

The Selsdon — Gazette —

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January 2025



THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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Front cover: Jessica Lowe, Winner of the Design the Cover Competition.

Back cover: Christmas Post Box Topper at the top of Kingsway Avenue - before it was stolen!

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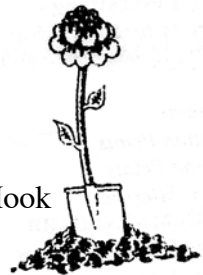
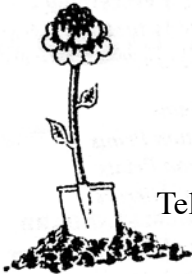
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Cllr Joseph Lee Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk 07458 092567

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



Happy New Year to Everyone. 2025 is a special year in the history of the Selsdon Residents' Association as it will mark its 100th year, with January 2026 being its official hundredth birthday. We have many events planned for the twelve months leading up to this landmark anniversary: read more about this in February's Gazette. January is traditionally the time for New Year resolutions so why not make one of yours to get involved in some of our events and enter our competitions.

In this edition, we have reports about the Christmas Lights switching on event and Santa visiting our roads in the evenings throughout December. As you read this, the wonderful Selsdon Christmas Lights have been switched off for another year but we are planning a new display next year, to celebrate the SRA's 100th birthday.

We have our useful news from our local Councillors and MP and crime statistics for our area from the Police. Our gardening guru has us looking forward to getting some colour back into our gardens and our regular letters contributor has us considering holidaying in the UK this year. As we have now passed the Winter Solstice, Mary Gill has a poem about how time can pass both too quickly and too slowly. Ted Forsyth, in his Nature Notes, considers teamwork shown by different species, while Ian Leggatt, in his series of articles about the development of Selsdon, considers the original house names used by the first houses built by Costains. Janet Sharp gives us two articles: one giving us information about the Welfare State; the other reflecting on past music and dance venues in the Croydon area.

As 2025 starts, we have a quiz to test your knowledge of the events from last year, and did you know that the Chinese New Year is the Year of the Snake? 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).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Chris Jones

🌀 SUBMISSIONS FOR THE FEBRUARY 2025 EDITION
SHOULD BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN
20TH JANUARY - PREFERABLY BEFORE! 🌀



SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS

News from our Green Areas

Selsdon Wood has applied to become part of the Surrey Hills Area of Natural Beauty which helps this area get the recognition it deserves.

Elm Farm on Farleigh Common will be leased to Surrey Wildlife Trust for the next 35 years. The farm had been tenanted by at least three generations of the same family but the next generation showed no interest. SWT want to use the fields for some grazing/rewilding and the farm buildings to shelter their animals in bad weather. We hope to hear more next year about this project.

Good Tidings to all Residents

The Christmas Lights switch-on was a great success with Father Christmas arriving on time to great excitement from the crowd and wonderful singing from the children of Selsdon Primary School to whom we give a big thank you and to the staff who organised it.

Others to mention are the Rotary, Sanderstead and Selsdon, the Village Club, Enterprise Electronics for the PA system, the Baptist Church, the Police for attending on their rest day, and all the volunteers both leading up to the night and on the evening.

We also want to thank the following traders for their donations for which we are very grateful.

El Patio	Hubbard & Torlot	Selsdon Nails
Gem Nails	Kiba	Sun Lounger
Golden Ark	Royal Tandoori	Tudor Library
Mr Dry Clean	Salon Seven	AS Grooming

I wish good health to you all, **Sheila Childs, Chair SRA**

COUNCILLORS' NOTES

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND A HAPPY 100TH ANNIVERSARY TO SELSDON

Happy New Year to all the residents of Selsdon. 2025 is an important year for Selsdon as it marks 100 years since the first properties were built by Costains, this was quickly followed by properties built by Wates and Wimpey. Members of the Selsdon Residents' Association, Friends of Local Groups and local Councillors have been meeting to discuss how to best celebrate this anniversary. Some of the suggestions include:-

A series of walks around the parks and open spaces in the local area.

'100 faces of Selsdon' - celebrating some famous faces but also unsung heroes and faces that represent the diverse community that make up Selsdon.

A historical pictures display, hopefully on the inside windows of Sainsburys (facing outwards)

Selsdon Residents' Association's Tea 'n Cake Event

There are various pots of funding that might help us put on events, some examples are shown in the links below:-

<https://www.culturecroydon.com/announcing-new-grants-scheme-for-music-gigs/>

<https://www.culturecroydon.com/croydon-loves-you-is-back-grants-available/> (Although this grant pot is currently closed, we know there will be a new round in 2025).

Councillors and residents are currently working to explore these ideas, but if you have a suggestion on how the community can celebrate this important anniversary, please do let us know (Contact details below).

UPDATE ON UK PROSPERITY FUNDING

Since the last update Council Officers and Residents have undertaken a 'walk about' around the local area to identify the best locations for the new 'Wayfinder' signs, that are going to make it easier to find the parks and green spaces that surround the Selsdon area. A further meeting has taken place to give feedback and agree the designs of the new sign posts. The new posts will be installed in 2025 and it is hoped will form part of the 100th anniversary celebrations.



NEW SIGN AT SELSDON RECREATION GROUND

Following the improvements to the playground equipment in 2024, your local Councillors have been campaigning to get the old rusty sign in the park replaced. We are pleased to report that the new sign is now in place and gives the current, correct contact and emergency service information.

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

24/04218/LP - 61 Kingswood Way South Croydon CR2 8QN

Removal of existing rear additions, introduction of part 4 metre, part 8 metre larger home extension to extend solely beyond original rear of house (following prior approval on 5th December 2024 under reference 24/03656/GPDO), erection of single storey extension to side of original dwelling, front porch addition, and introduction of rear dormer, two front rooflights and one obscured glazed rooflight on western flank roof slope.

24/04156/HSE - 147 Selsdon Park Road South Croydon CR2 8JJ

Demolition of an existing garage, porch and side/rear wrap-around and erection of a part single, part two storey front and side extension, and a

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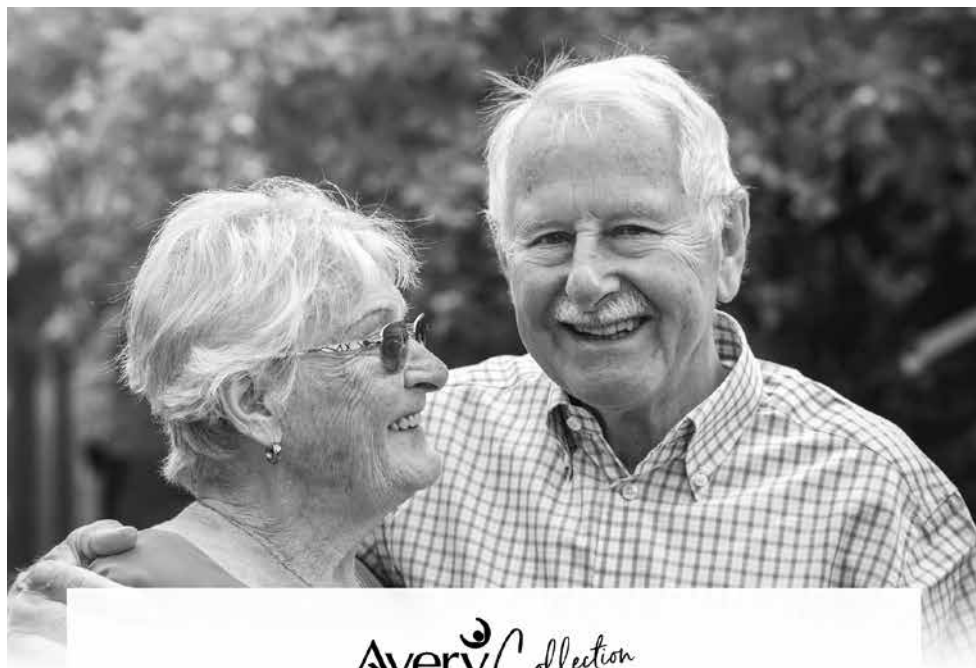
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single storey rear extension.

(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,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a New Year Celebration.

Thank you to everyone who braved the bad weather to attend my coffee morning on 7th December. It has been wonderful hearing from you about what improvements need to be made to your area, what you like and what I should be focusing on during my time in Parliament. One of the issues that continues to be raised at these events is the limited access to cash and the lack of a bank on Selsdon High Street. I have been in touch with LINK, an independent organisation that monitors access to cash and banking services, to see if there are any new services that could be installed. I am pleased to say that LINK is now undertaking a review of Selsdon High Street and will be assessing if it would be a good location for a banking hub. I will update you with their assessment as soon as I get it.

In Parliament, the government announced £1 billion in funding to support local councils to tackle homelessness. My office has dealt with 164 temporary accommodation cases since July and housing is the biggest issue facing many people in Croydon East. So, it is welcome news that Croydon Council will be receiving £15 million to tackle homelessness. In addition, Croydon Council will be part of a pilot scheme that seeks to end the use of Bed and Breakfasts for temporary accommodation. With 3,214 Croydon residents placed into temporary accommodation last year, this can't come soon enough.

On November 27th, I joined Minister Alex Davies-Jones at Croydon Family

Court to launch a new pilot scheme aimed at tackling domestic violence. The new Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs) combine the strongest elements of current protective orders into one flexible order.

A DAPO can:

- Stop someone coming to or near your home
- Decide who can stay or return to your home
- Order the person to attend a behavioural change programme
- Order the person to wear an electronic tag to check they're keeping to the conditions of the order

Victims can apply for an order themselves or a friend or family member can apply on their behalf. To find out more about DAPOs or to get support please visit the government website.

Finally, I have been contacted by residents about the poor performance of the 443 bus route. I have written to TFL who have acknowledged that the service has not been running as it should. TFL are now working with the operator to develop plans to improve the situation.

As ever, if there are any issues you wish to raise with me or to book an appointment at one of my advice surgeries, please email natasha.irons.mp@parliament.uk X (formerly Twitter): @NDIrons

Natasha Irons MP

Member of Parliament for Croydon East

~~



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Statistics from Local Wards October 2024

Here are the breakdowns of crimes during October for our local police wards.

Crime	Selsdon and Addington Village	Selsdon Vale and Forestdale
Violence & sexual offences	9	19
Anti-social Behaviour	9	8
Vehicle crime	3	8
Burglary	4	2
Criminal damage & arson	3	4
Drugs	3	7
Public order	2	1
Robbery	3	2
Shoplifting	1	4
Theft from person	2	1
Other theft	1	4
Other crime	2	3
Total number of crimes reported in October 2024	42	63

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
Selsdon Vale & Forestdale: SelsdonandForestdale@met.police.uk

The Gazette Needs Help



Deliverers needed for:

Ambleside Gardens - 57 copies

Teal & Dove Close - 27 copies

Once a month, except August, you will be given your gazettes to deliver. If you are away on holiday, cover can be arranged. Please consider helping us out..

Please contact our Editor, Chris Jones
selsdongazettesra@gmail.com

Christmas Lights Switch On



On Friday 29 November Father Christmas made his way on his sleigh down our High Street for the annual Christmas Lights switch on at 5pm. Before he arrived the waiting crowd of residents were treated to carols sung by children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 at Selsdon Primary School. The Headteacher, Mr Feitor, thanked the Selsdon Residents' Association

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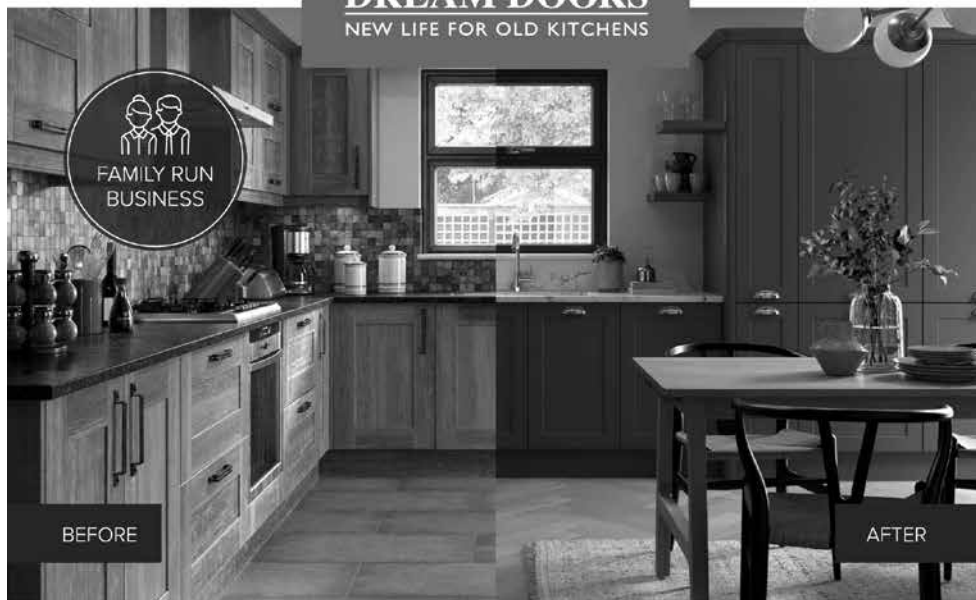
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for funding the Christmas Lights from donations and the Rotary Club of Sanderstead and Selsdon for providing Father Christmas. Additional thanks were given to all the stewards who braved the cold conditions to ensure that the event ran smoothly.

Father Christmas eventually made his way to his grotto outside Iceland where he greeted the children and gave them lollipops. Here he is with Sophie and Maisie.



It was good to see several generations of families turn up for the switch on, with children accompanied by parents and grandparents.

Lastly, a big thank you to Linda Morris, who was again masterminded the whole event.

Su Yates

~~

Good Time for Gardening – January



It's grey! It's dull! Time to seek out some colour in our lives along with signs of warmer, brighter times ahead. All of the following plants/bulbs/shrubs will be showing some colour over the next few weeks. Please remember that the seasons and the weather can be a bit of a moveable feast. Both very cold and warmer temperatures will have an impact on the garden. At the moment the bulbs all look to be shooting up for early blooming.

- ~ winter jasmine – pale yellow, unscented flowers which appear before the leaves;
- ~ silk tassel bush – long pendulous catkins;
- ~ hellebores – various colours; pale pink, cream, pale green or even deep maroon;
- ~ crocus – best planted in groups. These return each year.

- ~ snowdrops **
- ~ camellia – very showy blooms and glossy leaves;
- ~ primroses – delicately scented;
- ~ viburnum – delicate pink, strongly scented flowers
- ~ early daffodils – possibly 'February Gold' or 'Tete a Tete'
- ~ winter flowering honeysuckle – small blooms with a sweet scent;
- ~ winter flowering clematis – evergreen with bell shaped flowers; grows best against a wall;
- ~ winter flowering pansies – many different colours and extremely hardy plants.

** RHS Wisley has a self-guided winter walk ... if you can cope with junction 10 on the M25!

If you do visit, go into the Alpine House to see their collection of snowdrops.

Wisley used to hold the National Collection of Snowdrops. Nowadays they are kept behind locked glass doors due to visitors stealing the bulbs!!



Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid

Please note new website address www.sandersteadhs.org



SELDON 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



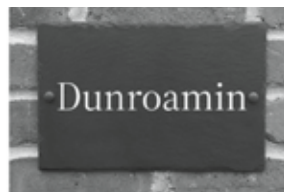
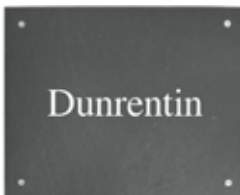
Selsdon's Early Costains Housing – Whats in a name? (2)



We have previously seen, back in January 2021, that Costains were fond of naming their new roads in honour of family, local place names and sister projects. It appears that Liverpool celebrated the growing company with its own street.

We readily accept that a property will have a number as part of its postal address with which to identify it. The new occupants of the Selsdon houses in 1925 taking up residence in Queenhill, Byron and Upper Selsdon Roads had no such means with which to identify their property. They were faced with houses with no numbering system to identify them. The Postal Museum, in their History of House Numbering reveals that allocating and managing house numbers was the responsibility of the Local Authority since 1855. In 1925 Selsdon fell under the control of The Coulsdon and Purley Urban District Council, so it would be they who were to allocate postal numbers to the new houses. That seems not to have happened immediately.

The first committee members of what would turn out to be The Selsdon Residents' Association are listed in January 1926 as residing at 'Newlands', 'Homeleigh', 'St Albans', 'Homestead' and 'Ingle Nook' in Byron Road and 'Lynedoch' in Upper Selsdon Road. The locations of the houses bearing those names are, perhaps, now lost. It appears to have been fashionable with the aspiring middle class to name one's property in an effort to emulate the grander Victorian or Edwardian Villa. 'The Old Forge' or 'The Old Dairy' presumably would relate to the previous use of the building. 'Glen View' or 'Tree Tops' could be derived from the view from the property. Closer to home we had a grand house called Langley Oaks, down Upper Selsdon Road, which is now remembered in Ridge Langley and Langley Oaks Avenue. No such luxuries in the new Selsdon houses. Our fledgling committee members, bearing in mind that another epithet for the quickly expanding Selsdon was 'The Honeymoon Village', may have been attempting to convey an air of happiness, comfort or anticipation with their Byron Road house names. It is not known whether some wags decided to amuse their neighbours with these house names:



In my own section of Queenhill Road, there is still to be found 'Lyndhurst' adorning the entrance to a house. Albert Arthur Beach purchased the then new house for £650 on 9th June 1926 and his address was given as at Lawson Road, Southsea, Portsmouth. One wonders what stories are locked up in the saga of moving from a small Victorian terraced property in Somerstown, then a deprived area near the dockyards of Portsmouth, to a new semi-detached 3 bedroom home in leafy Surrey. It would seem that perhaps there were fond memories of Lyndhurst in the New Forest? The present owner is not known to have any such attachments to the New Forest but values the original name plaque as an interesting piece of social history.



Lyndhurst,
Left and 52
Lawson Road,
Portsmouth,
Right



A street directory of 1937 reveals that, literally closer to home, my own house was owned by a James Verity and the house was named 'Elgie'. My immediate neighbours' houses were named 'Francoombe', 'Colwyn' and 'Oakley'. By this time the houses also had postal numbers and while these have remained, the names have gradually disappeared. As 'late' as 1966 a letter addressed to the owner of No 1 Foxearth Spur specified 'Derwydd' in the first line of the address. Derwydd is in Carmarthenshire, Wales. There are few house names remaining – a stroll around reveals 'Treetops' in Littleheath Road and 'Northside' on the north side of the road. In Byron Road can be found 'Tregantle' which is also the name of a beach in south east Cornwall overlooked by a 19th Century fort.

Ian Leggatt

With thanks to S M for sharing the title deeds and the almost 99 yr old name plate with me. Google Maps provided the image of the Costain Street sign and Lawson Road. The 'Duns' were mocked up by me using a house name plaque website.

If you know of any other surviving examples of house name plates, would you please contact the editor with details?



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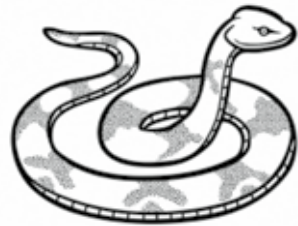


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Chinese New Year 2025 – 29 January

Chinese New Year 2025 falls on Wednesday, January 29th, starting a year of the Snake which lasts until February 16 2026. In Chinese culture, a big New Year's Eve dinner is enjoyed on the evening of Tuesday 28 January. Recent years of the Snake are 2025, 2013, 2001, 1989, 1977, 1965, 1953, 1941 and 1929. If you were born in one of the above years, then you are a Snake. Some famous people born in the Year of the snake include:

Mahatma Gandhi: Born in 1869
Pablo Picasso: Born in 1881
Franklin D. Roosevelt: Born in 1882
John F. Kennedy: Born in 1917
Audrey Hepburn: Born in 1929
Anne Frank: Born in 1929
Bob Dylan: Born in 1941
Oprah Winfrey: Born in 1953
J.K. Rowling: Born in 1965
Emmanuel Macron: Born in 1977
Taylor Swift: Born in 1989
Billie Eilish: Born in 2001
Prince George: Born in 2013



In Chinese culture, the snake is a symbol of intelligence, charm, mystery, and elegance. People born in the Year of the Snake are said to be wise, sympathetic, and enigmatic. Some say they are also quick-thinking and intelligent, but can also be dishonest and prone to showing off.

CJ

~~

Welfare State – Social Protection

After the two World Wars ordinary people of Britain wanted a fairer, better place to live.

The UK Welfare State was introduced to offer social protection and aids to equality such as access to health care, education and income security. As we know the Welfare State is paid for from taxation. It is also reliant on a network of voluntary groups working alongside.



The welfare system has been under some reform and financial strain due to changing societal needs, rising costs, life expectancy and population. This may lead some people in need to think that they do not want to claim “handouts” or other help from an overburdened system. However, getting help sooner may mean that you then will need less help later. As part of the community, you should have both the opportunity to contribute and know others are there for you.

Do you know what benefits, social protection you might be offered/entitled to?

Some benefits are not restricted to those on a low income. For example, the elderly or disabled who require personal support for day to day living at home are entitled to an ‘Attendance Allowance’. Carers might be entitled to an allowance or if missing days of work could claim some replacement NI contributions towards their state pension. These are just two examples.

If you are struggling or in need and don’t know what is available to help there are voluntary organisations that can help:

Citizens Advice is a network of charities that can help navigate the system.
<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/benefits-introduction/>

Turn2us offers information about benefits and online ‘calculators’ to see what you may be able to access.
<https://www.turn2us.org.uk/get-support/information-about-benefits>

Locally you can speak to a volunteer at Selsdon Contact – Neighbourhood Care. Based at the Selsdon Community Centre. They offer practical help and advice. Telephone: 020 8651 4944, info@selsdoncontact.org.uk

Janet Sharp

~~

It is that time of the year to look back at the past year, 2024, and test your knowledge of it with 24 questions, not 2024 questions!

Quiz of the Year 2024

1. The release of which TV show prompted then Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to say he would overturn and compensate hundreds of postmasters?

2. Raye made history at the BRIT awards by winning a record number of wins, so how many awards did she win?
3. Which country became the 32nd to join NATO?
4. In May what natural phenomenon, previously unable to be seen from the UK, was visible?
5. A film came out in June which was the first to overtake Barbie in the Box Office, making \$1.46 billion worldwide. What film was it?
6. Who won the men's singles at Wimbledon?
7. In July Keir Starmer became Prime Minister, but when was the last time we had a Labour Prime Minister prior to this?
8. Team GB athlete Bryony Page made history by bringing home our first-ever Olympic gold medal in her particular sport. But in which sport did she win gold?
9. The price of a first-class stamp went up by 22% on 7 October. How much does it now cost to post a standard first-class letter?
10. Which iconic toy, with six sides and six distinctive colours, was named after its Hungarian inventor and this year celebrated its 50th birthday?
11. Which currency turned 25 in 2024, having first been introduced on New Year's Day 1999?
12. It was 50 years ago this year that ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest in Brighton. What was the name of the group's winning song?
13. A scrap of what was incorporated into each of the medals awarded at the 2024 Summer Olympic Games in Paris?
14. Which crafty sportsman announced his retirement following the 2024 Paris Olympics and has since released his own range of knitting yarn?
15. If Kamala Harris had been elected President of the United States, who would have been Vice President?



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16. Nemo won the 2024 Eurovision Song Contest with an entry called The Code. Which country were they representing?
17. What 2024 kitchen essential did the Office for National Statistics add to the basket of goods it uses to calculate the rate of inflation? Air fryers, capsule coffee machines or non-dairy milk?
18. Dame Maggie Smith died in September this year. She will be remembered for her performances as Jean Brodie (in The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie), Professor Minerva McGonagall in the Harry Potter series, and... who in Downton Abbey?
19. Who announced in November that she is to step down from the BBC Radio 2 breakfast show after six years in the hot seat?
20. Which Netflix seven-parter was one of the most talked-about miniseries of 2024, telling the stories of Donny Dunn and Martha Scott, and what happened after their chance meeting in the pub where Dunn worked?
21. This year marked the 65th anniversary of Valerie Hunter being awarded a patent for the Paddi, the first of which she made using old nylon parachutes, tissue and cotton wool. We still use a variation on the Paddi today, but what was it?
22. After 51 matches the UEFA European Football Championship (for men) came to an end in July. It was hosted by Germany and won by... who?
23. In July, a rogue software update caused a widespread outage of Microsoft Windows technology, causing chaos in supermarkets, rail stations and airports. What is the name of the cybersecurity company which caused the outage?
24. It's shown at the end of every BBC TV broadcast: what is 2024 in Roman numerals?

Answers after Nature Notes



We welcome your letters so do **please get in touch** if you have something to share with Selsdon residents.

Please remember to state your name, address, contact number and publication anonymity requirements in **all** correspondence to the Editor. Anonymity can be granted on request, but anonymously sent letters/e-mails will not be published.



Here our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, whets our appetite for holidaying in the UK

Choosing a Holiday at Home.

Happy New Year.

When Christmas and the New Year celebrations are over, there comes a fascinating time when we look at possibilities for summer holidays. Personally, we are no longer going abroad, so we ask ourselves, where haven't we ever been to in our own country? It is amazing how many places there are.

This year, I have noticed several places have decided to put on a Christmas pantomime about Robin Hood. We have never visited Nottingham. Have you? It should be interesting to see where shoes were made - that is what the town was famous for, and of course Boots the Chemist was founded in Nottingham too. I want to go to Sherwood Forest and see where Robin Hood used to live together with Friar Tuck and the others, and of course the Sheriff of Nottingham. (Oh yes, I do!)



Further north on the Eastern Coast there is Scarborough. There is a comedy programme about Scarborough but I would like to see the town for myself. Alnwick is also on the Eastern side, in Northumberland with its Viking heritage. The open water of Malham Tarn which has a slate base formed by a glacier is worth a trip, and further North there is Lindisfarne (Holy Island) and the causeway to the island, and further still, Berwick-on-Tweed.

On the West side we have been to Barrow-in-Furness and found it very interesting. It is many years since we stayed in Manchester, but we were diverted around it when there was trouble on the motorway the other year,

and we couldn't believe some of the unusual buildings which have been built around the airport alone. Probably worth another visit.

One place I have always wanted to visit is "The Giant's Causeway" and it is more accessible in Northern Island than in Scotland, but in the Shetland Islands, Scotland there is the 'Up Helly Aa' (Scotland's Viking Festival), to celebrate the passing of the shortest days of the year, hundreds of men from the Shetland Islands channel their inner Vikings, carry torches through the black of the night and burn a purpose-built wooden Viking ship. Up Helly Aa takes place in Lerwick on the last Tuesday in January every year.



The castles in Wales are enjoyable, as are their national parks. Chester is close by and is well worth a visit. It is a walled city and a pleasure to wander around. Finally, in South Wales, I have never been to 'The Royal Mint' in Wales, where not only is our money made, but it is made for other countries too.

In fact, there is just not the room to mention everywhere that I would like to explore. The weather may be hotter and sunnier overseas, but it can rain there too. In the UK it is so beautiful and interesting off the beaten track. Motorbikes on The Isle of Man could prove exciting, as is stock car racing in Eastbourne.

Why not research places to visit in the UK and see what you think?

~~

Poetry Corner

With the start of another year, I thought it would be a good opportunity to feature a poem from Mary Gill about the passing of time.

THE WEIGHT OF WAITING

Time hangs heavy
while we wait for it to pass.
Each second stretches
interminably.

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But nothing happens -
nothing changes -
except the anxious ache
wound tighter and tighter.

Will he? Won't she?
Was I good enough?
What do the tests reveal?
What was the outcome?

Even waiting for a bus
can be stressful
If we have a deadline
and it is running late.

Time plays tricks
with our senses.
Time on our hands
is a sluggish thing.

But there is never enough
to get everything done.



~~

Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth – Teamwork

I regularly have three badgers in the back garden in the evening, visiting to investigate the small amount of food I put out for them. They arrive as individuals and initially behave quite calmly. However, once the food supply dwindles beyond a certain point their behaviour changes. They become more selfish, claiming the remaining food for themselves by lying on top of it, or using their bodies to slam into each other. Teamwork is not a term to apply to the behaviour of these animals.



For other creatures – particularly members of the so-called social insects such as ants, termites, honey bees, etc – teamwork is an essential part of their lives. In a hive of honey bees, whether in an artificial hive or in a natural cavity in a tree, the solitary queen bee spends

her time pumping out eggs. She is attended by many workers who tend and clean her and supply her with food. They also remove the eggs as they are laid and transfer them to brood cells, created from wax obtained from glands on their bodies, where the hatched-out grubs are reared and looked after until they eventually emerge as new worker bees. Some bees leave the hive in search of nectar and pollen to feed the members of the hive community and will store some of the material in the form of honey which is needed to keep them alive over winter. Hornets will eat honey bees but there are occasions when a number of bees will get together to pile on top of the marauding hornet and might raise its temperature sufficiently to kill it. Each bee can use its solitary barbed sting, which it can withdraw from an insect victim, but in human skin the barb is held fast so the bee is sacrificing its life as the sting gets ripped from its body and the bee dies.

The large Common (or possibly German) Wasps, which trouble people when they are having a picnic, have a different lifestyle. Rather than return from a foray with nectar and pollen, they bring back insects and caterpillars as food, or they scrape at wooden surfaces and create a papery substance which they use to build their nest in a suitable cavity, frequently in the ground. They also feed upon ripening fruit and can become drunk when the fruit is over-ripe. Each wasp has a sting without barbs which can be withdrawn from the victim and used again. As they do not store food for the winter, once new queens leave on their mating flight, the remaining inhabitants of the colony will die.

The fearsome Hornet looks like a large wasp but is in fact much more docile and is less of a problem if not disturbed. They normally nest in a cavity in a tree or elsewhere. I have had hornets enter my garage through a small gap then proceed to build a nest which eventually reached a size of at least 16 inches (40 cm). Towards the end of the season the queen lays eggs which become males and queens rather than workers. The males and new queens fly off to start a new colony, with the new mated queen hibernating until spring. The old queen and her colony then die. There have been cases recently in the south of England of the yellow-legged Asian Hornet building nests. The nests are usually destroyed when found as these hornets are voracious feeders on Honey Bees and other pollinators.

Teamwork of a different sort is involved in winter when a number of small bird species join together in a mixed flock and forage together

through a wood. A flock could contain a selection of Blue-, Great-, Coal-, Marsh-, or Longtailed Tits, Tree Creeper, Nuthatch (see picture on right), Great and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers. The movement of the flock at different levels in vegetation might disturb various invertebrates and make it easier for members of the flock to find scarce food.



While predators in UK are usually solitary there are many cases in other parts of the world where that is not the case. Lions and Hunting Dogs in Africa, Wolves in North America, Orcas in the oceans, all hunt cooperatively as their normal way of obtaining food. Some large birds of prey will hunt in pairs to flush out their prey but the classic avian example of cooperative hunting has to be the Harris Hawk of the southern United States where small groups of, possibly related birds, combine to chase their prey on the ground.

~~

Answers to the Quiz of the Year 2024

1. Mr Bates vs The Post Office
2. 6
3. Sweden
4. The Northern Lights
5. Inside Out 2
6. Carlos Alcaraz
7. Gordon Brown served as Prime Minister from 2007 to 2010
8. Trampolining
9. £1.65, and for a large first class letter it's £2.60 after an increase of 24% on that rate
10. Rubik's Cube, which has since become the most popular puzzle in the world.
11. The euro, although the first coins and notes weren't introduced for a further three years.
12. Waterloo.
13. A scrap of iron from the original construction of the Eiffel Tower.
14. Tom Daley
15. Tim Walz
16. Switzerland, so the 2025 contest will be hosted in Basel.
17. Air fryers. It also added vinyl music sales after the format enjoyed a

- revival
18. Violet Crawley, the dowager countess of Grantham.
 19. Zoe Ball
 20. Baby Reindeer, in which Donny Dunn was played by Richard Gadd, who wrote the series off the back of an autobiographical one-man-show.
 21. The world's first disposable nappy. An estimated 3 billion disposable nappies are thrown away every year in the UK.
 22. Spain, for the fourth time. England came second.
 23. CrowdStrike
 24. MMXXIV

~~

Words of the Year 2024



The main dictionaries have been announcing their 'words of the year'. How many do you know and use?

Oxford University Press

“**Brain rot**” was chosen as the Oxford Word of the Year for 2024. The word was selected after a public vote and language analysis by Oxford lexicographers. The word “brain rot” was first recorded in Henry David Thoreau’s 1854 work, *Walden*.

Brain rot	"Brain rot" is a term that refers to the supposed deterioration of a person's mental or intellectual state. It's often used to describe the result of consuming material that's considered to be trivial or unchallenging.
Demure (adj)	Of a person: reserved or restrained in appearance or behaviour. Of clothing: not showy, ostentatious or overly revealing
Dynamic pricing (n)	The practice of varying the price for a product or service to reflect changing market conditions; in particular, the charging of a higher price at a time of greater demand
Lore (n)	A body of supposed facts, background information, and anecdotes relating to someone or something regarded as knowledge required for full understanding or informed discussions of the subject in question
Romantasy (n)	A genre of fiction combining elements of romantic fiction and fantasy, typically featuring themes of adventure alongside a central romantic storyline.
Slop (n)	Art, writing, or other content generated using artificial intelligence, shared and distributed online in an indiscriminate or intrusive way, and characterised as being of low quality, inauthentic, or inaccurate



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Collins Dictionary has announced its Word of the Year as 'brat'.

The word "brat" was inspired by Charli XCX's album and is defined as "characterised by a confident, independent, and hedonistic attitude".

Brat (n)	Characterized by a confident, independent, and hedonistic attitude
Brainrot (n)	An inability to think clearly caused by excessive consumption of low quality online content
Antitourism (n)	Opposition to or action against large scale tourism
Delulu (adj)	Utterly mistaken or unrealistic in one's expectation
Romantasy (n)	A literary genre that combines romantic fiction with fantasy
Supermajority (n)	A large majority in a legislative assembly that enables a government to pass laws without effective scrutiny
Yapping (n)	Talking at length, especially about inconsequential matters
Era (n)	A period of one's life or career that is of a distinctive character
Looksmaxxing (n)	Attempt to maximise the attractiveness of one's physical appearance
Rawdogging (n)	The act of undertaking an activity, without preparation, support or equipment.

Cambridge Dictionary

"Manifest" was chosen as the Cambridge Dictionary Word of the Year for 2024. The word "manifest" means "to imagine achieving something you want, in the belief that doing so will make it more likely to happen".

CJ

~~

SELSDON FLOWER CLUB



Selsdon Flower Club is 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. Subscription £30 per annum. (£15 half year). We have demonstrations and practices. All abilities welcome.

Our programme for 2025 is as follows:

- January 8 AGM with tea, cake and an arrangement in a wine glass
- February 12 Practice – "A Touch of Frost"

March 12	Demo – Melanie of Kane’s Florist
April 9	Practice - “Spring Surprise”
May 14	Demo – Graham Harmer
June 11	Practice – “Summer Holiday Cocktail”
July 9	Summer Tea – Practice – Arrangement “On a Pedestal”
August 13	Coffee at Knights Garden Centre 10.30am
September 10	Practice – “End of Summer”
October 8	Demo – Melanie of Kane’s Florist
November 12	Workshop- Jean Emmett
December 3	Get Together with Christmas Arrangement “by Candlelight”
January 14 th 2026	AGM – Tea and cakes and arrangement TBA

Please contact the Secretary - Maureen Browning on 020 8651 5821 or 07961 862791 for more information

~~

The Selsdon Centre

The Selsdon Centre for the Retired would like to thank everyone for their generous support over the past year.



We have ended on a high note with lots of new clients, staff and Trustees and very soon we’ll have a whole new look and name too - watch this space!

We will be welcoming a new hairdresser to the Centre in January for anyone in the community, 60 or over, and will continue to offer our popular nail cutting/basic footcare

service, which gets booked up very quickly!

In addition, we will be opening a carers’ cafe at the end of January and every last Tuesday of the month thereafter.

Many new clients are now attending the Centre and we hope to welcome lots more through our doors over the coming months as we have planned various exciting activities and events. Please keep an eye on our noticeboard and social media, or email us on: office@selsdoncentre.org.uk or call us directly on 0208 651 1111.

Liz O’Donoghue, Centre Manager



Our President
Paul, with Santa

My word, we have had such a busy month which began with Santa switching on the lights in Selston and in Sanderstead. Fantastic events with lots of children attending. Santa has also been out in the evenings visiting children in the streets they live in. We are so very grateful for all your kind donations. This year we raised £12 500 which we will put to good use in the community, for example, on Christmas morning we were out delivering food parcels to local elderly residents.

What is next?

Our Annual Quiz is on Saturday 8 March – book now to ensure seats for your team.

Our Annual Sponsored Walk is on Saturday 24 May. For more information contact our secretary.

If you are interested in working alongside Rotary in your community, please get in touch with the Secretary, Wendy Parr 077741 86792 or Wendparr@gmail.com

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Email: info@selsdoncontact.org.uk



www.selsdoncontact.org.uk



Almost 70 guests attended Contact's Annual Clients' Christmas party held on Friday 13th December 2024, at St John's Church Hall. A lovely time was had by all. Free flowing Bucks Fizz was enjoyed too! Thanks to the many wonderful volunteers who helped to make the party such a success.

Apart from the surprise visit from Santa, a favourite event is always the Raffle which takes place for both our clients and volunteers.

We are very grateful for the support from the many shops, restaurants, local businesses (El Patio Tapas Bar, Wetherspoons, Sainsbury's, Salon Seven and the Croydon Jubilee Café) and the wider community in Selsdon for donating the fabulous Raffle prizes. Thanks also to the anonymous Volunteers/Clients who donated sought after raffle prizes. Also, thanks to the Contact Trustees for the "goodies" hampers.

We were entertained by Courtwood primary School Choir. Some of the children, stayed on to make paper chains with our clients. Richard Harvey, then played his guitar and sang popular songs, which our clients joined in with.

Help Make a Difference: Volunteer Drivers Needed for Medical Appointments

Do you have a few spare hours and a reliable vehicle? Are you looking for a meaningful way to give back to your community? Consider becoming a volunteer driver to help individuals in need get to their medical appointments. Your



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No prior experience is necessary—just a willingness to help and a desire to make a difference. Joining our team of volunteer drivers is easy! Simply, call us on the above number or Email us. You can also visit our website at www.selsdoncontact.org.uk for additional details and to complete a volunteer application.

Look forward to hearing from you

Wishing all our clients and volunteers and the wider community a prosperous 2025.

Forgotten Croydon entertainment destinations?

Who knew that Croydon used to have supposedly 'Europe's largest ice rink'? A little bit of online research has told me that The 'Imperial Ice Rink Purley' opened 1931 with this boast. Not only could visitors enjoy dance and speed skating, but the rink also hosted exhibitions, carnivals and ice pantomimes and international ice hockey. The Imperial ice rink was forced to close in 1950 because the pipes used for freezing needed replacing and the cost of steel for these was prohibitive so soon after the end of the war. (1)



It then became the 'Orchid Ballroom' – supposedly with the largest dance floor in the UK. In 1962 it was acquired by Mecca. By 1963 it had become a major South London concert venue for live pop music as well as a dance hall. For 10 years it hosted some of the biggest names in the pop music business, such as Ben. E. King, The Who, Otis Reading, Tom Jones, Jimi Hendrix and Percy Sledge. But in 1973 it closed as a concert venue and morphed into a discotheque/nightclub - first, in 1974, 'Tiffany's', and then as 'Jazz', 'Cinderella Rockerfellas' and the 'Metropole', finally closing as an entertainment venue in 1990. Today the building serves as a health club and gym.(2)

A well-known nightclub in central Croydon that opened in the late 80s and ran for 18 years, was the 'The Blue Orchid'. In its heyday people queued around the block to enter but it closed its doors. According to the same blogger (3), before the reinvention as 'The Blue Orchid', the venue was 'The Greyhound' from the 60s to the late 80s. It hosted major bands of the day including Thin Lizzy, The Jam, The Ramones, Boomtown Rats, and The Cure.(3)



We also can't forget The Fairfield Halls which opened in 1962 and was also a major live concert venue. It hosted many major bands such as David Bowie, Queen, Elton John and even a live stage recording of a Morecambe and Wise comedy performance. For over 30 years the London Mozart players were resident too. The fantastic acoustic and excellent sight lines from all seats for both the Concert hall and The Ashcroft Theatre providing a great 'listener experience' and easy access via good transport links.

We should remember that we still have The Fairfield Halls, which despite (IMO) poor marketing, is still hosting public shows and events. It is worth making the effort to go out for entertainment! In December, I went to a fantastic Christmas concert in the Ashcroft Theatre by the 'Chineke! Orchestra' which is Europe's first majority Black and ethnically diverse orchestra. Not only was it a great quality event and reasonably priced, but being local, my journey home was easy too!

Janet Sharp

- 1) 'Your Local Guardian' article 30/08/2006.
- 2) 'pomme homme' 26/01/23 on sussexhistoryforum.co.uk
- 3) 02/02/23 'Pomme homme' on sussexhistoryforum.co.uk

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Can you help keep the Selsdon Christmas lights shining brightly?



Without increasing our income, we do not know for how many more years we can keep our fantastic Christmas lights.

To help raise funds the SRA have joined *Easyfundraising* under the name 'SelsdonChristmaslights'.

If you ever shop online, you can raise a donation for us, at no cost to you, by using the well trusted 'Easyfundraising' app or site, as your starting point; over 4,000 retailers and other websites (most of your usual shops and websites!) will donate to us when you buy.

Whether you do your weekly supermarket shop online or just the occasional 'special' purchase –to coin a supermarket phrase, 'every little helps' if you use Easyfundraising and support us.

Please tell as many people as possible about this easy and financially painless way to support our local worthy cause. The more people you can pass the link to, hopefully, the more we will raise.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/selsdonchristmaslights>

WHAT TO DO

1. Use the link above to go to the correct easyfundraising webpage
2. Make a free account and if you request that the automatic reminder link is added to your tool bar then it will appear on your screen whenever you go to a participating seller's website.
3. Search for a retailer and select.
4. Now on the retailers site make your purchases as usual.
5. A donation is made by the retailer to Selsdon Lights when you pay for your goods.

Thank you, in advance, for your support – from the SRA Committee

~~

Events at Selsdon Library

Storytime for Children 0–8 years

Come along to hear new stories and some old favourites too!
Saturdays 10.30 – 11.30am



Rhymetime for under 5s

Rhymetimes can help your child learn to talk and develop their imagination. Come along and join the fun. Wednesdays 10.30 – 11.30am

Crochet & Knitting Club for adults

Weekly group focusing on knitting and crochet. Bring along a knitting or crochet project. Wednesdays 2 – 4pm



Booking for all three events is not required and sessions are free.

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SELSDON AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD



We are a friendly group of about 70 members. We meet from 1.30 – 4.00 on the third Friday of each month in the Community Hall, St. John's Church, Upper Selsdon Road Selsdon.

At each meeting we have a short business meeting which is followed by a visiting speaker, who bring a wide range of interesting topics. In January we look forward to hearing about 'Murderous Women' and in February we will find out about 'Spitalfields through the ages'.

There are groups to join, such as handicrafts, knitting or drama, or you may wish to book a visit to Wimbledon Theatre or go on an Outing.

We always have time for refreshments and time to get to know one another.

Christine Holland 02086574861



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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
Selsdon Vale & Forestdale SelsdonandForestdale@metpolice.uk

CLUBS, GROUPS & CHARITIES

CONTACT (Neighbourhood Care)	Jasmine Singh	020 8651 4944
The Selsdon Centre	Liz O'Donoghue	020 8651 1111
Croydon Hearing Resource Centre	Office	020 8686 0049
Croydon Vision		020 8668 2486
Cruse Bereavement Care Helpline		080 8808 1677
Friends of Littleheath Woods	Ian Leggatt	via www.folw.co.uk
Friends of Selsdon Wood		www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk
Sanderstead Plantation Partners		michaellishmund@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
1 st Selsdon & Addington Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts)		www.1stselsdonscouts.org.uk
2 nd Selsdon & Addington Scout Group		www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk
Croham Valley Explorer Scout Unit	Christopher Dean	tinkerscorner@aol.com
Arts Society Croydon Area	Jean Aarons	https://tascroydonarea.org.uk
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	selsdonhall.info@gmail.com
Selsdon Flower Club	Maureen Browning	020 8651 5821
Selsdon Townswomen's Guild(pm)	Christine Holland	020 8657 4861
Sanderstead Horticultural Society		www.sandersteadhs.org
Sanderstead Local History Group		sandersteadlh@gmail.com
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

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.



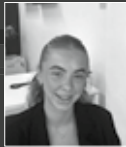
Lucy Barretto
SALES PROGRESSOR

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.



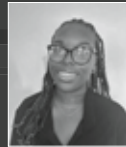
Amy Peto
JUNIOR SALES NEGOTIATOR

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.



Aveniya Bloomfield
*WEEKEND /
PART TIME ASSISTANT*

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

Branches:

335 Limpsfield Road
Sanderstead
CR2 9BY

133 Addington Road
Selsdon, South Croydon
CR2 8LH

Contact:
020 8651 6679
info@hubbardtorlot.co.uk

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