



Banners Gate & Parklands Community & Neighbourhood Forum

202nd March 2026

bannersgateneighbourhoodforum.com

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Rob Pocock: MORE CASH FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES!

To follow up my Gatepost news piece last month, there is more good news now that the City Council's finances are back on track. Last month I set out the proposals for us having an independent Council Officer appointed to our Sutton Vesey Ward area. That officer would assist community groups such as the Banners Gate Neighbourhood Forum, Friends of King George V Playing Fields, The Greenway, Prince Alice Park, Friends of Banners Gate and Boldmere Park Gates, and all the users of the Banners Gate Community Hall etc - and independently help them develop local community projects.

On top of that announcement, there is more fresh good news. The 'Local Partnership Officer' of the City Council will also administer another new local neighbourhood investment scheme – this is a new community fund of £20,000 a year for our area, to help support these groups and local projects. I hope we can actually expand this fund in future.

This 'Thriving Communities Fund' is being lined up for every local ward in the city – on an equal basis, irrespective of where they are or what people live there. In Sutton Vesey we will get exactly our fair share, per head of population, as anywhere else across the City.

Once the City Council has confirmed its coming year's budget this will come into play in the new financial year from April 2026-07 and beyond. Details of how the scheme will work will be announced shortly – watch this space!

And this community fund is not all. Announced this week is a proposed huge increase in a devolved 'environment and transport' funding pot. For our Sutton Vesey area this new fund would be an additional £100,000 extra a year for 3 years, for local areas and residents to improve road safety, environmental quality, traffic problems and pollution. It's funded not from your Council Tax, but from the Clean Air Zone fees that are paid by drivers of polluting vehicles who drive into the central city clean air zone.

Again, we need to wait for a final budget decision before these funds are released. But it is all good news for local residents at long last. Birmingham Council has been through a rocky patch but with spring now in the air, there are green shoots showing at last!



Max Hatton: Hello Gatepost readers! With longer days, brighter mornings and the first splashes of blossom, spring is making itself known across our neighbourhood.

It's a season of spring cleaning—whether that means a long-overdue clear-out in the garden, a first picnic if the weather behaves, or simply opening the windows and letting in some much-needed fresh air. Keep an eye out for daffodils, tulips and early bees on the move; they're a good reminder that warmer weeks are on the way.

Spring gardening: simple jobs that make a big difference

- Give borders a tidy-up: remove winter debris, cut back dead growth, and leave any healthy new shoots.
- Feed and mulch: a thin layer of compost or well-rotted manure helps retain moisture and improves soil as it breaks down.

- Start sowing: hardy annuals and salad leaves can often be started now—check seed packets for guidance and protect young plants from late frosts.

- Pot and plan: if you're short on space, pots and window boxes are perfect for herbs (parsley, chives, mint) and spring colour.

- Prune with purpose: trim roses and summer-flowering shrubs if you haven't already, and remove any damaged branches after winter winds.

Be kind to wildlife: a shallow dish of water, a log pile, or letting a corner grow a little wild can all help pollinators and birds.

With the Easter holidays approaching, it's also a great time to plan a few low-key activities that make the most of the season: a family walk to spot blossom, a simple scavenger hunt in the park, or an afternoon of planting sunflower seeds to see whose grows tallest by summer.

Wherever spring finds you this year, I hope it brings a little extra light and energy to your days. Wishing you all a peaceful (and chocolate-filled) Easter!

Boldmere Summer Festival Sunday 7th June 2026

Go to page 5 for details if you want to book a space for your stall, or if you want to volunteer to help run the festive, keeping the site in order during the day, tidying up at the end.

Don't miss the PLANT SALE on page 6.



John Cooper

Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Councillor

johncooper@suttoncoldfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk

2026 marks the end of the third session of the Town Council and has seen the last years as maturing years being able to take on more responsibilities from the City and funding these new services in an appropriate manner. The libraries are now open for an extra day and money is being spent on repairs to the fabric of the buildings.

Although we still await the transfer of half of the ten allotments, the TC is spending money on all the allotments sites to improve them and make the management of them match the care and enthusiasm shown by the plot holders, the Town Council continues to develop the florals within the town and will be entering the Britain in Bloom contest once again.

The much-appreciated Town Ranger service continues to expand offering even more great work for our Town, taking responsibility for traffic islands and verges on a progressive basis with regular scheduled visit to sites supplemented by one off requests.

The elections next month will decide how this endeavour develops but there are many more things that can be done to make this lovely Town of ours even more special. The next major development will be Sutton Park as to its future management; a vital decision to be made very soon. Sutton Park is very precious to all its users and needs investment urgently.

April '26

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John.cooper@suttoncoldfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk

<https://suttoncoldfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Strategic-Plan-Consultation.pdf>

townrangers@suttoncoldfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk

johncooper@suttoncoldfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk



Anja Pawson

Local Campaigner in Sutton Vesey

Vice-Chair of Friends of Boldmere Spinney, Primary
School Teacher, School Governor, busy Mum of two

Getting Things Done



Big wins for Sutton Vesey:

- ✓ Bollards repaired like the one on Kings Road
- ✓ Waste removed like on Wilkinson Close
- ✓ Manhole cover improved like on Jockey Road
- ✓ Graffiti cleaned like on St Michael's Road

Email us: veseyward@gmail.com

Follow us on Fb: VeseyNews

Boldmere Summer Festival – Sunday 7th June 2026

Please read carefully as this includes a lot of information about the Summer festival. If you have a neighbouring business or organisation that is new to Boldmere, please ask them to email us info@boldmere.org so we can pass on information to them in the future.

Boldmere Summer Festival – Sunday 7th June 2026

This year's Summer festival will take place on **Sunday 7th June 2026 from 1pm to 6pm** with the road closed from 10am to 9pm. Details of the event are at <https://www.boldmere.org/community-festivals/summer-2026/>

Boldmere Businesses Booking Gazebos and Pitch Space

We always give priority to Boldmere's own businesses and organisations and so we would urge you to fill in the form at www.boldmere.org/stalls to let us know if you would like to book pitch space from us. Boldmere businesses hiring pitch space get a gazebo included free of charge if you don't have your own. We need to know by the end of March so that we can then allocate any remaining gazebos and pitch space to other stalls. I'd also like to welcome Alexandria to the team who will be managing the stalls for this festival and thank Sophie for her efforts for the previous 2 festivals.

A Risky Summer Festival

We are taking a risk with this festival as we haven't yet secured funding. We had to cancel Christmas 2025 due to a lack of funding. If we don't get grant funding for this festival or contributions from businesses on the street that benefit most from the festival then we will most likely exhaust all of our reserves which will make it extremely difficult to attract grant funding in the future and therefore mean an end to the festivals and most likely Boldmere Futures CIC which does so much to keep Boldmere buzzing for everyone.

If you are interested in sponsoring the event, please contact info@boldmere.org

Would you like to Volunteer to help?

We are always looking for people who have a passion for Boldmere to join us at Boldmere Futures CIC (a not-for-profit community group) or to help with the running of festivals. If you could help with the festivals, please have a look at www.boldmere.org/volunteer where there is further information and a very short application form to fill in. If you are interested in helping Boldmere Futures CIC as a wider organisation beyond the festivals, then please email info@boldmere.org

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me after 2nd March (please note that I will be on holiday for the rest of February).

Kind regards

On behalf of Boldmere Futures CIC

Paull Long Event Manager

DONEGAL ROAD ALLOTMENTS

PLANT SALE

On Saturday 16th May 2026

10:00am - 2:30pm

**Vegetable &
Bedding Plants
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Refreshments**

Donegal Road, B74 2AA

Enquiries: 0121 354 6182

Parking spaces limited for Disabled parking only

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Please contact Alison Jolley, email: st.columbahall@yahoo.com

for further details.





Age Concern Birmingham
is now
Age Connects West Midlands.

While our name has changed, our services, values, staff, and commitment to supporting our communities remain exactly the same.

The new name better reflects who we are today – a modern charity bringing people and communities together and celebrating ageing as a positive part of life.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please speak to a member of the team.

communit^{ea} cafe

What's On April 2026



Opening Times
Monday to Saturday 8:30am - 4pm
Closed Monday 6th April

April

76/78 Boldmere Road, Boldmere, B73 5TJ
Call us on 0121 630 2462 or email us
communit^{ea}@ageconnectswm.org.uk



Monday

Carers Hub drop-in: 9.30am until 12pm - weekly
Our advisors can provide information and advice today. Pop in and have a chat, no appointment necessary.

Warm Welcome: 9:30am until 12pm - weekly
Come and join us in our cosy cafe!

Energy Advice Drop In: 1:30pm until 3pm - weekly
Whether you are looking for tips on how to reduce your energy bill or need help registering with priority services, just drop in to speak to one of our Energy Advisors.

Knit and Natter: 10am until 12pm - weekly
Join our team of knitters and enjoy some great company along with a cuppa and maybe even a slice of cake.

Tuesday

Allotment Group: 10am until 12pm - weekly
Talk all things gardening with the Communit^{ea} Allotment group, you will find us at the allotment if the weather is nice.

Dementia Carers drop-in: 10am until 12pm - weekly
Drop in advice and information for unpaid dementia carers.

Stroke Support Group: 10am - 7th and 21st Only
Bringing together friends and families who have experienced the impact of stroke through our supportive group.

Warm Welcome: 10am until 12pm - weekly
Come and join us in our cosy cafe!

Friends For Life Veterans Group: 12pm until 3pm - weekly
Our group aims to bring together all ex service personnel to make new friends.

Wednesday

Community Police drop-in: 11am until 12pm - 1st, 15th and 29th Only
Come along to meet and chat to a Police officer

Advice Cafe: 11am until 1pm - weekly
From benefits advice to saving energy at home. No need to book, just drop in.

Friendship Group: 11am until 1pm - weekly
Come down for a chat and a cuppa - everyone welcome!

Digital Inclusion: 3pm until 4pm - weekly
Joe will be in the cafe lending a hand for all your tech needs!

Thursday

Parkinson's UK: 10am until 12pm - 2nd and 16th Only
A group welcoming those with Parkinson's and their families and carers.

Social Worker drop-in: 10am until 1pm - weekly
Come along to meet and chat to a social worker - ask us anything

Knit and Natter: 2pm until 3:30pm - weekly
Join our team of knitters and enjoy some great company along with a cuppa and maybe even a slice of cake.

Craft and Knit Group: 10am until 12pm - weekly
Come along to our new craft group, previously held at the Sutton Library. Don't forget to get yourself a cuppa and maybe even a slice of cake.

AWOC Support Group: 10am - 11:30am - 30th April Only
Are you growing older without children nearby - or without children at all? Our Aging Without Children group offers a warm, welcoming space to share experiences, build friendships and support one another.

Friday

Art Group: 10am until 11.30pm - weekly - Waiting list to join
A friendly art group working with various mediums from charcoal and acrylic paints to lino printing. We create artwork in a relaxed positive environment. Contact Angie for availability 07789 408956 or email angie@therecoveryfoundation.org.uk

Advice Cafe: 11am until 2pm - weekly
One of our friendly Advice and Information team will be on hand to help with your queries - from benefits advice to saving energy at home. No need to book, just drop in.

Chatty Cafe: 2pm until 4pm - weekly
Come down for a chat and a cuppa - everyone welcome!

Saturday

Legal Services Drop In: 10am until 12pm - 11th April Only
Drop in to speak to our legal partner Jane from Wills Made Clear if you need advice on a will, lasting power of attorney or trusts!

Afternoon Tea: Saturday 2nd May Only
Enjoy our afternoon tea with friends or loved ones for just £15 per head. Booking essential.

AGE concern

Birmingham

Ever heard of
an AWOC?

Are you growing older without children nearby—or without children at all? You're not alone. Our Ageing Without Children (AWOC) group offers a warm, welcoming space to share experiences, build friendships, and support one another.

Whether you've never had children, your family lives far away, or relationships are complicated, you'll find understanding and connection here. Come along, have a cuppa, and meet others who truly get it.

#Community #AgeingWell #YouAreNotAlone

commonitea cafe

Maria Mitchell. Tropic Skincare Ambassador.
07400894034.
Flf7b@yahoo.co.uk.
Contact me to discuss products, book a pamper party or discuss possibilities for fundraising events. Tropic is an ethical company that is certified vegan and organic.



Building Healthier Lives

A journey through women's health
- fertility, menopause and beyond

24 April, 12pm-1.30pm

Trinity Centre, Church Hill,
Mill Street, Sutton Coldfield
(B72 1TF)

Limited parking is available on
site and light refreshments will be
provided.

**Expert-led health talks delivered by Good Hope Hospital
in partnership with Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council**

Presenters:

Dr Liz Howland, UHB Deputy Chief Medical Officer,
Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, who will
focus on fertility and pre-pregnancy optimisation.

Dr Pratima Gupta, Medical Director at Solihull
Hospital and Community Services, Consultant
Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, who will discuss
menopause: the acute symptoms and long-term
effects on health, and lifestyle changes which may
help after menopause.



To confirm your place please email us at
members@uhb.nhs.uk or 0121 663 1765



Sutton Coldfield Repair Cafe



This Repair Cafe is a free community meeting event where skilled volunteer fixers will help repair various items, give advice, skill share or you can just come along for a cuppa and a chat. The event is to bring people together to reduce waste and help the environment.

The Repair Cafe is held at Wylde Green United Reformed Church 72 Britwell Road, Boldmere, B73 5SW on the **Second Saturday of each month** between 10:00am to 1:00pm, last repairs at 12:30

See Facebook for more details (Search "Sutton Coldfield Repair Cafe").

Next events:-

11th October at Wylde Green United Reformed Church.

8th November at Wylde Green United Reformed Church.

13th December at Wylde Green United Reformed Church.



Cost of Living 1965 to now 2026

As a sequel to my article in the last edition of Gatepost ; “ **Motoring the Good Old Days**”.

I thought it might be interesting to look at the cost of living in 1965 compared to today.

Inflation and the value of the pound are the main reasons for price rises but increases in wages and salaries over the years have tended to keep pace with rising costs.

Many of the 1960's basics are more expensive today but most groceries are the same if not cheaper.

In 1965 wages were £750-£1000 /year, average salary today is about £40,000/year.

Some things such as buying a house are very much dearer. Average house price in 1965 was £3300 (equivalent to about £40,000 today). The average house price in 2025 was £273,000!

Newspapers were 2.5d-5d (1-2p).

Post; 2nd 4d (2p), 1st 5d (2.5p), (now 87p/£1.70). Unfortunately (or fortunately because of the huge rise in the cost of postage) letter writing appears to be a thing of the past with the increased use of eMail and the internet. The post was delivered every day except Sundays and you got to know your Postman/Postwoman.

Buying a TV Set in 1965 was expensive, the average set cost about £ 280 (equivalent to £3200 today). Most people rented their TV Sets at £1-£2 per week.

Grocery prices are interesting; Bread then 7.5p/loaf now £1.50, Butter 8-10p, £1.98.; Eggs (dozen) 17-20p, £3.80. Baked Beans 4-8p, £0.42. Cornflakes 9p, £2.29. Sugar 8p, £1.09. Milk 4pts 14p, now £1.65.

In those days the milk was delivered in glass bottles by a milkman or woman doing their rounds. He or she arrived much the same time everyday, come rain or shine and they became a “ friend “ to many people. Today most people buy their milk at a supermarket in cartons/plastic bottles of either 2/4/6 litres.

The major change in costs/prices took place on the 19th November 1967 when Prime Minister, Harold Wilson devalued the pound by 14.3%. He used the famous phrase “The pound in your pocket”. The devaluation immediately led to increased costs for imported goods and consequently an increase in inflation.

Matters were made worse by a further devaluation by James Callaghan in 1976.

We have lost the daily contact from the Milkman/Postman and other regular visitors. For many people this was their only link with the outside world.

Nowadays we enjoy more goods exotic foods, holidays etc but are things better than the “ Good Old Days ?”

Banners Gaters - Friends of the Gates

At the beginning of June last year Banners Gaters were told that, due to the BCC drastic reduction of the number of park rangers in the city, resulting in the effective withdrawal of the rangers from Sutton Park, our group would have to be axed. We weren't going to give up that easily, so we all joined Friends of the Gates, which meant we had the necessary insurance to continue without a ranger present, albeit with severe limitations on what we're allowed to do. Although we are fully insured to use domestic power tools, up to and including petrol mowers, we need the permission of the landowner, in this case Birmingham City Council, and they have a policy that forbids volunteers to use any power tools.

We are told that updating this policy is in progress, but nothing has happened so far. We could clear a lot more nettles and brambles that are encroaching on paths with a strimmer or hedge trimmer, as many passersby keep telling us!

For the past few months, using loppers and hand saws, we have been clearing holly, which has been allowed to grow without coppicing for many years, from Westwood Coppice. This allows light to reach the woodland floor so that other plants, long since missing, can grow again.

At first, we used holly trimmings to build dry hedges on the ancient boundary, to protect them but, now we've moved away from the banks, it's too far to carry them so we've left them in piles which will eventually rot down. We're careful to leave most of the female (berry bearing) trees intact plus enough male trees for fertilisation and we take care not to disturb nesting birds or other animals.

It will take years to clear the whole of Westwood Coppice of overgrown holly by hand, and most of our group are pensioners. More volunteers are needed so, if you can, please join us.



We meet every Monday at 11am on Banners Gate car park except on Bank holidays or if the weather's really bad and finish at 2pm. Coffee break is at 12.30 so bring a drink. Wear old clothes and, if you have them, bring any suitable hand tools with you.

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Cartoons from Chris. Thank you Chris W



I am off to University in an attempt to improve my Cuppa Soup making technique, I'm doing a Bachelors Degree!

The wife suggested we spice things up a bit and play Doctors and Nurses. So I put her on a trolley in the hall and ignored her for 48 hours.



Here's your quiz - some hard, but you may disagree!

1. What is the study of mushrooms called?
2. Which movie, starring Brad Pitt and Edward Norton, is based on a novel by Chuck Palahniuk?
3. What is the capital of Malaysia?
4. What is the name of the peninsula located in the northern part of Norway, Finland, and Russia?
5. In which year did the First World War end?
6. Who composed the music for "The Messiah"?
7. What is the largest bird in the world?
8. Who succeeded Neville Chamberlain as Prime Minister in 1940?
9. What is the currency of Hungary?
10. Which animal can be seen on the Porsche logo?
11. Who composed the music for "Aida"?
12. Where did backgammon originate?
13. Named after the mallow flower, mauve is a shade of what?
14. Who played Queen Elizabeth II in the first two seasons of 'The Crown'?
15. Which empire, led by which charismatic general, conquered a vast part of Europe (Hungary, most of Ukraine, much of Germany and Poland and parts of the Balkans) in the fifth century, before the empire dissolved just as quickly after the death of the leader?
16. Who is the American artist known for hits like "Man in the Mirror" and "Thriller"?
17. Who was known as the 'Iron Lady'?
18. In the Simpsons, what's Homer's catchphrase?
19. What is the name of the sea located between Italy and Tunisia?
20. What famous man became president of his country after being in jail for 18 years?

Answers

Mycology 2 Fight club 3 Kuala Lumpur 4 Kola Peninsula 5 1918 6 George Frideric Handel 7 Ostrich 8 Winston Churchill 9 Fortuit 10 Horse 11 Giuseppe Verdi 12 in Persia 13 Purple 14 Claire Foy 15 The Huns, led by Attila 16 Michael Jackson 17 Margaret Thatcher 18 D'oh! 19 Mediterranean Sea 20 Nelson Mandela



Get Safe Online
Free expert advice

Online safety advice

Online marketplaces and selling platforms have made it easier than ever to turn unwanted items into cash. Whether you're clearing out your wardrobe, selling electronics or passing on furniture, the internet offers a huge audience and fast, easy transactions.

But with convenience comes risk: it's commonplace for fraudsters to target sellers with scams designed to steal money or goods. Get Safe Online has put together some clear, practical advice to help you sell confidently and securely, however much or little experience you have.

[Selling online safely - Get Safe Online](#)

Secondly, as many small businesses will be required to use HMRC's Making Tax Digital from April 6th, there is no better time to reflect online habits too. Latest data shows that companies in the plumbing and heating sector are currently being heavily targeted by fraudsters, so, if you are in this trade, it has never been more important to be tooled up with expert fraud prevention advice. Read our expert advice, which can be accessed here:

[Plumbers: Get Safe Online - Get Safe Online](#)

Many thanks
the Get Safe Online team

Attachments

[March26 Safe Selling Leaflet.pdf](#)

[FINAL -GSO Biz Plumbers Leaflet.pdf](#)

A massive thank you to all who helped at Saturday's Litter Pick at King George V Playing Field.



Are you a good guesser?
What are these objects. Answers on the bottom of next page.

This rusty old
thing found in a
river in central
France, it's
slightly convex.



1

This metal
triangle, about two
inches long on
each side.



2

A solid,
white
material
contained in
a lipstick
tube.



3

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Please wear non-rubber sole shoes

Contact: Julia 0779 008 4218

Answers from last page

1. It's a plaque for the head tube of a bicycle frame from the Ajax cycle brand. That's why it's slightly convex.

2. That's a wet film comb; [here's how it's used](#).

3. Styptic pencil. You dab it on shaving cuts to stop them from bleeding.

Things you may not know in Wales

The [Longest place Name](#) in the UK



A Mediterranean-style village, [Portmeirion](#).



On the next page, [St. Govan](#) lived his life as a hermit in a cliffside cave and those willing to make the steep hike can still visit his mystical hermitage by the sea.



St. Govan's Chapel



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25 Boldmere Road, Sutton Coldfield B73 5UY

Book a household recycling centre appointment

Unite the Union is currently taking industrial action, which may impact collections and waste disposal.

[See how this may affect your bin collections and what you can do with your waste.](#)

If you would like to know more, you can find more details on our [Waste and recycling industrial action - FAQ for residents page.](#)

Sutton Coldfield

Norris Way, B75 7BB

Monday to Friday: 7:00am to 9:00pm

Saturday and Sunday: 8:00am to 6:00pm

Booking

You can book:

- not less than 2 hours before the time you want to attend the HRC
- no more than 3 days before your visit

2 visits at the same time - these could be on the same day or in the same week

Your confirmation should be emailed to you within an hour. This email will tell you the 15-minute slot that you have been allocated. If you cannot see this email in your inbox, check your spam or junk folder.

When you have 2 visits booked, you can book further visits from the day after you have attended the first visit. For example, if you book for Monday and Thursday then you can book your next visit from Tuesday.

From Monday 12 May, the booking system will be temporarily removed from the Castle Bromwich HRC, and a pre-booked slot won't be required to visit the site. This is subject to change. You still need to bring proof of address to show you live in Birmingham. The booking system remains in place for the other 4 HRCs.

[Book an appointment](#)

You need to bring proof of address to show you live in Birmingham. This evidence could be:

- driving licence
- utility bill

Council tax bill - paper or digital

Read the instructions on the booking website carefully. For example, there are height restrictions at some sites.

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[Birmingham Talking Newspaper For The Blind And Visually Impaired](#)

btnbvi.org

When my own mother-in-law's health was fading, we discovered this remarkable service and it gave her a new lease of life at 93!

Do you know anyone who is partially sighted or blind? If so, they may benefit from listening to a local audio newspaper. Or indeed a monthly magazine and a history talk? This is a completely free of charge service, including the loan of equipment to allow you to listen to these articles. It is enjoyed by many people of all ages, some of whom are housebound.

Blind and visually impaired people in the wider Birmingham area can obtain audio versions of local newspaper articles and a range of weekly and monthly audio magazines. These are provided free of charge for listeners who have registered with our service.

You can apply by filling out the registration form which can be found at www.btnbvi.org. Or by contacting 0300 330 1404 for more information. We will then explain the service that we provide, all completely free of charge.

Please note that we never pass your information to anyone else and you can unsubscribe from our service at any time.

**Thursdays
1-3PM**



SOCIAL SESSION FOR DISABLED ADULTS & CARERS

Activities

- **Chill out den**
- **Laptop area**
- **Air hockey**
- **Hot drinks**
- **Outdoor space**
- **Sensory room**

A safe environment for disabled adults to meet new people and have fun. Session activities are individualised by attendees.

£3 suggested donation

To book please email:

info@squarepegactivities.org



**SQUARE PEG
Activities**

Where square pegs fit in

**37-39 Gate Lane, Boldmere,
Sutton Coldfield, B73 5TR**



*Sunday Mornings
at St Columba's*

Rev Becky invites you to a warm and welcoming service at 10am

The service lasts about an hour with tea, coffee and a chat in the hall afterwards. All are welcome: everything is explained as we go along and is on a big screen at the front. Come exactly as you are - full of questions, full of faith, full of doubts or completely empty and in need of an hour of peace.

You are welcome.

St Columba's Church Hall

Hall letting for St Columba's Church.


Weekday lettings are available for the large Church Hall which includes a well equipped kitchen.

Entrance to the hall is step free and is suitable for wheel chair access throughout the premises.

Male, Female and disabled toilet facilities

All enquiries to Alison via email please.

st.columbahall@yahoo.com




Slimming World
taste the freedom

FREE membership
when you lose 10 pounds in 12 weeks

eat out and lose weight!

St Columbas Church hall
Banners Gate Road
Wednesdays 7pm
Karen 07759170289
Or just come along!

[slimmingworld.co.uk](https://www.slimmingworld.co.uk)




Coffee Morning

every Friday 10:00 -12:00
St Columba's Church Hall
Banners Gate (Sutton Park Corner)

Not on Friday 29th December

All welcome for Coffee, Tea, friendly chat, warm space

Church open for anyone who wants a peaceful moment or quiet chat

Classes at St Columba's Church

Monday	Brownies	6 o'clock
Tuesday	Brownies	6 o'clock
Thursday	Rainbows	
Friday	Coffee Morning, see above	
Sunday	Morning Worship	10 o'clock



Hope Food North Birmingham are currently looking for a new base in/around Sutton Coldfield. We need it to store food and prepare food bags. We would need access in the day and evening Monday to Friday. We run 3 food banks weekly in Erdington, Falcon Lodge and Mere Green. If anyone has any premises with vehicle access that they would think would suit us, please get in touch. Thank you.

T: 07869 822502 E: info@hopefood.org.uk

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT OUR WORK PLEASE MAKE A DONATION USING [THIS LINK](https://www.justgiving.com/hopefoodnb):

<https://www.justgiving.com/hopefoodnb>

Hope Food – North Birmingham. A charitable incorporated organisation registered in England. Charity registration number 1195019. Registered office 407 Jockey Road, Sutton Coldfield B73 5XH

Church@4

a relaxed time for adults and children together

Second Sunday of the month St Columba's Church Hall
from 4pm for about 45 mins

Make things, play games, eat pizza and wonder about God
through activities for adults and children to enjoy together



stcolumbasbannersgate



St Columba's Banners Gate



stcolumbasbannersgate.co.uk



All are welcome - there is no charge for anything.

"Keeping your body active & healthy is the most important thing you can do for yourself. Both physically & mentally, especially as we get older"



At New Oscott Village Gym, we believe that age is just a number, and everyone deserves a fitness haven tailored to their unique needs. Our gym is not just a place to exercise; it's a community where friendly faces encourage and support you.

Tailored Programs for Every Level: Our expert trainer understands the diverse needs of older individuals. We offer personalized fitness programs catering to various fitness levels, ensuring everyone feels comfortable and supported on their wellness journey.

Flexible Membership Options: We understand that everyone has different schedules, preferences, and budgets, so you can choose from our flexible membership options. To make fitness fit seamlessly into your lifestyle, we are open 7 days a week.

Caring and Knowledgeable Staff: We are committed to providing personalized attention and support. Whether you're a fitness enthusiast or just starting, our Fitness Instructor is here to guide you every step of the way.



Contact us for prices
and more information:

Jackie.Taylor@extracare.org.uk

New Oscott Village Gym

Fosseway Drive, Chester Road, New Oscott, B23 5LD



ExtraCare
Charitable Trust

our

place

ADVICE

COFFEE MORNING

ARE YOU 50+ AND LOOKING TO SOCIALISE?
JOIN OUR COFFEE MORNING WITH THE COMMUNITY
NAVIGATOR AND EXPLORE LOCAL
SUPPORT AND ACTIVITIES!

CONTACT RANJAN HOATH FOR MORE INFORMATION

DATES

8TH AND 22ND JANUARY

5TH AND 19TH FEBRUARY

5TH AND 19TH MARCH

2ND, 16TH AND 30TH APRIL

14TH AND 28TH MAY

11TH AND 25TH JUNE

10AM-12PM

VENUE: OUR PLACE COMMUNITY HUB

FARTHING LANE

B72 1RN

0121 354 4080

FUNDED BY





MEN WALKING AND TALKING
Est. 2021



SUTTON COLDFIELD GROUP
MEETING POINT - SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN HALL ENTRANCE
WEDNESDAY'S @7:00PM

GIVING MEN A SAFE SPACE TO OPEN UP ABOUT THEIR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER.

- ✓ NO NEED TO BOOK AND NO FEE
- ✓ NON JUDGEMENTAL, PEER SUPPORT
- ✓ PROMOTING POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH
- ✓ WEEKLY GROUPS LOCATED AROUND THE COUNTRY
- ✓ ONLINE PEER SUPPORT GROUP AVAILABLE

MENWALKINGANDTALKING.CO.UK

mind | Birmingham
for better mental health

NHS
Birmingham and Solihull
Mental Health
NHS Foundation Trust

Talking Space

Are You Having a Difficult Time ? We can help with ...

Low Mood Struggling to Cope

Mental Health Crisis Suicidal Thoughts

Just drop in between 6pm - 11pm (Over 18 only)
Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday

In Partnership with
creative SUPPORT
ForwardThinking Birmingham

Beechcroft Centre
Rear of 501 Slade Road, Erdington, B23 7JG

mind | Birmingham
for better mental health

NHS
Birmingham and Solihull
Mental Health
NHS Foundation Trust

Talking Space

Are You Having a Difficult Time ? We can help with ...

Low Mood Struggling to Cope

Mental Health Crisis Suicidal Thoughts

Just drop in between 6pm - 11pm (Over 18 only)
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

In Partnership with
creative SUPPORT
ForwardThinking Birmingham

Handsworth Hub
9 Park Avenue, Hockley, Birmingham B18 5NE

Sing me Sunshine

Sing Me Sunshine is my lovely singing group for all!

Join me and spend a carefree afternoon of singing, laughter and chat in Sutton Coldfield.


Tuesdays 2 - 3pm | **Thursdays 2 - 3pm**

St Columba's Church hall | **All Saints' Church Centre**
Banners Gate Road/ | **Belwell Lane, Four Oaks,**
Chester Road North | **Sutton Coldfield B74 4TR**
Sutton Coldfield B73 6TX

£5
PER PERSON

If you are looking to do something new, feeling a bit lonely or living with health issues, I'd love you to come along and let Sing Me Sunshine brighten your day.
Make new friends, feel positive and have some fun!
Come on your own, bring a friend, family member or caregiver.

For more information, please contact Helen on
07981 957061 or email helenwilliamsmusic@gmail.com



**SUTTON
COLDFIELD
UNITED
REFORMED
CHURCH**

Sharing the love of God through Worship and Friendship

All Welcome

GROWING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER



CAFÉ OASIS

Our community
café open Monday,
Tuesday, Thursday
and Friday 10.30am
– 2.00pm



So many Activities and Services for you!

- Parish Nurse onsite 3 days per week
- SCURC 'Keep Moving' exercise class
- Badminton
- Occupational Therapy Drop In
- Adult Social Care Drop In
- Diabetes Advice and Support
- Stroke Club
- Boardgames and Wellbeing group
- (Starting in March 2024)
- Indoor Bowling for over 75s
- Meals on Wheels delivery
- Many, many more!

FOOD4U FOODBANK

Every Tuesday from 10.30am, a warm
welcome with free tea and coffee and
lots of advice and support from our
partner organisations
food4u@scurc.org.uk

Telephone or email us at:

0121 355 1217

cafe.oasis@scurc.org.uk

Find out more by visiting us:

Sutton Coldfield United Reformed Church, 1 Brassington Avenue, Sutton Coldfield, B73 6AA

Or at our website: www.scurc.org.uk

Make New Friends Learn New Skills ☕

the
Seasons
Art Class

COME AND
WARM UP
WITH US!



THIS IS THE
ART
CLASS

YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED

- FUN, EASY, STEP-BY-STEP
- Develop impressive new skills in a warm and friendly atmosphere
- 3 hour sessions, morning or afternoon, for 3½ months
- Learn how to make Art you can give as gifts or sell at craft fairs
- Get Arty and make The Seasons your favourite day of the week!



NEW
COURSE
CONTACT US
TODAY

ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS TO IMPROVERS
WILL LOVE THIS COURSE!



"The comprehensive introduction to a wide range of techniques means everyone can find their medium"
Gerry, Burford Branch



"I recommend the Seasons Art Classes to all my friends!"
Mr. Kazim, Woodford



"Art class is my favourite part of the week."
Sue, Maidenhead



STRICTLY LIMITED PLACES
CALL NOW

0330 122 6145
Sutton Coldfield Cricket
& Hockey Club, B75 7RS



Phone Scams

Do you know that nearly a third of all fraud is committed over the telephone?

Criminals are experts at impersonating people or organisations (like banks, the tax office or even the police).

They spend hours researching you for their scams, hoping you'll let your guard down for just a moment. **Stop and think.** It could protect you and your money.

Stop: Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.

Challenge: Could it be fake? It's OK to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

Protect: Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud here: [Action Fraud](#)

For more information please click on the link below or see the attached Phone Scams Booklet

[45788196-0bc9-42a4-87cc-371f2710914e.pdf](#)
([neighbourhoodalert.co.uk](#))

Attachments

[Phone Scams Booklet - Final.pdf](#)



Message Sent By

Stefanie Sadler

(West Midlands Police, Engagement & Consultation Officer, Birmingham Partnerships)



Protect yourself from courier fraud

Criminals are targeting people by posing as police officers and banks to steal life savings and we need your help to stop them.

Courier fraud relies entirely on fear and urgency. A caller will claim to be a police officer or a bank official and tell you that your account is at risk or that your identity has been stolen. They might ask for your bank card PIN, tell you to withdraw or transfer large sums of money, or even pressure you into buying luxury items like gold, jewellery, or high-end electronics.

They often claim this is part of a secret investigation to catch a corrupt bank employee. Once you have the money or goods, they send a courier to your door to collect them.

It is important to remember that the police or your bank will never ask for your PIN, tell you to withdraw or transfer money, or send someone to your home to collect money or valuables. They will also never ask you to move your savings into a so-called safe account.

If you receive a call like this, the best thing you can do is hang up immediately.

If you have already been targeted by this scam, please know that this is not your fault. These fraudsters are professional manipulators who are trained to deceive.

Support is available for you and reporting the incident is the most effective way to help us catch those responsible. If a courier is on the way or already at your door, call 999 immediately as this is a crime in progress.

Please share this warning with your loved ones and keep a close eye on elderly family members or neighbours who may be more vulnerable to these tactics.

[Watch](#) how fraudsters operate: Stay wise, don't compromise.



Message Sent By

Georgia Patterson

(West Midlands Police, Communications Officer, West Midlands)



STREETLY FLOWER ARRANGERS' CLUB

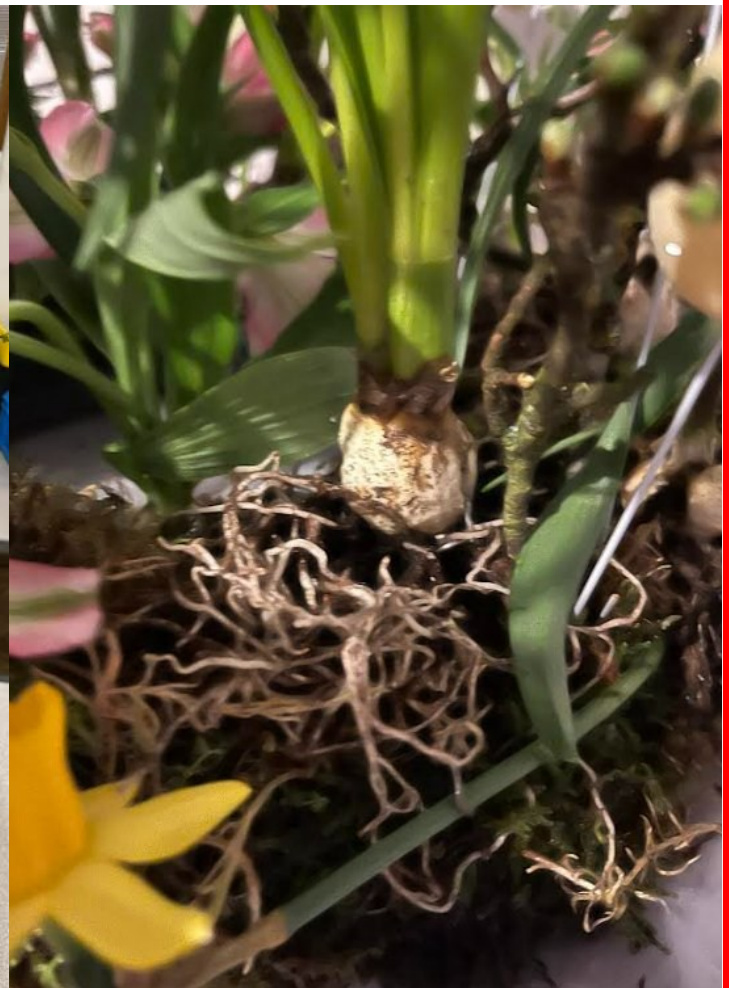


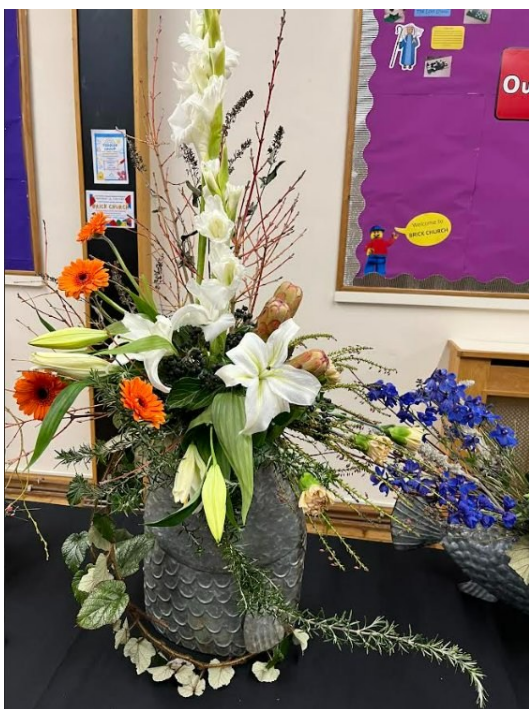
We meet monthly second Tuesday - 2.15 pm
All Saints Church Hall, Foley Rd East,
Streetly B74 3EX.

Next meeting Tuesday 14th April -
Demonstration with Emma Remington ' A Bit
of This and That! '.

Why not join us - we are an enthusiastic,
friendly Club and Visitors are always so very
welcome.

Further details - Chris Reeves tel 0121 354
6264.







These ladies meet in the Botanico Café in House of Fraser every Wednesday at noon for a couple of hours of knitting, crocheting and other gentle sports. Full instruction given to beginners. Go on, give it a try, you may enjoy it, at least you'll learn something.

Banners Gate Community Association

Our Community Hall in Sutton Coldfield is the perfect venue for your club, regular class, meeting and much more!



[welcome](#)

[what's on](#)

[hire our hall](#)

[view our hall](#)

[committee](#)

[contact](#)

[links](#)



Welcome to Banners Gate Community Hall & Association

Run by a team of volunteers and situated in Sutton Coldfield, Banners Gate Community Hall is the perfect venue for your club or regular class. Our room hire rates are very reasonable and come with refreshment making facilities. The Hall has the capacity to hold up to 70 people, it is level throughout with a wheelchair accessible toilet and all of our facilities are fully insured and risk assessed.

If you are looking for a venue, simply telephone our [Bookings](#) Secretary on 0751 318 4845.

There's always lots going on at Banners Gate Community Hall. Newcomers are always very welcome! We cater for all needs no matter what your background, including young people, senior citizens, mother and baby. The hall is situated on the junction of Reay Nadin Drive and Coppice View Road (B73 6UR). On street parking is available.

As a community hall we are trying to create activities for the benefit of the community so if you have any ideas in that direction, please get in touch and share those ideas with us—no obligation.

If you need any information please message on 07964 213 229

**Banners Gate Community Hall - Coffee Mornings, third Tuesday of the month
The next is on 21st April - at 9.30 to noon, please note new times.**

DAY/TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE	CONTACT	TEL.
Sun (last) 10.30 – 2.30 pm 10.00 am 10.30 am (fortnightly) 11.00 am 7.30 – 8.30pm	Create at Gate with K & S Family Communion Sunday Gathering Chikara Karate Kai Soul Yoga –last Sunday	Community Hall St. Columba's Banners Gate CC Scout Hall Community Hall	Kathy Weston Nigel Willis Paul Murphy 07837 Cath Hussey	628 6651 354 5873 353 0230 39 57 89
Mon 11.00 to 6.45pm 7.30 – 9.00 pm	Sign Language Classes Sign Language Classes Sign Language Classes Line Dancing	Community Hall Community Hall Community Hall Community Hall	Shakila Kosar 07825 Shakila Kosar 07825 Shakila Kosar 07825 Diane Pursall	255042 255042 255042 747 4659
Tues 6.00 – 7.00 9.15 - 2.00pm. 3rd Tues 9.15 - 12.00pm 11.45am - 12.45pm 6.30 – 9.00 7.45 pm	Soul Yoga Born to Spa, Baby Spa Coffee Morning 3rd Tuesdays Tai Chi Line Dancing Chikara Karate Kai	Community Hall Community Hall Community Hall Scout Hut Community Hall St. Columba's	Anna Madge 07833 Dave Cockbill Neil Rankine 07721 Diane Pursall Paul Murphy 07837	45 70 74 67 09 13 747 4659 39 57 89
Wed 9.30, 11.00 & 12 10.30 - 12.00 6.30 – 7.30 7.00 pm	Baby Sensory Guide Dog Training Dance Fitness SlimmingWorld	Banners Gate CC Community Hall Community Hall St Columba's	Tracy Jones 0775 Madge Nightingale Karen 07759	82 56 22 360 0286 17 02 89
Thurs 10.00 – 11.00 am 7.30 on last Thursday 6.30 – 9.45 pm (3rd of each month) 7.00 pm	Yoga Neighbourhood Forum Zig Zag Dance Studio Townswomen's Guild	Community Hall Community Hall St. Columba's Banners Gate CC	Tricia 07954 Tony Willis Warren 01902 Janice Jones 07955	40 39 43 605 4947 897 900 65 59 10
Fri 11.30 - 3.30 5.00 – 6.30pm 7.00 - 8.00 pm	Sign language Classes Repertoire Dance Studio Sign Language Classes	Community Hall Community Hall Community Hall	Shakila Kosar 07825 Chloe Lloyd 07729 Shakila Kosar 07825	25 50 42 47 79 46 25 50 42
Saturday 9 – 10am	Soul Yoga	Community Hall		

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

**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

**Banners Gate
Community hall
Coffee Mornings
The next is on
21st April starting
at 9.30a.m. until
noon, please note
new times.**

BOOKING SECRETARIES:

Community Hall mobile: 075 65 54 68 21
Banners Gate CC - Nigel Willis 07711 284562
St. Columba's - Alison Jolley st.columbahall@yahoo.com
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

Banners Gate Ladies Circle

This is the name of the previously named
Townswomen's Guild. Contact details,
meeting days and times remain the same.
Hopefully next month will let you know how
we will be going forward as our new
group.

Thurs. 16th April - Beetle Drive
Thurs. 21st May - English Gardens.

Our vibrant Guild meets on the 3rd
Thursday of the month, 7.00 - 10.00 in the
Westwood Hall, **Banners Gate
Community Church.**

Janice Jones 07955 65 59 10

Banners Gate Community Church

Westwood Road. B73 6UH

We meet **weekly** on Sunday mornings from
10.30am for fellowship, worship, prayer
and learning together in an informal setting,
with other gatherings throughout the week.

To find out more visit our website at

www.bannersgatechurch.com.

**St Columba's
Church**

Coffee Morning

**Every Friday of
the month**

10.00 - Noon

All Welcome

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

33rd Sutton Coldfield Scout Group,

H.Q. Coppice View Road

Monday Beavers 5.30 p.m. – 6.45 p.m. ages 6 – 8 years
Scouts 7.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m. ages 10 ½ – 14 years
Tuesday Beavers 5.40 p.m. – 6.40 p.m. ages 6 – 8 years
Cubs 7.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m. ages 8 – 10 ½ years
Thursday Cubs 7.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m. ages 8 – 10 ½ years

Contact 0121 353 5203

Email: margaretdrummond1@btinternet.com



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

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

There are also places available in both Brownie units in September for girls aged 7 or 8.

For more information contact Carol Gardner on 350 7191.



Girlguiding UK

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