



You are invited to

**The Annual General Meeting
of the**

**Selsdon Residents'
Association**

**WEDNESDAY 25th MARCH
8PM
ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL**

**Please join us for
a chat and drink**

**The Selsdon
— Gazette —**

THE SELSDON GAZETTE

Editor: selsdongazettesra@gmail.com

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There is no August Gazette.

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

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Gazette cover: Invitation to the SRA AGM.



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Chair: Sheila Childs

Vice-Chair: Linda Morris

Secretary: Trevor Stotten

Hon. Treasurer: Iris Jones

Committee: Yvonne Huber

Su Yates

Peter Underwood

Ian Leggatt

Janet Sharp

Chris Jones

Geoff Bailey

Kenneth Davis

Martina Enwood

Jane Plowden

Councillors for Selsdon & Addington Village Ward

Cllr Robert Ward Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk 07783 152363

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

Councillors for Selsdon Vale & Forestdale Ward

Cllr Andy Stranack Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk 07816 123204

Cllr Fatima Zaman Fatima.zaman@croydon.gov.uk 07458 092567

Councillors for Sanderstead Ward

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

Cllr Yvette Hopley Yvette.hopley@croydon.gov.uk 0208 640 7033

Cllr Helen Redfern Helen.redfern@croydon.gov.uk 07783 152334

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



Editor's Note

Welcome to the March edition of the Selsdon Gazette.

After its Centennial Tea celebrated in early February, the SRA is now in its 101st year. Details of the Tea are included in this issue. If you did not join us for this, do not fear, as the SRA invites you to come along to its AGM to be held at St John's Church Hall on Wednesday 25th March starting at 8pm. You will find the financial accounts of the SRA and the Gazette for the year 2025 in the centre of this Gazette. After the business part of the meeting, we are pleased to announce that we have a short talk by Roger Packham telling the history of Selsdon through postcards. Please put this date in your diary and come along to raise any concerns that you have about Selsdon or to have a chat with members of the committee over a glass of wine and some nibbles. Hopefully we will have some of our local Councillors and Police Officers present to answer your questions.

With all the rain and grey skies seen in January and February, it is good to look forward to the start of British Summer Time at the end of March and our friends at the Sanderstead Horticultural Society have given us a list of jobs to do in the garden as Spring arrives. Apart from our usual contributions from our Councillors, MP and local Police Officers, we have Part 4 of Ian Leggatt's history of St John the Divine Church, Ted Forsyth tells us what to look for in 2026 in our green spaces, and we have a cautionary poem from a young resident. With St. Patrick's Day in March, our quiz focuses on your knowledge of Ireland. As Easter occurs early in April, we have entry forms for our annual Easter Egg Hunt for children, in which they look for pictures of coloured eggs in some of the shop windows along the high street. I was pleased to receive three responses to last month's plea for information about a Baby Clinic in Dulverton Road - proving at least three people read the Gazette! On that note, 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.

Chris Jones

☞ SUBMISSIONS FOR THE APRIL 2026 EDITION SHOULD
BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN
20TH MARCH - PREFERABLY BEFORE! ☞

SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS



Blitz Clean

Croydon Council has sent a workforce to our high street, cleaning pavements, painting railings and clearing litter. The residents had their own litter pick on 14th February soon after, so we were able to do more of the side roads this time.

Thanks to all who took part. The Council still have a few more jobs to do and we are in contact with our Councillors to get them completed.

National Gallery: Art On Your Doorstep

Culture Croydon have been working with the National Gallery and have created a free trail around central Croydon to follow replicas of 30 famous paintings until 5th July. Pieces will also be installed in Coulsdon, New Addington, Thornton Heath and Upper Norwood. A map can be downloaded from their Culture Croydon website or collected from the library.

Met Engage

Please note the following dates and times for 'Cuppa with a Copper' held in the Selsdon Clubhouse, entrance in Sainsburys foyer; say hello or discuss your concerns.

Tues 31/03/26	15.00-16.00
Tues 21/04/26	14.00-15.00
Tues 05/-5/26	14.00-15.00
Tues 09/06/26	14.00-15.00
Tues 21/07/26	11.30-12.30

SRA 100th Anniversary

The Civic Mayor, Richard Chatterjee, and our elected Mayor, Jason Perry, joined about a hundred residents, shop keepers, local organisations and our committee for a tea in St. John's Church Hall on 7th February to celebrate our 100th anniversary. 'Songsations', our local choir, gave a wonderful rendition of Disney songs. Chris Jones (our editor) gave

an entertaining talk on our history through snippets from past Gazettes over the years and our President, Pam Holden, gave us her memories of visiting Selsdon as a child and finally living here since her marriage to Gordon and bringing up her family, and still remaining an active resident today.

Thanks to everyone who help make Selsdon a great place to live.

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

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

You will find last year's financial report in this edition of the gazette.

Sheila Childs, Chair, SRA

~~

Selsdon Residents' Association Centenary Tea



On a very wet Saturday afternoon in early February, the Selsdon Residents' Association celebrated its hundredth birthday. Over a hundred people attended the event in St John's Church Hall. Both the Civic Mayor, Councillor Richard Chatterjee, and the democratically elected Mayor, Jason Perry, enjoyed the tea party (seen in this photo with Sheila Childs, the Chair of the SRA).





The tea flowed all afternoon with plenty of sandwiches and cake. We heard a potted history of the SRA (abridged later in this gazette), followed by the personal reflections of the SRA Honorary President, Pam Holden. In this photo Pam is cutting the wonderful cake made by Gillian Gandolfo. In the background are the model houses made by Su Yates, each house representing one of the first roads built in Selsdon Garden Village in 1925/26. We were then entertained by the local choir 'Songsations' who gave us a medley of uplifting songs, as well as calling for some audience participation.

The two Mayors then congratulated the SRA on reaching this milestone and the Chair of the SRA thanked all those who had contributed to making the afternoon such a success including the two Mayors for attending; Tracy Carrington and her student, Sky, for putting together the '100 Faces of Selsdon' banner; the Community Art Group for their fantastic painting of Selsdon; Gillian for making a delicious cake; Su for constructing the models of the first houses seen in Selsdon; Mark Leonard for printing a wonderful commemorative January Gazette; 'Songsations' for a marvellous performance; and the members of the SRA Committee with their partners for providing and serving the tea.

~~

Potted History of 100 Years of the Selsdon Residents' Association

As you are probably aware, the first houses built by Costain's appeared in July 1925. Then in January 1926, 50 owner occupiers got together to consider various matters affecting them, in particular the rateable assessment (Council Tax) and travelling facilities. An 'Association of Owner-Occupiers of the Selsdon Garden Village' was formed. In October 1926 the Association voted to be called the 'Croham Heights and Selsdon Residents' Association', and it was not until 1931 that Croham Heights was quietly dropped and we had the 'Selsdon Residents' Association'.

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As I was going through my collection of past Selsdon Gazettes to see how the Association has evolved and stayed relevant, I was struck by how little its function has changed over the years.



Let us start by its **Aims**. From the 1936 Gazette, the SRA AGM Report stated:
'The constant work of the Association is endeavouring to retain the amenities of the country, while securing some of the conveniences of the town.'

This, I believe, is still true today with the Association actively protecting our green spaces.

From its early beginnings, the Association grew to be a force to be reckoned. In a 1947 Gazette we have:

'Residents of Selsdon are frequently accused of apathy in matters of local interest. This is a mistake, as the Selsdon Residents' Association is recognised as the largest and most active society of its kind in the urban district of Coulsdon and Purley. The present committee are greatly encouraged with the growing sense of responsibility among the residents and the fact that local affairs are being followed with earnest attention by many younger people.'

Long may this continue.

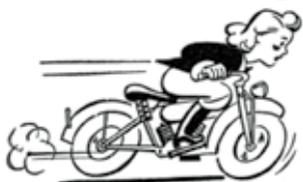
Some issues have a habit of reoccurring. In the 1958 Gossip Column of the Gazette, *'Terminus Tattle'*, I found:

'Complaints were made about the state of the Selsdon Park Hotel fence, but it was pointed out that the fence had been put in perfectly good order by the hotel, but had been wilfully destroyed by the public. As the hotel and its grounds were being considered for compulsory purchase, the present owners were not expected to provide a new fence.'

Is this not still the case today?

Transport concerns have taken up a lot time of the Association over its 100 years.

From 1936 - *'Travelling facilities occupied their usual prominent position with complaints about timetables and excessive number of first class compartments during rush hours.'*



From 1958 - *'We live on the steep part of Farley Road, where many vehicles change gear, and*

most go by with throttles fully open. It not only the speed that bothers us, but also the frightful noise that accompanies it.'

From 1972 - 'Bunching' of buses still causes a problem in rush hours, but the main problem is the erratic service during the day.'

Most of us would agree that all of these problems continue to this day.

Planning has always taken a prominent place in the work of the Association and will continue to do so.

In the 1972 Gazette we see the Association actively working with developers.

'The big issue for the SRA was new house building. Wimpey had applied to build homes on Selsdon Vale next to the Bird Sanctuary. The Association had presented arguments that access to the site via Old Farleigh Road was insufficient to cope with the traffic from the proposed development. When the application was refused, the Association advised Wimpey about the density of homes to be built, the provision of areas for recreation and the preservation of trees in the area for a smaller development.'

The Association has always tried to respond to the needs of residents. In 1984 - *'The Committee felt that there was a need for the provision of social facilities for teenagers in Selsdon. With support from residents this culminated with the opening of the Youth Club at the Selsdon Hall in Spring 1984. By the end of the year there were 150 young people attending each week.'*

The Association has worked closely with the local councillors and the Council. However, here is an example from a 1997 Gazette of where the advice of the Association was rejected.



'The Association had warned the Council about the consequences of inaugurating a Pay and Display scheme in the Selsdon Car Park. Nevertheless, the scheme was adopted and the car park usage was decimated. Local employees resented paying-out £1 for all day parking when it had previously been free. Guess what? Nearby roads,

such as Byron and Dulverton, were now virtually clogged by long term parked cars. Byron was virtually impassable by larger vehicles.'

A case of I told you so! Does this remind you of the recent adoption of Ring go?

Another relationship fostered by the Association is the one with the local police. Police Officers regularly attend our Committee meetings and give a report and answer questions at our AGM. They are a welcome addition to our Christmas Light Switch on Event, keeping people safe. They keep us update to date with crimes in the local area by their contributions to the Gazette and invitations to attend their Police Panel Meetings. However, as they keep telling us, it is good to know that we live in a **'low crime area'**.

The Association has always hard to nurture a community spirit. This can be seen in the 2017 Gazette where we have reports of:

- *Troughs paid for by local businesses for floral arrangements enhancing the High Street.*
- *The Community Fair in Selsdon Wood*
- *The Community Garden on the Triangle.*
- *Remembrance Day Decorations and Christmas Decorations at the Triangle.*
- *The splendid Selsdon Christmas Lights paid for by donations to the Association by residents and traders.*
- *The Selsdon Gazette delivered to over 4000 homes for free, providing local news and stories.*
- *Grants to local groups, for example the local scouts received £500 to pay for renovations to their hut.*

Quite a list!

I will sum up this look back at the last 100 years with – ‘Here’s to the next 100 years.’ CJ

~~

START OF BRITISH SUMMER TIME



Reminder

In the UK, the clocks will change in March 2026 on Sunday, March 29th at 1am, when they will “spring forward” by one hour, marking the start of British Summer Time (BST).



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SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 25 March 2026 at 8pm
St John's Church Hall, Upper Selsdon Road

This is a chance for residents to tell the SRA directly what more there is you would like us to try to do for Selsdon.

Please come along (and perhaps bring a neighbour too) to show us your continuing support and to enjoy a drink and a chat after the business part of the meeting.

Mark the date on your calendar now so you do not forget.
There will be elections for the Officers and Committee Members.

AGENDA

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

After the business part of the AGM, Roger Packham will give a short illustrated talk entitled 'Selsdon History through Postcards'. This will be followed by light refreshments.

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Selsdon Residents' Association CHILDREN'S EGG HUNT 2026

During the week from Friday 3 until Monday 13 April, six shops along our High Street will display a coloured egg in their shop window. All you have to do, is to complete the form below with the correct location of each egg, together with your name, address and age*. Then get your parents/guardians to take a photo of the form and get them to send it by Wednesday 15 April to the Gazette Editor at selsdongazettesra@gmail.com The winners will be drawn at random from all the correct forms received. *(Any data will be destroyed after the competition.)

Colour of Egg seen	Name of shop where egg is displayed
Red	
Orange	
Yellow	
Green	
Blue	
Purple	

Name _____

Address _____

Age _____

Baker Boy Lane at the edge of Selsdon Wood - good news or bad?

The old rotted surface of our local rural thoroughfare to Farleigh has disappeared for about three quarters of its length under a new layer of grit, stones and sand. It has been widened to about a car's width. The adjacent vegetation had been trimmed back quite hard. Surrey County Council did the work and when I happened to meet the managers of it doing an inspection, they explained it would be reopened - but only as a bridle way - in the coming weeks. They were apparently waiting for the underlying soil to dry out so the new surface would settle better - before the horses and cycles churned it up again! Without those hurtling past, it would make a pleasant pushchair or wheelchair route between the woodland next to Selsdon Wood and the golf course.

Linda Morris

~~

St Valentine's Day Litter Pick

We had a brilliant turnout for our latest community litter pick. A huge welcome to our new volunteers, including three "Eco Stars" who did a fantastic job assisting their parents with the cleanup. In the photo we see one of our youngest recruits, Murari, 3 years old.

Together, we collected approximately 25 sacks of rubbish from our streets, with Foxearth Road and Hawthorn Crescent seeing the biggest transformation. A massive thank you to everyone who gave up their time and effort to keep our neighbourhood looking its best.

We also want to extend our gratitude to the management at Wetherspoons for their ongoing support in providing free tea and coffee for our volunteers.

Please remember that if you have a dog and go for a walk, take the poo bags with you and, once filled, please take them home to put in your own bin.

Save the Date: Our next event is scheduled for 16.5.26. Keep an eye out for further details closer to the time!



COUNCILLORS' NOTES FROM ANDY STRANACK

SELSDON TARGETED BLITZ CLEAN TAKES PLACE

The targeted Blitz clean work took place over a three-week period in February, a summary of the work undertaken is given below:

- Jetwash all Council maintained gullies in the area (including footway gullies);
- Refreshing road markings
- Sticker and poster removal from building frames and street furniture.
- Cleaning of bins/ replacing where necessary
- Mechanical sweeper through the area
- Engagement with retailers over commercial waste, food hygiene, trading standards, etc.
- Enhanced frequency of parking enforcement visits
- Cleansing of street signage

During the Mayor's walkabout, at the start of the blitz clean, these additional items were identified:

- Trimming the vegetation protruding above the section of retaining wall in the area between Selsdon Baptist Church and Selsdon Crescent
- The opportunities for new bins at the bus stops
- Cleaning the clock and structure outside Sainsburys
- Replacing the damaged cycle hoops with bollards.
- Fly tip to the rear of businesses (to be enforced against and removed).

The actions identified on the day have either been carried out or are being scheduled. Some, such as the vegetation trimming will take place during the pruning season in a couple of months, the clock was cleaned later the same day, and the road markings will be refreshed when weather allows (the persistent rain would make the painting ineffective at the moment). We hope you have noticed the improvements, please do let us know what you think. The team will return over the next few weeks to pick up on any snagging issues.

ART ON YOUR DOORSTEP

The new Exhibition is a partnership with the National Gallery that is bringing life size replicas of masterpieces by artists such as Gentileschi, Monet, Picasso, Renoir, Stubbs, Turner, Van Eyck, Van Gogh and many more to public spaces across Croydon. Thirty paintings have been installed in accessible outdoor spaces, so that everyone can get up close and see every brush stroke that make up these masterpieces. Croydon is the first town in the UK to host the exhibition, and the paintings will be available to view until 5th July. So, you can choose to tour all the paintings in one day or take your time and visit a masterpiece close to your home.

After 5th July, the tour will be moving on to visit 11 other towns and cities across the UK. To download a free tour map and for further information go to Selsdon library, visit the Culture Croydon website or press this link <https://www.culturecroydon.com/event/national-gallery-art-on-your-doorstep/>

RULE CHANGES AND KEY DATES TO VOTE IN THE LOCAL ELECTIONS IN MAY

One of the key changes to the voting system this time is that you will not automatically receive a postal vote if you have requested one in the past. If you applied for a postal vote before 30th January 2024 and you have not asked to renew, you will now have to apply for a new postal vote, you must do this by 21st April.

Another recent change is the requirement for ID to vote at the polling station on election day. Many forms of ID are acceptable, and you can also apply for a free voter ID card, but you must do this by the 28th April. For more information, please visit the Election Commission Website or follow this link <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/>

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

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

Selsdon and Addington Village

Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk

Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk

Selsdon Vale and Forestdale

Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk

Fatima.zaman@croydon.gov.uk

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

26/00317/LP - 296 Addington Road South Croydon CR2 8LF

Use of the existing dwellinghouse as a care home for up to 2 people (Use Class C3(b)), that would accommodate up to two people aged 16+.

26/00239/HSE - 54 Albatross Gardens South Croydon CR2 8QX

Increase in height of existing garage and porch roof and conversion of existing garage to habitable accommodation. Erection of dormer extension to rear roof slope and two roof lights to front roof slope in connection with conversion of resultant roof space to habitable accommodation.

26/00410/GPDO - 9 Copse View South Croydon CR2 8HL

Erection of a single storey rear extension which projects out from the rear

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wall of the original house by 3.8 metres, with an eaves' height of 3 metres and a maximum roof height of 3 metres.

26/00373/GPDO - 102 Falconwood Road Croydon CR0 9BD

Erection of a single storey rear extension which projects out from the rear wall of the original house by 5 metres, with an eaves' height of 3 metres and a maximum roof height of 3 metres.

25/01128/FUL - First Floor Flat, 88 Selsdon Park Road South Croydon CR2 8JT

Demolition of original 1st floor accommodation bedrooms to upgrade to HMO (Article 4) requirements to form accommodation for 5 persons with ensuite in four of the bedrooms. Separate shower room with w.c./basin facilities. Communal kitchen and staff rest room. Building works monitored by Croydon Building Control Department.

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

~~

MP Natasha Irons' Report Member of Parliament for Croydon East

Dear Selsdon Residents,

I'm aware that tram replacement buses, combined with a road closure at Kent Gate Way and a ruptured water main on Upper Shirley Road have caused nightmare traffic for Selsdon residents during the February school half term.

I wrote to Transport for London (TfL) to complain about the poor tram replacement service, which left residents reliant on infrequent shuttle services, overcrowding at peak times, poor timetable communication and a lack of clear information both at stops and online. Given the scale of the disruption caused by the planned works, I would have expected a more robust replacement service to be provided. I've asked TfL to make urgent improvements and will continue to monitor the situation.

In more positive news, I'm excited to announce that the government has awarded £1.5 million to our borough to spend on our local high streets. I've written to Mayor Jason Perry to request that some of that funding is spent in Selsdon. We have some great local businesses there, such as The Golden Ark Micropub and the Culina Bistro, and extra investment in the area would encourage footfall and benefit them.

In previous columns, I encouraged you to sign the road safety petition

from pupils of Forestdale Primary School. Local teachers raised serious concerns about unsafe driving in the area, so we launched a campaign, calling on Croydon Council to install a crossing on Featherbed Lane. I'm pleased to report that our petition collected 142 responses - 42 more than we needed to submit it for discussion at the next Full Council meeting. I will keep you updated on the Council's response. In other news, the government is distributing £500,000 in grants to support the nation's Armed Forces Day events. If you work for a local military unit or veterans' organisation and would like to bid for a £10,000 grant for a local celebration, you can apply at armedforcesday.org.uk/get-involved/organise-your-own-event/apply-for-funding/.



Last week, I welcomed the Energy Minister to the Good Food Matters (GFM) community kitchen in New Addington. It was a brilliant afternoon, celebrating a project that demonstrates exactly what community-owned energy can do. Croydon Community Energy installed solar panels on the Community Food Learning Centre, a space that supports local families, isolated men, young people

and refugees through cooking classes. The community-owned solar system has reduced the site's electricity costs by £500 per year. That's £500 that can now be reinvested into the food bank and food education classes on offer for the community.

The visit also marked the launch of the government's Local Power Plan - a £1 billion investment in local energy projects. The plan delivers the biggest public investment in community energy in our country's history. I will do everything I can to ensure Croydon East gets a share of this huge investment.

Finally, my casework team and I are always available to assist residents with concerns including anti-social behaviour, environmental problems and other local matters.

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

Thanks, Natasha

~~

Update from our Local Police

This month, officers executed Section 23 Misuse of Drugs Act warrants at addresses in both Sanderstead and New Addington, resulting in two arrests for drug and weapon offences. This was in collaboration with

multiple Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Proactive teams, Dog and Territorial Support Group units. These proactive enforcement activities form part of our ongoing efforts to disrupt criminality and target those causing the most harm in our communities.

Neighbourhood officers have also continued their regular programme of school, nursery, and wider community visits. These engagements help us build stronger relationships with young people, provide early intervention around safety topics, and maintain visible reassurance across the ward. Staff and parents have been positive about the continued police presence and the opportunities it creates for open conversations. As well as this, officers have continued to visit victims of crime across our wards, providing follow up support, reassurance, and updates where appropriate. These visits allow us to maintain strong links with those affected by crime, ensure their concerns are heard, and offer tailored crime prevention advice to help them feel safer within the community.

In response to recent incidents and community concerns, officers have carried out robbery patrols around school finishing times. These targeted patrols aim to deter offending, safeguard students during key transition periods, and provide a uniformed presence in areas where young people may feel most vulnerable.

Officers have also seized numerous vehicles for no insurance as well as recovering stolen vehicles and returning them to the registered keepers. This is part of continued work officers are doing to make your roads safer.



Finally, we have been working to increase community connection by signing up residents to MET Engage. This platform allows residents to receive updates, share concerns, and stay informed about policing activity in their area. We encourage anyone not yet registered to consider joining so they can stay connected with local officers and neighbourhood news. Officers are still holding different events such as street briefings and Cuppa with a Copper Events. These are all advertised on Met Engage and these events happen monthly. We would love to meet you so please come along to these to meet your local policing team.

The next Cuppa with a Copper date is Tuesday 31st March at 15:00hrs - 16:00hrs at the Selsdon Community Clubhouse.

Best wishes, PC Williams

Please note that from Tuesday 3rd March 2026, the front counter at **Croydon Police Station** will no longer be available 24/7. From Tuesday

3 March, this front counter will be open from Monday to Friday, 10:00 - 22:00, and Saturday to Sunday, 09:00 - 19:00.

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 - March

April is nearly here and spring has hopefully sprung at last! As the weather warms up and early flowers start to bloom, all of a sudden there's a load of jobs to do outside.

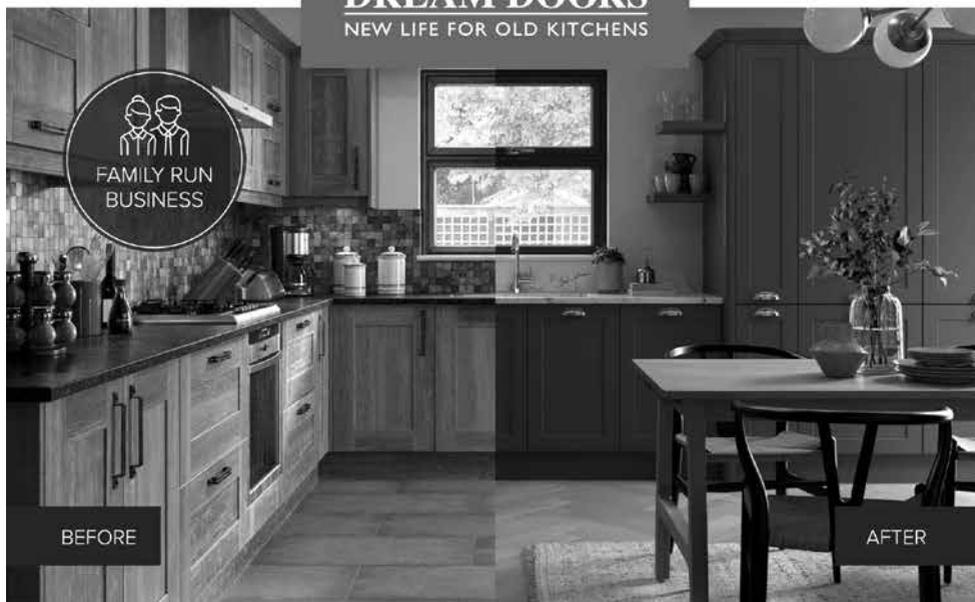
- Lift and divide established border perennial plants now, like Hostas, to improve vigour and create new plants for your garden.
- Pinch out the tips of fuchsia plants and sweet pea plant shoots, to encourage bushy growth this summer.
- Divide primroses once they have finished flowering.
- Tie in climbing roses.
- Check any tree stakes and ties to make sure they're not cutting into the trunk. Loosen any that are tight, to allow the trunk some room to expand.
- Finish cutting back any dead foliage on perennials and ornamental grass plants, to make way for new growth.
- Prune Forsythia as soon as they have finished flowering, cutting back to strong, young shoots.
- Trim winter-flowering heathers as the flowers disappear, to prevent plants becoming leggy.
- Tie in new honeysuckle and clematis stems. These plants will be putting on growth now, and you'll need to train them along their supports.
- Continue to remove faded flowers from winter pansies to stop them setting seed. This will encourage flushes of new flowers throughout the spring.
- Deadhead daffodils and tulips as the flowers finish, but leave foliage intact, allowing it to die back naturally.



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SELSOON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION/GAZETTE CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS									
Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Years Ended 31 December									
SELSOON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION									
	2025	2024	2023	2022					
	£	£	£	£					
INCOME									
Subscriptions	4,105	4,650	4,170	3,430					
Christmas Lights	5,283	5,091	5,450	4,483					
Residents' Donations	792	795	548	855					
Traders' Donations	308	190	361	496					
Collections	142	205	0	0					
Easy Funding	1,625	1,317	491	0					
Croydon Council	0	1,000	0	159					
Nationside Building Society Interest Received	0	0	1,000	0					
Cancellation of Provisions for Hire of Street Barriers	0	0	0	0					
Total Income	12,235	11,656	12,020	9,423					
EXPENDITURE									
Insurance	254	324	204	260					
Hire of Halls	118	93	58	35					
Subscription Envelope Printing	678	393	469	46					
Stationery, Postage and Sundries	681	643	565	1,154					
Christmas Event	8,015	5,889	6,447	8,993					
Provision for Christmas Event Costs	0	0	1,000	0					
Mendham Bench	772	0	0	0					
Parties, Troughs and "Hearings"	532	65	85	215					
Donations	500	600	0	0					
Subscriptions	265	138	0	141					
Total Expenditure	11,815	8,245	9,038	10,893					
Surplus of Income Over Expenditure	440	3,411	2,982	(1,470)					
SELSOON GAZETTE ACCOUNTS									
Income		£	£	£					
Advertising Income	17,774	16,275	15,286	15,370					
Bank Account Interest	984	647	340	106					
Subscriptions	160	140	200	176					
Total Income	18,918	17,062	15,826	15,650					
EXPENDITURE									
Gazette and Leaflets	19,297	18,400	18,267	18,759					
Postage and Sundries	0	1	0	54					
Total Expenditure	19,297	18,401	18,267	18,823					
(Deficit) of Income Over Expenditure	(779)	(1,339)	(2,441)	(1,173)					
SELSOON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION/GAZETTE CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS									
Balance Sheet 31.12.2022	SRA	GAZ	TOTAL	SRA	GAZ	TOTAL	SRA	GAZ	TOTAL
	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Assets:									

After the winter, your lawn will need some TLC

- Sow lawn seed now on well-prepared soil and keep the soil moist while it germinates.
- For an instant lawn, lay new turf this month, and keep it moist until it's established.
- Repair any bare patches in your lawn - try sowing lawn repair grass seed.
- Brush away any worm casts on dry days.
- Mow your lawn more regularly, as required. Lower your mower blades towards the end of the month.
- Recut lawn edges to straighten them up.
- Aerate compacted areas of lawn, by spiking it with a garden fork.



Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid (www.sandersteadhs.org)

Sanderstead Horticultural Society Spring Show - Saturday 21st March from 2 pm at All Saints Church Hall, Onslow Gardens, Sanderstead

~~

St John the Divine, Part 4, Rebuilding the Hall



After the bombing in 1940, it was most important that the Church should be repaired and restored. WW2 in Europe did not finish until May of 1945 with the war in the east officially ending in September 1945. As we saw last month it was not until May 1949 that St John the Divine was able to be re-consecrated.

Plans had been underway for some time since the bombing to build a bigger and better Church Hall to cope with the needs of

the growing congregation and a fund had been established to build a new Hall to replace the temporary one lost in 1940.

The new structure was proposed to be brick and to hold 200 to 300 people with a stage, dressing rooms, a community room and a kitchen. In 1946 the cost of the new Hall was estimated at £7,174. St Johns held an August Bank Holiday Monday garden party in 1946 in the grounds of Langley

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Oaks Library to raise funds. Meanwhile the design for the new hall was progressing and, although the first planning application for the new Hall was refused, later, in November 1947, a slightly revised application was approved. It wasn't until November 1949 however that work to build the new Church Hall commenced. The brick type was chosen to complement the Church. That the Hall was going to be larger and longer than the previous 'temporary' hall, necessitated the removal of the Hut which was being used by the Scouts, Guides and church organisations. In January 1950 the Vicar, Revd Alan Bailey, set up a 'Hall Committee' to supervise the building work and he obtained a bank loan from Barclays for £4,000. At the St John's annual meeting in April 1950, he reported that he expected the Hall to be in use in June. It is not clear exactly when the Hall was completed but in June 1950 a music licence was granted by the Urban District Council.

The Hall was certainly being used by community groups from September 1950 onwards with the Selsdon Residents' Association holding their monthly meeting there on September 13th.



The War Damage Commission eventually contributed £6,550 towards the new Hall which was, by then, estimated to cost £10,000. By the turn of the century the hall was identified as needing upgrading: the roof needed replacing, the walls insulated and the toilets and kitchen refurbished. Fundraising began again and eventually, in 2010, the hall closed for renovation. Works included new roofing, upgraded electrical and fire alarm systems, new toilets to include disabled facilities, plus a new heating and ventilation system, ceiling, lighting and flooring. Double glazing was added and the hall redecorated. The final cost of the 4 months work was £211,474.

Ian Leggatt

OS map extract, dated to 1947, once again from National Library of Scotland. Photo of Church and Hall from Google. The detailed journals of Ted Frith are silent on matters after 1951. If any readers have memories or photographs of the scout hut rebuilding or the repayment of the loan on the Hall, I would be very grateful for sight of. Please contact the Editor. To put some context to the costs which have been reported above, average weekly wages at the start of this story were low by comparison with today - figures vary from source to source and job to job but the average weekly wage for an Executive Officer (EO) in the Civil Service and

at the top of the grade was, in 1939 £10, in 1950 £13. That same EO pay in 2010 when the Hall was refurbished was almost £540. In 2025 the top of the range of pay for an EO was nearly £675.

~~

St Patrick's Day is celebrated on 17th March, but how much do you know about the Emerald Isle?

Quiz about Ireland

1. The Irish national flag is a tricolour featuring three equal vertical bands of which colours?
2. What money does the Republic of Ireland use?
3. Which river runs through Dublin?
4. What are the four historical provinces of the Island of Ireland?
5. Maureen, Anne, Linda, Coleen, Bernie, Denise were all original members of which best-selling pop group?
6. Who is the president of the Republic of Ireland?
7. What does the shamrock stand for?
8. The Blarney Stone reportedly gives you the 'gift of the gab' if you kiss it. Before health and safety how did you kiss the Blarney stone?
9. How many letters are there in the Irish alphabet?
10. Fathers Jack, Ted and Dougal lived on which fictional island?
11. Why is green worn on St. Patrick's Day?



Answers after the Nature Notes

~~

Here a local resident has researched the local buses that served Selsdon.

Bus Routes serving the Selsdon Area - Early Days Part 1

These articles cover the private operators, pre 1934 and the creation of London Passenger Transport Board (London Transport).

Prior to 1926, no buses served Selsdon. The nearest any residents of Selsdon at that time would have found a bus was Sanderstead.

Routes S3/403, S4/404 and 459

From Sanderstead, they could have bus route S3 which commenced on 16th June 1921. It ran from West Croydon to Sevenoaks via South

Croydon (Swan and Sugar Loaf), Sanderstead Station, Sanderstead Church, Hamsey Green, Warlingham, Chelsham and Botley Hill to Westerham. It was operated by the East Surrey Traction Company (ESTC) founded in 1911 and based in Reigate. From 14th November 1923 some Wednesday and Sunday journeys ran from Chelsham to Chelsham Mental Hospital during visiting times. The hospital (latterly known as Warlingham Park Hospital) was where the Great Park private estate was built.

The S3 was renumbered 403 on 1st December 1924. From 25th January 1925, the operation of the route transferred to East Surrey Traction Company's newly opened garage at Chelsham, now the site of Sainsburys, Warlingham, where the current 403 terminates.

The Summer 1925 timetable indicates the first 403 left West Croydon at 08:52, reached Sanderstead at 09:18 and Sevenoaks at 10:37. The service was generally hourly with the last bus of the day leaving West Croydon at 20:22 reaching Sevenoaks at 22.07. There were also some buses in between the hourly Sevenoaks service that only ran as far as Chelsham (Hare and Hounds). The fare from West Croydon to Sanderstead was 4d (less than 2p in today's money). Travel all the way from Croydon to Sevenoaks was two shillings (10p).

A further route, S4, also started on 16th June 1921, was operated by ESTC. The S4 ran between West Croydon and Edenbridge via South Croydon, Sanderstead, Warlingham, Botley Hill, Oxted and Limpsfield. On 1st August 1924 it was extended to East Grinstead via Lingfield and on 1st December 1924 was re-numbered the 404. It also operated from Chelsham garage from 1925 but was withdrawn between West Croydon and Botley Hill on 5th June 1926. Thereafter, the route simply became Tatsfield to Forest Row.

One other short lived route in the area in the 1920s was the 459. Between 4th December 1925 and 25th January 1926, Cambrian Landray extended their existing Oxford Circus to South Croydon service to Sanderstead and Warlingham. Cambrian Landray, based in Brixton, was another of the many independent bus operators active in the 1920s. There was fierce competition then between them. Cambrian Landray was taken over by London General Omnibus Company (LGOC) on 1st January 1926.

Costains' Private Service

The first bus (the Costain's Private Service) came to Selsdon in February/March 1926 to November 1926 when Costains, as part of their development of Selsdon Garden Village, ran it for the new Selsdon residents to enable them to reach South Croydon Station. The service operated in the morning between 06:30 and 10:00 and in the evening

between 16:30 and 20:00 from the junction of Queenhill Road and Upper Selsdon Road to South Croydon Station stopping at the Croham Arms. The route was via Upper Selsdon Road and Selsdon Road, as Farley Road and Croham Valley Road were not fully constructed then. A bus was hired from ESTC's Chelsham Garage for the service as ESTC had refused to operate a service to Selsdon deeming Upper Selsdon Road insufficiently wide at that time.



For a detailed article regarding Costain's bus service see pages 21-23 of the September 2021 Selsdon Gazette which can be found at : <https://selsdon-residents.co.uk/resources/Gazette%20Sept%2721%28LR%20proof%292.pdf>

To be continued next month

The author apologises for any errors or omissions in compiling this article.

Sources to which I am indebted include:

<https://www.londonbuses.co.uk/> - Ian Armstrong's definitive record of London's bus routes since 1934

<http://www.busspotter.com/> - Ian Smith's definitive guide to London bus types

<https://chelsham-garage.co.uk/> -- history of Chelsham Garage that operated some of the buses routes in our area during its operational life 1925-1990

London Metropolitan Archives.

~~

Scouting in Selsdon

By Chris Green - Chair of the 5th Selsdon & Addington Group



Scouting in Selsdon has a long and successful history. There was a time, not too long ago, where Selsdon and Forestdale supported at least 5 separate Groups located at different points along the main high street: from St John's Church down to Addington Methodist Church. This is not to mention a further 2 or 3 Groups in New Addington.

In recent years, this number has reduced down to just two Groups: the 1st Selsdon & Addington, located at St John's Church; and the 5th Selsdon & Addington, located at Addington Methodist Church. The 5th recently undertook a merger with the 2nd Selsdon & Addington Group (located

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behind Selsdon Primary School). There are now no active groups in New Addington and whilst it is easy to mourn this reduction, it is representative of our age, where demands on families' time and resources are under pressure. However, a large number of young people do travel from New Addington to join in with the 5th Selsdon & Addington via the very good transport links.

However, this is not to say Scouting is a thing of the past. Scouting is still as vibrant as ever and between the 2 groups we have over 120 children across the three sections of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. We are blessed in Selsdon to have easy access to great activities through the Bears Wood and Frylands Scouts Centres, plus, with London and amazing natural spaces on our doorstep, the range of activities open to us are large and varied and often cover archery, air rifles, night hikes, fire lighting (and extinguishing!), first aid, and many more. Scouts really does provide young people with new skills for life.



And we are always keen to recruit more young people to join the packs.

Scouting is open to boys and girls from the ages of 6 to 14 1/2 and is amazing value at about £40 per child per school term. So, if you think your child would like to get involved and try something new, please do get in contact. The contact details for the 1st and 5th can be found on the back page of the gazette.

Finally, Scouting is a volunteer led organisation and if you are an adult - young at heart - and would like to volunteer your time, we are also always on the look-out for more volunteers. This could be as prospective section leads, section assistants or casual volunteers to help with specific tasks like treasury or general admin. You would be very welcome - subject to successful completion of training and a DBS check.

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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.

~~

We have had many responses to last month's letter asking about a Baby Clinic at the end of Dulverton Road.

Dear Editor,

I recall the small hall in Dulverton Road. Yes, it was nearly at the end of the road. I used to attend Red Cross classes there in probably the early 1970s. I think school exams then took priority and I stopped going.

Name and address supplied

Dear Editor,

Further to the letter enquiring if there was a Baby Clinic in Dulverton Road - yes there was. Adjacent to the alleyway there is a hall which is currently a Buddhist Temple - the Thames Buddhist Vihara. In the 1970s and 1980s, it was the British Legion Hall and Baby Clinics were held there. I took my son there, born in 1980, to be weighed and measured.

Linda Hornzee-Jones

Dear Editor,

I am replying to the writer who was asking for news about the hall in Dulverton Road. My family lived in Dulverton Road between 1966 and 1973 and I well remember this hall. It was built at the end of the road on the left hand side with a passageway at the front running up towards the shops. I do not know when it was built but while we lived there, it was known and run by the Selsdon Branch of the British Legion. When the Legion was not using it, the hall was loaned out to various organisations e.g. the Baby Clinic which I attended for the welfare of both my children so I might have met the writer's friend, and also a Playgroup which my daughter attended (she is now a grandmother!). I still have a photo of her as Mary, with Baby Jesus, in the Playgroup's Nativity in 1970.

To change the subject, I am the first contributor to the Gazette about

the history of Selsdon and have remembered one or two other facts that people might be interested in.

I have been fascinated by the history of St John the Divine as my father was Choir Master and Church organist for over 20 years after the Second World War. However, the original Church was actually built in the Parish of Sanderstead, not Selsdon, because the boundary between the two then ran down the centre of Upper Selsdon Road. The Church had to get special permission to remain where it was and to retain its name as St John the Divine, Selsdon.

I would also like to correct another contributor about the original Selsdon Library; it was actually at the corner of Upper Selsdon Road and Langley Oaks Avenue, where the Nursing Home is now. I too spent many a happy hour in there. The building that she mentions on the corner of Upper Selsdon Road and Arundel Avenue was where my family lived in the house called 'Chacewater' which I have discovered was built 10-15 years before Selsdon Garden Village started. It was demolished in the 1970s.
Katie Swinnerton ('Katie Remembers' can be found in the March 2025 Gazette)

~~

Here our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, tells us about her experience of 'Singles Holidays'.

Many people have booked their holidays for this year, but some have held back because they are alone. Well, I once accidentally booked my husband and I onto a 'Singles Holiday'. I had been very busy and just messed up when given yet another task to perform. Well, 'him indoors' soon forgave me and we had a hilarious week in Sicily. We learned quite a lot about human nature too.

At the start, everyone sat on a long table and chatted over their meals, but we were put in a separate part of the restaurant at a table for two. As the week continued, people who had formed friendships and fallen out, or wished to keep things on a light hearted footing, came and sat with us. By the end of the week, we were surrounded by almost as many people as were left at the original long table.



There were people on that trip who had a close relative whom they looked after all the time, but were so exhausted, they just wanted a break and a rest. Their relative went into a Home for a quiet little holiday of their own, and the other took a singles holiday and got a little social life and a much needed rest. Many 'Homes' offer Respite Care, and so long as the patient is happy with that arrangement, both sides benefit.

Different Age groups are catered for so there are Singles' Holidays for all

ages. Don't worry if you are alone, you may well make a new friend for life. I know someone who went to Borneo on a singles holiday. She found it a very interesting place to visit.

If you go, we hope you will have a very happy visit.

~~

Poetry Corner

This month we had a very proud Grandmother send in a poem written by her granddaughter, Ava Campbell, who is concerned about how Mankind is affecting our precious Environment.

Our Home
It is dying
Literally crying
No one's helping
Except for the nice.
The ice is melting,
The sun is drying,
The planet is dying
We are dying!



The trees are bare
With plastic everywhere
Which isn't fantastic is it?
The water is drying,
Sea life dying,
Trapped in plastic
They can't escape
All because of us!



The poor creatures.
Just open that door
The door of saving,
.. saving our home

The litter that roams almost everywhere
But let's change our world
And just be bold!
But the sun has lost its gleam
Although it doesn't seem
But we can fix it if we do our bit
Just think for a moment,





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The animals that are meant to come home
They're all alone
No faces are shown
No volunteers!
But remember what I said...
Just open that door...
The door of saving, saving our home!

~~

Here Ted tells us what may be spotted in Selsdon Wood this year.

Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth - Things To Look For In 2026

Fungal spores are easily lifted into the atmosphere and can travel long distances. This is why new species occasionally appear in the woodland and grassland. I am always hopeful that the amazing numbers of waxcap fungi in Wales will send their spores to settle and grow in Selsdon Wood - our best year produced eight species, whereas the Wales total is more than twenty species. There are many other species which might turn up in our area, some of which have occurred in nearby green spaces.

One such is White Saddle - probably found at the edge of a path as an individual, not a group (see photo). It is a species which you could easily dismiss since its normal appearance makes it look like a mushroom which is past its best. A somewhat similar comment can be applied to earthstars - they are a group with a small central ball surrounded by fungal "leaves" but being small can be missed. I hope that



regular users of the woods will familiarise themselves with a few of the species I mention and will keep them in mind while walking the paths. A Collared Earthstar appeared on the Hutchinson's Bank entrance path and White Saddles at the top and bottom of the Chapel Bank site.

A spectacular new relative of the *Mycena bonnets* is spreading though the UK and sooner or later will arrive in the woods. This is Orange Pore fungus or Orange Porecap which grows in groups on fallen branches and twigs. The fertile under surface of the cap has a honeycomb-like arrangement of bright orange pores. Check it out on the web.

Where Common Earthballs occur, there is the possibility of its companion, Parasitic Bolete - though nobody seems quite sure it really is a parasite. I have seen one specimen at the top of Croham Hurst and many on

Coulsdon Common.

Mostly in grassland, there could be Meadow Coral, Violet Coral, Golden spindles, Apricot Club, or one of the black or green Earthtongues.

Even amongst species, which we happily record when they are found, there are puzzles which it would be nice to crack. The Yellow Brain, which we normally record, is parasitic on the almost invisible film-like Peniophora species of fungi growing on branches. It has a relative which looks almost the same but is parasitic on the more obvious species of Stereum fungi on branches and stumps. It is said to occur on gorse.

A similar situation arises with the black jelly fungus we call Witches Butter and a relative which some people are now calling Wizard's Butter. Note that our Yellow Brain is called Witches Butter in USA.



Like spores, orchid seeds are minute and are released in billions, but when they land and start to grow, they must make a relationship with underground fungal mycelium and it will be years before a flowering orchid is produced. We have had Bee Orchid in the past and it is about time this species returned to the wood (see photo). For many years we had a single Broad-leaved Helleborine outside Centenary Plantation. We can only hope that it produced viable seeds

and that the species might return. I have a feeling that this orchid and the masses of White Helleborines which used to occur in the plantation have been affected by Selsdon Wood's fickle weather and local climate conditions, or possibly the deer are adding them to their diet.

In the spring migration period, many bird species fly over Selsdon Wood on their way to breeding sites elsewhere. Some will break their journey and will stay to feed for a few hours or even days, before continuing onwards. We expect the first Ring Ouzels (common name - mountain thrush - see photo) and Sand Martins to be coming into the country from March. Early users of the woods might see these species before they vanish. Smaller birds like Lesser Whitethroat or Common Redstart are probably best found by tracking their song - if they stop long enough to sing. Any unusual noises are worth following up - you might be surprised by what you find. The vast majority arrive during April and May with optimistic birders listening or looking for species like Golden Oriole, Wryneck, Hoopoe, Red-rumped Swallow, Black Kite and others.



When the Common Swifts start to arrive, there is one species I would like to be able to add to the Selsdon Wood bird list - the Alpine Swift. This

is a brown bird with a 21 inch wingspan, a large white belly and throat separated by a brown chest band. It is big!
I hope you will keep your eyes and ears ready and will submit a flood of reports of sightings.

Photo of White Saddle Fungi courtesy of Wildfooduk.com

Photo of Bee Orchid courtesy of Dorset Wildlife Trust

Photo of ring ouzel courtesy of the Ring Ouzel Study Group, Phill Andrews.

~~

Answers to the Quiz about Ireland

1. Green (hoist side), white, and orange. Designed in 1848 to symbolize a peaceful union, the green represents Irish republicanism and the Catholic population, the orange represents supporters of the union with Britain (Orangemen), and the white symbolizes a lasting truce between them.
2. Euros
3. Liffey
4. Ulster, Munster, Leinster and Connaught
5. The Nolan Sisters
6. Michael D. Higgins
7. The Holy Trinity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
8. Hung upside down by your ankles
9. 18
10. Craggy Island
11. So that people are invisible to leprechauns!

~~

Contact

Selsdon Community Centre

132 Addington Road

South Croydon, CR2 8LA

Tel: 020 8651 4944

Email: info@selsdoncontact.org.uk



Contact

People Who Care

www.selsdoncontact.org.uk

VOLUNTEER POSTMAN/WOMAN WANTED.

Are you looking for a rewarding way to give back to your community? Do you enjoy being active and connecting with people? If so, we need YOU! Contact is your local Neighbourhood Care organisation, providing practical help, advice, support and information to the local community.

We engage with our clients through written correspondence and regular Newsletters.

You may already know that we are no longer funded by Croydon Council and Postage stamps have been increasingly expensive to purchase! Therefore, our letters, Newsletters and important information are hand delivered to our clients in the immediate local area. Very often, a friendly face and an occasional conversation is welcomed by our clients who may be isolated.

No regular commitment is required and time spent delivering to suit you. ideally an hour per week.

If you enjoy walking or cycling, we would love to hear from you.

Please Contact us on the above number or visit our website www.selsdoncontact.org.uk. If you prefer, call into the office. We are on the lower ground floor of the Sainsbury's complex. Look forward to seeing you.

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~~

The Story Sanctuary

A Creative Health and Wellbeing Hub at the former Sanderstead Library building.

The Story Sanctuary is our new community space - built by and for us - a creative place where people can come together to connect, swap skills, make things, move, play and more.

We believe stories, in all their forms, help us understand each other, and it's proven that being creative helps us stay well.



With a range of activities, workshops and events for everyone from young to old: art and crafts, gardening and yoga, food and craft markets, social gatherings, and moments of calm.

A welcoming spot for everyone - including our neurodivergent and LGBTQIA+ communities - a kind, creative place where everyone can feel at ease. Whether you love words, pictures, music, or simply good company, there's space for you here.



How did The Story Sanctuary come to be?

In 2024, Croydon Council took the decision to close four libraries and the buildings were offered to the community (charities, non-profits, residents' groups), to run as community hubs. There were about 8 bids submitted for Sanderstead library, all very different, which were scored by the council across various metrics and the highest scoring bids were shared with the local community to get their input.



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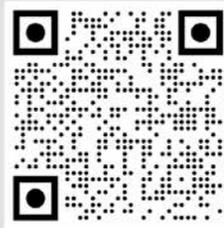
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The Story Sanctuary proposal (submitted by Jill, a Sanderstead resident) scored highest and was the most popular with the local community; it was the only bid that aimed to wholly retain the building for community use. The building is currently operated by A Collective, Jill's non-profit, under a temporary 'Licence to Occupy' so we can start to build our creative programme and get everyone involved in our plans. We will be incorporating a new organisation, ready to negotiate a 25-year lease with Croydon Council.

~~

**Selsdon
Community
Clubhouse**



Our MP came to visit

The Selsdon Community Clubhouse was honoured to host Natasha Irons, MP for Croydon East, for a Fish & Chip lunch in early February, followed by a

few games of Bingo, and Natasha was lucky enough to call House on one game! She graciously declined to accept her prize! Afterwards, Natasha met with some of the Clubhouse clients and chatted about how they enjoy their time with us and how much they appreciate the services offered to them by the Clubhouse. Pictured with Natasha Irons, MP for Croydon East, is Fiona Sinclair, KC, Trustee of Selsdon Community Clubhouse and Liz O'Donoghue, Clubhouse Manager.



Head Cook (not bottle washer)



We are looking for a new chef to help plan and prepare the menus and food for the Clubhouse twice a month (days and dates to be agreed) for up to 12 hours a month (2 cooking days/some prep hours). You need to have proven experience of cooking for up to 50 adults and have a current minimum Level 2 Food Safety certificate. We are offering £14.60 per hour. We welcome your application via

email at office@selsdoncentre.org.uk

Our contact details are: Telephone: 0208 651 1111

or email: office@selsdoncentre.org.uk

Website: www.selsdoncentre.org.uk



What's Next - **Quiz Night** Saturday 28h March 2026 7.30pm at St Antony's Church Hall, Hamsey Green. Tickets cost £15 per person which includes a supper. Do put in a team and come along for a fun evening.

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

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

Don't miss out.

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

Secretary@rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com

~~

News from West Fisher UK Wine Producer Moving to Elm Farm



As many of our customers know we are moving premises in 2026, the end of May to be precise.

Our time at Clacket Lane has been interesting, it kept the dream alive but has not been the easiest of roads.

So where are we going? We are moving to Elm Farm, Farleigh Common, Warlingham, CR6 9PE. Surrey Wildlife

Trust are our new neighbours and they control the majority of the farm, the bigger barns, old milking shed, the lovely listed farmhouse and the land, leaving us with the original courtyard buildings with some parking to the rear. A lot of work to do, and very little time, or money.

Due to the move, and the work involved, we will be closed at Clacket Lane from mid-May, opening again at the new site mid-June. We are realistic, and expect the move to be a challenge. We are also aware that certain people in the area are not happy about us moving there, but we don't actually know why, and we have put out feelers to see if we can discuss any concerns like, well, adults. To no avail sadly. So maybe this article will alleviate some of those concerns.

So, what are we doing. Well, we are renovating four buildings, two of which

are on the verge of falling down. We will be installing new gates, new fencing, drainage, power, security cameras, security lighting and obviously fitting out a modest tasting room with toilets. There will be no industrial use on site, we are an agricultural business, which is why Merton College were happy to grant us a 33 year lease. We only have sporadic deliveries, i.e. small trucks, usually during harvest or in the early months of the year shipping out the contract wines we produce for other small producers. The majority of our grapes are delivered by car or small van. Surrey Wildlife Trust are happy that we are coming on site, they are looking forward to the courtyard and the surrounding buildings being sorted out and the security of having an active neighbour right on their doorstep. We already have a great relationship with them, and look forward to strengthening that relationship once we get started on the renovations.

So again, I would ask anyone, who has any concerns, thinks we are doing something else, or whatever your thoughts are, please get in touch, talk to us, ask anything you like. Visit us at Clacket Lane or meet us at Elm Farm, we are not shy, we are happy to discuss our plans.

~~

Checking in - How are you doing?

We are a quarter way through the year! Perhaps if you have five minutes spare - Take a moment to check in on yourself. Our lives can be filled with *challenges, tasks - maybe without realising even unhealthy habits. Life is about more than chores! Here are four questions to consider that will help you to see if you are re-filling your energy levels with positive actions.

- 1) What are you learning?
- 2) What are you creating?
- 3) What are you sharing?
- 4) What brings you joy?

Small positive actions can bring big results. It may be time to call a friend, visit the library, try a new recipe, water a plant, attend a community event or just go for a walk somewhere you love.

Check out community noticeboards, there may be activities happening nearby that would be just what you would enjoy. We list a few on our website.



*If, however, just the challenge of life is overwhelming and you feel isolated, please reach out - there are community groups and charities that can help. For example: Selsdon Neighbourhood Care Telephone: 020 8651 4944, Email: info@selsdoncontact.org.uk

Be kind to yourself. Humans need to 'grow' and 'connect' in order to thrive. No stagnation - Life is for living!

Janet Sharp

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.

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

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

~~

WARTIME CLASSIC DRAMA STAGED IN SANDERSTEAD

The **Parlour Players'** Spring production is the Award-winning **'The Diary of Anne Frank'**.

Few more poignant true stories emerged from World War II than the diary of young Anne Frank. Published long afterwards by her father, the only family survivor, it records the minutiae of twenty-five months that two Jewish families spent in hiding from the Gestapo in an Amsterdam warehouse attic. The constant secrecy, growing hunger and friction of living in such cramped conditions could not dull Anne's vibrant personality or her passion for living.

The show will be performed in the Sanderstead United Reformed Church Hall at the bottom of Sanderstead Hill on **Thursday, Friday and Saturday 14th, 15th, and 16th May at 7.45 pm with a matinee on Saturday 16th at 2.30pm**. Tickets cost **£12** and will go on sale on **Monday 30th March**.

For information on how to buy tickets or to join The Parlour Players go to the website www.parlourplayers.co.uk or contact the Box Office direct via boxoffice@parlourplayers.co.uk or on 020 8657 2632.

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

DOCTORS & EMERGENCY CARE

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@metpolice.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.friendsofkingswood@hotmail.co.uk
Girlguiding (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section)		0800 999 2016 https://girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved
1 st Selsdon & Addington Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts)		www.1stselsdonscouts.org.uk
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		www.sandersteadhs.org
Sanderstead Local History Group		sandersteadlh@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

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