



Banners Gate & Parklands

Community & Neighbourhood Forum

139th Issue August - September 2020

www.bannersgateneighbourhoodforum.com

The dates of the next three meetings are to be arranged when you-know-what has gone.

If you want Gatepost emailed to you in full colour, before it is printed, when we are allowed, usually in black and white, please send an email, by just clicking the link, bgatepost@gmail.com with "Email Gatepost" in the subject line.


This is our third non-printed edition and we suspect there will be a fourth non-printed edition. Please feel free to forward it as often as you like because it is only reaching just under 400 people by email, instead of the usual 2500 homes. Do not forget that some advertisers may not be operating but you can ring to check. A link to Gatepost will soon appear on our blog at www.bannersgateneighbourhoodforum.com.

Please take a look at the new SCDAG (Sutton Coldfield Disability Action Group) website. The web address SCDAG.org.uk was provided by the same person who hosts our website, Stuart Ford, Director, at Domination.zone. Apart from that, he also gave us advice and assistance to upload it, for which we are very grateful.

SCDAG is run by a small band of volunteers and, in common with many such agencies, our activities are much reduced but do not let that stop you viewing the website.



Tony (Editor)

The Flu Jab at Sutton Park Surgery - I was told this morning, 15th September, that the flu jabs will be coming in at the end of September. Patients who qualify will then be contacted and given a phone number to call to arrange an appointment.  **Tony**

Rob Pocock:



Poet's Corner

A TRIBUTE TO SUTTON PARK

I like to visit the Park
Before it starts to get dark
It helps me to sleep
-Oh ever so deep
So next day I'm up with the lark!

Just when we thought it was safe enough to get back in the water... it looks like the virus is back on the rise again. I was disappointed that we've had to experience even tougher new restrictions locally than nationwide. The new rules cover all of Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, Solihull and Sandwell, and the problem seems to be that the virus is getting transmitted where people meet with others in their own homes. Social gatherings, house parties, big family events and so on seem to be the occasions where people are most likely to be picking up the infection now. It's affecting all communities and it's younger people (that's people under 40!) where the rise is fastest, but it's going up one way or another, across all ages.

I've been asked why Sutton should be included if the virus rates are lower here, but the figures actually show that we are getting a rise in new infections here too. In fact in the week the new rules came in, Sutton has had a rate of infection that's actually 25% higher

than the adjoining Erdington area, despite Erdington having more areas of poor housing, mixed communities etc where it is argued the infection is worse. The truth appears to be that it's actually transmitting here in Sutton too, so it is understandable that we are going to have to stick to the same rules as our neighbouring areas.

On a brighter note, the bin collections have been a lot more reliable in the past few months. Residents will know I pay special attention to the bin service as it's pretty much the one Council service that every resident receives. When the lockdown started there was a lot of sickness absence and I was worried the bin service would struggle to keep up. In the event, they have rallied round and the workforce have done a brave and brilliant job of keeping it going. What's more, with people spending more time living and working from home and having stuff delivered, the volume of household bin waste to collect has increased a lot over this period. So, whatever has been said about the past, our bin crews deserve a big round of applause for their reliability over this time when we have needed them most. Full marks!



Kath Scott: I've been keeping a close eye on the situation as kids return to school this autumn. Parents are understandably worried about the risks, but they also want to make sure their

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children keep up with their education. It's a tricky one to get right. If you are a parent with concerns about your child's safety just email me on kath.scott@birmingham.gov.uk.

As many residents will know, Rob and I have been doing a lot of survey work in the area during the pandemic, when we have not been able to do our normal advice bureaux and public meetings. I've been analysing all the replies from our postal questionnaires and putting together a 'shopping list' of improvements as things start getting back in action again. This has included more 'speedwatch' checks on speeding traffic, getting pavement 'drop kerbs' put in at several road junctions so people using buggies and mobility scooters can get about easier, and asking the Council's highways contractor to start repairing the dodgy pavements around the area. On this subject, I'm pleased to say that a proper road repair is being done on Greenway Drive soon, to upgrade the road surface that's been crumbling away for several years. We want more of that too!

On another bit of good news, I've been working with the local neighbourhood police on getting 'streetwatch' groups going across the Sutton Vesey Ward, to make the area safer. We now have our first one up and running in the Banners Gate area, and hopefully more to come too.

Finally I've been working with Rob and Manish on an exciting project to assist people with physical and mental health difficulties, to do more things in Sutton Park. The need for this also came out of our recent local surveys of the area. It's early days yet, but it's an exciting project that will make a big difference to a lot of people. Watch this space!



Alison Jolley: Our Town Council meets regularly during the year to discuss community grant applications that support community projects for the benefit of residents through out Sutton Coldfield.

Since the inception of this scheme well over £600,000 has been granted for the benefit of local groups and establishments. We are certainly fortunate as a Town to have a wide range of these organisations that play an important part in the community, for example uniformed organisations, sports, culture and also arts projects that take place throughout the local Sutton wards.

The Newhall Valley Country Park supports a huge variety of wildlife and also gives much pleasure to many local people. At the end of last year a large area of the valley boardwalk required major repairs

due to severe vandalism. This vital facility allows visitors of all ages to access a large area of parkland that provides much to look at and enjoy in the form of woodland, tall grasses and also Plantsbrook, home to many water loving creatures.

Recognising the impact this vandalism caused, a community grant of £8,000 had been made available to allow the necessary repairs to begin.

This is just one example that demonstrates the value of our Town Council scheme that awards money throughout the year to many popular clubs and organisations within Sutton Coldfield.



Jan Cairns: Hi All, I hope that you have had the best Summer possible under the circumstances and that you are safe and well. Alongside ongoing home improvements, I have been working with my colleagues in our charity the Sutton Coldfield Disability Action Group

analysing the data from consultations that we have collected over the past 12 months. We are partnering with Sutton Coldfield Neighbourhood Network Scheme to prepare a further consultation with residents in our Royal Town who consider themselves to be disabled, and also retailers so that we can support a more accessible Sutton Coldfield in which to work, socialise and live. We will share these results when we get them.

Thank you to all for your efforts to stay safe and for supporting local business as they re-open. Our Library in the Town Centre will be opening again with limited opening hours from the 21st September.

The Town Centre Masterplan driven by our Town Council now marks the beginning of a long overdue plan to invest in the regeneration of our Town. Simon Ward, Leader of Sutton Coldfield Town Council has driven this progress forward working with local business, landowners and Statutory Bodies. There is yet much work to be done but the stakeholders are already working on the next steps to achieve these big moves.

Although, as Councillors, it has been very difficult to meet in person during this pandemic the Town Council telephone lines are being manned as usual and the team led by our Chief Executive has not faltered. The Councillors still continue with all Committee meetings virtually via Zoom.

Thanks for your continued support and I hope that we will all be able to get back to our old normal soon"

Cllr. Robert Pocock, rob.pocock@birmingham.gov.uk, tel: 0121 303 2039 (Labour Group Office), Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BB. Advice Bureau: Boldmere Library, 11.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. First Saturday of the Month.

Cllr. Kath Scott, kath.scott@birmingham.gov.uk tel: 0121 303 2039 (Labour Group Office), Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BB. Advice Bureau: Boldmere Library, LAST Thursday of each month from 2.00 - 3.00 p.m. at Boldmere Library.

The start of a new academic year...

At Sutton Park Primary, we are so excited to be beginning a new academic year. Having all of our pupils back in the building has been a real pleasure for us all.

Covid-19 has been a challenging time for all of our school community but we worked hard to keep in touch with our families via telephone and support them in any way we could.

It was amazing to see some of the home learning our pupils enjoyed being shared via email and also our school Twitter page. Our summer competitions were a real hit with lots of entries to our Summer poetry competition and Summer Bake Off too. Here is a picture of our 'Showstopper' winner by Jayden (Y1)



Mrs Middleton, Head of School

Library makeover:

Following our visit from the Lord Mayor of Sutton Coldfield on World Book Day, we were awarded an additional grant to renovate our library space. This was as a result of him being so impressed by our 'Snuggle up and Read' initiative.

The much-needed facelift has made a HUGE difference to the library that we are able to offer pupils. The space is now home to some fantastic seating areas and our amazing storyteller's chair. It is a calm, light space where our pupils can enjoy exploring books, hearing stories and finding out more about their current school topics and the world they live in. Using the grant, we were also able to subscribe to some educational magazines and newspapers for children too, meaning that we have a wider range of reading materials for them to enjoy.



Our new playground equipment:

We were lucky to receive a grant for approximately £45,000 from The Sutton Trust last year to improve the outdoor spaces available to our pupils. Well, I am sure you will agree that the new outdoor equipment looks fantastic! Some much-needed grounds and resurfacing work was also completed. The remaining funds will be spent on a new school minibus.



Follow us on Twitter: @Suttonparkpri

We regularly tweet key messages, examples of learning from in school and celebrate achievements too.

Our most recent tweets are also displayed on our school website for those who do not use Twitter.

WWW.SUTTONPARKPRIMARY.CO.UK

- BELIEVE - INSPIRE - ACHIEVE -



- **Improve where you Live?**
- **Make new Friends?**
- **Make a Difference?**
- **Get Fit?**



StreetWatch has been kept really simple, it is about going for a walk with your neighbours, getting to know people in the area and building up a sense of community spirit.

We ask for a minimum of 2 hours a month but you can do as much as you like.

The whole point of StreetWatch is about being that visible presence to DETER crime and anti-social behaviour, NOT deal with it- that's our job. If you see something that needs to be dealt with, call us.

All members are vetted and trained; the training is very simple and just involves making sure that people are aware of what we are asking of them, this takes approx. 1 hour. After training we register members on the forum which enables you to communicate with us.

We go with you on your first 2 walks to check you are confident and know what you are doing and then you go out independently.

There must be 2 people on each walk for safety and you are given a high visibility jacket with "StreetWatch" on it so people know you are part of an organised group. After that you organise your own walks, go where you want to, for how long you want, when you want!

At the training people usually swap phone numbers and set up chat groups such as WhatsApp to organise the walks - all very simple and low key, you can even walk your dog at the same time if you have one.

It really is up to the group themselves how much or little they do, StreetWatch is for the community, by the community.

Interested?

To get involved or for more information please email - streetwatch@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk or call **07391 864 258**

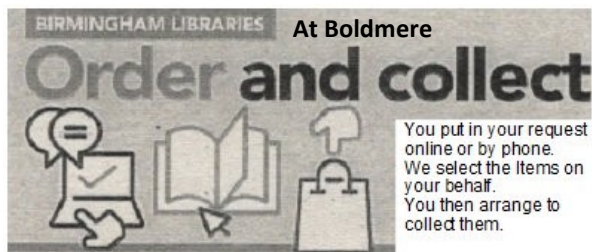
 **@StreetWatchWM**

 **I am proud of what I do**



Preventing crime, protecting the public and helping those in need
www.west-midlands.police.uk





You can either phone to order books or use this online link:

<https://birmingham.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRNGEN/WPAC/orderandcollect>. If you have any

queries please get in touch:

Boldmere.library@birmingham.gov.uk or 01214641048.

Please be aware that phones & emails will not be staffed at all times. We will be on site Tuesday & Thursday to facilitate this service. You might be interested in e books & e audio books which you can download for free using the normal online catalogue

<https://birmingham.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME>

Please also follow us if possible, on Facebook and Twitter as we will keep you updated on services and share author talks and craft activities. In the event of a local lockdown this is where we will post information. It is still not too late for children to join the Silly Squad, Summer Reading Challenge online at

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

You can now use Order & Collect to support your completion of the challenge.



sillysquad.org.uk



Sonnet for COVID

(with apologies to William Shakespeare)

Shall I compare thee to the plagues of years past?
Thou art yet more hateful and more cunning.
From a Chinese market, across oceans vast,
To North, South, East and West, you came
gunning.

Like the sharpened guillotine of old
Lockdown dropped to sever your head.
But you didn't capitulate or fold,
Still your rictus grin strikes us down dead.
Fatalities, unemployment, depression:
A rampant legacy is your bequest.
But WE rise again, as is our fashion:
Masks, sanitiser, vaccine – our weapons fest.
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long will we chase and annihilate thee.

Sally Jenkins

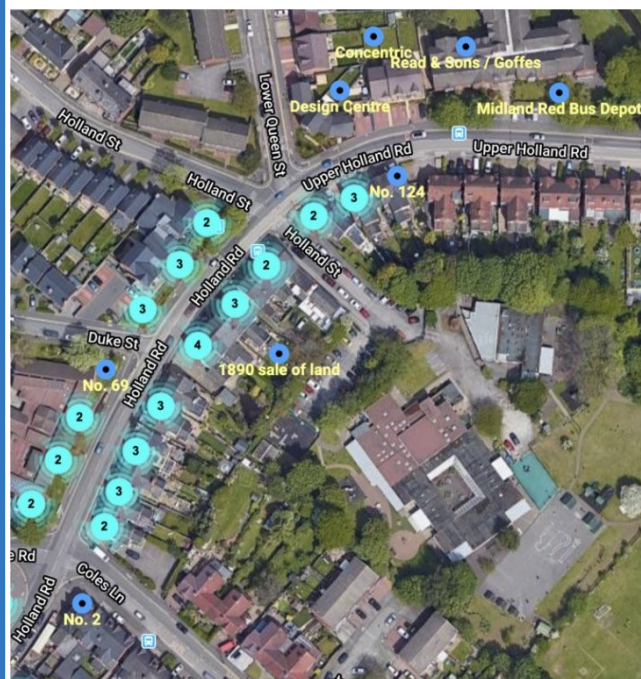


Sutton Coldfield means different things to different people – even different things at different times – and all sort of associations, memories and experiences affect how we identify with our town.

Telling Sutton's Stories is a new community project, co-ordinated by FOLIO Sutton Coldfield, exploring different ways we identify with where we live by inviting you to contribute to a map of what matters to you – whether that is the town's history, the town's natural environment, artistic responses to the town or more.

We hope that through contributing to the map or simply exploring what others have added to the map, we will all feel more connected to our town and the community we are all part of and that you will feel your voice, and what matters to you, will be heard.

Click on **Telling Sutton's Stories** for the website. You may need to hold down the ctrl key when you click on the link address.



A screenshot of the Telling Sutton's Stories website

Is your Vehicle Secure?

Over the last few days we have received reports of opportunist thieves going around trying vehicle door handles.

These incidents generally occur late at night, or in the early hours of the morning.

However the nature of the opportunist means that this activity could happen at anytime.

Individuals are openly walking onto drive ways to try vehicle doors as well as those parked at the road side.

Please check your vehicle is secure wherever, and whenever you park it.

we have all got use to pressing the key fob and not giving it much more thought.

It is advisable to check that the fob has done its job.

Please remember to remove valuables from within when your vehicle is parked and unattended.

There will always be those looking for an opportunity to steal, a few simple measures means we can all make that opportunity much harder to find.

For more vehicle crime prevention advice please visit : www.securedbydesign.com

go to . Guidance. crime Prevention. Vehicle crime.

Message Sent By

Saul Smith (Police, PCSO, Four Oaks NHT)

Volunteer Support



COVID outreach work -volunteers to help keep Birmingham open

With increases in the number of COVID 19 Positive tests recently seen across the country we're taking steps to think through how we can get messages out to residents across Birmingham. We are now urgently looking to identify volunteers who can be transported from a central control base to spike areas around the city and work in teams to provide targeted outreach.

This Drop and Collect operation will include door to door citizen engagement to drop off and collect testing kits, monitoring the uptake and providing leaflets containing advice on how to reduce further escalation of the virus. This approach has proven effective in Leicester and we have taken those lessons learnt to structure a robust and safe operating model.

We now urgently need to identify a pool of volunteers who we can call upon to cover an operating model 8am – 8pm Monday to Friday and 9-5 at weekends. The days will be broken into 3 shifts, 2 over the weekend, and volunteers will work in teams of 3, assigned relevant PPE, given a script and supplies, briefed and debriefed each shift and allocated a driver and minibus to transport groups of 6 to and from identified postcodes. Our initial aim is to cover 180 postcodes a day with 60 volunteers on each shift but this may need to be quickly scaled up so we need your help now!

We are looking to deploy immediately so if you're interested please register using this form <http://volunteering form>

Kind regards

Message Sent By

Stefanie Sadler (Police, Engagement & Consultation officer, Birmingham Partnerships)

For the September Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter, please click [here](#).

Regarding my contribution of how time is being spent and my walking exercise along my patio:

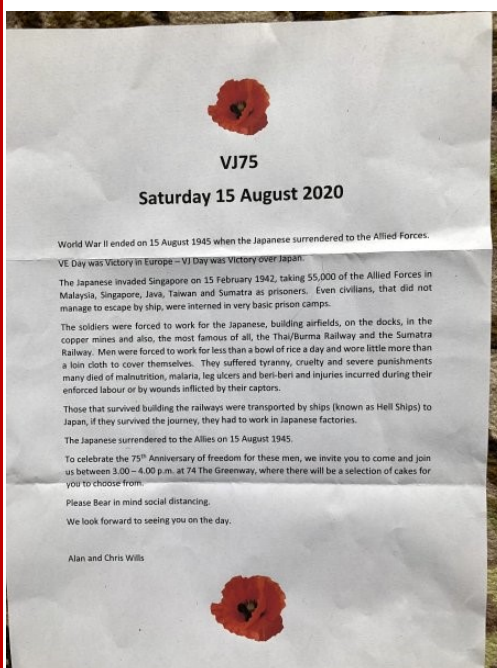
I have calculated that by the end of the month I will have walked 26 miles based only doing ten circuits each day at the rear of my bungalow. In fact, I have more recently been doing thirty and forty which more than makes up for bad weather earlier.

Like Captain Tom I was also in Burma but not in the fighting. I went there from India soon after the war ended and only mixed with the Japanese when I took a working party back to the POW camp. We were in the back of a high sided lorry and they called me 'Johnnie' and pointed to the cab indicating that I could sit in there. I just slapped my 'empty' rifle to try to indicate who was in charge!

What an excellent VJ celebration it was on BBC last Saturday evening, it brought back quite a few memories.

Harold

VJ Day celebration in The Greenway



Girls Friendly Society

Here are some pre-pandemic pictures of the girls from GFS Banners Gate enjoying a craft activity at one of their weekly sessions. The activity challenged the girls to think about what it's like being a girl in our town and led to an interesting discussion about the positives and negatives. They then filled the girl with the positives.

This activity is a great example of what GFS is all about. One of the key goals of the group is to build girls' confidence, feel able to speak their minds and help them understand that girls are unstoppable, no matter what life throws at them. It's also a fun, supportive place for girls to meet and try new things - the second activity of this evening was getting in touch with nature by making birdfeeders for our gardens.

Although we have not been able to meet during the pandemic, we have been meeting at virtual GFS over Zoom and we are hoping to return to face-to-face meetings in November. We are always open to new members, so if you have a daughter aged 5-10, we'd love to hear from you! You can find out more about the group and how to register at girlsfriendlysociety.org.uk/banners-gate



E-mail!

Hi there, I have been put InTouch with you by my cousin Stella Grainger. My name is Graham Kelcher and I entered Banners Gate C P School on the day it opened, consequently was one of the first group to complete our infant and junior education at the school. My elder brother Rob had started school at Princess Alice at New Oscott.

The school was supposed to be a temporary structure but I notice the building is still going strong!

The head teacher was Miss Evans, and we had a variety of teachers including Mrs. Geater, a very kindly and supportive lady, and Miss Lewis, again a very gently spoken lady, who wrapped her chalk in paper when writing on the blackboard for some strange reason.

We were given an excellent education, which enabled many of us to pass the 11+ exam and ultimately proceed to our chosen careers. I became an optometrist, my brother was a metallurgist, and I know of others who became doctors, lawyers, teachers, architects etc. Quite an achievement for the staff when you consider there were 47 of us in my final year class, and no teaching assistants.

Our playgrounds were the open spaces opposite the School gate where the shops now stand, the field opposite my home in Banners Gate Road, and of course Sutton Park. We played endless games of football and cricket, and yes the goalposts were piles of jumpers.

In my early years you could tell when a bus had arrived at Kingstanding Circle by the number of people walking to the Park. I have always said you could drop me anywhere in Sutton Park and I would know exactly where I was, we climbed the trees, paddled in the streams and fished in all the pools, not forgetting swimming at Keeper's.

I have fond memories of Coronation celebrations, dances at St. Columba's church hall, the excitement when the Moody Blues' drummer lived for a while in the house behind ours in Westwood Road. And I am pleased to see that our old house 77 Banners Gate Road looks well loved.

I am now aged 73, retired, and living in Shropshire with my wife of 45 years Margaret, but I feel Banners Gate gave me a fantastic start in life.

Graham Kelcher

How many of these do you see in your garden, or when you are out and about?



BHealthy

A simple checklist with practical tools and tips to help improve your health and wellbeing and reduce your risk of becoming seriously ill from Covid-19

- ✓ Checklist for a healthier you
- ✓ Weekly Getting Ready Plan
- ✓ Keeping COVID safe



@healthybrum



/healthybrum



@bcchealthybrum



HealthyBrum



Checklist for a healthier you!

Get it sorted	Tick when complete	Get Active	Tick when complete
Are you, and your family, up to date with vaccinations?		Are you getting moderate physical activity for at least 150 minutes a week? - this should be active enough to feel warm and a bit breathless.	
If you have a chronic disease like diabetes, have you had your long-term condition health checks e.g. diabetes annual review at your GP practice?		Are you doing muscle strengthening exercises at least twice a week? - this could be yoga, lifting weights or body weight exercises like push-ups	
If you are between 40-75yrs old have you had an NHS health check in the last 3yrs?		Eating Healthy	
If you are a smoker, have you tried quitting with support from the free local stop smoking services?		Are you eating five portions of fruit and vegetables every day?	
Keeping Covid-19 Safe		Are you avoiding full sugar drinks, especially fizzy drinks?	
Do you regularly wash your hands when you come home?		Are you limiting snacks and sweets to special treats?	
Do you wear a face covering when you go into an enclosed space like a bus or a shop?		Getting Mind Ready	
Do you know how to get a Covid-19 test if you develop symptoms?		Are you keeping in regular contact with friends and family?	
Do you know what you and your family will do if you test positive for Covid-19?		Are you volunteering or participating with any group activities?	
		Are you getting at least 7hrs of sleep most nights?	

Activity	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
How many servings of fruit did you eat today?							
How many servings of vegetables did you eat today?							
How many 'treat' snacks did you eat today?							
How many minutes of physical activity did you do today?							
Who did you 'connect' with today?							
How many hours did you sleep last night?							
How many times did you wash your hands today?							

Keeping COVID safe



Washing your hands

Keep washing your hands for at least 20 seconds each time you get back home. Remember to wash your hands or use sanitiser when you enter a building, touch lift buttons or door handles. Avoid touching your face until you have washed your hands.



Social distancing

To stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), you should avoid close contact with anyone you do not live with. This is called social distancing.

Try to stay at least 2 metres (3 steps) away from anyone you do not live with (or anyone not in your support bubble).



Wearing a face covering

Wear something that covers your nose and mouth - on public transport, including taxis, when you go into an enclosed space like a shop or a hospital. Face coverings should not be worn by children under 3 and people who would find wearing them difficult (such as people with breathing difficulties). It's important to wash your hands before putting on and taking off your face covering.



Self-isolation

Self-isolation is when you stay at home because you have or might have coronavirus (COVID-19). This helps stop the virus spreading to other people. If you have symptoms then you must self-isolate with the people you live with and get a Covid test either by ringing 119 or going through the NHS website. If you test positive then the NHS test and trace service will ring you or email you to give you advice on what to do next, they will also ask you where you have been to try and find any people who may be at risk and need advice.



Getting a Covid Test

You can get a free test for yourself, if you have coronavirus symptoms now (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste) or if someone you live with, if they have coronavirus symptoms or you have been asked to by the NHS, Public Health England. You can book at test by ringing 119 or through the NHS website, this can be sent by post or you can go to a drive through site and in some areas there are also walk through sites. You need an appointment to go to these sites for a test.

nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/
gov.uk/coronavirus
birmingham.gov.uk/coronavirus_advice

**Just seen a
dyslexic
Yorkshireman
wearing a cat flap**

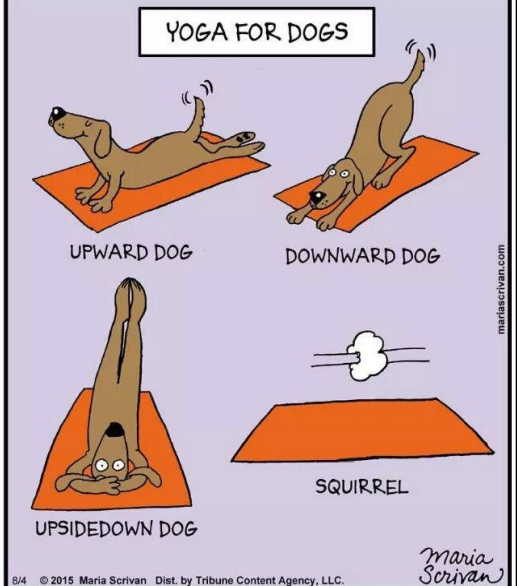
**The Seven
Dwarves have
been told that
from Monday,
they can meet in
groups of six.
One of them isn't
Happy.**

As I get older, all I need in life is
a Specsavers, a Boots and a Greggs...

Yep, life is all specs
and drugs and sausage rolls!



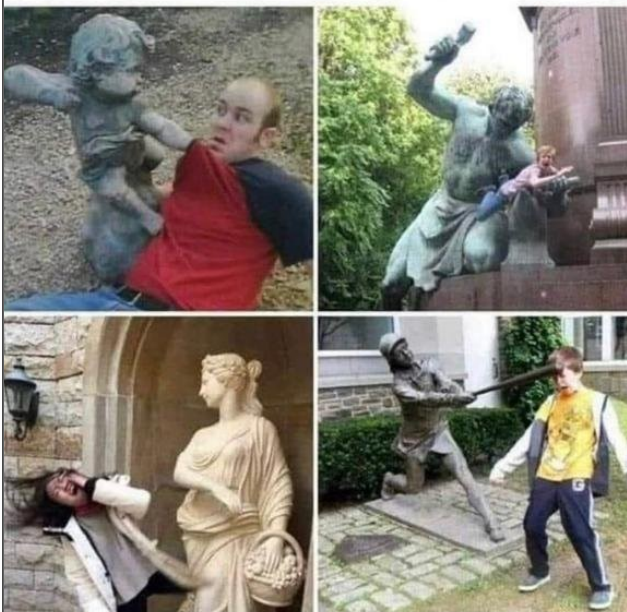
This is Buddy , I bought him as a surprise
present for my husband but it turns out he's
allergic to dogs . So unfortunately I'm going
to have to find a new home for him , and I'm
just wondering if anyone out there can
help ? . His name is Alan, he's 61, great at
DIY, drives a nice car and plans wonderful
holidays.



Meantime at Lidl...don't know what's funnier, the
cat queuing up 2 meters from the door, or the
woman standing 2 metres behind the cat!? Mental
times. Mental.



Members of the statue community fight back.



If you see a beach, the ocean sky and stars, you either have
the mind of an artist or you need a vacation...



It is actually the bottom of a car door that needs fixing!



Quiz 1

1. Into which sea does the Nile flow?
 2. Three continents lie on the Tropic of Capricorn, South America is one, name any of the other two?
 3. In American currency 10 cents make a what?
 4. Afrikaans was developed from which European language?
 5. An Orangette is a cross between a tangerine and what other fruit?
 6. What Italian word for 'Scratched Drawing' can be found on walls all over the world?
 7. What musical features 'Some Enchanted Evening' and 'There Is Nothing Like A Dame'?
 8. What was the name of the first manned lunar landing mission in 1969?
 9. Which boxer was nicknamed 'The Dark Destroyer'?
 10. What was the name of Ritchie Valens' girlfriend?
 11. What is the procedure called where an anaesthetic is injected close to the spinal cord?
 12. What poisonous oily liquid occurs naturally in tobacco leaves?
 13. Who had his first UK top 10 hit with 'Wichita Lineman'?
 14. Which sign of the Zodiac is represented by the Scales?
 15. In which country was Rudyard Kipling born?
 16. What is the gemstone for September?
 17. What instrument has been nicknamed the 'Mississippi Saxophone'?
 18. One and a half litres of champagne are known as a what?
 19. In alphabetical order name the three particles that make up an atom?
 20. What is the common name of the 'Aurora Borealis'?
- BONUS - WHAT DOES THE FIRST LETTER OF EACH ANSWER SPELL OUT?

Quiz 2

1. The Blue Meanies were the enemy of the Beatles in which film.
2. What song is most commonly sung to celebrate someone getting a year older?
3. Who composed the songs 'Putting on the Ritz', 'I've got my love to keep me warm' and 'White Christmas'?
4. What is the name of the Dutch footballer who transferred from Arsenal to Man Utd in Aug 2012 for £23 million?
5. How many sides does an icosagon have?
6. Which large animal is the only creature thought to produce its own sun tan lotion from its natural secretions?
7. In a musical about gangsters, who are with the guys in the title?
8. Which Greek author was famous for his fables?
9. Which 1988 western saw Emilio Estevez play 'Billy the Kid' alongside Charlie Sheen and Kiefer Sutherland?
10. Which Russian punk band were jailed for two years in Aug 2012 for their anti-Putin protest and inciting hooliganism in an orthodox church?
11. Which historical region of Greece includes the capital, Athens?
12. Glenridding and Pooley Bridge stand at opposite ends of which lake, the 2nd largest in the Lake District?
13. Where in London is there a bronze statue of Charlie Chaplin?
14. What is the name of the actress who played Hilda Ogden in Coronation Street?
15. Who is reported to have played his fiddle while Rome burned?
16. What is the surname of the inventor of the world's first motorcycle?
17. Which song from 'Joseph and his technicolour dream coat' gave Jason Donovan a No 1 UK hit in 1991?
18. Which TV show from the '70s and 80's featured Michael Langdon as Charles Ingalls living on a farm with his wife and 4 daughters?
19. In which country did Posh and Becks marry?
20. Which fantasy kingdom was found at the back of the wardrobe and featured Aslan and a white witch?

Answers on next page .



Could two imperfect people
be the perfect fit?

Very Nearly Normal

'Delightfully
romantic'
Isabelle Broom



'A compelling,
quirky love story'
Miranda Dickinson

Hannah Sunderland

In May, Sutton Coldfield saw one of its lifelong residents, Hannah Sunderland, published with her debut novel *Very Nearly Normal*.

It is the story of Matilda 'Effie' Heaton, who has always felt like she's swimming against the tide. Everyone around her has life sorted, but that isn't the case with Effie. She is still living at home with her parents and emptying a bottle of wine every night. The only thing she loves is her job at a bookshop, where she can lose herself in other people's stories and mourn her dream of one day having her own book published.

Then, in steps Theo, who knows only too well that life isn't something to take for granted.

Because Theo is not all he seems and has a life-changing secret, and as Effie starts to realise that she's falling in love instead of falling apart, fate steps in and deals her a new hand. And this time, the stakes are high.

Very Nearly Normal is a story about the dangers of pitting your life against the lives of others, about finding happiness in the simple things and what it really means to be a failure.

It is available in eBook, Paperback and Audiobook (Read by Faye Marsay of *Game of Thrones*, *Bancroft* and *Doctor Who*)

Praise for *Very Nearly Normal*

'A compelling, quirky love story that feels fresh and relevant, told with huge warmth and heart from start to finish. I loved it!' **Miranda Dickinson**, *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *The Day We Meet Again*

'*Very Nearly Normal* is a love story with a difference: dark and at times painfully astute, uplifting and unusual.' **Gillian McAllister**, author of *Everything But The Truth*

'A delightfully romantic and endlessly enjoyable love story.' **Isabelle Broom**, author of *One Winter Morning*

'Beautiful – I am a tiny bit broken.' **Lisa Hall**, author of *Between You and Me*



Answers Quiz 1 - 1. Mediterranean 2. Australia, Africa 3. Dime 4. Dutch 5. Orange 6. Graffiti 7. South Pacific 8. Apollo XI 9. Nigel Benn 10. Donna 11. Epidural 12. Nicotine 13. Glen Campbell 14. Libra 15. India 16. Sapphire 17. Harmonica 18. Magnum 19. Electron, Neutron, Proton 20. Northern Lights **BONUS ANSWER - MAD DOGS AND ENGLISHMEN**

Answers Quiz 2 - 1. The Yellow Submarine 2. Happy Birthday 3. Irving Berlin 4. Robin Van Persie 5. 20 6. Hippopotamus 7. Dolls 8. Aesop 9. Young Guns 10. Pussy Riot 11. Attica 12. Ullswater 13. Leicester Square 14. Jean Alexander 15. Nero 16. Daimler 17. Any dream will do 18. Little house on the prairie 19. Ireland 20. Narnia



Welcome to an update from Highbury Theatre

In our last update, we advised that the government had announced theatres would be allowed to reopen from 1 August but had made a distinction between professional and non-professional theatre. Although a lot of the guidance now applies to both sectors, the distinction still remains and non-professionals need to ensure that physical distancing isn't compromised. That rules out fighting and hugging and leaves quite a short list of possible plays!

We are therefore looking to re-start with some evenings of scenes and sketches and a new short play by David Tristram called 'Lockdown in Little Grimley', which follows the 'Flying Ducks Over Boldmere' trilogy we performed 13 years ago. We're also looking at plays with smaller casts and crews. All these plans will be kept under review and changed as necessary so that we follow the government's guidance.

We also mentioned that we were working on re-opening our film club with some trial screenings to test our Covid-19 arrangements. We're delighted to say that they went well and we're choosing some other films to show.

We'll be announcing forthcoming productions and films at relatively short notice so that we can be as confident as possible that they'll go ahead. Keep an eye on our website (<http://highburytheatre.co.uk>) and Facebook page (@HighburyTheatre). We'll also send out information through our emailed Highbury Flyer newsletter. If you'd like to be added to our mailing list, please email boxoffice@highburytheatre.co.uk.

For all events, tickets will have to be pre-booked so that we have time to allocate seats, making sure there's space around each household group. We're doing more cleaning, providing hand sanitiser and asking people to wear face coverings while in the building. We're also asking people for their phone numbers to support NHS Test and Trace.

We've also started the process of commissioning a website designer to build us a new website as we need to replace our existing one. If anyone is interested in submitting a bid, we would be delighted to send them a copy of the specification. Please contact Liz Parry, Chair of the Marketing Committee, on elizabethparry@icloud.com. The closing date for bids is 30 September 2020.

We are very excited by our first tentative steps towards reopening and look forward to welcoming our audiences back to our theatre. It's a bit strange, with the new safety arrangements, but it feels like a small step in the right direction.



Local theatre company ***Manor Musical Theatre Company*** were scheduled to put on their annual show at Sutton Coldfield Town Hall in April, as they have done continually since their first show back in 1953. Hit by the lockdown and the subsequent temporary closure of the Town Hall it was a major disappointment to the society, who had been hard at work rehearsing since September last year. The Gershwin musical ***Crazy for You*** full of great dancing and memorable music had to unfortunately be abandoned, and just as we only had the finale audience bows of the show to rehearse. To say the cast and production team were extremely disappointed is an understatement, however of course obviously health and safety were paramount.

The society also has an active social side to it, and its planned Race Night and annual summer ball at Sutton Coldfield Golf Club in June were also cancelled. The society has, since its inception in 1953, given over £ 30,000 to local and national charities. We will hopefully continue giving with your future support.

Please check out our website regarding future activities or you would like to join us in the future.

www.manormusicaltheatrecompany.co.uk



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CHRISTMAS COMMISSIONS NOW OPEN



The Sutton Coldfield Art Trail was due to take place on 13th and 14th June but for health and safety reasons we are holding a virtual exhibition instead.

Click on the link below for further details.

35 artists from the Sutton Coldfield area are included in this exhibition covering a wide range of media; painters, textile artists, jewellery makers, collage artists, photographers, ceramic artists and sculptors.

www.suttoncoldfieldarttrail.wordpress.com

Next year we hope to be back exhibiting in our usual variety of venues around the town. The new dates will be announced on our website in 2021.

Banners Gate Community Association

Please remember that we have a **Community Minibus** and if your organisation would benefit from using it please contact Tracy on 07803 293 351.



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Art Circle Exhibition 2020

15 - 26 September

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'Boundaries' is the theme for this year's Birmingham Art Circle exhibition. When this subject was chosen, the artists were unaware of the new boundaries they were about to face.

info@birminghamartcircle.co.uk

Sutton Coldfield Neighbourhood Network Scheme

We are creating a map of all of the community assets and activities in the Sutton Coldfield constituency, which can help people aged 50+ to lead independent, happy and healthy lives.

Community assets are individuals, groups or organisations who are doing something or delivering an activity, project or service in a neighbourhood setting which older people can benefit from. This can be anything from a lunch club to a line dancing class, befriending to benefits advice, or a support group to a sewing club.

As well as mapping community assets, we are also working with them to sustain and grow the activities and services they offer to citizens aged 50+ in the local area. We can offer a range of support around issues such as marketing and promotion, volunteering, governance and fundraising, and as part of this, we have a micro and small grants scheme which can fund certain activities and projects in Sutton Coldfield.

We also have opportunities for citizens aged 50+ who have experience of social isolation or are carers (looking after someone regularly because they are older, disabled or seriously ill), or who have experience of running a community based activity to get involved in developing the Neighbourhood Network Scheme in Sutton via our co-production group.

The Sutton Coldfield Neighbourhood Network Scheme is delivered in partnership between Age Concern Birmingham and Compass Support. For more information, or a conversation about how you can get involved, please contact us on 0121 362 3661 or email NNS@ageconcernbirmingham.org.uk

For a searchable list of community assets in Sutton Coldfield, and the wider Birmingham area, please visit:
Birmingham.connecttosupport.org



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Sutton Coldfield Station

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Town Gate Cafe

Park Road, Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, B73 6BU

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Distance: 0.45 miles

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Showing 1 - 10 of 4410

1

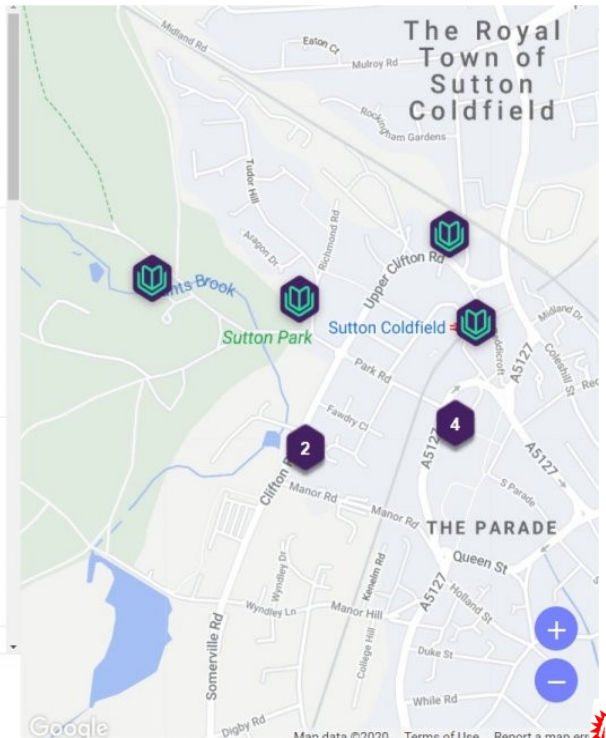
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This is Diane's Line Dancing Class in the **Banners Gate Community Hall** and a good example it is of following the rules.

They had their temperature taken. They all sanitised their hands. They have not exceeded the maximum of 12 people. Everyone is wearing a mask. They are practicing social distancing. The windows are open, as is the door at the top of the hall to create a flow of air. The leader ticked and initialled all the boxes on the Risk Assessment form. Each person filled in their name and phone number on the Track and Trace form.

They can definitely come again next week.



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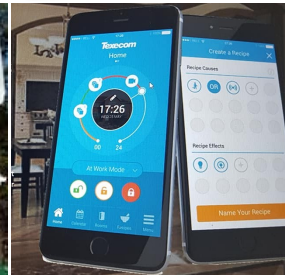
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WS1 2ND	Community Centre	(Dance Studio at the Back of the building)	Kids: 6.00pm—7.00pm
Kids: 6.00pm—7.00pm	Adults & Juniors: 7.00pm—8.30pm	Adults & Juniors (12+): 7.00pm—8.30pm	Adults: 7.00pm—8.30pm

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When: The last Saturday of every month. 9.00am parkrun start.
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Where: Walsall Arboretum Visitor Centre steps (meet at 8.45am)

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5k your way: move against cancer | [@cancer5kYourWay](https://www.facebook.com/cancer5kYourWay)
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The hall is approx. 38' x 21' (11.6m x 6.4m)

The kitchen is approx. 11' x 7' (3.4m x 2.2m)

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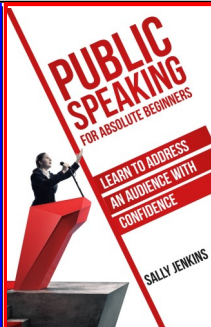
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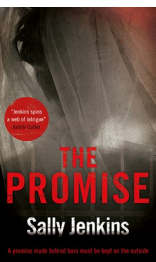
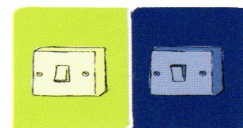
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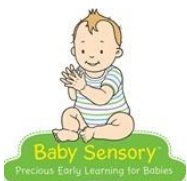
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HOME TUITION

Key Stage Two SATs tuition:
English comprehension, spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

Spanish and French: leisure courses and exam preparation to GCSE and A-level.

Tracy: 0780 329 3351



DAY/TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE	CONTACT	TEL.	Useful telephone numbers Sutton and Kingstanding Police: 101 Good Hope: 424 2000 Outpatients: 424 2000 NHS Health helpline: Call 111 it's 24/7 Citizens Advice 03444 111 444
Sun (1st) 11.00 –2.00 pm (1st) 4 - 7pm (1st) 7.00pm—8.00pm 10.00 am 9.00 am - 11.00am 10.30 am 11.00 am	Create at Gate with K & S Global Communion Soul Yoga Family Communion For details see website at www.saintcolumbasbannersgate.co.uk	Community Hall Community Hall Community Hall St. Columba's	Kathy Weston Pastor Chris 07565	628 6651 65 27 62 354 5873	
Mon 6.15am - 7.15am 11am - 1.00pm 5.30 - 7.00pm 7.30 – 8.30 pm	Stay in Focus Fitness Dementia Care The Girls' Society Line Dancing	Community Hall Community Hall Community Hall Community Hall	Ola Samuel 07565 Terry Lockyer Paul Murphy 07837	65 27 62 353 0230 39 57 89	
Tues 9.15 - 12.00pm 6.15 am - 7.15am 4.30 - 5.25 & 5.30 - 6.25 6.30 – 7.30 & 7.30 – 8.30 7.45 pm	Coffee Morning 3rd Tuesdays Stay in Focus Fitness IKA Sutton Kickboxing Line Dancing Chikara Karate Kai	Community Hall Community Hall Community Hall Community Hall St. Columba's	Barbara H-Walker 07872 98 76 10 Diane Pursall	553 6483 747 4659	
Wed 9.30, 11.00 & 12.30 10.30 - 12.30 6 pm - 7pm 7.15—8.15	Baby Sensory Guide Dog Training Mid-week Service Bible Study I Yoga. Midlands	Banners Gate CC Community Hall Community Hall Community Hall	Chris Brown 07914 Joe 07864 Diane Pursall Paul Murphy 07837	79 44 56 84 22 99 747 4659 39 57 89	
Thurs 6.15am - 7.15am 10.00 am 10.00—11.00 am 6.30 – 9.45 pm 7.15 – 10.15 pm (4th & 2nd alt months) 7.30 pm (1st) 8.00 pm	Stay in Focus Fitness Holy Communion Yoga Zig Zag Dance Studio Bridge Townswomen's Guild Mothers' Union	Community Hall St. Columba's Community Hall St. Columba's Community Hall Banners Gate CC St. Columba's	Tracy Jones 0775 Madge Nightingale Ola Samuel 07565 Angela Brookes 07939	82 56 22 360 0286 65 27 62 547392	BANNERS GATE COUNSELLING CENTRE Accessible and Affordable Counselling to Adults in the Community. The Upper Room St. Michael's House 198 Boldmere Road Sutton Coldfield Tel : 0121 354 6544 For information or an appointment please ring after 10 a.m. daily, except Wednesday
Fri 6.00—8.00pm	Make It Happen Dance Co	Community Hall	Tricia 07954 Warren 01902 Sylvia Cunningham 07870 Josie Orme Judith Fennell	354 5873 40 39 43 897 900 82 98 37 352 1042 354 4390	
Sat			Mario Ferko 07908	51 76 84	
BOOKING SECRETARIES: Community Hall mobile: 075 65 54 68 21 Banners Gate CC - June Dadd 07443 22 65 30 St. Columba's - Sallyanne Rowley 693 0084 Scout Hall - A & R Talliss 353 8166		UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS: Scouts: Margaret Drummond, 33rd GSL 353 5203 Girlguiding: Carol Gardner, Vesey West District Commissioner 350 7191			Gatepost always needs volunteers, to cover illness and holidays, for deliveries of Gatepost - just 20 minutes every other month. Please call 605 4947 for further details if you think you can help us.



Patron HRH The Princess Royal GCVO

Thurs. 26th March A.G.M. - Main Guild Meet
Wed. 22nd April 50th Birthday Party
Thurs. 23rd April A Taste of Burlesque - Main Guild Meeting
Thurs. 14th May Little Aston Bell Ringers - Simply Social Meeting
Thurs. 28th May Mandate Discussion - Main Guild Meeting
 New members welcome.
 If you wish to join our vibrant Guild please get in touch with Josie Orme 0121 352 1042.



LoveWorld SUTTON COLDFIELD

Specially invite you to

Worship WITH US

EVERY WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY

LoveWorld Sutton Coldfield: Banners Gate Community Hall
 35 Reay Nadin Drive, Sutton Coldfield B73 6UR
Contact Details: 07565652762
loveworldsuttoncoldfield@gmail.com

Every Sunday 9am - 11am Every Wednesday 6pm - 7pm Communion service with Pastor Chris Every 1st Sunday of the month.

Wanted, a Vice-Chair for the Forum

The job: mainly to stand in for the Chair, if absent, but also to help with new ideas and to assist in maintaining the wide range of speakers we have for each meeting. For further details please call 605 4947.

The 18th Sutton Coldfield West Scout Group and the 15th Sutton Coldfield West Scout Group have merged and are now named the 33rd Headquarters are at the Scout Hut, Coppice View Road. B73 6UE.

33rd Sutton Coldfield Scout Group,
 H.Q. Coppice View Road


Monday Beavers 5.30 p.m. – 6.45 p.m. ages 6 – 8 years
 Scouts 7.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m. ages 10 ½ – 14 years
 Tuesday Beavers 5.40 p.m. – 6.40 p.m. ages 6 – 8 years
 Cubs 7.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m. ages 8 – 10 ½ years
 Thursday Cubs 7.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m. ages 8 – 10 ½ years
Contact 0121 353 5203
 Email: margaretdrummond1@btinternet.com



Girlguiding gives girls and young women a voice.....has done so for 100 years.....be part of the next 100

Could you spare 1½ hours a week to help with the St Columba's Guide unit? Gain real satisfaction in volunteering and helping to ensure girls in Banners Gate aged 10 – 14 can continue to enjoy games, projects, badges and outings at Guides.

There are also places available in both Brownie units in September for girls aged 7 or 8.
 For more information contact Carol Gardner on 350 7191.



Day/Time	Activity	Venue	Contact	Tel
Mon 6.00 - 7.30pm	39th Brownies	St Columba's Hall		354 5873
Tues 6.00 - 7.30pm	45th Brownies	St Columba's Hall	Carol Gardner	350 7191
Thurs 5.00 - 6.00pm	39th Rainbows	St Columba's Hall		354 5873