**SRA ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

The SRA was formed in 1926 and so is **95 years old**!

The SRA’s aim is to advance and protect the interests of the residents of Selsdon. It is run by volunteers on goodwill and funds raised by subscription and donations (no-one gets paid!) Our membership covers about 4,000 households.

**The SRA Committee**

The Committee are elected at the AGM’s to represent Selsdon. Sara Bashford stepped down from the Committee and so there is now one vacancy. If you may be interested please contact mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com or speak to the Chair, Sheila Childs 0208 6512285.

The Committee act as a point of contact for external bodies, can add collective weight to any individual resident concerns about the area and are a useful ‘watching eye’. They meet once a month as a Committee to discuss Selsdon issues and respond and take action where necessary. They also plan special events and community improvements. Individual representatives will also attend council, police, transport and other meetings throughout the year on our behalf. SRA news is passed to the community via public noticeboards (by the library and on the high street), social media and The Gazette.

**April AGM 2021 - Apologies for absence!**

Due to the Covid 19 crisis the SRA public AGM’s (2020 and 2021) were cancelled. Reports of our activities were placed in the Gazette and on our website. For 2022 we hope to meet for our AGM again face-to-face and have booked St John’s hall for **30th March.** See website/noticeboards for more details and updates.

**SRA 2021 Activities:**

a) Lampposts and railings on the High Street were enhanced by floral baskets. To save costs these were planted and watered by members of the Committee. The large planters near Iceland were repainted by Jeff Bayton and the plants refreshed by members of the Committee. Such jobs will be ongoing so volunteers to help with this when the weather improves are welcomed. b) The ‘bring your own’ SRA Community picnic held with the FSW on their Selsdon Wood Open Day on Sunday 5 th September had attractions such as fun games, refreshments, guided walks and stalls. The weather was glorious and there was a good turn-out. We were all a bit giddy to finally see people out together again!

c) The remembrance Poppies returned to the High Street Lamp posts in November.

d) The Selsdon Triangle (upper section – yew trees, beds and the clock area) are (with Council permission) now being maintained by a group of Selsdon volunteers (following Council funding shortages). You may have noticed some work being undertaken to tidy and increase planting in the area). Furthermore some temporary Christmas decorations were added to this area to increase the festive cheer.

e) Subscriptions and donations are still collected in cash each year via a network of local drop-off ‘letterboxes’ – thanks to all the volunteers and to our Treasurer Iris Jones. However the SRA now also support online banking – details available via the website. f) The SRA organise and fundraise for the eye catching and unique Selsdon Christmas lights. We think these are the best in Croydon but they come at a price! The costs include not just the lights themselves but the storage, placement, the health and safety permissions, the electricity and the cost of the Community event. This is funded by goodwill donations of residents, charitable groups and some traders. To aid this (and capitalise on all the lockdown online purchasing) the SRA are members of ‘Easyfundraising’ so that if residents choose to shop online they can raise a donation with their usual retailers, at no cost to them, by using the well trusted ‘Easyfundraising’ app or site.. Our cause name is ‘SelsdonChristmaslights’. We have also made it possible for non-residents who love the lights to help by donating using online banking – details available via our website.

g) Community Christmas event. This year, to lift our spirits following all the lockdown restrictions, the Committee thought it would be nice to have the lights shine for longer so they were switched on *before the community night*. The focus of the night moved to the singing and welcoming Father Christmas. Any feedback on this change would be welcome. Should we keep this or return to the 2 usual ‘switch on’ night? We also decided to be more environmentally friendly and remove helium balloons and give the children sweets instead. It was great to see so many people turn up with special thanks to the Greenvale Primary school choir, Rotary and all the volunteers (churches, schools and local groups) who helped with their time or with donations and of course to Father Christmas who stayed in his grotto to meet the children! We also thank the Police altered their shifts to be there for us.

h) The SRA gave £200 towards the Selsdon Christmas market.

i) The Committee had to meet over Zoom during most of 2021 however from September returned to face to face monthly meetings at a new venue - Selsdon Baptist church. They have waived the hire fee for which we are very grateful.

j) During the year the SRA Committee stay in contact with the local Police teams attending meetings where possible. The SRA membership is now largely split over two Police wards - Selsdon and Addington Village (PCSO Tina Nash) and Selsdon Vale and Forestdale (PCSO Jack Killian). We are grateful to PCSO Killian for his regular reports. The main crimes during the year were thefts from vehicles, notably catalytic converters. We are still a low crime area.

k) We are fortunate that even in lockdown we were allowed to get outside to walk/run for exercise. We have placed some ideas of local areas to go on our website www.selsdon-residents.co.uk/places-towalk-and-visit We hope you have been enjoying some of these!

l) The SRA continues to pay for access to an online planning app designed to summarise the Council Planning site to aid our residents see for themselves in good time what relevant local planning applications have been made. Find the link from the ‘About the SRA’ page of our website or from http://www.localplanningapps.co.uk/croydon/sra/anupdate/planningtable.html keep checking this and if you can see a problem with an application make your suggestions/objections known in good time. Sensible changes to plans will save a lot of grief later! The SRA have a planning sub-Committee (Chaired by Ian Leggatt) to try and combat the increasing planning applications and understand the legislation and documentation. Email: [selsdonplanning@gmail.com](mailto:selsdonplanning@gmail.com)

**The Selsdon Gazette and Social media –**

The Selsdon Gazette is a non-profit publication delivered to the door (thanks to all volunteers, particularly Wendy Mikiel and Mary Gill) to about 4000 households in Selsdon. Gazette printing costs are (almost) covered by the advertising (thanks to Advertising Manager Carlo Rappa). We would like to give thanks to our advertisers for sticking with us - we are always looking for more! In 2021 we welcomed Jenny Bradley as Gazette Treasurer. As well as doorstep deliveries, Gazette editions are available online at our website www.selsdon-residents.co.uk (with thanks to our new Web administrator Trevor Stotten). Our Editor Chris Jones welcomes your contributions of local stories or news. Email: selsdongazettesra@gmail.com The SRA also has accounts on Twitter and Facebook (thanks to Ian Leggatt, Trevor Stotten and Peter Underwood) for ‘breaking news’ see https://www.facebook.com/selsdonresidentsassociation/ and '@selsdonresassoc ' Please ‘like’ and subscribe!

**Accounts**

A full balance sheet for 2021 will be presented at the next AGM which will be held on 30th March 2022 at St John’s Hall, Upper Selsdon road. The continuation of the SRA depends on your voluntary annual subscriptions. Thanks to the Treasurers Iris Jones (SRA) and Jenny Bradley (The Gazette) and to Jeff Bayton who reviews the Accounts.

**2021 Local news**

* The Covid pandemic and associated restrictions have caused a long and continuing period of worry and social isolation for many. We trust that you are continuing to watch out for, and help, your neighbours in need.
* Local Development plans - The development plans for the derelict site at Bailey’s/Selsdon Garage seem to continue with no clear end in sight! The Selsdon hotel and golf course was sold in 2021 - keep your ears to the ground and let us know if anything occurs of concern with regard to development. The previously rejected Crematorium on our borders has returned to appeal – watch 3 this space. Backgarden developments and intensification (with no provision for parking) is an ongoing issue for our Planning Committee.
* Keeping our highstreet alive - Many local businesses, charities, churches, arts venues and clubs and voluntary groups have struggled during 2021 with the covid restrictions and the effect on their membership and finances. We hope that you will continue to support them with your money, time and attention. (We have listed some local groups on our website) **Use them or lose them!**

We hope you stay well and that we can see you in person at our AGM. If you have an idea or would like to volunteer to help the community in some way we would be glad to hear from you. [mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com](mailto:mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com)

*Janet Sharp (SRA Secretary)*