



Packington Post

news from around the village

December 2004

issue no 9

page 1

£1 (Free to village residents)



A Merry Christmas To All Our Readers



Meet your new Parish Councillor

Following the untimely death of Sue Wiggett, the Parish Council recently advertised for a replacement. Mike Smith applied and was appointed last month.



Hi, my name is Mike Smith and I have lived at 8, Hall Lane with my wife Claire for 18 months. We were married 6 weeks ago and so are still enjoying the first flush of married bliss!! We are probably best known in the village for our never ending house building project. Fingers crossed it will be completed early next year! I was born and raised in inner city Birmingham and lived there for 16 years. I moved away to Luton before returning to the Midlands to live in Tamworth and now Packington. I work as an IT consultant, based in Nottingham but my job takes all around the UK on a regular basis. Since moving to the village, Claire and I would like to thank everyone for making us feel most welcome. I am looking forward to serving the village and promoting the many positive aspects the village has to offer. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any help or if there are any issues. Contact Mike on 564694

Post Goes Around The World



Joanna Lake, daughter of Post Editorial team member, Richard Gregory, reading Packington Post on a boat in the middle of Milford Sound, South Island, New Zealand.

She emigrated to New Zealand last March, and is living with husband Graham in Devonport, Auckland on the North Island. They are sent the Post regularly to keep up to date with village news.

We reckon that this is about as far away from Packington as you can get before coming back the other way.

Has anyone read the Post in any other distant/unusual/exotic location? Let us know.

New Years Eve Family Party
All welcome. Book now.
RING ANNA 412997



Packington Post

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Chair of Governors
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or 563613

Future Copy and Publication Dates

Feb 4th issue. Copy date 21st Jan
April 18th issue. Copy date 25th March
June 10th issue. Copy date 27th May

We welcome photographs of village people and events.

Send copy now for next issue to
editor@packington.info
or tel 412963

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Interested in joining the JPEG family allotment?
Ring Wesley 411997.

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Amy Watts flies off!



Friends and relatives gathered at Birmingham airport last week to see 18 year old Amy Watts off on her 27-hour long journey to New Zealand.

Amy, who is well known to Packington folk because for a number of years she was worked, mostly in a part-time capacity, at Daybreak Stores, the village shop, which is owned by her uncle Pete Swift.

The elder daughter of Richard and Diane Watts of Prior Fields, Ashby, Amy is spending six months of her gap year before university with her grandparents, Edmee and Tony Watts, who emigrated to New Zealand from Ashby seven years ago and live in Henderson, on the outskirts of Auckland. Although she is quite looking forward to Christmas in the sunshine, Amy admits she will probably feel a bit homesick around the time of the festive season. She plans to explore both North and South Islands during her stay, and is hoping that one or two friends may be able to come for a visit. She also has Australia in her sights, if only for a fortnight or so. Amy spent her early years in Packington – she went to the village school, and then on to Ashby Grammar, moving with her parents and younger sister Jenny to the house vacated by Mr and Mrs Watts senior when they left for NZ. Amy has promised to e-mail Packington Post on a regular basis, to tell us of her adventures.

Brownies 25th Birthday



Packington Brownies have just celebrated their 25th birthday. On November 23rd, parents, friends and Brownies gathered at the village school to commemorate the event with an evening of entertainment and nostalgia. There were displays of work, photos spanning the years, facts and figures showing how the Pack had evolved since it was started in 1979 by Pam English, and re-dedication prayers led by the Rev Sheila Walters.

Uniforms from previous decades were on show and a presentation made to Pam, who ran the Pack until 1986. Light refreshments were enjoyed, and a good time was had by all.

The fact that the 1st Packington Brownies are still flourishing today is due in no small measure to Janice Pearson, who has been their Brown Owl for 15 years. Every Tuesday, from 5.45 to 7pm in the School Hall, she superintends the group of excited little girls, aged between 7 and 10, and makes the one and a quarter hours fly by with a mixture of fun and tuition. In this she is helped by Tawny Owl Rebecca Sumnall and a rota of parents.

Some of the children live in Packington, but a fair number come from Ashby and nearby villages. No longer do they wear the brown tunic-like dresses that the older generation will be familiar with. These days yellow T-shirts with stripy blue sleeves, teamed with a wrap over skirt or leggings are the order of the day, and Brown Owl herself sports a Rugby shirt. The Pack is divided into Sixes – the Pixies, Gnomes, Elves and Imps. Each has a Sixer – one of the older girls. They still work for badges, but these have changed too, and are brightly embroidered circles depicting the skill achieved, which are sewn onto a sash rather than the sleeve, as used to be the case. Badges that can be worked for include traditional things like Cooking and First Aid, but also many which are much more applicable to the 21st century –

such as Disability Awareness, Environment and World Cultures, Road Safety and Crime Prevention. The tasks which have to be completed in every case are quite demanding, and certainly instructive. Each meeting starts with the Brownie Ring and song, and different activities are planned for each term. This term great fun was had making fridge magnets out of Bonio dog biscuits (very effective) painting ceramic mugs (later fired by Hazel Townend at the Ferrers Centre, Staunton Harold), planting hyacinth bulbs as Christmas gifts, having a Hallowe'en party and preparing for the birthday celebrations.

Every Spring Janice and her helpers take the Brownies for a weekend Pack holiday, usually staying in village halls within the county and having a whale of a time.

Suggestions that these should be extended to "a week in Cornwall" have so far failed to find favour with Janice, who says a weekend looking after 20 or so boisterous little girls is as much as she can cope with.

Janice's enthusiasm for her voluntary work, even after 15 years, is amazing.

"I really do enjoy it" she says. "It makes a complete change from my full time office job"


The Pack still has room for more Brownies – and one little girl who can't wait to become one is Janice's five year old daughter Sophie. The subscription is £20 a term, which goes towards funding the various activities and the materials needed for them. Brownies pay for their uniforms, their hand-book and their badge book. Any little girl who would like to join, or even attend a meeting or two to see whether Brownies is for them, should Contact Janice Pearson 412895.



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Quiz night every Tuesday at the Bull & Lion starting at 9.30pm. £1 per person and the winning team takes all!!

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Successful Craft Day



The first-ever Christmas Craft Day to be organised by JPEG was a resounding success. Around 70 youngsters arrived at the village school at 12.30 on a Saturday morning last month for three and half hours of supervised constructive fun.

Prices were kept affordable, and for £3 budding artists could paint a mug (which was later fired) or a plant pot (which included compost and a bulb), decorate a gift bag or box, make a glittery star, or hand make some Christmas cards or all of these, if they had time!!!!.

Sharon Gregory, who makes cards for all occasions as a hobby, brought all the necessary equipment. With the help of Catherine Bee and Sarah Smith, they guided the children in their efforts, which were very creditable and the cause of much satisfaction.

Other Mums who gave up their time to help were Mandy Lines, Rachel McKinley, Trish Daley, Jackie Rushton and Alison Ewing. Madeleine Horsgood was in great demand for face painting, and produced some stunning effects. Among those who also helped were Angus and Helen Bennon, Vince and Helena O'Regan, Anna Bassett-Lynch and Belinda Beynon.

The inner-man (or child) was catered for with hot dogs (Wesley and Alison Ewing cooked 100 sausages to supply demand), mince pies and other edibles, and items for sale included books and toys, Christmas decorations etc. There was a raffle for an excellent hamper, two nights at Springs and a variety of gifts.

All in all, an excellent time was had by everyone. The organisers are to be congratulated, and the hope is that the event may become an annual one. A small profit was made and will be shared by JPEG and the school.



Above Spiderman (Joe Smith) tests his web creating skills.



Above Too proud JPEG members Ella and Ciara display the 106 mugs after return from the Kiln. All mugs should have been delivered by now but if you have any queries call Wes Ewing 412997

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Ladies Group

About 40 people attended an evening of 'Cheese, Wine & Entertainment' at the Memorial Hall on 10 November organised by the Packington & Normanton Church Ladies Group. Tempted by the cheese, several men joined this open evening when Ian Rogerson from Loughborough brought along a selection of over 30 different cheeses.

After the cheese and wine were duly sampled, Ian and a small group from Charnwood Opera, Loughborough entertained with songs and show time hits plus a guest appearance of "Pam Ayres".



At the end of the evening a cheque for £100 was given to the Memorial Hall Restoration Fund. Pictured is Mr Chris Miles, Chairman, receiving the cheque from members of the committee from left to right Wendy Jones, Pauline Miles, Doreen Gasson, Carole Hallam, Jillian Powell and Eileen Taylor.

Contact Doreen Gasson 412012

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Early planning meeting for the 2005 carnival Tuesday 18th January at 7.30 pm at The Memorial Hall. Everyone welcome.

Men's Group

The Men's Group continues to operate in its usual quiet way!!! In October we visited the Burton Superbowl and came away with scores that were not the highest scored that week, but may well not have been the lowest either.



Last week a group of 24 of us including our ladies visited the Ashby Venture Theatre in North Street, when we thoroughly enjoyed the opening night of the comedy 'Laughter in the Dark' – excellent value at only £5 per ticket. Our Christmas party will be held on December 9th (see 'Diary Dates'), when a varied evening is planned. If you are over twenty and not quite a hundred, why not come along? You would be most welcome.
Rick Melville 412558

Memorial Notice Board

A couple of years ago Sue, Richard Roberts and David Haywood formed a sub-committee to look at the idea of a notice board complex by the pavement in front of the Memorial Hall.

Discussions went on and ideas began to gel, but then sadly last June, as you will all know, Sue died and the tributes have all been made to this remarkable woman. It was thought that, as Sue was a major contributor to this scheme, that to make it into a memorial garden/notice board complex would be very appropriate, especially as we all know how much she loved gardening!!! – the irony of this would not be lost on Sue!

Richard Gregory from the Post team has now joined Richard Roberts and myself to complete the project. We now have outline drawings showing where we are with the project and the existing notice board will be moved to another location. Conversations have taken place with the County Hall landscape gardener, planning permission is being sought and proper plans are being drawn up. We feel that the complex outside the Hall will add to the overall nature of the village and be another means of getting information to the village on a wide range of topics.

Contact David Haywood 274988

Packington Methodist Church

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Christmas Day 12 noon to 2pm (no kitchen service)

Winter food arrangements are: Bar Lunches every day from 12 noon to 2pm (Senior Citizens 3-course lunch on Thursday £4.75).

Monday evening special is a two-course meal for £4.95. (6.00 to 9.00pm).

Tuesday evening is Quiz Night. Starting at 9:30pm £1 entry per person. No kitchen service.

Wednesday evening is our Specialist Food Night - Traditional English Food in October.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings we serve A-La-Carte meals in our restaurant in addition to Bar Meals.

Sunday Lunch served as part of our A-La-Carte offering from 12 noon to 2pm.

Full Christmas Lunchtime and evening menus 1st to 23rd December. Booking is advisable.

Trevor, Lorraine and staff are here to offer you a warm welcome.




Boxing Day: The Bull and Lion are pleased to welcome the Packington Morris Men on Sunday 26th December at 12 noon. The Garland Girls and guests will join the Morris Men and celebrations will be ongoing throughout the day in the pub – everyone welcome!

New Years Eve: To say thank you to our customers and staff we will be having a fancy dress party on New Years Eve. A free buffet will be provided to those in fancy dress and we hope, as many of our old and new customers will join us for the evening to welcome in the New Year.

STOP PRESS

Carol service 6.30pm Sunday 19th December at Holy Rood Church

 Packington Post

Tales from the Church No. 7

We know from our church records that there were many changes made to the Church interior in the late 1890's. These did not always receive the full approval of the villagers and congregation, who disliked the 'modern' look, and could not see the need for the work being undertaken.

Against this background, I came across this transcript portraying a conversation between the vicar at the time, the Rev. A.S.Mammatt, and one of his flock whose lapsed attendance was of some concern to the cleric.

This piece came into my possession in about 1985, as a result of a chance meeting in the churchyard with a Mr. Fred Oakey. He was a Packingtonian who had moved to Leicester but loved to come back 'just to reminisce' as he put it. A copy of the poem has been lodged with the Packington History Group, as part of the village archives. Contact Rick Melville 412558

Group members to be thanked

As we approach the end of 2004 I would be grateful if you 'Thank' several people from our village groups. Firstly a long and overdue 'Big Thank You' to Alison Ewing who organised a wonderful JPEG trip to the EDEN PROJECT, and on behalf of all the parents who went, I think we should thank the inventor of 'Uigi-o' cards which helped entertain the children during the 8 hour coach journey!! As a member of the Carnival and Recreation Ground Committee can I thank the other members of these committee's who have ensured that the Carnival and the Bonfire night took place. (Especially the two Bobs, Tom and Hattie for the fireworks display). Both events are great for the children of the village and it would be a sad loss if these events did not take place. Thanks also to Chris, Ian, Sandra, Lindsey, Carol, Alan, Richard and everyone involved. I would also like to make a plea for more help with the 2005 Carnival. It's a great way to get involved in the village community. As Bruce would say 'Come on down'. JPEG must also be thanked for allowing my wife onto the committee as I'm sure this will help her get to know people and overcome her shyness!! Finally a "Thank you" to all the Post team for such a great publication - keep up the good work. Contact Martin Bassett 412997

The Ancient & Modern

(The words of the Ancient, John, the lapsed worshipper, are in light type and the Modern, The Vicar, in bold).

Why John I haven't seen your face in church for weeks, I know.

No Sir, it's such a queerish place, when it's restored I'll go.

When it's restored? Why John you've seen the chancel that's just built, With painted windows, carved oak screen, and reredos of gilt, With decorations it abounds, there's a new altar too; The organ cost three hundred pounds, it's all restored quite new.

Yes, like old Ned the other day, what's had a stroke, I mean; He's quite restored to health, they say, but lo! his mind's gone clean. Dark windows may be beautiful for them as likes the look, But I, with old eyes getting dull want light to read my book.

When I was young, you'd think it odd, the roses climbed in there, They always made me think of God, and all his tender care. But now, if I look up, I greet them figures done in paints. I'd go a long way not to meet saints, if such folks be saints.

Ah John, they didn't teach high art when you were put to school, But how do you like the singing part, come, that's a better rule?

Why Sir they're thinking far too much how tunes go nowadays, Give me the Hundredth Psalm and such, that's more what I call praise. We used to sing it, such a crowd, maybe the notes were'nt true, Maybe we sang a bit too loud because our hearts sang too;

But now my grandson, pert young lad, he says he's got much higher, Says he; you're not to sing grandad, you'll interrupt the choir. You thinks a deal about that thing, the choir, I says to him, But I can't see why you just can't sing without your bed-gown, Jim.

New chancel's mighty fine but ne'er can we make out; who knows What's done with the Commandments there, Sir, what have you done with those? You're all for pretty tiles and bricks, for carving, gilt, and scroll. What good could them tall candlesticks do to a poor dark soul?

Sir, there are many things restored, no use to such as me; We want to hear about the Lord, you only talk of 'Thee'. We used to pray the prayers, and then Parson he prayed from his heart. Now you all seem to think Amen the most important part. But Sir, I scarce like telling you how it sounds when you intones

Well John what is it like, speak true.

A machine what grinds the bones!

We had a minister once, Sir, t'was long before you came. A man that was a minister, not only in the name. Your decoration, copes, and stoles, he didn't need such aids, He cared too much for our poor souls to think how's gown was made.


I've seen him pleading with us thus, the tears in his eyes as he stood. Sometimes those tears preached more to us than twenty sermons could. The rich and poor came far and near, the church would overflow, It's getting full again I hear, folks come to see 'the Show'.

Now it's most like the play, I saw, in London town one day. All very well for a play maybe, but not for prayer I say. Do you think Sir such queerish whim can please the Lord, forsooth? He said we were to worship Him in spirit and in truth.

So that's why I don't come, you know, I will when it's restored, But now, Sir, I don't dare to go, because I fear the Lord'.

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Small ad's only £1 for private sales in the Post. Send to any member of the post team. See back page for contact details.

 Packington Post

