

# The Selsdon — Gazette —



**You are invited to the  
Annual General  
Meeting of the Selsdon  
Residents'  
Association**



**Wednesday 26 March at 8pm**

**St John's Church Hall**

**Upper Selsdon Road**

*Please join us for a chat and a drink*

# THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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There is no August Gazette.

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

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**Front cover:** Invitation to AGM.

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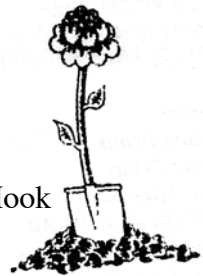
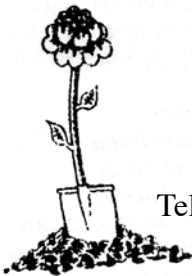
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# **SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com

## ***Committee 2024/2025***

Hon. President: Pamela Holden

Chair: Sheila Childs

Vice-Chair: Linda Morris

Secretary: Trevor Stotten

Hon. Treasurer: Iris Jones

Committee: Yvonne Huber

Su Yates

Peter Underwood

Ian Leggatt

Phil Roberts

Jenny Stawman

Janet Sharp

Chris Jones

Geoff Bailey

Ken Davis

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

Cllr Robert Ward Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk 07783 152363

Cllr Joseph Lee Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk 07458 092567

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

Cllr Andy Stranack Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk 07816 123204

Cllr Fatima Zaman Fatima.zaman@croydon.gov.uk 07458 092567

### ***Councillors for Sanderstead Ward***

Cllr Lynne Hale Lynne.hale@croydon.gov.uk 0208 651 2229

Cllr Yvette Hopley Yvette.hopley@croydon.gov.uk 0208 640 7033

Cllr Helen Redfern Helen.redfern@croydon.gov.uk 07783 152334

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

The Selsdon Residents' Association has now officially entered its 100<sup>th</sup> year since being established in January 1926. Definitely, something to be proud of. To celebrate we are holding events throughout the year. Last month we launched our 'Photos of Selsdon' competition. I hope that you are all taking photos or looking through your previous photos of Selsdon; please forward them to me. After our 'Grow the Tallest Sunflower' competition last year, we are running a 'Grow the Largest Vegetable' competition this year. So, for the gardeners in Selsdon please start planting your seeds for the vegetable of your choice. Lastly, an early alert for the children in Selsdon, we will be running our Easter Egg Hunt along the High Street again this year between Monday 14 - Monday 21 April; more details will follow in April's Gazette.

You can see on the cover of this month's Gazette that we have our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 26 March at St. John's Church Hall at 8pm. Please try to attend to meet your committee members, learn about the work they do and enjoy a chat over a drink and nibbles. We also have Phil Swallow giving a short talk about Mountwood: the story of a house in Addington Road and its owners, from the 1920s until its demolition in the early 2000s. In this Gazette we have the annual financial accounts for the SRA and the agenda for the meeting, so you may wish to bring this Gazette to the AGM.

As usual we hear from our local Councillors, our MP and our local police about issues affecting all of us living in Selsdon. Our gardeners from the Sanderstead Horticultural Society give us the first list of jobs to be tackled in our gardens. With the clocks going forward in March, Mary Gill looks for the coming of Spring in Poetry Corner, and Ted looks at biodiversity in Selsdon Wood in his Nature Notes. After last month's quiz about Selsdon set by Ian Leggat, we have the answers that you have been waiting for. Ian also tells us about the development of Farley Road linking South Croydon to the Selsdon Garden Village. We then move forward 100 years with Su Yates' piece about a new addition to our high street, the 'Load of Waffle' shop.

Last month the SRA launched its appeal for any recollections from residents about living in Selsdon over the past 100 years, and I was delighted to hear from a lady born in Selsdon in 1940. You can read

her interesting account in this Gazette. I hope this will inspire more of you to jot down your memories and send them to me, and if you have any photos please scan and include them ([selsdongazettesra@gmail.com](mailto:selsdongazettesra@gmail.com)).

I look forward to hearing from you.

**Chris Jones**

🌀 SUBMISSIONS FOR THE APRIL 2025 EDITION SHOULD BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH - PREFERABLY BEFORE! 🌀



## SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS

### **Planning**

There is not a lot going on to report at this time of year, but that does not mean the SRA is not busy as usual 'behind the scenes' helping to keep Selsdon a good place to live in. We are always keeping an eye on our local planning issues. However, even the Councillors, at the time of writing, have had no information from the Planning Officers about all the work happening at the old Barclays Bank, apparently with total disregard for the need for planning permission. This would, of course be worrying in all cases but, when you see the amount of work that has been done there in changing the whole configuration of the inside of the building, this is even more true. Perhaps, if a few more people contacted the Councillors and/or the Planning Department, the Officers might actually take some positive action to ensure a safe and approved re-building is completed. And, before you ask, we have no definite information of what it is to be, apart from the rumours that have been circulating for some time.

We have also noticed that Wetherspoons are applying to extend the opening hours of the Sir Julian Huxley far beyond what we believe is reasonable, or needed, in this tranquil area. We fear it could be the thin end of the wedge (excuse the pun, with pizza and other takeaways in mind) and of no real benefit to our other traders, let alone potential noise and disruption to the residents who live close by. In view of these concerns, the SRA submitted an objection to the application.

## **2025 - 100<sup>th</sup> Year of the SRA**

Although Selsdon has been 'on the map' for several hundreds of years, Selsdon's 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary as a residential suburb has now begun. Councillor Ward is being assisted by students from John Ruskin College in preparing various displays to be shown locally during the year, and the SRA is proceeding with its plans for its own 100<sup>th</sup> birthday next January. You will recall, no doubt, there was a request for residents to submit photographs that they had taken of 'Life in Selsdon' for the competition the SRA is running. Do, please take part! Also, do you have any old photos or articles etc. pertaining to Selsdon life, buildings or events since 1926 to now? As well as Cllr. Ward's displays, the SRA would like to have one of their own depicting key people, places and events since the Association was founded. We understand we are one of the oldest, if not the oldest, continuously functioning Residents' Association, having been set up by the first residents in the new Costain's houses here in 1925. I'll not steal Ian's (or others') thunder by delving into the history again here now – I am sure you will be seeing much written by them in the coming months! Please contribute any memories (video, photos or written items) you have of growing up or moving here – we'd all love to share them, but we can keep them anonymous if you would prefer!

### **Selsdon Community Garden**

I hope to be able to report on progress with the Selsdon Community Garden (SCC - formerly known as the Triangle) and the Shared Prosperity Fund planned spending in Selsdon at the SRA's AGM, as we are still awaiting tidying action on the trees in the SCC and news of the signs and maps, we were led to expect from the Fund. All we know is that both should be done by the end of the current financial year! We shall all just have to wait and see, as I have had no response to the chasing enquiries I have been making!

### **SRA AGM Wednesday 26 March 8pm at St John's Church Hall**

Please don't forget, we will also be looking at the AGM for some new people to join the committee to help us with our work for everyone in Selsdon and, just before that date, we have the Spring Clean litter pick on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. I hope to see a bumper turnout at both events – many hands make light work, whether it is picking up litter or helping on the committee!

***Linda Morris, Vice Chair SRA***



## SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

**Annual General Meeting**  
**Wednesday 26 March 2025 at 8pm**  
**St John's Church Hall, Upper Selsdon Road**

*This is a chance for residents to tell the SRA directly what more there is you would like us to try to do for Selsdon.*

Please come along (and perhaps bring a neighbour too) to show us your continuing support and to enjoy a drink and a chat after the business part of the meeting.

Mark the date on your calendar now so you do not forget.  
There will be elections for the Officers and Committee Members.

Are you interested in standing for election? If you want to find out more, please call Linda Morris (Vice Chair) on 020 8651 4010 or email [mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com](mailto:mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com)

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### **AGENDA**

1. Number of members present
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the AGM held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024
4. Matters arising from those minutes
5. Annual Report for 2024
6. Hon. Treasurer's Report with adoption of the accounts for 2024
7. Police report
8. Editor's report – The Selsdon Gazette
9. Christmas lights
10. Annual subscription – to resolve the cost per household for 2025/26 (proposed to remain unchanged at £5 per household)
11. Election of Officers & Members of the Committee for 2025/26
12. Adoption of the Hon. Accounts Reviewer for 2025
13. Any other business

The business meeting will be followed by a short talk from Phil Swallow about Mountwood, a former large house along the Addington Road.





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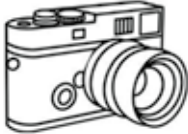
  
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\*Based on 'Sizing up the situation' report (Housing LIN, 2014) and our Service Charge data

## SRA 100<sup>th</sup> Year Photo Competition

As part of the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the Selsdon Residents' Association celebrations, we are launching a photo competition. We would like to receive your photos of 'Views of Selsdon'. These can be past or present photos of living in Selsdon.



So, get out your cameras or phones and get snapping or look through your old snaps taken in Selsdon. The closing date is 31 August so we get a range of photos in the different seasons. Please send your photos, in electronic format to Chris Jones by email to [selsdongazettesra@gmail.com](mailto:selsdongazettesra@gmail.com) with your name, age if under 18, title of your photo and details of where and when it was taken.

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## SRA 100<sup>TH</sup> Year – 100 Faces of Selsdon



We would like to make a social history display of people living in Selsdon during the Selsdon Residents' Association's hundredth year. To participate please send a head and shoulders photo, your first name, the road you live in and



how long you have lived there. Photos will be used to make a display for later in the year.

If we get our 100 photos, we hope to mount a display in December in Selsdon. Will you be able to spot your photo? Please email your photos to Chris Jones

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## COUNCILLORS' NOTES

### Selsdon Library

Selsdon Library has opened an exhibition of Croydon Times postcards, curated by the Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society. The Croydon Times was a popular local newspaper, first published in June 1861. It was sold in newsagents for just over 100 years before ceasing publication. Following on from this exhibition there will be another exhibition celebrating 100 years since the first suburban houses were built in Selsdon by Costains. 2 April until 2 May.

As a reminder - the library is now open six days a week including Saturday. Current opening hours are 10am to 6pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 9am to 5 pm on Saturday and self-service from 9am to 7pm on Tuesday and Thursday. Last entry is 30 minutes before closing. Do please take advantage of this valuable community facility.

## **HEATHFIELD HOUSE**

Heathfield House was bought by the council in 1964 since when it has been used for several different purposes. The building is currently in need of restoration but sadly the Council's financial position mean it is unable to fund the necessary work.

To restore the building to its former glory the Council is looking to lease Heathfield House on a 125-year lease. The building will remain publicly owned. Many residents enjoy using the beautiful grounds and access to this green space will continue.

## **SELSDON PARK MEDICAL PRACTICE UPDATE**

Starting April 1 2025, all GP services will be consolidated at Selsdon Park Medical Practice, as the Mitchley Avenue Surgery will close due to the building owner's retirement. Patients will benefit from continuity with many familiar clinical and administrative staff at the new location.

## **CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS**

Our monthly surgeries take place in the Jubilee café downstairs from Sainsburys. A private room is available should there be a matter which cannot be discussed in public. The timing is 10am until 11.15am on the first Saturday of the month, except January and August. 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:

### **Selsdon and Addington Village**

Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk  
Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk

### **Selsdon Vale and Forestdale**

Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk  
Fatima.zaman@croydon.gov.uk

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

### **152 - 154 Addington Road South Croydon CR2 8LB**

25/00193/CONR - Variation of Condition 1 of application 19/03323/CONR to allow extended trading hours by 60 minutes on Monday to Thursday,

120 minutes on Friday and Saturday and 90 minutes on a Sunday. The premises shall not be used except between 0800hrs and 0030hrs Sunday to Thursday, between 0800hrs and 0130hrs Friday, Saturday and the days preceding a Bank Holiday.

#### **94 Arundel Avenue South Croydon CR2 8BE**

25/00096/LP - Conversion of existing garage to habitable accommodation.

#### **25 Birdwood Close South Croydon CR2 8QJ**

25/00259/LP - Erection of hips to gables and rear dormer, provision of three rooflights in front roof slope, and removal of side chimney.

#### **41 Farley Road South Croydon CR2 8DB**

25/00307/LP - Erection of hip to gable roof extension and rear dormer in connection with conversion of resultant roof space to habitable accommodation. Erection of a single storey rear extension and detached outbuilding.

25/00308/GPDO - Erection of single storey rear extension projecting out 6 metres with a maximum height of 3 metres.

#### **61 Kingswood Way South Croydon CR2 8QN**

25/00405/HSE - Erection of single storey rear/side extensions to existing dwelling, provision of rear roof enlargement, introduction of additional obscured glazed rooflight on side roof slope and replacing existing front dormer with rooflights, conversion of existing garage to habitable use and changes to existing fenestration (alternative works to those afforded a Certificate of Lawful Development under reference 24/04218/LP).

#### **120 Littleheath Road South Croydon CR2 7SE**

25/00374/HSE - Demolition of existing single-storey side garage and construction of a single-storey side extension with a flat roof and roof lantern.

#### **10 Turnstone Close South Croydon CR2 8SP**

25/00169/HSE - Conversion of the garage to a habitable room, including the replacement of the garage doors with a window and insertion of a door to the rear elevation.

#### **17B Woodland Gardens South Croydon CR2 8PH**

25/00334/LP - Conversion of the existing garage into a habitable room.

*(Remember that you can use this website to view planning applications <http://www.localplanningapps.co.uk/croydon/sra/anupdate/planning table.html>)*



# **MP Natasha Irons' Report**

## **Member of Parliament for Croydon East**

Dear Selsdon,

In last month's update, I expressed my concerns about Croydon Council's plans to cut its Youth Engagement team. The activities run by this team play a crucial role in protecting young people from gang exploitation while giving them a civic voice. There is still very little information being shared about the council's plans for this vital service and I'm deeply concerned by this. If you would like to sign my petition calling for a public consultation, please visit the Natasha Irons for Croydon East Facebook page.

The uncertainty surrounding Croydon's Youth Engagement team reflects a wider issue. National spending on youth services has declined by 73% since 2010. I was able to raise this during Prime Minister's Questions and have called for a debate on statutory protections for youth services.

I welcomed The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime on a visit to Croydon East earlier this month. We met with officers from Addington Police Station and discussed the challenges arising from the redeployment of officers from the community to Croydon town centre. We spoke about the impact this has on neighbourhood policing and agreed that more resources are needed to ensure every part of Croydon has the officers it needs.

I'm also pleased to announce that the Chancellor has granted £485 million to Transport for London – almost double the amount received last year. Of this, £5.9 million will be spent on new trams. Croydon's trams are the oldest in the country and are long overdue for replacement. This injection of cash will support the maintenance, renewal and growth of Croydon's tram network for years to come.

As always, please do get in touch if there are any issues you would like to raise with me at [natasha.irons.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:natasha.irons.mp@parliament.uk). You can also sign up to receive monthly updates on my work locally and in Parliament by scanning the QR code below.

***Natasha Irons MP***  
*Member of Parliament for Croydon East*





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**Selsdon Residents' Association SPRING CLEAN UP**  
**Saturday 22 March 9.45am - Noon**

**Can you please help with a 'Litter Pick' around the shopping area of Addington Road?**

**Meet at the Selsdon Clock where collecting equipment will be provided by the Council.**

**Please contact Andrew on 07873 587593 or**

**[ambax62@icloud.com](mailto:ambax62@icloud.com) for more information.**



**Statistics from our Local Police**

**Selsdon & Addington Village Ward**

	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24
BURGLARY-RESIDENTIAL	4	5	8
DRUGS OFFENCES TRAFFICKING OF DRUGS	3	1	0
DRUGS OFFENCES POSSESSION OF DRUGS	0	1	1
ROBBERY - PERSONAL PROPERTY	1	4	4
THEFT - SHOPLIFTING	1	0	0
THEFT – FROM A PERSON	2	2	1
ARSON	0	0	0
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	2	11	1
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON - WITH INJURY	3	7	4
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON - WITHOUT INJURY	10	11	11
THEFT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE	3	2	1
THEFT FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE	0	2	1
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	3	3	4

**Key Pointers**

In the month of November there was a spike in criminal damage, this could be because of firework nights and or other activities going on during this month.

In the month of December, there was a spike in residential burglary, this could be because of the holiday Christmas season.

## Selsdon Vale & Forestdale Ward Statistics

	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24
BURGLARY-RESIDENTIAL	2	1	1
DRUGS OFFENCES TRAFFICKING OF DRUGS	6	2	2
DRUGS OFFENCES POSSESSION OF DRUGS	1	1	3
ROBBERY - PERSONAL PROPERTY	1	0	0
THEFT - SHOPLIFTING	3	1	8
THEFT – FROM A PERSON	0	0	0
ARSON	0	0	0
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	4	13	11
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON - WITH INJURY	1	3	1
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON - WITHOUT INJURY	6	6	11
THEFT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE	4	3	3
THEFT FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE	2	2	4
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	5	2	2

### Key Pointers

In the month of November there was a spike in criminal damage, this could be because of firework nights and or other activities going on during this month.

In the month of December also, there was a spike in criminal damage and violence against a person without injury. This could be because of the busy Christmas months with events taking place. To also note, in the month of December, there was a spike in shoplifting compared to the other previous months. This could be because of the holiday Christmas season proving too tempting.

### Contacting the Police

Please do not hesitate to contact your local police team if required:

**Emergencies – 999, Non-emergency crime - 101**

All phone numbers for each individual team are no longer used. Residents should use the following email addresses:

**Selsdon & Addington Village:**

[SelsdonandAddingtonVillage@met.police.uk](mailto:SelsdonandAddingtonVillage@met.police.uk)

**Selsdon Vale & Forestdale:**

[SelsdonandForestdale@met.police.uk](mailto:SelsdonandForestdale@met.police.uk)

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## Complaints about Bus Services



Here is a list of the bus routes through Selsdon and who to complain to initially:

433 - run by Transport UK (formerly Abellio) at Beddington - contact them via email to [customer.care@transportukbus.com](mailto:customer.care@transportukbus.com)

64 - run by Arriva Bus at Thornton Heath & 412 run by Arriva Bus at South Croydon - contact Arriva via the website <https://support.arrivabus.co.uk>

359 - run by Go-Ahead Metrobus at Beddington - contact them via email to [galcustomerservices@goaheadlondon.com](mailto:galcustomerservices@goaheadlondon.com)

One can then write to TFL via the website <https://tfl.gov.uk/help-and-contact/contact-us-about-buses>

The East Surrey Transport Group will also give a sympathetic ear via email to [eastsurrey.tc@talktalk.net](mailto:eastsurrey.tc@talktalk.net)

**Trevor Stotten**

|                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <h1>A J Taylor</h1> <p>On behalf of D J Taylor &amp; Son</p> <h2>Local Electrician</h2> <p>Domestic and Commercial</p> <p>All works undertaken    Fuse Board Changes    Main Bonding<br/>Rewires/Partial Rewires    Fault Finding    Testing &amp; Inspections</p> <p>Tel: 020 8651 4260    Mob: 07932 032 395<br/><a href="mailto:djtaylorandson@yahoo.co.uk">djtaylorandson@yahoo.co.uk</a></p> |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Good Time for Gardening – March

By mid-March, we're ready to welcome the start of spring — a hopeful, happy time for gardeners. There's lots to be done outside, now the slower winter months have passed.

- Put supports in. If any of your garden plants or climbers need supporting this year, put them in now, so plants can grow up through them. Adding supports afterwards is trickier and often looks unattractive.
- Clear garden paths before the plants really start to grow.
- Cut back cornus and other shrubs grown for their colourful winter stems. Cut them right back to their bases to encourage new stem growth for next winter.
- Cut out the top rosette of leaves from mahonia shrubs after they have flowered, to encourage branching.
- Finish cutting back dead foliage from perennials and ornamental grasses to make way for new growth.
- Prune overwintered fuchsias back to one or two buds on each shoot. This will encourage a bushy growth habit.
- Prune winter-flowering jasmine after flowering, to encourage new growth for next year's blooms. Cut back the previous year's growth to 5cm from the old wood.
- Trim winter-flowering heathers as the flowers disappear, to prevent the plants becoming leggy.
- Keep an eye out for slugs as the weather warms. Pay special attention to soft, new growth, which slugs love.
- Cut the old leaves off hellebores to remove any foliar diseases and make spring flowers more visible.
- Continue to deadhead winter pansies to stop them setting seed. This will encourage flushes of new flowers throughout the spring.
- Deadhead daffodils as the flowers finish and let the foliage die back naturally.
- Deadhead hydrangeas before new growth appears. Cut to about one third of last season's growth.
- Feed blueberry plants with ericaceous plant fertiliser.
- Mulch rhubarb with a thick layer of well-rotted manure to keep it healthy and reduce moisture loss through the soil. Take care not to cover the crown, as this is where the growth happens.
- Get rid of slimy patches on patios and paving by scrubbing with a broom or blasting with a pressure washer.



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## **SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

### **needs your help**

In January 1926 the Seldon Residents' Association was formed with the aim of advancing and protecting the interests of Selsdon Residents. It is one of the oldest residents' associations in the UK. 2025 will be the hundredth year that it has been operating.

Do you have any ideas about how we can celebrate this achievement? Do you have any photos or recollections of early Selsdon?

Please send your ideas to Sheila Childs, the Chair of the SRA (address and phone number on page 2 of the Gazette) or by email to Chris Jones, the Gazette Editor [selsdongazettesra@gmail.com](mailto:selsdongazettesra@gmail.com)



~~

## **Selsdon Residents' Association 100<sup>th</sup> Year Quiz**

*Here are the answers to last month's quiz set by Ian Leggatt testing your knowledge about Selsdon.*



| No | Question                                                         | Answer                                         |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Under which Council jurisdiction did Selsdon come within in 1926 | The Coulsdon and Purley Urban District Council |

|    |                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | What use was the land generally put to before The Bird Estate was built                                                        | Smallholdings: Piggeries, Poultry rearing and egg production                                                                                                                                                           |
| 3  | Name 5 of the previous owners of what we know as The Selsdon Park Hotel                                                        | Birch, De Vere, the Sanderson Family, Wickham Noakes, Mabel Greville (nee Smith), George Smith, William Coles, Harman Attwood, John Ownstead, William Stevens                                                          |
| 4  | Name the long distance paths which pass through Littleheath Woods and Selsdon Wood                                             | The Vanguard Way ( 66miles)<br>The London Loop (150 miles)                                                                                                                                                             |
| 5  | When were the shops on the Broadway built                                                                                      | 1926 & 1927                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 6  | What is the name of Selsdon's longest serving shop?                                                                            | Tudor Library                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 7  | When was Farley Road officially opened                                                                                         | 24/07/1926                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 8  | At least how old is the route of Upper Selsdon Road believed to be                                                             | Iron Age                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 9  | What / Who is Rylandes Road named after                                                                                        | Sir Richard Rylandes Costain, 1902 – 1966, MD of Richard Costain and Sons                                                                                                                                              |
| 10 | Where were the air raid shelters that were used in Selsdon during WW2                                                          | The Triangle / Selsdon Recreation Ground / Addington Road, in front of the Baptist Church / Queenhill Road Playspace and the green at Hawthorn Crescent                                                                |
| 11 | Name the Public Houses which occupied the site of the Aldi car park                                                            | The Good Neighbour (1956) & The Stag (1983)                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 12 | Which Estate Agent is hiding a 2 storey Victorian house                                                                        | Bairstow Eves                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 13 | Approximately how many Clubs, Groups and Charities are listed in The Selsdon Gazette                                           | 28                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 14 | Name the Selsdon buildings which are locally listed                                                                            | Baileys Garage, 2 Kingswood Way, Lodges at 66 and 128 Addington Road and Victorian Cottages at 240 – 242 Addington Road                                                                                                |
| 15 | What Hardware Store where you could purchase Four Candles, Plugs, Pumps and 'Os', was situated at 145 Addington Road from 1935 | Hubbard and Nash                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 16 | What names has the SRA had over the last 100 years                                                                             | Association of Owner-Occupiers of the Selsdon Garden Village, The Selsdon and Croham Heights Residents' Association, Croham Heights and Selsdon District Residents' Association and The Selsdon Residents' Association |
| 17 | Name the architect individual who is credited with saving Littleheath Woods and Selsdon Wood for us                            | Malcolm Sharpe                                                                                                                                                                                                         |



|    |                                                                                       |                                                   |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 18 | What structures and facilities did Queenhill Road Playspace contain in the late 1920s | A Bandstand, Pavilion and a miniature golf course |
| 19 | Name the sculptor / artist who designed and built our Selsdon Clock                   | Jon Mills                                         |
| 20 | What shop previously occupied the space which is now The Sir Julian Huxley            | The South Suburban Co-Operative Society           |

*How many did you get right?*

~~

## What's New on our High Street?

Just prior to Christmas, I had the opportunity to take a peek inside Selsdon's latest enterprise "Load of Waffle" and it felt magical. The serving area is cleverly presented as a gingerbread cabin with decor and lighting that lets you believe you are in an enchanted forest. Formerly the Tattoo Parlour, "Load of Waffle" is an eatery with a difference. As well as daily freshly made waffles and an assortment of sauces and toppings, there will be hot drinks, snacks and sweet treats like candy floss and lollies. A spacious room at the rear will provide a safe sensory area that can also be used for children's parties and gingerbread decorating classes.

The history of waffles can be traced back to Ancient Greece but their origin is thought to go back to Neolithic or Stone Age times, over 4,000 years ago. In Ancient Greece a waffle was a variant of a flat cake, called obelios, made of cereal and cooked between two hot metal plates.



In Medieval Europe the Catholic Church served waffles as a sort of communion wafer. Flat wafers or crackers made with numerous spices bought back from the Crusades were cooked over an open fire between iron plates with long handles. Over time, the grooves on the iron plates became deeper and the wafer gradually became a waffle. The waffles we recognise today were developed in the Netherlands and Belgium and travelled with Dutch Pilgrims to America in 1620 where they were served with maple syrup as it was cheaper and more widely available than granulated sugar.

America celebrates National Waffle Day each year on the 24th August to honour the day in 1869 when the first patent for a waffle iron in the United

States was granted to Cornelius Swarthout. Strangely, Nike's first pair of sneakers were called Waffle Trainers because they were made using a real waffle iron for the "perfect sole".

Finally, the world's biggest waffle measured 8ft long and weighed 110 pounds - now that's a Load of Waffle!

*Su Yates*

~~~

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## **Before Costains came to Selsdon – a rural idyll lying down the hill**

We saw in earlier Gazettes that the first 146 houses in Byron, Upper Selsdon and Queenhill Roads received planning permission from the Coulsdon and Purley Urban District Council on March 5<sup>th</sup> 1925. At that time Selsdon was a tiny village with a grand house on the hill, Selsdon Park, a farm down the road, Selsdon Park Farm (now the site of Aldi) and a dozen or so cottages on the Addington Lane housing farm workers and staff serving the big house.

# MEET THE TEAM



**Ian Hubbard**  
DIRECTOR

Ian prides himself in delivering exceptional customer service to his clients and is very hands on with the day-to-day activities within the office. As a local resident, Ian is both passionate and knowledgeable about the area and its surroundings.



**Elaine Torlot**  
DIRECTOR

Moving can be an exciting time but at the same time emotional and stressful. Elaine works tirelessly to make every move as smooth as possible. Being a local resident, Elaine has vast knowledge of the local area coupled with her 30 plus years of experience bringing a personal and tailored approach to your move.



**Simon Amon**  
SALES MANAGER

Simon has over 30 years experience in the industry having managed numerous branches and has gained a wealth of experience, most of which is as a valuer although he can turn his hand to anything that presents itself within the moving process.



**Steve Smith**  
SALES CONSULTANT

Steve is a local resident and started his career in Estate Agency in the early 1980's and has extensive experience in residential and commercial sales and lettings.



**Kim Mitchell-Gears**  
DIRECTORS PA  
& OFFICE MANAGER

Kim has a passion for property and has a wealth of knowledge in the property market having worked in every aspect of property for in excess of 20 years.



**Patricia Realls**  
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Pat has an abundance of experience and knowledge in estate agency having worked in the industry for over 30 years. Pat has worked for Hubbard Torlot since they opened their doors in 2011.



**Lucy Barretto**  
SALES PROGRESSOR

Lucy commenced her career in property 4 years ago with a keen interest in property. Lucy enjoys sale progression in trying to succeed with every challenge that may unfold throughout the moving process.



**Fiona Martin**  
NEGOTIATOR & HOME VIEWER

Fiona grew up locally and has a strong customer service background. In particular, in relocations and residential lettings.



**Amy Peto**  
JUNIOR SALES NEGOTIATOR

Amy has always had an interest in property and people. Amy brings with her immense enthusiasm, attention to detail, is methodical and always goes above and beyond whenever possible.



**Louis Lam**  
JUNIOR SALES  
NEGOTIATOR

Louis is our newest recruit and has joined Hubbard Torlot as a Junior Negotiator. Louis has a true passion for property and helping applicants find their new home.



**Aviniya Bloomfield**  
WEEKEND /  
PART TIME ASSISTANT

Aviniya is currently an undergraduate student at the university of Warwick. Aviniya has always had an interest in real estate which led her to completing her work experience and securing a position at Hubbard Torlot.

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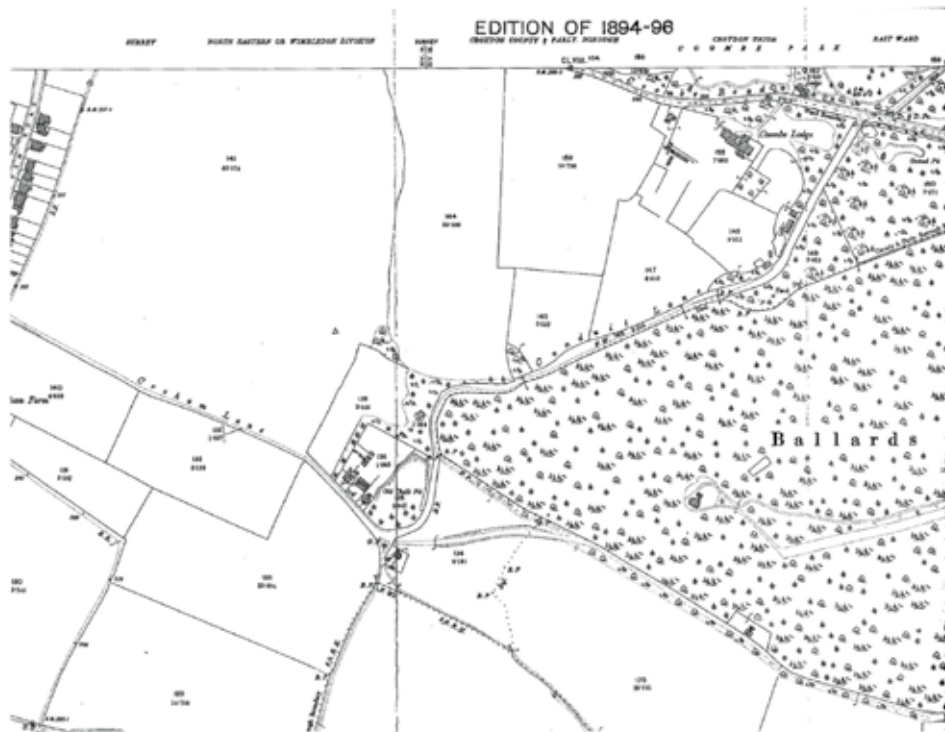
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Croham Lane (now Croham Road) then terminated at the current entrance to Croham Hurst Golf Club and diverted northwards up Conduit Lane to meet Coombe Road to the north and Addington Hills. Ballards Farm Road wound its way from the end of Croham Lane, past the steeply sloping and wooded Ballards Plantation, past Ballards Farm and on to Heathfield. Two pathways led from the end of Croham Lane, one going south up to the top of Croham Hurst and one following field boundaries southeast past Thrift Wood, through Littleheath and Foxearth Wood to arrive at Addington Lane, now Addington Road. Part of it is now on the route of The Vanguard Way.



A small hamlet existed at the end of Croham Lane. The Victorian Cottages can still be seen today and the old chalk pit is now the site of a large building for some essential power utilities.

Farms and grand houses were all around: Fox Farm to the south, Croham Farm to the West, Ballards Farm to the East. The grand houses of Croham Hurst, Ballards and Coombe Lodge were nearby.





The Victorian Cottages today, from Google Maps



The builders, Messrs Richard Costain and Sons, constructed a narrow gauge steam railway up the hill creating the route we now know as Croham Valley Road / Farley Road. Progress was swift and the first houses were occupied by September 1925.

On 24<sup>th</sup> July 1926, Croham Valley Road / Farley Road was officially opened. A knock on effect of this new route appears to have been the virtual abandonment of Conduit Lane as a major thoroughfare.



A Postcard depicting Conduit Lane showing a wide and smooth way for a horse and carriage

### ***Ian Leggatt***

*The National Library of Scotland (NLS) has a treasure trove of old maps available online. The extract from the Victorian OS Map above was borrowed from The Godfrey Collection, 'Addington Hills and Croham Hurst', reprint from an 1895 edition. Photos of the Victorian cottages from Google and the postcard of old Conduit Lane from Facebook.*



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SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION/GAZETTE CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS												
Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Years Ended 31 December												
SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION			Notes	2024	2024	2024	2023			2022	2021	2020
				£	£	£	£			£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>												
Subscriptions						4,050	4,170			3,430	3,508	3,962
Christmas Lights:			Residents' Donations			5,091	5,450			4,483	4,136	4,574
			Traders' Donations			795	548			855	458	915
			Collections			198	361			496	298	76
			Easy Funding			205	0			0	0	0
Croydon Council						0	0			0	0	2,000
Nationwide Building Society Interest Received						1,317	491			159	85	37
Cancellation of Provisions for Hire of Street Barriers						0	1,000					
<b>Total Income</b>						<b>11,656</b>	<b>12,020</b>			<b>9,423</b>	<b>8,485</b>	<b>11,564</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>												
Insurance						324	294			280	370	370
Hire of Halls						93	98			35	35	60
Subscription Envelope Printing						393	469			45	734	0
Stationery, Postage and Sundries including Subscription Envelopes						643	665			1,184	534	156
Christmas Lights						5,989	6,447			8,993	7,760	9,184
Planters						65	85			215	162	198
Provision for Purchase (previously Hire) of Street Barriers						0	1,000		(1)	500	500	0
Donations						600	0			0	200	500
Subscriptions						138	0			141	212	18
<b>Total Expenditure</b>						<b>8,245</b>	<b>9,058</b>			<b>11,393</b>	<b>10,507</b>	<b>10,486</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) of Income Over Expenditure</b>						<b>3,411</b>	<b>2,962</b>			<b>(1,970)</b>	<b>(2,022)</b>	<b>1,078</b>
<b>SELSDON GAZETTE ACCOUNTS</b>												
<b>Income</b>						<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>			<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Advertising Income						16,275	15,286			15,370	15,748	13,267
Bank Account Interest						647	340			105	27	67
Subscriptions						140	200			175	195	110
<b>Total Income</b>						<b>17,062</b>	<b>15,826</b>			<b>15,650</b>	<b>15,970</b>	<b>13,444</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>												
Gazette and Leaflets						18,400	18,267			16,769	15,583	11,644
Reimbursement from Residents' Association for Leaflets						0	0			0	(734)	0
Postage and Sundries						1	0			54	120	270
<b>Total Expenditure</b>						<b>18,401</b>	<b>18,267</b>			<b>16,823</b>	<b>14,969</b>	<b>11,914</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) of Income Over Expenditure</b>						<b>(1,339)</b>	<b>(2,441)</b>			<b>(1,173)</b>	<b>1,001</b>	<b>1,530</b>
<b>SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION/GAZETTE CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS</b>												
Balance Sheets as at 31st December												
						SRA	GAZ	TOTAL	SRA	GAZ	TOTAL	SRA
						2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023	2022
Assets:						£	£	£	£	£	£	£





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# FRIENDS OF LITTLEHEATH WOODS

## 30<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY



### How it all began

The areas that now make up Littleheath Woods (Gee Wood, Littleheath Wood, Foxearth Wood, Queenhill Shaw and 3 fields) are first marked on an Enclosure Map in 1803, although Littleheath and Gee Woods can be seen on John Roques' map of 1762. The area has gone through many transitions from hunting land (foxes & pheasants), grazing and farm land to narrowly escaping being part of the Costains' housing development. In 1932 it was declared a Public Open Space under the care of Croydon Council and up until 1965 two woodsmen were employed to look after it. After that time the woods were left unmanaged and gradually fell into a derelict state, greatly exacerbated by the damaged wrought by the 1987 hurricane.

In 1993 local resident Pat Croke attended a BCTV (now known as TCV – The Conservation Trust Volunteers) workday held to clear logs etc. from the “Cattle Pond” in the woods. Following this she wrote a report about the poor state of the woodland, which she submitted to the Selsdon Residents' Association. The SRA then appointed 2 Committee members to act as Conservation and Environment Officers for Selsdon

In September 1995 supported by the Council, a member of BTCV who had been appointed to encourage the start-up of voluntary groups working in green spaces, set up a meeting with the SRA conservation officers to which Pat Croke was invited. At this meeting the name, Friends of Littleheath Woods was decided.

In November 1995 the first committee was formed of 7 members, including Pat Croke who subsequently began canvassing for other work party volunteers and about 20 people attended the initial training.

Initially, BTCV (now TCV) led the work parties as they had both tools and equipment at their disposal.

In November 1996 Pat led the first Friends' midweek work party of 5 people.

Tuesday morning work parties have been held weekly ever since, weather permitting. Originally there were also Sunday work parties but these gradually fell out of favour and were discontinued. Over the years in excess of 50 different regular volunteers have turned out plus numerous

one-off participants, but we now regularly field 10 volunteers every week.

A huge debt is owed to Pat Crooke. Without her determination and dedication, FOLW certainly would not have been the success it is and may not have existed at all.

From 1996 until increasingly frail in 2015, Pat spent her time surveying the woods, leading the work parties, teaching, advising and training the volunteers and imparting her great knowledge of all things growing.

Pat passed away in October 2020 aged 87, but her legacy lives on in the form of our lovely woodland and a thriving and enthusiastic voluntary group.

If you would like to become involved in the care of and practical conservation work in Littleheath Woods, meet like-minded friendly people, enjoy the fresh air and be gently trained in conservation techniques please contact The Friends via our website [www.folw.co.uk](http://www.folw.co.uk) "Contact Us".

**Chris Hyde**, *Treasurer of the Friends of Littleheath Woods*

~~

The SRA has been asking residents for their recollections of living in Selsdon, so I was delighted to receive this account from someone who has known Selsdon for over 80 years.

## **Katie Swinnerton Remembers**

### **Introduction:**

After reading your appeal for memories about Selsdon, I realised that I am only 15 years younger than Selsdon and I have lived here for the majority of my life. Therefore, I have dusted off the grey cells and have had much fun trying to remember all that I could.

### **Early 1940s** (Account by Catherine's mother, Ivy Ford)

Catherine was born in 1940 in a house directly opposite St John's Church (14 Upper Selsdon Road). In those days babies were wrapped up in their prams and left in the garden to receive wholesome fresh air. Unfortunately, nobody told Mr Hitler that she was there and when the Church was bombed so was her house and all the windows were blown out. Amazingly, Catherine was unharmed and still has a piece of shrapnel that went through the hood of the pram – a miracle indeed.



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**handymancolin42@gmail.com**

(Catherine's memories)

When I was a child, it was unthinkable to call anyone by their first name except for siblings, cousins and school age children. Therefore, adults were addressed as Mr or Mrs and Aunt or Uncle. I remember calling a very old friend of my parents as 'Grandpa' Cowley. Apparently, this was allowed due to his age, he was a generation older than my parents, and, due to the fact that I had no living grandfathers of my own. We used to visit him in his cottage in the now Cowley Close.

**Was the road named after him on his death?**

### **1940s**

During the war, and for some years after, everybody had to grow as much produce as possible, and I recall that the area where the St John's Church car park and vicarage are now, was turned into several allotments from which we survived on numerous carrots and cabbages.

Eventually, this area was returned to grass and on every August Bank Holiday, the people from the Church held the annual Summer Fair. Holidays were a luxury for many years after the war, so a day like this was something much looked forward to. Excitement built for weeks before, whilst church members dusted down their stalls from the previous year and we children saved our sixpence weekly pocket money so that we could enjoy a good day out.

My sister remembers the local police being on duty to manage the large crowds of people queueing to gain entry.

It was a wonderful day and helped to cheer us up from the austerity of the times.

### **After the war 1950s**

I remember the freedom we had as children compared to the children of today. My sister, Margaret, is five years younger than me, but at the ages of eleven and six, we would spend many days during the school holidays, playing alone in Littleheath and Croham Hurst Woods, making up imaginary games, eating our sandwiches, exercising our little dog, then finally going home for tea. Nothing untoward ever happened to us and it never occurred to our parents that it ever would.

One thing that I have noticed over the last 84 years is the huge change in traffic. As a child we could happily play on the pavements (up and down on our scooters) and apart from the odd bus (No.54 on Upper Selsdon Road and No. 64 on Farley Road) both coming from Croydon to turn around at Selsdon, we saw virtually no traffic. All front gardens were grass and flower beds, no garages or driveways. Due to the Selsdon Car Park,

there was no parking in the main road and, due to all the shops closing at 5.30pm (no take aways or restaurants), everywhere was very quiet. Our social life centred around the Village Club, the local pub 'The Good Companions' and, I think one fish 'n chip shop.

I remember Remembrance Sunday when I was between 11-14 and belonged to the Junior Red Cross and my sister was a Brownie. Thus, with all other uniformed organisations, we gathered outside Selsdon Primary School and marched, accompanied by a local band, to St John's Church where the official Remembrance Service was held. The residents of Selsdon, and beyond, lined the pavements from the start to the finish of the journey.



*Here is the British Legion Parade in May 1957*

## 1953

At long last in February 1953 the rationing for confectionery came to an end and we children were thrilled. I recall alighting from the school bus and, together with my friends and saved up pocket money, going into the now only surviving wartime shop, The Tudor Library, to choose as many sweets as we could afford. Oh, the delight!

The other shops that I can remember with affection from my childhood, were 'Baker's Stores' and the 'Post Office'. Baker's Stores was, as I recall, the only grocers in the Parade, where everything was sold to housewives to help her run her house efficiently. All items were ordered personally from the proprietor, from 1 rasher of bacon to scouring powder. Very few people owned a telephone so personal shopping was the only way to shop and had to be done on a daily basis (no fridges or freezers). However, for regular customers, Baker's Stores did a delivery service (petrol allowing). I remember Mum shopping on most days and she never went out without her matching hat and gloves and matching shoes and handbag; she had to look smart!

The Post Office was close to Baker's Stores and it was here that you queued for your stamps, pensions, etc. However, there were exciting



shelves to peruse whilst waiting, with stationery, gloves, socks, keyrings and small toys. There was an upstairs room, which was not spoken about, but we all knew that if ladies required their 'unmentionables', such as new bras and knickers, she could go up the stairs with a discreet member of staff and, in private, look through the shelves at her leisure and make her choice. When our house had been repaired after the bomb damage, we returned until 1954. We then moved down the road, leaving the bomb shelter in the garden, to a large house known as 'Chacewater', on the corner of Arundel Avenue (55 Upper Selsdon Road). Unfortunately, the family have no knowledge of the history of this house. We think it was built before 1920 and when my father bought it in the 1950s an elderly lady and her two sons were living in it. The house was built on just under one acre of land with a full size tennis court and inside the house was a ballroom, three cloakrooms/bathrooms and a servant's bell-board in the kitchen; so obviously built for someone wealthy. Chacewater was sold and demolished in 1971 and there are now seven houses built on that plot.

*Any information about the house, would be gratefully received.*

For more than twenty years, my father, Arthur Ford, was the Church Organist and Choir Master at St. John's Church and my mother was a stalwart member of the Mothers' Union. As a little girl, (as a treat), I was allowed to sit by the organ while my Dad played at 11am Matins and 6pm Evensong.

During these times, no females were allowed to be in the choir, but when Dad put on oratorios, such as Handel's Messiah or Stainer's Crucifixion, we girls were encouraged to join in. So, it became a family gathering when Mum, my younger sister and I all joined the choir.

At Christmas, Dad hired a coach and took the entire choir to see the annual pantomime at the theatre in Streatham. It was the choir's social highlight of the year.

There was, however, a Junior Church Choir, which both my sister and I led at different times. This accompanied the 10am service, which was equivalent to weekly Sunday School.

As a teenager, I joined the Youth Club at St John's Church, named 'The 16 Steps' as there were 16 steps up to the second floor of the Church Hall. We made many friends there and had plenty of adventures over the years.

When my sister and I were teenagers, Mum had more spare time so, as a complete beginner, she joined the still existing Selsdon Flower Group. Over the years, she slowly graduated from novice to teacher and



demonstrator, and to finally exhibiting at the Chelsea Flower Show; her family and friends were very proud of her.

I remember my parents and sister, and later my daughter and son-in-law being members of the now, unfortunately, closed Selsdon Dramatic Society. It ran for many years and gave many people much enjoyment.

### **Selsdon Park Hotel 1950s and 1980s**

I remember learning to swim in the outdoor, unheated swimming pool at the Selsdon Park Hotel. I also recall my sister, who was horse crazy, being allowed to have free horse rides at the Hotel's stables on a Saturday morning, in return for mucking out their stables first.

We also, as a family, celebrated our parents' Golden Wedding Anniversary and my husband's and my Silver Wedding Anniversary within one week of each other at the Hotel in 1987.

### **1958-1980s**

Selsdon Railway Station was situated at the end of Selsdon Road. It was a very useful little station with just four platforms that plenty of locals could use, either locally or to commute into London without having to go into Croydon. It was, indeed, the last gas lit station in London when it closed in 1983. It was the only station that I used when working in London from 1958-1963.

### **Late 1960s**

There was great excitement at the opening of the first ever supermarket in the area. Budgens opened in the late 1960s with, (oh joy!), at least four aisles to browse up and down and then help yourself to the consumer goodies.

The only disadvantage affected Mums with young children, there was no room for prams so you just left your baby alone outside on the pavement while you shopped. Unthinkable today, but fortunately the babies never came to any harm.

### **Conclusion**

I have spent the majority of my life in Selsdon with just two breaks. The first one was three years abroad so that my husband and I could save our money to be able to buy our first house. On our return we naturally gravitated back to Selsdon and settled down in Dulverton Road where our daughter and son were born.

Later we spent several years in Wallington but again automatically returned to retire in Selsdon. We embraced various changes: the new library, the Selsdon Centre and Sainsburys; all built on the old Selsdon Car Park.

I love Selsdon and all my memories of it. Both my parents, an aunt and my

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husband are interred in St John's Church Garden of Remembrance and one day I shall probably join them. My sister and I were both baptised, confirmed and married at St John's and both my children were baptised there too, so history will complete a full circle. My daughter, son-in-law and his mother also live in Selsdon, so memories are continuing to be made. On reading through my memories, I realise what changes I have lived through and how many opportunities Selsdon has offered to so many families.

~~

## SPRING EQUINOX AND START OF BRITISH SUMMER TIME

The Spring Equinox, also known as the Vernal Equinox, marks the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. The Spring Equinox in 2025 is March 20th in the Northern Hemisphere. It is the moment when day and night are approximately equal in length, symbolizing balance and the renewal of life. This event has been celebrated across cultures for centuries as a time of new beginnings, growth, and the return of warmth and light after the winter months.



### Reminder

In the UK, the clocks will change in March 2025 on Sunday, March 30th at 1am, when they will "spring forward" by one hour, marking the start of British Summer Time (BST).

~~



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.

~~

Here is a heart-warming report to enjoy.

Dear Editor,

I wanted to write this piece to you to show that community spirit is alive and kicking in Selsdon. On 25 January, Burns Night, I went for a drink at the Selsdon micropub, The Golden Ark. I was surprised to see many



gentlemen smartly dressed in their kilts. Rab and his wife, Diane, stood behind their hostess trolley and were dishing up haggis, neeps and tatties to everyone who entered. They had bought, cooked and delivered this tasty meal for all to enjoy. There was no charge to customers as they just wanted to celebrate Burns Night with fellow Selsdonians.

After the meal, there were a few readings of Burns poems and Gordon, resplendent in his kilt, played some Scottish tunes on his harmonica. The landlady, Maria, also ran a competition to draw a likeness of Robert Burns displayed on the wall, in charcoal. Needless to say, my effort did not prove a winner! Chris Adams took that honour.



Many thanks to all involved and the generosity of Rab and Diane.

*Name and address supplied*

~~

Here our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, experiences a battle getting to get grips with her iPhone (other phones are available).

## Computers and Health

Today a visit to hospital was required. Having completely forgotten that it is half term, I was pleasantly surprised by a relaxing and speedy journey through little traffic to get to the hospital, easy parking, and only half filled waiting rooms. What a difference a school holiday makes.

Later on, I planned a trip to M&S to buy something really nice with my Christmas tokens, which have been simmering away in my archive on my iPhone. Too bad I couldn't find the appointment e-mail for today's



appointment as the written copy failed to arrive. I hope it's not the same problem when I go to spend my Christmas tokens! Surely, I will be able to find them! Don't tell me that I have managed to totally delete them, and in such a way that there is not some fairly obscure way to retrieve them for this dodgy computer operator?

Oh well, back home now and searching for my Christmas Present tokens. Would you believe it? I have mislaid my archive. There are times when I wish there was no email or computers, then there would be no worries about message or machine infiltration. Perhaps my son-in-law will sort it out tonight for me. He is pretty good with computers.

I can see some wonderful good in computers, but so much worry when you don't quite understand how to work them. Little children don't have that sort of worry as they just fiddle around and it appears to come out all ok for them. Perhaps I should ask my grandchildren how to sort out the current dilemma. Our library has been closed down, so I cannot race there and ask the librarians how to fix it. They were a great help in the past.

Cannot wait for my son-in-law to get home. Perhaps a large gin is required in these situations? A bottle should be supplied inside the computer box for anxious users. Naturally inside a watertight lightweight container - wouldn't want to lose the gin!

~~

## Poetry Corner

*Here Mary Gill looks forward to the delights that Spring brings us.*

### HELLO SPRING

The woodland plants sense Winter's chill is shed,  
the snowdrop shyly raises its pale head,  
crocus blooms where once the Earth seemed dead.  
Spawning frogs and toads invade the ponds  
and newts deposit eggs 'mongst weedy fronds,  
See daffodils that wave like golden wands.  
The day dawns full of promise – birds all sing -  
in unison, they chorus – “Hello Spring!”

As Earth awakes from its hibernal trance,  
new shoots and buds unfurl, and catkins dance.  
Every living heart looks for romance.  
In bluebell woods an azure haze delights  
to welcome longer days and shorter nights.  
Butterflies and bees begin their flights.  
The stream of life flows strong through everything  
all Nature's sweet refrain is "Hello Spring!"



~~

Here Ted tempts us out for a walk in Selsdon Wood spotting all the different varieties of fungi to be seen.

## **Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth – Biodiversity**

Biodiversity begins with the habitat. For example, we cannot expect to have local breeding Marsh Harriers, Bittern, Reed Warblers nor even Cuckoos, if there are no sizeable areas of fresh water. Rewilding is a topic which suggests re-introducing species which may at one time have been common in the British countryside but which have vanished for various reasons.

In many parts of the country various deer species – Red, Sika, Fallow and Roe – are too successful due to lack of suitable predators to control their numbers. The re-introduction of the European Lynx into appropriate habitats is a suggested solution, perhaps as an initial trial in the Scottish highlands.



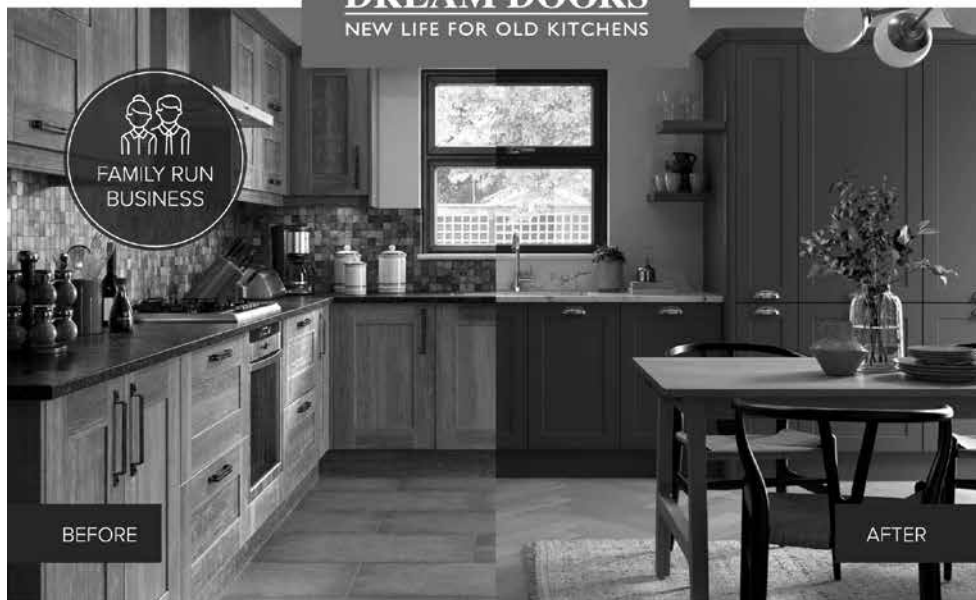
Another species for re-introduction when rewilding is discussed, is the Red Squirrel, probably much less controversial than the Lynx, but there are problems. The larger American Grey Squirrel, which has a more wide-ranging diet than the Red, carries the Squirrel Pox virus to which the Grey is immune but the Red is not. It has been found that the Pine Marten finds it easier to catch Grey Squirrels rather than Reds where both occur, so a phased introduction of Martens and Red Squirrels would seem to be a possible answer. An added bonus is that the best habitat suited to the combination of these two species can often support a population of Goshawks which also help to reduce the Greys.



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However, it will be a long time before Red Squirrels are seen in Selsdon Wood!

Most of the wildlife in both woodland and grassland is composed of a vast number of invertebrates. A single Oak tree is virtually a habitat in its own right, supporting a huge quantity of aphids, weevils, Speckled Bush Crickets, ants, many moth larvae and a few butterfly caterpillars, ladybirds, etc. These provide food for Tits and other bird species which might be nesting on the tree or simply visiting. On the trunk of the living tree various fungi can appear – large clumps of the yellow Chicken of the Woods, small groups of Oyster Mushrooms, or even a solitary Shaggy Bracket. These will be nibbled by Squirrels, Wood Mice, and a range of invertebrate creatures. On the soil around the tree other fungi can form a mutually beneficial relationship with the tree in which water, minerals and other materials pass between them. When the tree decays and falls, it provides a habitat for more fungi and invertebrates such as woodlice and centipedes. Fallen wood and also standing dead (or at least decaying) wood plays its part in maintaining a biodiverse habitat so should only be removed when there is a genuine danger to the public. A tree which is deliberately felled leaves a stump which might decay and support various fungi.



Apart from some commercial woodlands which can be composed of one tree species, most public woodlands have a more or less random mix of mainly native species. However, there can be localised exceptions and in Selsdon Wood this is true of the isolated patch known as Stevens' Larch. As the name suggests, many of the trees are Larch but there are still some Scots Pine and a few Silver Birch. As a result, this is the only area where we have recorded the 'Plums and Custard' mushroom (*Tricholomopsis rutilans*) and where the slime mould *Ceratiomyxa fruticulosa* has frequently been seen.

A different habitat is provided by the five grassland areas in Selsdon Wood where the most obvious creatures are the many butterflies and day-flying moths, boosted by the numbers of moths which fly at night. Where there are insects there are other creatures which feed upon them, such as several species of Bats though they are perhaps more frequently detected flying above the woodland paths. The grassland is where most of the flowers grow, including several orchid species, many being pollinated by insects or by wind.

As can be seen, Selsdon Wood is not one uniform area but has many

varied sub-habitats, each of which contributes to the overall biodiversity of the area. Even the edges of a woodland path can be treated as a separate habitat as it can be the only place to find certain species, for example, Pignut. Hedges, and the tree belts between the fields, have their own value too and add to the variety.

~~

### Contact

Selsdon Community Centre

132 Addington Road

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Tel: 020 8651 4944

Fax: 020 8657 2268

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### Remembering a Remarkable Leader: A Tribute to Our Beloved Chairlady

It is with deep sorrow and a heavy heart that we announce the passing of our esteemed Chairlady, Helen, a woman of vision, strength, and dedication. Her leadership, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to our

organisation and community have left an indelible mark on us all.

Helen, was more than just a leader; she was a mentor, a role model, and an inspiration to many. With grace and determination, she guided our organisation through challenges, always ensuring that integrity, inclusivity, and progress remained at the forefront of our mission. Her passion for service and her ability to uplift those around her, will be profoundly missed. To her family and loved ones, we extend our deepest condolences. May you find comfort in the knowledge that Helen's contributions and influence will never be forgotten.

Thank you María and Matt, of the Golden Ark Selsdon, who collected, in memory of our dear Chairlady, Helen, the sum of £150.00 and was kindly donated to our cause. Helen always enjoyed the reverie of the quiz nights there, as well as Christmas jollies with our drivers!

*Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Registered Charity 1124346*

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## **The Selsdon Centre**

As well as a new name to replace The Selsdon Centre (for the Retired) soon to be officially launched as the Selsdon Community Clubhouse, a new slogan has been developed "in the community, for the community, by the community". We would appreciate you considering what you would like to see included in your community centre. Our constitution states that we exist to help entertain and engage with the elderly in our community, but this is not our sole raison d'être.

We are unsure how aware everyone is of what goes on at the Centre though, so we have included a brief outline of some of our services ...



We have various popular board games available (Rummikub, Scrabble, Uno and other card games) plus Arts & Crafts are offered. There is also a Bridge Club (Monday afternoons) for experienced players and Selsdon Art Club meets once a month in the evenings (2nd Thursday). The Hard of

Hearing Team holds a monthly clinic (Tel: 0208 686 0049 or email: [hello@croydonhearing.org.uk](mailto:hello@croydonhearing.org.uk)) and NCT hold regular courses. We also run weekly foot care sessions on a Monday by Tina including foot massage, filing and toenail cutting to be booked in advance at the Centre or by calling the office.

Hairdressing by Louise is offered every Friday (term-time only) between

10-2.30. Please book using the form in the office. Cut/wash/ set £30 or wash/set or blow dry £25. For 60 plus bookings only.



Chair yoga is by Veronica on Mondays (9.30-10.30); Tuesdays (10-11) and Wednesdays (2.30-3.30) book by email: [veronicamoulder@gmail.com](mailto:veronicamoulder@gmail.com).

Computer, tablet and smart phone training is by Muskaan (to be booked in advance via the office). We hold a Carers' Cafe on the last Tuesday of each month which includes professionals to help those unpaid carers to get much needed advice and respite for an hour or two (1-3pm - a drop in session).

We're hoping to offer tabletop sales, if there is enough interest. Pre-loved Books, DVDs and jigsaws and local honey available to purchase. We're open to other suggestions, so over to you for your input. Email: [office@selsdoncentre.org.uk](mailto:office@selsdoncentre.org.uk) or call 0208 651 1111 to discuss further. Your centre will be whatever you want it to be with your help! We look forward to hearing from you.

Here is our list of events in March & April

### March

- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Lunch & Live music event (Funky Fiddler, £18)
- Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> Carers' café 1-3pm
- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Bingo & Fish & Chips

### April

- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> Bingo & Home cooked meal
- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Lunch & Live Music event (Tom the Cockney Carradine, £18)
- Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> Carers' café 1-3pm

~~

## What is Chair Yoga?



The practice of yoga has been around for many years - originating in India some 5,000 years ago before making its way to the West in the twentieth century. Chair Yoga however, is a relatively new form of yoga. It was developed in the 1980s as a form of exercise that can be practised by anyone in order to improve physical and mental well-being. It is particularly

beneficial for the elderly, those recovering from illness or injury, or individuals with disabilities. Some might be put off by the term "yoga" but



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a Chair Yoga class is not like a traditional yoga class. There will of course be some focus on breathing and relaxation which helps to reduce stress, improve sleep and lower blood pressure, but there will also be lots of exercises to help improve joint mobility, strengthen muscles and improve balance. Classes are sociable and fun, sometimes we move to music or songs, sometimes we meditate and find ways to be grateful or just be present in the moment.

Classes are held in the Selsdon Centre (in the Sainsbury's building) on Monday (9.30-10.30am) and Tuesday (10-11am) mornings and now also on Wednesday afternoons (2.30pm-3.30pm). Come along and give it a try! For more information contact: Veronica Moulder Tel 07803 728868 or email [veronicamoulder@gmail.com](mailto:veronicamoulder@gmail.com)

~~



## What is Coming Up Next ?



We are delighted to host local elderly folks at the Dene Coffee Shop in Woldingham, it will be a super afternoon tea. This is followed by the delivery of Spring Plants to elderly folks around the community in Hamsey Green, Selsdon & Sanderstead. It is great to visit & bring Spring Greetings to folks from Rotary.

We are supporting projects abroad to install Sand Dams in Kenya, this is an amazing project. The villages who benefit from the Sand Dam work with us to ensure they can manage & maintain the Dam after we have gone home.

Our Annual Sponsored Walk will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> May – as ever, you can raise funds for the good cause of your choice, 60% to your charity, and 40% to Rotary charities. Don't miss out, it is a family & dog friendly route. So come along & join us for a lovely sunny day out in the beautiful Surrey Hills.



If you would like to join Rotary & enjoy the fellowship & fun events we host throughout the year, please get in touch. 07774 186792 (Wendy Parr, Secretary) or visit our social media sites:- <https://www.facebook.com/rotarycroydonsouth/> <https://www.rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com/>



## **SELSDON AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD**

We are a friendly group of about 80 members. We meet from 1.30- 4.00, usually on the third Friday of the month, in the Community Hall, St. John's Church, Upper Selston Road, Selston.

Our meetings start with a short business meeting and then we welcome speakers. At our next meeting, on the Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April, we will hear about The Diamond Centre.

During the week members can join groups such as Handicrafts, Knitting or Drama, or you can join a group to go on outings, go to the theatre, or eat with the dining club.

We have time for refreshments and to get to know each other!

For more information contact Christine Holland 02086574861



## **AGATHA CHRISTIE COMES TO SANDERSTEAD**

The Parlour Players' Spring production is Agatha Christie's intriguing murder mystery, "The Unexpected Guest". Lost in the fog, a stranger seeks refuge in a nearby house only to find a man shot dead and his wife standing over him with a smoking gun. But the woman's dazed confession is anything but convincing and the unexpected guest decides to help. Remarkably, the police clues point to a man who died two years previously but as the ghosts of a past wrong begin to emerge, a tangled web of lies reveals family secrets and chilling motives, where the real murderer turns out to be the greatest mystery of all.



The show will be performed in the Sanderstead United Reformed Church Hall at the bottom of Sanderstead Hill on Thursday, Friday and Saturday 8th, 9th, and 10th May at 7.45 pm with a matinee on Saturday 10th at 2.30pm. Tickets cost £10 and will go on sale on Monday 24th March. For information on how to buy tickets or to join The Parlour Players go to the website [www.parlourplayers.co.uk](http://www.parlourplayers.co.uk) or contact the Box Office direct via [boxoffice@parlourplayers.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@parlourplayers.co.uk) or on 020 8657 2632.

## Dame Peggy Ashcroft

When Dame Peggy Ashcroft officially opened the 'proscenium arch' theatre in Croydon named in her honour (one of the three Fairfield Halls) in November 1962, she read from a monologue specially written for her by Sir John Betjeman entitled 'Local Girl Makes Good'. I haven't found a copy of this but have enjoyed researching some facts about this 'Local Girl'.



Peggy's full name was Edith Margaret Emily Ashcroft, her mother was Violetta Bernheim and her father, William, was a land agent. She was born a few days before Christmas in 1907 and grew up in South Croydon, in Tirlmont Road (which is near 'Haling Grove Park' which was then a large private house with stables owned by a man who bred horses). Peggy described the Croydon of her youth as a 'market town facing the Downs'. According to one of her biographers (1), she enjoyed country rambles and watching the growth of Croydon airfield at nearby Waddon. (Croydon remained a self-contained town surrounded by countryside until the growth of the suburbs from the 1920s and 1930s. The weekly South Croydon Cattle market not far from her home would have added to the rural atmosphere)

Peggy was educated at Woodford School in Dingwall Road, which according to online research, was a "superior private day school for girls". Peggy's father died in WW1 when she was 11. After taking leading roles in her school plays, she enrolled aged 16, at the Central School of Speech and Drama located at the Albert Halls. A fellow student there was Laurence Olivier. They were both the 'Star Pupils'. (1)

Peggy took leading roles on the British stage (and screen) for over 60 years. One of her early roles aged 22, was appearing opposite Paul Robeson as Desdemona to his Othello. She was greatly admired in her day and has over 43 official portraits. She was a Founding member of the Stratford Royal Shakespeare Company. She was given many honours and awards such as being made a Dame, three Baftas, a Golden Globe and an



Academy Award (Oscar). She also has a memorial stone in Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey (alongside her friend and fellow acting 'great', Sir Laurence Olivier). Current acting greats (such as Dame Judy Dench) have named Peggy as an inspiration.

One of Peggy's biographers Michael Billington (2), who saw her perform wrote "As much at home in Beckett as in Shakespeare, Ashcroft had imagination, industry and intelligence.". She played many demanding roles, including Shakespeare's Cleopatra, Ibsen's Hedda Gabler and Terence Rattigan's Hester Collyer in *The Deep Blue Sea*. He argues her finest hour came as Queen Margaret in 'The Wars of the Roses', a trilogy of plays. (A clip of which can be seen on YouTube.)



Whilst Peggy may have lived in Hampstead most of her adult life, it is Croydon who best keeps her memory alive with her named theatre and more recently a metal silhouette of her in Croydon on Charles Street (which is also a feature on a walking tour of the town). (4) The 2025 programme of events at the theatre does not comprise the heavyweight plays that made Peggy famous, but rather features comedians, tribute acts even a panto. Have a look online at <https://www.fairfield.co.uk>.

### ***Janet Sharp***

1. Gary O'Connor 'The Secret Woman – A life of Peggy Ashcroft' 1997
2. Michael Billington The Guardian Newspaper article "Great performances". Tue 9 Jun 2015
3. Peggy Ashcroft in *The Wars of the Roses*. Photograph: R Viner/Getty Images
4. Sustrans Portrait Bench

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## CHURCHES

St John the Divine (C of E)	Parish Office	020 8657 2343
Selsdon Baptist Church	Office	020 8651 4308
St Columba's (Roman Catholic)		020 8657 3747
St Francis (Church of England)	Monks Hill	020 8657 7864
Croydon Jubilee Church	Office	020 8651 2807
Forestdale Church, Forestdale School		0777 255 9797
Selsdon Christian Fellowship		020 8668 9779
Church of Jesus Christ of LDS		020 8651 2211

## DOCTORS & EMERGENCY CARE

Farley Road Medical Practice		020 8651 1222
Queenhill Medical Practice		020 8651 1141
Selsdon Park Medical Practice		020 8657 0067
Croydon University Hospital		020 8401 3000
New Addington Minor Injuries Unit		020 8251 7225
Purley War Memorial Hospital		020 8401 3515

## POLICE

Selsdon & Addington Village: SelsdonandAddingtonVillage@met.police.uk  
Selsdon Vale & Forestdale SelsdonandForestdale@metpolice.uk

## CLUBS, GROUPS & CHARITIES

CONTACT (Neighbourhood Care)	Jasmine Singh	020 8651 4944
The Selsdon Centre	Liz O'Donoghue	020 8651 1111
Croydon Hearing Resource Centre	Office	020 8686 0049
Croydon Vision		020 8668 2486
Cruse Bereavement Care Helpline		080 8808 1677
Friends of Littleheath Woods	Ian Leggatt	via www.folw.co.uk
Friends of Selsdon Wood		<a href="http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk">www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk</a>
Sanderstead Plantation Partners		michaellishmund@gmail.com
Friends of Kingswood		<a href="http://www.friendsofkingswood@hotmail.co.uk">www.friendsofkingswood@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Girlguiding (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section)		0800 999 2016 <a href="https://girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved">https://girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Selsdon & Addington Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts)		<a href="http://www.1stselsdonscouts.org.uk">www.1stselsdonscouts.org.uk</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Selsdon & Addington Scout Group		<a href="http://www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk">www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk</a>
Croham Valley Explorer Scout Unit	Christopher Dean	tinkerscorner@aol.com
Arts Society Croydon Area	Jean Aarons	<a href="https://tascroydonarea.org.uk">https://tascroydonarea.org.uk</a>
Parkinson's UK Croydon & District Branch	Roy Court	07704 683373
Rotary Sanderstead & Selsdon	Wendy Parr	07774 186792
RSPB Croydon Local Group	John Davis	020 8640 4578
Selsdon Art Group	Fiona Hooper	07973 412952
Selsdon Bridge Club	Bob Steadman	07545 384899
Selsdon Centre Bridge Club	Betty Borfiga	020 8656 4212
Selsdon Community Hall	Cottie Campbell	<a href="mailto:selsdonhall.info@gmail.com">selsdonhall.info@gmail.com</a>
Selsdon Flower Club	Maureen Browning	020 8651 5821
Selsdon Townswomen's Guild(pm)	Christine Holland	020 8657 4861
Sanderstead Horticultural Society		<a href="http://www.sandersteadhs.org">www.sandersteadhs.org</a>
Sanderstead Local History Group		sandersteadlhg@gmail.com
Selsdon Tennis Club	Jeff Pullen	079568 29842
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