



The Selsdon — Gazette —

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THE SELSDON GAZETTE

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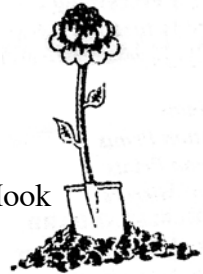
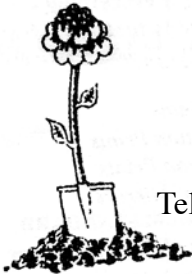
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Cllr Robert Ward Robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk 07783 152363

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



Hello everyone, welcome to the September Selsdon Gazette, and I trust you have enjoyed your summer. Hopefully, we have had fair weather for the Friends of Selsdon Wood Open Day on Sunday 8th September with a mixture of stalls and games, and that you have visited us at the SRA tent to try our quiz testing your knowledge of our High Street. September sees the return to school so the quiz this month tests your knowledge of fictional schools from books, television and films. Will you get 10/10?

Janet Sharp reminds us that Croydon was once a market town with a cattle market in South Croydon from 1848 to 1936, while Su Yates tells us about the changes at Sanderstead Recreation Ground. Our 'Grow the Tallest Sunflower' Competition ends on the 20th September so do not forget to send me photos of your sunflowers with their height. Results will be announced in next month's Gazette, and of course, there are a list of jobs for all us to do in our gardens to prepare for the cooler weather in our Gardening Tips.

We are now in the Croydon East constituency and our newly elected MP, Natasha Irons, introduces herself to us. The Councillors give us the exciting news of a grant from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to regenerate the Selsdon Centre. Our local police officers warn us about scams trying to catch us out. Ted, in his Nature Notes, highlights some butterflies that are difficult to spot as they live high up in the trees, but they do leave traces lower down. Mary Gill, with her regular poetry spot, has an amusing take on flies. We have had a lot of questions about the new parking arrangements, so we have tried to explain the new ways to pay, with or without phones.

We have had a letter from a lady visiting Selsdon and feeling dismayed at the state of our High Street since her last visit. Do you agree with her? She cannot remember seeing so much litter, so it is opportune that we have another Community Litter Pick on Saturday 5th October. Please put the date in your diaries. As usual, please get in touch with your news and views, photos, grumbles and praise! (selsdongazettesra@gmail.com) It would be great to hear from you.

Chris Jones

🌀 SUBMISSIONS FOR THE OCTOBER 2024 EDITION
SHOULD BE WITH THE EDITOR NO LATER THAN
20TH SEPTEMBER - PREFERABLY BEFORE! 🌀

SRA NEWS 'n' VIEWS



Green Flag Awards

We are so fortunate to have so much green space around Selsdon; the following areas have retained their Green Flag Awards from the scheme run by Keep Britain Tidy and are given to well-managed parks and green spaces:

Coulsdon Common

Farthing Downs

Kenley Common

Riddlesdown

Spring Park

West Wickham Common

(All these are run and managed by the City of London Corporation.)

The London Wildlife Trust has a Green Flag for Hutchinson's Bank and Croydon Council have been awarded two Green Flags for Wandle Park and Happy Valley.

Selsdon is very lucky to have Friends Groups keeping our woods in such good condition: the Friends of Kings Wood, the Friends of Littleheath Woods, the Friends of Selsdon Wood and the Sanderstead Plantation Planters. They are always in need of helping hands or new membership to help fund their work. Details for all can be found on the last page of the Gazette.

Grant

Selsdon has been selected to be one of the areas in Croydon to receive a grant of £90,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to improve its centre. The SRA met with Council officers in August to discuss ideas and suggestions which had to be submitted by September. We have asked for new signage to the local woods and green spaces so that more people can be directed to these sites and enjoy them. To improve the 'Greening'

of the community centre of Selsdon, the triangle area has been targeted, with requests for the lower branches of the trees on the triangle to be cut to let more light into that area and for the border hedge to be reduced in width. We await costing to see if more can be done.

Selsdon Wood Open Day and SRA Community BYO Picnic & Fun & Games Afternoon

Hope to have seen some of you at this event on the 8th September from 12-4pm.

Litter Pick

Andrew Baxter has arranged another date for a litter collection around the centre of Selsdon for Saturday 5th October. Please meet at 9.45am at the triangle if you can join us. All equipment is provided by Croydon Council and tea and coffee will be provided afterwards for all collectors by Wetherspoons. See you there!

*Sheila Childs,
Chair SRA*

Selsdon Residents' Association

Grow the Tallest Sunflower Competition 2024

Open to all residents of Selsdon



Your sunflowers should now have reached their tallest and bloomed.

Remember to send me a photo of your tallest sunflower, preferably with you alongside it, giving its height from its tallest point to ground level.
(selsdongazettesra@gmail.com)

I have already received some splendid entries but the last date for submission is 20 September with the grower's name and address. The tallest sunflowers will win the prizes.

COUNCILLORS' NOTES

CAR PARKING IN CROYDON

On Tuesday 23 July 2024, Croydon Council switched off the pay & display machines in local and district centres where they had free 1-hour machines.

The council's new parking charges offer a balanced approach for parking, taking into consideration all vehicle types, while still recognising the environmental impacts of vehicles, and retains the emission-based parking charges for on-street parking. With the changing vehicle fleet since 2019, the uptake of electric vehicles has increased and as such the council has reviewed the discount offer for this vehicle type.

The discount offer now more fairly reflects the vehicles parking on the borough's streets, while not penalising less efficient vehicles that are often used by those that are less likely to be able to upgrade their vehicle.

The new policy will see shoppers benefit from one hour's free parking at district and local centres. The maximum stay has increased to two hours, with reduced fees for the second hour, encouraging residents to enjoy more time at their local shops. The no return period at all on-street parking spaces will be standardised to two hours.

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

Last year Croydon Council confirmed that they would be allocated money (+£500k) from the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund, this will mean that over the next three years, work will be carried out to support local businesses and help our high streets. As part of this work, Selsdon has been selected for community regeneration, together with London Road (West Croydon), Purley, Thornton Heath and New Addington. An engagement meeting was arranged with representatives of Residents' Associations and Friends Groups active in the Selsdon area, to introduce the UKSPF, to discuss project opportunities in Selsdon and gain their feedback. A £90k budget has been allocated with a financial year deadline.

The invitation list extended to:

- Ward Councillors
- Forestdale Residents' Association



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- Selsdon Residents' Association
- Friends of Selsdon Wood
- Friends of Littleheath Woods (FoLW)

Previous suggestions for spending the grant included:

- Blue plaques on shops
- Screens for vacant shops
- Art exhibition in vacant shops and/or in public spaces
- Repair to parking surface in Addington Park
- Large print run of Selsdon walks leaflets
- Visit Selsdon webpage – walks, history, video,
- Signposting in the High Street to local walks
- Displays in shops, especially cafes
- Launch event
- Signposting along walks
- Upgrades in the woods and elsewhere along the walks
- A Visit Selsdon booklet
- A multi-directional sign in the High Street.

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

As a reminder, the venue for our monthly surgery has changed. Residents can now find us 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 unchanged at 10am till 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

24/02759/HSE - 27 Byron Road South Croydon CR2 8DZ

Conversion of existing garage to a bedroom, including new front garage elevation/infill extension (in line with existing dwelling) with new window and false pitched roof.

24/02716/LE - Development Site Former Site Of 119 Old Farleigh Road South Croydon CR2 8QD

Lawful commencement of development approved under application reference 20/01470/FUL for the Demolition of existing bungalow and erect a terrace of 3 x three bedroom houses with shared access and drive way using the existing entrance from Old Farleigh Road and 2 x one bedroom house to the rear accessed via the existing entrance and via undercroft; approved 29.01.2021 (varied by application 22/03538/CONR).

(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%20table.html))

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I was delighted to hear back from our new MP, Natasha Irons, when I invited her to write for the Selsdon Gazette.

MP Natasha Irons' Report **Member of Parliament for Croydon East**

Dear Selsdon,

It is an incredible privilege to be elected as your new Member of Parliament. As you'll be aware, boundary changes at the last election mean that Selsdon is now part of the newly formed Croydon East constituency, which also covers Addiscombe, Shirley, Addington Village, New Addington and a section of South Norwood called Woodside. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Chris Philp MP, for his service to this community and hope that I can continue to be the accessible MP he was.

For those of you I have not yet had the opportunity to meet, I was (until recently) a local councillor in Merton, where I was also Cabinet Member for Local Environment. This role included working on upgrading council play parks, protecting green spaces with initiatives to improve biodiversity,

getting more investment into key services like waste and launching a scheme to fund community projects that focused on local climate action. I am also the mum of two boys aged 3 and 9 and married to a man who deserves a medal.

Since being elected in July, I have been busy setting up our constituency office and recruiting staff to help run things effectively. Like a lot of the new intake of MPs, I have not yet been given an office in Parliament - which has meant a lot of us having to perch in corridors. There has been a huge amount of correspondence to respond to and I am having to prioritise the most urgent cases, so please bear with me if my response to any enquiry is delayed in these first few weeks.

As a new MP and being new to Selsdon, I am keen to speak to as many residents as possible to ensure I am focusing on the issues that matter most to you. Whether that's making the small businesses on our high street get the support that they need, or that our green spaces continue to thrive for future generations, I want to work with you to protect the unique character of Selsdon. I am hoping to hold a local coffee morning for Selsdon residents in the coming weeks and if you are a member of a community group or organisation, please let me know when a good time would be to meet with you. In the meantime, if there are any issues you would like to raise with me, please get in touch via natasha.iron.s.mp@parliament.uk.

Best wishes and I look forward to meeting you soon.

Natasha Irons
*Member of Parliament for
Croydon East*



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News from our Local Police

PCSO Tina Nash (Selsdon & Addington Village) has forwarded the following about scams.

CROYDON TRADING STANDARDS **COMMUNITY ALERT**

Online Scams Awareness Session



Friends Against Scams is a National Trading Standards Scams Team initiative, which aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams by empowering people to take a stand against scams. They have just launched their new website and we encourage you to take a look.

Learn how to protect yourself and your loved ones from scams. Complete the online Friends Against Scams awareness session and help to raise awareness throughout your community from the comfort of your home.

Please use the link below to access the online Scams Awareness session and help Croydon Trading Standards raise awareness and protect our residents. Click the link, then when the page opens, please scroll down to the online interactive session: www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/become-a-friend/croydon

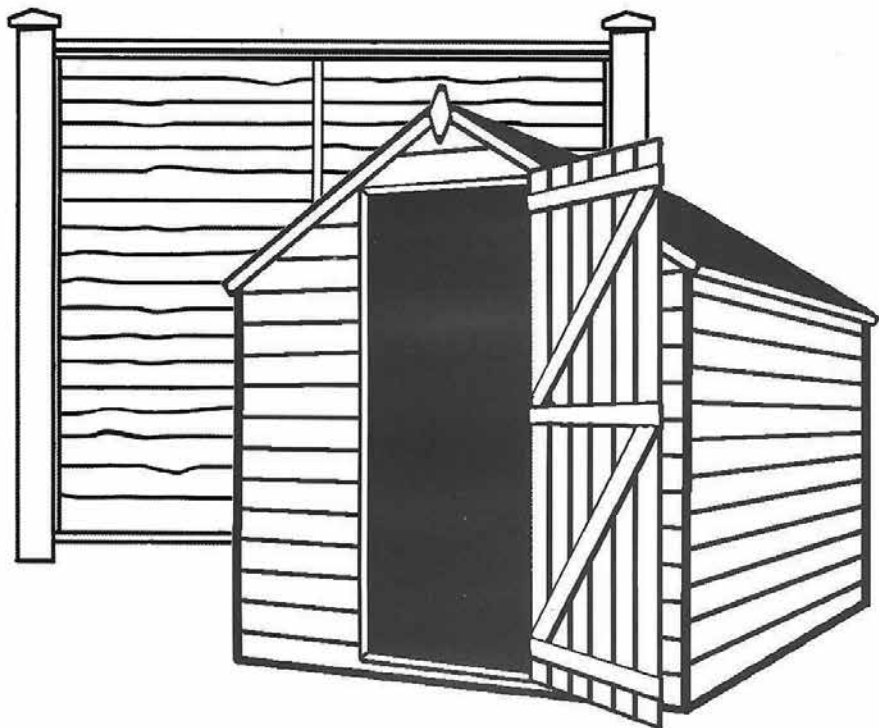
For further information on Friends against Scams and for advice please visit: <https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/>

Please remember to report to Action Fraud 0300 123 2040 if you have actually been the victim of a scam or call Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline 0808 223 1133 if you require advice on an issue you are having with a trader.

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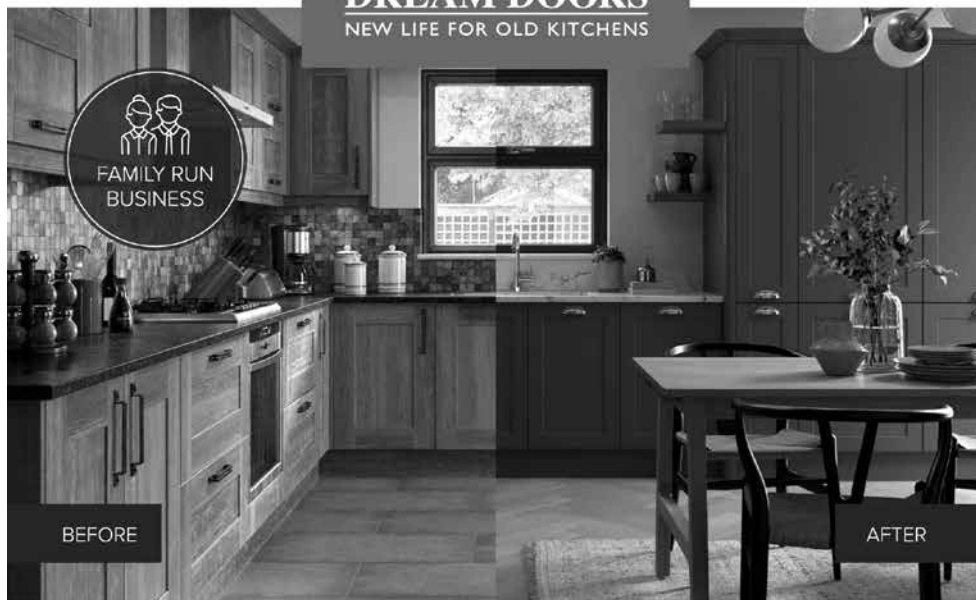
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Contacting the Police

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

Failing that, residents can also go onto the Met Police Website and send in an e-mail which will come to each team. In this way all calls are logged and it stops calls from being missed.

When there was an answer machine, the teams were finding that they were coming back from rest days and found that residents had left messages that were Emergency calls. This is why residents are directed to 101 or 999 to stop this from happening.

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Good Time for Gardening – September



Summer's hopefully not quite over and September can bring high temperatures and dry days, so don't pack the watering can away just yet! As well as harvesting crops, keeping your grass in tip-top condition and continuing with weeding, there are many other September gardening jobs to keep you busy. Here's a few garden tasks for September:

The lawn

- The rate of grass growth is dependent on the weather and a warm September will mean you'll still be needing to mow the grass regularly.
- Keep on top of watering your grass, especially if you've sown grass seed or laid new turf.
- Continue to keep weeds in check. Depending on the size of your lawn you can hand weed or use a spot weedkiller. Keeping your lawn healthy and well-watered is the best defence against weeds
- You can give any worn-out grassy areas a refresh by watering, applying an autumn lawn feed and over-seeding if necessary.

The garden

- Growing pumpkins or squash? They won't be ready to harvest just yet, but you can help to boost their growth by removing any leaves that are shading the fruit, covering them with a thick blanket on cooler nights and fertilising the plants.
- Don't stop watering! If rainfall is sparse, keep watering potted plants and vegetables.
- September is the time for many crops to be harvested. Onions, apples, pears, cucumbers, beans, raspberries, cherry tomatoes, courgettes and potatoes can be picked now.
- Divide clumps of perennials that have finished flowering like bleeding hearts, lily of the valley, day lilies and peonies. You can also lift and divide large lavender plants by cutting the root ball into two.
- Plant colourful autumn containers to keep your garden looking beautiful.
- If you have a pond, September is a good time to place a net over it to catch any falling leaves.



A novel way to grow pumpkins

Frederick, Cedric and Sunflower Sid
www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

Sanderstead Horticultural Society Autumn Show is on Saturday 21st September, from 2pm at All Saints Church Hall, Onslow Gardens, Sanderstead. Entry is £3.

~~

Selsdon Residents' Association

AUTUMN CLEAN UP

Saturday 5 October 9.45am – Noon

Can you please help with a 'Litter Pick' around the shopping area of Addington Road?

Meet at the Selsdon Clock where collecting equipment will be provided by the Council.

Please contact Andrew on 07873 587593 or ambax62@icloud.com for more information.



On-street pay and display parking machines now switched off



As many of you now know, the Council has discontinued its on-street pay and display machines because they operated on the 3G mobile phone network, which is being shut down across the country, making them increasingly costly to maintain and replace.

This removal programme means that all on-street pay and display machines in chargeable locations have now been switched off and so cannot be used. The full system for previously free locations without Pay and Display machines (e.g. Sanderstead) and those that previously had 1 hour free P&D machines (e.g. Selsdon) went live with new tariffs on 29th July. You will not be charged for the free period by the council but you must register your parking through one of the three systems given below:

(1) The RingGo parking app.

The app is free to use on both Apple and Android devices. Where free parking tariffs apply these will still be available through the app. Other than the name of the person parking and the vehicle registration, personal information such as card details do not need to be stored on the app. While the council does not charge for using RingGo, RingGo makes a charge for the text reminders. You can switch this off in the RingGo settings.

(2) By calling 020 3046 0010.

(3) By paying at any shop that offers PayPoint. When using PayPoint, there is no need to return to the vehicle as the session will automatically start. The paypoint in Selsdon is at Selsdon Food and Wine, directly opposite the Selsdon Baptist Church.

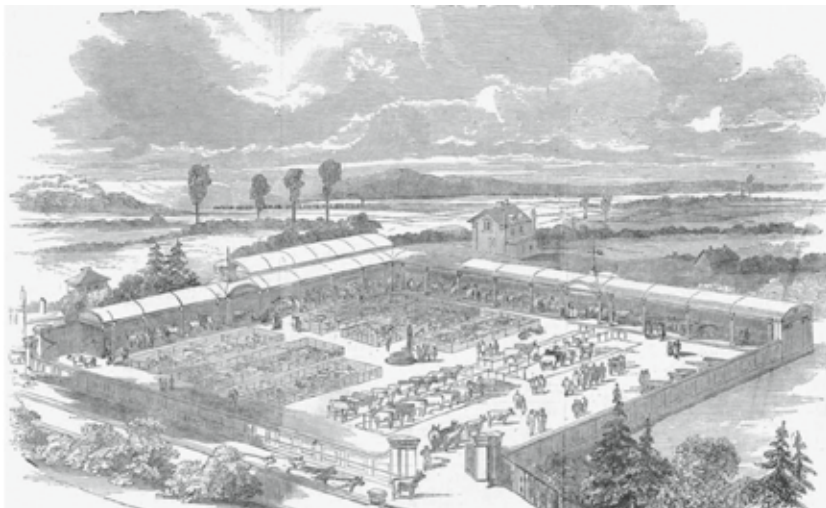
For all these methods of paying there is a grace period up to 10 minutes for organising parking sessions.

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Croydon and Livestock!

It may seem hard to believe, especially for our younger readers, but until relatively recently sheep, horses, cows etc. were a common sight

in Croydon. For many hundreds of years Croydon was a small self-contained market town with an excellent location between London and the South Coast and proximity to the North Downs (ancient trackway), making it a natural trading post with plentiful clean water and surrounding woodlands. The existing paths, roads and then rail networks enabling animals to be brought in from far and wide for sale. The last Croydon Cattle market was moved to the South Croydon site 'Drovers Road' off Selsdon road in 1848 and was held weekly on a Thursday and only closed in 1936 as the land surrounding Croydon became more residential. According to the South Croydon Allotments history their soil was improved by the manure produced by the Cattle market!



1851 woodblock etching from the 'London Illustrated News' of Croydon Cattle Market.

Some may remember that between 1988 and 2002 Selsdon Wood held an annual event, latterly called 'The Croydon Country Show', with various country crafts, activities, shows and animal attractions. These included sheep dogs and heavy horses. Sadly, the popularity of this event caused its downfall due to safety concerns over crowds, damage to the land and escalating costs.

Nowadays (over 20 years later), within walking distance of Selsdon we can still see horses in fields at Heathfield/Bramley Bank near Littleheath Woods or ride them for a charge at Kingsmead Equestrian near Kings Wood or Farleigh Court Equestrian near Selsdon Wood. Cows can be

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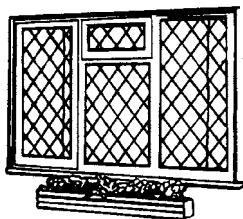
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seen near Farleigh Golf club/Kings Wood. We can even get close to sheep at Heathfield Ecology Centre twice a month. However, if you want to get really close to farm animals then family favourite Godstone Farm, via 409 bus or a short car drive, might be your best bet. Bocketts Farm Park which is further afield is another popular choice. Alternatively, Deen City farm in Merton is accessible via the Croydon Tramline (Morden Hall Park). Crystal Palace Park Farm is a short drive away and has free entry.

However, many young people in Selsdon may have visited small animals closer to home at an organised visit to 'The Arc Centre'. This is an 'animal education centre' based at Greenvale school. They make clear they are not aimed at being a 'petting zoo', rather at teaching children one to one or in organised groups, about how to care for exotic (e.g. meerkats) and domestic animals (e.g. goats).

There is a good news story linking education, Croydon and farm animals that you may not know about. About 15 years ago a man named Jamie Feildon was teaching at, what was then, Haling Park Secondary school and wondered if sharing his family farm in Bath for a short vacation with some of the disadvantaged pupils he encountered would help them overcome some of the challenges they faced. He soon saw that a 'combination of exercise, hard work, fresh air, and very importantly, seeing what a sense of community feels like brought great and lasting benefits to the children'. The school were impressed by his results and helped to fund a larger scheme and subsequently helped him start his charity 'Jamie's farm', which has since expanded to 5 livestock farms with over 2000 young people a year staying for breaks typically those struggling at school. Their wellbeing, engagement, life skills and prospects are improved from what they learn.

It would seem to make sense that looking after or being around animals would teach empathy, responsibility and help to connect people with their environment. Not only that many of our ancestors would have worked with livestock on a daily basis, so being round such animals is a way of connecting with our heritage. Worth the effort to get out and find them!

Janet Sharp

PS As an alternative to domesticated animals a visit to The British Wildlife Centre is very interesting particularly the walkthrough red squirrel enclosure!

What's new at Sanderstead Recreation Ground?

If you visited Sanderstead Rec this summer you will have noticed two new and exciting additions to the area, The Hive Design Studio and, more recently, a community table tennis table thanks to the enthusiastic endeavours of the Sanderstead WI table tennis players.



The Recreation Ground was formerly fields belonging to Whitehorse Farm, later Borough Farm. Pre 1914 Sanderstead Village was surrounded by 7 farms owned by the Atwood family. Borough Farm was used mainly as a dairy; its few remaining farm buildings being demolished and a Waitrose store erected on the site in 2004. Sanderstead's main shopping area was built between 1932-1938.

The Hive building started life as a bus shelter and toilet block, I believe it also had an integral small store for the park keeper's equipment. After being repurposed by the Council, it was rented out in 2014 as Priscilla's Tea Room. As well as serving vintage style teas, the owners supported many local charities and organised community activities, including the very successful Sanderstead Community Day on the adjacent Recreation field (which this year will be run by Sanderstead & Selsdon Rotary).

During Covid, Priscilla's adapted to the restrictions by becoming a small "corner shop". Fast forward to today and the building is an exciting Design Studio run by Felicity and Jo, who met in the playground of their children's school and discovered they shared similar interests and ideals, one of which was fund raising for a new trim trail at St. Peter's School. They have transformed the building into a bright and airy space with a pale green and cream décor and matching furniture adding to the calm and relaxed atmosphere. The 3 adult size tables can accommodate up to 12 participants depending on the needs of the workshop. The building has disability access and toilet plus a fenced off outdoor space that can be used for children's parties.

There is a cornucopia of workshops on offer for all interests and age groups. Tiny Hive offers a weekly drop-in art and craft session for 3+ years with their parent or carer - a wonderful way to make those friendships that go on forever. Little Hive offers sessions for 7-11-year-olds, both during the school holidays and after school. This summer's school holiday programme included workshops by local children's illustrator Ciara Flood

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who did the illustrations for The Animal Lighthouse by Anthony Burt. Cartoonist Harry Venning will be running family workshops and adult workshops. Harry is based in Brighton and is best known for Clare in the Community a weekly strip in The Guardian.

Sewcial Club meets every Wednesday – participants bring their own projects and share ideas with likeminded company whilst enjoying a tea or coffee. There are short courses covering 4-6 weeks in water colouring; lino printing; pottery and acrylics to name just a few. The adult one-off workshops include macrame and crochet fashion items, vase arrangements, seasonal decorations and so much more. If, like me, you miss attending the CALAT craft classes at Coulsdon take a look at the HIVE website www.thehivedesignstudio.co.uk to see what is on offer, or give them a call on 07356 023044. There are even plans to incorporate art and craft evening workshops with wine or dine events. Ideal for birthdays, get togethers, special occasions and “hen nights” with a difference or how about a gift voucher? (Santa, I hope you are reading this).

This new enterprise will certainly live up to its name. Jo and Felicity are very welcoming and their sense of community and love of craft is infectious. With visiting tutors from far and wide, there will always be something exciting to do and afterwards you can play a game of table tennis as the new table is situated between the Hive building and the children’s play area. It is free to use and is already proving a very popular addition to the Recreation Ground. Have fun.

Su Yates

~~

Back To School Quiz

September sees the start of the new school year, so here is a quiz testing your knowledge about real and fictional schools. Will you be top of the class?

1. Which school of witchcraft and wizardry was attended by Harry Potter?
2. The cruel fictional Victorian school Dotheboys Hall features in which Charles Dickens novel?
3. Miss Agatha Trunchbull is the tyrannical headmistress



- of Crunchem Hall in which Roald Dahl children's book?
4. Which high school features in the film Grease?
 5. Mrs McClusky was the best known head teacher of which school?
 6. Which fictional TV school was set in Rochdale but changed its location to Greenock, Scotland?
 7. In which book did the Lowood Institution feature?
 8. What school did Bart and Lisa Simpson attend?
 9. Which boarding school did Prince Charles attend in the north-east of Scotland?
 10. Who attended Miss Cackle's Academy for Witches?

Answers after Nature Notes

~~



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

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

~~

Here one of our residents responds to a letter in the July edition about whether the use of drones can be considered as trespass.

Dear Editor,

I respond to Andy Simpson's letter about a drone published in your July issue. Informing local residents of their "rights" is a laudable aspiration, but care should be taken to ensure that information is accurate and relevant.

Trespass: Generally, this is a civil tort which is only enforced by the police in very specific definitions – which this example does not appear to fulfil. In the case quoted, unless the drone was being used in a clearly dangerous way or as an aid to a separate criminal offence - voyeurism, for example - involving the police might be considered to be unnecessarily distracting them from rather more important duties. Specifically, conducting a survey with a drone does not appear to constitute an offence.

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Relevant Authorities: Although not stated, one presumes Andy means the Civil Aviation Authority? There are some differing regulations regarding drones, particularly with regards to their weight being over, or under, 250g. Drones should normally be flown under 400ft altitude, but a minimum height is not specifically stated, creating a grey area. Whilst it is advised that permission be sought prior to filming where feasible, this is another rather grey area too. Have you been asked if you object to your property being on Google Earth?

With regards to operation by an “estate agent” – suggesting a possible commercial use - illegalities or oversights might include, not being registered with the CAA as an operator, possible breaches of the data controller regulations, a failure to carry public liability insurance cover and possible data protection considerations. It seems possible that these would need to be addressed to the relevant specific authorities rather than the police. However, unless such behaviour became repetitive or particularly intrusive, similar to many neighbourly contretemps, a non-confrontational resolution might be more sensible. Beware! Insisting on “rights” can often result in very substantial expenditure.

I am neither an Estate Agent nor do I have any connection with drones, or their operation.

*Kind regards,
Nigel Howcutt of Farley Road*

~

Here a resident reports a safety issue in Littleheath Woods.

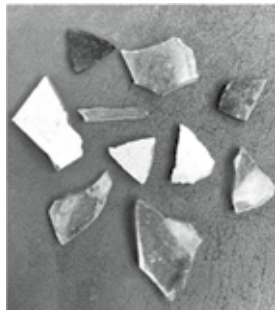
Dear Editor,

On Saturday 10th August, I was walking my dog through Littleheath Woods. After a few minutes, I noticed shards of glass and ceramic on the path. Each shard was around an inch square with sharp edges. I found a mixture of clear, blue and brown glass, and various ceramics. There was a sparse covering of around 5-10 shards per square metre. The coverage was extremely consistent and could be found on most paths within the woods.

The consistency of the shards' dimensions and their broad uniform coverage indicates they were deliberately spread. I cannot fathom why someone would have done this. The sharp glass poses a clear risk

to dogs, who I speculate may have been the target. The glass also endangers children who may fall on the path.

I have attached a photograph of a selection of glass and ceramic shards that I have collected. There were thousands of shards spread across hundreds of metres of path, so I was unable to make the woods safe.



The glass will now permanently be part of the ecology of the woods. I hope whoever spread this glass understands the danger they pose to animals and children.

*Many thanks,
James (Selsdon resident)*

Soon after receiving this letter from James, I read an article in Inside Croydon (12 August - Council accused of 'fly-tipping' dangerous materials in park) about the Council using recycled waste for paths in South Norwood Country Park and wondered if it is the same material?

~

It has been a busy time for butterflies and moths, with residents sending me their photos.

Dear Editor,

My wife took this photograph on Tuesday 13 August morning. It is a Jersey Tiger Moth, and it was feeding on the flowers of our garden mint. At first, we thought it might have come from Jersey via the warm breezes coming from Europe during the preceding weekend, but perhaps that was a bit far, so it may have hatched closer to Selsdon. After about 20 minutes, it flew away, and we haven't seen it since.



Richard (name and address supplied)

~

*I received this cautionary letter from a resident about falling for a scam.
Dear Editor,*

I have always thought that I was too careful to be scammed, but I was wrong. I wanted to share my story with your residents so they do not get duped like me.

I was on holiday when I received a call (07... number) from a charming chap purporting to be from HSBC Fraud Department. He told me that there had been two purchases made from my account in the Manchester area and, as I live in South Croydon, he wanted to know whether they were legitimate. I told him that they were not and he said he would block them. I was still wary about the call and was determined not to give him any information. However, he then quoted my bank sorting code, the last four digits of my card number, my email address and my mobile number, and he asked me to confirm them. As he had so much information about me, I began to trust the call. This was a big mistake, as I later realised, as we so often give this information when we pay for something online and this can be passed on to criminals.

For further confirmation, he then asked me roughly how much was in the account. I felt uncomfortable about this and said I did not know and ended the call. He rang again and said for him to cancel the payments I needed to be on the line. Over the next couple of minutes, he counted down the completion of the task – 50%, 75%, 100% done. He then said I would receive a text confirming what he had done and, in the text, would be a number that I needed to give him so he could confirm that I had received the text. I told him that I had received a text and, again, I ended the call.

At this point I must explain that I was on holiday, in a restaurant and my dinner had been served. I felt under pressure and the caller was very persistent. I then made my biggest mistake. When he rang again, I had looked at the number in the text, but had not read the text. I gave him the 'confirmatory' number and then the call ended.

I immediately rang the phone number on my bank card to confirm that this chap had been from their Fraud Department. They told me that he was not and a payment for £500 was due to be taken from my account. Luckily, they could still block this as I had called them so quickly. They told me that they would never call me by phone to discuss a suspicious bank transfer. When I looked at the text that the fraudster had sent me, I realised that the

'confirmatory' number had been a one-time password for a bank transfer.

I felt such a fool after this event but I wanted to share it with your readers so that they do not fall foul of this scam. I had a very lucky escape.

Name and address supplied.

~

I received a copy of a letter sent to the Council by a very concerned lady visiting Selsdon in the summer holidays. Do you agree with her views?

'Dear Sirs,

Selsdon is being badly let down by its local authority. I have just returned from having spent a week in Selsdon. The state of the shopping centre was really disappointing. It is a long time since I have seen so much litter, especially cigarette ends on pavements, so many of them. Most of the shopkeepers take no responsibility for sweeping the area outside their premises and the impression is a really shabby district.

The properties that are empty, e.g. the old Barclays Bank are a complete eyesore and that, together with the totally neglected look, will make it difficult to re let. The owners of empty properties should be made to keep the frontages in good condition they will then have a much better chance of being bought or let.

I realise Croydon Council are in a dire financial situation and maybe cannot do anything themselves, but regulations should be in place and enforced for the acceptable appearance of business premises. Fines should be imposed on lazy shopkeepers. It is totally unfair on the businesses that do make an effort.

Selsdon was always considered an upmarket area and this is far from the case now. It is so sad.

*Yours faithfully,
(Name supplied)'*

~



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Here our regular contributor, Jessica Blake, reflects on the benefits of a trip away to the seaside to recharge our batteries.

A trip to the seaside can work wonders

Looking out across the calm and placid sea, I relax at last. The gentle breeze from the open window blows softly in my face, the moon is rising and making a silver path across the sea, and I can for a while shut out the constant evil news. To think people are paid to bring us as much bad news as they can scrape together!

Now we are having the summer we yearned for in the winter. It is warm so we don't need as many clothes to wear. We can grow some fruit, vegetables and herbs to improve our diets. We can walk in the cooler evenings. It doesn't cost a fortune to wander into a local park and see some pretty flowers growing. How about treating yourselves to a couple of microwave dinners and let "him indoors" cook them - an adventure for one of you and a rest for the other?

Many people will have holidays. It is great just to be quiet and spend time with our families. Staycations can be interesting.



A day at the seaside can be wonderful and at this time of year the sea is warm enough to swim in and be a comfortable temperature.

Today is the last day of 'Airbourne' the annual air display in Eastbourne. It is so exciting to watch and, in the evening, there will be a firework display, viewable all along the seafront. Next year's details of this event are probably already online including dates.

So, as I sit dreamily in this comfortable chair, with the cooling breeze blowing in from the sea, I shall watch with interest the lights bobbing around on some of the fishing boats out on the night sea, and let the peaceful sound of the sea swishing gently on the shore, soothe away the worries of the world.

Poetry Corner

Mary Gill imagines herself as one of the many flies buzzing around this summer.

FLY'S EYE VIEW

The fly flew towards the vast expanse of white, imagining himself to be exploring Antarctica in the frozen footsteps of Scott and Amundsen.

After taking a turn or two to survey the terrain he landed softly – upside down – as you do down under. The surface proved surprisingly warm and rough – no soft snow or slippery ice – just a newly painted Artex ceiling.



~~

Nature Notes from Ted Forsyth Elusive Butterflies

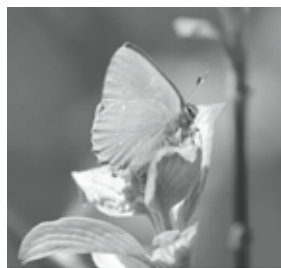
We usually expect to see butterflies fluttering over fields of flowers and grasses but there are exceptions to this general trend. The large and spectacular Silver-washed Fritillary can be seen visiting flowers such as those of bramble but its life cycle is tied to trees as it lays its eggs in the cracks in the bark and often feeds on the honeydew left by aphids at the tops of trees. White Admiral has similar sorts of habits in that it will feed on honeydew and visit brambles but for egg laying it prefers wispy bits of honeysuckle.

A small number of other butterfly species are even more closely associated with trees so that to catch a glimpse of them it might be necessary to spend time peering at the foliage, perhaps with the help of binoculars. White-letter Hairstreaks are generally found at the tops of Elm trees but will come down to nectar on suitable flowers. I have seen large numbers feeding on Goldenrod in High Elms in Bromley.

Purple Hairstreaks are associated with Oak trees. When I had an Oak not far from a bedroom window, I was able to watch at eye level as the insects walked over the leaves. Even from the ground it is possible to see this movement as reflected light flashes from the pale underside of

the butterfly's wings. Butterflies prefer warmth but when the temperature becomes too high, they will seek cooler conditions. This was evident in 2023 when a colleague doing a transect count, found more than 100 Purple Hairstreaks resting on vegetation at low level. When a butterfly emerges from the pupa it has to expand the wings by pumping fluid through them. Occasionally this does not work properly, leaving a crumpled wing, and we have sometimes found such a specimen on the ground.

Brown Hairstreak males congregate at the top of a locally prominent Oak or Ash where they are visited by females. The females will then fly off to look for a suitable Blackthorn bush on which to lay their eggs. As this occurs in late summer or early autumn there is not enough time for caterpillars to emerge, find suitable food, pupate and complete their life cycle, so the eggs remain on the bush throughout the winter. As the males are virtually invisible at the tree tops, and females are widely dispersed, the best way to determine the presence of this species on a site is to search for the eggs in the middle of winter.



Green Hairstreak differs in laying its eggs on a wide range of ground plants rather than on trees. In the pupal stage the pupa can make an audible sound when disturbed and can also emit a pheromone – both of which attract the attention of Red Ants which will take the pupa into their nest and care for it, until the butterfly emerges in April. An adult male will maintain a territory and will perch on a prominent twig on a hedge from which it will fly out to chase females or intruding males before returning to its perch. There is also a Black Hairstreak but it is restricted to a few sites and does not breed near Selsdon Wood.

The Purple Emperor is not part of the Hairstreak group but has a similar liking for the tops of trees. The males form a lek as they congregate at the top of a master tree, usually a tall Oak, from which they emerge to have aerial battles or to chase females. Males will come down to ground level to acquire mineral salts from a range of sources including carrion, animal faeces, or even a muddy puddle. The female lays her eggs on Goat Willow or related species.



Answers to the Back to School Quiz

1. Hogwarts
2. Nicholas Nickleby
3. Matilda
4. Rydell High School
5. Grange Hill
6. Waterloo Road
7. Jane Eyre
8. Springfield Elementary
9. Gordonstoun
10. The Worst Witch

~~

Sanderstead Local History Group Autumn 2024



SLHG invites you to our monthly historical talks -not limited to Sanderstead or local History. This friendly group meet in the Small Hall at All Saints Church Halls, Onslow Gardens, Sanderstead, free car parking- near to bus routes, on the last Wednesday of the month from 1.45pm for a 2pm start –ends c3.30pm. There is no annual fee, £2 each visit which covers the cost of hiring the hall and providing tea/coffee and biscuits. You are welcome to attend just those talks which interest you. The presentations, mostly by members, are on a subject of their choice. You are never required to give a talk although we are always looking for new topics and are ready with help and advice for any potential speaker. More information on our website - Sanderstead Local History Group

25th September: South London Palaces - past and present- by Dee Palmer

In the past, there were several royal palaces south of the Thames some of which remain, in part at least, and some of which have vanished. The talk will include information about these sites, with many illustrations In the past, there were several royal palaces south of the Thames some of which remain, in part at least, and some of which have vanished. The talk will include information about these sites, with many illustrations.

30th October: A Look Back at Shirley and its Windmill- by Chris Harman

Tracing the development of Shirley from 1800 to the present day, focusing on its two windmills, including the inner workings of the one that exists today.

27th November: History Quiz- plus pre- Christmas Nibbles

December No meeting



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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



Selsdon is a great community with well-established local voluntary sector organisations. Selsdon Contact has been offering neighbourly care to residents in need of support and advice for more than 50 years. These are just some of the services we have been offering –

Transport: Door to door transport to doctors, local clinics, hospitals, etc. for the less mobile.

Information: On a wide range of statutory and voluntary services and trusted traders.

Shopping Bus: A regular door to door shopping bus to Warlingham Sainsbury's. With escorts giving help where needed.

Practical Help: Dog walking, smoke alarms, 'one off' gardening jobs, wheelchair pushing, basic DIY.

Loan Equipment: An extensive supply of equipment for short term loan including wheelchairs, zimmer frames, walkers etc.

Social Events: Coffee mornings, outings and regular newsletters.

Most valued of all by our clients are the regular phone calls keeping in touch.

There are many practical ways you can help –

Local transport (using your own car)	Working in the office
Minibus driving	Computer work
Shopping bus scheme	Fitting smoke alarms
Befriending	Dog walking
Gardening	Basic DIY

Or perhaps making those highly valued regular phone calls.

Perhaps you can only manage an hour or so a month, volunteers can offer help regularly or occasionally depending on their available time.

Or, if you don't have the time to volunteer, could you become a Friend of Selsdon Contact – supporting this valued charity for just £5 a month.

If you feel you could help with this valuable community support, please call Jasmine or Nina 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.

~~

SELSDON AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD



We are a friendly group of over 60 members. We meet from 1.30 – 4.00pm on the third Friday of each month in the Community Hall, St. John's Church, Upper Selsdon Road, Selsdon.

At each meeting there is a short business meeting. This is followed by talks from speakers who bring a wide range of interesting topics. We are looking forward to hearing from The Diamond Centre in October and enjoy a Birthday Celebration in November.

There are activity groups to join, such as handicrafts, knitting or drama, or you might wish to join us at the Theatre or on outings. At meetings there is always time for refreshments and to get to know other members.

Do come and join us!

Christine Holland 02086574861

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Hobby Fair Saturday 14th September 12 - 4pm St John's Community Hall, Selsdon

Just a quick reminder of the upcoming Hobby Fair. Apologies if you have not received your Gazette by then.

There are now 19 tables with demonstrations of wood turning and lace making. There will be representatives from various local groups including

the RSPB, Sanderstead Horticultural Society, Scouts, Townswomen's Guild, W.I, two local social clubs and of course, Sanderstead and Selsdon Rotary. Collectors might be interested in the vintage Airfix kits on sale or how about topping up your library from the many books and puzzles that will be on offer. Crafters can add to their craft stash at Davina's table and don't forget Roger Jenkins' Inventions or the Railway stall. The incredible local singing group, Songsations, will be on hand to entertain and there is a children's activity table for budding artists of all ages, next to the refreshment area. Free entry.

Did you know that just 5-10 minutes a day of colouring-in, is enough to refocus and recharge your batteries and encourage mindfulness, so why not give it a go?

Lots to see and do, and buy. See you there.

Craft Fair Saturday 16th 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.

If you would like to join Rotary for any of our exciting events, to put something back into our community, or just seeking fun & fellowship, contact Wendy Parr, Secretary 07774 186 792.

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/rotarycroydonsouth/>

Website - <https://www.rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com/>

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The Selsdon Centre

In the Sainsburys building next to the Library
Upcoming events at the Selsdon Centre

September

Friday 6th Live Music Event with food (tba) £15 - Croydon Guitar Group plays Pop!

Friday 20th Fish & Chips £10 & Bingo £3

Friday 26th Live Music Event with food (tba) £15 - The Funky Fiddler entertains!

October

Weds 9th Home cooked meal £10 & Bingo £3

Friday 11th Live Music Event with food (tba) £15 the ever popular Tom "The Cockney" Carradine does his sing-a-long again!

Friday 18th Fish & Chips £10 & Bingo £3

Friday 25th Christmas Retail market



November

Weds 13th Home cooked meal £10 & Bingo £3

Friday 15th Quiz fundraiser for the Selsdon Centre at St John's Church Hall 7pm. More details from Susan.

Weds 22nd Home cooked meal £10 & Bingo £3

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) 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. 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 for bookings or further information.

~~

SHIRLEY WINDMILL

OPEN DAYS 2024

1 September, 15 September and 6 October. All openings from 12 – 5pm
The last tour starts at 4pm.

GUIDED TOURS

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

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

Postmill Close, Shirley Croydon CR0 5DY





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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
Selsdon Vale & Forestdale 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 www.folw.co.uk
Friends of Selsdon Wood		www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk
Sanderstead Plantation Partners	michaellishmund@gmail.com	
Friends of Kingswood		www.friendsofkingswood@hotmail.co.uk
Girlguiding (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section)		0800 999 2016 https://girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved
1 st Selsdon & Addington Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts)		www.1stselsdon.org.uk
2 nd Selsdon & Addington Scout Group		www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk
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	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	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.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk
Sanderstead Local History Group	sandersteadlh@gmail.com	
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

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