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Forthcoming Events

July

2 nd	Village Service - 10.00am
5 th	Mobile Library - 9.15 - 9.35am
6 th	Parish Council Meeting
8 th	Party in the Park
9 th - 10 th	ERM Open Day - Nature Day
11 th	Baginton Walkers
15 th - 16 th	Lunt Roman Festival
17 th	Baginton Gardeners - Death in the Garden
21 st	Film Night - A Street Cat Named Bob
25 th	Coffee Circle
26 th	Mobile Library - 9.15 - 9.35am
28 th	Afternoon Tea

August

1 st	WI Meeting
6 th	Village Service - 10.00am
13 th	ERM Open Day - Stitchathon for Myton
8 th	Baginton Walkers
16 th	Mobile Library - 9.15 - 9.35am
18 th	Copy Date for September Newsletter
22 nd	Coffee Circle
25 th	Afternoon Tea
27 th	Cycle Rides from The Oak

September

3 rd	Village Service - 10.00am
5 th	WI Meeting

Information on local attractions, services and events can also be found on the Baginton village website at www.baginton-village.org.uk

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 - every Monday from 7.30pm
Contact: Kenneth Richardson 07847 851375

Parent & Toddler Group – Village Hall – Tuesday 10.00 - 11.30am
Contact: Steph Brown 07919 263226 Term-time only

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

Children's Swimming Club – Tuesday 6.00pm @ Kenilworth Pool
Contact: Louise Minshull 07884 292220

WI – Village Hall - first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm
Contact: Joan Harris 024 7641 6886

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

Coffee Circle – Village Hall - fourth Tuesday of each month at 7.45pm
Contact: Rose Green 024 7630 4962

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

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

Peeps Into the Past - Baginton Village - Local Government *

Before the existence of Parish Councils a local government Act was initiated which made it necessary for each Parish under a certain population to have a Parish Meeting to meet annually for the purpose of electing a Chairman, two Overseers and an Assessor, and to discuss any other business. The first of such meetings taking place on December 4th 1894 with the Rev RG Gronow appointed Chairman and then it was unanimously resolved “that Mr Henry Hulme be the chairman of this Parish for the term ending April 1895”. And so was formed Baginton’s first Parish Meeting.

This state of local government continued until March 1925, when the final Parish Meeting took place and the last chairman was Mr W Wright, who resided at Home Farm. It was at this meeting that it was agreed that application should be made to the County Council for the establishment of a Parish Council in Baginton, in view of the fact that the population had now risen to the appropriate figure as required by law.

At a Special meeting convened on June 4th 1925 the first Parish Council was elected and the following five members were chosen: Mr T Metcalfe (15 votes) Mr JB Barnes (13 votes) Mrs Grew (12 votes) Mr ER Oldknow (10 votes) and Mr H Mills (8 votes). The first Parish Council meeting took place on September 11th following, and Mr WH Preston was appointed permanent Chairman and Mr EH Bradbury Clerk.

The current Parish Council meetings usually take place in the Baginton Village Hall on the first Thursday of each month as advertised and the Chairperson being Cllr Julie Keightley and the Clerk Mr Phil Clark.

***(Our contributor is indebted to a former Parish Council in compiling this article).**

Fred Amphlett

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Priors Field Primary School

Priors Field Primary School in Kenilworth is in the unusual position of having one or two unfilled vacancies for its Reception Class of September 2017. If you are interested in a place at our caring, thriving school in our innovative and aspirational Reception class then please get in touch with Karen or Jane in our school office on 01926 853015 or by e-mail at admin2605@we-learn.com

Visits to our school are warmly welcome. The final application process would need to be undertaken through Warwickshire County Council. As Priors Field Primary school is the catchment school for Baginton children, children are eligible for a free bus pass for the school bus operated by Warwickshire County Council.

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Church Organist

Everyone at St John the Baptist church would like to thank Julia for her beautiful playing of the church organ during one of the services each month. We will really miss Julia as she moves away from the area in July, and wish her every happiness with her move.



If there is anyone who is reading this, or knows of someone, who can play the organ and would be prepared to come along to one or two services each month at 10am on a Sunday.....we would really love to hear from you 😊
Please ring Sue on 76307255

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Lunt Roman Festival 2017

15th and 16th July 10am - 4pm

Join us for a fun and interactive insight into the early history of Coventry, from the Iron Age to the end of the Roman occupancy all in a single day! With cavalry, infantry, artillery and living history encampments, the Lunt will be bursting with life and activity throughout the day. Family activities include - try your hand at archery, make a clay pot, and join in with Iron Age and Roman children's drill. Plus don't miss the unique sight of horseback demonstrations and infantry fighting in the famous Gyrus!

Adult ticket: £6; Child (4 - 16) / Concession: £4; Under 4s Free;
Family (2 adults and 2 children): £17.00

Baginton Parish Council

Dear Residents

Millennium Field Security

In last year's July Newsletter, my main focus was the illegal encampment of Travellers that had gathered on our field. One year later, the security of the field is much improved. There is still a little work to do, remodelling the entrances, levelling the ground and generally improving the look of the entrances.

Thanks goes to Councillor Walter Bush, who has organised and run the entire project, as well as parking his vehicle across the gate for most of the year as an added protection while the improvements were undertaken.

Thanks also go to Warwickshire County Council and Baginton Events, who both covered one-third of the cost for the improvements.

Finally, thanks go to all of the volunteers who helped with the ground work and installation of the gates. It's nice to see the village pull together for our mutual benefit.

Parish Accounts

The Parish Council accounts for 2016 / 2017 have been submitted to our external auditors. The Parish Council Financial Committee inspected the procedures and processes in early May and found all was satisfactory. Our independent internal auditor inspected our accounts in mid May and also found that everything was satisfactory, but did suggest producing a document exploring any financial risks that the Council may encounter and how we might minimise them.

Copies of the unauthorised accounts and the financial risk assessment are now mounted on the website. Should you wish to query anything within the accounts for 2016 / 2017, the period for the exercise of public rights runs until 4th August. Soon after that, our external auditor should formally authorise them.

Mill Hill Fallen Tree

On the morning of 29th May, a mature tree outside The Old Mill fell across the road, completely blocking Mill Hill. Thankfully, nobody was hurt. Thanks go to Tim Jardine and the staff from Russell's who cut and moved the tree to reopen the road as quickly as possible.

Finally, there is no Newsletter and no Parish Council meeting in August, but you can follow the Council on Facebook and keep up to date with key events in both our village and the wider Parish.

I hope you all have a lovely summer.

Next Parish Council Meeting - Thursday 6th July 7:30pm at the Village Hall.

Phil Clark – Clerk to Baginton Parish Council.

Inconsiderate Use of Refuse Bins

How annoying must it be to put your grey bin out ready for collection, then come to put your final bags of rubbish in, only to find that your neighbour has filled it so full with their bags that the lid will not close and there is no room left? Not only do you have to make alternative arrangements to get rid of your own rubbish, you will also have to remove enough from the bin so that the lid will close, else you run the risk of WDC not emptying it at all.

Please bear this in mind when you are thinking of using someone else's bin to dispose of your rubbish. You may be solving your own problem, but you could be creating a bigger one for your neighbour.

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Baginton and Bubbenhall Neighbourhood Plan

For the last few months the Team have been working with Warwick District Council (WDC) to finalise our Neighbourhood Plan. Minor changes have been made to clarify anything WDC felt was ambiguous within our plan and to address any items WDC felt were contentious, but the bulk of the plan remains unchanged.

Copies of all finalised documents have been mounted on the Baginton, Bubbenhall and WDC websites.

Baginton & Bubbenhall have run our own consultations earlier this year to help us understand what residents want, but now WDC is running their own consultation, which finishes on 21st July. The Plan then goes for examination by an independent inspector.

Response forms are available on all three websites if you wish to make comments for the inspector to consider.

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

**Interested in playing Pool? There is a new Pool team
being formed, so come along and sign up.**

Auction - First Thursday every month held by Picker Pips Auction House.
Over 300+ Modern, Vintage, Antique Lots. See their advert and facebook
page for full details. Club open 5.45pm to 11pm Auction Days

Baginton Club News

Our first Auction day on Thursday 15th June went well. A lot of new faces
and the usual village suspects, who left with smiles on their faces due to
the bargains they obtained or monies they received from goods they sold.
Customers complimented on the variety of lots and being able to sit in
comfort with a drink or two. A tip is to view early, note the number of the
lots you are interested in, and complete some homework on your computer.
If you are unable to stay for the auction, leave a bid with the auctioneer or
speak to Gordon the chairman, who has some experience with auctions.
Auction finishes about 9.30pm.

Sad news - the passing of club stalwart and friend John Horsley. Our
wishes and thoughts are with Nora and family. Always a smile, a laugh,
never a bad word. A wealth of knowledge and sound advice. A great loss to
the club and village.

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Baginton Gardeners

Our May meeting focussed on soft fruit and starred Jeff Bates who provided lots of useful advice, answered our questions and was very entertaining as well.

Raspberries grow well in Baginton and may be eaten fresh, frozen spread out on trays then bagged to enjoy through the winter, or turned into jams etc. Jeff recommended **Tulameen** for summer raspberries and **Joan J** for autumn raspberries. The latter can often be picked right through to early November. He explained the Scandinavian layout for growing raspberries which I can't explain here but if you're interested the internet shows how it's done.

For **blackcurrants** he recommended **Ben Hope** which is resistant to Big Bud disease (also known as blackcurrant gall). Blackcurrants fruit on 1 year old wood so he suggested growing 2 close together and cutting one of them down to the ground in alternate years.

Blueberries are easy to grow in 15 litre (minimum) pots of ericaceous compost. They need little care except an occasional feeding with an acid loving plant food or comfrey liquid feed and, as with all fruits, plenty of water to swell the fruit.

Strawberries on the other hand are hard work because they are in the ground, are difficult to weed, they throw out runners, get very tangled, attract lots of slugs, snails and birds and have to be replaced every 3 to 4 years. Jeff goes to the shops for his supply.

He said it was invariably better to plant bare root fruit bushes in the autumn rather than potted ones in the spring. Bare rooted are cheaper and take better.

Gooseberries he recommended were Invicta, Pax and Hinnomaki

I am planning a members outing to the Ball Colegrave Public Open Evening on 19th July. Please let me know by 2nd July if you want to go and I'll try and organise transport.

http://www.ballcolegrave.co.uk/Gardeners/_PublicOpenDay.aspx

There will be Craft Stalls and live music as well as the opportunity to see how new plant varieties are developed and see what is being trialled for the 2018 new introductions. Thanks to Mick Smith for giving me the Ball Colegrave contact details.

In the meantime our Baginton Nurseries are full of great plants, seeds, tools etc. so remember to use your membership cards to get 10% of all purchases and of course both management and staff at our 4 nurseries are always ready to pass on their professional advice on all gardening matters.

I'm very much looking forward to our next talk – "Death in the Garden" which promises to cover poisonous plants, Myths, Magic, Passion and Murder. Be warned, many of these plants may well be growing in your garden. If you'd like to join us as a guest then I think it will be £3 well spent. Or of course you can still become a BG member.

We've been able to hold our subscription for 2017 at only £10 per year+ £1 per meeting attended. Members receive 10% off all purchases at all the Baginton nurseries on production of a current membership card.

Meetings scheduled for the rest of 2017 are: -

Baginton Gardeners 2017 speaker calendar		
DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
17 th July	Michael Brown	Death in the Garden
25 th Sept	Lucy Hartley	Gardening with Wildlife in Mind
20 th Nov	Gardeners Question Time	

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

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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 September Newsletter is Friday 18th August. 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.

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

St John the Baptist Church

Services for July

2 nd	3 rd Sunday after Trinity	10.00am	Village Service
9 th	4 th Sunday after Trinity/ Sea Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
16 th	5 th Sunday after Trinity	10.00am	Holy Communion
23 rd	6 th Sunday after Trinity	10.00am	Holy Communion
30th	7th Sunday after Trinity	11.00am	United Holy Communion

Other Services at Bubbenhall

30th	7th Sunday after Trinity	11.00am	United Holy Communion
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Services for August

6 th	Transfiguration of Our Lord	10.00am	Village Service
13 th	9 th Sunday after Trinity	10.00am	Holy Communion
20 th	10 th Sunday after Trinity	10.00am	Holy Communion
27 th	11 th Sunday after Trinity	10.00am	Holy Communion

Afternoon Tea, Bring & Buy and Raffle

In aid of St John the Baptist Church

2.30pm to 4pm. Entry £3.50



Friday 28th July - Margaret & Cyril Smith, 43 Jacklin Drive, Finham

Friday 25th August - Dawn & Ken Richardson, 28 Coventry Road, Baginton

Friday 29th September (tbc) Jean & Roy Palin, 28 Nightingale Lane,
Beechwood Gardens, Earlsdon, CV5 6AA

For further information please phone Dawn Richardson 02476 302 667
Please come and support us.

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Odd Jottings

I was interested to read Fred Amplett's article in the June Newsletter as it ties in with the item I wrote a couple of years ago, when I wrote of Mrs Dabner the Ford's daughter. The end wall of the gardeners cottage would be about where the centre line of the present Holly Walk is. The cottage had fallen into disuse and disrepair in the 1930s but was reoccupied by a family of the name Puncheon after the 1940 Blitz. Somewhere I have got some copies of the communications for the 1960s and also a copy or two of the parish magazine for the 1940s when I can find them.

For a number of years I was an employee of Alvis Ltd. I always wondered where the name came from but nobody I asked seemed to know. I did have this idea that there was some connection with Mythology, due to the aero engine being named after Leonides. Then quite by chance while reading Neil Gaiman's book AMerlcAn GODs (yes, that is the title) I found out that Alviss was a Dwarf in the old Norse pantheon. So then I had a look on the

internet. There I found he had a yen for a certain lady. I then remembered I had had HA Geuber's book on Norse mythology for around the last 25 years, but never got round to reading it. So I went and found it and there was Alvis – A dwarf who had a fancy for a giantess named Thudra, so he came out of the dark into the daylight and got turned to stone. This got me wondering if that was where Terry Pratchett got his idea for Discworld from??

I have just had a phone call to say that John Horsley has died this morning (13th June). I have known John since 1936. He was a year behind me at school, both here and at King Henry VIII. He served an apprenticeship at the Coventry Gauge and Tool Company and worked alongside many of my old Motorcycling colleagues. He lived for most of his life in this village and, like me, saw it alter out of all context. Had he made till August he would have been 86. VALE!! JOHN.

Writing of the Gape and Drool (every company had a different moniker) – some years ago my then manager and I went to a Machine Tool Exhibition at the NEC. Come lunch time he went off to see what he could scrounge. I carried on wandering, bumped into a certain motor cyclist who invited me to join him for lunch. So into his car we got and went for lunch to the Gauge factory, only to have their Sales Rep turn up with my boss, so I introduced him to my colleague who was Managing Director at that time. Later, back at work I was asked how did I always seem to know someone? To which my answer was, It comes of being a member of what at the time was known as the Coventry Apprentices Mafia. (If you served your time with certain Companies you were bound to have useful contacts in other Companies).

That's it from me. Yours till Ragnarok – James A.

Baginton Village Hall

The Village Hall Management Committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm and we are looking for new people to join the team. Can you spare one hour per month and become a Committee member? The team are responsible for the maintenance and improvement of the hall and grounds and for letting the hall and organising events during the year to help fund the upkeep. If anyone is interested, or if you would just like to see how the Committee works, please do come along or talk to one of the current members - Alison Beese, Doreen Ebbrell, Chris Hughes, Julie Keightley, Della Thomas, Nigel Thomas and Sue Williams. Our next meeting is Tuesday 11th July at 7.30pm.

So, What Did You Expect? ... Asks Hermes

So how was it for you? That is, if you voted. It is worrying that many people see little point in turning up at the booth to exercise their franchise. Were you excited, depressed, curious or just plain couldn't-care-less? There was unlikely to be any change in this constituency anyway. (Excuse my yawn.) It may be unexciting, it may be a lousy system, but it is all we've got. Someone said "Democracy may not be a good system for government, but it is better than all the others". I think it was Churchill.

The last time I got *really* interested about an election was when Tony Blair was elected. I stayed up most of the night and saw Michael Portillo get handed his cards, and then went to bed. It was about 5am. I had a meeting in my office the next morning and we were so tired we agreed to set a new date and gave it up. Yes, Tony Blair, a great promise of new things and new beginnings. And look where that got us, disappointment or what?

It is easy to be cynical. And I seek to avoid that, but what a mess! May seems safe from an immediate challenge to her leadership, though there were a few significant voices talking otherwise. Her big mistake in Hermes' view was to avoid debating with other leaders. Whatever the reason it just appeared so arrogant. And now she relies on the DUP to hold onto power. The DUP for goodness'sake! Well this could be a fast moving scenario, so by the time you are reading this she could well be history. But I will stick my neck out and predict another general election in early October. What is that curious sound? Jeremy Corbin rubbing his hands?

Hermes

Party in the Park

A reminder that tickets are still on sale for Party in the Park and they can be purchased from The British Legion Club, Baginton Village Store and The Oak.

We require volunteers to help us with marshalling, car parking, the pig roast and also manning the gate. If anybody can spare an hour on the evening to help us then please get in touch.

We hope that as many of you as possible will come along and support the event and anybody requiring any further information or wishing to volunteer to help with the event - can contact Gayle Goodwin on 02476 518855 /07739 694133 / gayleattheoak@aol.com.



It promises to be a great evening - see you on 8th July!

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Bagot's Castle – July/August 2017

Again we had record number of visitors for the month of June and more and more people are now aware of Bagot's Castle; a thank you to all our visitors who are spreading the word that we are lovely site to visit. School holidays will soon be upon us. We are not open in the week normally, but during the school holidays we would be able to open up on either a Monday or Wednesday and a Friday afternoon, but we would need advance warning so please contact us through our website www.bagotscastle.org.uk Perhaps Mums could get together and bring the children and have a picnic in the grounds and let the children take part in our Children's trails – we have three trails suitable for children from the age of 4 up to teenagers. A great way to learn about the history of the site and the castle. For Group Bookings we will do a discount. We also have a very own Bagot's Castle Activity Pack priced at £1.00 which will keep the children amused.

Admissions Prices to Castle are as follows:

Full Admission	£4
Concessions	£2
Family Ticket	£10 (2 Adults and up to 2 children)
Children Under 5	Free

Our special achievement was well attended and enjoyed by all when we offered cake, sandwiches and nibbles to all visitors to the castle. I am now the proud owner of the monument.

As I always mention we are looking for volunteers especially for meeting and greeting. If you are interested, please contact us through our website or pop along any weekend when we are open and have a chat. There is no commitment - help when you can, once a month, once a week just when you have a spare couple of hours your help would be greatly appreciated.

Bagot's Castle's very own car park will be open to the public at the end of June. So parking will be through the castle's green gates and on the left.

Another date for your diary is Heritage Open Weekend in September and we will be open for the 4 days 7 – 10 September, Thursday and Friday from

midday till 4.00 pm and the Saturday and Sunday 10.00 – 5.00 pm. We will have Face Painting between the hours 2 – 4.30pm on the Saturday & Sunday. There will be a lot going happening and admission to the site is free entrance to all on those 4 days, so please come along and join in the fun.

Thank you for your support.

David Hewer, Custodian of Bagot's Castle

WI News

Our May meeting began with our speaker, Rosemary Prosser, who had given a talk to us some time ago, and she didn't disappoint our expectations this time. Her topic was 'From Tights to Trousers' in which she started by telling us about her initial plans as a young woman to go into agriculture, which she soon found to be wrong. After she married and had her children she decided to join the Staffordshire police, wearing skirts and tights at the start and ending wearing the trousered uniform today. Her description of the things they got up to had us all in stitches. She was an entertaining speaker and we look forward to having her back in the future.

She ended by appealing to us to spread the word about Lyme disease, which is a mite picked up in the fields by animals and humans. Her son and daughter both suffer from it but were misdiagnosed at first. They are still very weak and it is not clear whether it will return to them.

On 14th June, seven of us went to the Claredon Hotel for an enjoyable lunch.

On 4th July, to celebrate our 90th birthday, we will be going to Attingham Park, so will not have the usual meeting.

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 2017 is £37.50. We are a friendly group and will make you very welcome

Dawn Richardson

Mick Ives - 77year Old Completes 3,600km Tour of Italy Ride for Charity.

Back in 2005 I became the first rider to ride the Tour de France route SOLO - not only that, I did it in 1 day less than the race. It was very tough, but something I am very proud of. In doing so I raised over £20,000 for Cancer Research. Now 12 years later, at the age of 77 (nearly 78), I took on this mad idea of riding the route of this year's Tour of Italy Pro Bike race - the 100th edition - a distance of 3,600 km. Why? Well I have always liked a challenge and now after racing Road and Cyclo Cross events without a break (the only British rider to have done so) I am getting to the end of my Cycle Race career, so why not?

There are a lot of people out there, many of them children, who are not as fortunate as myself, and if I can help them in any way by raising funds for 4 UK Charities, then I feel I have to contribute to something in this world. My chosen Charities are: - Barnardos (I have recently been appointed their Cycling Ambassador); Zoe's-Place, Baby Hospice; Rainbows - Hospice for Children and Young People; and Padraic Sweeny Kidney Research.

My Tour started by flying out to Sardinia for the first 3 stages with my Project Manager, then transferring to the Isle of Sicily for the next 2 stages, including the stage that finished at the top of Mt Etna - a very tough climb in hot conditions. In fact Mt Etna had snow on the top, yet billowing smoke was coming out of the Volcano (it erupted recently).

After stage 5, a short trip on the Ferry followed to take me to mainland Italy. I was joined at the foot of Italy by the rest of my support team – 2 drivers and a Media Officer, at a town called Reggio Calabria. Stage 6 and all the other stages were on the mainland, as we slowly worked our way North, often with long transfers between stage Finish and the following day's Start. Stage 7 was along the southern coast, and I rode 60 miles on a Dual Carriage Way, which turned out to be restricted to vehicles over 150 cc. I found out when the Police asked us to get off - I wondered why I had seen no Cyclists and why Traffic was coming past so fast and close - very scary. On Stage 8 my Project Manager found things too hard and left the team the following day. Stage 9 saw one of the toughest climbs, the Blockhaulst, 1674 metres high. Cold and Snow at the summit. Stage 10 saw the first Time Trial – far from being flat, it had two good long climbs and the road surface was terrible.

The countryside changed as we went north and on Stage 14 we were up into the Po Valley and miles and miles of Rice Fields; the stage finished at Oropa at the top of a climb out of the town of Biella. It was on this stage

that we experienced problems with our new support vehicle and it meant losing the following days official rest day while it was fixed. Slowly we made our way towards the Mountains for the final week. The first major climb was the Mortirolo, 1854 metres high, narrow twisting climb, with a very hairy, steep, narrow descent on rough roads. The following day, came the biggest climb of the Tour – the Stelvio Pass, 2,758 metres high, hot at the bottom, freezing cold at the top, with 8ft walls of snow at the road side. The climb was 20½ km long and it took me 2hrs to climb, but it was well worth it. Not that it was over at the top - it was a very technical descent down into Switzerland and then back up the other side of the Stelvio before the long and very fast descent back to Bormio. A very tough stage.

More days in the mountains followed; in fact there were a total of 40 classified Mt climbs in the Tour. Eventually we got to the final stage of the Tour - a 28km Time Trial from the Monza racing circuit to the centre of Milan. This stage we couldn't ride, as the Monza Motor race circuit was closed and it would have been impossible to ride directly into the centre of Milan, so we chose another road to do the T.T. on. We stayed in Milan overnight and made our way back by road the UK the following day.

I would like to thank my Sponsors: - Jewson---Polypipe and McCann for their assistance - without their sponsorship this challenge could never have taken place. Also Colnago, who have provided me with their top of the range Race Bike, model C 60 - the finest Bike I have ever ridden. Vittoria for providing their latest Race Tyres; Elivar for providing Nutrition products; B.B.B. for Helmet, Glasses, etc; Nico Sport – Clothing; Lake Shoes, Widem UK Ltd for funding the Ferry crossings; F.S.A for Wheels, Bars, Stem, Chainset etc and many more providers, including Sain-Gobain for supplying the excellent support vehicle.

A big thanks for people who have made donations, to BBC Midlands TV for their coverage, along with Leamington Courier, Coventry Telegraph, Coventry Observer and Rugby Advertiser for excellent coverage.

It doesn't end there - I am still hoping that people will **donate to the Fund**, and details can be found on my Challenge Ride web site **www.micksitalianjob.co.uk**

To ride the Tour of Italy (Giro di Italia) route SOLO is something very special, and only a handful of riders have done it; to do it at the age of 77 is something I am very proud of.

Will there be more big challenges? I am not sure. My heart says maybe, but my Family are saying No. The Challenges I faced during the ride were many and varied - the Roads were generally very bad, pot holes, broken

surface. In fact the roads in Sicily are the worst I have ever ridden on - holes the size of house bricks and rubbish everywhere. There were stretches of brilliant surfaces, but few and far between. Tunnels were also a problem - poor lighting and no hard shoulder to ride on; very scary, and then part of the route went on motorways - I had to choose other routes. Up in the Alps and Dolomites the roads were much better and far less traffic.

During my racing career I have ridden in 2 World Championships in Italy, but never had chance to really see much of the country. Now I can say I have seen and ridden it from top to bottom.

Mick Ives - Team M.I.Racing Jewson—Polypipe--McCann

Get On Your Bike

Coventry Olympic Group Sportive, the none-racing section of M.I.Racing, will be organising 3 Cycle Rides starting and finishing at the Baginton Oak Pub on Sunday 27th August.

Why not come along, enter and ride - 3 different distances, on quiet country roads and lanes.

For further details contact ian.robinson@county.uk.net



Despite the cloudy skies, it stayed dry and whilst grown-ups from across the village enjoyed picnics and chatted together children and dogs played happily around The Millennium Field. The persistent wind was just right for some kite flying. It was great to meet some of the newer village residents and hope that more people will put reminders in their diaries for the next Big Lunch in June 2018.



Baginton Walkers

Close encounters: in June, fourteen of us plus three dogs started out from The King's Head in Cubbington. Heading down New Street we passed St Marys church and continued along the track past the site of England's oldest pear tree which is threatened by the HS2 line, but sadly we were unable to find it. Having skirted Cubbington Wood we followed the path downhill giving us lovely views over the Warwickshire countryside.



Crossing a few more fields and negotiating numerous dog friendly kissing gates, we eventually reached the banks of the River Leam which we followed, noting a number of fishing points along the way, but strangely very little wildlife. Approaching Hunningham Church, we finally came across a family of swans with four or five fluffy cygnets. Luckily they were on the other side of the river so we avoided any encounters with angry parents!

Passing St Margaret's church with its unusual wooden steeple, we were joined in our walk by a mixed herd of cattle that seemed very keen to see us, and the dogs, removed from "their" field: finally bidding us goodbye by herding us through the gate. We did walk rather more quickly across this field! By now we were ready for our coffee break just opposite the Red Lion pub – our half way point.

Setting off for the second half we crossed the Leam and joined the Millennium Way over fields with sheep and cows, which we carefully avoided with the dogs, and through some good looking corn fields with good views of St Michael's at Weston-under-Wetherley. We paused for a short while to watch a huge flock of rooks which circled overhead before moving off to several large trees. After another encounter with livestock – this time a horse who seemed more interested in us and the dogs than doing what its rider wanted - we entered South Cubbington woods following the main path through to return to Cubbington village, where we enjoyed welcome lunch time refreshments at the Kings Head.

Our next walk will be on Tuesday 11th July when we will meet at 9.45 am at The Red Lion at Hunningham. For the walk on Tuesday 8th August we will meet at 9.45 am at The Golden Lion, Main St, Easenhall. If you need a lift or more information please phone Brenda Brown 76303309