

## SRA Annual report 2019

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.

### What does The SRA Committee do?

The Committee are local volunteers elected at the AGM's to represent Selsdon. They 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 on our behalf. SRA news is passed to the community via public noticeboards (by the library and on the high street) and via The Gazette. There is one vacancy on the Committee, any volunteers please contact [mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com](mailto:mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com) or speak to the Chair, Sheila Childs 0208 6512285.

### SRA Activities in 2019

Lampposts and railings on the High Street were enhanced by floral baskets. The contract cost to the SRA involves not only procurement and placement but also regular watering.

A free 'bring your own' Community picnic was held in conjunction with the Selsdon Wood Open Day in September. The weather was glorious, we were entertained by Soul Symphony Choir, fun games and refreshments from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Selsdon & Addington Scouts and the Rotary. They were also craft and charity stalls to view.

The decorative Poppies returned to the High Street Lamp posts in November followed by the fantastic Christmas Light display.

The SRA organise and fundraise for the eye catching Selsdon Christmas lights. In 2019 this involved the extra cost of replacement wires and new lights which was paid for by the goodwill donations of residents, The Townswomen's Guild and some traders and this year as last by a large donation from the 2019 Councillors Community fund. It was great to see so many people turn up for the Community switch on night (third Friday of November) 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! We can no longer close the road but barriers and helpers were in place and the Police altered their shifts to be there for us.

This year Greenvale Primary school craft group helped the SRA by providing homemade decorations for the Selsdon Triangle to increase the festive cheer.

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 Selsdon Gazette – This is a non-profit publication delivered to the door (with grateful thanks to all volunteers involved, particularly Wendy Mikiel) to over 4000 households in Selsdon. Gazette printing costs are covered by the advertising with special thanks to our Advertising Manager Carlo Rappa. Some copies of The Selsdon Gazette were placed online [www.selsdon-residents.co.uk](http://www.selsdon-residents.co.uk) during the year. At the end of 2019 after two years in the post our Editor and web manager Heather Govier had to step down after health concerns. We will have a new Gazette Editor in control for 2020. We welcome your contributions of local stories or news. Paper copies of The Selsdon Gazette are available at Selsdon Library and an archive is also held by the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society (to which the SRA pays an annual subscription). We hope to have a new Web manager or even a new SRA web site available in 2020 with new copies of the Gazette added each month.

## Accounts

A full balance sheet for 2019 will be presented at the next AGM which will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 at St John's Hall, Upper Selsdon road. The continuation of the SRA depends on your voluntary annual subscriptions. It is proposed that this year the subscription rate increases to £5 per household. We hope to encourage residents to pay their subscription using online banking but cash and any other donations are also gratefully received! Thanks to the Treasurers Iris Jones (SRA) and Choi Kim (The Gazette) and to Angela Jones who reviews the Accounts.

## 2019 Local news

Following the change of the Selsdon electoral ward boundaries from May 2018 the Council split Selsdon into two\* – north and south and linked it to other areas with other priorities. The Police followed suit which has meant that the SRA must attend two sets of Police meetings to ensure Selsdon is not forgotten. Selsdon fortunately remains a low crime area. We are pleased to be able to say that the four Councillors who cover the north and south Selsdon wards work together well and take turns to attend the monthly SRA meetings. Councillor Helen Pollard writes the monthly update in The Gazette. \*A few Selsdon roads were taken into the Sanderstead Ward but we still count them as members and they still get The Gazette and our help should they need it.

There were some unwanted attempts by the Council to develop some of Selsdon's green spaces and fortunately most of these were shelved but a few are ongoing and still being resisted!

Nationally 'Climate change' and 'Brexit' were two big ongoing issues of the year and many people were left feeling stressed that so much talk seemed to go in circles. Even at a local level using your consumer choice and political voice can make a difference to the 'bigger picture'.

The Councillors organised a Selsdon Plan day for residents to put forward their ideas for Selsdon and say what they value about the area. The SRA were pleased to see from the collated feedback that the SRA activities mentioned above are valued! Whilst volunteers and funds are available we will continue! We hope to see you at the AGM and hear your thoughts.

*Janet Sharp, SRA Secretary*