

THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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Front cover image credit: Sneak preview of the new owl sculptures for Selsdon Wood.

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Councillors for Sanderstead Ward

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

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

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

Hello everyone and welcome to the April Selsdon Gazette. The Selsdon Residents' Association has had a busy March, with its AGM and its Spring Clean Up around the High Street. It is good to see so many residents turn up for both. We also had three police officers and two of our Councillors speak at the AGM and answer questions from the audience on subjects ranging from the illegal use of e-scooters on our pavements, double parking along the Addington Road and the new payment scheme for parking, to the lack of litter bins around the centre of Selsdon.

Hopefully the Gazette is now reaching all of our residents in the middle of the month and nobody is being left out. We have had a few good souls volunteer their services to fill some of our delivery rounds and to act as distributors. However, we still need deliverers for two small rounds covering Lapwing Gardens and another for Owl Close, and two distributors, one for Ridge Langley/Arundel Avenue and the other for Norfolk Avenue/Upper Selsdon Road. Please contact me selsdongazettesra@gmail.com if you can help or want to know more about what is involved.

We have a gardening theme to this month's Gazette with our Sunflower Competition, a list of jobs in our Gardening Tips, a Gardening Quiz and Mary Gill gives us a poem about the April weather that we can expect. Ian Leggatt continues his series looking at the housing developments in Selsdon and this month it is the turn of Benhurst Gardens & Close, Endsleigh Close and Elm Park Gardens. Jenny, the Gazette treasurer, has visited Pollock's Toy Museum in the Whitgift Centre and Janet Sharp has some advice about medical check- ups that we should all consider.

Also, in the gazette this month we have another resident with his recollections on growing up in Selsdon, this time during World War 2.

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MAY 2024 EDITION SHOULD

BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN

20™ APRIL - PREFERABLY REFORE!

♣

PCSO Tina Nash describes some of the work the local police have been carrying out to keep us and our properties safe and Ted Forsyth, in his Nature Notes, turns his attention to differences in types of seeds and how they are dispersed.

I hope that you enjoy your read. Please do contact me with your photos taken in the Selsdon area, emails about the good and bad in Selsdon, etc., as this magazine is for our community. I would especially like to hear from our younger inhabitants and what they would like to see in the Gazette.

Chris Jones

SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS

AGM

I would like to give a big thank you to all of you who attended our AGM on 20th March at St John's Hall and enjoyed a glass of wine kindly provide by Wetherspoons. Also, a huge thank you to the committee for everything they do all year round and for standing again for a further year to make my job easier.

A long standing committee member Ernie Sweeney announced at the AGM that he would be standing down as he will be moving house soon and although not far, it is out of our area. Myself and Ernie couldn't remember how long he had served but it is at least 12 years, if not more and he was a member some years before that. Ernie is very knowledgeable about all things to do with planning and buildings, in that regard we will miss his expertise and his company. We wish him well.

Free Exhibition

If you fancy a trip down memory lane, head to the Whitgift Centre to see the Pollock's Toy Exhibition which you can find near to the underpass. It is run by volunteers every Saturday 11am - 4pm for the next year. They will also be hosting workshops in the coming months. Best of all it is free, so go along and see the original Sooty and Sweep puppets donated by Harry Corbett plus lots of other toys made by a local firm at New Addington.

TFL Travel

If you use a 60+ oyster or a Freedom Pass you can now use it before 9am on a Friday for the next 3 months. Also, on Fridays there are no peak payas-you-go fares.

Happy Easter Hunt

Sheila Childs, Chair SRA

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The Gazette Needs Help

Three Distributors needed:

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of about 60 copies and then pass these to your deliverers.

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Please contact our Editor, Chris Jones (020 8657 4686) or email: selsdongazettesra@gmail.com

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Selsdon Residents' Association Children's Egg Hunt Competition 2024 Grow the Tallest Sunflower Competition '24

Open to all residents of Selsdon, especially those with green fingers!



March is the month sunflower seeds can be grown indoors with May being the month to plant your seedlings outside in full sun. Flowers appear between July and September. Take a photo of your tallest sunflower, preferably with you alongside it. Measure its height from ground level to its tallest point and send the measurement and photo to the editor of the Gazette selsdongazettesra@gmail.com by the 20 September with the grower's name and address. The tallest sunflowers will win the prizes.

COUNCILLORS' NOTES

REGISTER TO VOTE AND PHOTO ID FOR MAYORAL AND GLA ELECTIONS 2 MAY

The Elections for the Greater London Mayor and Authority (GLA) take place on the 2nd May 2024, if you are on the electoral register (i.e. have voted before and haven't recently moved home) you should be receiving a polling card and information on the candidates through your door shortly. If you have moved home recently, you have until 16th April to register to vote, you can do that online here https://www.croydon.gov.uk/council-and-elections/voting-and-elections/voting/register-vote

If you want to vote at a polling station on 2^{nd,} May you will have to take some photo ID along with you. There are a number of forms of photo IDs that are acceptable and you can apply for a free voter ID certificate. To find out what photo ID is acceptable or to apply for a free voter ID certificate if you don't have one, visit www.croydon.gov.uk/voterID.

ADDINGTON PARK EVENT PROPOSED FOR JULY 2024

The Licensing Sub Committee has approved a tented Music Event for Addington Park on the 6th July 2024. The event will be licensed for music between the hours of 1300-2200 and the sale of alcohol between the hours of 13.00-21.30. The event is organised by Smith and Smith Ltd. The Organisers will now be working with the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) which brings together emergency services and relevant Council Officers to make sure that the correct emergency planning, traffic and parking plans are in place to ensure a safe event. More information about the event can be found here https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/documents/g3972/Public%20reports%20pack%2018th-Mar-2024%2010.30%20 Licensing%20Sub-Committee.pdf?T=10 (page 85 onwards).

NEW SHOPS AND EXTRA FUNDING TO DEVELOP CROYDON TOWN CENTRE

Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield (URW) have recently announced a string of new shop openings in Centrale and the Whitgift Centre; the new shops include high end jeweller Loupe, furniture and home retailer Izzy Home Store, alongside Pollock's Toy Museum and Noodle Bar Chopstix. This comes alongside the news that Croydon has been awarded £18.5 Million Levelling Up Funding alongside £7.2 Million Growth Zone Funding to improve the environment and public realm around the Town Centre and surrounding area.

FORESTDALE NEIGHBOURHOOD RE-CYCLING CENTRE

The Forestdale Neighbourhood Recycling Centre has had to close recently as asbestos was dumped at the site, as well as the site in New Addington. This has meant that all the bins have had to be sealed and sent away to a specialist cleaning facility run by the City of London. Once the bins have been cleaned and returned, it is the Council's intention to re-open the site.

As your local Councillors we have been asked to give an opinion about whether this site is useful or if it just attracts fly tipping. We would be interested to get the views of our residents. If you have comments, please do email us.

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

Councillor surgeries are held on the first Saturday of the month 10am - 11.15am (no surgery in August/January. Surgeries are at The Selsdon Centre (next to Sainsbury's), 132 Addington Rd, South Croydon CR2 8LA.

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

24/00916/GPDO - 10 Cowley Close South Croydon CR2 8LU Erection of a single storey rear extension which projects out from the original rear wall by 4 metres with an eave's height of 3 metres and a maximum height of 3.20 metres.

24/00737/LE - 49 Farley Road South Croydon CR2 8DB Use of garage as a self-contained dwelling.

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

MP Chris Philp's Report Member of Parliament for Croydon South

Purley Pool – welcome news!

A pool for Purley is essential – it was previously used by 11 local schools, many charities and local people of all ages. A new pool and leisure centre will also provide a welcome lift to Purley town centre. I am therefore determined to see a proper pool and

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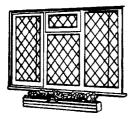


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Farleigh House Farm, Farleigh Common CR6 9PE

facilities re-opened in Purley.

Executive Mayor Jason Perry has made returning a swimming pool to the heart of Purley a priority and the Council has recently been in discussions with Polaska, the long-term leaseholders, to bring forward their plans for the site. I am therefore delighted to hear that Croydon Council has now received a planning application from developers Polaska for a new leisure centre on the Purley Pool site and regeneration of the surrounding area.

The planning application from Polaska includes a new leisure centre and a later living housing scheme, with a new public square and improved access from the station to the High Street to help regenerate the town centre and boost the local economy. The leisure centre plans include a 25m six-lane main pool, training pool, 80 space gym, fitness suite and studio space, as well as a café.

The proposal is for the construction cost of the new leisure centre to be funded through the development, with the ownership and management of the facility remaining with the Council.

The application is going through the Council's planning validation process

and will be available to view on the Council's website once this is complete. This is expected to be very shortly, and you will then be able to view and comment on the application through the Council website www.croydon.gov.uk under planning reference number 24/00775/FUL

I will certainly be having a close look at the details of the application but a new pool and leisure centre in Purley is very welcome in principle.

Chris Philp

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

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Statistics from Local Police Wards January 2024

Here are the number of the top crimes reported during January 2024 for our local police wards.

Crime	Selsdon and Addington Village	Selsdon Vale and Forestdale
Violence and sexual offences	17	11
Burglary	16	
Criminal Damage & Arson		14
Anti-social behaviour		11
Vehicle crime	7	
Public order	4	7
Total number of crimes reported in June 2023	58	69

UPDATE FROM PCSO TINA NASH, SELSDON & ADDINGTON VILLAGE SNT

We have seen a reduction in Burglary during the month of March, but Burglary is still a priority for us. We are glad to see that residents are being more vigilant and more aware of their surroundings and looking out for one another, good neighbours are so valuable.

We have seen an increase in Shoplifting and this is not just in Selsdon, other areas of Croydon are also suffering the same. Iceland, Sainsbury's, the BP at Gravel Hill and the Coop at Forestdale have all been reporting offences to us. We do actively patrol all of these areas while on patrol.

Recently the Neighbourhood Team apprehended a shoplifter at the Gravel Hill Tram stop who had stolen 3 bottles of Prosecco and food items from the BP. Another male was seen walking along the tram tracks on Kent Gateway, this was because he had just stolen a large amount of food items from the BP. Both males will be put before the court.

We have seen pockets of Anti-Social Behaviour on Tedder Road and Gravel Hill, while these incidents can be very stressful for residents, we can deal with these by working with housing officers at Croydon Council and enforcement by the way of Community Protection Orders, Community Protection Notices or Criminal Behaviour Orders. These methods are a vital tool for us to use when dealing with persistent and regular offenders.

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

Emergencies – 999, Non-emergency crime - 101

Selsdon & Addington Village:

SelsdonandAddingtonVillageSNT@met.police.uk

Selsdon Vale & Forestdale:

SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk

Good Time for Gardening – April

Gardens should be in full bloom in May, especially lilacs, rhododendrons and azaleas will be at their best. Although summer is just around the corner, night temperatures can still fall below zero, so be careful not to plant out half-hardy bedding plants and vegetables too soon, and make sure you harden them off properly before planting out.

- Start planting out summer <u>bedding plants</u> towards the end of this month.
- Look after your finished spring bulbs for next year. Once they've gone over, resist the temptation to cut back the foliage. Instead, let it die and break down on its own and add liquid fertiliser all around the clumps. This will give you an even better display next spring. Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other springflowering bulbs.



- Feed and water container plants. Top-dress permanent pot plants to refresh the compost. Supplement container plants with balanced liquid feed every 2-4 weeks to promote healthy growth.
- Remember to open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days. You
 can also damp down your greenhouse on hot days to increase humidity
 and deter red spider mites.
- Optimise your watering regime watering early and late to get the most out of your water — and start collecting and recycling water whenever possible.
- Harden off half-hardy plants by leaving them outside during the day and bringing them back under cover at night for 7 to 10 days before planting outdoors.
- Plant summer hanging baskets, adding good-quality compost, slow-

- release fertiliser and water-retaining crystals, to keep them in top condition. Protect them from late frost under cover.
- Harden off dahlias and tender exotics such as canna
 'Tropicanna' lilies for planting as soon as the risk of frost has passed.
- Divide established clumps of hostas as they come into growth ...plants I've never had any success with due to the snails and slugs in the garden.
- Trim back spreading plants such as aubrieta, alyssum and candytuft after they've flowered, to encourage fresh new growth and more blooms.
- Tie in rambling and climbing roses. Laying the stems horizontally will help to produce more flowers. Tie in sweet pea plants with sweet pea support rings to encourage them to climb.

Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

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Selsdon Residents' Association Spring Cleanup



On Saturday 9 March about 20 local volunteers picked up litter in the areas around our High Street. In a two hour stint they managed to fill over twenty bags of rubbish. This Spring Cleanup was organised by Andrew Baxter, so thanks to him and all the volunteers for doing their bit for our community. The next litter pick up will be on 8 June. All are welcome to join us!

This photo shows one of our volunteers with a lady from the Council department that supports Street Champions.

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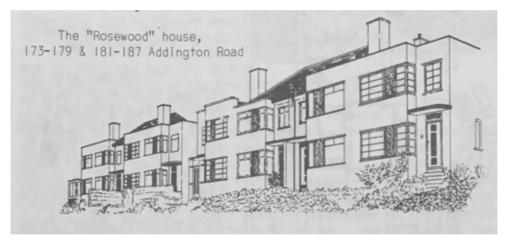
While Costains were finishing off their 2nd development in Selsdon in the Arundel and Norfolk Avenues area and the 3rd phase comprising Selsdon Crescent, The Rise and Addington Road, in 1934 they were already planning their final phase of the development of Selsdon as we know it. This 4th phase of housing centred around the Old Farleigh Road area on the southern side of Addington Road and was marketed as 'Old Farleigh Estate'. Sundale Avenue had already been partly laid out by another developer and Costains continued it to join up to Old Farleigh Road. Also, in the Costains development were to be Benhurst Gardens and Close, Endsleigh Close and Elm Park Gardens. Once again Costains fell back on fairly unimaginative nomenclature for the new streets: they had just completed Benhurst Court, a block of flats in Streatham, Endsleigh Court in Bloomsbury and Elm Park was a new Costains development in Essex. In April 1934 Costains submitted their plans for 11 pairs of semi-detached houses, 15 blocks of 4 houses, 4 blocks of 5 houses and 37 blocks of 6 houses. In June the Council decided that they wanted more variety in the elevations but Costains dug in and maintained that they were unable to accede due to 'economic considerations of the time' and that the Council requirements would make the houses dearer. It was agreed to 'stagger' the layout of some of the houses. Work must have started swiftly afterwards as, in July 1934, The Croydon Advertiser carried a large ad for 'Selsdon Sun-Homes, built by Costains.'



Old Farleigh Road, bottom left corner, diagonal. Sundale Avenue, Endsleigh Close, Benhurst Gardens and Close and Elm Park Gardens.

The houses were of three types: 'Rosewood', 'Briarwood' and 'Hazlewood'. The former and latter were available as semi-detached, with the Hazlewood benefiting from more space "these charming homes are built in pairs in the choicest positions on the Estate, many of them arranged in semi-circular groups, forming sun-courts and affording choice of aspect".

The Rosewood was in the 'International Style', albeit here on the Old Farleigh Estate, with a slightly more utilitarian appearance than we saw in the February Gazette. This and the Briarwood were mainly available as middle (terrace) houses or end configuration. The end types afforded side access to a larger garden with some wide enough for a garage. Unlike the 'International Style' houses on Addington Road which mainly featured flat roofs, the Old Farleigh Estate houses had pitched roofs.





The Rosewood houses (above) on Addington Road: predominantly flat roof in appearance to accentuate the horizontal lines with low pitched roof set back from the facade to accentuate the horizontal lines.



The Rosewood house in Semi- Detached mode (left). The pitched roof is a strong element dominating the elevation. The facades have a variety of finishes: plain white render or pebbledash, some with brick detailing to the quoins. The brick panels between the windows have been abandoned.

A more utilitarian look entirely.

Costains, in their Old Farleigh Estate brochure, were keen to extol the virtues of healthy living:

"In all our 70 years' experience as Home Builders we have never built popularly priced homes upon a site which offers such advantages as Old Farleigh Estate, Selsdon. Most Estates have at least one point to recommend them. Selsdon has all the advantages which go to make family life full and complete for man, woman and child. Health is the major consideration, no matter where you live. Selsdon, standing 500 feet above sea level, high and dry, in clear air (even when fog prevails in London and in the neighbouring valleys) is the healthiest spot imaginable. Its chalk sub-soil affords natural drainage for rains and is open to all the drying effects of the sun and breezes, generating an atmosphere which has been found to banish chest and throat troubles from people who have suffered much in the lower lying districts." Perhaps copywriters these days would not be allowed to make such claims. "Selsdon fairly calls its dwellers into the open air. The attractions of its spacious gardens provided to every home, the grouping of these homes in sun-trap crescents and wide winding avenues – the tree fringed horizons, beyond which lie mile upon mile of Surrey's beautiful heath and downlands (only half-an-hour's walk from the Estate) - these things give Selsdon its enviable natural setting".

So much for the health benefits. What of the houses themselves and the facilities they provided within? To be continued....

lan Leggatt

Again, Ted Frith's journals set me on a path. I am grateful to CW and BT for providing me with the original Costains brochure from which much of the above is taken verbatim. OS Map extract from National Library of Scotland.

Pollock's Toy Museum

Pollock's Toy Museum, which has a fascinating collection of all kinds of old toys and models from the UK and abroad, has opened in a pop-up location in the Whitgift Centre. Founded in the 1950s, the Museum has been without a permanent location for the last 5 years and so welcomed the opportunity to rent one of the Whitgift Centre's many unoccupied spaces during Croydon's year of being the London Borough of Culture. They have been told that the lease, which was originally for 6 months has

been extended until 2025.

The Museum has several items manufactured in the Barton's toy factory located in New Addington until the 1960s, and the trustees, all of whom are volunteers, are interested to hear from any local people who can remember the factory and might even have worked there.



This furniture for a dolls' house was made at the factory in New Addington

The volunteers are working through the dozens of boxes currently stored under the shop so the display in the museum is frequently added to. A visit will definitely bring back memories of childhood toys, including puppets, optical toys, teddy bears, tin toys, dolls, dolls' houses and games. Pollock Toy Museum is situated on the lower level of the Whitgift Centre, along the passageway with Waterstones on the corner, which leads to the pedestrian subway under Wellesley Road. The free-to-play organ is opposite. The Museum is currently open from 11am to 4pm on Saturdays. There is usually a toy theatre show at 12.00 and 2.00pm.

Jenny Bradley

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Ian Leggatt, Chair of Littleheath Woods was contacted by a former inhabitant of Selsdon with some memories of the woods and WW2. I have his permission to publish some of his reminiscences. Incidentally his 103 year old mother gets a posted copy of the Gazette and he reads it to her.

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF LITTLEHEATH WOODS

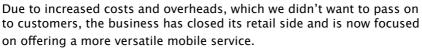
I was interested to see in the articles from various contributors of some wartime memories.

I lived in Addington Road just round the corner from Ingham Road and next door but one to the school from 1935 to 1951.

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All the local children accessed the woods at the top of Ingham Road. I remember the Crab Apple tree and the "Easy Climber" there. A lot of time was spent high in these trees, and of course Health & Safety and close supervision by grown-ups were not even considered at that time. Most memories seem to mention the 'Log' in the corner of the field. We always called it "the fallen Oak Tree" and so many camps and dens were constructed near here within the bushes and ferns.

Towards the end of the war, a favourite pastime was to ride our home made wooden buggies with pram wheels down the suicide run from the "Easy Climber" to the "Fallen Oak" field. Zigzagging between the tree roots and bushes at very fast speeds!

In 1948, London hosted the Summer Olympics. The Ingham gang were inspired by this, the first in the memory of most of us. So, running tracks and hurdles were constructed in the woods with javelins from the tall ferns, long jumps, high jumps and of course our home made bows and arrows were used. What fun it was!

During the war the Ingham entrance to the woods was at its highest point with excellent south east views and used by us all for spotting aircraft. I remember looking across the old bird sanctuary towards Biggin Hill and seeing the Spitfires doing victory rolls on return from a successful flight. Later in 1944 we could see the V1 flying bombs coming

in from the south east from many miles away. I also experienced the V1 crash into Ingham Road whilst with many school pals in the Selsdon Primary school bomb shelters; never to be forgotten with the explosion, emergency exit hatch blown out, total loss of power, plunged into blackness, choking dust and some very frightened children.

Before the war started my father dug under the attached garage a huge cellar reinforced with concrete and installed an Anderson shelter within it! Once the bombing started, my mother, brother and I regularly shared this with our next door neighbours from the School Caretaker's house-Mrs Waller, young Eddie Waller and Bob the dog! One thing I will never forget is the smell of damp chalk from nights spent in the shelter. Another memory after Dunkirk, was half a dozen holes being dug outside our house across Addington Road for steel girders to be added should the German tanks decide that Selsdon was an attractive route into London. I also remember visiting Selsdon Park Hotel grounds for the annual Home Guard demonstration of their fighting qualities!

Good Health – General Check-Ups



Firstly, make sure you are registered with a relevant healthcare provider and keep a note of check-up dates in case you get missed from invites. If you have worrying health symptoms do not wait for check-ups - depending on the severity, make an appointment with the GP or go to the hospital.

NHS Medical check-ups -.

- NHS Children's health checks regular development checks from birth to 2 ½ years old.
- NHS Health check aged 40-74 every 5 years. Voluntary standardised assessment with a nurse for your general health at your local GP practice. You should receive an invitation. This includes cholesterol, blood pressure, weight and blood sugar checks. Also see the 'between times' online test at the end of this article.
- NHS Breast screening Women in England who are aged from 50 to their 71st birthday and registered with a GP are automatically invited every 3 years. Women over 71 can self-refer.
- NHS Cervical screening All women and people with a cervix between the ages of 25 and 64 should go for regular cervical screening. You'll get a letter in the post inviting you to make an appointment. Every 3 years for those aged 26 to 49, and every 5 years from the ages of 50 to 64.
- NHS Bowel cancer screening Everyone aged 60 to 74 is sent a home test kit every 2 years. If you're 75 or over, you can ask for a kit every 2 years by phoning the free helpline on 0800 707 60 60. The programme has started to include 58 year olds so you may get a test before 60.
- NHS Abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) screening AAA screening is offered to men in their 65th year to detect dangerous swelling in the aorta. Men over 65 can self-refer.

Dentist – check-up for children every year, adults every 2 years unless you have need of more.

Eyesight – every 2 years unless you have need of more. Free NHS sight test and vouchers every 2 years for children, students, 60+, or have special conditions. Those working with computers may also get a voucher from their employers depending on their terms.

Hearing - There are simple hearing tests online. This can tell you if you need to have a face-to-face hearing test. <u>Check your hearing with the RNID's free online hearing test</u>

You can get a free hearing test on the NHS. A GP may refer you to a hearing specialist (audiologist) who can do the test. It could take a few weeks to see a specialist so it might be quicker to get tested somewhere else, like at a large pharmacy or opticians. This is often free.

General Spot-check - The *NHS 'Better Health – How are you?'* free online test (at your convenience) aims to help you be more self-aware and pro-active by using general health questions about your diet, exercise, mood, lifestyle etc and then gives you a score out of 10 and targeted advice and links to specialised NHS apps to improve your health. However, such online tests do not do the physical tests that would be occurring during the *NHS health check* so is an additional 'between times' check. https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/how-are-you-quiz

NHS Vaccinations -

- Children should have some or all of the following protections depending on age: 6-in-1 (major childhood illnesses), Rotavirus, MenB, Hib/ MenC, MMR, Pneumoccal, Children's flu, 4 in 1 pre-school booster, HPV, 3 in 1 teenage booster, MenACWY
- Adults 65+ for Flu jab and turning 65 or 70 for Shingles jab.
- People at risk: will receive additional vaccines such as seasonal Covid boosters

Janet Sharp

GARDENING QUIZ

With Spring here, it is now time to tackle the garden. However first tackle these questions about gardening.

- 1. What has varieties beefsteak, plum and cherry?
- 2. Which campaign encouraged the British population to use gardens, parks and sports pitches to grow vegetables during World War Two?
- 3. Which fruit was cultivated from crossing a blackberry and a raspberry?
- 4. What is the art of cutting shrubs into ornamental shapes called?
- 5. What is the national fruit of India, Pakistan, and the Philippines?
- 6. Vanilla flavouring is derived from which flower?
- 7. What fruit comes in varieties Oro Blanco, Ruby Red, Thompson and Pink?



- 8. What is the national flower of Mexico?
- 9. Which flowers are also known as Candlemas Bells and February Fairmaids?
- 10. From which country do kniphofias, crocosmias, nerines, agapanthus & gladioli originate?

Answers after Nature Notes



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 <u>all</u> correspondence to the Editor. Anonymity can be granted on request, but anonymously sent letters/e-mails will not be published.

It was good to hear some good news from one of our residents.

Dear Editor,

We see in the media reports of patients having horrendous waits to see a doctor. May I outline a recent experience here in Selsdon.

Faced with a long term cough I phoned my Practice early Monday morning and received an appointment for one hour later. While being checked over by a paramedic, I was given a prescription for antibiotics and an electronic booking made at Purley Hub for a chest X-ray as a walk in and a review appointment made for a week's time. The prescription was provided by the Pharmacist swiftly and efficiently. The walk in at the Purley Hub later that afternoon took only 20 minutes.

Aren't we fortunate to have such exemplary facilities on our doorstep in Selsdon.

A big shout out to Selsdon Park Medical Practice, Day Lewis Pharmacy and the Purley War Memorial Hospital.

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119 Addington Road Selsdon, South Croydon Surrey CR2 8LH Tel: 020 8657 1222 Fax: 020 8657 6660 Email: info@ki-ba.co.uk Internet: www.ki-ba.co.uk Here we have a plea from one of our gazette deliverers.

Dear Editor,

We are regular deliverers of the Gazette but are encountering some difficulties getting to front doors. A few paths are difficult to walk along as there are loose or have broken paving slabs and this is particularly dangerous when negotiating steps, I feel sorry for the postman who visits regularly, we only deliver once a month. Please can you check the access to your house because I think you may be liable if someone injures themselves on your property - I'm sure a reader will confirm if this is right or wrong!

Name and address supplied

~~

Here our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, looks forward to warmer times.

In a way Spring has sprung. The blossoms are blooming, the daffodils light up the garden with their golden blooms, and the next set of plants to grow are thrusting their heads above ground to see if it is dry enough to make an appearance - or should they duck down into their warm winter beds and just let the weeds be pulled out of the way, so that they do not need to share all the nutrients now forming? Like just about everyone and everything, we could all currently do with a bit less rain for a while, and some sunshine to make us warm.

It is a job to convince myself that in a few weeks' time we could be grumbling about the weather being too hot, or the government asking anyone over 60+ to stay indoors out of the midday sun due the high risk of sunstroke.

Lately I have been browsing through the high influx of Spring catalogues, dropping through my door. Yes, there are several items which tempt me, but some tempted me last year and the year before too, and as I also recall the prices being asked then and now, I swiftly lose the temptation to purchase anything. It is comforting to know where there is a "Perfect" item for some special occasion, but there is also comfort in knowing that I still have some money left in my bank account.



Many of us can look back to our grandparents, and if there was a choice for them, it was between eating or having something new to wear. Common sense always won the day! Funnily enough, a catalogue I enjoyed recently had a dress looking very similar to one my grandmother wore. That might have been worth buying for the memories it evoked. We were taught to ask ourselves, "Do I need it or do I only

want it?" Yes, if people need us to spend to keep UK factories open, I might buy something, but from reading the news, it is not our factories we are keeping open.

Last time I went into Croydon there were several slogans painted on various walls. They read - "If you want to eat, grow your own". However, with all the proposed building, where will people be able to "grow their own"? How will there be enough land left?

Poetry Corner

Here Mary Gill warns us about the changeable weather of April.

BATTLE OF THE SKIES

Spring skies are oft times fresh and blue and bright, the waxing sun, shines warmer ev'ry dawn. But sometimes tar black clouds blot out the light, as if the whole of Earth has need to mourn. They may bring snow or rain or stinging hail, soft April showers ousted by their rage, resurgent winter rides in on the gale – some freak of nature loosed it from its cage. And yet, be sure, the power of the sun, intensifying to its summer peak, will soon atone for all the damage done and fall on wasted winter, now grown weak. So blue translucence wins out over grey as April slowly ripens into May



Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth - Seeds & Dispersal



Plants have developed many ways to disperse their seeds. Some, like Sycamore, Field Maple and Norway Maple, have seeds which are held in paired wings which spin like little propellers and allow the seeds to drop some distance from the parent tree. Ash also has seeds, which come in a bunch usually referred to as "keys", and which spin when released from the tree,

though not as efficiently as the Maples. Judging by the number of Ash saplings that appear in my garden from seed dropped by trees some distance away, the seed dispersal is quite effective.

It is probable that for deciduous bushes and trees the most likely method of seed dispersal involves some form of berry. Privet and Dogwood produce lots of tiny hard flesh-covered seeds which must be spread efficiently as these bushes are found over a wide area. The various wild roses develop multiple seeds enclosed in the classic rose hip which is nibbled by birds and small mammals to release the seeds. Blackthorn and Hawthorn are rivals for their spring flowering display, but the black sloes on the Blackthorn are sour and less attractive to birds in early autumn but look similar to the larger succulent fruits of the Bullace. The hard stone of the Hawthorn berry is wrapped in the soft flesh which is initially a bright scarlet but dulls to an almost black shade, but is still food for winter thrushes which swallow the berries whole and eject the stone at a later time. The berry of the Midland Thorn generally has two stones but hybrids between the two species occur readily. There are many other tree species adorned by bunches of succulent berries, such as Whitebeam, Wild Cherry and Rowan.

Some tree seeds are in the form of nuts: acorns on Oaks, mast on Beech, Chestnuts on Sweet and Horse Chestnut trees, hazelnuts on Hazels, and hard seeds on Hornbeams in bunches rather like those on maples. Apart from Jays collecting acorns and burying them some distance from the tree, most nuts drop to the ground and rely on squirrels and other small mammals which collect and store them for use in the

d in the winter –

other small mammals which collect and store them for use in the winter – inevitably a few will germinate.

Conifers have evolved along a different route and have seeds protected by a woody coating of scales. When ripe the seeds can be dislodged by the action of wind, mammals or birds. In June or July, our woods are often visited by a flock of Crossbills and the birds use their peculiarly crossed bills to lever open the cones on Larch to get at the seeds. A tree which

bears cones though it is not a conifer is the Alder and these are attractive to winter Siskins and Redpolls.

When associating trees together because they share some qualities there are always some which do not easily fit into the chosen categories. Birch could perhaps be placed with the nut bearers as they produce catkins which develop in bunches with small seeds – often visited by winter flocks of Goldfinches and Redpolls. Another bearer of catkins in early spring is the Goat Willow which develops the well-known pussy-willow fruit, distinctive enough to deserve a category of its own.

Yew has a fruit which is often called a berry though its shape is more like a cup with a top cover. Blackberries on Brambles are another example of a misapplied name – the seeds are on the outer surface formed by multiple blobs of succulence which get the attention of birds, small mammals and even foxes. If we include herbaceous plants like Dandelion, and climbers such as Wild Clematis (Old Man's Beard), Honeysuckle, and Black and White Bryonies, we soon see that there is a range of methods for growing, protecting and dispersing seeds.

Answers to the Gardening Quiz

- 1. Tomatoes
- Dig for Victory
- 3. Loganberry
- 4. Topiary
- 5. Mango
- 6. Orchid
- 7. Grapefruit
- 8. Dahlia / Dahlia pinnata
- 9. Snowdrops
- 10. South Africa

GARDENS MATTER

PLASTIC LAWNS



The advantages of the plastic grass may seem obvious to anyone whose lawn is in heavy shade, is constantly used as a football pitch or is an area that has to cope with one or more dogs. However, there are more disadvantages to

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artificial lawns than you may think.

- 1. They can actually contaminate underlying soil and surrounding watercourses with micro plastic fragments of nylon, polyethylene and polypropylene.
- 2. Real grass stores carbon. Artificial lawns can't.
- 3. Lawn, soil and greenery cool a garden's surface and its surroundings through evaporation and transpiration. Fake lawns can do none of these.
- 4. Artificial grass provides no habitat or food for wildlife. Even closely mown grass lawns are beneficial to wildlife.
- 5. Artificial lawns require replacing after a certain amount of time and are hard to recycle; many lawns end up in landfill.
- 6. No daisy chain was ever made whilst lying on plastic grass.

Given the above, perhaps it's better to have a poor grass lawn rather than a no grass lawn.

Chris Hyde

Information drawn from an article in the RHS publication "The Gardener" A leaflet giving more information can be downloaded from the Society of Garden Designers website as part of their "Say No to Plastic Grass & Plants" campaign.



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DID YOU KNOW LAWN BOWLING WAS ILLEGAL?

Article written by Spring Park Shirley Bowling Club



Lawn bowls dates back thousands of years, with many twists and turns along the way – for one, did you know that playing it was once illegal?

A very basic form of bowls can be traced back to the 13th century in England. The game became extremely popular (played by kings & queens through to the lower

classes). Edward III, Richard II and Henry VIII banned the sport for the lower classes, as it kept their soldiers from their archery practice – only "Noblemen and others having manors or lands" could play. Don't forget the most famous historical bowls game took place in 1588, with legend claiming that Sir Francis Drake insisted on finishing a game of bowls at Plymouth even as the invading Spanish Armada approached! Thankfully, bowls is no longer only a rich person's game. There are several reasons for trying your hand at this sport. Here they are -

It's a gentle way to get active

You can walk 3 miles while playing in an afternoon – only 30m at a time, but you are doing this many times in a game; you burn more calories than you might think. It is not just a sport for retirees – the British Team are all under 40.

There's a social side

At Spring Park there are regular social functions like quizzes, murder mystery evenings, etc. You don't have to be competitive to play – you can just play one afternoon/evening with others if you'd like. You'll be sure to meet lots of new people and there's nothing quite like spending the summer days in the great outdoors on the bowling green, followed by tea, biscuit/cake or a cold drink. Being outside and in the company of other club members can help create a relaxing environment away from the stresses of everyday life/work.

It offers a challenge for years to come

This is a sport you can learn quickly but is likely to take a lifetime to master. With all these benefits (and before Charles III bans it!) maybe now is the time to get yourself along to a Bowling Club for a taster session. Our club has a selection of bowls for you to use and all coaching is free of charge.

Visit http://www.springparkshirleybowlingclub.co.uk/ or email spsbc@outlook.com to find out more about us and our programme of taster sessions!

SHOOM HIVE

FRIENDS OF LITTLEHEATH WOODS

Annual General Meeting Wednesday May 11th 2024 at 8pm

In the Garden Room at St John's Church, Upper Selsdon Rd.

Come and meet the committee and Friends of Littleheath Woods and hear about the work being done in the woods. If you would like to support our work by renewing your membership or becoming a member of the Friends, please place your subscription (£5 per household) in an envelope with your name, address and contact details and post at any of the following addresses:

53 Queenhill Road.

51 Foxearth Road,

42 Farley Road

or visit our website (<u>www.folw.co.uk</u>) where you can download a Standing Order form.

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Selsdon Centre for the Retired

Selsdon Centre Plans Continue to make Progress

We're currently analysing the data collected from surveys completed by our clients, volunteers, locals who don't attend the Centre and carers. Thanks very much for your help in answering our questions. We've had a great and positive response and there have been some interesting ideas given. We will consider them all and keep you informed of how the Centre might change over the coming months, as these things take time to plan. We always need new volunteers, extra drivers and escorts (to help on the minibus) so feel free to drop in to the office for a chat about this and how you may help.

The National Lottery Community grant funding will be released to us soon so you'll see their logos being displayed all around us. It's very exciting to be having this chance to make a real difference to even more Selsdon locals as our plans come to fruition.

If you feel you know anyone who may benefit from attending the Centre, please get in touch either by phone on 0208 651 1111 or email: selsdon.centre@btinternet.com to discuss further or for more information.

We need more people to attend the Centre to make it work. It's your

Centre. Any ideas of new activities, classes, speakers or entertainers we may approach are also welcome. We look forward to hearing from you, or better yet, seeing you at the Centre!

Contact Selsdon Community Centre 132 Addington Road South Croydon, CR2 8LA Tel: 020 8651 4944

Fax: 020 8657 2268

Email: info@selsdoncontact.org.uk



Selsdon Contact Neighbourhood Care - A Big Thank you.

Most months you will be reading in your edition of the Gazette a plea from Selsdon Contact for office volunteers, hospital visitors, minibus drivers and lots more. So, I thought this month instead of saying 'please', we would say a big 'thank you'.

Firstly, to our many volunteers. You may not know that we have approximately 300 people (our clients) in Selsdon that Contact keeps in touch with and helps out where we can. What is even more surprising is that we have nearly that number of volunteers without whom we could not provide the assistance so clearly needed. So, THANK YOU to all our volunteers – in the office, driving or escorting our clients to medical appointments, for shopping or on outings, delivering post and leaflets, making cakes for our coffee mornings and so much more.

Secondly, thank you to those of you who support Contact by raising money or making donations. Our funding is constantly under threat and your support is vital. So THANK YOU to those who've given generously, helped organise events to raise funds and to our local churches who support us.

Finally, the organisation could not operate so successfully and help so many people without a brilliant management team and a group of committed Trustees. So, THANK YOU to Jasmine and Nina who run the office so well and to the Trustees who work hard in ensuring the organisation is run and funded properly.











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Should you feel that you might like to join the team or have some skill you could offer, please call us on 8651 4944. Or if you prefer call into our office on the lower ground floor of the Selsdon Community Centre and we can provide you with more information

Selsdon Churches Neighbourhood Care Registered Charity 1124346 Company limited by guarantee. Registered in England. No. 6582829



Spring is finally here and we are moving forward to a busy, few months as ever. We have already enjoyed our annual Quiz Night and have distributed over forty plants to local people to bring a little spring cheer.

What's Coming Up Next?

Sponsored Walk 25th May 2024 – 60% sponsorship to the good cause of your choice, with the remaining 40% to Rotary charities. Seven miles in glorious Surrey country side. Get in touch & sign up.



Hobby Fair – Saturday 14th September – St John's Community Hall, Selsdon

Why not sign up for a table to promote your club, organisation or group. This is the chance to increase your membership & promote what you do. So, get in touch a book your table. Invite folks to attend on the day for this fun community event.

Don't miss out, get involved & join Rotary Sanderstead & Selsdon for a very good, fun, time.

Wendy A Parr – Secretary – 07774 186 792. Secretary@rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com

THE VILLAGE CLUB'S CHARITY OF THE YEAR 2024



The Village Club prides itself on its community spirit, and this is no better demonstrated than by our support for charities. Since the early 1990s, the Club has supported a Charity of the Year, and this is now a part of Club tradition.

In November/December members nominate their favourite charities for consideration and in December the Charity of the Year is voted for. It is stipulated that it must be a registered charity, preferably local, but on some occasions, a national charity has been selected if it is recognised that it affects local residents.

Over the years, recipients have included Alzheimer's Society, Macmillan Cancer Support, St Christopher's Hospice, Selsdon Centre for the Retired, St John's Community Hall Project, Frylands Scout Camp, Redgates School and Rutherford School to name but a few. Our chosen charity for 2024 is Selsdon Contact.

Funds are raised by members throughout the year and in September the Club holds a specific Charity Weekend during which many fundraising events take place, the main event being the Charity Raffle. The vast majority of the prizes are gifts from members, but we also appreciate the many local businesses that kindly donate prizes. The weekend also includes items such as Guess the Weight of the Cake, Guess the Name of the Bear, darts competitions, golf putting competitions, tombola, Wii tenpin bowling, a barbecue, and many other activities.

At the presentation event on Saturday 23 March a cheque for £3988 was given to Macmillan Cancer Support, last year's charity. Of course, None of this could happen without the very great generosity of the members of The Village Club.

Barry Smith, Secretary of The Village Club



SELSDON BAPTIST CHURCH Addington Road PLANT SALE SATURDAY 18 MAY 10.30 – 12.30



All proceeds to International Needs' Disability Inclusion Project

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Watts Cemetery Chapel - A day trip with a Selsdon link



Watts Cemetery in Compton, Guildford (about an hour from Selsdon) houses not only the grave of the Huxley family (including Sir Julian) but within the grounds is the unique and extraordinary Watts Chapel.

George Frederick Watts (1817-1904) was during his lifetime, acclaimed as 'Britain's greatest

painter'. This Victorian artist was a friend to the Pre-Raphaelites, but after his death his work fell out of fashion/favour however, there has been a more recent reinterest and appreciation of his work. His work can be seen in national galleries and in the collection held in the nearby gallery at Compton.



Towards the end of his life, when Compton Parish Council created a new cemetery near their house, George's second wife, Mary Fraser-Tytler, a Scottish designer and potter, offered to design, build and fund a new chapel. This is why it bears their name. It was constructed between 1896-1898 with a Roman Italianate, Art Nouveau and Celtic fusion design. It is said that all the villagers helped with the build. The Huxley family, Leonard and Julia and their children (including Julian and Aldous) lived nearby in later years, which is why they are linked to the cemetery.

It is worth a visit if you like history, art, literature and scenic countryside and it Is free to enter. However, you will probably only spend an hour there so you will need to combine your visit with another activity.



You could consider nearby Watts Art Gallery (they hold creative workshops too), a pub lunch, one of three National Trust properties within a short drive (Clandon Park, Hatchlands Park, Polesden Lacey), a country walk or if you have kids then Guildford Spectrum Leisure complex is always a winner.

Getting there – very easy by car (40mins – 1 hour), also possible by public transport. If you are undertaking the North Downs Way walk (via the Vanguard Way) which will involve overnight stays, you could even get there on foot!

Janet Sharp

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The Sanderstead Local History Group

The SLHG would like to welcome you to our monthly historical talks which are not limited to Sanderstead or local History.

This friendly group meet at 1.45 for a 2pm start in the Small Hall at All Saints Church Halls, Onslow Gardens, Sanderstead, on the last Wednesday of each month. Free car parking- near to bus routes.

Come to those talks which interest you for a small £2 charge per visit to cover the cost of hiring the hall and providing tea/coffee and biscuits.

The presentations, mostly by members, are on a subject of their choice. You are never required to give a talk although we are always looking for new topics and are ready with help and advice for any potential speaker.

24 Apr: The illustrious owners of "Sanderstead Court" by Joyce Hoad

29 May: Widow of Camberwell - an early nineteenth century character by Brenda Hawkins

26 June: From the village blacksmiths to The Holy Family - The story of the Old Forge at Sanderstead by Lizzie Mould.

SELSDON AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

St. John's Church Hall, Upper Selsdon Road, Selsdon CR2 8DD



We meet on the 3rd Friday of each month from 1.30- 4.00pm and enjoy a varied programme of speakers and entertainers and also have time to get to know each other.

On April 19 April the topic will be Stained Glass and Coloured Glass.

On Friday 17 May the topic is Tax, Care and Toy Boys and at our Annual Summer Party we will enjoy music, with a singer.

There are interest groups to join during the week, such as Handicrafts, Drama, Lunch Club, Literary Group or you might like to book a trip to the Theatre.

We would love to meet you.

For more information, please call Christine 02086574861.

Big Croydon Bird Watch

Just a quick reminder that RSPB will be running the Big Croydon Bird Watch again this May, when you can choose any day during the month to do a Big Day seeking out as many birds as possible at your chosen venue(s) in Croydon either on your own or as a team of up to four people. Please pencil something into your diary and start planning now!

John Birkett

(e-mail johnbirkett@hotmail.co.uk)
On behalf of
RSPB Croydon Local Group





PUZZLE PAGE FOR CHILDREN SPRINGTIME CROSSWORD



	1	2		3			
				4	5		6
7	8						
				9			
		10			11		
		12		13		14	
15				16			

Across

- 1. First season of the year
- 4. Bird with a red breast
- 7. Holland is famous for this flower
- 9. This keeps us warm outside
- 10. They make honey
- 11. Examples of this are Brazil, Pea, Almond
- 12. Wriggly creatures that live in the ground
- 15. It might hide the Sun
- 16. These creatures leave a slime trail but do not have a shell

Down

- 2. Colourful arc in the sky
- 3. What the lawn is made of
- 5. Another name for a rabbit
- 6. Where a bird lays its eggs
- 8. It keeps the rain off you
- 13. This green plant grows on roofs and in damp places
- 14. Another name for small insects

olugs Down: Z. Rainbow, 3. Grass, 5. Bunny, 6. Nest, 8. Umbrella, 13. Moss, 14. Bugs

Answers to Springtime Crossword Across: 1. Spring, 4. Robin, 7. Tulip, 9. Sun, 10. Bees, 11. Mut, 12. Worms, 15. Cloud, 16.



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A SELECTED LIST OF SELSDON ORGANISATIONS

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 Salvation Army Church		020 8657 0078
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
Selsdon Centre for the Retired	Craig Anderson	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	lan Leggatt	020 8651 1140
Friends of Selsdon Wood	www.friendsofselsdor	<u>rwood.co.uk</u>
Sanderstead Plantation Partners	michaellishmund@gn	nail.com
Friends of Kingswood	www.friendsofkingsw	ood@hotmail.co.uk
Girlguiding (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides &	Senior Section)	0800 999 2016
	https://girlguiding.org	.uk/get-involved

1st Selsdon & Addington Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts)

66(Selsdon) Squadron Air Training Corps

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	www.1stselsdon.org.	<u>.uk</u>		
2 nd Selsdon & Addington Scout Group	www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk			
Croham Valley Explorer Scout Unit	Christopher Dean	tinkerscorner@aol.com		
Arts Society Croydon Area	Jean Aarons https://t	ascroydonarea.org.uk		
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 sels	donhall.info@gmail.com		
Selsdon Flower Club	Maureen Browning	020 8651 5821		
Selsdon Townswomen's Guild(pm)	Christine Holland	020 8657 4861		
Sanderstead Horticultural Society	www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk			
Sanderstead Local History Group	sandersteadlhg@gmail.com			
Selsdon Tennis Club	Geoff Littlewood	020 8651 4748		
St John's Wives	Jane Guglielmi	020 8657 6672		

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020 8651 5958



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