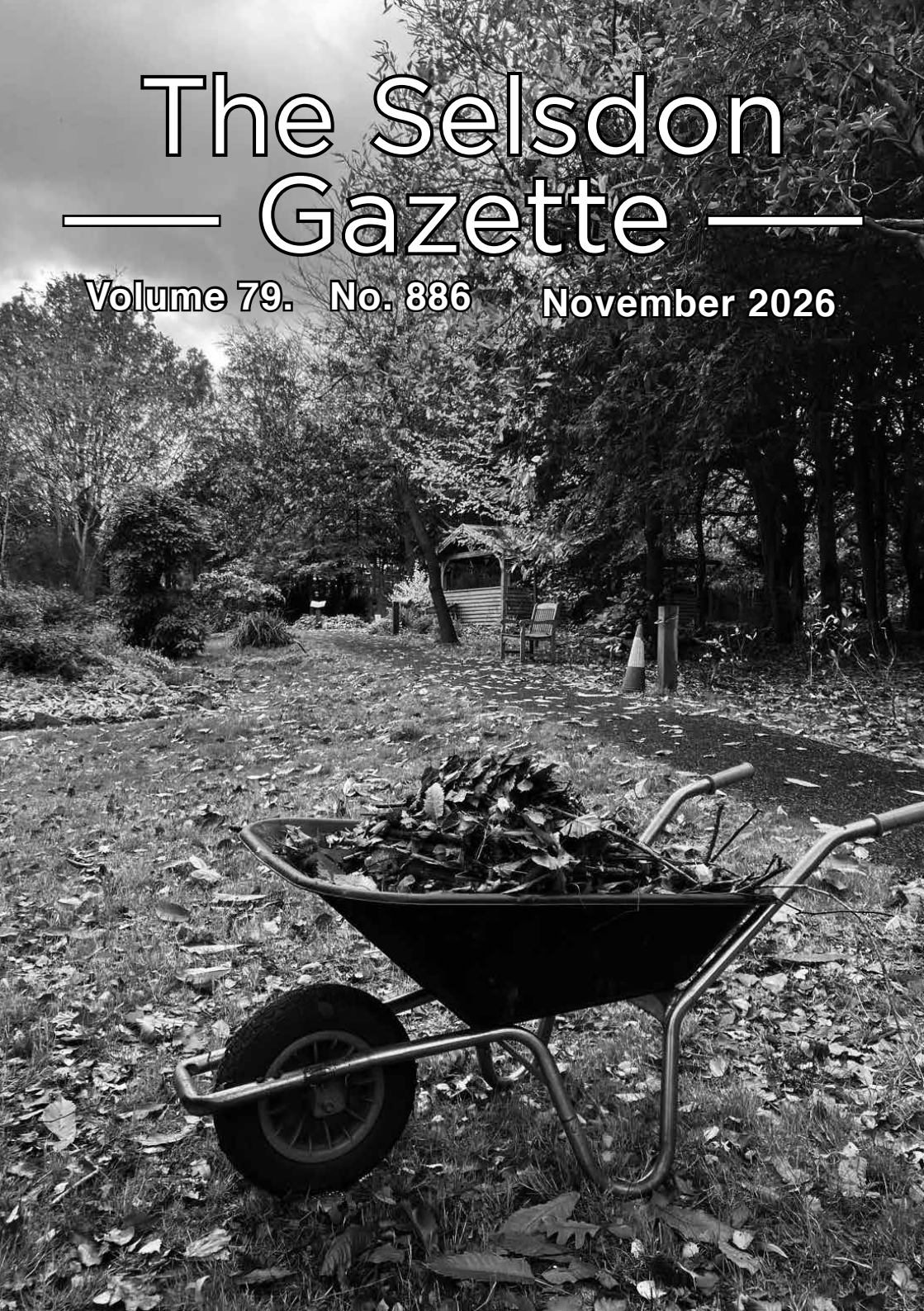
The Selsdon Gazette

Volume 79. No. 886 November 2026



THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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Gazette cover: A typical scene at this time of year, this one from The Wilderness, Shirley by Janet Sharp.

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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	07484 904343

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

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Editor's Note



Hello everyone and a warm welcome to November's Gazette. Christmas is in full swing in this issue with the details about the SRA Christmas Lights Switch On Event on Friday 27th November, and a final plea for entries from Selsdon's primary school children for the Design the December Gazette Cover Competition by Saturday 14th November. We also include details about Santa's sleigh route through Selsdon organised by the Rotary of Sanderstead & Selsdon, and, if you are looking for a Christmas outfit, do not miss out on the Mind Charity Shop Christmas launch on Monday 30 November. I will see you in the queue at 8.30am!

Our cover this month is an autumnal photo, however, my store of photos of Selsdon is diminishing quickly so please forward any photos you have taken in the area to me at selsdongazettesra@gmail.com

In this month's Gazette, we have our usual news from our Councillors, local MP and local police officers. Our Gardening tips tells us how we can help keep our plants healthy through the winter, Ted helps us to identify the trees and shrubs seen in Selsdon Wood, and this month's quiz tackles Nursery Rhymes. Ian Leggatt has branched off from his articles about Selsdon Baptist Church to investigate a shop on our high street that has never opened its shutters. Meanwhile, Janet Sharp thought that she had finished her articles about the Lloyd/Garwood family, but one reader got in contact with her about a Kent connection to her story.

We are blessed in Selsdon to have a very active community, so in this gazette you will find out about what is on offer at the Greenvale Community Book Shop, how to get involved in BeeWalks, advice about your cacti and succulents over the winter from the British Cacti & Succulent Society and there is a desperate plea for volunteers from a local Scout Group.

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.

Chris Jones

Submissions for the December 2026 edition should be with the Editor no later than 20th November - preferably before!

SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS

St Christopher's Charity Shop

This has been in Selsdon for a number of years (our records go back to 1995) providing a real community store so it is sad to read that they will be closing their doors on 15th November. The Hospice in Sydenham was opened in July 1967, established by Dame Cicely Saunders. They are funded by charitable donations and public fundraising (66% to 71% of its income) with the remainder (around 25% to 34%) coming from NHS funding, so their shops play an important role and Selsdon will miss their shop greatly.

Remembrance Poppies

The Committee have again put up the annual display of poppies on the newly painted railings and around the clock from 1 to 15 November, followed by the Christmas decorations in preparation for out Christmas Lights Switch On Event. Everyone is busy this time of year but please make time in your diaries for our Christmas Lights switch on by Father Christmas on Friday 27th November. The fun starts at 4.30pm with the switch on at 5pm. There will be refreshments provided by the Selsdon Baptist Church and the Village Club, and carol singers from Selsdon Primary School.

You can catch us in Sainsburys foyer on the morning of Saturday 28th November for any donations or subscription payments.

Greenvale Book Shop

Andy and Nicci, the original volunteers who set this up, have moved from the area but a new team of volunteers have stepped up to run this amazing facility. They are having a Christmas event on Saturday 28 November, 10am – 4pm. Please go and support this after seeing us at Sainsburys the same day!!

Friends of Selsdon Wood

The volunteers have been looking after Selsdon Wood for 20 years and

they commissioned a beautiful wooden noticeboard which has now been placed in the car park. Thanks to all the volunteers for the work that they do.



St John the Divine Church

The church celebrated its 90th anniversary and I was privileged to be invited to a service led by the Bishop of Croydon followed by a wonderful lunch, proving that Selsdon is indeed a wonderful community.

Finally, the Gazette needs you! We run at a loss and are reliant on advertisers so if anyone can recommend us to any trades person please help us.

Sheila Childs, Chair

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Selsdon Residents' Association



GAZETTE CHRISTMAS COVER COMPETITION

For Selsdon's primary and nursery children

Closing date for entries Saturday 14 November

All you have to do is make an A4 sized, suitably seasonal, drawing or painting. Put your name, address, school and date of birth on the back and then pop it in any of the SRA committee members' addresses listed on page 2 of the Gazette or via KIBA, 119 Addington Road.

Your artwork can have any Christmas theme, but it has to be your own work, nothing downloaded.
The orientation can be portrait or landscape but please remember to leave a space for the Selsdon Gazette title or have a full page design that would allow the title to be printed over it and not spoil your picture.

The winning entry will be the colour cover for the December Gazette, whilst the runner up will appear on the back cover. There will be prizes for the winner and the runner up.

Remember you've got to be in it, to win it!



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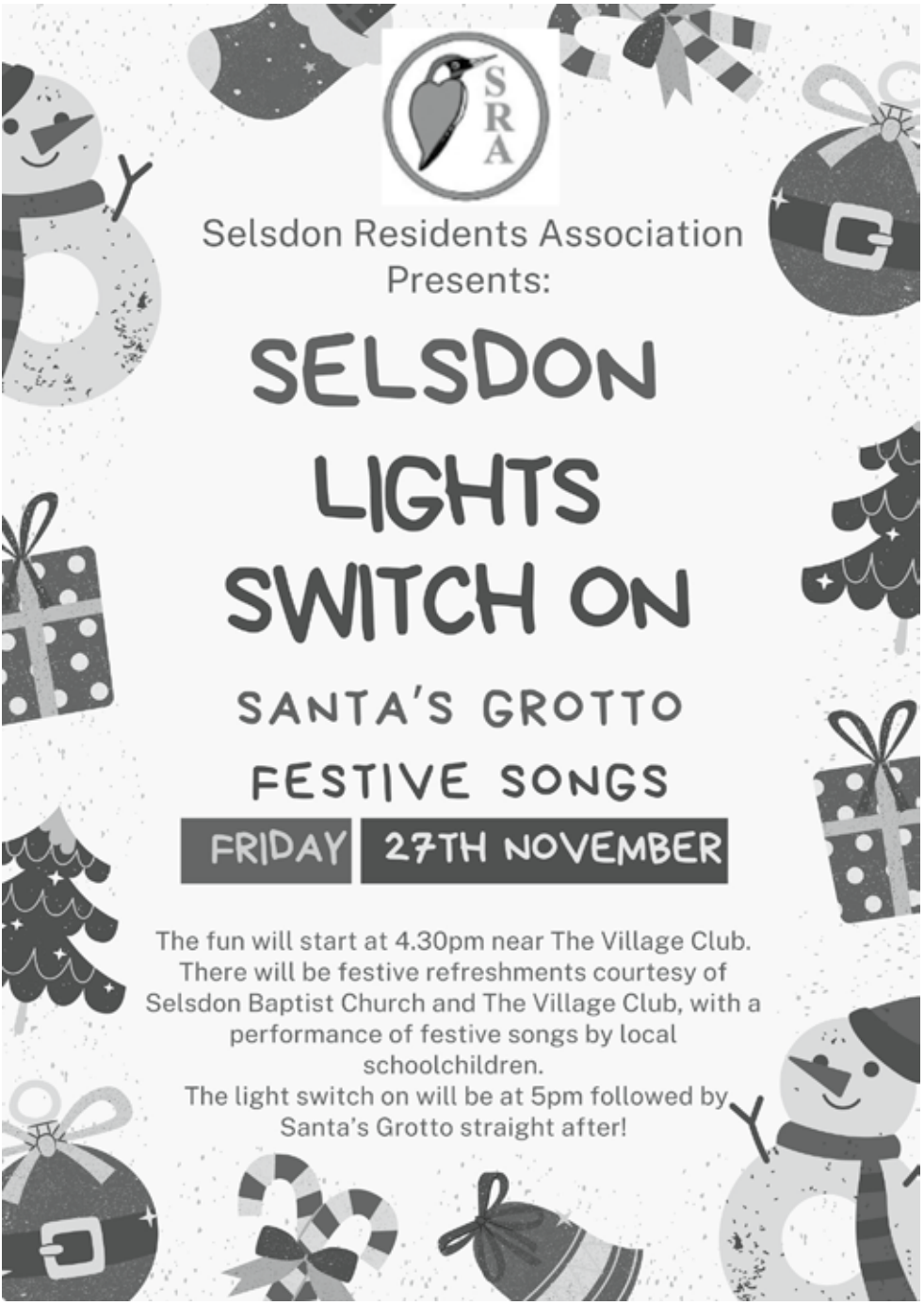
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SRA
Selsdon Residents Association
Presents:
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SANTA'S GROTTO
FESTIVE SONGS
FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER
The fun will start at 4.30pm near The Village Club.
There will be festive refreshments courtesy of
Selsdon Baptist Church and The Village Club, with a
performance of festive songs by local
schoolchildren.
The light switch on will be at 5pm followed by
Santa's Grotto straight after!

COUNCILLORS' NOTES FROM ANDY STRANACK

CHANGES TO HOW PLANNING APPLICATIONS ARE DECIDED

From 1 November 2026, new national rules will change how planning applications are decided in Croydon. The Government's National Scheme of Delegation will replace the Council's existing arrangements.

One important change is that Ward Councillors, Residents' Associations and large numbers of objections will no longer be able automatically to secure consideration of an application by the Planning Committee.

Many smaller applications, including householder applications, developments of up to nine homes, HMOs and minor commercial schemes, will normally be determined by planning officers. Other applications may still reach the Planning Committee, but only if they meet new national "Gateway" tests relating to their economic, social or environmental significance and significant planning matters.

Residents will still be able to comment on planning applications, as will councillors and Residents' Associations. Officers will consider representations where they raise relevant material planning considerations.

Mayor Jason Perry has expressed concern that removing the existing referral arrangements could weaken residents' voices. He has said Croydon will seek to preserve every lawful opportunity for councillors, Residents' Associations and residents to flag eligible applications for committee consideration.

What this means: residents should continue to respond to planning consultations and raise material planning concerns about proposals affecting their neighbourhood.

THE BATTLE FOR OUR GREEN SPACES: How the new London Plan impacts Selsdon

Major changes are coming to South Croydon. The Mayor of London's, Sadiq Khan's, new draft London Plan, published in July 2026, has set its sights on Croydon to deliver thousands of new homes by 2037. For Selsdon, a community defined by its beautiful natural borders and tram links, the proposals have sparked an immediate local planning battle.
The biggest talking point is the threat to our local Green Belt. The plan designates a "Croydon-New Addington settlement" broad location for po-

tential greenfield development. Under a controversial new “one-mile” rule, the Greater London Authority proposes making green spaces within one mile of a tram stop or railway station available for intensive, high-density housing. Because Selsdon borders vital green lungs like Coombe Wood, Addington Hills, and Lloyd Park, these areas are now under direct pressure from urban expansion.
Furthermore, Policy E7 of the plan aims to intensify industrial land, targeting areas along the Selsdon Road corridor for high-density, multi-storey commercial redevelopment. Combined with incoming national rules that reduce local councillors’ powers to block smaller housing developments, residents face a shifting local landscape with less local democratic control. However, resistance is mounting. Croydon Council has formally objected to the draft, with Executive Mayor Jason Perry declaring Croydon’s Green Belt “sacrosanct.” The Council argues that Sadiq Khan should focus on the borough’s 15,000+ brownfield site capacities before destroying protected local woodlands.

As the consultation progresses, Selsdon residents are encouraged to stay informed and make their voices heard. As your local Conservative Councillors, we will do everything we can to protect Selsdon’s precious green space.

WORK CONTINUES AT THE SELSDON PARK HOTEL SITE

Work is continuing a pace to refurbish the Selsdon Park Hotel Site. The great news recently is that contractors have kept their commitment to us and many local residents to cut back the hedges along Addington Road and Old Farleigh Road which has made it much easier for those of us with mobility needs and parents with pushchairs to use the pavement along the road.

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

Councillor surgeries are held on the first Saturday of the month 10am - 11.15am (no surgery in August) at The Selsdon Community Clubhouse (next to Sainsbury’s), 132 Addington Rd, South Croydon CR2 8LA.

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
Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk
Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk

Selsdon Vale and Forestdale
Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk
Jack.barwell@croydon.gov.uk

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

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

26/02660HSE - 235 Addington Road South Croydon CR2 8LQ
Erection of ground-floor side extension and rear extension, installation of rooflight in front roofslope.

26/02804/DISC - Garages Rear Of 31 - 49 Elmfield Way South Croydon
Discharge of Condition 8 (parts a-f) (surface water drainage scheme), of planning permission 24/03159/CONR Variation of condition 2 (approved documents and drawings) attached to planning permission ref. 20/06645/FUL under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. (Demolition of existing garages and redevelopment of the site to provide 8no. semi-detached dwellings and 1no. detached dwelling, provision of improved vehicular and pedestrian access, vehicle and cycle parking, landscaping and refuse storage areas).

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

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Selsdon Park Hotel Update



Here we have our monthly report from the Chief Investment Officer at the BH Group, James Routledge.

Not a lot to report since last time

- We have now chopped back the foliage on the footpaths and any dangerous trees which are likely to fall/cause danger to the public. There are other trees to also come down but the most dangerous on the boundaries have been done
- Connected to the above and in recognition people are still walking their dogs etc. illegally on the land, please ask them to be careful as we have identified 12 trees that are dangerous and could come down at any time.
- The external scaffolding on the West Wing is now up and the replacement windows ordered.
- We are about to start work on 2 internal sample rooms which will be ready in 5-6 weeks.

James Routledge

Sparkling ideas for Christmas at Knights



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MP Natasha Irons' Report
Member of Parliament for Croydon East

Dear Selsdon Residents,

The government has launched new measures to crack down on loud music, threatening behaviour, littering and vaping on public transport. 'Loudcasting' on trains and buses has become one of the most irritating parts of the daily commute. To tackle it, the government has given local authorities new powers, meaning they can issue £100 fines to people who blast music on the bus. On top of this, if rail passengers refuse to stop anti-social behaviour when asked by staff, they can be removed at the next station and face fines up to £1,000.
We've all sat on a train when someone starts blasting music or videos from their phones, it can quickly spoil the journey. I'm pleased that we're empowering local leaders to address this behaviour head on.

Progress has been made to improve road safety for families and staff at Forestdale Primary School. In April 2025, I attended the school council meeting, where pupils spoke to me about dangerous driving and speeding on Featherbed Lane, and how unsafe they felt walking to and from school. A petition was launched for immediate improvements, including speed detectors, additional safety signage and better kerbs and has now been submitted to the Council. Once I receive any further information on future plans for Featherbed Lane, please be assured I will update residents.

In August 2024, a constituent wrote to me with concerns about malpractice at the waste transfer site known as Pear Tree Farm, along Featherbed Lane. Since then, I've been working with the Environment Agency (EA) to put sustained pressure on its operators to get the site cleaned up. Residents should not have to put up with waste being burnt, excessive waste piles or blocked public footpaths. Last September, the operators were served a 'Minded to Revoke' letter by the EA. The EA has since confirmed that the standards set out in the site's existing environmental permit (issued in the 1980s) are significantly out of date and would not meet the expectations of a modern permit. I'm pleased to report that the Environment Agency has now initiated a permit variation, which will include new conditions requiring improvements at the site. I will continue to press for action to ensure the site is brought up to the required standards and keep residents updated on progress.

Finally, I am hosting another Advice Fair on 21 November so residents can access cost-of-living, debt and mental health support under one roof. Citizens Advice Croydon, the Department for Work and Pensions and Debt Today Free Tomorrow are just some of the organisations who will be there to help.
Tickets are going quickly. Save your spot at **tinyurl.com/croydon-east-advice-fair.**

See you next month!

Natasha

~~

Update from our Local Police

This month has seen continued proactive policing activity across all wards with local Safer Neighbourhood Teams working closely with partners, residents and young people to tackle crime, improve safety and strengthen community engagement.

Officers have been carrying out dedicated patrols and extended policing hours across both wards, focusing on tackling knife crime and responding to concerns raised by the local community. Through a combination of high-visibility patrols, intelligence-led activity and proactive policing, officers conducted a number of positive stop and searches which resulted in drugs being seized and enforcement action being taken, including the issuing of fines.

As part of ongoing efforts to disrupt criminal activity, officers executed a warrant at a local address. During the warrant, Class A drugs and a baton were recovered, and two individuals were arrested. The operation forms part of the team's continued commitment to targeting those involved in drug-related offending and the carrying of weapons within our communities.

Partnership working has remained a key focus this month. Officers collaborated with John Ruskin College to carry out a knife arch operation, providing reassurance and helping to promote a safe environment for students and staff. The activity also enabled officers to engage positively with young people and reinforce important messages around knife crime and personal safety.

Community engagement continues to play a vital role in neighbourhood policing. Officers are still carrying out "Cuppa with a Copper" events, providing residents with an opportunity to speak directly with their local policing team, raise concerns and discuss issues affecting the area.

Officers were also pleased to visit a local Beaver Scout group, where they spoke with the children about the role of a police officer, the importance of staying safe and how the police help protect and support the community. The visit was well received and provided an excellent opportunity to build positive relationships with young people from an early age.

We would like to thank residents, schools, colleges and partner agencies for their continued support and cooperation. Anyone wishing to engage with their local neighbourhood policing team, share information or raise concerns is encouraged to make contact through Met Engage or attend one of our upcoming community engagement events.



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

Upcoming dates, all held at the Selsdon Community Clubhouse, are:
Tuesday 24th November at 2pm
Tuesday 8th December at noon.

Best wishes, PC Summer Ross

Contacting the Police
Please do not hesitate to contact your local police team if required:
Emergencies – 999, Non-emergency crime - 101
All phone numbers for each individual team are no longer used.
Residents should use the following email addresses:
Selsdon & Addington Village:
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Selsdon Vale & Forestdale:
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Good Time for Gardening – November

By now, the weather should be getting colder and wetter. Trees have put on their autumn displays and winter stems start to come into their own. As autumn turns to winter, the main jobs in the garden are mostly about protecting plants and structures from the wilder weather to come.

- Insulate your outdoor containers from frosts. Use hessian or bubble wrap held in place with garden twine.
- Prevent containers becoming waterlogged by raising them off the ground for the winter using bricks or 'pot feet'.
- Encourage hungry birds into your garden by investing in bird baths and bird feeders.
- Protect roses from wind-rock by pruning them by one-third to half their height. This will stop them swaying in strong wind and prevent roots coming loose in the soil.
- Tidy up your strawberry plants, cutting off any dead leaves and removing runners.
- Prune apple and pear trees anytime between now and February.
- Apply grease bands to the trunks of fruit trees to prevent wingless female winter moths climbing the trunks and laying their eggs in the branches.
- Remove the top netting from fruit cages as heavy snow in winter will make it sag.
- Aerate the lawn now before winter sets in. Either use a lawn aerator or simply insert a garden fork at regular intervals and lean it back slightly to let air in.
- Continue to clear fallen leaves off the lawn to keep it healthy using a light rake.
- Edge the lawn. This is easy to do in the winter months once beds are clear.
- Reuse spent compost from annual container displays as a mulch on your garden beds and borders.
- Sweep up debris and fallen leaves from paths and beds to prevent fungal spores, slugs and snails from overwintering.





… and looking forward, it's time to plant garlic and sweet peas ready for next year.

A date for your new diaries - Talk by Will Noble entitled 'Croydonopolis'.

Thursday 11th February from 7:45pm at All Saints Church Hall, Onslow Gardens, Sanderstead. All welcome. Free if SHS members.

Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid
Sanderstead (and Selsdon) Horticultural Society

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DEXTER'S LAB TOBACCONIST



How many times have you walked past this shop and wondered what is its purpose?

On the Broadway, at 129 Addington Road, sits a shop, which to my knowledge has never opened. Its name is announced in a colourful and jazzy font at high level on the shopfront but a black roller shutter sits below to ground level shielding the interior of the shop from view. What is the shop's purpose, what is its history, when will it open?

The shop unit was previously 'Oopsie Daisy' but sometime between August 2023 and August 2024 it became Dexter's Lab. Prior to Oopsie Daisy, it had been vacant for several years. It was previously our Post Office and before that Buckingham (School Outfitters – Cards – Stationery – Gifts).



Oopsie Daisy



The Post Office



Buckingham

A check of Companies House reveals several limited companies of the same name.

Dexters Lab Limited, registered to a Denise Dexter at 9 – 13 Fulham High Street was dissolved in October 2014. The company business was 'Management consultancy activities other than financial management'.

Dexters Lab Limited, registered to a Jubin Chawda at 45 Cherry Orchard Road was dissolved in August 2018. The company business was 'Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified'.

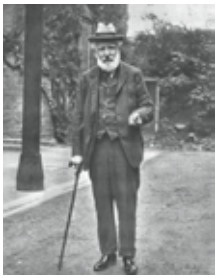
Our own **Dexter's Lab Ltd**, (note the apostrophe in Dexter's), at 129 Addington Road, has its nature of business listed as 'Other retail sale of new goods in specialised stores (not commercial art galleries and opticians)' and is registered to a Dannas Sivaneswaran. The company, according to Companies House records, was subject to compulsory strike off and dissolved in

March 2026. Mr Sivaneswaran is also sole director of Fast Lane Transport which is involved in 'Freight Transport by Road' and 'Removal Services'. This company received its first notice for compulsory strike off in August 2026 which has now been suspended as of September 2026.
So, will we see a new shop on the High Street or will the black shutters remain closed forever more? Watch the space.

Ian Leggatt.
Companies House information is freely available and a matter of public record. I am grateful to Google Maps where its facility to look back through previous iterations of the same view is invaluable.

~~

Frank Lloyd – Industrialist and Benefactor.



Last Gazette issue I thought I had finished the series on the Lloyd Garwood family however, thanks to resident Barbara Burns, we can now see a photo of Frank Lloyd (her cousin Jack Hudson worked at the Sittingbourne Paper Mill and salvaged a framed photo of Frank) As you can see Frank has a sweet 'Paddington Bear' look about him.

I also found that his Lloyd Garwood family (following Frank's death) provided funds for a hospital to be built in his honour (they were also great benefactors to Croydon's hospitals). It should be remembered that before 1948 there was no NHS. Frank Lloyd was known as a good employer building houses, providing social facilities and a 'Sick Benefit Society' for his workers. A lovely video of the grand ceremonial laying of the foundation stone in 1928 of the Sittingbourne Memorial Hospital (opened 1930) can be found on YouTube by the Sittingbourne Heritage Museum (It is likely that the Garwood family are there in the crowd). As often happens (like with Purley Hospital) it was under threat of closure, but thanks to recent large investment is back up and running, with a mental Health unit still carrying Frank Lloyd's name - Frank Lloyd Unit, Mental Health Service. Indeed, lives have been saved by the treatment received.



The Lloyd paper mill in Sittingbourne was, in 1923 one of the largest paper mills in the world. Even af-

ter the mill was sold to other owners it was still known locally until closure in 2007 as “Lloyds Mill”, its landmark 180ft water tower only brought down in 2012.



The Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway still work hard to protect and preserve the old line used to ferry the cargo (the two sites were about 2 miles apart). Visitors can now ride the old steam trains.

Whilst we can perhaps, be nostalgic about the past, I did note historic comments that said the old manufacturing process was not kind to the local environment in terms of fairly noxious fumes and water discharge. This may be one of the reasons why Frank preferred to live in Croydon. The land of the old Sittingbourne mill site is planned for 150 new homes, a supermarket, a park and a small heritage museum. The Kemsley paper mill is still active, one of the largest mills for recycled papers in the UK but some jobs are currently under threat.

It should be noted that Frank Lloyd was offered, but declined, a knighthood following the sale of his newspapers to the then Prime Minister. Unlike his father, the newspaper magnate Edward Lloyd, Frank does not have his portrait hung in a national gallery but as we have seen, his legacy gifts of parks and hospitals, given both in his lifetime and after by his daughter, bring ongoing benefits to many, and so we honour that here.

Janet Sharp
Thanks to Sittingbourne Heritage Museum, kentarchives.org.uk

~~

Nursery Rhyme Quiz

World Nursery Rhyme Week is from 9th to 13th November. Can you remember your nursery rhymes?



1. In the traditional rhyme, what was Humpty Dumpty doing before his great fall?

2. According to the rhyme, what did Jack and Jill go up the hill to fetch?

3. At what time did the mouse run down the clock in the rhyme “Hickory Dickory Dock”?

4. How many men did the ‘grand old Duke of York’ have?

5. What are little girls made of?

6. How many blackbirds were baked in the pie in Sing a Song of Six-pence?

7. “And here comes a chopper to chop off your head!” is a line from which nursery rhyme?

8. If Monday’s child is “fair of face”, what is Wednesday’s child?

9. Who stepped into a puddle right up to his middle?

10. What’s the title of a well-known nursery rhyme associated with a histor-ic market town on the River Cherwell in Oxfordshire?

Answers after the Nature Notes

~~



We welcome your letters so do **please get in touch** if you have something to share with Selsdon residents.
Please remember to state your name, address, contact number and publication anonymity requirements in **all** correspondence to the Editor. Anonymity can be granted on request, but anonymously sent letters/e-mails will not be published.

~~

In the September 2026 Gazette, we featured an article about the V1 bomb landing in Ingham Road on August 24th 1944. Ian Leggatt, the author of this article, had used the published memoirs of Phil Munton in his research. I have since received a letter from another Selsdon resident with different views about the event.

Dear Editor,
I thought I should respond to the article, ‘Ingham Road Selsdon V1 bomb 28th August 1944’, and correct some errors.

First some background. I was born in May 1952 in my grandparents’ house in Ruffetts Close. In December 1952, my parents, together with my

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brother, Ian, and me, moved into their own house 24 (now 44) Ingham Road, Selsdon. This was a very new build, so much so, that my father (who had been an electrician before the war) had done work on it installing additional power sockets while it was still being built. This shows that Phil Munton's assertion that the site was vacant until the late 1950s is wrong. We lived there until September 1971, when we moved back to Ruffetts Close next door to my grandparents.

The site of 23 and 24 (43 and 44) had not been built on because the war had stopped building work on this plot and two others (11 – 14, I think). From the outside they look the same as the other houses from the 1930s in the road. The give away from the outside is the number of chimney pots, 4 per house for the old houses and 2 on those from 1951/2. This is because, unlike the older houses, the newer house did not have coal fires in the bedrooms, and the older houses had wooden floors on the ground floor but ,because there was a shortage of wood, the newer houses had solid (concrete) floors. In fact, when we were selling the house in 1971 most people thought it was a 1930s house, but one estate agent (probably Paul Meakin) knew it was a 1952 house because of the solid floor.

Norman Godfrey who lived at 26 (46) Ingham Road kept chickens and had his chicken run on the site of 23/24 Ingham Road. With regard to the flying bomb this had snagged a barrage balloon, snapping its mooring cable and was dragging this along with balloon and cable. The cable became entangled in the branches of a large oak tree and so brought the bomb down on an empty plot. I assume there must have been some damage to the houses opposite numbers 5 and 6 but I have no information about this. Norman told me about the bomb and his involvement.

The builders who repaired/ rebuilt Phil Munton's parents' house simply dumped all the rubble from their house in the garden of our house. My father told me he had spent weeks clearing the garden so that it was useable.

A bit about the unusual numbering system in Ingham Road. As you go up the road from Addington Road the houses on the lefthand side were originally numbered 1 to 14 consecutively until the start of the steep hill, then 15 to 26 on the opposite side. The houses on the hill did not have numbers, just house names. This continued until 1961/62 when Selsdon, which was under the Urban and County District of Purley and Coulsdon, was then absorbed into Croydon Council. At that point Croydon Council decided that all the houses should have numbers, so the houses on the

hill were given a number, still consecutively but leaving some gaps in the sequence. The houses 15 to 26 had 20 added to their number so 15 became 35 and hence 24 became 44. I cannot remember exactly when this happened but it had to have been before 1963. This is because when my brother left Selsdon Primary he was presented with a Bible by Purley and Coulsdon Council but when I left in 1963 Croydon Council did not have the same policy. It was also about the same time that the local telephone exchange went from Sanderstead (dialling code SAN) to dialling code 657. Sanderstead was still a manual exchange meaning all calls were via a human operator.

In addition, in the September Gazette you had a letter from someone who says their grandparents moved into Littleheath Road in 1930, at the same time as grandparents moved into Ruffets Close with my mother and her younger brother. The letter refers to a kitchen dresser. As far as I know all the Costain's houses had a kitchen unit (dresser) made by a company called Easywork. It had an extendable stove enamel work top and a special metal lined drawer for bread as well as a cake tin and storage jars. I still have, and use, my grandmother's jars; these are nearly 100 years old. I have lived all my life in or on the edge of Selsdon, 1950s - 60s in Ingham Road, 1970s Ruffetts Close, 1980s on Forestdale. I now live in Croham Valley Road backing on to Littleheath Road so the fence at the end of my garden is the old borough boundary.

Name and address supplied.

~~

Here our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, urges us to visit or view online an exhibition in London.

For 63 years now the Natural History Museum has held an annual Wildlife Photographer competition. It accepts photographs from countries all around the world and there are three main photographer categories: Wildlife Photographer of the Year, single image; Wildlife Photographer of the Year, multiple images: Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year (17 years and under).

Every year the first 100 photographs are displayed at The Natural History Museum. This year the exhibition runs from 16th October until 11th July 2027.

The winner of the overall competition this year is an Italian man named Federico Veronesi. His photo and the winners of the other two categories can be viewed on the internet. The photo is named 'The Aftermath'. It is of a female elephant carrying the body of a dead elephant calf. When the photographer asked people living locally about this, they said she had lost a calf of her own several years before and had been spotted on other occasions carrying dead baby elephants. (No information about what she did with them.)

This year there is a new category to cheer people up after all the miserable news we keep receiving. It will be called 'Positive Action'. Positive Action seeks to encourage hope and positive action for the natural world. Photographs should highlight a conservation success, a moment of connection or an optimistic reflection of change or engagement with the natural world. There is much more about all this on the website.

Between now and Christmas I really hope to go and see this exhibition. Last year we found we didn't need to join the enormous queues to get into the main museum. Down the side of the museum in the road running beside it, there is a small entrance, which takes you straight upstairs into this exhibition, through a turnstile. You pay at the turnstile.

One last photo I spotted online, was 'The Meeting Place', which won the 'Animals in their Environment' category taken by James Lewin. This shows an elephant and a herd of zebras and giraffes. The elephant was filling its trunk with water and spraying them, while they all stood in the shallow water. You could almost feel the laughter in this photo.

Jessica Blake



Poetry Corner

An amusing tale this month from Mary Gill.

GRANDAD'S BLOOMING BOAT



My grandad had a boat,
a boat that wouldn't float,
a rowing boat as old in years as him.
Though it was worn and scarred,
he'd parked it in the yard
and planted it with flowers in the Spring.



When they were all in bloom
and released their sweet perfume,
my grandma stopped complaining, I recall.
She said, "this blooming boat
has surely won my vote."
So, grandad had the last laugh after all.

~~

Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth
Identifying some trees & bushes

Fancy a walk through Selsdon Wood? See if you can spot the trees and bushes Ted describes below.

A spindle bush covered in its pink and orange fruits is easy to identify. However, in the absence of the fruit we have to rely on other indications. If the youngest growth is examined, the new bark will be green. If the bush is quite old, the bark on the main trunk will be brown, with ridges running the whole length of the trunk.



In Selsdon Wood there are three species of Oak tree – English (pedunculate) Oak, Sessile Oak and Turkey Oak. The first two have leaves which are basically triangular, with edges which are lobed, but the English Oak leaf grows with virtually no stalk while on the Sessile Oak the leaf dangles from a long stalk. To confuse things, when the acorns develop, the situation is the other way around – an acorn on the English Oak hangs from a

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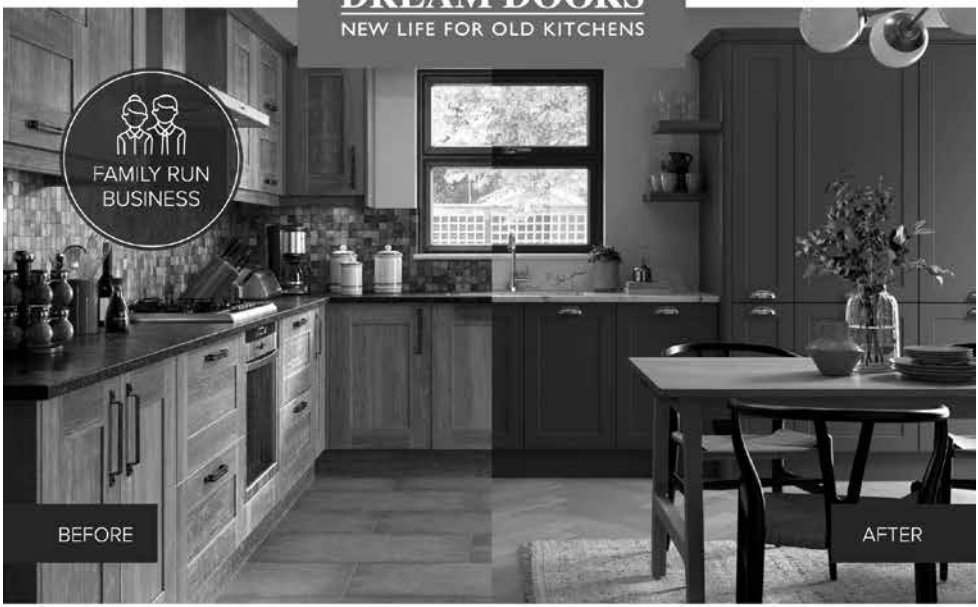
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long stalk (or peduncle) while the other species has an acorn which sits in place without a stalk, i.e. is sessile. Turkey Oak is distinctive in two ways. The edges of its leaves are deeply serrated rather than smoothly lobed like the other two oaks. When the acorns appear, instead of neat nuts sitting in simple cups from which they readily fall in autumn, the acorns of the Turkey Oak have a cup which is covered in coarse hair-like growths.
Hawthorn and Midland Thorn are related as they are both members of the Crataegus genus. Both have leaves forming a simple triangle with deeply lobed edges on the Hawthorn and much more shallow lobes on the Midland Thorn. There is another difference once the fruits have formed. The species name (monogyna) of the Hawthorn indicates a single ovary which results in a berry having a single kernel stone. The Midland species generally has two stones but be aware of hybrids which could have different numbers of stones within the berries on different branches.
The Blackthorn hedge in David's Crook in Selsdon Wood produces a wonderful display of white flowers in spring which will develop the bitter tasting purple sloe berries in autumn. The similar thorn hedge along the length of Vale Border in the car park field also has white flowers but does not produce the same dense display. A careful comparison shows that the flowers are attached differently in the two hedges and, while both have purple autumn berries, those in the Vale Border are larger and not bitter. This is the Bullace. The two species come together at the end of the field and can be compared directly.
The Brown Hairstreak butterfly lays its eggs on Blackthorn where they remain over winter and hatch in the spring. Buckthorn is another thorn bush but this attracts egg-laying Brimstone butterflies. I am aware of only one Buckthorn in the whole wood, just where the path enters field 2, but I cannot believe that all the Brimstones lay eggs on this one bush, there must be others.
Wild Cherry is a substantial tree found throughout the wood and at all stages of growth. There is a rather old gnarled specimen at the corner of David's Crook, next to Broom Path. Younger trees, with trunks of diameters from about 10cm to 100cm, can be found and identified by the many repeated corky bands which encircle the trunks. Bird Cherry is a bush rather than a tree, at least in Selsdon Wood, and seems to be concentrated in the areas near Langford's Way and Courtwood Grove. It has been suggested that some supposed Bird Cherries might be a related species, namely Rum Cherry, which requires examination of hairs on the back of the leaves for identification.



Though leaf arrangement is rather similar, Ash and

Rowan are not related, though the Rowan is also called the Mountain Ash. From a central rib many small leaflets extend outwards on both species. Ash can become a tall tree, if it does not succumb to Ash dieback disease, but Rowan is a small tree, perhaps a third as tall. Their differences really show in their fruits, being large bunches of "keys", remaining on the Ash during winter, and bright orange berries on the Rowan.
This list could be extended by comparing and contrasting the maples – Sycamore, Field Maple and Norway Maple, or by examining the different conifers but I will leave these as exercises for the reader.

~~

Answers to the Nursery Rhyme Quiz

1. Sitting on a wall
2. To fetch a pail of water
3. One o'clock
4. 10,000 men
5. Sugar and spice and all things nice
6. 24 (Four and twenty)
7. Oranges and Lemons
8. Full of woe
9. Doctor Foster
10. Ride a cock horse to Banbury Cross

~~

Greenvale Community Bookshop

It is a truth universally acknowledged…
…that a warm welcome awaits you at Greenvale Community Bookshop. Nestled in a quiet spot at the edge of Selsdon Wood, the bookshop is a volunteer-run space where local residents can discover their next page-turner or donate their pre-loved fiction.



If you've not visited the bookshop before, what you find might surprise you – it's as far from a conventional bookshop as it is possible to get! To start with, there is no building. The bookshop is housed in three

converted shipping containers and a permanent marquee. The first container houses thousands of books for all ages and tastes. The second houses the shop, including hot drinks, toys and pocket money sweets. The third houses overflow stock, which you can often find displayed outside under a gazebo for browsing.

In the marquee is a Reading Retreat. When you've browsed the books, you're welcome to sit down here with a hot drink to chat or read. There are often colouring sheets out for younger visitors too.
When you're ready to buy, you'll notice that none of the stock is priced. You're simply asked to pay what you can, although a minimum donation of £1 per book is requested. The shop has many generous customers who know that every penny made is donated to Greenvale Primary School to support local children.

So, what are you waiting for? The shop is open every Saturday, from 10am until 4pm, and the volunteers can't wait to welcome you. There's plenty of free on-site parking – just drive into Greenvale Primary School (CR2 8PR) and follow the road to the end. Bring your good quality pre-loved books to donate or stock your shelves with new books to huddle up with over the winter months.
For the latest updates, follow the bookshop on Facebook (www.facebook.com/greenvalebookshop) or Instagram (www.instagram.com/greenvale-communitybookshop/)

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The group has vacancies in all sections. If you think this role would suit you, we'd love to hear from you. Especially as next year will be the 100th anniversary of the group's formation. We'd like to continue providing Scouting for young people in Selsdon. Scouting provides Skills for life BUT only if people volunteer.

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What's that Buzz?

What amazing creatures, bees are! Of the 270 bee species found in Britain, roughly 240 are solitary bees, 27 are bumblebees (of which 3 are now extinct), and the honey bee. Interestingly, of the 24 remaining bumblebee species, 6 are cuckoo bumblebees which enter a nest of the host species and take it over, killing or driving out the original queen.

A couple of years ago we signed up to a bumblebee identification course run online by the Bumblebee Conservation Trust (BCT). We are still novices but we were encouraged to join the citizen science project of 'BeeWalks'. There are about 1000 BeeWalkers in the UK who follow a fixed route of 1-2km each month from March to October and record any bumblebees seen. This information is then logged with the BCT and made available for public use, conservation planning and research organisations. Most of the information currently known about bees comes from these records and helps to indicate which species are doing well and which are in decline. The changes may have been brought about by combinations of habitat or land use alterations and conservation work. Today the UK has only 3% of the wild flower meadows that existed 20 years ago.



Common Carder Bumblebee

We carry out our BeeWalk at the Wilderness in Shirley and by zigzagging through the gardens our walk is around 1km. Since the walks are done in sunny weather, it is always a pleasure to be out enjoying the surroundings! At the Wilderness this year we have recorded carder, buff tailed, white tailed, red tailed, tree and early bumblebees. This garden has several different habitats, and plantings are designed to encourage bees, other insects and wildlife.

If you are planning your Spring garden now, the BCT recommend allium, crocus and primrose as potential food plants that will provide for bees in the early months of the year. The Trust's website has a lot of useful information on how you can help bumblebees.
https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org

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Contact
Selsdon Community Centre
132 Addington Road
South Croydon, CR2 8LA
Tel: 020 8651 4944
Email: info@selsdoncontact.org.uk



A Special Coffee Morning to Celebrate a Remarkable Journey Honouring the dedication, kindness and legacy of one of our charity's co-founders

There was a very special atmosphere of warmth, gratitude and reflection as friends, colleagues, supporters and volunteers gathered for a memorable coffee morning on the 8th of September 2026, to celebrate and say farewell to one of our much-loved charity co-founders, June, at Selsdon Baptist Church.
More than just a coffee morning, the occasion was an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the remarkable contribution of someone whose vision, commitment and passion helped shape Contact into what it is today As a co-founder, June's contribution has been invaluable. Building a charity takes more than an idea; it requires determination, compassion, teamwork and a belief that positive change is possible. Through her dedication and hard work, June helped lay the foundations for an organisation that continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

The coffee morning provided a fitting opportunity for those present to say thank you. Words of appreciation, personal messages and shared memories reflected just how much June's contribution has meant, not only to Contact but also to the many individuals who have been part of its journey. On behalf of everyone connected with Contact, we extend our heartfelt thanks for the time, energy, passion and care given over the years. We wish our co-founder June every happiness and success in the next chapter of her journey.

We may be saying farewell, but she will always remain part of Contact's story.

Selsdon Churches Neighbourhood Care Registered Charity 1124346 Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Nature Switch : The Rainbow Walk



If you can't remember the colours of the rainbow, don't worry, as your challenge is ridiculously simple.
Go outside and find your own rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet colours in that order as we move from Autumn to Winter.

As you walk to the shops, or on your way home from work, put your phone away. Walk a little slower. Look underneath things, around things. Scan to your left and right. Look up. Suddenly a park you may have walked through hundreds of times contains details you hadn't seen before.

A berry might give you the red colour, a leaf underfoot might be yellow. Blue could be the sky (if we're lucky) and if violet turns out to be tricky, you can be creative. We live in an urbanised world so manmade colours are all around us too - maybe even a car or a bobble hat for the difficult colours!

~~

Come Along to the Selsdon Flower Club

Why not join us on Wednesday 11 November for a lovely afternoon of
TEA, CAKES, FLOWERS and FUN

We'll be welcoming one of our long-standing demonstrators, GRAHAM HARMAN, who will be presenting a beautiful Christmas-themed flower demonstration

Guide Hut, at the back of St John The Divine Church Hall
Upper Selsdon Road, Selsdon 2.00-4.00pm



Tickets £10, including
Entry to the Flower Demonstration
Tea and Cakes



Entry into the raffle to win one of the beautiful flower arrangements
Come and enjoy a relaxing afternoon with flowers, festive inspiration and good company

We'd love to see you there!

Photo Corner

It is fungus season, so this month we have a photo of some fairy fungi taken in Littleheath Woods by Ian Leggatt.





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Friends of Selsdon Wood
Working to conserve our wood

PHOTOGRAPHS FOR FSW CALENDAR – 2028

The calendars for 2027 are going fast (for a minimum donation of just £5 – what a bargain!) and we are already collecting photos to be chosen in September 2027 for the 2028 calendar.
We are keeping the subject matter as 'anything seen in Selsdon Wood during August 2026 – August 2027', but **we will now include photographs of any art or craftwork, pertaining to the wood in this period**. We hope this will encourage any artists, potters, sculptors etc. to submit photographs of any of their work inspired by the wood.
All orders for the remaining 2027 calendars by text to 07979 00 2547, or email selsdonwood@gmail.com .
Entry photos for 2028 calendars to be sent to this email address too.

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Caring for your cacti and other succulent plants during the winter



These guidelines are of general application.

Introduction
The majority of cacti and other succulent plants experience year round sunny and hot temperatures with limited rainfall in their natural environment in contrast to our wet and frosty winters with limited sunshine. Although we cannot mimic habitat conditions during our winters, we can provide them with an environment to see them through the winter safely.

Winter Care
There are two important aspects to consider- namely to keep the soil of your plants dry and the environment is light and frost free. You should aim to cease watering desert cacti that is, those we normally consider as cacti with prickles, during October and not start to water again until mid-March. However, there are exceptions. Leafy cacti and succulents such as the popular Christmas Cacti will require watering about once a month and desert cacti grown on a windowsill with good natural light in a centrally heated room will also require a little water about once a month to prevent shrivelling. However, the golden rule is to never water your plants if the soil is still wet from your previous watering otherwise the plants may rot. You should aim to provide your plants with a minimum winter temperature of 5^{O}C. There are quite a lot of plants which can be grown in an unheated greenhouse but that is outside the scope of this article. Most cacti benefit from dormancy during the autumn and winter which can improve the chances of flowering of smaller growing cacti during the spring and summer.

Compost
Having a free-draining compost for cacti and other succulents is a pre-requisite for successful cultivation and important where you need to give your plants some water during the colder months.
Cacti and other succulents are often sold in garden centres with water retentive compost that is, without adequate drainage. A good guide is to mix a third of the basic compost with either Perlite or Vermiculite and potting grit which are readily obtainable from garden centres. The basic compost could be John Innes No. 2 or peat-free soilless compost. Many garden

centres sell dedicated cactus compost but it is advisable to add more grit to the mix.

For information on the Croydon Branch of the British Cactus and Succulent Society and their meetings contact secretary@croydon.bcss.org.uk

~~

THE SHIRLEY SINGERS



Present
Hope at Christmas
Saturday 28th November 7.30pm
Shirley Methodist Church, CR0 8SD



Tickets £15 includes programme and refreshments
For tickets email: shirleysingers@gmail.com

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Selsdon Community Clubhouse

Thank you to everyone who supported our Race Night Fundraiser.

Our recent Race Night was a lovely evening filled with fun and fundraising, and we're thrilled to announce that we raised over £2,000 for the Clubhouse! We're so grateful to all our Race Night sponsors and to everyone who donated prizes for the raffle.
Main sponsor: Tudor Library.
Race sponsors: Rowland Brothers, Purley Gardens, and Royal Tandoori.
Table sponsors: Hubbard Turlot, Jeff Borkett Electrical Services, KIBA, Project 365, Webbs Estate Agents, Royal Tandoori.
Raffle prizes: Culina, Selsdon Nail Salon, El Patio, Hair2Dye4, Jeff Borkett, McDermotts.
And other generous donations. Thank you to everyone who supported this event. We're always looking to work closely with local businesses who we can work alongside. If you're a local business interested in collaborating with the Clubhouse please do get in touch.

60+ Lunch Club: Don't Miss a Fish and Chip Friday!

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, we host our brilliant 60+ Lunch Club at Selsdon Community Clubhouse. It's a friendly, vibrant club where we serve a variety delicious hot lunches and give people the opportunity to meet others in their community and make new friends.
Our Fish and Chip Fridays are extra special Lunch Club days! We enjoy delicious, traditional fish and chips freshly ordered from McDermott's, our local award-winning fish and chip shop. We also play bingo and hold a raffle, with the chance to win some fun prizes.
Come along, enjoy a tasty lunch and share a smile with us!
Our next Fish and Chip Friday is on 27 November, please give us a call to book your space for lunch: 0737 584 0737

We're looking for minibus drivers!

Some of our Lunch Club guests rely on our minibus service to attend the Clubhouse. Our volunteer drivers provide safe transport within the local area, helping people with mobility challenges stay connected to their community. If you would like to volunteer at the Clubhouse, please visit our website to find out more.

Raffle Prize Donations Needed

We're always on the lookout for prizes for raffles and games of bingo, so if you have any suitable items at home that you're no longer using, we'd greatly appreciate your donation.
Please bring donations to the office between Monday and Friday 9:00am – 4:00pm.
Follow us on social media to keep up to date with the events happening at the Clubhouse.

Facebook: Selsdon Community Clubhouse
Instagram: Selsdonccinsta

Our contact details are:
Telephone 0208 651 1111
Email office@selsdoncentre.org.uk

COMMUNITY FUND
CROYDON ALMSHOUSES

Rotary Sanderstead & Selsdon

Craft Fair – 14th November 11am - 3pm at All Saints Church Hall, Sanderstead
Come along & enjoy the variety of stalls: Jams, Crafts & Paintings, Wood Turning demonstrations and so much more.
Refreshments available all day.

Christmas is coming – with Santa on his rounds

Santa comes to Selsdon High Street for the switching on of the SRA's Christmas lights on Friday 27th November from 4.45pm.
Santa will begin his rounds from Tuesday 1st until Friday 18th December visiting Selsdon, Sanderstead & Hamsey Green, and outside the shops on Elmfield Way on Christmas Eve.



2024 Christmas Routes in Selsdon

Thursday 3 December Bird Sanctuary
Sandpiper Road, Nightingale Road, Bullfinch Road, Martin Close, Mallard Road, Kingfisher Gardens, Goldfinch Road, Kittiwake Close and Quail Gardens.

Friday 4 December Norfolk Avenue Area
Norfolk Avenue, Ridge Langley, Arundel Avenue, Crozier Drive.

Monday 7 December Byron Road Area
Byron Road, Queenhill Road, Rylandes Road, Foxearth Road, Littleheath Road.

Wednesday 9 December Kersey Drive Area
Kersey Drive, Abercorn Close, Suffield Close, Boxford Close and into Benhurst Gardens to the end, turn left into Sundale Avenue from 113 towards Elmpark Gardens, stopping at 47 Sundale.

Thursday 10 December Sundale Avenue Area
Elmpark Gardens, Sundale Avenue from 115 towards Ashen Vale, Herondale, Lichfield Way, Wren Close, Ambleside Gardens, York Road, Ashen Vale, Abbey Gardens.

To book a Santa Shout Out visit us at:
www.rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com or www.facebook.com/rotarycroydonsouth
Any enquiries please ring Chief Elf: 07774 186792

If you would like to help Santa please get in touch – 07774 186792 – Secretary@rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com
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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@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	
1st Selsdon & Addington Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts)	www.1stselsdonscouts.org.uk	
5th Selsdon & Addington Scout Group	5thsanda@gmail.com	
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	Jenny Askem	07925 844962
Company Club	Linda Hall	01883 725726
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.co.uk	
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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