

The ADDINGTON

Quarterly Magazine 2026 - Issue 2

INVITATION

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

Thursday 28th May 2026

7.15pm for 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

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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

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Magazine/Website

Salli Ransom

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Marianna Cherry

Malcolm Graveling

Keith James

Sheila Kemble

Julian Shakespeare

To contact any member of the committee by email please send your message to addingtonresidents@gmail.com stating 'For the attention of...'

Our COUNCILLORS & MP

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Robert Ward robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk

Joseph Lee joseph.lee@croydon.gov.uk

Councillors - Selsdon Vale and Forestdale

Andy Stranack andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk

Fatima Zaman 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

The signs of spring are definitely all around as I write this report; bright sunshine streaming through the window, flowers in bloom, and trees turning bright green as they shed their winter brown.

As Chair of the Committee, I often reflect on the word *community* and what it really means. It is a word we use often, but I believe its true meaning is found in everyday life - in the small acts of kindness, support, and neighbourliness that shape the place we are proud to call home.

To me, community is about people. It is about knowing that we are not alone where we live. It is about recognising familiar faces, stopping for a chat, looking out for one another, and sharing a sense of belonging. It is about picking up the odd piece of litter or putting out a neighbour's bin while they are away on holiday. It is about offering help, volunteering time, and caring enough to get involved.

We live in a time when the news from around the world can often feel overwhelming. Many of us care deeply about events far beyond our own neighbourhood, yet may feel there is little we can personally do to influence them. I have certainly felt powerless at times. However, even when those in need are far away, we are not always without a voice. Small micro-actions can still matter - signing a petition, giving a little money, discussing important events with others, raising awareness, or even joining a peaceful march. These may not solve a crisis on their own, but they allow us to express solidarity and play a small part.

At the same time, while we may not be able to change everything happening across the world, we can make a very real difference right here at home. We can support neighbours, strengthen local ties, and play our part in making this area a kinder, safer, and more connected place to live.

That matters more than we sometimes realise.

After living here for over ten years, I have come to realise that a strong local community is not created by accident. It is built slowly, through goodwill, shared effort and a willingness to care. It grows when people support local events, look after their surroundings, shop locally, welcome newcomers, and take an interest in the people around them. It grows when we choose not simply to live alongside each other, but to live with one another in a spirit of kindness and respect.

One of the things I value most about our area is the potential we all have to make it even better. None of us has to do everything. Community is often built through small things that have a big impact; checking in on an older neighbour,

offering a word of encouragement, helping at a local event, picking up a piece of litter, attending a meeting, or simply taking the time to say hello.

These things may seem modest, but together they create something powerful. They make our area feel friendlier, safer and more connected. They remind people that they matter. They help turn a neighbourhood into a true community.

As Chair, I believe that each of us has something valuable to contribute. Whether you have lived here for many years or have only recently arrived, you are part of this community and you can help shape its future. Every positive action, however small, helps strengthen the ties between us.

So, my message is a simple one: Let us continue to look out for one another and take pride in where we live. Let us not underestimate the value of local action. Even if we cannot solve every problem in the wider world, we can still choose to make life a little better for those around us. And that is no small thing.

Please do attend the next Annual General Meeting of the Addington Residents' Association, to be held on Thursday 28th May at 7.30pm at Huntingfield Methodist Church. By attending this event, you can find out more about what the ARA Committee does, as well as connect with local residents and ask questions of our MP and councillors.

If each of us does just one positive thing, whether locally or more widely, the combined effect can be remarkable. Community will always grow when we choose to care.

Here are some ways in which you, your family, friends, and neighbours can get involved:

- Come along to one of the monthly ARA Committee meetings. We welcome residents who want to listen, ask questions, or suggest ideas. We meet at 8.00pm on the first Tuesday of every month at the Methodist Church in Huntingfield. (There is no meeting in June and we do not normally meet in August)
- Send in an article, photograph, interesting local story, or even an advert for publication in the ARA quarterly magazine. Email: addingtonresidents@gmail.com
- Look out for - and participate in - the next ARA Boot Trail, where you can either set up a stall at your house and sell unwanted items, or walk around the area and pick up some great bargains.
- Keep an eye on the ARA noticeboard for local events. The noticeboard is on the corner of Huntingfield Road and Featherbed Lane.

Finally, if you wish to contact me directly as Chair, please send a text or WhatsApp message to 0777 614 0913.

Shabbir Halai

Treasurer's Annual Report to March 2026

Income exceeded Expenditure in the year – adding a net £1,935.07 to our Reserves.

Income from Residents Voluntary Subscriptions totalled £1,491.70 – compared to £1,548.47 in the previous year – a drop of 4%. This was a little disappointing in light of the ARA social events during the year and the continuation of the Prize Draw. We are making efforts to improve the number and location of our Collection Agents, with the aim of improving our Residents' contributions next year.

However, our Advertising Income for the year increased to £2,221.25 - compared to £1,955.00 the previous year – thanks to efforts from our Committee Members.

Our Bank Interest Income for the year totalled £362.60 - compared to £415.54 the previous year – impacted by decreasing interest rates.

Other Income for the year of £60.00 was comprised of Resident's participation contributions in the Jumble Trail Event in September.

Four Magazines were printed and distributed to our Residents during the year at a total cost of £1,064.03 – compared to the previous year's cost of £1,213.22. Despite the lower cost – our Magazines increased in size again this year to an average of 30 pages (27 in 2024/25; 18 in 2023/24).

Our HSBC Bank Charges declined to just £28.48 for the year. HSBC cancelled their £5 monthly charge with effect from September 2025.

Other Expenditure for the year totalled £1,107.97. It included a total £250 Christmas donation to local Food Banks - £330 paid out for our Quarterly Prize Draw prizes - £50 for our annual membership of the London Green Belt Council - £49.50 for the annual cost of the Local Planning Apps facility for our residents – £175.20 for the printing of 'No Cold Caller' stickers distributed to all our Residents with the January 2026 Magazine – and £100 donated to the local Church for their 2026 Easter Egg Hunt.

All the above expenditure represents 'normal operating activity' and resulted in an Operating Surplus for the year of £1,935.07 to be added to our Reserves.

As notified in our Magazines during the year – the Fighting Funds have now been absorbed into our General Reserves.

Our closing Reserves now stand at £24,561.22.

Ian Drake – ARA Treasurer – April 2026

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Community Notice: Scam Calls

A quick heads-up about a new phone scam that's doing the rounds and seems to be targeting older people. Some callers are ringing out of the blue and asking people to take part in a 'lifestyle survey'. It sounds harmless, but it is not. The real aim is to collect personal information and, in some cases, trick people into payments or direct debits they didn't agree to.

What might the caller ask?

They may try to get details like: full name and address; date of birth; health information; bank or payment details.

Even if they don't ask for bank details straight away, they may be building up information to use later.



A new twist: copying your voice

There are also concerns that scammers may use AI (Artificial Intelligence) to copy someone's voice from a short phone chat. This is called **voice cloning**.

They may then try to use that 'copied' voice to sound convincing when attempting fraud. The best rule; if in doubt, hang up. If you get an unexpected call, it is perfectly okay to say; 'Sorry, I don't do surveys over the phone' and put the phone down. A genuine organisation will not mind you being careful.

Simple tips to stay safe

Never share your bank details, card numbers, PINs, or one-time codes on the phone.

Don't be rushed - scammers often create pressure; 'This must be done today!'

If someone claims to be from your bank, hang up, wait 15 minutes (or use another telephone) and call back using a trusted number (the one on the back of your bank card).

You can also call 159 if someone says they are from your bank - it connects you to your bank's genuine customer service.

Consider using a call blocker (many phones have one built in; there are also small plug-in devices).

Check your bank statements regularly – look for payments you don't recognise.

If you are worried you have been caught out

Call your bank straight away using the number on the back of your card.

Report it to Action Fraud at: www.reportfraud.police.uk

Please share the message

A quick chat with a neighbour, friend, or relative can really help. Scammers rely on catching people off guard — talking about it is one of the best protections we have.

Information based on a Which? Magazine article Feb 2026

Easter Egg Hunt

Local families braved unseasonably chilly weather on Sunday 29 March to take part in Addington Methodist Church's Easter Egg Hunt, supported by Addington Residents' Association.

The Easter Bunny hid pictures of eggs on trees around Huntingfield, Falconwood Road, and Featherbed Lane, delighting young ticket holders who searched for the images between 12pm and 2pm.

The event raised £222 to support the church's work.

Organisers thanked the families who came along and Addington Residents' Association for their generous financial support, which bought the eggs that were handed out to children who completed the hunt.

Congratulations to the 40 children who completed the hunt, and especially to the two girls who correctly guessed that there were 97 chocolate eggs contained in a jar, which they then got to keep.

Emma



Supporting our Community - Julian helps at the Easter Egg Hunt to raise funds for the Methodist Church in Huntingfield



Numbers Quiz

1. In the Bible, how many Plagues of Egypt were there? And what was the first plague?
2. Which number Apollo mission was the spaceflight that landed the first two men on the Moon?
3. Wa, Cha, Wej, loS, Vagh, is counting from one to five in which language?
4. How many yards are there in a chain?
5. In scrabble, which is the only letter worth 5 points?
6. Which 1969 science fiction anti-war novel by Kurt Vonnegut is about the World War II experiences and journeys through time of Billy Pilgrim?
7. How many sculpted lions by Sir Edwin Landseer sit at the base of Trafalgar Square?
8. Which number Pennsylvania Avenue is the formal address of the White House?
9. Charles Atlas marketed his fitness program for the 'how many' pound weakling?
10. How much/many is in a Baker's Dozen?
11. If an internet user follows a broken or dead link, they will typically find an error page with which number error message?
12. How many landlocked countries are there in South America?
13. What is 'nine tenths of the law'?
14. The Crazy 88 feature in which film?
15. On most phones, what number key also features the letters M, N, and O?

*Quiz answers are
on page 22*

What about Flanders for an adventure?

Well, I don't think one needs to travel very far but what constitutes an adventure?

Having a few minutes to wait at East Croydon one day, I browsed the leaflets and one caught my eye 'What's your next ADVENTURE?' and suggested Ramsgate; only 75 minutes by train. Instead, I will describe our latest adventure - Flanders in February. Only about 80 minutes on Eurostar to Lille from St Pancras and I spotted cheap tickets in the sale.

I am not sure that I could manage a hiking backpacking trek now, but I think the adventure comes from a challenge, exploring new places (in this case not very remote, though still unknown to us). We would need to plan, find somewhere to stay convenient for exploring, prioritise what to visit and how to manage the public transport systems using our French. Starting in Lille for half the week and returning from Brussels. We surmised that February would be less crowded and if the weather should be bad, we would visit the museums etc.

With such a short journey we arrived in Lille by lunch time and were able to explore the old quarter, winding cobbled streets, many restaurants and independent shops, and impressive architecture. It is the largest city in Northern France, which was historically the main stop on the Flemish merchant route. Hence instead of a massive cathedral, we admired the Grand Place and ornate Renaissance Ancienne Bourse. The Nouvelle Bourse is equally imposing with a beautiful Belfry and beside that the extravagant Baroque Opera. Plenty of museums and the Musee des Beaux Arts is second only to the Louvre as France's second museum.

The landscape is flat and agricultural but half an hour away by train is the city of Arras. In the Middle Ages it was famous for textiles and tapestries. Now the Somme will be forever remembered for the battles and cemeteries of WWI. Arras was on the front line and 85% destroyed though now beautifully restored as one of the finest architecturally striking towns in northern France. It has a huge Grand Place surrounded by Merchant Houses and an ornate Belfry, also another impressive Place des Heros where we lunched on Carbonnade Flammande. This is a beef stew with thick beer gravy appearing on most menus plus frites....

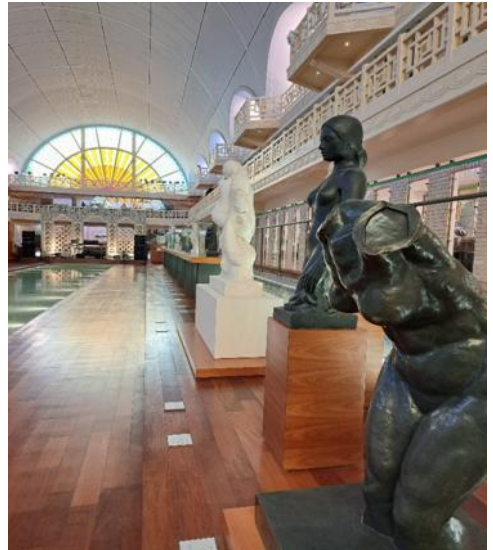
Extraordinarily under the town are quarries and tunnels dating from the Middle Ages, which were almost forgotten until used by the British when they occupied Arras. We visited La Carriere Wellington; a former quarry named by New Zealand tunnellers brought in to dig under enemy lines and create an underground headquarters for 24,000 Allied troops to provide a surprise diversionary attack in April 1917. Our visit was a moving and impressive experience with



projections and inscriptions on the walls bringing the horrors of that time to life. As was the Lutyens designed British Cemetery with classical colonnades and a huge wall inscribed with 35,928 names of the missing soldiers whose bodies were never found.

I find the architecture fascinatingly different when abroad and this trip was surprising in the variety of styles, Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, Art Nouveau and Art Deco.

We braved the metro/tram system from Lille Flandres station to visit a restored Art Deco Mansion - La Villa Cavrois, and found ourselves in a wealthy suburb not unlike the Webb Estate. Lille's wealth and importance was based on heavy industry but also textiles. The house was owned by a wealthy industrialist and the 1930s Art Deco design was austere though using luxurious materials, mainly wood and marble, with each room a work of art. It was fascinating to see how the house which had fallen into disrepair was restored.



Continuing with the tram we visited Roubaix on the Belgian border, another Flemish city 15km to the north but now almost absorbed into Lille. It fell into decline with the textile industry's collapse but was worth a visit to see La Piscine, an Art Deco Museum of Art and Industry in a former beautiful swimming pool complex. Although no longer available to swim, the former pool is now surrounded by statues and the cubicles have displays of textiles and fashions of the era.

We moved on to Brussels using a local train rather than Eurostar (half the price) to a lovely hotel that was unfortunately having major repairs. We had to climb up to our huge room on the second floor using a horrible scaffolding type staircase where probably a future lift would be installed. We were given a discount as understandably the proprietors wanted work done before the summer visitors. However, a mix of culture and cobbled streets was tiring. When I sent the family a photo of us having a restorative cuppa, my son replied. "When you are in Brussels you need strong leg muscles". Very true because we walked our socks off. Lots to see. It is bigger and busier than Lille with lots of tourists, restaurants and expensive shops.



Brussels is in effect Europe's capital with a government quarter and also NATO HQ but the heart of the original Merchant city is the Grand Place – quite a stunning space with ornate Flemish townhouses decorated and gleaming with gold embellishments and the Gothic town hall still standing proudly since the C15th. We looked at the sights including the rather disappointing Manneken Pis and a wall painting with Tintin and Captain Haddock climbing up a trompe l'oeil staircase. Hergé the author of the books was a Belgian!! We also spent some time at the Magritte Museum in the Art/Royal quarter. We were told we would find the building as there was a large green apple on the roof – Rene Magritte being a surrealist artist.

We took the train to Bruges and had a lovely day wandering round 'the Venice of the north', enjoying the peaceful atmosphere with a pervading aroma of chocolate, and shops displaying beautiful lacework. Probably the narrow, cobbled streets will be thronging with tourists in the summer but a bright and chilly February day suited us fine. We felt we should visit the symbol of Brussels, the Atomium, dating from an international exhibition in 1958. It was ground breaking at the time but though not now so technically spectacular, the view was super.

A full-on fascinating week and now with summer ahead, another adventure? *Sheila Kemble*





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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.

The first draw for 2026 took place at the Committee Meeting in March.

- 1st Prize: Lynda Tosh from Falconwood Road**
- 2nd Prize: R & VK Srikanthan from Crossways**
- 3rd Prize: Sabah Jazrawi from Gravel Hill**

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

Account Name : Addington Residents Association

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Account Number 81491253

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

Addresses Please - past winners that we have been unable to contact

S Holman - membership paid in May, **Lovel & Gutter** - June, **Lorena Jesus** - June, and **M A Colman** - August. We have your winnings, so please contact Ian at 1palace@blueyonder.co.uk



Police report

This Issue PC Isobel Williams reports:

Over the course of an ANPR operation that officers took part in, a total of 111 vehicles were stopped, demonstrating proactive and effective policing. This resulted in three arrests for a range of offences including drunk driving, possession of cannabis, possession of an offensive weapon and making off without payment. Officers carried out six stop and searches and seized 16 vehicles for no insurance, strengthening road safety for the community. In addition, 23 Traffic Offence Reports were issued, reflecting a robust approach to tackling road-related crime and safeguarding the public.

As part of ongoing proactive patrols in both marked and unmarked vehicles, officers carried out eight stop-and-searches across Selsdon and Sanderstead. These interventions led to several community resolutions being issued for possession of cannabis.

Alongside day to day policing duties, our neighbourhood teams have been out and about across the wards, spending time with local schools, nurseries, and a range of community groups. These regular visits give us the chance to chat with young people, answer questions, and offer simple, practical advice to help keep them safe. Parents and staff have told us how much they value these interactions, and officers will continue to maintain this visible, friendly presence.

Officers have also been checking in with residents affected by crime, offering reassurance, updates, and guidance tailored to their situation, ensuring no one feels left without support.

To help address recent concerns raised by the community, officers have been carrying out focused patrols around school finishing times. These extra patrols are designed to discourage offending, such as robberies, keep students safe during busy after-school periods, and ensure young people feel supported and looked after.

Finally, we're continuing to strengthen our connection with the community through MET Engage (www.metengage.co.uk). This platform makes it easy for residents to stay informed, share concerns, and see what officers are doing locally. If you haven't registered yet, we would really encourage you to join. You can also find details of our monthly events, including street briefings and our "Cuppa with a Copper" sessions, on the platform. We're always happy to meet new faces, so please do drop by and say hello.

Trojan Motor Company



A local firm that kept reinventing ‘the people’s vehicle’

For much of the 20th century, Croydon was home to a vehicle manufacturer with a very particular obsession, making transport *simple, tough, and cheap to run*. Trojan Ltd (often just Trojan) built everything from solid-tyred utility cars and delivery vans to post-war clip-on bicycle engines and, later, 1960s bubble cars - before ending up in sports and racing car production.

Why it matters to Croydon

Trojan’s story is woven into Croydon’s industrial geography. The business moved from a small Clapham workshop to Vicarage Road just before the First World War, and from the late 1920s its centre of gravity became the Purley Way works.

The founding idea - a car designed to be almost unbreakable

Trojan was founded by engineer Leslie Hayward Hounsfield, who completed a prototype in 1913 and formed Trojan Ltd in 1914.

Hounsfield’s ‘people’s car’ philosophy showed up in unusual engineering choices, a simplified two-stroke engine promoted as having only seven moving parts; solid tyres to reduce punctures and running costs, paired with long-travel suspension to keep things tolerable for passengers.

A quirky layout. Instead of a conventional chassis, a punt-shaped tray carried the running gear under the seats, and the car could be started by pulling a lever.

Trojan even built its advertising around thrift, running the slogan ‘Can you afford to walk?’ - claiming shoes and socks over 200 miles could cost more than driving.

Scaling up in the 1920s

The First World War delayed full vehicle production. Trojan mainly contributed to the war effort by manufacturing **gauges and tooling**, while continuing development work. By the early 1920s, Trojan produced cars from Croydon and showed production versions publicly (including at the London Motor Show), then struck a manufacturing deal with Leyland Motors at Kingston upon Thames.

Over roughly seven years of the Leyland arrangement, around 11,000 cars and 6,700 vans were made (figures commonly cited in club histories and summaries).

This period also fixed Trojan's reputation as a practical commercial vehicle maker. The company developed a van version that became popular with fleet customers - most famously Brooke Bond Tea, plus the Post Office and laundries.

When the Leyland relationship wound down, Trojan brought full manufacturing to Croydon, building a purpose-built factory on Purley Way by 1928. A later 1936 rebuild replaced the earlier structure with a larger brick works that served the firm into the 1960s.

in 1931, Croydon's Davis Theatre ran a major competition in which the star prize was a locally made Trojan five-seater saloon, won by a woman from Elmers Road, Woodside - a ready-made 'Imagine winning a Croydon-built car' moment.

Modest speed

Trojan vehicles were not designed to be fast! The company emphasised economy, reliability and ease of use over performance, with top speeds in the 35–45 mph range depending on model. What they *did* have was visibility. The Brooke Bond fleet was big enough that it helped make the Trojan van a familiar sight nationally; one account cites 2,000 Brooke Bond vans over five years in the 1920s.

War work and post-war reinvention

In the Second World War era, Trojan turned to wartime production (items such as bomb racks and parachute containers), then returned to making vans after the war. Then comes one of the most 'magazine-friendly' pivots, Trojan also manufactured a small engine that could be attached to a bicycle, converting it into a powered runabout. One Croydon account claims more than 50,000 of these were produced between 1949 and 1954 - a vivid example of how a car maker adapted to shortages and changing mobility after the war.

The 1960s twist: bubble cars and racing

Trojan's late chapter is what many people remember visually. In 1959, the company changed hands (with Peter Agg commonly credited in summaries), and from 1960 - 1965 Trojan built 7,000 Heinkel bubble cars under licence, marketed as the Trojan 200. Trojan also acquired rights to build the Elva Courier sports car, then the business shifted further into racing-related production. That arc - from thrift-first utility vehicle to fashion-era bubble car to sports and racing - is the 'surprising' narrative spine that can make your residents-mag feel fresh.

What's left today

The Purley Way industrial story remains legible in place names and the corridor's industrial-to-retail evolution (and there are still photo records showing Trojan signage and line-ups of vans at the works). The Museum of Croydon has hosted Trojan-related programming, including a listed talk with the Trojan Museum Trust's David Hambleton. And the Trojan Museum Trust and Trojan Owners' Club are strong sources for images, ephemera, and technical detail.

Shabbir Halai

Courage that Stopped a Predator

The First Female Police Officers to be Awarded the George Medal

Women's History Month is celebrated every March, and here is the story of two trailblazing female officers in Croydon.

In 1955, WPS Ethel Bush and WPC Kathleen Parrott became the first female police officers to be awarded the George Medal for bravery, for their exceptional work in bringing down a serial sexual attacker.

They are part of a legacy of officers working to keep women and girls safe in London.

A violent sexual predator on the path to murder

In November 1954, a series of sexual assaults on women took place on Fairfield Path, a dark and lonely footpath in Croydon. There was no pattern to the victims or to the time of the attacks. They were becoming more and more violent and the police feared that soon one of the assaults would lead to murder.

At the Met's Croydon headquarters, five female officers offered to act as plain-clothes decoys to lure out the attacker, despite the risk to their own safety. The first was Woman Police Constable (WPC) Kathleen 'Kay' Parrott, born in Balham and raised in Streatham Vale, who at the time had been an officer for less than five years.

On a cold night in March 1955, several male officers took up position as back-up in nearby streets as WPC Parrott began to her walk down the alley that ran alongside Park Hill Recreation Ground. Sadly, colleagues weren't quick enough to prevent a ferocious attack on Parrott, her assailant coming from behind, forcing her to her knees and knocking her unconscious.

As she was losing consciousness, Parrott bravely twisted from his grip, turning and ripping the mask covering his mouth and nose. She was confined to her bed for over three weeks afterwards to recover from her injuries, but the police finally had a lead; WPC Parrott had seen the attacker's face.

The second decoy steps up

Women Police Sergeant (WPS) Ethel Bush was the next brave officer to step forward to lure the attacker. Brixton-born Ethel Violet Bush had worked as a dress cutter, and in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force before joining the Metropolitan Police in 1946.

She was on uniform patrol when she spotted a man matching the description of the attacker in the area on the evening of 23 April 1955. She returned to her station, changed into plain



clothes and volunteered to act as a decoy. Half a dozen CID officers, a dog handler and WPC Parrott positioned themselves at intervals along the mile-and-a-half route.

As Bush set off down the footpath, she noticed a shadowy figure emerge from the bushes and begin to follow her. All would now depend on the officers being able to intercept him before serious injury could be inflicted.

Within a few yards of the main road and safety, the attacker picked up a y-shaped log and crashed it down on her head. To his amazement, she did not crumple to the ground as he intended and, as officers raced towards the pair, she turned to face him. With blood gushing over her face and shoulders, she grabbed hold of the man's jacket but he smashed his fist into her face and was able to escape. She would need 11 stitches to repair her head wound.



Police were hot on the tail of the attacker and arrested him shortly after. He was 29-year-old William George Barnett, a married labourer from New Addington. Despite her injury, the following day Bush, Parrott and seven other women positively identified Barnett at the station.

'I cannot imagine higher courage'

On 16 May, he was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment, with judge Sir Anthony Hawke telling Bush and Parrott, "I cannot imagine higher courage than you showed along that footpath."

That same month, Bush was highly commended by Met Commissioner Sir John Nott-Bower and, in the next Queen's Birthday Honours, Bush and Parrott were both awarded the George Medal. They were the first British female police officers to receive that medal, though the first medal awarded to a Met policewoman for bravery was a King's Police Medal in 1947 to WPC Alberta Mary Watts.

That was also awarded for decoy duty against a sex attacker in south London, less than thirty years after the first Met patrolwomen had gone on duty in 1919.

On 22 November 1955, Bush and Parrott attended the State Ballroom at Buckingham Palace to receive their medals, with Parrott's ten-year-old child, Terence, also present to witness the occasion. The Queen asked if they had recovered from their injuries and stated, "I am very proud of both of you". Parrott retired from the Metropolitan Police in 1956 but Bush served on until 1971.

The log used by Barnett to attack WPS Bush is on display at the Met's Crime Museum, a teaching museum for current and trainee officers and staff. The incredible courage of both officers directly stopped a serial sexual predator from attacking more victims. Bush's medal is now in the Police Museum in Sidcup, along with several photographs of their investiture at Buckingham Palace.



Competition - Design the next Front Cover

Our community magazine is made for local people - so for the next edition, we would love the front cover to be designed by one of you. And there's a brilliant reward too; first prize is a lovely food and drink hamper - perfect for sharing or treating yourself.

We are running a friendly competition for residents to create the front cover artwork for our next quarterly issue, delivered to 750 households across our neighbourhood. If you enjoy drawing, painting, photography, collage, digital art (or you simply fancy having a go), this is your chance to see your work in print.

What we are looking for

We want a cover that feels warm, local and uplifting - something that reflects our area and makes people smile when it lands on the doormat.

Your design could be:

- a drawing or painting of a local scene
- a seasonal picture
- a photograph you have taken locally
- a collage or digital design

Simple is absolutely fine — bold and clear often works best!

Who can enter?

Anyone local - children, adults, families, beginners and experienced artists. This is meant to be fun and inclusive, so please do not overthink it.

What you will win

- A lovely food and drink hamper (first prize)
- Your design featured as the front cover of the next edition
- A little mention inside the magazine (if you would like)
- And we will do our best to publish some other entries as well!

How to enter

Create your design in any format.

If it is on paper, take a clear photo in good light (or scan it).

Send your entry with your name and contact details (and a short note about your inspiration if you would like).

A few quick rules

Entries must be your own original work.

Please avoid using copyrighted images or famous characters!

We cannot wait to see what you create - let us make the next cover something our whole community can be proud of!

Email entries to: addingtonresidents@gmail.com

Post entries to: 2 Palace Green CR0 9AG WhatsApp entries to: 0777 614 0913





What Next?

Our Sponsored Walk on May 16th is the chance for you to raise money for the good cause of your choice. 100% of the sponsorship you raise goes to your charity. We are, as last year, lapping Sanderstead Recreation Ground, We will start from 10am. So get in touch to sign up for the walk and begin to gather your sponsors.

What Then?

On September 12th our Hobby Fair will take place at St John's Community Hall in Selsdon, do come along and see just what is on offer. Many local groups & organisations will be there to show you what is available.

And then

Saturday 26th September sees the return of the Sanderstead Community Day on the recreation ground. A great day for all the family. Don't miss out, come along and have fun.....



If you would like to give a little back to your local community and support local good causes, get in touch, work with your local Rotary club to support your local community.

Call us on 07774 186792

Rotary Rocks

Answers to Quiz

1. Ten. Turning water into blood.
2. 11 (Apollo 11)
3. Klingon
4. 22 yards
5. Letter 'K'
6. Slaughtertehouse-Five
7. Four lions
8. 1600
9. '97-pound weakling'
10. 13 11. 404 ('404' not found)
12. Two (Bolivia and Paraguay)
13. Possession
14. Kill Bill: Volume 1
15. Number 6

The 12.30 from Croydon

I was really pleased to read about this particular book and its connection with Croydon as it features Croydon Airport!

If you enjoy crime fiction that feels satisfyingly *engineered* - where motive, timing, alibis, and logistics interlock like parts of a machine - then Freeman Wills Crofts' *The 12.30 from Croydon* is a classic worth rediscovering.

First published in 1934, the story opens with a death on the 12.30 flight from Croydon to Paris, and the investigation that follows is built around the sort of practical details that only a certain kind of mind obsesses over - routes, schedules, opportunity, and the tiny windows of time in which a 'perfect' plan can be executed.

Crofts does something that still feels fresh. He reveals the central mystery's *shape* early; we 'begin with a body' and then the book pivots into a substantial flashback, tracking how the crime was conceived and arranged - an approach now often called an inverted detective story or 'howcatchem'.

So if you are worried about spoilers, this is the rare crime novel where knowing the broad direction is part of the design. The tension comes from watching how a carefully laid plan attempts to survive real life; nerves, chance, human error, and - inevitably - police method.

Crofts' series detective is Inspector Joseph French - workmanlike, methodical, and persistent. In other words, he is the perfect counterweight to a murderer who thinks they have outsmarted the world. Crofts himself was trained as a civil/railway engineer before writing full-time, and that professional background shows. His books are famous for their respect for logistics - especially the sort of apparently watertight alibi that depends on timetables and precise movements.

The title points to Croydon's former identity as a place of departure - when Croydon Airport was a gateway to international travel and the glamour (and novelty) of 1930s flight. That matters because the murder method relies on the peculiarities of being enclosed in a cabin, airborne, and briefly separated from normal lines of help and scrutiny.

For local readers, that setting adds a particular pleasure: you can feel the era's confidence in movement and modernity—Croydon as an outward-looking hub—while the story quietly suggests that progress also creates new opportunities for wrongdoing.

Without turning this magazine article into a plot summary, it's fair to say the novel's engine is not only the 'how' but the *why*—the slippery moral reasoning by which a person convinces themselves that a calculated act is justified. That psychological element is repeatedly flagged in modern commentary on the book: the reader is brought close to the planning mind and the self-deception that accompanies it.



That perspective makes *The 12.30 from Croydon* feel less like a cosy puzzle and more like a clinical study of decision-making under pressure - very much a 1930s story, but with recognisable human impulses.

Another distinctive element is how the story resolves. The closing sections move into courtroom territory, with the case effectively reassembled and tested. It's a satisfying change of register; the mechanics of investigation meet the mechanics of proof.

Why it's worth reading for Croydon residents

- Local connection with national reach: Croydon is presented as a departure point into Europe - an outward-facing identity that many locals will recognise in different forms today.
- A different kind of suspense: rather than 'who did it?', you get 'will the plan hold?' - often more gripping, because it's about process, not surprise.
- A window into interwar life: the book is steeped in period assumptions about travel, class, family obligation, and reputation, all without becoming a history lecture.

PS This book has been reissued in the British Library Crime Classics range, which has helped bring Crofts back to a wider audience.

Shabbir Halai



Please see below the Cuppa with a Copper events in your area, we would love to see you at: the Selsdon Community Clubhouse, 132 Addington Road, Croydon, CR2 8LA

Tue 05/05/2026 14:00 – 15:00

Tue 09/06/2026 14:00 – 15:00

Tue 21/07/2026 11:30 – 12:30

Please join us at Selsdon Community Clubhouse opposite the entrance to Sainsburys. If you would like to discuss any issues you are having in the local community, or you would just like to come and say hello.

Everyone is welcome.

Councillor's Corner

Putting pride back in our borough - Selsdon blitz

The blitz clean of Selsdon High Street took place in March. Some items are still outstanding but we hope you agree that our High Street looks bright, clean and inviting.

Putting pride back in our borough – Grass cutting

With the approach of the warmer weather we are seeing the grass starting to grow once again. Our mowing equipment has already been taken from its winter storage and prepared for operation and the first cut of the grass is already underway.

Potholes

Conditions this Winter have been particularly conducive to the creation of potholes. This is a national problem, so we have our share. Our highway inspectors identify potholes but residents can help by reporting potholes that they come across using the LoveCleanStreets App. Our crews are also empowered to identify and fix potholes themselves.

Selsdon Park Hotel

You may have seen claims that the former Birch Hotel in Selsdon has been bought. As of the time of writing (7th April) negotiations are as far as we are aware still in progress. We hope that by the time you read this there may be good news on this but nothing is yet settled. Please keep an eye out for an announcement.

Council elections

Elections for your Councillors and the Executive Mayor are due on the Thursday 7th May. Check your polling card for your polling station.

Robert Ward



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**Did you know we can provide
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You can speak to me
Anne-Marie on 020 8650 7264 or
email hello@capablecare.co.uk



Litter Pick



The Litter Pick on Saturday 28th February around Forestdale was....
a resounding success!

Ten volunteers from St. Mary's Church and a further ten volunteers from the local community joined in the Litter Pick in February – what a brilliant turnout and thanks to everyone that got involved. We do this in conjunction with Croydon Council who supply the litter pick devices, gloves, bag holders and bags, and then remove all the litter.



Having said that, we were all amazed/disgusted by the amount of rubbish discarded so blatantly by motorists and passers-by. In total we collected 37 bags of litter and a variety of other rubbish. Thank you everyone!

Mary Innes

Editor's Note: If you would like to organise a litter pick in your area, email: addingtonresidents@gmail.com or message 0777 614 0913.

Your subscriptions

Why pay your voluntary annual subscription

The £5 voluntary subscription covers 4 quarterly magazines. The funds are also used to help meet printing costs as well as payments to organisations such as the London Green Belt Council and the Local Planning App. These payments are essential to ensure we stay informed and up-to-date with any issue that may arise. **PLEASE** read the Treasurer's Report for further details of how your subscription is spent.

We now have additional Collection Agents, living locally, so you may drop your 'little brown envelope' at the address shown on the label. You can also pay by bank transfer using the account details shown on the label and below:

Account Name: Addington Residents' Association

Sort Code: 40-35-40

Account number: 81491253

Please include your door number and street as a reference on the envelope or bank transfer so we have your details recorded for the Prize Draw.....**YOU MUST BE IN IT TO WIN IT!!**

PLEASE also add your email address to the envelope - there are sometimes things that you could be notified of by email - if we have no means of contacting you we cannot let you know.

And if anyone is unsure whether they have paid or not - just contact Ian Drake the treasure
1palace@blueyonder.co.uk

Thank you all for your continued support.

WHAT IS AN AED

Research from St John Ambulance shows that a quarter of UK adults have experienced a **cardiac arrest incident** in some way, either as a first aider, bystander or patient. With more than one in seven cardiac arrest incidents occurring in the workplace, access to an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is critical. Prompt CPR and defibrillation – which delivers an electric shock to restore someone's normal heart rhythm – can more than double survival rates during cardiac arrest. Yet, over half of people don't know how to give CPR, while almost two-thirds lack confidence to use a defibrillator.

A lack of first aid training also contributes to the confidence gap, as nearly half of people would feel panicked if faced with a medical emergency. However, the study finds there is a strong appetite to learn; more than half consider cardiac arrest response among the most important first aid skills, and also believe mandatory first aid training at work would most encourage people to help in a first aid emergency, including using a defibrillator.

Although state schools are the only UK workplaces required to install defibrillators by law, all employers must provide 'adequate and appropriate' first aid equipment based on risk assessments. For higher-risk environments, not having a defibrillator could be considered a breach of the employer's duty of care. To find out more about our AEDs and defibrillators for your workplace, email: shabbir@safetyisthekey.co.uk

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
THURSDAY	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

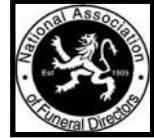
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Who to contact if.....

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 you 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 2026. 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	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

An Inspector Calls

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Frankenstein

Jekyll & Hyde

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Carrie-Anne Rouse



Louise Rose



Marilyn Last

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Saturday 10am - 2pm

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