

A black and white photograph of two white daffodils in a garden. The daffodils are in the foreground, with their long, slender leaves and stems. The background is filled with dense foliage, including various leaves and thin, bare branches. The lighting creates strong shadows and highlights, giving the image a textured appearance.

# The Selsdon — Gazette —

**Volume 77. No. 867**

**February 2025**

# 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.

The publication of advertisements in the Selsdon Gazette does not imply any warranty on the part of the Selsdon Gazette or the Selsdon Residents' Association as to the quality of services offered by the advertiser. Residents should make such enquiries as they think necessary about any provider of goods or services.

**Front cover:** First daffodil seen by walled garden at Heathfield by Pauline Dolling.

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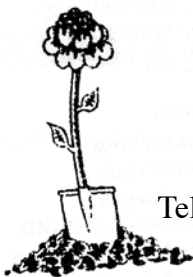
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# **SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

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**

What a packed Gazette we have for you this month.

The Selsdon Residents' Association has now entered its hundredth year and is planning a series of celebratory events up to its centenary in January 2026. Kicking off this month is the Gazette Photography Competition for all ages, and the 100 faces of 2026 Selsdon. Please get behind your SRA by joining in.

We also have our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 26 March at St. John's Church Hall at 8pm. Please put the date in your diary and come along to meet your committee members, learn about the work they do and enjoy a chat over a drink and nibbles. In this Gazette we have the agenda for the meeting, the minutes from last year's AGM, and the Annual Report of your SRA.

As usual we hear from our local Councillors, our MP and our local police about issues affecting those living in Selsdon. Our gardeners from the Sanderstead Horticultural Society turn their attention to houseplants which do not need too much nurturing, Mary Gill considers adopting a vegan diet in Poetry Corner, and Ted takes us around Selsdon Wood on the lookout for fungi in his Nature Notes. Our regular contributor, Ian Leggatt, has set the quiz this month, testing our knowledge of Selsdon's history gleaned from his monthly Gazette articles. He has helpfully given references to past Gazettes where the answers can be found, otherwise you will have to wait until next month for the answers. There is also a calendar for 2025 detailing when popular events are happening this year. This month's cover photo was sent by a resident, who was delighted to see that Spring was on its way.

I appealed for two new deliverers of the Gazette last month and I was delighted to receive so many offers to fill the vacancies. We are always looking for holiday cover for deliveries, so if you are able to do this, please contact me. Please remember that I would like to feature some articles from Selsdon residents about their experiences of living in Selsdon both now and in the past, so please consider writing a piece for the Gazette, however short! I would also like to receive any photos of Selsdon in the last 100 years which you may have, please scan them and send them to me ([selsdongazettesra@gmail.com](mailto:selsdongazettesra@gmail.com)).

I look forward to hearing from you.

**Chris Jones**

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

## **SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS**



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

February already, so hopefully signs of Spring (snowdrops, catkins, etc.) are showing by now as the days are getting a little longer! The SRA is busy making plans for a very special 2025 as this year marks our 100<sup>th</sup> year in operation, with the actual anniversary of the first SRA committee meeting next January. The SRA is planning exciting events throughout this year, which will keep its committee busy!

### **Volunteers needed for the SRA Committee 2025/2026**

Unfortunately, some of the present SRA committee feel they can no longer give the time necessary for this role, so we urgently need to attract some new members to present themselves for election at the AGM on 26<sup>th</sup> March. Do you want to help the local community by actively helping us in this way? As well as the centenary celebrations, we have the usual events to plan and manage such as the Christmas Lights Display and Switch-on (Nov 28<sup>th</sup>) and the Community Event in Selsdon Wood (Sept 7<sup>th</sup>, tbc). Previously, the Friends of Selsdon Wood organised their Open Day in September, alongside the SRA holding a community picnic and the Rotarians providing games for the children. This year, the SRA have been asked to take over from the FSW and our own, Peter Underwood, is busy making plans. He does need help though! If this appeals to you and you want to become a committee member, please step forward. Contact the SRA via email ([mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com](mailto:mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com)) and we will reply with any further information you might need to help you make up your mind as to whether or not a SRA role is for you. At the time of writing, it seems we will need at least two new people to volunteer for election to fill committee vacancies.

### **Selsdon Triangle and the High Street Planters**

One of our ongoing tasks is to try to 'beautify' the Selsdon Triangle – the



garden and grass areas between the Sainsburys slip road and the main road. Our Triangle Team of volunteers has worked valiantly on the area on the clock side of the pedestrian pathway for some time. It is now really beginning to look cared for and we hope this will continue. Two representatives of the Triangle Team met the Council Officer responsible for this area on 20<sup>th</sup> January when he was there overseeing some work to be done that was too arduous for the volunteers alone to do. It has been agreed that this area can be adopted by the SRA as a Community Garden, tended by their Triangle Team, and that the Council will only normally deal with the grass and trees on the other side of the path. It is hoped this acknowledgement of the Community Garden area managed by the Triangle Team will allow the SRA to obtain grants towards the purchase of more plants - and maybe even another bench, if that cannot be financed by the Council. As with the Committee members request above, if you have any comments or queries about the Triangle or anything else in Selsdon, please contact us via our email.

We do, of course, already care for the troughs on the railings and the two planters outside Iceland. One local couple have been very helpful in clearing all the old plants from the planters and topping up the soil with some compost - active volunteering in all senses of the word! The planters and troughs already need some more weeding before Spring/Summer planting so, if you wish to help, then again, please do contact us to offer help.

### **Transport, Police and Planning Links**

The SRA continues to liaise with the East Surrey Transport Committee and Transport for London about the problems with local buses, and with the Police via Ward panel meetings. We also regularly monitor local planning applications which affect residents. Perhaps you have a special interest in these areas and might wish to help the SRA Committee with these – so, another reason for thinking of volunteering your time to the committee? We meet together just one evening a month (excluding August and December) – usually the second Monday – and then deal with anything urgent in-between by email.

Looking forward to a rush of enquiries – please – and the continued support of all our residents!

***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? Please let us know by 28  
February.

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



# 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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# **Minutes of the Selsdon Residents' Association Annual General Meeting Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

1. There were 68 people present, of whom 11 were SRA committee members

## **2. Apologies for absence and welcome by our chair, Sheila Childs**

Apologies: Pam Holden, Jenny Stawman, Phil Roberts, Andy Stranack, Gillian Stotten

3. **Acceptance of the minutes** of the last AGM on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023 was proposed by Sara Bashford & seconded by Ian Leggatt

4. **Matters arising** – nothing which wouldn't be discussed as below

## **5. Police**

We were pleased to welcome Sgt. James Morrow, PC Alex Smith & PCSO Alex Warmington from the local police - James apologised for being in plain clothes, but they were on duty as part of a burglary operation until 2am for the next 3 nights, so we were lucky to have them pop in

In recent times, a local drugs warrant was issued, resulting in the arrest of someone high up in the county lines drugs chain - another operation lasted 3 nights trying to apprehend motor thieves, which is a main concern in the area

James proceeded to take questions from the floor - he was asked for help with double parking on Addington Road by the food outlets causing traffic issues especially on weekend evenings - advice was sought re pushbikes, electric bikes + electric scooters being used on pavements, creating danger for pedestrians - these would be watched for & warned in the same area - electric scooters themselves not being illegal, but being operated without insurance is - bike-trained police would be engaged to observe & breathalyse, if required

The police, especially Alex S, were commended on their compassion dealing with a burglary at the home of one of the audience in January

The issue of nitrous oxide being supplied & used was mentioned - both these are now an offence, so local sightings would be targeted especially in our woodland areas

Cars appearing to be neglected on our roads without current MOT should be reported via the council website, untaxed cars can be reported as abandoned - the police will only get involved in matters of criminality

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

A copy of the accounts for 2023 had been circulated in the March gazette  
Iris Jones as Treasurer provided an update:-

Income is up this year by £2500

Subscriptions are up by £720

Out of the 4000 addresses to which the gazettes are delivered, last year only 670 houses paid the £5 for SRA membership, but this year that has gone up to 835, which is great

Donations from the residents were up by nearly £1000

Traders' donations were £548, which is down by £300 from last year

We collected £167 from the day on which Santa visited for the Christmas lights turn-on and also collection boxes left at The Golden Ark, The Village Club and the Sir Julian Huxley.

We also received £193 from Easyfunding.

We received £491 interest from the Nationwide Reserve account

Expenditure is down due mainly to the Christmas lights being kept for an extra year so at a reduced price

Expenditure stood at £9058

No donations were requested this year

We made a profit of £2962, but there had been a £600 provision made for the electricity bill, but this came in at only £324

There was also a provision of £1000 for the barriers for Santa's visit, which we have had to buy ourselves, but this is a one-off expense

We would like to thank Jeff Bayton for reviewing the accounts and all the people who volunteer to be letterboxes for the subs envelopes.

Sheila thanked Iris for her hard work, & acceptance of the accounts was proposed and seconded. The room voted in favour with none against

## **7. 2023 Annual Report**

This had been printed in the February gazette, but Trevor Stotten as secretary read out the main points

Our usual thanks go to:-

The Triangle team for weeding & maintaining the area outside Sainsburys  
The Selsdon Baptist Church for allowing us free use of their room for our monthly meetings

Andrew Baxter for organising the litter picks

Jeff Bayton for reviewing our accounts

Ian Leggatt & the planning committee for alerting us of planning applications affecting the local area  
The Julian Huxley for providing the wine for the AGM, & free tea/coffee after the litter picks

## **8. Editor's report - The Selsdon Gazette**

Chris Jones, the gazette editor since April 2020, gave us an update:-

The gazette team in 2023 consisted of:

Jenny Bradley our Gazette Finance Manager, who invoices our advertisers and pays our printing costs. She also deals with our postal copies

Phil Roberts, our Distribution Manager. Unfortunately for us, Phil now has a new job and can no longer do this role in 2024. Any volunteers please? Our thanks go to Phil, who kindly covered the role, since taking over from Wendy Mikiel

Carlo Rappa was our Advertising Manager until September. At the moment Jenny B and I are filling this role

Mark, our printer, who does such a wonderful job, taking my word document and turning it into the booklet, which comes through your door  
Lastly, our army of unsung heroes, our distributors and deliverers.

This year gazette readers have continued to supply the cover photos for the publication, and these have included 4 wild animals or plants, 4 showing scenes from around Selsdon, a plea for subscriptions in June, designs from children for the Christmas edition, and the Selsdon Contact bus celebrating their 50 years in Selsdon

Regular contributors who I must mention are:-

Our Councillors with their monthly notes, and our local MP, Chris Philp  
Our local police officers keeping us informed about crimes happening in our area and what we can do to prevent these, Mary Gill has continued to provide her wonderful poems, Ted Forsyth his nature notes and Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid their gardening tips.

My thanks also go to some committee members for putting pen to paper:-  
Ian Leggatt for his series about the early days of Selsdon, and how the various housing estates have developed

Janet Sharp has continued to inform us about ivy, flint and getting our affairs in order, and has challenged us to try something new

Su Yates has reported on her visit to Birch and the electric cooker called 'The Croydon'

Letters to the editor have informed us about electric cars, the ULEZ scrappage scheme, exemptions for Council tax, the London Borough of Culture events and the boundary changes to our constituencies,

complained about the size of the new postage stamps and their effect on the writing space on a postcard, and complained about the answers to some of the monthly quizzes, as well as inspiring us with memories of growing up in Selsdon in the 1940s and 1950s, and a description of the starlings' murmuration seen in Selsdon's skies.

Also, a special mention to our regular letter writer, Jessica Blake, with her seasonal views on life and her amusing Christmas tale for children

The Gazette has run two competitions for Selsdon's children in 2023 – the Christmas cover competition, and the Make a Crown for the King's Coronation. Thanks to all the children who entered

This year, it has been so good to hear from so many of our local groups in Selsdon. We are truly blessed with so many activities to choose from. Please remember that the Selsdon Gazette aims to be self-financing, with our advertisements paying our printer costs, so, if you use one of our advertisers, please tell them where you got their name from, and, if you know of any local businesses or tradesmen wanting to expand, tell them about advertising in the gazette, which is delivered to about 4000 households.

Finally, we always look forward to receiving contributions from local people, so do think of us when you take a photo, encounter problems, solve problems, hear of good deeds or local news and events, or even when you write a poem!

## **9. Christmas Lights**

Linda Morris, our vice-chair, advised that the Christmas lights switch-on this year will be on Friday 29th November, probably with Father Christmas again switching on the lights down the high street to re-create the magic of years gone by. She thanked the local Rotary for providing Father Christmas on his sleigh, and her many stewards, Mike Goss for his sound system, the Village Club for staging this, the Greenvale school choir for singing their carols & the Baptist Church for their free drinks + mince pies

## **10. Annual Subscription**

There was no proposal to put up subscriptions. They would stay at £5 per household for 2024/25, although extra donations would be welcomed. This was proposed by Peter Underwood, seconded by Iris Jones & supported by the meeting

## **11. Election of Officers and Members of the Committee for 2024/25**

Linda thanked Sheila for another year in the Chair – she was happy to



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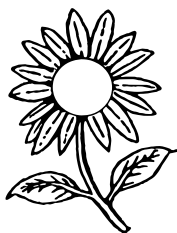
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continue once more, so Linda proposed her, & all in attendance agreed

Sheila thanked the room for her vote, welcomed any ideas or thoughts from those attending, & pointed out that the association would be 100 years old in 2026, which we would hope to mark. She then dealt with the other committee positions

Vice Chair – Linda Morris - Proposed by Sheila. The room voted in favour with none against

Treasurer – Iris Jones - Proposed by Sheila. The room voted in favour with none against

Secretary – Trevor Stotten - Proposed by Sheila. The room voted in favour with none against

The remaining committee members agreed to stand again, bar Ernie Sweeney, who was standing down after many years, as he was moving away – Sheila thanked him, as he had been a font of knowledge, dealing especially with council matters – the committee was proposed en bloc by Sheila & seconded by Iris. The room voted in favour with none against. There therefore remained two posts on the committee to be filled, But Geoff Bailey & Ken Davis put themselves forward, & Trevor would liaise with them

## **12. Adoption of the Accounts & the reviewer for 2024**

Thanks were given to Jeff Bayton for auditing the accounts. He was happy to continue, & was proposed by Iris as treasurer + seconded by Su Yates. The room voted in favour with none against – Jeff was thanked for his care & maintenance of the planters too in Addington Road

## **13. Any Other Business**

We were pleased to see 2 of our local councillors, Robert Ward & Joseph Lee, at our meeting, besides Cllr. Joseph Cummings in the audience – Robert explained that planning had finally been granted for the Selsdon Garage site, so hopefully this would now progress, as it had been derelict since 1997, but now has a new company overseeing matters – there is a library consultation exercise we are all encouraged to take part in online – hopefully Selsdon's library will see increased opening hours as a result – the Love Clean Streets app was again promoted, especially with issues over bin collections – we are also encouraged to use the big belly bins along Addington Road, & support our local litter picks

There was a question about overgrowth covering pavements – the council should write to residents, & resolve in public areas like visibility on street corners + junctions

There was another question about the change in parking meter policy – this is due to 3G coverage being phased out – parkers can pay in local shops, although Selsdon thankfully still allows one hour free parking on Addington Road

There was another question about litter, with extra bins required, especially at bus stops like by Tudor Library & outside Sainsburys – again Love Clean Streets was mentioned to report this, although Sainsburys are meant to maintain the area outside their store

The next litter pick is scheduled for Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June to coincide with National Litter-Pick Day

The final point from the floor was to thank the SRA for all they do for the community

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9.10pm, with time left for refreshments & informal chat

~~

## **SRA ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

The Selsdon Residents' Association (SRA) was formed in 1926, and so will be celebrating its centenary during 2025, culminating with its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in January 2026

The SRA's aim is to advance and protect the interests of the residents of Selsdon. It is run by volunteers on goodwill and funds raised by subscription and donations. Our membership covers about 4,000 households – mainly those in the previous council wards in the central part of what is now a wider Selsdon. The map of the roads covered is on our website [www.selsdon-residents.co.uk](http://www.selsdon-residents.co.uk)

### **The SRA Committee**

The annually-elected committee meets together once a month to discuss Selsdon issues. They respond and take action where necessary. It acts as a point of contact for external bodies, can potentially add collective

weight to any individual resident's concerns about the area, and is a useful 'watching eye'. The committee also plans special events and community improvements. Individual representatives will also try to attend council, police, transport and other meetings throughout the year on Selsdon's behalf. SRA news is passed to the community via public noticeboards (by the library and on the high street), social media and The Selsdon Gazette.

## **AGM 2024**

The 2024 AGM was held at St. John's Church Hall on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

## **SRA 2024 Activities:**

- a)** Floral displays were again displayed in the troughs attached to the railings outside the shops opposite the Sir Julian Huxley. To save costs, these were planted and watered by members of the Committee - especially during the spells of hot weather. The large planters (repainted twice by a caring resident) near Iceland were also tended by members of the Committee. Such jobs will be ongoing, so volunteers to help with this, when the weather improves, are welcomed please
- b)** The Selsdon Triangle (the planting of the upper section – yew trees, beds, shrubs - and the clock area) are, with Council permission in view of Council funding shortages, now being maintained by a group of Selsdon volunteers. You may have noticed some work being undertaken to tidy and add to the plants in the area. The council helps with work too onerous for us to manage.
- c)** Remembrance Poppies returned to the High Street railings and Selsdon Triangle clock in November. SRA supported a bereaved family who again decorated the clock area in October to publicise Baby Loss Awareness Week. The SRA decorated it for Christmas to complement the lights on Addington Road
- d)** The SRA annual fun afternoon was held alongside the Friends of Selsdon Wood on their Selsdon Wood Open Day on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September - the games were organised by the Sanderstead & Selsdon Rotary Club – the SRA had a stall accepting subscriptions – there were also refreshments, guided walks and other stalls. The weather was fine, and there was a good turn-out.
- e)** The SRA is grateful to have been able to take part in this FSW event since its inception. We hope to be able to facilitate it in 2025, as the FSW can no longer do so.
- f)** The SRA organise and fundraise for the eye-catching and unique Selsdon Christmas Lights. We think these are the best in Croydon, but

they come at a price! The costs include not just the lights themselves but the maintenance, storage, placement, the health and safety permissions, the electricity and the cost of the Community Event (posters, safety barriers, the PA system, etc.). This is all funded by goodwill donations of residents, charitable groups and some local traders. To aid this (and capitalise on all the modern-day online purchasing) the SRA are members of 'Easyfundraising' so that, if residents choose to shop online, they can raise a donation with their usual retailers, at no extra cost to them, by using the well-trusted 'Easyfundraising' app or website. Our cause name is 'SelsdonChristmaslights'. Non-residents are also welcome to use this when buying online, but we have also made it possible for anyone who loves the lights to help by donating using online banking – details available via our website too.

**g)** Community Christmas Event on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November – again this year, Milestone switched all the lights on en bloc centrally at 5pm, but Father Christmas still proceeded down Addington Road in his Rotary Club sleigh, before settling into his grotto outside Iceland to speak to and give a lollipop to all the waiting children, the majority of whom seemed to still fervently believe in him! It was the turn of the Selsdon Primary School choir to sing the carols outside the Village Club – which they did with gusto! Again, we decided to continue in the spirit of trying to be more environmentally friendly and not have helium balloons, but Paul Meakin did hand out some of their own – but air-filled. It was great to see so many people turn up - our special thanks go to the choir, Rotarians, Village Club and all the volunteers (churches, schools and local groups), who helped with their time or with donations.

The Committee again took the decision to ask for the Christmas lights to be turned off at 11pm each night instead of midnight, & again to ask that January 1<sup>st</sup> be the last day instead of 6<sup>th</sup> January, in an effort to use less power, and thus reduce the costs as much as possible.

**h)** Two SRA competitions were held this year via the Gazette: a children's Easter Egg Hunt along the High Street, and a 'Grow the Tallest Sunflower' competition for adults and children. The Mongolian Giant nurtured by Malcolm was the overall winner at a whopping 366cm.

**i)** Subscriptions and donations are still collected in cash or by cheques each year via a network of local drop-off 'letterboxes' – thanks to all the volunteers offering these points and to our Treasurer, Iris Jones, for dealing with the cash and cheques – no mean feat now we have no local bank! However, the SRA now also supports online banking, which is a great help. Please use this if you can to save our Treasurer having to find a bank to pay in the cash; the details available via our website.





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**j)** The Committee were once more able to hold meetings in person in Selsdon Baptist Church's meeting room. They have waived the hire fee for which we are once more very grateful.

**k)** During the year the SRA Committee stay in contact with the local Police teams inviting them to attend meetings where possible and attending ward panel meetings when they are held. The SRA membership is now largely split over two Police wards (larger than the SRA area) - Selsdon & Addington Village and Selsdon Vale & Forestdale. We are grateful to them for any reports they provide to the committee and the Gazette. The main crimes during the year were again thefts of and from vehicles. We are still, thankfully, a low crime area.

**l)** We are fortunate that we can easily get outside to walk or run for exercise. We have placed some ideas of local areas to visit on our website. We hope you have been enjoying some of these, and welcome suggestions of others to add to the list. We hope to receive some finance via the Council's £90000 Shared Prosperity Fund to pay for improved signage & amenities in our area.

**m)** The SRA continues to pay for access to an online planning app (updated weekly) designed to summarise the Council Planning site to aid our residents seeing for themselves in good time what relevant local planning applications have been made. Find the link from the 'About the SRA' page of our website, or from <http://www.localplanningapps.co.uk/croydon/sra/anupdate/planningtable.html> . Keep checking this and, if you can see a problem with an application, make your suggestions/objections known in good time. Sensible changes to plans will save a lot of grief later! The SRA has a Planning Sub-Committee (chaired by Ian Leggatt) to try and review the increasing number of planning applications, and understand the legislation and documentation.

Email: [selsdonplanning@gmail.com](mailto:selsdonplanning@gmail.com)

Back garden developments and intensification (with no provision for parking) is an ongoing issue for our Planning Sub-Committee. Please keep your ears to the ground, and let us know if anything occurs of concern with regard to development in your area.

Local developments - The development plans for the derelict site at Bailey's/Selsdon Garage seem to continue with no clear end in sight, but plans have been updated recently, as there is yet another new company leading the project.

The Selsdon Park Estate was sold in 2021 to Birch Hotels, but the whole complex had to close down in November 2023, due to financial liquidity issues within the group. It remains on the market, hopefully still as a hotel / leisure estate at this time, but to date we are unaware of any firm interest.

The grounds remain closed to the public.

## **The Selsdon Gazette and Social Media**

The Selsdon Gazette is a free publication delivered to the door (thanks to all volunteer deliverers and to Jenny Bradley & Chris Jones for still taking on the central distribution role) of about 4000 households in Selsdon. The Gazette does not make a profit, so the printing costs need to be covered by the advertising fees, which we believe are as competitive as possible. We thank the Gazette editor and Treasurer for dealing with this, while we seek a new advertising manager. Anyone interested in this voluntary role? We are grateful to our advertisers for supporting us, but we do need more to ensure we break even at least. It is essential that we get new advertisers on board, so please ask anyone you know, who provides a local service, if they would be interested. As well as household deliveries, the Gazette is also available online via our website. The editor would welcome your contributions of local stories or news.

Email: [selsdongazettesra@gmail.com](mailto:selsdongazettesra@gmail.com)

The SRA also has group profiles on Facebook & Twitter/X - thanks to Ian Leggatt & Trevor Stotten for these. For breaking news items, please look at [www.facebook.com for Selsdon Residents Association](https://www.facebook.com/SelsdonResidentsAssociation) and [@selsdonresassoc](https://twitter.com/selsdonresassoc) on Twitter/X. Please 'like' and 'follow' the profiles too.

## **Accounts**

A full balance sheet for 2024 will be presented at the next AGM, which is due to be held on Wednesday 26th March 2025 at St John's Church Hall, Upper Selsdon Road at 8pm. The continuation of the work of the SRA depends on your voluntary annual subscriptions. Our thanks go to the Treasurers Iris Jones (for the SRA) and Jenny Bradley (for The Gazette) and to Jeff Bayton who reviews the accounts.

## **Local news**

Keeping our High Street alive - many local businesses, charities, churches, arts venues, clubs and voluntary groups have struggled during recent years, with the previous Covid restrictions and ongoing economic situation affecting their membership and finances. Although it has always been the SRA policy not to specifically recommend any business, we hope that you will continue to support them with your money, time and attention. We have listed some local groups on our website. **Please use them, or risk losing them and our vibrant high street!**

Covid and other ills are still around us, continuing to cause a long and ongoing period of worry for many. We trust that you are still watching

out for, and help, your neighbours in need especially any who are more socially isolated than others.

We hope you stay well and that we can see you in person at our AGM. If you have any ideas, or would like to volunteer to help the community in some way, or even come on board our committee, we would be glad to hear from you via [mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com](mailto:mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com)

**Trevor Stotten (SRA Secretary)**

~~

## **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.

## **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 Chrisa Jones [selsdongazettesra@gmail.com](mailto:selsdongazettesra@gmail.com)

## **COUNCILLORS' NOTES**

### **FORMER SELSDON GARAGE SITE**

It is very pleasing to be able to report progress on the former Selsdon garage site, which has been derelict for more than a quarter of a century. Although planning permission was granted in February 2024 the developer still needs to raise funding to finance the development. This has now been supported by a proposal agreed by Mayor Perry for the Council to take on a long lease of the site to support housing needs through increasing affordable housing supply. The development will be delivered by Inspired Structured Solutions who will provide all funding and carry the development risk.

We're still some way from starting work on site, but this is important progress.

### **BUS SHELTERS**

The removal of bus shelters and the appointment of a contractor by the previous administration who failed to deliver replacements has taken longer to rectify than hoped despite strenuous efforts by the Council. In common with the vast majority of other London boroughs the shelters will now be provided by Transport for London. It is anticipated that 99 shelters will be installed by the end of March 2025. A list should appear on the council website shortly, including which of these shelters will have the countdown feature showing the estimated time till the arrival of the next bus.

### **WINTER PREPAREDNESS**

We are now well into the winter period when we can expect snow and ice, so please be prepared. Be aware that although the council grits the main roads, side roads are not routinely treated. You can find more details on the council website on the page "Road Gritting and Salting".

For residents' use the council has 578 salt bins that are repaired and filled at the start of each winter. You can find where they are on the council website on the same page as mentioned above. If a salt bin is low or empty, please report this on the LoveCleanStreets app.

### **SELSDON LIBRARY**

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.



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## **WASTE COLLECTION CONTRACT**

A new street cleaning contract will come into place by the summer. Whilst it's the same contractor, Veolia, it is under a very different contract with improved street cleaning, a new night-time waste and cleansing service, and enhanced waste collection service for flats above shops. The council will also be actively managing the contract to ensure service delivery to residents. These new focuses are going to make a big difference to how our borough looks and feels.

## **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](mailto:Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk)

[Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk)

Selsdon Vale and Forestdale

[Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk)

[Fatima.zaman@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Fatima.zaman@croydon.gov.uk)

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

### **198 - 200 Addington Road South Croydon CR2 8LD**

**24/04199/GPDO** - Change of use of part ground floor and whole lower ground floor from Commercial, Business and Service use (Class E) to residential dwelling (Class C3) for 4 self-contained residential flats (2 nos. 1-bed 1-person studio flats and 2 nos. 1-bed 2-person flats) under Schedule 2, Part 3, Class MA of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended).

**24/04198/FUL** - Installation of replacement shopfront, creation of new lightwell with access to communal walkway at first floor level, installation of replacement windows and doors and balconies to rear elevation, resurfacing of rear driveway (with permeable paving) and associated works.

### **1 Elmpark Gardens South Croydon CR2 8RW**

**24/04212/DISC** - Discharge of Conditions 4 (External Materials), 5 (SUDS), 6 (Landscaping), Condition 7 (Refuse Storage), 8 (Cycle Storage) and 9

(Electric Vehicle Charging Point) attached to permission 23/03417/FUL for Erection of a new single storey dwelling following demolition of existing garage with associated parking, garden amenity, cycle and refuse storage

### **Development Site Former Site Of 119 Old Farleigh Road South Croydon CR2 8QD**

**24/03882/DISC** - Discharge of condition 6 (Landscaping) attached to planning permission REF: 22/03538/CONR for the Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 20/01470/FUL for the demolition of existing bungalow and erect a terrace of 3 x three bedroom houses with shared access and drive way using the existing entrance from Old Farleigh Road and 2 x one bedroom house to the rear accessed via the existing entrance and via under croft, approved 23.02.2023.

**24/03911/DISC** - Discharge of condition 3 (Materials) attached to planning permission REF: 22/03538/CONR for the Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 20/01470/FUL for the demolition of existing bungalow and erect a terrace of 3 x three bedroom houses with shared access and drive way using the existing entrance from Old Farleigh Road and 2 x one bedroom house to the rear accessed via the existing entrance and via under croft, approved 23.02.2023.

### **Development Site Former Site Of 46 Quail Gardens South Croydon CR2 8TF**

**24/04281/CONR** - Demolition of existing property and the erection of 7no. dwellings with shared access from Quail Gardens, along with amenity space, drainage, infrastructure and other associated works (Section 73 application for variation of condition 2 (in accordance with drawings) of planning permission ref 23/00454/FUL granted 03/08/2023. (Further explanation not forming part of the formal description of development set out above. This application involves inclusion of a further rooflight in the rear elevation of the houses, resized rear windows and ground floor french doors; front roof lights adjusted, juliet railing to first floor windows and cladding previously approved replaced with natural brickwork).

*(Remember that you can use this website to view planning applications [http://www.localplanningapps.co.uk/croydon/sra/anupdate/planning\\_table.html](http://www.localplanningapps.co.uk/croydon/sra/anupdate/planning_table.html))*

## **MP Natasha Irons' Report**

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

Dear Selsdon,

As mentioned in my last update, I have been looking at how to improve banking facilities on Selsdon High Street. The lack of banking facilities in the area has been consistently raised with me and I agree that the situation is far from adequate.

Having written to LINK, the independent organisation responsible for assessing local banking facilities, they agreed to conduct a review of Selsdon High Street. They have now completed this assessment and are in the process of compiling their findings into a report. I have arranged to meet with them ahead of its publication later this month and will update you on their recommendations as soon as I get them.

In more local news, I am deeply concerned by Croydon Council's plans to cut its Youth Engagement Team. The YET provide vital outreach work in schools, youth hubs and the community. The plans have not been published in full so there has been little to no scrutiny of them by local councillors or any meaningful consultation with the people that rely on this service. I have started a petition calling on the council to allow councillors to scrutinise these plans and for residents to be consulted about the future of youth services in Croydon.

In Parliament, I was fortunate enough to speak in the debate for the first reading of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill. The bill will see the biggest upgrade in children's safeguarding in a generation. It includes a register for children who are educated at home, a crackdown on illegal schools and information sharing between agencies so that it is easier to spot children who are at risk of abuse.

	<h2><b>A J Taylor</b></h2> <p>On behalf of D J Taylor &amp; Son</p> <h3><b>Local Electrician</b></h3> <p><b>Domestic and Commercial</b></p> <p>All works undertaken    Fuse Board Changes    Main Bonding Rewires/Partial Rewires    Fault Finding    Testing &amp; Inspections</p> <p><b>Tel: 020 8651 4260    Mob: 07932 032 395</b> <b>djtaylorandson@yahoo.co.uk</b></p>	
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We have also seen the introduction of the Renters' Rights Bill which will give better protection to both good tenants and good landlords. The bill will see the end to no fault evictions, whilst protecting a landlord's freedom to take a property back to sell it or to live in it. The bill also means that a decent home's standard is applied to the private rented sector and issues like damp and mould will need to be fixed.

As ever, please get in touch if there are any concerns or issues you would like to raise with me on [natasha.ironson@parliament.uk](mailto:natasha.ironson@parliament.uk) X (formerly Twitter): @NDIrons

### **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.**

## **News from our Local Police**

Currently in Selsdon we have unfortunately seen a rise in robbery offences. All victims have been students of John Ruskin College and the main locations have been the parade of shops by the Co-op and Morrisons, and the alleyway next to the College itself. There has been a total of 5 offences and it is believed that 4 of the offences have been committed by the same suspect. The last offence was on 24/12/24 and the suspect is currently still outstanding so we ask residents to remain alert. The suspect's description is a black male of large build, very tall and on each occasion has been wearing black clothing and a black balaclava



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covering his face. I have tasked the team with a combination of high visibility and plain clothes patrols in the area and we have been assisted by a robbery squad and a proactive uniform task force also completing patrols for us. I have held meetings with the College and the arrest of this suspect remains a priority.

The teams have continued with patrols in the estate opposite John Ruskin College to combat drug use in the main blocks of Middlefield Road and Bellfield Road. We have seen a good reduction in these offences being reported by residents, so the patrols seem to be working well.

There was also a good bit of recent proactive work from the team in identifying a vehicle in a public car park on the Markfield end of Courtwood Road which was seemingly abandoned but on being searched contained several illegal drug substances including Cocaine, Cannabis and Ecstasy tablets. The owner of the vehicle has been identified and interviewed and has admitted to the possession of the drugs. He will now be charged for the offences.

In the upcoming months we have confirmed dates in February where we will be completing an ANPR operation targeting vehicles using the road which have been stolen. We shall be looking to repeat the 'Knife Arch' operation at the College due to the rise in Robberies.



We have noticed that our Team's 'Cuppa with a Copper' events have not been very well attended so we have decided to personalise the events a bit more by personally inviting certain roads across the wards each time. This means the team will be out delivering letters to residents in the hope that the events will be better attended. The aim of the meetings is to have personal introductions and communications with us as the local policing team so that relationships are formed if any police involvement is required in the future. We only ask that once residents receive their letters, could they make every effort to attend and say hello to the team over a nice hot drink.

Kind regards, **PS James MORROW 129SN**



## 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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## Good Time for Gardening – February

Let's think about those stalwarts of our daily lives, whatever the weather – the house plant. The following plants came under the heading of 'virtually unkillable!' My kind of house plant!!



Snake Plant - doesn't need much water; just give a drink when the soil feels dry, about every few weeks but much less in winter. Thrives in almost all light conditions (though not a windowless room). Greater light is better, but anything is fine. Every now and again - just whenever you remember - give the leaves a light wipe to keep the pores free of dust.

Peace Lily – a pretty tough plant and will usually bounce back from a missed watering. Water only when the top 2cm of soil feels dry. Easy when it comes to light, managing in most conditions, though the plant will flower more in a brighter spot. Absolutely loves humidity. If your bathroom gets lots of light, pop the plant in there, or mist every few days.



Sansevieria, Tough Lady – this plant prefers the soil on the drier side, so only water lightly when the soil feels completely dry. Like other snake plants, as long as there is some natural light, 'Tough Lady' is happy in most light conditions. Keep the striped leaves free from dust by giving them a gentle wipe with a clean cloth every now and then.

Epipremnum, Global Green - Super simple to water. Check weekly and just give a drink if the top five cm of soil are dry. An undemanding plant which will be fine in almost any light. However, the plant will grow quicker in a brighter spot. Loves rooms with lots of moisture, like a bathroom or kitchen. In other rooms, occasional misting will be required.



Parlour Palms - In spring and summer, this plant gets thirsty so check weekly and water whenever the top 2 cms of soil feels dry. Loves moderate to bright light, but direct sun is a bit much. In a very sunny room, move away from the window. Moisture in the air will help keep her leaves green and fresh. This is easily done by misting about once a week.

Devil's Ivy - Super simple to water - check weekly and just give a drink if the top five cms of soil are dry. Not a plant to make excessive demands - fine in almost any light, but will grow quicker in a brighter spot. Loves rooms with lots of moisture, like a bathroom or kitchen. In other rooms, occasional misting will help.



*Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid*  
[www.sandersteadhs.org](http://www.sandersteadhs.org)

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## Happy 30th Birthday to the Friends of Littleheath Woods

Littleheath Woods are owned by Croydon Council but are looked after on a voluntary basis by the Friends of Littleheath Woods.



The Friends of Littleheath Woods was founded in 1995 with the aim of maintaining the woods for the benefit of plants and wildlife living in the woods and for the benefit of the public visiting the woods. The Friends group achieves these aims through holding weekly working parties every Tuesday morning and raising funds to pay for tools and materials needed to carry out this work.



## 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)



~~

As 2025 marks the hundredth year of the Selsdon Residents' Association, Ian Leggatt has moved from his usual article about the development of Selsdon to a quiz testing the knowledge you have, hopefully, gleaned from his contributions to the Gazette over the past few years. To help you provide the correct answers, he has provided a reference to the Gazette where the answer can be found. The answers will be given in next month's Gazette, so you have a month to complete the quiz.

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

All the answers can be found on our website ( <https://selsdon-residents.co.uk> ) where articles and back issues of The Gazette can be found.



N o	Question	Answer	Source
1	Under which Council jurisdiction did Selsdon come within in 1926?		Gazette Sept 19

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2	What use was the land generally put to before The Bird Estate was built?	Gazette Mar 22 and Feb 23
3	Name 5 of the previous owners of what we know as The Selsdon Park Hotel.	SRA Website
4	Name the long distance paths which pass through Littleheath Woods and Selsdon Wood?	Gazette Dec 22
5	When were the shops on the Broadway built?	Gazette Mar 22
6	What is the name of Selsdon's longest serving shop?	Gazette June 22
7	When was Farley Road officially opened?	Gazette Sept 20
8	At least how old is the route of Upper Selsdon Road believed to be?	Gazette Jan 22
9	What / Who is Rylandes Road named after?	Gazette Jan 21
10	Where were the air raid shelters that were used in Selsdon during WW2?	SRA Website, Des Donahoe memories + Gazette Nov 20 and May 22
11	Name the Public Houses which occupied the site of the Aldi car park.	Gazette Dec 21 and Jul 22
12	What Estate Agent is hiding a 2 storey Victorian house?	Gazette May 22
13	Approximately how many Clubs, Groups and Charities are listed in The Selsdon Gazette?	Gazette
14	Name the Selsdon buildings which are locally listed.	Gazette Nov 21
15	What Hardware Store, where you could purchase Four Candles, Plugs, Pumps and 'Os', was situated at 145 Addington Road from 1935?	Gazette April 22
16	What names has the SRA had over the last 100 years.	Gazette Oct 18
17	Name the architect who is credited with saving Littleheath Woods and Selsdon Wood for us	SRA Website and Gazette Oct 18

18	What structures and facilities did Queenhill Road Playspace contain in the late 1920s?	Gazette Oct 22
19	Name the sculptor / artist who designed and built our Selsdon Clock.	Gazette Jan 22
20	What shop previously occupied the space which is now The Sir Julian Huxley?	Gazette May 22

### ***Answers in March Gazette***

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## **EVENTS IN 2025**



|                       |                                                       |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 31 January – 15 March | Six Nations Rugby Union Championship                  |
| 16 February           | BAFTA Film Awards                                     |
| 1 March               | Brit Awards                                           |
| 2 March               | The Oscars                                            |
| 4 March               | Shrove Tuesday                                        |
| 6 -9 March            | Cruft's Dog Show                                      |
| 26 March              | <b>SRA AGM at St John's Church Hall at 8pm</b>        |
| 30 March              | Mothering Sunday                                      |
| 3-5 April             | Grand National meeting, Aintree Racecourse, Liverpool |
| 10 – 13 April         | Masters Golf in Augusta                               |
| 13 April              | Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race                        |
| 19 April – 5 May      | World Snooker Championship, Sheffield                 |
| 20 April              | Easter Sunday                                         |
| 27 April              | London Marathon                                       |
| 13 – 17 May           | Eurovision Song Contest, Basel, Switzerland           |
| 17 May                | Men's FA Cup Final, Wembley Stadium                   |
| 18 May                | Women's FA Cup Final, Wembley Stadium                 |
| 20 -24 May            | Chelsea Flower Show                                   |
| 6-7 June              | Derby Festival Epsom Downs Racecourse                 |
| 14 June               | Trooping the Colour, London                           |

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                    |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15 June                 | Father's Day                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |
| 17-21 June              | Royal Ascot, Berkshire                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                    |
| 25-29 June              | Glastonbury Music Festival                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                    |
| 30 June – 13 July       | Wimbledon Tennis Championship                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                    |
| 1-6 July                | Hampton Court Palace Flower Show                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                    |
| 3-6 July                | Formula 1 British Grand Prix weekend, Silverstone                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                    |
| 5 July                  | Pride in London                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                    |
| 5 – 27 July             | Cycling Tour de France                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                    |
| 10 July – 28 September  | Buckingham Palace Opening                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                    |
| 13 – 20 July            | 153 <sup>rd</sup> British Open, Portrush Golf Course, Ireland                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                    |
| 18 July – 13 September  | BBC Prom Concerts at the Royal Albert Hall                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                    |
| 1-23 August             | Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Edinburgh                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                    |
| 1-25 August             | Edinburgh Fringe Festival                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                    |
| 24-25 August            | Notting Hill Carnival                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                    |
| 7 September             | <b>SRA Community Day Selsdon Wood</b>                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                    |
|                         | Great North Run, Newcastle                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                    |
| 13 – 22 September       | Heritage Open Days across England. <i>Days celebrating England's fantastic architecture and culture by offering free access to places that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission.</i> |                                                                                    |
| 13 – 21 September       | Open House Festival, London. <i>Gain access to beautiful buildings, unique spaces and landscapes as London opens its doors to visitors.</i>                                                                       |                                                                                    |
| 1 -31 October           | Black History Month                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                    |
| 8 – 19 October BFI      | London Film Festival, Southbank, London                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                    |
| 8 November              | Lord Mayor's Show, London                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                    |
| 9 November              | Remembrance Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                    |
| 14 November – 4 January | Christmas at Kew                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                    |
| 21 November             | Children in Need Appeal                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                    |
| 28 November             | <b>Selsdon Christmas Lights Switch-on Event</b>                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                    |



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 are two reports about trouble on our buses.

Dear Editor,

My husband has more than once recently, come home (weekday evening about 6.45pm) on a 433 bus and the bus driver has switched off the interior lights and the heating, presumably to save electricity whilst going up the hill (Farley Road)! I have told him to note the driver/route number and complain but I thought I would mention here as the SRA has some transport contacts!

*Regards, Name and address supplied*

Another resident wrote

When I travelled on a 433 going to Addington Village in the late afternoon recently, the bus only had the blue lights on inside - as a result someone left a bag behind in the dark! Luckily it wasn't far from Addington Village so I handed it in there.

*Name and address supplied*

~~

Here our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, starts planning for the new year.

### **Spring is not far away now – let's get planning**

The snowdrops are almost in bloom and the Muscari (grape hyacinth) look beautiful in contrast. We have a bush in our garden called a Skimmia



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with pink buds, which later turn into white blossom. Now is the time to order the seed catalogues and visit a Gardening Centre to choose some seed packets to be planted just as soon as it is warm enough for the seeds to stand a chance of surviving. This year I hope to grow a pot of tomatoes, plenty of herbs and some lettuce. If more land is going to be used for housing, then we will need to grow some food ourselves. A box of blueberries costs £4.50, a lemon is 35p. Scary times, so it won't hurt to practise growing a little food and we can see where the pitfalls are while growing things on a small scale.



Next on the list is planning our holidays. As our friends now seem to be scattered far and wide we can visit some of them en-route for the towns we have picked out in Devon and Cornwall in the south west, while northwards the towns of Liverpool, Norwich and Nottingham seem to be this year's choices. May and June seem great for our visits, especially as we now have purchased a special rail ticket to cover longer journeys.

How are the readers plans progressing? Do you plan far away or nearby? There are several places in London I would still love to see as I have never seen them, but have heard a lot about them. Tall buildings with gardens in unlikely places, and hidden gardens too.

Spring is not so far away.....

~~

## Poetry Corner

*After the excesses of the Christmas season, we are all urged to follow a healthier diet. Here, Mary Gill considers following a vegan diet a little too far!*

### THE BALLAD OF THE VEGAN EXTREMIST

I was raised an omnivore,  
but sometime in my teens,  
decided eating flesh was wrong,  
so turned to rice and beans



and pasta, brussels sprouts and kale,  
confined myself to plants  
and made my protest 'gainst the sale  
of meat at ev'ry chance.

For many years I lived like this,  
felt virtuous and good,  
then noticed something was amiss  
with other people's food.

My fam'ly, neighbours, and my friends  
were carnivores at heart.  
I told them they should make amends –  
turn veggie for a start.

Then, slowly as my nagging grew,  
I watched them change their ways,  
they all became strict vegans too  
and thus, they earned my praise.

From here, the bit between my teeth,  
my faith grew deep and strong,  
I propagated my belief  
that eating meat is wrong.

At last, I won the heart and mind  
of everyone on earth -  
made them see they must be kind -  
all animals have worth.

You'd think I might have rested then  
and seen my duty done,  
no human would eat meat again -  
my battle surely won.

But cats and dogs along my street,  
of whom I was quite fond,  
liked nothing more than eating meat.  
I had to go beyond.

Carnivores of every type,  
with two legs or with four,  
must be subjected to the hype -  
they must eat meat no more.

The cats and dogs were easy prey,  
their owners understood.  
Vegan petfood saved the day  
and everything looked good.

But dogs and cats eat mice and rats,  
I could not make them see -  
that in domestic habitats  
strict vegans they must be.

We fitted muzzles to the dogs  
and bells to feline pets.  
Now birds would hear these greedy mogs  
and fly like feathered jets.

Then I surveyed the wider world  
and saw, with sinking heart,  
I'd many battles yet to fight -  
the pets were just a start.

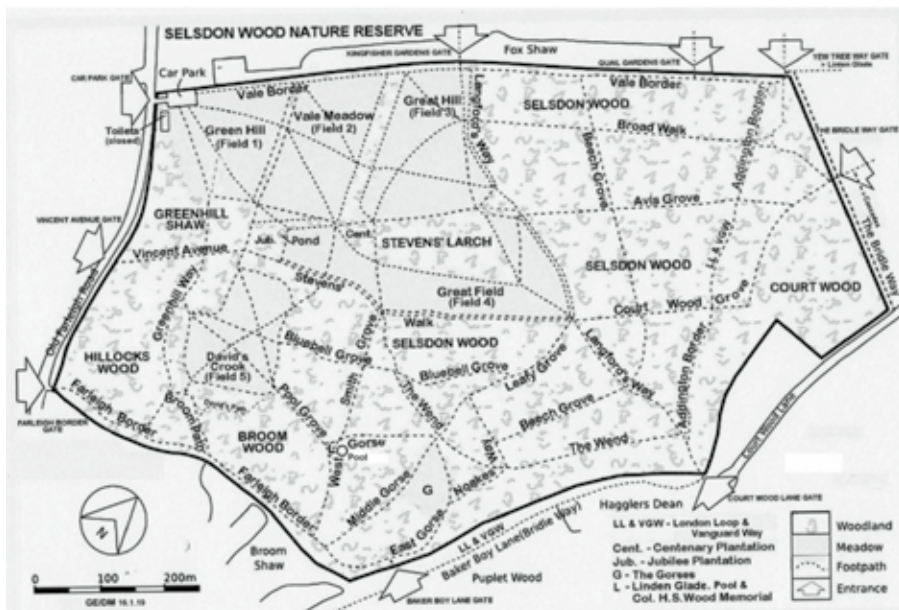
Out in the wild – the wolf, the fox,  
the lion and the shark,  
wolves, hyenas, owls and hawks  
all left their bloody mark.

I boldly went where few would dare  
to Serengeti's plain.  
I lectured lions in their lair,  
I tried hard to explain.

But lions could not be reformed  
by anything I said.  
They had no wish to be informed  
and one bit off my head.

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 – The Gorses in Selsdon Wood



The Gorses is a significant section of woodland encircled by the East Gorse and West Gorse paths and divided by the Middle Gorse path through the middle. Originally there was a large area of Larch where Tawny Owls could be seen roosting in the winter and where Crossbills would stop for a brief visit at the end of June. Despite the use of the Gorse name, there were very few visible pieces of Gorse in the area. After the Larch trees were felled and much of the scrub was removed, it was not long before it was obvious that the local soil held a hidden bank of Gorse seed along with seed from many small trees such as Birch and Sycamore.

Gorse seedlings were soon appearing all over the cleared area, making The Gorses name more appropriate but eventually causing us to start removing some overgrown Gorse to open the area up and to reduce potential fire risk.

The tree stumps remaining from the felled Larches began to support fungi and we quickly recorded Turkeytail, Clustered Bracket, Sulphur Tuft and Southern Bracket. The appearance of mushrooms anywhere in the woods is very dependent on the weather throughout the year but in some

years we have found False Chanterelle, Slippery Jack and others on the grassy part of Middle Gorse. While clearing vegetation we have frequently piled the cuttings within the woodland, and the resulting decaying pile has produced Coral Spot, Candlesnuff, Crystal Brain, while nearby have been Dead Moll's Fingers, Green Elf cups and Parasols.

Farther along the path, through the woodland, there are open areas where Amethyst Deceivers appear, and several log piles which have produced Purple Jellydisc and Beech Jellydisc. Among the leaf litter between the trees, we have seen Upright Coral. Towards the end of the path several boletes have appeared.

Halfway along East Gorse is the gate to Baker Boy Lane where we have seen Splitgill, Peeling Oysterlings and White Knights. Opposite this area by the edge of the path a few Wood Blewits occurred and the nearby ground often has a few Common Earthballs. Towards the end of East Gorse there are log piles where Crystal Brain has made an appearance.

West Gorse has two parts. The first part is open with grassy edges and occasionally has members of the Russula group of Brittlegills. There was once a specimen of Hen of the Woods at the base of a tree near the path. The second part of West Gorse, from Linden Glade to the Farleigh Border path, appears to be the most productive for fungi. In one edge of the path, we have found Crested Coral growing while the other end of the path had an unidentified Cup fungus. Along the length of the path there have been frequent records of Leafy Brain and Dead Moll's Fingers, and a single record of Velvet Shield. There is usually a Beefsteak somewhere and Chicken of the Woods sometimes appears among the trees. Scarlet Elf cup has appeared once. Yellowing Curtain Crust appears annually. Common fungi like Candlesnuff, Sulphur Tuft, and King Alfred's Cakes are all found here.

Between Middle and West Gorse there is another area of Larch which is not easy to enter but there are several Larch stumps which often display specimens of Yellow Stagshorn which grow on decaying conifer wood.

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The Linden Glade pool attracts insects which in turn bring in several kinds of Bat. The nearby trees hold roosting and nesting Tawny Owls, and the area provides a territory for Stock Dove. Where Middle Gorse and Leafy Grove meet both Blackcap and Chiffchaff hold territories. The elusive Weasel has been seen scampering across Middle Gorse.



As many fungi produce profuse quantities of fungal spores it is probable that the air is full of them and in the right conditions spores from other sites might fall into the woods and germinate to produce species we have never previously recorded. The possibilities are endless so keep looking for new species!

~~

## Sanderstead Local History Group



We usually hold our meetings in the Small Hall at All Saints Church Halls, Onslow Gardens, Sanderstead, CR2 9AB. They are on the last Wednesday of each month, usually excluding August and December. The meetings start promptly at 2 pm so please be seated by then. Doors open at 1.45 pm. We make a small charge to cover the cost of hiring the hall and providing tea and biscuits after the meeting.

### Programme for the first half of 2025

**26th February:** Hammerwood Park: the amazing story of this 18th century house near East Grinstead - its decline and rescue from dereliction, given by its current owner, David Pinnegar.

**26th March:** Some interesting accounts from the history of Croydon Minster, by David Morgan, its volunteer education officer and archivist.

**30th April:** Mountwood: the story of a house in Addington Road, Sanderstead, and its owners, from the 1920s until its demolition in the early 2000s, by Phil Swallow

**28th May:** South London Palaces past and present (part 2), by Dee Palmer. In the past there were several royal palaces south of the Thames - some of which remain, in part at least, and some of which have vanished. The talk will include information about these sites, with many illustrations.

**25th June:** June "Two Edmunds: the King (841 - 869) and the Saint (1175 - 1240), comparing and contrasting their lives". David Picksley

**30th July:** Where did they come from? The shopkeepers in Cranleigh Parade, Sanderstead, at the start of World War II, by Brenda Hawkins.



# The Selsdon Centre

Well, what a great start to the new year!

We've been busier than ever, welcoming new volunteers, new clients and a new Centre Manager. Liz O'Donoghue joined us at the end of last year and has settled herself in nicely with the rest of the team. We've got lots of new activities planned for the Centre and all details can be found on our noticeboard (outside the Centre - same level as Sainsburys in Selsdon); online on our web page at [www.selsdoncentre.org.uk](http://www.selsdoncentre.org.uk), or on our Facebook group: Selsdon Centre - CR2. We hope to be welcoming many more of you in the weeks ahead! We have much to offer the mature community in the form of friendship, fun, food and live music events, to name but a few. We hope to offer our ever-popular Bingo twice a month with a home-cooked meal, as well as Fish n Chips each month.

We will also start our Carers' Café, a drop-in session offering warm drinks, a friendly ear and some professional help in an informal setting. We will run these on the last Tuesday of the month, 1-3pm.

We are also delighted to say a massive thankyou to the Townswomen's Guild for their very generous donation to the Centre of almost £600, as we were their chosen Charity of the Year in 2024. We are extremely grateful for this generosity and we will ensure we spend it carefully on the clients of the Centre.

Our contact details, should you need them tel: 0208 651 1111 or email: [office@selsdoncentre.org.uk](mailto:office@selsdoncentre.org.uk) for further details or to book in.

~~



## What is next?

Our Annual **Quiz Night** Sat 8<sup>th</sup> March, teams of 6, cash bar provided (so no BYOD), 19:00 for 19:30, supper provided, St Antony's Church Hall in Hamsey Green, £15.00 per head. Please contact our secretary to reserve your table.

Our Annual Fundraising **Ramble** will take place on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May starting & ending at St Mary's Church Hall, Farleigh. Raise sponsorship for the charity of your choice, 60% goes to your charity & 40% to our charity account. Please contact our Secretary for a sponsorship form & to register to walk with us on this super family event.

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/>

~~

## **SANDERSTEAD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

**[www.sandersteadwi.org](http://www.sandersteadwi.org)**



Sanderstead WI is a friendly group of over 70 members who meet from 2pm to 4pm on the first Wednesday of the month in the church hall of Sanderstead United Reform Church, 3 Sanderstead Hill, Croydon, CR2 0HB. We always welcome potential new members who may attend before deciding to join.

Our meetings start with local WI business including cascading details of courses and workshops run by our county and national bodies. This is followed by refreshments, and then a speaker. Talks for 2025/6 include: Bromley and Croydon Women's Aid; Life in No.10 Downing Street; Highway 35 - Meeting Disaster Head On With Hope; The Glass House; Women who have improved the female status; and Cultured Pearls and Diamonds.

We have an annual tea party in August, a Christmas Lunch and a Christmas party with entertainment. At the Christmas Fete at St Mary's Church this year we entered the Xmas tree festival and our tree was a memento to the closure of Sanderstead Library and was decorated with book emblems. We also have the following special interest groups you can join: Gardening (still maintaining the rose garden at Sanderstead Library even though closed), Scrabble, Canasta, Board Games, Book Club, Walkers and Strollers, Lunch Club, Table Tennis, and Arts-n-Crafts. Special outings are also arranged and during the last year we visited The Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance depot, The Charterhouse, spent a

lovely day in Brighton and went to the pantomime. So, there is something to suit all tastes!

Further details of our forthcoming activities can be found on our website which is regularly updated. Please follow the contact instruction on our website: <https://www.sandersteadwi.org> or tel. Linda Etheridge on 020 8657 6721.

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## **Contact**

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

Fax: 020 8657 2268

Email: [info@selsdoncontact.org.uk](mailto:info@selsdoncontact.org.uk)



## ***A gentle reminder about our services.***

Selsdon Contact has been offering neighbourly care to residents in need of support and advice for more than 50 years. These are just some of the services we have been offering:

|                 |                                                                                                          |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Transport:      | Door to door transport to doctors, local clinics, hospitals, etc., for the less mobile.                  |
| Information:    | On a wide range of statutory and voluntary services and trusted traders.                                 |
| Shopping Bus:   | A regular door to door shopping bus to Warlingham Sainsbury's. With escorts giving help where needed.    |
| Practical Help  | Dog walking, smoke alarms, 'one off' gardening jobs, wheelchair pushing, basic DIY.                      |
| Loan Equipment: | An extensive supply of equipment for short term loan including wheelchairs, Zimmer frames, walkers, etc. |
| Social Events:  | Coffee mornings, outings and regular newsletters                                                         |

## ***Get in touch with us for more information.***

In our Christmas party article, we provided inaccurate information regarding entertainment for the party. We were actually entertained by the Quest Primary School Choir, not Courtwood Primary School. We deeply regret this oversight and sincerely apologise for any confusion or inconvenience it may have caused.

***Selsdon Churches Neighbourhood Care Registered Charity 112434  
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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 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](mailto:SelsdonandAddingtonVillage@met.police.uk)  
 Selsdon Vale & Forestdale: [SelsdonandForestdale@metpolice.uk](mailto: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 <a href="http://www.folw.co.uk">www.folw.co.uk</a>                                               |
| Friends of Selsdon Wood                                     |                   | <a href="http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk">www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk</a>                   |
| Sanderstead Plantation Partners                             |                   | <a href="mailto:michaellishmund@gmail.com">michaellishmund@gmail.com</a>                             |
| Friends of Kingswood                                        |                   | <a href="mailto:www.friendsofkingswood@hotmail.co.uk">www.friendsofkingswood@hotmail.co.uk</a>       |
| Girlguiding (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section)   |                   | 0800 999 2016                                                                                        |
| 1st Selsdon & Addington Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts) |                   | <a href="http://https://girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved">https://girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved</a> |
|                                                             |                   | <a href="http://www.1stselsdonscouts.org.uk">www.1stselsdonscouts.org.uk</a>                         |
| 2nd Selsdon & Addington Scout Group                         |                   | <a href="http://www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk">www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk</a>                     |
| Croham Valley Explorer Scout Unit                           | Christopher Dean  | <a href="mailto:tinkerscorner@aol.com">tinkerscorner@aol.com</a>                                     |
| 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                             |                   | <a href="mailto:sandersteadlh@gmail.com">sandersteadlh@gmail.com</a>                                 |
| Selsdon Tennis Club                                         | Geoff Littlewood  | 020 8651 4748                                                                                        |
| St John's Wives                                             | Jane Guglielmi    | 020 8657 6672                                                                                        |
| 66(Selsdon) Squadron Air Training Corps                     | Rob Cleeter       | 020 8651 5958                                                                                        |



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