

# The ADDINGTON

Quarterly Magazine 2025 - Issue 2

# INVITATION

You are invited to the Annual General Meeting  
of the Addington Residents' Association

Tuesday 3rd June 2025

7.30pm

Addington Methodist Church, Huntingfield

So that we can plan for numbers, we kindly ask that you register

your intention of attending by either:

Email: [addingtonresidents@gmail.com](mailto:addingtonresidents@gmail.com)

Text or WhatsApp: 0777 614 0913

Visit: [www.addington-residents.co.uk](http://www.addington-residents.co.uk)

Email: [addingtonresidents@gmail.com](mailto:addingtonresidents@gmail.com)

Write: **ARA, 2 Palace Green CR0 9AG**

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# The COMMITTEE

## **Chairman**

**Shabbir Halai**

## **Secretary**

**Peter Bolingbroke**

## **Treasurer**

**Ian Drake**

## **Magazine/Website**

**Salli Ransom**

## **Advertising**

**Puneet Udasi**

## **Committee Members**

**Mike Bond**

**Marianna Cherry**

**Malcolm Graveling**

**Keith James**

**Sheila Kemble**

**Julian Shakespeare**

**Ian Turner**

To contact any member of the committee by email please send your message to [addingtonresidents@gmail.com](mailto:addingtonresidents@gmail.com) stating 'For the attention of....'

# Our COUNCILLORS & MP

## **Member of Parliament**

**Natasha Irons**                      [natasha.ironson@parliament.uk](mailto:natasha.ironson@parliament.uk)

## **Councillors - Selsdon and Addington Village**

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

**Joseph Lee**                        [joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk)

## **Councillors - Selsdon Vale and Forestdale**

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

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

## **Addington Residents' Association**

### **Object of the Association:**

To ascertain the opinions of the residents and to lay them before appropriate authorities when desirable, and to encourage social activities among its members



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# Chairman's Report

Greetings to all residents as we embrace a very sunny start to spring. I hope this message finds you in good health and spirits. Firstly, let me remind everyone of the Association's objectives, as set out in the Rules of Membership:

- To represent the views and concerns of the residents and present them to relevant authorities when necessary.
- To promote social harmony and interaction through community-driven activities.

We are here for you - the residents. If you have any ideas, concerns, or suggestions, feel free to get in touch with us. Whether it's a request for support or guidance, or even just sharing something exciting, we are always eager to hear from you. For example, recently a neighbour shared with me details on the Croydon Community Energy – a local not-for-profit scheme working to install solar panels in Croydon. I had not heard of this before and it may be looking at if you are considering solar panels.

It's that time again for annual magazine subscription and we have kept this to £5. All households that pay this donation are placed into a prize draw and three winners will be picked at random every quarter. You will find the first three lucky winners elsewhere in this magazine so I won't spoil the surprise!

Have you visited the 100 Years of Selsdon Exhibition yet? I went up recently with my father-in-law and we were surprised at the amount of fascinating information on display. The photos were marvellous and a great reminder of a by-gone era and I know a lot of effort has gone into this from Cllr Ward along with many others, so please do visit the Selsdon Library and see this for yourself. Whilst there, why not visit the Jubilee Café on the lower level and help support a great local business?

## **Annual General Meeting – Save the Date**

I'm delighted to announce that the Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Tuesday, 3rd June 2025. All residents are warmly invited to attend. This is a fantastic opportunity to hear more about the Association's work, share your thoughts, and contribute to shaping our community's future. Please join us—we'd love to see you there.

## **Getting Involved with the Committee.**

As always, we welcome your participation and insights at any of our monthly Committee meetings held on the first Tuesday of the month, 8pm at the Huntingfield Church Room 4. (We don't meet in August). I'm glad to say that we

have recently welcomed yet more members onto the Committee and we now have a more regular appearance from the local police representative. This is particularly welcome due to the sudden increase in car thefts recently so I would remind you all to be vigilant and report any crime in action to 999.

In addition to the police, I have also invited the local fire brigade to attend our monthly meetings so if you have any questions that you would like to ask them please do email the committee.

Before I finish, just a reminder that the Methodist Church in Huntingfield collect food on the first Saturday or very month. Feel free to pop in for tea, coffee and cakes and drop off any spare food or supplies as this is then taken to The Vine Foodbank in New Addington.

Finally, if you wish to send in an article or advert, or have a query, please email: [addingtonresidents@gmail.com](mailto:addingtonresidents@gmail.com).

If you wish to contact me directly as the Chair, please send a Text or WhatsApp to: 0777 614 0913.

*Shabbir Halai, Chair ARA*

# Accounts

## ARA - Accounts - Year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

Income & Expenditure Account	Year 2024/2025		Year 2023/2024	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Operating Income</b>				
Resident's Subscriptions	1,548.47		1,394.20	
Advertising	1,955.00		1,585.00	
Bank Interest	415.54		349.94	
Other Income	51.00		46.00	
Total Operating Income		3,970.01		3,775.14
<b>Operating Expenditure</b>				
Newsletter printing	(1,213.22)		(962.46)	
Bank Charges	(64.49)		(64.73)	
Other Expenditure	(1,009.24)		(799.40)	
Total Operating Expenditure		(2,280.95)		(1,826.59)
<b>Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>		1,689.06		1,948.55
<b>Fighting Funds</b>				
Income	0.00		0.00	
Expenditure	0.00		(48.00)	
<b>Net Fighting Funds Increase/(Decrease)</b>		0.00		(48.00)
<b>Net Total Income / (Expenditure)</b>		1,689.06		1,900.55
<b>Balance Sheet</b>		£		£
<b>Reserves &gt;</b>				
Opening Reserves		20,937.09		19,036.54
Net Increase / (Decrease) this year		1,689.06		1,900.55
Closing Reserves		22,626.15		20,937.09
<b>Represented by &gt;</b>				
HSBC - Current Account		103.81		230.29
HSBC - Deposit Account		22,522.34		20,706.80
Cash-in-hand		0.00		0.00
		22,626.15		20,937.09
<b>Closing Reserves Analysis</b>		£		£
Fighting Fund - Horses Field		1,729.00		1,729.00
Fighting Fund - Back Field		3,037.00		3,037.00
Fighting Funds - Total		4,766.00		4,766.00
General Reserves		17,860.15		16,171.09
Total Reserves		22,626.15		20,937.09

# Treasurer's Report 2024/25

Income exceeded Expenditure in the year – adding a net £1,689.06 to our Reserves.

Income from Residents' Subscriptions totalled £1,548.47 – compared to £1,394.20 in the previous year. Evidence suggests that this 11% improvement is mainly due to the “little brown REMINDER envelopes” which were distributed with the July Magazine, although the Prize Draws held this year might also have had some impact.

Advertising Income for the year totalled £1,955.00 - compared to £1,985.00 the previous year.

Our Bank Interest Income increased to £415.54 - compared to £349.94 the previous year – thanks in the main to improved interest rates.

Other Income for the year of £51.00 was comprised of Resident's participation contributions in the Jumble Trail Events.

Four Magazines were printed and distributed to our Residents during the year at a total cost of £1,213.22 – compared to the previous year's cost of £962.46. The increase is due to the Magazines consisting of 50% more pages this year.

Our HSBC Bank Charges totalled £64.49 – comprised of a monthly fixed charge of £5.00, plus a few transaction charges.

Other Expenditure for the year totalled £1,003.24. It included a £250 donation to the Church Christmas Fund - £178.50 paid for gifts to our Magazine Distributors as a “Thank You” for their efforts on behalf of the ARA - £400 paid out for our Quarterly Prize Draw prizes - £50 for our annual membership of the London Green Belt Council – and £49.50 for the annual cost of the Local Planning Apps facility for our residents.

All the above expenditure represents “normal operating activity” and resulted in an Operating Surplus for the year of £1,689.06 to be added to our General Reserves.

There was no expenditure in the year from our ring-fenced Fighting Funds for the Horses Field or Back Field.

Our total Reserves now stand at £22,626.15 – of which £4,766.00 relates to the Fighting Funds, and the balance is General Reserves.

*Ian Drake - Treasurer*

# Minutes of AGM 2024

**In Attendance:** Shabbir Halai (Chair), Ian Drake (Treasurer), Keith James, Mike Bond, Alan Chitty, Julian Shakespeare. Puneet Udasi, Cllr Robert Ward.

**Guests:** Jason Cummings (Conservative Parliamentary Candidate – Croydon East), Natasha Irons (Labour Parliamentary Candidate – Croydon East).

**Apologies:** Malcolm Graveling, Cllr Joseph Lee, Wiktor Molleskog, Sarah Jones, Salli Ransom, Cllr Andy Stranack.

**Absent:** Police Representative.

**Attendees:** 18 Residents also attended the Meeting.

## Meeting Opening

Shabbir opened the meeting by welcoming and thanking everyone for attending. It was advised that Ian Drake would take the Minutes of the Meeting, in the absence of an appointed Secretary. Shabbir then reminded the Meeting of the two main purposes of the ARA *'To ascertain the opinions of the residents and to lay them before the appropriate authorities when desirable'* and *'To encourage social activities among its members'*. Each of the attending Committee Members and guests then introduced themselves to the residents.

## Approval of Minutes

Shabbir then referred to the Minutes of the last AGM which had been published on page 9 of the April 2024 Magazine. After a brief discussion, the Minutes were approved unanimously and adopted.

## Chairman's Report

Shabbir then presented his Chairman's Report on the past year – referring to the current situation regarding the council refusing retrospective planning permission for developing some land that starts at the corner of Falconwood and Huntingfield roads. The owners – John and Richard Cowling had not been consulted on illegal works carried out by the Barrs who own a small field further up the path. Currently, the appeal process is still on-going, and the Committee are monitoring this. On a more positive note, Shabbir mentioned the recent and future Boot Fair Trails; improvements and expansion of the quarterly Magazine, and the recent introduction of the quarterly Prize Draw.

## Treasurer's Report

Ian then presented his Treasurer's Report on the past year's Accounts. In summary, the ARA had made a cash surplus of £1,900.55 in the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 – which was an improvement of around £900 over the previous year, thanks mainly to an increase in the number of advertisers. The ARA Reserves now stand at just under £21,000. Ian was asked whether the ARA was subject to any tax liability on its surplus – and Jason Cummings replied that Clubs and Associations of our nature do not have any tax liability on their normal activities.



### **Guest Speaker – Jason Cummings**

Jason Cummings then gave his report – commencing with an apology from Mayor Perry for not being able to attend. His report covered the current state of the Council finances and progress that had been made in the past year; discussions with Government regarding the Council debt burden (subject to the imminent General Election); the ongoing Local Planning Review; the current situation regarding the replacement of Bus Stops where a new contract was close to being awarded and new Bus Stops should be in place this year; plans for new investment in trams rolling stock to overcome current difficulties; and current plans for Heathfield House with a reassurance that it would not be sold-off.

In response to questions from the attendees, Jason confirmed that there would be no development approved on Green Belt land but that development on Brown-land sites was being encouraged, that the new Bus Stops may include some “intelligence” and CCTV facilities. Robert Ward responded to questions regarding the imminent events to be held at Addington Park, that Traffic Management Orders (TMOs) being expanded to cover Huntingfield and Palace Green were being pursued via the Safety Advisory Group (SAG). Jason then replied to a question regarding the maintenance of the gardens at Heathfield House, expressing a hope that the planned new usage for the house would include an obligation to maintain the gardens. Concerns were raised at the standard of recent grass cutting – to which Jason agreed that it was below standard and that new equipment was expected in 6 weeks and which would also be ULEZ exempt. He confirmed that the bollards had been removed on the cycle lane on the Brighton Road due to various problems they had caused. It was acknowledged that the road holes at the entrance to Addington Park were bad and getting worse – and both Jason and Robert Ward would work to resolve this issue.

### **Guest Speaker – Natasha Irons**

Natash Irons then gave her report updating the Meeting from Sarah Jones’ attendance a year ago – covering knife-crime prevention in Croydon, and work to sort out the problems with the Trams.

In response to questions raised, Natasha agreed that the provision of facilities for young people (such as a Tree Planting drive) was an important factor in reducing youth crime. In response to concerns raised regarding the cost of the refurbishment of Fairfield Halls, Jason replied that appropriate files had been passed to the police who were continuing with their ongoing investigations and that there were still potential prosecutions to be held.

### **Guest Speaker – Robert Ward**

Robert Ward then gave his report – in which he emphasised the importance and usefulness of the “Love Clean Streets App”. He also mentioned “No Mow May” which was a policy to encourage wildlife in certain areas and would explain the reason for “partial mowings” in some areas recently. He also emphasised that it was important for residents to report all crime to the Police, to enable them to allocate resources to appropriate areas.

A question was raised regarding the local, now overgrown green area that used to be a pitch-&-put facility, and Jason replied that it was within the Green Belt area and therefore protected but that there were no current plans to restore the site. Robert mentioned that the development of the ‘Selsdon garage’ site was still a pet project of his to monitor.

Planned intentions for the Chateau Napoleon building were not known, but Robert agreed to look into it.

### **Re-Election of Committee Members**

Shabbir then referred to the ARA Rules – and asked for each of the current Committee Members to be re-elected by the attendees. In each case the Members were re-elected by unanimous vote.

He advised the Meeting that Wiktor Molleskog and Alan Chitty were standing-down as Committee Members after many years' service in various capacities – and they received a generous and warm round of applause from everyone.

### **Request for Committee volunteers**

Shabbir then advised that the Committee required new Members and asked for volunteers from the attendees. Peter Bolingbroke, Sheila Kemble and Ian Turner each indicated that they would be willing to join the Committee. (In addition, another resident - Peter Marsen who was unable to attend - has also previously expressed an interest in joining.

### **AOB**

Concerns were raised regarding the speed of traffic at the top of Gravel Hill, that the former speed camera had been taken away, that there had been a number of serious accidents over several years including deaths, and difficulties and dangers residents faced when attempting to cross this road. Jason clarified that this is a TFL road and, as they have a Vision Zero Policy i.e. aiming for no fatal accident on TFL roads, and recommended that we should contact them, and also consider organising a petition for improvements.

It was requested by a resident that there should be improved local awareness facilities of planned Music Festivals in Addington Park. Shabbir said that the ARA would work on this via its Website, Magazines and WhatsApp Groups. The idea of the inclusion of a QR Code on posters was warmly welcomed.

It was emphasised that car theft and car crime in the area was getting worse. Robert again emphasised the need for all crime to be reported to the police for them to allocate resources accordingly.

### **Meeting Closure**

There being no other questions, Shabbir again thanked everyone for attending. The Meeting closed at 9.35pm.

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# Congratulations

The Committee introduced the Prize Draw in 2024, and every household that pays their annual subscription (currently £5), is entered into that draw. We have decided to continue the draw for 2025 and the first 3 prize winners for 2025 are pictured below.

1<sup>st</sup> Prize £50: Clive and Jenny

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £30: Natalie Bick

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £20: Vivien Beal

The next Prize Draw takes place in June when 3 more lucky winners will be drawn. You may still pay your subscription using the following information:

Account Name : Addington Residents Association

Sort Code : 40-35-40

Account Number 81491253.

Please include your abbreviated address within the Reference of your payment, ie 2 PG for 2 Palace Green.

**Shabbir Halai, Chair**

*Below: Clive and Jenny (1st)*



*Natalie (2nd)*



*Vivien (3rd)*





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# Books that feature Croydon

## Etta Lemon - The Woman Who Saved the Birds

Whilst visiting the RSPB Minsmere Bird sanctuary in Suffolk last year, a book on their shelves caught my eye with its connection to Croydon.

Etta Lemon, as portrayed in Tessa Boase's book, was a pioneering conservationist who played a crucial role in the establishment of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). Croydon was significant in her journey as it was the site of an all-female tea party where the early RSPB was formed. This gathering marked the beginning of her relentless campaign against the feather trade, which was driven by the fashion industry's demand for bird plumage. Her efforts in Croydon laid the foundation for a movement that saved countless bird species from extinction and led to the Plumage Act of 1921.

Etta's work in Croydon exemplifies how local activism can spark national change. Her determination and organisational skills turned a small group of women into a powerful force for conservation. It's a testament to how one city can become the birthplace of a movement that resonates far beyond its borders.

I still have the book and am happy to lend it to anyone – just message me. Finally, have you ever found a reference to Croydon in the books that you read? If so, please do let me know so I can feature it in the next ARA magazine.

Shabbir Halai

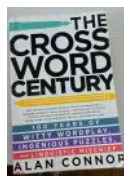
## Alan Connor: The Crossword century

Whilst browsing in a charity shop recently, I saw this book by Alan Connor: The Crossword Century. I'm mildly interested in crossword so bought it and thought I would share a summary with you.

It's a rich tapestry of stories, facts, and insights that weave together the history and enduring appeal of crossword puzzles. It's more than a book; it's a celebration of wordplay, wit, and the cultural phenomenon that has captured imaginations for over a century. Let's delve deeper into its treasure trove of fascinating anecdotes and revelations.

The crossword puzzle was born on December 21, 1913, when Arthur Wynne published the first-ever example in the New York World. It was initially called a "Word-Cross" but, due to a typographical error, became known as the "Cross-Word" puzzle—and the name stuck. Connor paints a vivid picture of its meteoric rise, despite early detractors. In the 1920s, some critics dismissed crosswords as "a sinful waste of time," yet they quickly became a cultural phenomenon, with enthusiasts carrying dictionaries everywhere to solve them.

One of the most intriguing sections of the book covers World War II. Connor reveals how crosswords intersected with history in surprising ways. In a famous incident, a British schoolteacher named Leonard Dawe was investigated by MI5 after several top-secret D-Day code names appeared in his puzzles. The investigation concluded that it was a bizarre coincidence, but the story remains a testament to the crossword's unexpected role in history.



Connor also highlights the role of crosswords in codebreaking. During the war, Britain's codebreaking hub, Bletchley Park, recruited individuals who excelled at solving cryptic crosswords, recognising their skill in lateral thinking and problem-solving. This connection between puzzles and intelligence work is a recurring theme in the book, emphasising the intellectual challenges that crosswords present.

The book delves into the personalities behind crosswords, from legendary setters to passionate solvers. Will Shortz, the long-time editor of The New York Times crossword, is celebrated for his innovations and ability to keep the puzzle fresh and engaging. Connor also introduces readers to competitive solvers, such as those who gather for the annual American Crossword Puzzle Tournament, where the atmosphere is a mix of camaraderie and fierce rivalry.

Connor doesn't shy away from the intricacies of crossword construction. He explains the delicate balance of crafting puzzles that are challenging yet solvable, and the linguistic tricks that setters use to mislead and delight solvers. One example is the cryptic clue "All the flowers are exhausted (4,4)," which leads to the answer "Dead beat." Such clues exemplify the humour and creativity at the heart of crosswords.

The book also explores the crossword's global reach and cultural significance. In Japan, crosswords share space with complex puzzles like Sudoku, while in India, English-language crosswords reflect the country's colonial past and linguistic diversity. The crossword's adaptability is a recurring theme, as it continues to evolve and thrive in the digital age. Connor notes that while some feared technology might render crosswords obsolete, apps and online platforms have given them a new lease on life.

The Crossword Century offers not just a nostalgic look back but also a reminder of the puzzle's enduring appeal. Its pages are filled with stories that could spark lively discussions—perhaps about your own crossword-solving memories or your favourite types of puzzles. With its blend of humour, history, and linguistic insight, the book is a charming celebration of a pastime that has brought joy to generations.

As with many books that I have enjoyed, I have now passed this onto a neighbour and who knows – you may be lucky enough to find a copy for yourself in a local charity shop!

*Shabbir Halai*

### **THE KINGSMEN PUB Forestdale**

Built in the 1960s as part of the Forestdale development, it was formerly known as the Forestdale Arms. It closed a couple of years ago and has now been reopened by butchers Bashford & Co from Sanderstead, in partnership with a local church group.

The pub opens for community activities on weekday mornings from 10am until noon for members of the community to come together. Monday is a general discussion morning about any topic finishing with a nice mug of soup. Tuesday is Podcast day, Wednesday is for board and card games, Thursday craft activities and Friday well-being.

The pub is available to hire for events and the kitchen provides catering for all events, specialising in Hog Roasts/BBQs. There is a Sunday Special lunch of unlimited 'Steak Frites'.

# Spring Quiz

1. What month does Spring begin in the Northern Hemisphere?
2. What Christian feast day can take place any Sunday between the 22nd of March and 25th of April?
3. How long is the nighttime on the day of the Spring Equinox?
4. Where would you have to be to see the sun directly over head on the Spring Equinox?
5. What kind of animal delivers Easter eggs to children?
6. What kind of dancing might you see at a town fair on May Day in the UK?
7. What star sign would you be if you were born on 22nd April?
8. From March until May, the Keukenhof gardens in the Netherlands thrill visitors with their splendid fields of what kind of flower?
9. Which BBC TV programme follows springtime wildlife in the UK?
10. Who is the Roman goddess of spring?
11. What month does Spring end in the Northern Hemisphere?



*Quiz answers are on page 22*



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## What's up Next ?

**The Annual Sponsored Walk will take place on Saturday 17th May in Sanderstead Recreation Ground**



This years Sponsored Walk will be held on Sanderstead Recreation Ground from 10:00. You will raise sponsorship for every lap of the ground you complete.

You can as ever support the good cause of your choice, you collect sponsorship, 60% goes to your charity, 40% to Rotary Sanderstead & Selsdon, gift aid will be claimed against your sponsorship.



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

Please get in touch – 07774 186792

Secretary@rotarysandersteadandselsdon.com

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Phone Kevin: 07443 424686

Phone Tony: 07885 790951

[www.shirleyparkbowlingclub.co.uk](http://www.shirleyparkbowlingclub.co.uk)



# Croydon Community Energy

A group of dedicated volunteers have been working on this project to provide a community owned renewable energy fund to provide solar panels on community buildings.

It is hoped that this will help Croydon contribute to net zero goals by reducing carbon emissions, reduce energy costs for the organisations involved, and alleviate fuel poverty in the wider community by offering energy advice. There are already 600 similar projects running in the UK

A first share offer was launched on 8<sup>th</sup> February, running until 5<sup>th</sup> May, to raise funds up to £340K for the first project to install solar panels on three community buildings in Croydon: Archbishop Tenison School; Holy Innocents Church and Shree Swaminarayan Temple. The aim is to provide interest of up to 5% on shares.

More information can be seen on the share offer and business plan [www.croydoncommunityenergy.co.uk](http://www.croydoncommunityenergy.co.uk)

The first project at Archbishop Tenison School is planned to be starting in spring 2025 in three stages, and it is hoped that by 2030 renewable energy will be deployed to 10 sites and 5 people will be employed.

It is hoped that 85% of energy requirements will be supplied through the solar panels. The community owned fund will charge a fee lower than that of a utility company and any surplus income will go towards community benefits, e.g. advice and development particularly in the more deprived areas to the north of the borough.

This is independent information only. It is not intended as a request to invest in the project. It is important to read the business plan to decide whether the project is right for you. However, bearing in mind we support many charities without expecting any financial return on our money, this scheme's purpose is to benefit the environment, our local community and, as members, to be part of a mutually beneficial investment.

*Sheila Kemble*





FREE

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Dr. Lavan Baskaran is an accomplished NHS physician with 18 years of experience, including over a decade as a GP Senior Partner. He is a respected national speaker on Cardio-Metabolic Health and Lifestyle Medicine and serves as a Clinical Director in Sutton and Croydon.



Join us every 3rd Thursday  
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## Location:

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# Methodist Church diary

SUNDAY	10.30am	Morning worship with Junior Church Holy communion - 3rd Sunday of the month
TUESDAY	2pm	Stitch & Craft Club - 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month
	2.30pm	Tuesday afternoon Club - 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month
	3.30pm	AM:PM Messy Church - 3rd Tuesday of the month
	6pm	Brownies
WEDNESDAY	5.30pm	Beavers
	7.30pm	Bible Study Group - 3rd Wednesday of the month
	7.30pm	Scouts
FRIDAY	7.30pm	Guides
SATURDAY	9-11am	Prayer Breakfast - 3rd Saturday of the month
	10am	Coffee Morning - 1st Saturday of the month
		Collection of food items for The Vine Foodbank

# St Mary's Church diary

SUNDAY	8am	Eucharist
	10am	Parish Eucharist
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong (last Sunday of the month)
MONDAY	7-8pm	Bell Ringing (new members welcome)
TUESDAY	11am-5pm	A Place of Welcome Hot drinks, board games, crafts. Charging points and space to work or do homework.
	1pm	Light lunch
	3pm	Singing for Everyone
WEDNESDAY	10am	Walks on a Wednesday - come rain or shine!
	10-11.30am	Baby & Toddler group
THURSDAY	7-8pm	Choir practice (new members welcome)
FRIDAY	2pm	Luncheon Club (2nd Friday of the month)
SATURDAY	2.30pm	Messy Church

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[www.jdallenengineering.com](http://www.jdallenengineering.com)

Tel: 07891 615590

0208 087 1363

Answers

Quiz

1 March 2 Easter Sunday 3 Twelve hours 4 The Equator  
 5 A Rabbit 6 Maypole Dancing 7 Taurus 8 Tulips  
 9 Springwatch 10 Flora 11 June

# Councillor's Corner

## Selsdon 100 years

An Exhibition to celebrate 100 years of modern Selsdon runs from 4<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May in Selsdon Library. It is supported by the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), the Mayor of London and Croydon Council as well as the Selsdon Residents Association. It coincided with the installation of notice boards and street signs which were financed from money delegated to Croydon Council from the UKSPF.

A great deal of material documenting Selsdon's last hundred years has been collected. If any groups or organisations would like a presentation, or are interested in this material for educational purposes or community interest please get in touch with Councillor Robert Ward.

## Waste and recycling collection

The new contract for waste and recycling collection commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> April. There are enhancements to the previous contract and the Council will now, unlike in the past, be actively managing the contract. There were some teething problems in the first few weeks but these are being quickly resolved. To help in the Council's contract management of the provider, residents are asked to report missed collections, bins not returned correctly and any waste spillage on the Council website.

## Grass cutting

Croydon Council has started a new season of grass cutting that will see our highway verges, housing land and parks and open spaces cut regularly until October. Grass is scheduled to be cut every six weeks along the highways, open spaces and parks, and every five weeks on Council housing land. Digital mapping of Council-owned parks and green spaces has enabled real-time reporting so the service can better plan the schedule.

To support pollinators and wildlife, the Council will work with Friends of Groups to leave selected environmental areas within parks uncut throughout the year. Highway verges will all be maintained, except for some grass verges, such as where the rare Lizard Orchid flowered last year.

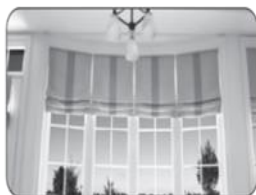
**Robert Ward** Councillor, Selsdon and Addington Village

**Parkinson's UK Croydon & District Support Group** run exercise sessions (followed by group chats over tea/coffee and biscuits) every Monday and Friday. They also have a monthly afternoon meeting with interesting guest speakers. More details are available from Graham Kellas 07510-296822, or email [membership.parkinsons.uk.croydon@gmail.com](mailto:membership.parkinsons.uk.croydon@gmail.com)

Note: Additional volunteer committee members always welcome

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# A walk round the walls

On a cold day in January we joined a group for a walk around the vestiges of the old walls of the city of London. Our meeting place was near Aldgate tube station underneath a new building between Jewry and Vine Street with a little museum and some of the Roman Wall exposed. Two thousand years of rubbish have raised the level of the city considerably. There is an excellent café and student accommodation above. We learnt that the wall was made from Kentish ragstone, brought by barge. The tile rows are inserted to keep the level straight and an indicator that the wall is Roman. There have been medieval and Victorian additions, but demolition for building projects and safety, plus the blitz have not left much standing. Conversely, construction development does sometimes reveal archaeology, which under modern planning laws must be preserved. We peered down through glass to a small section of wall in the basement of a hotel and went to car parks to see the wall in places I would never have noticed without our guide.

The city of London (Londinium) was founded in 47AD by the Romans at the narrowest part of the Thames. The city became an important port and to this day Shipping, Insurance and Finance remain the basis of its wealth. Red and silver bollards, some with the city coat of arms indicate the boundary of "The Square Mile". There are larger dragons at various vantage points proudly marking the City of London.

Originally there was a ditch and wooden palisade, the wall itself was built 200 years later. For centuries the ditch remained as a rubbish dump and the name Houndsditch is still a ghostly reminder of that.

Archaeologists dig up these items to be carefully preserved in museums. What would future archaeologists make of our rubbish today?

Although there is not so much physical wall left today, the names remain poignant landmarks, Aldgate, Aldersgate, Moorgate, Bishopsgate, Broadgate and the London Wall Road itself, give a picture of the boundary of narrow cobbled streets and alleyways of that noisy bustling old city, which retained much of its structure after the great fire of 1666. We know that there were Blackfriars and Crutched Friars, Cheapside and a Jewish quarter. Threadneedle Street, Cornhill, Old Sea Coal Lane and Bear Alley, give strong hints of their former life along with many more examples. There are still 100 churches in the city and only 9000 residents so many churches offer services during the working week instead of Sunday. We saw the only primary school with a peaceful green space in front and paving indicating the line of the wall.

Nowadays the city has huge modern buildings we know affectionately as “the Gherkin”, “Cheese-grater” , “Walkie Talkie” etc These are described as the Eastern Cluster by our architect guide and the reason they are so close is because planning restrictions do not allow building over the wall. Behind the building under wraps is the Bevis Marks Synagogue, the oldest in the city. There are issues with the new building taking natural light from the old building’s windows. It seems that new building is a continuous process, but we were intrigued that there seems a trend now towards Education and Wellness.

The Barbican was a modernist project incorporating residential, educational and cultural purposes with remains of the original wall and Barbican tower. It was designed to be accessible with lifts and first floor walkways away from the traffic of the day. Personally, I find it a confusing maze and with the arrival of the congestion charge and ULEZ, also promotion of walking and cycling the traffic has reduced in any case.



The RH picture shows the steel overhead walkway and remains of a medieval chapel part of a hostel.

We visited Postman’s Park where the artist George Watts devised a memorial garden to heroic Londoners who died trying to save others. It was so named as next to the former Central Post Office and a memorial statue to Roland Hill who invented the postage stamp.

The city guilds still have their ceremonial halls and we passed by the Stationers Hall with a memorial to Wynken de Worde and his work with Caxton and the printing press. The St James Bible was read out loud here by the translators, to ensure the language and rhythm flowed. This hall is just round the corner from St Pauls, perhaps there was a wedding because the bells were ringing changes so loudly and joyously that our guide could no longer be heard and we finished our walk at that point.

How much history is under our feet and around every corner in London we are very fortunate.

*Sheila Kemble*

# A century of Selsdon

One hundred years ago, in 1925, Selsdon was a small hamlet comprising a mansion (about to be converted into a hotel) with associated lodges and cottages, a farmhouse flanked on either side with small cottages and a couple of largish Edwardian houses. It was surrounded by fields and woods and crossed by two narrow lanes.



Richard Costain and Sons had come south to seek fame and fortune around London. Their first venture was in Kingswood, but then, enticed by a government subsidy of £75 per house, they embarked upon the Selsdon Garden Village estate of cheaper houses that the middle classes and better-paid manual workers could afford to buy and own.

Selsdon was one of the first such estates on the fringes of London, but was different in that building started on a greenfield site two miles from the nearest suburbia, moving down later to join up with South Croydon. The first houses were occupied in September 1925.

*Selsdon Library featured an exhibition recently, displaying photos taken over the past 100 years, covering the development of Selsdon.*

Councillor Robert Ward has led the project for putting on the exhibition, with help from the Selsdon Residents' Association and the media students at John Ruskin College.

The first photograph shows the view down Selsdon Lane which linked Selsdon with Addington Village. The Victorian buildings on the right housed workers for the farm and the mansion on the hill – what became known as Selsdon Park Hotel.

Selsdon Garden Village was a brand new development with no infrastructure in place. For the new inhabitants, Costains built two blocks of shops, five to a block, with one in 1926 and the second in 1927. This second photo, above, is believed to be from the late 1950s.

Two doors down from the South Suburban Co-operative Society is the Selsdon Launderette. Launderettes were a feature of the late 1950s when washing machines were an expensive luxury item out of the reach of many households. Bobbies, the milliners and fashion store, was still a feature of Selsdon's high street into the 1970s.

When the rest of the high street was developed it boasted a Woolworth's which opened in 1965 and closed in 2009. Where the bathroom showroom is now was United Dairies, later to be a Budegens store.

# Who to contact if.....

This section contains useful contacts for those moments when you need to contact someone about something. If you have a useful number that you would like included, please either email it to: [addingtonresidents@gmail.com](mailto:addingtonresidents@gmail.com) or post it to: FAO ARA Chair, c/o 2 Palace Green Croydon CR0 9AG.

## **Criminal Activity**

If you see any crime taking place, or are aware that a serious crime has been committed: call 999 immediately.

If you see suspicious activity: call 101 immediately.

*Note: The police will only focus their resources to an area based on the number and nature of crimes reported to them in that area.*

## **Antisocial Behaviour**

If to see or encounter any antisocial behaviour: call 999 if there is *immediate* danger to anyone, or call the Police on 101 to report any non-emergency incident.

You can also report antisocial behaviour on the police website: [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk).

## **Streets, pavements & public areas**

Anything relating to the streets, pavements or public areas which causes a danger, a hazard, or a public nuisance should be reported to 'Love Clean Streets'. You can do this on their free mobile phone app or via their website: [www.lovecleanstreets.com](http://www.lovecleanstreets.com). You can also submit photos in support of your Report and track the progress.

Example matters you want to report in this way include (but are not restricted to):

road potholes	abandoned cars	dead animals
fallen trees or branches	obstructed pavements	fly-tipping
failed or inadequate lighting	defaced public property	graffiti

## **Illegal or obstructive parking**

Illegal or obstructive parking should be reported to the Police on 101. This may include parked vehicles not allowing Emergency Service Vehicles (i.e. fire engines) sufficient room to get past in the event of an emergency in the area.

## **Excessive speeds or dangerous driving**

Places of repeated driving at excess speed and / or dangerous driving should be reported to the Police on 101. The intention of this is to pressure the authorities to apply speed restrictions or additional signage where appropriate – to avoid future serious accidents.

## **Refuse Collection**

Any problems associated with Refuse Collections or Rubbish Bins should be reported to Croydon Council using their website [www.croydon.gov.uk](http://www.croydon.gov.uk) or by phoning them on 020 8726 6000 and press 3.

## Noise Pollution

Excessive noise causing a public nuisance should be reported to Croydon Council using their website [www.croydon.gov.uk](http://www.croydon.gov.uk). Search for "Noise" and read the information. The council do not operate an out of hours service for noise pollution but you can email them on: [pollution@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:pollution@croydon.gov.uk). During the day you can call the council 020 8726 6000 and stay on the line until for the operator (all of the options are read out twice before being transferred to a person)

## Injured, distressed or missing animals

Any sighting of an injured or distressed wild animal (e.g. fox, badger, deer) should be reported to the RSPCA for further advice: 0300 1234 999.

Any sighting of a cat or dog on the loose causing a potential hazard to traffic or potential danger to the public should be reported to the Police on 101.

There are a number of voluntary organisations on the Internet which deal with missing domestic pets. Signage on trees and lampposts in your immediate vicinity will alert your local community, as will alerts notified to your local WhatsApp Group.

## Local Planning Applications

Information regarding local Planning Applications can be found on the Croydon Council Website [www.croydon.gov.uk](http://www.croydon.gov.uk) or call the council 020 8726 6000 and press 8.

Or sign up for automatic alerts by visiting the Residents' Association webpage, [www.addington-residents.co.uk](http://www.addington-residents.co.uk) and click on the Planning App tab.

## Croydon Council

Croydon Council Website [www.croydon.gov.uk](http://www.croydon.gov.uk)

Telephone: 020 8726 6000. The various department options are as follows:

Press 1 if you know your extension. Press 2 for housing or housing repairs. Press 3 for waste and parking services. Press 4 for council tax, business rates and benefits, Press 5 for children special care. Press 6 for adults special care. Press 7 for educational services. Press 8 for planning, building control or dangerous structures. Press 9 for electoral or registrar services. Or hold on the line to speak with the operator.

**Next Issue** - The next issue will be produced in July 2025. Articles should reach the editor by 5th of the month for inclusion in the issue.

**Disclaimer** - The Addington Residents' Association (ARA) take all reasonable efforts to ensure that the information provided both verbally and in articles and advertisements in this Magazine is accurate. If the need arises, readers should carefully check the information provided to ensure it is satisfactory for their purpose as the ARA will not accept any responsibility for such information which is provided in good faith.

# Local Organisation Telephone Numbers

## CHURCHES

Huntingfield Methodist Church	(bookings) 020 8657 1882
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
The Forestdale Church, Forestdale Primary School	07772 559 797 <a href="mailto:hello@forestdalechurch.co.uk">hello@forestdalechurch.co.uk</a>
Selsdon Christian Fellowship	020 8668 9779
Church of Jesus Christ of LDS	020 8651 2211

## DOCTORS & EMERGENCY CARE

Ambulance 999; Non-emergency NHS helpline 111	
Farley Road Medical Practice 020 8651 1222	Queenhill Medical Practice 020 8651 1222
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

Emergency (or if a crime is in action) 999; Non-emergency 101	
Selsdon & Addington Village:	<a href="mailto:SelsdonandAddingtonVillageSNT@met.police.uk">SelsdonandAddingtonVillageSNT@met.police.uk</a>
Selsdon Vale & Forestdale:	<a href="mailto:SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk">SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.uk</a>

## 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 020 8651 1140
Friends of Selsdon Wood	<a href="http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk">www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk</a>
Sanderstead Plantation Partners	<a href="mailto:michaellishmund@gmail.com">michaellishmund@gmail.com</a>
Friends of Kingswood	<a href="mailto:friendsofkingswood@hotmail.co.uk">friendsofkingswood@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Girlguiding (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section) 0800 999 2016	<a href="https://girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved">https://girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Selsdon & Addington Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts)	<a href="http://www.1stselsdon.org.uk">www.1stselsdon.org.uk</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Selsdon & Addington Scout Group	<a href="http://www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk">www.2ndSandAScoutGroup.org.uk</a>
Arts Society Croydon Area Jean Aarons	<a href="http://www.tascroydonarea.org.uk">www.tascroydonarea.org.uk</a>
Rotary Sanderstead & Selsdon	Wendy Parr 07774 186792
RSPB Croydon Local Group	John Davis 020 8640 4578
Selsdon Art Group	Fiona Hooper 07973 412952
Selsdon Community Hall	<a href="mailto:CottieCampbell@selsdonhall.info@gmail.com">CottieCampbell@selsdonhall.info@gmail.com</a>
Sanderstead Horticultural Society	<a href="http://www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk">www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk</a>
Selsdon Tennis Club	Geoff Littlewood 020 8651 4748

**Please note: If any of the above information is incorrect, please do let us know.**



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