as Heather also created the SRA website this will be archived until another person can be found to manage this (or create a new one), please give it some thought. We'd love to hear from a volunteer.

In this November edition we have good news stories, local history and nature notes and a plea for us, as a Community and as individuals, to take the time to engage with the Council to make our views heard about the future of Selsdon.

As I write this I'm looking forward to our Festive Lights Switch on night on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. See you there?

Regards,

**Janet Sharp (SRA Secretary)**

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✿ SUBMISSIONS FOR THE DECEMBER 2019 EDITION SHOULD  
BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER ✿

# SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS

## H E L P!

Heather Govier, the editor of the Selsdon Gazette has been ill for some time and feels her ability to continue to produce the Selsdon Gazette on time whilst her illness continues is now becoming too problematic. Obviously, we cannot produce the Gazette without an editor.

Could you help us - or do you know anyone else who could fulfil this role for us? You will be helped to 'learn the ropes'.

The job is unpaid but might particularly suit someone who wants something to fill their spare time or who is perhaps looking for experience before setting out on a journalistic career path.

The only real criteria are that they have to be computer literate, can make appropriate decisions (initially in conjunction with guidance from the SRA) about suitable content for the Gazette and can work reliably to a regular timetable to ensure the copy is prepared and sent to the printer on time each month.

Please contact **Sheila Childs or Linda Morris** either via **email (using the Selsdon Gazette or SRA addresses as given in the Gazette)** or **by telephone in the first instance** if you are interested in helping the local community in this way.

***Please help to keep the Gazette alive!***

***Sheila Childs, Chair***

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# **COUNCILLORS' NOTES**

## **Protecting our green spaces**

The Council has published its plans for green spaces and these will be agreed at the meeting of the Council's Cabinet on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019. Many residents put forward suggestions for green spaces that should be protected but sadly, only five in Selsdon have been afforded protection under the current plans. These are:

Ashen Grove – Local natural open space

Selsdon Recreation Ground – Town park

The Ruffet – Local natural open space

Freelands Ave on junction with Tedder Road – Local Green Space

Palace Green – Local Green Space

Whilst it is great that some areas now have more protection, it is a shame the opportunity was not taken to protect more green spaces in Selsdon. Suggested areas that have not been given protection as green spaces include Foxearth Spinney and the green space on Croham Valley Road.

More worryingly, the Council is considering the option of dedesignating areas of green belt (i.e. removing green belt status so the land can be developed). Three areas are being considered and these are;

- ▷ Land at Borrowdale Drive/Mitchley Hill in Sanderstead
- ▷ Land at Gravel Hill (behind Monks Hill)
- ▷ Land at Lodge Lane, near New Addington

We will oppose all plans to remove areas of green belt in Croydon. With the increasing number of people living in our borough, green space will become even more precious so we would need more, not less.

## **Selsdon Community Day**

This is being held on 9<sup>th</sup> November and we will report back on how it goes in the next Gazette. This is the next step towards the development of Selsdon's Community Plan is to gather

residents' views on the priorities for Selsdon. The aim is for a first draft of the plan to be published in Spring 2020.

## **Christmas Market for Selsdon**

As mentioned in October's Gazette, we have established that the raised slip road to the north of the high street (Broadway) is Council property and, as such, we can use this space for a Christmas Market. Plans for the market are going well and it is scheduled to take place on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 12-4pm**. Look forward to seeing you there!

## **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 October 2019**

19/04397/HSE – 11A Wyncote Way, South Croydon, CR2 8NH  
Erection of raised patio area at rear to include access ramps

19/04438/LP – 11A Wyncote Way, South Croydon, CR2 8NH  
Erection of single storey rear extension and disable access ramp at rear

19/04028/FUL – 1 Selsdon Park Road, South Croydon, CR2 8JE  
Erection of detached 3-bedroom bungalow, including associated landscaping, bin and cycle stores

~~





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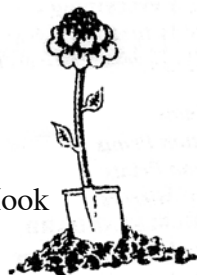
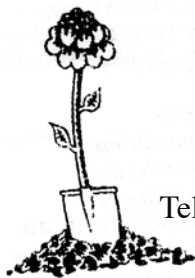
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Editor notes - The following article from your MP refers to 'a group of Residents' Associations' - The SRA is not a part of their DEMOC campaign, believing residents can choose to join and support it individually: as the SRA is a non-political organisation, the committee decided its direct support would be inappropriate.

## **MP CHRIS PHILP SAYS...**

### **End Croydon's planning mayhem**

Many of us are in despair at the way Croydon Council's planning committee is granting almost every planning application that comes before it - especially destroying family homes and replacing them with blocks of flats. Neighbouring councils Bromley and Sutton do not do this, and there is nothing in national planning policy that means Croydon has to.

Of course we need more homes for young people - but new flats should be built in town centres and brownfield sites. Destroying family homes, as Croydon is choosing to do, means that there will not be enough homes for future families and it is in danger of changing the character of the neighbourhood.

I totally oppose what the council is doing. So do Residents Associations and thousands of residents. Residents' Associations, local councillors, people living here and I have all tried so hard to make the council listen over the last few years. I have arranged petitions, personally objected to dozens of the worst applications, we have organised demonstrations at the Town Hall and I have met with the council leader repeatedly to plead the case.

But the Labour-run council just ignores us, time after time. They do this because they can keep control of the Town Hall based on just a few marginal seats (called Wards) in the centre of the Borough. So they ignore everyone else, including

our area. There is only one way left to fix this.

A group of Residents Associations from across the Borough wants to fix this by changing the way Croydon is run to a Directly Elected Executive Mayor – where we directly elect an executive mayor. This means all our votes would count equally wherever they are cast, and whoever runs the Town Hall will have to listen to everyone across the Borough if they want to win. If about 14,000 signatures are collected, the council legally has to hold a referendum on adopting a Directly Elected Mayor. If the referendum is positive, then the council is obliged to implement a Directly Elected Mayor. Four London Boroughs have done this already. It would work like a mini Mayor of London, but for Croydon.

I am fully supporting this campaign – because changing the way Croydon is run is the only way to make the Town Hall listen to us. Please go to the Residents Group's website (detailed below) and donate to their campaign and/or download their petition sheet (it has to be done on paper). When you have downloaded the petition sheet, please get as many of your neighbours to sign as possible and post it back to the campaign at the address they give.

Donate here: [democ.org.uk/about-us/make-a-donation](http://democ.org.uk/about-us/make-a-donation)

Get the petition forms here: <http://www.democ.org.uk/sign-petition>

We are all sick of being ignored by the council and watching them ram through planning applications against residents wishes virtually every week. This is now the only way to stop the council doing this. Please join me in supporting the Residents Association's campaign. This is really important because otherwise the Council will just keep on ignoring us all.

# **SPOT THE STREET CLEANER - A TALE OF INACTION, CONFUSION AND FRUSTRATION**

No, relax, not another children's book written by a 'celebrity' or member of Royalty.

Back in April of this year your Residents' Association, the SRA, debated at their committee meeting the perceived absence of street cleaning vehicles generally in the Selsdon area. This was prompted by my sighting earlier in the day of one of the Council's little vehicles with the rotary brushes trying to clean the junction of Littleheath and Foxearth Roads. Due to the number of parked cars adjacent to the junction the clean was perfunctory at best. Discussion amongst the committee revealed that most were sceptical that our roads were regularly being cleaned by the Council. I agreed to raise a Freedom Of Information (FOI) request with Croydon Council to find out at what dates the roads in my area were cleaned. The intention was to ascertain whether the roads were not being cleaned or that perhaps cleaning was taking place and no-one on the Committee had noticed. If the former then the SRA would take up the matter on behalf of the residents.

I submitted a FOI request to the Council to 'provide the dates when the following Selsdon roads were cleaned since 1/1/18: Foxearth, Littleheath, Queenhill, Rylandes and Brent Roads and confirm what is the anticipated frequency of cleaning going forward' on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and received formal notice of receipt from the Council on 26<sup>th</sup> April. The Council have 20 working days in which to respond to FOI requests. By the 30<sup>th</sup> May I had not had a response and so in frustration sent a chase email to the Council FOI team. Nil response to that also. I then involved our Councillors and their ministrations still resulted in a silence from the Council until, out of the blue, I received an official response to my original FOI request on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

"The new street cleansing contract started in March 2018. We

do not hold this information prior to that. Since March 2018 the cleaning schedule has been as follows:

Foxearth Road – Friday 16/03/18 then every 2 weeks following. Last cleansed 30/08/19.

Littleheath Road – Monday 26/03/19 then every 4<sup>th</sup> week following. Last cleansed 19/08/19.

Queenhill Road (1 to 31) – Wed 28/03/18 then every 4<sup>th</sup> week following. Last cleansed 28/08/19.

Queenhill Road (30 to 55) - Mon 26/03/19 then every 4<sup>th</sup> week following. Last cleansed 19/08/19.

Rylandes Road – Monday 26/03/19 then every 4<sup>th</sup> week following. Last cleansed 19/08/19.

Brent Road – Monday 26/03/19 then every 4<sup>th</sup> week following. Last cleansed 19/08/19.”

There were also additional dates when the roads were cleaned which appear to have been as the result of ‘specific requests’. I have submitted a follow up FOI request seeking clarification of the ‘specific requests’. This FOI has been acknowledged and the Council expect to send a response by 10<sup>th</sup> October.

I am not sure whether the commencement of cleaning dates of March 2019 for Littleheath, Queenhill (30 to 55), Rylandes and Brent Roads are typos.

I have submitted a further FOI request to cover the cleaning timetable for all roads within the SRA area. At the time of writing, 19th October, and with one chase up email I have not had acknowledgement of the request.

So, it appears that Foxearth Road is cleansed every 2 weeks with the others at 4 week intervals. There may be ad hoc cleansing as the result of ‘Specific Requests’. If you do not see the streets being cleaned or you feel the cleaning is not adequate then we would urge you to please make a complaint to Croydon Council. They would prefer you use their ‘Don’t



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# Selsdon Residents' Association



## **SELSDON'S 2019 FESTIVE LIGHTS SWITCH ON**

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***Ian Leggatt, For Selsdon Residents' Association***

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## **COMING TO A STREET NEAR YOU**

This year Father Christmas begins his travels with us on Monday 2nd December & he just can't wait! Our last outing is on Christmas Eve to Elmfield Parade in the morning.

All our daily routes will be published on our website, face book, and of course on 'Glympse' which will once again allow you to track Santa's progress every evening, so you don't have to stand in the cold waiting for us to arrive.

Father Christmas is so excited about the newly established 'Shout Out's', so if you have a message for your children which you want Santa to deliver visit our face book page & let him know.

As always Santa is looking forward to seeing you in December & hopes you have been good. He is checking the list.....

If you want to know about our Club then please visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/rotarycroydonsouth/> or our website <https://www.rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com/>



***ROTARY CLUB OF SANDERSTEAD AND SELSDON***

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## **ANOTHER GOOD NEIGHBOUR**

It was interesting to read Phil Munton's item in the May edition of the Selsdon Gazette, about his days at Selsdon Primary School. Although we never met we were both living in Selsdon at the same time, so have common memories of those long gone times. It was of particular interest for me to see that one of his best friends at Selsdon School was Simon Noakes. Now that brings back memories!

The Queen's Coronation was in 1952 and was the event at which I first saw a television programme. And I was not the only one!

We had new next door neighbours by then, a young family, the Noakes. Mr Noakes had been an army Captain during the war, out in the Far East, was captured and spent time in a Japanese prisoner of war camp. His souvenir of those dreadful years was a Japanese Samurai type sword. Of more importance locally, was that he became the Captain of Selsdon Cricket Club's Sunday XI. The team's home ground was in Selsdon Rec at the back of our houses.

As a young and affluent couple ahead of the times, the Noakes had a TV set. Being good neighbours they had an open house to watch the Coronation. As you might imagine, it was standing room only to watch this small, flickering screen! At about this time, young Simon Noakes was born. My Mum became their baby sitter, so on several Saturday evenings when Mr and Mrs N were out socialising, I got the opportunity to accompany my Mum next door and watch the BBC News on TV. How exciting was that!

It was some years before my Dad got our first television. This was after the new ITV channel went on air, and which made television viewing more popular, and hence TV sets more affordable. However they were still expensive to buy, and repair, so most would hire a TV. Ours was hired from Forbes



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& Co, radio and electrical engineers, with a shop in Addington Rd. It was possibly the popularity of TV hire that caused the demise of Selsdon's other shop, J.H. Radio.

J.H Radio was one of the original shops in Selsdon, before television took off. And as the name implied, it sold and repaired radios, or as they were more commonly known – wireless sets. The shop also doubled up as Selsdon's bicycle shop. In the early 1950s, when new bikes again became available after wartime shortages, I remember standing outside and drooling over the must-have bike of the time, the Raleigh Lenton Sport.

The location of J.H is shown below. It was the last shop at the left hand side of the row. In the 1940/50s Barclay's Bank was only half its present size, the right hand half. To the left of J.H was an area of waste ground with the Air Raid Warden's Post and fire control water tank. Now this waste ground is more shops.

To the right of the bank (now Selsdon Stationers) was Marsh's – a sweetshop, toy shop and tobacconists. As you might imagine it was the most important shop in Selsdon for us young children, especially at Christmas time. More about this in the future – perhaps for the December 2019 Selsdon Gazette!



But returning to our good next door neighbours, the Noakes.

When they first moved in next door, life was still subject to food rationing. Mrs Noakes came from a farming family and on returning from a visit to the farm she brought us back a lovely rabbit. Not a live one, but one for the cooking pot!

It was harvest time and one of the year's best times for a bit of shooting. I had often seen this in Selsdon Wood. During and after the war, the areas of grass land (for example adjacent to the car park at the Farley Rd entrance) were used for growing wheat or perhaps it was grass for horses, still then commonly used for pulling carts.

At harvest time the system was to start off cutting the wheat or grass on the outside edges of the fields, and continue spiralling in towards the centre. In amongst the crops would be rabbits, which at some time would make a run for it. However, around the ever diminishing area of wheat/grass, were the men with guns, waiting of course for some ration free meat! So the rabbits brought to us by Mrs Noakes, and the rabbit stew that followed, were a most welcome gift from our good, next door neighbour.

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

**Heather Govier notes** - The Noakes family have an even longer history in Selsdon. In 1899 Selsdon Park and farmlands (the original estate which included the grounds of the Selsdon Park Hotel and Selsdon Wood) was sold to Wickham Noakes, a brewer, under a mortgage that remained until his death in 1923. During this period there was a grand shoot each year in November to mark Noakes' birthday and a gamekeeper, William Westall, was employed to manage the land for shooting. Around this time Ordnance Survey maps show a 'Pheasantry' (where the young birds were raised) on the estate, situated on the western side of Old Farleigh Road, probably close to where Ravenshead Close now lies. One of the paths in Selsdon Wood is named Noakes way in the memory of Wickham Noakes.

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**Tel: 020 8651 4944**  
**Fax: 020 8657 2268**  
**Email: [info@selsdoncontact.org.uk](mailto:info@selsdoncontact.org.uk)**



## **CONTACT - BUILDING COMMUNITY TOGETHER**

Partnership is at the very core of what Contact does, from the time the Charity was established in 1972 it brought together the Churches in Selsdon. Today St. Johns, St. Francis, Croydon Jubilee, Selsdon Baptist and St. Columba all play an active role in helping Contact support elderly and vulnerable residents across Selsdon.

### **But it's more than the Churches.....**

Every year Sainsbury's is very generous providing us with raffle prizes, an annual collection time outside the store and regular bunches of flowers to give to our clients. Over the last few years we have had funding from the Ros Harding Trust for smoke alarms and new wheelchairs we have also taken part in the Co-op community fund scheme with the Forestdale store collecting funds for us.

### **It's more than Supermarkets.....**

The local traders and clubs in Selsdon also lent a hand last year, Vintage 62 Hair Salon, McDermott's Fish & Chips Restaurant, Tudor Library, Selsdon & District Funeral Directors and JD Wetherspoons. Last year we were the sponsored charity for the Village Club in Selsdon. Every Christmas London Needs Cooling provides Christmas Hampers and the Rotary club support us all year round with outings, hampers and other gifts for our clients.

### **It's more than local traders and organisations.....**

We get tremendous support from Croydon High and Trinity students, the pupils at both schools provide us with hundreds of voluntary hours every year, doing gardening, DIY jobs and befriending our clients. We also take a group of clients to the Croydon High School pantomime every year.

### **It's more than schools.....**

None of the above would be possible without the nearly 300 volunteers who help and support us in helping over three hundred elderly and vulnerable residents across Selsdon.

**If you are interested in either becoming a client or a volunteer, please get in touch with us on the above telephone number or call into our office. We are open Monday-Friday between 10am-3pm and can be found on the lower ground floor of the Selsdon Community Centre.**

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**\*\*\*\***

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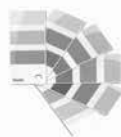
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## **NATURE NOTES - How large is a bird's territory?**

A walk through woodland in winter will often give the impression that most of the small birds have vanished. There might be small flocks of Redwings and Fieldfares which are "on holiday" from colder climates, or Siskins and Redpolls which have moved from other parts of this country. The first two are thrushes which will feed on berries in the woodland but will also move out to farmland. The second pair are finches, often feeding amongst the treetops, or dangling from birch and alder trees, sometimes in the company of Goldfinches which have gathered in flocks. The local tits – Blue, Great, Coal, Marsh and Long-tailed – also gather in mixed flocks and roam the woodland looking for food. The numbers of local birds are likely to be boosted by birds which have come in from the continent, and the flock can contain other species such as Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Great Spotted and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and possibly Goldcrests.

Around the edges of the wood there are gardens in some of which there will be bird feeders and it does not take long for the various flocks to discover them. The winter territory often centres on these feeding stations though the birds will still make use of what the wood has to offer. Trying to estimate the number of birds visiting a garden can only ever give a rough figure. I remember reading many years ago of one gentleman who thought he had a few dozen Siskins coming to his garden until he began catching and ringing them – his final estimate was several hundred!

Territory is most obvious when birds are nesting and searching for food for their young. In very early spring the numbers of birds entering gardens to feed might even increase as it becomes less easy to find food in the wood; but as buds burst and caterpillars begin to appear many birds will tend to concentrate more on a territory around their nesting area.

Small birds like tits, Wrens, Dunnocks, and Robins will not

need to stray far from the nest to find food though some will still make use of gardens. Treecreepers have a more specialised diet and will search the bark on many trees to find insects and their eggs, invertebrates and other small prey. Nuthatches, which are happy to hack open nuts when they are abundant, will switch to other prey, possibly competing with Treecreepers for what they can find hidden in the crevices on tree trunks. Bullfinches, which as adults tend to feed on buds, will feed their young on insects and other invertebrates.

Mistle Thrushes, as their name suggests, will feed on mistletoe berries but this can never be a large part of their diet and they will have to forage for food elsewhere, taking berries from rowan trees and others but also feeding on farmland and short grass areas where they will find earthworms. Blackbirds and Song Thrushes occupy territories where there is leaf litter and they can often be found turning over the leaves in search of food, including earthworms, but the Song Thrush has a particular liking for snails which it will take to a hard surface which it will use as an anvil to break open the shell to get at the meat inside.

Jackdaws nest on buildings or in hollow trees and will search for food in grassy areas before the grass has grown too long. Alternatively they will fly miles to farmland which has been ploughed and can gather in quite large numbers. A pair of Carrion Crows will nest at the top of a tree, usually well separated from others of the same species, but in winter and early spring they can fly long distances to form flocks of 80 or 90 birds, possibly more of a social gathering than as an aid to finding food. Magpies will form large winter roosts containing hundreds of birds but will disperse over an area to look for food. Though Jays are also corvids they tend to be more secretive, remaining mainly in the wood where they nest and where they collect acorns which they store for later use by burying them singly in various places, hoping to retrieve them when necessary but inevitably leaving some in the ground to produce a new oak sapling.

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- To help preserve the area for the benefit of the community
- To improve the environment for a diverse range of wildlife
- To enjoy the company of like-minded people



If you are interested in being involved but are unable to join our work parties, please consider joining our Committee. We meet once every 2 months for a couple of hours in the evening.

To enquire about joining a Tuesday morning work party ring: 020 8651 4914  
and speak to Chris

To find out more about being a Committee Member ring: 020 8651 1140  
and speak to Ian

To find out more about the Friends and/or Littleheath Woods visit our  
website: [www.folw.co.uk](http://www.folw.co.uk)

Tawny Owls are sedentary birds and will not move far from the nesting or roosting area which they will occupy throughout the year. They feed on a huge range of items including voles, mice, shrews, small birds, earthworms, beetles, frogs – whatever is available in their particular area. Barn Owls will nest and roost in farm buildings or in large hollow trees and will hunt over several hundred square metres to find their mammal prey. Little Owls tend to hunt from a perch from which they will drop on to their small prey on the ground and will return to the same nesting and roosting area which can be occupied for many years by a succession of birds.

While the Tawny Owl rules the woodland by night the Sparrowhawk takes over during the day. Its territory can occupy the whole wood, including nearby hedgerows, and garden bird feeders are not exempt from their attention.

In general a bird's territory is determined by a combination of the bird's size, its method of feeding, the type of prey items, and whether it has special feeding requirements (e.g. Treecreeper on tree trunks) or is able to feed on a wide range of food, and the type of local habitat (coniferous woodland, deciduous woodland, mixed woodland, the presence of fields and hedgerows).

***Ted Forsyth***

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## **Croydon's recycling – finally an answer!**

As you saw in our last edition, back in June I asked the Council what happens to Croydon's plastic recycling after it's been collected. I have now had a response (with thanks to Cllr Helen Pollard for chasing on my behalf). It seems to be good news!

Croydon is part of the 'South London Waste Partnership' which take 80% of the collected Plastic to a special recycling facility run by Veolia in Kent where it is sorted by hand and by machine to separate the types of recycling. Lasers then sort the plastics by colour and type (there are over 50 different types of plastic). These different types of plastic are baled then sent to various processing places, some in the UK, some in the EU. The plastic is then shredded, melted and reformed into pellets for re-use. According to the SLWP website ([slwp.org.uk](http://slwp.org.uk)) "every end destination is visited, audited and accredited by Veolia to ensure the materials are fully recycled". The other 20% of Croydon's plastic goes to other UK re-processors to sort and sell on. I sent another email to Croydon asking if the 20% is also audited and been assured that by the Council representative that "All of our waste has a full audit trail and is sent for re-processing within Europe."

I was also told my idea mentioned in the Gazette last month for bigger signage for the 'charity re-use area' at the recycling centres or even allowing volunteer charity representatives to aid the process, "has been forwarded to the Lead Policy and Promotions Manager to look into and action".

***Janet Sharp***

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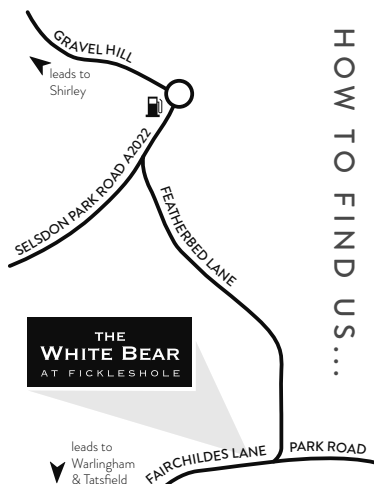
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Linda Morris (SRA Vice Chairman) 07979 002547

*The Selsdon Gazette is likely to close if this call for a  
volunteer -*

*or two as a job share, perhaps dealing with alternate  
months,*

*but providing emergency cover for each if needed - goes  
unheeded*

## **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.**

~~

### **COMPANY CLUB**

Welcomes lively over 45's to social events including theatre, cinema, meals out, quizzes, barbecues, 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)

~~

### **THE CROYDON SYMPHONIC BAND**

The Croydon Symphonic Band resumed rehearsals this month for their 47<sup>th</sup> season and welcome all woodwind, brass and percussion players of all standards to its rehearsals in West Croydon on Wednesday evenings at 8pm. In addition to performing regularly at Sanderstead United Reformed Church, the band will be presenting their winter concert in the newly refurbished Phoenix Concert Hall at Fairfield on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Further details are on the Bands website [www.csb.org.uk](http://www.csb.org.uk) or by calling Sue Reeves on 0208 657 8591.

~~

### **Selsdon Flower Club - 20th November @ 2pm**

At rear of St John the Divine Church  
Demonstration by Graham Harmer - Christmas displays  
Please contact 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 Nov 11<sup>th</sup> 2019: “The Falkland Islands”.** Jackie Garner is one of Britain’s finest wildlife artists. Wildlife and art have combined to indulge Jackie in her personal long-term interests - birdwatching and nature, as this jaunt to the far-flung Falkland Islands will show.

**Monday Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 2019: “A Norwegian Experience”.** Mick White is a wildlife photographer based in Surrey. In this talk we will travel to Norway, a country of Culture and History. Starting in Oslo we go north, crossing the Arctic Circle on the way, and look at some of the bird life that can be found there, before finally experiencing the celestial wonder of the Northern Lights. (There be seasonal fayre, courtesy of members, served during the interval.)

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.**

~~

## **JUBILATE CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2019**

14<sup>TH</sup> December at 7.30pm - St Matthew’s Church, Chichester Road, Croydon CR0 5NQ

A festive evening with music by Saint-Saëns and J Michael Haydn, and favourite carols.

Tickets at the door: Adults £12, Children (under16) free



# FSW CALENDAR

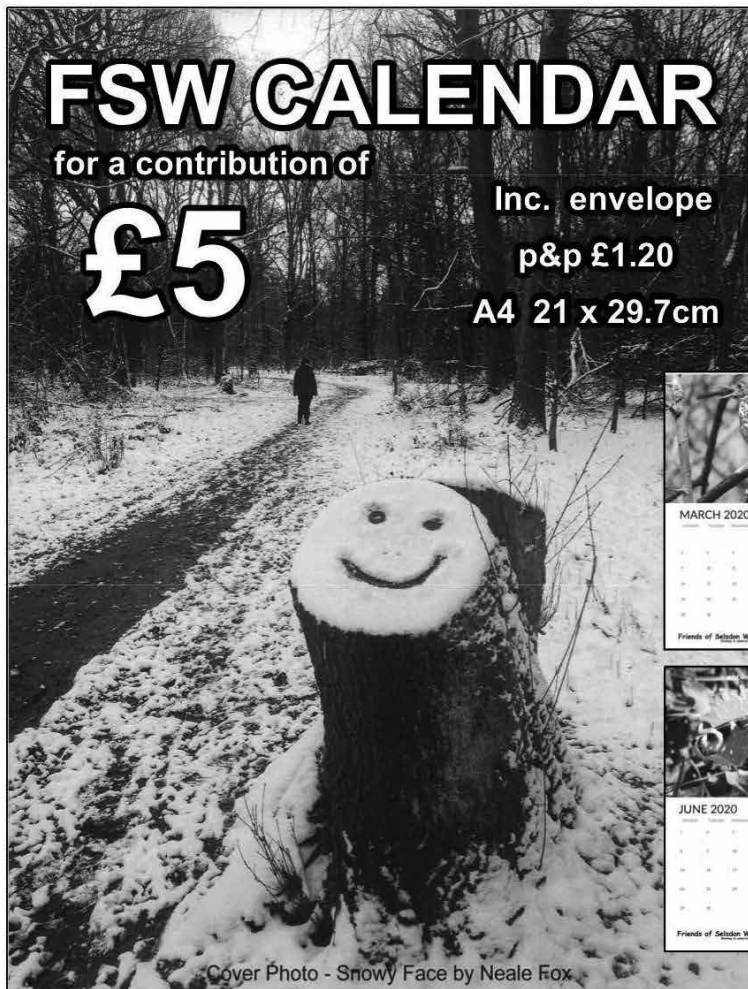
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## Friends of Selsdon Wood Calendar 2020

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## SOUL SYMPHONY CHOIR

Thank you everyone who came to support us in our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Choir Festival that raised money for Croydon Youth Zone, Legacy. Croydon Youth Zone 'Legacy' will make a real difference in the lives of thousands of young people. It will offer young people aged between 8 to 19, and up to 25 for those with additional needs, somewhere to go, something to do and someone to talk to, seven days a week.

Soul Symphony Choir are always looking for new members to join our choir. Our term started on Tuesday 10 September and you are welcome to join us or come on any following Tuesday. Now based at St Columba's, Queenhill road. Everyone is welcome, any age, whether you are a seasoned pro or have never sung before! We are a friendly bunch of people from all walks of life, and there is a strong 'family' vibe among the choir members who will make you feel very welcome!

If you would like any further details or to book Soul Symphony Choir you can either come to a Tuesday session or contact us via email [info@soulsymphony.co.uk](mailto:info@soulsymphony.co.uk) or website [www.soulsymphony.co.uk](http://www.soulsymphony.co.uk)

~~

## PURLEY LITERARY SOCIETY

Meetings at 8pm in the hall of Purley United Reformed Church, 906 Brighton Road, Purley, CR8 2LN. Website: [www.purley-literary-society.com](http://www.purley-literary-society.com)

19 Nov.	<b>Museum of Croydon Archives</b>	Lindsay Ould
3 Dec.	<b>The Great British Paint Off</b>	Nicola Moorby
4 Jan. 2020	<b>Shirley Windmill</b>	Frank Paine
28 Jan.	<b>The Cow That Changed History</b>	Amanda Bryett

~~

## **THE ARTS SOCIETY SANDERSTEAD**

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

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403 bus route).

Tuesday 26th November 2019, 10.30 - 11.45am. Coffee from  
9.30 - 10.15am

Please register when you arrive. There will be a small fee of £5.

At the end of this meeting, we will serve a pre-Christmas  
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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.

~~

**September 25th**

**Playing on the Fallen Oak.**

A photo has come into my possession which depicts 4  
young children playing on the fallen oak in Fallen Oak Field,  
Littleheath Woods. The photo is described on the back as  
"the Bushnell Family on the Fallen Oak, 1938". Of the location  
there is little doubt: in the distance can be seen the tower of  
the chapel of Royal Russell School with the school grounds



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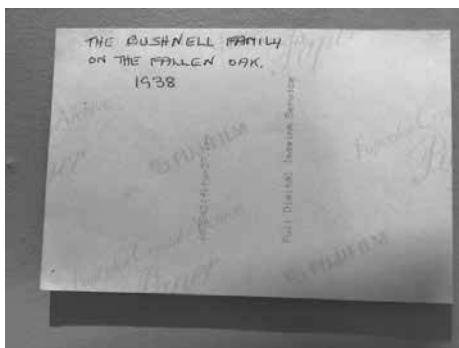
Email: [susan@thewrightva.co.uk](mailto:susan@thewrightva.co.uk)

Tel: 0203 290 2750 / 07989 679459

*Formerly Susan's Office Solutions*

dropping off to the left. In the middle distance a line of small shrubs and trees marks the current boundary of the field and the back gardens of properties in Croham Valley Road. Does anyone know of the Bushnell Family, what their names were and what became of them? It would be nice to return the photo to the family.

### ***Ian Leggatt, Friends of Littleheath Woods***



~~

### **September 29<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> October (amalgamated)**

**Dear Selsdon and Forestdale residents,**

I hope everyone is well and crime free!

I have set up a contact point for the next 3 months. It will be a trial 3 months, once a month for an hour I will be setting up shop in Coughlans Bakery, Featherbed Lane, Holmbury Grove, CR0 9AR. I will be there:

26<sup>th</sup> October 11am – 12pm

30<sup>th</sup> November 11am – 12pm

23<sup>rd</sup> December 11am – 12pm

You can come visit me and chat about anything you like. Crime prevention advice, report any crimes, suspicious activity or anything worrying you. If after the 3 months we feel it's not having the impact we would like or there is no

interest we will stop. But hopefully this will just be another way to meet some of you face to face and just engage with you more.

Motor vehicle crime in general is a problem right now, be that number plate theft, catalytic converter theft or theft of the motor vehicle itself. So, do keep an eye out around your local areas, keep valuables out of sight and keep us up to date with any suspicious activity you see.

To prevent your catalytic converters being stolen my advice would be to park in well-lit areas, watch out for people working under cars especially at night time and I suggest etching your registration number into your catalytic converter as a deterrent. This is because some scrapyards ask for proof of ID meaning they couldn't sell on your catalytic converter.

To prevent number plate theft (used to rack up speeding, parking fines and steal petrol/diesel from the petrol station etc.) you can buy and install screws that will make it harder for them to be stolen, which I would highly recommend.

Hope this is helpful for you.

Kind regards,

***PCSO Jack Killian 7114SN (Selsdon and Forestdale)***

***Jack.killian@met.police.uk***

***020887212464***

~~

**14<sup>th</sup> October**

**Selsdon Tennis Club success - Christopher Cooper wins 14U Surrey Trophy**

We write to share the success of our STC juniors, in particular congratulations to Christopher Cooper who won the 14U Surrey Trophy in an exciting final that took place at the National Tennis Centre in Roehampton earlier in the season.





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Christopher won 6-3, 7-5. He had previously beaten the number 1 seed after dropping the first set 5-7, but then went on to win the next 2 sets 6-1, 6-0.

Later the same day, Christopher then managed to get to the quarter finals

of the Road to Wimbledon County finals on the grass courts of the All England Community tennis centre at Raynes Park. Despite fighting on with a badly sprained calf muscle he lost to the eventual winner who went on to represent Surrey at the national finals at the All England club.

Christopher is a regular attendee of the junior coaching programme which takes place at Selsdon tennis club (Queenhill Road) each Saturday morning throughout the year.

Other STC juniors were also successful in the Surrey Trophy. Lewis Vale won his way through to the quarter-final stage of the 14U boys and Bianca Bahnovei won her way through to the semi-final stage of the 12U girls' competition.

***George Cooper, Selsdon Tennis Club***

~~

**14<sup>th</sup> October**

**The story of a lost bracelet**

I thought people who read the Selsdon Gazette would like to read about the goodness of Peter Alford, the jeweller of Addington Road.

My husband-to-be bought me a bracelet in 1960 and I wore it when we got married in 1963. We also had it engraved "PAM

& BRIAN". We were living at Brixton Hill and somewhere along the line the clasp broke and it went missing.

We moved to Sanderstead in 1999. So in 20 years I have used the jeweller in Addington Road, called **P&A Jewellers**, a few times and was there last week with a friend for a watch strap. I was looking around the shop and saw a bracelet in the showcase and when he got it down for me to see it had my husband's and my name on it and I knew at once it was mine.

There were plenty of tears and Peter Alford, the jeweller, gave it to me. I don't know if it was the tears but I thought it was a fantastic gesture and to think it came back to me so very close to where I live. I'm sorry to say my husband died 5 years ago but I would have loved to see his face when I walked in with it on my arm where it should always have been.

**BUT WHERE HAD IT BEEN FOR THE LAST 50 YEARS?**

I couldn't thank Peter, the jeweller, enough for that very special thought of giving me the bracelet. There are not many people around that would have done that special thing. What a nice man! I hope when someone needs a jeweller they will go to him.

***Pam Hargrave***

~~

**15<sup>th</sup> October**

**Selsdon Centre for the Retired - Meeting room facilities**

We are pleased to announce our spacious meeting and conference room has now been completely refurbished and is available for booking by the hour, half-day or on a full day basis.

The room can accommodate up to 12 people around a large

conference table or up to 14 people theatre style. Tea/coffee/refreshments can be provided on a request basis.

If you would be interested in hiring our meeting room please do get in touch on 0208 651 1111 or pop in to speak to a staff member.



We look forward to welcoming you to the centre in the future.

*Catriona Lumiste, for the Selsdon Centre*

~~

## THE VERY SHORT STORY COMPETITION

In the September Gazette, we announced a short story competition and invited readers to submit a story in no more than 100 words (excluding the title), about anything – a personal experience, fact or fiction, maybe a Christmas theme. We set a deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> October so we could publish the results in the December magazine.

For a number of reasons we have decided to re-set the deadline to **30 November**. But the prize – a box of chocolates – remains on offer!

Ideally, the stories should contain something unexpected - a twist in the tale – which should surprise the reader, or raise a smile, or provoke thought! Here is another example:

### THE PRESENCE

He'd have to work fast. Their instructions were clear. If he couldn't finish it tonight, there'd be no second chance.

Quickly, Stephen wrote out his demands, memorised them, and then threw the paper into the fire. It must be destroyed at all costs. He climbed the stairs and kept watch for visitors to the house. Suddenly the door opened and a shadowy figure entered, leaving packages by the bed.

Only one thing puzzled Stephen. How was Father Christmas able to read the list of presents he wanted, which he'd consigned to the fire at his parents' bidding?

***Bill Gale***

~~

## **Recipe - Speedy soup**

If the weather gets cold and wintry this'll give you a warming hit of heat.

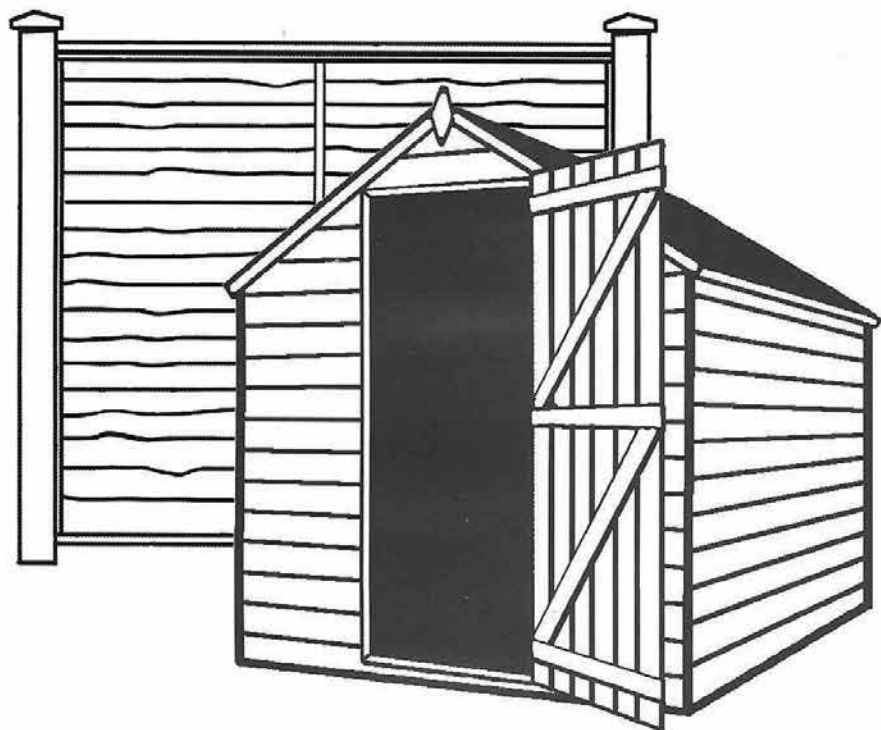
2 whole fresh chillies (but really it's down to how spicy you want your soup), splash of oil, 2 sticks of celery, 1 onion, 2 ½ tsp cumin, 400g tin of chopped tomatoes, pinch of sugar, 400g tin of chickpeas, 600ml stock (it's up to you which type you use), lemon juice from half a lemon, 2 tbsp. chopped parsley.

- 1) Finely chop your onion, celery and chillies. It's up to you whether you take the chillies' seeds out, leave a few in, or (if you're feeling brave) leave them all in. (I take most of them out, but I'm not too particular about it so I don't mind if a few strays find their way in.)
- 2) Fry that all in a big pan with a bit of oil. It doesn't need to brown – it just needs to soften.
- 3) Once everything's soft, sprinkle in your cumin and keep frying for around a minute.
- 4) After that throw in your tomatoes, sugar, chickpeas and stock.

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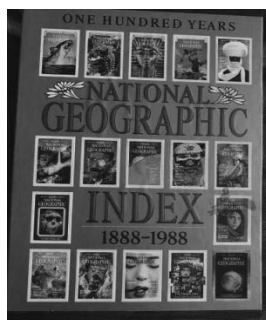


- 5) Give it all a stir and let it simmer for five minutes or so.
- 6) Then you just need to finish it off with your lemon juice and chopped parsley.
- 7) All that's left is to eat your spicy treat.

***Jess Bashford***

~~

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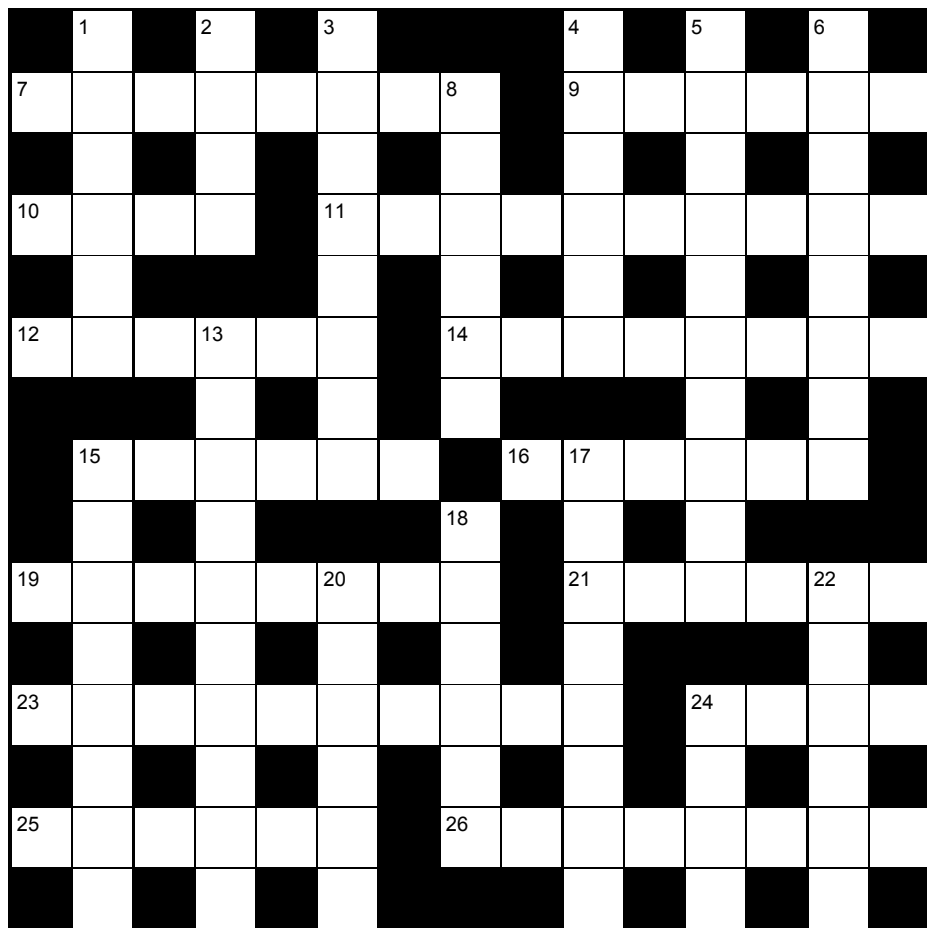
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# CRYPTIC CROSSWORD - NOVEMBER 2019

Set by Oldie – Gazette Ref: 60



## ACROSS

- 7 Marriage guidance counsellor? He fixes things (8)  
 9 Game is ruined by prejudice (6)  
 10 Caught, getting time in prison (4)  
 11 Time invested in errant son failed – he has no chance of success (3-7)  
 12 Remember to visit again? (6)  
 14 Drug creating endless conflict at home (8)  
 15 Jack wants us back on road – ridiculous! (6)  
 16 Saucy. tasting of apple perhaps (6)  
 19 A struggle increased in Scottish town (8)  
 21 Note very little (6)

- 23 Nasty criminal upset Alan around start of November (10)  
 24 British agents keep hold of this tobacco (4)  
 25 Remove centre from pellets and grind – using this? (6)  
 26 Woman's worked as model, having inclination (8)

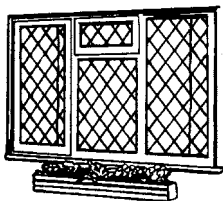
## DOWN

- 1 A teen's represented in governing body (6)  
 2 Right away, plant evidence against celebrity (4)  
 3 Cambridge mathematician, one engaged in noisy dispute (8)  
 4 River subsequently needed for one travelling by water (6)  
 5 Changing to career in leisure activity (10)  
 6 Harshness, like compassion, the Queen embraced (8)  
 8 Owner adapts to new celebrity (6)  
 13 Uzis rattle violently in battle (10)  
 15 Lent progressed (8)  
 17 More will fail exam, being most aloof (8)  
 18 The woman's lad upset the announcer (6)  
 20 Speaks of old values (6)  
 22 Communist art is brought back for businessman (6)  
 24 Fire gun, having no time to drive away (4)

*There was no crossword in the October Gazette.*

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## Amazing Foxy Fun and Games

The foxes have come to our garden, decided they feel at home there, and have become the most unimaginable pests we have had. Whether foxes breed twice in one year I do not know, but we have three “teenager” cubs and they are having an enormous amount of fun.

They wait until nightfall then see how many flower pots they can hurl around. Foolishly we left water out for them to drink in the very hot weather. It was left in a plastic saucer for large indoor houseplants, but the fox cubs picked it up, and threw it across the lawn. Every morning we open our bedroom curtains and wonder what mischief and mayhem the pests have caused overnight. Each day I have to replace flower pots and replant what they had contained, the water trough has long since gone, and it is not delightful to scrape fox mess daily from the grass!

I decided to plant my spring bulbs early, so put them into baskets and placed them around the flowerbeds. I have had to go and collect the bulbs next morning and replant at least five times for nearly every basket.

The fox cubs then brought us presents. Wrapping paper, three well chewed children’s balls, ditto three tennis balls, a couple of pieces of old rags, one high heeled shoe and finally, so far, a water pistol! Yes it is all amazing to us. But then we had a breakthrough!

The bulb baskets had a blood, bone and another goodie, added to each basket to help the spring bulbs grow more abundantly. A visitor explained that the fertiliser was part of the problem. The foxes think a dead animal is under the soil and dig it up for their dinner. Trying to balance things out, I then replanted the bulbs, liberally blitzing them with Jeyes dustbin powder- but once it rained the foxes began digging again. So amazing!

Then a visitor told us what we needed was lion dung. “You must be joking”, my husband and I chorused. He wasn’t, and keeping a straight face he told us it can be bought on Amazon. As soon as our visitor left we looked at the Amazon website. Yes they sold it - but not in wheelbarrows of hot, steamy dung. They sell it dried and packaged. Now that really is amazing!!

*Jessica Blake*

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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
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Purley War Memorial Hospital (Urgent Care Centre, 08:00-20:00, 365 days/year)	8401 3238

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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 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 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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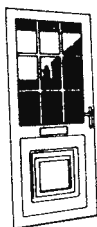
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