



# The Selsdon — Gazette —

Volume 72. No. 808

October 2019

# THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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Copy for the Gazette should reach the Editor by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month and email attachments should be in Word or PDF format.

There is no August Gazette.

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

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**Front cover image credit:** Sack Race at last month's SRA Community Picnic Lunch/ FSW Open Day by Sheila Childs.

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selsdonresidents@yahoo.co.uk

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	Peter Underwood, 12a Abbey Road, CR2 8NG	8651 0601
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	Phil Roberts, 44 Dulverton Road, CR2 8PG	07511 431207
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## ***Councillors for Sanderstead Ward***

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

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

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

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

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

Full details of the roads falling within each of the new 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 2019 issue of the Gazette.

We start with some good news in the Councillor's Notes and the following item about a new public defibrillator installed in the high street adjacent to the Village Club. Personnel from local shops and restaurants have been trained in its use. Many years ago my daughter was involved in calling an ambulance for someone who had collapsed in the high street. Fortunately he was OK but the availability of a local defibrillator will help to ensure a good outcome for any similar incidents in future.

We have an interesting piece describing the work of the Friends of Selsdon Wood which we hope will be the first of many detailing the activities of local Friends and community groups.

In the History section this month Ray concludes his vividly-written trilogy of wartime recollections followed by more about the war years from Brian Howett. Finally there is the next instalment of Des's saga in which he recalls some good neighbours.

Jo Todd tells us about Inner Wheel, one of the largest women's organisations in the world.

In Nature Notes this month Ted Forsyth celebrates the fact that there is really no such thing as waste. That may be true in nature but as the following article from Janet Sharp points out it is not quite the case when it comes to human activity.

Regards,

Heather

~~

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



# **SRA NEWS ‘n’ VIEWS**

## **Selsdon Wood Fair and SRA Picnic**

The weather was amazing and a great day was enjoyed by many of you . The Community Choir sang for us and really lifted the crowd with their enthusiasm. The Rotary Club did a grand job of organising sack races and egg and spoon races for both children and adults whilst the scouts did a great job of refreshments and games. Thanks to all of them and everyone who helped set up and clear away.

## **Christmas Lights**

Father Christmas will be switching on our annual Christmas Lights at 5pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

This year we will still be giving out helium balloons but will have to restrict it to the younger children because the cost is increasing every year and we are very conscious of the use of helium and its effect on the planet. So thank you, in advance, for your understanding.

Look forward to seeing you there.

*Sheila Childs, Chair*

~~

## **COUNCILLORS’ NOTES**

### **New defibrillator installed on Selsdon High Street**

An AED has been installed on the wall of the Selsdon Village Club in Selsdon High Street. The money was provided from the Selsdon and Addington Village Ward Councillors’ budgets.

AEDs save lives. If someone suffers a heart attack (Sudden Cardiac Arrest), the heart malfunctions and without action within a few minutes this quickly leads to death. An AED is

a lightweight, portable device that delivers an electric shock through the chest to the heart. The shock can potentially stop an irregular heart beat and allow a normal rhythm to resume. The AED provides clear audible instructions on what to do and the technology is such that a shock cannot be delivered to someone who does not need it.

The device has been registered with London Ambulance so that in the event of a call to the emergency services passers-by can be directed to the equipment. Our thanks to the Selsdon Village Club for their support and for hosting this life-saving piece of equipment.

### **Protecting our green spaces**

In last month's Gazette there was an update on the threat to green spaces in Selsdon. The Council's wholly-owned subsidiary, Brick By Brick had plans to build housing on some of the green spaces in Selsdon. The sites under threat were at 124 Croham Valley Road, Foxearth Spinney and a number of sites on Monks Hill.

Freedom of Information requests by Councillor Pollard revealed that Foxearth Spinney and Croham Valley Road had covenants preventing development. She asked the Council to confirm that they would honour the covenants and take these sites off the list for development. We are pleased to report that in the last few weeks, the Council has decided that they will not build on these two sites.

The efforts to save the green space on Monks Hill have also led to some success. The site at Freelands Avenue where the Monks Hill community fun days are held, has been removed from the list.

It is a relief that the Council has seen sense and made the right decision about these green spaces. It is just a shame they put them on the list in the first place. A quick review of the title deeds for these pieces of land would have told them that they should not build on them. We will continue to fight to protect Selsdon's green spaces whenever they come under threat.

## **High Street**

We have continued to work with the Council on the development of on the Selsdon Community Plan. Having a Community Plan will help us to secure investment in the High Street in future. Indeed, the work on this has already led to a small grant being awarded. The Council applied to 'Save the High Street' to include Selsdon in a pilot activity to provide £3,000 of funding to support local businesses. The bid was successful and this was due to the efforts everyone has put in to raise this up the Council's agenda. Having community and local councillor support has really made a difference.

## **Save the Date!**

The next step towards the development of Selsdon's Community Plan is to gather residents' views on the priorities for Selsdon. Come along and give your views at the Selsdon Community Day.

## **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019 12 - 5pm at Selsdon Baptist Church**

The aim is for a first draft of the plan to be published in Spring 2020.

## **Christmas Market for Selsdon**

During meetings with Council officers, we have been able to look at various options for Selsdon and one of these is a Christmas market. We have established that the raised slip road to the north of the high street is Council property and, as such, we can use this space for a Christmas Market. We are hoping we can have our first Selsdon Christmas market this year so watch this space for more updates!

## **Meet Your Councillors**

The Selsdon Team of Councillors will be holding surgeries in the Selsdon Centre (next to Sainsbury's) on the first Saturday of the month from 10am - 11.15am (except August).

If you have any issues you wish to discuss with your councillor please come to the surgery or get in touch by email:



Helen.pollard@croydon.gov.uk  
Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk  
Stuart.millson@croydon.gov.uk  
Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS September 2019

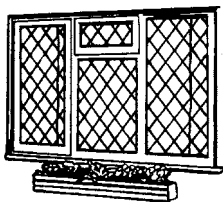
19/03848/HSE - 142 Croham Valley Road, CR2 7RA  
Construction of a single storey side infill extension.

19/03890/HSE - 187 Ballards Way, CR0 5RJ - Alterations,  
erection of first floor/roof extensions to include gable end and  
dormer extensions on rear roof slope, erection of extension at  
side with accommodation above within the proposed roofspace  
at first and second floor levels with dormer extensions on the  
front roof slope and a single storey rear extension.

19/03908/HSE - 3 Copse View, CR2 8HL - Partial demolition  
of the existing dwelling and erection of a single storey front/  
side/rear wrap around extension.

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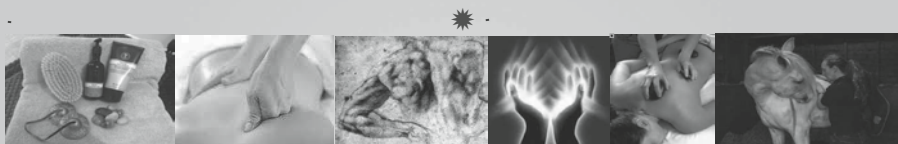


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## **NEW PUBLIC SELSDON DEFIBRILLATOR**

Jeff Borkett Electrical Services carried out the First Defibrillator installation on the high street today in Selsdon adjacent to the Village Club.

The AED was supplied by Croydon Council, at the request of Councillor Robert Ward. Materials were supplied free of charge and installed by Jeff and his team Harry and Ryan and the equipment is hosted by the Village Club.



Great team, great partnership. Well done and thank you to everyone involved.

*Jeff Borkett*

~~

## **THE WORK OF THE FRIENDS OF SELSDON WOOD**

The Friends of Selsdon Wood are volunteers working with Croydon Council to ensure that Selsdon Wood is maintained for the benefit of the flora and fauna, as well as for the enjoyment of the public. We are the Council's eyes and ears - reporting problems that occur. We are grateful to the many dog walkers and others who also 'keep an eye out' whilst enjoying the fields and woods and advise of problems too. This article describes the work that we do and provides a little of our history.

In 2007, when the Friends of Selsdon Wood was founded, there was a Ranger responsible for the wood. Part of his duties included clearing up rubbish in the wood and when he was moved to another site the FSW took over this task. We have created and run a comprehensive website <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk> and produce a monthly two page newsletter and an annual calendar. There are sections on the website describing all the flora and fauna of our wood.

Over time we have attracted support from new members so that the monetary contributions from around 200 households, plus anything raised from our annual September Open Day provide funds to pay for our activities.

We produce a regularly updated map of the wood and have erected name boards for most of the paths. These have been useful when people have been taken ill in the wood and needed medical help. When it was decided that the guide posts around the wood needed to be replaced we supplied details of the markings on all the posts and collaborated with the Downlands Countryside Management Project (DCMP) both in making and marking the posts and in putting them in place. Subsequently we have added QR codes to the posts to provide extra information.

To support the local authority woodland management programme we undertake coppicing, for which we have received training from TCV (The Conservation Volunteers). At the end of each season we replant with Hazel and put in some disease-resistant Elm and Wild Service.

Other work as a result of suggestions from the local authority, has included removing some Ash & Sycamore from Vincent Avenue, cutting down a “grove” of Holly at West Gorse/Farleigh Border corner, and cutting and treating Laurel (an invasive and poisonous species). To support all of this work some of our members have undertaken LEA recommended training courses.





# **FSW CALENDAR**

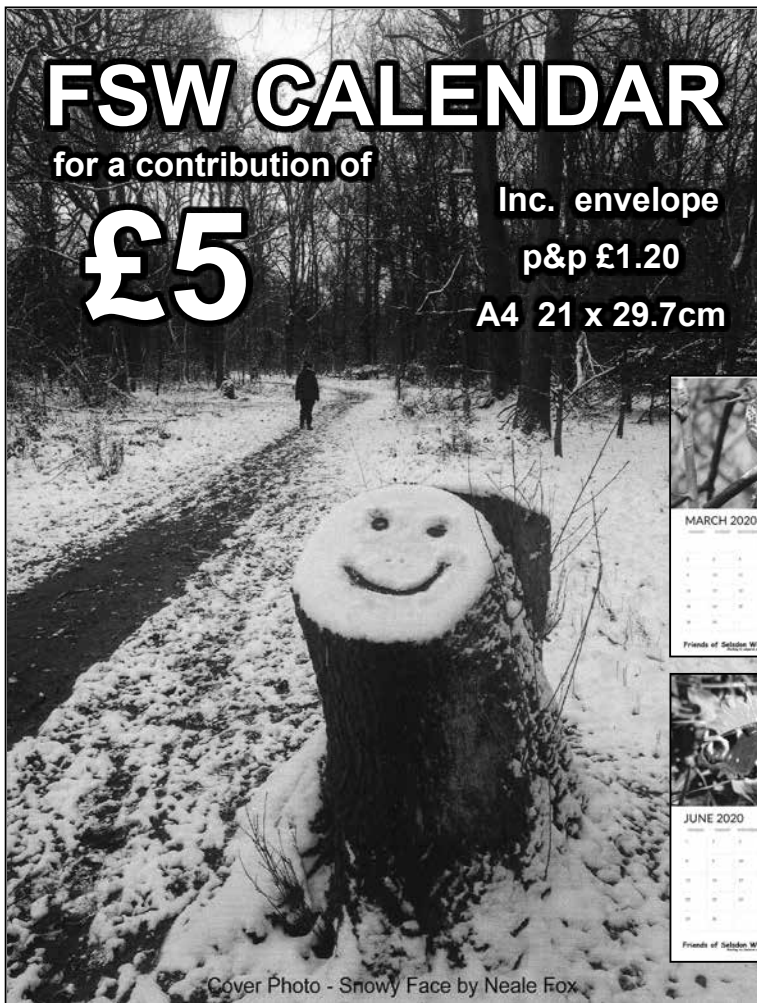
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Cover Photo - Snowy Face by Neale Fox



## **Friends of Selsdon Wood Calendar 2020**

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When the LEA decided that the Larch plantation in The Gorses had reached a time when it should come down they arranged for a contractor to remove all the Larch on one side of Middle Gorse – there was very little Gorse visible. The seed bank in the soil produced a rapid appearance of Gorse which soon took over the area so that after some time it was well over six feet tall which was a potential fire hazard. There were many saplings of sycamore, birch, etc so FSW spent time removing some of this supported by TCV. Half of the area still has tall Gorse and could be a fire hazard if we get many more hot summers so this half will have to be cleared to allow it to regrow.

The Jubilee Plantation had half of the area cleared by contractor and Friends and we later planted 250 tree whips to create a nesting and feeding area for birds. In 2012 we helped local guides and brownies celebrate the Queen's Jubilee by planting another 60 whips. The Friends erected the plastic deer fence as initial protection for the whips. Over several years we attempted to clear low vegetation – nettles, goosegrass, etc – to allow the whips to grow. Inevitably some have not succeeded but there is a good mix of survivors.

Another task we took on was an attempt to lessen the problem of muddy paths, particularly in the winter, by spreading tons of gravel on various paths. It has made an improvement but it will not last forever and unfortunately we are unlikely to be able to repeat the exercise on such a scale, though we do intend to continue spreading smaller quantities as needed.

Some years ago local authorities were encouraged to prepare Biodiversity Action Plans. The Friends felt that biodiversity in the wood would be enhanced if the pool in Linden Glade were to be fixed so that it would hold water – the existing concrete liner is cracked. At the LEA suggestion we removed the small fence around the pool held up by rotting posts and replaced these with a “henge” made from logs obtained from an old

fallen chestnut. We then scraped out the mud from the pool, cleaned the surface and sealed it but it does not hold water for long. We have seen a frog and a newt in the area, and birds frequently bathe there. Further work will be required.

We have paid for and put in place a number of seats and benches, sometimes replacing old rotting ones, and have arranged the purchase, delivery and siting of several memorial seats paid for by the relatives. We have arranged with a local farmer to move the seats or benches to where they are required using his tractor.

Various other tasks have been undertaken – creating and erecting a finger post pointing to Bluebell Grove – revising and replacing the main information posters at the various entrances to the wood and in the car park and also regularly replacing the smaller information notices announcing guided walks, general info about the Friends and the inevitable mention of dog poo! – dealing with fallen trees on paths and reporting larger ones to the Trees Officer – etc. We organize and lead various walks throughout the year, note wildlife sightings and supply photographs for the website. We also run an annual Photo Competition, judged by the public at our Open Day and offering prizes donated anonymously.

In 2016 London Wildlife Trust proposed the Friends group for an award and we duly received the Community Woodland Award at the London Tree & Woodland Awards event in the London City Hall - see the History page of our website <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/history.php>.

## **Friends of Selsdon Wood - 20<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

**Editor's Note** - We would be interested to hear about the work of other Friends and community groups. Do please send in your reports for inclusion in future issues of the Gazette.

~~



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## FLYING BOMBS – LONDON AND SELSDON

Back in the Kingsway office, local safety arrangements had been made. When the air-raid sirens sounded, this was the signal for office staff to stand in corridors, away from the windows. However, Bush House, at the beginning of Kingsway, housed the BBC Overseas Service, who had connection with The Observer Corps. Because the doodlebugs flew in straight lines, with little or no deviation, it was possible to plot the precise flight path of the missile. Every office had their observers on the roofs and when Bush House had notification of an imminent arrival of a doodlebug, they would raise a red flag on top of the building. Alerts would be given in the offices and it was only then that the staff ceased work, knowing that a flying bomb was expected. My firm differed from others in the area in that we waited for the flag signal rather than stopping work as soon as the sirens sounded. At the red flag, our fire-watchers on the roof rang warning bells which sounded in the offices – the signal to run quickly away from the windows and get into the corridors!

At that time, our common understanding was that the V1 engine stopped because it had run out of fuel. Years later, we found that this was incorrect. When the timer activated in the aircraft, it depressed the ailerons and caused the machine to dive. This action starved the engine of fuel and caused it to cut out. This fact is illustrated by the following incident.

*Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June is a very warm day, but with some cloud cover. Many of the girls in the office have adjourned to the tennis courts in Lincolns Inn for their lunch break. For some reason, and in company with the other gangly youths who were my colleagues, we are fascinated by the show of legs!*

*The alert sounds, but no red flag is seen. I meet with a department manager on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor, but our talk is interrupted by a loud whishing sound, followed by a massive explosion. The manager and I pick ourselves up from the floor,*





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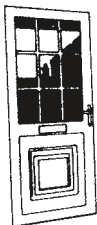
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**Roy Brady MCiphe**

*covered in dust, and watch aghast at the massive plume of smoke outside the windows (many of which had broken).*

*[We found out much later, the flying bomb's engine had stopped, but it had continued its flight, unseen and unheard, until it ran out of airspeed. It plunged to earth in Aldwych, between Bush House and the Air Ministry building at the corner of Kingsway].*

*As it is not possible to continue working, we are allowed to go home. Walking down the Kingsway, in company with the office manager, we come across many wounded passers-by – where, near to the explosion, the suction had pulled out the windows into the street and had led to countless cuts to people passing by. Most of these are sitting quietly, waiting to be attended by the emergency services, who are onsite very quickly indeed. We find that Aldwych is barred to pedestrians, as a gas main is on fire (as indeed is an office in Bush House). Aldwych is a parking area for buses, and only fragments of these are left to be seen.*

*We back-track to Portugal Street, past the Stoll Theatre. I am aghast to see the pavement covered with blankets, which in turn are covering bodies and body parts. Betty Cousins, the office manager, urges me on and tells me not to look to look too closely at this scene of carnage.*

*On arriving at Victoria Station, Betty seeks out the stopping train for Norbury, where she lives. I am pleased to find I am in time for the 3.45pm train to Eastbourne. One hour later, we are still waiting for our respective trains to depart. Betty reappears, to say that a flying bomb has fallen on the line at Wandsworth Common, and she thinks it best to join me on the train to East Croydon, where she can join a stopping train to Norbury.*

*The train eventually departs at 5pm and creeps along the route to Croydon. They are still clearing debris at Wandsworth*

*Common when we pass by. Eventually I manage to board a 64 bus which goes to Selsdon only, and arrive at Farley Road at about 6.45pm. As I turn the corner to walk through the shopping centre, I can hear the sound of another V1. To my horror, it cuts out and I dive into a doorway and crouch down in order to make myself as small as possible. There is a massive explosion as the bomb lands at the top of Farley Road, where I had just alighted from the bus. My duty is clearly to give help and aid where needed, but I regret that this did not happen. I run back home as fast as my jelly-like legs will take me. It was only then that I realise that, by commuting each day, I (in common with many others) may not return home – or, if I do, there may not be a home waiting for me...*

I later learned that, fortunately, there had been no serious casualties in Farley Road, although several houses on both sides of the road were badly damaged (the bomb landed in the middle of the road). One resident, Mr Fox, had just sat down to his evening meal after returning home from work, and was very upset that both his repast and his treasured snooker table were buried in dust and debris. He resisted calls for some time to go to hospital for a check-up, but eventually gave way. Another example of the British stiff upper lip!

**Ray Rowsell**

~~

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## WARTIME SELSDON

I spotted “Bombsight” website by chance, and was astonished at the number of Blitz “Hits” recorded on Selsdon.

My parents always had the Gazette, something well remembered from my childhood. Reading your on-line edition certainly had me thinking. Some fascinating memories - and history.

I remember starting school at Selsdon Primary - Miss Smith’s class. My mother took me to school on Day One, then said - “You know where to go” - quite unlike today’s children who expect a daily taxi service. I remember the green corrugated iron canteen, but I had to go home for my lunch. Mrs Soper and Miss Beech still come to mind. I must have been in the same class as one of your contributors as I remember being led into those air raid shelters, and my red Mickey Mouse gas mask.

One Public Air Raid Shelter was in the ground in front of the Methodist (or was it Baptist?) church in Addington Road. I remember the lower parade of shops in Addington Road were barbed wired off - used as an “Intervention store” for flour, sugar etc. as emergency supplies.

I came home one day with half a dozen incendiary bombs (small boys did things like that) - mother was not impressed - and called the police.

When the V-1’s started to come over - about 100 per day - I remember sitting at the top of our garden watching one come over. My dad, being a First World War veteran, had dug us a WWI trench style bunker in our back garden. You could feel the concussion of gunfire and bombs. If I remember rightly there were AA guns in the grounds of Selsdon Park Hotel. I still have some shrapnel.

The Selsdon Air Raid siren was on top of a pole - just across the road from our house. That siren noise still sends a chill - - !

I was evacuated with my Mum and baby brother to Evercreech in Somerset, a large Victorian house well out in the country. Our house was damaged by the V-1 that came down in Farley Road after we left. I remember waking up screaming - (these days you would have teams of psycho-boffins in attendance). The reason was it was so totally quiet. Something I had not experienced before (PTSD had not been invented then).

I remember the Victory Day bonfire in the Rec, but the Queenhill Road Rec was well remembered for other things - that brick and concrete entrance made a fine launching place for model planes. Most of that land had been cultivated as allotments during the war, and long afterwards.

I was sorry to see Bailey's Garage in its current state. I remember the showroom being full of capstan lathes with overhead shafting - and the workshop below too - producing parts for the war effort. I also remember the room above, being used post-war for showing cowboy films on Saturday mornings. We sat cross-legged on the floor.

I remember the east end of St John's Church covered with a large tarpaulin, I believe as a result of a V-1, but don't remember any damage to nearby houses.

One memory someone out there may be able to resolve? My father was a Fire Warden (our Mr Hodges?). One morning there was a hole in the pavement at the junction of Byron Road and Sanderstead Road, with the tail-end of a large bomb showing. I dimly remember the UXB signs. After the war large excavations were made - the underlaying soil is sand - but I don't think the bomb was ever found.

**Brian Howett**

~~

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## OUR GOOD NEIGHBOURS - SELSDON DURING THE 1940S

Selsdon lacked a local pub for many years. Eventually circa the 1960s The Good Neighbour was built in the Addington Rd to fill this void in community life. However it did not last for very many years, being demolished to make way for the car park which is now beside the Aldi super market. For those who are interested in our village history there is a photo at: [https://www.francisfrith.com/selsdon/selsdon-the-good-neighbour-c1965\\_s613054](https://www.francisfrith.com/selsdon/selsdon-the-good-neighbour-c1965_s613054).

But my memories of good neighbours go back to many years earlier.

Ivy and Doug Parr were my godparents. They lived half way down Abbey Road, near the Green. During the war there was a large concrete water tank there, built to assist the emergency services in firefighting the results of incendiary bombs. After the war, when the tank was removed, the Green became the focal point for Guy Fawkes' Nights. A giant bonfire would be lit and everyone would bring along some fireworks to make it a special event.



The Parrs had a daughter, Pauline, and she had a younger brother, David, who was in the class below me at Selsdon Primary School. But of course he was a good friend of mine, long before we went to school.

One thing that children love is a birthday party. I would go to David's parties, he would come to mine, and we would go to parties of other friends. By today's standards of no expense spared events, ours were very simple affairs, but we enjoyed them greatly. The catering was determined by ration coupons and what the shops actually had in stock. The food consisted principally of sandwiches. At one party it might be chocolate spread, at another, marmite or perhaps honey or peanut butter, things which we would not normally get, so it made a party a special event.

I am not sure if it was an idea of David's Dad or his uncle Laurie, but between them they had a fantastic party game for us – Bomber Pilot.

We all took a turn at being the pilot, but first we all had to leave the room and go in one by one for our turn. This was so that we did not know what to expect. The procedure was this:

We sat on a kitchen chair, blindfolded and with a coat over our head so that we could see absolutely nothing. Once blindfolded, the two men, one in front and one behind, would then put a couple of broomsticks under the chair. One would then give a commentary of what was happening, something like this:

*"We are taking off and climbing to 5,000 feet", and with the broomsticks the chair was lifted off the floor and a little bit of shaking added to simulate level flight. Then suddenly:*

*"Enemy fighter, angels one-five. Bank, bank, bank!" and the chair was tipped a to one side.*

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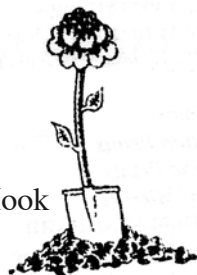
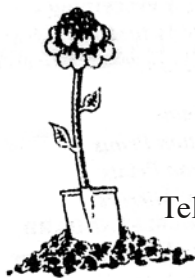
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*“Enemy now on your tail – bank left, left, left!” and the chair was tipped the other way.*

*“He’s opening fire!” some sound effects and shaking of the chair.*

*“We’ve been hit” big shake of chair*

*“We’re going down, we’re going to crash –brace, brace, brace,” and the chair would be lowered to the floor quite quickly with a bump.*

Being blindfolded and thus disorientated, the story and slight movements of the chair were magnified so that to the “pilot” it felt as though all the “violent” manoeuvres had really occurred.

It was a very simple, psychological trick but made a fantastic party game!

But normal daily life carried on. Mr Parr, who, like my Dad, was too old to serve in the Forces during WW2, instead made the daily trudge to his job in the City of London. His relaxation was his vegetable garden, which together with his chickens helped to put food on the table – ours included. After the war ended, he knocked down the Anderson bomb shelter and used the below ground part as a big compost pit. He greatly enjoyed showing off the huge marrows that he grew there, and they took pride of place in the display at Selsdon Schools’ Harvest Day Festivals.

The mention of festivals reminds me of the first big party of the 1940s. This was the Abbey Road and Greville Avenue Victory street party, which included a huge bonfire. This left a large burnt circle in the road, which still remained when I moved away from Selsdon nearly 20 years later in 1963. And in the following year, 1946, to celebrate the Victory over Japan, there was another big party held in Selsdon Recreation

Ground. The latter, including a group photo, I made mention of in an earlier item. (see <https://selsdon-residents.co.uk/resources/5a.%20Selsdon%20as%20a%20Community%201940.pdf>.)

But with the war over, things were changing as life slowly returned to a peaceful footing, with new challenges.

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

~~

## **INNER WHEEL EXPLAINED**



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- Foster International understanding

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**Jo Todd**

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Marie Winter

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## **NATURE NOTES**

### **WASTE – ONE MAN’S MEAT.....**

There are many types of aphid which are found on different kinds of leaf but they all have one habit in common – they feed by sucking juices from the leaf and exuding a sweet sticky honeydew. Ants will tend the aphids to get the sweet liquid and in the tree tops various butterfly species rely on the liquid. Apart from the sweet liquid food (other species will go directly to nectar in flowers) butterflies require various minerals in their diet. When dog owners empty their dogs in grassland or woodland and do not pick up the deposit butterflies will often settle to extract minerals. I have seen up to a dozen Chalkhill Blue butterflies on one dog turd. Purple Emperor butterflies spend their time at the tops of trees but this mineral-seeking habit can be utilised to bring them to ground level. Different concoctions are made up from a mixture of smelly substances, frequently including fish paste, and placed on the ground to await the arrival of a butterfly.

Not all local councils have a separate collection for food waste so what gets sent to a landfill site often contains discarded food items. Gulls love landfill sites and will dive in to investigate when a new delivery is made. Birders who are patient enough to examine the hundreds or thousands of gulls on such a site can sometimes pick out a rare gull that they would be unlikely to find anywhere else. Foxes are also interested and will raise a family on the site, probably fed mainly or exclusively on the scraps they can find nearby, though there must also be rats and mice as a ready source of food.

Grazers and browsers on the African plains produce enormous quantities of dung which is attractive to flies to lay their eggs on, and also to dung beetles for a similar purpose, but as the beetles roll the dung away in the shape of a ball then bury it they inadvertently produce fertile soil which leads to the next crop of grass. When some of the animals die

either through predation or disease it does not take long for vultures to dispose of the flesh and leave bones behind. At this stage another bird, the Lammergeier or Bearded Vulture, comes specifically because it is interested in the bones and the marrow they contain. It will pick up a suitable bone and drop it from a height then swallow the resulting splinters and fragments of bone.

Hay fever sufferers are well aware of the tree and grass pollen drifting in the air at the appropriate season. The air also transports fungal spores and some of these like burnt ground. I have on several occasions on Hutchinson's Bank found one fungus, *Anthracobia macrocystis* (no common name), growing around the edges of a fire site. They look like patches of tiny orange grains of sand but looked at under magnification they are actually cup-shaped. I have no idea how quickly the spores can develop on a site after the ground has cooled nor how long the site is viable for fungi after the site has weathered and some of the potash and other chemicals have disappeared.

Around our coasts there are places where sewage outlets feed into the sea. These produce conditions which are attractive to ducks in winter. At Granton, on the outskirts of Edinburgh, I have seen very large flocks of Long-tailed Ducks, Velvet and Common Scoter, Scaup and other species. As sewage processing facilities and techniques change the material reaching the sea contains less food value and inevitably the flocks reduce or disappear. Perry Oaks sewage farm which used to exist on the edge of Heathrow airport was a magnet for migrating waders in the autumn when they would drop in to sample the insects attracted to the area.

Decaying woody material provides nutrients for some fungi but can also sustain a population of invertebrates which in turn break down the material still further. After a relatively long period the remaining nutrients in the wood are returned to the soil where it becomes available to support other plants and trees.

One waste product that is essential for human life to exist is produced by the “digestion” of trees, plants and even algae in the oceans – oxygen! As part of our respiration we expel carbon dioxide which is absorbed by vegetation and processed to give sugars for the plant and as part of the photosynthesis water is separated to give us oxygen.

Nothing is truly wasted in nature!

*Ted Forsyth*

~~

## **RECYLING AGAIN!**

We can't have failed to notice that our environment is suffering from our throw-away culture. This isn't just from single use plastic but all the items we buy and discard. Last year I wrote a Gazette article highlighting some of the items you can recycle and where (e.g. Charity shops, Emmaus, British Heart Foundation, Freecycle, etc).

Since then I have noticed (via a small sign) that the local recycling centres in South Croydon and New Addington have a designated section where you can leave unbroken items for 're-use' rather than add to the general materials waste. However I still see many unbroken items dumped in the containers that do have the potential to be reused. In an ideal world the staff on site would be overseeing this but perhaps as a trial the Council should let designated charity volunteers have official access at the centres during opening hours to look at what people are intending to chuck as they unload, and step in to rescue and then sell items if suitable. Win-win for charity, the environment and the Council's waste targets! Failing that at least make the 'Re-use area' signs bigger and harder to miss!

Being an avid recycler I was concerned by the June BBC series (with Hugh and Anita) which indicated that most of Britain's



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diligently collected recycling is being sent abroad to places like Malaysia, supposedly for processing and reuse, but in reality being dumped or burnt and therefore ending up in the sea or air. I therefore wrote an email to our Council requesting to find out where Croydon's waste goes. The response when it finally came was difficult to decipher so I'm not much clearer. I don't believe that this means that we stop recycling! The Council need to be clear on their website that the process is thoroughly vetted (if it is) to give us all reassurance.

With a quick check on the internet it is surprising just how many items you can donate so they can find a new lease of life. For example there is a company 'Wyatt and Jack' who make donated broken inflatables into things such as designer handbags etc. if you care to send them.

With regard to avoiding single use plastic have you heard about 'Refill.org'? This national campaign is a voluntary sign up scheme for businesses or public locations to offer to 'refill your water bottle for free' using their tap water. Users can find these by using a free app on their phone. I have found that Bevolvy Fearon is the Council's Refill Co-ordinator. She says: "Croydon Council is currently working with a number of organisations to further implement the refill scheme across the borough. One of our partners, "Plasticfree Croydon", is already engaging with businesses and community groups to widen the network of refill stations across the borough. This work is aligned to the council's SUGAR SMART campaign, which supports residents to swap unhealthy food for healthier options like choosing water instead of sugary drinks. We aim to update residents in the autumn when we have made further progress with securing more refill stations." In the meantime you can spread the word and encourage people to check this out and remember to take a water bottle with you!

We'll all keep trying! Reduce, reuse, repair and recycle.

*Janet Sharp*

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## **WHAT'S ON**

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

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

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 5pm there is a 'Get Together' to be held at the Centre to say thank you to all our wonderful volunteers - without whom the Centre could not function smoothly.

If you would be interested in helping at the Centre for a few hours once a week/once a month to suit you, please do get in touch on 0208 651 1111 or pop in to speak to a staff member.

~~

### **CANTILENA SINGERS**

A long established choir for female voices - we sing light popular songs, folk songs, songs from musicals, and carols at Christmas. There are no auditions and you don't have to read music. Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays at 7.30pm, Methodist Church, 102 Limpsfield Road, Sanderstead, CR2 9EF (between All Saint's Church and Hamsey Green on the 403 bus route; parking available). Our current members come from Thornton Heath, Croydon, Selsdon, Sanderstead, Addington, Kenley, Coulsdon and Caterham.

COME AND EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF SINGING IN THIS FRIENDLY AND WELCOMING CHOIR. For more information contact Jill on 07957 627783 or at [jkcharity@outlook.com](mailto:jkcharity@outlook.com) [www.cantilenasingerscroydon.org.uk](http://www.cantilenasingerscroydon.org.uk)

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### **PURLEY LITERARY SOCIETY**

Our new season begins in October. Meetings at 8pm in the hall of Purley United Reformed Church, 906 Brighton Road,

Purley, CR8 2LN. **Website:** [www.purley-literary-society.com](http://www.purley-literary-society.com)  
8 October **The Remarkable Mr Selfridge** Ian Porter  
22 October **The Inexhaustible Mr Paxton** Russell Bowes  
5 November **What's in a Name?** Anthony Poulton-Smith  
19 November **Museum of Croydon Archives** Lindsay Ould  
3 December **The Great British Paint Off** Nicola Moorby  
4 January **Shirley Windmill** Frank Paine  
28 January **The Cow That Changed History** Amanda Bryett  
11 February **Rigorous Pleasure – The Architecture of CZWG at 1 Lansdowne Road** Piers Gough  
25 February **The Miracle of Bletchley Park** Gillian Cane  
10 March **ENSA - Every Night Something Awful** Delia Taylor  
24 March **AGM at 7:30 with refreshments, followed by: Les Parisiennes: How The Women of Paris Lived, Loved and Died in the 1940's** Anne Sebba

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### **COMPANY CLUB**

Welcomes lively over 45's to social events including theatre ,cinema, meals out, quizzes, barbecues, walks etc. New members' evening - 1st Thursday of the month. Contact Linda [020 8668 1382](tel:02086681382), Glenn [020 8656 9007](tel:02086569007), Shirley [020 8651 5835](tel:02086515835).  
[www.companyclub.co.uk](http://www.companyclub.co.uk)

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### **THE CROYDON SYMPHONIC BAND**

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

**Monthly Illustrated Wildlife Talks in South Croydon**

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

**Monday Nov 11<sup>th</sup> 2019: “The Falkland Islands”.** As we discovered when she first visited us in 2017 **Jackie Garner** is one of Britain’s finest wildlife artists. Wildlife and art have combined to indulge Jackie in her personal long-term interests - birdwatching and nature, as this jaunt to the far-flung Falkland Islands will show.

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

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

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

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**FRIENDS OF SELSDON WOOD**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November @ 1pm - ‘Autumn Leaves’ with FSW**  
*Meet in Selsdon Wood car park, Old Farleigh Road.*

*To make enquiries or to check the above, see the Walks and*

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*Or phone 020-8657 0423 or e-mail: [selsdonwood@gmail.com](mailto:selsdonwood@gmail.com)*

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

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## **FRIENDS OF LITTLEHEATH WOODS**

Join the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society and Friends of Littleheath Woods for a Fungus Foray on Sunday October 27<sup>th</sup> @10am. This will be led by Dr Jane McLaughlin and Malcolm Jennings. Meet at the junction of Queenhill and Littleheath Roads.

More information including maps can be found at [www.folw.co.uk](http://www.folw.co.uk).

~~

## **SOUL SYMPHONY CHOIR**

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

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

Soul Symphony offers some great opportunities and experiences, and has raised thousands of pounds through fundraising concerts for charities and causes. We enjoy giving



back to our community so you'll be playing your special part in our mission to inspire positive change to peoples' lives.

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

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## **SELSDON TENNIS CLUB – 21A QUEENHILL ROAD**

New members are always made welcome at Selsdon Tennis Club where we cater for all ages including Tots and all standards e.g. Beginners, Improvers, Intermediate and Advanced. We are a family friendly club, and have a special rate for parents joining with their children. If you join now we are offering a 50% discount on our very competitive fees!

### **Club Overview:**

- Weekend and Mid-week sessions
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- Saturday morning sessions with coaching
- Tournaments
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- Use of courts outside club sessions
- Table tennis

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## SELSDON FLOWER CLUB

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

23 October                      Demo - Halloween - Christine Milburn

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

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## MUSIC EVENTS FROM THE PHOENIX COLLECTIVE!

- ▷ **Do you write songs? Are you a singer or choir leader who would like some help arranging a piece to sing?**  
The Selsdon-based Phoenix Collective are excited to announce a visit by American a cappella expert Chris Rupp (founder of the NBC Sing-Off winners, Home Free), on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Chris will be available to work with individuals or groups on aspects of song-writing and a cappella arranging. Why not give a session with him as a gift to a family or friend who is a keen musician? The sessions will take place in Selsdon, so right on your doorstep!
  
- ▷ **Are you a primary class teacher wanting to learn how to teach music? Are you a primary music specialist looking to refresh your practice with new ideas and insights?** If so, come to the 'Music in the Primary Classroom' course on 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> October 2019! This is hosted by Selsdon Resident Cyrilla Rowsell (author of the Jolly Music series) and Gerard Klaassens, a creative music educator from The Netherlands. The venue for this weekend will be St John's Primary School in Shirley Church Road.

More details and booking to be found at [www.the-phoenixcollective.co.uk](http://www.the-phoenixcollective.co.uk), or contact Cyrilla at [cyrilla@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:cyrilla@blueyonder.co.uk)



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

Please remember to state your name, address, contact number, and publication

anonymity requirements in all correspondence to the Editor. Anonymity can be granted on request, but anonymously sent letters/e-mails will not be published.

**Heather Govier, Editor**

~~

**August 29<sup>th</sup>**

Can anyone use a spare tyre & wheel for a Nissan Micra. Free or a small donation to a local church.

**David Huntley** - tel 020 86575673 or email [dh@clara.net](mailto:dh@clara.net)

**Editor's Note** - We do not usually publish small ads but are happy to include freebies.

~~

**September 20<sup>th</sup>**

Dear Heather,

I was interested to read the piece about visiting Portsmouth Harbour in the September issue.

As a possible addendum to that, I wondered if readers who, like me, are unable to travel there, but have Internet access, might be interested in a webcam which is mounted high up on one of the masts of HMS Warrior and gives a series of views around the harbour including the ferries, visiting foreign warships and HMS Queen Elizabeth when she is in (though not at present) among other things.

The address is: <http://www.hmswarrior.org/webcam> and there is a full-screen view button at the bottom right corner of the picture when you hover your cursor.

**Best Wishes, Albert Davis, Crawley**

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# **A SELECTED LIST OF SELSDON ORGANISATIONS**

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

## **CHURCHES**

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

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

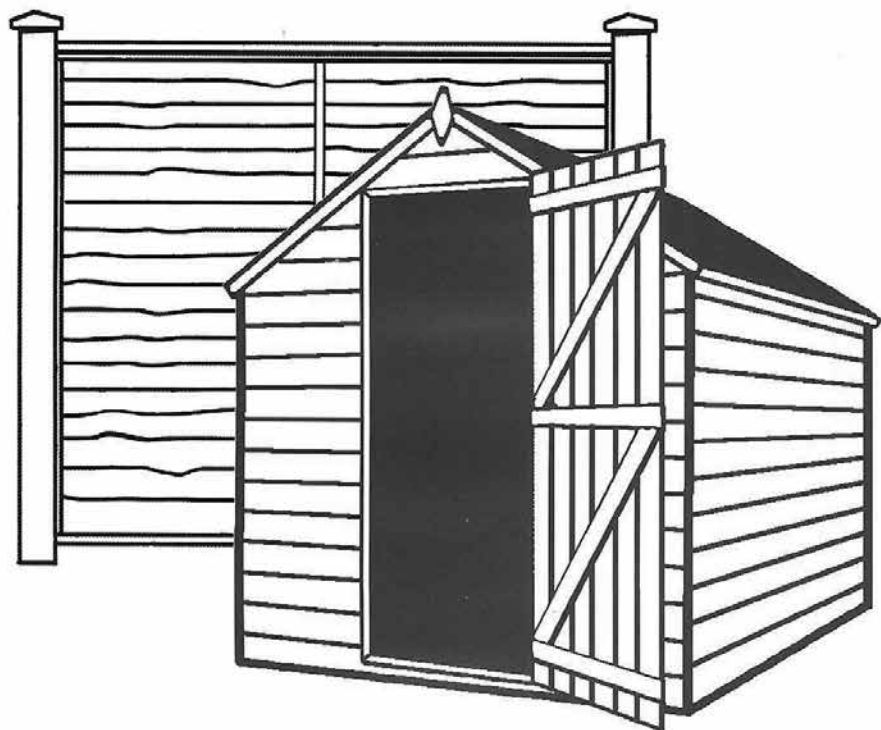
Farley Road Medical Practice	8651 1222
Queenhill Medical Practice	8651 1141
Selsdon Park Medical Practice	8657 0067
Croydon University Hospital (formerly Mayday Hospital, 24/7)	8401 3000
New Addington Minor Injuries Unit (Mon-Fri 14:00-22:00/Sat-Sun 12:00-22:00)	8251 7225
Purley War Memorial Hospital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

## **CLUBS, GROUPS & CHARITIES**

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

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