



Next Edition 9th April. Copy Date 26th March



## Coal Meeting

There was standing room only at the public meeting called by Leicestershire County Council at Packington School on January 19 to enable villagers to air their views on a planning application by UK Coal for permission to start open-cast mining on a site at Long Moor, between Ravenstone, Heather and Normanton le Heath.

The meeting was presided over by Cr David Jennings, chairman of the county council's development control board, and he and other councillors and officers attending were left in no doubt that the 100-plus people present were unanimous in objecting to the proposal.

This would involve the extraction of 725,000 tonnes of coal, averaging 5,754 tonnes per week over 126 weeks. A road and new access would be constructed to the north of the extraction area on to the C7110 Ashby Road. All lorry traffic would turn left on to the Ashby Road to its junction with the C7116 at Alton Hill, where it would turn right to the A511 and then left to the A42. There would be an average of 78 lorry movements a day from the site, equivalent to six per hour. Operating hours would be from 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday, and 7am to 12 noon on Saturdays.

There would be no working on Sundays or Bank Holidays  
North West Leicestershire District councillor Nigel Smith, who represents Ravenstone and Packington, said that his council's minerals group had already recommended rejection of the application. He himself was emphatically against it on environmental, health and safety grounds. Airborne dust, which it was impossible to control, would affect residents and exacerbate asthma and other respiratory diseases. There were two schools in the area, at Ravenstone and Packington, whose pupils should not be subjected to such a health hazard. The noise was likely to be considerable and the roads to be used were dangerous and unsuitable – accidents were bound to happen.

"North West Leicestershire is trying to attract tourists to the region, but no-one will want to come if open cast mining is allowed. We do not want it and we must make our feelings loud and clear"

A representative of FOIL (Fight Opencast in Leicestershire) said that hundreds of letters of objection had been received from parishioners of the villages close to the site and these would be forwarded to the county council.

Other points stressed by those attending the meeting included the fact that the "78 lorry movements from the site" cited by UK Coal must surely mean there would also be 78 lorry movements to the site (and who was going to monitor the movements anyway?). That diesel fumes from the wagons would pollute the air, road accidents were inevitable and that what was now a beautiful greenfield site would be completely blighted.

The chairman said he would request that councillors and officers involved in the decision visited the site beforehand and inspected the road.

The date of the meeting at which the Development Control and Regulatory Board ...Continued on Page 5



Packington Post

## Ray Connelly

Villagers were shocked to learn of the sudden death of Bull and Lion landlord Ray Connelly.

Ray, who was 66, had not been well for some time (although he insisted he was "all right"). He died at Leicester Royal Infirmary at midday on Sunday, February 1, after collapsing the day before. Cause of death was pneumonia.

It is 33 years since Ray took over the pub, and he and his partner Eve had made many friends. He will be greatly missed.

Eve said: "He died with all his family around him. The hospital staff were absolutely great and did everything possible for him. But they warned us he was unlikely to pull through". She has been overwhelmed with cards and messages of sympathy from Packington residents and friends in the area, and thanks everyone for these.

The funeral was scheduled for Friday February 13 – a date, said Eve, that would have made Ray laugh.

## Future copy and publications dates

April 9th Issue. Copy date 26th Mar.  
June 11th Issue. Copy date 28th May.  
Aug 13th Issue. Copy date 30th July.  
Oct 8th Issue. Copy date 24th Sept.  
SEND COPY NOW FOR NEXT ISSUE  
editor@packington.info

## STOP PRESS

The Packington 2004 Carnival will be held on 19th June. It will be an action packed day of events suited to all ages.. Please keep the date free.

February 2004



Packington Post





**PIGS**

(Packington International Golf Society)

November: The PIGS annual members dinner was held at the Royal Hotel, Ashby De La Zouch, hosted by our Chairman,

Mr. Steve Goacher. The society would like to extend our thanks to the manager Stephani Dearing, and excellent staff of the Royal Hotel for their efforts to ensure we had a superb evening which included fine food and exceptionally good service.

With sixteen of our members in attendance on the evening, enjoying the luxury of a private room in which they allowed us to set up a screen to project pictures of our recent and earlier events, we can only say that we were treated tremendously well and will definitely be considering a return there this year.

The winter league competition at Breedon Priory commenced with five teams entered, for the first time, from our society. Suffice to say some of our players are faring better than others, but nevertheless it is proving to be an interesting experience. The usual prizewinners at the club do not appear to be too concerned at this point, but you never know. Fair weather golfers we are not, and they will soon discover that the PIGS will still be out.

Packington International Golf Society.  
Contact Keith Hazeldine on 07778 236519.



**Packington Christmas Party**



Disco, Magician, Food and even Santa! Despite his high work load Santa managed a few minutes to talk with his local elves.



**Forthcoming JPEG Events**

**Waterworld**

Sunday 15th February  
Coach departs 11.00 am returns 4.00pm approx.

**Derby County v Walsall**

Saturday 3rd April. Half price tickets on offer!  
4 kids will be selected at random for the half time penalty shoot out.

**Dates to be confirmed for**

First Aid, Lifesaving, Leicester Tigers  
Leicester City, Eden Project, Snow Dome, Swop Shop.  
Contact Anna 412997 or Wesley 411899

Thanks to all who sent through information of potential sites for a JPEG allotment. We aim to come back to you shortly.



**JPEG Chinese New Year Trip was a SELL OUT**

2 Coaches and 106 people travelled from Packington to celebrate the Chinese New Year in Birmingham on January 25th.

It was a great day and we were fortunate to have a prime secure viewing area allocated to us on the balcony overlooking the stage. It started with Dragon Dancing, Fire Crackers and Chinese singing but we were also entertained to Magic, Karaoke, Opera, Martial Arts and more!

Finally, The BIG WOK did not let us down. An excellent Chinese buffet comprising a choice of over 50 dishes; as much as you wanted. There was in the end a particularly large queue for the help yourself ice cream machine!

Martin Bassett brought the owners a small gift on behalf of JPEG to say thanks for their excellent hospitality. The manager said "It was great to see so many from Packington. You created a great atmosphere for the rest of our clients and we hope you come again next year". Below is Patrick presenting the winner of our quiz, Kate Garrett, with her prize of some Chinese bowls and chop sticks.



Many of our children on the trip are on the [www.bbc.co.uk/birmingham/gallery](http://www.bbc.co.uk/birmingham/gallery) website.

**STOP PRESS**

Why not join JPEG at one of its events, or even volunteer to organise an event for the children. It is open to all. Contact Wesley 411899

FEBRUARY 2004



**Bob Miller.**

It is nearly eight years since Bob Miller saw a Communication Workers' Union Humanitarian Aid (CWHUA) stand at a conference which, in effect, changed his life. It illustrated the work done by volunteers in war torn and poverty stricken East European countries by bringing relief in the shape of blankets and warm clothing.

Bob, who lives on the corner of Brook Close and Babelake Street in Packington, became hooked, and since then has himself made several journeys as part of CWUHA convoys to Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova and, latterly, Transnistria, a small republic within Moldova.

Nowadays it is not just blankets and warm clothing the convoys carry to orphanages and hospitals in these incredibly poor countries, but all sorts of desperately needed medical aid. His last trip, in September of last year, was to Transnistria, when the goods transported by the eight lorry convoy included incubators, an ECG machine, an operating table, wheelchairs, syringes, surgical gloves, bedding, beds, freezers, nappies, washing powder, paper, crayons, and hundreds of knitted teddies made by a small army of devoted knitters recruited by Marjorie Canner. Over the years literally thousands of these cuddly toys have been made, mostly by ladies in the immediate area, and are distributed to children en route and in the orphanages. They are always received with great delight by youngsters who rarely see a toy. The 2,000-mile journey took the crews through Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Romania and Moldova. After many delays at border crossings they finally reached the Children's Republican Hospital of Transnistria where they were welcomed with open arms. The hospital serves a population of 624,000 and, said one of the members of the convoy "looks as if it was last kitted out in the 1950s, with nothing since"

Says Bob: "We were shown round the hospital. Conditions were very basic. Tatiana, one of the staff, explained what a difference our aid would make to their lives. She wanted to thank everyone in the UK for their support, saying they will never forget the generosity of the British people". The volunteers also visited a psycho-neurological hospital, where "deformed, abandoned, Downs Syndrome children and psychotic adults live in a rambling,

crumbling building"

Bob, who is an administrator with Parcel Force in Leicester, spends endless hours preparing for his trips, raising money in a variety of ways and contacting various firms all over the county, who all contribute with amazing generosity

He paid particular tribute to the support given by his wife Ginny, who does all the paperwork and makes sure that every contributing firm or organisation receives a letter of thanks.

"I couldn't do it without her help, and that of the people of Packington and the surrounding area, who have been wonderful with their support", he said.

Bob is hoping to make another trip this coming September but doesn't yet know where it will be to, nor what will be needed. When he does he will let everyone know, and is sure that help will be forthcoming just as it has in the past. He emphasises that any cheques must be made out to CWUHA, and not to him personally. Admitting that some of the things he has seen on his journeys have upset him, Bob is nevertheless determined to carry on as long as he can.

"If we can make a difference to the life of just one of these children it will have been worth it" he explained.

Just some of the 100's of knitted teddies that have found their way to countries in Eastern Europe.



**Packington Horticultural Society**

**DIG FOR VICTORY**

**GROW YOUR OWN VEGETABLES**

**PACKINGTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW**  
**SATURDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2004**

As we move into spring, a crucial time in the horticultural calendar, when new life begins to grow from the emptiness of winter, plans for the 64th annual Horticultural Show are well in place. Initial ideas had been to bring the show forward a week to the last week in August, but after much discussion the committee has decided to remain consistent with past years and hold the show on the first Saturday in September, this year falling on Saturday 4th September. We look forward to seeing the results of a seasons work.

Also as we enter a new year and a new season, Packington Horticultural Society has been looking forward to the future of the society. Strong relationships have been forged with the newly formed Junior Packington Entertainments Group, and we look forward to seeing their entries in this years show. As well as looking to the future, the society has been reflecting on the past, and is determined to help the Memorial Hall, the location of the show for many years, in its effort to raise sufficient funds to continue functioning. From all of the committee, we wish you a successful year.



**STOP PRESS**

The Packington 2004 Carnival will be held on 19th June. It will be an action packed day of events suited to all ages. Please keep the date free and read the Post for more information.



## Packington Parish Church

Packington Holy Rood Church has been awarded a grant of £38,000 by English Heritage towards the repair of its roof. This is great news and means that work on the copper roofs of the north and south naves and the south aisle should start within the next few months, and, hopefully, completed by the end of the year.

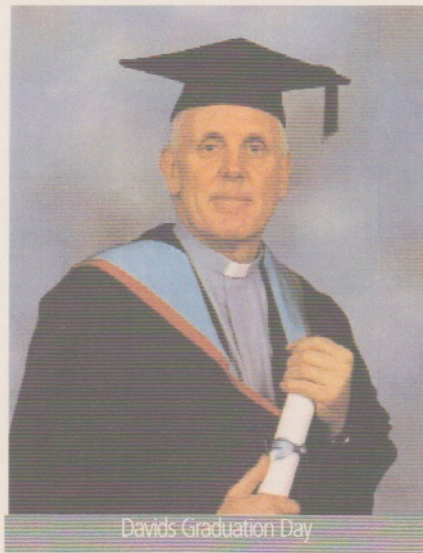
As a temporary measure the north nave roof was sandbagged and taped to hold the copper sheeting in place last year after a report on its "fairly poor" condition. The decision by English Heritage to provide finance to cover replacement of the roofs of both naves and also of the south aisle followed further inspections, when signs of serious deterioration were revealed. Total cost of the repairs is estimated to be around £54,000. Other grants totalling £3,000 have been obtained and the balance will come from the Church Fabric Fund, to which parishioners and others have been donating, and to which it is hoped donations will continue to be made.



### David's Deliberations

I woke up the other morning and stood in the bathroom to have a shave and looked at this grey haired wrinkled fellow looking back at me and I said, "Is that really you?" And of course the reflection had to admit that it was! The proof was in the seeing I'm afraid, and of course the mirror cannot lie. Now, we have just passed by the Christmas season when we celebrated the birth of Jesus. Many people believe he was the Son of God, and God's purpose in

## David does it with Honours



The graduation day was Dec 10th and it was held at the sports hall at Nottingham University on the main campus. On the day I graduated there was my school, The School of Continuing Education, and the Medical School. Our graduations took about 15 minutes and the Medical School took an hour and a half. I counted the nursing diplomas and there were over 200! Wendy and my sister Margaret went with me (we were only allowed two guests) and with cap and gown I received my award. I achieved a 2 - 2, which surprised me as I was expecting a third, but there we go. So my official name now reads Rev. David Haywood Dip Theol B.A.(Hons) Nottm - but I'm still the old me inside. I am now 57 so if anyone is, let's say, more mature and wondering about doing some sort of qualification, well you can do it, so have a go and surprise yourself. I look forward to meeting more of the folk of Packington Village during 2004. Your friend, David.

sending him into the world was so that the world might be reconciled to God. Many people don't believe any such thing and even deny the existence of God at all. Whether we believe or not it cannot be denied that the influence that Jesus has had on the world is enormous. Also, the Bible talks a lot about this Jesus, and it acts in a way like a mirror so that we might see the reality of who Jesus is. Like my recognition of myself in the shaving mirror so Jesus appears from out of the pages of the Bible. It seems to me that we face two

## Tales from the church

The 1840's and all that.

In the last edition of Packington Post, we told the story of the finding of the half-sovereign near to the Church, the date on the coin being 1849....

As a coincidence, the year 1846 is also recorded in the history of the Church, although at the time, the writer of the piece in question little realised the time-gap that would elapse since he put pen to paper. The story starts with the finding of a box in the old Vicarage cellar following the departure of the Killer family circa 1985. In finding the old box, and the close proximity to Bonfire Night, it was decided that for safety reasons, the box would provide a secure store for fireworks against the odd spark etc....

Such was the "firework box" employed for many years after, without a thought as to the original use of the antique.

With the bonfire moving to the playing field from the previous spot in the old Vicarage garden, the box became redundant until yours truly in examining the inside lid, found some obviously original script which reads as follows: "This communion service was presented to the parish church in Packington, Leicestershire by Sir Abney Hastings Bart. A.D. 1846".

The box measures approx. 15" x 12" x 18" deep, and when re-discovered was in need of some TLC, which was provided through the kind generosity of the Sumnall family. If only the box could talk, what a tale it might tell, as even now in seeing the original script one can imagine it sitting in the back of the Vicar's pony and trap en route to some outlying farm, bringing the sacraments to those perhaps unable to get to church.

So there it sits in its rightful place in church, guarding its history, and with it much of the history of nigh on 150 years in Packington. Rick Melville.

possibilities, firstly that this Jesus was just another travelling preacher in the Palestine of his day, (and there were many who did just that), and that he was nothing more than a man just spouting off on each and every issue that came to him, or he was just who he said he was and really is the Son of God and that through him we might be able to get to know this God. We can make our own minds up how we look, but look in the mirror we must and we can ask the question, "Is that really you Jesus?" If Jesus is who he said he was can we afford to risk not trying to get to know him, can we?

### STOP PRESS

**Witness Plea.** A driver has been left in a critical condition after being involved in serious accident on Coleorton Lane, Packington. The incident took place at 11.34 am on Sat 1st. Please contact PC Heggison on 0116 222 222.

FEBRUARY 2004



Packington Post



## Coal mining article continued



will make the final decision has not yet been fixed, but may be held in May. There is therefore plenty of time for letters of objection to be written. These should be addressed to Mr John Wright, Community Services Department, Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leics. LE3 STD

Objections must be on planning grounds only, and advice on these is available from Virge Richichi, who can be contacted at Packington House, Spring Lane, Packington LE65 1WU. Mr Richichi has a wealth of experience in dealing with UK Coal FOIL also suggests that National Forest Company be written to at Enterprise Glade, Bath Lane, Moira, Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE12 6BD and asked why no-one from National Forest has attended any of the protest meetings called, and why they seem to have little care about the damage the scheme would do to the Forest concept. UK Coal can be contacted at Harworth Park, Blyth Road, Harworth, Doncaster DN11 8DB, and David Taylor MP at the House of Commons, London. (e-mail [taylor@dparliament.uk](mailto:taylor@dparliament.uk)). FOIL itself has set up a website, the address of which is [www.foil-it.org](http://www.foil-it.org) Why not visit it and cast your vote!



## STOP PRESS

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FEBRUARY 2004

## BIRTHDAYS MENTIONS

Miss Edith Spare and Mr Bill Wathers are both celebrating their 90th birthdays this year. Bill and Edith have both lived in the village all of their lives, and attended the primary school together.

## Packington Post Funding

Although the Parish Council is providing a significant contribution to the costs of producing the Post, funds will still need to be raised from advertising and other initiatives. Please support us by advertising or making a donation. *Anything appreciated.*

Contact details p12.

SMALL ADVERTS  
PRINT

If you need anything printed, colour or black and white, presentations, leaflets or card we can help.

Contact Wesley on 411337

## WEB SITES

Looking to start a web site? We can produce a site for you from one page to an on-line shop.

Contact Wesley on 411337

SMALL ADVERTS  
DOMAIN NAMES

Why not register your own domain name or get [yourname@packington.net](mailto:yourname@packington.net)

Names are allocated on a first come basis and are simple to setup on your pc.

Contact Wesley on 411337

## SERVICES

Would you like a reliable lady to help with your cleaning, general housework and ironing?

Contact 413017

Wanted a gardener! Need an electrician? Bikes and Toys for sale!

14 year old willing to wash cars for a small fee! Whatever you want to buy, sell, or advertise, it's £1 per advert for up to 15 words. Business advertisements are also available.

Contact Richard 414708.

Whats ON  
locally

16th February to 20th February  
'Green Team' Kids Club for 8 - 12 year olds  
(supervised by the Conkers)  
Tel: 01283 216633

27th February 7.00pm  
Astronomical Talk/Video  
Roliston Forestry Centre  
Tel: 01283 530786

20th March – 21st March 10am -4.00 pm  
Pancake Weekend  
Moira Furnace  
Tel: 01283 224667

27th March 1-4pm  
Calke Alive Meet characters from the  
18th century.  
Tel: 01332 863822

25th February to 27th February 2004  
Calke's 300 year celebrations talk.  
Tel: 01332 863822

14th February 7.00pm  
Romeo and Juliet (Leicester Comedy Festival)  
Century Theatre, Snibson Discovery Centre  
Tel: 01530 810608

14th February  
Valentines Events at Conkers including crafts  
and evening dinner dance  
Tel: 01530 216633

3rd March – 6th March  
Proscenophobia: A mystery by Bettine  
Manktelow  
Venture Theatre Ashby de la Zouch  
Tel: 01530 411767

7th March 2.00pm  
Tree Planting: Bluebell Memorial Wood  
Roliston Forestry Centre  
Tel: 01530 535039

26th March 7.00pm  
Astronomical Talk  
Roliston Forestry Centre  
Tel: 01530 530 786

12th April 1.00pm  
Easter Egg Hunt  
Roliston Forestry Centre  
Tel: 01530 535039

1st May 1st – 4th June  
All day  
Metamorphosis: Contemporary art and  
sculpture by local artists  
Conkers, Waterside, Moira  
Tel: 01283 216633

Are there other events that maybe of interest to the people of Packington. Please let us know. Phone a team member (see p12) or email: [editor@packington.info](mailto:editor@packington.info).





## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council have met three times since I last reported our news.

In that time we have looked at 6 planning applications and held a village meeting regarding the proposal from UK Coal to open a new site on the edge of the Parish. The meeting called by the Council and the one hosted by LCC were well attended and some very pertinent questions were asked. The Council will be giving their views on this application at the next meeting scheduled for 11 February.

The Council are still working hard trying to realise the ambitions of the village appraisal, which was completed some time ago and I will try to give you a flavour of where we are in the grand scheme. Two of the major issues raised were:-

Traffic Calming – plans have now been drawn up and we are awaiting the comments from LCC Highways, prior to costing the scheme.

Recreation Ground – the working party is extremely active and plans are at present being drawn up for a scheme for play equipment. Councillors have recently attended training courses to ensure that the new play area will be fully compliant with "Disability Discrimination Act, which comes into force in October this year.

A new scheme is in the early stages of trying to improve the area surrounding the Pumping Station in Babelake St, and we are in contact with Severn Trent.

A new notice board has been donated by East Midland Airport. This will replace the old one beside the Memorial Hall, which is in sad need of repair.

Brown tourism signs, donated by Champney Springs, will soon appear on existing street signs in the village to direct traffic to the Health Hydro.

Other Council information –

The Ashby Road Race will take place on 14 March 2004 and will involve runners

passing through the village twice during the event.

There is a "free phone number" to report any highways problems – specifically potholes or other flaws with the highway/footway including problems with street lighting – 0800 626203.

A public enquiry is in the process of taking place regarding the upgrading of footpath 067 to a Bridal Way.

The Council have been issued with new information regarding "Equine Issues" including the need for owners to obtain a passport for their horses by 30 June 2004. The Council Audit for the year 2002/2003 has been successfully concluded by Hacker Young.

Last, but not least, the Council have set the budget for the coming year 2004/2005 being £41423 with £19,000 being raised by the Parish Precept.

If anyone would like more information about the above or any other Parish Council information, including viewing any local planning application

Contact Rosie McConachie 01332 810059 or email [packingtonpc@hotmail.com](mailto:packingtonpc@hotmail.com)

## Congratulations on your retirement from teaching

To Chris Miles, our Parish Council Chairman, Memorial Hall Committee Chairman.

Chris retired at Christmas, after a lifetime of teaching in the secondary sector. (He was Head of Performing Arts at Granville School, Woodville).

Chris was an excellent P.E./Music teacher, and was universally admired by all his pupils and teaching colleagues. We all know of his talents through Carols at the Piano, Village Hall Concerts, Music for Brownie Pantomimes, etc.!

Over the years, he has helped many of his pupils appreciate, and achieve outstanding results in Music. He will be sorely missed. Chris tells us he will keep "his hand in" by going back for one day per week!

Chris will no doubt relish the extra time that he now has for all his other interests..(most of which seem to include helping Packington stay the special place it is)! However, rumour has it that he has plans to play a bit of golf! -We think he deserves it! Good Luck, Chris.

## Traffic Calming

Remember the village appraisal? Well, one of the major concerns highlighted by the appraisal was the speed of traffic travelling through the village! In response to this, a small committee has been formed whose aim is to investigate ways of reducing the speed of vehicles as they enter and then pass through Packington, while at the same time being conscious of the fact that any traffic calming measures should not have a negative impact on the "village feel". This was also highlighted in the appraisal as being very important to residents.

Over the past few months, the committee have been busy working on:-

- Quantifying the size of the problem, by physically measuring the speed of traffic entering the village at various points.
- Gaining the support of both the County and Parish councils for traffic calming measures.
- Meeting with various representatives from the highways and traffic management departments.
- Identifying and costing various traffic calming options.
- Visiting several villages where different types of traffic calming measures have been introduced.

The next steps for the committee are really associated with firming-up on the options we have available to us and to then develop a plan for implementing the measures.

Should you have any questions relating to this issue, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Contact Dave and Lynne Reynolds, 413655  
Richard Roberts 515045 or Richard Evans 417559.

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(01530) 415039**

### STOP PRESS

We need you to keep giving us feedback. To date it has been extremely positive but we would like to know if you feel we are getting it wrong or right? If you feel you could improve the Post why not join the editorial team.

FEBRUARY 2004



**Packington Post**



## PACKINGTON & NORMANTON CHURCH LADIES GROUP

Joint Leaders: Doreen Gasson and Pauline Miles

Last month 26 ladies met to hear Jane and Maggie from 'Jane's Health Foods' in Ashby. A selection of organic foods and toiletries were discussed and displayed. This included a practical demonstration of 'food tolerance' and the way individuals can be affected by different foods.

All ladies are welcome at the meetings, the 2004 programme is available from the information table at the back of Packington Church.

## PACKINGTON ENTERTAINMENTS GROUP (PEG)

In the Autumn of 1999 a small group of villagers mulled over the idea of organising entertainment events for the people of Packington, one of the objectives being to bring a wide cross section of people together in a social context, covering a wide variety of events/activities. PEG was born from this first meeting and the group decided to offer 3 or 4 events during the year to try and cater for all aspects of the community in some way. These events have included an Antiques Roadshow, Real Gardens talk, Last Night Of The Proms, Race Nights, Murder Mysteries, Casino evening, Mid-summer Madness amongst others. PEG's next village function will be on the evening of Saturday 20th March 2004 in the Memorial Hall when the event will be another of our Wine Evenings, which proved to be one of our most successful events in the very early days of PEG and well worth repeating. The night will be under the leadership of the very entertaining and informative Andrew Hill who enthralled us last time. Discussions are still in hand as to the exact format of the evening, but will possibly centre around the wines of Spain this time. Watch this space for further information or contact one of the PEG members – see Useful Contacts section – but above all please put the date in your diary!

Andy, Sue, Giles, Eileen and Steve



Three break in burglaries in three days. One on The Grange and two on Babelake Street. Taken were mountain bikes, alcohol and power tools. Police and Neighbourhood Watch urge residents to ensure all properties are securely locked at all times. Vehicles to look out for in connection with distraction burglaries  
White Mercedes Sprinter van V 850 EJJ  
Red Peugeot 405 car L 382 PWR  
White Ford Transit Lorry "Block Paving" on the side and other markings. Reg FE 02 KHL  
Ring 999 if any of these seen.

Police at Coalville, Ashby and Kegworth have obtained Government funding to purchase 600 SpyCom units which are being given free of charge to local people who are vulnerable to bogus callers and who live in the NWLDC area.

A SpyCom unit is a door spyhole with a battery operated, two-way intercom fitted to it. These units are easy to install, but in case of difficulty two fitting services have been arranged.

A local master locksmith will fit the unit for £10 plus VAT, a third of the usual price. Alternatively, the charity Help the Aged will allow its Handy Van service to do the work providing the recipient fits its criteria. These are that the person is over 60 years of age; is not living with an adult working child; and has savings of less than £16,000.

To date, 100 units have been given away in Coalville, 15 in Ashby and 35 in Kegworth, so there are plenty still available. If you would like to receive a free SpyCom unit, contact Steve Hastings, Coalville Police Community co-ordinator, on 0116 248 3043, or Jemma Atkin-Barratt, Ashby Police co-ordinator, on 0116 248 6252, or Pauline Pettitt, Coalville NHW manager, on 0116 248 3079, for information and an application form.

Any members of the village interested in attending a "Home Security Training" meeting with PC M Kaiser (Crime Prevention Officer) at Coalville Police Station on Thursday 23rd Oct at 7.30pm please contact Marjory Canner on 01530 413951 for more details

We have been informed that a leaflet is being dropped of at houses appealing for

donations of clothing for Romania, please note that these are not registered with NWLD Council.

## WI News

An enlivened talk on Pub Signs by Mike Ockenden of Ashby enlivened Packington Women's Institute's first meeting of 2004. Illustrated by photographs taken by Mr Ockenden of public house signs all over the country, the talk was full of interesting facts about the origins of the frequently attractive and sometimes humorous painted signs. Often they relate to transport – for example, The Railway Inn, The Coach and Horses ; trades – Butcher's Arms The Pick and Shovel; and animals – The Bull and Lion, the Dog and Duck

Many have a story behind them. The Snowdrop in East Sussex refers not to the early spring flower, but to an avalanche of snow that fell from the Sussex Downs on to the village beneath. Mr Ockenden, who was introduced to the meeting by president Mrs Brenda Moorhouse, was thanked by vice-president Mrs Ann Roberts.

The competition, for a beer tankard, was won by Marjorie Rickaby, and the raffle by Irene Hewes. February's meeting, which had not been held by the time Packington Post went to press, was due to include a demonstration of chocolate making by Mr Tom Phillips.

A buffet supper will be held at next month's meeting (March 4th) 7.15pm  
Contact Brenda Moorhouse 412975

Thanks to all who attended the Ploughman's Lunch, which raised approximately £170. Events coming Contact Ronna Dring 413520  
Jessie Bradford 412354

## Packington Carnival 2004

Open Meeting at the MEMORIAL HALL PACKINGTON  
Thursday 19th February 8.00pm

We need you, the people of Packington, to help raise a lot of money to enable us to rebuild or give our hall a major overhaul. Come along to this planning meeting and give us a hand. Let's raise a serious amount of money with everyone in Packington taking part in a fun day.

All proceeds to the Memorial Hall.

STOP PRESS

Calling all Packington Groups. Please let us have your diary dates for the year asap.

FEBRUARY 2004



Packington Post



## Useful contacts

It is our intention to update and publish this list in each edition of the Post. If there is any other useful information you would like to see here please let us know via the Post Boxes in the Bull & Lion and the Village Shop or contact any member of the Post team – details can be found on page 12.

## Member of Parliament and Council Contacts

David Taylor MP,  
17 Hotel Street,  
Coalville  
LE67 3EQ  
Tel:- 01530 814372  
E-mail [taylorld@parliament.uk](mailto:taylorld@parliament.uk)

Leics County Councillor  
Nick Rushton,  
Hood House, Lower Church St,  
Ashby de la Zouch,  
LE65 1AB  
Tel:- 01530 412059  
[nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk](mailto:nicholas.rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk)

NWLD Councillor  
Nigel Smith,  
The White House, Main Street,  
Ravenstone,  
LE67 2AS  
Tel:- 01530 835668  
[nigel.smith@nwleicestershire.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.smith@nwleicestershire.gov.uk)

### Packington Parish Council

Chris Miles, Chairman, 14 Babelake Street,  
414378  
Ian Dring, Vice Chairman, 19 Babelake Street,  
413520  
Carole Mattley, 20 The Grange, 412484  
John Muggleston, 7 Measham Road, 414964  
Richard Roberts, The Old Bakery, 19 High  
Street, 414219  
Sue Wigggett, 4 Nethercroft Drive, 417092  
Rosie McConachie, Clerk. 01332 810059  
[packingtonnpc@hotmail.com](mailto:packingtonnpc@hotmail.com)

Leicestershire County Council 01162 323232  
LCC Highways (Ashby) 01530 414151  
NWLD 01530 454545  
Street Lighting 0116 265 7109

### Police

Beat Bobby John Pester no.584 (based at  
Ashby ) 01162 222222  
Crime Stoppers 0800 555111



## Doctors

Measham Medical Unit  
Enquiries 270667  
Appointments 270933  
Ashby Health Centre 414131

## Hospitals

Ashby and District 414222  
Coalville Community 510510  
Queens, Burton 01283 511511  
Leicester General 01162 490490  
Leicester Glenfield 01162 871471  
Leicester Royal 01162 541414  
NHS Direct 0845 4647

## Schools

Ashby Grammar 413748  
Ivanhoe College 412756  
Packington Primary 412425

## Chemists

Boots, Ashby 412203  
Dean & Smedley 270397 (Measham)  
Owen Jones 412735 (Ashby)

## Others

Ashby Library 413346  
Coalville Library 835951  
East Midlands Airport 01332 852852  
East Midlands Electricity Emergency  
0800 0568090  
Environment Agency 0800 807060  
Gas Emergency 0800 111999

## Local businesses

Bull and Lion 413882  
Context Print and Marketing Services 411337  
David Granger Associates 560939  
Daybreak Services 415705  
Doreen Gasson ("Sylvan" holiday bungalow  
Moira) 412012  
Julie and Nigel Clarke (Aloe Vera Distributor)  
411801  
Kay Carter (Menorca Gold Private Villas)  
564555  
Packington Post Office 413682  
Steve Plummer (Historic Model Ships  
Distributor) 412963  
Stonehouse Farm Stables 274954

## List of organisations

Bell Ringers	Margaret Andrews	412996
Brownies	Janice Pearson	412895
Cricket Club	Giles Bee	417442
Guides	Marie Nevin	414892
History Group	Peter Cooper	412723
Holy Rood Rev.	Sheila Walters	832267
Horticultural Soc	Paul Parry	412918
JPEG	Wes Ewing	411899

(Junior Packington Entertainments Group)

Ladies Group	Doreen Gasson	412012
Memorial Hall	Sue Wigggett	417092
Hall Bookings	Sue Wigggett	417092
Men's Group	Rick Melville	412558
Methodist Church	Rev. David Haywood	469315
Morris Men	Dave Johns	270400
Neighbourhood Watch	Marjorie Canner	413951
PEG	Andy Marriot	411147

(Packington Entertainments Group)

PIGS	Keith Hazeldine	07778 236519
------	-----------------	--------------

(Packington International Golf Society)

Playgroup	Ann March	411003
Primary School PSA	Stuart Renshaw	412425
Rainbows	Rachel Hunt	467806
Singles Group	Dorothy Ireland	412452
Topz Club	Sheila Moore	412535
W.I.	Brenda Moorhouse	412975

Apologies for any unintentional omissions. Please let us know if any one is missing or details require amendment

## www.packington.info

At 9.35pm on Tuesday 16th December 2003, exactly 34 years to the day since Britain abolished the death penalty, 20 years since a spokesperson for "The Who" announced the group was disbanding, and 33 years since 1st successful landing on Venus [www.packington.info](http://www.packington.info) went live for the very first time.

Designed to be an online accompaniment to the Packington Post, [www.packington.info](http://www.packington.info) will bring you News, Event Details, Reports, Letters, Useful information and just about everything else that is going on in Packington.

## Interested in updating the website?

We are looking for volunteers to help keep the village web site updated. This would not involve design work or programming, rather entering and updating text. Full training would be given and you would need to work from Charity Farm, Packington during the day.

### STOP PRESS

The Packington 2004 Carnival will be held on 19th June. It will be an action packed day of events suited to all ages. Please keep the date free and read the Post for more information.

FEBRUARY 2004



Packington Post



## Post Office



Ian and Jayne Gash

At a time when post offices up and down the country are being closed down, Packington is exceptionally lucky in having one that thrives.

As important to the village as the shop, the pub and the school, Packington Post Office and the associated newsagent's/confectioner's/off-license have been in the very capable hands of Ian and Jayne Gash for almost 18 years.

The hours are long. Ian's day starts at 5am every morning, when the daily newspapers arrive and doesn't finish until 6pm, when the shop closes. The post office itself is open from 9am – 1pm, and from 2pm – 5.30 pm, except for brief respites on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons – and even then the shop opens for an hour on Wednesdays for the evening papers, and is open as usual until 6 on Saturdays.

Despite all this Jayne and Ian say they enjoy the life and have no intention of giving up just yet. There are drawbacks – they can't go on holiday together, for example, and have to take advantage of their time-share home in the Gambia separately.

The couple were living in Ashby when Ian, who was working for the Coal Board, decided to take voluntary redundancy. While looking around for something else to do, the opportunity arose to take over at Packington. Encouraged by Jayne's sister, who had run post offices for years, they agreed to "go for it", and haven't looked back.

Packington Post Office is a particularly busy one, because it caters for most of south

Ashby, and with the closure of the town's Westfield office in the near future, Ian expects to be even busier. People regard the short drive into Packington as well worth it just to be able to park outside the premises while they conduct their business!

Facilities offered include being able to withdraw money from accounts with several banks – Lloyds-TSB, Barclays, Alliance & Leicester and the Co-op – without the hassle of going to the nearest hole in the wall. Then there are pensions – still available in cash over the counter if preferred. Ian says pension books will doubtless be phased out over the next year or two, but a Post Office card will be substituted and the transaction will be conducted in just the same way. Foreign currency (no commission) is available within a day or two of request, and there's a photo-copier, much used by Packington folk at 10p a page. Mobile phone top-ups are another useful facility. Newspapers provide about 60 per cent of the shop's takings (the rounds include a large part of Ashby) and there is an excellent range of magazines (plus any magazine published can be ordered). And if it's a greetings card you want, this is the place to look. There is a wide variety to choose from, all of them excellent value. Wines, spirits and beer, sweets, chocolates, ice cream and some stationery items make up the rest of the stock.

Any newsagency relies to a large extent on the reliability of its delivery boys and girls, and Ian and Jayne have nothing but praise for theirs. The village contingent includes Simon, Christopher, Graeme, and Ben (who also help in the shop at weekends), Matthew, Ben and twins Tamsin and Miles, all of whom turn out at 7am during term time, and slightly later at weekends and during school holidays. With daughter Paula and grandchildren Louis, (two and a half), and Charlotte (nine months) living nearby and visiting frequently, and the company of friendly chocolate Labrador Ellie (almost eight), Ian and Jayne Gash couldn't be more content with their lot. And Packington couldn't be happier with its post office.

**Ian & Jayne Gash**  
Packington Post Office &  
Newsagents.

**Tel 01530 413682**

## DIARY DATES:

A Public Meeting re Coalfield Development may be arranged for February. Contact Rosie McConachie 01332 810059

### Thursday 19th February

Carnival planning meeting at Memorial Hall

### Wednesday 10th March

7.15 pm WI meeting

### Wednesday 10th March

7.45pm Ladies Group "Hats for Special Occasions" – Josephine Allen at 6, Normanton Rd

### Saturday 20th March

7.30pm PEG Wine Evening

### Thursday 25th March

8.00pm Memorial Hall AGM

### Saturday 27th March

10.00am W.I. event Memorial Hall

### Wednesday 14th April

7.45pm Ladies Group informal evening "Coffee and a Quiz" venue to be arranged.

Contact Doreen Gasson 412012

### Sunday May 9th

6.30pm Ladies Group Service at Holy Rood Church

### Wednesday 12th May

Ladies Group annual dinner at Lashmores, Coalville.

Contact Doreen Gasson 412012

### Methodist Preachers for Feb: -

**Feb 1st** at 1030 Rev David Haywood  
Holy Communion

**Feb 8th** at 1030 Mr. Dereck Horsman

**Feb 15th** at 1030 Rev. David Haywood

**Feb 22nd** at 1030 Mrs Ruth Watson

**Feb 29th** at 1030 Mrs. G. Kerr

**Mar 7th** at 1030 Rev. David Haywood  
Holy Communion

**Mar 14th** at 1030 Mr. David Evans

**Mar 21st** at 1030 Rev. David Haywood

**Mar 28th** at 1030 Mr. Ian Irwin

### Please note

Hall booked most weekends throughout February and March – only half-term weekend available at the moment.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY DATES YOU WOULD LIKE INCLUDING CONTACT US TODAY**

## STOP PRESS

The Packington 2004 Carnival will be held on 19th June. It will be an action packed day of events suited to all ages. Please keep the date free and read the Post for more information.



### Memorial Hall News

Have you a skill or talent that can be used to support the Village?  
The Trustees of the Memorial Hall are looking at the options open to them regarding the future of the Memorial Hall. The biggest decision at the moment is whether to re-build or re-furbish. Additional surveys and enquiries are being made of the fabric of the building to determine what is going to be the best option for the long-term future of the Hall.

All of the Trustees however are volunteers and for the most part, inexperienced in what is needed to comply with building regulations, statutory Acts of Parliament, etc. and researching and obtaining the grants available.

Do you have the ability to help the Village in any way, however small, and could spare some time to support the project? If so, please contact the committee as soon as possible; we really do need your help. Fundraising has already started and any offers of activities to raise funds for the project will be gratefully received. Perhaps Groups or individuals who use the Hall could organise a fund-raising event of their own? Or why not come to a fund-raising meeting and see if you can offer help in any way: delivering leaflets, putting up gazebos, selling tickets, collecting goods to sell, making tea and cakes, there are hundreds of jobs at the moment done by a few – we really need to share the load and involve as many people as possible. After all, the end result will be for the benefit of the whole village.

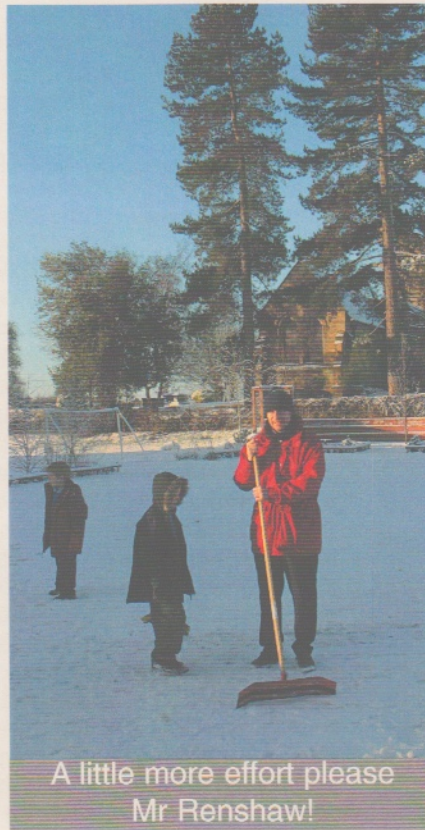
With this in mind, the Trustees invite you all to a meeting to be held in the Memorial Hall at 8.00 p.m. on THURSDAY 19TH FEBRUARY to discuss the arrangements for CARNIVAL 2004. Funds raised this year will be for the Development of the Hall. PLEASE come along and support the Village. Packington Memorial Hall Management Committee.

If you are unable to attend on this date and wish to help in any way please get in touch. Contact Chris Miles on 414378

### Packington School Stays Open

Despite the cold weather and poor road conditions our school was one of the few to stay open.

Well done to all the staff who arrived early to ensure the school was kept open.



A little more effort please  
Mr Renshaw!

**Packington Carnival 2004**

Open Meeting at the  
MEMORIAL HALL PACKINGTON  
Thursday 19th February 8.00pm

Come along and help us plan a great  
2004 Carnival. All very welcome.

**All proceeds to the  
Memorial Hall.**



### WORD SEARCH ANSWERS FROM DECEMBER EDITION

K	G	L	L	D	G	J	H	J	F	G	W	F	H	S
B	W	A	S	H	I	N	G	D	A	Y	X	C	D	S
C	H	G	R	E	Q	S	D	A	E	K	I	G	X	A
X	E	T	A	L	P	U	Y	T	D	E	O	R	T	L
S	E	J	R	W	D	G	S	H	E	E	P	D	O	G
E	L	Z	Z	U	P	H	H	K	L	J	O	E	O	U
L	I	O	R	P	U	U	E	P	Y	N	N	K	N	M
E	K	O	E	L	C	E	P	H	K	N	Y	Y	H	N
P	H	I	G	R	I	R	H	P	T	R	N	Y	A	J
H	H	Y	I	U	K	T	E	K	Y	O	O	E	E	Y
A	Y	G	T	Y	G	Y	R	R	O	E	O	E	E	I
N	A	I	L	S	I	U	D	P	K	P	L	F	L	I
T	I	A	K	O	F	I	S	T	H	G	I	L	E	E
R	N	N	L	O	T	O	K	K	L	N	K	I	O	W
K	N	T	I	N	S	E	L	P	K	Y	H	E	T	W

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Packington Post



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Packington Post Funding: Although the Parish Council is providing a significant contribution to the costs of producing the Post, funds are still needed. We are very grateful to the advertisers above and would welcome further advertisements or donations.

FEBRUARY 2004



## JPEG gets off to a flying start

Dear Editor

Just wanted to say a big thank you to those of you who helped organise the Packington Christmas Party. We all had a great time, the entertainment was excellent and the Disco was a real winner, I had to remove Lauren from the dance floor in the end!

Once again many thanks for an excellent afternoon, please keep us posted for the next event.

Abby, Lauren, Charlotte and Isabel  
xxxx

Dear editor

Just a note to say how much all the children in our group enjoyed the recent Christmas party held at the Memorial Hall. I think the whole evening was organised really well with events and entertainment suitable for both the toddlers and the older ones. We would all definitely be interested in coming again next year, so I trust you are planning to do it again?! Well done to all involved and thanks again for a great party.

Best wishes. Carolyn Osborne

Dear Editor,

We wanted to remind readers that JPEG events are open to everyone in the village and surrounding rural area. Here is some of the feedback we have had;

"Brilliant, great food, very well organised and promoted, great value, enjoyed the whole day, when's the next trip? We will be on it!! Thanks, Karl Saunt

Dear Editor,

On behalf of JPEG I would like to thank Anna and Martin Bassett for their hard word, enthusiasm, planning and care over organising/running the Chinese New Year Celebrations.

A very hard act to follow.  
Well Done. Wesley

Note in Feedback Box Shop

I think the Packington Post is superb and I can't wait for the next issue. Would there be any chance of a monthly version as I don't have Internet?

We would like to remind all readers that we welcome feedback and comments on the Post, events in the village etc. Simply telephone, email, write or drop feedback in the box provided in the Pub or Shop.

## Post Editor Ties The Knot



A Very Big Congratulations to Steve and Eileen Plummer on their New Years Eve Wedding. On behalf of the village the editorial team wish you health and happiness for the future.

## New Year 2004 Midnight Celebrations



We wish all our readers  
a romantic  
Valentines Weekend!



Next Issue  
9th April 2004  
Copy Date  
26th March

## Tell us YOUR views and wants

By mail box in the shop or pub  
By post to The Editor at 29 Babelake Street, Packington, LE65 1WD

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### Advertising

Ruth Wilde and Richard Gregory

Interested in joining the group?  
Contact anyone on the list above and we would extremely pleased to have you involved.

### STOP PRESS

The views expressed in the Packington Post are the views of individual authors and not the Post Editorial Team or Packington Parish Council.

February 2004