

The Selsdon — Gazette —

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THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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

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

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



Editor's Note

Welcome to the September edition of the Selsdon Gazette and I hope that most of you have been able to get out and about to meet up with family and friends as lockdown restrictions have eased.

The cover photo this month is of the Pyramidal Orchid which was spotted by an eagle-eyed member of the SRA committee, growing in the green area in front of Sainsburys. I am told that the pyramidal orchid is easy to identify by its display of bright pink flowers in a dense, pyramid-shaped cluster at the top of its stem (sorry about this black and white image but we have to reduce our costs!). It has long, narrow and pointed leaves. It grows on chalk grassland, coastal habitats, scrub, roadside verges, old quarries and railway embankments and it flowers in June and July.

After a month off, this edition is jam packed with local news and details of volunteering opportunities and clubs in Selsdon. We have received a mixed bag of letters to the editor with a chance to complain, warn others and feel good about living here. If you have a tale to tell please write to me at selsdongazettesra@gmail.com. Remember this is your magazine so it should filled with your news and articles.

Included this month we have a Pirate Poem from Mary Gill, a look at Sceptics in Science from Ted's Nature Notes and a focus on harvest time in our gardening feature. There is information about the referendum election on 7 October, an update about the library consultation and news of the Selsdon Garage development. Ian Leggatt takes us down memory lane with a look at the first bus service in Selsdon and there is our usual quiz, this time testing your knowledge of the upcoming Chelsea Flower Show.

I hope that you enjoy your read, keep safe and I do look forward to hearing from you!

Chris Jones

✎ SUBMISSIONS FOR THE OCTOBER 2021 EDITION
SHOULD BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN
20TH SEPTEMBER - PREFERABLY BEFORE! ✎

SRA NEWS ‘n’ VIEWS

Friends of Selsdon Wood Open Day with SRA Community BYO Picnic

Selsdon Wood Fair was held on the 5th September so I hope we had the chance to meet some of the residents and chat (and another opportunity to pay your subs) under more normal circumstances than we have been experiencing in the past year.

Selsdon Garage

Notices went up on the hoarding with drawings of the new plans for the site that have been put forward to Croydon Planning. They are similar to the previous plans but now will have 37 flats as opposed to 26 in the last plan, 13 of which will be family accommodation and some starter homes. The intention is that the building will be passed to a Housing Association to own and operate when finished. As soon as we hear any news, we will post it on our Facebook page.

Christmas Lights

Due to the extra cost that the council will charge for a ‘switch on event’ we have decided to turn on the lights earlier than normal and have a “Meet Father Christmas Event” on Friday 19th November at 5pm. Bring the family, meet Father Xmas and sing along with our carol singers.

We will be announcing a children’s picture competition for the front cover of the December Gazette nearer the time.

Hope you all had a lovely summer and look forward to seeing the usual large crowd on the 19th November!!

Sheila Childs, SRA Chair

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COUNCILLOR’S NOTES

Good news is that the economy in general is picking up as lockdown is eased. There are signs that the tapas restaurant in Selsdon High Street is reopening soon.

Less good news is that the bankruptcy of the Council means that the councillor ward budgets, which although much reduced had briefly been

reinstated, have now been suspended. We are not optimistic about their return. This makes progress difficult. Furthermore, some of the key officers who were supporting the regeneration of Selsdon, have left the Council.

CHRISTMAS MARKET

The Selsdon Christmas market in 2019 was a great success. We had to cancel the 2020 market, but that makes the 2021 market even more important. Unfortunately, the main source of funding was the councillor ward budgets. We need around £2,000 over and above the income from stallholders. This needs to come from somewhere, and it needs to be soon as stallholders have other opportunities around the Christmas period and without them, we do not have a market. We are therefore asking local people and organisations for their support. Offers of contributions, small or large will be most welcome. We will not be collecting them until the first week in September but we need to know that we have enough support to continue with organising the event. If you can help in any way, please get in touch with Cllr Ward

TREES AND GREENING

The five-year plan for tree planting had been concentrated in the North of

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the borough. Just as it was about to extend to the South part, including us, all optional expenditure was stopped. The Council trees officer is doing her best to secure funding from elsewhere. There is also a sponsor a tree scheme. Anyone interested in joining the team on this, please get in touch.

OLD GARAGE SITE



The planning application for the redevelopment of the old Garage site next to Aldi, has now been submitted. You can look up details on the Council's planning portal here:

[21/04116/FUL Demolition of existing garage, showroom and upper uses. Reuse of existing undercroft level and erection of a stepped 6 storey building \(inclusive of ground floor\) comprising 37 flats \(Class C3\) and a ground floor commercial unit \(Class E\). 230 Addington Road, South Croydon CR2 8LE.](#)

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

We hope to reinstate in-person councillor surgeries soon. In the meantime, we are happy to 'meet' residents online so if you have any issues you wish to discuss with your councillor please get in touch by email:

Helen.pollard@croydon.gov.uk

07941 573727

Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk

07783 152363

Stuart.millson@croydon.gov.uk

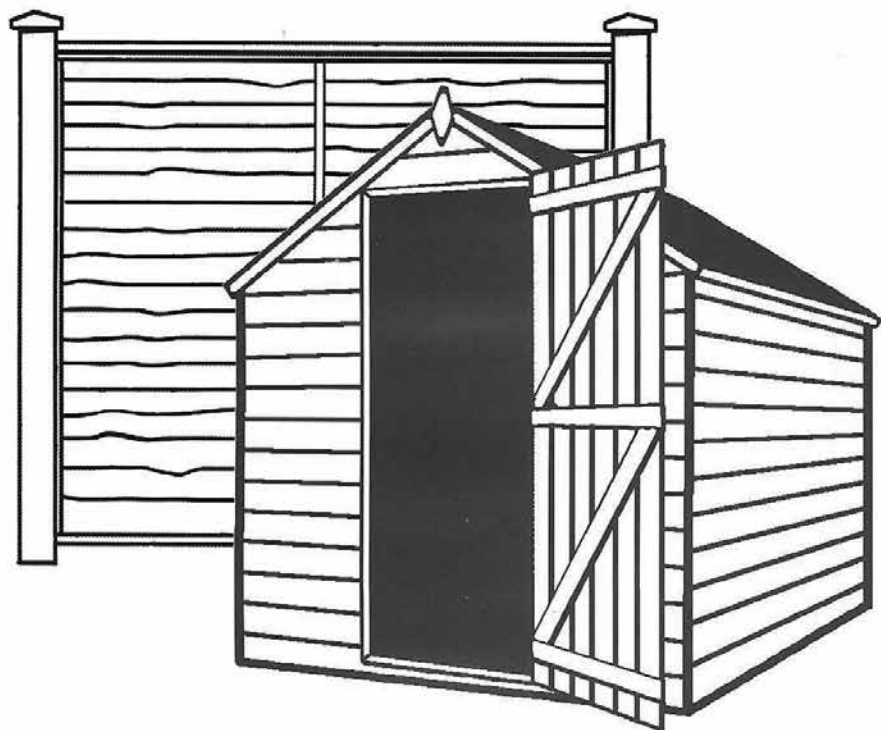
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PLANNING APPLICATIONS

21/03798/PA8 – Addington Road opposite junction with Byron Road CR2 8LA

Installation of 20m high telecommunications monopole with built-in cabinet at base, three ancillary cabinets and ancillary works

21/02824/HSE – 233 Addington Road CR2 8LQ

Alterations including proposed front porch, new front door and a new window to the front elevation

21/04062/HSE – 36 Farley Road CR2 8DA

Erection of a part two-storey, part single-storey side extension and front porch

21/04050/HSE – 52 Farley Road CR2 7ND

Demolition of existing detached garage, erection of a two-storey side extension and single-storey rear extension

21/03688/LP – 4 Ingham Road CR2 8LT

Certificate of Lawfulness (Proposed) is sought for loft conversion including a rear dormer and 3 x front roof lights to front roof slope

21/03534/HSE – 4 Ingham Road CR2 8LT

Erection of ground floor rear extension and alteration to garden and garden store

21/03635/LP – 7 Ingham Road CR2 8LS

Erection of a front porch

21/003634/LP – 7 Ingham Road CR2 8LS

Erection of a single-storey rear extension

21/03285/HSE – 153 Selsdon Park Road CR2 8JJ

Demolition of existing garage. Erection of a single-storey rear extension and two-storey side extension. Proposed hip to gable roof extension with rear dormer roof extension and front porch extensions

(Remember that you can use this website to view planning applications

http://www.localplanningapps.co.uk/croydon/sra/anupdate/planning_table.html

MP Chris Philp's Report

Member of Parliament for Croydon South



Brighton Mainline

The Brighton Mainline is one of the busiest train lines in the country, carrying over 300,000 passengers each day. Historically underfunded infrastructure means that it runs close to capacity as one of the most congested routes in the country. Between East Croydon station and Norwood Junction station, the track bed, points, and signals are in long need of upgrades and repairs. These problems make the railway network in this area highly sensitive to delays, and Network Rail has described it as “the most challenging bottleneck on Britain’s railway network”. Without investment to fix the bottleneck, services from Croydon will continue to be a commuter’s nightmare.

When Theresa May was Prime Minister, over £300m was secured to fund upgrades to the Brighton Mainline. Network Rail also announced major plans in the Croydon Area Remodelling Scheme to improve the tracks and stations. These plans include expanding East Croydon station to 8 platforms and grade separating Windmill Junction, with additional tracks. By increasing capacity in these ways, the bottleneck could be fixed which would allow more services to run with fewer delays. It is concerning that Network Rail’s Croydon Area Remodelling Scheme is under threat due to uncertainty about future passenger behaviour following the pandemic. Passenger numbers have doubled in the last 20 years, and with people now returning to work, it remains clear that these upgrades are needed as soon as possible.

It is essential that the Croydon Area Remodelling Scheme continues in order to support commuters. Funding was already committed to fixing these problems, and I was pleased that these plans had cross-party political support both in Croydon and in Westminster. Without this investment, commuters will continue to suffer delays, cancelled services, and over-crowded stations. We cannot allow this project to be delayed; commuters deserve to see these improvements given much-needed investment on this part of the mainline. This would be one of the biggest rail infrastructure upgrade projects in the country, and I will continue to press hard to make sure the plans go ahead. I will continue to keep you updated.

COVID-19

Case numbers continue to fall as our economy reopens. I am delighted to see businesses and hospitality operating as normal, and I hope that we can maintain this progress into and beyond the Autumn. Nationally, 73% of all adults have now received their second vaccination and it is welcome that 16- and 17-year-olds are now able to receive their jab. This is down to the fantastic work that our NHS professionals and volunteers have done in supporting the Government's vaccination rollout. As we return closer to normality, we should still exercise caution. This means getting a test if you have symptoms or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive, washing your hands, and getting vaccinated.

Chris Philp

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

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## **Message from Jack Killian (Selsdon and Forestdale Police Ward) and Tina Nash (Selsdon and Addington Village Police Ward)**

Here are the crime figures for the Selsdon and Addington Village Police ward for the first seven months of 2021.

As you can see the crime figures continue to be low with less motor vehicle crime. As usual in the summer months, we must be careful with open windows so the number of residential burglaries does not rise. Jack Killian has reported some new team news. Unfortunately, they are losing sergeant A/PS Straker at the end of August but he will be replaced by PS Edwards straight away.

Stay safe everyone!

***Jack Killian 7114SN*** Police Community Support Officer

Telephone: 020 8721 2464

Email: SNMailbox-SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk

Address: Addington Police Station, Addington Village Road, CR0 5AQ

***Tina Nash*** Selsdon and Addington Village Neighbourhood Team

Telephone: 020 8721 2468

Email: Selsdonaddvill@gmail.com

|                                 | Jan '21 | Feb '21 | Mar '21 | Apr '21 | May '21 | Jun'21 | Jul'21 |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| Arson                           | 0       | 0       | 0       | 1       | 0       | 0      | 0      |
| Criminal Damage                 | 5       | 2       | 2       | 2       | 2       | 4      | 3      |
|                                 |         |         |         |         |         |        |        |
| Burglary - Business & Community | 1       | 0       | 2       | 0       | 2       | 0      | 0      |
| Burglary - Residential          | 2       | 0       | 1       | 0       | 0       | 2      | 3      |
|                                 |         |         |         |         |         |        |        |
| Drug Trafficking                | 1       | 0       | 1       | 2       | 0       | 0      | 0      |
| Possession of Drugs             | 2       | 2       | 3       | 1       | 2       | 0      | 2      |
|                                 |         |         |         |         |         |        |        |
| Possession of Weapons           | 1       | 1       | 0       | 0       | 2       | 0      | 2      |
|                                 |         |         |         |         |         |        |        |
| Bicycle Theft                   | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0      | 0      |
| Other theft                     | 1       | 1       | 3       | 2       | 3       | 3      | 3      |
| Shoplifting                     | 0       | 0       | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0      | 0      |
| Theft from person               | 0       | 0       | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0      | 1      |
|                                 |         |         |         |         |         |        |        |
| Aggravated Vehicle Taking       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0      | 0      |
| Interfering with a vehicle      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0      | 1      |
| Theft from vehicle              | 8       | 2       | 3       | 1       | 0       | 2      | 1      |
| Theft or taking of a vehicle    | 0       | 3       | 2       | 0       | 1       | 1      | 0      |
|                                 |         |         |         |         |         |        |        |
| Homicide                        | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0      | 0      |
| Violence with injury            | 6       | 6       | 9       | 8       | 5       | 2      | 4      |
| Violence without injury         | 11      | 12      | 7       | 12      | 8       | 7      | 11     |

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*Croydon residents are going to the polls again on 7 October. Here is some information about the issue being considered.*

## Referendum on the Council's Governance Model

### Why is Croydon holding a referendum?

The Local Government Act 2000 (as amended) (LGA 2000) sets out the statutory process which councils must follow before they can change their





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governance arrangements. A change in governance arrangements can be made by the council itself, or by giving local electors a choice by holding a referendum. Croydon Council received a petition requesting a change in governance from the campaign group known as DEMOC (Democratically Elected Mayor of Croydon) on

3 September 2020 which was delayed by the changes to the referendum regulations due to the impact of the pandemic on councils and, at an Extraordinary Council meeting in February 2021 separately resolved to hold a referendum on this issue.

### **When will the referendum take place and when will pre-election restrictions come into force?**

The referendum will be held on 7 October 2021. The council will enter a period of pre-election restrictions 28 working days before the election, from 30 August 2021.

### **What will the pre-election restrictions mean for council business?**

Councils must abide by the Code of Recommended Practice which describes the pre-election period as a time of heightened sensitivity. The Code sets out the restrictions which apply to Council publicity during this period.

### **What will electors be asked to choose?**

Electors will be asked to choose between:

- A. The current model of the leader and cabinet (the Leader Model) or
- B. The mayor and cabinet model (the Mayoral Model)

The format and wording of the ballot paper is prescribed by law – see appendix 1.

### **What is the difference between the two models?**

Both models are executive models of governance. Most of the council's powers are held by the executive (cabinet) which takes policy and strategic decisions and delegates operational decisions to officers. Important powers are reserved for decision by full council, including setting the budget and council tax, approval of specified major policies and decisions relating to regulatory decisions (such as planning and licensing) and governance matters.

Like the executive, council can delegate those powers to committees and officers.

Both leaders and directly elected mayors are the political leaders of the council

and have overall responsibility for council policy and the delivery of services. A key difference between the two models is that the leader and cabinet model enables other elected councillors to choose the leader, whereas the mayoral model is elected at large – it allows the local electorate to decide who the overall leader of the council is and decision-maker for the executive.

### **The leader model:**

The executive is comprised of a leader and cabinet. It is the model adopted in most councils.

The leader is a councillor who is elected by full council for up to 4 years. A leader stays in office except for death, disqualification, resignation or after being removed by a vote in full Council.

If a leader is removed, they must be replaced by another councillor by a vote at full council.

The leader must appoint a deputy leader, who acts when the leader is unable to act or on death, disqualification or resignation until a new leader is appointed by full council.

The leader must appoint a cabinet of between 2 to 9 councillors including the deputy leader and decide their portfolios.

The cabinet does not need to be politically balanced.

The leader holds all executive powers but may delegate them to the cabinet, cabinet committees, individual cabinet members and officers.

Council can only exercise powers reserved to it by law, including approval of the budget, major policies, regulatory and governance/constitutional powers.

This model must have at least one overview and scrutiny committee appointed by Council, which holds the executive to account.

### **The mayoral model**

In the mayoral model, the executive is comprised of the elected mayor and cabinet.

Executive powers are held by the Mayor who may choose to delegate powers to the executive collectively, or to individual cabinet members or a committee of cabinet members or to officers. The mayoral model under consideration in Croydon is that the Mayor would delegate powers to the cabinet so that decisions are made collectively, as at present under the leader/ cabinet model.

The mayor is directly elected, by the local electorate, every four years and is not a councillor.

The mayor cannot be removed by council but only on resignation, disqualification or death, when a by-election is held.

The mayor must appoint a deputy mayor, who acts when the mayor is

unable to act or on death or resignation until a by-election is held.  
The mayor must appoint a cabinet of between 2 to 9 councillors including the deputy mayor and decide their portfolios.  
The cabinet does not need to be politically balanced.  
This model must have at least one overview and scrutiny committee appointed by Council, which holds the executive to account.

### **What happens if the referendum is passed?**

If local electors vote to change the existing system to a mayoral model, then the council will continue to operate under the Leader/Cabinet model until the local elections in May 2022 at which point the council will move to the Mayor/Cabinet model. The election for the Mayor will be held at that time along with the elections for all the councillors

A report will be presented to the first council meeting following the referendum setting out the proposed transition arrangements.

If passed the result of the referendum is binding.

### **What happens if the referendum is not passed?**

If the referendum does not agree to a change then the May 2022 local elections will be run on the current Leader Cabinet model.

If not passed the result of the referendum is binding.

### **If the electorate vote for a change in governance model, what are the timescales for implementation?**

If the referendum result is in favour of a change in governance arrangements, the council must then resolve to make the change within 28 days of the referendum by a decision on any transitional arrangements at special full council meeting. The election for mayor would then be held on Thursday 5 May 2022.

### **How are mayors elected?**

Directly elected mayors are elected by the 'supplementary vote' system, with each elector asked to choose their first and second preference for the position. Voters' first preferences are counted and if one candidate gets 50 percent of the vote, then he /she /they are elected. If no candidate gains 50 percent of the vote, the two highest scoring candidates are recounted to determine the winner, this time including second preference votes from

all other (eliminated) candidates.

**What does this mean for the current Mayor of Croydon?**

The role of directly elected mayor is different to the role of the ceremonial Mayor. Other London Boroughs which have a directly elected mayor have adopted a variety of approaches to the ceremonial role. If the result of the referendum was a vote in favour of a directly elected mayor the full council meeting would decide what kind of model to adopt for the ceremonial mayor.

**When can the council have another referendum?**

Once the referendum takes place a further referendum cannot be held for another 10 years following any such referendum.

Appendix 1: Ballot paper:

The format and wording of the ballot paper is prescribed by law. As such this is what the front of the ballot paper would look like:

|                                                                                                                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Referendum on how the London Borough of Croydon is run</b>                                                                   |                          |
| Vote only once by marking a cross (X) in the box next to your choice                                                            |                          |
| <b>How would you like the London Borough of Croydon to be run?</b>                                                              |                          |
| By a leader who is an elected councillor chosen by a vote of the other elected councillors. This is how the council is run now. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| By a mayor who is elected by voters. This would be a change from how the council is run now.                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> |

~~

**Selsdon Garage Revised Plans**

**Introduction /Update**

This site has been redundant for some time, since the existing garage closed down in the late 1990's. The garage building is in an 'Art Deco' style and a viable and implementable planning consent is required to



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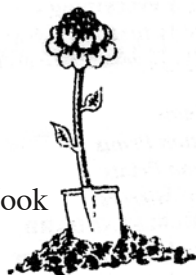
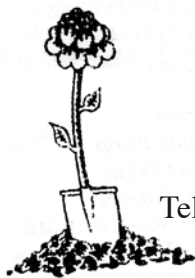
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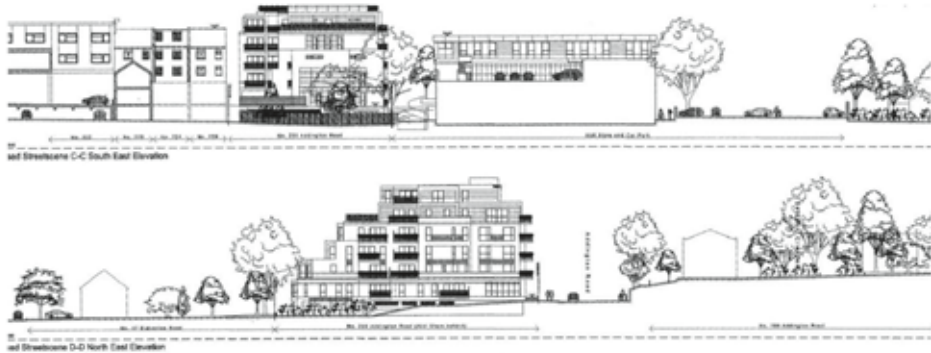
demolish it. The existing building has an extensive undercroft with an existing access to the side, adjacent to 226 Addington Road. This is all currently hoarded off and what follows provides an update on what is now intended to happen with the site.

**Existing planning Consent 2018**

A planning approval for 26 flats and frontage shop with undercroft parking was granted in 2018 and expired this summer (June 2021). The site owners have tried to implement this planning permission but it has proved economically unviable to do so. The sloping site and retaining the extensive undercroft have made this scheme too expensive to construct for only 26 new flats.

**Revised Proposals - Summer 2021**

An enlarged scheme, similar to the existing planning consent is now proposed, which the site owners are submitting for a revised planning application, following consultations with Croydon Borough Council during the pandemic. This is for 37 flats, with the intention that the entire building will be passed to a Housing Association to own and to operate.



~~

**Selsdon's First Bus Service**

Our loyal reader will remember that back in February 2021 we left a rather smartly attired gentleman complete with bowler hat and briefcase pondering the state of the unmade Farley Road.



*Top of Farley Road with Costain's narrow gauge railway bringing building materials up the hill to build Selsdon Garden Village*

Assuming he was on his way to work in the big city how would he have got to a transport hub to get up to town? Farley Road was unmade with a narrow-gauge railway delivering building materials to the emerging housing estate, and not opened to traffic until July 1926. With the station at Spencer Road Halt, off Croham Road, closed in 1915 as an economy during WW1 and Selsdon (Road) Station on a branch line it left South Croydon station being the nearest main railway connection. The options for those hardy commuters back in 1925 / 26 were limited to walking, car ownership being unusual then. One could either walk down Upper Selsdon Road to Selsdon Road station or take the Bridleway across Croham Hurst golf course to the top of Coombe Lane and thence down to South Croydon station. A stiff walk in any weathers, never mind the return journey after work! The newly formed Selsdon and Croham Heights Residents Association may well have badgered Costains (or Costains made a commercial decision to make the 'Heights' more attractive to sell) and in early 1926 Costains provided a free to use Private Bus service for Selsdon residents.



*Costain's Bus pictured in Upper Selsdon Road, outside number 2 Queenhill Road.*

The bus ran from the junction of Queenhill and Upper Selsdon Roads, down to the Croham Arms for South Croydon station via Selsdon Road between the hours of 06:30 to 10:00 and 16:00 to 20:00. Unfortunately, the 'Free' service did not last for long: wives took to travel down to meet their husbands at South Croydon and return with them to Selsdon. Many a weary commuter was left at the station when the free bus was full. It is recorded that some commuters resorted to hanging on to the rear bumpers for the journey back up the hill and that the overloaded bus would regularly breakdown and even lose its back wheels! Soon tickets were required and Costains charged 2d each way. Tickets were available from the Costain's Estate Office (No 1 Queenhill Road) and a slot machine at South Croydon station. Costains agreed to provide the service until a bus company would take over the route. The local bus company, The East Surrey Traction Company (ESTC), were unable or unwilling to provide a service because Upper Selsdon Road was only a narrow lane and it was not until the road was widened that in November 1926 ESTC ran a single decker bus from the gates of Selsdon Park down Upper Selsdon Road to South Croydon Station via Lismore Road. The 417 buses ran at 30-minute intervals, weekdays only, with a 2d fare. It was not until the condition of the roads were improved further that the service was increased to a double decker in January 1927. One wonders what those intrepid first commuters would make now of the condition of our roads?

***Ian Leggatt***

*I am indebted to the late Ted Frith and his journals recording Selsdon life, and with thanks to Ernie Sweeney for permission to use his illustrations.*

~~

## **SELSDON FLOWER CLUB**



We have pleasure in announcing that our Flower Club will be re-commencing on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

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. All levels welcome.

8 September

Practice - Table arrangement with a candle

22 September

To be arranged

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

## A Good Time for Gardening – September 2021



Harvest Time – I doubt that many of us will be harvesting wheat, oats or barley this year. If you've been away on a 'Staycation' you might have seen these crops growing in the fields and possibly have seen a combine harvester in operation.

The dough in the picture has been fashioned into a traditional harvest loaf, in the shape of a sheaf, complete with harvest mouse. This loaf of bread also signifies the bounty and fertility of the harvest. The mouse could be a whimsical addition signifying the tastiness of the bread, which would also signify the bounty of the crop. If you could afford to give some to the mice and still have enough to feed the town, village, etc., you had a bountiful and rich harvest, and had something to really celebrate at the Harvest Festival.

### Corn Dollies:

The idea behind corn dollies is that the Spirit of the Corn lived in the last sheaf cut at harvest time. Often a figure or traditional design would be made from this sheaf. This would be preserved in the farmhouse until the following year in the belief that looking after the Spirit throughout the Winter would ensure a good harvest the following year. The corn dolly would be returned to the soil either by being fed to the horses, trampled into the ground or sown back into the first furrow in the Spring planting.



### A few jobs for September:

- Reduce watering of houseplants, whilst continuing to water new plants outside to ensure they are well established before Winter
- Dead head dahlias, roses etc and feed hanging baskets to encourage them to continue flowering as late into the year as possible
- Remove the leaves shading the developing fruit on pumpkin plants to help them to ripen in time for Halloween
- Tidy strawberry plants
- Pick apples and other Autumn fruits – look out for blackberries and sloes in the hedgerows (try the 'Bird Sanctuary' for these)
- Put a net over ponds to stop the falling Autumn leaves going into the water



- Clean the shading from cold frames and greenhouses to let more light in as the hours of daylight reduce
- Plant Spring bulbs like daffodils, crocus, hyacinths, but leave tulips until later in the year (November time)



**A date for your diary:**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September from 2 pm**

**Sanderstead Horticultural Society - Autumn Show**

**Sanderstead United Reformed Church Hall, Sanderstead Hill, CR20HB**

***Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid***

[www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](http://www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk)

~~

## **The Village Club**



Perhaps you're new to the area or perhaps you've simply walked/driven along Addington Road and wondered what that large, white building by the pedestrian lights is. Well wonder no more, it's The Village Club.

We're a licensed private members' club offering a safe and comfortable environment in which our members and their guests may enjoy a drink and socialise generally.

We have quite a lot to offer including regular entertainment (singers, quizzes, race nights, bingo, poker), a golf society, an angling society, a

darts team and a cribbage team. We're also in the process of bringing our pool facilities up to league standard.

But rather than me ramble on, why not have a look at our website ([www.selsdonvillageclub.co.uk](http://www.selsdonvillageclub.co.uk)) and/or our Facebook page (The Village Club (Selsdon)) or better still, pop in and have a drink and chat and see for yourself.

You can walk in and buy a £5 monthly entry card that gives you full instant access to the club's facilities and entertainment or apply for an annual membership at any time. Whatever you decide, and I sincerely hope you'll want to join us, you'll be assured of a warm welcome.

I hope to see/meet you soon.

**Barry Smith** Club Secretary (020 8657 3593 or [secretary@selsdonvillageclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@selsdonvillageclub.co.uk))

~~

## Interested in the arts?



Join us every month for a first class, illustrated talk on many aspects of the arts.

When the first lockdown came, we moved to Zoom to deliver our planned programme. One year later we hope to restart our talks at the church hall but await guidance. Our speakers are ready to continue on Zoom if necessary.

We meet at the United Reformed Church Sanderstead on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Doors are open from 10.00am – a prompt start at 10.30.

### The programme for the rest of this year:

September - "Creating Imaginary Worlds – Theatre Design" with Bertie Pearce

October - "Women Behind the Lens – Female Photographers" with Brian Stater

November – "From Bronzes to Banksie – Street Art" with Ian Swankie

For more information go to the website – [the artsociety.sanderstead.org.uk](http://theartsociety.sanderstead.org.uk) or email: [suedavenport72@gmail.com](mailto:suedavenport72@gmail.com)

*The SRA Committee would like to remind those residents who have not yet paid their annual subscription that it is never too late to do so. We say a big 'Thank you to all who support this Association.*

We are now encouraging as many of you as possible to subscribe to the SRA (still just a minimum of £5 per household per year – a real bargain!) via an on-line payment or Standing Order as this is so much easier for us all.

Please complete the form overleaf for your Standing Order (SO) and send it to your bank, using the first line of your address as the reference. We can then look out for it on our bank statement and add it to our list of subscribing residents for this and following years.

You can also confirm you have done this by sending a message to our email address – [mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com](mailto:mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com) – if you wish.

Any additional donations (for the Christmas lights and/or just for the general funds e.g., community help, flowers etc) will, of course, be gratefully received.

*If you'd rather not make a SO, you can still make an online payment directly from your bank account to ours by using the bank details on the SO form.*

*They are also on our website – [www.Selsdon-residents.co.uk](http://www.Selsdon-residents.co.uk)*

If you do not want to subscribe in either of these ways via your bank, then please deliver whatever you wish to pay us (in cash or by a cheque) via the SRA subscription envelope delivered with the June Gazette (or any spare envelope you have if you cannot now find it – but still remember to give us your name and address on it) to the office of Selsdon Contact or the Selsdon Centre (both in the Sainsburys complex), to Burchell's Chiropodist (Farley Road) or to any of the following committee members:

Sheila Childs - 6, Cowley Close

Linda Morris - 48, Ravenshead Close

Janet Sharp - 16, Brent Road

Ian Leggett - 53, Queenhill Road

Trevor Stotten - 116, Littleheath Road

Iris Jones - 24, South Views

Sara Bashford - 20, Wagtail Gardens

Yvonne Huber - 121, Farley Road

Peter Underwood - 12a, Abbey Road

Jenny Stawman - 42, Kersey Drive

Arthur Wilson - 131, Sundale Avenue

Su Yates - 10, Foxearth Road

**Thank you from all the SRA Committee**

# *The* SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

**STANDING ORDER** (Annual Payment - repeat payments due on 1<sup>st</sup> June)

**To: Selsdon Residents Association (SRA):**

**A/c No 40336343    Sort Code 20-24-61**

To (your Bank).....

Branch Address .....

Your A/C Name .....

Your A/C Number ..... Sort Code .....-.....-.....

Reference: .....

*n.b. Please use the first line of your address for the reference*

We need this so that we can record your subscription knowing that you are a Selsdon Resident and so entitled to be a member of this Residents' Association

## **General Data Protect Regulation 2018**

The SRA will electronically store this personal information obtained from this SO, so we have a record of your bona fide membership. We respect your right to privacy and will not share, sell or profile your personal data.

You may contact the SRA at [mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com](mailto:mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com) at any time to request a copy of your personal information that we hold electronically and, at your request, we will amend or delete that information. Deletion will mean that we will no longer contact you.

☐

**Please tick this box to give us your permission to retain your personal details for our records.**

Please pay the Selsdon Residents' Association now and on 1<sup>st</sup> June annually until further notice from me, the sum of

£ 5.00                      Annual Subscription

£..... Optional additional annual donation\*/ Christmas Lights\*  
(\*delete as appropriate)

£..... **Total**

**Please sign here:** .....**Date**.....

Please also print your name here (*particularly for your bank's use*)

.....  
n.b. This is not a Direct Debit – we cannot alter your Standing Order. You can cancel your Standing Order at any time by contacting your bank.

# Libraries set to stay in-house under savings proposals



Croydon Council is set to continue running all 13 of its libraries as a comprehensive in-house service but with shorter opening times in response to residents' feedback on savings proposals.

The council is partway through the process of updating the library service available to residents across the borough, including building upgrades, better wifi, new computers and wider out-of-hours access, while also proposing much-needed savings.

After a two-stage public consultation, most resident feedback has chosen a savings option for shorter opening times while still keeping all libraries open and run direct by the council.

This feedback was presented to the 16 August cabinet meeting with a recommendation to make around £500,000 in savings by opening libraries on average two fewer days per week. The council could hire out the buildings for a range of community uses on closed library days.

If cabinet approves the recommended savings proposal to reduce opening hours, the central library would open five days a week, with the other 12 opening up to two days fewer per week depending on their size and visitor numbers. Other options being considered involve bringing in an external partner to run some or all libraries on the council's behalf.

The final new opening times would be subject to further engagement with library users, with changes due to come into effect from early 2022.

The council will be upgrading five library buildings – at Bradmore Green, Shirley, Sanderstead, South Norwood and Broad Green – using ring-fenced Community Infrastructure Levy money. This funding will also allow the council to introduce access to several libraries outside staffed opening hours through Open + swipe cards. Five libraries will have this Open+ facility by 2022, including Selsdon and Norbury.

Croydon has to make savings in its library service as part of a three-year renewal plan to deliver core council services while putting the borough on a sustainable financial footing.

Following stage one of the savings consultation in the spring, the council decided to keep all 13 of its libraries open in response to residents' feedback on initial options to close some libraries.

"We've listened to and acted on Croydon people's views in this process because we know libraries matter to them.

"If cabinet approves reducing opening hours, we will still offer a comprehensive service where we keep all libraries open and run in-house, and make significant investments in the buildings themselves. We will keep residents fully involved and updated before we finalise any changes in early 2022."

**Councillor Oliver Lewis**, cabinet member for culture and regeneration.

~~

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



## **VOLUNTEER COFFEE MORNING HELPERS REQUIRED**



Contact runs a coffee morning on the first Tuesday of every month at Selsdon Baptist Church. Many of our clients come on the minibus together with a volunteer escort to assist our minibus driver with pick-ups.

We currently have a few volunteers who work on a rota basis but we need to increase the number of volunteers to add to our wonderful team.

To assist the minibus driver, you will need to be available from 9.15am and



collect clients from their home and ferry them to the church. After enjoying, coffee, homemade cakes and a chat, around midday you will accompany the bus and drop off clients at home.

Alternatively, if you prefer, you may go directly to the church and help set up tables/chairs, table cloths and cups/saucers, assist with tea/coffee making and greet guests on arrival.

If any of the above interests you, please call or email the office and we can provide further information. If you would like to see us in person, please call us first and make an appointment and we will gladly see you.

We are based on the lower ground floor of the Selsdon Community Centre, Mondays -Fridays 10am to 3pm.

Contact: Selsdon Churches Neighbourhood Care      Registered Charity 1124346  
Charitable Incorporated Organisation.      Registered in England No 6582829

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## RHS Chelsea Flower Show Inspired Quiz



The world's greatest flower show will be held for the first time in September (21-26), with the usual cutting-edge garden design and fabulous floral displays. How much do you know about our annual RHS flower shows?

1. The RHS Chelsea Flower Show is held in the grounds of which establishment?
2. What do the letters RHS stand for?
3. Which English Palace holds an annual flower show in July?
4. What are the four grades, in ascending order of merit, available to be awarded at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show?
5. Which member of the Royal family participated in the 2019's RHS Chelsea Flower Show?

6. The main aim of the RHS is to help people to share a passion for gardens, and encourage excellence as well as inspiration. What campaign/competition do they organise to get gardeners to help regenerate local environments?
7. Which RHS Flower Show takes up 20 acres of parkland in the county of Cheshire?
8. What type of garden was introduced in 2007 at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show?
9. What year did the RHS lift the ban on garden gnomes?
10. The RHS holds a special flower show in London in March. What specific plants are displayed at this show?

### **Answers after Nature Notes**

~~



**Sanderstead & Selsdon  
Your local Rotary Club**

Busy, Busy, Busy (& having such a good time) .....

There is so much going on as we move 'hopefully' but cautiously out of Covid 19. We are excited to work with Priscilla's to again present the Sanderstead Community Day on Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Sept on Sanderstead Recreation Ground.

We are continuing to provide defibrillator units, outside Waitrose in Sanderstead, outside Sainsburys in Selsdon, outside Priscilla's Corner House Tea Room in Hamsey Green, with more to come. These units are vital within our communities & will save lives.

Looking forward we are delighted once again to be asked to work with Selsdon Residents Association on the Selsdon Woods event on Sun 5<sup>th</sup> September. Our Hobby Fair which was due to be launched in 2020 & will now hopefully take place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September at St John's Hall, with our Craft Fair on 13<sup>th</sup> November at All Saints Sanderstead.

We are delighted to announce that the football team we sponsor, R & R Mambas won the cup final match in June are we are delighted with their performance.

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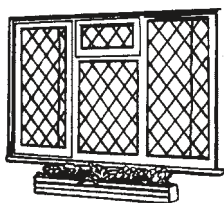
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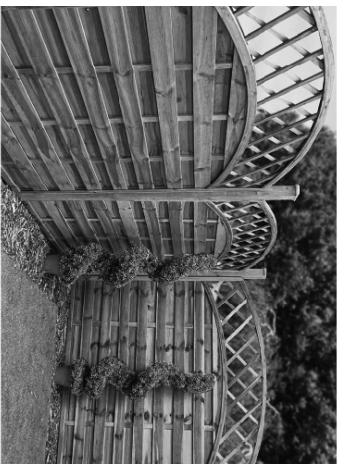
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**M: +44 7944 7800 34**



Finally for this half of the year we will of course bring you Santa on his Christmas visits around the local area, plus Shout Outs & the popular innovation of the Virtual Grottos.

We continue to offer support throughout the community & Covid 19, it has been our pleasure to give service & support. So much to do – If you have volunteered during Covid, why stop now, join us & have a great time, a lot of fun & service provision.



For more details contact our secretary on  
07774 186 792

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

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

<https://twitter.com/RotarySelsdon>

<https://www.instagram.com/rotarysanderstead/>

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## VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

**We need you!**

**The Selsdon Centre for the Retired is Looking for Volunteer Drivers**

Can you spare a maximum of 2hrs a week to either pick up or drop off our clients on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday in our minibus?

Your driving will be in a 2 mile radius of the Sainsbury's building in Selsdon.

Come on do a good deed, and apply today!

Your Retired Centre needs you!

Email: [Selsdon.centre@btinternet.com](mailto:Selsdon.centre@btinternet.com) or telephone: 0208 651 1111.

We're open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 10am and 2pm  
for further details.



## Natural Cleaners



Most of us, on our shelves, possess a bank of products designed to keep us, our clothes and houses, clean and lovely. What if we could replace all these with a few simple natural products to do the same job? Saving us money and more importantly removing some of the harshest manmade ingredients which are unkind to the environment and possibly our health.

Here are some ingredients, easily available, which have many uses.

- White vinegar—101 uses, it's versatile as a cleaning agent, acidic so it neutralises grease, fights mould, is a disinfectant, bleach and deodoriser. Add a few drops of scented oil if the smell is not liked.
- Lemon juice—Nature's own bleach and disinfectant.
- Bicarbonate of soda—alkaline, a mild abrasive, excellent as a cleaner and disinfectant.
- Salt—has an abrasive action, particularly effective with lemon juice.
- Washing soda—softens hard water, used to remove stubborn stains from laundry, dissolved in hot water is a grease solvent for drains.
- Eucalyptus oil—useful as a disinfectant and an insect repellent. Treats stains on carpets and fabrics.
- Castile soap—a completely natural soap made from olive oil and coconut with many uses for cleaning everything and everyone!

Once you have these basics, here are a few ideas for their use:

Use white vinegar to descale the kettle, unclog your shower head in a small bowl of vinegar, use diluted to clean windows, use neat to wipe surfaces and soak cloths, keep cut flowers fresh longer by adding tsp of vinegar and tsp sugar, and help growth for acid-loving plants.

Use Bicarbonate of soda to remove smells in pet bedding, microwaves, fridges.

*Many thanks and more ideas in 'Natural Stain Removal' by Angela Martin, and on [www.dri-pak.co.uk](http://www.dri-pak.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.

*I received this letter from one of our residents who was thwarted when she tried to follow the rules for disposing of bulky waste.*

Dear Editor,

Please see attached a letter I have today sent to Croydon Council.

Regards,

**Mrs L. Cullen**

PS: The men who collect our recycling and garden waste and general waste are fantastic. So hard working and polite and friendly. It's a great shame the administrative staff and management are so incompetent.

"Dear Sirs

### Bulky Waste Collection - Thursday 29 July 2021

No wonder fly-tipping is such a problem in Croydon !! Early in July I booked a Bulky Waste collection and paid £52. The date I was given was Thursday 29 July.

It was not collected on that day so, as instructed, I used "My Account" for Croydon Council online to notify them. The items were still on my driveway two days later, so I notified the Council again, using My Account.

I did this every day.

Today, one week later, I phoned Croydon Council. First, I listened to a long-recorded talk about Covid, then I was given six options to choose from. I chose Environmental Services.



I was then advised that I was in a 10-minute waiting queue. I held on for much longer than ten minutes and eventually a man answered.

I very politely said that I had been waiting for a long time to speak to someone, and please could he be careful not to lose me. He took my details and found my booking, and agreed that I had had problems getting the items collected.

And then the line went dead!! He actually cut me off!! I had not said a word, except to give him my reference details - so he could not say I had been rude. I am never rude to phone-staff, it is not their fault that a problem has occurred.

So here I am, writing a letter to Croydon Council, which I will send by Signed For post. I will also send a copy to the local Councillor.

I realise Croydon Council are apparently bankrupt, but I am still paying £2,180 a year in council tax AND I paid £52 to have the items collected.

There is no excuse for this dreadful service. I look forward to having the items taken away as soon as possible."

*As the Gazette goes to print the bulky waste has still not been collected! If you have any similar experiences please forward details to the Gazette.*



**Here is another cautionary tale, this time about parking fines.**

Dear Editor,

My email relates to the strip of yellow line that extends from the West end of Aldi to just past Tudor Library and the 64/ 349 bus stop.

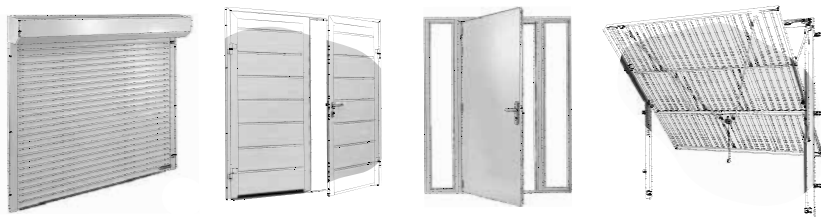
In September 2020 I was issued with a parking fine one Saturday morning for parking on this line which I paid up straight away to avoid the £130.00 fine.

On close inspection the next day I noticed that there were no black and yellow day and time plates to indicate restrictions and sent pictures to the Council.



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EST. 1973

# Paul Meakin

ESTATE AGENTS

A map of the Selston and Riddlesdown area with several property status markers. The markers are as follows:

- SELSDON**: 216 Addington Rd, 020 8651 1234
- RIDDLESDOWN**: 77-79 MITCHLEY AVE, 020 8657 8000
- SANDERSTEAD**: 13 Limpsfield Rd, 020 8657 5000

Other markers include 'SOLD' and 'LET BY' in various locations on the map.

EST. 1973

## Paul Meakin

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- + Hedge Trimming
- + Hedge Reduction
- + Planting
- + Garden & Site Clearance

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Over the next seven months challenging and appealing against the fine I was getting no positive feedback to my submissions.  
I raised a freedom of information request for the Council to identify where the black and yellow plates were situated. They sent me a photo of a plate further down the road on a different yellow line.

The Council stated that I had crossed a border into a Controlled Parking Zone. There are only five of these zones in Croydon and Selsdon is not one of them. I sent them a picture of what this sign actually looks like.

During a period of several months when the Council advised they were carrying out inspections of the area I offered to meet with one of their officers on the scene to discuss my objections. My offer was not taken up and I doubt that any inspections took place.

From the outset I was refused a refund on the basis that I had admitted liability.

I appealed to the Council Ombudsman and concurrently the Highways Department.

A Highways manager agreed that if there were no restriction plates then a fine should not have been issued and that signs would be installed as soon as possible.

Two black and yellow signs were subsequently installed towards the end of May 2021.

I received a full refund but no apology. Not unexpected !

My whole point in writing is that anyone receiving a penalty notice on this yellow line before May 2021 could be entitled to claim a refund.

And it pays not to let authorities browbeat you into submission when you know you are in the right.

Kindest regards,

**David.**

Selsdon resident, regular reader and subscriber



***Now an uplifting letter!***

Dear Editor,

### **Good Samaritans**

I would like to say a big thank you to the people who helped me when my car stalled and refused to start at the busy junction at the top of Selsdon High Street. For me it was a very frightening situation made worse by drivers who thought the best way to help was to impatiently sound their horns. Lucky for me a number of people saw my problem and came to my aid, the young man who helped push the car off the junction, the ladies who rushed to give what help, sympathy and understanding they could and the young man who finally started the car and drove it onto the slip road for me. There are some nice people in this world and I would just say thank you again to these folks.

Name and address supplied



Dear Editor,

I would like to report the sad news that my dear friend, Mr L.S.Fraser, of Norfolk Avenue has recently died.

Name and Address supplied.



Dear Editor,

*(We have another episode from Jessica, this time about spending the summer at the coast in the UK).*

### **THE JOYS OF SUMMER**

Summer is such a wonderful time. It means we wear less clothes to restrict us, open shoes, sandals or flip flops - except on rainy days of course; and the sultry air soothes our skins and warms us - unless of course we forget the suntan cream, when we burn or itch for a while!

It is so wonderful walking between the dappled shadows of trees; in the streets where there are trees lining pavements, or branches from gardens

are hanging over fences; and it is especially soothing to watch the dappled light in parks, fields, meadows and woods.

The birds sound happy and the buzzing bees are always synonymous with summer. To see a colourfully planted garden or watch and listen to fountains is a delight.

Best of all on a fine summer's day, is to travel to the coast. To feel the balmy breeze ruffling our hair as we walk along the promenade, and to finally descend onto the beach, all in anticipation of a paddle or a dip. It makes no difference if a beach is stony or sandy or a mix of the two. The stones make a wonderful crunchy noise underfoot and if the sand has dried a little, our shoes make a hollow slapping sound. Picnics usually have to be hidden inside a zipped bag nowadays. Perhaps seagulls have always been a nuisance but I don't remember problems with them when I was a child. Seagulls do seem to love fish and chips, just as much as we humans do, and I have seen people attacked on several occasions. As soon as the person carrying and eating their irresistible chips, has thrown their lunch to the ground, the seagulls forget all about the human and happily gorge themselves. Perhaps that is the reason why we were brought up to not eat in the street, it was to avoid pirate seagulls! If we wish to eat all our lunch ourselves and not be pestered by birds, we sit in a shelter or in the car, or go into a cafe or restaurant and eat undisturbed. If there are people eating picnics on the beach the gulls do not seem really interested. They can land nearby but just seem to stand there and wistfully watch. Perhaps it is because it's not fish and chips!!

It is great fun building sandcastles and making sand dragons, sand cars and flowers. Frequently our family like to decorate these masterpieces with shells. Then having stripped down to our swimming costumes - rushing into the sea for a swim to cool off after all our building activities. On warm evenings it is wonderful to paddle the length of a beach at low tide. If the seaside has a bay, then so much the better as it is great to paddle along the curve of the bay. The cares of life just melt away and if the sea has been warmed by the sun, then it is so peaceful and very relaxing. Then when it grows dark, to see the moon slowly rise and make its silvery path across the water is magical. However, if you are at your lodgings and can see the sea from your bedroom window, then to watch a night-time thunderstorm is quite amazing. Because there is nothing to hide the storm from vision, it is so exciting to watch the sheet lightening flashing across the dark sky, or the forked lightening crackling down into the sea. As for the thunder booms, you can hear which way the storm is

blowing quite distinctly. Oh, and flashing lighthouses are so interesting to watch.

Finally, a remembrance to warm you up on a cold and miserable winter's day. To walk across a beach to where the rock pools are and after scrambling around for a while, to sit with feet dangling into a pool, where the water always seems warmer than the sea; and if you need further exercise, to lean lazily forward and see what is in the pool, such as tiny crabs, molluscs and perhaps more than one variety of seaweed. Gosh, afterwards your brain will take you straight back to holiday memories even on snowy days. Bet you book a return visit for the following summer either to the place of your memories or to a similar place in another part of the country.

**Jessica Blake**

~~

## **A Plea for Budding Footballers from Selsdon Little League**

Selsdon Little League runs on Saturday mornings at Sanderstead Recreation Ground for school years 2 – 9 (from 1st September 2021), so for children born between 1st September 2007 - 31st August 2015. Kick-off times are 9.30, 10.30 & 11.30 and Little League runs from September through to March.



We are always on the lookout for players in all of the age groups. Anyone interested is welcome to turn up at any time on a Saturday morning, but it is best to e-mail me the secretary, Mik Simmonds ([selsdonlittleleague@outlook.com](mailto:selsdonlittleleague@outlook.com)), home number 020 8651 3095, mobile number 07507 558 099 first. Mik will find a team that needs a player and so there is less standing around. They do have girls playing in the league as they play mixed gender teams.



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## Poetry Corner

A Poem for International 'Talk Like a Pirate Day' on the 19<sup>th</sup> September by Mary Gill

### PIRATE TALK



I'm a pirate, proud swashbuckler,  
the flag I fly's the Jolly Roger.  
Freebooter or a privateer,  
there's some would call me buccaneer.  
I keep my cutlass bright and keen  
so every cut it makes is clean.  
I am the scourge of treasure ships  
that undertake uncertain trips  
to carry gold and precious jewels  
cross waters where there are no rules.

Ahoy me hearties, prey at last -  
a Spanish merchantman abaft.  
There will be doubloons on offer  
sparkling gems in every coffer.  
We'll seize the ship and every rank  
will be required to walk the plank,  
or else we'll run a pretty rig  
and let them dance the hempen jig.  
We'll give no quarter, life is cheap,  
We'll drop them in the briny deep.  
And when they've gone to feed the fish  
we'll take our booty and get rich.  
We'll scuttle that accursed craft  
when we have stripped it fore and aft.



When we have loaded up our hold  
with precious gems and shining gold  
we'll sail back to our secret isle  
where we will celebrate a while,  
drinking rum and telling tales  
of dead men's chests and mermaids' scales.  
But when we're sober and restored,  
we'll dig a hole to hide our hoard  
then make a map to show our base  
without the Island's name in place,  
But just in case the site's forgot  
we'll draw an X to mark the spot.

And then it's setting sail once more -  
us sea dogs hate to be on shore.  
Looting ships is what we do  
and Davy Jones collects the crew.

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- ❖ social spaces for activities (lounge and garden)



If you would like to make an enquiry please contact us on 020 8655 6724, [sjohnson@eldonhousing.co.uk](mailto:sjohnson@eldonhousing.co.uk).

Information is also available from our website – [www.eldonhousing.org](http://www.eldonhousing.org)

## Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth – Sceptics

When a new observation is published it is difficult to shift firmly held opinions. People whose whole world was limited to a small area around the fields in which they worked, and whose only mode of travel was by foot, “knew” that the Earth was flat. Even today, despite evidence to the contrary, there are still people who retain that view of the world.

Thousands of years ago it was known that the stars were fixed in the night sky apart from a small number which wandered in paths which took them through a number of star constellations – the Zodiac. Earth was the centre of the universe and anything else which moved rotated around the Earth. Copernicus shattered that idea by proposing that the Earth rotated around the sun, an idea that was resisted by the church authorities.



Charles Darwin was developing his ideas which led to his theory of evolution at a time when the only estimate for the age of the Earth suggested it had been in existence for a little over 4000 years. He realised that this was insufficient time for evolution to take place but luckily the geologist Charles Lyell had recently indicated that geological processes required a time span running into billions of years. Despite

the enormous quantity of evidence gathered by Darwin, and the time suggested by Lyell, the opposition to the theory of evolution was met by a lot more than simple scepticism, and this opposition still exists today particularly in USA.

Science advances when new ideas are probed by those with other views who look for evidence which suggests an alternative explanation for the supposedly new ideas.

Isaac Newton's work on gravitation allowed him to compute the orbits of the “wandering stars” (planets) around the sun but later Albert Einstein produced a different description



of gravity – his theories of relativity – which not only made some tiny corrections to Newton's planetary orbits but made major changes in the way in which scientists investigate other phenomena. Around the time of the development of Einstein's work others were creating the field of quantum theory which made predictions which Einstein viewed with much scepticism. He spent much time trying to prove this new theory wrong and he remained a sceptic to the end of his life.

In the field of natural history one idea which was initially received with outraged scepticism and dismissed as fanciful, is now widely accepted and is described as the Wood Wide Web – an underground communication and food distribution system based on fungi and their connections to trees and other vegetation. Suzanne Simard's intensely personal story of how she made the discovery is described in her book “Finding the Mother Tree”. As a 20yr old ecologist working for the Forest

Service in British Columbia she was sent to examine the replanting which had been made in an area which had been clear felled. The prevailing forestry technique required that the new planting should be “free to grow” and this required all other competing vegetation to be removed – there were penalties if this was not done. All the planted material she examined seemed sickly but similar saplings which had grown naturally were perfectly healthy. She found that the roots of the natural growth were intertwined with fungal mycelium.

She began experiments leading to a master’s degree and followed this up with elaborate experiments which eventually formed part of her PhD thesis. Part way through her work she gave a talk to an extremely sceptical audience of foresters who could not accept that any gains from removal of vegetation were short-lived and that longer term growth and health of the planted trees depended on other tree species which grew cooperatively rather than competitively.

Over time she was able to show that there was a flow of water and nutrients from one tree to another, even of a different species, with the help of an underground fungal network and that this connection was essential to the health of the whole forest.



One tale involved birch and fir growing together. In the early part of the year the birch had no leaves and was unable to use photosynthesis to make sugars but these could be supplied by the fir. Later in the season the birch was in full leaf and was able to make copious amounts of sugars but the birch leaves were now putting the fir in the shade so sugars flowed in the opposite



direction from birch to fir. Some sugars also leaked from roots into the soil and fed bacteria which in turn were able to maintain the health of the trees by fighting pathogens.

Her story is absolutely fascinating and is a very emotional read.

~~

## Answers to Chelsea Flower Show Inspired Quiz

1. Royal Hospital, Chelsea
2. Royal Horticultural Society
3. Hampton Court Palace
4. Bronze, Silver, Silver Gilt, Gold
5. Duchess of Cambridge
6. Britain in bloom
7. Tatton Park
8. Roof Gardens
9. 2013
10. Orchids





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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.

## **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**

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| CONTACT (neighbourhood care)                                                                                                  | Jasmine Singh                                                                                   | 8651 4944     |
| Selsdon Centre for the Retired                                                                                                | Craig Anderson                                                                                  | 8651 1111     |
| Croydon Hearing Resource Centre                                                                                               | Office                                                                                          | 8686 0049     |
| Bourne Society                                                                                                                | Roger Packham                                                                                   | 01883 349287  |
| Coulsdon Masonic Lodge                                                                                                        | Colin Lynch                                                                                     | 07801 453474  |
| Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society                                                                                  | Brian Lancaster                                                                                 | 8668 6909     |
| Croydon Recorded Music Society                                                                                                | Liz Brereton                                                                                    | 8656 7382     |
| Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind                                                                                   |                                                                                                 | 8668 2486     |
| Cruse Bereavement Care Helpline                                                                                               |                                                                                                 | 8916 0855     |
| Friends of Littleheath Woods                                                                                                  | Ian Leggatt                                                                                     | 8651 1140     |
| Friends of Selsdon Wood                                                                                                       | see website: <a href="http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk">www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk</a> |               |
| Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section                                                                                   |                                                                                                 |               |
| Girlguiding UK: <a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved.aspx">http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved.aspx</a> |                                                                                                 | 0800 169 5901 |
| Parkinson's UK Croydon & District                                                                                             | Jacky Green                                                                                     | 01737 355487  |
| Police (Selsdon & Ballards SNT)                                                                                               | Beat Officer:                                                                                   | 8721 2464     |
| RSPB, Croydon Local Group                                                                                                     | John Davis                                                                                      | 8640 4578     |
| Rotary Sanderstead and Selsdon                                                                                                | Wendy A Parr                                                                                    | 07774 186792  |
| Probus Club of Croydon South                                                                                                  | John Barker                                                                                     | 8657 2093     |
| St John's Dramatic Society                                                                                                    | Caryl Rapps                                                                                     | 8651 1326     |
| St John's Wives                                                                                                               | Jane Guglielmi                                                                                  | 8657 6672     |
| Sanderstead Plantation Partners                                                                                               | Michael Lishmund                                                                                | 020 8651 2760 |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Selsdon & Addington Scout Group:                                                                              | Website: <a href="http://www.1stselsdon.org.uk">www.1stselsdon.org.uk</a>                       |               |
| Beaver Colony (6-8yrs)                                                                                                        | Maddie Dunn                                                                                     | 07703 531652  |
| Cub Pack (8-10yrs)                                                                                                            | Louise Baker                                                                                    | 07737 404668  |
| Scouts Troop (10-14yrs)                                                                                                       | Douglas Gordon                                                                                  | 07514 651711  |
| Croham Valley Explorers                                                                                                       | Anthony Woodin                                                                                  | 020 8651 3780 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Selsdon & Addington Scout Group:                                                                              | Website: <a href="http://www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk">www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk</a>       |               |
| Selsdon Art Group                                                                                                             | Mrs F Hooper                                                                                    | 07973 412952  |
| Selsdon Bridge Club                                                                                                           | Tony Cherrett                                                                                   | 01883 730304  |
| Selsdon Community Hall                                                                                                        | Tim Potter (Centre Manager)                                                                     | 8657 4300     |
| Selsdon Afternoon Townswomen's Guild                                                                                          | Elizabeth Veasey                                                                                | 8657 1092     |
| Selsdon Floral Club                                                                                                           | Maureen Browning                                                                                | 8651 5821     |
| Selsdon Social Club                                                                                                           |                                                                                                 |               |
| Selsdon Tennis Club                                                                                                           | Geoff Littlewood                                                                                | 8651 4748     |
| 66 (Selsdon) Squadron Air Training Corps                                                                                      | Rob Cleeter                                                                                     | 8651 5958     |

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