

Selsdon Residents' **Association**

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The Selsdon

Gazette

Volume 76. No. 860

Juno 2024

THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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Distribution: Enquiries to Chris Jones, selsdongazettesra@gmail.com

Copy for the Gazette should reach the Editor by 20^{th} of each month and email attachments should be in Word or PDF format. Advertisements must reach the Advertising Manager by 15th of each month, with payment in full received by close of business that day.

There is no August Gazette.

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

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

Full details of the roads falling within each of the Selsdon wards can be found on the home page of the SRA website http://selsdon-residents.co.uk

Editor's Note

Hello everyone and welcome to the June Selsdon Gazette.
As you can see by the cover, June is subscription collection time for the Selsdon Residents' Association. Please use the envelope in this Gazette before it gets lost so that, amongst other things, we can all enjoy the Christmas Lights along the High Street once again.

I hope that you are all making the most of the longer days and shorter nights in June. For those entering our 'Grow the tallest Sunflower' competition remember to keep them watered as, hopefully, the weather improves. We continue this outdoors theme in this Gazette with our Gardeners from the Sanderstead Horticultural Society urging us to visit the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show and their own Summer Show. Mary Gill celebrates World Environment Day with her cautionary poem, while Ted Forsyth tells us about the small mammals that can be spotted in Selsdon Wood. Following last month's annual report from the Friends of Selsdon Wood, we feature the annual report from the Friends of Littleheath Woods; so much has been done by the volunteers in these local woods.

We have news of planning applications in Selsdon and Purley with new communications masts in the centre of Selsdon and the redevelopment of the old Sainsbury's site and car park in Purley, hopefully providing a new swimming pool for the area. Ian Leggatt concludes his series of articles about the fourth housing development in Selsdon which was carried out by Costains in Selsdon ninety years ago. Su Yates takes another look at hobbies, this time cricket, and the Quiz this month tests your knowledge of royal history.

There are not many letters for the editor this month so please consider writing to me about life in Selsdon, good or bad. I am always pleased to receive your photos taken in the Selsdon area, so keep them coming in at selsdongazettesra@gmail.com. I hope that you enjoy your read.

Chris Jones

Submissions for the July 2024 edition should be with the Editor no later than 20th June - Preferably before! ❖

SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS

Village Club

We are lucky to have this long-standing club for locals to join and enjoy entertainment and company. They also raise funds for a nominated charity each year. This past year was Macmillan Cancer Support and this year it is our local community charity, Contact who provide health transport requests, shopping buses, home visits to mention a few. The Club also hosts an afternoon tea, open to all, on the last Tuesday of the month from noon. Quizzers are welcome to join their Sunday quiz but will be asked to pay £1 entrance to the Club as non-members. All events are posted on their noticeboard outside.

Gazette Tea

We held a gathering at Selsdon Baptist Hall on Saturday 18th May afternoon for all gazette distributors and deliverers, past and present, to eat cake and drink tea - which we did with great enthusiasm. A hundred



invites went out and about 42 attended. It was so nice to put faces to names and give them a small thank you for all they do. The gazette is a team effort and each play a big part in its distribution. What a great bunch of people we have in Selsdon.

Police Panel Meeting

The next Ward Panel meeting is at St Francis Church, 107 Broadcoombe, CR2 8HR at 6.30pm on 9th July and this is open to the public to ask any questions.

Selsdon Wood Open Day

This will be a chance for you to come along on Sunday 8th September to meet us and your neighbours from 12 to 4pm. You could even have a stall for a small donation of £5. Any enquiries can be sent to selsdonwood@gmail.com

Sheila Childs, Chair SRA

~~



YOUR 2024 SRA SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE

You should have found an envelope in this Gazette by which you can pay your annual subscription to the SRA.

At the Selsdon Residents Association's AGM, it was agreed to keep the subscription rate at £5 per household for another year to encourage as many residents as possible to subscribe. This money is vital to support the work we do in the local community. So how do we spend your money?

The largest expense is the **Christmas lights**. These are <u>not</u> paid for by the Council and sadly only some of the local traders support us to meet the annual bill of around £8000. Therefore, we are very grateful for the extra donations included by residents when paying their subs to help us. The Council also do not fund the **floral displays** that brighten our shopping area during the year. Once again, the SRA uses their income for the plants for the High Street displays. Some of the SRA committee and a few helpers tend the displays on a voluntary basis. Decorations around the Selsdon Clock on the Triangle at Christmas and Remembrance Day

are also paid for from our funds.

Additionally, we give **donations to community causes** to help them to keep going. In the past, we have helped the Scouts refurbish their hut and St John's Church their hall.

I hope you can see from this that we believe you get really good value from the £5 subs and that we make good use of your additional donations that you choose to give.

Please do complete the standing order form that is printed on the back cover of this Gazette and send it to your bank using the first line of your address as the reference, or pay online directly from your bank account to ours by using the bank details on the SO form. These details are also on our website – www.selsdon-residents.co.uk

Alternatively, please deliver your envelope containing your household subs and any extra you can spare to support us to any of the addresses listed on the envelope. They will all love to see the envelopes dropping through their letter boxes. We are grateful to three businesses (Tudor Library, Burchell's Chiropody and Croydon Physio) and Selsdon Contact and Selsdon Centre for the Retired for being a collection point for us and, more importantly, we are grateful most of all to you for your donations. Please don't delay - if you do mislay the envelope, you can use any envelope stating your name, address and the amount enclosed.

Thank you for your support from Linda Morris and all the SRA Committee.

The Gazette Needs Help

One Distributor needed for Ridge Langley/ Arundel Avenue/Langley Oaks Avenue



Could you spare a couple of hours a month? You would be given about 400 copies from our Distribution Manager. Your job would be to put them into about 8 bundles of about 60 copies and then pass these to your deliverers.

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

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Selsdon Residents Association Grow the Tallest Sunflower Competition 2024

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



Your sunflowers should now be in the ground in full sun and being watered regularly. The flowers will appear between July and September. Take a photo of your tallest sunflower, preferably with you alongside it. Measure its height from ground level to its tallest point and send the measurement and photo to the editor of the Gazette selsdongazettesra@gmail.com by the 20 September with the grower's name and address. The tallest sunflowers will win the prizes.

This photo shows the progress of the editor's sunflower, now in the ground but proving to be very attractive to slugs and snails!



COUNCILLORS' NOTES

COUNCILLOR SURGERY

The venue for our monthly councillors' surgery has changed. Residents can now find us in the Jubilee café downstairs from Sainsbury's. A private room is available should there be a matter which cannot be discussed in public. The timing is unchanged at 10 am till 11.15 am on the first Saturday of the month. except January and August.

ADDINGTON PARK EVENTS

A one day event in Addington Park has been licensed for Saturday 6th July. An application for a two-day event at the end of July is expected to come

before the Council's Licensing Committee in the next few weeks.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF REFURBISHED SELSDON RECREATION PLAYGROUND

Executive Mayor Jason Perry, accompanied by Councillors Andy Stranack and Robert Ward officially opened the refurbished children's playground in Selsdon Rec. The upgrade benefits a wide range of children from ages 1 – 14 years.

GRASS CUTTING AND NO MOW MAY

Croydon is participating in Plantlife's 'No Mow May' initiative by allowing 73 grass verges and open spaces to grow during the month, details on the council's website. The borough is an important pollinator 'corridor' between neighbouring boroughs enabling insects to move between habitats and pollinate wildflowers. Affected areas will be clearly marked for the month of May, after which the usual four-to-six-week cutting cycle will resume.

Careful consideration has been given to the areas left to grow to help biodiversity, whilst making sure they do not impact on residents such as interfering with visibility whilst driving. It is not possible to leave all areas of parks to grow, as this would make the grass cutting schedule for the rest of the summer impossible to achieve.

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

Councillor surgeries are held on the first Saturday of the month 10am - 11.15am (no surgery in August/January. Surgeries are at The Jubilee Café, lower ground floor of the Sainsburys building.

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

24/01487/PDO - Highways Verge, Addington Road, South Croydon CR2 8LB Removal of one existing 9.7m monopole and 2 existing cabinets to be replaced with one new 19m monopole accommodating new antennas, with a wrap-around cabinet, 2 other cabinets and associated ancillary works.

24/01136/HSE - 243 Addington Road South Croydon CR2 8LR Alterations and first floor roof extension and a single storey rear infill extension.

24/01340/HSE - 10 Birdwood Close South Croydon CR2 8QG Erection of two-storey rear extension, internal reconfigurations and all associated works.

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

24/01144/HSE - 112 Farley Road South Croydon CR2 7NE Demolition of existing garage; erection of single/two storey front/side/rear extensions and alterations.

24/01135/HSE - 40 Greville Avenue South Croydon CR2 8NL Erection of first floor side extension over existing garage and associated works.

24/00918/HSE - 35 Kingswood Way South Croydon CR2 8QL Demolition of existing garage and outbuildings and erection of garage with a gymnasium to the rear.

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

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Better Mobile Coverage for Selsdon - New Phone Mast on the Triangle?



For those of you that follow our Planning Table * which is updated every Saturday you may have noticed that there was a proposal submitted by EE and H3G to Croydon Council on 29th April 2024 for the "Removal of 1no existing 9.7m monopole and 2no existing cabinets to be replaced with 1no new 19m monopole accommodating new antennas, with a wrap-around cabinet, 2no other cabinets and associated ancillary works thereto. Highways Verge Addington Road South Croydon CR2 8LB" No drawings

or location plan are provided but in an accompanying letter a grid reference is provided which appears to be on the Triangle opposite the entrance to Goschen Mews. There is an existing mast and ground based cabinets there. The 'what3words' reference for the location is 'simple.plot.agent'. The new mast is proposed to incorporate "9no new antennas, 1no new wraparound cabinet and 2no new equipment cabinets, installation of 1no new GPS node and ancillary works thereto".

Although listed as a Planning Application under reference 24/the letter indicates that it is merely a formal 28 day notification to the Council that the works are intended to be carried out under 'Permitted Development Rights'. These came into force in April 2022. By the time you read this update the works may have commenced.......

It is perhaps worth noting that there is extant planning permission which was granted to Vodaphone on 12th May 2023 for an 18.7m high mobile phone mast together with 6 antennas and associated base cabinets on the land behind 156 to 180 Addington Road which is where the Goschen Mews development is situated. This application (ref 23/01124/PA8) was received by the Council on 21st March 2023 and swiftly granted. Interestingly this was a full application with 17 supporting documents.

lan Leggatt

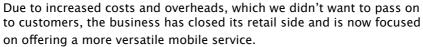
SRA Planning Sub Committee.

*The Planning Table service is funded from your subscriptions to the SRA and is for Selsdon residents. To sign up for the weekly updates just go to localplanningapps.co.uk

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

Purley Pool Development News

I know many Selsdon residents have been regular visitors to Purley Pool so I have some news just in, which I wanted to pass on:



Croydon Council has now received the long-awaited planning application to build a new pool and leisure centre on the old Purley Pool site, with regeneration of the surrounding area too.

The planning application includes:

- the new leisure centre and pool, including a 25m six-lane main swimming pool and a training pool, an 80 space gym, fitness suite and studio space as well as changing rooms, WC and a café
- a housing project of 123 "later living" flats and 97 care home rooms all reserved for older people (including, for example, local down-sizers) called an "Integrated Retirement Community"
- 78 total parking spaces and a new public square with improved access from the station to the High Street to help regenerate the town centre and boost the local economy

The construction cost of the new leisure centre and pool will be covered by the revenue from the flats and care home rooms for older people so won't cost taxpayers anything, and the ownership and management of the leisure centre and pool will transfer to the Council once it is built. The applicant expects to start demolition work in September this year, with a 3 year total programme.

The full planning application is reference number 24/00775/FUL. You can comment on the application by following this link if you want to. There are some clearer plans and background available to look at here (although it appears that the actual planning application differs a little in some details): https://purleypool.co.uk/

The new project covers the area currently occupied by the old leisure centre, multi-storey car park and the old Sainsbury's.

I would like to have seen more parking in the project, but unfortunately the London Assembly has a planning policy (which applies to this scheme) that strictly limits the parking which they allow on new developments. But overall, it is very welcome that we will get a new leisure centre and pool and that this site will be regenerated at last.

This all follows a lot of work by Mayor Jason Perry and local councillors which I have supported. You may recall that the previous administration in Croydon closed the pool and refused to re-open it. A pool for Purley is essential – it was previously used by 11 local schools, many charities and local people of all ages. A new pool and leisure centre will also provide a welcome lift to Purley town centre, attracting more footfall and creating a nicer environment.

You can comment on the planning application online, and I would encourage you to do so, by visiting https://www.croydon.gov.uk/planning-and-regeneration and using the reference 24/00775/FUL.

I hope that this update was useful and please do keep an eye on my website for further local news. I am determined to see a pool and facilities re-opened in Purley as soon as possible.

Chris Philp

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

NEW LEISURE COMPLEX IN PURLEY

The seven Residents' Associations (Riddlesdown RA, Hartley & District RA, Selsdon RA, Croham Valley RA, Old Coulsdon RA, Coulsdon West RA, and East Coulsdon RA) are very supportive of the rebuilding of a new leisure centre in Purley but have submitted a letter objecting to the current planning application for the redevelopment of the old Purley Pool site and surrounding area with the erection of buildings of 5 to 12 storeys to provide a leisure centre (Use Class F2), commercial unit (Use Class E), an Integrated Retirement Community comprising a mix of Specialist Older Persons Housing and Care Accommodation for older people (Use Classes C2 and C3), car parking, landscaping, and associated works.

I do not have room to include the entire letter in the Gazette but I have summarised some of their main objections.

1. Car Parking

They believe the proposal to replace the multi storey car park from 424 spaces to just 45 public parking spaces, plus 5 disabled spaces (50 in total) is ludicrous, and it is the RAs belief that the Purley District Centre trade will suffer financially because of this.

2. Later Living Flats

Four buildings are proposed across the site ranging from 5 to 12 storeys. They have asked whether the Council has done any surveys as to the demand for these type of flats for the elderly, especially in high rise blocks? If so, then the surveys should be part of the planning presentation.

3. Flooding and sewage disposal

The area being developed is currently in a low risk flood area. However, the surface water and sewage disposal for both the flats and all the leisure centre complex, shops etc will be discharged into both the foul and surface water sewers. There are already many more new dwellings disposing sewage and rainwater into the undersized foul water sewers in the Purley area, without an upgrade of the sewer system by Thames Water. There are also numerous new builds of residential units within and just outside the PDC (and yet to be built, like the 17 storey Baptist Church block) and they fear it will come to a point that both the foul and surface water sewer systems cannot cope with all the additional dwellings.

4. Overshadowing and Wind Tunnel Effects

The 'Daylight and Sunlight' Assessment within the planning application took place prior to the decision to allow the proposed development at 26-52 Whytecliffe Road South & Purley Station Car Park (21/01753/FUL) with up to 9 storey buildings on this site. They call for this assessment to be updated to take into account the shadowing effect of this new 4 to 9 storey development. They also believe that the overlooking of sets of habitable rooms from blocks on opposite sides of the street (Whytecliffe Rd South) will not meet the minimum separation distance of 18 to 21m. In addition, they fear a wind tunnel effect could occur on Whytecliffe Rd South during windy conditions, just as it does for pedestrians walking from East Croydon Rail station and up/down George Street with its new high rise buildings.

5. Affordable Housing

They notice that none of the residential units will be affordable, even though this site could potentially make a significant contribution to housing needs in the area.

6. Mobile Phone Masts

They point out that most of the four main mobile phone companies have their masts and equipment located on the roof of the multi storey car park and that these will need to be removed, when demolition takes place. They ask where the temporary replacements will be located and their permanent positions as this will have an impact on the aesthetics of the scheme.

We wait to see what happens... **CJ**

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UPDATE FROM LOCAL SUPERINTENDENT, MITCH CARR

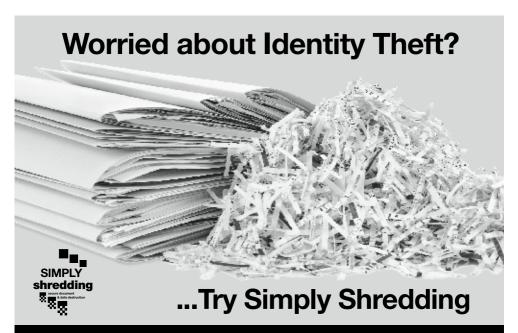
As the Superintendent responsible for local policing in Croydon I wanted to provide an update for the Selsdon community. Your local neighbourhood team are based at Addington Police Station and in recent months have benefited from a new Sergeant (Jim Morrow) who is dedicated to the Selsdon & Sanderstead wards. Responsibility for the longer term problem solving & crime reduction work sits with your local neighbourhood policing team, although there is always a 24/7



emergency response function which is based at Croydon Police Station covering the whole borough.

The warmer weather of late is a timely opportunity to remind the community about home security. At the beginning of the year there was a spike in burglary offences across Selsdon. The typical method used by the suspect was to gain access to rear gardens and then exploit doors and windows that had been left unlocked. In some cases, windows were also smashed. Often, the properties targeted were ones that backed on to woods, golf courses or alley ways. Your local team led by Sergeant Morrow put in place a proactive operation (Op Theodosia) to target this problem, working extended shifts, undertaking surveillance activities and also visiting properties that appeared particularly vulnerable to give crime prevention advice. As a result, we have seen a dramatic reduction in burglary offences. As things currently stand there have only been two reported offences since the beginning of April (Croham Valley Road & Farley Road.) Please ensure you are taking steps to secure your property, and do not hesitate to contact your local team if you would like a home security visit.

While I am pleased to report Selsdon remains one of the lowest crime parts of the borough, the team will be working hard to focus on the



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priorities set by the local community. These include anti-social behaviour, drug use and burglary. We can only be successful by working in partnership with the community. In recent weeks officers have acted on intelligence to execute a warrant at a premises above shops on Addington Road being used for drug dealing. A significant amount of cocaine, heroin and cash was found at the premises with a number of arrests made. Please continue to pass on any relevant information or intelligence either directly to your local team or anonymously to Crimestoppers.

Superintendent Mitch Carr Croydon Police

Drop In Surgeries

St Francis Church, Broadcoombe CR2 8HR 12-1pm Wednesday 26 June 12-1pm Wednesday 24 July 12-1pm Wednesday 31 July

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

Emergencies – 999, Non-emergency crime - 101 Selsdon & Addington Village:

SelsdonandAddingtonVillageSNT@met.police.uk

Selsdon Vale & Forestdale:

SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk

Good Time for Gardening - June

The magnificent Hampton Court Palace is the most spectacular backdrop to many films and TV programmes, as well as being the venue for the **RHS flower show** between 2nd and 7th July. Train access is relatively easy, with one change at Clapham Junction.

The flower show was first held in 1990 and created by Historic Royal Palaces and Network Southeast. In 1992 Network Southeast announced it was withdrawing and the RHS was the successful bidder to take over. The first RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show was held in 1993, and it has gone on to become the world's largest flower show.

Key Facts:

- It takes 18 months to plan each show, and 200 people to build and dismantle
- It takes three weeks to build a show garden & two weeks to build a small garden - but just five days to dismantle them
- An average of 130,000 people attend the show every year, and most visitors spend around 5 hours there
- The Floral Marquee is 6,750 square metres, big enough to fit an FA football pitch
- 3,300 glasses of Pimm's, on average, are consumed during Festival week, along with 17,000+ cups of Fairtrade tea and coffee, 11,000+ sandwiches and 2,800+ slices of cake
- More flowers are sold per square mile at RHS Hampton than anywhere else in the UK

Should you manage to visit this year, it is quite an amazing event and the return journey on the train is always a very jolly affair, with the vast majority of passengers transporting plants of some kind and lots of interesting conversations taking place.

Closer to home ... the Sanderstead Horticultural Society's Summer Show is on Saturday 22nd June, from 2 pm at Wettern Tree Gardens, Purley Oaks Road. Admission is free to members of the SHS and only £3 for non-members.

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

~~

Costains 4th Selsdon Housing Development. Sun-Homes. Pt 3.

The Bottom Line: The Cost?

We saw last month that Costains were very proud of the quality of their homes. But how much did such quality cost and how affordable was it to own one of these sought after dwellings in healthy and sunny Selsdon?

Back in 1926 when the first Costains houses were being sold and occupied in Queenhill, Rylandes and Byron Roads, a semi-detached

in Queenhill cost £650 (a further £75 was paid by the local council at the time, namely the Coulsdon and Purley Urban District Council). Fast forward to our Sun-Homes in 1935 and the 'Rosewood' could be purchased for £585, although this was a middle type. A 'Rosewood' (end position) could be had for £605 and as a semi-detached at £650. The 'Briarwood', being larger, could be had for £655 in middle position or £670 in end position. The 'Hazlewood', larger still and in semi-detached only, would set you back some £725.

Costains had honed their skills in making their homes affordable: Leaving aside the option of paying cash outright or a larger cash deposit with reduced building society advance they provided two options to purchase: 'Full Deposit Terms' and 'Minimum Deposit Terms'. Costains explained the schemes thus:

"FULL DEPOSIT TERMS.

This means that the total deposit is to be paid prior to occupation and the purchaser benefits accordingly by the offer of free removal of furniture from their present house, within 25 miles radius of the estate."

"MINIMUM DEPOSIT TERMS.

These permit occupation to take place on the cash deposit of £15 being paid, the balance required being paid in weekly instalments during the first twelve weeks before payments become due to the Building Society." One pound provisionally secures the house in either case, a further £4 is to be paid on the signing of the contract and the balance just prior to occupation. Special terms will be quoted on applications where it is desired to reduce the weekly cost by payment of a larger cash deposit."

"The prices given are guaranteed to be Freehold and inclusive of all purchase expenses and the arrangements of advance, survey fees, roads paved for adoption by the Local Authority. Complete decorations and fittings equal to standard show houses."

Focusing on the Rosewood and Briarwood styles we can see the purchase schemes available:

From around 1933 to 1950 the Bank of England Base Rate was steady at 2%. The mortgage rate offered by Costains was also steady at 4.5%. Repayments were "per lunar month" as workers were paid weekly, not monthly.

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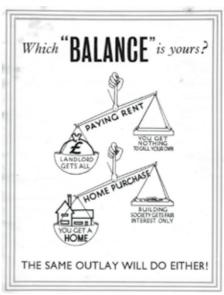
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		ROSEWOOD (Middle Type)			ROSEWOOD (End Positions)			RW0		BRIARWOOD (End Positions)	ROSII (Semi-II
FULL DEPOSIT TERMS:	1		d.	(i.	d.	6	1.	d.	£ 4 d.	6
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Repayment per lunar month inclusive interest	of (18/8)	3 1	0	(*************************************	3	0	(*************************************	8	0	(1700) 3 10 0	(*************************************

How affordable were the new homes? The Office for National Statistics gives the 1938 average weekly wage as £3 5s for a male and £1 6s for a female (£1 = 24s {shillings} / 1s = 12d {pence}). A pint of beer was 5d and a £5 'basket of goods and services' would now set you back £300. Extrapolating that to a Rosewood House priced at £650 an equivalent basket of goods and services would now cost £38,500. By comparison, Zoopla is currently showing in the Benhurst Gardens area a comparable 3 bed terraced property at £425k and a 3 bed semi at £525k.







From the Costains Sales Brochure

As an indication of the Costains target market the mother and father of CW moved from a terraced house in West Norwood (with outside toilet) to Elm Park Gardens in 1936. CW senior had been an apprentice on the railways and became an Engineer but was eventually laid off in the Depression. His uncle managed to get CW senior taken on as a driver on the buses which must have been a secure job with a reasonable salary and apparently lots of the drivers and conductors were buying the Costains houses. CW provides an interesting anecdote: CW's parents came to Selsdon on a Sunday to view the houses. There was a plot where the foundations for two blocks of terraced houses had been put in. It appeared that Richard Costain had earlier visited the site and had been told by the foreman that the terraced houses were not selling well. Mr Costain had instructed the foreman to dig out the foundations for the terraces and to build 5 pairs of semi-detached houses instead. CW still resides in Elm Park in a semi with wider than normal frontage. Some of the broken out concrete from the earlier foundations was put to good use in adjusting the garden levels to build a terrace and pond.

lan Leggatt

Again, Ted Frith's journals set me on a path. I am grateful to CW for the information about his family home.

Seats in Selsdon Wood

There is a total of 69 seats (including benches) in Selsdon Wood. A recent inspection has been carried out to determine their positions and condition. All are now numbered 1 to 69 but please note the numbering does not follow a regular pattern in terms of location. The "Seats" page of the Friends of Selsdon Wood (FSW) website now shows a map and lists them all, showing the seats in 3 colour forms:

Blue = Dedicated seats – those purchased by relatives of a deceased person – mainly with an inscription or memorial plaque Pink = Donated or refurbished seats – donated or refurbished by FSW Red = Seats installed before the foundation of FSW – mainly by Croydon Council – only a few of these survive.

Over the past 5 years, old seats (when damaged or rotten) have been replaced by FSW, largely financed from our funds. Croydon Council had told FSW that new dedicated seats could only be installed by FSW as replacements for old seats – and that there were no Council funds for extra seats provided by them. However, the Council have now agreed that the FSW could install some additional seats if suitable areas can be agreed with those paying the FSW for them.

In general, the condition of all the seats is good except for 4 seats currently considered by the FSW to be beyond repair – numbers 20; 28; 33; 62. Experience shows they tend to survive for 20-30 years.

Three seats - 20, 33 and 62 - are so badly deteriorated that they should now be considered for replacement when or if clients approach the FSW about financing this. 62 is a seat dedicated to Nicola Jane Bailey but the FSW have no information available regarding this lady's family. Any information sent to selsdonwood@gmail.com about how to contact her family or friends to advise them of the situation before we condemn the seat and take our own remedial action (i.e. offer the site to another donor or finance a new seat ourselves through fund-raising) would be appreciated.

FSW - May 2024

Cricket, Lovely Cricket!

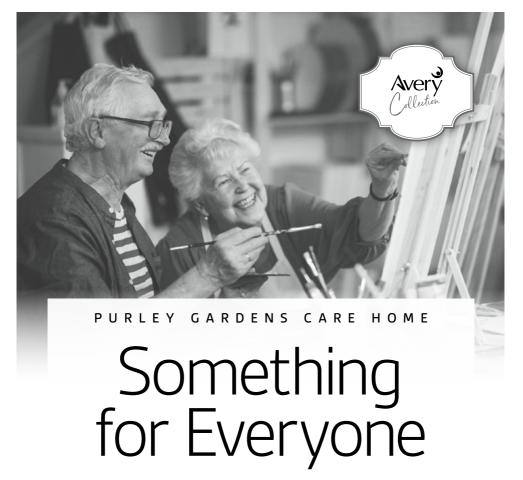


Words adapted from a calypso penned after the 1950 test match that the West Indies won and made famous by Lord Beginner, but did you know of a famous cricketing family's association with Sanderstead?

When the Arkwright family succeeded the Wigsells as owners of Sanderstead Court they let it to James Brand.

Following his death in 1895, his family built a Village Hall in his memory. The first meeting in the hall was reputedly for the purpose of forming a cricket club and Mr. Samuel Cowdrey was elected their first captain. I am sure there are many cricket fans out there who are familiar with the name Cowdrey.

The Cowdreys lived at White House Farm and Samuel Cowdrey was Colin Cowdrey's great grandfather. Samuel Cowdrey and his 3 sons were



Purley Gardens has a dedicated well-being team to produce an exciting and varied programme of activities and events every day. Residents are supported with personal interests not already covered in the calendar and memory, physical and sensory-based activities are designed with therapeutic outcomes in mind.

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all keen cricketers and allegedly at one time 11 members of the Cowdrey family played for Sanderstead and a great aunt did the scoring.

There are records of a match between Sanderstead and a Croydon XI in 1867 at the cricket field in Sanderstead, which is still in use today. Originally there used to be an adjacent field used for hockey but that is no longer there. Colin Cowdrey was the first player to make 100 appearances in Test cricket and I am sure his ancestors would have been proud of him. Closer to the present day, on Saturday 14th September the Sanderstead & Selsdon Rotary will be hosting a Hobby Fair in St. John's Church Hall, Selsdon. No cricket I'm afraid but plenty of other things to hopefully spark your enthusiasm. Entry is free and there are refreshments.

According to statistics, 66% of us feel that a hobby can be time consuming but I am sure that anyone who has ever watched a cricket match on a summer afternoon would agree that it is a most enjoyable way to spend that time.

74% consider a hobby to be important and when compared to those who do not have a hobby they report better health, more happiness, fewer symptoms of depression and a higher life satisfaction.

The average life span of a hobby is 16 months with the majority sticking to an activity for 1-5 years. Amongst this year's hobbies not already mentioned last month are: Roger Jenkins' Inventions – definitely something to interest the whole family; wood turning; stained glass; the RSPB; Songsations; Sanderstead Horticultural Society; Croydon Bowls Club and the Scouting movement.

Wood turning is a craft using a wood lathe with hand held tools to cut a shape and, I am told, it is not as difficult as you might think to get started. The earliest representation of wood turning has been found depicted in an Egyptian tomb dating back to 300 BCE.

Contemplating bowls in your retirement? Well, bowls is not just a sport for retirees. Croydon Bowling Club have both under -25's and-18's players. They also offer free taster sessions if you have never played before and are thinking of taking up the game.

Songsations are a female vocal group who meet locally every week to sing favourite show tunes and Rotary are hoping that they will kindly entertain everyone during the afternoon. So come along, pull up a chair, enjoy the refreshments, learn a new hobby or two, learn about some local clubs, perhaps purchase a bargain or two from the craft tables or the book and puzzle tables, or just enjoy the music and the company. You can also find out more about Rotary along the way.

There are still a few table spaces left so if you would like to share the joy of your hobby or group, please contact Wendy Parr, Rotary Secretary on 07774 186792 for a booking form. Tables are only £10. Why not think about sharing a table with a friend?

Another brain teaser to leave you with. What wood is worth more than gold?

Su Yates

Answer: Agarwood also known as oudh or gaharu.

~~

Here the Chair of the Friends of Littleheath Woods reviews what has been done in the woods during the year from April 2023 to March 2024

THE FRIENDS OF LITTLEHEATH WOODS



WORK PARTY ACTIVITY

We are delighted to report that our work party numbers are healthy although some of us, after some 20 odd years of work parties, are feeling our age. Chris Hyde continues to organise us with a seemingly never ending series of tasks. Unfortunately, we lost many work party days due to weather:

1 cancelled due to heat, 4 were rained off, and 2 cut short due to rain. Snow was not an issue for us this year.

We did manage to carry out the following work:

- We planted more Hazel along Croham Valley Path, adjacent to the power lines to create another coppice block and we started to prepare another area for a further coppice block along the path.
- Several weeks were spent on our Ponds & boggy area, clearing back the sides and overhanging vegetation plus control of Iris and planting of marginal plants.

- We continued with holly control in various locations as well as controlling "woodland creep" along the edges of both fields.
- The butterfly scrape in Fallen Oak Field has surprised us with its variety of healthy wildflower plants and we continue to monitor how this experiment develops. We will continue to cut the grass and control any invasive flora.
- We cut back Bramble and Cleavers on the Bluebell Banks down Fields Path and along Foxearth Path.
- Croydon Council forestry contractors made an appearance around November 2023 to carry out safety felling of numerous Ash trees which had succumbed to Chalara (Ash Die Back) and to take down many timeexpired Silver Birch. Unfortunately, much debris and timber were left on wildflower and planted areas and many felled trees created collateral damage. Our work on 'tidying up' will continue well into 2024.
- We have embarked on an exercise to plant Silver Birch in the woods to replace the old Birch which have now been lost. 2 stands have been planted and more are planned. Two areas of planting which suffered from drought and vandalism were also replanted.
- We now publish on our website a monthly diary of our work party activities.

Looking forward:

With Croydon Council in financial difficulties, we are ever more reliant on membership subscriptions, donations and Easyfundraising. Please remember to go through www.easyfundraising.org.uk and select 'Friends of Littleheath Woods' before you make any on-line purchases.

At our AGM we are proposing to keep our household membership at £5 You can keep up to date with us via our website (www.folw.co.uk) and our Facebook page (Friends of Littleheath Woods)

lan Leggatt.

Chair, Friends of Littleheath Woods

Kings and Queens of England Quiz

15 June is the official birthday of King Charles III this year and is celebrated with the Trooping of the Colour in London. Here is a quiz to test your knowledge of some past Kings and Queens of England.

1. Who is the first English king to carry the title "the Great"?

- 2. Which King lost his life at the Battle of Hastings in 1066?
- 3. Which King signed The Magna Carta?
- 4. According to Shakespeare, which King offered his kingdom for a horse?
- 5. Mary I killed many people during her reign. What is her nickname?
- 6. Who was the only English King to be publicly executed?
- 7. Who was the last of the Stuart monarchs?
- 8. Who succeeded Queen Victoria as monarch?
- 9. Who became King on the abdication of Edward VIII?
- 10. Elizabeth II came to the throne in 1952. Do you know what her nickname was as a child?

Answers after Nature Notes



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

Please remember to state your name, address, contact number and publication anonymity

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

Here our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, refuses to dwell on depressing news and focuses on more positive thoughts and experiences.

In these troubling days of war, destruction, and the endless bombardment of "gloom and horror in the newspapers, TV and on the Internet", it is possible to grow depressed.

The ostrich in me wants it all to GO AWAY NOW, and let's have good



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news and peace. However, if you look hard enough at the papers there is always a bit of good news and positive things being recorded too. It makes me glad to be part of a society, who keep trying to improve life for everyone and the generations to follow. There have been some interesting developments in medical discoveries, which will greatly improve life. It is astonishing that people bravely step forward and volunteer to risk

their health to be part of trials for the benefit of others. They risk suffering so others will share these amazing health discoveries.

After being very impressed by the peonies at Penshurst Place one year, my husband and I found we could put our names on a list, where the gardeners at the property (through their office) let us know when these wonderful flowers are at their peak for viewing. Not only are the gardens beautiful there, but we have discovered a six mile circular walk around this marvellous Estate. After the walk, we have also found a fantastic cafe for tea and cake at the entrance to the Estate car park. The walk has good views, but above all it is peaceful to walk with just the odd sound of cattle mooing or sheep bleating or birds singing or just talking to one another.

Nearer to home there are of course the Selsdon and Littleheath Woods, and just along the road, Kingswood. This time of year, Kingswood is just a sea of blue with the bluebells, and the air is clean enough to smell the bluebells!

When I walk in these beautiful, peaceful woods I no longer crave to be an ostrich but feel glad to be alive.

Poetry Corner

Mary Gill's poem this month reflects on World Environment Day which is celebrated annually on 5 June and encourages awareness and action for the protection of the environment.

EASING THE DROUGHT

How sweet the relief-When steady, prolonged rain falls onto the parched earth.

We are fortunate to inhabit this small isle whose moderate clime is rarely lethal for long giving us time to repent.

But will we take heed?
Will we change our reckless ways?
Learn how to conserve
the privileges we have —
before it's too late?

Or will we press on in our myopic stupor to the bitter end?
Can we curb our stupid greed - stop killing our Mother – Earth?



Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth Mini Mammals found in Selsdon Woods

One of my favourite birds is the Short-eared Owl as it flies by day over a field or marsh hunting for small mammals. I have seen it once in the Selsdon Wood area before the golf course was created. It breeds in the UK but large numbers come in from the continent to spend the winter with us. Its success is closely tied to the rise and fall of its favourite prey, the common Field Vole, which lives its life amongst grasses. Occasionally the population of voles reaches plague proportions with the consequence that the Short-eared Owls have a very successful breeding season, and so do the kestrels, tawny owls, foxes and badgers which also prey upon them. For a variety of reasons (including being eaten!) the vole population collapses, and lack of voles means the predators have to look for other prey and might not be able to sustain their own enlarged numbers. A similar animal is the Bank Vole but it is more likely to be found in woodland and will be targeted by foxes and tawny owls.

If you walk quietly by the woodland edge, you might hear the high-pitched

squeaking of two pugnacious shrews settling their differences. Their lives are lived at high speed as they frantically try to get enough food each day (or night). The young live through winter, breed during the summer, and die before the next winter. Shrew corpses are found frequently on some of the paths. The main species is likely to be the common shrew but we also have the much smaller pygmy shrew in the woods. There is a third species, the very much larger black-bodied Water Shrew, but this will only occur near to water.



Moles spend most of their lives as subterranean carnivores, eating earthworms or storing them for later consumption, and the only signs of their presence are the molehills dotted throughout the woods. With their spade-like "hands" they easily move soil but they must still have problems navigating the underground roots of trees. Just occasionally an individual can be seen on the soil surface and a few years ago this happened to Tony Flecchia when he was able to photograph the animal in his hand.

Wood Mouse & Yellow Necked Mouse are virtually the same size and distinguished by the much greater amount of yellowish colour across the chest and neck of the latter species. A favourite prey of the Tawny Owl. House Mouse and Brown Rat, though more associated with buildings, are both found in the woods. The Harvest Mouse is found in tall grasses where it builds a spherical nest attached to the grass stems.

Hazel Dormouse does not appear to be present in the woods. Much of the year is spent asleep and most of its activity is high in the trees though it can be found in suitable hedgerows. Often detected by the neat hole it makes in hazelnuts.

A survey by Steve & Ruth Budd has shown that there are at least half a dozen species of Bats in the woods, showing a lot of activity in Linden Glade where they are attracted by insects over the pool.

Weasel has been seen in the woods on several occasions. It is a ruthless predator capable of catching prey many times its own size.

When we first came to Forestdale one of our cats was a hunter of small mammals and caught many different species. The prey she brought home was always alive and was dropped at our feet. One present was a very lively common shrew which proceeded to run up the inside of my trouser

leg. Shrews have sharp teeth!

An alternative survey method is to analyse the prey remains present in Owl pellets. 16 pellets from April 2010 contained a minimum of 8 Wood Mouse, 5 Field Vole, 1 Bank Vole, 1 Common Shrew and a small bird. As the Tawny Owl has a very varied diet, which depends on its local habitat, pellets elsewhere have included Brown Rat, Mole, Water Shrew, Common Frog, and various beetles and earthworms.

~~

Answers to the Kings and Queens of England Quiz

- 1. Alfred.
- 2. Harold II (Harold Godwinson).
- 3. King John.
- 4. Richard III.
- 5. Bloody Mary.
- 6. Charles I.
- 7. Queen Anne.
- 8. Edward VII.
- 9. King George VI.
- 10. Lilibet

~~

GARDENS MATTER

WASPS -FRIEND OR ENEMY?



Most people at some stage, have asked "what is the point of wasps?" Almost always referring to the social yellow jackets (as opposed to solitary wasps) which make a nuisance of themselves in late summer when the nests start to break down.

If you're a gardener however, you should regard them as a very environmentally friendly form of pest control. They eat caterpillars, aphids, weevils and more without any detrimental effect on other wildlife, unlike chemical methods. In fact, a single social yellow jacket wasp nest is estimated to remove an astonishing 4.3kg of insect pests in a year!



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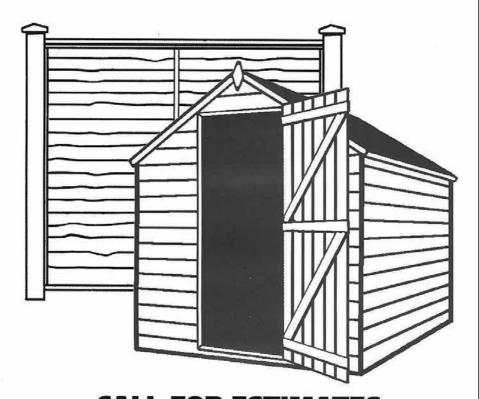
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They also scavenge carrion, meaning they play a key role in decomposition and they're unfussy about their dead meat – insects, birds, mammals or your BBQ sausages – anything will do. They may turn into delinquents at a certain stage but the rest of the time they are very helpful members of nature's society.

Chris Hyde

Information drawn from an article in the RHS publication "The Gardener"

HOLIDAY AT HOME 2024 - CORNWALL

A summer event for Seniors. Whilst we don't actually leave Selsdon, we do all we can to create a holiday atmosphere for our guests with entertainment, meals, music and a variety of crafts and activities. Cornwall is our theme this year.

This will be our 18th holiday. Why not give it a try? It's held at Selsdon Baptist Church on these dates:

July 29, July 31, August 2, August 4. You can come for one day or come for it all. £15 per day covers meals, refreshments, and all other expenses.

You can collect a brochure from the Church Office at Selsdon Baptist Church on weekdays from 9:30am to 12:30pm or ask for one to be sent to you on 020 8651 4308.

SELSDON AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

We are a friendly group of over 60 members. We meet from 1.30 – 4.00pm on the third Friday of each month in the Community Hall, St. John's Church, Upper Selsdon Road, Selsdon.

On July 19th Rennia Jenkins will speak about Handling History. On August 6th, just for this month, we will meet in the morning from 10.00-12.00 for our Summer Coffee Morning.

Tony Weeks will be with us on September 20th to tell us about the Blue Watch. There are activity groups to join and there is always time for refreshments and time to meet other members. Why not come and join us?

Christine Holland 02086574861

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

Fax: 020 8657 2268

Email: info@selsdoncontact.org.uk



You may have seen us during Volunteers Week on the 6th & 7th June in the foyer of Sainsburys. We hope to have recruited lots of new Volunteers and raised some money to add to our funds over these two days.

If you were unable to contribute at this time then perhaps you might like to consider becoming a Friend of Selsdon Contact.

Many of our clients asked how they might contribute to Contact on a regular basis and with this in mind we launched the 'Friends of Contact' scheme. As a Friend of Contact you will receive an invitation to an annual thank you tea and will be helping to ensure that Contact will be here for the foreseeable future continuing to provide much needed and valuable community support.

For full details on the Friends of Contact scheme please call into the office on the lower ground floor of the Selsdon Community Centre and we can provide you with more information.

Selsdon Churches Neighbourhood Care Registered Charity 1124346 Charitable Incorporated organisation.

SELSDON FLOWER CLUB

We have pleasure in announcing that our Flower Club is continuing in our 54th year with the following programme:

We are a small friendly club who meet on the second Wednesday afternoon of each month at 2pm at the rear of St. John the Divine Church, Selsdon. Subscription £30 per annum (£15 half year). We have demonstrations and practices. All abilities welcome!!

12 June Demo - Graham Harmer

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

A LOOK BACK IN PAST GAZETTES

Delving through some of the earliest Selsdon Gazettes I came across this letter from March 1947, just after the World War II, when rationing was still in operation. We really must not take our eggs for granted.

'Eggs for Breakfast'

Yes, real eggs – not ersatz* – and produced in your own garden. Everyone can enjoy this luxury by just a little extra effort for food production.

The recipe? Half a dozen chickens to be fed twice daily, given fresh water and some greenstuff. Timber for a chicken house is hard to obtain, but by judicious use of rustic poles, tarred felt and chicken wire a small structure can be built. Chickens are not fussy, but they do like a rain-proof house and plenty of litter. Straw is easily obtained, and with the addition of chicken manure this makes humus for the garden.

For beginners, it is strongly recommended that birds be obtained from an accredited breeder who can supply birds with stamina plus a good laying pedigree.

Cod liver oil added to the evening meal helps to keep birds in good condition and ensures plenty of eggs.

A new secretary is urgently required for the Poultry Section of the Horticultural Society and a volunteer would be welcomed by the committee. If interested, please communicate with the Hon. Secretary, Mr. A.E. Sarson, 296 Addington Road, Selsdon.

L.D Adcock

*Powdered eggs are also known as dried eggs, and colloquially during the period of rationing in the UK, as Ersatz eggs. Powdered eggs are eggs that have been dehydrated and turned into an easy-to-store powder, they have a storage life of 5 to 10 years when stored without oxygen in a cool storage environment.



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A SELECTED LIST OF SELSDON ORGANISATIONS

CHURCHES

St John the Divine (C of E)	Parish Office	020 8657 2343
Selsdon Baptist Church	Office	020 8651 4308
St Columba's (Roman Catholic)		020 8657 3747
St Francis (Church of England)	Monks Hill	020 8657 7864
Croydon Jubilee Church	Office	020 8651 2807
Forestdale Salvation Army Church		020 8657 0078
Selsdon Christian Fellowship		020 8668 9779
Church of Jesus Christ of LDS		020 8651 2211

DOCTORS & EMERGENCY CARE

Farley Road Medical Practice	020 8651 1222
Queenhill Medical Practice	020 8651 1141
Selsdon Park Medical Practice	020 8657 0067
Croydon University Hospital	020 8401 3000
New Addington Minor Injuries Unit	020 8251 7225
Purley War Memorial Hospital	020 8401 3515

POLICE

Selsdon & Addington Village: SelsdonandAddingtonVillageSNT@met.police.uk Selsdon Vale & Forestdale SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@metpolice.uk

CLUBS. GROUPS & CHARITIES

CONTACT (Neighbourhood Care)	Jasmine Singh	020 8651 4944
Selsdon Centre for the Retired	Craig Anderson	020 8651 1111
Croydon Hearing Resource Centre	Office	020 8686 0049
Croydon Vision		020 8668 2486
Cruse Bereavement Care Helpline		080 8808 1677
Friends of Littleheath Woods	lan Leggatt	020 8651 1140
Friends of Selsdon Wood	www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk	
Sanderstead Plantation Partners	michaellishmund@gr	nail.com
Friends of Kingswood	www.friendsofkingsw	
Girlguiding (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides &	Senior Section)	0800 999 2016
	https://girlguiding.org	.uk/get-involved

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

2 nd Selsdon & Addington Scout Group
Croham Valley Explorer Scout Unit
Arts Society Croydon Area
Parkinson's UK Crovdon & District Branch
Rotary Sanderstead & Selsdon
RSPB Croydon Local Group
Selsdon Art Group
Selsdon Bridge Club
Selsdon Centre Bridge Club
Selsdon Community Hall
Selsdon Flower Club
Selsdon Townswomen's Guild(pm)
Sanderstead Horticultural Society
Sanderstead Local History Group
Selsdon Tennis Club
St John's Wives
66(Selsdon) Squadron Air Training Corps

www.1stselsdon.org.uk www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk Christopher Dean tinkerscorner@aol.com Jean Aarons https://tascroydonarea.org.uk Roy Court 07704 683373 Wendy Parr 07774 186792 John Davis 020 8640 4578 Fiona Hooper 07973 412952 Bob Steadman 07545 384899 Betty Borfiga 020 8656 4212 Cottie Campbell selsdonhall.info@gmail.com Maureen Browning 020 8651 5821 Christine Holland 020 8657 4861

www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

sandersteadlhg@gmail.com
Geoff Littlewood 020 8651 4748
Jane Guglielmi 020 8657 6672
Rob Cleeter 020 8651 5958

The SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

STANDING ORDER (Annual Payment - repeat payments due on 1st June)

To: Selsdon Residents Association (SRA): 61	A/c No 40336343	Sort Code 20 - 24 -
To (your Bank)		
Branch Address		
Your A/C Name		
Your A/C Number	Sort Code	
Reference: n.b. Please use the first line of We need this so that we can record your subso Resident and so entitled to be a member of this General Data Protect Regulation 2018 The SRA will electronically store this personal i a record of your bona fide membership. We re sell or profile your personal data. You may contact the SRA at mail2.selsdonres copy of your personal information that we hol amend or delete that information. Deletion will i Please tick this box to give us your p for our records. Please pay the Selsdon Residents' Associ further notice from me, the sum of	your address for the recription knowing that yes Residents' Association obtained frespect your right to prosidents@gmail.com Id electronically and, mean that we will no lectronically to proper that we will not be the companies of the retain years.	reference ou are a Selsdon on rom this SO, so we have ivacy and will not share, at any time to request a at your request, we will onger contact you. your personal details
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