

THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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

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Front cover: Selsdon Triangle Clock area decorated for Baby Loss Awareness week 9-15 October.



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Peter Underwood Ian Leggatt Janet Sharp Chris Jones Geoff Bailey Kenneth Davis Martina Enwood Jane Plowden

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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

After announcing last month that we had at last found an Advertising Manager for the Gazette, the position is once again vacant. If you feel that you could take this on, please get in contact. In the meantime, please send your advertising queries to me, Chris Jones, selsdongazettesra@gmail.com

The cover photo this month shows the Selsdon Clock decorated with ribbons and butterflies to commemorate Baby Awareness Week 9 -15 October. We have more on this in our letters section. As we enter Autumn, the SRA finds itself starting to plan for Christmas. We have the date of the Selsdon new Christmas Lights switch on, Friday 28 November at 5pm. Father Christmas will be joining us for this event. We also launch our 'Design the Gazette Christmas Cover' competition for Selsdon primary and nursery school children. The deadline for entries is Saturday 15 November. This year we are also running a competition for adults and secondary school children; 'Design the January Gazette cover celebrating the SRA's 100^{th} anniversary'. So, now the whole family can show off their artistic skills.

September saw the first Community Fair organised by the SRA and the judging of our 'Photos of Selsdon' competition. Reports of both are in this gazette. While October will see the judging of our 'Grow the Largest Vegetable' competition. We have had some extraordinary entries, but more of them next month.

In this month's gazette, Ian Leggatt starts his account of St John the Divine, Ted Forsyth looks at non-native species found in the UK, our Gardening Tips gives us some jobs to get our gardens ready for the winter, and Mary Gill gives us a poem full of hope. We have a special feature explaining terms used in 'computer speak' and news of this year's vaccine programme.

As always, please keep your photos, letters, poems and articles coming in. This magazine is for Selsdon, so it is good to hear about things affecting local residents. (selsdongazettesra@gmail.com)

Chris Jones

Submissions for the November 2025 edition should be with the Editor no later than 20^{TH} October - Preferably before!

SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS



I have been amazed how many people recognised the back of me on the front of last month's gazette. Not sure what that says about me!!

SRA Community Fair, Selsdon Wood

The sun shone but there were a few issues with the wind knocking down stands, tables and a gazebo, luckily without any injuries. We were kept very busy on our SRA stall chatting to everyone. Many thanks to all who helped set up, man the SRA stall and dismantle it at the end. Thanks to Peter Underwood for a great day.

Christmas Lights

The switch on is Friday 28th November at 5pm. Linda Morris has everything in hand for our new Christmas Lights Display to celebrate the 100th year of the Selsdon Residents' Association.

Litter pick on Saturday 27th September

A quick thank you to all who took part and to Andrew for regularly organising them with the council supplying all the "gear".

Traffic Lights

I'd like to relate good or, indeed, any news, but alas we have heard nothing definite. West Wickham seems to be having the same problem with TfL.

SRA Selsdon Heritage Walk

After the success of our Heritage Walks in July, despite the rain, we have been asked to put on another walk. This will happen on Saturday 25 October at 10am. Tickets are available via Eventbrite (see further information in this gazette).

Sheila Childs, Chair

END OF BRITISH SUMMER TIME



Reminder

In 2025, the clocks in the UK will go back by one hour at 2am on Sunday, 26 October. This will mark the end of British Summer Time and our return to Greenwich Mean Time

(GMT), giving us an extra hour of sleep but also bringing darker evenings.

SRA 100th Year Photo Competition

I am pleased to announce that the winner of the Photo Competition held by the Selsdon Residents' Association to celebrate its 100th Year in operation was Ian Leggatt. The judges felt that his photo taken from Selsdon looking towards Croydon 'showed off the elevated position of Selsdon and the constancy of the Selsdon landscape as opposed to the ever changing Croydon town centre'. Well done Ian and all who entered the competition. I hope to use some of the photos on the covers of future Gazettes.



COUNCILLORS' NOTES FROM ROBERT WARD

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

Fly-tips and antisocial behaviour are a blight across the borough. The previous administration removed the Neighbourhood Safety Officers whose job it was to tackle these issues. There were also inefficiencies, for example one team for cars, another for waste, another for highways. That patchwork approach failed.

The Executive Mayor has now approved super enforcement officers to deal with the full range of environmental crimes. One officer can now inspect, report, fine, and escalate - ensuring problems are fixed rather than passed around the system. Fly-tipping fines have been raised from £400 to £1000.

A proactive approach will be taken ranging from warnings to Fixed Penalty Notices and Community Protection Notices. When necessary, cases will be taken to prosecution.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS

A new team of Commissioners was appointed to the council over the summer. Mayor Perry made clear that, in his view, commissioners were wrong for Croydon and its residents given the progress made in rebuilding the Council. Moreover, it is inconsistent with lower levels of intervention in other councils. He committed to engage with the commissioners constructively and welcome their advice, challenge and support but would not support any proposals that would destroy vital local services or impose Council Tax increases above the Government cap.

These commissioners recently started work and in a joint email with the Chief Executive and Executive Mayor, they confirmed that in the first few weeks they will review progress to date to inform their guidance and actions thereafter. They confirmed that so far, they have been well supported and all requests for information have been responded to and that the aspiration to work collaboratively has been much in evidence.

SELSDON GARAGE

Earlier in the year there was optimism about the redevelopment of the Selsdon Garage site going ahead this year. The proposal was for the Council to take on long leases of this and other development sites across Croydon to support housing needs through increasing affordable housing supply. The development would be delivered by a company who would provide all the funding and carry the development risk.

HUBBARD TORLOT



MEET THE TEAN



lan Hubbard DIRECTOR

lan prides himself in delivering exceptional customer service to his clients and is very hands on with the day-to-day activities within the office. As a local resident, lan is both passionate and knowledgeable about the area and its surroundings.



Elaine Torlot DIRECTOR

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Simon Amon SALES MANAGER

Simon has over 30 years experience in the industry having managed numerous branches and has gained a wealth of experience, most of which is as a valuer although he can turn his hand to anything that presents itself within the moving process



Steve Smith SALES CONSULTANT

started his career in Estate Agency in the early 1980's and has extensive experience in residential and commercial sales and lettings



Kim Mitchell-Gears DIRECTORS PA & OFFICE MANAGER

Kim has a passion for property and has a wealth of knowledge in the property market having worked in every aspect of property for in excess of 20 years



Bernadette Atkinson TEAM ADMINISTRATOR / OFFICE CO-ORDINATOR

Bernadette has had a career as a PA in corporate law and investment management in London, Bernadette has always been interested in property having worked in real estate law and is an avid viewer of property shows



Hayley Rozario SALES CO-ORDINATOR

Hayley brings a wealth of experience in customer service organisation, and attention to detail. Now diving into a field she's genuinely passionate about, Hayley has found her stride in property Born with a natural knack for working with people



Lucy Barretto
SALES PROGRESSOR

Lucy commenced her career in property 4 years ago with a keen terest in property. Lucy enjoys sale progression in trying to succeed with every challenge that may unfold throughout the moving process.



Fiona Martin **NEGOTIATOR &** HOME VIEWER

Fiona grew up locally and has a strong customer service background. In particular, in relocations and residential lettings.



Amy Peto SALES NEGOTIATOR

Amy has always had an interest in property and people. Amy brings with her immense enthusiasm attention to detail, is methodical and always goes above and beyond whenever possible.



Louis Lam JUNIOR SALES NEGOTIATOR

Louis is our newest recruit and has joined Hubbard Torlot as a Junior Negotiator, Louis has a true passion for property and helping applicants find their new home.



Aviniya Bloomfield WEEKEND / PART TIME ASSISTANT

Aviniya is currently an undergraduate student at the university of Warwick. in real estate which led her to completing her work experience and securing a position at Hubbard Torlot.

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There were several agreements needing to be concluded for this to go ahead. Despite strenuous efforts by the Council, these agreements are yet to be signed and the outlook is not positive. The Council continues to work on options for the site.

SELSDON TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Unfortunately, temporary traffic lights at the crossroads by Sainsburys remain in place. Your councillors continue to push TfL for a permanent repair. Our understanding is that the issue is a fire which damaged the power supply which is the responsibility of UK Power Networks to remedy. We do not currently have any information on when the situation might be rectified.

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

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

Selsdon and Addington Village
Joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk
Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk

Selsdon Vale and Forestdale Andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk Fatima.zaman@croydon.gov.uk

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No new applications as the Gazette went to print.

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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MP Natasha Irons' Report Member of Parliament for Croydon East

Dear Selsdon,

I am organising a free Advice Fair that will take place on Saturday 4th October between 10 am and 12pm in New Addington. The following partners will be on hand to provide expert advice and support with debt, energy bills, living costs and employment opportunities:

- The Department for Work & Pensions
- Croydon Community Energy
- Croydon Healthy Homes
- Debt Today, Free Tomorrow
- Croydon Plus Credit Union
- Croydon Works

This is an opportunity for anyone living in Croydon East to access support and raise any issues with me. Please reserve your place by signing up here: https://tinyurl.com/advicefair

A constituent recently raised the lack of electric charging bays in Selsdon with me. As demand for electrical charging points grows, residents are increasingly having to travel to Bromley and Purley to charge their vehicles. I raised this issue with Croydon Council, and they have since confirmed that they are developing an Electric Vehicle Strategy and gathering requests for charging points to better understand demand across the borough. You can suggest a new location for an electric vehicle charging point at: https://forms.croydon.gov.uk/form/suggest-an-electric-vehicle-char#no-back

Several residents have also raised concerns with me about the temporary traffic lights on Selsdon High Street, which have been failing. I contacted TfL, who explained that the permanent signals were vandalised and damaged back in July. TfL's Assets Operations team have now agreed to carry out regular checks on the temporary lights, and they are working with UK Power Networks to restore the permanent traffic lights in the coming weeks.

Over the past few months, my office has received a significant number of enquiries about whether Birch Selsdon Hotel is being used by the Home Office to house asylum seekers. I arranged a meeting with the administrators overseeing the sale of Selsdon Park Hotel and they have confirmed that the estate is not being used for this purpose. They also confirmed that efforts are ongoing to secure a buyer for the site.

I'm pleased to share that Croydon has been named as one of the first places in the country to benefit from improved care closer to home, as the government begins rolling out neighbourhood health services. Croydon will be assigned a programme lead to establish a service bringing together nurses, doctors, social care workers, pharmacists and dentists. This joined-up approach will help cut unnecessary hospital visits and reduce the frustration of being passed around the system.

If you have any concerns you would like to raise with my team and me – from anti-social behaviour in your area to housing difficulties – please email natasha.irons.mp@parliament.uk or call 020 8191 2482 (leave a voicemail and we'll get back to you). You can also sign up to receive monthly updates on my work by scanning the QR code below.



See you next month, Natasha





SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION





Greet and meet Father Christmas at the Selsdon Christmas Lights switch on Friday 28 November at 5pm



Festive songs from Greenvale Primary School outside the Village Club from 4.40pm

Seasonal refreshments from Selsdon Baptist Church and local cafes

Welcome Father Christmas at about 5pm when the SRA lights display comes on as he drives down the road on his sleigh. Father Christmas is provided by the Sanderstead and Selsdon Rotarians. Come and meet him afterwards at his grotto by Iceland.



Your SRA pays for the Christmas Lights and this event from your voluntary donations so please give generously. Hope to see you on 28th!

Police message - please be aware and help us all to stay safe at all times

~~

Update from our Local Police

This month the team has been increasing their community engagement as well as maintaining regular high visibility patrols. Officers attended a car boot sale in the Forestdale area and visited the reopening of Sanderstead library, renamed The Story Collective, which should be a good community hub for local residents. It was also Addington Community Day where officers interacted with residents and also conducted a weapons sweep. As well as this, officers have been continuing to do door knocks to promote Met Engage, a platform on which local policing and

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As well as this, we are continuing to post hand delivered letters to all residents in our wards regarding upcoming 'Cuppa with a Copper' meetings. These are a brilliant chance for residents to meet their local officers and to raise any concerns they may have. For more information on when and where these

meetings take place, please search for your ward on the Met website and upcoming events will be displayed.

Further, we have also been collaborating with a Proactive Team which has seen us assisting in man hunts and warrants. A couple of these warrants have taken place in the Addington area and our team has assisted in searching properties for drugs and other related evidence. These investigations are ongoing but we hope to continue this collaborative work in our wards to take offenders off the streets.

More recently, our team has been conducting covert proactive operations in order to combat drug and weapon crime in the area. We have found this to be particularly successful and has led to a quantity of class A and B drugs being seized, as well as one known offender being arrested for related offences in Selsdon. It has also resulted in a stolen motorbike being recovered, with the rider being interviewed regarding how this bike came into their possession and further enquiries being undertaken to return this bike to its rightful owner. We conducted this operation over more than one day and on the second day of the operation, suspects were arrested by our team in New Addington, for possession with intent to supply class B drugs, possession of an offensive weapon and theft of a motor vehicle. The team will be conducting more operations of this nature in the future.

Best wishes, **PC Isobel Williams**

Contacting the Police

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

Emergencies – 999, Non-emergency crime - 101

All phone numbers for each individual team are no longer used. Residents should use the following email addresses:

Selsdon & Addington Village: SelsdonandAddingtonVillage@met.police.uk
Selsdon Vale & Forestdale: SelsdonandForestdale@met.police.uk

Good Time for Gardening – October



Seasons of mists and mellow fruitfulness, maturing sun, trees bending with apples, ripe fruits, swelling gourds and plump hazel nuts – all images from John Keats's poem 'To Autumn.' This poem also mentions imagining that the warm days will never cease. Recent days have dispelled that idea with very high winds and showers where the rain came horizontally. In the days when the weather is

pleasant and the sun still has some warmth in it, consider some or all of the following:

- Collect any remaining crops some fruit may still be on the trees
 despite the high winds, nuts are maturing and ready to harvest, along
 with pumpkins, squashes and other root vegetables.
- Plant onions, garlic and broad beans ready for an early harvest next year. If you have space, perhaps some spring cabbages or winter lettuce. Broad beans sown now are stronger and more resilient to black fly next year. Any crops that are still growing may need to be covered with fleece to protect them from any frosts.
- Plant spring bulbs daffodils, tulips and hyacinths into pots. This can become a challenge, if any squirrels decide that they like your bulbs. Empty, upturned hanging baskets can stop them, or chicken wire over the top of the pots.
- Sweet pea seeds can be sown now, again to make them more robust for next year. However, be warned, mice are very partial to these seeds.
- Any large clumps of herbaceous perennials can be divided, creating new plants and improving vigour.
- Rake leaves off the grass to prevent disease and pests. Also scoop fallen leaves out of any pond or water feature.
- Mulch flower beds and empty areas to improve the soil.
- If you have space and some logs, consider creating a log pile. This will provide a habitat for toads and insects.
- Prune roses and shrubs to prevent the higher winds of autumn from making them rock and become unstable.
 However, also consider the birds that visit your garden.
 They enjoy the foliage that is dying back and the seed heads provide food for them. Some plant silhouettes can give structure to the garden throughout the winter.
- After a couple of dry days, tidy the edges and give the lawn a final cut. When all of the setting up for winter jobs are done, clean and oil the tools, put them away until the spring and settle indoors to plan your gardening for 2026.

Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid www.sandersteadhs.org

Local Guided Walks in Selsdon

 Saturday 25 October at 10am – SRA Selsdon Heritage Walk

Tickets available via Eventbrite meeting at the Selsdon Triangle



- Saturday 25th October at 10am Fungus Hunt led by the Friends Friends of Selsdon Wood, meet at the Old Farleigh Road Car Park
- Saturday 15th November Fungal Foray led by Jane McLauchlin Participants to be limited to 15 number. Attendance will be managed by 'Eventbrite'. See FOLW website.

Friends of Littleheath Woods, meet at junction of Queenhill/Littleheatrh Roads

 Saturday 15th November at 1pm - Autumn/Winter Tree Appreciation - led by the Friends

Friends of Selsdon Wood, meet at the Old Farleigh Road Car Park

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Selsdon Residents' Association Community Fair Sunday 7 September

This year marked the first year that the Selsdon Residents' Association took over the organisation of the Community Fair from the Friends of Selsdon Wood. After rain had fallen in the days before the fair, we were lucky to enjoy a dry day, if a little windy at times.



There were over 25 stalls to wander around, some informing visitors about local organisations and others selling homemade goods. The Rotary Sanderstead and Selsdon ran races for children, the 16th Purley Scouts provided delicious refreshments in their large tent, the Frends of Seldon Wood provided a walk visiting the carvings in the wood,

and 'Songsations', not only sold slices of homemade cakes, but they also provided a musical concert of popular tunes.

A new defibrillator on the Friends of Selsdon Wood's building provided by the Rotary, was officially launched by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Colonel Ray Wilkinson.

This photo shows the new unit with, from the left: Councillor Scott Roche; Sue, the President of the Rotary; Colonel Ray Wilkinson; and Peter

Underwood, the SRA organiser of the Community Fair. Well done Peter and his band of volunteers – a good day was had by all!



Selsdon Residents' Association



GAZETTE CHRISTMAS COVER COMPETITION

For Selsdon's primary and nursery children
Closing date for entries Saturday 15 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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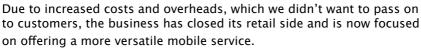




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St John the Divine, Upper Selsdon Road, WW2

85 years ago this month, during what was called 'The Blitz', St John the Divine was hit. In early September that year the German Luftwaffe (Airforce or Air Weapon) had started a campaign of aerial bombardment of British cities. The term Blitz is derived from 'Blitzkrieg' or 'Lightning War' and was designed to inflict fear into the English population.

Ted Frith records that on 26th October 1940 the church was hit by two High Explosive Oil Bombs:



"Around 8.45pm one bomb exploded against the foundations of the east end of the church bringing down the wall and demolishing the Sacristy. The altar was wrecked and the organ was put out of action. The timber and asbestos church hall was destroyed by the other bomb which landed in the roots of a large tree which prevented it from penetrating far into the ground."

"The oil from the bomb made the road so dangerous that Upper Selsdon Road was closed until an ARP squad had washed the oil away. Fortunately, the main structure of the church was unharmed by the explosion. According to an eye-witness, the explosion caused an electrical fault which switched the lights on in the church but they were quickly put out. Some damage was done to houses nearby but only a few to serious extent. Nobody was injured and an 89 year old man in the ground floor room of a house a short distance away was only slightly shocked. The incident occurred exactly 5 years after the new



church had been consecrated. Little could be done to repair the church then, but the nave was pronounced sound enough. The Sanctuary and Lady Chapel would have to be rebuilt and it was possible that the tower would need replacing. However, a temporary screen to block off the nave from the damaged portion and provide some extra support to the walls enabled services to be resumed."

Ted further records that "the response of the congregation and of other people of Selsdon in the catastrophe must nevertheless have been heartening. On the same night that the church was bombed the Baptist minister, Mr Pascoe, made his way through the barrage to offer the use of his church for worship. Selsdon Tennis Club also offered the use of their premises and the Vicar of St Peters sent a special message of sympathy"

Ian Leggatt

The text in italics, above, is taken from the unpublished journals of Ted Frith, a Selsdon historian, and which can be found in the archive section of Croydon Central Library. The first photo is copied from other research material from the Croydon Archives. The other has been borrowed from Facebook. While Ted references 'high explosive oil bombs' he may not have had access to the same knowledge bank which is available to us now. More of that next month

~~

At the Selsdon Residents' Association Community Fair in September, the SRA ran a quiz testing the observational skills of local residents. How well do you know Selsdon? The prize winner on the day who was judged to have given the most accurate answers was Daniel McCan, Well done.

Where in Selsdon?





2

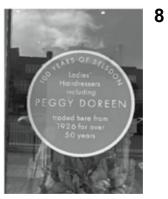
















Answers after the Nature Notes

10



Selsdon Heritage Walk

Led by the Selsdon Residents' Association Saturday 25 October

Selsdon Heritage Walk leaving at 10am
The walk departs from the Selsdon Triangle, 1.5 miles with only
one steep incline. The walk explores the history of Selsdon and the
architecture of its buildings. All ages welcome.

Book your tickets via Eventbrite, searching for SRA Selsdon Heritage Walk.



~~

I came across this informative and amusing article in the Oxted Local, but the author agreed to let me reproduce it for the Selsdon Gazette. Thanks Martin

IT Demystified

It may seem that the IT industry has its own language, complete with cryptic terms and acronyms, specifically designed to exclude the non- specialist user, however this is not the case (at least most of the time). Here are a few typical terms with descriptions which will hopefully make you feel more confident as an IT user.



The Cloud - Cloud storage is where a company sets aside an area on their servers for you to use to store your files. You get your files to this server by "uploading" them over the internet and can "download" them again at any time.

App – This is just a shortening of "application". Apps are small programs on your phone or computer that do specific things—like remind you to drink water while you scroll social media for hours.

Browser - This is the app you use to explore the internet. There are a variety and the most common are Edge, Chrome, Safari, or Firefox. They all do the same thing, and it will be no surprise that each one claims to be better than the other.



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URL - This stands for Uniform Resource Locator. It's the web address you type in to visit a website, a little like giving the address of a house—except when you arrive at the address there are all manner of dog videos to waste hours on.

Cookie - Sadly, they are not edible. Cookies are little data files that websites leave on your computer to remember who you are. They are like digital Post-it notes to remind the site of your preferences when you return.

Wi-Fi - This is the magical force that makes your internet work without cables. The Wi-Fi (radio signal) connects your devices to the "Hub" and thereby the internet, but it also can frustratingly disappear when you're about to hit "Submit" on an important online form.

Bluetooth - A wireless system for connecting devices to each other, like headphones to your phone or your phone to your car. No blue teeth involved, thankfully.

Bandwidth - Imagine internet as water in a pipe. Bandwidth is how fat the pipe is. The more bandwidth you have (the fatter the pipe) the more information you can get though and thereby get a "faster" connection. The opposite applies if the bandwidth "pipe" is narrower.

Malware - Short for "malicious software." Basically, these are the germs of the tech world. Malware comes in many forms but the intention is always malicious. Always use antivirus software which acts like digital hand sanitiser.

VPN - A Virtual Private Network. It's like Harry Potter's invisibility cloak for your internet activity. It hides your location and makes you safer online.

Bug - A bug is a mistake in a program that makes it behave oddly. Developers "debug" (find the error) then fix it with "patches," which are basically high-tech band-aids.

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GAZETTE COVER COMPETITION TO CELEBRATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



For all ages Closing date for entries Saturday 13 December

In January 2026 the Selsdon Residents' Association will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. There will be a special colour edition of the Selsdon Gazette and we are inviting you to design the cover. All you have to do is make an A4 sized drawing or painting depicting this special occasion. Put your name and address 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 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 used as the colour cover for the January Gazette.



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

Flu and COVID-19 Seasonal Vaccination Programme: autumn/ winter 2025/26

COVID-19 vaccine

The following cohorts are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine in Autumn/Winter 2025/26:

- residents in a care home for older adults
- all adults aged 75 years and over
- persons aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed This COVID-19 programme will run from **1 October 2025** to **31 Jan 2026**. However, the majority of COVID-19 vaccinations should be completed by **19 December 2025**.

Flu vaccine

The following cohorts are eligible to receive a flu vaccination from 1st **September** and should be completed by **12 December 2025** with further catch-up opportunities as appropriate. :

- pregnant women
- all children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2025
- primary school aged children (from Reception to Year 6)
- secondary school aged children (from Year 7 to Year 11)
- all children in clinical risk groups aged from 6 months to less than 18 years All adult flu cohorts, apart from pregnant women, will start from 1 October 2025 and will run until the 31 March 2026. Although, it is anticipated that the majority of vaccinations should be completed by the end of November 2025 to provide the best possible protection going into winter.

The cohorts are:

- those aged 65 years and over
- those aged 18 years to under 65 years in clinical risk groups
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers in receipt of carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person
- close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
- frontline workers in a social care setting without an employer led occupational health scheme including those working for a registered residential care or nursing home, registered domiciliary care providers, voluntary managed hospice providers and those that are employed by those who receive direct payments (personal budgets) or Personal Health budgets, such as Personal Assistants

Note: The start date for adult flu vaccinations aligns to COVID-19 vaccinations to support co-administration of flu and COVID-19 wherever possible and provide the best possible protection as we head into winter.

Dear Editor

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

Please remember to state your name, address, contact number and publication anonymity requirements in <u>all</u> correspondence to the Editor. Anonymity can be granted on request, but anonymously sent letters/e-mails will not be published.

~~

I had an email about a car accident on Old Farleigh Road on 1st September.

Dear Editor,

Today Old Farleigh Road has been closed to traffic because a car has overturned on the double bends, where Croydon Borough meets Tandridge. This is not uncommon and in addition to vehicles losing control and crashing the 30 mph speed limit sign is frequently demolished.

Traffic just travels too fast both along the road and through the bends but the Council has done nothing to stop this. Going up the hill towards Selsdon is a camera that seldom catches any



speeders, the hill is steep and vehicles slow anyway because of this. A camera needs to be put into place by the 30mph sign going towards the double bends to slow the traffic with a very clear indication that it is a dangerous section of the highway.

Sometimes the Police stand by the entrance to the Selsdon Wood Car Park with a camera but, in their bright orange and yellow tabards, they can be seen a long way off which means they seldom catch speeders.

Another problem is animals e.g. foxes, badgers and deer coming out of the woods and being killed on the road by vehicles travelling too fast to stop.

The attached picture shows the overturned car. An ambulance, fire brigade and about 5 police vehicles attended. It took over 3 hours before the police could open the road again.

Mike Gillott



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Another local resident, Frank Kippin, has once again written to the Gazette, Councillors and Mayor Perry expressing his concerns about unchecked speeding on Old Farleigh Road.

Dear Editor,

So many times, cars have had an accident at this 'black spot'. I have previously reported the following:

Vehicle excessive speeding (40 to 80mph) up and down the Old Farleigh Road is getting worse, especially between Sandpiper Rd and Beech Way.

The Speed Monitor outside 123 Old Farleigh Road CR2 8QH has not been working for months. Similarly, the triangle sign speed monitor sign near Beech Way.

I have noticed that other speed monitor signs have not been working for months in Old Farleigh Road and indeed elsewhere in the borough.

I am a frequent user of the Kersey Drive junction with Old Farleigh Road which due to speeding on Old Farleigh Road, traffic is dangerous for anyone turning right or left from Kersey Drive.

I have seen so many speed monitors (speed cameras, radar speed signs, speed display signs) across Croydon not working and, as a cyclist and motorist, I believe that they should be activated to stop speeding that endangers pedestrians, cyclists and other vehicles.

Please arrange for camera/signage before there is a death!

Here is the reply that Frank received from Mayor Perry in August.

Dear Mr Kippin,

Thank you for your email regarding the operation of speed monitors on Old Farleigh Road.

Following last year's audit, we now have a clear record of all nonoperational vehicle-activated signs (VAS) across the borough and we are working to secure funding from Transport for London and other potential sources to bring these back into operation. This process will take some time to implement, however, I can assure you that the Old Farleigh Road speed monitor will be prioritised for repair as soon as we are able to deliver the work.

Yours sincerely

Mayor Jason Perry, Executive Mayor for Croydon

Here we learn more about Baby Awareness Week

Dear Editor,

We're reaching out as we have had permission from the Selsdon Residents' Association to organise a ribbon display at the Selsdon Clock for Baby Loss Awareness Week (9–15 October). This will be our third year doing so, in memory of our daughter Evie who passed away in April 2022 at one day old.

The display will feature pink, blue and white ribbons with babies' names and dates on them, to honour them for Baby Loss Awareness Week. We offer ribbons to local bereaved parents and also anyone who would like one in memory of their baby on the Sands and Tommys Support Groups.

Thank you for your support. Kind regards, Lauren and Connor

Here our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, has found another local site with a memorial for lost babies.

If you leave Selsdon and drive along the road to Sanderstead, then turn left at the roundabout and head for Hamsey Green, you might have a surprise! Or if you go for a walk in Kings Wood, which is beautiful all year round and especially at bluebell time, you can also walk to the end of the main path, turn right and walk to Hamsey Green that way.

When you arrive at the top of Kingswood Lane, where it joins with the main road, right on the corner is a quiet little green place, called Hamsey

Green Pond. It is separated from the pavement by a fence and in winter, spring or autumn there is a little pond which fills up and bulrushes grow there. To see the pond and get to the other side of it, a small wooden bridge has been built. When the pond dries out there is still a reason for this bridge, as there is a statue carved in wood of a butterfly. It was presented for the wild garden as a memorial by Croydon Council. On the statue is this dedication,



A butterfly lights beside us, and for a brief moment All of its beauty belongs to our world But then it must fly on. And though we wish it could have stayed, we feel so lucky to have seen it at all.

Why did they do that? Well, this little garden is a rare type of memorial garden. It is to remember all the babies who have died.

The babies born sleeping
The babies we carried but never held
The babies we held but could not take home
The babies who came but could not stay

On the fence furthest from the entrance are little metal butterflies, each one engraved with the name of a baby to be remembered. It is tranquil place for people to rest and remember, and for anyone who would like to sit and be still in peace.

There is a contact name and telephone number for anyone who wishes to have a butterfly on the fence in memory of a baby - Evelyn Rae Foundation

Well worth a visit.

~~

Poetry Corner

This month, Mary Gill considers the importance of hope.

RAGS AND RIBBONS

When the Gods of our people deserted me, I took my prayers to the wishing tree. I followed my instinct to where it stood, by the twisting path through the ancient wood a path worn smooth by a million feet over centuries of divine deceit. Gnarled and distorted, its lightning burned boughs recorded the pleas and the desperate vows of the hopeless, lost, despairing folk who had sought the aid of the time-worn oak. It was all festooned with their votive rags and blossoming with the beribboned swags. The rags and the ribbons bore witness to the wretchedness that the masses knew. Many were threadbare now, fading with age but still imbued with the sorrow and rage of the pilgrims who had brought their prayers, poured out their hopes, confessed their cares to a tree impervious to their pain, and the rags and the ribbons all hung in vain.





In spite of the truth that I understood, when I came to the heart of the ancient wood and I saw the tree with its garlands decked, the last faint hope that would not be checked, took the bright ribbon that tied back my hair to burden the tree with my unanswered prayer.

~~

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Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth – Invaders?

In the East London docks where shipping containers drop their cargo, they appear also to have deposited an unlikely creature - a very small scorpion. There is now a self-sustaining colony, presumably feeding on woodlice and similar fare.

Animals which are kept in captivity occasionally escape and might manage to develop a colony. This is true of the 2m long nonvenomous Aesculapian snake which has a colony in north Wales and another by the Regents Canal in London. It is a constrictor which climbs well and feeds on small mammals and birds.

Red-necked Wallabies have been kept in zoos and private collections for many years and through escapes and releases, are frequently sighted in many parts of the country. There is a small and presumably controlled population on an island in Loch Lomond but the largest concentration appears to be on the Isle of Man. A drone survey with a thermal camera established that the population is well over 1000.



Our local invaders are obvious – American Grey Squirrels and Ring-necked Parakeets. Elsewhere the squirrel faces predation by pine martens and goshawks, but in this area, some might be taken by a fox or buzzard. The parakeets are aggressive

creatures which nest in large holes in trees which might otherwise be occupied by stock doves, owls or jackdaws. As there is a finite number of suitable holes in the wood, the ever-growing population of parakeets must have an effect on these other creatures.

I can remember an exotic bird reaching our shores and causing great excitement amongst birders. It was the arrival of the first Collared Dove, which can now be seen in hundreds in farms and horse stables where there might be spilt grain.

Migrating birds often deviate from their normal routes and will sometimes settle in new places. That is certainly true for a number of water birds which are now breeding in this country. Little Egrets are now common in marshy or wet areas and the larger Great Egret is following suit. Purple Herons, Spoonbills, Cattle Egrets, Glossy Ibis and an occasional Little Bittern can be found. A water bird of a different sort is the Mediterranean Gull. Unlike the Black-headed Gull, which actually has a brownish head,

the Med Gull has a full black hood like a balaclava, and sports a vivid white eye-ring and a bright red bill. It can be found breeding in many places in the UK, often in the middle of a Black-headed Gull colony. We sometimes get birds like European Bee-Eaters breeding for a few seasons and will probably have more successes like this as the climate changes.



When I first started birding in England in the sixties, there were still some breeding pairs of Wryneck, Golden Oriole and Red-backed Shrike. They have long gone, perhaps because of habitat loss and the effects of current farming practices including removal of hedges and heavy use of pesticides and fertilisers. Some farmers are modifying their approach, while still producing food, and it is possible we might see these birds again. They all occur on migration at both ends of the year.

In recent years we have had visits from Black Kites, Booted Eagles, Short-toed Snake Eagles and even an Egyptian Vulture. If they happen to meet a partner there is no real reason why they might not stay.

When you think about the number of bird species just on the other side of the English Channel, the potential for further future invasions would appear to be high!

Answers to the 'Where in Selsdon' Quiz

- 1. Railings at the Selsdon Triangle
- 2. Carving of a bear at Selsdon Wood Car Park off Old Farleigh Road
- 3. Bailey's Garage along the High Street/Addington Road
- 4. SRA centennial bench in Selsdon Recreation Park
- 5. Victorian cottage, 242 Addington Road
- 6. Entrance to Birch/Selsdon Park Hotel
- 7. Sign post on wall by the Village Club
- 8. Plaque on Vintage 62 on the Broadway
- 9. Signpost at top of Ashen Vale
- 10. Gardencraft

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

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The Need for Volunteer Drivers. Every day, countless people in our community struggle to access vital medical care due to a lack of reliable transportation. The elderly and individuals with disabilities are particularly affected by this issue. Missing medical appointments can lead to worsened health outcomes and increased stress for those already facing challenging circumstances. Volunteer drivers provide a crucial service by ensuring these individuals can access the care they need. Whether it's a routine check-up, a specialist appointment, or ongoing treatment such as dialysis or chemotherapy, your assistance can help bridge the gap.

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The Selsdon Community Clubhouse is going from strength to strength and has an exciting line-up of events taking us up to the end of the year and beyond. Upcoming dates to put in your diary are:

Oct 16th - we are delighted to be welcoming Baseline Fabric Theatre to the Clubhouse from 2-3pm.

"Baseless Fabric brings magical moments into unexpected places like high streets, shopping centres, primary schools and care homes. We passionately believe that opportunities for joy, connection and learning are vital for people's wellbeing and the strength of our communities, now more than ever – and that this shouldn't only be available in exclusive theatres and opera houses for those who can afford it."

No charge to attend but booking essential as places are limited.



Oct 31st - our annual quiz night will be held at St. John the Divine church hall at 7:30pm. £12 per person, including curry and rice! (tables of 6 available). Contact the office to book.

Nov 14th - the ever popular, very dapper Tom Carradine returns with his ol' Joanna recreating the traditional Music Hall atmosphere of a good old-fashioned knees up, in the grand Cockney tradition. A home-cooked two course lunch, plus refreshments are included at a cost of £18 per head. Booking essential.

Nov 28th - for the first time, the Clubhouse will be present at the Christmas lights "switch-on" in the high street. Traditional Christmas goodies will be sold at the Selsdon Clock from 4-5pm. Come and say hi, learn more about what we do and buy some Christmas treats before Santa arrives!



Don't forget that our regular lunch club is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays - please come and join us for refreshments, a delicious home-cooked lunch, activities and great interaction with your peers.

To book any of the above, or for further information please contact the Clubhouse office via email: office@selsdoncentre.org.uk or 0208 651 1111/0737



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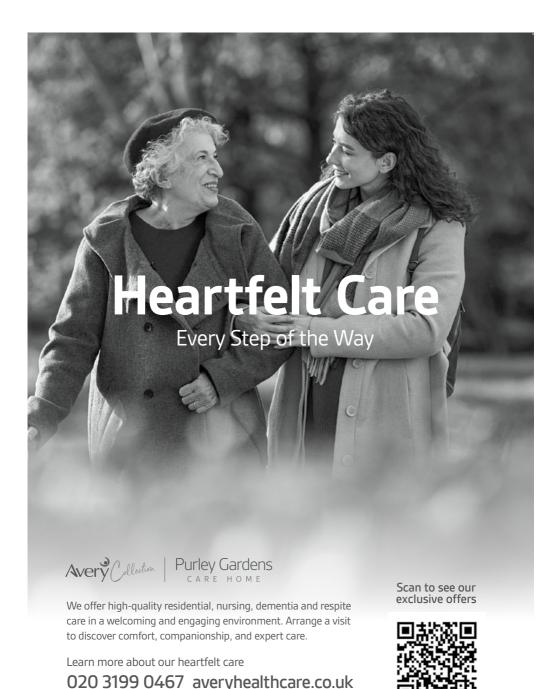
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SANDERSTEAD AND PURLEY OAKS PROBUS CLUB

This Probus Club, which is open to retired and semi-retired men living in or nearby Sanderstead and Purley Oaks, meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Croham Hurst Golf Club for a lunch meeting. At most meetings there is a speaker (the exception being March, which hosts the AGM). Two meetings – in July and in December – are open to members and their guests but with no speaker.

The Club also enjoys an annual holiday in the UK, and occasional outings. In addition, there are events relating to arts and sciences (usually in London) as well as a variety of walks. We also have a programme of theatre visits – some in Caterham, others in Croydon and some in the West End. We have occasional wine tastings. In season there are ten-pin bowling events. And we hold coffee mornings at a garden centre in Woldingham.

For further information please contact the Honorary Secretary, Brian Matthews, at brianmatthews100@gmail.com



What's up Next?

Craft Fair – 15th November 11am -3pm - All Saints Church Hall, Sanderstead Come along & enjoy the variety of stalls & crafts, & have a cuppa & a burger or some cake.

Santa comes to Selsdon High Street for the switching on of the SRA's Christmas lights on Friday 28th November at 5pm.

Santa will visit Selsdon, Sanderstead & Hamsey Green between 2nd December and 19th December, and outside the shops on Elmfield Way on Christmas Eve. A full timetable showing the list of the roads with dates that Santa will visit will appear in the Gazette next month and will be available on our website.

If you would like to help Santa please get in touch – 07774 186792 – Secretary@rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com

SELSDON AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD



We meet from 1.30-4.00 usually on the third Friday of each month in the Community Hall, St. John's Church, Upper Selsdon Road, Selsdon.

After a short business meeting, we are pleased to welcome speakers. At our meeting on October 17th there

will be a presentation by our own Drama Group. Following this there is time for tea and a chat!

There are groups for Handicrafts, Rummikub, Knit and Natter that take place during the month in members' homes, or you might like to join a trip to the Theatre or an organised outing.

Do come and join this friendly group of ladies! Christine Holland 02086574861

Sanderstead Local History Group

We usually hold our meetings in the Small Hall at All Saints Church, Onslow Gardens, Sanderstead, CR2 9AB. They are on the last Wednesday of each month usually, excluding August and December. The meetings start promptly at 2.00 pm so please be seated by then. Doors open at 1.45 pm. We make a small charge to cover the cost of hiring the hall and providing tea and biscuits after the meeting.

Future Programme

29 October: Richard Pacitti - Ice Cream. How a family from Italy came to Croydon as organ grinders and founded the Premier Ice Cream Company. 26 November: Joyce Hoad – Fickleshole, an ancient manor and the inception of the White Bear Public House - The history of both from earlier times.

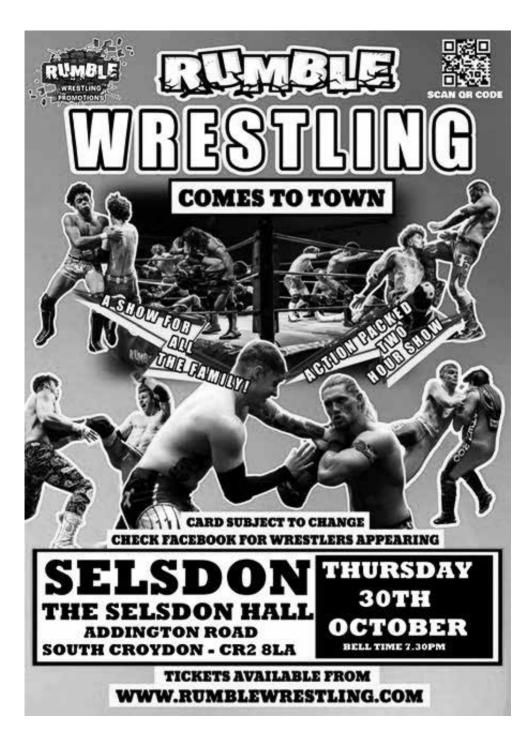
Dec - no meeting

2026

28 January Roger Packham - Selsdon History via postcards 25 February Phil Swallow - Stories behind some of the All Saints Sanderstead graves

25 March Dee Palmer - Painters in South-East England.

Website https://www.sandersteadlhg.co.uk



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CHURCHES

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

DOCTORS & EMERGENCY CARE

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

POLICE

Selsdon & Addington Village: SelsdonandAddingtonVillage@met.police.uk Selsdon Vale & Forestdale SelsdonandForestdale@metpolice.uk

CLUBS. GROUPS & CHARITIES

CONTACT (Neighbourhood Care)	Jasmine Singh	020 8651 4944
The Selsdon Community Clubhouse	Liz O'Donoghue	020 8651 1111
Croydon Hearing Resource Centre	Office	020 8686 0049
Croydon Vision		020 8668 2486
Cruse Bereavement Care Helpline		080 8808 1677
Friends of Littleheath Woods	lan Leggatt	via www.folw.co.uk
Friends of Selsdon Wood	www.friendsofsels	donwood.co.uk
Sanderstead Plantation Partners	michaellishmund@gmail.com	
Friends of Kingswood	www.friendsofking	swood@hotmail.co.uk
Girlguiding (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides &		
https://girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved		

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

St John's Wives

66(Selsdon) Squadron Air Training Corps

deladon & Addington ocodi Oroup (Beavers, Odbs, Ocodis)				
	www.1stselsdonscouts.org.uk			
5th Selsdon & Addington Scout Group	glv@5thsandascouts.org			
Croham Valley Explorer Scout Unit	Christopher Dean	tinkerscorner@aol.com		
Arts Society Croydon Area	Jean Aarons https://tascroydonarea.org.uk			
Parkinson's UK Croydon & District Branch	Mike Bond	07704 413668		
Rotary Sanderstead & Selsdon	Wendy Parr	07774 186792		
RSPB Croydon Local Group	John Davis	020 8640 4578		
Selsdon Art Group	Fiona Hooper	07973 412952		
Selsdon Bridge Club	Bob Steadman	07545 384899		
Selsdon Centre Bridge Club	Betty Borfiga	020 8656 4212		
Selsdon Community Hall	Cottie Campbell selsdonhall.info@gmail.com			
Selsdon Flower Club	Maureen Browning	020 8651 5821		
Selsdon Townswomen's Guild(pm)	Christine Holland	020 8657 4861		
Sanderstead Horticultural Society	www.sandersteadhs.org			
Sanderstead Local History Group	sandersteadlhg@gmail.com			
Selsdon Tennis Club	Jeff Pullen	079568 29842		

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