

The ADDINGTON

Quarterly Magazine 2025 - Issue 3

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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 - and what a summer it's shaping up to be. I hope you are keeping cool and finding time to enjoy the sunshine with family and friends. As always, I want to begin by reaffirming our Association's purpose, grounded 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.

These guiding aims continue to inform everything we do, and I am proud to report that the last few months have been full of energy and positive steps forward.

Reflections from the AGM

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended our Annual General Meeting on 3rd June. It was wonderful to see a strong turnout and hear your feedback. Your suggestions are helping shape our priorities for the coming months. We welcomed several new faces to the Committee - fresh ideas and perspectives are exactly what we need to keep the Association moving forward.

Crime Prevention and Community Safety

We continue to work closely with our local police liaison, who has now become a regular presence at our Committee meetings. There's been an encouraging uptake in information sharing, especially around the recent rise in car-related thefts. Please continue to stay vigilant - report anything suspicious to the police, and don't hesitate to get in touch with the Committee if you'd like to raise a concern anonymously.

Following our initiative in spring, the local fire brigade is now engaged with the Association as well. Their presence adds valuable insight, and we're grateful for their willingness to answer resident queries at our monthly meetings.

A Spotlight on Sustainability

Since the last report, there's been growing interest in local sustainability efforts. Following the tip about Croydon Community Energy, several residents have contacted me about the feasibility of solar installations. We're exploring ways to bring in expert voices and possibly arrange a group information session for interested households. If this appeals to you, please let us know - it might help us organise something special.

Community in Action

The 100 Years of Selsdon Exhibition was a standout local event and a wonderful celebration of our local heritage. The Jubilee Café is still going strong too - well worth a visit for a cuppa and some delicious homemade treats.

Our voluntary magazine donation remains at £5 per household, and the July prize draw winners are revealed in this issue (I'm still keeping my lips sealed!). Your contributions keep us going and help fund more resident-focused events.

And don't forget - the Methodist Church food collection happens on the first Saturday of every month. It's always a chance to connect with neighbours and support The Vine Foodbank in New Addington.

The Boot Fair Trail is approaching! Sunday 7th September from 10.30am - 1pm

How to participate: · Tell us you are participating by Email:

addingtonresidents@gmail.com OR WhatsApp/Text: 0777 614 0913.

- The ARA Committee will advertise the event locally but do spread the word to your contacts.
- On the day, set up tables in your front garden with your unwanted items.
- A £2 voluntary contribution will be collected on the day or pay on-line: A/C Name: Addington Residents Association: Sort: 40-35-40. A/C No. 81491253. (Give name & address as a reference).

Stay in Touch

As ever, we want to hear from you - ideas, questions, offers to get involved.

Whether you're new to the area or have been here for years, your voice matters.

If you have something you would like to share in the next magazine or would like to get more involved with the Committee, just drop us a line at:

addingtonresidents@gmail.com.

To contact me directly, feel free to send a Text or WhatsApp to: 0777 614 0913

With very best wishes, Shabbir Halai Chair, Addington Residents Association

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Liberation Convoy 2025

About two years ago I started working on an idea of getting some restored Norwegian boats from WWII to sail from Norway to various UK ports to celebrate the maritime effort and the close cooperation between Norway and Britain.

In May this year this became a reality; on 2nd May the following boats were assembled in Bergen Harbour, S/S Hestmanden, M/K Erkna, M/K Andholmen, M/K Heland and M/K Arnefjord.

I had the honour of laying the wreath on the statue of King Haakon VII and declare the start of the Liberation Convoy 2025.



On Sunday 4th May we left Bergen and after a 35 hour bumpy voyage we arrived at Lerwick in Shetland. We were met by the Lerwick lifeboat; and a fire-tug sprayed water.

Our visit to Shetland was fantastic, every shop was decorated with Shetland and Norwegian flags. We visited all the important Norwegian sites from WWII. Lerwick, home to the Norwegian Navy and a group of MTB's; Lunna the first base of the Shetland-gang, and Scalloway that became the permanent base of the Shetland-gang and the Shetland Bus. On the evening of 7th May the crew members of the Liberation Convoy Paraded in procession from the Harbour to Lerwick Town Hall for the Civic Reception.

The next day there was a memorial service at Shetland County War Memorial.



Wreaths were laying at the War Graves, and a memorial service at the Shetland Bus Memorial in Scalloway followed with a visit to the Scalloway Museum.

Interestingly the Memorial at Scalloway is a model of M/K Andholmen that was part of the Convoy.

The Norwegian Royal Navy Band held a memorial Concert at St. Columba's Church Lerwick. The following 2 days were days of open ship and different schools visited the Liberation Convoy ships.



On the 11th May S/S Hestmanden and M/K Andholmen departed Lerwick for the Orkney Islands, with the rest of the boats going back home to Norway. More than 5000 people had visited the Convoy during the stay at Lerwick.

S/S Hestmanden arrived at Stromness, Orkney Islands where it stayed until 15th May. During the stay there was open ship every day and wreaths were laid on the war graves. On the 16th May S/S Hestmanden arrived Kirkwall, Orkney Islands where it stayed together with M/K Andholmen for 3 days.

17th May was Norwegian Independence Day, celebrated in the traditional way with parades through the Town. Norwegian Independence Day is celebrated in the Orkney Islands every year.

On the 19th May S/S Hestmanden arrived in Aberdeen and stayed there until 24th May with open ship and different exhibition every day and wreath laying on the war graves. M/K Andholmen returned to Norway.

S/S Hestmanden left Aberdeen and arrived in Edinburgh the next day. During the stay in Edinburgh S/S Hestmanden was berthed next to the old Royal Yacht Britannia. The S/S Hestmanden stayed in Edinburgh until 30th May. There was open ship every day and a wreath was laid on the War Graves there.

S/S Hestmanden arrived in Newcastle on 31st May. The S/S Hestmanden was met at the river Tyne entrance by a flotilla of small vessels lead by the Old Tynemouth Lifeboat and a fire-tug with water-jets spraying. A royal welcome!

S/S Hestmanden was berthed at Spillers Wharf in the middle of town. The stay

started with open ship from day one.

Sunday 1st June started with a Church Service at the Chapel in Trinity House Newcastle. The Service was lead by the rector of the Norwegian Seaman's Church in London, and the Dean from Newcastle Cathedral. The service was held in both Norwegian and English and the service was followed by coffee and biscuits. In the afternoon there was open ship with a visit from the Sea Cadets.

Monday 2nd June started with open ship with more visits by school classes and Sea Cadets. On Monday evening S/S Hestmanden and the Liberation Convoy 2025 held a reception for the dignitaries of Newcastle and the surrounding area. I had the Honour of handing the Haakon 7 Freedom Medal to Chris Flanighan and his family in memory of his grandfather War-Sailor Karluf Thorsen.

The following day wreaths were laid on the war graves by representatives of the British War Graves Commission, British Legion, Captain of Trinity House, Sub Lieutenant of Northumberland, the Flanighan family, local school children, Captain of S/S Hestmanden and myself.

On Wednesday 4th June we had a visit of a 100 year old war-sailor who had served on the Murmansk convoys. He was determined to get onboard and did so very well. BBC and ITV television held interviews with the war-sailor, the Captain of S/S Hestmanden and myself. The rest of the day was open ship. The following day saw the departure from Newcastle and return to Norway for S/S Hestmanden.

The Liberation Convoy has been well worth doing and I am proud of having been a part of it. Around 25000 people visited S/S Hestmanden and the other boats during their stay.

Wiktor Molleskog



The boats in Lerwick Harbour, Shetland Islands

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 draw was made at the Committee Meeting in July.

- 1st Prize £50: David Woodin
2nd Prize £30: Helen Didier
3rd Prize £20: Lovel and Gutter

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

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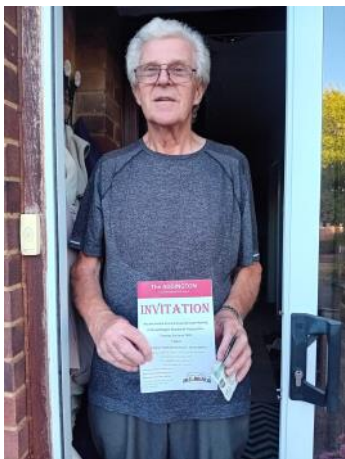
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Message from Ian Drake - Treasurer

S Holman - membership paid in May, **Lovel & Gutter** - membership paid in June and **Lorena Jesus** - membership also paid in June.

We have no addresses for you, and as you see from above one of you has won a prize. Please contact Ian at 1palace@blueyonder.co.uk



David (1st)

Helen(2nd)



Oh, South London is wonderful

For Eagles, Wombles, Addicks, and Leafes, May 2025 is a month that will be etched in our memories for generations to come.

Each of these clubs has faced turbulent times in recent years, carrying with them stories of survival, rebirth, and unbreakable community spirit. Their journeys - unique yet bound by shared resilience - culminated in in 15 day of football that South London will never forget.

First through the famous Wembley arch on May 11th were AFC Whyteleafe.



Only four years ago, Whyteleafe FC ceased to exist. The club, deeply rooted in its community, folded after failing to secure a lease for its Church Road ground. For many, it felt like the end, but a determined group of supporters, players, and local football lovers saw a new beginning.

Inspired by the remarkable rise of AFC Wimbledon, they founded AFC Whyteleafe, starting again from Level 10 of the English football pyramid. A deal was struck with the new owners of the Church Road ground, allowing the club to return to its home. The phoenix had risen.

Fast-forward to May 2025: in just their fourth season of existence, “The Leaf” found themselves in the FA Vase Final, a competition reserved for clubs in Levels 9 and 10. Their opponents, Whitstable Town FC, known as the Seasideers, were equally determined. AFC Whyteleafe battled hard but eventually losing 1-2

From folding to walking out at Wembley in just four years—this was more than a cup final. It was a testament to the belief and spirit of a community refusing to accept its fate

Six days later, it was Crystal Palace’s turn to grace the home of football in the FA Cup Final.



Fifteen years earlier, few would have predicted such a moment. At that time, Palace seemed more likely to slip into liquidation than to walk out at Wembley chasing silverware. In 2010, with the club on the brink, a massive fan protest outside Lloyds Bank played a crucial role in forcing the bank into renewed negotiations with Steve Parish and the CPFC 2010 consortium. The outcome changed the club’s fate. Since then, under Parish’s leadership, Crystal Palace has been firmly stabilized and re-established as a competitive, respected presence in English football.

A major stadium redevelopment is now at an advanced stage and will soon become a striking feature of the South London skyline. But it is not just the infrastructure or the club’s financial stability that stands out - what is truly impressive is the way

Crystal Palace continues to engage with its community through community and coaching initiatives. The club's owners are lifelong fans who genuinely have both the club and the local area at heart. With their vision and commitment, it wouldn't be a surprise to see Palace pushing for a place in the Premier League's top four in the near future.

'Palace were underdogs heading into the final, but after taking the lead, they never looked back — and now the FA Cup is heading south of the river for the first time since the Crazy Gang's incredible triumph in 1988.'



Charlton were next to play on the hallowed turf.



The Addicks have endured a turbulent history. In 1984, the club was on the verge of extinction. The aftermath of the Bradford fire and the resulting safety regulations left Charlton homeless, Forced into exile at Selhurst Park. The early 1990s saw the club struggling financially, selling players to fund a return to The Valley. During this period, dedicated fans even stood in local elections to put pressure on the council and bring the club home.

The last few years have been equally uncertain, with a revolving door of owners unsettling the foundations of the club. However, June 2023 marked a potential turning point with the take over by SE7 Partners. With new stability behind the scenes, Charlton finally found their footing.

That steadiness translated onto the pitch. The Addicks mounted a strong campaign in League One, secured a place in the playoffs, and on May 25th, they completed their return to the Championship with a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Leyton Orient.



Now for the story that just keeps giving...



As Wimbledon walked out at Wembley, it was almost 23 years to the day since the FA-appointed commission made its infamous statement after sanctioning the club's move to Milton Keynes: 'Resurrecting the club from its ashes as, say, 'Wimbledon Town' is, with respect to those supporters who would rather that happened... not in the wider interests of football.'

Whyteleafe, Palace, and Charlton fans will understand the hurt Wimbledon supporters and their community went through. For years, fans had told the council and the club what was possible, but their pleas were ignored.

It seemed like the incredible story of the 'Culture Club vs the Crazy Gang' FA Cup final would fade into obscurity. But thankfully, the only thing that actually went to Milton Keynes was a minibus of players and a stolen league position.

Wimbledon had - and still have - massive support from the wider football community. In fact, it is the feelings, solidarity, and understanding of fans from other clubs that have, so far, completely destroyed the attempt to franchise football.

Wimbledon won the game 1-0 and are promoted back to league one. Just one league, below where they were 23 years ago and one league above Milton Keynes. It's incredible what the fans of these clubs have done.

Julian Shakespeare

Stay Connected!

Stay Connected: Why Every Resident Should Join Our WhatsApp Channel

In today's fast-moving world, staying updated with reliable, local news is more important than ever. Whether it's a traffic disruption on Main Street, a change in garbage collection schedules, or an upcoming community event, timely information helps us stay organized, safe, and connected.

The Power of Local Communication

For years, residents have relied on word-of-mouth, posters, or community meetings for updates. But in our digital era, we have a faster, more direct tool at our fingertips: **WhatsApp Channels**. Unlike personal group chats, WhatsApp Channels are one-way broadcasts—designed to deliver concise updates from trusted sources without the noise of replies or unnecessary chatter.

What Makes WhatsApp Channels Ideal for Our Community?

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- ◇ **No Clutter:** It's a one-way communication platform—only admins can post, so the messages are always relevant and to the point.

United by Information

By joining our community's WhatsApp Channel, you become part of a network that looks out for each other. Whether you're a senior citizen living alone, a parent trying to keep up with school events, or a new resident unfamiliar with local systems—this channel is your go-to source for trusted and verified information.

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Let's keep our community informed, prepared, and united.

Scan. Join. Stay Informed.

By Puneet Udasi

Spring Quiz

1. 'The First Day of Summer' is an annual public holiday celebrated in which European country in April?
2. Can you give the first line of Grease's 'Summer Nights' lyrics?
3. Which feast day falls on July 15 every year?
4. Who was credited with saving 77 lives during seven summers working as a lifeguard at Lowell Park, Illinois, starting in 1926?
5. Which singer was known as the 'Queen of Disco'?
6. Who met and fell in love with Marge Bouvier in a 1974 summer camp?
7. Which novel is told partly by its heroine Esther Summerson?
8. The 'dog days of summer' are named after the Dog Star; what is the better known name of this star?
9. What term is often given to a period of dry hot weather that occurs in the autumn?
10. 'Shall I compare thee to a summer's day' is the first line of which William Shakespeare sonnet?
11. What was the first name of Clegg in the sitcom *Last of the Summer Wine*?
12. The summer solstice occurs in the Southern Hemisphere during which month?

Quiz answers are on page 22



JD Allen

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When the Herds came to London

The weather forecast for the weekend was too hot for comfort, but there was news of a touring art display that would arrive early on the last Friday in June, with animals rampaging over Tower Bridge to be welcomed by school children. Naturally we were intrigued and even decided to travel to London Bridge before our Freedom Pass was valid in order to be in good time.

There were quite a number of people already at “The Scoop” next to the former City Hall, but we were in plenty of time to find a good spot on the stone steps along with young mums with toddlers, grannies and many others keen to enjoy the experience. As the children arrived there were waves to family spectators, then drumming and at last we saw a giraffe’s head peering down at us, then a donkey, gorilla and a horned beast. The children were called to action and piled onto the stage where the animals and their puppeteer companions helped them parade by and then up the steps. Quite a tricky operation as the life-sized animals were created from waste materials, wood and cardboard but lovely forms, movements and heads.

The display was created by the same group as Little Amal, who readers might have seen a few years back. She was a larger than life puppet child refugee, travelling across Europe to raise awareness of the plight of refugees. In a similar way ‘The Herd’ has a message about the effect of the climate disaster on animals and nature. Many animals have become extinct and others’ homelands have become uninhabitable. The display is designed to raise awareness and renew our bond with the natural world. The children sang enthusiastically about rewilding the land so creatures would be able to breathe clean air and roam freely. The group have travelled from the Congo Basin and will finish in the Arctic Circle over 20,000km.

The performance lasted only about 20 minutes although there must have been considerable effort rehearsing the youngsters by Unicorn Theatre. I expect the children needed to get back to lessons. The later appearance in Soho would include performers from the West End show Matilda, and there are world class artists are involved in the cities to be visited during the journey. I saw on the news that at Lancaster House King Charles III welcomed the beasts and shook hands with a gorilla in a very meaningful way.

The scorching temperatures and lack of rain have caused us disappointment and frustration in our garden. It must be much more worrying to farmers whose incomes depend on their crops. The climate crisis will certainly cause food shortages and higher prices as food production is affected in different ways: floods, hail and drought have upset former reliable growing patterns. I am sure the children involved will remember their songs and the message from the migrating animals. We all need to make the lifestyle changes to curb greenhouse gasses heating our precious planet.

Sheila Kemble



Books that feature Croydon

Number 2. *Croydonopolis: A Love Letter to the Town Everyone Loves to Mock*

In *Croydonopolis*, Will Noble sets out to do the unthinkable: reclaim Croydon from the punchlines and prove it's one of Britain's most misunderstood urban marvels. The result is a book that's as funny as it is fiercely affectionate—a cultural deep-dive that turns the town's concrete reputation into something almost mythic.

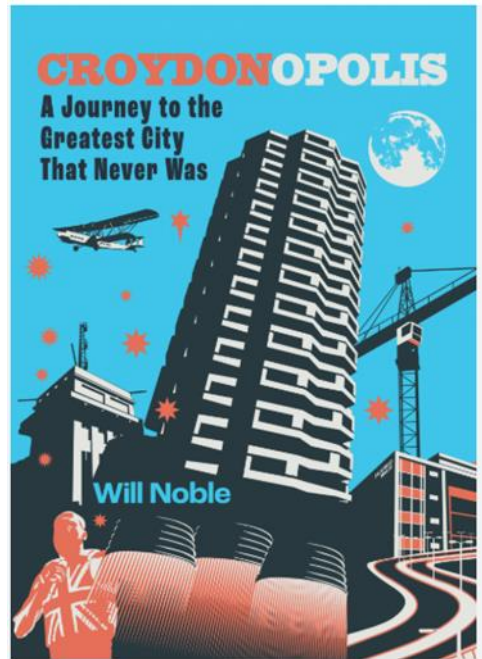
Noble, editor at *Londonist*, opens with a bang—literally and metaphorically—charting Croydon's rollercoaster history from the grandeur of Archbishop John Whitgift's 16th century legacy to the heady days of the 1920s, when Croydon Aerodrome was the gateway to Britain for the world's elite. Amy Johnson, Charlie Chaplin, and even Winston Churchill once touched down on its grassy runways.

But this isn't just a history lesson. Noble's style is relentlessly witty and self-aware. He doesn't shy away from Croydon's more recent woes—financial collapse, riots, and the slow decay of its once-ambitious skyline. Yet even in decline, he finds poetry. “Et tu, Bromley,” he quips, as neighbouring boroughs rise while Croydon stumbles.

What makes *Croydonopolis* sing is its tone: part social history, part stand-up routine, part civic pep talk. Noble doesn't just list facts—he tells stories. Like the one about the first Woolworths shoplifter, or how pilots once navigated by the smell of Beddington sewage works. It's this blend of humour and heart that makes the book resonate, especially for those of us who've lived in Croydon long enough to see its many faces.

Critics have called it “gutsy” and “charming”, and they're right. This isn't just a book - it's a reclamation project. For Croydonians, it's a nostalgic nod to what was and what could be. For outsiders, it's a compelling case to look again.

Do you know of any other books that feature Croydon? If so, do let me know and I will feature it in the next magazine.



Shabbir Halai



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Coming up ?



Hobby Fair - Saturday 13th September at St John's Community Hall.

Once again we invite local groups & organisations to come along & promote what they do and to sign up new members.

Don't miss out, come along have a cuppa & meet new folks & try new hobbies.



Sanderstead Community Day – Saturday 27th September at Sanderstead Recreation Ground.

A fantastic variety of stalls, food & drink and entertainment

Don't miss out, come along & enjoy the day.

Stop Press !! Craft Fair Saturday 15th November at All Saints Church Hall, Sanderstead – Don't miss out – come along & enjoy the variety of stalls & crafts, have a cuppa, a burger or some cake.

For more details & to work alongside Rotary for any of our events please call our Secretary – Wendy A Parr on 07774 186792.

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A Message from Natasha Irons, MP

I am Natasha Irons, your Member of Parliament for Croydon East and I feel honoured to represent your community. Over the coming months, I'll use this column to keep you updated on local campaigns and how I'm working to make Addington an even better place to live.

In April, I attended a Forestdale and Selsdon school council meeting to speak with local teachers. They raised serious concerns about unsafe driving in the area. I wrote to Croydon Council on behalf of the schools, requesting a road safety review and urging the introduction of a zebra crossing to help deter dangerous driving. Unfortunately, we didn't receive a response.

Children and school staff should feel safe travelling to and from school, so I've launched a local campaign calling on Croydon Council to build a crossing on Featherbed Lane. Please scan the QR code to sign it:



My office received a large volume of correspondence from both Selsdon Vale and Forestdale and Selsdon and Addington wards about missed bin collections. One resident filed a missed bin report and was told to leave the bin out, only for it to be ignored for over a week. Another resident, who had a paid-for waste contract, also experienced missed collections. After I raised these cases, the council acknowledged the poor service, instructed Veolia to resolve the issue and extended residents' service periods to reflect the missed collections.

Finally, I want to update you on what the government's recent Spending Review means for us:

- TfL will receive a multi-year funding settlement worth £2.2 billion which means it can procure new trams. Croydon's trams are some of the oldest in the country and break down often. The new fleet will be reliable, accessible and air conditioned.
- Croydon will benefit from a £26 million energy efficiency fund, which will upgrade low-income housing with insulation, double glazing and solar panels to bring down energy bills and keep families warm.

If you are facing any local issues or simply want to speak with me about your priorities for Addington, please get in touch at natasha.irons.mp@parliament.uk or call 020 8191 2482 (leave a voicemail and we'll get back to you).

You can also sign up to receive monthly updates on my work by scanning this QR code. Thanks, Natasha





Every Sunday of
July and August
from 2:30pm till
4:30 pm at St
Mary's church
Farleigh



Afternoon TEA
with homebaked cakes and Hugh's guitar



Answers to Quiz 1 Iceland 2 Summer loving had me a blast 3 Saint Swithin's 4 Ronald Reagan 5 Donna Summer 6 Homer Simpson 7 Bleak House 8 Sirius 9 Indian Summer 10 Sonnet 18 11 Norman

12 December
3 Saint Swithin's
7 Bleak House
8 Sirius

Policing Update

Please find below our latest policing update:

We conducted an ANPR operation with great collaborative work with Interceptor and VRES teams.

- 149 vehicles were stopped at the stop site on Lodge Lane, and a further 30 cars were stopped by the Interceptor team
- 5 were arrested for various offences
- 14 vehicles were seized for no insurance
- 5 Traffic Offence Reports were issued
- 1 Community Resolution for possession of Cannabis was issued

As part of an initiative to reduce anti-social behaviour, local SNT teams have been focusing on setting up crime prevention stalls and street briefings for residents to interact and engage with their local officers. This provided a chance for residents to raise any concerns and for officers to provide crime prevention advice and leaflets.

A new communications system called Met Engage has been launched. This is a Met wide platform for residents to get to know their local officers, help shape how local areas are policed and have direct access to key information and advice.

This service will be tailored to the community. Officers have been conducting house to house visits to make residents aware of this and to help them to sign up to this service.

It has been very rewarding for officers meeting residents and discussing their local areas.

If you have not signed up to this platform and would like to or would like more information, please go to metengage.co.uk

Officers were also involved in the policing of Made in the 90s Festival which took place at Addington Park in collaboration with private security and volunteers.

- This led to the seizure of a quantity of drugs
- One arrest for possession of a firearm
- Two arrests for possession of an offensive weapon
- This was a good result taking weapons off the streets to prevent harm

Finally, local officers took part in wider ward patrols which resulted in multiple stop and searches and quantities of cannabis being seized. In the Forestdale area, a group of five males were detained which has led to the recovery of a quantity of cannabis amounting to possession with intent to supply from a vehicle. The owner of this vehicle was arrested and following a search of his address, was further arrested for possession with intent to supply Class A drugs due to bags of white powder being found in their bedroom. This has since been tested and confirmed to be cocaine, with an estimated street value of around £3000.

Best wishes, PC Williams



London Fire Brigade - Grass and Wildfires

Chris Davidson, Fire Borough Commander for Croydon

Grass and Wildfires

Croydon Borough is lucky enough to have many open spaces and grass/woodland for us all to enjoy. As in previous years we may find that long periods of hot, dry weather which means it only takes a spark to cause a wildfire. In the last year Croydon Borough had at least 50 fires involving grassland/hedge/trees/parks and scrubland. Wildfires are uncontrolled and unpredictable.

They can spread very quickly.

There is a lot you can do to keep yourself and others safe this summer, here are some tips!

How to prevent grass fires

Anything burning can start a grass fire. Cigarettes and barbecues are commonly to blame.

Barbecues

Barbecues can cause fires when smouldering ash and embers are carried by the wind onto areas of dry grass.

- Don't have barbecues in parks & public spaces.
- Be aware that children, animals, balls or anything else may knock over barbecues, increasing the risk of grass fires.
- Never leave barbecues unattended and put them out properly after you've finished using them.
- Put your barbecue on level ground and keep it well away from anything that may catch fire (for example sheds, fences, trees, tents).
- If you're barbecuing near dry grass have a bucket of water or sand nearby for emergencies.
- Don't barbecue on balconies. As well as risk to your property the wind may carry smouldering ash towards nearby grassland.
- If you decide to use a disposable barbecue – put it right out and make sure it's cooled before you throw it away. Long after they have been discarded they can still cause fires as they retain heat after use.

Cigarettes

If a cigarette that hasn't been put out properly is dropped on dry ground it can easily cause a grass fire. Even a cigarette thrown from a car window can start a fire, as many roads run alongside grassland.

Glass bottles

Glass can magnify the sun and start a fire. So make sure you don't leave any glass bottles lying around in parks and open spaces. Take your litter home with you if nearby bins are full.

What to do if you discover a wildfire

- Make sure you're in a safe place (away from vegetation and smoke). Stay calm and call 999 immediately.
- If you're in your car, close all windows and vents.
- When you call 999 be as precise as you can about the location, the size and any other information. The free **what3words** app can help you pinpoint your location, so download it now.
- Don't try to tackle the fire yourself.
- Stay well away from wildfires as fire can smoulder or spread underground.



WILDFIRES – STAY ALERT, KEEP PARKS SAFE

A spark from a BBQ or cigarette is all it takes



facebook twitter instagram linkedin



Stay safe and well,
Chris Davidson
Fire Borough Commander for Croydon



@londonfire



@LondonFireBrigade



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

Note: Additional volunteer committee members always welcome

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
THIRSDAY	6.45pm	Cubs
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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Councillor's Corner

Government Power Grab in Croydon Undermines Local Progress

Despite hard work and painful local decisions to restore financial order in Croydon, the Government has announced plans to impose commissioners on our Council. This heavy-handed move—framed as necessary due to Croydon's legacy debt and service pressures—ignores the significant progress that has already been made by local leadership.

It's deeply concerning that Westminster is choosing to centralise control just as we begin to turn a corner. Over the last four years, Croydon has delivered £167 million in savings, with another £50 million planned this year. More than £230 million in capital receipts have been raised—£130 million from asset sales alone—and a further £68 million in disposals is expected in the coming months.

We are halfway through a two-year transformation programme that is fundamentally changing how services are delivered, making them more cost-effective and sustainable. A robust financial management strategy is already in place. Yet, rather than support local efforts, the Government appears determined to undermine them through commissioner intervention.

Selsdon Looking Better Thanks to Focus on Cleanliness and Pride

Selsdon is seeing real, visible improvement in its green spaces thanks to Croydon Council's ongoing investment in grass cutting and open space maintenance.

Since the start of the season, 1.1 million square metres of highway verges and 850,000 square metres of housing land have been maintained, alongside 190 parks and open spaces. In Selsdon, the results are clear: cleaner, more inviting public areas and a renewed sense of community pride.

Grass cutting is now taking place every six weeks across highways, parks, and open spaces, and every five weeks on housing land. This improvement follows a much-needed £1.5 million investment in new equipment and extra contractor support—something we've long pushed for to raise standards.

Residents will continue to receive updates throughout the season, as we maintain a watchful eye on the performance of this programme.

Concerns About Road Safety on Selsdon Park Road

Recently, there has been a noticeable increase in road traffic accidents and abandoned vehicles along Selsdon Park Road. This is a serious concern for many residents, and rightly so. We will be working closely with local police and council officers to understand the root causes and ensure that action is taken to address safety and enforcement moving forward.

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 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.

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. 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 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. 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. 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 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 and click on the Planning App tab.

Croydon Council

Croydon Council Website 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 hello@forestdalechurch.co.uk
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:	SelsdonandAddingtonVillageSNT@met.police.uk
Selsdon Vale & Forestdale:	SelsdonandForestdaleSNT@met.police.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 020 8651 1140
Friends of Selsdon Wood	www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk
Sanderstead Plantation Partners	michaellishmund@gmail.com
Friends of Kingswood	friendsofkingswood@hotmail.co.uk
Girlguiding (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section) 0800 999 2016	https://girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved
5th Selsdon & Addington Scouting Group	email 5thsanda@gmail.com
Arts Society Croydon Area Jean Aarons	www.tascroydonarea.org.uk
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	Cottie Campbell selsdonhall.info@gmail.com
Sanderstead Horticultural Society	www.sandersteadhorticulturalsociety.org.uk
Selsdon Tennis Club	Geoff Littlewood 020 8651 4748

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

CALL / TEXT: 0775 777 1302

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