

SRA Annual report 2017

The SRA is one of the oldest serving residents associations in Croydon formed in 1926 to advance and protect the interests of the residents of Selsdon. Our membership covers about 4,000 households.

The SRA Committee

A Committee of up to 14 elected volunteers meet each month to discuss Selsdon issues and take action where necessary. They also attend council, police, transport and other meetings on our behalf and organise local events. In 2017 Sara Bashford, who has been a pro-active Selsdon Councillor since 2006 (11 ½ years) stepped down from that role but we are grateful that she has remained a Committee member. There have been 2 vacancies on the Committee for most of the year. Volunteers are welcomed – please make yourself known to the Chairman.

SRA Activities in 2017

Last year's SRA anniversary floral arrangements in the high street looked so nice that we agreed to fund this again in 2017. In addition to the hanging baskets paid for by the SRA, were four troughs paid for by Selsdon Funeral Service, Co-Op Funeral Service, Blooms Opticians and Vintage 62 Hair Salon. The cost involves not only procurement and placement but also regular watering. If more businesses would consider sponsorship it would help us to continue this into the future. Separately Selsdon Funeral, The Village Club, YaaLu YaLu, and the Sir Julian Huxley pub placed their own floral arrangements on the outside of their premises. We are grateful to all these businesses as this really enhances the street scene.

A free 'bring your own' Community picnic was held in July in Selsdon Wood for all Selsdon residents. The weather was glorious and those who came enjoyed some old fashioned games such as sack races and egg and spoon. The SRA would like to thank the 2nd Selsdon & Addington Scouts for their help in organising refreshments and games.

The well-used community bench that placed on the 'Triangle' near Sainsbury's' last year was stolen. The Councillors Community fund will pay for a replacement and more secure fixings. The tree crowns were raised and the hedges cut to create a more welcoming space. We look forward to seeing the newly planted Crocus bulbs appear in 2018.

The Selsdon Gazette

In these days where local newspapers are getting thinner your monthly Selsdon Gazette still averages 60 pages! It is produced by Heather Govier (Editor), many local contributors of articles and photos, Carlo Rappa (Advertising Manager), Dick Adamson (Treasurer), Wendy Mikiel (Delivery Co-ordinator) as well as the many volunteer deliverers and distributors who bring 'The Gazette' to your door each month. Our Editor welcomes your contributions of local stories or news. The Selsdon Gazette now has a webpage accessed via selsdon-residents.co.uk.

The Selsdon Christmas Lights

The Selsdon Christmas lights are paid for by the donations of residents and some traders. This is costly but looks great and really puts Selsdon on the map. This year our Councillors gave a large donation from the 2017 Community fund towards the lights. This means that despite diminishing donations we can cover the costs. Thanks to Father Christmas for honouring us with his presence and to all who volunteered on the switch on night including the Baptist Church, the Air Cadets, the Croydon High Junior School choir and the Police.

Accounts

A full balance sheet for 2017 will be presented at the next AGM which will be held on 13th March at St John's Hall, Upper Selsdon road. The continuation of the SRA depends on your voluntary annual subscriptions, the rate has not been increased with inflation and remains at £3 per household. Donations are also gratefully received. Thanks to the Treasurers Iris Jones (SRA) and Dick Adamson (The Gazette) and to Angela Jones who reviews the Accounts. Dick has covered the role of Gazette Treasurer for many years and Choi Kim has stepped forward to take his place in 2018.

This year £500 was granted by the SRA to the 2nd Selsdon & Addington Scout group for renovations to their Scout Hut.

Ward Boundaries

The Local Government Boundary Commission will change the Selsdon electoral ward boundaries from May 2018. See our new website selsdon-residents.co.uk for more information. In summary 'Selsdon' for the purposes of Council and election matters will be linked with an increased amount of neighbouring residential areas and then be split into two – north and south. The SRA have considered the practicalities of this for us and for the Gazette and decided to retain the existing definition of Selsdon for our membership into the future. A few Selsdon roads on our western border have already been invited to join the Sanderstead Residents' Association if they wish. We will still represent these roads - they can choose to have both if they wish!

2017 Local news

Selsdon Garage remains an undeveloped blot on our high street but despite planning applications we are yet to see the development actually start.

The post office has moved to Tudor library. We lost the HSBC bank and the Yorkshire bank from the high street. Whilst the general move to 'online' shopping is useful so is speaking in person to a friendly face so please try to use our remaining banks and retail businesses. This also applies to our library which despite budget cuts still offers a fantastic and varied programme of free activities and resources.

We were sorry to say goodbye to the excellent PC Emma Morris. Selsdon has been given two new PC's, PC Colin Mayes and PC James McCarthy. We are pleased to have the continuing presence of PCSO John Rosemeyer.

The Cycle Tour series returned to Croydon for a third year in a row. Croydon also hosted a food festival, a heritage festival and a Mela.

This year Croydon Council and the Mayor of London approved plans for central Croydon to have the UK's second tallest building (228metres – 68 storeys). The developer says it will put Croydon on the map as a 'go-to' destination "You will see it from Piccadilly to Brighton". The Westfield development has also been approved which it is believed will re-generate Croydon. Croydon is the second most populated of the London Boroughs with the highest young population. Housing and jobs are very important and the Council is under pressure to find more. The recent move to downgrade the greenbelt status of nearby Sanderstead Plantation indicates that we cannot take our local green spaces for granted. Get out and enjoy!

Janet Sharp, SRA Secretary

*****SRA AGM 2018 - Special Resolution – notice printed in the January 2018 Selsdon Gazette*****

It is proposed by Special Resolution, to make changes to the SRA Rules of the Association. This will be item 9 of the March AGM agenda. This Rule change proposal is to facilitate the SRA's application to HM Revenue and Customs for Charitable status. In response to our recent submission the HMRC made it clear that changes to our current Rules were required to meet their criteria. As well as including the HMRC's suggested changes we are also taking the opportunity to carry out a general tidy and update which includes reordering some of the paragraphs. We believe that these small changes do not negatively effect the original intention, character or principles of the current Rules.

The **proposed updated Rules (dated 2018)** were printed in the January Selsdon Gazette. Furthermore a **detailed breakdown** of the changes, a copy of the **current Rules** alongside a copy of the **proposed updated Rules (dated 2018)** were available online from January on the SRA website selsdon-residents.co.uk and also on paper by request to the Secretary, Janet Sharp on 0208 6516882. These documents will also be available at the March AGM.