

# The Selsdon Gazette

Volume 78. No. 883

July 2026



# THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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There is no August Gazette.

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

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

**Gazette cover:** Ribbon cutting in Queenhill Playspace September 1926, for the official opening of Selsdon Garden Village and Farley Road.



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# **SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

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## ***Committee 2026/2027***

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Ian Leggatt  
Janet Sharp  
Chris Jones  
Geoff Bailey  
Kenneth Davis  
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 Jack Barwell Jack.barwell@croydon.gov.uk

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

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

Cllr Yvette Hopley Yvette.hopley@croydon.gov.uk 0208 604 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



A warm welcome to the July Gazette and as there is not an August Gazette, it is full of reminders. These include paying your subscription, coming to the Selsdon Community Fair on 6<sup>th</sup> September, sending me your entry for the Upcycled Container Garden Competition, and attending the CPR & Defibrillator training session on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July.

I have been so pleased to receive letters from readers about items that we have run in the Gazette (see Letters to Editor section). I have also had two excellent photos sent to me, so I decided to launch a Photo Corner in the Gazette. Please forward me any photos that you take in the local area and I can then feature them. This photo shows a very discerning young reader, Nathan, enjoying his copy of the Gazette - a future editor?



Both our Nature Notes and Poetry Corner focus on spiders this month, while Ian Leggett looks back 100 years to the official opening of Selsdon Garden Village, and Janet Sharp continues her look at the family who donated Lloyd's Park to Croydon. As the USA celebrates in July 250 years since its Declaration of independence, we have a tricky quiz for you to try - if you do not know the answers, you will be able to learn a lot.

As ever please send me ( [selsdongazettesra@gmail.com](mailto:selsdongazettesra@gmail.com) ) your photos, articles, letters, poems, grumbles, concerns, etc. This magazine is for Selsdon, so it is good to hear about things affecting local residents.

Lastly, the Selsdon Gazette team wish you all a good summer holiday.

**Chris Jones**

☞ SUBMISSIONS FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2026 EDITION  
SHOULD BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN  
20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST - PREFERABLY BEFORE! ☞

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



### **Advertising in the Gazette**

I hope you have all taken advantage of the lovely sunshine either watching the World Cup or just relaxing reading the Gazette. The Gazette needs your help to find some new advertisers as we have lost five of our regular contributors and we thank them for their loyalty over the years. This means the Gazette will potentially run at a loss this year unless we find some new businesses. We are asking you all, if you could suggest anyone whom you might use for services, if they would consider a small or large advert in the Gazette. Please contact Chris Jones our editor at [selsdongazettesra@gmail.com](mailto:selsdongazettesra@gmail.com). She would also love any articles you would like to write.

### **CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and Defibrillator Training**

I mentioned this in last month's Gazette and the date has now been confirmed as 18<sup>th</sup> July from 10am – 2pm in the Selsdon Community Club-house, who have kindly waived the booking fee for us. The sessions are free, just pop in between 10am and 2pm. You will see a full-page advert in this edition with full details.

A list of AEDs can be found at [www.defibfinder.uk](http://www.defibfinder.uk)

### **Selsdon Community Fair, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September**

Our annual Selsdon Community Fair takes place on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September from noon to 4pm in Selsdon Wood, by the Old Farleigh Road Car park entrance. There are stall spaces available for local groups, charities and crafters. We don't charge stallholders so, if you would like a spot for a stall or know of a group that would be interested, please send an email to Peter Underwood at [underjunk2000@hotmail.com](mailto:underjunk2000@hotmail.com). Please put the date in your diaries and I hope to meet some of you there.



Selsdon Residents Association

# Community CPR & Defib Training

'Learn To Save a Life'

**FREE Walk In Sessions**

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July  
10 AM - 2PM

Venue:  
Selsdon Community Clubhouse  
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**Enquiries:** 07774 186 792

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& Selsdon

## SRA Autumn Clean Up

The Autumn Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday 19 September 9.45am – 12pm. Please meet at the Selsdon Triangle where you can pick up your collecting material.

## SRA Subscriptions

Finally, please pay your subscription to the Selsdon Residents' Association. This is a bargain at £5 per household. Without your subscriptions we would not be able to have Christmas lights, the flower troughs along the high street, maintain the Selsdon Community Garden at the triangle, run competitions, run the Community Fair in Selsdon Wood, give grants to local organisations, etc.

The Gazette takes a well-earned rest in August and is back in September.

Happy Summer

**Sheila Childs**

**Chair**

## Selsdon Residents' Association Gardening Competition 2026 An Upcycled Container Garden

The Annual SRA Gardening Competition has been running for several months and this time it was open to everyone, even if you do not have a garden! As we are all being encouraged to recycle, this year we asked you to use an object that you were thinking of throwing away to use as a container for your potted plant display.



To enter please send a photo of your upcycled container bursting with your floral display to the editor ([selsdongazettesra@gmail.com](mailto:selsdongazettesra@gmail.com)) by the **end of August**. Make sure you include your name and address. This competition is open to all ages.

We are looking forward to seeing your unusual, unwanted container and floral display.



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DIRECTOR



**Simon Amon**  
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**Lorna Yellowlees**  
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**Steve Smith**  
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**Kim Mitchell-Gears**  
DIRECTORS PA  
& OFFICE MANAGER



**Bernadette Atkinson**  
TEAM ADMINISTRATOR /  
OFFICE CO-ORDINATOR



**Hayley Rozario**  
LETTINGS  
CO-ORDINATOR



**Mitch Torlot**  
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**Lucy Barretto**  
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**Amy Peto**  
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**Louis Lam**  
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Local people.  
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# Selsdon Community Fair



**Sunday 6 September 12-4pm**

(At the Old Farleigh Road entrance to Selsdon Woods)

The SRA is again organising the annual Selsdon Community Fair in Selsdon Wood. There will be the usual wide selection of stalls and activities.

There are still some stall spaces available for local groups, charities, and crafters. We don't charge stall holders, so if you would like a spot for a stall or know of a group that would be interested, please send an email to Peter Underwood at [underjunk2000@hotmail.com](mailto:underjunk2000@hotmail.com)

**Put the date in your diary and we hope to see you there!**

## YOUR 2026 SRA SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE



At the AGM of the Selsdon Residents' Association, it was agreed to keep the subscription rate at £5 per household for another year to encourage as many residents as possible to subscribe. There has been no increase since 2020!

### So how do we spend your money?

- Christmas lights and Switch On Event (not paid for by the Council)
- Flower troughs along the high street
- Maintaining the Selsdon Community Garden at the triangle
- Running competitions
- Staging the Community Fair in Selsdon Wood
- Giving grants to local organisations
- Decorating the Selsdon Clock on the Triangle at Christmas and Remembrance Day

### Three ways to pay your subscription and any extra donations:

1. Put your cash/cheque in an envelope and drop it off at the Tudor Library, Selsdon Community Clubhouse in the foyer of Sainsburys or Selsdon Contact on the ground floor of Sainsburys or at any of these addresses:

12A Abbey Road,  
11 Benhurst Gardens,  
21 Birdwood Close,  
16 Brent Road,  
6 Cowley Close,  
11 Dulverton Road,  
Burchells, 30 Farley Road  
121 Farley Road,  
156 Farley Road,  
10 Foxearth Road,  
5 Goldfinch Road,

49 Greville Avenue,  
42 Kersey Drive,  
60 Kingswood Way,  
116 Littleheath Road  
60 Old Farleigh Road  
53 Queenhill Road  
48 Ravenshead Close  
24 Southviews  
28 Upper Selsdon Road  
20 Wagtail Gardens

Please make sure you enter your address on the front of the envelope.

2. Pay by bank transfer to the account - Selsdon Residents Association, sort code 20 24 61, account number 4033 6343. Please give the first line of your address as the reference.
3. Pay by completing the standing order form that is printed on the back cover of this Gazette. This must be handed to your bank for processing. Again, use the first line of your address as the reference. Alternatively, if you have online or mobile banking you can set up a standing order there.

**Thank you for your donations but please don't delay.**

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## **COUNCILLORS' NOTES FROM JOSEPH LEE**

### **SELSDON PARK HOTEL**

Following discussions with those involved in the redevelopment of the former Selsdon Park Hotel site, we understand that activity on site is expected to begin in earnest in the coming weeks.

The redevelopment of this prominent local landmark has been anticipated by many residents and represents an important step towards bringing a vacant site back into productive use. Residents can expect to see increased activity as preparatory and construction works progress.

We have also been advised that arrangements are in hand to cut back overgrown hedges around the site, helping to improve both the appearance of the area and visibility around the site boundaries.

As local ward councillors, we are maintaining regular contact with those involved in the project and will continue to monitor progress closely. We recognise that residents will have questions as work progresses and we will provide further updates as new information becomes available.

## **POLICE ACTION FOLLOWING THE ROBBERY OUTSIDE SAINSBURYS**

On Wednesday 10th June, a knife point robbery was reported outside Sainsbury's in Selsdon. Metropolitan Police officers responded quickly, carrying out a coordinated search of the area using intelligence gathered at the scene and descriptions of those involved. Following the search operation, a suspect was located and arrested on suspicion of the robbery. We would like to thank the officers involved for their swift response and professionalism in dealing with what was a serious incident. Their actions helped ensure that enquiries could progress quickly and provided reassurance to the local community.

We remain in regular contact with local police teams and understand that patrols in Selsdon have been increased in response to concerns regarding antisocial behaviour and thefts involving groups of youths. We encourage residents to continue reporting incidents to the police so that appropriate action can be taken.

## **FLY-TIPPING ENFORCEMENT**

Croydon Council continues to expand the use of deployable CCTV cameras to tackle fly-tipping across the borough. There are now 19 cameras in operation, helping officers identify offenders and gather evidence for enforcement action. Recent footage has been used to investigate incidents involving the illegal dumping of household and commercial waste, including at locations where residents and businesses had previously raised concerns.

Fly-tipping blights neighbourhoods, creates unnecessary costs for taxpayers and has a negative impact on local com-



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munities. The use of deployable CCTV is helping the Council take a more proactive approach to identifying offenders and supporting enforcement activity. Anyone caught fly-tipping can face a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £1,000 or prosecution through the courts. We will continue working with residents and council officers to identify problem locations and ensure action is taken against those who dump waste illegally.

## **CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS**

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

Selsdon and Addington Village  
[Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk)  
[Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk)

Selsdon Vale and Forestdale  
[Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk)  
[Jack.barwell@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Jack.barwell@croydon.gov.uk)

Mayor Jason Perry's Office can be contacted by emailing [mayor@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@croydon.gov.uk) or by phoning 0208 667 8288. This phone line is open Monday to Friday from 10am to midday and 2pm to 4pm. Please leave a message outside of these hours and a team member will get back as soon as possible.

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

26/01488/HSE – 14 Abercorn Close  
Erection of single-storey rear extension in place of existing rear extension.

26/01600/HSE – 10 Hawthorn Crescent  
Erection of a single-storey rear extension and a side extension.

26/01372/HSE – 37 Littleheath Road  
Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a single-storey rear extension. External alterations including replacement of windows and doors, removal of chimney, replacement of roof coverings and alterations to existing front porch; and associated hard and soft landscaping works to front and rear garden.

26/01580/HSE – 115 Upper Selsdon Road

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Erection of single storey front/side extension. Alterations include changes to fenestration arrangement.

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

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## **MP Natasha Irons' Report Member of Parliament for Croydon East**

Dear Selsdon Residents,

I hope you've been enjoying the start of summer.

Quite a few residents have recently contacted me about issues affecting our local community, and I'd like to share an update on some of the work I've been doing on your behalf.

### **Bus services**

An issue that came up repeatedly at my recent Selsdon coffee morning was the state of local bus services. Residents spoke about long waits, overcrowded buses that they were unable to board, unreliable timetables and feeling cut off from surrounding areas.

If you've experienced similar problems, I'd really like to hear from you. The more evidence I can gather from local people, the stronger the case I can make to Transport for London and the relevant Minister for service improvements.

### **U16 social media ban**

Alongside local issues, I've also been working with young people across Croydon East as part of the Government's Safer Digital World consultation. I recently chaired two roundtable discussions with pupils from local schools who shared thoughtful concerns about misinformation, harmful content and doomscrolling. They also called for stronger safeguards from technology companies including safer algorithms and better parental controls.

I've shared their feedback directly with the Secretary of State so their experiences could help shape future legislation. I want every young person to know that their voice matters and that they can play a part in shaping the decisions that affect them.

The Government has since responded by raising the minimum age for

social media access to 16, a move I wholeheartedly support. Covering platforms including Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and X, I hope this will help encourage a healthier balance between life online and offline while putting children's wellbeing first.

During questions to the Technology Secretary, I also highlighted that keeping young people safe online must go hand in hand with creating opportunities for them in real life. If we want children and teenagers spending less time on social media, we must continue investing in youth clubs, youth workers and community spaces where they can build confidence, develop friendships and learn valuable life skills. The Government's new National Youth Strategy will help do just that, backed by £500 million over the next three years to improve access to youth services across the country.

Whether it's local transport or another issue affecting our community, I'd always like to hear from you. Your feedback helps me raise the issues that matter most to local residents.

Please email me at [natasha.irons.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:natasha.irons.mp@parliament.uk) or leave a voice-mail on **020 8191 2482**.

Best wishes,

**Natasha Irons MP**

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## Update from our Local Police

Over the past months officers have been conducting targeted patrols tackling crimes such as drug use, robberies and anti-social behaviour. These have resulted in many stops and searches, community resolutions being given, arrests made and people being charged with the offences.

The Metropolitan Police had a targeted day tackling Violence against Women and Girls' offences (VAWG). This included carrying out multiple arrest enquiries as well as having a stall on Addington Parade to raise awareness around the crime, especially around the World Cup season. To tackle the recent rise in robberies, officers have been carrying out patrols of the hot spot areas, engaging with residents and encouraging the residents to sign up to Met Engage for the latest updates. Residents are advised to report anything suspicious, be vigilant and to not put themselves in danger.

Our "Cuppa with a Copper" events continues to take place monthly, offering residents the opportunity to speak directly with local officers about any



concerns. Upcoming dates will be shared on Met Engage, and residents are encouraged to attend to have time to speak to their local officers. The **July date is 21<sup>st</sup> July from 11.30am -12.30pm** and will be held in the Selsdon Community Club-house.

Officers have also recently taken part in a career's fair day at Courtwood Primary school which was a very exciting and successful day for both the officers, teachers and children. We were very happy and pleased to be able to answer the children's questions and speak to them about the role of a police officer. As well as this, officers are continuing to visit schools to give educational talks and nurseries for community engagement. Anyone with concerns, information or a desire to engage further with their local policing team is encouraged to make contact or attend one of the upcoming community engagement events.

*Best wishes, PC Summer 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:

Selsdon & Addington Village:

[SNMailbox-SelsdonandAddingtonVillageSNT@met.police.uk](mailto:SNMailbox-SelsdonandAddingtonVillageSNT@met.police.uk)

Selsdon Vale & Forestdale:

[SNMailbox-SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk](mailto:SNMailbox-SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk)

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## **Good Time for Gardening – July/August**

### **Flowers**

- Collect seeds as they ripen, from plants such as aquilegias, sweet peas and love-in-a-mist, choosing a dry day
- Deadhead dahlias and other perennials to encourage a constant display of blooms
- Keep camellias and rhododendrons well-watered through late summer while their flower buds are forming
- Prune lavender once flowering is over to maintain a compact, bushy



- shape, but avoid cutting into old wood
- Keep pots and hanging baskets flowering by watering and deadheading regularly, and add tomato feed fortnightly
- Take softwood cuttings of woody herbs, including lavender and hyssop, choosing non-flowering shoots

### **Fruit and veg**

- Be vigilant for signs of tomato and potato blight, removing affected plants immediately to prevent spread
- Plant well-rooted strawberry runners into new beds
- Pinch out the tops of outdoor tomatoes, as further flowers are unlikely to produce fruits that have time to ripen
- Lift onions and shallots once their tops die down, then leave to dry in the sun
- Water crops regularly, especially during hot weather, use water from a water butt if possible. In periods of drought, there may be a hosepipe ban so water your crops with a watering can
- Plant blueberry bushes into acid soil



### **Greenhouse**

- Set up a capillary matting system to ensure plants have enough water if you're going away on holiday
- Plant up pots with 'Paper White' narcissus bulbs for fragrant indoor displays this Christmas
- Look out for pests and diseases on greenhouse plants, and treat any you find immediately
- Harvest tomatoes, cucumbers and chillies regularly to encourage more fruits to form

*Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid*

## **Sanderstead Horticultural Society Autumn Show**

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September from 2 pm  
at All Saints Church Hall, Onslow Gardens, Sanderstead



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## Selsdon Garden Village and Farley Road - 100 years old

On 26th July 1926, Selsdon Garden Village (Croham Heights) and Farley Road were officially opened. Although residents had been in occupation since September 1925, the great and the good and many interested householders dressed in their finery, were treated to a grand occasion when ribbons and cakes were cut, speeches made and generally a good time was had by all. Costains the builders went to great lengths to put on a splendid show which was recorded for posterity in a short movie still available on British Pathe News.



### CUTTING THE RIBBON

Lord Clwyd holding his top hat, Lady Clywd to his right. James Galbraith MP holding the ribbon in his left hand. Richard Arthur Costain behind Galbraith's right shoulder. William Percy Costain on his right.

(Note the very dapper gentleman, centre, sporting a bowler hat, starched collar and bow tie.)

Of the grand opening, *Ted Frith records in his journals: The new road was 'closed' to the public at either end by ribbons drawn across decorated archways. The local Member of Parliament, Mr J W F Galbraith K.C.,(\*)*

*cut the ribbons at Croham Road end and led a procession of decorated and other cars along the road to the Selsdon end where a similar act was performed, but this time releasing a shower of rose petals from the top of the arch overhead (See the photo on the Gazette's cover of the Grand Arch in Queenhill Playspace). Here J W K Nichols, the Chairman of the recently formed Residents' Association, made a short speech of welcome. Then a tour was made of the new village, then only Byron, Queenhill ( and part of the Upper Selsdon Roads, and some of the houses were inspected. The party then adjourned to the new sports ground, now known as Queenhill . A dais had been erected upon which the party climbed to sit or stand behind a large birthday cake, nearly 3 feet high, surmounted by a miniature 'village' residence.*



### CUTTING THE CAKE

Young Harold Nichols presenting Lord Clwyd with the ceremonial silver knife. Beside Lord Clwyd is believed to be J W K Nichols.

*Mr Nichols was first to speak, saying that they were privileged to be living in such a district, pointing to Croham Hurst in the distance, and living in houses that enabled them to use the most up-to-date labour saving devices. (Costains provided the new houses with a modern gas cooker, a gas copper and a gas fire.) The chief guest, Lord Clwyd, as a director of Costains, then said that not only was this an estate development at its best, but that the new residents were not only the occupiers of their new houses, but also the owners. He then read out a message of encouragement from Neville Chamberlain, then Minister for Health.... Other speakers then gave speeches and finally, in his speech, Mr W P Costain mentioned that in the last fifteen months he had had to deal with three local councils, two water boards, two electric light undertakings but "thank goodness" only one gas company. Then little Joyce Wright presented Mrs Costain with a bouquet and the young Harold Nichols handed the silver knife to Lord Clwyd for the cutting of the cake. A band then provided music through the afternoon and dancing continued into the evening. Ted further records that the next day the Sunday newspapers were full of news of the "Nowhere Town" and the "Honeymoon Village".*

\* Ted incorrectly names Mr Galbraith, MP for East Surrey. His name was James Francis Wallace Galbraith.

*Ian Leggatt.*

*I am indebted as ever to Ted Frith's Journals for the detail of the opening of Selsdon Village and Farley Road. I am also indebted to P.C. who allowed my use of her family photos from the day 100 years ago. Copyright laws prohibit reproducing any images here but the short film entitled "Honeymoon Village. Lord Clwyd as official Godfather inaugurates new suburb at Croham Heights" can be found at: <https://www.britishpathe.com/asset/stills/52241/>*



*Regular readers will know of my motto of 'The devil is in the detail' and I was particularly caught by the dapper gentleman in the first photo above at the ceremonial ribbon cutting of Farley Road. He looks to be thoroughly enjoying himself, rather than the sombre faces of most of the other attendees. I append a shot of him cropped from another of PC's photos. I would love to know his name. Does anyone recognise him from their family photos?*

*As an aside where was the arch built in Queenhill Road Playspace (see cover photo). Do the foundations still lurk beneath the grass? How was the golf course laid out? Welcome to the rabbit warren of research. Finally, the Story of Lord Clwyd and his link with Costains the builders is worthy of further investigation.....*

~~





## 250 Years of USA Quiz

On July 4, 2026, America will celebrate 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

1. How many American colonies originally declared their independence from Great Britain in 1776?
2. What is the name of the large bell in Philadelphia, rung to mark the reading of the Declaration of Independence?
3. What term, beginning with a P, applies to the colonists who supported independence from British rule?
4. Give one of the two names, beginning with a L or a T, given to the colonists who supported the Monarchy.
5. How many people signed the Declaration of Independence?
6. Which American Colony was first to grant their Congressional delegation permission to vote for independence?
7. Which popular song is associated with the Revolutionary War?
8. How many years did the American Revolutionary War last?
9. Which famous 'Founding Father' is known for his role as a scientist, inventor, and diplomat who helped secure French support for the Revolution?
10. By coincidence, which two Founding Fathers died on the same day on the 50th Anniversary of the Declaration?



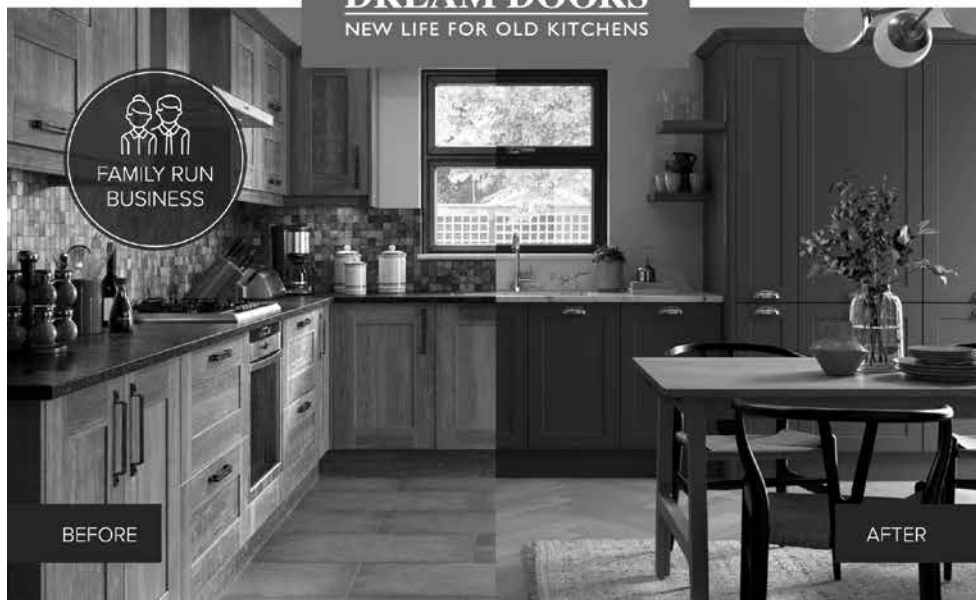
### Answers after the Nature Notes

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## Coombe Lloyd Garwood – the Legacy



Winifred Lloyd (1883-1952) was the only child of newspaper magnate Frank Lloyd and Julia Lloyd (nee Mills). Winifred grew up in the grand manor of 'Coombe House' (imagine Downtown Abbey). Living nearby at Coombe Farm was her Aunt Cristina (one of the first owners of the 'horseless carriage' automobile and who later ran a canteen in France in WW1) and her cousin Francis who joined Merton College, Oxford University in 1911.

After her marriage in 1912 to an Indian born army officer Lieut.- Col. John R. Garwood, Winifred and John moved to 'Coombe Farm' on the family estate (into the house built by her uncle Herbert) where together they raised three children. Winifred's mother died in 1925 and following her father's death two years later, in accordance with his wishes, she gave much of the Coombe Estate parkland to the Council (Lloyd Park) and the manor house became a convalescent home for army officers. It remained such until 1946.

I wonder how involved Winifred and her husband were in the choice of the home's new use and how much Winifred and her three children were involved in the lives of those disabled officers living in her former home? This is not clear from my brief internet research, but my guess is that interacting with these men, may have been the inspiration for the career choice of one of her daughters, Jean Garwood (1912-1966). Jean became a Social Worker. After the second world war, in 1946, Coombe House became 'St Margaret's School' a fee paying school for the handicapped - the first such specialist place in the country for children with cerebral palsy.

In 1952 Winifred died and that same year, together with three parents of children at St Margaret's, Jean Garwood became one of the founders of a charity (now called 'SCOPE') which originated in campaigning and providing resources for those with cerebral palsy to gain education, practical support and employment. The charity became national and its focus has since changed to promoting equality for all forms of disability.

The local Croydon branch of SCOPE offered direct practical support and in 1976, this became a separate charity now known as the 'Garwood Foundation'. Jean died, unmarried and childless in 1966, aged 54 – my

guess is that the Bramley Hill headquarters was part of Jean's 'Lloyd' inheritance and legacy. The Garwood Foundation is now independent from SCOPE but leases Jean Garwood House and its Bramley Hill sites from SCOPE at a peppercorn rent.

The Garwood Foundation specifically focuses on empowering individuals, maximising potential and supporting families by providing education, therapies, and residential care for people with profound and multiple disabilities in the Croydon and surrounding areas.



In 1957 Jean's childhood home of Coombe Farm became, via SCOPE/ Garwood, a residential home for people with disabilities. This enabled them to move from long stay hospitals or institutions. The on-site facilities included a workshop, swimming pool, and, by the 1970s, specialised accommodation for residents and married couples.

Through the 1980s, following campaigning for equality rights, there was a push to enable those with disabilities to move from the 'shelter' or segregated model to independent living and a more social housing model within communities. St Margaret's School closed in 1985 to become a NHS care home. Coombe Farm closed in 1992, the site was later sold and is now owned by a property developer.

After years of campaigning the Disability Discrimination Act was introduced in 1995. The Croydon born charities of SCOPE and the Garwood Foundation continue their important work campaigning, supporting and enabling.

*Janet Sharp*

*Thanks to ndhlloyd at [edwardlloyd.org](http://edwardlloyd.org) , [garwoodfoundation.org.uk](http://garwoodfoundation.org.uk), [scope.org.uk](http://scope.org.uk)*

~~

## What Is A Cactus?

What is a cactus? What makes a "succulent" plant succulent? If you've ever watched a classic Western movie, you've probably spotted enormous Saguaro cacti standing proud in the American desert, and maybe also a stand of "prickly pear"



cacti near the cowboys' camp site. But these are just a very small part of the cactus family, most of which are much smaller and easily cultivated on a window sill, in a conservatory or greenhouse.

To go back to basics, all cacti are succulents, but not all succulent plants are cacti. There are three types of succulent plant: stem succulents, root succulents and leaf succulents. These groups identify where the plant stores water in its succulent tissue to nourish it during the dry periods when there may be little or no rainfall for many months, sometimes years. Generally, cacti are stem succulents and develop a swollen body which stores the life-giving water. Some also develop a tuberous root, like a turnip, which also stores water and is out of sight below ground. The "Christmas Cactus", often seen in garden centres, is a form of leaf succulent, with thickened leaves, little or no stem and fibrous roots.

Cacti are distinguished from other succulent plants by a unique, specialised structure from which grow their spines. This is an adaptation whereby they have lost their leaves and can retain water more easily. The number, size and shape of the spines varies considerably among the many different families of cacti. Some have almost completely lost their spines, some have soft spines, others have spines with very sharp hooks which will cling on to any animal (or human) which gets too close.

Non-cacti succulent plants can sometimes resemble cacti and appear to have spines, but these are a different structure. Like the Giant Saguaro cacti in the American deserts, some succulent plants can grow enormous with massive trunks swollen with water, such as the Baobab trees of Madagascar. Other succulent plants may be very difficult to spot in habitat, with their succulent root hidden below ground and just a few small leaves or thin, vine-like stems, perhaps hidden among other types of plants, above ground.

Succulent plants are found in every continent except Antarctica, but cacti are "New World" species and are native only to North and South America along with some islands, such as in the Caribbean.

Many people who are not familiar with cacti think they never flower, or flower only once in a lifetime. In fact, all cacti will flower once they reach maturity, and some are specially bred for their spectacular flowers. The time from germination to flowering varies enormously from one type to another, but many will flower when quite young – just a few years old, so it is not difficult to grow a selection of small cacti which flower every year.

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In the heart of South London, where Victorian terraces rub shoulders with sleek contemporary builds, LMB Group Ltd has steadily carved out a name as one of the region's most trusted specialists in loft conversions and home extensions. What started as a local vision in Croydon has grown into a thriving business, transforming homes and helping homeowners unlock the hidden potential of their properties.

Founded with a simple but ambitious goal — to deliver beautifully crafted, structurally sound loft conversions with a personal touch — LMB Group Ltd has become synonymous with quality, reliability, and community pride. From modest beginnings, the company has steadily expanded its footprint across Greater London, all while keeping its Croydon heritage at the core of its identity.

### Craftsmanship with Local Heart

Loft conversions are more than an extra room; they are a statement of ambition. They represent more space for families to grow, work from home in comfort, or create dream bedrooms and studios. LMB Group Ltd.'s approach combines meticulous architectural planning with exceptional build quality, ensuring every project enhances both the aesthetics and value of the property.

Clients consistently praise the team's ability to balance functionality with design — whether adding skylights that flood rooms with light or cleverly reconfiguring layouts to maximise every square metre. What sets LMB apart is not just technical know-how, but a client-first ethos that makes homeowners feel genuinely supported throughout the renovation journey.

### Growth Driven by Community Trust

The company's expansion hasn't been accidental. It's a direct result of trust earned from neighbours, friends, and local property owners who have seen — and recommended — the tangible impact of quality craftsmanship. Word-of-mouth referrals have been a cornerstone of LMB Group Ltd.'s success, leading to a steady flow of commissions that extend well beyond Croydon into Bromley, Sutton, Kingston, and Bexley.

But even as the workload grows, LMB Group Ltd has maintained the values that shaped its early days: transparency, clear communication, and a hands-on relationship with every client. In an industry where ambiguity and delays can too often be the norm, this dedication to accountability sets the company apart.

### Sustainability and Innovation

Looking ahead, LMB Group Ltd is embracing modern building practices that deliver both comfort and sustainability. Energy-efficient insulation, smart storage solutions, and contemporary finishes are increasingly incorporated into their designs — not as afterthoughts, but as standards.

This forward-thinking mindset ensures that clients not only benefit from extra space, but from homes that are warmer, greener, and better suited to 21st-century living.

### Proud of Where It Began

For the leadership team at LMB Group Ltd, success isn't just measured in completed projects or growth statistics — it's measured in community impact. The pride of being rooted in Croydon remains strong, and the company frequently gives back through local partnerships and community engagement initiatives.

"We started here," says one founding director, "and the support from our community has shaped every step of our journey. Being able to grow while staying true to that foundation is something we're incredibly proud of."



Flowers vary from very tiny, just a few millimetres across, to some spectacularly large ones, up to 15 centimetres across.



If you are interested in growing cacti and succulents, or would like to learn more, see a display of top quality plants and talk to the growers, why not come to the Show being hosted by the Croydon Branch of the British Cactus and Succulent Society.

**Summer Show**  
**Sanderstead Methodist Church in Limpsfield Road,**  
**Sanderstead, CR2 9EF**  
**Saturday July 25<sup>th</sup>**

The show is open to the public from **11.00am to 3.00pm**, admission is free, you will be able to buy plants from various sellers and light refreshments will be available.

You will also be welcome to come to the BCSS monthly, evening meetings at the same venue on **the second Tuesday of each month from 7.30pm to 10.00pm**. For more information contact the Branch Secretary at [secretary@croydon.bcss.org.uk](mailto:secretary@croydon.bcss.org.uk), Dudley Baker, or visit our website at [www.croydon.bcss.org.uk](http://www.croydon.bcss.org.uk).

*(Compiled by David Sheppard on behalf of British Cactus & Succulents Society, Croydon Branch)*



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 a concerned resident considers the parking problem in Rylandes Road.*

Dear Editor

I read our MP's report in the May 2026 Selsdon Gazette regarding plans by Croydon Council to review parking restrictions on Rylandes Road. I contacted Natasha Irons to point out that as a nearby resident I agreed that the situation with parked cars restricting access in Rylandes Road is often difficult, but I pointed out that the problem is much more widespread and not limited to Rylandes Road. Parking in nearby streets such as Queenhill, Byron and Foxearth is usually worse than in Rylandes.

In the area we are fortunate that we have three very busy Doctor Surgeries: two on the corner of Queenhill and Farley Roads, and one on Addington Road. The 64 and 433 buses stop, in both directions, adjacent to the junction of Queenhill and Farley Roads and commuters regularly park in the locality to catch a bus to Croydon and back. At the junction of Rylandes and Queenhill Roads is St Columba RC Church which attracts attendees from far and wide.

I pointed out to our MP that limiting the parking and improving the access for service vehicles situation in Rylandes Road will only push the problem elsewhere, and the surrounding roads are already at capacity during the day. The roads I mention above are all to the north west side of Addington Road which runs SW / NE through Selsdon District Centre. If one looks at roads to the south east, i.e. Dulverton Road, Sundale Avenue and Benhurst Gardens, they all suffer the same issues with parking, especially so as they are in close proximity to the very popular Croydon High School.

Both Rylandes and Byron Roads are considerably narrower than the others. This exacerbates the parking issues in both these roads as it is nigh impossible for two vehicles to be parked opposite each other and to allow

free movement of cars or service vehicles up and down the roads. Many properties have more than 1 car and all have driveways with dropped kerb but that naturally limits the amount of kerbside parking available. I have since had confirmation that Croydon Council are looking into the issue and propose to restrict parking in Rylandes Road with double yellow lines and marked parking bays, but that any proposals should be subject to public consultation, in due course.

Could we please warn residents that if you are likely to be affected by the proposals to limit parking on Rylandes Road, please watch out for further information from the Council, or contact your Ward Councillor with your concerns.

*Name and address supplied*

~~

*Here is a report of a success in Selsdon*

‘Farley Road’s Little Book Nook Expands with a Kids Book Nook’

Dear Editor,

A few months ago, I wrote to you about the Free Little Library I had set up on Farley Road. I was delighted by the response from local residents, with many people stopping by to borrow, donate and exchange books.

The enthusiasm for children’s books was particularly encouraging, and it inspired me to expand the project. I have now added a second Little Book Nook dedicated entirely to children’s books, while the original library continues to house books for adults.

Children now have a space of their own to discover new stories, and adults can enjoy a greater selection of books in the original little free library.

Like the first library, the children’s library operates on the simple principle of “Take a Book, Leave a Book” and is open to all. My hope is that it will continue to encourage reading, sharing and community connections among local residents. Both libraries are located on Farley Road, between the Brent Road and Queenhill bus stops. If travelling from the Queenhill bus stop towards Brent Road, you’ll find them on the left-hand side.



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One of the most rewarding aspects of the project has been seeing members of the community discover books they enjoy and leave thoughtful messages in the guest book. Reading the delightful notes from children and adults alike has been a lovely reminder of how books can bring people together and brighten someone's day.

*Kind regards, Roopa Banerjee*

~~

*Here we hear of more good news from a resident*

Dear Editor,

I am so proud of my granddaughter, Jemma Staples, and her partner, George Williamson, who both reside in Selsdon. In April they both ran and completed the London Marathon, running for their individual charities. WOW!! This is a picture of them with their well-deserved gold medals.



George ran for the SCOPE charity which raises awareness for people with disabilities. It's close to George as his Uncle lives with cerebral palsy and he raised £2535. Gemma ran for Dementia UK which is close to her family as two of her grandparents have battled with dementia and she raised £1312.

Neither of them had run a marathon before and Gemma got her place in the marathon through the ballot, whereas George got his through the charity SCOPE. George hosted some charity events leading up to help fundraise (golf day up at Farleigh golf course and a pub golf event with a group of friends). Both

followed training plans to help prepare although it wasn't all smooth sailing as both sustained injuries that made training more difficult! Gemma ran it in just over 7 hours and enjoyed every minute, stopping to see family and friends along the way! And George ran it in 5hours and 49 mins which was a major achievement after a foot injury.

*Name and address supplied of a proud grandmother.*

*A local resident reports the sad news of the closure of one of Selsdon's long standing Scout Groups.*

Dear Editor,

I write this article with regret as on the 25th of April of this year, the Second Selsdon and Addington Scout Group closed. The Scout Group held their meetings in the large hut at the top of Selsdon Primary School's field. It had been started by Tom and Paddy Buckett long ago and the hut was named 'The Douglas Hall' after their son. Before 1983, they had three cub packs and two scout groups, twenty in each pack. In 1983, my husband, Bill, and I started the first Selsdon and Addington Beaver colony with twenty-five boys, the whole group thrived. It had an excellent committee, with Ted as the treasurer, Frank Boxhall as the Chief Scout Leader, and cub leaders, Dave Keys, John Slade, Bill Greaves, Roger Walker to name a few. Mary Cook organised many happy get togethers, including New Year's Eve parties. It is a privilege to write this article, remembering others and such a great Scout Group. It is a shame it no longer exists. Thanks to everyone involved including scouts, cubs and beavers.

*Lynda Greaves*

~~

*Here we hear from a local group of volunteers*

Dear Editor,

I'd like to put in a plea for people to refrain from removing wood from our Green Spaces for use in their own fires and wood burners.

Readers may be surprised to learn that the Council regard this as stealing and you cannot simply turn up and use a chainsaw on public land without explicit permission or a formal contract from the landowner, in this case the Council. Doing so, without authorisation could lead to criminal prosecution for theft, criminal damage, or public safety violations.

Friends Groups do have the relevant permissions from the Council as well as the appropriate insurance cover and offer bagged logs in exchange for donations to help fund their voluntary work caring for our Green Spaces.

However, most of the fallen trees and branches are left in situ. or stacked to provide habitats for plants, fungi, insects and other creatures. Also, as the wood decomposes, a reservoir of nutrients are released into the wood-

land floor to the benefit of the living trees and plants.  
Please think twice before helping yourself to our woodland timber.

*Chris Hyde*  
*Friends of Littleheath Woods*

~~

*Here our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, looks forward to the Summer Holidays.*



Tonight, we are sitting in a friend's house, who lives near the sea and we are looking with awe and wonder at the fabulous sunset, with a pink swathe of light flowing over the sky, and the sea also with blue, grey and pink hues too.

Out on the sea there are some small boats with their lights on. Probably they are fishing boats, but at this time of day, the night steals rapidly onwards and they could be sailing boats making their way as swiftly as possible to the safety of the local harbour.

There are so many events being held around here including a "hill climb", art shows and vintage car shows, running so many miles or kilometres, and lots more.

With less rain through the summer, the United Kingdom is proving to be the best place of all to holiday. No queuing at airports or the Channel Tunnel, or crossing choppy seas on ferries.

In the past we have travelled far and wide around the world. It was so interesting but in the words of a famous song, "It's very nice to go travelling, But it's oh so nice to come home".

I am glad that I've seen famous sites abroad, but there are many famous ones in the UK, and how many of those have I yet to see?

For everyone about to go on holiday - have a happy time - and for those who are staying at home - enjoy yourselves too, especially on the local downs and in our wonderful woodlands.

## Poetry Corner

*Here Sue Hicks reveals her fear of spiders.*

### Arachnophobia

I'm not very fond of spiders, it really must be said,  
I wouldn't say I'm scared of them, I just prefer them dead.  
Now creepy crawlies generally don't bother me too much,  
Woodlice, worms and slugs I'm quite prepared to touch.  
Moths are fine and flies and wasps don't faze me much at all,  
But a great big hairy spider will make my flesh just crawl.  
If I could hear them coming then it would be okay,  
But the blighters are like Ninjas as they scuttle on their way.

I just glimpse something moving out of the corner of my eye,  
Then my heart starts pounding and my mouth goes really dry.  
I jump a mile as I realise there's a spider on the floor,  
I'm sitting on the loo and it's between me and the door.  
The only problem now of course, is I am in mid flow,  
And stopping's not an option for I really need to go.

My reflex action is of course to lift up both my feet,  
And try to keep my balance while I continue to excrete  
I'm feeling very vulnerable as I reach for the bog roll,  
There's a distinct chance here that I may get jammed in the hole,  
Now pulling up my knickers whilst I balanced on the pan,  
Was physically impossible so I took them off and ran.

I leapt over spidey without stopping to wash my hands,  
If I'd been doing long jump I'd have leapt out of the sand.  
Now I know it's not hygienic to leave without a wash,  
But I had to get a back-up 'cos spiders I can't squash.  
I cannot bring myself to deprive something of life,  
And there has to be an advantage to being someone's wife.  
So this, my spouse, is where I will now delegate to you,  
I'm off to bed and by the way, there's a spider in the loo!





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## Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth – a few Spiders



You would have to search diligently to find many of the spiders which exist in UK, but some are more widespread than others and are therefore more visible.

The large and colourful Wasp Spider, as its name suggests, has the black and yellow markings of a wasp, or at least this is true of the female while the much smaller male is brown. When I used to go on regular walks with Butterfly Conservation in various parts of south England I had several encounters with this species. The female rests in the middle of her web which she suspends across a gap between grasses. There is an obvious white radial segment known as a 'stabilimentum', but nobody seems to be sure what it is there for. I have obviously not been looking in the correct places in Selsdon Wood, as I have not been able to find one, but the youngsters who attend the Mini-beast Hunt sometimes find one in the car park field!

The much smaller and more common Crab Spider, about half the size of the nail on your little finger, is camouflaged by its mainly yellow colour as it sits on a flower head, like that of the Ox-eye Daisy, where it waits for insect prey to land then pounces to collect its meal. I have also seen it in the garden on a Poached Egg plant. It does not make a web. I have seen this bright yellow spider sitting on the purple flower spike of a buddleia. Though it may look incongruous, we must remember that insect and human vision are not identical and it is quite possible that to a hoverfly the spider might be perfectly camouflaged.

The Zebra Jumping Spider does not jump over zebras, instead the name refers to its black and white colouring. It does not build a web, neither does it wait on a flower head for prey – its technique involves active pursuit. I have watched one on a white plastic windowsill as it slowly crept forward then jumped to make the capture.

The Woodlouse Spider is a slim chestnut-coloured arachnid with strong pincers with which it tackles its armoured woodlouse prey. I found this one while working on a damaged brick wall.

Possibly the most frequently encountered species is the Garden Orb Web Spider, particularly in the autumn when moist and misty conditions reveal the hundreds of webs adorning hedges. Having spent the summer catching and feeding upon small insects which are caught in the web, the female waiting in the centre of her web will have reached her maximum size, though she will still eat any insect being caught by the web. If you are out early enough you might

be able to watch the fascinating sight of a damaged web being replaced or a web being built from scratch.

A colourful species we are not likely to see in Selsdon Wood (try the West country) is the Ladybird Spider. The male is a glorious red colour and is reminiscent of its namesake. Search for it on the web.

All of these species are completely harmless to humans but there is a group of False Widow Spiders of which you might want to be wary. There are seven species in UK but the most common are the False Widow and the Noble False Widow. My first encounter with False Widow happened when I stepped out of my front door and noticed a smallish spider on the tiles. So that I would not absentmindedly step on it, I tried to persuade it to move by putting my finger behind it to give it a push. I felt a stinging sensation in the fingertip and automatically shook my hand, resulting in the spider being thrown halfway across the garden. The feeling soon subsided so perhaps I did not get a full charge of venom. The only other meeting with the species was when I was attending the annual fair held at Kempton Park by the Entomologist Society where it was possible to buy, among other things, tarantulas and live crickets to feed them. As I climbed the stairs to reach the upper floor, I saw a False Widow tucked into a corner on the stairs. I have no idea whether it stayed there all day.

~~

## Answers to the 250 years of the USA Quiz

1. Thirteen American colonies originally declared their independence from Great Britain in 1776, marking the birth of the United States.
2. A Liberty Bell. Originally known as the State House bell, it hung in the Pennsylvania State House (now Independence Hall).
3. Patriots.
4. Loyalists or Tories.
5. Fifty-six
6. North Carolina
7. Yankee Doodle. Though the tune was already well-known, tradition says that in 1755 a British doctor penned new words to mock his American allies, with “doodles” meaning fools.
8. Eight years between April 1775 to September 1783.
9. Benjamin Franklin is the famous Founding Father known for his roles as a scientist, inventor, and diplomat, and for securing critical French support for the American Revolution.
10. Both Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died on July 4, 1826 – within 5 hours of each other and on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration

## Photo Corner

Here Ian Chase took this amazing photo whilst watching May's second full moon as he sat on the new bench celebrating 100 years of the SRA in Selsdon Recreation Ground.



## New Seats In Littleheath Woods

Last year Croydon Council announced a grant scheme, Croydon Community Greenspace Grant 2026, funded by the Mayor of Croydon in partnership with the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The scheme was designed to support volunteer-led groups to improve Croydon's Greenspaces while focusing on community benefit and environmental improvements. After a comprehensive survey of the 25 seats within Littleheath Woods, The Friends submitted an application for funding to renew 7 seats which were approximately 20 years old and which had reached the end of their useful lives.

We also included monies to repair existing seats but, despite backing for our application from the Chair of the Vanguard Way Association and the Selsdon

Residents' Association, we were unsuccessful in our bid for £1,984. Undeterred we decided to go ahead with the seat replacement funding from our reserves using the original proposed provider TCV (The Conservation Volunteers) to supply and install the new seats and remove the old ones. You will now be able to enjoy a moment of solitude when you visit Littleheath Woods on our new seats safe in the knowledge that it will not tip you off. We have been fortunate that two seats have been sponsored by our Selsdon Residents' Association and we would welcome any personal sponsorship. You can contact us via our website, on the 'Contact Us' page at [www.folw.co.uk](http://www.folw.co.uk) . Come and visit and try to find all 7 new seats.



Installing a hand-made seat approx.  
20 yrs ago



A 20yr old seat, still serviceable.



A couple of the new seats

*Ian Leggatt, Chair, Friends of Littleheath Woods.*

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We would be delighted to hear from you. Please call us on the number above to find out more, or pop into the office for a friendly chat. You can find us on the lower ground floor of the Selsdon Community Centre Complex. If you are ready to apply, please complete the application form on our website- [www.selsdoncontact.org.uk](http://www.selsdoncontact.org.uk)

*Selsdon Churches Neighbourhood Care Registered Charity 1124346  
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## **Selsdon Residents' Association Autumn CLEAN UP**

**Saturday 19th September 9.45am - Noon**

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

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



**Volunteers are offered free tea & coffee afterwards by local Wetherspoons management.**

**Please contact Andrew on 07873 587593  
or [ambax62@icloud.com](mailto:ambax62@icloud.com) for more information.**

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### **Walks**

**Butterflies - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 11am with Daniel Bound**

**Mini-Beast Hunt – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2pm with Roger Hawlins (for accompanied children)**



**Autumn/Winter Trees – Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 1pm with Frank Oko**

**Fungus Hunt – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 10am with the Friends**

Starting from Selsdon Wood car park off Old Farleigh Road. Everyone is welcome on the walks but we do ask that, if bringing dogs, please keep them on a short leash at all times.

### **Remember your entries for our 2026 Photo Competition**

Closing date – 20 August 2026

Each entrant may submit one or more of their photographs taken in Selsdon Wood between 20<sup>th</sup> August 2025 and 19<sup>th</sup> August 2026. The winners will be chosen from a shortlist, by a secret ballot at the Selsdon Community Fair on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September. There will be a £50 first prize, £20 second prize and a £10 third prize.



### **60+ Lunch Club**

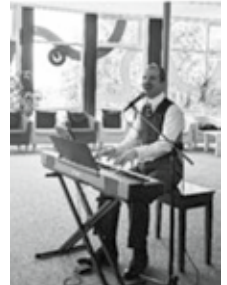
Our 60+ Lunch Club runs every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We provide a home-cooked two-course meal, including tea or coffee, for £12 per person. The Lunch Club is a great opportunity to meet people in the local community. Simply give us a call at least the day before to book your lunch.

### **Volunteer Open Day**

Thank you to everyone who attended our Volunteer Open Day! It was a great success, we were able to share more about what we do at the Clubhouse and explain the different volunteering roles available. If you missed the Volunteer Open Day and would like to find out more about volunteering with us, please get in touch.

### **Cockney Tom at the Clubhouse**

In July, Music Hall aficionado, Tom Carradine, performed a traditional Cockney sing-along. It was a good old-fashioned knees-up!



### **Coming Up at the Clubhouse**

Monday 20th July – Annual General Meeting (AGM) 5pm – 7pm  
Come along and find out about our journey over the last year. Hear reports from the Chairperson, Treasurer, and Clubhouse Manager. Find out about the future plans for the Clubhouse. We will be electing/re-electing our Board Trustees

### **Tuesday 28th July – Carers' Support Hub**

If you're an unpaid carer, join us at our monthly Carers' Support Hub from 11:30am to 1:00pm for tea/coffee and a chat with other carers who understand your situation. You can meet professionals who can provide advice and resources.

### **Friday 31st July – Lee Durnford Live at the Clubhouse**

Come and watch talented West End singer Lee Durnford perform at the Clubhouse. Tickets are £18 per person and include a two-course lunch.

## How You Can Help

We're looking for minibus drivers and passenger support volunteers. Some of our Lunch Club guests rely on our minibus service to attend the Clubhouse. Our volunteer drivers provide safe transport within the local area, helping people with mobility challenges stay connected to their community. Volunteer passenger assistants accompany drivers and provide additional support, collecting members from their front door and supporting them onto and off the minibus.

Raffle Prize Donations Needed. Our Lunch Club guests love taking part in raffles and bingo, with all proceeds going back into the Clubhouse. We're always on the lookout for prizes, so if you have any suitable items at home that you're no longer using, we'd greatly appreciate your donation. We're thinking: Chocolates, sweet treats, hand creams, bottles of wine, or anything else you think would make a suitable prize. Please bring donations to the office between Monday and Friday 9:00am – 4:00pm.



~~



**Sanderstead Community Day**  
**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 11am – 4.30pm**  
**Sanderstead Recreation Ground**

**To book a stall email [sandersteadcommunityday2023@gmail.com](mailto:sandersteadcommunityday2023@gmail.com)**

If you are interested in working with Rotary in the Community, please give us a call & come along & meet us 07774 186 792,  
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# 2026 Summer Reading Challenge in Croydon Libraries



The 2026 Summer Reading Challenge in Croydon Libraries is “**Read to the Beat**”. Aimed at children aged 4 and older, the free programme runs from **Saturday, 4 July to Saturday, 12 September 2026**. Participants simply read six books over the summer to earn a medal, a certificate, and an entry into a prize draw.

## Event Details

**How to Join:** Visit any local Croydon Library to register and pick up your reading log.

**The Theme:** “Read to the Beat” focuses on the connection between stories and songs, celebrating how reading and music inspire creativity.

**Book Selection:** Children can read any books they like—whether borrowing physical copies or downloading e-books and e-audiobooks from the library’s digital collection.

This free national initiative is delivered by The Reading Agency in partnership with Croydon Libraries and powered by Universal Music Group UK.



The 2026 Challenge is brought to life with vibrant illustrations by award-winning author and illustrator, Harry Woodgate.



## Volunteer with us this summer.

We are looking for volunteers aged 13+ to help with this year’s Summer Reading Challenge 2026: Read to the Beat. For more information and to apply use this link [MyImpactPage - Summer Reading Challenge Volunteer - ‘Read to the Beat’ \(Age 13+\)](#) .

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## How to keep your pet cool – Advice from Local Vet

With warmer days forecast, rising temperatures can pose serious risks to our pets, even on days that don’t feel especially hot. Pets should always have access to plenty of fresh water. If they appear uncomfortable, owners can help by wetting their feet, using a cooling mist, or allowing dogs to paddle in shallow water.

Pale-coloured cats and dogs may benefit from pet-safe sun cream on exposed areas such as the nose and ears, while longer coats should be kept well-groomed and free from matting. However, sudden shaving should be avoided



as it can increase the risk of sunburn. Dog owners should consider a couple of 'couch potato' days during hot weather or limit walks to cooler times of day. When outside, owners should carry water, check tarmac temperatures, and choose shaded routes. Extra care is needed for flat-faced breeds such as Pugs, Bulldogs and Shih Tzus, as well as energetic dogs like Border Collies and Spaniels.

Cats often rest indoors during peak heat, but owners should check they are not hiding in unsafe places such as sheds or greenhouses. More adventurous cats may need to be kept indoors, especially if they have access to surfaces like metal rooftops that can cause burns.

Rabbit owners should raise hutches from the ground to improve ventilation and move into the shade or indoors during the day. Owners should provide fresh water and offer water-rich fruit and vegetables. As fly numbers increase, it's also important to watch for flystrike by maintaining good hygiene and checking rabbits' undersides twice daily.

Pets should never be left in enclosed spaces such as cars, conservatories or caravans, as these can heat up rapidly.

### **How to spot heat stress**

Pets that are very young, elderly, overweight, or less mobile are at greater risk. Many cases of heat stress occur on mild days when owners may not realise their pet is struggling. Early signs include excessive panting, drooling, restlessness, or seeking shade. If these occur, move your pet to a cool area and offer water.

If symptoms do not improve within five minutes, or worsen to vomiting, diarrhoea, collapse or loss of consciousness, this is an emergency. Heat stroke can prove rapidly fatal and requires urgent veterinary care.

*Thanks to Friday Enabulele, Clinical Director at Warlingham Veterinary Centre in Warlingham, in sharing this advice for keeping pets cool and spotting the signs of heat stress early.*

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# 60+ LUNCH CLUB

Our Lunch Club is available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at Selsdon Community Clubhouse.

Join us for a two-course home-cooked meal, including tea/coffee for £12/pp.

The 60+ Lunch Club is a great place to connect with others in the community, make new friends, and enjoy good food.

**To book contact the Clubhouse 24 hours before:  
0208 651 1111 or [office@selsdoncentre.org.uk](mailto:office@selsdoncentre.org.uk)**

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# SELSDON AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD.



We meet, usually, on the third Friday of the month from 1.30- 4.00 in The Community Hall, St. John's Church, Upper Selsdon Road, Selsdon.

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July after a short business meeting we will welcome our speaker Delia Taylor who, will talk about Coco Chanel. There will be a jewellery stall where members can bring in items they now no longer wear, to be sold for charity. The afternoon will end with a chance to chat and enjoy tea and biscuits.

Our August meeting, on Friday 21st August will be a Coffee Morning, from 10.00-12.00, where you can enjoy coffee and homemade cake.

Do come and join us!

*Christine Holland 02086574861*

~~

## SANDERSTEAD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

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



Sanderstead WI is a friendly group of over 70 members who meet from 2pm to 4pm on the first Wednesday of the month in the church hall of Sanderstead.

United Reformed Church, 3 Sanderstead Hill, Croydon, CR2 0HB. We welcome potential new members who may attend before deciding to join.

Meetings start with local WI business including cascading details of courses and workshops run by our county and national bodies, followed by a speaker. Forthcoming talks include -: A History of Money Laundering; Boxers, Bandits and a Blind Beggar; and Life as a Jigsaw Puzzle.

Our annual tea party is in August, and towards Christmas we organise a Christmas Lunch, a Xmas party and a trip to the pantomime. Special interest groups include - Gardening, Scrabble, Canasta, Book Club, Walkers and Strollers, Lunch Club, Table Tennis and Arts-n-Crafts. This year we have visited the Banksy Museum, Blenheim Palace, The Kings Gallery, and Westminster Abbey and forthcoming trips are to the Peek Freans Museum, Westminster Cathedral and a day trip to Rochester.

Further details of our activities can be found on our website. Please follow the contact instruction on our website: [sandersteadwi.org](http://sandersteadwi.org) or tel. 020 8657 6721 and leave a message.

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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

## DOCTORS & EMERGENCY CARE

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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@met.police.uk

## CLUBS, GROUPS & CHARITIES

CONTACT (Neighbourhood Care)	Jasmine Singh	020 8651 4944
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 <a href="http://www.folw.co.uk">www.folw.co.uk</a>
Friends of Selsdon Wood		<a href="http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk">www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk</a>
Sanderstead Plantation Partners	michaellishmund@gmail.com	
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Girlguiding (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section)		0800 999 2016 <a href="https://girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved">https://girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Selsdon & Addington Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts)		<a href="http://www.1stselsdonscouts.org.uk">www.1stselsdonscouts.org.uk</a>
5 <sup>th</sup> Selsdon & Addington Scout Group		<a href="mailto:glv@5thsandascouts.org">glv@5thsandascouts.org</a>
Croham Valley Explorer Scout Unit	Christopher Dean	<a href="mailto:tinkerscorner@aol.com">tinkerscorner@aol.com</a>
Arts Society Croydon Area	Jean Aarons	<a href="https://tascroydonarea.org.uk">https://tascroydonarea.org.uk</a>
Parkinson's UK Croydon & District Branch	Mike Bond	07704 413668
Rotary Sanderstead & Selsdon	Wendy Parr	07774 186792
RSPB Croydon Local Group	John Davis	020 8640 4578
Selsdon Art Group	Fiona Hooper	07973 412952
Selsdon Bridge Club	Bob Steadman	07545 384899
Selsdon Centre Bridge Club	Betty Borfiga	020 8656 4212
Selsdon Community Hall	Cottie Campbell	<a href="mailto:selsdonhall.info@gmail.com">selsdonhall.info@gmail.com</a>
Selsdon Flower Club	Maureen Browning	020 8651 5821
Selsdon Townswomen's Guild(pm)	Christine Holland	020 8657 4861
Sanderstead Horticultural Society		<a href="mailto:SHSmembership1@gmail.com">SHSmembership1@gmail.com</a>
Sanderstead Local History Group		<a href="mailto:sandersteadlh@gmail.com">sandersteadlh@gmail.com</a>
Selsdon Tennis Club	Jeff Pullen	079568 29842
St John's Wives	Jane Guglielmi	020 8657 6672
66(Selsdon) Squadron Air Training Corps	Rob Cleeter	020 8651 5958

# SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

**STANDING ORDER (Annual Payment – repeat payments due on 1<sup>st</sup> June)**

**To: Selsdon Residents Association (SRA): A/c No 40336343**

**Sort Code 20 - 24 - 61**

**Your Bank .....**

**Branch Address .....**

**Your A/C Name .....**

**Your A/C Number ..... Sort Code .....**

**Reference: .....**

*Please use the first line of your address for the reference*

We need this so that we can record your subscription knowing that you are a Selsdon Resident and so entitled to be a member of this Residents' Association

## General Data Protect Regulation 2018

The SRA will electronically store the personal information obtained from this SO, so we have a record of your bona fide membership. We respect your right to privacy and will not share, sell or profile your personal data.

You may contact the SRA at [mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com](mailto:mail2.selsdonresidents@gmail.com) at any time to request a copy of your personal information that we hold electronically and, at your request, we will amend or delete that information. Deletion will mean that we will no longer contact you.

**Please tick this box to give us your permission to retain your personal details for our records.**

**Please pay the Selsdon Residents' Association now and on 1st June annually until further notice from me, the sum of**

£ 5.00      Annual Subscription

£..... Optional additional annual donation for Christmas Lights

**£..... Total**

**Please sign here: ..... Date.....**

Please also print your name here (*particularly for your bank's use*)

.....

n.b. This is not a Direct Debit – we cannot alter your Standing Order. You can cancel your Standing Order at any time by contacting your bank.