

The Selsdon — Gazette —



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THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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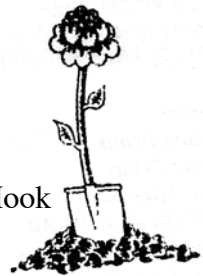
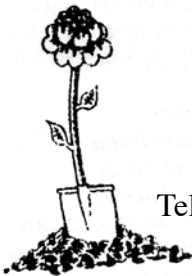
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Cllr Joseph Lee Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk 07458 092567

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 07783 152334

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



Hello everyone, welcome to the October Selsdon Gazette.

I have decided to put a photo of Alladin's Cave on our cover this month, as after 28 years, Emily has decided to close this much valued shop on our High Street. I would like to thank her and her very helpful team for always having that useful item that you could not get anywhere else in Selsdon. Her wonderful window displays are going to be very missed, particularly at Christmas, with all those flashing lights and winter land scenes. A cautionary tale for all the residents of Selsdon - 'either use the shops, or lose them'.

On a happier note, I have been very impressed by all the entries to the 'Grow the Tallest Sunflower' Competition. Despite a poor start to the summer and with whole armies of slugs and snails to contend with, many sunflowers have beaten the odds and risen above the heads of the people who sowed them. The results can be seen in this gazette. Wet weather was also forecast for the Friends of Selsdon Wood Open Day, but the sun broke through and everyone attending enjoyed the stalls, food, music and games. Thanks to Linda Morris for organising the event.

As I write this, we have less than 100 days before Christmas, so we have news of the Christmas Lights Switch On Event on Friday 29 November and our usual competition for Selsdon children to design a cover for the December Gazette. The closing date is November 16 to allow for printing and delivery, so please encourage your children up to 11 years old to have a go.

We have our usual briefings from our Councillors and new MP, together with a list of jobs for the October garden, a poem celebrating our farmers and an audit of fungi that can be seen in Selsdon Wood over the year. It is vaccination time of year so we have news of what is available and to whom and I have a report in the Daily Telegraph from a 100 years ago, about how the residents of Selsdon and Addington raised the money to purchase Selsdon Wood so it could become a bird sanctuary.

As usual, please get in touch with your news and views, photos, grumbles and praise! (selsdongazettesra@gmail.com) It would be great to hear from you.

Chris Jones

🌀 SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NOVEMBER 2024 EDITION
SHOULD BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN
20TH OCTOBER - PREFERABLY BEFORE! 🌀

SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS



Shops

The Selsdon grapevine says that Barclays is to become a Tesco. Probably when you read this it will be clear whether this is true or not. Also, we welcome Elmes Homecare to the High Street.

Alladin's Cave

After so many years of serving Selsdon, Alladin's Cave has decided to close. We can only thank them and wish them well in the future. We will all have very fond memories of "the Cave" and Christmas will not be the same !!!

Litter Pick

A big thanks to all who took part in keeping Selsdon tidy again on 5 October. Look out for future dates. If you want to continue the good work you can become a Street Champion, which is run by Croydon Council. They will provide you with all you need e.g. litter pickers, bags, gloves etc. and will also pick up the bags. The website will give you all you need to apply.

Friends of Selsdon Wood Open Day & SRA Community Picnic 8 September

The forecast was dire, but the sun gods shone on us and a lovely day was had by one and all. Thank you to all the helpers and stall holders, and especially to Linda Morris for the hard work in making it happen (again!!). Next year it will be the Selsdon Residents' 100th anniversary so we hope to make it special for Selsdon.

Christmas Lights

They will be switched on at 5pm on November 29 by Father Christmas. The SRA will be having a stall at the Selsdon Crafters' Fair in the Selsdon Community Hall the next day on 30 November, if you would like to meet us

for a chat, pay your annual subs, make a contribution to the Christmas Lights or anything else!

Sheila Childs, Chair SRA



Selsdon Residents' Association Christmas Lights Switch ON Friday 29 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 Rotary Group for supplying Santa and his sleigh to switch on the lights and then meet children in his grotto outside Iceland.

Selsdon Residents' Association

Grow the Tallest Sunflower Competition 2024 Results



Many thanks to all those who entered our competition to grow the tallest sunflower. I am pleased to announce that the overall winner was Martin with his Mongolian Giant coming in at an impressive 366cm. Here he is being dwarfed by his sunflower. He reports that he used three watering cans of water in the morning and evening, as well as his vegetable water for fertiliser. When it reached 300cm he ran out of canes. He used steps to remove the odd clever slug and snail who dared to venture these heights. He laid wool and sharp at the base to shy them away....as well as

midnight patrols to catch them in the act !! Second was Pauline with her 284cm sunflower, closely followed by Jackie with her 274cm sunflower.

In the children's competition, Lily with her 261cm sunflower was the winner, shown here trying to jump over her sunflower. She sowed her seeds and watered her plant throughout the summer. Zara with her 210cm sunflower came second, followed by Hudson with his 166cm sunflower, and Theo with his 138cm sunflower. Theo's Mum reported that he had done a fantastic job of caring and watering his sunflower and enjoyed seeing all the bumblebees that loved its bright colour!



COUNCILLORS' NOTES

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

Council officers continue to work on a plan for investing Selsdon's share of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund ('UKSPF') allocated to improving some of Croydon's district centres. Selsdon Residents' Association have been consulted, amongst others. Further consultations, including with Selsdon High Street businesses, are planned.

UKSPF funded projects focus on communities and place, local business support as well as people and skills. They must be delivered by March 2025. Although no decisions have yet been made, signage and wayfinding to Selsdon's green spaces, as recommended in the Selsdon Community Plan, are under active investigation.

SELSDON 100 YEARS

Next year will see the centenary of modern Selsdon. Planning permission was granted in early 1925 for the first tranche of houses, which were already occupied by the year end. Coincidentally, the Selsdon Park Hotel welcomed its first guests that same year. Your councillors are looking at

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ways that we might celebrate the occasion. Please contact us with any ideas you may have. Offers of practical support will be particularly welcome.

LIBRARY CONSULTATION

Following extensive consultation with residents, Croydon Council is proposing changes to its library services that would see nine libraries opening a minimum of five days a week, including Saturdays. Four libraries – Bradmore Green, Broad Green, Sanderstead and Shirley would close, with an outreach service introduced for each of these areas. The Council will work with partners from the voluntary, faith and community sector to ensure that these buildings become community centres.

The council reviewed its library service due to concerns that the current model is not working after a significant reduction in opening hours and budget cuts between 2019 and 2022. The proposed new model would see the council reinvest the money currently spent on building costs, on extending opening hours and services at the remaining nine libraries and providing a targeted outreach service. The council is also proposing to improve the home library service, with better connections to venues such as care homes and sheltered accommodation.

For Selsdon our library would, as now, be open six days a week but with the number of staffed days increased from three to four, with self-service for the other two days. It is also proposed to install additional signage on the exterior of the site to increase visibility of the library. The service will also pilot introducing evening opening at Selsdon with the opportunity to further develop and extend this provision if engagement with residents shows there is demand.

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

As a reminder, the venue for our monthly surgery has changed. Residents can now find us in the Jubilee café downstairs from Sainsburys. A private room is available should there be a matter which cannot be discussed in public. The timing is unchanged at 10am till 11.15am on the first Saturday of the month, except January and August.

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

24/02933/HSE - 5 Dulverton Road South Croydon CR2 8PJ

Erection of single-storey rear extension, hip-to-gable and rear dormer.
Conversion of the existing garage to a side extension and all associated works.

24/03054/HSE - 36 Littleheath Road South Croydon CR2 7SB

Erection of two storey side/rear extension, single storey front extension and single storey rear extension.

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

~~

MP Natasha Irons' Report Member of Parliament for Croydon East

Dear Selsdon,

It has been a busy time - both in Parliament and in Croydon East. On the first day back after the summer recess, I made my Maiden Speech during a debate on technology in public services. I highlighted the work of local charities, the campaign to save Shirley Library and the work of local veteran, Michael Lyons, to honour service people from the First World War.

As an MP in London's youngest borough, I hope to spend my time in Parliament putting young people back on the political agenda and I'm excited to have taken the role as Chair of the All Party-Parliamentary Group for Youth Affairs. This group aims to raise the profile of the issues and concerns that affect young people by encouraging dialogue between Parliamentarians, young people and youth services. There is no better long-term plan than ensuring that our young people have the opportunities they deserve, so that they can go on to live the successful lives that we want them to have. We need a national plan for what it is to be a young person in this country, and Croydon has some exemplary charities and groups working with young people. I look forward to showing how Croydon stands ready to lead that vital work.

I was also delighted to host an event in Parliament for Tackle London, a

Croydon-based charity that works with schools and rugby clubs, to target young people who face unique challenges. The event celebrated the impact of Tackle London and galvanised support for their ambitions to expand across London.

Since the election, we have processed over one thousand pieces of casework, ranging from housing issues and anti-social behaviour to the cost of living. Our biggest contact from Selsdon residents has been about what support the new government will put in place for pensioners. Protecting the triple lock and the income of pensioners is vital and there will be further announcements on how the government plans to increase pensioners' income in the budget. However, there are 800,000 pensioners in the UK not receiving the extra benefits they are entitled to. If you know anyone who could be eligible, please call the Pension Credit claim line on 0800 991234 or visit the government's online pension credit calculator: www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator. In partnership with local charities, my team and I will be holding a cost-of-living advice surgery next month. If you would like to attend, please email natasha.irons.mp@parliament.uk

Thank you to the groups and organisations who have already contacted me to arrange meetings and visits. I have already had the pleasure of visiting Selsdon Baptist Church and look forward to meeting everyone else over the coming weeks. If you are part of a group who'd like to get in touch but have not yet done so, then please email me on natasha.irons.mp@parliament.uk.

Best wishes
Natasha

~~

News from our Local Police

PCSO Tina Nash (Selsdon & Addington Village) has given us details of the following events:

Street Briefing

Thursday 3 October 2-3pm, outside the BP Garage, Selsdon Park Road CR2 8JH

Drop in Surgery

Wednesday 13 November 12 -1pm St Francis Church Hall, 107 Broadcombe, South Croydon CR2 8HR.

Contacting the Police

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

Emergencies – 999, Non-emergency crime - 101

All phone numbers for each individual team are no longer used. Residents should use the following email addresses:

Selsdon & Addington Village:

SelsdonandAddingtonVillage@met.police.uk

Selsdon Vale & Forestdale:

SelsdonandForestdale@met.police.uk

~~

Reminder



British Summer Time ends this year when the clocks go back at 2am on Sunday 27 October. Remember the saying “Spring forward, Fall back”.

~~



SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

GAZETTE CHRISTMAS COVER COMPETITION

for Selsdon's primary and nursery school children

Last time and date for entries to be received:

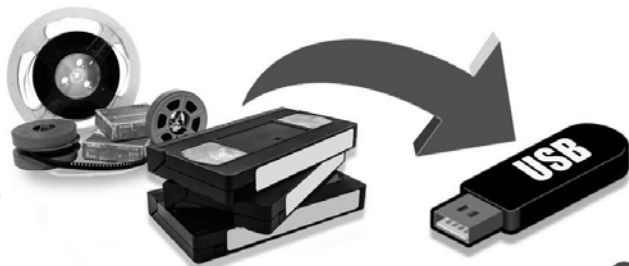
Saturday 16 November

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

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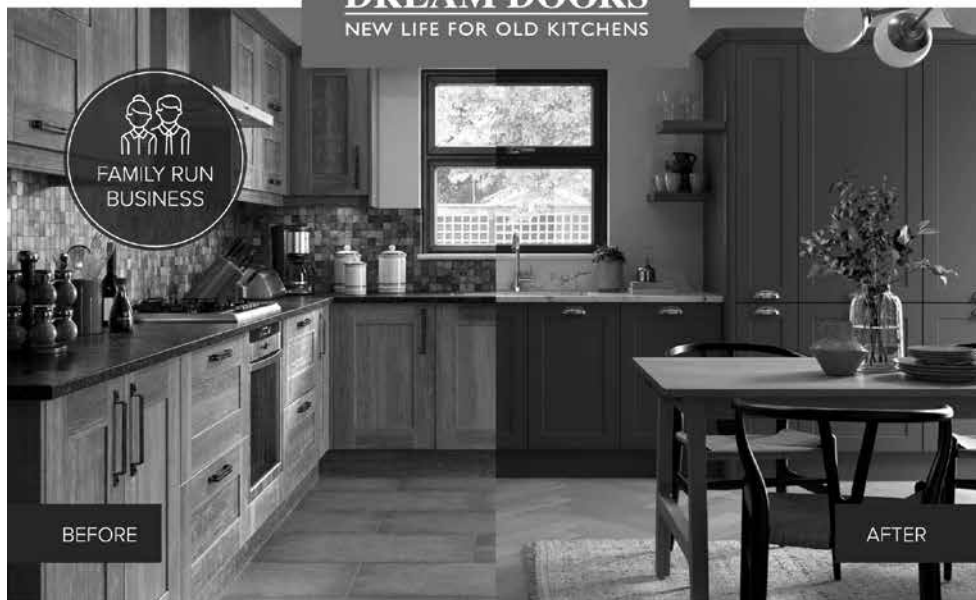
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The winning entry will be used as the colour cover for the December Gazette, whilst the runner-up's entry will appear on the back cover. Both the winner and runner –up will receive a voucher



Remember you've got to be in it, to win it!

~~

Friends of Selsdon Wood and SRA Community Picnic

Despite the weather forecasts warning us about showers ahead, we kept fairly dry and enjoyed some sunny periods at the Friends of Selsdon Wood Open Day on Sunday 8 September. As usual the Sanderstead and Selsdon Rotary Club provided some games for the children and the Selsdon and Addington Scout Groups provided refreshments including freshly cooked burgers. We were entertained by the four man group 'Bonedigger'.



Ammonite carved by Lorcan

For the children, the Friends put on a Stroll in the Woods and a Story Time. For the adults there was a variety of stalls, including Tombola, Crochet, RSPB, Lorcan the woodcarver, Wood Turning, Flowers made

from recycled plastic, Alcoholic Jams, Dog Walkers, Glassware. Local organisations were also present with the Quest Academy and the Selsdon Baptist Church.

At our SRA stall we had a photo display showing how much Selsdon has changed in the last 100 years. We also invited visitors to enter our competition where they had to identify ten shops from our High Street from photos. The winner was Gill Frost and Anna with a score of 9 accurate answers.

How many can you identify?

Name Our Shops Quiz





Answers after Nature Notes

Here, Linda Morris, the FSW Open Day organiser for many years, looks to the future for the event.

It seemed as though the last of these events I was organising was to be jinxed by bad weather but we pressed ahead regardless, and we were so glad we did, as the sun shone and those who came told us they had had a great time. As I step down from organising this event, the question is 'who will run the event in future if not the FSW?'

The SRA will be in its 100th year in 2025, turning 100 in January 2026 and so it is hoped to have a large community event at some point to celebrate this. Hopefully, this would be the ideal way to continue the FSW tradition that I have been overseeing for many years. The Rotarians and Scouts have already shown an interest in helping again and the FSW would still have a stall and their walk as they did this year. The SRA were therefore pleased to hear that Peter Underwood, a member of the SRA Committee, has offered to co-ordinate all that goes on in the background before such

an event can happen. A date has still to be confirmed but is likely to be the second Sunday in September as usual, so we hope our past supporters, new ones and residents will all join in to make the event an on-going success.

It would be good if more people came forward to help and to have stalls and donate items to assist the fundraising. Do please consider helping to create a real community fun event. Please contact Peter Underwood if you think you could help him.

On a personal note – I wish to thank all those who helped me put on the show each year, the stall holders for coming and the residents (and others from further afield) who supported the event and had fun!

It is your turn now to give my successor similar support - please do so!

Linda Morris, FSW Secretary and Open Day Organiser

~~

Good Time for Gardening – October

It may have been a very active time in the garden this Summer, but there are still lots of jobs to be done.

- **Remove and empty hanging baskets**

Pull out the summer plants by the roots and compost them. If there are no signs of pests, the compost left in the basket can be used outside as a mulch. Give the basket a clean before replanting it as a winter basket.



- **Collect fallen leaves regularly**

Sweep the lawn regularly rather than waiting for a tree to finish dropping its leaves completely. A thick layer of leaves left for a few weeks will make the grass go yellow, keep in moisture, and make lawn diseases more likely to take hold.

- **Prune to prevent windrock**

Shorten the stems of tall shrubs such as buddleias, shrub roses and hydrangeas to prevent tall branches from snapping in windy weather and potentially causing severe damage to the plant. Cut all stems by about a third, pruning just above an outward facing bud and making an angled cut.

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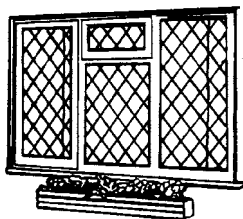
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- Mulching

Mulch bare areas in the borders to keep the weeds down.

- Greenhouses

Clean your greenhouses and think about insulating them with bubble wrap.



- Dahlias

Dahlias can be left in situ under a mulch in mild, dry spots. Otherwise lift and store them. Cut stems to 15cm, lift the tubers, brush off the soil and leave to dry. After a few days put them in trays, cover with a loose compost and keep in a garage or cold greenhouse.

- Replacing summer bedding

Once your annual bedding plants have been taken out, replace them with ones which give instant colour, or ones which will flower early next spring. Bare root Wallflowers benefit from a root soaking before planting. They grow well in sun or part shade, and they do like firm ground. Plant them in right up to the first set of leaves. Potted chrysanthemums can be added to your containers for some extra late colour. Plant violas into flower beds to add both winter and spring colour. They grow in sun or shade, and most soils. Plant nerines flowering now in pots, into a sunny and well drained border. Bulbs need to have the top third exposed so do not plant them too deep.

Crocus Chris in place of Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid of the Sanderstead Horticultural Society, who are on holiday.

~~

I have been alerted by some residents to an article appearing in the Daily Telegraph on Wednesday 13 August concerning our very own Bird Sanctuary.

One Hundred years ago, Wednesday 13 August 1924

Proposed Bird Sanctuary

An effort is being made by the residents of the Addington and Selsdon districts of Surrey, lying to the South of Croydon, to raise the sum of £1,000 for the purchase of forty acres of Selsdon Wood as a bird sanctuary. Such sanctuaries are none too many, and there is nothing on



the south side of the metropolis like the Selborne Society's sanctuary in the Brent Valley. Wicken Fen, almost the last remnant of the primeval fenland of East Anglia, is well known to nature lovers as one of the few places where the feathered denizens of our islands live and breed undisturbed by the bird catcher, owing to the action of the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty. So are Burwell Fen, Blakeney Point, and Scot Head, on the shores of Norfolk, the Ruskin Reserve at Abingdon, in Berkshire, and, of course, the distant Farne Islands, off the coast of Northumberland. It will be recalled, also, that within the last two years or so, a wooded portion of Hyde Park was, with the King's approval, set aside as a bird sanctuary.

Selsdon Wood lies in a beautiful and sequestered valley, between Sanderstead and Addington, marked by some splendid oak trees and dense thickets of chalk-down shrubs and undergrowth. It is well known locally as a resort of the nightingale, and among other birds which have been seen there are the magpie, jay, jackdaw, whitethroat, wren, great tit, blue tit, nuthatch, gallibird, pied woodpecker, flycatcher, landrail, redwing, blackcap, crossbill, linnet, golden plover, yellow wagtail, greenfinch, goldfinch, and bullfinch. Animals are well represented by the fox, badger, stoat, weasel, mole, hare, hedgehog, and squirrel, among others. The plant life includes the autumn crocus, as well as all the species typical of the chalk scrub.

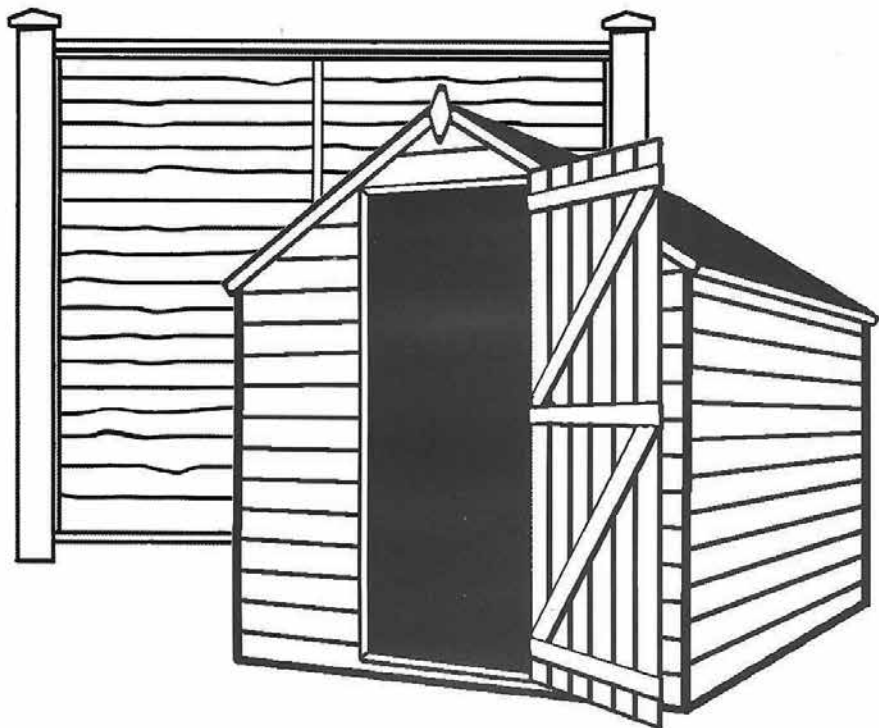
"The area is peculiarly suitable as a nature reserve" said Mr Laurence Chubb, secretary of the Commons and Footpaths Preservation Society, to a representative of the Daily Telegraph yesterday. "It adjoins thirteen acres of Court Wood, to be protected under a scheme of the Surrey Gardens Village Trust, which is developing the land to the north-east of Selsdon Wood for small holdings. The present owner has proved most sympathetic, and if the land can be bought for permanent maintenance as a bird sanctuary, he has agreed to accept the low price of £30 per acre. The sum of £1,200 will suffice to acquire it."

"Nothing has hitherto been done in the way of preserving a tract of the North Downs, where the flora and fauna peculiar to the chalk hills can be protected. It is therefore eminently desirable that the opportunity of securing Selsdon Wood should not be lost. It is in a secluded position, over half a mile distant from Sanderstead and Addington road, and as the adjoining land will not be closely developed for building, the society is confident that the wildlife of the wood will remain undisturbed."

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“If the public response to the appeal is adequate, it is intended to invite the National Trust to become guardians of the sanctuary, and, in that event, the members of the Croydon Natural History Society have expressed their readiness to act as watchers. The sum required to acquire one of the most important tracts of sylvan scenery remaining near London is not large, and the purchase committee appeal for contributions.”

~~

Vaccinations

Flu and COVID-19 Vaccinations

The main flu and COVID-19 vaccination campaign will commence on **Thursday 3 October 2024**. This is starting a little later than usual because it has been found that the flu’s vaccine’s effectiveness can wane over time in adults. With a later start date and on the understanding that the majority of the vaccinations will be completed by the end of November, this will be closer to the time when the flu virus is likely to circulate (which typically peaks in December or January), so giving optimal protection during the highest risk period. These will be given to:



- those aged 65 years and over
- those aged 18 years to under 65 years in clinical risk groups
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers in receipt of carer’s allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person
- close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
- frontline workers in a social care setting without an employer led occupational health scheme including those working for a registered residential care or nursing home, registered domiciliary care providers, voluntary managed hospice providers and those that are employed by those who receive direct payments (personal budgets) or Personal Health budgets, such as Personal Assistants

Here is a reminder about other vaccines available.

Vaccines for Adults:

65 years – Flu vaccine (given every year after turning 65), Pneumococcal vaccine, Shingles vaccine (if you turned 65 on or after 1 September 2023)

70-79 years – Shingles vaccine

75-79 years – RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) vaccine

Vaccines for babies under 1 year old:

8 weeks – 6-in-1 (diphtheria, hepatitis B, Hib or haemophilus influenzae type b, polio, tetanus, whooping cough) vaccine; Rotavirus vaccine; MenB (meningococcal group B bacteria) vaccine.

12 weeks - 6-in-1 vaccine (2nd dose), Pneumococcal vaccine, Rotavirus vaccine (2nd dose)

16 weeks - 6-in-1 vaccine (3rd dose), MenB vaccine (2nd dose)

Vaccines for children 1 to 15:

1 year – Hib/MenC vaccine (1st dose); MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine (1st dose); Pneumococcal vaccine (2nd dose); MenB vaccine (3rd dose)

2-15 years - Children's flu vaccine (every year until children finish Year 11 of school)

3 years 4 months – MMR vaccine (2nd dose); 4-in-1 (diphtheria, polio, tetanus, whooping cough) pre-school booster vaccine.

12 to 13 years – HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccine.

14 years – Td/IPV (diphtheria, polio, tetanus) vaccine (3-in-1 teenage vaccine); MenACWY (protection against another 4 types of meningitis) vaccine.

Vaccines for pregnant women

Flu vaccine during flu season

20 weeks – Whooping cough vaccine

28 weeks+ - RSV vaccine

~~



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.

~~

Having read some of our articles about an earlier Croydon and Selsdon, here one of our older residents (he is 94 and born in Selsdon) adds his recollections from the 1930s.



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Dear Editor,

Your articles in the Gazette bring back memories to me. I distinctly remember being taken into Croydon by my mother on the top deck of a red bus. Just before the junction with Croham Valley Road, on the left there were a number of cows in a coral. This was about 1935/6 which agrees with last month's article 'Croydon and Livestock'.

Another memory of mine was walking to Sanderstead Pond with my friend Colin to look for newts; we were about seven years old. On the way from Selsdon we took the path through Sanderstead Plantation. On the path under a large tree was a grey bundle. Colin picked it up and it clung on to his pullover. Then he gave out a yell as the mother owl had flown down and pecked him on his neck. We hurriedly put the youngster into some bushes and ran off. We hoped that the mother would find the tiny owl in the bushes.

Yours truly
Roy

~

Here Ian Leggatt, Chair of Friends of Littleheath Woods, answers a query in a letter to the editor from September's Gazette concerning the shards of glass and ceramic found on a path in the woods.

Dear Editor,

The Friends of Littleheath Woods would like to respond to 'James' who wrote in the last Gazette issue about glass and pottery fragments in Littleheath Woods. We can provide some historical context and proposals for going forward:

Over 20 years ago the Friends of Littleheath Woods decided, with the active permission of Croydon Council, to arrange for the excavation of what we knew to be the site of an old pond with the intention of reinstating it as a natural feature. Ponds in woodlands are relatively rare in Croydon. Contractors with excavator and dumper were engaged, the pond excavated of clinker and the spoil spread and rolled to maintain and improve some of the pathways through the woods. The lower levels of the pond material were found to contain glass and pottery shards and the excavation was halted. The last couple of dumper loads had already been spread and rolled on Fields Path by this time.

To our knowledge there have been no reports of injuries due to these particles of pottery and glass and Fields Path is a very popular and important pathway within the Woods. We have experienced very high volumes of rainfall recently and the fine material binding the path surface together has been degraded with these 'fines' being washed down the path even as far as Fallen Oak (the big) Field.

The Friends have surveyed the paths and found that the worst affected surfacing is on Fields Path, which links the two fields, specifically between Clears Croft, at the top end, and the junction with Gruttendens Path. 'Take Care' signage was placed at strategic locations but has since been removed by persons unknown.

The Friends have already carried out a 'pickover' of the affected surface to remove any loose glass or pottery fragments. This will form part of our weekly Work Party activities going forward and we would welcome any volunteer assistance. Details of how to 'Contact Us' for further details of how to take part are on our website www.folw.co.uk.

As a footnote, the pond, which had been filled in by the Council back in 1946, after a suicide there, was found to have a perforated and drained base so now only holds water in extreme conditions.

Ian Leggatt
Chair, Friends of Littleheath Woods

~

Here our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, gets a shock when she took a new electric car for a test run.

Recently my car needed its service and MOT, so that I could then apply for my road tax. That is quite a lot of things to do just to keep the vehicle on the road. However, I was persuaded by the receptionist at the garage, to try out the latest all electric car, whilst waiting for the service to be completed.

The new car looked very smart, and I was about to climb into it, when the sales girl stopped me.

"There have been quite a lot of changes made now to this particular model, so I had better explain some of them," she said cheerfully.

A few changes? I think anyone attempting to drive this latest model needs a degree in computer studies. I know that there will be many people raving about this latest model and all it can do. Yes, it is truly brilliant. Yes, it could probably be driven by a robot. Yes, most people will find it very exciting - but me - I found it frightening.



I climbed in behind the steering wheel, ready for my drive. I turned the car on and expected to put the car into gear. However, there wasn't a proper gear stick in this model, instead all you had to do was flick a switch, move your feet and off you went. If you need to reverse, you flick the switch again and a picture appears to your left on a screen and you follow that.

What on earth is taking that picture? It is filming the car from above. Was there a tiny spaceman up there? There was nothing I could see above.

The entire car appeared to have been revamped. My car has a 'limiter', a single button which allows me to keep my speed below the speed limit. Then, when beyond where the speed limit is required, you either re-press the button - or accelerate, and the limited speed is removed. That is brilliant and can save speeding tickets. You can operate it with your hand still on the steering wheel and without looking away from the road. Now in the new model there is a cluster of buttons to choose from and you have to look at the readings, so cannot watch the road for a few seconds.

The garage let me have the car for a decent length of time. When I returned it, several salesmen asked me what I thought of it. I had to tell them that it was now far too complicated for me to use and I would prefer to stick with the car I have. The sales team burst out laughing. Especially when I then added that I would much prefer to just get into a car and drive it, because I am not computer literate. Still don't know why they laughed again!! I can work a computer but feel worried in case I get hacked or sign up to something accidentally. Until you try something as complicated as this new car, you will not believe how long it takes to get your head round it all. Good luck to all you motorists who do understand computers and are not afraid to look away from the road for a second or two. You will love this.

Incidentally, we also wasted time trying to turn off an alarm coming from a low level. Eventually it turned out it was a 'time to take your medicine' warning from my mobile phone, which had fallen to the bottom of my bag on to the floor.

Poetry Corner

Mary Gill celebrates Farmers' Day on 12 October (middle of the harvest) with her poem this month.

FAIR PLAY FOR FARMERS

Why do some portray
farmers as super-villains?
We all need to eat.
Do they think our daily bread
falls like manna from Heaven?

Even a vegan,
who only ever eats plants,
must see that someone
has to sow the seeds in spring
in time for summer's harvest.

We can grow greener
but can't expect the farmers
to live on fresh air.
They too deserve a fair share
of the national income.

What twisted ethic
demands the highest standards
of our own growers
then imports cheaper produce
from less green-aware places?



~~

Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth Fungus 2024

Here Ted gives a recap of the fungi spotted in Selsdon Wood this year, whetting our appetite for the Friends of Selsdon Wood's 'Fungus Hunt' on Saturday 26 October at 10am. Who knew that there were so many different fungi appearing throughout the year?



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This is the time of the year when the maximum number of fungus species are likely to be found but searching for fungi began in Selsdon Wood in early January. Cool and relatively moist conditions proved ideal for jelly fungi and the fungus list was soon started off with sightings of Leafy Brain, Yellow Brain, and Crystal Brain but Purple Jellydisc and Beech Jellydisc both escaped our attention. As we have few beech trees which could be considered mature, and therefore few fallen beech branches, the many fungi associated with beech are not easy to find. Searching for fallen hazel branches will usually produce specimens of Hazel Woodwart but finding Beech Woodwart, Beech Barkspot and Beech Tarcrust are more difficult tasks.



Of the cap and stem-type fungi, Velvet Shank is associated with winter months but the next expected species is St George's Mushroom appearing close to St George's Day 23 April and, as expected, a few appeared in David's Crook.

In May a display of several Chicken of the Woods fungi were spotted on a tree in Courtwood Grove.

June produced a group of mushrooms around the base of a tree in Addington Border, close to Courtwood Grove, identified as Ringless Honey Fungus.

On 1st August a heavy thunderstorm settled into position overhead and remained there for 40 minutes, giving hope that it would improve conditions for fungi, but it was possible that the warm conditions would simply evaporate most of the moisture. In other parts of the country, mainly west and north, the large amounts of rain that fell over several weeks has led to mushroom foragers reportedly collecting enormous quantities of species which we either do not see in our dry part of the country or at best record in occasional single figures.

A couple of walks in the woods during the last few days of August found many Common Earthballs, King Alfred's Cakes, a solitary Willow Shield, early signs of returning Yellow Stagshorn, a small Beefsteak in Noakes Way, Blushing Brackets, and a Southern Bracket covered in cinnamon-coloured spores.

During the early days of September there was an overnight thunderstorm which supplied more moisture. Pale Oyster Mushrooms appeared in

profusion in Stevens Walk, while in The Wend a second Beefsteak emerged on the side of a large stump with another nearby. More Beefsteaks were found in Beech Grove and West Gorse. In Leafy Grove a double tree stump held four different fungi – yet another large Beefsteak at root level. A series of white fungi around the base, a Southern Bracket at the back, and some Small Stagshorns beginning to appear on the top surfaces. Also, in West Gorse a first-ever specimen of Velvet Shield was found on a pile of old mossy logs.

While many of these species might disappear before the Fungus Walk in October, a little more rain should bring out replacements and new species.

~~

Answers to Name Our Shops Quiz

1. Alladin's Cave
2. Kiba
3. Mr Dry Clean
4. Mind
5. The Golden Ark
6. Tudor Library
7. AS Grooming
8. Gem Nails and Spa
9. The Sir Julian Huxley
10. Selsdon & District Funeral Service

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~~

SELSDON FLOWER CLUB

We have pleasure in announcing that our Flower Club is continuing with the second half of the 2024 programme.

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

9 October	Practice - Harvest Basket
13 November	Demo - Melanie of Kane's Florist
4 December	Christmas Social and a Christmas Arrangement
8 January 2025	AGM

Please contact the Secretary - Maureen Browning on 020 8651 5821 or 07961862791 for more information

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Party will be a meal at Croham Hurst Golf Club on the 15th November.

During the week you might like to join one of our groups such as handicraft, knitting, literary, and drama, or be part of the dining club or go on an outing, including theatre trips.

Do come and join us!

Christine Holland 020 8657 4861



Craft Fair Saturday 16th November 2024 – All Saints Sanderstead Church Hall
12:00-16:00, Free Entry, Come & see our stalls, enjoy our refreshments & enjoy a jolly good day out with the family. Don't miss out, have a super fun day.

If you would like to join Rotary for any of our exciting events, to put something back into our community, or just seeking fun & fellowship, contact Wendy Parr, Secretary 07774 186 792.

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/rotarycroydonsouth/>

Website - <https://www.rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com/>

~~

The Selsdon Centre

Christmas is back at the Centre



Many thanks to the Townswomen's Guild for coming to our rescue and supplying new knitted nativity figures in the form of Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus (in a manger) – they are lovely and will fit in with our set beautifully.

We have also been donated a full knitted Nativity set for our Raffle (see pic below). If you'd like to buy any tickets – they are £1 per strip and available from the office during our open hours. There will be other prizes

available (tbc). The raffle will be drawn on Friday 20th December 2024 at our client Christmas lunch (which is by invitation only).



OCTOBER 2024

Friday 11th Live Music Event with home cooked food £15 – the ever popular Tom “The Cockney” Carradine performs his sing-a-long again!
Friday 18th Fish & Chips £10 plus Bingo £3 with a prize raffle
Friday 25th Christmas Retail Market Event

NOVEMBER 2024

Friday 15th Quiz fundraiser for the Selsdon Centre at St John’s Church Hall, Selsdon 7pm. More details from Susan in the office
Friday 22nd Fish & Chips £10 plus Bingo £3 with a prize raffle
Friday 29th Live Music Christmas Concert Event with home cooked food (tbc) £15 - Hayley is back by popular demand!

DECEMBER 2024

Friday 20th Client Christmas lunch (by invitation only – please contact office for further details).

Selsdon Centre office: 0208 651 1111 or email: office@selsdoncentre.org.uk for bookings or further information.

~~

Costains Selsdon Housing Developments. Variety, Affordability, Healthy Living and Accessibility

We have seen, dear reader, in recent issues (*) of our esteemed Selsdon Gazette how the Liverpool based builder Richard Costain Ltd, virtually created from the bucolic rolling fields of 1925, the Selsdon that we now know today. Other builders large and small were active in Selsdon from

the late 20s to late 30s but none at that time could match the volume of houses which Costains built. Costains estimated 1,250 dwellings, but more of that figure later....

We have seen the variety of house styles, which could be had as detached, terraced and semi-detached, available to purchasers with 'generous' terms and flexible savings schemes. The skilful marketing of the 'Sun-Homes' was facilitated by the new development of Crittall steel windows. As part of the persuasive powers of the Costain copy writers and apart from the perceived health benefits of 'Living above the Smog Line', much was made of the transport links, educational provision and leisure facilities which the new Selsdonians (Selsdonites ?) could enjoy. Shops were nearby and green spaces just around the corner.

25 MINUTES FROM LONDON

The Estate which leaves you nothing to wish for.

Fast Southern Electric trains leave South Croydon every few minutes for London termini—London Bridge, Charing Cross, Cannon Street and Victoria, bringing the Metropolis within 25 minutes at a most reasonable cost of travel (see page 6). Many important business and employment centres en route are thus also brought within ready reach of Selsdon. The Electrified Southern Railway to Brighton runs through Croydon and the main London-Brighton road passes the foot of the rise upon which the Estate stands. Through Surrey to the Sea is, therefore, an inexpensive, convenient and picturesque pilgrimage for Selsdon home-owners, who are already living on the verge of the rolling downlands.



TO	THIRD SEASON TICKETS								
	QUARTERLY			MONTHLY			WEEKLY		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
LONDON—									
LONDON BRIDGE									
CANNON STREET	3	7	0	1	12	6	0	9	0
CHARING CROSS									
VICTORIA									
EAST CROYDON	1	0	0	0	7	6	0	2	3
THORNTON HEATH	1	15	0	0	13	0	0	3	9
NORBURY	2	0	0	0	14	9	0	4	3
STREATHAM	2	5	0	0	15	6	0	4	9
BALHAM	2	10	0	0	18	6	0	5	3
CLAPHAM JUNCTION	3	1	3	1	5	9	0	7	3

BUS SERVICES FROM SELSDON

Nos. 54 or 64 to South Croydon Station, fare 2d. Nos. 54 or 64 to East Croydon Station, fare 3d. No. 64 to West Croydon Station, fare 4d. GREEN LINE COACHES run from Selsdon every half hour to London. Return fare 1s. 9d.
Page Six

Today's commuter may wonder at the prices of a quarterly season ticket to London. Remember though, that average earnings were comparatively low: ONS figures show the 1938 average wage at £3 5s for a male and a pint of beer at 5d. One supposes that the Selsdon Costain customers were in a significantly higher earnings bracket.

With an eye to attract the new middle class to Selsdon, the virtues of speedy transport to London and beyond plus the cultural hotspots of

Croydon were key features of the sales pitch:



Croydon was very much a destination to go to for entertainment: The Davis Theatre was described as a 'super cinema'. It had 1 screen and 3,725 seats. It was situated at 73 High Street, Croydon, was built in 1928 and was the 2nd largest cinema in the UK. Equipped with a stage and 6 dressing rooms on three floors it could accommodate 110 artistes. It was demolished in late 1959 and is now the site of Davis House where you can rent serviced office space.

The Grand Theatre and Opera House predated the Davis by some years, being built in April 1896. It was situated at 125 High Street, Croydon and had 960 seats. It was demolished in 1959 and Grosvenor House now occupies the site.

The educational and leisure time needs of Costains customers were to be satisfied with the new school on Addington Road and the proliferation of Golf Courses in the area.
Something for everyone!

Ian Leggatt

As ever, thanks to Ted Friths Journals for the germ of the idea for these articles, BT and CW for the Costains sales brochure. The details of Croydon Theatres was taken from the excellent site www.cinematreasures.org

** September 2020, February 2021, December 2023, January, February, April May, June and July 2024.*



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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 Church, Forestdale School		0777 255 9797
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	via www.folw.co.uk
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
Parkinson's UK Croydon & District Branch	Roy Court	07704 683373
Rotary Sanderstead & Selsdon	Wendy Parr	07774 186792
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		sandersteadlhg@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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