



Banners Gate & Parklands Community & Neighbourhood Forum

149th August 2021

bannersgateneighbourhoodforum.com

If you want **Gatepost** emailed to you, **free of charge**, in full colour, every month, please send an email to bgatepost@gmail.com with "Email Gatepost" in the subject line.

Many of our advertisers, including classes in the various halls in the area, are returning to almost normal. Some classes are even increasing the number of participants. So, if you see one that looks interesting, please give them a ring. The classes I am fairly sure that have reopened or are in the process of doing so, are in green on the back page table.

The restarting of the Banners Gate forum meetings and printing Gatepost is still being considered, as is starting the Coffee Morning. We are keeping a close eye on the data which are still showing high numbers of cases and deaths. Most of the residents who attend both the activities, forum and Coffee Morning, are retired and fall into the "vulnerable" category. There are also the deliverers to consider, many of whom are in the same category.

If you feel you are able to join us in folding and collating Gatepost, or delivering (it takes about half an hour six times a year) when we restart, I will be very happy to hear from you to fill in the details. The contact details are at the bottom of this page.

Tony



Rob Pocock: Residents of the Banners Gate area will be familiar with the longstanding worries about possible loss of the Streetly green belt open space to the north of Queslett Road East. This land falls in the Walsall

Borough rather than our Sutton area of Birmingham Council. This means that decisions about that land are made by Walsall Council, and they are preparing a draft 'development plan' jointly with the other Boroughs of the Black Country, namely Wolverhampton, Dudley and Sandwell.

The consultation process has started and no doubt, housing developers will have their beady eyes on the Streetly open space. I have been working with Walsall Councillors on the other side of Queslett Road and we share a commitment, across political parties, to retain this area as much-loved green space. We also have an excellent band of active residents on our side of the road, who have taken an additional strong lead over this and I'm cautiously optimistic of success, although we all need to be aware that this planning process is very long winded, and it will be a battle that will last for some years yet before a final decision is reached.

Our own King George V Playing Fields is safe

from redevelopment as it is a designated 'Field in Trust' but we still need active citizens helping to keep it in good order. I'm hoping to assist local residents in re-launching a 'Friends of King George V' group in the autumn, to continue the fine work done previously by Carole and her colleagues. Anyone interested in assisting please email rob.pocock@birmingham.gov.uk and I'll put you in touch.

Finally, residents may be aware I run an annual autumn Sutton Park Nature Tour led by the Park Rangers. It's a great way to find out what is actually going on with the medieval landscape restoration work. Last year we had to scrap the tour because of Covid, but I'm glad to say it's back again this year, on the morning of Saturday 25th September. If you're interested in coming along just email me on the address above and I'll let you know how to register.



Alison Jolley:

Wildly excited about floral displays! Most of you will already know Sutton Coldfield Town Council plan and finance the superb floral displays throughout every council Ward in our unique town. Being part of the small committee that orchestrates Sutton in Bloom is one of my favourite town council activities, in part this is

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Editor: Tony Willis, 44 Hollyhurst Road. B73 6SY Tel: 605 4947, or bgatepost@gmail.com **Next deadline: Sept. 23rd.**

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It is certainly good news that wild flower planting projects such as these are on the increase but as any naturalist will tell us, it's vital we continue creating more areas like this of any shape or size in order to satisfy the needs of our local eco-system. Last year saw the implementation of Sutton's wildflower areas, this year has built on 2019's success by sowing over 8,000 square metres of open space, more than double the previous year.

The Town Council has received a huge number of positive comments regarding these fantastic displays, many people have spoken to myself and other councillors regarding the impact they have made. Apart from Banners Gate there are swathes of wildflowers on parts of the central reservation Chester Road North, outside Sutton Park Town Gate and road side verges down Tamworth road towards Sutton Crematorium, they can also be seen in other areas of Sutton too. All this is in addition to all the usual displays of colour seen in the hanging baskets, traffic islands, and flower beds through every ward of Sutton.

Alison Jolley can be contacted on:
alison.jolley@suttoncoldfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk

because biodiversity and the ecological benefits of planting wildflowers has been high on our agenda for the past couple of years.

Are you inspired from watching country file? Do you share concerns that our pollinators are struggling due to our greatly diminished wildflower meadows? Sutton Park is a fine example of a natural ecosystem right on our door step and the wildflower planting areas alongside the park further compliment the huge benefits our park provides.

Wildflowers are also useful for their role as pollinator plants because they help to support declining bee populations. Don't think of bees as insignificant insects, walk over to the wildflower display outside Banners Gate. You'll see fascinating behaviour in the way they collect and store pollen, a natural history lesson in the making. The local beekeepers love it too!



Jan Cairns: The Sutton Coldfield Disability Action Group and the Sutton Coldfield Neighbourhood Network Scheme are working together to scope out opportunities in Sutton Coldfield to improve the facilities for our residents and visitors who are wheelchair users or have mobility issues.

We are currently gathering information and establishing a Sutton Coldfield User Group. We have created a very simple Scoping survey and we would be delighted / grateful if anyone who has mobility challenges or has a family member who has mobility challenges or you are a local charity or enterprise that provides associated services if you would take part in our survey by contacting info@scdag.co.uk

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.

Here's the quiz.

1. Along which lane did Puff the Magic Dragon play?
2. What was the goal of the 1945 military operation in Holland named 'Manna'?
3. Who wrote the original book 'The Lost World' about dinosaurs in South America?
4. Which artists hands created the famous 1889 sculpture of the embracing couple titled The Kiss?
5. Herb Alpert's famous album cover "Whipped Cream and other delights."
Technically, if one is a stickler for details, the album title should have been called what?
6. Name the three men in the post war era (1945) who have lost 4 Wimbledon singles finals.
7. Steve Marriott left The Small Faces in 1969 and formed along with Peter Frampton which difficult to swallow super group?
8. What is the mountain range running north of Port Augusta through South Australia, and what is the great freshwater feature to the north of that range?
9. Which sporting superstar's real first name is Eldrick?
10. Which East Coast North American Indian tribe allied with Britain against the French-Huron compact?
11. In the 'Thomas the Tank Engine' stories, what colours are Thomas, Henry and James respectively?
12. Which o'clock is it at the beginning of the following songs?
 - a. Manic Monday (Bangles)
 - b. She's leaving home (Beatles)
 - c. I know what I like (in my wardrobe) (Genesis)
13. Which best-selling American author has more than 550 million copies of her books in print in 47 countries and 28 languages?
14. What is the only fish to have a prehensile tail?
15. True or false: a male Hollywood star played a female in all his films?

Answers on page 27.

MEMORIES OF HOLIDAYS PAST

After lockdown restrictions of the past eighteen months, people, understandably, want to rush away to sunnier climes. Although I haven't holidayed for the past four/five years, it doesn't bother me. The reason is that I have had some wonderful holidays in Scotland with my husband Norman and daughter Elizabeth, before she married.

Most times we had very good weather, but I do have a couple of memories when the weather was either wet or cold. One year it rained, and some: it rained for twelve of our fourteen days; so much so we had to buy Norman a new waterproof anorak in Fort William. The rain had seeped into his old one through the ventilation holes beneath the armpits! Then the sun came out and we had one gloriously hot day before returning home. I think they call it 'sod's law'!

I can recall the occasion when sitting in some lonely glen huddled round the Camping Gaz stove on which we frequently cooked our meals outdoors. Our hot soup warmed our hands as well as our insides. I commented, 'What fools we are, we've rented a perfectly warm bungalow and we sit here in the open, huddled over the stove! After all, we wouldn't dream of sitting in the garden at home with temperatures as low as these!' But we had to absorb as much of the magnificent scenery to last twelve months!

But we have also had some very hot, glorious days when we jokingly commented each morning, having seen the forecast, 'Oh no not another of these hot cloudless days again!' We had two or three holidays when the tar melted on the roads. One summer the shopkeepers opened cardboard boxes and laid them on the floor so sticky tar wasn't trodden into their shops. One year the council spread sand over the roads. Apparently, the



Fort William

previous year a car owner sued the council as the melted tar had built up round his wheels, picking up gravel on the way and the whole mess had locked his car wheel! There was the summer when we picnicked in Glen Nevis sitting in the middle of the riverbed, the water a mere trickle, but can you imagine a more magnificent picnic spot than at the foot of Ben Nevis on such a day? Many of our holidays we had days when the heat haze was such that we almost lost the view.



Ben Nevis

Some years Auntie Florence (Norman's sister) came with us. Travelling down the north-west coast from Durness to Ullapool on a very hot day, we branched off to find the tiny fishing community of Lochinver on the coast. On the way Loch

Assynt made an ideal spot for our picnic and I decided to take Elizabeth, then a young child, on to the shore of the loch. Crossing the road, I stepped in a puddle of tar which oozed between my sandal and foot, so the sole of my foot was stuck to the sandal! Norman had had the forethought to put a one-pint milk bottle of petrol in the boot in case of emergency, so with an old cloth and the petrol we cleaned off the worst of the tar from shoe and foot. With the petrol fumes still filling the car we continued our journey, with the sun beating down on to Norman's stomach and he began to feel quite nauseated. By the time we reached Lochinver, he was definitely a greenish colour so visited the 'gents' at one end of the only street. Florence in the meantime went charging to the other end to the little shop to buy ice cream for us all. She called down the street to me, waiting outside the 'gents', 'Does Norman want an ice cream?' I called 'No'. 'Why doesn't he want an ice cream?' I had to walk the length of the street to inform her, 'He's just been sick!' She didn't seem to grasp it wasn't the sort of reply one shouted the length of a village street.

The year was 1970 and we stayed in the tiny community of Durness, about as isolated as one can get on the very north coast of the mainland. It was midsummer's day and Election Day. We completely forgotten what day it was with no access to radio or TV, so it wasn't until next morning when a fellow guest produced a portable radio, we were able to learn the result that Ted Heath had won. Only then could we imagine the frenzy that had gone on in London and cities around the country. We sat on the white shell-sand beach until 11.00 p.m., (One didn't feel tired with such long daylight hours.) We eventually started off to our B&B when



Durness

we came across around forty people. Now to come across five people would have been a crowd in such an isolated place but this number needed some investigating. They did not seem to be looking at anything in particular, we were intrigued. Norman put down the car window to ask one of them. 'We're listening for the corn crake' was the reply. (Quite a rare bird.) Fortunately, we did know what the bird was! We heard it the following year near Pitlochry.

In our first few years we toured Scotland staying at B&B's, and so got to know which parts of the country we would prefer to settle for a fortnight. This enabled us to meet so many wonderful people and make a number of friends, returning several times to be welcomed warmly. Deciding Aberdeenshire was our preference, we rented a cottage in woods at the rear of Balmoral Castle where we became friends of the policeman living in the gatehouse. So Ballater was our main small town to get to know, which we did.

We found The Silver Teapot in Ballater's main street. The proprietor made all her own cakes and the most delicious scones, so we became regular visitors and each time we indulged. Each year they greeted us with, 'Och! you're back then', and we would receive their enthusiastic welcome. There are too many folk to mention and behind each there was a story, but some remained friends for a long time.



Ballater

One of these was Laura. Laura was in charge of the gift shop outside Balmoral Castle. She it was who visited London out of season and chose samples of which she thought the Queen would approve for sale in the shop. Several charities benefitted from these shops. Laura sought permission from H.M.'s bodyguard and invited us to stand with the Balmoral staff to see Her Majesty, accompanied by Duke of Edinburgh or Prince Charles as she inspected the guard of honour, soldiers from the local barracks in Ballater. The Lord Lieutenant of the County and his wife were also there to welcome her. This became a regular appointment for several years.



Balmoral Castle

We have so many memories of some little incident which at the time seemed so funny. Norman constantly combing his hair on a windy hillside, only to have it go skywards as soon as he combed! Of going for a meal in a restaurant. For dessert I chose a 'rum baba' which was very well laced. We got home to our cottage and Norman and Elizabeth were laughing at me as I could no longer form my words! The rum had gone to my head, (so they said)!

We loved getting up early and going for walks when the wildlife was just waking, when there was mist in the glen and while the adult world was still abed. Of walking by the River Dee surrounded by its ancient pines, and the local rabbits, of meeting the local wildlife, roe deer who barked at us, protecting its fawn and the red squirrel running up the parapet of an ancient bridge only to meet Elizabeth at the apex. I don't know who jumped the most! In one lonely glen we sat and watched a red squirrel eat a huge mushroom like eating a cake. Special moments. Staying on Skye one year when the cuckoo, cuckoo'd all night long, when it didn't get dark and there were no curtains (no neighbours), and a very young Elizabeth couldn't sleep due to the light, so we hung up a bath towel! On the Moray coast we bought fish sold from the kiosk on the shore, straight from the boats. Norman said he would have sole and when we asked the lady the price, she told us, 'Two poon a poon!' It therefore, entered the Tomes repertoire at an appropriate moment. I asked permission to take Elizabeth round to see the fish dressed, imagining pictures of the fisher lassies gutting herring by hand. Imagine our dismay to see a circular saw, the fish presented, cut open and the guts sucked out in a container! All in one procedure.



Moray Coast

There are many stories, and we had many wonderful experiences, one of which was special and maybe I can tell that too, in a future issue.

Ann Tomes



Public encouraged to download 'essential' free location app ahead of Great British staycation



Emergency services across the UK are preparing for an exceptionally busy summer, as restrictions on international travel have resulted in a huge increase in Brits opting to holiday in the UK. Emergency services have warned of the 'unprecedented' pressure that this has put on control rooms and are calling for the public to download and familiarise themselves with the free

what3words app as a simple way to stay safe and support emergency services this summer.

what3words has divided the world into a grid of 3m squares, and given each square a unique combination of three words. `///laptop.processes.works` for example will take you to the best view over Durdle Door in Devon. The app is free to download for both iOS and Android devices, and works offline, making it ideal for use in areas with unreliable data connection, such as beaches, national parks and campsites. what3words can also be used via the online map at what3words.com. The technology is available in over 45 languages, including Welsh, and can be used anywhere in the world.

what3words is now used by over 85% of UK emergency services – police, fire and ambulance. While not intended as a replacement for any traditional 'must-pack' survival gear worth bringing along on all hikes, camping trips, and other outdoor adventures this summer, the technology has become a well-used tool for emergency services, saving dispatchers and responders precious time and resources in an emergency.

what3words research conducted by Opinion Matters found that 68% of Brits going on a staycation this summer are going somewhere unfamiliar to them. However, while nearly two in five of us (39%) have gotten lost on holiday, only a third (33%) of staycationing Brits plan to take a map with them on holiday this year. Giving a what3words address in an emergency ensures that dispatch teams know exactly where the caller needs help, and can locate them quickly and easily when every second counts.

The technology has been used for everything from reporting fires and rescuing pets to locating callers mid-heart attack with pinpoint accuracy. For example, in June, a man was rescued late at night in stormy weather after suffering a suspected broken ankle on a remote cliff path in Cornwall. Thanks to what3words, the Bude Coastguard Rescue Team was able to swiftly locate the injured caller and his partner, who were both cold, wet and at risk of developing hypothermia had quick action not been taken.

Chris Sheldrick, co-founder and CEO of what3words, says, "what3words is a valuable tool, both for emergency services and members of the public. It's useful for organising meet-up locations on parks and beaches, but also provides the peace of mind of knowing that you and your family will always be able to tell emergency services exactly where to go. We hope that people enjoy venturing off the beaten track this summer, but do so safely."

Try it now, do not wait until you are in trouble. [How to use what3words](https://what3words.com)





Alert - Vaccine Passport Scams

Action Fraud has received over 700 reports from members of the public about fake emails purporting to be from the NHS. The emails claim to be able to provide people with a “digital passport” that “proves you have been vaccinated against COVID-19”. These emails are fake, and the links within them lead to genuine-looking websites that steal your personal and financial information.

How to protect yourself:

In the UK, coronavirus vaccines will only be available via the National Health Services of England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. You can be contacted by the NHS, your employer, a GP surgery or pharmacy local to you, to receive your vaccine. Remember, **the vaccine is free of charge**. At no point will you be asked to pay.

- The NHS will never ask you for your bank account or card details.
- The NHS will never ask you for your PIN or banking passwords.
- The NHS will never arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine.
- The NHS will never ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport, driving licence, bills or pay slips.
- Your vaccination status can be obtained for free through the official NHS app, NHS website, or by calling the NHS on 119.

How to report scams:

If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent, hang up. If you are suspicious about an email you have received, you can report it by forwarding the email to: report@phishing.gov.uk. Suspicious text messages can also be reported by forwarding them to the number: **7726** (it's free of charge).

If you believe you are the victim of a fraud, please report this to Action Fraud as soon as possible by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk.

Message Sent By

Action Fraud (Action Fraud, Administrator, National)



Scam Tree Surgeons

We have received a report that some "Tree Surgeons" have charged a resident £600 to cut down and remove some trees. they stayed 45 min and did not take the tree cuttings away. Please do not open your door to 'cold callers' even if they offer a service that you may be considering

Message Sent By

Ian Willetts (Police, PCSO, Sutton Coldfield)

Another tale from the life and times of Eric Jones

Following on from my most embarrassing moment let me tell you about probably my most devastating one.

I belong to a large community mixed choir "Phoenix Singers Birmingham" Every other year around half the choir, about fifty in total have for many years travelled to Europe, performing concerts whilst holidaying together.

In 2001 we went to Prague via coach with a one-night stopover in Germany. Our courier had said to us to make sure when you bring your case down in the morning you physically see it loaded onto the coach. I left my case in reception and had breakfast, followed by a walk, getting back to find the coach loaded and the choir getting on the bus. We were about 3 hours down the autoroute when our courier announced she was speaking to the hotel reception and a case has been left behind. I froze when she said "Did anyone not personally carry their case out to the coach and see it loaded?" I was mortified when she followed it by saying the receptionist was walking over to the case to check the label. My worst nightmare was confirmed when she said the name is Eric Jones. The coach erupted with laughter as I cringed. I could hear my wife saying, "You're not safe to be left out on your own."



Phoenix Singers Birmingham



Choir members were sympathetic with, funnily enough, offers of pants from the ladies and socks from the men. I commented by saying to the ladies, "OK but not frilly ones please I will be in enough trouble when I get home." After a discussion with our courier, I decided to collect my case five nights later during the return stopover. Consequently, when I arrived at the hotel in the evening, I just had clothes I travelled in. I managed to buy toiletries from the hotel.

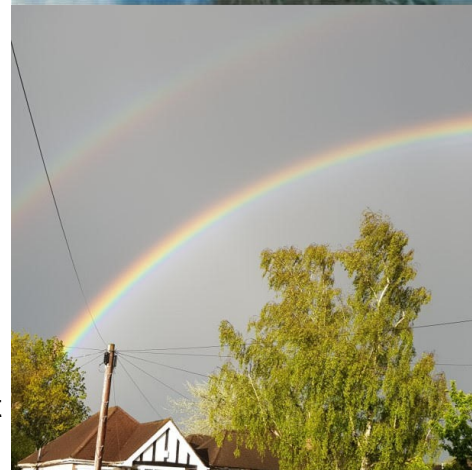
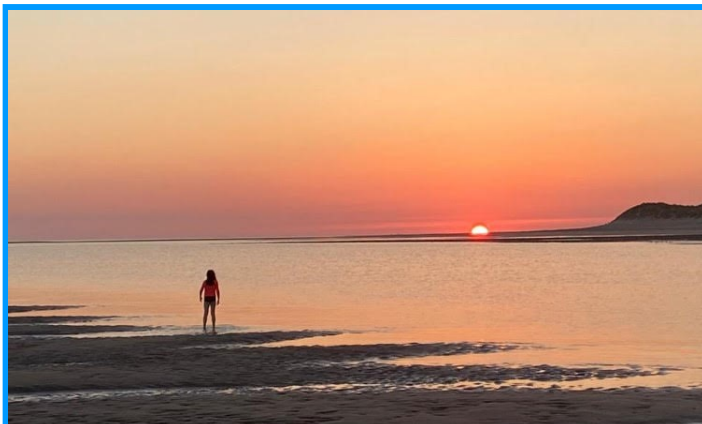
The following morning whilst the choir were enjoying a sightseeing tour of the city I was shopping for clothing. Everything from shoes upwards, including the bag to carry everything in. Many of the ladies said if it had been them, it would have devastated their holiday completely, but they said that you took it in your stride.

At the time I was working up in Skelmersdale with a flat in Southport, I responded by saying I was more annoyed having to buy even more socks and pants because I now had them everywhere, my flat in Southport, my golf club locker, my home, Germany, and Prague. Consequently, it's been very many years since I have had to replace these items!!



I had no sympathy on arriving home with double the baggage I went with. On briefly relating my disaster my wife commented, "Am I surprised?"

As a footnote I had kept all my purchase receipts and claimed and got the money back off my insurance stating that I felt the courier should have checked in the hotel reception for any cases or other items left there. Proof it's sometimes worth taking out holiday insurance. *Eric Jones*



We are still battling Covid 19 and the next thing is here already.

The NILE Virus, type C

Virologists have identified a new Nile virus - type C

It appears to target those who were born between 1940 and 1970

Symptoms:

1. Causes you to send the same message twice.
2. Causes you to send a blank message.
3. Causes you to send a message to the wrong person.
4. Causes you to send it back to the person who sent it to you.
5. Causes you to forget to attach the attachment.
6. Causes you to hit SEND before you've finished.
7. Causes you to hit DELETE instead of SEND
8. Causes you to SEND when you should DELETE

It is called the C-NILE virus!

And if you can't admit to doing the above you've obviously caught the mutated strain, the D-NILE virus.

Here's a selection of holiday snaps and cartoons from Hazel. Thank you Hazel.

The seascape was taken at Aberdovey a week or so ago. It's a setting sun with an admiring granddaughter.
The rainbow was snapped in Sutton Coldfield.

The smiling face is a cup of Marmite and is there because I like Marmite.
The Iron Woman is there because it is funny.

The Nile Virus, type C cartoon is there because I was born in the 40s and if I didn't laugh I'd cry, and I don't want to cry.

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

Love singing? Love stories? Love Sutton? FOLIOSuttonColdfield has a free workshop combining all three on Sept 5, and all are welcome! It's free, but booking is necessary. Full details here:

<https://bookwhen.com/foliosuttoncoldfield/e/ev-slc-20210905140000>

TELLING SUTTON'S STORIES THROUGH SONG

A Community Song-Making Workshop

Sunday 5th September 2021 2-5 pm

Woodland outside St Chad's Church, Hollyfield Road,
Sutton Coldfield B75 7SN

FREE but booking essential ~ Refreshments provided

Book your place here: bit.ly/sutton-song-stories

Arrival between 2-2.30 with a chance to browse the Telling Sutton Stories exhibition. Workshop will run from 2.30-5 with a short break.

Bring your memories and stories of Sutton Coldfield to contribute to this community song-making workshop run by local musician Zoë Challenor. We'll be collecting your memories and experiences, to make a living, breathing song that tells the story of Sutton Coldfield in your own words. Any questions? Please email zoe@foliosuttoncoldfield.org.uk



**SUTTON COLDFIELD
NEIGHBOURHOOD
NETWORK SCHEME**



We'll be coming to Banners Gate with our old maps and photos on:

**Tuesday 14 September 1.30-4.30 at the Community Hall, Reay Nadin Drive,
Sutton Coldfield, B73 6, United Kingdom**

You are warmly invited to browse historic maps and archive photos of Sutton Coldfield at this free, drop-in event hosted by FOLIO Sutton Coldfield as part of our Telling Sutton's Stories project (<http://foliosuttoncoldfield.org.uk/map>). A perfect opportunity to share your own stories about Sutton or reminisce about the town!

We'll also have a small collection of objects for you to handle which may prompt memories, plus information about Sutton Coldfield libraries and how to join them (if you're not already a member). This event is funded by a grant from the Sutton Coldfield Neighbourhood Network Scheme. We'll be set up on tables outside the community centre on Reay Nadin Drive, though we will move inside if the weather is bad.

If you're experiencing any COVID symptoms, please join us at another event in this series when you are feeling better. We also encourage attendees to be considerate of others in terms of doing what we all can to minimise the risk of spreading COVID when browsing our maps and photos. Any questions - email_zoe@foliosuttoncoldfield.org.uk.

Come and explore old maps and archive photos of Sutton Coldfield

Free, drop-in event • All very welcome

Part of FOLIO Sutton Coldfield's Telling Sutton's Stories project
supported by funding from

Sutton Coldfield Neighbourhood Network Scheme



Are you a writer?

Or perhaps you dream
of being one?

Telling Sutton's Stories FLASH FICTION Competition

Well here's your chance!
FOLIO Sutton Coldfield
is delighted to announce
our second annual Flash
Fiction Competition -
write a short story in just
250 words, with a link to
Sutton (eg set here or

inspired by a bit of Sutton's history) and be in with a chance of seeing your short story printed in our local newspaper, the Royal Sutton Coldfield Chronicle, as well as being displayed in Sutton Coldfield Library, published on our website. The winner will also receive a £25 booktoken.

You can submit as many entries as you like, as long as you are over 16. It's free to enter, and submissions must be received by 24 October. Full details here:

<https://foliosuttoncoldfield.org.uk/flash-fiction-competition-2021/>



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

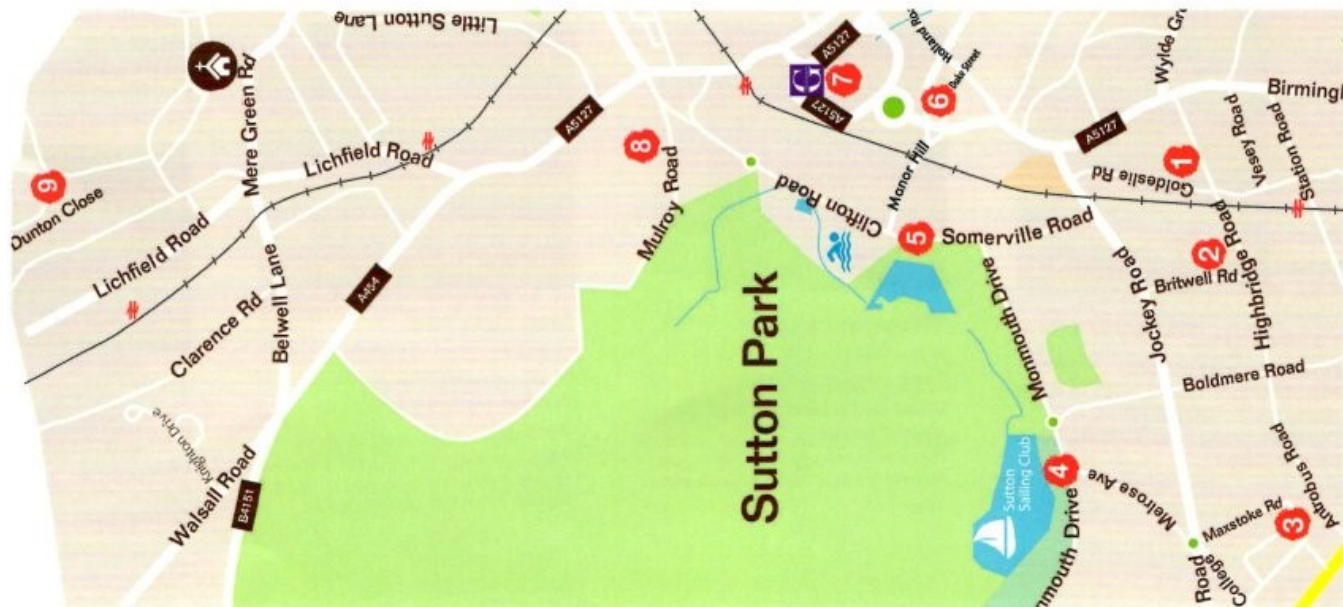
4th & 5th September 2021
10am-4pm

- 68 Highbridge Road, B73 5QE
- 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

>>> Map of venues on next page <<<

Our Venues



1

**68 Highbridge Road,
B73 5QE**

Rachel David



2

**71 Britwell Road,
B73 5SW**

Austin Gannon



3

**17 Haselor Road,
B73 5DW**

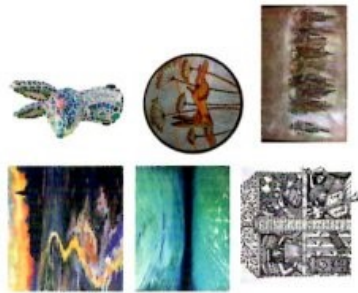
Judy Preston



4

**Sutton Sailing Club,
Monmouth Dr, B73 6JL**

James Ware Fran Vere
Elaine Farmer Jane Hinks
Janet-May Garner Joanne Barker



5

12 Somerville Road, B73 6JA

Petra Röhr-Rouendaal Sam Bailey
Paul Brown John Hodggett
Melissa Keogh Kathryn Sawbridge



6

The Duke Pub, 12 Duke Street, B72 1RJ

Tim Griffiths Matt Greenhill
Pat Pagett Gill Saviker
Una Smith



7

Gracechurch Centre, B72 1PH

Geoff Stubbins Chris Bowden
Alison Boyland Helen Willis
Debra Lane



8

14 Mulroy Rd, B74 2PY

Deborah Hodgson Margaret Fairhead
John Handley Kathryn Morris
Sam Revill Mathé Shepheard



9

52 Dunton Close, B75 5QD

Bobbie Dewsbery Jodie Wingham



There is street parking or parking close by at all the venues and wheelchair access at venues 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9

How to help your garden grow without harming wildlife

[Show me](#) ➤



It's summertime and, for many of us, our gardens, patios, vegetable plots and flower pots are blooming with colour and new growth. It's certainly time to kick back and enjoy the show. But such bounty can also mean rich pickings for some wildlife that we'd rather not encourage in our gardens.

Yes, this week we're talking about so-called 'pests' and what to do about them! No one wants to see their roses attacked by aphids or their prize marrow mauled by slugs. But how can we protect our plants, without harming wildlife and causing a whole lot more damage?

Thankfully, there is a way. In a special feature to help you look after the nature on your doorstep, RSPB gardening expert Adrian Thomas sets out some simple solutions to a perennial problem.

Plus, share your best summer wildlife photos. We'd love to see what you've spotted this season. Send your snaps into NotesOnNature@rspb.org.uk and we'll feature our favourites in Notes on Nature later this month.



Jamie Wyver
Notes on Nature Editor

August's wildlife highlights

What to see
this month



[Show me](#) ➤

Welcome to Notes on Nature. These weekly emails will keep you informed and inspired throughout the year, with top tips, activities, and great nature news stories from around the world.

August can be such a changeable month. One minute it's gloriously warm and sunny, the next there's a chilly nip in the air. But whatever the weather, there are lots of wildlife sights to enjoy – from the aerobatic antics of hobbies, like the juvenile pictured above, to the stunning carpets of pink and purple heather that cloak heathland and moorland at this time of year.

Check out Nature's Calendar for our top tips on what to look out for, plus some handy snake ID advice to help you if you're lucky enough to spot one of these elusive reptiles basking in the last of the summer sun.

This week I'll be showcasing some of your best wildlife photos with TV presenter Steve Brown. If you sent us some snaps last week, thank you – we'll be featuring a selection of those next Saturday.

In this issue, you'll also discover why cows and robots are battling it out at RSPB Abernethy; find out how hammocks are helping kittiwakes set up home, and get to meet a woodlouse that glows in the dark!

Jamie Wyver
Notes on Nature editor

Husband takes the wife to a disco. There's a guy on the dance floor break dancing, moonwalking, back flips, the works. The wife turns to her husband and says, "See that guy? 25 years ago he proposed to me and I turned him down."

Husband says, "Looks like he's still celebrating!"

THANK YOU LORD

AS THE WORLD GETS CRAZIER THE NUTS GET EASIER TO FIND

My kid made the mistake of telling me I was being overdramatic so I just changed the wifi password. We'll see who's overdramatic in about 5 minutes.

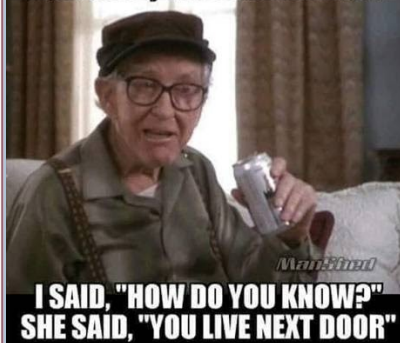


A Man asked a Fairy to make him desirable and irresistible to all Women.

She turned him into a credit card.

Grammar's Funnies

AS I WAS GETTING INTO BED SHE SAID, "YOU'RE DRUNK"



I SAID, "HOW DO YOU KNOW?" SHE SAID, "YOU LIVE NEXT DOOR"

mum did you want a daughter or a son?

I wanted a back rub



A SHORT GUN STORY

A GUY WALKED INTO A CROWDED BAR, WAVING HIS UNHOLSTERED PISTOL AND YELLED, "I HAVE A 45 CALIBER COLT 1911 WITH A SEVEN ROUND MAGAZINE PLUS ONE IN THE CHAMBER AND I WANT TO KNOW WHO'S BEEN SLEEPING WITH MY WIFE."

A VOICE FROM THE BACK OF THE ROOM CALLED OUT,

"YOU NEED MORE AMMO!!"

Please, can I see your nose?

Not until we're married.



WE ARE FROM TECH SUPPORT



WE ARE HERE TO DELETE YOUR COOKIES

SHE MET HIM ONLINE...

WE DON'T EAT EGGS, MEAT, FISH, DAIRY, OR GLUTEN. WHAT WOULD YOU RECOMMEND?

A TAXI.



OLD AGE COMES AT A BAD TIME! WHEN YOU FINALLY KNOW EVERYTHING, YOU START TO FORGET EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.

HE SAID HE LIVED IN A GATED COMMUNITY



You may receive a Po TATERS email.

Here are some examples

Some people never seem motivated to participate but are just content to watch while others do the work. They are called "Spec Taters".

Some people never do anything to help but are gifted at finding fault with the way others do the work. They are called "Comment Taters".

Some people are very bossy and like to tell others what to do, but don't want to soil their own hands. They are called "Dick Taters".

Some people are always looking to cause problems by asking others to agree with them. It is too hot or too cold, too sour or too sweet. They are called "Agie Taters".

There are those who say they will help, but somehow just never get around to actually doing the promised help. They are called "Hezzie Taters".

Some people can put up a front and pretend to be someone they are not. They are called "Immy Taters".

Then there are those who love others and do what they say they will. They are always prepared to stop whatever they are doing and lend a helping hand. They bring real sunshine into the lives of others. They are called "Sweet Po Taters".

If you know any "Sweet Po Taters", send this to them!! I just did

Believe in yourself for everyone to believe in you

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 more:

- I can picture in my mind a world without war, a world without hate. And I can picture us attacking that world because they'd never expect it. – Jack Handey
- The company accountant is shy and retiring. He's shy a quarter of a million dollars. That's why he's retiring. – Milton Berle
- I'm a very tolerant man, except when it comes to holding a grudge. – Robin Williams
- I saw a bank that said "24 Hour Banking" but I don't have that much time. – Stephen Wright
- Always remember my grandfather's last words: "A truck!" – Emo Phillips
- Half of all marriages end in divorce — and then there are the really unhappy ones. – Joan Rivers

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 Please do report any errors to us at 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 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.

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 21st 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



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 website.



stay updated
get involved

Priority: 5 4 3 2 1



Neighbourhood Watch Launch Impact Report 2021

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH 2020/21 IMPACT REPORT

[OURWATCH.ORG.UK/IMPACT](https://ourwatch.org.uk/impact)

*"Creating safer, connected
& more active communities
since 1982"*



Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales, CIO no: 1173349

Following the success of last year's first-ever Neighbourhood Watch Impact Report, we are delighted to share this year's Impact Report for 2020/21.

The report demonstrates how we are achieving each of our three ambitions within our 5-year strategy, which we embarked upon last year, namely being:

- the **authoritative voice on community-based crime prevention**
- the **most popular gateway for citizens to engage in their locality**
- a **recognised contributor to community health and wellbeing**.

In addition to preventing crime and the fear of crime, we have made a significant impact in supporting communities, especially through the Covid-19 challenges.

As many charities have experienced, we have adapted the way we work and learned new ways to improve our services to serve our communities better. Whilst the restrictions have been relaxed over the Summer, we know we are not yet through these difficult times, and our role within communities is still just as much in demand as it was at the start of the pandemic.

None of the work we do would have been possible without people like you who support the work we do and the values we stand for. We want to thank you for your ongoing, unwavering support.

Visit ourwatch.org.uk/impact to download the report.
Let's stay connected!

Yours sincerely

John Hayward-Cripps, CEO Neighbourhood Watch Network

Follow us.. ourwatch.org.uk / [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#) / [Instagram](#) / [LinkedIn](#)

Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales, CIO no: 1173349

The need-to-knows when buying and selling online

Scams taking place on online retail websites are more common than we think, unfortunately. We've received multiple reports of a crafty scheme on Shpock, where 'buyers' attempt to trick sellers into handing over their bank details and transferring money directly.

[Here are some examples of how this has been attempted](#) as well as advice on staying safe when buying and selling online.

Five red flags that a loved one is being scammed

Scammers use every trick in the book to sound convincing and make their scams seem plausible. If one gets lucky – targeting the right person, in the right way, at the right time – anyone could fall victim to a scam. But these fraudsters regularly seek out older people because they're more likely to live alone, have savings or valuables and are more likely to talk to them.

Help your loved one stay one step ahead of the scammers. [Here's a short video about the red flags to look out for](#) that may suggest your friend or relative is being scammed.

Banking with a disability

If you're one of the 14.1 million people in the UK with a disability, your bank must make services as accessible as possible. But our research paints a very different - and worrying - picture of the reality faced by many.

Some banks are failing to support their disabled customers: widespread branch closures and the shift to online banking make it increasingly difficult for them to access cash and vital everyday financial services.

Branches can be a lifeline for many, but four in 10 disabled consumers told us that closures had negatively impacted them. **And it's only getting worse: by the end of this year, almost 4,300 UK branches will have closed since 2015 – that's a 44% cut in the network.**

More must be done to improve accessibility of banking services. The government's promised legislation on access to cash **must make sure that people aren't cut off from their local branches.**

[Find out which banks are failing to support their disabled customers here.](#)

Is your bank doing enough to support scam victims?

Despite the majority of current account providers being signed up to a voluntary code that requires them to provide support to victims of bank transfer scams, 32% of fraud or attempted fraud victims we surveyed told us they weren't offered advice or resources on staying safe by their banks.

We explain [what you should do after suffering fraud or attempted fraud](#) – and what you should expect from your bank.

Vehicle tax phishing

Vehicle tax phishing emails are a tried and tested method for scammers, and fraudsters continue to use fake vehicle tax emails as a means to obtain sensitive information.

But with a large number of motorists that are seen as potential victims, the problem persists. We've had several new examples reported to us. [Here are some of them](#), complete with threats of debt collection agencies and cancelled direct debits.

DPD SMS phishing

A text claiming to be from DPD is doing the rounds. It informs the recipient that a delivery attempt was made and asks them to follow a link to arrange redelivery. The link takes you to a copycat DPD website asking for personal details and a small fee for 'redelivery'.

A text claiming to be from DPD is doing the rounds. It informs the recipient that a delivery attempt was made and asks them to follow a link to arrange redelivery. The link takes you to a copycat DPD website asking for personal details and a small fee for 'redelivery'.

Fake Which? gift card email - update

Earlier this year, a scam email using our name – the Consumers' Association (the registered UK charity that runs Which? group) – was circulating, offering the chance to play a game and win a M&S gift voucher and other prizes by clicking through to 'EncashOffers' (a deals, competitions and cashback site).

This month, the EncashOffers team contacted us to clarify that it's not responsible for sending these emails and has launched an investigation.

Here's more about the scam and [how to spot a genuine email from us](#).

Fraudsters spoofing bank telephone numbers

It's easy for scammers to spoof legitimate phone numbers using software shared by criminals freely online.

Louise, from Hertfordshire, believed that her bank account was compromised after receiving a text from what appeared to be the Barclays fraud team. Then, she received a call from a number that matched the Barclays phone number on her debit card and was persuaded to transfer all her funds into a 'secure account'.

[So how can you tell if a call is genuine if you can't rely on caller ID?](#)

Reporting scams: do you feel the same way as others?

Earlier this year we found that two in five victims of online scam ads don't report them. Our survey found that many of those who didn't report were put off by time-consuming forms and perceived lack of action against fraudsters.

But how easy is it to report online fraud? Find out more about [people's experiences and how you can report scams](#) on sites like Facebook, Google and Twitter.

There's now a much easier way to make us aware of scams directly with our [scam sharer tool](#). Tell us your experiences of phishing emails, fake texts, cold calls and other types of fraud.

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.

Pedestrians and cyclists given right of way in new Highway Code



Road users on foot and bike are to gain greater priority over cars at junctions and crossings due to new Highway Code changes, the Department for Transport (DfT) has announced.

Currently, drivers are only required to give way when someone steps onto a crossing, while pedestrians are told they shouldn't start to cross until vehicles on the road have stopped.

The new rules – due to be published this autumn – will strengthen right of way for pedestrians on pavements and when

crossing, or waiting to cross, the road.

The updated Code will also give cyclists priority at junctions when travelling straight ahead, as well as issue guidance on safe passing distances and speeds.

Plus, a “hierarchy of road users” will ensure the more high-risk modes of transport have the greatest responsibility to reduce the danger they pose to others.

This move – which comes as part of the government's new £338 million fund to boost cycling and walking – intends to help accommodate and maintain the increase in active travel during the pandemic.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said: “Millions of us have found over the past year how cycling and walking are great ways to stay fit, ease congestion on the roads and do your bit for the environment.

“As we build back greener from the pandemic, we're determined to keep that trend going by making active travel easier and safer for everyone.”

He added that the funding package will enable more people to make “sustainable travel choices” that make our “air cleaner and cities greener”.

The investment will also be used for infrastructure upgrades, including hundreds of miles of high-quality cycle lanes, as well as walking schemes.

- [A guide to overtaking safely on the road](#)
- [15 simple things you can do as a driver that could save a life](#)
- [Road crossings](#) – what's the difference between zebra, pelican, puffin and toucan crossings?

RAC head of roads policy, Nicholas Lyes said: “These proposals should make cycling and walking safer, and this is to be welcomed. A concerted effort must now be made to communicate the changes to drivers because as we know, many do not read the Highway Code for long periods after passing their test.

“Ultimately, the aim should be to ensure that everyone using the roads understands the new rules, because any confusion is likely to lead to avoidable collisions.”

The updated Highway Code will affect England, Scotland, and Wales, while Northern Ireland has its own version.



We are delighted to announce that we will be reopening our theatre for live performances from **Thursday 30 September 2021** with our long awaited production of *An Ideal Husband*, this will run until **Saturday 9 October**.

Existing ticket holders for this production have now been contacted to rearrange their bookings. If you have not heard from us please contact the **Box Office on 0121 355 5355** during opening hours and we will ensure that your tickets are rebooked.

Booking for *An Ideal Husband* is now open to the general public and can be booked online via our website or by contacting our Box Office. Opening hours are as follows:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 7.30-9.00pm and Wednesday morning from 10.00am – Midday (except Bank Holidays)

Our teams are doing everything possible to ensure your safe return. In accordance with government guidelines seating is not required to be socially distanced and we will not be enforcing the wearing of masks however patrons are welcome to wear them if they wish. The theatre will be cleaned regularly and hand sanitiser will be available on arrival and at various points throughout the theatre. We want to continue to keep people as safe and well as possible and kindly ask that you are mindful of other audience members and our volunteers; should you have any Covid symptoms we ask that you consider testing at home before coming to the theatre.

We owe a huge thank you to all of the volunteers that have worked tirelessly throughout the closure to make improvements to the theatre including front of house renovations and reorganisation across all departments behind the scenes. Most importantly thanks to all of you who have continued to support us over the last 18 months and to those members that have made kind and generous donations, it is greatly appreciated.

Whilst so much has changed since we closed our doors last year, we remain committed to providing a top class theatrical experience for all of our visitors. We are excited for our building to be buzzing with life again, filled with audience chatter, front of house bells ringing and of course, applause.

We look forward to welcoming you, your families and friends back to the theatre next month, you've been hugely missed by all of us here at Sutton Arts and we are all very happy to be back open, doing what love!

Highbury Players announce 2021/22 season

We are absolutely delighted to announce a full season of plays and films for our 2021/22 year. We are keeping a close eye on the Covid-19 situation and will be checking that our arrangements maximise everyone's safety.

We are also in the final stages of developing our new website which will be at the same address of www.highburytheatre.co.uk and will provide you with more information about events taking place at the theatre and how to get involved.

PLAY	DATES (all at 7.30pm)
Nell Gwynn by Jessica Swale	14 th – 25 th September 2021
Maurice's Jubilee by Nichola McAuliffe	19 th – 30 th October 2021
House Guest by Francis Durbridge	30 th November – 11 th December 2021
How The Other Half Loves by Alan Ayckbourn	18 th – 29 th January 2022
Handbagged by Moira Buffini	22 nd February – 5 th March 2022
Passion Play by Peter Nichols	5 th – 16 th April 2022
Celebrating Shakespeare: an anthology	18 th – 23 rd April 2022
Northanger Abbey by Tim Luscombe	7 th – 18 th June 2022
A production to celebrate the Commonwealth Games	(tbc)

FILM	DATE (all except Frozen II at 7pm)	CERTIFICATE
1917	Sunday 19 th September 2021	15
Harriet	Sunday 24 th October 2021	12A
The Dressmaker	Saturday 20 th November 2021	12A
Frozen II	Tuesday 28 th December 2021 (2.30pm)	U
Greyhound	Sunday 23 rd January 2022	12A
I, Daniel Blake	Saturday 12 th February 2022	15
Wind River	Saturday 19 th March 2022	15
Macbeth	Sunday 10 th April 2022	15
My Left Foot	Saturday 7 th May 2022	15
Portrait of a Lady on Fire	Saturday 25 th June 2022	15
Nomadland	Saturday 16 th July 2022	12A



Street Watch

I hope you are keeping well.

This is just a quick message to let you know about Street watch, I am sure most of you know, but this is a great way of making a difference in your community. Join us and other members on a walk, this can be 1 a month or 20 a month its entirely up to you, bring your dog as well.

We would love to see some friendly faces, without you we would not be able to positively Police our area.

If you need any more details or wish to sign up, just email the editor at bgatepost@gmail.com.

Many Thanks,

Nikkissage Sent By

Nikki Stubbs (Police, PCSO, Solihull, Chelmsley Wood)

Friends of King George V Playing Fields



Following conversations with various residents who use the fields, and trying to remember the plans we had many, many months ago, we shall have to have a meeting as soon as it is safe.

Unfortunately, several residents are not in a position to meet over the internet, but the way things are going, re, Covid, it will not be too long before we can meet face to face.

Suggestions I have received have included seating, fruit trees, more flowers and more bins (and emptied regularly). The seating will have to be non-moveable and John Porter (I had the pleasure of bumping into him in the café recently) suggested a large lump of rock with possibly wooden accessories for warm seats, arms and backrests.

Suggestions will always be gratefully accepted, so please put your thinking caps on, especially if you use the field.

Watch the September Gatepost for news of a meeting, day, time and place.

Tony

NNS SUTTON COLDFIELD WELCOMES OUR NEWEST NETWORKER, NANCY ELLIS -DAY



Hello! I am here to help strengthen additional needs community services and discover what groups may need some extra help whilst working on the additional needs pilot, which is all about supporting adults with disabilities. I would like to spend some time getting to know community members who may have an interest in additional needs services. I have worked for many charities before and am happy to be working with age concern to deliver this pilot. My previous roles aimed to help women and those experiencing mental health difficulty. I hope that my skills in community work will allow me to support some vibrant and fun sessions which will provide much-needed support to those with additional needs.

**NANCY
ELLIS- DAY**

**NNS
NETWORKER**

**NNS SUTTON
COLDFIELD**

To find out more and connect please contact
Nancy:
Email: n.ellisday@ageconcernbirmingham.org.uk
Phone: 07432739015

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



Daisy Bell

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.

Here are a few more Paraprosdokians for you

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right - only who is left.
7. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
9. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
10. In filling out an application, where it says, in case of emergency, notify..... I put 'DOCTOR'.

Answers to quiz on page 3.

1. Along the cherry lane. 2. To air drop food supplies to starving civilians. (Manna from heaven) 3. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle 4. Auguste Rodin 5. Shaving Cream and other delights. The whipped cream kept melting under the lights, so they used shaving cream. 6. Ken Rosewall, Jimmy Connors and Boris Becker 7. Humble Pie 8. Flinders Range and Lake Eyre 9. Tiger Woods 10. Iroquois 11. Blue, green and red 12. three answers a. 6 o'clock (6 o'clock already) b. 5 o'clock (Wednesday morning at 5 o'clock) c. 1 o'clock (it's 1 o'clock and time for lunch) 13. Danielle Steel 14. Seahorse 15. True. Lassie is a female character, but all nine Lassies have been played by male dogs



COMMUNITEA CAFÉ ALLOTMENT

TUESDAYS 10 TILL 12

Join our friendly gardening group - enjoy gentle gardening and a good chat - and help support our café.

Meet at the green allotment gate at 10am – Sunnybank Road, B73 5RJ. Call to enroll before your first visit.

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

**Everyone
welcome**

**Gardening
Group**

**Help us grow
fresh produce
for the cafe**

**Sunnybank Road
Allotments,
Boldmere**

**Meet our
Neighbourhood
Networker**

CONTACT

Suzy Summerfield

07940 709 314

Music Bus



Music and Sensory Play
for 0-5 year olds

COME AND JOIN THE FUN!!

Book your child's place today!

sarah.stephen@musicbus.com

07979 755548

MUSIC BUS LICHFIELD & SUTTON COLDFIELD

Music & movement, percussion,
baby signing and rhyme to develop
confidence, co-ordination, speech,
numeracy, language & social skills.



Give your child the head start they
deserve. Come and see for yourself why
so many parents make Music Bus their
first choice!



Lichfield

Monday AM
St Chad's
Church Hall,
5 Gifford's Croft,
WS13 7HG

Whittington

Thursday AM
Thomas Spencer
Church Hall
Church Street,
WS14 9JX

Sutton

Friday AM
Banners Gate
Community Centre
35 Reay Nadin Dr
B73 6UR

<https://www.facebook.com/musicbuslichfieldandsuttoncoldfield>



Kiddibops

Independent Early Years

Music-Play classes for
children aged 0 - 5 years

All our classes are delivered by qualified and
experienced early years music practitioners.



We sing, we move, we play, we explore
instruments and sounds, and we give each child
the freedom to express themselves musically.
At Kiddibops we're passionate about music and
supporting the innate musicality every child is
born with.



Our Classes September '21

Walmley Community Hall
Mondays

Babies 9:45am & 11:35am
Mixed Age 10:40am & 12:30pm

Great Barr Community Hub
Wednesdays

Babies 9:45am
Mixed Age 10:40am

Banners Gate Community Hall
Thursdays

Babies 1pm
Mixed Age 1:55pm

Aldridge Community Centre
Tuesdays

Babies 1:15pm
Mixed Age 2:05pm

St. John's Church Hall, Shenstone
Thursdays

Babies 9:45am
Mixed Age 10:40am

Streetly Classes coming soon...

To book your place go to:

<https://kiddibops.class4kids.co.uk>

or contact us at:

info@kiddibops.co.uk or 07807 551661

All our classes are continuing to operate with social
distancing measures for the safety of our families.

www.kiddibops.co.uk

www.facebook.com/kiddibops



Cafe Oasis

We are OPEN!

Monday, Tuesday & Friday

10:30- 2pm

Drinks, Snacks and
Sandwiches.

Hot meals from 12pm

Find us in Sutton Coldfield United Reformed Church

For more information:

Call: 07593 718785 Email: cafe.oasis@scurc.org.uk

or find us on Facebook

Cafe Oasis is supported by the
Volunteers and Staff at Sutton
Coldfield United Reformed Church.
Registered charity No. 1131424



NEW

Imagi-Play

Toddler Group

Location:

Banners Gate
Community Hall,
Reay Nadin Drive,
Sutton Coldfield,
West Midlands.
B73 6UR

What's Imagi-Play?

- ✓ Role Play To Aid Imagination
- ✓ Promotes Child-Led Play
- ✓ Improves Fine Motor Skills
- ✓ Learn Self-Confidence
- ✓ Encourages Creativity
- ✓ Develop Friendships



OPEN FOR KIDS
AGES: 6 Months - 5
Years

£4 a session
Inc. A drink &
Snack

Monday's 9.15am- 10.15am
Wednesday's 1.15am- 2.15am

If you would like to
Pre-book or have a question,
Email:

Imagiplaytoddlergroup@gmail.com

NEW



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

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

Birmingham Carers Hub Specialist Dementia Service

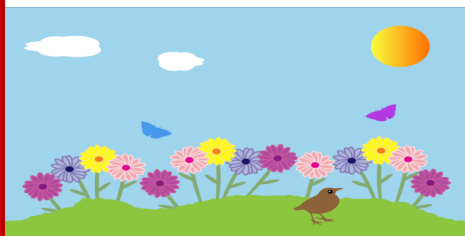
The Birmingham Carers Hub team have all received enhanced dementia training and we have launched a new service offering support to carers of people with dementia. We have also appointed a small team of Specialist Dementia Carer Advisors.

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

Do you have any jobs around the home that need some attention? Summer is the perfect time to get the little jobs done. Our Trusted Tradesperson Scheme has the right trade, whatever your job. From builders to plumbers and electricians all of our tradespeople are vetted, DBS checked and working to current guidelines.

We also work with many partners including legal and independent financial advice and are a Stannah Stairlift demonstration centre.



So whatever your need, call the team on 0121 362 3650 to find out more.

AGEconcern
Birmingham

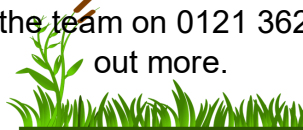


Do you need a gardener?

Late Spring with Summer approaching and our gardeners are continuing to work following COVID19 guidelines.

Whatever your garden needs we have vetted and DBS checked gardeners.

Call one of the team on 0121 362 3650 to find out more.





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£4 per session (First session FREE) Booking Essential!
Contact katie.evans@moveitorloseit.co.uk or call
07592071889 for more info or to book a space.



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 or call one
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Have fun and raise some funds for Age Concern
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Memory Cafes

Do you know someone living with memory loss?

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10.30am - 12.30pm

All Saints Church Centre
Belwell Lane
Four Oaks,
B74 4TR

Every Friday
10.30am - 12.30pm

Streetly Methodist Church
Thornhill Road
Streetly
B74 3EH

Join us at one of our memory cafes - a safe place where people living
with dementia, along with their family member / friend / carer can
meet, make friends, have fun, interact and be stimulated.

All attendees must show proof of both covid vaccinations

Opening - 6th September
Every Monday
10am—12noon
Wyld Green URC
Britwell Road
Sutton Coldfield
B73 5SW

Opening 13th September
Every Monday
"Musical Memories"
2pm - 4pm
Sutton Coldfield Methodist
Church
South Parade, B72 1QY

To book your place at any of our cafes or
for further information please contact Sue
07422 406168
sue.bevington@suttoncoldfield.homeinstead.co.uk

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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

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





As we enter the month of September, and summer begins its transition to autumn, there is nothing better than enjoying a hot drink and hearty meal at Café Oasis, surrounded by friendly members of the community. **The café opens after a brief summer hiatus on Tuesday 24th August**, after a much-needed break for the hard working staff and volunteers and we are ready to welcome back customers from all over Birmingham.

Café Oasis is a community café based in the Sutton Coldfield United Reformed Church, Brassington Avenue. We are **open between 10.30am and 2.00pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays (and excitingly is opening on Thursdays too, from September)** and are a dynamic and welcoming hub run by a terrific team of volunteers that support our services. Throughout the pandemic, the team have assisted in the running of our Home Food Delivery Service, reaching out to many who have needed help during the coronavirus lockdown.

This season we will be saying many thanks and a heartfelt goodbye to our fantastic Parish Nurse, Sandra, who has dedicated 6 years of her life to this congregation and the wider community. We wish her all the best in her retirement and can't thank her enough for all that she has done over the past few years – with particular admiration for her fortitude and positivity during a taxing 18months.

We have various volunteering opportunities at the café if you are interested in making a difference in your community – the different roles include; waiting tables, working in the Food Bank (which is open every Tuesday), working as a cashier/receptionist and administration too. We support a wide range of volunteers including adults with learning difficulties. You can contact the Community and Volunteer Support Worker for more information. **Additionally the United Reformed Church is opening up and rooms are available for different groups to hire.**

In order to keep all members of the community safe, Café Oasis is still adhering to COVID-19 guidelines which include a one-way system, track and trace and sanitising stations. We ask that all guests follow these regulations so that we can continue moving forwards in this positive way.

Student Volunteer feedback:

"After GCSE's, with the extended summer ahead of me, I wanted to help out in my local community and gain some volunteer experience during the long break from school. The Community and Volunteers Support Worker instantly helped me to be appointed as a waitress at Café Oasis and carefully monitored my progress and volunteer hours over the 3 months that I volunteered. My role was varied and pushed me out of my comfort zone – I worked at the front desk, as a cashier, in the kitchen, in administration and with the Food Bank, giving me experience in as many areas of community work as possible. I was also given the opportunity to complete a Dementia Friend Training course, and to shadow the Community and volunteer Support Worker and the Parish Nurse, who both taught me valuable skills.

Working at the Café over the past 3months has been awesome – I have loved meeting everyone and hearing their stories and I will always remember the friends that I have made over the this summer. I definitely recommend volunteering here – not only will you gain frontline community work experience, but you will also immediately be adopted into the friendly and welcoming community of café Oasis, making friends for life." - *Esme*



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Volunteers needed to help our community café at

Sutton Coldfield United Reformed Church.

Monday 10.30am – 2pm Tuesday 10.30am – 2pm Thursday 10.30 – 2pm Friday 10.30am – 2pm

FLEXIBLE SHIFTS – ANY TIME, ANY SHIFT

POSITIONS INCLUDE: Front of House/Reception. Waiter/Waitress Cashier

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or email chong.fouroaks@gmail.com



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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We invite anyone who is living with or beyond cancer, families, friends and health care professionals to join us once a month to walk, jog, run, cheer or volunteer at a 5k Your Way, Move Against Cancer group linked to a local parkrun.

All ages and abilities are encouraged and welcome.
Lots of us will be walking.
Do as little or as much as you want. There is no need to walk the whole 5k.

When: The last Saturday of every month. 9.00am parkrun start.
See below for meeting point and time.

Where: Walsall Arboretum Visitor Centre steps
(meet at 8.45am)

Ambassador: Anne Kelsall, Sarah Hinkley & Jane Ford

It's Free!

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

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CREATE at the Gate with K & S

We are a small group of crafters who meet on the first Sunday of every month, between 11.30am and 2.30pm. If you are interested in getting away for a few hours where you can bring whatever craft you wish, come and join us. There is a wealth of knowledge between us and we usually learn something new each month from each other at Banners Gate Community Hall. There is plenty of tea & coffee and usually some cake. Please call Kathy 077 06 64 51 37 for details or just come along when we are next there and have a look at what we do.

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If you would like to know about our service ring the number above

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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)

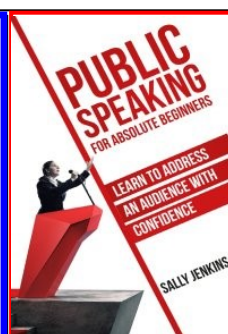
The kitchen is approx. 11' x 7'
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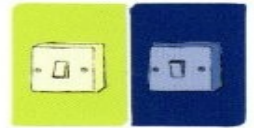
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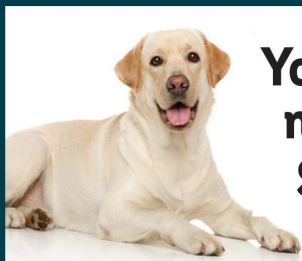
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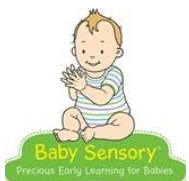
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Tracy: 0780 329 3351



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 – 7 pm (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 www.stcolumbasbannersgate.co.uk Loveworld Church Family Worship www.bannersgatechurch.com 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 9.00 - 10.30 11am - 1.00pm 4.15 – 5.15pm 7.30 – 8.30 pm	Imagi-play Dementia Care Teachitright Line Dancing	Community Hall Community Hall Community Hall Community Hall	Ellie 07919 Barbara H-Walker 07809 Diane Pursall	58 81 54 553 6483 61 43 10 747 4659	
Tues 9.15 - 12.00pm 6.30 – 7.30 & 7.30 – 8.30 7.45 pm	Coffee Morning 3rd Tuesdays Line Dancing Chikara Karate Kai	Community Hall Community Hall St. Columba's	Diane Pursall Paul Murphy 07837	747 4659 39 57 89	
Wed 9.30, 11.00 & 12 10.30 - 12.30 1.00 - 2.30 4.15 – 5.30 6 pm - 7 pm 7.15 – 8.15	Baby Sensory Guide Dog Training Imagi-play Teachitright Mid-week Service Bible Study I Yoga. Midlands	Banners Gate CC Community Hall Community Hall Community Hall Community Hall Community Hall	Tracy Jones 0775 Madge Nightingale Ellie 07419 07809 Ola Samuel 07565 Angela Brookes 07939	82 56 22 360 0286 58 81 54 61 43 10 65 27 62 54 73 92	
Thurs 10.00 am 10.00 – 11.00 am 12.45 - 2.45 6.30 – 9.45 pm 7.15 – 10.15 pm (4th & 2nd alt months) 7.30 pm (1st) 8.00 pm	Holy Communion Yoga Kiddibops Zig Zag Dance Studio Bridge Townswomen's Guild Mothers' Union	St. Columba's Community Hall Community Hall St. Columba's Community Hall Banners Gate CC St. Columba's	Tricia 07954 Rachel 07807 Warren 01902 Sylvia Cunningham 07870 Josie Orme Judith Fennell	354 5873 40 39 43 55 16 61 897 900 82 98 37 352 1042	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
Friday 10.00 – noon 12.30 - 1.30 6.00 – 8.00pm	Music Bus Soul Yoga Fortnightly Make It Happen Dance Co	Community Hall Community Hall Community Hall	Mario Ferko 07908	51 76 84	
Sat 2.30 – 4.45 pm	Teachitright	Community Hall	07809	61 43 10	
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, when we are back to normal (whatever that turns out to be).

The Townswomen's Guild will start meeting again on **Thursday 16th September** at 7.00 pm for a "Get Together" in the **Westwood Hall at the Community Church**, Westwood Road.

In future we will be meeting on the **third Thursday** in the month at 7.00 pm.

Interested in joining us, **contact Sue Nation 354 4114.**

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



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