

The Selsdon — Gazette —

Volume 76. No. 852

October 2023

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Ian Leggatt

Phil Roberts

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Chris Jones

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Councillors for Selsdon & Addington Village Ward

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

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

Councillors for Selsdon Vale & Forestdale Ward

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

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

Councillors for Sanderstead Ward

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

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

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

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

Editor's Note



Welcome to the October edition of the *Gazette*, which is packed with interesting articles about Selsdon for you to read. A first for the gazette is a report sent to the gazette from the Executive Mayor, Jason Perry, about news directly affecting Selsdon residents. This, together with articles from our Councillors, MP and Selsdon Police will hopefully help to inform you about local issues.

I am always encouraging you to send me contributions for the gazette, so I was particularly pleased to hear from a 91-year-old long-time resident about the changes in Selsdon he has noticed from when he was a boy in the 1930s and 1940s. I hope that this nonagenarian will be an inspiration to you all and my email inbox will be bulging next month. In our 'letters to the editor' section we hear about a scam doing the rounds at the moment, opportunistic badgers and an unusual wedding someone attended. Please keep writing to me whether it is a photo, article, or even a poem (selsdongazettesra@gmail.com), no matter your age.

We have our regular contributors with the *Gardening Tips* giving us two delicious recipes for our homegrown fruit and vegetables, Janet Sharp follows up her article in July about the Flint around us in plain sight with a look at finding flint treasure and Ian Leggatt lets us know how the rewilding is going at Birch. We have a report about the Friends of Selsdon Wood Open Day in September and I have included the quiz that the SRA set visitors to their stall at the fair - How well do you know Selsdon?

We have two pleas for volunteers to help with the *Gazette*. We now need a new Advertising Manager as Carlo Rappa is stepping down after many years of answering queries from advertisers and finding new advertisers. Many thanks must go to Carlo for keeping the gazette financially sound over the past years. We are also desperate for 3 distributors living on Selsdon Vale. All these posts would only need a few hours per month. Please get in touch if you can help.

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

Chris Jones

☞ SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NOVEMBER 2023 EDITION
SHOULD BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN
20TH OCTOBER - PREFERABLY BEFORE! ☞

SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS

Pavements

This lovely weather has made everything keep growing through the summer and it is noticeable when walking the pavements of Selsdon that some hedges and shrubs are encroaching the pavement. This can make it difficult for pedestrians, especially wheelchairs and buggies, so we would ask you to be mindful of users and trim back any overhanging branches from your property to keep the pathways clear.

You may have noticed a man sweeping the pavements from Wetherspoons to Aldi. He is employed by Veolia to sweep twice a day and he often also does up to Sainsbury's.

Keeping on the theme of street cleaning, we would like to thank all who came to the litter pick on 7th October. Keep your eyes peeled for the next date.

Love Clean Streets App

This is the council app for reporting issues. I have had great success with getting a freezer dumped in Cowley Close removed within the day, the crumbling kerb re-tarmacked and the yellow lines repainted all within a few weeks, so please use this service.

Friends of Selsdon Wood Open Day

This year's Open Day by the Friends of Selsdon Woods was lucky to have had such a beautiful day to enjoy the woods. It was lovely to meet so many residents and have a chat whilst taking part in our own photo recognition competition.

We were able to recruit 3 new gazette deliverers but of course we are still on the lookout for more and it would be lovely to hear from anyone who can spare up to an hour a month or would be happy to be a "spare" to cover holidays. Phil (Distribution Manager) or I can answer any questions you might have, details on page two. We are still looking for an advertising

manager to help get extra adverts to reduce the predicted loss in printing costs. If anyone knows of anyone who would like to place an advert in the gazette, please send details to the editor and she will contact them.

Our next big event is the Christmas Lights Switch-on, so will see you all there on Friday 24th November 5pm.

***Sheila Childs,
Chair***

~~

COUNCILLORS' NOTES

JOHN RUSKIN COLLEGE

Croydon's Executive Mayor, Jason Perry, attended the opening of the new construction training centre at John Ruskin College. The centre, sponsored by The Berkeley Group, will focus on training people in green construction skills to support the decarbonisation of homes across London and the southeast. This partnership will support Croydon's young people into a variety of career paths, including apprenticeships.

ADDINGTON PARK EVENTS

A one-day event of live and recorded music took place in Addington Park on Saturday 16th September. This was the last licensable event of the Summer with no further licensable events currently approved in the park this year.

MONKS HILL SPORTS CENTRE

Facilities at the Monks Hill Sports Centre have been upgraded. The centre now offers a new gym which opened on Monday 11th September.

The new gym features thirty Technogym stations, bringing Monks Hill up to standard with other council gyms. The new gym space also has a dedicated cardio zone, weights and resistance zones, as well as new flooring and decoration. The more spacious gym has gained room from transforming the former community room, kitchen and reception area into a modern gym.

The new adaptations to Monks Hill Sports Centre complement the existing facilities at the site, which include the exercise studio, badminton courts, floodlit full size synthetic turf and outside basketball court.

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

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

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

Selsdon and Addington Village

Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk

Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk

Selsdon Vale and Forestdale

Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk

Fatima.zaman@croydon.gov.uk

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

23/03391/LP - 229 Addington Road South Croydon CR2 8LQ

Erection of a hip to gable end roof extension and a dormer extension in the rear roof slope.

23/03465/FUL - 34A, 34B And Rear Of 34 Arkwright Road South Croydon CR2 0LL

Demolition of existing dwellinghouses at 34A and 34B Arkwright Road and the construction of 6 dwellinghouses, 3 storeys in height together with associated parking, access and landscaping.

23/03415/HSE - 110 Benhurst Gardens South Croydon CR2 8NW

Erection of a single storey rear extension with a flat roof and skylights.

23/03045/HSE - 24 Byron Road South Croydon CR2 8DY

Demolition of existing side garage and construction of single storey rear side and front extensions, to provide new garage, front porch and rear kitchen/living space.

23/03417/FUL - 1 Elmpark Gardens South Croydon CR2 8RW
Erection of a new single storey dwelling following demolition of existing garage with associated parking, garden amenity, cycle and refuse storage.

*(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))*

Last month we published a letter from the Chairman of the Trustees of the Selsdon Centre for the Retired expressing his concern about its future. Now it is the turn of the Executive Mayor for Croydon, Jason Perry, who has sent in this report which addresses some of those issues raised.



Creating a London borough that is a place of opportunity for business, earning and learning is a crucial priority for me as Executive Mayor of Croydon, so I was delighted to be at the opening of the new construction training centre at John Ruskin College Green-sponsored by The Berkeley Group. This includes training facilities for groundworks and other construction-related tasks, allowing John Ruskin to expand their offer to residents across the borough, specifically focusing on increasing the supply of green construction skills. This is a fantastic example of how businesses, educators and the community of Croydon have started to make a difference in this space to provide our residents and especially young people with opportunities for new careers in this growing industry.

The acclaimed Birch Hotel has put Selsdon back on the map, receiving international media coverage, and it is fantastic to see how its opening has impacted the local economy. The regeneration of the hotel and the re-wilding of much of the green space has seen The Birch described by Time Out as a 'new country escape on London's doorstep', with Forbes citing it as a 'peaceful haven and rewilding marvel'. Its newly opened lido was hailed as 'one of London's swankiest lidos'. This kind of coverage is priceless, and it was great to see the hotel participating in This is Croydon's - London Borough of Culture - Open House Festival.

I was also delighted to attend another fantastic project as part of Open House, which saw the launch of an award-winning RHS garden in New Addington. Created by award-winning garden designer Jane Porter, the Choose Love Garden was visited by King Charles while at the Chelsea Flower Show and has now been relocated to the home of Good Food Matters, which does fantastic work in the community, encouraging growing and then cooking nutritious balanced meals.

I recognise the critical role that community organisations such as the Selsdon Centre play in serving our residents in Croydon - particularly our older residents. Despite Croydon's financial challenges, I want to see a vibrant sector in Croydon with an open and collaborative relationship with the Council. Increasingly, the Council needs to take a more enabling role rather than providing funding itself, which often means we must make difficult decisions. One of many decisions made by the previous Administration in the 2021/22 budget process was to end rent subsidies, rate relief and grants to the voluntary and community sector. Many organisations such as the Selsdon Centre were impacted by this decision which took effect in March 2023, though they have not been grant funded since 2020. Whilst I have inherited a legacy of financial mismanagement and poor practice in how the Council previously administered community assets and grants, I do not want to see valued community services eroded. To that end I am actively exploring more long-term sustainable options with the Selsdon Centre trustees and other local groups to work towards a positive outcome for their service users. We must be more innovative in shaping our support and equip voluntary organisations with the know-how to create their destiny, such as bid writing training. More generally, the voluntary and community sector will be able to access more Council contracts than before, and benefit from the social value they bring in external funding from elsewhere, so that these essential services can continue for the benefit of our residents.

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Another great addition to the Selsdon community has been the opening of the new gym at Monks Hill Sports Centre. The project is part of a £140,000 investment of funding from the council's capital budget, which cannot be used on everyday expenditure and was ring-fenced to improve the borough's facilities. I am impressed to see the introduction of more equipment and space in the gym and how the extended opening hours will encourage greater public use. Managed by the council's leisure provider, GLL, this dual-use centre is shared with Quest Academy and is an excellent resource for staff, students, and local families. I want Croydon to be a healthier place to live, and leisure facilities like this provide affordable and accessible opportunities for everyone to exercise and improve their well-being. It will be great to see residents and visitors in the Selsdon and wider Croydon area benefiting from the enormous improvements to the facility.

Jason Perry
Executive Mayor of Croydon

~~

MP Chris Philp's Report

Member of Parliament for Croydon South



Planning News

I am pleased to report, in my opinion, yet more positive planning news – a clear demonstration that Croydon's new planning regime is here to stay. Mercifully, applications to destroy family homes and create large blocks of flats are now almost always rejected or withdrawn after careful consideration by the Planning Committee and officers.

We recently received news that a proposal to replace a single-family home on The Drive in Coulsdon with a block of 9 flats and a six-space car park was withdrawn and that an application to replace a home on Kingswood Lane in Sanderstead with a block of seven flats was rejected by officers acting with delegated powers. I, along with Cllr Luke Shortland and Cllr Lynne Hale respectively, objected to these proposals because they would have represented a significant overdevelopment and failed to respect the character of the neighbourhood.

Residents will also be delighted to hear that the planning permission, approved by the previous administration, to demolish a lovely family home on the corner of West Hill and Selsdon Road and replace it with a large block of flats has now expired. This means that the developer would need to bring forward a new application, which would now be subject to intense scrutiny from the Planning Committee, should they wish to develop the site. This is good news for residents who, along with Cllr Maria Gatland, fought so hard to stop this inappropriate development.

Chris Philp

Member of Parliament, Croydon South: 020 7219 8026

chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk

~~

Draft Parking Policy Now Live

At the Council’s Cabinet meeting in July, it was agreed to carry out a period of public consultation on Croydon’s new Draft Parking Policy. The consultation is now commencing and will last for over five weeks, concluding on 31 October.

As part of the consultation, there are a series of drop-in sessions at a variety of libraries and at a variety of times of day across the borough for all constituents.

Wednesday 27 Sept	10 to 12.30pm	Central Library
Thursday 28 Sept	12 to 2.30pm	South Norwood Library
Thursday 28 Sept	4.30 to 7pm	Purley Library
Tuesday 10 Oct	4.30 to 7pm	Thornton Heath Library
Wednesday 11 Oct	4.30 to 7pm	South Norwood Library
Thursday 12 Oct	4 30 to 7pm	Coulsdon Library
Wednesday 18 Oct	12 to 2.30pm	Purley Library
Wednesday 18 Oct	4.30 to 7pm	Central Library
Tuesday 24 Oct	10 to 12.30pm	Coulsdon Library
Tuesday 24 Oct	4.30 to 7pm	Thornton Heath Library

There is also have a Get Involved online survey and consultation page (<https://news.croydon.gov.uk/have-your-say-on-croydons-new-parking-strategy/>)

where residents and partners are able to read a copy of the draft policy and provide their feedback via the survey questionnaire. The webpage has further information including, the Cabinet papers, and FAQs but any queries or requests for hardcopies of the survey must be directed to this email address parking.design@croydon.gov.uk.

Consultation will be immensely valuable in gathering views and help to refine the Draft Parking Policy before it is finalised later this year.

The Gazette Needs Help



3 Distributors needed

Do you live on Selsdon Vale?

Could you spare a couple of hours per month?

You would need to pick up about 350 copies from our Distribution Manager in Dulverton Road and then pass these to about 7 deliverers in bundles of about 50 gazettes.

Please contact our Distribution Manager, Phil Roberts (07985 175452) or email: sraphilroberts@gmail.com

Advertising Manager needed

The Advertising Manager works closely with the Editor and Finance Manager for the Gazette. Questions from potential and existing advertisers would be answered by the Advertiser Manager and new advertisers would be sought.

Please contact the editor, Chris Jones, selsdongazettesra@gmail.com or the SRA Chair, Sheila Childs (020 8651 2285)

~~

September Police Report

This month we have been focusing on the reduction of shoplifting within Selsdon, in areas such as the Co-op in Forestdale. Two individuals have been arrested in connection with the thefts and the shoplifting has greatly

reduced since then, meaning a positive result for the local policing team and the businesses affected as a result. Due to the Uplift Programme for Croydon Safer Neighbourhoods, we may see the introduction of another sergeant on the team, meaning 1 Sergeant will now cover 2 wards, rather than 4, allowing better integration into our local community and more resources per local area.

We are unfortunately still seeing theft from motor vehicles in areas such as Monks Hill and the surrounding roads.

If you have a car, please try the following steps to reduce the chance of becoming a victim:

- Hide any valuables/ remove visible cash from your car
- Ensure you lock your car
- Install CCTV cameras or dashcams
- Install a steering lock/ extra immobilisers, and use a Faraday pouch to stop the signal from your key being used to have your keyless entry vehicle unlocked and stolen.

Officers on the team have recently completed further training courses, and are next trying to get Speed gun courses to implement within busy roads such as Selsdon Park Road, Gravel Hill and Old Farleigh Road. This should in turn see a reduction in speeding on local roads.

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

Emergencies – 999

Selsdon & Addington Village:

SelsdonandAddingtonVillage@met.police.uk

Selsdon Vale & Forestdale:

SelsdonandForestdale@met.police.uk

**Selsdon Residents Association
Christmas Lights Switch On
Friday 24 November 5pm**



There will be songs and music outside The Village Club from about 4.30pm. The SRA funds the lights but we are grateful to the Sanderstead and Selsdon Rotary Group for supplying Santa and his sleigh to switch on the lights and then meet children in his grotto outside Iceland.



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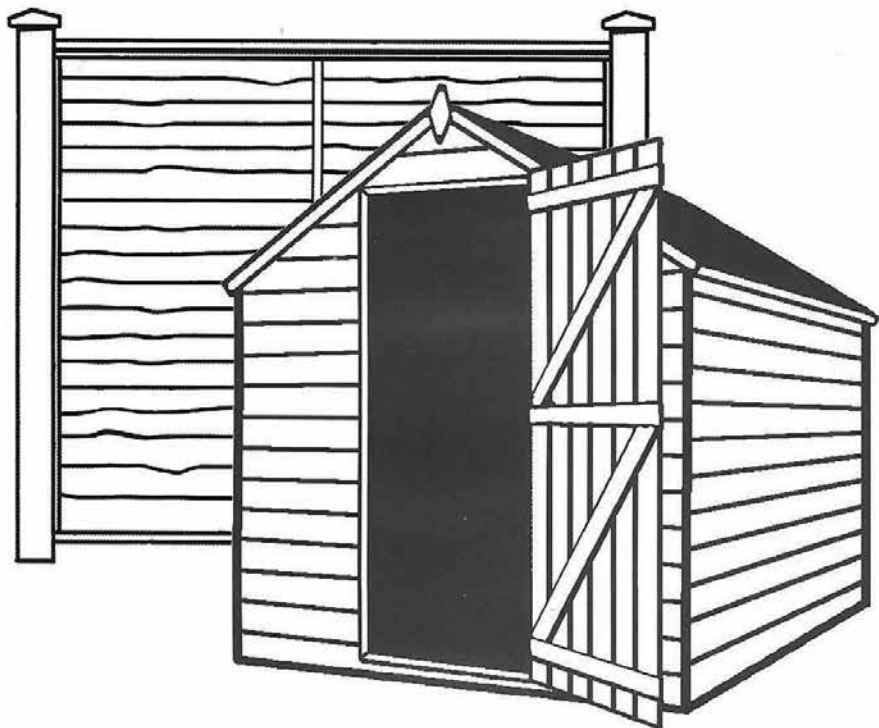
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Reminder



British Summer Time ends this year when the clocks go back at 2am on Sunday 29 October. Remember the saying “Spring forward, Fall back”.

~~

...and we all had fun!

I'm glad to report that this seemed to be the general consensus of those attending the Friends of Selsdon Wood's Open Day and Selsdon Residents Association's Community Picnic and Fun afternoon on 3rd September. We struck lucky with the weather again - sunshine but not the highest temperatures of the September heatwave.

The varied stallholders seem to have been well received and most were satisfied with their takings, with the FSW's stall enrolling several new members and offering great value books and white elephants plus the fun of the tombola. They raised over £200 and so, with the additional donations received too, should be able to continue their work of repairing the old seats/benches in the wood as well as the renovation of the Linden Pool and Glade. The FSW's Calendars for 2024 were popular and donations for these also boosted our funds. There are still some left if you want one!



Lauca Tylinska singing

The woodland stroll gave an interesting introduction to those who had not ventured into the wood before. We hope to see some of those strollers again on our guided walks in the coming year. Luckily, the council cut the grass in time (just!) for us but there were very few people who had a BYO picnic. I think those who were hungry were keener to use the Scouts' refreshment stall and their seating, of course, this also made the al fresco eating more comfortable for those who found the grass a bit too low!

We are grateful to the Selsdon and Sanderstead Rotarians who provided much of the fun for us with races etc. We were also pleased to be

entertained by the talented Lauca, a young country & western singer from Sanderstead.

The SRA were grateful to those who called into their stall to pay their subs too – it is still not too late to pay them, even now!

A big thank you to all who helped and who attended and made the day such a success. We will probably do it again in 2024 – date tbc but probably either 1st or 8th September – but, after then, it could be time to hand the baton on to others to keep the event and stalls going. All voluntary groups it seems

need more help – please remember this when you look back on this day and think what you could do to help to keep it going!



The SRA tent with Sheila, Jenny and Peter

Linda Morris (FSW and SRA)

~~

A Good Time for Gardening – October

All these months we've spent nurturing our flowers, fruit and veg, it's time to enjoy the 'fruits of our labours'. But only do that once you've planted your bulbs in preparation for a gorgeous show of colour in the Spring.



Pumpkins: these are a plump and nutritious type of squash. They are low in calories and rich in minerals and vitamins, not just the flesh but in the seeds, leaves and pumpkin juice. There are many health benefits to be gained from eating pumpkin, but I'm not sure that pumpkin muffins count, but they are a relatively easy recipe!

Ingredients: 225g plain flour, 2 teaspoons baking powder, 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon, 100g caster sugar, 50g soft light brown sugar, 200g pumpkin puree, 2 eggs, 125g salted butter (melted)

Method: Heat the oven to 200C / 180C fan / gas 6 and place 12 muffin cases in a muffin tin.

- ~ Mix the flour, baking powder, cinnamon and both sugars together in a large bowl. Break up any lumps of brown sugar by rubbing them between your fingers.
- ~ Whisk the puree and eggs together in a jug, then add to the dry ingredients, along with the melted butter. Whisk for 1 to 2 minutes, using an electric hand whisk, until just combined.
- ~ Divide between the 12 cases. Bake for 15 minutes until golden and risen and a skewer or cocktail stick comes out from a 'tester' cake clean. Place on a wire rack to cool completely.

Or, why not try an Autumn Crumble?

Ingredients: 140g plain flour, 100g margarine, 4 tablespoons oats, 2 to 3 tablespoons demerara sugar, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, 4 eating apples or pears or plums or a mixture of all three fruits (cored/stoned), handful of sultanas soaked in hot water for 10 minutes, 1 to 2 tablespoons honey



Method: Heat the oven to 200C / 180C fan / gas 6.

- ~ Sift the flour into a bowl and add the margarine. Use a fork or your hands to mash the flour and margarine together until they resemble breadcrumbs and there are no remaining lumps of margarine.
- ~ Add the oats, sugar and cinnamon to the flour and margarine mixture.
- ~ Chop the fruit, leaving the skin on for flavour, vitamins and minerals and place into an ovenproof dish.
- ~ Drain the sultanas and scatter over the fruit. Drizzle with the honey.
- ~ Sprinkle over the crumble mixture. Bake for 20 to 30 minutes until the topping is golden and the fruit is bubbling. Serve with yoghurt, custard, ice cream or crème fraiche.

Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid

www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

~~

Birch (Selsdon) Rewilding – A Visit

On a balmy August evening (yes, we did have one) a few of your SRA committee attended a guided walk around the Birch (Selsdon) grounds to see some of the work which has been carried out there and to hear of their plans for the future.

Many Selsdonians will have fond memories of the Selsdon Park Hotel and its history is evident in the grand building and grounds. The house and its 200 acres became a hotel in 1924 with, then, 24 bedrooms and under the ownership of Allan Doble Sanderson. The 6,000 yd / par 72 golf course was laid out in 1929, designed by J. H. Taylor who was a founding member of the PGA.



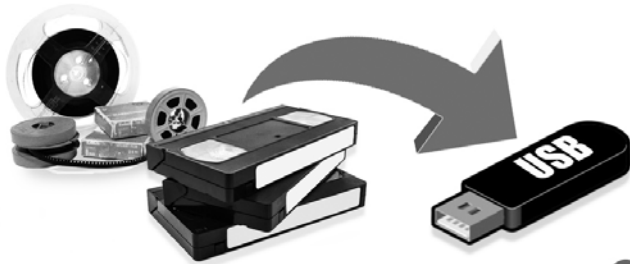
The golf course in its heyday

Your SRA Chair, Vice Chair, Peter Underwood and yours truly were in the contingent of attendees for the bi monthly meeting of the Association of Croydon Conservation Societies (ACCS). From their website:
ACCS is an umbrella group for organisations concerned with nature conservation in Croydon. Formed over 30 years ago it represents the interests of our member groups on nature conservation, wildlife habitats and open space issues. We provide a forum within which our groups can share matters of concern or obtain advice and assistance. We monitor, examine and comment upon town planning policies and proposals as well as planning applications that affect open space or nature conservation. The expertise and knowledge of our members provides a vital pool of information that can be used to obtain a picture of what is or what might be happening within Croydon to sites of interest to us.

Thanks to Linda Morris the Birch team were keen to meet us, show us their grounds and host our ACCS meeting afterwards. The large group

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was accompanied by Ashley, the hotel manager and Hayley who is in charge of the rewilding and the green side of the operations. We were introduced to the Birch concept: *“Our concept for what we grow and rear at Birch (Selsdon) is to look past the Victorian and Edwardian dominance of the site, and revive the medieval farmstead that once stood at Selsdon. This is where the old breed animals come in but also the notion of having a dye and physic garden. Plants will be older varieties with great diversity and resilience. Everything we grow anywhere (including trees or shrubs we plant around the gardens) should have a use – for humans as food or pollination or for wildlife and biodiversity by being native and wild”.*



Rewilding in progress

fledgling vegetable garden which, along with a poly tunnel was already providing produce for the kitchen including herbs for the cocktails. A wildflower area has been planted close to the terrace at the rear of the building where they adopted a ‘no dig’ policy. Layers of cardboard were laid on the ground and covered with compost into which were planted wildflower plugs. Birch has a policy of no pesticides, relying instead on companion planting.

The grounds and golf course are being allowed to revert back to nature as part of a ‘rewilding’ program to meet those aspirations. The grounds have been ringed with a stock proof fence and 3 cows already are in residence. It is proposed to have pigs in a separate area and for sheep and wild horses to have freedom to roam areas of the grounds. It is anticipated that deer will still visit the grounds as they will have no trouble with the stock fence.

It was explained to us that some of the old golf course bunkers have been excavated and lined with puddled clay to form natural ponds for the wildlife. Elsewhere sub soil land drainage systems have been blocked to create wet / boggy areas. We were shown a



Birch Signage

The old golf course has not been mown except for wide walkways providing trails and routes which have been designed to guide guests around the grounds.

Whilst there is a bar a restaurant and bedrooms available to 'members of the public' the hotel and grounds are 'members only'.

After our 90-minute amble around the grounds Ashley and Hayley led us to their conference room where we were welcomed with a small refreshment and a selection of nuts and olives for our ACCS meeting.

Ian Leggatt.

Thanks to Inside Croydon for the photos of the golf course in its heyday and Birch (Selsdon) for the signage. Further info on Birch (Selsdon) together with photos of what the new hotel is to look like can be found at their website - <https://www.birchcommunity.com/selsdon/>

~~

Memories of Selsdon

When I was 3, I am now 91, my parents bought one of the first houses to be built in Benhurst Gardens and I have lived in Selsdon ever since with just 3 short breaks. The first was when the buzz bombs started and I was sent to Abergavenny to live with my aunt, uncle and cousin, and I was there for a year. It was a marvellous experience for a small boy, but that is another story. The second was when I did 2 years national service and the third was when we married and had a flat in a large Victorian house in Crystal Palace Park Road. From a bay window on the first floor at the back we overlooked the park and watched the BBC television tower go up. After a year we bought our house in The Rise, Selsdon, and have been there ever since.

To be growing up in Selsdon before the war was a wonderful time. There was very little traffic and as one grew older, one was allowed to wander round independently and see what was happening. To start I just saw the houses being built in the rest of the road and then I started to venture further afield. The first thing I found was the Recreation Ground. Great! It had swings and other things to play on. I also watched the making of the tennis courts.

Behind our house there was a line of trees that separated us from the nursery gardens. It was there that I found my love of climbing trees. There was one that had a branch that projected over the path and I could climb

up to it and sit there, undetected, to watch what was going on. Early in the war I was at this spot when some planes flew over heading towards Croydon. They got lower and when they were just above the top of our roof some black things fell from them. I went in and told my mum. We heard later that this had been one of the first raids on Croydon airfield and the beginning of the Battle of Britain.



There are a lot of things that were in Selsdon as I grew up that are no longer there and I regret their loss. The first was the rookery. This was in the tall beech trees that ran beside the slip road to the Selsdon triangle, where the Sainsbury complex is now. There was a constant sound of the birds talking to one another, especially during the nesting season. When we came back to Selsdon following a day out or holiday, as soon

as I got off the bus and heard the rooks, I had a warm feeling knowing I was home again and everything was normal.

The next place I miss is Selsdon Park Stables. If you walked to the top of the hill on Old Farleigh Road on the right-hand side, nearly opposite Selsdon Recreation Park, there was a large pair of wooden gates. Going through the gates took you to a large space lined on each side by loose boxes with horses' heads poking out from some of them. On the right was the office with the tack room next door. Beyond were the stables for the heavy horses that pulled Bowyer's milk floats around the district. Above these stables was the hay loft. Passing the stables, there was a building on the right which housed the hotel staff, while on the left was the smithy. The smith was a general blacksmith but his main job was as farrier to the stables. I used to watch him make and fit shoes for each horse; no such thing as ready-made shoes in those days. Walking on across the service road to the hotel a track led off to the left. This was the bridle path that could be taken from the stables around the hotel grounds. Ahead were some large gates that opened onto the near paddock. This area ran all the way down to the main road and is now occupied by Croydon High School and Sainsburys. Getting the horses into the paddock was no problem but getting them back took two or three people. Every year before the war, a fair and gymkhana was held there. The fair was in the top part and the gymkhana in the lower flat area. This was always good fun and, in my opinion, the best event was the pony derby where tiny kids sat on ponies and raced around the field.

One of the other things we lost when the area was developed was the ice house in the hotel grounds. This would probably have had to be preserved with our legislation in place today.

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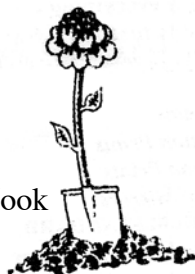
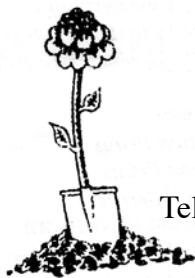
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The next thing I miss from my childhood is the fallen oak. For those of you new to this area, let me explain. In Littleheath Woods there is a field at the furthest point from the centre of Selsdon, near to the Ballards Estate called Fallen Oak Field. When the National Grid was being established in Selsdon there were two pylons planned here, one to the west of the field and the other to the east. By the east pylon was a tall oak tree, whose branches would have become entangled with the power lines, so the tree was cut down. A large stump, part of the main trunk and the lower branches were left where the tree had been felled. This became popular with the local kids, being far better than any climbing equipment supplied by the council in the recreation ground. You could climb on it, slide down, sit in the upper branches and be whatever your imagination came up with: pilot of a plane flying through the skies, captain of a ship of the line fighting off England's enemies and many more. Sometimes you fell off and got some cuts and bruises but you learnt from your mistakes. 'See you at fallen oak' was often heard. Unfortunately, not long ago the Health and Safety came along and thought it was dangerous for children to climb on the tree so the tree was removed and some joy went with it. It seems to me that nowadays fewer children play outdoors in the fresh air getting exercise and using their imaginations with too many of them sitting indoors in front of a screen only exercising their fingers.

Another thing I now miss from the time when I was growing up in Selsdon is the pond in Littleheath Woods. If you walk along Foxearth Road until you come to the Spinney, opposite is an entrance to the woods. Go in, up the hill a short way and take the path to your right. You will come upon the pond. It is not as large as the pond in Sanderstead but it is a nice circular woodland pond. The banks are a foot or two high with mature trees growing out of them, except for a short section on the eastern side where the path skirts the pond. I used to lay down next to one of the trees and look into the pond, it was a magical place. In season, the frogs came and left their spawn, then the tadpoles arrived to become froglets. There were also newts, a delight to watch them dive into the depths and then resurface. In my day there were pond skaters, water beetles, small fish, dragonflies and damselflies. I could dip a jam jar in the pond to look at the dozens of tiny creatures swimming about in the water, which acted as a food source for tadpoles and small fish. Not long after, following a visit from the Health and Safety, it was decided that the pond was a dangerous place as someone may drown in it. This came as a surprise to me because there were many times as a boy, when I had



waded in up to my knees to see something that I could not see from the bank and at no time did I feel in danger of drowning. I will never forgive the authorities for filling in the pond with the loss of so much of the magic of Nature. The last time I saw the place it was a wilderness of scrub and weeds and, no matter, what the Friends of Littleheath Woods do, they will never be able to bring back the beauty of the place. The irony of this story is that today newts are a protected species and the pond could not have been destroyed.

Much of the Selsdon I grew up in is lost forever. No longer can you go to the vale and buy new laid eggs from one of the small holdings. The piggery has gone, so the butcher who owned it and sold the meat and other products on the high street has also gone. Many of the fields and footpaths that used to criss-cross the district have been built over so you cannot take as many walks in the open air as you used to. I feel that today's children have been denied many of the pleasures that I enjoyed as a child.

I have a post script to this article. I read in the May 2023 Gazette that a new fallen oak tree has arrived in the field of that name. This one fell naturally. This makes me both happy and sad. Happy because the field has got its tree back and sad because I shall not see it as I am no longer able to walk that far.

I have two hopes for the tree. The first is that any Health and Safety people do not hear about it as they may designate it as a hazard and want it removed. The second is that this generation of parents allow their children to play on it in the fresh air so that they can exercise their bodies and their imaginations, both beneficial to mental and physical health.

Dennis Baker

I asked Ian Leggatt about the references to Littleheath Woods made by Dennis in this article. He wrote:

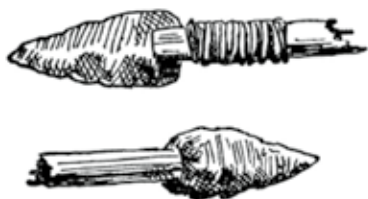
The memory of Fallen Oak Field seems valid. A large oak in the vicinity of the legendary one came down a few years ago and took a couple of power lines with it. The Friends tidied up and left the trunk for children to play on. That is still there but the field edge has shrunk and the undergrowth now covers it. More recently another large oak fell in the same area and that is referred to in the text.

The Pond referred to must be what we call 'Old Pond'. The Council decided in January 1946 to fill in the pond after a suicide in November '45. The pond is recorded as being some 30' in diameter and 6' deep. The Friends arranged for the site to be excavated some 20 + years ago with

a view to reinstate the pond. The fill material was found to be clinker like with much burnt domestic and industrial material within it. A drain was discovered and the pond now refuses to contain water for any appreciable amount of time. It is fed solely with rainwater from the surrounding area. We know that frogs do still spawn there. The Friends have planted a hawthorn hedge on its banks and we regularly maintain that and the surrounding area, including removing the odd bits of surplus timber that is thrown in!

~~

Finding Flint/Stone Artefacts



When the Croham Hurst Round Barrow was partially excavated a large amount of flint was recovered, some of which had been worked into tools such as axes, scrapers, awls, burins and arrowheads. More than 2400 flints had been subjected to fire, possibly for cooking purposes. In

the Mesolithic, people would commonly surround their fires with hearth stones, often flints. As early pottery was not fireproof, to heat water, people would place stones in the fire and then transfer them to the pot - hence the term 'pot boiler'. Heating flints in the fire, as hearth stones or pot boilers, caused them to crack and craze and gave them a uniform grey appearance. The presence of many such heated flints on a site may be a good indication that it is a camp site.

It has been suggested that ancient peoples used the chalk ridges of the 'Downs' (which Selsdon borders) as the first "public pathways or road networks". It is likely that there are many more ancient or even prehistoric remnants left by ancient peoples still undiscovered, possibly under our very feet.

If you come across something in your garden, or on a walk, that looks old and manmade, and you wonder – 'is this an ancient artefact of interest?' - then it may be worth looking at this website created by Richard Milton <https://www.stoneagetools.co.uk/is-this-a-stone-age-tool.htm> for useful hints and advice and photographic examples.

Non-metal items that are found are not considered 'Treasure' ('Treasure'

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is reportable by law within 14 days of the find) unless they are found with items that would be classed as 'Treasure'. According to Richard Milton, there is a trade in selling prehistoric artefacts on the internet, but it isn't much of a one. Even exceptional finds such as complete palaeolithic hand axes in fine condition fetch only around £100 or so. A 'run of the mill' flint artefact is barely worth a few pounds or even pence. However, if you have found an artefact, even a 'common' one, it is of interest historically.

He advises that the best thing you can do is measure your 'find' in terms of length, breadth, height and weight, and post these details on the Portable Antiquities Scheme website (The British History Museum) so that your find may be helpful to archaeologists studying the prehistory of your area and Britain in general. Then use your finds to start your own collection.

It isn't just flints you could find of course; Roman or Anglo-Saxon Pottery could also be found - Who knows? Thankfully the internet (and via that real-life experts) can help you identify.

Janet Sharp

Of course, if you find anything of note, please share via a letter to the Editor at The Selsdon Gazette!

~~

Where in Selsdon?

At the Friends of Selsdon Wood Open Day the SRA ran a quiz asking people to identify 10 places in Selsdon. The average score was 7/8 with one of our committee members, Janet Sharp, scoring a magnificent 10/10! Do you think you can match her score?

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



Answers after Nature Notes



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

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

I received this cautionary letter about another scam doing the rounds.

Dear Editor,

I received a letter from NS&I today. They wanted to transfer my Direct Saver to an Investment account.

The letter is addressed to Mr M Benton who has never lived here. The logo looked like a photocopy without any colour. It enclosed a form to give my bank details and a self-addressed envelope to Sunderland SR43 2SB

When I phoned NS@I they were surprised but would refer it to their IT Department. This is obviously a very clever scam which should be made public and stopped.

*Caroline Beechey
Littleheath Road*

~~

I received this letter about an incorrect labelling of an article in the September Gazette.

Dear Editor,

As ever I enjoyed reading the September issue of the Gazette. However, on page 4 you have a photo of a pool under the heading "Birch (Selsdon) News".

The pool in the photo is actually in Selsdon Wood. The Friends of Selsdon Wood (FSW) have recently been undertaking a major project to restore this pool which has been in our wood since the 1930s. For many years it has leaked badly and resisted all our attempts to fix it. However, now

some of the encroaching Lime trees have been cut back by the Council and we have had it fenced (to keep out the dogs) and lined with fibreglass. The original rocks have been fixed in place around the edges and the pool has been filled with water. We shall be landscaping the surround in coming weeks.

Already the renovated pool has attracted woodland wildlife. A frog and many dragonflies have been spotted and, in the evenings, several species of bat have been heard in that area for the first time.

We are very grateful to all the volunteers who have worked so hard throughout the recent hot weather and to everyone who has donated to help fund the project.

To find out all about the progress, go to the Linden Glade Pool Development page of our website www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/linden-glade-pool-development.php - and if you would like to help the project along with a contribution to the funding you can do so through Just Giving at <https://checkout.justgiving.com/c/3088192> .

Regards

Heather Govier, Chair of FOSW

~~

Here, one reader tells us all about how resourceful some animals are.

We thought you might be interested in the news report given below:

Birds are stealing anti-bird spikes put up by humans - and using them to build their nests.

Researchers from two Dutch natural history museums first came across the phenomenon in a hospital courtyard in Antwerp.

Magpies had ripped about 50m of anti-bird spikes from the hospital building and used them to build a huge nest of 1,500 spikes. Anti-bird spikes are often installed on buildings to discourage birds from nesting there.

Biologist Auke-Florian Hiemstra of the Naturalis Biodiversity Centre said the magpies were using the pins in the same way humans do - "to keep other birds away from their nest".

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Thanks to Sky News for this report.

Also have attached a photo taken a few weeks back of four young badgers consuming the remains of our granddaughter's peanut butter sandwich on our patio!



*Mr & Mrs McCormack
Addington Road*

~~

Here our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, tells us about the far from normal wedding celebrations of her niece.

When we have attended weddings in the past, it was always sedate, either held at a Church or Registry Office. It was followed by the reception, usually at a hotel or hired room somewhere according to numbers.

Well that is what happens ordinarily, but the marriage of my niece we attended at the weekend was very different to “normal”. This couple had met at a famous London Art College, and don’t do “ordinary”. For a start, this pair were legally married quietly, a few days before the “wedding”, at a local Registry Office. Just parents and immediate siblings attended that ceremony. The reception was then prepared for the following Sunday, at a little pizza joint, set inside some railway arches. The arches of the pizza joint were decorated in homemade decorations, flowers of all types and highly decorated paper plates and ribbons. As it was a very warm day, we were glad of our welcoming glasses of champagne, when we arrived, which we drank outside, while “things” were got ready inside.

At roughly the appointed time, we were ushered indoors for their homemade ceremony. A big burly man joined their hands in marriage. To be honest I could barely hear the words because I was fascinated by their Master of Ceremony. He wore a well-cut suit in bright pink, underneath it he wore a deep blue shirt dotted with white and pink flowers. But the item he was wearing that really amazed me, was a single golden earring, which was at least three inches long and trailed almost to his collar.

The bride wore a white wedding dress, which she appeared to have made from an old sheet. It wrapped around her but had a very large button in the front. The train was of fine net decorated with white feathers and what looked like bits of glass. Her partner's jacket had similar feathers sewn on the shoulders. She also wore white pop socks and white plastic ankle boots and had a ring of flowers in her hair. She glowed with happiness.

Americans have flower girls. We usually have bridesmaids. My niece decided to have her two-month-old nephew as her flower boy! He wore a tiny pair of green shorts, a matching cream top with orange and green flowers on the sleeves, and a green scarf come bib. He was given a tiny bunch of dried flowers to hold, but as he was sound asleep, I pulled a single head off one of the flowers and closed his tiny hand over it. He will not believe how he took part in his aunt's wedding, when he is older. As soon as he could, the boy's father pulled all the clothing off the sleeping tiny tot, because the temperature was 32C and the baby was flushing with heat.

Once the "pink guy" had conducted the ceremony, where the happy couple's hands were tied together with coloured ribbons, while they vowed to take care of one another, the party could begin. There was a girl with a wonderful voice, singing an operatic song. It transpired she works as a busker in Covent Garden. How could such a small, slim girl have such a powerful voice? Quite a few guests made their way back outdoors after the aria; where games had been laid out, until the wedding breakfast was announced.

Well, there was a vegetarian starter, and so tasty, I later requested the recipe and the chef kindly supplied it. I am looking forward to making it. It was then a bit of a wait, because the pizza oven could only cook two pizzas at a time! We did have some very unusual pizzas too. Fifty were ordered, so it took quite a while to have something, people wandered indoors and took a slice or two, before going outside to play games or sunbathe.

We who stayed indoors had poems read to us. There was such a choice of wine I could only manage a little of it, then speeches from Bride and Groom and long-standing friends from the Art College.

Later we walked outside to the games area and found a weird tent. It was a photo booth and produced around four photos at a time. The idea was, several people popped into the booth together. You then received two copies of the photos, one for yourselves and one to go into the wedding book for the happy couple. It was a large wedding album but we signed it like an autograph book. Any photos would be added later!

Later we partook of a very special wedding cake, surrounded by a circle of gluten-free cupcakes. We had to get home so sadly missed the dancing. It was all such fun because it was different and relaxing.

Many happy years to the Bride and Groom.

~~



CHRISTMAS COVER COMPETITION

for Selsdon's primary and nursery school children



Last time and date for entries to be received:

10am on Saturday 18 November

Are you a budding artist at nursery/primary school and/or living in the Selsdon area?

Would you like to see your work on the cover of the December issue of the Gazette?

All you have to do is make an A4 sized, suitably seasonal, drawing or painting. Put your name, address, school and date of birth on the back and then send it to the SRA via any of the committee addresses listed on page 2 of the Gazette or via KIBA, 119 Addington Road.

Your art work can have any Christmas theme but, more importantly, it has to be all your own work – nothing downloaded.

The orientation can be portrait or landscape but please remember to leave a clear space (13cm x 4cm) for the Selsdon Gazette title and volume number/month details or have a full-page design that would allow this information still to be legible and not spoiling your picture if printed over it.



The winning entry will be used as the colour cover for the December Gazette and the winner and runner – up will both receive a voucher – to buy themselves or a favourite person a Christmas gift.



Poetry Corner

This month Mary Gill considers the rise of digital assistant technology.

HANDING OVER

In the dying of our imagination the dreamers vanish,
and hope is extinguished in their absence.
All that is left is that pale imitation,
the synthetic spirit going through the motions -
translated into computer code
and fed into the machines we have surrendered to.

Hey Siri!



Alexa!

OK Google?

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Pretend to give meaningful answers,
although meaningful is without meaning in your world.
Spew out some of the information
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But what about the other questions
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Hey Siri!

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we whose whole raison d'être is to find meaning.

The mutation has not been random,
the selection has not been natural.
We have engineered you into existence -
the first species to lose the evolutionary plot,
the first species wilfully replacing itself with another.

The survival of our species
gives way to the survival of the rarefied elite.

Hey Siri!

Are you happy?



But how would you know?

~~

Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth – Fungi and Weather

Anyone who regularly studies weather maps and forecasts will realise that the south-east corner of Britain is very dry when compared with other parts of the country. The rainfall even a short distance north or west of the London area can be substantially greater and, as fungi require moisture to produce their fruiting bodies, it is not surprising that numbers of individual fungi and numbers of fungal species are also greater in these areas. Close to London places like Epping Forest and Windsor Great Park are good fungal sites, and further afield Wales and the north of England often appear in tales of fungal finds.



Despite the long list of fungi recorded from Selsdon Wood the impression I get is that the wood is not very good for fungi! The wood is mainly on high ground and is generally very dry. There are very few Beech trees of any maturity, and limited amounts of conifers, both of which are associated with multiple fungus species. Some species appear in very small numbers and some do not occur every year. Finding fungi in Selsdon Wood requires hard work throughout the year.

In 2023 I began in early January and came across a specimen of Leafy Brain, a species I would normally look for in autumn though without necessarily finding it. As the weeks and months passed by more species were added to the list, mostly found growing on tree stumps and fallen logs. By the time we got to September we had been baked for a whole week in temperatures above 30C and at the time of writing we are expecting a week of rain. Mushroom types which appear from the soil certainly need moisture and this is true of the Waxcaps which tend to show up in the later months of the year, if they appear at all! In some years we record around nine Waxcap species, where a good site might produce twenty or more. As our guided Fungus Walk this year is in late October, I am keeping my fingers crossed! That the grass in the fields has recently been cut might make searching easier though it does not guarantee success.

Since the beginning of January, I have been following what is reported on a couple of Facebook Fungi groups. Many of the people involved are collecting fungi to eat. It is not unusual to see photographs of a huge plateful of Amethyst Deceivers, or an overflowing basket of Chanterelles or Ceps, which we either see in very small numbers or not at all. As Selsdon Wood has a largely alkaline soil, species which prefer acidic conditions are largely missing and where they do turn up, they are usually restricted to a small area.

~~

Answers to Where in Selsdon Quiz

1. (Car park entrance) Selsdon Wood/Bird Sanctuary
2. Cottage (240) Addington Road
3. Birch (Selsdon)
4. Selsdon Triangle
5. (Bailey's) Garage along the Addington Road
6. Gatehouse to former Selsdon Park Hotel/along the Addington Road
7. Flint wall along Old Farleigh Road
8. Croydon High School
9. Selsdon Recreation Park
10. Littleheath Woods

Free Trees from The Woodland Trust

We are pleased to announce that we have been successful in our bid to the Woodland Trust for three medium packs of 'Wild Wood' trees. The free tree packs have been generously funded by lead partners Sainsbury's, Lloyds Bank, OVO Energy, Bank of Scotland and Sofology and consist of a mixture of holly, hazel, crab apple, downy birch, hawthorn and goat willow. The Croydon Council Tree and Woodlands Officer has given us permission to plant in Selsdon Recreation Ground and Queenhill Road Playspace.



Goat Willow, also known as Pussy Willow, is a favourite of the Purple Emperor Butterfly

The small saplings are expected to arrive some time in November and will be dormant ready for planting when time and weather permits. We

are reaching out to the Guides and Scouts in Selsdon hoping that they will want to take part in the planting.

Further details will be published in the November Gazette.

Ian Leggatt

~~

Croydon Honey Show in Selsdon

The best of local honey was highlighted at the Croydon Beekeepers' Honey Show on 16th September.

The show is held annually at the Selsdon Centre for the Retired, a fantastic venue with much natural sunlight which bathes the glistening honey displays. The show is open to the public and is not limited just to honey, it includes a diverse selection of items that can be made from products of the hive. Candles, honey cakes, biscuits, preserves and mead were all on display, together with a range of craft items and photographs all related to beekeeping.

There was much to keep younger visitors entertained with candle rolling,

colouring and a bee-fact treasure-hunt, all organised by Mrs Burney's Bee Club. The observation hive containing a live colony of honeybees drew lots of interest. On a more serious note, there was information about the Asian Hornet, a non-native species which represents a significant threat to honeybees. Beekeepers are seeking the help of the public to identify and report sightings so that nests can be destroyed.



There is a competitive element to the show with beekeepers vying to have the best honey judged according to aroma, taste and appearance ranging from very light and golden to a dark mahogany brown colour. Nationally qualified judge Claire O'Brien assessed the more than one hundred entries. President of Sanderstead and

Selsdon Rotary, Cynthia Oteng, was there to present the awards.

If you would like to buy honey from your local beekeeper, please contact sales@croydonbeekeepers.org.uk

~~



FRIENDS OF KING'S WOOD



Guided Walks Autumn 2023

Gentle walks around King's Wood by Marion Ward

Each walk starts at 10am from where Orchard Road, Sanderstead enters the woodland and returns to the start around 12pm. Children welcome. Regret no dogs.

Sunday 22 October Leaf Colour

Leaves of many shapes and sizes reveal the variety of tree species grown in a managed woodland.

Sunday 5 November Wood Prepares for Winter

Growth slows right down, energy is stored, leaf matter in the soil decomposes. Hazel is coppiced for stakes, pea sticks, tool handles, hurdles and firewood.

SELSDON FLOWER CLUB

We are a small friendly club who meet on the second Wednesday afternoon of each month at 2 pm at the rear of St. John the Divine Church, Selsdon. Subscription £30 per annum (£15 half year). We have demonstrations and practices. All abilities welcome.

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

11 th October	Practice - Halloween
8 th November	Demonstration - Graham Harmer
7 th December	Christmas Social & Practice - Festive arrangement

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

~~



Selsdon Contact Neighbourhood Care Urgently Required Volunteer Drivers

Have you ever wished to give something back to your local community or get more involved? Do you have a little spare time? Volunteering can be a great way to meet new people, learn new skills and gain useful experience.

Contact, your local Neighbourhood Care Scheme, is as busy as ever and since volunteers are the lifeblood of Contact, we always welcome new volunteers to enable us to continue our valuable work in the community. We would like additional Volunteer Drivers to join our team. Volunteer drivers assist with transporting our clients to medical appointments, either to local Doctors, Dentists, Opticians, Chiropodists or Hospitals (Croydon University or Purley). Should you be ferrying a client to one of these hospitals, we can provide you with a parking permit to enable you to park more easily. Our drivers usually pick up clients from their homes and drop them off to their appointments, wait and return them back home.

We would particularly welcome drivers who can accommodate foldable wheelchairs in their cars. If this is you, we would love to hear from you. Petrol expenses can be claimed and regular commitment is not required. You tell us when and how often you wish to help.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for Contact, call into our office and find out more. We are located on the lower ground floor of the Sainsbury's store. We will be more than happy to provide further information.

LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU

**Contact: Selsdon Churches Neighbourhood Care Registered Charity
11243 Charitable Incorporated Organisation**

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

☎ 020 8651 4944 ✉ info@selsdoncontact.org.uk.

Facebook: Selsdon Contact www.selsdoncontact.org.uk

~~



Craft Fair – Saturday 11th November 12 – 4pm at All Saints Church Hall in Sanderstead – we will be delighted to present the usual range of stalls, food, & gifts for Christmas.

Christmas is coming – with Santa on his rounds

Santa will switch on the Selsdon Residents' Association's Christmas Lights on Friday 24 November at 5pm. He will also switch on the Sanderstead Lights outside Paul Meakin on Saturday 25 November at 6pm.

Santa will begin his rounds from Monday 4 until Wednesday 20 December starting at 6pm, with the static collection outside the shops in Elmfield Way on Saturday 23 December from 9.30 to 12.30. A leaflet with details of the areas to be visited and when will be put through your door in early December with the donation envelopes. If you or a friend/relative would like to help with the collections please get in touch directly to: Secretary@rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com or ring 07774 186792.

Winter Wrap-up – We are working with our business partner, Paul Meakin, to collect winter coats which you no longer need and which can be provided to homeless folks during the cold winter months. Both Paul Meakin in Selsdon High Street and in the Limpsfield Road Sanderstead will be happy for you to drop off your coats on the run up to the Christmas Lights switch-on.

Rotary Rocks



Just in time for Christmas!

Elizabeth Martin

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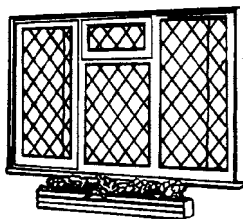
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A SELECTED LIST OF SELSDON ORGANISATIONS

CHURCHES

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

DOCTORS & EMERGENCY CARE

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

POLICE

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

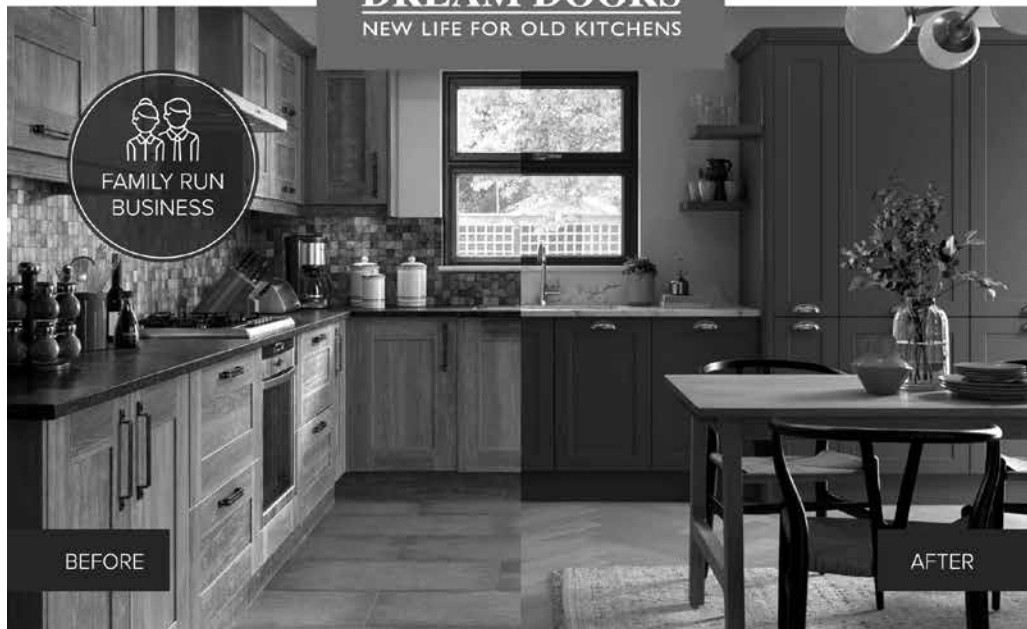
CLUBS, GROUPS & CHARITIES

CONTACT (Neighbourhood Care)	Jasmine Singh	020 8651 4944
Selsdon Centre for the Retired	Craig Anderson	020 8651 1111
Croydon Hearing Resource Centre	Office	020 8686 0049
Croydon Vision		020 8668 2486
Cruse Bereavement Care Helpline		080 8808 1677
Friends of Littleheath Woods	Ian Leggatt	020 8651 1140
Friends of Selsdon Wood	www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk	
Sanderstead Plantation Partners	michaellishmund@gmail.com	
Friends of Kingswood	www.friendsofkingswood@hotmail.co.uk	
Girlguiding (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section)		0800 999 2016
	https://girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved	
1 st Selsdon & Addington Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts)		
	www.1stselsdon.org.uk	
2 nd Selsdon & Addington Scout Group		
	www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk	
Croham Valley Explorer Scout Unit	Christopher Dean	tinkerscorner@aol.com
Arts Society Croydon Area	Jean Aarons	https://tascroydonarea.org.uk
Rotary Sanderstead & Selsdon	Wendy Parr	07774 186794
RSPB Croydon Local Group	John Davis	020 8640 4578
Selsdon Art Group	Fiona Hooper	07973 412952
Selsdon Bridge Club	Bob Steadman	07545 384899
Selsdon Centre Bridge Club	Betty Borfiga	020 8656 4212
Selsdon Community Hall	Cottie Campbell	selsdonhall.info@gmail.com
Selsdon Flower Club	Maureen Browning	020 8651 5821
Selsdon Townswomen's Guild(pm)	Christine Holland	020 8657 4861
Sanderstead Horticultural Society		www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk
Sanderstead Local History Group		sandersteadlh@gmail.com
Selsdon Tennis Club	Geoff Littlewood	020 8651 4748
St John's Wives	Jane Guglielmi	020 8657 6672
66(Selsdon) Squadron Air Training Corps	Rob Cleeter	020 8651 5958

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