

The Selsdon
— Gazette —

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THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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There is no August Gazette.

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

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Gazette cover: Ian Chases's photo of a Wolf Moon appearing through our Christmas Lights.



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Vice-Chair: Linda Morris
Secretary: Trevor Stotten
Hon. Treasurer: Iris Jones
Committee: Yvonne Huber
 Su Yates
 Peter Underwood
 Ian Leggatt
 Janet Sharp
 Chris Jones
 Geoff Bailey
 Kenneth Davis
 Martina Enwood
 Jane Plowden

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

February is always a busy month for the Gazette as it has to include the paperwork for the Selsdon Residents' Association Annual General Meeting. The key information to note is the date, Wednesday 25 March at St John's Church Hall starting at 8pm. Please put this date in your diary and come along to raise any concerns that you have about Selsdon or to have a chat with members of the committee over a glass of wine and some nibbles. Hopefully we will have some of our local Councillors and Police Officers present to answer your questions. The SRA has now entered its 101st year, but to keep it relevant we do need to hear from those living in Selsdon, whether that is by attending the AGM, or emailing the Gazette (selsdongazettesra@gmail.com) or the SRA (mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com).

In this Gazette you will find the agenda for the AGM, the minutes of last year's AGM and a review of our 100th year in operation, 2025.

Our cover this month is a photo of the Wolf Moon. This is the name given to January's full moon as this is the month that wolves howl the most as there is less food around. Ian Chase, cleverly managed to capture the moon appearing through one of the zeros of our '100' celebratory Christmas Lights. Apart from our usual contributions from our Councillors, MP, local police officers, we have Part 3 of Ian Leggatt's history of St John the Divine Church, Sunflower Sid explains the language of flowers, Ted Forsyth describes the birds of prey which visit Selsdon during the year and Mary Gill slows us all down with her poem. We have included a calendar of events for the year and a quiz about the Winter Olympics due to start in early February. Our letters section includes an interesting find from 1930 and more dissatisfaction with the 433 bus service!

As always, please keep your photos, letters, poems and articles coming in. This magazine is for Selsdon, so it is good to hear about things affecting local residents.

Chris Jones

**❖ SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MARCH 2026 EDITION
SHOULD BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN
20TH FEBRUARY - PREFERABLY BEFORE! ❖**

SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS



Selsdon Recreation Ground

Some residents, including myself, committee members and councillors met in the recreation ground to look at a proposal to install an outdoor gym. Funding has been secured for this and does not involve your council tax. It should be completed by the end of March in time for some good weather.

Met Engage

I have mentioned this before, but I would encourage you to sign up as it does give you updates for our area as well as regular newsletters.

SRA Litter Pick Saturday 14 February at 9.45am

Do come along and join us at the Triangle, all equipment is supplied by Croydon Council and free tea/coffee is provided by Wetherspoons afterwards.

SRA's 100th Anniversary

It's been a busy year marking the SRA's hundredth year in operation, and we finish by hosting an 100th anniversary tea in St John's Church Hall on 7th February. As I write, it is yet to take place but a big thank you to all who helped and attended. Selsdon has so many residents who give up their time to help the many organisations working in our area. They are always looking for new faces to join their workforce; the newly-named Selsdon Community Clubhouse and Selsdon Contact to name but two.

SRA AGM Wednesday March 25th at St John's Church Hall 8pm

You are all invited to come along and hear what we have been up to and enjoy a glass of wine afterwards courtesy of Wetherspoons.

You will find last year's minutes of our AGM and the 2025 report in this edition of the gazette.

The gazette has made a smaller loss this year due to the hard work of

our Editor and Gazette Treasurer. The gazette relies solely on advertising to cover printing costs and this has increased, like everything in life. If you know of anyone who might like an advert which is delivered to 4000 houses, 11 months of the year by our volunteers, the editor would love to hear from you. We have also been without an advertising manager for a long time. If anyone can help fill this volunteer post, then our editor, Chris Jones, can supply more details.

Sheila Childs, Chair, SRA

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SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 25 March 2026 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.

AGENDA

1. Number of members present
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the AGM held on 26th March 2025
4. Matters arising from those minutes
5. Annual Report for 2025
6. Hon. Treasurer's Report with adoption of the accounts for 2025
7. Police report
8. Editor's report – The Selsdon Gazette
9. Christmas lights
10. Annual subscription – to resolve the cost per household for 2026/27 (proposed to remain unchanged at £5 per household)
11. Election of Officers & Members of the Committee for 2026/27
12. Adoption of the Hon. Accounts Reviewer for 2026
13. Any other business

Minutes of the Selsdon Residents' Association Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 26th March 2025

1. There were 82 people present, of whom 11 were SRA committee members.
2. The gathering was welcomed by our chair, Sheila Childs. Apologies for absence: Pam Holden, Sara Bashford, Robert Ward, Geoff Bailey & Frank Kippin.
3. Acceptance of the minutes of the last AGM on 20th March 2024 was proposed by Chris & seconded by Ian Leggatt.
4. Matters arising from those minutes – nothing which wouldn't be discussed as below.
5. Annual Report for 2024 - this had been printed in the February Gazette – acceptance was proposed by Janet Sharp & seconded by Jenny Bradley. Sheila gave her usual thanks to:-

Chris Hyde & the Triangle team for weeding & maintaining the area outside Sainsburys, now known as the Selsdon Community Garden.
The local Rotary for their help at the Christmas lights switch on event & the September Fair.

The Selsdon Baptist Church for allowing us free use of their room for our monthly meetings & for providing refreshments at the Christmas lights switch on event.

Andrew Baxter for organising the litter picks, with the next one planned for June.
Jeff Bayton for reviewing our accounts & caring for our planters.
Ian Leggatt & the planning committee for alerting us to planning applications affecting the local area.

The Julian Huxley for providing the wine for the AGM, & free tea + coffee after the litter picks.

Linda Morris for organising the September Fair for many years, & Peter Underwood for taking it on from this year.

The rest of the SRA committee.

Chris Jones & Jenny Bradley for the production of the Gazette, its distribution & advertising within.

Janet Sharp for her decorating of the Selsdon Clock & surrounding areas on occasions.

6. Hon. Treasurer's Report.

A copy of the accounts for 2024 had been circulated in the March gazette. Iris Jones as Treasurer provided an update:-

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Income was down this year by £600 to £11656

Subscriptions were down by £120

Out of the 4000 addresses to which the gazettes are delivered, last year 835 houses paid the £5 for SRA membership, but this year that has gone down to 817, which is disappointing.

Donations from the residents were down by nearly £360.

Traders' donations were £795, up by £250 on the previous year.

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

We also received £205 from Easyfunding.

We received £1317 interest from the Nationwide Reserve account.

Expenditure is down £800 due mainly to the Christmas lights being kept for an extra year so at a reduced price. Expenditure totalled £8245.

A £600 donation was made to the Selsdon Centre during this year.

We made a profit of £3411.

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

7. Police

We were pleased to welcome Sgt. James Morrow, PCs Callum Karn, Summer Ross & Isobel Williams and PCSOs Alex Warmington & Tina Nash from the local police.

Sgt. Morrow reported that 2024 had seen a rise in burglaries, which they have tried to counter with plain-clothes operations, although these rose in October-December due to the longer nights.

Motor vehicles thefts, mainly as a result of such burglaries, were also on the rise. This was combatted by a series of operations such as concentrated night shifts and ANPR Ops.

These ANPR Operations were mainly carried out on Selsdon Park Road/ Pixton Way & Fieldway/Lodge Lane, which have resulted in 24 cars being seized + 9 arrests and multiple drivers reported for traffic offences such as driving with mobile phones or no seat belts.

We aimed to have a stronger, safer neighbourhood team, but emergency response policing often has staff abstracted to assist Croydon Police Station with 999 calls and other abstractions such as protests and demonstrations in central London for Extinction Rebellion, Free Palestine marches etc, etc....

Last year Sgt Morrow completed figures which showed from Nov 2023 - Nov 2024 staff were taken 46% of the time. So nearly half the year, he was left with

his PCSOs to complete ward actions such as visit to victims and reassurance patrols.

They conducted a joint Warrant with Derbyshire Constabulary, which resulted in the recovery of 247 stolen exhibits, including Rolex watches, which will shortly be valued by an expert auctioneer, & the hope is that they can be returned to some of their rightful owners.

A round of thanks/applause was given to the police from the floor for their efforts with these depleted numbers.

8. Editor's report - The Selsdon Gazette

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

'My report this year is divided into two parts – thanks and appeals.

Thanks firstly for your cover photos - covers this year have been predominantly wildlife: 3 with birds, a bee, a butterfly and a sunflower. We have also featured our first post box topper at Christmas and a last shot of our beloved Alladin's Cave, before it closed its doors.

Then thanks for entering our competitions – these, this year, have included the Children's Easter Egg Hunt, the 'Name the Shops' Quiz at the community day, the 'Grow the tallest Sunflower' and the children's 'Design the Christmas Cover'.

Thanks also to our regular contributors:-

Our Councillors

Our local MP – Chris Philp up to July, then Natasha Irons from September.
Our local police officers.

Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid for their Gardening Notes.

Ian Leggatt for his series about our local history. This year he has taken us through each of the Costains' housing developments in Selsdon.

Mary Gill for her varied collection of poems.

Ted Forsyth for his regular supply of Nature Notes.

Jessica Blake for her amusing look at life.

Janet Sharp for her varied and interesting articles and for designing the new SRA logo.

Su Yates for her enthusiastic articles about hobbies.

Thanks to our Gazette Dream Team:-

Former distribution manager, Phil Roberts, who stepped down in March last year

Jenny Bradley, our Gazette Finance Manager, who has stepped into the breach to receive the gazettes from the printer and parcel them out for the distributors. She also delivers Gazettes too!

Our reliable army of nearly 100 distributors and deliverers.

Mark Leonard, our printer for many years, providing a professional product at a very competitive price. I hope that he never retires!
Finally, thanks to our advertisers, some of whom have been with us for many years.

Now for my appeals:-

Contributions. Please send me your letters of complaint or praise about local issues, photos for the gazette covers and articles about places that you have visited in the locality.

Holiday cover deliverers

Advertisers. Please ask any tradespeople you hire whether they would consider advertising in the gazette. Send me their details and I will send them our advertising rates. Also, if you employ one of our advertisers, please tell them that you got their details from the 'Gazette'.

9. Christmas Lights

Linda Morris, our vice-chair, advised that the Christmas lights switch-on this year will be on Friday 28th November, hopefully with Father Christmas again switching on the lights down the high street to re-create the magic of years gone by. A new design would soon be chosen from a short list of 3 or 4, to include '100' in the display at either end, to mark our 100 years.

10. Annual Subscription

There was no proposal to put up subscriptions. They would stay at £5 per household for 2025/26, although extra donations would be welcomed.
This was proposed by Trevor Stotten, seconded by Peter Underwood, & 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 continue once more, so Linda proposed her, & all in attendance agreed.
Vice Chair – Linda Morris - Proposed by Sheila.

Treasurer – Iris Jones - Proposed by Sheila.

Secretary – Trevor Stotten - Proposed by Sheila.

The remaining committee members had agreed to stand again, bar Phil Roberts & Jenny Stawman – the committee was proposed en bloc by Iris & seconded by Chris

There therefore remain two posts on the committee to be filled.

12. Adoption of the Hon. Accounts Reviewer for 2025

Jeff Bayton was happy to continue auditing our accounts, & was proposed by Janet Sharp, seconded by Jenny Bradley & accepted by those present.

13. Any Other Business

We were pleased to see one of our four local councillors, Joseph Lee, at the meeting, with Robert Ward sending his apologies.

Robert's 100 years of Selsdon exhibition will be in the library from 4th April for a month.

Frank Kippin of Abercorn Close had asked for his concerns about the speed monitors not working on Old Farleigh Road & elsewhere to be raised, as he had struggled to get feedback from his local councillors, Fatima Zaman & Andy Stranack – now this is known to us, we will try to elicit a response from them.

We were asked about any progress on the sale of Birch (Selsdon Park Hotel) – the administration period was extended for another year, but no new buyers have come forward, security remains in place & not even guardians are believed to be staying on site.

Following the bad accident at the Selsdon lights on Wednesday 5th March, temporary lights had been in place, which obstruct the pavements in place, so we were asked if we knew of progress – no one did, & Cllr. Lee offered to look into the matter as part of his casework.

We were reminded of the closure of Coombe Lane at the top of Gravel Hill for tram works 5th-18th April.

The passing of Alladin's Cave was lamented, but Ian confirmed there is a planning application lodged for this property.

Meanwhile work continues on the old Barclays' premises, including the shop frontage, but no planning application has been lodged yet!

With Coulsdon getting its new banking hub, & Selsdon only having an ATM in Sainsbury's foyer & the Post Office offering some banking services, we were asked about getting our own hub, since there are no banks or building societies in the town, or at Forestdale or Sanderstead or at Sanderstead Station – Natasha Irons has advised that we don't warrant one at the first assessment level – maybe we need to find out Coulsdon's criteria for getting one.

The overflowing bins on the private land behind Day Lewis were mentioned – hopefully the imminent building work on that site will sort out the problem. There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.50pm, with time left for an interesting presentation by Phil Swallow about Mountwood House, refreshments & informal chat.



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SRA ANNUAL REPORT 2025

The Selsdon Residents' Association (SRA) was formed in 1926, and so celebrated its 100th year during 2025, culminating with its 100th birthday tea on 7th February 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

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 2025

The 2025 AGM was held at St. John's Church Hall on Wednesday 26th March 2025.

SRA 2025 Activities:

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.

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.

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.

The Selsdon Community Fair was held at Selsdon Woods on Sunday 7th September under the leadership of our very own Peter Underwood - the SRA had a stall accepting subscriptions, & there were several others operating – there were also refreshments available. The weather was fine, and there was a good turn-out.

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.

The Selsdon Community Christmas Event on Friday 28th November – again this year, Milestone switched on all the lights 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 Greenvale Primary School choir to sing the carols outside the Village Club – which they did with gusto! It was great to see so many people turn up - our special thanks go to the choir, Sanderstead & Selsdon Rotary, the Selsdon Village Club, the local Scouts, who provided the refreshments, and all the

volunteers (churches, schools and local groups), who helped with their time or with donations.

SRA competitions were held this year via the Gazette: a children's Easter Egg Hunt along the High Street, a 'Grow the Largest Vegetable' competition, & the 'Views of Selsdon' photo competition.

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.

The Committee held meetings in Selsdon Baptist Church's meeting room. They have still waived the hire fee, for which we are once more very grateful.

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. We are still, thankfully, a low crime area.

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 now have new signage & benches to encourage this.

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

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, although there is 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 with 24/7 security on site.

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 still 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

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/selsdonresassoc) and @selsdonresassoc on Twitter/X. Please 'like' and 'follow' the profiles too, not forgetting our website www.selsdon-residents.co.uk

Accounts

A full balance sheet for 2025 will be presented at the AGM, which is due to be held on Wednesday 25th March 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.



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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!**

We trust that you are still watching out for, and help, your neighbours in need especially any who are more socially isolated than others, as Covid, flu etc. is still all around us.

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

Trevor Stotten (SRA Secretary)

~~

COUNCILLORS' NOTES FROM JOSEPH LEE

OPENING OF NEW ADDINGTON COMMUNITY DIAGNOSIS CENTRE

A new Community and Health Diagnostic Centre has opened in nearby New Addington, giving local residents access to a wide range of medical tests and GP services closer to home.

The centre provides CT scans, X-rays, ultrasound, electrocardiogram testing and blood pressure monitoring, helping reduce the need for patients to travel outside Croydon. The opening was marked by a visit from the Executive Mayor Jason Perry, Civic Mayor Councillor Richard Chatterjee and Cabinet Member Councillor Yvette Hopley.

Delivered in partnership with Croydon Health Services NHS Trust, the facility is built on former council-owned land and is expected to bring long-term benefits to the community.

OUTDOOR GYM IN SELSDON RECREATION GROUND

In December last year, Councillors and residents met with council officers to discuss proposals for a new outdoor gym at Selsdon Recreation Ground. The consultation focused on the design of the gym and possible locations within the park, with the Council officers keen to hear a range of views from those attending. Further details are expected in due course,

and residents will be kept updated as plans progress.

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY

Croydon pupils are set to benefit from a revamped speech and language therapy service now being delivered in schools by specialist providers, backed by an extra £1 million in government funding. The improved service, launched on 1 November 2025, is designed to give children faster and more tailored support, following feedback from families, schools and young people. Better Days is providing support in the north and south of the borough, while Allen Speech and Language is covering central Croydon.

Dan Bowden, Headteacher at Greenvale Primary School in Selsdon, welcomed the changes, saying: "Early identification and support for children with speech and language needs is crucial to their progress. It is encouraging that specialist providers have now been secured, ensuring children receive the tailored support they need to flourish in their early years." The council said no pupils should have experienced a gap in support during the transition from the previous NHS-run service, adding that the changes form part of its SEND Local Area Strategy to improve outcomes for children across Croydon.

LATEST BUSINESS TO OPEN IN SELSDON – THE REAL PIZZA COMPANY

A warm welcome to The Real Pizza Company who opened their doors late last year.

The Real Pizza Company are a chain of Pizza outlets established in 2012 and currently has 12 branches throughout the UK.

174 Addington Road, Selsdon, South Croydon, CR2 8LB

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

Our monthly surgeries take place in the Jubilee café downstairs from Sainsburys. A private room is available should there be a matter which cannot be discussed in public. The timing is 10am until 11.15am on the first Saturday of the month, except January and August. We are happy to 'meet' residents online so if you have any issues you wish to discuss with your councillor please get in touch by email:

Selsdon and Addington Village

Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk

Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk

Selsdon Vale and Forestdale

Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk

Fatima.zaman@croydon.gov.uk

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

25/04060/FUL - 188 - 190 Addington Road South Croydon CR2 8LB

Alterations including the erection of a three storey rear extension and the provision of 2 x 2 bedroom flats.

25/04110/HSE - 47A Foxearth Road South Croydon CR2 8EL

Demolition of existing garage and rear conservatory, erection of single/two storey side/rear extension, rear dormer extension with two roof light to front slope including porch and remodelling of rear garden.

25/04116/LP - 65 Nightingale Road South Croydon CR2 8PS

Conversion of the existing roof including the erection of a rear dormer.

26/00027/GPDO - 12B Ravenshead Close South Croydon CR2 8RL

Erection of a single storey rear extension which projects out from the rear wall of the original house by 6 metres, with an eaves height of 3 metres and a maximum roof height of 3 metres.

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%20table.html)

~~

MP Natasha Irons' Report

Member of Parliament for Croydon East

Dear Selsdon,

Last year, I brought Rowenna Davis's Fair Funding Review campaign to your attention. The aim was simple: to ensure that the funding Croydon Council receives from central government properly reflects the size of our population and the pockets of deprivation across the borough. I also wrote to the Housing Secretary, Steve Reed, urging the government to ensure these factors are built into the new funding formula. Securing fair investment is, I believe, a crucial step in helping to stabilise our borough's finances and protect vital local services.

I am pleased to confirm that Croydon will gain an additional £40 million a year for the next three years under the new national funding system. That represents a 28 per cent boost. This uplift, combined with proper governance, will help strengthen local services, such as care for older residents, street cleaning and education. While I recognise that Croydon Council continues to face significant debt, this additional funding will play

an important role in helping the council balance its books and plan more sustainably for the future.

We kicked off the year with two big visits in Croydon.



I was pleased to invite the Health Secretary, Wes Streeting, to open New Addington's new Community Diagnostic Centre. The facility will offer a wide range of diagnostic tests, including X-rays, CT scans and ultrasounds, alongside cardiology and respiratory services. It will also include an on-site GP practice. The centre is open for referred appointments from 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday.

New Addington has long faced some of the greatest health inequalities in Croydon and across England. The opening of this centre marks an important step towards closing that

gap and forms part of the government's mission to build an NHS fit for the future, shifting care out of hospitals and into the community.

The centre won't just benefit New Addington; Selsdon and Forestdale residents will be able to access walk-in X-rays between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, and will be referred for other imaging services through their local GP. This means earlier diagnosis, faster treatment and care closer to home.

I also welcomed the Prime Minister to Croydon IKEA with Sarah Jones MP. We spoke to members of staff about how they will benefit from the Employment Rights Act, which is now law.

These new 'day one' rights will allow around 32,000 more fathers to take paternity leave, helping working families balance the demands of work and family life. Employees will also gain the right to a new bereavement leave entitlement.

Finally, my casework team and I are always available to help residents experiencing issues, such as anti-social behaviour, housing concerns or other local matters.

If you need our help, please email us at natasha.irons.mp@parliament.uk or call **020 8191 2482** (leave a voicemail and we'll get back to you).

See you next month,

Thanks, Natasha



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Update from our Local Police

Over the last month the team have been working proactively to have a policing presence, deter crime and anti-social behaviour, and increase community engagement. The team have been working with John Ruskin College and this included officers carrying out a knife arch in the morning between the times students would be arriving at school. This resulted in a quantity of drugs being seized and written warnings being given.

Officers have been carrying out targeted hot spot patrols around specific locations to tackle drug crime and offences. These patrols recently resulted in the stop and search of a male which then led to an arrest for possession with intent to supply. During one of these patrols, officers responded to a call about an assault having taken place. The team gathered details of suspects and arrested two males in relation to the assault.

Officers have also seized numerous vehicles for no insurance, as well as recovering stolen vehicles and returning them to the registered keepers. There has been a spike in the theft of motor vehicles which the team are trying to tackle and have made a post about on Met Engage to make residents aware.

Officers are still holding different events such as street briefings and Cuppa with a Copper Events, these are all advertised on Met Engage and the Met Police website for each ward. These events happen monthly, and we would love to meet you, so please come along to these to meet your local policing team and to raise any concerns you may have.

Best wishes, PC Ross

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 which have been recently updated:

Selsdon & Addington Village:

SNMailbox-SelsdonandAddingtonVillageSNT@met.police.uk

Selsdon Vale & Forestdale:

SNMailbox-SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk

Good Time for Gardening – February

The language of flowers has been recognised for centuries in many countries throughout Europe and Asia. They even play a large role in William Shakespeare's works. Mythologies, folklore, sonnets, and plays of the ancient Greeks, Romans, Egyptians and Chinese are peppered with flower and plant symbolism - and for good reason.

Whether you're giving flowers to a mother for Mother's Day, a friend on their birthday, or a beloved on Valentine's Day, nearly every sentiment imaginable can be expressed with flowers. The orange blossom, for instance, means chastity, purity, and loveliness, while the red chrysanthemum means "I love you."

Learning the special symbolism of flowers became a popular pastime during the 1800s. Nearly all Victorian homes had, alongside the Bible, guidebooks for deciphering the "language," although definitions shifted depending on the source.

Following the protocol of Victorian-era etiquette, flowers were primarily used to deliver messages that couldn't be spoken aloud. In a sort of silent dialogue, flowers could be used to answer "yes" or "no" questions. A "yes" answer came in the form of flowers handed over with the right hand; if the left hand was used, the answer was "no."

More examples of plants and their associated human qualities during the Victorian era include bluebells and kindness, peonies and bashfulness, rosemary and remembrance, and tulips and passion. The meanings and traditions associated with flowers have certainly changed over time, and different cultures assign varying ideas to the same species. Still, the fascination with "perfumed words" persists just the same.

Some plants, including roses, poppies and lilies, could express a wide range of emotions based on their colour alone. Take, for instance, all of the different meanings attributed to variously coloured carnations: Pink meant "I'll never forget you"; Red said "my heart aches for you"; Purple conveyed capriciousness; White was for "the sweet and lovely"; and Yellow expressed romantic rejection.

Likewise, a white violet meant "innocence," while a purple violet said the bouquet giver's "thoughts were occupied with love." A red rose was used to openly express feelings of love, while a red tulip was a confession of love. The calla lily was interpreted to mean "magnificent beauty," and a clover said, "think of me."

Unsurprisingly, the colour of the rose plays a huge role. Red roses symbolise love and desire, but roses come in a variety of colours, and each has its own meaning.

- **White rose:** purity, innocence, reverence, a new beginning, a fresh start
- **Red rose:** love; I love you
- **Deep, dark crimson rose:** mourning
- **Pink rose:** grace, happiness, gentleness
- **Yellow rose:** jealousy, infidelity
- **Orange rose:** desire and enthusiasm
- **Lavender rose:** love at first sight
- **Coral rose:** friendship, modesty, sympathy



All of the above are definitely something to think about when choosing the flowers you are going to give on Valentine's day!

Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid www.sandersteadhs.org
Sanderstead Horticultural Society Spring Show - Saturday 21st March
from 2 pm at All Saints Church Hall, Onslow Gardens, Sanderstead

~~

St John the Divine, Early Days. Part 3

After the bombing of St John the Divine on 26th October 1940, the church had damaged walls, Tower, Sacristy and Chapel. The organ was wrecked, the heating system damaged, and both altars and Bishop's Chair had been lost in the explosion. The original temporary church / hall demolished entirely. The view right, looks out towards the houses opposite in Upper Selsdon Road.

An Estimate of £3,700 to repair the damage to the Church and replace furnishings was prepared in early 1941 and emergency work commenced to allow services to resume. The heating system was adapted and a piano substituted for the organ. The congregation commenced fundraising. An anonymous interest free loan of £1,000 was made and the Mothers' Union donated 10 guineas. But how to begin full repair? There was a war on. Men and materials were needed elsewhere and everything was in short supply. It wasn't until the introduction of the War Damage Act (UK) of March 1941 that a





External View of the damaged Church, taken from Upper Selsdon Road.

facility existed to pay compensation for war damage to property and possessions. It established the “War Damage Commission to compensate for damage to land, buildings, and “fixed” machinery from enemy action during WWII, funded through Exchequer contributions and parliamentary funds, setting up systems for payments (cost-of-works or value payments) and allowing relief from insurance obligations, ensuring a national response to the devastation”. The system was bureaucratic. As an example, Chapter 12 of the Act refers to Damage to Buildings and Goods and runs to 104 pages. Compensation would be paid based on a valuation of the property and goods or chattels as at 31st March 1939 and unsurprisingly the processes of valuation and payment were slow. Notwithstanding the potential financial compensation to be provided under the War Damage Act, fundraising continued. A garden party held at 179 Farley Road in July 1941 in aid of the St John’s Church Building Fund was attended by 240 people and £28 was raised and the estate of Mrs Chapman of 72 Upper Selsdon Road provided a legacy of £675 left to the church.

It wasn’t until 1943 that the organ was repaired. Work on repairing the damaged church eventually commenced just before Christmas 1948. The Croydon Advertiser reported that the works would not clash with the program of repairing damaged houses as the bricks for the Church were not of a type for house building and that special craftsmen were to be employed. The repaired church was re-hallowed by the Bishop of Croydon



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on Saturday 7th of May 1949. The building works were funded by the War Damage Commission to the sum of £6,550 and many of the furnishings were provided via contributions from parishioners. The area adjacent to the church where the original church hall had been was being cleared for a new permanent church hall.....



The first St. John's, about 1929: this later became the church hall

A bucolic scene of the 'temporary' hall / church, left, with children on the grass outside. Photo attributed to 1929. The structure was relatively flimsy as it was only supposed to last for a 5 year period.
This was demolished in the bombing of October 1940

Ian Leggatt

Ted Friths original article has spawned a series of closer looks at the origin of St Johns, the bombing during WW2 and the renewal and improvement of its facilities. Next month we will look at the replacement Hall. Photos of the bomb damage from the Croydon Library Archives, the grainy photo of the original Church/Hall and the view of the bomb damage are from a publication produced by St John's in 2011 and kindly loaned to me by a local resident.

~~

Chinese New Year 2026 – 17 February

Chinese New Year 2026 falls on Tuesday February 17th, starting a year of the Horse, specifically the Fire Horse, which lasts until February 5th 2027. In Chinese culture, a big New Year's Eve dinner is enjoyed on the evening of Monday 16 February.

Recent years of the Horse are 2026, 2014, 2002, 1990, 1978, 1966, 1954, 1942

and 1930. If you were born in one of the above years, then you are a Horse. Some famous people born in the Year of the Horse include



Historical Figures:

- Isaac Newton (1643) - Physicist & Mathematician
- Frédéric Chopin (1810) - Composer
- Theodore Roosevelt (1858) - U.S. President
- Nelson Mandela (1918) - South African President & Activist
- Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882) - U.S. President

Musicians:

- Paul McCartney (1942) - The Beatles
- Jimi Hendrix (1942) - Guitarist
- Brian Wilson (1942) - The Beach Boys
- Nicole Scherzinger (1978) - Singer

Actors & Actresses:

- Rita Hayworth (1918) - Classic Hollywood Star
- James Dean (1931) - Iconic Actor
- Halle Berry (1966) - Actress
- Jennifer Lawrence (1990) - Actress
- Rachel McAdams (1978) - Actress
- Margot Robbie (1990) - Actress

Other Notable Figures:

- Aldous Huxley (1894) - Author
- James Cameron (1954) - Director
- Emma Watson (1990) - Actress & Activist

Characteristics of the Horse: People born in the Year of the Horse are often seen as independent, enthusiastic, popular, quick-witted, and cheerful, enjoying social settings and taking centre stage when possible.

CJ

~~

The Winter Olympics take place between 6 – 22 February this year in Europe. How much do you know about this event?

Winter Olympics 2026 Quiz



1. The 2026 Winter Olympics will be held in which country?
2. In which sport do two teams of four players each, take turns sliding heavy, polished granite rocks? What are these rocks called?
3. What name describes the event in which downhill skiers must clear a series of gates by skiing around them in a zigzag course?
4. What is the Nordic skiing event in which the competitors combine rifle shooting and cross-country skiing?

5. Torvill and Dean won gold and became the highest-scoring figure skaters of all time at which city's Olympics? Can you name the year?
6. Which tropical nation debuted in the 1988 Winter Olympic Games four-man bobsleigh in Calgary?
7. First contested at the 1964 Winter Olympics, in which sport does a competitor or two-person team ride a flat sled while lying supine and feet first?
8. What are the four indoor Winter Olympic sports?
9. Six countries have won medals at every Winter Olympic Games – can you name them?
10. Name the most successful British Winter Olympian who has two gold medals, both in the women's skeleton?

Extra hard question for the 'black run' enthusiast

11. Name the only nation to win medals at the Winter Games but not at the Summer Games? (Hint: it's a European country)

Answers after the Nature Notes

~~

Power upgrade between Beddington and Addington

UK Power Networks is upgrading the electricity network between Beddington and Addington to maintain reliable electricity supplies for local homes and businesses. The investment project involves installing new underground cables on a 6.5km route between Beddington Grid and overhead electricity network in Addington.

Work started in October 2025 and is due to progress in stages throughout 2026. It involves digging a series of short trenches to install ducts (pipework) for new electricity cables. This keeps the length of the trenches, and the time they are left open, to a minimum. The team will return later to open smaller excavations, at intervals on the route, to pull through and connect the new cables.

Work is progressing along Mill Lane, between the junctions of Commerce Park and Purley Way, from January 12 to February 6, using temporary traffic lights and parking suspensions. It is also progressing on Hillside Road, between Cooper Road and Denning Avenue, from January 5 to 30

and work is scheduled on Denning Avenue, between Hillside Road and Warham Road junctions, from January 19 to February 28. These will also need temporary traffic lights to safely work in the road.

Work is also being planned in coordination with the local authority in the following roads: Waddon Road, Epsom Road, Warham Road, Nottingham Road, Barlett Street and Croham Valley Road. Work is complete on Duppas Road and Croham Road.

The project should have no impact on power supplies and access to properties will be maintained along the route. Anyone with specific access requirements is advised to contact a member of the on-site team for support.

UK Power Networks has a project web page which will be kept updated with the latest information on work locations and timescales: <https://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/beddington-to-addington>

~~



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.

~~

Can you answer this question from one of our residents?

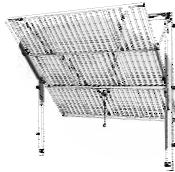
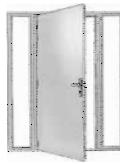
Dear Editor,

I was discussing with a friend where we worked and lived, and she said I used to work in Selsdon in the 60s or 70s down Dulverton Road. I said where did you work because it's all residential, and she said at the bottom of the road in a baby clinic, which she thinks was housed in a hall. I can find no trace of this, has anyone a memory of it?

Name and address supplied



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Here is the letter about a find from 1930.

Dear Editor,

Reading with interest the various articles relating to Selsdon's centenary in the SRA Gazette, reminded me of a minor discovery a few years back when our gas meter was replaced in our house in Foxearth Road. Tucked behind the meter was the original gas reading card from the Croydon Gas Co. Although faint, the first reading seems to be 13 July 1930 - which raises the question whether this was the earliest date that gas was available to the house?

The build date was 1925 so I wondered how the residents fared before that for cooking etc. if there was no gas supply. Perhaps it was just electricity from the start.

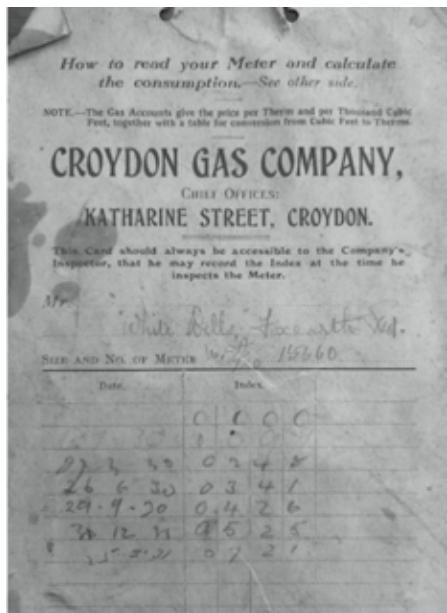
Incidentally, we never knew our house was called "White Wells" which is a rather nice name. It was one of the earlier Costain-built houses in the road and was apparently a doctor's surgery at some point, probably before the original detached house was converted into the current two dwellings.

Kind Regards,
Nevil Hagon

Here is the reply from the Gazette's local historian, Ian Leggatt

Nice find Nevil, I would guess that there are many such historical treasures papered over or lost down the cracks in the floor boards of those early Costain houses.

I know that when Farley Road (and by default Selsdon Garden Village) was officially declared open the Director of Costain made a speech during which he mentioned the difficulties they had had with regard to liaising with utility suppliers. Regards the date of first occupation I have to suggest it is most likely to be 1930, thus the gas meter ticket you have discovered is from 'new'.



I received a copy of a complaint made to Transport UK about their 433 bus service.

“It is time that you stop advertising the 433 as running to Croydon Central because, yet again today, I joined the bus at Selsdon Vale to travel to East Croydon Station but on reaching Fairfield Road, 2 stops from East Croydon, everyone was thrown off the bus because it turned around to go back to Addington.

This happens time and again, why are people more important travelling back to Addington than those who wish to finish their journey to central Croydon which at 9.20 am far outnumber those going the other way? Or do you just not employ sufficient drivers or have enough buses, which if true you should not be running the service.

Why can you not get to run your timetable properly. As the bus had been full, most of the people had to stand and wait in the rain because of insufficient room under the shelter.

This seems to happen every time now that I use the service. The Mayor for London keeps telling us what a good transport service we have, this obviously does not include the 433 service.”

Mike Gillott

Here is the reply that Mike received from Transport for London.

Dear Mr Gillott,

Thank you for reaching out and sharing your concerns regarding the 433 bus service.

I would like to sincerely apologise for the frustration and inconvenience you have experienced, especially being asked to disembark just two stops before your destination and having to wait in the rain due to overcrowding. I understand how upsetting it must be to face these repeated disruptions on your journey.

We understand that it can be frustrating when a bus does not reach its intended destination. The decision to shorten a bus route is made after thorough consideration.

Our controllers consistently monitor bus schedules to maintain efficient operations. However, unexpected situations, such as heavy traffic or road closures, may result in delays. In such instances, controllers may have to make the difficult choice to terminate a service early to prevent further delays along the route.

Once again, I'd like to apologise for the inconvenience made to your journey.

Mike sent this reply to Transport for London.

Thank you for your response. However, the repeated bad service that I describe is not due to heavy traffic or road closures but frequent bad management of the bus service. The bus ending its journey 2 stops before East Croydon Station is a repeated action leaving customers to walk the final part of their journey into central Croydon. For all, but especially elderly and infirmed passengers this is just not good enough.

I think your Controllers need to consider the welfare of their customers a little more.

I have since learnt that Transport UK have retained the 433 bus contract, together with the 109, 367 and 407, besides winning the 119 from Go-Ahead Metrobus.

~~

Here our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, tries to chase away the winter blues.

After the snow and ice has gone and it is now safe to walk on the pavements again, I gladly walked to the local shops. The wind didn't feel quite so cold, the sun was shining and then suddenly there was a really special sound - a woodpecker drilling. It really lifted my spirits even higher. Then on the way home, at exactly the same point in the road, I heard the drilling sound again. When my husband returned home and I told him about it, we went for a walk in the local park to try and see where the woodpecker was and which type it was. We are very lucky around here and have both green, and black and white woodpeckers in the park. We heard nothing in the evening but will continue to look from now on.



Also, when looking through the windows into the garden, the snowdrops are well up and I could see tiny white heads in places as they start to bloom.

Someone in a local road has a basket full of daffodils out in their garden. Usually 'The Rec' near the Brighton Road grows a long wavy line of daffodils and they will be out before long. If there is more snow to come, enjoy your snowballing, but when Spring comes with the start of warmer weather and colour, singing birds, budding leaves etc., we all feel more cheerful.

Not so many weeks before Spring now.

Poetry Corner

Mary Gill's poem this month looks at a very peaceful form of transportation.

TRANQUILLITY

Avon and Kennet -
in a horse-drawn canal boat.
When the chatter stops
the only sound we can hear
is the clip clop of the hooves.

Gliding soundlessly -
there is no engine throb -
just serenity.
Surely this must be the peace
that passeth understanding.



~~

Here Ted considers the birds of prey visiting the UK throughout the year.

Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth – Raptors (Birds of Prey)



Large birds of prey, like the native Golden Eagle and White-tailed Eagle, and the occasional winter visitors – Rough-legged Buzzard and Gyr Falcon, are able to continue to find food during winter. Many small prey species leave their breeding grounds and re-locate nearer the coast where winter conditions are milder, so that their predators follow suit. On coastal marshes in winter there will be concentrations of Peregrines, Merlin, Hen Harriers and Marsh Harriers. Dragonflies are not available in winter, and hirundines (swallows and martins) migrate to warmer regions of the planet, so their main predator, the Hobby, must migrate. Ospreys also migrate as icy conditions would make feeding impossible. A proportion of the UK populations of Red Kites, Common Buzzards, etc will join with migrating raptors of many species which are leaving breeding areas in the north and east of mainland Europe to converge on several crossing points to take them across the Mediterranean to Africa. At the Straits of Gibraltar there is an eight-mile stretch of sea that the birds

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must cross between Spain and Morocco. Once on the Moroccan side, they disperse along various routes to reach their chosen destination, even as far as South Africa for some individuals. They do not breed in the southern spring and summer but will feed to build up strength for the return journey to Europe.

As northward movement begins, some bird species gather in flocks which tend to be species-specific. For example, many Black Kites will fly together, as will Hobbies, but there is nothing preventing other species from joining these flocks. Being in a flock might offer some protection from predator attack.

In February, when the UK is probably experiencing the worst winter weather, streams of migrants are already at the Straits of Gibraltar. If flying weather is not suitable, there will be a build-up of waiting birds. When conditions improve, there is an inevitable surge as flocks or individual birds hasten to continue their journey. I have seen thousands of Black Kites make the crossing accompanied by smaller numbers of other species like Osprey, Red Kite, Black Stork and flocks of European Bee-eaters. Hobbies and Honey Buzzards are not present now as their feeding requirements demand summer conditions. They will tend to complete their journey in May.

Some flocks or individual birds prefer to choose different routes or might be blown off course by adverse weather conditions. It is not unusual for



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migrating birds to be flying over the Atlantic when trying to aim for Europe. We have had hundreds of Golden Orioles or Hoopoes arriving in the UK, usually in Cornwall or the Isles of Scilly, but the odd one can appear anywhere. In the past few years, the south of the country has seen at least two Short-toed Snake Eagles, a Booted Eagle, an Egyptian Vulture, a Black-winged Kite, and several other unexpected visitors. It is possible that climate change, and its effect on local weather patterns, might have something to do with this, so it would not be surprising if more unusual visitors arrived.

When raptors start to appear over Selsdon Wood there could be small flocks of Red Kites, some of which might be local birds while the others continue their journey. These birds should be looked at more closely in case one is a Black Kite. In May, any Buzzards should be checked for the presence of a passing migrant Honey Buzzard.

~~

Answers to the Winter Olympics Quiz

1. Italy
2. Curling Stones
3. Slalom
4. Biathlon
5. Sarajevo. 1984.
6. Jamaica
7. Luge
8. Speed skating, curling, figure skating, and ice hockey
9. Austria, Canada, Finland, Norway, Sweden, and the United States
10. Lizzy Yarnold
11. Liechtenstein

~~

EVENTS IN 2026

5 February - 14 March
6 – 22 February
17 February
22 February
28 February

Six Nations Rugby Union Championship (Men)
Winter Olympics, Milan-Cortina
Chinese New Year and Shrove Tuesday
BAFTA Film Awards
Brit Awards

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 5 - 8 March | Cruft's Dog Show, Birmingham |
| 5 March | Mothering Sunday |
| 15 March | The Oscars |
| 25 March | SRA AGM at St John's Church Hall at 8pm |
| 4 April | Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race |
| 5 April | Easter Sunday |
| 9 -11 April | Grand National meeting, Aintree Racecourse, Liverpool |
| 9 -12 April | Masters Golf in Augusta |
| 11 April – 17 May (Women) | Six Nations Rugby Union Championship |
| 18 April – 4 May | World Snooker Championship, Sheffield |
| 26 April | London Marathon |
| 16 May | Eurovision Song Contest, Vienna, Austria |
| 16 May | Men's FA Cup Final, Wembley Stadium |
| 19 - 23 May | Chelsea Flower Show |
| 31 May | Women's FA Cup Final, Wembley Stadium |
| 5 – 6 June | Derby Festival Epsom Downs Racecourse |
| 11 June – 19 July | Men's Football World Cup |
| 12 June – 5 July | ICC Women's T20 World Cup, London |
| 13 June | Trooping the Colour, London |
| 16 - 20 June | Royal Ascot, Berkshire |
| 21 June | Father's Day |
| 21 June | London to Brighton Bike Ride |
| 29 June – 12 July | Wimbledon Tennis Championship |
| 2 - 5 July | Formula 1 British Grand Prix weekend, Silverstone |
| 4 – 26 July | Cycling Tour de France |
| 9 - 12 July | RHS Badminton Flower Show |
| 9 July – 27 September | Buckingham Palace Opening |
| 16 – 19 July | 154 th British Open, Royal Birkdale, Southport |
| Mid July – 12 September | BBC Prom Concerts at the Royal Albert Hall |
| 23 July – 2 August | Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games |
| 7 - 29 August | Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Edinburgh |
| 7 – 31 August | Edinburgh Fringe Festival |
| 10 -16 August | European Athletics Championship, Birmingham |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 12 August | Total Solar Eclipse, Northern Spain, Iceland & Greenland |
| 29 – 31 August | Notting Hill Carnival |
| 6 September | SRA Community Day Selsdon Wood |
| 13 September | Great North Run, Newcastle |
| 11 – 20 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> |
| 12 – 20 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 |
| 7 – 18 October | BFI London Film Festival, Southbank, London |
| 1 November | London to Brighton Vintage Car Run |
| 8 November | Remembrance Sunday |
| 14 November | Lord Mayor's Show, London |
| 20 November | Children in Need Appeal |

~~

SELDON AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD



Would you like to join a group of ladies who enjoy a wide range of activities and meetings with interesting speakers? We meet usually on the third Friday afternoon in the month at The Community Hall, St. John's Church, Upper Selsdon Road, Selsdon from 1.30-4.00pm.

After a short business meeting on Friday 20th February, we will welcome a speaker who will tell us about 'My Life in Toy Theatre'. Following this there is time for tea and a chat.

During the month you can join groups held in members' homes for Handicrafts, Knit and Natter, Rummicub, Literary Group and Drama. There are also opportunities to join groups for outings, go on Theatre trips or eat with the Dining Club.

If you would like to find out more, please ring Christine 02086574861

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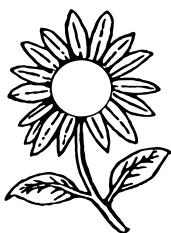
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Email: info@selsdoncontact.org.uk



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People Who Care

www.selsdoncontact.org.uk

Volunteer Shopping Bus Escorts Required: A Helping Hand on Every Journey



Contact, your Neighbourhood Care Scheme, runs a regular shopping bus scheme to Sainsbury's in Warlingham on a fortnightly basis. We usually run these trips on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons between 1pm and 4pm. On board our minibus we have volunteer bus escorts who support our clients during these shopping trips.

Are you looking for a meaningful way to give back to your community? Why not join our Shopping Bus Escort team, which offers a unique opportunity to help our elderly clients with mobility challenges who may need a little extra support to get out and about.

As a shopping bus escort, you will:

- Assist passengers in boarding and disembarking safely.
- Making sure seat belts are fastened.
- Support shoppers with navigating the store if needed, lend a helping hand and assist at the checkout where necessary.
- Ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone on the bus.

This role is perfect for people who are patient, friendly, and enjoy helping others. You don't need any special training—just a caring attitude and a willingness to lend a hand.

Time Commitment:

Flexible shifts are available, often a few hours per week, depending on your availability.

No long-term commitment is required—every helping hand counts!

If you are interested in a flexible, friendly and fulfilling role call the above number or email us to learn more and sign up. Training and support are provided to ensure you feel confident and prepared in your role. Look forward to hearing from you.

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SELDON FLOWER CLUB

We have pleasure in announcing that our Flower Club is continuing with the following programme for 2026 :
We are a small friendly club who meet on the second Wednesday afternoon of each month at 2pm at the rear of St. John the Divine Church, Selsdon. We have demonstrations, workshops and practices. All abilities welcome.



| | |
|-----------------|---|
| February 11 | Practice – “Love is in the air” |
| March 11 | Practice – “Spring Magic” |
| April 8 | Workshop with Jean Emmett “On a Pedestal” |
| May 13 | Demo – Melanie from Kane’s Florist |
| June 10 | Practice – “Coastal Scene” and Summer Social |
| July 8 | Summer Social with tea & cake and Practice – Summer Arrangement |
| August 12 | Tea and cake at Knights Garden Centre 2.30 |
| September 9 | Practice – “Dinner by Candlelight” |
| October 14 | Practice – “Autumn in a Basket” |
| November 11 | Demo – Graham Harman |
| December 2 | Christmas Social – Arrangement of own choice |
| January 13 2027 | AGM – Arrangement in a candlestick |

If you'd like to visit us for one of our meetings or find out more, please contact our Club Secretary, Maureen Browning, on Tel no 020 8651 5821 or 07961 862791.

~~



What's Next – **Quiz Night** Saturday 28^h March 2026 7.30pm (please note the change in the date from last month's Gazette), St Antony's Church Hall, Hamsey Green. Tickets cost £15 per person which includes a supper. Do put in a team and come along for a fun evening.

Sponsored Walk on Saturday 16 May at 10am, completing laps of Sanderstead Recreation Ground. You can as ever support the good cause of your choice, you collect sponsorship, and Rotary Sanderstead & Selsdon claims the gift aid against your sponsorship.

So don't miss out, get in touch and book your place to walk on the day. The route is good for children, dogs, families, in fact for everyone. Get in touch register, receive your sponsorship form & begin to collect your sponsorship. It promises to be a super day.

Don't miss out.

If you would like to join Rotary and put something back into the local community, please contact our secretary on 07774 186 792,

Secretary@rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com

~~



After a much-deserved break for our staff and volunteers, the Clubhouse is open once again and is already buzzing, not least of which is due to some restricted funding that has been generously donated by Croydon Almshouses for the coming year.

We have already seen an increase in clientele since our return on the 5th January, if you haven't experienced the activities and services that we offer to the community, please do pop in any day from 9-4 and we'd be delighted to show you around.

Have you thought about holding your event with us? Walking through the doors of the Clubhouse, you'll step into a bright and spacious furnished venue, thoughtfully divided into two flexible areas ideal for private events such as presentations (a smart TV is available), birthday parties, receptions and more. In addition, we offer a small private boardroom suitable for up to 10 people, as well as a fully equipped large kitchen area to support your event needs.

You will notice more community events taking place on a regular basis throughout this year, two of which are ward panel meetings and "cuppa with a copper," please keep an eye out on social media for full details. Our Carers' Support Hub will continue on the last Tuesday of every month, which aims to bridge the gap between carers and support services, whilst offering a welcoming and easily accessible space where carers can receive guidance, participate in activities, and connect with others in similar circumstances.

Did you know:



57% of carers feel overwhelmed

65% say they haven't had a proper break

55% feel councils don't recognise their needs

Even though we have got lots of great things to report, we are always in need of volunteers, who are the lifeline of our Clubhouse. If you have a couple of hours to spare and feel you could help with basic food prep, serving clients, driving the minibus or supporting as a passenger assistant, please do contact us. This is what one of our current volunteers says about her role as a minibus driver and occasional kitchen help:

“There was me thinking it was about time I ‘gave back’ to the community when I volunteered for the Clubhouse in 2022. Little did I know that volunteering would give me a whole new experience that keeps on giving. The clients are great and the rest of the Clubhouse community is fantastic. The hardest part to overcome when you become a volunteer is walking through the door to introduce yourself. Once you’re in, you will be surprised how rewarding it is to be in such an inclusive environment and how wide your smile can be after your day. I’ve thoroughly enjoyed doing something so different from my working life. Long may it continue.”

Our contact details are: Telephone: 0208 651 1111 or
email: office@selsdoncentre.org.uk
Website: www.selsdoncentre.org.uk

~~



**Croydon Camera Club
Wratten Lecture
10 years of Remembering Wildlife**

11 March 8pm Shirley Methodist Hall Tickets £8 on the door



Remembering Wildlife is the collective name for the series of books created by British wildlife photographer Margot Raggett MBE who was prompted to take action after seeing a poached elephant in Northern Kenya in 2014. She began asking fellow wildlife photographers if they would contribute to a fundraising book. Their response was unanimous and Remembering Elephants, by ‘Wildlife Photographers United’ was published in September 2016 with images donated by 65 of the world’s top wildlife photographers. The series has now sold more than 55,000 books and distributed more than £1.23 million to 80 different conservation projects in 34 countries across Africa, North and South America, Asia and Europe.

2026 sees 10 years of the Remembering Wildlife series and Croydon Camera Club is delighted that Margot Raggett is presenting this year’s Wratten Lecture.

~~

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Sanderstead Local History Group



Meetings take place in All Saints' Church Hall Sanderstead on the last Wednesday in the month, doors open at 1.45 pm, meeting at 2.00 pm, close to bus routes. The entrance fee is £2 per visit which includes a talk and refreshments. <https://www.sandersteadlhg.co.uk>

25 February: Stories behind some of the graves at All Saints' Sanderstead by Phil Swallow.

25 March: Croydon Carnival - Streets of Adventure by Phil Swallow & Richard Pacitti.

29 April: A Hat for a Clue, The First Murder on the Railway by Norma Shepherd.

27 May: Saving Tollsworth Manor, Chaldon by Gordon Gillett.

24 June: From Parish to Union. 19th century Croydon poor relief by Lizzie Mould.

29 July: Cranleigh Parade, Sanderstead Shops, (Part 2 of 3) by Brenda Hawkins.

~~



SANDERSTEAD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

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 Reformed 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, this is followed by a speaker and forthcoming talks include -: The History of Tollsworth Manor; Spitzbergen – in the Realm of the Polar Bear; Crown Jewels and Coronation; Scotland the Beautiful; The Lady with the Lamp; Great Lovers; Dirty Money (a history of money laundering); Boxers, Bandits and a Blind Beggar; and Life as a Jigsaw Puzzle.

We also have the following special interest groups you can join: - Gardening, Scrabble, Canasta, Board Games, Book Club, Walkers and Strollers, Lunch Club, Table Tennis and Arts-n-Crafts. Special outings are also arranged and forthcoming visits include Canterbury, Dover Castle, Blenheim Palace, Polesdon Lacey, Beth Chatto's Garden, and Nymans Garden. So, there is something to suit all tastes!

For further details please use our website or phone Linda Etheridge on 020 8657 6721.

A SELECTED LIST OF SELSDON ORGANISATIONS

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| 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 |

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| 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: SNMailbox-SelsdonandAddingtonVillageSNT@met.police.uk
Selsdon Vale & Forestdale SNMailbox-SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@metpolice.uk

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| The Selsdon Community Clubhouse | Liz O'Donoghue | 020 8651 1111 |
| Croydon Hearing Resource Centre | Office | 020 8686 0049 |
| Croydon Vision | | 020 8668 2486 |
| Cruse Bereavement Care Helpline | | 080 8808 1677 |
| Friends of Littleheath Woods | Ian Leggatt | via www.folw.co.uk |
| Friends of Selsdon Wood | | www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk |
| Sanderstead Plantation Partners | | michaellismund@gmail.com |
| Friends of Kingswood | | www.friendsofkingswood@hotmail.co.uk |
| Girlguiding (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section) | | 0800 999 2016 https://girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved |

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

www.1stselsdonscouts.org.uk

glv@5thsandascouts.org

Christopher Dean tinkerscorner@aol.com

Jean Aarons <https://tascroydonarea.org.uk>

Mike Bond 07704 413668

Wendy Parr 07774 186792

John Davis 020 8640 4578

Fiona Hooper 07973 412952

Bob Steadman 07545 384899

Betty Borfiga 020 8656 4212

Cottie Campbell selsdonhall.info@gmail.com

Maureen Browning 020 8651 5821

Christine Holland 020 8657 4861

www.sandersteadhs.org

sandersteadlhg@gmail.com

Jeff Pullen 079568 29842

Jane Guglielmi 020 8657 6672

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