



# The Selsdon — Gazette —

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November 2024

# THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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There is no August Gazette.

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**Front cover:** Bombus Hortorum taken by Tony Flecchia and winning third prize in the Friends of Selsdon Wood Calendar Competition.

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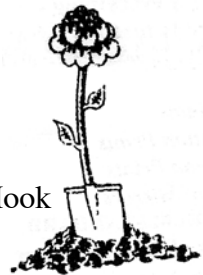
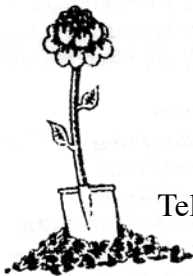
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## ***Councillors for Selsdon & Addington Village Ward***

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 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 November Selsdon Gazette which is full of events and activities for you to participate in. For those with young children, we have the Christmas Lights Switch On Event, an invitation to design the cover for the December Selsdon Gazette and details of when Father Christmas will be doing his usual rounds around Selsdon in December. For the adults we have two very special anniversaries for you to contribute, namely Selsdon's 100 year birthday and the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the Selsdon Residents' Association, both happening in 2025. To celebrate these milestones, our Councillors and the SRA want to put on some special events and are asking you for ideas. I, also, would like to feature some articles from Selsdon residents about their experiences of living in Selsdon both now and in the past, so please consider writing a piece for the Gazette, however short! I would also like to receive any photos of Selsdon in the last 100 years which you may have, please scan them and send them to me ([selsdongazettesra@gmail.com](mailto:selsdongazettesra@gmail.com) ).

In this edition we have our usual briefings from our Councillors and MP, crime figures from the local police, a list of jobs for the November garden, an autumnal poem from Mary Gill, and with the USA elections in November, a quiz testing your knowledge about this country. This wet autumn has given us a bumper crop of fungi in our local woods, so Ted Forsyth has another article about some specimens that you may find on your walks with some photos that he has taken. Ian Leggatt continues his series about the Selsdon Builders, Costains, with a look at other local areas in which they constructed houses. As the weather gets colder, I have included some advice about checking those hot water bottles before using them this year.

I look forward to hearing from you and let's be proud of living in Selsdon as it celebrates in 2025 its first 100 years.

**Chris Jones**

✎ SUBMISSIONS FOR THE DECEMBER 2024 EDITION  
SHOULD BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN  
20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER - PREFERABLY BEFORE! ✎



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

### **433 Bus**

We have had a lot of complaints about the 433 bus timetable and it terminating unexpectedly before East Croydon.

We have reported this to the company and have not received a satisfactory reply, but we are chasing it. We would encourage you to report any difficulties, as this would strengthen our case, to [Customer.care@transportukbus.com](mailto:Customer.care@transportukbus.com) providing date, time, bus registration (see photo just below route number on the front of the bus and on its side), location/stop and direction of travel and ideally a photo.



### **Day Lewis Chemist**

We can expect building work to begin at the rear of the building but the good news is that the chemist will stay open as it is now Selsdon's only dispensing chemist. Not so good for the staff as it will be very noisy and dusty !!

### **Triangle**

This was dug up recently we believe for the new 5G mast. We are asking that the grass and bulbs be replaced.

### **Christmas Lights**

The lights were installed in October ready for Father Christmas to switch on at 5pm on 29 November. We hope to see you there but, if not, we are having a stall at the monthly Craft Fair on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November between 10am and 2pm in the Selsdon Community Hall, so please come along for a chat or pay your subs.

### **MP Natasha Irons**

Selsdon Contact arranged for Natasha Irons, our new local MP, to visit Selsdon on Friday 18 October to introduce her to the works of Contact, Jubilee Church, Selsdon Centre and the SRA.

*Hope to see you at the Christmas Lights switch on event.*

**Sheila Childs, Chair SRA**

## **COUNCILLORS' NOTES**

### **UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND**

Council officers continue to work on a plan for investing Selsdon's share of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund ('UKSPF') allocated to improving some of Croydon's district centres. A recent walk around the High Street with residents and councillors has identified suitable sites for signage and wayfinding. A graphic designer has now been commissioned to produce draft designs for this signage.

### **SELSDON PARK HOTEL SALE**

In other local news, the iconic Selsdon Park Hotel is currently on the market with a reported asking price of £15 million. This historic property has long been a landmark in the community, offering beautiful grounds and a rich history. The hotel's sale will hopefully attract interest, and we hope that a buyer will be found soon. Whoever the new owner may be, we look forward to collaborating with them to ensure that the hotel continues to be a valued part of Selsdon's heritage and economy. For more information on the listing, visit [www.Savills.co.uk](http://www.Savills.co.uk)

### **SELSDON LIBRARY TO SEE CHANGES IN OPENING HOURS**

At the recent cabinet meeting, the Libraries Consultation brought positive news for Selsdon residents. It has been confirmed that Selsdon Library will see a change in its opening hours, starting in April 2025, with an increase in staffed hours. The decision aims to make the library more accessible to the community, providing better support and services during peak times. Below is a comparison of the current and upcoming opening hours:

Day	Current Hours	April 2025 Hours
Monday	10 am - 6 pm (staffed)	10 am - 6 pm (staffed)
Tuesday	8 am - 6 pm	9 am - 7 pm
Wednesday	10 am - 6 pm (staffed)	10 am - 6 pm (staffed)
Thursday	8 am - 6 pm	9 am - 7 pm
Friday	8 am - 6 pm	10 am - 6 pm (staffed)
Saturday	9 am - 5 pm (staffed)	9 am - 5 pm (staffed)
Sunday	Closed	Closed

## **SELSDON 100 YEARS**

As previously mentioned, next year, 2025, is the centenary of Selsdon. Planning permission was given for the first houses in March 2025 with the first residents moved in later that year. There is a proposal to celebrate the occasion with an exhibition showing how Selsdon has grown from those first few houses in 1925 to the thriving area that it is today. However, this will not happen without support from residents. If you can spare the time to help with this project, please get in touch with one of your councillors

## **GRAVEL HILL UPDATE**

The long-awaited resurfacing of Gravel Hill's northbound lane has finally been completed. This stretch of road has been in a state of disrepair for a significant period, causing inconvenience to commuters and residents alike. The recent roadworks has provided a much-needed improvement, ensuring a smoother and safer journey for all road users.

## **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](mailto:Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk)

[Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk)

### **Selsdon Vale and Forestdale**

[Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk)

[Fatima.zaman@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Fatima.zaman@croydon.gov.uk)

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

24/02490/FUL - 261 Addington Road South Croydon CR2 8LR  
Alterations and Conversion of the existing single dwellinghouse (Use Class C3) to HMO (House in Multiple Occupation) (Use Class C4) |

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



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## **MP Natasha Irons' Report**

### **Member of Parliament for Croydon East**

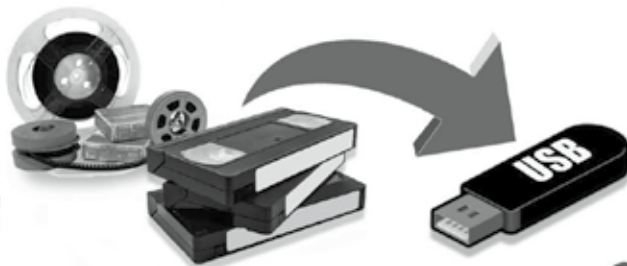
Dear Selsdon,

This month marked 100 days since the election and the new government has been working on some key pieces of legislation:

- The Renter's Rights Bill which aims to protect both tenants and good landlords from rogue ones. It will make it a legal requirement for hazards like damp and mould to be dealt with swiftly, extend the "decent home standard" to the private rented sector, and end "no-fault" evictions.
- The Water (special measures) Bill strengthens legislation to ensure that water bosses face personal criminal liability and gives the water regulator new powers to ban bonuses if environmental standards have not been met. In addition, the government has secured agreement from the regulator that any money earmarked for infrastructure investment is ringfenced and cannot be spent on bonuses or dividends for shareholders.
- Great British Energy Bill aims to drive clean energy deployment to create jobs, boost energy independence, and ensure British taxpayers, billpayers and communities reap the benefits of clean, secure, home-grown energy.

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I had the opportunity to speak in a debate about access to primary healthcare. Since being elected in July, I have been contacted by many families who simply cannot access services like mental health support for their children due to long waiting lists. I was able highlight this in the debate and want to ensure that the current government's mission to reduce waiting lists includes a focus on the delays to health services our young people face. I have also been fortunate enough to be elected on to the Culture, Media and Sport select committee. Before becoming a Member of Parliament, I worked in public sector broadcasting so hope to put this knowledge to good use.

Locally, I enjoyed attending the Finding Common Ground for Climate and Nature in Croydon event which brought together residents from across Croydon as part of the Climate Coalition's National Day of Action. We discussed what can be done both locally and nationally to mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis, and what we can do to protect nature.

In partnership with Age UK Croydon, Citizen's Advice, Croydon Healthy Homes and the Department of Work and Pensions I held a Cost-of-Living advice surgery to provide support and advice to anyone struggling with the cost of living. The event led to some residents finding out that they qualify for pension credit and will be able to keep their winter fuel allowance. To check your eligibility, please call the Pension Credit claim line on 0800-991-234 or visit the government's online pension credit calculator: [www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator](http://www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator).

Finally, we have begun holding mobile surgeries across Selsdon and I have been enjoying meeting many of you on the doorstep. Issues that have been raised with us include planning, street lighting and protecting the future of Selsdon High Street. If we haven't got round to your street yet and there is an issue you'd like to raise, you can book an appointment at one of my in-person surgeries by emailing [natasha.irons.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:natasha.irons.mp@parliament.uk).



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## **Selsdon Residents' Association Christmas Lights Switch On Friday 29 November 5pm**

There will be songs and music outside The Village Club from about 4.30pm. The SRA funds the lights but we are grateful to the Sanderstead and Selsdon Rotary Group for supplying Santa and his sleigh to switch on the lights and then meet children in his grotto outside Iceland.

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## **Statistics from Local Police Wards August 2024**

Here are the number of the top crimes reported during August 2024 for our local police wards.

Crime	Selsdon and Addington Village	Selsdon Vale and Forestdale
Anti-social behaviour	14	6
Burglary	3	1
Criminal Damage & Arson	6	2
Drugs	3	6
Other theft	5	1
Public order	1	3
Shoplifting		5
Vehicle crime	3	3
Violence and sexual offences	14	11
Other crime	1	2
<b>Total number of crimes reported in August 2024</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>40</b>

## Drop in Surgery

Wednesday 13 November 12 -1pm St Francis Church Hall, 107 Broadcoombe, South Croydon CR2 8HR.

## 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:**

[SelsdonandAddingtonVillage@met.police.uk](mailto:SelsdonandAddingtonVillage@met.police.uk)

### **Selsdon Vale & Forestdale:**

[SelsdonandForestdale@met.police.uk](mailto:SelsdonandForestdale@met.police.uk)

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## Good Time for Gardening – November

Winter is on its way, leaves are falling rapidly, and wind and rain are on the increase. Tender plants will need protecting from frost, gales and freezing rain. Move plants into the greenhouse, or into a sheltered spot, but if you can't, it is worth wrapping plants or pots. Remember winter can be a tough time for birds in terms of water and food, so keep supplies well topped up. Clear up fallen leaves - especially from lawns, ponds and beds - ponds are a lovely addition to any garden and can provide a rich habitat for a range of wildlife. Occasional cleaning and regular maintenance are required to ensure water is healthy for fish and other wildlife. In wet weather, raise pots up off the ground on 'feet' or similar to keep the bottom of the pot out of the water and prevent compost freezing.



Plant tulip bulbs for a spring display next year - tulips are amongst the most popular of bulbs, valued for their brilliant flower colours and shapes. Plant in autumn for a show of spring flowers. Choose from a large range to suit the situation. Some tulips persist year to year, some perform less well and are treated as bedding, and replaced every year. To see a fabulous display of tulips, visit Pashley Manor in April.



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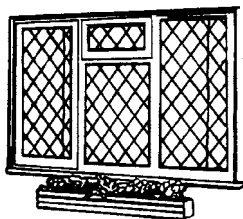
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## More jobs for this month

- ~ Prune roses to prevent wind-rock
- ~ Plant out winter bedding
- ~ Cover brassicas with netting if pigeons are a problem
- ~ Insulate outdoor containers from frost – bubble-wrap works well
- ~ Stop winter moth damage to fruit trees using grease bands around the trunks
- ~ Put out bird food to encourage winter birds into the garden

Cut leaves off Christmas and Lenten rose type hellebores to make way for the flowers.

Now is the last chance to plant out winter bedding. You could try wallflowers, forget-me-nots, Bellis, Primula, Viola (winter pansies) and other spring bedding plants, planting them into well-prepared ground, or pots of suitable compost.



**Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid**

**Please note new website address**

**[www.sandersteadhs.org](http://www.sandersteadhs.org)**

*Many thanks to the RHS for much of this information in this article.*



## SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

### needs your help

In January 1926 the Seldon Residents' Association was formed with the aim of advancing and protecting the interests of Selsdon Residents. It is one of the oldest residents' associations in the UK. 2025 will be the hundreth year that it has been operating.

Do you have any ideas about how we can celebrate this achievement? Do you have any photos or recollections of early Selsdon?

Please send your ideas to Sheila Childs, the Chair of the SRA (address and phone number on page 2 of the Gazette) or by email to Chris Jones, the Gazette Editor [selsdongazettesra@gmail.com](mailto:selsdongazettesra@gmail.com)



## **Costains' Early Years and Ventures in the South. Plans for Selsdon Expansion.**

Back in 1865 Richard Costain and his soon to be brother-in-law Richard Kneen moved to Liverpool from the Isle of Man and began as jobbing builders. They had premises at Byron Road, Liverpool, which comprised a joiner's shop and sawmill. Kneen amicably left the partnership in 1888 and Richard's three sons, Richard, William P and John, joined him. Prior to WW1 they were building cottages in Port Sunlight and houses in South Wales. The Great War saw them involved in building army camps, 1,000 houses for steelworkers at Redcar and homes for munitions workers at Sheffield. Post war the firm was involved in building large housing estates for Liverpool and Bootle Corporations but local housing sites were becoming scarce. William P Costain was sent down south to London to scout out expansion potential. He focussed on the rolling countryside of the south of London and, in 1922, settled on Kingswood (Banstead) and purchased a land bank, the Walton Heath Land Company, which had interests in the area. The company Richard Costain & Sons was formed in 1923. By this time the third generation of Costain boys had joined the firm: R R Costain in 1920. (A P Costain was to join in 1928.) The Kingswood venture was focussed mainly on building detached houses on large plots to order with some speculative development comprising smaller dwellings. We do not know what price the Kingswood dwellings were originally sold for but, as an indication, The Times in 1933, May 11<sup>th</sup>, carried a Costain advertisement for "Distinctive Homes at Kingswood built to owners' requirements, from £1,250 to £5,000". W P Costain had a house built at Woodlands Way in Kingswood and the company later provided a shopping parade, a hall and a golf course for the community. Costains also bought a ribbon of land along the Chipstead Valley from Kingswood to How Lane for 'a development of high density housing'. That seems to have come to almost nought, apart from a handful of houses along Outwood Lane, adjacent to Kingswood Village pictured, left, below:





A short distance away from Kingswood lies Tadworth. Richard Costain and Sons Ltd spotted an opportunity when the Tadworth Court Estate came up for sale in 1924. The manor house and 100 acres of the grounds were sold to The Hospital For Sick Children in 1925 and the remaining grounds developed for housing commencing in 1926. The photo on the right, is of Shelveys Way in Tadworth. The building style and detailing strongly resembles the dwellings which we now see in Norfolk and Arundel Avenues.

Richard Costain and Sons Ltd were a very busy company in the late 1920s and 1930s. As well as Kingswood, Tadworth and Selsdon the company built 1,500 houses at Sudbury, 5,000 homes at Elm Park in Hornchurch and 1,500 at Dagenham. At Cricklewood (1,500 Homes) just south of the A406 and Brent Reservoir, can be found Ballards, Selsdon, Crest, Rylandes, Tadworth and Byron Roads.



A pair of Costains' semis in Ilford

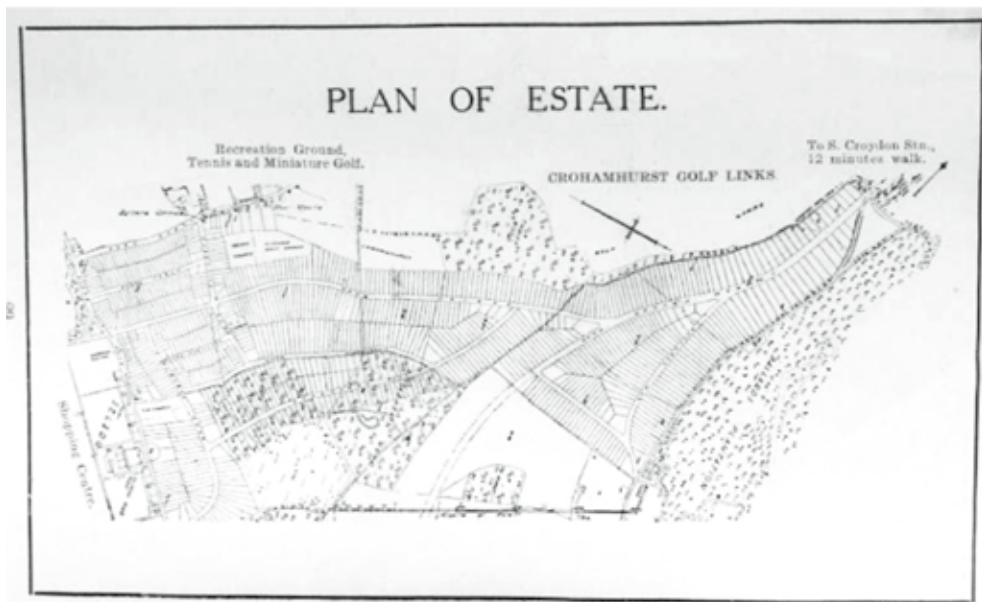


Costains' Houses in Liverpool

### **What might have been?**

With their acquisition of land in Selsdon Costains were the owners of Gee Wood, Littleheath and Foxearth Wood. An early plan for Croham Heights proposed a road parallel with the top section of Littleheath Road, running from Foxearth Road between what are now Nos 45 and 47 Foxearth, up into Littleheath Woods and rejoining Littleheath Road at around what is now number 130. This would have added a further 80 or so building plots to their Selsdon / Croham Heights development. There were discussions with the then Urban District Council and a Planning Enquiry held, with the result that Costains agreed to sell their 40 acres of mixed woodland for £5,250 on the basis that the cost was split between Croydon Council, and Coulsdon and Purley Urban District Council with the remaining third share to be funded by Public Subscription. Costains abandoned their planned development and, eventually in 1932 Littleheath Woods was officially opened by Lord

Dickinson, Chairman of the Metropolitan Gardens Association, who had contributed some £700 to the eventual purchase price of £5,700. Littleheath Woods was saved.



### **Ian Leggatt**

*As ever, thanks to Ted Frith's Journals for the germ of the idea for these articles. Images of Costain Houses from Google Maps. Costains' plan of Croham Heights from Facebook. I have used material from a couple of nearby Residents' Associations: Tadworth and Walton, and Kingswood, where much historical information on those areas can be found: <https://www.twra.org.uk/> and <https://www.kingswoodvillage.org/>*

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## **Selsdon Residents' Association Autumn Clear Up**

On the morning of Saturday 5 October a group of volunteers, including the 9<sup>th</sup> Selsdon Brownies, spent a couple of hours going around the streets surrounding the shopping area of our High Street picking up litter. There was a pile of bags for the Council to collect at the end of the session.

The biggest problem along the High Street was found to be discarded cigarette butts, so here is a plea to those smoking in the High Street,



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Many thanks to all those involved in keeping Selsdon tidy!

~~

## Interview with local children's author – Michael Forteath

In the April 2022 Selsdon Gazette we featured an interview with a local resident, Michael Forteath, who had just had his first children's book published, Mojoe the Super Rabbit. We now catch up with him again and see how the series is progressing.



**Editor (E):** So, it has been a while since we last spoke, what have you been up-to.

**Michael (M):** Gosh, where to start! So maybe I can start with the books, Mojoe and The Missing Case was published last October, that's going quite well and the third book, Mojoe And The Ballerina, should be published in February 2025.

**E:** Are there many more planned?

**M:** There are quite a few written and I keep having ideas. I think Mojoe At

The Races will be next, it's a lovely story and quite funny.

**E:** I suppose that's a good time to ask about inspiration, where do you get the ideas from?

**M:** All over really, but some I honestly couldn't tell you. One like Mojoe And The Regal Beagle Ball is clearly inspired by the family dogs.

**E:** How do you write them?

**M:** In parts mostly, although it varies. Most start with a core idea like Mojoe And The Regal Beagle Ball – a global banquet of all the noble beagles from around the world meeting for a grand banquet, then add a mystery or a pinch of drama and I'm half way there.

**E:** I think you have been doing some work with local schools?

**M:** Indeed, they have been great fun. I realised that Mojoe is such a strong character, a super hero female rabbit, that she could help inspire young people to want to read and write. I did some research into what KS1 covers and came up with a fun lesson plan. We look at sentence openers and 'wow words', then use the ideas to encourage a piece of independent writing.



**E:** How have they gone?

**M:** It been incredible, they are so rewarding and fun, the output in terms of the writing has been amazing, plus the teacher feedback has been superb. I have also been privileged to run some sessions in a specialist school in Croydon which were amazing too. Hats off to anybody in the teaching profession, I don't know how you make the magic happen in the classroom every day!

**E:** I think you have started to develop some merchandise too?

**M:** That's right, from one book to two, now we have jigsaws, colouring books and tote bags too, the latter thanks to the wonderfully talented Beth!

**E:** What is the one thing you have learnt?

**M:** To be honest, I am learning every day, about marketing, social media and early years literacy, but I suppose the big thing is if you have an idea and something you believe in, go for it!

**E:** How can people find out more?

**M:** So, to start, both books are now listed in the Croydon libraries, so



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you don't need to buy one to enjoy them. If people want more info, or would like me to run a session in one of their schools, e-mail me at [mojoethesuperrabbit@gmail.com](mailto:mojoethesuperrabbit@gmail.com). They can also look at the website at [www.mojoethesuperrabbit.com](http://www.mojoethesuperrabbit.com). Finally, if you want to come and say hi to me in person, I will be at the Selsdon Craft Market on 30<sup>th</sup> November in the Community Hall next to Sainsbury's. There are a great collection of wonderfully talented local people there, so you never know what you might find!

~~

## Time to Check your Hot Water Bottles

As the temperatures drop, many of us will be getting out our hot water bottles to warm our colder beds, but they do not last forever. There have been many reported instances of skin burns due to old hot water bottles bursting. But what can you do if you cannot remember when you bought your hot water bottle?

To check the date on a hot water bottle, look for a flower-shaped symbol on the neck or body of the bottle:

- **Number in the middle:** The year the bottle was made
- **Flower segments:** The 12 months of the year
- **Dots inside:** The number of weeks in the month the bottle was made



Look at the example in the photo, the number in the middle is 22 and two segments have dots, so, the bottle was made in the middle of February 2022.

Hot water bottles typically last about two/three years, but the risk of damage increases after that. Old hot water bottles can break and cause serious burns because the rubber or plastic deteriorates over time. With a bottle over two years old, check for other signs of wear and tear, such as thinning around the belly of the bottle, cracks and creases.

## **Filling Your Hot Water Bottle**

### **Step 1**

Check that there are no obvious signs of damage. Cracks and tears can be very dangerous when pouring hot water in.

### **Step 2**

Once you are happy that the hot water bottle is safe to use, unscrew the stopper and pour out any water left in inside.

### **Step 3**

Fill with boiling water that has been allowed to cool down to a safe temperature. Do not use boiling water as this can damage the seams of the bottle and also adds to the risk of burns. It is also important not to use the hot tap water as it may contain impurities which can degrade the bottle. These impurities are removed during the boiling process.

### **Step 4**

Slowly squeeze the remaining air out of the hot water bottle so that the water level rises to just below the top.

### **Step 5**

Now screw back on the stopper making sure it's tight.



### **Step 6**

Finally use a towel or dish cloth to dry the hot water bottle and the stopper.

### **Step 7**

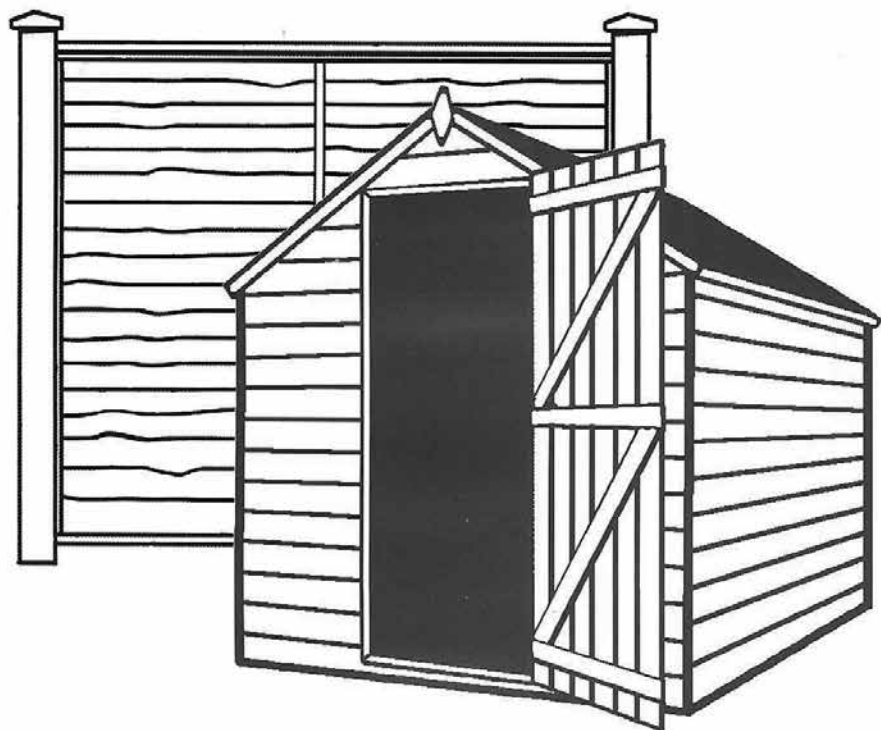
Your hot water bottle is now ready to use!

## **Other safety points to consider:**

Purchase the right hot water bottle for your needs. These days hot water bottles come in all shapes and sizes, and are made from a variety of different materials. For general warmth, a large, traditional bottle might be called for. If relief of sore muscles is the primary objective, a flexible bean or gel-filled bag might be a better option.

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Avoid direct contact between a hot water bottle and skin. The correct use is to wrap a cloth around it or place it in a hot water bottle holder. The extra material prevents scalding and also acts as further insulation to keep the bag warmer for longer. They should also not be leaned against or placed anywhere that results in direct pressure being placed on the bag. To warm a bed or sleeping bag, place the hot water bottle (or two) under the covers before crawling in to sleep. It's not safe to keep the hot water bottle in bed while sleeping because of the risk of rolling over onto it and causing it to explode from excess pressure. Never sit or lie on a hot water bottle!

Children and babies should never be left alone with a hot water bottle, and bottles should not be placed directly on a child's skin. For use warming a child's bed, remove the hot water bottle before the child enters the bed to avoid unintentional burns or accidents. Always check the temperature of a hot water bottle to be used with children. Their skin is more sensitive than the skin of an adult and a lower temperature can be more appropriate.

After each use, it's important to empty the hot water bottle and hang upside down to dry. Only once the inside is completely dry should it be folded and stored in a dark, dry location. Exposure to excess sunlight can result in cracks, while storing a wet hot water bottle can result in the growth of mould inside the bottle.

Hot water bottles have been used and enjoyed for centuries. Taking the time to use one correctly can result in a better experience and a longer shelf life for your hot water bottle.

*Thanks to The Hot Water Bottle Shop*

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*I have recently attended an Open Day at the Croydon Airport Visitor Centre, Airport House, Purley Way and never realised what an important part Croydon Airport played in the field of aviation. I would highly recommend the guided tours which happen on the first Sunday of every month from 10am – 4pm. Prior booking is advised and a donation of £8pp requested.*

## **London Croydon Airport**

London Croydon Airport became Britain's international airport on 29 March 1920. During the interwar period it became one of the world's busiest international airports. It was Britain's sole air terminus for the

establishment of its first intercontinental air routes as they reached out across the globe.



The magnificent terminal building, opened in 1928, set a new standard for air travel. It was the world's biggest and most advanced airport. In 1978, the terminal building and Gate Lodge were Grade II listed.

### **Where it all started**

Croydon Airport's history began during World War I. Formerly known as Royal Flying Corps Beddington Aerodrome, it was rapidly constructed in December 1915 as one of the airfields to defend London from German airship and bomber attack.

During 1918, Beddington Aerodrome became an RAF flying training establishment. National Aircraft Factory No.1 with Waddon Aerodrome was built next door to Beddington Aerodrome, mass producing aircraft for the allied war effort.

At the end of World War I, the two airfields of Beddington and Waddon merged to form Croydon Aerodrome. In March 1920 the temporary London

Airport at Hounslow Heath was closed and operations were moved to the larger Croydon Aerodrome. Britain's first national airline, Imperial Airways, was formed at Croydon in 1924. Imperial Airways was the forerunner to today's British Airways.



## **World Leading Innovation**

The high level of airliner traffic at Croydon Aerodrome saw the need to ensure the safety of airline operations. The unique utilisation of the new radio technology at Croydon gave rise to the British innovation of Air Traffic Control. These techniques were later adopted by other international airports around the world and still underpin the safety of global air travel today.

## **The First, the Fastest & the Famous**

Amy Johnson inspired millions of women around the world with her 1930 record breaking solo flight from Croydon to Australia. In her return, Amy was welcomed by tens of thousands of people.

In 1929, Charles Kingsford-Smith set a record flying time from Australia to the UK landing at Croydon after 12 days and 14 hours. Sydney's International Airport is named after Kingsford-Smith.

## **International Gateway**

Croydon remained the UK's international gateway until the outbreak of the Second World War when the airport became RAF Croydon, a Battle of Britain airfield. It later became the base for the newly formed RAF Transport Command.

Croydon Airport returned to civilian use in 1946 with the return of some international airlines, although by this time Heathrow was designated London's international airport. As other London airports continued to grow the decision was made to close Croydon Airport. The last flight left on 30 September 1959.

## **Visitor Centre**

The Croydon Airport Visitor Centre is a volunteer led community venture and opened in 2000. Exhibition space includes displays in the world's oldest Air Traffic Control Tower in Airport House. Features include interactive displays, exhibits and visual images charting its history.

## **Timeline**

- 1915 Designated Royal Flying Corps Station Beddington
- 1919 HRH Prince Albert achieves 'Wings'
- 1920 Becomes London's International Airport
- 1922 Innovates Airliner Radio Position Fixing
- 1930 Amy Johnson makes record solo flight to Australia
- 1934 World's longest air route established: Croydon to Brisbane
- 1939 Becomes RAF Croydon Battle of Britain Airfield
- 1959 Last international flight. Croydon Airport closes.

*CJ. Many thanks to [historiccroydonairport.org.uk](http://historiccroydonairport.org.uk) for the information.*

# USA QUIZ

*The USA elections take place on Tuesday 5 November, but how much do you know about the USA?*



1. What is the second most common language spoken in American homes?
2. How many stars are displayed on the American flag?
3. How many stripes are displayed on the American flag?
4. Give the street address of the White House?
5. How many states of the USA have "New" in their name? Can you name them?
6. Which American state has the longest coastline?
7. Which FOUR presidents are represented on the memorial on Mount Rushmore?
8. Which American city is home to the Liberty Bell?
9. What name is given to the natural region of tropical wetlands in the southern portion of Florida?
10. How many states start with the letter 'M'? Can you name them?

## Answers after Nature Notes

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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.

~~

*Here a reader gives a different view of the protest against the ULEZ cameras.*

Dear Editor,

Just felt I needed to comment on the continued painting of the ULEZ cameras. I understand it's a protest in regard to what many see as unfair,





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but on passing a car in the front garden of a house beside one, I felt so sorry for the owner of the black BMW now also speckled with yellow paint all over the bonnet and front. The owner of the car didn't do anything to deserve this damage.

*Name and address supplied*

~~

*Here our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, enjoys an autumnal walk - A Natural Tonic for all*

Even if you, have an ostrich mentality, (no more bad news please or this boat will rapidly sink or rather, my spirit will), the joy of going outside on a wonderful, sunny day that this autumn can sometimes give us, can only cheer one up immensely.

On a day like this, the sunshine is so warm that coats do not seem necessary. All one really needs is a phone to take photos on, to capture the sunshine lighting up the glorious blaze of autumn colour.



Today I walked around Sanderstead Recreation Ground. It has a nice level path the whole way around it. The little Japanese flowering trees appeared to be of three different types as their leaves were in three different colours and they edge what was the old bowling green. The colours of the trees in this park were overwhelming. We expect trees to have yellow or bronze coloured leaves with bits of rust or brown and maybe a flash of red, but today there were few like that. The number of trees with at least four different coloured leaves on the one tree was unbelievable. Some had pale green, red, yellow and purple all on the same tree. I liked seeing trees which were bright red, standing next to a tree with mostly yellow leaves, and the other side a dark green tree sprinkled brown in places. Deep mauve leaves waved alongside lime and yellow. We are lucky to have such sights almost on our doorsteps.

Well I might need to photograph the trees, but some people in the Winter, may look back on their fabulous Autumn photographs and will be able to paint from their photographs. That is a double joy! Just think, if the weather holds up, then tomorrow perhaps will be the time to walk through Selsdon Wood and see how the trees there look. Gosh, we are blessed! What a wonderful time Autumn is.

## Poetry Corner

*Mary Gill considers the fate of the falling leaves during Autumn.*

### ABDUCTION

It was late Fall.

The disorderly wind tore through the woods,  
roughly detaching leaves that pranced,  
aimlessly, in the turbulent air.

Slaves to the tempest,  
they whirled wildly  
on their unwilling passage to earth.



Carelessly abandoned, on the woodland floor,  
they found temporary respite,  
until the relentless gusts  
raised them aloft  
to repeat their Dervish dance.

Finally, as the breathless wind collapsed,  
they settled in a muddy pool  
which seized them in its sticky grasp-  
held them fast when the next blast blew -  
destined to decay -  
and to nourish the wood that had spawned them.

~~

### Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth – More Autumn Fungi

*The wet Autumn has given us a bumper year for fungi so Ted has given us another article about the fungi you might find in our woods. If tempted to go on your own fungal foray, I would advise downloading an identification guide beforehand. Please forward any photos of fungi that you spot to the gazette.*

With the increase in rainfall this autumn there has been a surge in the reporting of fungi appearing in various parts of Selsdon Wood. More Beefsteaks, over a dozen, were found this year than in any previous

year. (See photo on right - Sticky and gruesome, beefsteak is a woodland fungus with the disconcerting appearance of a raw cut of meat. It even oozes a blood-like substance when cut!)

Middle Gorse produced Pestle Puffballs and Amethyst Deceivers. A Snowy Waxcap in Stevens Walk suggests that conditions might be right at last for a potential show of several other waxcaps. Waxcaps (see photo on left) are familiar-shaped fungi that are often brightly-coloured with a waxy or slippery-looking

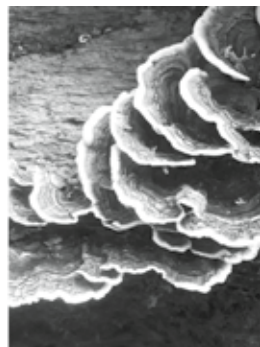


cap. Most years recently we have been lucky if we found one waxcap species but our best year produced 8 or 9. The best places to look are probably David's Crook and the north end of Great Field. They could be joined by Dusky Puffball, Yellow Fieldcap, Brownedge Bonnet, and more.



Sulphur Tufts are widespread and Brick Tuft has been seen regularly. They are gregarious and tend to appear in large groups so tightly packed that the caps are unable to expand. They are saprobic, feeding on dead wood, logs and stumps, most often birch. Sheathed Woodtuft usually appears in Leafy Grove where the various tree stumps are worth examining for a range of species. Noakes Way will usually produce Oak Pin and Upright Coral, and has been one of the areas for Beefsteak. Old decaying Sweet Chestnut husks support the tiny brown mushrooms *Rustroemia echinophylla* (sorry no accepted common name), but several husks might have to be examined before finding any of the mushrooms. Common Earthballs are found in many parts of the wood but one associated species, Parasitic Bolete, which grows on them, has not yet been recorded in Selsdon Wood, though I have seen them on Croham Hurst and Coulsdon Common.

Turkeytail (see photo on the right) is a common bracket fungus. It forms semi-circular caps on stumps and fallen wood. The caps are thin and tough, with very clear, velvety, concentric rings of colour, but there are other species with somewhat similar characteristics. Smoky Bracket looks similar until a piece is turned over to show the smoky grey



colouring rather than the white of the Turkeytail. Yellowing Curtain Crust is much brighter with yellowish or orange colouring. Crimped Gill has gills rather than the fine pores of the previous three species, and the gills grow in a distorted pattern. Another species with somewhat distorted gills is Splitgill, which is not usually as numerous as the other similar species.



Lifting a small fallen branch or a piece of bark, particularly if damp, will sometimes reveal Green Elf cups (see photo on the left), the dots of yellow-coloured Lemon Disco, or the white or greyish dots of Snowy Disco or Grey Disco.

Chicken of the Woods is a yellow bracket fungus usually found in clumps on standing or fallen trees in the summer but could still be found now. Other bracket fungi, such as Shaggy Bracket, can be found as single specimens rather than clumps and are often high up on the trunk of a standing tree.

There are many cap-and-stem fungi which form a close relationship with particular trees and will appear near them if conditions are right – False Chanterelles and various boletes with Larch, Fly Agaric with Birch, many species with Beech or Oak.

Every year we seem to find a new species in the wood. Did we find any on the Fungus Walk on Sat 26 October?

~~

## Answers to USA Quiz

1. Spanish
2. 50. These represent the 50 states of the USA.
3. 13. These red and white stripes represent the 13 British colonies that won independence in the American Revolutionary War.
4. 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
5. Four (New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico and New York)
6. Alaska
7. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln.



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## Friends of Selsdon Wood

Working to conserve our wood



### 2025 Calendar For donation of £5

To reserve your copy phone  
**020 8657 0423** or email  
**[govierh@gmail.com](mailto:govierh@gmail.com)**



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#### Contact

Selsdon Community Centre  
132 Addington Road

South Croydon, CR2 8LA

Tel: 020 8651 4944

Fax: 020 8657 2268

Email: [info@selsdoncontact.org.uk](mailto:info@selsdoncontact.org.uk)



### Contact

People Who Care

[www.selsdoncontact.org.uk](http://www.selsdoncontact.org.uk)

#### COMINGS ...

Selsdon Contact was pleased to welcome our new MP, Natasha Irons, to our offices. She was impressed with the practical help, advice, support and information that Contact provides to the local community and she is keen to find out the concerns of local residents. We talked about social isolation, the problems of accessing benefits etc. online and the lack of banking facilities in Selsdon.



She also met with Neil Richardson and Gary Flynn from the Jubilee Church who run the Community Hall and Jubilee Coffee Shop, Sheila Childs from the Residents' Association and she paid a visit to the Selsdon Centre. There are details elsewhere in the Gazette of how to contact her if you wish to raise any concerns or issues.

## ... AND GOINGS

The Contact minibus took seven of our clients to the RHS Wisley Gardens this month. A trip very much enjoyed by everyone. Thanks to our brilliant volunteers and fantastic drivers we are able to offer trips most months. For many of our clients it is a chance for a trip out and to enjoy each other's company.



If you feel you could help with this valuable community support, please call Jasmine in the Contact Office on 8651 4944. Or if you prefer call into our office on the lower ground floor of the Selsdon Community Centre and we can provide you with more information

We look forward to hearing from you.

*Selsdon Churches Neighbourhood Care Registered Charity 1124346*

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**Craft Fair Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2024** – All Saints Sanderstead Church Hall 12:00-16:00, Free Entry, Come & see our stalls, enjoy our refreshments & enjoy a jolly good day out with the family. Don't miss out, have a super fun day.

## **Christmas is coming – with Santa on his rounds**



Santa will switch on the Selsdon Residents' Association's Christmas Lights on Friday 29 November at 5pm.

Santa will begin his rounds from Monday 2 until Wednesday 18 December starting at 6pm, with the static collection outside the shops in Elmfield

Parade, outside the shops, on the morning of Tuesday 24 December.

### **2024 Christmas Routes in Selsdon**

#### **Tuesday 3 December Kersey Drive Area**

Kersey Drive and Closes on the way down the hill, Half of Benhurst Gardens, some of Sundale Avenue and Elmpark Gardens.

#### **Wednesday 4 December Sundale Avenue Area**

Rest of Elmpark Gardens, Sundale Avenue and Benhurst Gardens. Ashen Vale, Wren Close, Thorold Close, Ambleside Gardens, York Road, Greville Avenue.

#### **Thursday 5 December Bird Sanctuary Area**

Sandpiper Road, Nightingale Road, Bullfinch Road, Martin Close, Mallard Road, Kingfisher Gardens, Goldfinch Road, Kittiwake Close, Quail Gardens.

#### **Friday 6 December Byron Road Area**

Byron Road, Queenhill Road, Rylandes Road, Foxearth Road, Littleheath Road, Croham Valley Road as far as the Ruffets, Ruffets Close.

#### **Thursday 12 December Norfolk Avenue Area**

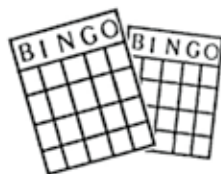
Norfolk Avenue, Ridge Langley, Arundel Avenue, Crozier Drive.

**To book a Santa Shout Out** visit us at:

[www.rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com](http://www.rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com) or [www.facebook.com/rotarycroydonsouth](https://www.facebook.com/rotarycroydonsouth) . Any enquiries please ring the Chief Elf: 07774 186792.

# The Selsdon Centre

## Upcoming Events at the Selsdon Centre



### NOVEMBER 2024

- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Quiz fundraiser for the Selsdon Centre at St John's Church Hall, Selsdon 7pm. More details from Susan in the office
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Fish & Chips £10 plus Bingo £3 with a prize raffle
- Friday 29<sup>th</sup> Live Music Christmas Concert Event with home cooked food (Beef Bourginon/Apple Strudel). £15 - Hayley is back by popular demand!

### DECEMBER 2024

- Weds 11<sup>th</sup> Croydon High school choir concert (1.15pm) – invitation only
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Client Christmas lunch (by invitation only – please contact office for further details)

We also have various popular board games available (Rummikub, Scrabble, Uno and other card games) plus Arts & Crafts are offered on Mondays (1-2pm). Book with office in advance for tea, cake and craft with Susan.

There is also a Bridge club (Monday afternoons) for experienced players and Selsdon Art Club meets once a month (2nd Thursday). The Hard of hearing team holds a monthly clinic (Tel: 0208 686 0049 or email: [hello@croydonhearing.org.uk](mailto:hello@croydonhearing.org.uk)) and NCT hold regular courses.

We also run weekly foot care sessions on a Monday by Tina including foot massage, filing and toenail cutting to be booked in advance at the Centre or by calling the office.

Chair yoga is by Veronica on Mondays (9.30-10.30) and Tuesdays (10-11) book on 07803 728868 or email: [v.segura@btinternet.com](mailto:v.segura@btinternet.com). Dimi runs an evening yoga class on Tuesdays 7-8pm. Book on 07798 501844.

Computer, tablet and smart phone training is by Muskaan (to be booked in advance via the office)

Selsdon Centre office: 0208 651 1111 or email: [office@selsdoncentre.org.uk](mailto:office@selsdoncentre.org.uk) for bookings or further information.

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## **IF YOU DIE WITH NO WILL:**

- Your money could pass to people you would not choose to benefit from your death
- Guardians for your infant children could be appointed by the court

## **IF YOU CAN'T MANAGE YOUR OWN AFFAIRS in the future:**

Expensive Court proceedings will be necessary in order for anyone (even your close family) to deal with your finances

I will prepare your Will and/or Lasting Power of Attorney  
All appointments in your own home, daytime or evening. No VAT charge.

Ring **TODAY** for details of my fixed charges **020 8657 0391**.

**Geraldine Watts Solicitor**

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# A SELECTED LIST OF SELSDON ORGANISATIONS

## CHURCHES

St John the Divine (C of E)	Parish Office	020 8657 2343
Selsdon Baptist Church	Office	020 8651 4308
St Columba's (Roman Catholic)		020 8657 3747
St Francis (Church of England)	Monks Hill	020 8657 7864
Croydon Jubilee Church	Office	020 8651 2807
Forestdale 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: [SelsdonandAddingtonVillage@met.police.uk](mailto:SelsdonandAddingtonVillage@met.police.uk)  
 Selsdon Vale & Forestdale: [SelsdonandForestdale@metpolice.uk](mailto:SelsdonandForestdale@metpolice.uk)

## CLUBS, GROUPS & CHARITIES

CONTACT (Neighbourhood Care)	Jasmine Singh	020 8651 4944
Selsdon Centre for the Retired	Craig Anderson	020 8651 1111
Croydon Hearing Resource Centre	Office	020 8686 0049
Croydon Vision		020 8668 2486
Cruse Bereavement Care Helpline		080 8808 1677
Friends of Littleheath Woods	Ian Leggatt	via <a href="http://www.folw.co.uk">www.folw.co.uk</a>
Friends of Selsdon Wood		<a href="http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk">www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk</a>
Sanderstead Plantation Partners		<a href="mailto:michaellishmund@gmail.com">michaellishmund@gmail.com</a>
Friends of Kingswood		<a href="mailto:www.friendsofkingswood@hotmail.co.uk">www.friendsofkingswood@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Girlguiding (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section)		0800 999 2016
1st Selsdon & Addington Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts)		<a href="http://https://girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved">https://girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved</a>
		<a href="http://www.1stselsdonscouts.org.uk">www.1stselsdonscouts.org.uk</a>
2nd Selsdon & Addington Scout Group		<a href="http://www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk">www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk</a>
Croham Valley Explorer Scout Unit	Christopher Dean	<a href="mailto:tinkerscorner@aol.com">tinkerscorner@aol.com</a>
Arts Society Croydon Area	Jean Aarons	<a href="https://tascroydonarea.org.uk">https://tascroydonarea.org.uk</a>
Parkinson's UK Croydon & District Branch	Roy Court	07704 683373
Rotary Sanderstead & Selsdon	Wendy Parr	07774 186792
RSPB Croydon Local Group	John Davis	020 8640 4578
Selsdon Art Group	Fiona Hooper	07973 412952
Selsdon Bridge Club	Bob Steadman	07545 384899
Selsdon Centre Bridge Club	Betty Borfiga	020 8656 4212
Selsdon Community Hall	Cottie Campbell	<a href="mailto:selsdonhall.info@gmail.com">selsdonhall.info@gmail.com</a>
Selsdon Flower Club	Maureen Browning	020 8651 5821
Selsdon Townswomen's Guild(pm)	Christine Holland	020 8657 4861
Sanderstead Horticultural Society		<a href="http://www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk">www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk</a>
Sanderstead Local History Group		<a href="mailto:sandersteadlhg@gmail.com">sandersteadlhg@gmail.com</a>
Selsdon Tennis Club	Geoff Littlewood	020 8651 4748
St John's Wives	Jane Guglielmi	020 8657 6672
66(Selsdon) Squadron Air Training Corps	Rob Cleeter	020 8651 5958



**SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

# **GAZETTE CHRISTMAS COVER COMPETITION**

for Selsdon's primary and nursery school children

*Last time and date for entries to be received:*  
**Saturday 16 November**



A4 sized seasonal drawing or painting  
(nothing downloaded).

Portrait or landscape but either leave a space for the Selsdon Gazette title, or have a full-page design that would allow the title to be printed on top of it.

Put your name, address, school and date of birth on the back and then send it to the SRA via any of the committee addresses listed on page 2 of the Gazette or via KIBA, 119 Addington Road.

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