



# Banners Gate & Parklands Community & Neighbourhood Forum

148<sup>th</sup> July 2021

[bannersgateneighbourhoodforum.com](http://bannersgateneighbourhoodforum.com)

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**If you are in business page 9 is time sensitive**

The answers to the anagram and the colour/numbers/letters puzzle on page 27 of June's Gatepost are at the bottom of one of the pages. Here are two clues if you have difficulties - foods and green.

It seems to me that I would like to be somewhere between the experts and the politicians, with a mask on most of the time, and sitting in a flow of fresh air. Not literally of course, apart from the mask and the fresh air.

Again, we have a few laughs in this edition. If they cause a laundry problem, please, don't blame me, the fault will lie with Eric or Gerry, or maybe even Harold.

**If you are in business page 9 is time sensitive**



**Alison Jolley:** Through and beyond The Gate On Thursday 22nd July I very much enjoyed and helped celebrate the official opening of Hope Food North Birmingham, at their base in Mere Green. I was joined by fellow town councillors the Mayor of Sutton Coldfield, Terry Wood and also Cllr. Jane Mosson, an active supporter of this charity. Sutton Coldfield Town Council has helped finance this venture through the Council's Community Grant Programme.



Every day numerous community events and initiatives such as these take place throughout our town. I think I am right in saying that we all want to know what's going

on in neighbouring areas particularly as they can benefit residents throughout the whole of Sutton and well beyond into other neighbouring communities as they expand and develop further.

Therefore, I am publicising this new Sutton Coldfield food bank that is thriving through the dedication of volunteers, first coming together over a year ago at the start of the pandemic and naming themselves 'Hope for Sutton' and gratefully using St James Church, Mere Green as their first home. From here countless bags of food were soon

distributed, with many residents helping with delivery and collection of donated food items throughout all areas of our town.

They have now grown the charity further and just a couple of months ago moved over the road to the Arc Community Church Centre, St James Rd. Mere Green and are now known as 'Hope Food North Birmingham'

This is what they offer...

Friday: essential food bag, alongside coffee and a chat. 12 noon-2pm.

In addition, Falcon Lodge Methodist Church Hall, B75 7LB

Wednesday: essential food bag, coffee and a chat. 2-4pm.

All made possible through the generosity of others, including supermarkets giving fresh food, which is then distributed during evening hours to those living in refuges and hostels throughout Birmingham.

Contact them on, T: 07869820025

E: [info@hopefood.org.uk](mailto:info@hopefood.org.uk) With best wishes, [alison.jolley@suttoncoldfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:alison.jolley@suttoncoldfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk)

*(See page 11 for further details. Ed)*



**Rob Pocock:** Now that the Bob Wilson Family Funfair has left the King George V Playing Fields, Kath and I are running a survey to see what the views and impacts on local residents were. If you would like to email your comments to us directly, please send to:

**AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT. TEL: EDITOR AT 605 4947**

Editor: Tony Willis, 44 Hollyhurst Road. B73 6SY Tel: 605 4947, or [bgatepost@gmail.com](mailto:bgatepost@gmail.com) **Next deadline: Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>.**

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[rob.pocock@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:rob.pocock@birmingham.gov.uk). As I said in my report in the last issue of GatePost, the Council made a blunder in not consulting anyone (including ourselves) before the event went ahead. As your Councillors, we're determined that residents get the chance to air their views (whether positive or negative) and we'll ensure your views get back to the City Parks service as soon as possible.

Moving on to our continuing work to support the landscape restoration work in Sutton Park. We got an excellent presentation at our 'virtual' Vesey Ward Public Meeting at the end of July, from Danny Squire the head of the ranger service. He gave an update on the removal of overgrown birch woods in the area between the Flying Field and Longmoor Pool. This is allowing the undergrowth to regenerate and to be regularly cropped by cattle, rabbits etc. This was the land management regime in the medieval period when so much of our Sutton Park was created in its current form.

From the late Victorian period to the early 2000's, this land management method was neglected and this allowed excessive tree growth that risks suffocating the natural heathlands that occupy much of the western area of the Park. Thanks to the efforts of Danny and his colleagues over recent years, the Park is at last starting to revert to the original landscape and unique ecology of the managed medieval period. Danny's team have had to ensure angry words from some visitors calling them 'vandals desecrating our Park'; these comments are made out of ignorance of the true nature and virtue of our Rangers' long term project. One of my major aims is to help everyone understand what is being done in the hope that they will take a more enlightened attitude to the forethought and hard work of our Ranger service. They are restoring a century of neglect (going back well before Birmingham was involved!), and they are going to leave a fine legacy for our future generations.



**Kath Scott:**

I am so very proud to expand on the continued success of our Vesey Ward SpeedWatch Groups. Special thanks should go to the resident volunteers behind its successful expansion across the Ward, together with the Vesey Neighbourhood Police. To let you know, I can show you below how many watches have taken place & how many cars

have been warned about their speed. We are committed to making Vesey Ward a Safer Community, as requested by our residents, and massive strides are clearly being made towards this aim. Email me to join on [kath.scott@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:kath.scott@birmingham.gov.uk)

**No. offences recorded through Vesey Speedwatch patrols since 28/07/2020:**

- >186 drivers at or above 35mph in 30mph limit (Limit +10% +2mph - ACPO guidelines)
- Fastest: 51mph on quiet residential roads.

**What we know**

- A majority of drivers exceed the speed limit - everywhere
- More drivers are speeding than ever before – the Police statistics show this
- Excessive speed is detested in our communities
- Speedwatch gets enthusiastic support from residents
- Good publicity attracts volunteers and encourages new groups to form
- Speedwatch letters are effective, but there are still persistent offenders
- Traffic Police resources are limited, and road safety stats are opaque
- Street signs, speed indicator signs and road markings are ignored.
- Speed bumps increase noise & pollution as drivers brake and accelerate, inconvenience emergency vehicles, and are generally ineffective
- Slow streets are safe streets

**What we need**

- More Speedwatch volunteers - the main constraint on the number of sessions that can be run
- A PCSO to continue to be available for every session Community Streetwatch can run
- An easier way of scheduling volunteers' and PCSOs' availability
- Roads Policing to be highlighted and prioritised by the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Accurate Road Safety stats to be published as an aid to transparency, accountability and public awareness

I will be your champion for promoting Speedwatch patrols and a Safer Sutton Vesey – please just get in touch!

Cllr. Robert Pocock, [rob.pocock@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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.

From St Columba's Church.



Well, the school term has finished, and it has been another challenging academic year for staff, students, and parents. Yes, there has been celebrations, sports days, and leavers assemblies, but bubble closures have also led to cancellations, disappointments and haven't always allowed for proper endings to take place. Football nearly came home. For 120 minutes, there was deep joy and huge despair all rolled into one, and some of us found ourselves watching the penalty shootout from behind the sofa! And now it is hot; and some people can go on holiday, whilst others cannot. Some of us are isolating, others can't see the point. Masks or no masks? We are being asked to make so many personal decisions, whilst facing such different personal circumstances. Life is complicated.

Our reading in church on Sunday was from Mark chapter 6 and one small phrase has stayed with me all week: "Jesus saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them." The crowd is all over the place, seeking answers, and Jesus is compassionate towards them. He stops, he notices, his heart is moved.

I think we all need compassion in our lives right now. We need to be compassionate to those around us and we need to be on the receiving end of the compassion of others. Life is not simple; things are not back to normal and many of us will be living with the ripples of the pandemic for years and years to come. Friends, family, work colleagues and neighbours, the people we know, all need to know that they are loved, valued, and seen. And of course, it is not just about who we know. Strangers need our compassion too. Social media certainly needs a hefty dose of it.

Currently, we begin our service with this song and this prayer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=auwgDr2BA7EWe>

*Jesus, you have called us to love and share and to shine for you.*

*We sometimes flicker, and sometimes get blown out.*

*When this happens, come.*

*Come through your Holy Spirit, come through friends and strangers,  
come and love us.*

*Come and help us shine and ignite our hope, our love and our joy,  
so that we may live warm, loving, and truthful lives,  
and find our peace in you. Amen.*

We do this as a reminder that we are in this together, and that love, and compassion, are essential for our community to thrive. If you would like to journey the next stage with others, come and visit, why not try us out? We would love to meet you.

We continue to meet at 10am on a Sunday. Clearly, we can't 'require' people to social distance or wear a mask, but for the time being our services will continue much as they have done during restrictions, and we are doing this to show our compassion to those around us who are more vulnerable, as our desire is to be a safe space for all.

Revd Beccy Allen

[vicar.bannersgate@gmail.com](mailto:vicar.bannersgate@gmail.com); 0121 354 5873

[www.stcolumbasbannersgate@gmail.com](mailto:www.stcolumbasbannersgate@gmail.com)



## WIDENING DISABILITY ACCESS THROUGHOUT SUTTON COLDFIELD

In the last edition of Gatepost we highlighted the launch of an exciting new project supported by the Sutton Coldfield Neighbourhood Network Scheme and Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council. We welcome the participation of commercial businesses, local charities, church groups and other support groups and enterprises to participate in the survey, user group and premises access pledge.

There are five Objectives:

1. To establish a **Sutton Coldfield Adult Disability User Group**. The User Group is intended to have diverse members to represent the broader disabilities and support networks within Sutton Coldfield. This will be Chaired by Tony Willis.
2. Local Business Premises Access Pledge and a **Disability Recognition Certificate** for participating businesses.
3. A **Sutton Coldfield Disability Access Scoping Questionnaire** in partnership with Sutton Coldfield Neighbourhood Network Scheme with the purpose of increasing the number and variety of local opportunities that Disabled Adults can use.
4. Enhancing existing information and online portals enabling those with disabilities and their carers to have confidence to journey outside of their home environments and to be aware of the access available to get to venues, premises, open spaces and events.
5. To input into the respective "Strategic Priorities" of Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council, Birmingham City Council and West Midlands Combined Authority promoting disability independence in large scale projects and the Regeneration of Sutton Coldfield Town Centre and the Transport Hub/Network.

Phase 1 has started with surveys going out to many local businesses and organisations. If you haven't received one, and would like to participate please e-mail [bgatepost@gmail.com](mailto:bgatepost@gmail.com)

The project is funded by Sutton Coldfield Neighbourhood Network Scheme and will enable us to further develop existing services and resources enabling greater access for businesses to become a valued local resource for the disabled. This is the start of a broader project aims with long-term partnership objectives for Sutton Coldfield.

Businesses and organisations who participate will benefit from free help and advice, be showcased in future accessibility information resources and be promoted as Disability Recognised Businesses via a range of publications and online portals.

For more information or to register interest please contact Cllr. Jan Cairns on 07970 428934 or John Lymn on 07801 952343, or e-mail [bgatepost@gmail.com](mailto:bgatepost@gmail.com)



# The Queen's Jubilee 2022

In 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, seventy years of service , having acceded to the throne on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 1952.

Throughout the celebration year Her Majesty and members of the Royal Family will travel around the Country to undertake a variety of engagements to mark this historic occasion.

The focal point of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations will be the Jubilee Weekend in June 2022.

There will be an extended bank holiday from Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June.

This Bank Holiday Weekend will provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate this historic milestone.

Details of the official arrangements can be found at ;

<https://www.royal.uk/platinum-jubilee-central-weekend>.

But briefly the arrangements are as follows;

## Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

The Queen's Birthday Parade - **Trooping the Colour**. 1400 Soldiers, 200 Horses and 400 Musicians will parade from Buckingham Palace along the Mall to Horse Guards Parade.

There will be a number of Jubilee Beacons lit across the Country as well as in the Capital Cities of Commonwealth Countries.

## Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

There will be a Service of Thanksgiving in St Pauls Cathedral.

## Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June

The Queen will attend the Derby at Epsom Downs.

Later there will be a Platinum Party at Buckingham Palace.

The BBC will produce a live concert to celebrate the most significant and joyous events in the Queen's seventy year reign.

## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June The BIG JUBILEE LUNCH

People are invited to share friendship , food and fun with neighbours by holding local street parties.

Lunch can be big or small, with street parties, picnics, tea and cakes, barbeques.

The culmination of the Celebratory Weekend will be a Platinum Jubilee Pageant.

This will feature over 5000 people from across the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth and will be held against the backdrop of Buckingham Palace. The Pageant will feature Street Art/ Theatre / Circus/Carnival and costume .

I hope everyone in our Royal Town will get involved and start planning now for this wonderful occasion.

Cllr Terry Wood

## GCSE Exam Howlers

1. The next great author was John Milton; Milton wrote Paradise Lost. Then when his wife died, he wrote Paradise Regained.
2. During the Renaissance America began. Christopher Columbus was a great navigator who discovered America while cursing about the Atlantic. His ships were called the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Fe.
3. Later the Pilgrim Fathers crossed the ocean, and this was called the Pilgrim's Progress. The winter of 1620 was a hard one for the settlers. Many people died and many babies were born. Captain John Smith was responsible for all this.
4. One of the causes of the Revolutionary War was the English put tacks in their tea. Also, the colonists would send their parcels through the post without stamps. Finally, the colonists won the War and no longer had to pay for taxis. Delegates from the original 13 states formed the Contented Congress. Thomas Jefferson, a Virgin, and Benjamin Franklin were two singers of the Declaration of Independence. Franklin discovered electricity by rubbing two cats backwards and declared, "A horse divided against itself cannot stand." Franklin died in 1790 and is still dead.
5. Soon the Constitution of the United States was adopted to secure domestic hostility. Under the constitution the people enjoyed the right to keep bare arms.
6. Abraham Lincoln became America's greatest Precedent. Lincoln's mother died in infancy, and he was born in a log cabin which he built with his own hands. Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves by signing the Emasculation Proclamation. On the night of April 14, 1865, Lincoln went to the theatre and got shot in his seat by one of the actors in a moving picture show. The believed assassinator was John Wilkes Booth, a supposedly insane actor. This ruined Booth's career.
7. Meanwhile in Europe, the enlightenment was a reasonable time. Voltaire invented electricity and wrote a book called Candy.
8. Gravity was invented by Issac Walton. It is chiefly noticeable in the autumn when the apples are falling off the trees.
9. Johann Bach wrote a great many musical compositions and had a large number of children. In between he practised on an old spinster which he kept in his attic. Bach died from 1750 to the present. Bach was the most famous composer in the world and so was Handel. Handel was half German half Italian and half English. He was very large.
10. Beethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf he wrote loud music. He took long walks in the forest even when everyone was calling for him. Beethoven expired in 1827 and later died for this.
- 11 The French Revolution was accomplished before it happened and catapulted into Napoleon. Napoleon wanted an heir to inherit his power, but since Josephine was a baroness, she couldn't have any children.
12. The sun never set on the British Empire because the British Empire's in the East and the sun sets in the West.
13. Queen Victoria was the longest queen. She sat on a thorn for 63 years. She was a moral woman who practiced virtue. Her death was the final event which ended her reign.
14. The nineteenth century was a time of a great many thoughts and inventions. People stopped reproducing by hand and started reproducing by machine. The invention of the steamboat caused a network of rivers to spring up. Cyrus McCormick invented the McCormick raper, which did the work of one hundred men.
15. Louis Pasteur discovered a cure for rabbis. Madman Curie discovered radio and Carl Marx became one of the Marx brothers.

*Thanks Harold.*

## Boldmere Online

**Boldmere Futures Partnership** are pleased to announce that their website is up and running again. They were the victims of a random hacking attack that has resulted in the website having to be rebuilt. The website can be viewed at [www.boldmere.org](http://www.boldmere.org) Please do report any errors to us at [info@boldmere.org](mailto:info@boldmere.org)



### Commonwealth Games 2022

Boldmere Gate will be hosting the Triathlon for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022.

The triathlon will take place on Friday 29th and Sunday 30th July 2022 at Boldmere Gate with the cycling route incorporating streets throughout Boldmere and Vesey including Boldmere Road.

Boldmere Futures Partnership, Boldmere Neighbourhood Forum, Friends of Boldmere and Banners Gate, Friends of Wylde Green Train Station, and other community groups are working closely with local councillors, Birmingham City Council and Birmingham 2022 to make Boldmere and the Vesey Ward a bright and cheerful place ready for summer 2022.

We have lots of great ideas of how to make Boldmere and other areas in the Vesey Ward look great and would welcome your ideas. Please email [info@boldmere.org](mailto:info@boldmere.org) if you would like to join our Commonwealth 2022 Working Group or have ideas to share.

### Little Boldmere History

Web pages dedicated to the history of Little Boldmere have been put together based on the research and findings of Chris Peers and Pete Try. The pages can be viewed on Boldmere Online at [www.boldmere.org](http://www.boldmere.org).

Pages include Before The Railway, Churches, Highbury Theatre, Little Boldmere Before 1862, Living in Little Boldmere, South Boldmere Shops, Sutton and the Coldfield 'Enclosures', The Ecclesiastical History of Little Boldmere, The Main Roads, and The Railway.

### Boldmere Festivals are Back

Boldmere Futures Partnership have started planning for the Christmas Festival on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2021 from 1pm to 6pm with Christmas Lights switch-on at 5:30pm. Further details, including how to request a stall, request to perform on stage, or offer to be a volunteer, can be found on Boldmere Online at [www.boldmere.org](http://www.boldmere.org)



Here is Buddy and Laurie Kennedy introducing the Boldmere Christmas Festival.



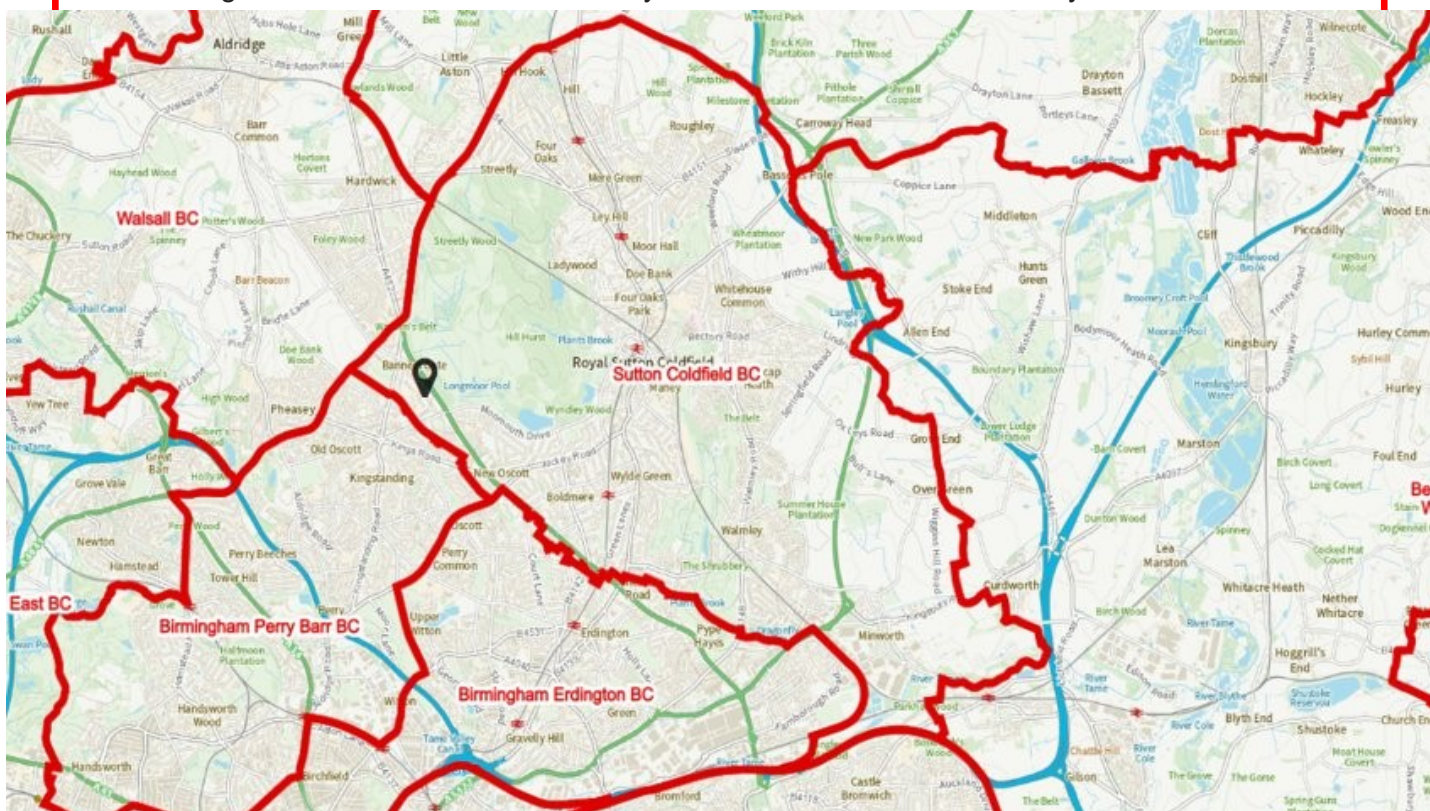
St. Michael's Boldmere is one of the churches that appears in the Boldmere History article on the new [www.boldmere.org](http://www.boldmere.org) website.



In an earlier edition of Gatepost this year I urged residents (particularly Banners Gate residents) to take a look at the Electoral Boundaries for England website as the Boundaries Commission is rejigging the constituency boundaries for the whole country. Banners Gate has always been a rather sensitive area with regard to boundaries, being adjoined to north Birmingham. I have now quickly perused the proposals (only temporary at the moment) and it seems Banners Gate will not be set adrift outside the Sutton Coldfield constituency so far. Indeed, The Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell and Councillor Rob Pocock seem happy with the plans and have pointed out that a little scrap of land between the M6 and the River Tame in the east of the constituency has been added, rather than anything being taken away from Sutton Coldfield. The scrap of land is uninhabited but maybe they think there may be some votes from the squirrels!

Hopefully, most of you will be pleased with this outcome, if it remains permanent, some may not. Whatever your preference, you are urged again to tune into the website and leave a comment. [www.boundariescommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk](http://www.boundariescommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk). Look for the heading in blue on the righthand side 'Initial proposals for the 2023 Boundary Review now published'. This should give you the link to the maps which are most interesting and easy to understand. (Hopefully we will be able to incorporate a copy of the map into Gatepost). Or simply try [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk) and pop in your postcode.

I have left a comment, as has Tony, the editor of Gatepost, so please do not leave it just to us two! The Commission is always keen to hear from the electorate, especially if it is in agreement with the plans. No doubt they get a fair amount of censure but a little praise is always appreciated – and that goes for our own lives too, don't you think? Councillor Pocock says that contact from



the electorate might ward off any proposed amendments. Of course, you might totally disagree with our remaining in the Sutton Coldfield constituency and that is your prerogative in a democracy so here is your chance to tell the appropriate body just that. I recall the commissioners were quite impressed with the responses from Banners Gate during the Local Government Boundaries Commission review a few years ago (Electoral Boundaries and Local Government Boundaries are different – I know, confusing, isn't it but that's why we need to be aware).

*Hazel Pollock*



While we are on maps, take a look at  
[BNHS Grab a Grid Reference Duo](#)

it is a very useful side-by-side combination of **grid reference** (postcodes / place names) **and satellite**.







**WEST  
MIDLANDS  
POLICE**



## Step Up Your Cyber Security Free Webinar

We would like to invite you all to our free Webinar on  
**Wednesday 28th July 2021, 10.00 - 10.45.**

This will be delivered from representatives from both the West Midlands Regional Cyber Crime team and The Cyber Resilience Centre for the West Midlands.

The Webinar is around stepping up your Cyber Security. The Majority of Cyber Crime can be prevented by adopting the steps and guidance provided through the government-backed scheme Cyber Essentials. Come and join us as we deliver a webinar designed to provide you with some basics on cyber security hygiene within your business.

Tickets can be booked over on Event Brite the link for this is here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/step-up-your-cyber-security-tickets-162054404085> (Please copy and paste this link into your browser)



If you would like to know more about the Cyber Resilience Centre and how they can support you and your business then please head over to [www.wmcrc.co.uk](http://www.wmcrc.co.uk)

If you would like to sign-up for free to the Cyber Resilience Centre then please head over to [www.wmcrc.co.uk/membership](http://www.wmcrc.co.uk/membership) and use code **WM10**

*Continued on next page...*



THE  
**CYBER  
RESILIENCE  
CENTRE**  
FOR THE WEST MIDLANDS

**SOLE TRADERS. SMEs. THIRD SECTOR ORGANISATIONS.**

# **BOOST** >>>>>>>>>> **YOUR CYBER RESILIENCE**

through membership with the Cyber Resilience Centre for the West Midlands.

The West Midlands Cyber Resilience Centre (WMCRC) launched in July 2020 and is part of a nationwide network of centres being established across the country by Policing, in partnership with the commercial sector and academia to provide businesses and organisations with affordable cyber security services and consultancy in order to grow and strengthen the West Midlands' resilience to online crime and cyber-attacks.

The WMCRC is a not-for-profit organisation and exists to provide businesses of all sizes with access to affordable cyber security services, the latest advice and support from leading law enforcement and industry experts, to help them take simple steps to protect their business from unscrupulous cyber criminals.

The WMCRC is the fourth centre to launch in the England and Wales and offers a range of membership options depending on what level of support businesses in Staffordshire, West Midlands, West Mercia and Warwickshire need.

**SIGN UP FOR FREE TODAY! VISIT: [wmcrc.co.uk/membership](https://wmcrc.co.uk/membership)**

**Message Sent By**

Sean Long (Police, Digital PCSO, West Midlands)



## Biblical Quiz – with a twist

Q. What kind of man was Boaz before married Ruth?

-A. Ruthless.

Q. What do they call pastors in German?

A: German Shepherds.

Q Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

A. Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone in liquidation.

Q. Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?

A. Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.

Q. What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?

A. Jehovah drove Adam and Eve out in David's Triumph. It was heard throughout the land. Also, probably a Honda, because the apostles were all in one Accord.

Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A. Samson. He brought the house down.

PS... Did you know it's a sin for a woman to make coffee?

Yup, it's in the Bible. It says... 'He-brews'.

**KEEP SMILING!!!! GOD LOVES YOU BUNCHES AND BUNCHES!!!!**

Friends are God's way of taking care of us.

**Welcome to Hope Food**  
the newest food bank in your area!

**Falcon Lodge**



**Welcome to Hope Food**  
the newest food bank in your area!

**Mere Green**



What we offer... Come along and collect a free bag of essential food and then help yourselves to a selection of fresh fruit and vegetables. Some days we'll even have bread and cakes. You're welcome to stay for a hot drink and a chat... whether in Falcon Lodge or Mere Green.

Where are we in Falcon Lodge?

Every Wednesday, we will be at Falcon Lodge Methodist Church Hall. (rear entrance in Lingard Road) Falcon Lodge. B75 7LB

Opening times... Pop in between 3-5pm we'll be here.

The church is on the X14 bus route. This is what the front of the church looks like. Go to the rear entrance in Lingard Road.



Where are we in Mere Green?

Every Friday, we will be at Ark Community Church Centre, St James Road, Mere Green B75 5EH

Opening times... Pop in between 12 noon-2pm we'll be here.

From the centre of Mere Green, pass Lidl opposite Sainsbury's and turn left into St James's Road. Bus routes X3, X5 & 604 This is what the church looks like.



Email: [info@hopefood.org.uk](mailto:info@hopefood.org.uk)

May sees the launch of a new FOLIO initiative - **a Shared Reading group.**

The group will offer a fortnightly opportunity to get together, open to anyone who might enjoy listening to or reading stories and poems with others. Everyone is welcome and there's no pressure to take part or do any reading between sessions – you can just come along and listen. To begin with the group will meet online (via Zoom), but we hope that later in the year the group will be able to meet in person in Sutton Library.

The first meeting was on May 13, and you'll need to register by emailing Leader Reader and FOLIO volunteer Sally on [sharedreading@foliosuttoncoldfield.org.uk](mailto:sharedreading@foliosuttoncoldfield.org.uk).

More details here: <http://foliosuttoncoldfield.org.uk/sharedreading/>

This new activity is made possible thanks to support from [The Reader](#), funding from [NISA](#), via their charity [Making a Difference Locally](#), and - crucially - thanks to volunteer Sally.

## Getting Together with The Reader and FOLIO Sutton Coldfield



## Explore Germany safely this summer!



With many of us thinking about travel once again, we are excited to announce our partnership with Best Western!

You can now navigate straight to the hotel entrance of any Best Western in Germany with just 3 words. Hoteliers will also be sharing what3words addresses for unique points of interest, so you can explore with confidence!

Learn more here <https://www.bestwestern.de/what3words.html>

[How to use what3words](#)





# Telling Sutton's Stories – Rediscovering Forgotten Histories



You are warmly invited to FOLIO Sutton Coldfield's artist-led workshop exploring the local history of Boldmere.

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> August, 10am-1pm,  
outside Communita Café  
at 78 Boldmere Road.**

All welcome.

Using historic maps and archive photos we will share our community's stories and create an installation artwork based on the history of houses and the local area.

This event is a free drop-in event as part of FOLIO Sutton Coldfield's Telling Sutton's Stories, funded by a grant from the Sutton Coldfield Neighbourhood Network Scheme

Any questions email: [zoe@foliosuttoncoldfield.org.uk](mailto:zoe@foliosuttoncoldfield.org.uk)  
Visit [www.foliosuttoncoldfield.org.uk/map](http://www.foliosuttoncoldfield.org.uk/map) to find out more about the Telling Sutton's Stories project.

Look out  
for another event as part  
of Telling Sutton's Stories  
on Tuesday September  
14<sup>th</sup> 1.30-4.30 at  
Banners Gate  
Community  
Centre



# Homes: the hole story

No matter how big or small your space is, whether it's a blank canvas or well-established, if you've got loads of experience or none whatsoever – anyone can do this, and our nature needs you. It's easy to help the nature on your doorstep.

## An easy way to help nature.

We all need a safe place to live and for wildlife it's no different. One of the biggest causes of wildlife declines is a lack of suitable habitat – or the right kind of place to eat, shelter and raise a family. We can give nature a helping hand by giving it a home. Whatever the size of your outdoor space, there's something simple that you can do.



**Home sweet home** watch the video at <https://youtu.be/HLVnFeLkwVc>

Discover how to turn your patch into paradise with wildlife gardening guru, Adrian Thomas. Try these simple tips and you can make your space work for you and give wildlife a boost too. You don't even need green-fingers to give it a go. In this feature, Adrian looks at homes sweet homes!

## The hole story

It seems so simple, but providing holes is one of the easiest ways to help wildlife in your outside space. In fact, it is crucial – some animals need holes to survive. Take blue tits, for example. You can put out all the bird food you like, but if they don't have a suitable nesting hole, they won't have anywhere to raise the next generation.

This requirement for holes is easy to explain – it is all about safety and shelter. The world outside your back door is a jungle where creatures face all sorts of dangers, especially when they are trying to sleep, or when they have vulnerable eggs, chicks or youngsters. A hole that is just about big enough for them to squeeze through means nothing larger can reach them, and they are also well protected from anything the weather can throw at them.





## How you can help

The problem is that our gardens, yards and balconies can be rather short of natural holes. Our trees are often not old enough to have developed the nooks and crannies that wildlife craves, and we tend to patch up any holes in our buildings.

But it's so quick and simple easy to add some artificial holes in the form of nestboxes. The key thing to realise that any old hole won't do: each hole-dweller is looking for the right sized hole in the right place. For example, small birds such as blue tits and great tits are happy in small nestboxes, while others such as swifts may need more specialist homes.



## What size suits you?

Different types of nestboxes will attract different birds. Nestboxes for tits have relatively small holes (26–29mm diameter). While those for some of our more threatened garden species are bigger. House sparrows need a 32mm hole, starlings need a 45mm hole in an over-sized box, and house martins and swifts need boxes under the eaves with a clear flight line in.

Why not put up more than one box? You could put up a selection. You could also think beyond birds, too: hedgehogs and bats could also do with your help.



## A few handy hints

- Bird boxes should face between north and east, to be out of the blazing sun.
- Bat boxes should be in a warmer, elevated position, with a clear flight line into them.
- Place boxes well out of reach of cats – most boxes should be at least 2m (6 feet) off the ground.
- Avoid nestboxes which have a perch outside the hole or which are too shallow from the hole to the bottom of the box, both of these are invitations to nest-robbing predator

## Bought or built, a nest box is brilliant!

If you like a spot of carpentry, you can knock up your own nestboxes, and we have several templates for you to follow. But if you're not Handy Andy, there are plenty you can buy, starting with our wide selection in the RSPB shop, each of which comes with a full instruction leaflet.

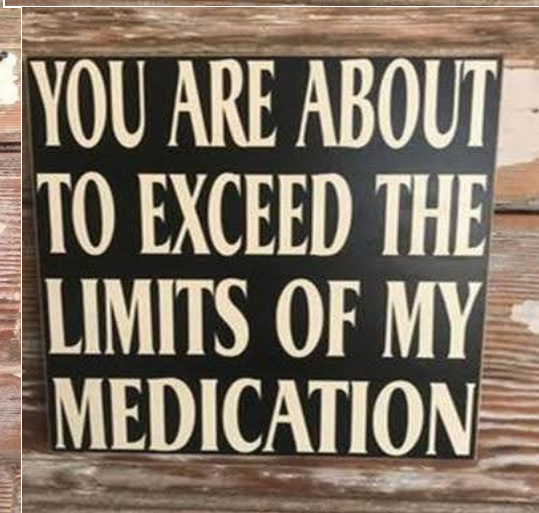
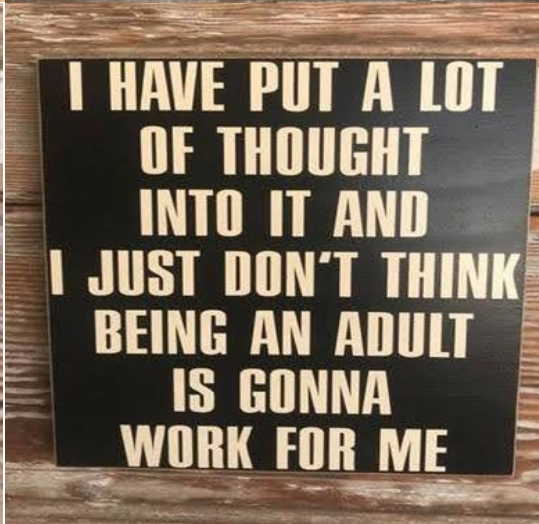
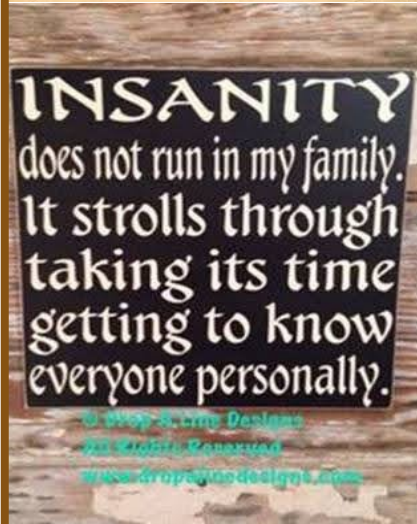
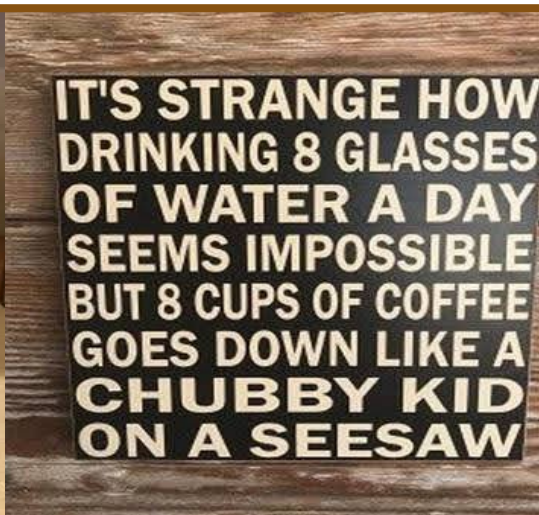


## Life, camera, action!

There's so much pleasure to be had from watching – and hearing – wildlife move into the accommodation you've provided. And with many boxes these days coming with mini-cameras so you can livestream the action, there's every chance to turn it into a full daily drama in spring.









How's your history - Match the dates with the events.

#### Events

- a. Herald Of Free Enterprise sinks just outside Zeebrugge
- b. Edward VIII abdicates to live with Wallis Simpson
- c. Act of Union formally unites England and Scotland
- d. The Jack the Ripper murders take place in Whitechapel
- e. Anglo-Saxon treasure discovered at Sutton Hoo in Suffolk
- f. Execution of King Charles I
- g. First Ford Model T sold
- h. Margaret Thatcher elected Prime Minister for the first time
- i. Death of William Shakespeare
- j. Lockerbie Disaster
- k. French routed at Battle of Crecy; Scots under David II invade England and are turned back.
- l. Queen Victoria's consort and great love, Prince Albert, dies
- m. Great Fire of London
- n. Battle of Culloden
- o. SAS storm and seize the occupied Iranian Embassy
- p. First FA Cup Final
- q. TUC staged the first General Strike between 3 and 13 May
- r. First folio of Shakespeare's plays published

#### Dates

1649 1988 1623 1707 1936 1666 1872 1346 1908 1987 1980 1926 1861  
1616 1746 1939 1979 1888

Answers at the bottom of page 22.

According to Wikipedia, a paraprosdokian is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence, phrase, or larger discourse is surprising or unexpected in a way that causes the reader or listener to reframe or reinterpret the first part. So here are a few to whet your curiosities.

I've had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this wasn't it. – Groucho Marx.

He taught me housekeeping; when I divorce, I keep the house. – Zsa Zsa Gabor.

I haven't slept for 10 days, because that would be too long. – Mitch Hedberg.

Standing in the park today, I was wondering why a frisbee looks larger the closer it gets... then it hit me. – Stewart Francis.

When I was a kid my parents moved a lot, but I always found them. – Rodney Dangerfield.

My husband can't stand to see trash and garbage lying around the house – he can't stand the competition. – Phyllis Diller.

There are three kinds of people in the world – those who can count, and those who can't. –

Unknown

If you have enjoyed Harold's exploits in these pages over several months, he is also in the pages of *I Remember When*, available in the Age Concern shop in Boldmere.

As I write these words on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, Harold is celebrating his 98th birthday.

EDITED BY PETER MILLINGTON



# I REMEMBER WHEN

West Midlands  
Heritage Memories



COLLECTED BY **AGE**concern  
Birmingham



## Investment scams

If you come across an interesting investment opportunity via a search engine or online advert, how can you tell whether it's genuine or not? Just entering your email address and phone number on rogue investment sites could leave you facing a barrage of cold calls and unsolicited emails.

**[In this video](#), we explain what checks you can carry out to ensure an investment site or firm is legitimate or a clone and how to stay one step ahead of fraudsters.**

### Will Google's new ad rules stamp out scams?

Several of our investigations found that scammers pay to appear at the top of Google search results – often posing as genuine financial services firms and luring would-be investors with the promise of high returns.

However, from September 2021, Google will introduce stricter requirements for firms promoting financial services in the UK. But how far does this protect you as a consumer?

**We reveal [what Google is changing](#) and what this means for you.**

### Spot and protect yourself from scams

We've created [two scams protection checklists](#) to guide you through being able to spot scams and put settings in place to reduce the risk of a fraudster targeting you.

**If you answer yes to any of these questions, there's a good chance it may be a scam.**

### Pension scam average losses more than double in a year

Pension scams are not a new thing, but they're likely to be more prevalent now that people have more options available to them when it comes to investing or spending their money.

**[Here are our tips](#) on how to spot a pension scam and how to report one if you or someone you know has been affected.**



### **Fake NHS Covid pass email and texts**

Scammers are hoping to cash in on any confusion around the end of pandemic restrictions by sending out lookalike NHS-branded emails and texts that invite you to apply – and pay – for a NHS Covid pass.

The Pass was recently launched so that people can show their Covid vaccine or test status and is free. We show you [examples of the messages](#) and explain how to deal with NHS-related phishing so you don't get caught out.

### **Fake giveaways on Facebook**

We've found social media ads for [fake competitions on Facebook](#) that are attracting thousands of interactions from users.

The hoax 'Alton Towers Breaks' and 'Center Parcs Resorts' pages claim to offer the chance to win getaways worth more than £2,000. Both scams tell users that all they need to do is 'like', 'comment' and 'sign up' in order to be entered into the giveaway.

### **Scams rocket by 33% during the pandemic**

Fraudsters have thrived amid the uncertainty caused by lockdowns and a surge in online shopping, resulting in victims losing more than £2.3bn.

We explore which [categories of fraud have been growing the fastest](#), which cost victims the most money, and how fraud varies across age groups and regions.

If you've received an email from Which? that you suspect to be a scam, please get in touch: [which.co.uk/contact-us](https://www.which.co.uk/contact-us)

Stay safe,  
Which? scam alert team

PS Please share this information with your friends, family and neighbours – anyone who may find it helpful. Alternatively, they can [sign up here](#) to receive this directly to their inbox.





## Introduction

More than 90 percent of new cars are bought on finance, according to the latest [Finance & Leasing Association statistics](#).

Why such a big share? The benefits of leasing include fixed monthly repayments, no concerns about depreciation and the flexibility to switch to a new car at the end of the contract.

Within this market, electric car leasing is growing in popularity, with many buyers using it as a way to see if they can live with an EV on a daily basis.

This is an important consideration as we head towards the [2030 ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars](#).

For reasons we'll outline here, leasing an electric car can be much more appealing than other finance options or buying outright. [Electric cars can be expensive to buy](#), but most vehicles should be well within reach on EV finance.

## Electric car financing

Spreading the large cost of a new car makes perfect sense, but you have to decide which finance deal to choose.

We're focusing on three options: personal contract purchase (PCP), hire purchase (HP) and leasing. You'll often see leasing referred to as personal contract hire (PCH), which is the consumer version of a business lease.

### PCP - personal contract purchase

The basic premise of a PCP deal is that you only pay for the car's predicted depreciation

over the length of the contract.

That's the difference between the list price and the car's expected value at the end of the agreement, typically up to four years.

Most new cars lose around 40 percent of their value over the first three years. Say a new car costs £20,000 and is expected to be worth £12,000 after 36 months.

The £8,000 difference is due in the form of a small deposit and fixed monthly repayments. At the end of the contract, you can pay the remaining £12,000 or simply hand the car back.

## **HP - hire purchase**

Before the boom in popularity of PCP deals, hire purchase (HP) was the most common form of new car finance.

An HP agreement simply involves spreading the cost of a new car over a fixed period, typically 12 months to five years. At the end of the contract, the car is yours, with nothing more to pay.

However, if you are considering an EV then HP might not be the best option for you. The rate of development in the field of battery technology is such that you could find that your EV is slightly outdated and outmoded by the end of the contract.

This will make it more difficult to upgrade to a new electric car, as your trade-in value will be reduced.

## **Leasing**

Leasing is currently the most popular option for financing an electric car - and for good reason. It's likely to be the most affordable form of EV finance, not least because you're essentially renting the car from the leasing company.

At the time of writing, it was possible to lease an electric car for less than £200 a month, with even the **Nissan Leaf** and **Renault Zoe**, two of the UK's most popular EVs, available for around this price.

## **Pros**

Rate of EV development

Bigger choice of models

Depreciation costs

Battery condition

Driving technology advancement

Service and maintenance included

## **Cons**

Mileage penalties

Damage excess charges

Battery rental

For further information on the above please go to the following link:

[The pros and cons of leasing an electric car](#)

a. 1987   b. 1936   c. 1707   d. 1888   e. 1939   f. 1649   g. 1908   h. 1979   i. 1616   j. 1988   k. 1346   l. 1861   m. 1666   n. 1746   o. 1980   p. 1872   q. 1926   r. 1623



33 artists will show & demonstrate their work- paintings, jewellery, prints, pottery, sculptures, textiles, collages & photography. **Admission Free.**

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- 71 Britwell Road, B73 5SW
- 17 Haselor Road, B73 5DW
- Sutton Sailing Club, B73 6JL
- 12 Somerville Road, B73 6JA
- The Duke Pub, 12 Duke Street, B72 1RJ
- Gracechurch Centre, B72 1PH
- 14 Mulroy Road, B74 2PY
- 52 Dunton Close, B75 5QD

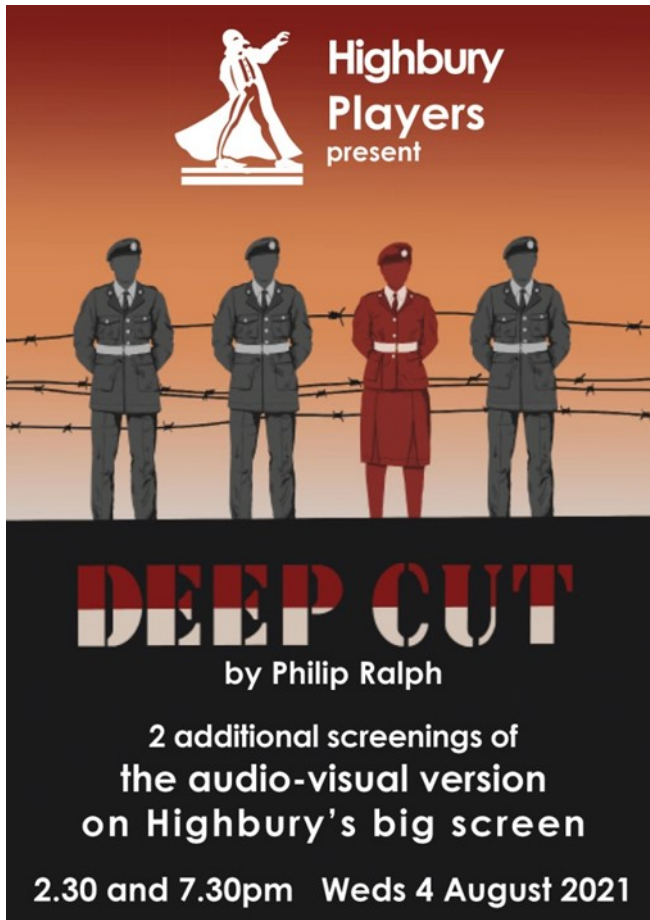
[www.suttoncoldfieldarttrail.wordpress.com](http://www.suttoncoldfieldarttrail.wordpress.com)





Highbury  
... Theatre Centre

## Highbury Players are presenting Deep Cut again



Philip Ralph's play concerns the death of 18-year old Private Cheryl James who was one of four young soldiers to die at Deepcut Barracks between 1995 and 2002 and traces her parents' struggle to establish the truth behind her death.

Highbury Players were due to present Deep Cut when theatres had to close their doors for the first lockdown. We have created an alternative presentation of the production which is an audio recording of the play, accompanied by images from the final dress rehearsal. This was first shown in June and we are delighted to have a second chance to present it. We would like to invite you to join us on 4 August at either 2:30pm or 7:30pm and listen to the story and see what the play would have looked like.

Some of the comments we received after the first showing were:

"A wonderful, innovative piece of theatre last night! I could have sat and watched for another hour or more, it was so gripping."

"I wasn't sure what to expect with Deep Cut, indeed I wasn't certain I wanted to see it. However, I have to say it was amazing."

We are still operating Covid-secure arrangements. Book your tickets [here](#) for £5 per person plus £2 if you're not already a member for the season. For any assistance, just email: [boxoffice@highburytheatre.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@highburytheatre.co.uk)

And finally, we are planning a full season for 2021/22 so watch this space for further details

## The Sutton Coldfield Fuchsia & Gardening Guild.

Finally, after a long 16 months wait, we had a meeting last night at our new venue, Banners Gate Community Church, Westwood Road. The fuchsia society has been running for almost 50 years,



but the decision has now been made to change the format into a more general Gardeners Guild.

Gardening has had a real resurgence during the lockdown, people realising more than ever how important our outside spaces are! Meetings are held once a month, the second Thursday. Doors open at 7.30 for an 8.00 start. We have a speaker each month on all topics gardening and wildlife related, and next month our Secretary Gail will be giving a demonstration on how to use hardy fuchsias in the garden.

Plants are always available for sale, along with other gardening paraphernalia. We

are a small, but very welcoming group and would love to welcome new members, so please come along and join us.

If you would like any more information, please give our secretary, Gail, a call on 0121 353 3373 or have a look at our Facebook page.

## Eric's Embarrassing Moment - Let This Be A Lesson To You

All this talk about red, green, and amber zones for holiday destinations, Portugal was in the news recently, first on then it was off, for holidays. The destination was the start of probably the most embarrassing moment in my life. We must all have had them why not share one with "Gatepost"?

About 30 plus years ago we went on a fly drive holiday to northern Portugal, it was an organised and a planned route for us, with stopovers. Consequently, there were also others on it and we made friends with a couple from Sowerby Bridge, near Halifax.

On our return home we kept in touch, and they invited us up for the weekend. The plan on our first evening was to drive down Sowerby Bridge High Street and mid-way stop at a local pub and then on to an extremely popular Italian restaurant at the end of the high street. I volunteered to drive being a heavy drinker !! "only joking". It was a foul night, raining heavily, I pulled down a side entry off the main road at the back of the high street and pub. letting my passengers out then proceeded to park the car and follow them a moment later.

Visibility being poor, I could not see which direction they took, so walked towards a well-lit door assuming the pub rear entrance. A smart green door (no songs please) and impressive steps presented themselves to me very well lit, so I pushed and entered. In the hallway were a few of those light stalks that stand out over pictures on the wall. I thought this is a smart pub, more like a posh hotel. I pushed open the first door.

What stood before me was a living room complete with a couple seated on a settee watching TV. A stony silence, with dropped jaws all round as they glanced in my direction, I wanted the ground to swallow me up, having just ambled into someone's living room off the street. There was complete bewilderment on their part and sheer panic from me. I blurted out an apology saying I thought it was the rear entrance to the pub. They could not stop laughing so I joined in with great relief and asked if I could get them a drink. To more laughter, scurried out, to whence, I came.

I did eventually find the pub to be asked "what kept you?" To shocked disbelief and laughter from our friends, my wife riposted, "You are not safe to be left out on your own." *(...and that was 30 years ago, what's he like now? Ed)*

Eric Jones July 2021



## **Birmingham's Neighbourhood Network Schemes**

### **What are the Neighbourhood Network Schemes?**

The NNS are constituency-based networks, set up to develop community-based activities and support, and connect citizens and professionals to groups, organisations, activities, services and places in their local neighbourhoods.

They bring together voluntary organisations and community groups, social work teams, other health and social professionals and statutory agencies to support citizens and make their local neighbourhood a better place to live. They are an integral part of Birmingham City Council's strength-based community social work model.

### **Extending support to younger disabled adults**

Currently all Neighbourhood Network Schemes across the city have a focus of adults over 50. The City Council is piloting extending the model to support younger adults with additional needs, aged 18 to 50 years, who have a long-term disability or are likely to have a care or support need in the future. In particular this will include people with autism, learning disabilities, physical disabilities, mental ill-health, and sensory loss or impairment.

The two pilot areas are Hodge Hill and Sutton Coldfield.

The focus of the NNSs is supporting community activities which help people live healthy and independent lives, staying active and connected to others in their community. The aim of the pilots is to learn about what support is needed by citizens with these additional needs, which community organisations or assets are providing support and how the NNS model will need to be adjusted to meet these needs. We are aiming to extend the NNS for a further 5 years and the plan, subject to budgetary approval, is to extend this to all areas of the City.

These are just a few examples of community based activity and services currently running across the city: an inter-generational art project for the Deaf community; discos for young adults with learning disabilities; support groups



run by and for citizens with particular disabilities; befriending and sailing for people who are blind and visually impaired; and production of a Covid-19 "soothing pack" for those suffering anxiety.

Hodge Hill and Sutton Coldfield are currently mapping community activities in their areas which support these groups of citizens. They will identify gaps and set key priorities with their Social Work teams and Constituency Steering Groups. Grant-funding and capacity building will be available to support community organisations develop activities to meet them.

### **We need your help!**

Both NNSs would love to hear from you if you run an organisation that supports citizens with these disabilities or if you would like to do more to include them. Sutton Coldfield are keen to hear from citywide organisations looking to reach out to Sutton Coldfield residents as well as local specialist organisations.

We are also hoping to talk to citizens with disabilities to better understand what else is needed locally.

Please get in touch with:

**Hodge Hill: Natalie Swain**

**Neighbourhood Network Scheme Development Worker**

**Email: [N.Swain@pohwer.net](mailto:N.Swain@pohwer.net)**

**Telephone: 0300 456 2370 Minicom: 0300 456 2364**

**Sutton Coldfield NNS: Miriam Aslam**

**Sutton Coldfield Neighbourhood Network Scheme Manager**

**Email: Miriam Aslam <[M.Aslam@ageconcernbirmingham.org.uk](mailto:M.Aslam@ageconcernbirmingham.org.uk)>**

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Our Neighbourhood Networker will be available to advise about community groups and services in the area. Also providing a drop in for community assets to discuss NNS support and funding opportunities.



Email: [s.summerfield@ageconcernbirmingham.org.uk](mailto:s.summerfield@ageconcernbirmingham.org.uk)

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**Sunnybank Road  
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### CONTACT

**Suzy Summerfield**

**07940 709 314**



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## Are You A Carer? Do you need support and advice?

Do you provide unpaid care to a friend, neighbour, or family member who couldn't manage alone?

Age Concern Birmingham run the Carer's Contact Centre as part of the Birmingham Carers Hub partnership. Our advisors are available to help carers with help, advice and information, we register carers and also offer a Statutory Carer's Assessment, wellbeing payments if eligible and information on a wide range of wellbeing services. We also provide advice on welfare benefits and can link carers to information about grants, legal advice on wills and power of attorney and other one to one support.

If you need advice in your caring role, please call us on:

Information and Advice Line – **0333 006 9711** (low call rate)

Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri: 9am-5.15pm / Wed: 9am-7.15pm

Saturday: 10am – 12.30pm

Email us at [info@birminghamcarershub.org.uk](mailto:info@birminghamcarershub.org.uk)

Visit our website at <https://forwardcarers.org.uk/>

### Birmingham Carers Hub Specialist Dementia Service

The Birmingham Carers Hub team have all received enhanced dementia training and we have launched a new service offering support to carers of people with dementia. We have also appointed a small team of Specialist Dementia Carer Advisors.

We offer a Dementia Specialist person-centred service, supporting Carers who provide care to someone with dementia. Our advisors understand the challenges of caring for people with dementia and are here to guide and support you throughout your caring journey. We are part of a wider partnership of organisations providing other support to dementia carers such as training and groups, find out more on the Forward Carers website: <https://forwardcarers.org.uk/>

For information, help and advice, call **0333 006 9711** and ask to speak to one of our Specialist Dementia Carer Advisors, or email: [dementiacarers@birminghamcarershub.org.uk](mailto:dementiacarers@birminghamcarershub.org.uk)



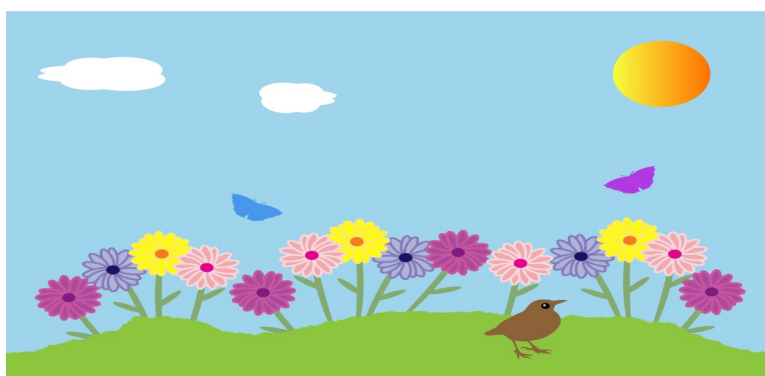
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# communit<sup>2021</sup>tea cafe



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COTTAGE PIE WITH VEGETABLES

CHICKEN CASSEROLE

ROAST VEGETABLE PASTA BAKE

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(Please note meals are subject to change)

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Email: [info@ageconcernbirmingham.org.uk](mailto:info@ageconcernbirmingham.org.uk)

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## AGE concern Birmingham

Welcome the new year and join us for our quiz on Wednesday 4th August at 8.00pm.

For just £3 you and your family can enter our 20 minute online quiz with a cash prize for the top 3 winners.

All you need to do is register online ahead of the event, then log into the quiz 10 minutes before it begins.

Register at [www.virtualquizevents.com](http://www.virtualquizevents.com) or call one of the team on 0121 362 3650 to find out more.

Have fun and raise some funds for Age Concern Birmingham.







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**AGE concern**  
Birmingham

**Compass Support**  
Part of The Pioneer Group

## 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](mailto:NNS@ageconcernbirmingham.org.uk)

For a searchable list of community assets in Sutton Coldfield, and the wider Birmingham area, please visit:  
[Birmingham.connecttosupport.org](http://Birmingham.connecttosupport.org)



## Café Oasis Update from Laura



As you know the United Reformed Church has been closed throughout the whole of lockdown which has meant that our community café has also been closed to the public. We have, however, been providing a Home Food Delivery Service to those that are isolated in the community and need a bit of extra support.

But things have changed for the better and it has been absolutely lovely to see people back in Café Oasis – conversation, laughter, friendship – all of things we have been missing. We tentatively opened our doors on 17<sup>th</sup> May – each Monday, Tuesday and Friday – with some mitigation measures in place such as one-way systems, hand sanitising stations, table service and track and trace. We have an incredible group of Café volunteers that welcome our visitors and the team in the kitchen cook all our lovely food. It has been especially lovely to be able to bring back our kitchen volunteers – all of whom are adults with learning difficulties and special needs – and support them through all of the changes we have had to make. The amiable weather has also meant that we can place tables and chairs outside for people to enjoy their coffee and cake.

The Church itself continues with booked bi-weekly services and began to hire the rooms out again to local groups. Our Foodbank/Food4U (held each Tuesday) is still providing a much needed resource to the community – their difficult fight to end food poverty is on-going and they completely appreciate all the support and donations from the wider community.

What's next for us? We are working with Governmental COVID guidelines and restrictions and will continue to provide a much needed community oasis in the heart of Sutton Coldfield., our Home Food Delivery Service will continue, we hope within the next month to start providing a minibus transport service to people that cannot make it to the café without extra assistance – watch this space for more details regarding this.

We are always looking for volunteers that can dedicate a bit of time and as we get busier we would appreciate some help with 'front of house' duties, 'waiter/waitressing' and someone to work the 'till' – if you might be interested in this then please don't hesitate to get in contact – we are a fab bunch of people.



## AGE concern Birmingham

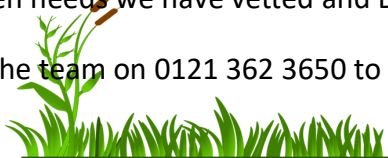


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Monday & Wednesday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Blue Coats School Gym WS1 2ND Kids: 6.00pm—7.00pm	Mere Green Community Centre Adults & Juniors: 7.00pm—8.30pm	Sutton Girls' School (Dance Studio at the Back of the building) Adults & Juniors (12+): 7.00pm—8.30pm	All Saints' Church Hall Kids: 6.00pm—7.00pm Adults: 7.00pm—8.30pm

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All ages and abilities are encouraged and welcome.  
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**When:** The last Saturday of every month. 9.00am parkrun start.  
See below for meeting point and time.

**Where:** Walsall Arboretum Visitor Centre steps  
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Get in touch and let us know you will be coming.

- 5k your way: move against cancer | [@cancer5kYourWay](https://www.facebook.com/cancer5kYourWay)
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[www.5kyourway.org/register](http://www.5kyourway.org/register)

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The Banners Gate Community Hall is available at times during the week, including weekends, when we are able to re-open.

The hall is approx. 38' x 21'  
(11.6m x 6.4m)

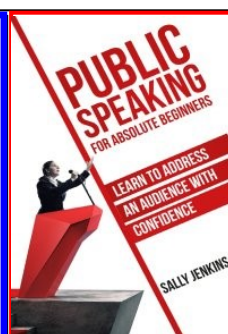
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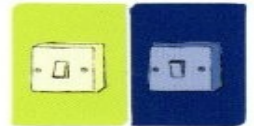
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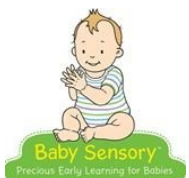
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Sun (1st) 11.00 –2.00 pm (1st) 4 - 7pm (1st) 7.00pm—8.00pm 10.00 am  10.00 am - 12.00am 10.30 am  11.00 am	Create at Gate with K & S Global Communion Soul Yoga Family Communion  For details see website at <a href="http://www.stcolumbasbannersgate.co.uk">www.stcolumbasbannersgate.co.uk</a> Loveworld Church Family Worship <a href="http://www.bannersgatechurch.com">www.bannersgatechurch.com</a> Chikara Karate Kai	Community Hall Community Hall Community Hall St. Columba's  Community Hall Banners Gate CC  Scout Hall	Kathy Weston Pastor Chris 07565   Ola Samuel 07565 Nigel Willis  Paul Murphy 07837	628 6651 65 27 62   354 5873 65 27 62 353 0230  39 57 89	
Mon 6.15am - 7.15am 11am - 1.00pm 4.15—5.15pm 5.30 - 7.00pm 7.30 – 8.30 pm	Stay in Focus Fitness Dementia Care Teachitright The Girls' Society Line Dancing	Community Hall Community Hall Community Hall Community Hall Community Hall	Barbara H-Walker 07809 07872 98 76 10 Diane Pursall	553 6483 61 43 10  747 4659	
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	Chris Brown 07914 Joe 07864 Diane Pursall Paul Murphy 07837	79 44 56 84 22 99 747 4659 39 57 89	
Wed 9.30, 11.00 & 12.30 10.30 - 12.30 4.15—5.30 6 pm - 7pm 7.15—8.15	Baby Sensory Guide Dog Training Teachitright Mid-week Service Bible Study I Yoga. Midlands	Banners Gate CC Community Hall Community Hall Community Hall Community Hall	Tracy Jones 0775 Madge Nightingale 07809 Ola Samuel 07565 Angela Brookes 07939	82 56 22 360 0286 61 43 10 65 27 62 54 73 92	
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	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	
Friday 10.00—noon 1.15—2.45 pm 6.00—8.00pm	Music Bus Move it or Lose it Make It Happen Dance Co	Community Hall Community Hall Community Hall	Mario Ferko 07908	51 76 84	<b>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, when we are back to normal (whatever that turns out to be).</b>
Sat 10.30—1.30pm 2.30—4.45pm	IKA Sutton Kick Boxing Teachitright	Community Hall Community Hall	Joe 07864 07809	84 22 99 61 43 10	
<b>BOOKING SECRETARIES:</b> 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		<b>UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS:</b> Scouts: Margaret Drummond, 33rd GSL 353 5203 Girlguiding: Carol Gardner, Vesey West District Commissioner 350 7191			



Patron HRH The Princess Royal GCVO

**Townswomen Guild meetings are temporarily suspended due to the Covid pandemic and will resume as soon as they are able.**

New members welcome.  
If you wish to join our vibrant Guild please get in touch with Josie Orme 0121 352 1042.



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

**33<sup>rd</sup> 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