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Forthcoming Events

December

3 rd	Village Service - 10am
5 th	WI Meeting
7 th	Pensioners' Christmas Lunch at The Oak
7 th	Parish Council Meeting
9 th	Lucy Price Christmas Party
10 th	JLR Brass Band Christmas Concert
12 th	Baginton Walkers
13 th	RSPB Local Walk
17 th	Carol Service
18 th	Christmas Crime Prevention Event
20 th	Mobile Library - 9.15 - 9.35am

January

1 st	RSPB Local Walk
2 nd	WI Meeting
4 th	Parish Council Meeting
7 th	Village Service - 10am
9 th	Baginton Walkers
10 th	RSPB Local Walk
12 th	Film Night - I Daniel Blake
17 th	Mobile Library - 9.15 - 9.35am
18 th	Copy Date for February Newsletter
22 nd	Baginton Gardeners - <i>Grow Your Own Veg</i>
26 th	RSPB Indoor Meeting
28 th	RSPB Field Trip

February

1 st	Parish Council Meeting
4 th	Village Service - 10am
6 th	WI Meeting

Regular Village Activities

Kaisho Karate – Village Hall – Monday/Tuesday from 5.30pm and Friday from 6.30pm
Contact: Jane Hemmings 07581 126279 or email janebooth1@hotmail.com

Baginton Gardeners – generally a Monday every other month 7.30pm – see
Gardeners section in Newsletter for specific dates
Contact: Robert & Anne Taylor 024 7630 1104

Baginton Dog's Club – Village Hall - Monday from 7.30pm
Contact: Dawn Richardson 024 7630 2667

Parent & Toddler Group – Village Hall – Tuesday 10.00 - 11.30am - Term-time only
Contact: Alex 07757 871396

Art Group – Village Hall – Tuesday 2.00 – 4.00pm
Contact: Avril 07837 785921

Children's Swimming Club – Tuesday 6.00pm @ Kenilworth Pool
Contact: Jo Fricker 07760 181539 email jo@fricker-family.co.uk

WI – Village Hall - first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm
Contact: Dawn Richardson 024 7630 2667 and Rosemary Sowter 024 7667 3381

Village Hall Committee Meeting - second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm
Contact: Doreen Ebbrell 024 7630 1205

Baginton Walkers – group walk – second Tuesday of each month 9.45am
Contact: Alan & Brenda Brown 024 7630 5509

Card-making Club – Village Hall – Wednesday 9.30 – 12.30pm
Contact: Olwynne Frankton 024 7641 0268

Kundalini Yoga – Village Hall – Wednesday 7.30 – 9.00pm
Contact: Geraldine Rowland 07811 385699 email gr@kundaliniyogacoventry.org.uk

Parish Council – Village Hall - first Thursday of each month 7.30pm
Contact: Phil Clark 07746 521087

Pilates – Village Hall – Thursday 6.30 – 7.25pm and 7.35 – 8.30pm
Contact: Lisa Boden 07710 087933 email lisaboden@hotmail.co.uk

Football Coaching for all aged 5 - 11 – Millennium Field – each Saturday 9.45 –11.00am
Contact: Justin Watt 07810 000999

Church - St John the Baptist – Sunday Service 10.00am
Contact: Reverend David Wintle 024 7630 1283

Churchwardens – Sue Williams 024 7630 7255 & Dawn Richardson 024 76 302667

Village Hall, Frances Road
Contact Della Thomas/Christine Hughes for bookings email baginton.vh@gmail.com

WI News

The November meeting began with the normal business meeting. Following that we held our AGM. We started with the President's report followed by the Secretary's report and that of the Treasurer. The President then introduced Veronica Chapman and Sue Byhill, two of the Federation Trustees, who took over proceedings. Last year's committee was confirmed and there were no further nominations. Dawn Richardson was re-elected as President for a further year. After business, we all sat down to a fish and chip supper.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas party. Are you thinking about joining us? Why not come for a taster evening to see if you enjoy yourself. The cost is £3 for the evening. Membership for 2018 is £41.

We are a friendly group and will make you very welcome
Dawn Richardson

Baginton Parish Council

Dear Residents,

By the time you read this, we may have had frost or even snow. Consequently, it's probably a good time to pass on winter advice from the Police.

Police Advice on Burglary Prevention

Set a timer to switch your lights on when it gets dark as unlit houses suggest no one is at home.

Lock your doors, patios and downstairs windows, even when you are at home.

If you have a burglar alarm, set it before you go out & before bed. Don't leave keys or valuables near windows, doors or letterboxes, where burglars can reach through and steal them.

Lock your garden gates, side entrances, sheds and garage doors. Don't leave tools in your garden that can be used to break in.

Police Advice on Driving in Fog

Remember that Fog makes things wet & slippery too.

In the day use dipped headlights, not sidelights.

Only use fog lights when visibility is reduced below 100 meters.

Rear fog lights are bright and can mask your brake lights.

Beware of idiots with no lights on (my words not the Police!!)
Beware of cyclists with no lights (Christmas present perhaps?)
Brake slowly and indicate well in advance.
Don't speed, dazzle other drivers or brake hard.

Police Advice on General Winter Travel

A low sun and road glare can dazzle, so use your sunglasses.
Keep vehicle fluids topped up, especially screen wash.
Wiper blades work efficiently for about 3 years. Replace them?
Please put antifreeze into your cooling system!
Check your tyre tread depth, lights and signal light bulbs regularly.
Keep chocolate bars, drinks, blankets, warm clothes & a shovel in the car. Take your mobile & keep it charged. Don't let the fuel tank fall below half empty. If you get stuck, you then have fuel and provisions available to await your rescue. (Please feel free to eat your 'emergency' chocolate once the weather is better!!)

Police Advice on Driving in High Winds.

Wind can push high sided vehicles into your lane. Be aware.
You too may be pushed by winds. Be prepared.
Be aware of debris on roads, especially in country lanes.

Grit Bins

A number of grit bins are situated around the village for your use. Don't be afraid to use them. That's what they are there for. I check them regularly and will get them refilled if necessary. Grit can be used to help make pavements safe too. Please use it if you need to.

Merry Christmas

Chairman Julie Keightley and the members of Baginton Parish Council send their greetings to residents along with their wishes for a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all.

Next Parish Council Meeting - There is no Newsletter in January, so the next two Parish Council meetings are on Thursday 7th December and Thursday 4th January, 7:30pm at the Village Hall.

Phil Clark – Clerk to Baginton Parish Council.

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St John the Baptist Church

Services for December

3 rd	Advent Sunday	10.00am	Village Service
10 th	2 nd Sunday of Advent	10.00am	Holy Communion
17 th	3 rd Sunday of Advent	5.00pm	Carol and Crib Service
24 th	Christmas Eve/ 4 th Sunday of Advent	11.30pm	Holy Communion
31 st	1 st Sunday of Christmas	10.00am	United Holy Communion

Services for January

7 th	Baptism of Christ	10.00am	Village Service
14 th	2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	10.00am	Holy Communion
21 st	3 rd Sunday of Epiphany	10.00am	Holy Communion
28 th	4 th Sunday of Epiphany	10.00am	Holy Communion

Carol Service



Sunday 17th December
St John the Baptist Church,
Baginton at 5pm

Please do bring all your family along and join in this lovely service lit by the original oil lamps. Do linger after the service when we will be serving refreshments including mulled wine and mince pies 😊

Ken Richardson

I would like to thank all my friends and neighbours for their good wishes and support during the past few weeks. It has kept me going even at my lowest ebb.

The comments on the cards and in person made me feel so proud that he was regarded so well.

I thank God that we decided to live here.
Dawn

Thought For The Month

More people come to church around Christmas than any other time of the year, and I've noticed that more and more grown-ups are coming to the crib services, that are meant for children, and fewer and fewer come to the midnight service or on Christmas morning.

I can see why hard-pressed people are attracted to a short simple service at a convenient time rather than one that goes on a bit and starts in the middle of the night or at some unearthly hour in the morning. And of course you get to see the children do their stuff and that always brings a lump into your throat: Christmas is really for the children isn't it?

Yes it is, but Christmas is for the grown-ups too. Maybe for cynical adults the story is too sugary and too neat; perhaps it doesn't quite ring true. We think it couldn't possibly have been like that, so we say oh well, it's just a story and the children love it, and we like to see them all dressed up and so on.

Well it wasn't quite like that. First of all the date is wrong. A monk in the 6th century got his counting wrong and Jesus was possibly born between 8 and 4 BC. Lambing time in Israel, when the shepherds spend all night with their flocks, is March or October, not December, so Jesus must have been born in the spring or the autumn. If Bethlehem was where Joseph's family lived, why did Mary and Joseph have to stay in an inn? The word usually translated as "inn" means "guest room", so they probably did stay with family, and people in those days slept alongside the animals. So no innkeeper. No donkey or ox mentioned in the Bible, either. By the time the wise men turned up – maybe two years after Jesus was born, not at the same time as the shepherds – Mary, Joseph and Jesus were definitely in a house, not a stable.

What happens if we peel away the layers of romance from the story? Do we destroy it? No. In fact, what we have here is a story that grown-ups can relate to. It's harder-edged, less syrupy, more real; it makes more sense to our adult minds; you can probe it, you can question it, but it rings true. It stands up to criticism and enquiry. The heart of the story is still there: Jesus was born at Bethlehem in the days of Herod the King. A real place and a real moment in history. And he was born not just for the children, but for all of us. He came to show us what God is like, and God is real – it's just that God is so awesome that people can't help embroidering the story.



So a very happy Christmas 2017 – or possibly 2021 – to you all.

*The Word became flesh
and dwelt among us...
Full of grace and truth.*

Party in the Park



Tickets are on sale for Party in the Park, which takes place on 14th July 2018. They are priced at £6 per ticket until midnight 30th June (£10 during July) and are available from Baginton Events members, Baginton Village Store and The Oak.

Bagot's Castle – December 2017/January 2018

We are now in December and as reported in last month's newsletter we have started essential maintenance work in the grounds of Bagot's Castle.

The geophysics survey has been completed and we are awaiting the results to be published to us.

Over the last weekend, our dedicated volunteers have made an excellent start on the tank testing area carrying out restoration works. I would welcome any information or photographs of the Alvis Test track should any villager have any such information.

Time has also been spent along the river walk tidying up the banks, making it more pleasant and opening the area for observing the wild life.

Repair work to the steps leading down into the castle will be carried out in January. Soft capping repair work to the monument will also be carried out before the end of February. We are hoping to make a start on restoring the summer house and are obtaining quotes. We will then start fund raising to help with the project.

Our Halloween Event this year was enjoyed by all who joined us, and the face painting added to the event. It was a little disappointing this year, as we were down on numbers, probably due to the fact that it was at the end of half term week and many families had gone away.

I would like to thank everyone for their support over the last year and Bagot's Castle would like to wish you all very Best Wishes for the Festive Season and Best Wishes for 2018.

David Hewer, Custodian of Bagot's Castle

Odd Jottings

Do you read the Daily Express - November 8th front page - *Home Office - Foreign Aid Cash Would Pay For 82745 New Police Officers* - being something of a cynic I thought 'including their cars?' Shortly before reading that, I had read somewhere that there were now twice as many Police Officers per head of population as there were 50 years ago, but that more time was spent filling in forms than ever before. It makes yer wunder doanit;

What is this? I hear that the Labour party in Coventry want to take us into their boundary and take it right out to include Kennulwuth - it used to be Green and Leafy Warwickshire but! Their attitude would appear to be 'let us turn the country into a complete Slum'.

A total change of subject - One of the managers for Kelvin Construction (They built the AWA factory) was, prior to the War, in part of what is now Pakistan. While there, some man got involved with a woman not of his family. He was caught and first his feet were chopped off so that he could not get away. Then he was dismembered as punishment! Rough justice, but he could never interfere with a woman again, while over here we give them free board and lodging for a few years!

Shortly after the war, that manager left Kelvin and set up his own business near Glasgow and in 1946 my parents went to see him and took me with them. He had a number of children the Eldest being a boy of about my age and a daughter 2 or 3 years younger. Go on till late 1955, I am stationed at Melksham as part of my National Service and having wandered back to the billet after leaving the Cookhouse plonked myself on my pit. One of my fellow inmates arrived a few minutes later having stopped to buy a copy of Picture Post magazine. He flopped onto his pit and started to read, when suddenly with a cry of what he would wish to do with them proceeded to fantasise. I went over got hold of his magazine and there were photographs of Two young Ladies of desirable aspect in an article comparing universities. One of whom, I had once met when she was about 12 or 13. So I remarked to my colleague that he better not let Billy her brother hear his comments as he had some blokes working for him from the wrong end of Glasgow. This lead on to a Great stir up in the billet with me inventing things as I went along.

Have you ever stopped to think how many Religions have some ceremony around this time of the year all connected with return of the Light, (The eternal war between the Aesir and the Vanir for instance). However, from me, May you enjoy your Christmas and may you have a happy and successful 1918AD

Best Wishes from me James A. (Can you hear LOKI chuckling?)

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Kaisho Karate

We've had another fantastic month! Niamh Cosgrove and Christie Horrillo travelled to Tenerife to fight in the World Championships at the end of October; both made it through to the second round of their categories and came back having learnt a lot. We also entered the North of England Karate Championships. Lyle Gallagher won bronze in the 4-5 year old mixed category: an amazing achievement for his first ever tournament! In the 6-7 year old boys category, Tom Conway won Gold and Cooper Gartside won Silver; in the 8-9 year old boys category Lewis Booth won Gold and Cole Campbell won Bronze; in the 14-15 year old boys category Adam Giles won Silver. We brought home a further 3 golds in the individuals and then had great success with our team events:

- Tom Conway, Zack Newman, Calvin Nakra and Cooper Gartside
Gold 6-7 boys' team
- Lewis Booth, Jayden Nakra and Cole Campbell
Silver 8-9 boys' team
- Adam Giles, Sukhy Sohal and Edrees McFarlane
Gold 14-15 boys' team

And a gold for our Men's team. We came 4th overall on the medals table.

We have a lot planned between now and the next newsletter: the Central England International Open in Worcester and the WKU Winter Competition in Weston-Super-Mare are coming up towards the end of November with quite a few of our younger fighters entered to compete. Adam Giles, Lewis Booth and Christie Horrillo will be travelling to Rotterdam to fight representing England Midlands at the start of December, and then in the New Year, we have The English Championships and a tournament in Stevenage.

The children have taken their gradings that they were training so hard for, and we are pleased to report that everyone passed and are the proud owners of new belts: -

Red & White belt – 12th Kyu

Henry Oldknow, Lyle Gallagher, Max Gartside, Nathan Varghese

Orange & White belt – 11th Kyu

Amelie Oldknow, Emily Crabb, Jasmine Chather, Jessica Wang, Marcie Fricker

Red belt – 10th Kyu

Scarlett Scott, Elsie Scott, Oscar Fricker, Alexandra Newman, Evan Wang

Yellow belt – 9th Kyu

Calvin Nakra, Orson McGlinchey, Cooper Gartside, Leila Conway

Orange belt – 8th Kyu

Zachary Newman, Tom Conway, Jayden Nakra, Isobel Crabb, Ewan Davidson-Evans

A huge well done to them all!

Our fundraising efforts across the month have been a great success. Our Halloween party raised £150 and our recent sponsored fun run raised an amazing £210 with some money still to come in. We'd like to say a big thank you to local friends and neighbours who supported the children with sponsorship; it is very much appreciated. In December, some of the older children will be taking part in supermarket bag packs to raise more funds.

This month we also have fantastic news about one of our coaches: Jason Ledgister has been selected as one of the Team GB Olympic Karate coaches. This is brilliant news and we know Jason will be a great asset to Team GB. He will continue to coach with Kaisho, but, understandably, his time will be in high demand.

There will be no training sessions on Friday 1st (due to tournament), Monday 25th, Tuesday 26th December, and Monday 1st January. The usual sessions will run on Friday 29th December and classes will return to normal on Tuesday 2nd January. We have split the Friday classes to accommodate our growing numbers and the different skill levels: 5.30pm-6.30pm red belt and below, 6.30pm-7.30pm yellow belt and above. If you are considering joining and would like more information, please get in touch with Jane Hemmings on 07581 126279 or by email at janebooth1@hotmail.com.

Team Kaisho would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sensei Jory Chather

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Baginton Gardeners

Our BG Gardeners Question time was well attended and very enjoyable. Two of our local experts, Tim Jardine from Russells and Brian Ellis from Avondale, were there to answer a wide range of questions from members and visitors. The questions covered topics including Lily Beetles, cutting back and dividing perennials, heather care, tomatoes, blight and many more. We were advised to top dress with volcanic ash to get bigger turnips, use mycorrhizal fungi when re-planting a tired rose bed, spend time and money looking after our garden soils and ask how to propagate the plants we buy at the time of purchase. We are very lucky in Baginton to have 4 high quality nurseries on our doorstep with people who are more than willing to share their knowledge and experience with anybody who cares to ask, so that we can get our questions answered at any time of year. Many thanks to Tim and Brian and to all the members who brought snacks and helped to lay them out.

The BG's **Christmas Dinner for members and partners** will take place at the Baginton Oak for Thursday 14th December at 7.30pm.

Competitions The Sunflower and Pumpkin competitions have been judged and we're all anxiously awaiting the results so that we can distribute the no expense spared prizes at the Christmas Dinner .

2018 Anne has booked some speakers already – see below. The AGM will be held at the start of our 22nd January meeting. **Please consider volunteering to take on the job of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary or Committee member** in 2018 and let us know if you're interested in standing for any of these as soon as possible.

I expect next year's subscription will be £10 again, but this needs to be confirmed by the committee.

Date	Speaker	Topic
22 nd January	Geoff Hodge and AGM	Grow your own Vegetables
19 th March	TBA	
21 st May	TBA	
23 rd July	Brian Ellis	Pictures from the Library Garden
24 th September	John Carrier	The Wonderful World of Sweet Peas
19 th November	Gardening quiz	

For more information please contact Anne or Robert Taylor on 02476301104 or e-mail anne@taylorhousehold.f9.co.uk

Christmas Crime Prevention

A member of Warwick Rural East Safer Neighbourhood Team will be present at Baginton Village Stores on Monday 18th December 2017 from 2pm to 4pm.

Seasonal and general crime prevention material will be available to take home. An officer will also be present should you wish to discuss any concerns with a member of your local safer neighbourhood team.

Withdrawal of the Paper £10 Note

The last day to use your paper £10 notes will be 1st March 2018. After this date you can exchange them at the Bank of England in person or by post. Some retailers, banks and building societies may still accept these notes; however this will be at their own discretion.

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Baginton Walkers

Our November walk started from the Folly Inn at Napton on the Hill, where our group of 12 set off for a scenic walk through the Warwickshire countryside.

Following the Oxford Canal footpath and passing the site of the old brickworks, now a small Industrial Estate, we had our first view of Napton Windmill, now a private house with far reaching views across South Warwickshire. Leaving the towpath at the Bridge Inn (now closed) we crossed the main road and headed up to the top of the hill passing an ornamental duck pond with no ducks, eventually arriving at St Lawrence Church for our Coffee Stop.



This 12 and 13th century Church reputedly offers views of 6 Counties from its 500ft elevation. Its churchyard also contains the resting place of the American Actor George Victor 'Ed' Bishop who was known for playing Commander Ed Straker in UFO, Captain Blue in Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons and for voicing Philip Marlowe in a series of BBC Radio adaptations of the Marlowe novels by Raymond Chandler, in addition to various parts in the James Bond movies. Some of our more energetic members scoured the churchyard to find his grave while others enjoyed the extensive views.

From the Church we headed down the hill, meeting a friendly goose assisting with some garden renovation, and through Napton village, past the Old Bakery cottage and the long closed Crown Inn which is in the process of being converted into housing. After the village school, we took a bridleway across the fields to meet the Millennium Way. Following the minor road we noticed what must have been the world's smallest barn conversion with 1890 inlaid into the wall. We eventually reached the canal tow path once again with more views of Napton Windmill. With The Folly Inn in sight we followed the towpath down a flight of locks, past the Canal Trust Depot to our well-earned and delicious lunch.

December Walk: - We meet on the 12th at The Friendly Inn, Main St. Frankton, SP427 704. Please park at the far side of the car park and arrive in time to order lunch before we set off at 10 am.

January Walk: - Park in Stoneleigh village where we will meet on the 9th at 9.45am at the church gate to start the walk.

If you need a lift or more information please phone Brenda Brown 76305509.

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Editorial

If you would like to advertise in the Newsletter, you can contact Doreen Ebbrell on 024 76301205 or email bagintonnews@btinternet.com Costs are £12 per page per issue or £6 per half page per issue, with 10 issues of the Newsletter a year.

The copy date for the February Newsletter is Thursday 18th January. Copy should be sent to bagintonnews@btinternet.com Should you wish to have something included in the newsletter but you are unable to send your contribution electronically, please drop it off at Baginton Village Store FAO Anne or Julie and it can easily be written up.

Please note that views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the editors.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Julie Keightley (7621 0163) and Ann Bush (7630 3515)

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Warwickshire Police Need Your Help With Information About Suspicious Activity

Warwickshire Police currently have two countywide operations in progress. These operations are focusing on reducing the number of incidents of vehicle crime and house burglaries across Warwickshire.

In order to get the very best out of these operations, they need the help and support of local communities with information and intelligence.

If you think something in your area is suspicious, it probably is. You will know your area and its usual activity, comings/ goings and if you think something is odd, out of place and suspicious, they need to hear from you. Before every incident, there is usually some suspicious activity and the police need calls to make them aware of this. Please call 101 if you notice suspicious persons, vehicles or activity around your own or neighbouring homes. If you believe that a crime is in progress, please dial 999.

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Baginton RBL Club

Family, dog friendly club, Snooker, Pool, Darts & Skittles.

Large TV for sporting events and WiFi.

BINGO Tuesday 8pm win up to £100 a house.

Concert Room for Hire

Tel. No.02476301332 07716348908

Opening Hours

Monday - 7pm to 11pm

Tuesday - 7pm to 11pm

Wednesday - 6.30pm to 11pm

Thursday – Closed (except Auction Day)

Friday - 7pm to 12midnight

Saturday - 6pm to 12midnight

Sunday - 12noon to 4 pm

By prior arrangement opening times can be amended to suit

Auction First Thursday every month held by Picker Pips Auction House.

Over 300 Modern, Vintage, Antique Lots. See their Facebook page for full details. Auction Days Club open 5.45pm to 11pm

50/50 Draw At approximately 8pm every 3rd Saturday. Participants pay £4 a month and are allocated a number. 50% of takings goes to the winner and 50% goes to the up keep of the club. The more that join the bigger the prize money. Come and join us, Come and join us, better odds than the lottery. The October winner won £66.

Film Night, takes place on the Last Friday of every month, 7.30pm start.

Only £3. Sit in comfort with friends with your favourite tippie

Autumn Rugby Internationals will be shown at the club.

JLR Brass Band Christmas Concert Tickets £5. 4pm Sunday 10th December. One of the best Brass bands in the country

Christmas Raffle Large Xmas Hamper and other items. Draw on Saturday 16th December. Get tickets at the club

Help Clearing Leaves

Can you spare an hour or so to help clear leaves in the churchyard?

If so, please contact David Hewer on 07714 673450

Charity Begins at Home

Last Christmas we collected donations for the homeless outside 23 and 25 Holly Walk. I am pleased to say that the donations we received were matched in cash by Torsion Construction to the amount of £500. As you can imagine this made a huge difference to people in need not only at Christmas time but throughout the year.

This year Keeley thought it would be nice to try to help a small local charity that rescues dogs called Suki's Canine Rescue Crew. So if you wish to support, could you drop off your donations by the tree outside 23 Holly Walk. Tough toys are urgently needed, however blankets would also be appreciated.

Regards Louise Dunphy

Inconsiderate Parking – Please Use Your Common Sense

The Highway Code states that you must not park partially or wholly on the pavement. However, the Highway Code also states you must not park in a manner that unnecessarily obstructs Emergency Vehicles or other road users.

People think that by placing 2 wheels on the pavement, they improve access for other road users and it is safer for all concerned. If you have ever watched the Refuse Wagon pass down some of our narrow side roads, you may appreciate why people think this.

Control of parking on pavements is a Police matter and they are taking a common sense approach. If you wish to discuss this or other matters with them, there is a drop-in session scheduled for 18th December between 2pm and 4pm at the Village store. Please take advantage of this opportunity.

Meanwhile, if you feel it is necessary to pull your vehicle onto the pavement, try not to take more room than you need and try to avoid areas where the pavement is narrow or is already partially obstructed. Forcing people into the road because of your poor parking is inconsiderate, especially if children, wheelchairs, visual impairments, mobility issues or pushchairs are involved.

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Hermes Thinks that Some of the Old Ones are the Best

Being as it's the Ho-Ho-Ho time of the year, Hermes offers some levity to cheer things along and to save your energy bills. The energy bills? How? I hear you cry out. Well, helping you to laugh with merriment will exercise your muscles and keep you warm thus saving your savings.

A sports story to start off. Sean Connery was a bit short of work when his agent rang and said he had an offer for him to consider. "But the bad news is you must get there early, for 10ish." Sean was puzzled, "10ish" he said, "but I don't even have a racket." Oh dear, let's see if we can do better.

A man was facing a very serious operation when the surgeon said, "It is a very difficult procedure and your chances of survival are a hundred to one, but I have good news for you." "OK, give me the good news." The surgeon replied, "The good news is that my last ninety-nine patients died."

Talking of medical matters, a man went to the dentist with tooth-ache and had it extracted. "And does it hurt?" asked his friend. "I don't know," said the friend, "the dentist kept it."

Some have no tolerance for the young, but we all have to learn so it behoves us to be tolerant. A young man came home from school with a sofa and two armchairs and said he had been given them. His mother told him off and added, "I thought I told you not to accept suites from strangers."

So, to families. It is said that a mother loves a child more than a father. Why so? Because she knows it is her child, while he only thinks it is.

Finally, a bit of Oscar Wilde: all women become like their mothers. That is their tragedy. No man does, that is his. (The Importance of Being Earnest).

But 2017 is going to draw peacefully to its close in about four weeks, give or take. Time is a conundrum. Humourist Michael Frayn said that *now* is an odd time, the oddest of all times. By the time we reach the 'w' of 'now' the 'n' is ancient history.

When it comes, have a very happy Christmas and an equally happy new year.

Hermes

Coventry and Warwickshire Local Group



giving
nature
a home

www.rspb.org.uk/groups/coventryandwarwickshire

Local Walk: **Packington Estates Marsh Lane, Warwickshire**

Wednesday 13 December, 9.30am at secured car park.

By car, email: covbirding@btinternet.com for more information.

Local Walk: **WkWT Brandon Marsh, Warwickshire**

Monday 1 January, 10am at car park.

By car, email: covbirding@btinternet.com for more information.

Local Walk: **Coombe Country Park, Warwickshire**

Wednesday 10 January, 9.30am at car park.

By car, email: covbirding@btinternet.com for more information.

Indoor Meeting: **Photographic Competition Quiz Night**

Friday 26 January, 7.30pm at Baginton Village Hall

Admission £2 Group members, £4 Non group members

Field Trip: **NWT Attenborough, Nottinghamshire**

Sunday 28 January, 8am by coach from Cox Street/Lower Ford Street

Coach fare £20 Group members, £23 Non group members

Book by email: covbirding@btinternet.com

Advertisements have been removed from the Website copy of the
Newsletter, in order to minimise the time to download it

Refuse Collection Changes for Christmas and the New Year

During Christmas and the New Year, the day for refuse and recycling collections will change. This will mean that: -

If your collection is usually on a Monday: -

Your Grey bin will be emptied on Saturday 23rd December

Your Recycling will be collected on Tuesday 2nd January

If your collection is usually on a Tuesday: -

Your Grey bin will be emptied on Wednesday 27th December

Your Recycling will be collected on Wednesday 3rd January

Please ensure your bin is presented at the edge of your property by 7am on the collection day.

Recycling wrapping paper and Christmas cards

Recycle wrapping paper and Christmas cards with your cardboard in your recycling bag. Please keep out foil wrapping paper, glittery cards/wrapping paper, ribbons, bows and tape – these cannot be recycled!

What to do with extra recycling over Christmas?

Put extra recycling in a sturdy bag or small box (please keep each material separate) and place beside your red boxes and bags. Please flatten or cut large cardboard into pieces no larger than 1m x 1m.

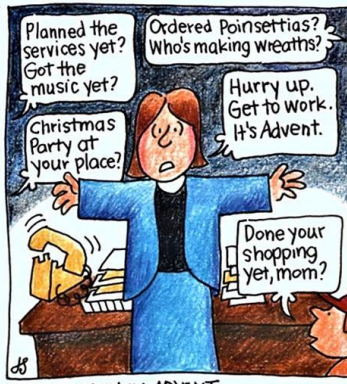
Christmas tree recycling

Please cut your real Christmas tree into pieces and put it in your green bin for collection throughout January 2018. Make sure all decorations, tree stands, pots and netting are removed.

Tailpiece



ONE SUNDAY IN ADVENT



ONE MONDAY IN ADVENT