



# 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

### Vacancy for a Clerk to Governors

Packington Primary School

•6 meetings per year

•Pre-meeting preparatory work

•Training given

For further information including terms contact

Angus Bennion

Chair of Governors  
Packington Primary School

Tel 01530 412425  
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

STOP PRESS

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

December 2004



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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.



STOP PRESS

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.

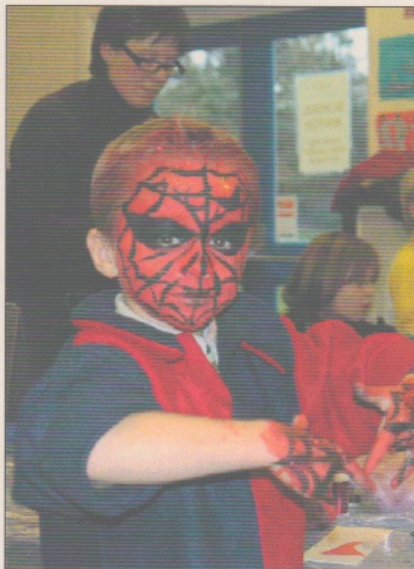
Prices were kept affordable, and for £3 budding artists could paint a mug (which was later fired) or a plant pot (which included compost and a bulb), decorate a gift bag or box, make a glittery star, or hand make some Christmas cards or all of these, if they had time!!!!.

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 Bennion, 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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53 Upper Packington Road  
07730605851 or 01530413307  
Email ids@dgsifa.com

#### STOP PRESS

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

Invites you to a  
**Christmas Choir Concert**

On December 12th at 6.00pm  
Led by

**The Ringwood Singers**

Come along and enjoy the evening

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Opening Hours: Monday to Friday: 11am to 2.30pm – 5:30 to 11pm

Saturday and Bank Holidays: 11am to 11pm Sunday 12 noon to 10:30pm

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'.

STOP PRESS

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

## 9th Humanitarian trip for Packington resident



Bob Miller has returned from yet another journey to Transnistria-Moldova as part of a CWUHA (Communication Workers Union Humanitarian Aid) convoy bearing medical supplies and other much needed materials to hospitals and children's homes in the beleaguered country.

Bob thinks it was either his eighth or ninth trip – he's rather lost count. As usual there were long waits at the various borders, and not inconsiderable payments to be handed over. Ten lorries and 20 drivers were involved, and the vehicles were packed to capacity. A top-of-the-range scanner was just one of the things which brought exclamations of joy from hospital staff.

Over the years that the CWUHA has been making these humanitarian aid trips, hundreds of teddies knitted by a stalwart group of ladies from Packington and other Leicestershire villages have been a feature. On this occasion, says Bob, about 300 were distributed to children en route and in the hospitals and homes visited. They are received with enormous gratitude, for these children have little or nothing in the way of possessions.

In an account of the journey on the CWUHA website ([www.cwuha.org](http://www.cwuha.org)) two other members of the crew, Neil Cocks and John Hunt, write movingly of a visit to a psycho neurological centre catering for mentally and physically handicapped children abandoned by their parents.

They write

"We were shown around, to find Downs syndrome and cerebral palsy children all in bed – and this was 1.30 in the afternoon. It appeared to us that these children were confined to their beds... as we walked in the rooms they just held their arms out, desperate for attention. We handed out sweets, which were devoured like the starving, and inter-acted with them as much as we could. We witnessed three 15-year-old

boys padlocked in a cell because they were apparently a danger to the others. Our eyes were red with tears – we left this hell-hole in total and utter silent disbelief".

Undaunted by all he has experienced, Bob hopes to go again next year. He hasn't heard yet what the "wish list" is, but will let everyone know in due course. He is high in his praise for the help received from Packington people, and others in the county, and says he couldn't manage any of it without the time his wife Ginny puts in on the admin side.

## Packington WI has a new president



Margaret Stalker, who was unanimously elected at the recent AGM, after Brenda Moorhouse, who has held the office for the past two years, announced that she was standing down.

Margaret, who lives in Ashby, and has already notched up seven years as treasurer, thanked members for their confidence and said she was looking forward to the challenge.

Brenda, who had held the post of secretary for several years prior to becoming president, thanked everyone for the support and encouragement she had received, from members and the committee alike. She paid special tribute to Margaret, who had done "a brilliant job" as treasurer, and to Jeanette Pendery, who was standing down as secretary.

Vice-President Ann Roberts, presenting Brenda with a Peace Lily on behalf of members commented on the efficiency with which she had run things and said she would be much missed.

Sandra Hawley reported that a Packington resolution concerning women's pension rights and equal opportunities was one of those chosen to be discussed and voted upon at the Which Resolution? meeting to be held at St Peter's Church Hall, Glenfield, on Monday January 10th, 2005.

Jane Elson, a WI adviser, recommended to members a two-day "Speaking With Confidence" course being held at WI House on Saturday January 15th and Saturday January 29th, aimed at those who find speaking in front of a group of people very difficult. Cost of the course is £38 and application forms are available from the secretary.

The new committee comprises:-  
 President Margaret Stalker  
 Vice-president Ann Roberts  
 Secretary Sandra Hawley  
 Treasurer Beryl Latham

Committee members  
 Sue Talbot, Beryl Stokes, Anne Cartledge, Carol Melville, Liz Deakin and Margaret Lawrence.

A quiz presented by Jane Elson was won by Brenda Moorhouse, and the raffle by Ann Roberts.

Contact Betty Carter 414376

## Cajun Dinner Dance

85 people jammed into the Memorial Hall for a memorable night of Louisiana 'swamp rock' and french inspired dance music, performed by the talented Port Vale 5 piece band 'Elvis Fontenot & The Sugar Bees.' The group are acknowledged as one of the finest Cajun outfits in the UK, and they have appeared in the U.S.A. at a number of Mississippi delta music festivals — including the New Orleans Blues & Jazz Festival. Our dance raised a mighty £450 for Ravenstone F.C. the second half manager Craig Aldridge played well as a substitute on washboard.



STOP PRESS

Send us your favourite recipe for our regular "Packington Recipe Feature".



Packington Post

## Packington WI October

Packington WI members thoroughly enjoyed their October meeting, when Richard Westcott, a Pantomime Dame of several years' standing, gave a talk about his career and demonstrated just how an ordinary man like himself is transformed by makeup and costume into one of those rumbustious creatures who dominate the stage in theatres all over the country at Christmas time.

Making up his face, with pan stick foundation, rouge, lipstick, glittery eye shadow and mascara took him about 10 minutes. Then came the clothes, shrieking with colour; definitely over-the-top, complemented by a variety of accessories. The blonde wig provided the piece de resistance.

Richard's jokes came thick and fast, and it was like being a child again, joining in the songs, shouting "It's Behind You!" and other well known pantomime epithets. The time flew by and everyone was sorry when the one-man show came to an end.

Richard is appearing in pantomime in York this Christmas, and said the public needs to support panto if it is to survive.

He judged the competition for a clown's hat which had to be worn and decided that Doreen Peters' was best, with Peggy Pass second place and Alex Arblaster third. The raffle was won by Joyce Grimley.

The schedule for the Spring Show, to be held on 7th April 2005 was announced.

Classes in the home craft section are for a cherry cake (round), three cheese scones (any shape) and a jar of marmalade.

The plants class will include a foliage house plant, three sprays of spring blossom (tied, not in a vase), and three spring bulbs in a container, in compost. For the handicraft class competitors should submit a birthday card, an item of knitting or an item incorporating the flag of St George (any medium).

The photograph class requires an unmounted photo of an animal or animals, 6ins x 4ins.

Contact Betty Carter 414376



## Packington Recipe No3



### Lamb in Mushroom Sauce

A quick and easy supper dish is what is needed after a hard day's Christmas shopping. This one, taken from the WI Best Kept

Secrets series (Home Cooking by Jill Brand and Carrie O'Regan) fits the bill. To feed four you need:-

- 40g (1 1/2oz) butter
- 8 best end of neck lamb chops, trimmed
- 225g (8oz) button mushrooms
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 300ml (half a pint) lamb stock
- 4 tablespoons redcurrant jelly
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
- Pinch of nutmeg
- Salt and freshly ground pepper.

In a frying pan melt the butter and quickly brown the chops on both sides. Place in a deep casserole dish with the mushrooms. Stir the flour into the remaining fat in the frying pan, blend in the stock and add the redcurrant jelly, Worcestershire sauce lemon juice and nutmeg. Season and heat until boiling. Pour the sauce over the lamb, cover and cook at gas mark 3/170C or fan oven 150C for one and quarter to one and a half hours, or until the chops are tender. Serve with brown rice and stir-fried courgettes and peppers.

Contact Betty Carter 414376

**Below** John Timms from the Horticultural Society presents a donation to Sherry Gormley of Ashby Hospital Palliative Care at the recent presentation evening.



## DIARY DATES:

**Saturday December 11th 2pm**  
Ravenstone F.C. v. Leics Constabulary.

**Sunday December 12th**  
10.45 am Holy Rood Toy Service and special invitation to Baptism families from past years, followed by fruit cake and punch

6.00pm Carol Service at Methodist Chapel with the Ringwood Singers.

**Wednesday December 15th**  
12.30pm Singles Christmas Lunch at Bull and Lion

**Saturday December 18th**  
11.45 am Grease Trip Departs

**Sunday December 19th**  
6.30 pm Holy Rood Carol Service

**Tuesday December 21st**  
7.30pm Packington Christmas Concert at Memorial Hall

**Wednesday December 22nd**  
6.00pm Packington Kids Christmas Party JPEG event at Memorial Hall

**Friday December 24th**  
11.30 pm Holy Rood Midnight Communion

**Saturday December 25th**  
9.30 am Joint Christmas Service at Normanton Church

**Sunday December 26th**  
10.45 am Holy Rood Holy Communion (Joint with Normanton)  
12.00 noon Boxing Day Celebrations with Packington Morris Men at Bull and Lion.

**Friday December 31st**  
7.30pm JPEG Families New Years Eve Party at Memorial Hall  
7.30pm New Years eve Party at Bull and Lion

**Tuesday January 18th**  
7.30pm Carnival Planning Meeting at Memorial Hall

### ADVANCE NOTICE

**Saturday June 11th**  
7.00pm Packington Post Summer Hog Roast and Barn Dance. Full details on this fund raising event in the next issue. Also on Sunday June 12th the PEG annual village treasure hunt for all the family.

Sunday Club every Sunday at 10.40am during term time at the back of Church.

STOP PRESS

All age worship at Holy Rood 2nd Sunday every month at 10.45am.  
Coffee served afterwards

## Packington Parish Council News

The last meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 23rd November 2004 in the Village School.

The Council has co-opted a new member to fill the recently advertised vacancy. We would like to extend a warm welcome to Mike Smith of Hall Lane, who has lived in the village for the past 16 months.

The Parish council now has its own Web Site, by courtesy of Leicester Rural partnership and it can be found at "www.Packingtonpc.org.uk" At present the site is still under construction. It is envisaged that all Council information will be posted on the web site and this will in addition to using the notice board and village magazines.

The village has a "new" Police Beat Officer; his name is John Pearson, No 1949, and he is hoping to attend the next meeting.

Members have set the date of December 1st for their "village walk" to look at street lighting, and will discuss their findings at the next Council meeting.

A new "Reuse and Recycling Directory" has been printed by Leicestershire County Council and copies are available by contacting Recycling Hot Line on 0116 265 7339. It hoped that there will also be copies available within the village and I will keep you updated as to where they can be found.

Finally, the Council have decided to apply to be a "Quality Status Council" in the New Year to try to promote the village and give the best level of service to the community.

On the planning front, UK Coal Mining have lodged an appeal against the refusal of planning permission on the "Longmoor Site". The outcome will be determined by a Public Inquiry, the date of which is still to be determined.

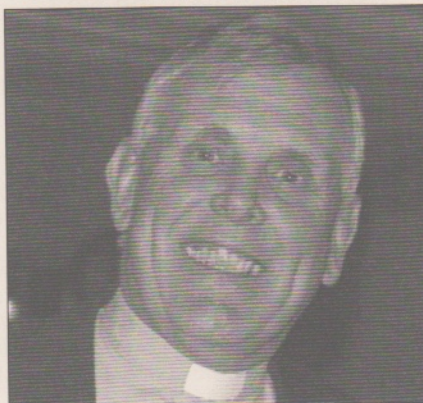
The Council meet again on Tuesday 7th December at 7.15pm for Planning and 7.30pm for Full Council in the Memorial Hall. All members of the public are most welcome to attend all meetings of the Council and view any planning application that have been received.

The Agenda with dates and times for all Council meetings are posted on the village notice board.

If anyone would like more information regarding any Parish Council matter, please contact any member of the Council or me

Rosie McConachie 01332- 810059  
rosiemcconachie@btinternet.com

## David's Deliberations



Christmas comes but once a year... but it seems only a short while since the last Christmas and here we are again on the hectic helter-skelter run up to the Christmas season. Each year we put ourselves through the same old merry go round of buying stuff for family and friends who are doing the same for you and it does seem that all that Christmas is, is spend, spend, spend.

Now I'm beginning to sound like Victor Meldrew or at least a grumpy old man! I love the Christmas season and the rounds of mince pies and family visits and the good cheer that the season brings, are all part of this glorious time of year. The commercialism of Christmas becomes ever increasingly hard to bear and one of my pet dislikes is when the word 'Christmas' is shortened to 'Xmas'. Sometimes you even get people pronouncing the word with an 'X' and I think that that is worse. The reason we have a Christmas season is the birth of 'The Christ', and all too easily the commercial side of the event obliterates that part of Christmas. I'm not suggesting that we do away with the giving and receiving, I enjoy my presents too on Christmas day, but we need to keep things in perspective don't we?

There were some posters around some years ago promoted by the movement to put Christ back into the Christmas season, and it was suggested that 'Jesus is the reason for the season'. It is a fact I suppose that without Christ coming into the world we would not be having a Christmas at all. I do sound like a killjoy, I'm not really, it's just the true meaning may be forgotten in the pressure of the commercial side of Christmas.

The story of the Bible is that God wants a relationship with humankind and the fact is humankind struggled with holding to its side of the bargain. The only way it seems that God could make this relationship work was by sending his Son to live among the peoples of the

world. And so the first Christmas occurred, whether it was December the 25th might be debated, but like the Queen has an official birthday and a real birthday, so too Jesus has this official recognition that we celebrate on December 25th. God placed Jesus here so that He might experience all our life experiences. Thirty-three years after, Jesus died that that relationship may be secured with God. So, Christmas is a celebration of the beginning of the salvation of the human race. Now God's love comes towards us at Christmas and it is there, whether we recognise it or not, but God's entire will is directed towards us, to receive that love. We can choose to accept or reject it. This all sounds a bit of a heavy theological discourse for a celebration like Christmas, but the point of it all is that God loves you. It doesn't take much to spend some time in celebration of the Christ child and to worship Him as we remember His coming into the world, there will be plenty of opportunity in all sorts of Churches to do just that. Go on I dare you, spend some time this Christmas away from the hustle and bustle and take time out and worship the Saviour of the world, what have you to lose? You know it makes sense!  
Your friend, David 274988

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Carol Service 6pm Sunday 12th December at Methodist Chapel with  
the Ringwood Singers



Packington Post



**Bonfire Party**



The Recreation Ground Working Party wish to thank all those who supported this annual event. We wish to thank Bob Johnson, Bob and Tom Plant who so coolly set off the fireworks and gave us all a lesson in setting the bonfire alight.

The Packington Bonfire has lived on and I am reliably told that it has been held continuously on the recreation field ever since the ground was levelled and made up during the building of the A42. Before that there was a small bonfire held for many years in the field which is now occupied by the new vicarage. Nearly £300 pounds of display fireworks were used and in the interval between their display, an organised sparkler session for the youngsters was supervised by parents and stewards. The event had to be insured at an extra cost of £168 and a risk assessment was a prerequisite to the event taking place. Add to that the cost of the hire of a generator and you can see the outlay is about £500. The committee are pleased to report that due to the fantastic attendance of 300 plus, your generous donations and the success of the hot-dog and soup stall, a pleasing profit of over £450 was made for the Recreation Ground Charity.

Finally, I would like to thank on the villagers' behalf, the hard work of Sharon and Richard Gregory and Carole Mattley, who manned the food stall all evening. To all the Stewards and members of the Recreation Ground Working Party who helped in many ways to make this potentially dangerous evening into one which was safe, secure and entertaining. And once again to those who came along and supported the event.

We hope to take charge of next year's event and will build on our experiences of organising our first bonfire and make it bigger and better. See you next year.

Chris Miles 414378

**The Fireworks Team**



Above the fireworks team (Left to Right) Bob Johnson, Bob Plant, Tom Plant and Hattie Barker.

**AN INVITATION IS EXTENDED TO EVERYONE**

To join with us for our *Annual Toy Service*

On 10.45am Sunday 12th December

at Holy Rood Church

Especially to all those families who have had a child baptised since the year 2000

All children (and adults!!) are invited to come dressed for the occasion as an angel or shepherd.

The Sunday Club will be leading our worship on this occasion.

We hope you will be able to donate a toy to "Needy Children in Leicestershire" Christmas cake and punch or juice will be served at the end of the service

**Below** Shiela Walters receives a cheque for Holy Rood Church from John Timms (Horticultural Society)



**Advance Notice**  
**Packington Carnival 2005**  
 Memorial Hall  
 18th January  
 Tuesday 7-30pm  
 A planning meeting for all those who got involved in the Floats last year and to form an Organising Group for this successful annual event. Please book this date on your new calendars. Any queries or enquiries contact Chris Miles on 414378

**Harvest Supper**



The annual Holy Rood Harvest Supper was held on Saturday 2nd October at the Memorial Hall. Over 70 people enjoyed a fabulous supper organised by Doreen and Geoff Gasson....!!!. Featuring home grown vegetables. Following the meal everyone was admirably entertained by the Stanley Singers from Hinckley who sang well known songs from various shows inviting those that could remember the words to join in with varying degrees of success!!!

**CAROL SERVICE**  
 Please join with us as we celebrate  
**"The Birth of the Christ Child"**  
 with Readings and Carols  
 6.30pm Sunday 19th December  
 Holy Rood Church

**STOP PRESS**  
 Packington Morris Men at the Bull and Lion on Boxing Day at 12 noon. Walk of the turkey and join us for a festive drink.

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**Ray's Bench**



On the morning of Saturday the 16th of October, Recreation Working Party members installed the bench donated to the Packington Recreation Field Charity in memory of Ray Connolly. The bench had arrived in July and it was hoped that a summers evening or a warm Saturday morning could be arranged for the installation. Unfortunately Eve, Ray's partner, had broken her ankle and it proved troublesome to mend and was in plaster for about twelve weeks. Plans were therefore put on hold until Eve was fit enough to attend. On the day, Eve, still walking with crutches, arrived with her family and grandchildren. The bench was ready for the attachment of the commemorative plate and a few words of welcome were said, by Chris Miles, Chairman of the Trustees for the recreation ground. Eve thanked everyone for their support and apologised for the delay in erecting the bench. She then, together with her son, placed the commemorative plaque in place. This was followed by some words in memory of Ray by Roger Muggleton which rounded the proceedings off. Readers may like to know that the remainder of monies, in lieu of flowers, donated to the Charity have been designated to a piece of play equipment and will be installed along with other facilities in the new year.



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Thank you for your  
support during  
2004

**Packington Christmas Concert**  
**Tuesday 21st December**  
**7-30pm**

Last year we organised a Brass band event. This year we have a variety of acts and it should prove very entertaining. We have lined up over thirteen different individuals and groups. We have secured entertainment from people who live in the village and from people who live in the district. We have also invited performers who have moved on from Packington, some as far as Bristol. We have also asked Packington School to support this event and send some of their talented performers to entertain. As you can see the line up of acts is still being resolved but we can assure you, you will have an enjoyable and entertaining couple of hours at the Memorial Hall on the 21st of December. Tickets are £5.00 for Adults and £2.00 for children. This will include mince pies and a drink of mulled wine for adults and a soft cocktail for youngsters. I hope you agree that this is a real bargain for an evening of fun. We hope that we can fill the Memorial hall and are looking for at least a capacity audience of 120. So get your tickets early! We are relying on the support of Packington. All proceeds are being added to the fund which will refurbish the existing Memorial Hall. Tickets are now on sale from the organisers and can be obtained from Chris Miles, 14 Babelake St. 414378; Kay Carter, 14 High St. 560878; or Nick and Joy Gravestock 29 High St. 416710

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Packington JPEG Kids Party 22nd December 6.00pm  
 At Memorial Hall. All welcome.

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**2005 Calendar**

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All proceeds to support  
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 remains free to all residents.

**Please support us.**



**January**  
**2005**

NEW YEAR'S EVE  
 Bull and Lion

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



Packington Post



Packington Post

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Do you have any village recollections or anecdotes? If so we would like to hear from you.  
 Please contact Betty 414376.

### Congratulations to Claire and Mike



Mike and Claire, who moved into Hall Lane 16 months ago, got married on October 23rd. The wedding ceremony took place at Shugborough Hall near Stafford. Claire had 3 bridesmaids ~ her sister Jane, and 2 friends Sarah and Fiona. Mike's sister, Carol was best woman. Claire and Mike met through joint friends 5 years ago and were engaged in Germany in March 2003. Mike, who is a computer consultant and Claire, who is a teacher, are probably best known in the village because of their ongoing building work! It will be finished one day ... just not sure which day!!! They honeymooned in Scotland but are heading to Australia next year for a second honeymoon.

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Dear Editor,

You may have heard about the success of the JPEG Craft Day!  
It was only possible by the assistance of some new volunteers. Firstly Sharon Gregory, for her immense support. She is a demon at making hand made cards! Secondly to my friend Tina Tyers for rolling up her sleeves and helping wrap nearly 100 pots. Finally Anna Lisa. She is a JPEG member but her able skills on tea, hotdogs and other refreshments kept the rest of us happy! The children enjoyed the day. Roll on the next one!  
Regards Rachael McKindley

Dear Editor,

JPEG were recently the grateful recipients of a £100 donation from the Horticultural Society. This will help us in our plans to develop a village allotment. We are waiting to hear from the Parish Council whether they can help us locate additional land to meet the demand following the successful trial on a plot kindly made available by Bill Wathes. Thank you Horticultural Society for a great Annual Show, which the children really enjoyed, and for your ongoing support.

Best Regards

Junior Packington Entertainments Group

Dear Editor,

On behalf of everyone on the Packington Post team may I thank the Horticultural Society for their generous donation of £100 to help towards the future funding of the Post. As everyone is aware from the last edition, we are now an independent voluntary group and dependent on donations and fundraising efforts to enable the six editions to be distributed **free of charge to EVERY** household each year.

It was brilliant that the Horticultural Society felt that our efforts are worth supporting with this donation coming hard on the heels of support from the Parish Council and PEG. As you read this edition, we hope that you all will support our first fundraising venture and order a 2005 Packington Post desktop calendar now available with views of the village and village events at a modest £3 with all profits going to the Post. Please see article on the front page for details on how you can obtain a copy.

Steve Plummer

### Tell us YOUR views and wants

By mail box in the leaflet racks in Daybreak Services (village shop) or the Bull and Lion.  
By post or email to The Editor at 29 Babelake Street, Packington, LE65 1WD

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Next Issue  
4th February  
Copy Date  
21st January

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JPEG GREASE TRIP PLEASE PARK AT RECREATION GROUND  
COACHES DEPART FROM MILL STREET (BY SCHOOL) AT 11.45 AM

December 2004



Packington Post