

The Selsdon Gazette

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June 2026



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THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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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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Vice-Chair: Martina Enwood

Secretary: Trevor Stotten

Hon. Treasurer: Iris Jones

Committee: Linda Morris
Yvonne Huber
Su Yates
Peter Underwood
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



Welcome to the June Gazette and it is jam packed with news of activities that you can enjoy. We have children's sessions at the library, afternoon teas at St Mary's Church in Farleigh, a Night at the Movies Concert at St John the Divine, Shirley Windmill Open Days, the Horticultural Show at Wettern Tree Garden, the Friends of Selsdon Wood Walks, and not forgetting, the Upcycled Container Garden Competition.



After finishing his series about St John the Divine, Ian Leggatt turns his attention to Selsdon Baptist Church, while Janet Sharp continues her look at the family who donated Lloyd Park to Croydon. As June is the month we celebrate Father's Day we have a quiz about some famous fathers for you. Ted Forsyth tells us about a bird which is usually detected by its drumming on tree barks. As we do not publish a Gazette in August, our Friends at the Sanderstead Horticultural Society are looking at jobs to be done in July, so that August jobs can be covered next month. We have another poem from Sue Hicks, this time pointing out the pitfalls of having yet another birthday.

May was the month of the local elections so we welcome a new councillor to the Selsdon team, Jack Barwell. The results of the elections are given in full and, you will be pleased to hear, with no further comment. We also have our regular contributions from our local MP, Councillors and Police Officers.

As ever please send me (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, please do not put off paying your subscriptions using the envelope in this gazette or by bank transfer - that £5 makes all the difference!

Chris Jones

 SUBMISSIONS FOR THE JULY 2026 EDITION SHOULD
BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN
20TH JUNE - PREFERABLY BEFORE! 



SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS

Selsdon Park Hotel - Good News

Contracts have now been signed and exchanged and work has begun to restore the buildings and grounds which is expected to take approximately 18 months and bring 150 full and part time job opportunities to the area. The Boutique Hotelier Group will invest £30 million into the major refurbishment and rebranding project. Good news all round except for dog walkers who will once again not be allowed in the private grounds.



Civic Mayor of Croydon

Richard Chatterjee, who attended our 100th anniversary tea, finished his year as Civic Mayor at the end of May and held a gathering in the Town Hall for volunteer groups in Croydon. Trevor Stotten, our SRA Secretary, and I were invited. It was a great opportunity to meet other groups. Selsdon is very lucky to have so many good people running groups for all ages but they are always looking for new volunteers. I can recommend the work done at Contact and the Selsdon Clubhouse – they are two of several who would love to see you.

Why does Croydon have two mayors? The Civic Mayor is the First Citizen of the borough and is responsible for representing Croydon at civic ceremonies, charity events, and community engagements. This ceremonial position is entirely separate from Croydon's Executive Mayor (Jason Perry), who leads the council's administration.

	<h1>A J Taylor</h1> <p>On behalf of D J Taylor & Son</p> <h2>Local Electrician</h2> <h3>Domestic and Commercial</h3> <p>All works undertaken Fuse Board Changes Main Bonding Rewires/Partial Rewires Fault Finding Testing & Inspections</p> <p>Tel: 020 8651 4260 Mob: 07932 032 395 djtaylorandson@yahoo.co.uk</p>	
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New Outdoor Gym at Selsdon Recreation Ground

A new outdoor gym has been installed in Selsdon Recreation Ground and it is good to see it being used. This is for all residents to use, to tone up and get fit.

The benefits of using an outdoor gym include:

- You burn more calories when exercising outside
- Just 5 minutes every day can lead to improvements in mood and self-esteem, as well as physical fitness
- Ever-changing scenery
- You save on paying gym membership
- It's free

You can exercise outside no matter what the weather: the key is wearing layers and having a waterproof.



Defibrillator Training

The committee is working with Sanderstead and Selsdon Rotary and St John's Ambulance to provide training on the defibrillator (AED, automated external defibrillator) machines and CPR in Selsdon. A date has not yet been set, so look out for posters and information in the Gazette, on our noticeboards and on our website soon. The sessions will be free and held in the Selsdon Clubhouse on a Saturday.

A list of AEDs can be found at www.defibfinder.uk



SRA Spring Clean Up

Andrew Baxter reported another successful litter pick took place on Saturday 15th May and many thanks for the efforts on the day. Generally, it was remarked that there was minimal litter (12 bags collected) and only requiring a 'light touch' on this occasion. Much of this is due to local 'street champions' whose regular volunteer efforts help to maintain the streets and public areas; a 'shout out' too for the shopkeepers who have been sweeping outside their premises - this all assists to make our high street and locale much more inviting. And finally thank

you again to Wetherspoons for their support with tea & coffee – it's always appreciated by the volunteers.

We are hoping to have the Autumn Clean Up on Saturday 19 September.

Selsdon Community Fair, Sunday 6th September

The SRA is organising the annual Selsdon Community Fair in Selsdon Wood. 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

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.

Please do not put this off – **DO IT TODAY PLEASE!**

***Sheila Childs,
Chair***



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Selsdon Residents' Association Gardening Competition 2026 An Upcycled Container Garden

It is that time of year when we launch the SRA Gardening Competition and this time it is open to everyone, even if you do not have a garden! As we are all being encouraged to recycle, this year we are asking you to use an object that you are 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) by the end of August. Make sure you include your name and address. This competition is open to all ages.

Start looking for an unusual, unwanted container and plan your planting scheme.

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

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

YOUR 2026 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 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 the envelope provided and post it to any of the addresses listed on the envelope. Please make sure you enter your address on the front of the envelope. If you do mislay the envelope, you can use any envelope stating your name, address and the amount enclosed.
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.

We are grateful to Selsdon Contact, Selsdon Community Clubhouse, Tudor Library and Burchell Chiropody for acting as a collection point for us and we have more residential drop offs this year too.

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



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COUNCILLORS' NOTES FROM ROBERT WARD

RESULT OF COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The election on May 7th re-elected Conservative Mayor Jason Perry for a second term as Executive Mayor. At the same election the representation of parties on Croydon Council changed. The Labour Party is now the largest party with 30 seats, the Conservatives have 28 seats, the Greens have 8, and the Liberal Democrats and Reform UK have 2 each. Mayor Perry is also entitled to vote at Council.

In Selsdon, Joseph Lee and Robert Ward were re-elected to represent the ward of Selsdon and Addington Village. Andy Stranack was re-elected to represent Selsdon Vale and Forestdale with Jack Barwell being also elected to represent the ward, replacing Fatima Zaman, who stood down.

SELSDON PARK HOTEL

It has been announced that the Selsdon Park Estate, the former Birch Selsdon site, has been acquired by the BH Group, a UK-based hospitality investment and management company. Over the next 12–18 months the Group intends to transform the property into one of the UK's leading luxury resorts, supported by a £30m investment, which will create over 150 full and part time jobs.

Your councillors will be working with residents, local organisations and businesses, and the new owners to secure maximum benefit from this very positive development for the area.

HISTORY OF SELDON EXHIBITION

To follow-up on the successful exhibition to celebrate 100 years of the modern Selsdon, we are gathering material looking to mount an exhibition going back further into the history of the wider area.

For very many years the building on the site of the Selsdon Park Hotel was the heart of Selsdon, long before it became an hotel in 1925. We are looking for artefacts and photos to form this exhibition so if anyone has material which they think might contribute please get in touch with Councillor Robert Ward on email robert.ward@Croydon.gov.uk.

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

MEET THE TEAM



Ian Hubbard
DIRECTOR



Elaine Torlot
DIRECTOR



Simon Amon
SALES MANAGER



Lorna Yellowlees
SALES MANAGER



Steve Smith
SALES CONSULTANT



Kim Mitchell-Gears
DIRECTORS PA
& OFFICE MANAGER



Bernadette Atkinson
TEAM ADMINISTRATOR /
OFFICE CO-ORDINATOR



Hayley Rozario
LETTINGS
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Mitch Torlot
SALES PROGRESSION
LEAD



Lucy Barretto
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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
Jack.barwell@croydon.gov.uk

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

26/01340/FUL - Selsdon Park Hotel 126 Addington Road South Croydon CR2 8YA
Refurbishment and/or replacement of existing windows in the main hotel building and associated repairs.

26/00947/HSE - 110 Benhurst Gardens South Croydon CR2 8NW
Erection of a single-storey rear extension, extension to the rear patio and all associated works.

26/01435/LP - 122 Benhurst Gardens South Croydon CR2 8NW26
Erection of a hip to gable roof extension and rear dormer, including insertion of three rooflights to the front roofslope.

01092/HSE - 37 Farley Road South Croydon CR2 8DB
Demolition of garage and extension, erection of a two storey side extension and single storey rear extension and alterations.

26/01444/GPDO - 41 Farley Road South Croydon CR2 8DB
Erection of a single storey rear extension which projects out from the rear wall of the original house by 4.5 metres, with an eaves' height of 3 metres and a maximum roof height of 3 metres.

26/01384/HSE - 161 Farley Road South Croydon CR2 7NN
Erection of a single storey rear extension and conversion of the garage into a habitable room.

26/01429/GPDO - 37 Foxearth Road South Croydon CR2 8EL
Erection of a single storey rear extension which projects out from the rear wall of the original house by 4 metres, with an eaves' height of 3 metres and a maximum roof height of 3 metres.

26/01163/HSE - 12 Rylandes Road South Croydon CR2 8EA
Erection of a single storey side and front extension.

26/01333/LP - 10 Upper Selsdon Road South Croydon CR2 8DE
Erection of a single storey side extension

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

Here we have a breakdown of the recent voting for Croydon's Democratically Elected Mayor and the councillors in the two Selsdon Wards.

Local Election Results May 2026

Democratically Elected Mayor

Candidate	Party	Votes
Jason Stephen Perry	Conservatives	35,871
Rowenna Frances DAVIS	Labour	34,758
Peter UNDERWOOD	Green Party	19,404
Ben FLOOK	Reform UK	14,467
Richard Michael HOWARD	Liberal Democrats	7,815
Michael PUSEY MBE	Taking the Initiative Party of Britain	2,597
Jose JOSEPH	Independent	1,568
Ben GOLDSTONE	Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition	461

Electorate 286933, turnout 41%

Council Seats

Party	Seats
Conservatives	28
Green Party	8
Labour Party	30
Liberal Democrats	2
Reform UK	2

Selsdon & Addington Village Ward

Candidate	Party	Votes
Joseph LEE	Local Conservatives	1,389
Robert Charles WARD	Local Conservatives	1,307
Daniel PATERSON	Reform UK	828
Graeme STOBART	Reform UK	659
Shazia AZIZUDDIN	Labour Party	649
Matthew James BULLOCK	Green Party	622
Nicholas Jonathan SHILTON	Green Party	577
Ryan COYLE-LARNER	Labour Party	539
Harrison John Peter BURTON	Liberal Democrats	298
Andrew Kenneth SPARKES	Liberal Democrats	257

Electorate 8002, turnout 48.8%

Comparison of 2026 and 2022 results

Party	% of total votes 2026	% of total votes 2022
Conservative	37.8%	57.5%
Reform UK	20.9%	-
Green Party	19.7%	10.3%
Labour	16.7%	18.7%
Liberal Democrats	7.8%	12.7%

Selsdon Vale & Forestdale Ward

Candidates	Party	Votes
Jack David BARWELL	Conservatives	1,293
Andy STRANACK	Conservatives	1,240
Peter UNDERWOOD	Green Party	852
Jon BROTHERHOOD	Reform UK	833
Donald SPEAKMAN	Reform UK	713
Gary KELLY	Green Party	651
Jake PRICE	Labour Party	376
Emmanuel EHIRIM	Labour Party	369
Ewan RIDGEWELL	Liberal Democrats	208
Hugh DIXON	Liberal Democrats	205

Electorate 7307, turnout 49%

Comparison of 2026 and 2022 results

	2026	2022
Conservative Votes	37.6%	65.6%
Reform UK	22.9%	-
Green Party	22.3%	16.9%
Labour	11.1%	17.5%
Liberal Democrats	6.1%	-

~~

MP Natasha Irons' Report Member of Parliament for Croydon East

Dear Selsdon Residents,

I have been continuing to raise concerns with Transport for London about the 433 bus route, particularly the number of journeys that terminate early before reaching East Croydon station, often stopping at Fairfield Road. Many Selsdon residents have raised this with me, and I have been raising this directly with TfL. I have been assured that they have been reviewing the service in light of these complaints, and that improvements are expected from this month. I will keep pushing to make sure we see the reliable service people deserve.

I'm delighted that BH Group, the new owners of the Selsdon Park Estate, have announced a £30m project to refurbish the site, supporting over 150 local jobs. I know residents have felt uncertain about the future of the site, and I hope this news represents a new chapter. I will be meeting with BH Group to stay up to date and raise your questions.

On May 1st, a major change came into force with the implementation of the Renters' Rights Act. This represents the biggest improvement in housing rights for a generation, with more than 100,000 renters in Croydon set to benefit - over a quarter of our community. The new law means the end of no-fault evictions, so people can no longer be forced out of their homes without reason. Rent increases are now limited to once a year and must be fair, bidding wars that pushed renters to offer over the asking price are banned, and the days of being asked for large sums of rent upfront are over. Renters will no longer be turned away for having children or receiving benefits, and tenants will have the right to request a pet – so people are not forced to choose between a home and animals they love.

Over in Westminster, we have finished the first 'session' of Parliament under this government after passing 54 new laws focused on fixing the foundations – stabilising the economy, strengthening rights for workers and renters, tackling knife crime, reforming the planning system, and giving more power to local communities.

The King's Speech marked the next stage by announcing 37 bills to build on that progress over the next year. One announcement that stood out to me was the Social Housing Renewal Bill because in Croydon, too many people are stuck on waiting lists for homes that simply are not available. This Bill will help protect existing council housing, provide security to tenants who have been victims of domestic abuse, and support the development of new social homes. Everyone deserves a safe, stable place to live, and I will continue working locally and in Parliament to help make that a reality.

Finally, my casework team and I are always available to assist residents with concerns locally. If you need our help, please email us at natasha.ironson@parliament.uk or call 020 8191 2482 (leave a voicemail and a member of the team will get back to you). See you next month!

Best wishes, Natasha

~~

Update from our Local Police

During May, officers have continued proactive work across Selsdon, Sanderstead and New Addington to improve safety, prevent crime and strengthen community links. We have been working closely with



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investigative teams to address a series of criminal damage incidents affecting a local pub in Forestdale. Our response has included increased late-night patrols and the gathering of CCTV evidence to support ongoing enquiries.

Officers have continued to carry out multiple arrest enquiries for wanted offenders, helping to make our neighbourhood safer by bringing those involved in criminal activity to account.

We have conducted numerous stops of vehicles throughout the month, resulting in several vehicles being seized for having no insurance. This work helps ensure that unsafe and unlawful drivers are removed from our roads.

Officers have also carried out regular patrols to tackle gold-related burglaries, providing reassurance to residents and acting as a visible deterrent.

Engagement with the community remains a key priority. Officers have attended local Brownies groups, as well as visiting schools and nurseries, where they spoke with young people about safety, policing and positive decision-making. These visits were very well received, and officers also attended a local careers event to discuss the wide range of roles available within policing.

Our “Cuppa with a Copper” events continue to take place monthly, offering residents the opportunity to speak directly with local officers about any concerns. The June date is 9th June from 2-3pm and the July date is 21st July from 11.30am -12.30pm, both being held in the Selsdon Community Clubhouse.

We remain committed to keeping our community safe and would like to thank residents, schools and partners for their continued support. We encourage anyone with concerns or information to get in touch or attend one of our community engagement events.

Best wishes, PC Isobel Williams

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

Selsdon Vale & Forestdale:

SNMailbox-SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk

Good Time for Gardening – June

July is a critical month for maintaining your garden with deep watering, pruning, pest control, and harvesting required to ensure continued growth and productivity.

- Don't worry if your lawn goes brown, as it will soon bounce back when it rains.
- Cut lavender for drying, choosing newly opened flowers for the best fragrance, then hang up in a cool, dark place
- Give dahlias a liquid feed, keep them well watered and tie the shoots of tall varieties to sturdy stakes as they grow.
- Hoe and hand-weed borders often, so weeds don't have time to set seed
- Water and feed sweet peas regularly, pick the flowers every few days, and remove seed pods to prolong flowering
- Feed, water and deadhead summer bedding regularly, in pots, borders and hanging baskets
- Cut back early summer perennials, such as hardy geraniums and delphiniums, after flowering for a second flush
- Feed and deadhead roses to keep them flowering strongly
- Keep watch for pests such as lily beetles, snails, aphids and vine weevils, and remove before they do too much harm
- Cut back geraniums and other summer perennials.



Fruit and veg

- Pick courgettes before they become marrows
- Start picking tomatoes as they ripen, continuing to remove sideshoots and feed and water the plants
- Check crops such as runner beans regularly for aphids, and rub or wash them off straight away, before they multiply
- Water thirsty plants such as beans, peas, courgettes, pumpkins and tomatoes regularly
- Sow a last batch of peas and dwarf beans before mid-July for an autumn crop
- Cover brassicas with fine netting to prevent cabbage white butterflies laying their eggs on the leaves
- Peg down strawberry runners into pots of compost to root new plants
- Sow small batches of fast-maturing salad leaves, rocket and radishes every few weeks for continuous pickings



Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid

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~~

Selsdon Baptist Church, Early Days, part 1, Humble Beginnings

We saw in the December 2025 Gazette that the Anglican Church was offered by Costains a site on the south side of Gee Bank but turned it down in favour of the flatter site at the top of Upper Selsdon Road. The Gee Bank site is now the location of our Selsdon Baptist Church. What of their beginnings?



We should remind ourselves of those early days: this extract from an Ordnance Survey map (OS) of 1915 shows Selsdon 'pre Costains'. The Triangle is clearly visible and Addington Road, then a Lane, runs diagonally. Upper Selsdon Road is bottom left and Selsdon Farm plus associated workers cottages in the centre of frame. A small track leads from Gee

Wood to Addington Road. The land between Addington Road and Gee Wood was, in 1800, named as Gee Bank.

Ted Frith records that on the 6th February 1926 a number of residents from nonconformist denominations met at 'Newlands' the home of Mr J W K Nichols in Byron Road (now number 8) where they held their first service. It seems that it was agreed that a Baptist Free Church would open in Selsdon and that other nonconformists would be welcome to worship there. The Wesleyans were to establish their church at Shirley. The Gee Bank site was intended by Costains to facilitate the extension of Littleheath Road down to Addington Road but the Council, Residents and the London Baptist Church wanted the Bridle Path to remain and the Costains application was rejected. They were willing to sell the half acre site for £200*.

A photo attributed to 1926 shows the Costain development. From left to right we see Upper Selsdon Road, Byron Road, the incomplete Farley Road, Rylandes Road, finally, the houses on the south side of the top part

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of Littleheath Road. The first block of shops on the Broadway can be seen on Addington Road. The small track from Gee Wood to Addington Road appears to be tree lined. That Farley Road is clearly incomplete confirms that this photo predates 24th July 1926

when Farley Road was opened. Indeed, with Planning Permission swiftly granted for a Church / Church Hall in Addington Road, on the 17th September 1927 the foundation stones were laid.

The Hall was costed at £1,800 and the site was funded by the London Baptist Association. The building was opened on 5th November 1927 by Mrs Cecil Colman and Dr J W Ewing, Secretary of the London Baptist Association, led the dedication prayers. It is recorded that the service was well attended with standing room only. It would seat 200, had an organ and piano. £919 needed to be raised and Rev H F Cross, of the Brighton Road Baptist Church would supervise the new church. By January 1929 membership had increased such that a Sunday School was established as well as a Missionary Society Branch. Clothing was collected and sent to Wales to 'Distressed Miners'. By the end of 1930 it is recorded that the congregation was 61 with 100 children attending Sunday School. Sunday collections would average £2 10s. Little is known about the building structure other than it comprised a Hall, Vestry, Kitchen (and one assumes Toilets) but we can view a grainy image of what it looked like.

The photo below is attributed to 1929 and shows an expanded Selsdon with two blocks of shops on The Broadway, a completed Farley Road top left, Selsdon Farm and the cottages on Addington Road at the bottom and the tree lined track from Addington Road up to Gee Wood. Close inspection will reveal the first Selsdon Baptist Church in the photo on the right.



Ian Leggatt.

*Credits: Thanks once again to the journals of Ted Frith for much of the text above. I am also very grateful for the help of the Office Team at Selsdon Baptist Church for their kind assistance. Extract from the Ordnance Survey map from National Library of Scotland and aerial views of Selsdon from Britain From Above (Historic England) Both excellent sources of historic data. *Ted Frith records a price of £550 but this may have been the original Costains price, before their application to extend Littleheath Road was turned down.*

~~

Father's Day is on Sunday 21 June this year. Try this quiz about some famous fathers.

Famous Fathers Quiz Questions

1. Who is the father to Bart, Lisa, and Maggie?
2. In The Lion King, what is the name of Simba's father?
3. What was the name of Donald Trumps' father?
4. Pop Larkin was the father in which well-known book by H.E. Bates?
5. The old proverb says that "Necessity is the Mother of Invention", but what did Galileo Galilei say was "The Father of Invention"?
6. A weather vane featuring Father Time sits on top of which famous sporting venue?
7. Who gained the title of "Father of the Atomic Bomb"?
8. In science fiction who has a father called Sarek?
9. Who had a daughter called Pebbles?
10. Who was the only child of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and Strathearn?

Answers after the Nature Notes

~~

Edward Lloyd (1815-1890)



As we know in Croydon, we benefit from a large public park called Lloyd Park, purchased then donated by Frank Lloyd. The money came from wealth generated by the Edward Lloyd newspaper empire. Edward Lloyd, born in Thornton Heath, came

from fairly humble beginnings but was innovative, a risk taker and he hit gold when he published (unauthorised) penny 'versions' of the works of Dickens (Dickens sued him in 1837 and lost but was later able to get copyright laws changed in 1842 to gain protection) and a blended mix of romance/drama/pirate/vampire novels targeted at women known as 'penny dreadfuls'. This blood pumping genre seems to have had a revival in recent years! It should be noted however that all his life his papers promoted book reviews and essays - literature for everyone.

Edward created his own weekly newspaper in 1842 which was ultimately (from 1861) very successful – indeed the newspaper choice of 'The masses'. The most popular newspaper in Victorian Britain (inspiring the stage name of very popular music hall star 'Marie Lloyd'). Like many business moguls, there are accusations of some ruthless manoeuvring with former business partners to increase his empire. The reach of his influence spanned the globe as his newspapers were also popular in Australia and New Zealand. (There are perhaps some parallels between his life and another news mogul, Rupert Murdoch.) In 1876 he moved into daily news after purchasing the Daily Chronicle revamping it and making it national.

Edward's private life was as busy as his professional life. He had 19 children with three different women all of whom were educated and supported/employed but fortunately for Croydon he chose Frank (the eldest son of his final wife) to take over the media business. One of Edward's early innovations in the empire was cutting out the middle man (and tax man) by making his own paper to print on. This side of the business was a company training ground for more than one of his sons. There is a website created by Edward's descendants to tell more of his extraordinary story.

Edward was a shrewd, hands on business man and innovator and was active in the business his entire life. He also owned a farm in Essex/Outer London where he lived with his large family (A former home of William Morris). Aged 75 Edward had plans underway to revamp the paper. After his death in 1890 Edward's son Frank (with his brothers Arthur and Herbert), took over the papers with great success. On 16 February 1896 Lloyd's Weekly finally broke the million sales mark. It was the first Fleet Street newspaper to do so.

Following the death of Frank's brothers/business partners in 1918, just before the end of the First World war, Frank Lloyd sold both The Daily Chronicle and Lloyd's Weekly. He was offered a sale price too good to turn down. Ironically, the man who was effectively its new owner also had

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the name Lloyd; David Lloyd George, (not a relation!) – who was at that time the sitting Prime Minister which was a significant (perhaps shocking) move, taken to counter both the perceived negative reporting of his military management by the newspaper and to counter the support his rival was getting from another paper. However, the newspaper thereafter ceased to prosper and was ultimately sold and merged into the Sunday Graphic. Edward Lloyd, once one of Britain's most prominent, daring and influential men, and his media empire began to be forgotten with perhaps only some of the more salacious parts of his life remembered. Thanks to his son Frank, part of the family wealth shared with the public via two public parks keeps the name alive. His family descendants have also set up a website in his honour and historians are once again putting Edward back into the history books. We just have to await a screenwriter taking notice of Edward's life for an epic Netflix drama?

Janet Sharp

Information from: The Life of Edward Lloyd Joy Vick 16/02/2015 St Bride Foundation , EdwardLloyd.org , Wikipedia

~~



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.

~~

Another grumble about the 433 bus route from a resident on the Bird Estate

Good afternoon, Editor,

I am writing to complain about the 433 bus service. I left my office in Croydon at 3pm today and two 64s have turned up and not one **433**.

Thank You

Name and address supplied

Complaints about Bus Services

Here is a list of the bus routes through Selsdon and who to complain to initially:

433 - run by Transport UK (formerly Abellio) at Beddington - contact them via email to customer.care@transportukbus.com

64 - run by Arriva Bus at Thornton Heath & 412 run by Arriva Bus at South Croydon - contact Arriva via the website <https://support.arrivabus.co.uk>

359 - run by Go-Ahead Metrobus at Beddington - contact them via email to galcustomerservices@goaheadlondon.com

One can then write to TFL via the website <https://tfl.gov.uk/help-and-contact/contact-us-about-buses>

~~

Here our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, worries about the increasing use of bad language.



The other evening there was an edition of “Not The 9 O’clock News” on TV. My husband and I thought “A funny programme at last” and settled down to watch it. To our horror, on three occasions the “F” word was used. If we had used words like that as children we would have had a sound slapping and been banished to our rooms. Our local youth clubs would have excluded us if **we** had used such language. Even the word “blimey” was considered swearing. It is easy to see why bad language and also violence is so prevalent now. Just turn on the TV and watch an American film with its bad behaviour, violence and swearing. English films are catching up too. Next thing we know, schools will be teaching swearing and how to spell the words and of course their definition. I fear that this generation will not be punished as we were for using bad words, as it will be part of normal behaviour and everyday speech. As swear words are often used when people are upset and want to stress this, and if swear words are no longer forbidden, what will this generation and the next do to express their vexation. Will a person who is upset or angry just have to make a weird shouting noise to vent their feelings?

By gum, this is getting heavy. Let’s go back to cracking jokes with our friends, enjoying the sun when it shines, the flowers when they bloom, and walking in the Green Belt areas, before they are built on by idiots.

Jessica Blake

Poetry Corner

Here Sue Hicks laments turning 60 years old in her usual amusing way.

Sixty



So today I am now sixty and I don't mind one bit
I'm working flat out on my body to try and keep it fit.
It's a bit like an old banger that's looking rather sad.
I still love it but I'm throwing, good money after bad.

I've no time for a social life, I'm such a busy bee,
Opticians, dentists, doctors, are all desperate to see me.
I'm waiting for a letter from the hospital as well,
About new knees 'cos sadly, the old ones give me hell.
I may have quite a while to wait, or so the doctor said,
Just so long as I can get them before I'm flipping dead!

It's a good job my chiropodist can step into the breach,
And take care of my feet now I can no longer reach.
To get rid of hard skin he really plays a blinder,
No exfoliating creams for me, he needs an angle grinder!
My toes point every which way, my nails need giant clippers,
I can't wear smart shoes these days but at least I've got my slippers.



To my dentist I'm a source of cash, I'm keeping him in style,
I've spent so long sitting in his chair I've started getting piles.
Every time I visit, he says there's more work to be done,
To try to stop the rot that too much sugar has begun.
It's costing me a fortune but he knows best I suppose,
But I'm getting really fed up of staring up his nose.

My pharmacist is my bezzy mate, she knows me inside out,
If I need even more drugs then I just give her a shout.
I take drugs for every ailment that I'm trying to repel,
They give so many side effects I've drugs for those as well.

I don't worry any longer about what the future holds in store,
Mainly 'cos I'm not too sure I've got one any more.
I take each day as it comes these days and try hard not to whine,
As another bit of me packs up that used to work just fine.
This is just another birthday to add on to the list,
If I didn't feel so very old, I'd go out and get Brahms and Liszt!

Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth – Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers



Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers (LSW) are becoming rarer in many parts of the country so I thought it might be worthwhile indicating places where I have recorded them in the past, in the hope that observers will bear them in mind when in any of these areas.

We arrived in Forestdale in April 1970 and hung up a bird feeder. We were surprised when a LSW became a regular visitor.

Gordon Endersby was the first Work Session Manager when Friends of Selsdon Wood SW began working. On one occasion we were standing chatting in Greenhill Way when our conversation was interrupted by the very loud high-pitched piercing call, “kee kee kee”, coming from a nearby LSW. The sparrow-sized bird remained invisible.

At other times, we could hear the drumming of the LSW, distinguished from the short drum of its larger cousin, the Great Spotted Woodpecker (GSW), by being on one note and 50% longer in duration. The GSW almost seems to be in a hurry to stop. The call of the GSW is a short “tchick” which can be repeated rapidly when involved in a dispute with a close neighbour. I have only once heard the LSW issue a similar call, when a bird flew out of a bush and over my head during a visit to RSPB Minsmere.

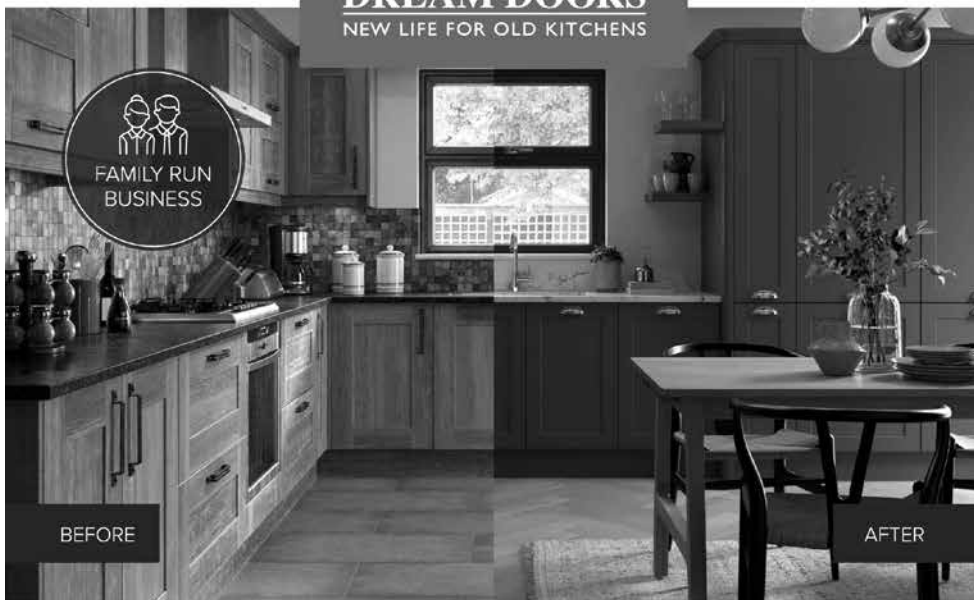
I would sometimes walk across to Littleheath Woods and would occasionally detect a LSW near the phone mast which is disguised as a tree.

The bridleway which runs from Frith Wood, between the parts of the golf course, eventually reaches Little Farleigh Court Road. Turning right here I have seen LSWs on feeders in a garden. Just before the road reaches Old Farleigh Road is another area where a LSW has been detected. Turning right and crossing to Elm Farm, a track will lead you through fields and woods. Emerging from the wooded area I have heard a calling LSW. Crossing the field to a stile allows entry to the East end of Kings Wood where several parallel tracks run to the West. I have seen LSWs, often close to ground level, at both ends of the wood, and in the middle of the main track I have watched a bird dangling from the tips of tree branches as it searched for insect prey. If I were starting an investigation today this

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is probably where I would begin.

While helping to carry out breeding bird surveys for the Bird Atlas project, I was asked to investigate the area around New Addington and began by entering Rowdown Wood from Kent Gate Way. In a few hundred metres I came across a family of LSWs at a nest hole, though I cannot remember what tree species it was in.

The Chapel Bank reserve in Featherbed Lane has recorded the presence of LSWs on its territory.

Further afield, in Richmond Park, while on the path at the end of Pen Ponds, I found a LSW nesting in the trunk of a Birch tree. It is not unusual to see the nest hole of a LSW or a GSW sheltered by an overhanging Birch Polypore fungus. Perhaps the decay at that point made it easier to excavate the nest hole before the fungus appeared. In the Isabella Plantation I have watched two pairs of LSWs having a territorial dispute in a small leafless tree.

One last tale. I visited Thursley Common, forgetting that the area had been affected by a fire. The charred remains of gorse bushes were a sorry sight but I was still able to watch groups of small birds, including LSWs, foraging amongst the blackened stems.

As none of these records are particularly recent, there is no guarantee that LSW still exists in these areas. I would be very interested to hear of any recent discoveries of LSW!

~~

Answers to the Famous Fathers Quiz

1. Homer Simpson
2. Mufasa
3. Fred (Trump)
4. The Darling Buds of May
5. Doubt
6. Lord's Cricket Ground
7. Robert Oppenheimer
8. Spock (Star Trek)
9. Fred Flintstone
10. Queen Victoria

~~

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Butterflies - Saturday 4th July 11am with Daniel Bound



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 20th August 2025 and 19th August 2026. The

winners will be chosen from a shortlist, by a secret ballot at the Selsdon Community Fair on Sunday 6th September. There will be a £50 first prize, £20 second prize and a £10 third prize.

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Summer Teas at St Mary's Church, Church Road, Farleigh, Warlingham CR6 9PX



If you are familiar with the delicious afternoon teas supplied in Farleigh Hall and Churchyard attached to the 11th Century church in the middle of the countryside, then you will be pleased to know that they are to continue under new management.

To give us time to get organised and a routine established, the Teas will be offered this year every Sunday from 2.00pm to 4.30pm during August and September. Delicious cakes will be available as usual, with a cup of tea or coffee or a soft drink.

Do please put these Sunday dates in your diary and come to share the peace and quiet of a traditional English afternoon tea. Everyone is most welcome. We look forward to seeing you.

Additionally, we are asking for volunteers to help with the teas either in the kitchen or front of house. This may, for example, include washing up, collecting used crockery, serving cakes or drinks, setting up and putting away tables, and generally being useful! A rota system will be set up, and you would be able to choose when you would be willing to help - a single session, or multiple sessions. Please contact gill.willis@btinternet.com to register initial interest.

~~

SHIRLEY WINDMILL OPEN DAYS 2026

7 June, 5 July, 2 August, 6 September, 20 September and 4 October
All openings from 12 – 5pm The last tour starts at 4pm.



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GUIDED TOURS Free entry, tour lasts about one hour and covers its history and the working of the mill. Tea, cakes, refreshments and souvenirs are on sale in the Visitors' Centre.

Shirley windmill is owned by Croydon Council. It is staffed and managed by volunteers, the 'Friends of Shirley Windmill'. These volunteers are interested in the mill and keen to enable as many people as possible to visit and enjoy this part of Croydon's heritage.

Postmill Close, Shirley, Croydon CR0 5DY

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Volunteer get-together

Thank you to all our volunteers who joined us for our recent volunteer get-together. It was a pleasure to see all our brilliant volunteers and celebrate the valuable work they do for the Clubhouse. It's thanks to their generosity that we're able to continue supporting the community.

We would also like to extend a huge thank you to the team at Home Instead for kindly providing the food. We really appreciated the delicious meal.

We're always on the lookout for more volunteers to support the work we do at the Clubhouse, so if you could spare some time to help us serving lunch, driving the minibus, or being a passenger assistant on the minibus, please give us a call on 0208 651 1111 or email office@selsdoncentre.org.uk

The Rotary Club of Sanderstead & Selsdon Sponsored Walk, an annual fundraiser for charities, took place on Saturday 16 May.



A huge thank you to everyone who donated in support of our Selsdon Community Clubhouse team, see photo from left to right, Penny Loveday, one of our valued volunteers; Liz O'Donoghue, Clubhouse Manager; Sam Phillips, Trustee; and Puff Puff the dog. They walked laps of Sanderstead Recreation Ground to raise money for Selsdon Community Clubhouse.

The JustGiving page is still receiving donations, but so far, we have raised over £1,400, plus an additional £400 in match funding from the Rotary Club of Sanderstead & Selsdon.

All the money raised will go towards supporting the essential work we do at the Clubhouse.

Upcoming event!

The fabulous Sandilands Shantymen are coming back to the Clubhouse on 10 July.

Book your place now by calling the Clubhouse on 208 651 1111.

We're hiring

We're looking for a part-time cook. The role involves helping to plan menus and prepare delicious meals twice a month (up to 12 hours per month).

We're also currently looking for new Trustees to join the board.

If you feel that you could fit either of these roles, please send your application by email to office@selsdoncentre.org.uk.



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If you would like to get involved & put something back into the local community, come along & work with your local Rotary club.

Where there is need there is Rotary

What we do

- Celebration lunch
- Plants out
- Christmas Parcels
- Sanderstead Community Day 22 September
- Community First Aid Training
- Craft Fair
- Sponsored Walk
- Christmas Lights Switch on (Sanderstead & Selsdon)
- Wreath laying for Remembrance Sunday
- Santa Christmas Collections
- Quiz Night
- Hobby Fair Saturday 12 Sept St John's
- Seniors' Day Out
- Cream Tea Outings for Senior Citizens
- Defibrillator



If you are interested in working with Rotary in the Community, please give us a call & come along & meet us 07774 186 792, Secretary@rotarysand-ersteadandselsdon.com

Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/rotarycroydonsouth/>

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Warning from Local Vet

With summer on the way and gardens coming back to life, veterinary teams are seeing a rise in avoidable cases linked to toxic plants and grass seeds, hazards that many pet owners don't realise are right on their doorstep.

Many popular plants can be harmful if pets chew, lick, or dig them up. Some of the most common include lilies, rhododendron, tulips, hydrangea, and bluebells.



Curious dogs may nibble leaves or bulbs, while cats can be affected simply by brushing past certain plants and grooming themselves afterwards. Some plants cause mild tummy upsets, but others can lead to serious illness.

Signs of plant poisoning can include vomiting, diarrhoea, drooling, lethargy, loss of appetite, excessive drinking, or collapse. Symptoms don't always appear straight away, so pet owners should contact their vet immediately if they spot their pet eating a plant, they are unsure of. Owners should check plants are safe for pets before adding them to the garden or bringing them into the home. Bulbs and seeds should also be stored out of reach of pets before planting.

Grass seeds are another seasonal risk, particularly for dogs, and can lead to pain, infection, and complex veterinary treatment. These small, sharp seeds can become lodged in paws, ears, eyes, noses, or under the skin. Common warning signs that owners should look out for include persistent licking of a paw, head shaking, limping, or a sore, weepy eye. Owners are advised to check dogs thoroughly after walks, especially between toes, around ears and armpits, as removing grass seeds early can prevent big problems later on.

Friday Enabulele, Clinical Director at Warlingham Veterinary Centre, says "Our pets love exploring the garden as much as we do, but they don't know what's safe and what isn't. Every spring and summer we see cases

linked to toxic plants and grass seeds. Supervision and regular checks can make a huge difference to your pet's health and comfort.

Many thanks to the Warlingham Veterinary Centre

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SELSDON FLOWER CLUB

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



June 10	Practice – “Coastal Scene” and Summer Social
July 8	Summer Social with tea & cake and Practice – Summer Arrangement
August 12	Tea and cake at Knights Garden Centre 2.30
September 9	Practice – “Dinner by Candlelight”
October 14	Practice – “Autumn in a Basket”
November 11	Demo – Graham Harman
December 2	Christmas Social – Arrangement of own choice
January 13 2027	AGM – Arrangement in a candlestick

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

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Sanderstead Local History Group



Meetings take place in All Saints' Church Hall Sanderstead on the last Wednesday in the month, doors open at 1.45 pm, meeting at 2.00 pm, close to bus routes, parking on site. There is no annual fee. The entrance fee is £2 per visit which includes a talk and refreshments. For further details please go to Website

<https://www.sandersteadlhg.co.uk> , where there is a contact page for enquiries.

24 June: From Parish to Union. A window into poor relief in 19th-century Croydon by Lizzie Mould.

29 July: Cranleigh Parade, Sanderstead Shops, (Part 2 of 3). Where did they come from? The shopkeepers in Cranleigh Parade, Sanderstead, at the start of World War II by Brenda Hawkins.

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CHURCHES

St John the Divine (C of E)	Parish Office	020 8657 2343
Selsdon Baptist Church	Office	020 8651 4308
St Columba's (Roman Catholic)		020 8657 3747
St Francis (Church of England)	Monks Hill	020 8657 7864
Croydon Jubilee Church	Office	020 8651 2807
Forestdale Church, Forestdale School		0777 255 9797
Selsdon Christian Fellowship		020 8668 9779
Church of Jesus Christ of LDS		020 8651 2211

DOCTORS & EMERGENCY CARE

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

POLICE

Selsdon & Addington Village: 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 www.folw.co.uk
Friends of Selsdon Wood		www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk
Sanderstead Plantation Partners	michaellishmund@gmail.com	
Friends of Kingswood	www.kingswoodsanderstead.uk	
Girlguiding (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section)		0800 999 2016 https://girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved
1 st Selsdon & Addington Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts)		www.1stselsdonscouts.org.uk
5 th Selsdon & Addington Scout Group		glv@5thsandascouts.org
Croham Valley Explorer Scout Unit	Christopher Dean	tinkerscorner@aol.com
Arts Society Croydon Area	Jean Aarons	https://tascroydonarea.org.uk
Parkinson's UK Croydon & District Branch	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	selsdonhall.info@gmail.com
Selsdon Flower Club	Maureen Browning	020 8651 5821
Selsdon Townswomen's Guild(pm)	Christine Holland	020 8657 4861
Sanderstead Horticultural Society		SHSmembership1@gmail.com
Sanderstead Local History Group		sandersteadlhg@gmail.com
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 1st June)

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Your A/C Name

Your A/C Number Sort Code

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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

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You may contact the SRA at 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.....

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