



Packington Post

news from around the village

MERRY CHRISTMAS
to all our
readers

December 2006

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Packington Playground Opening

What a lovely day Saturday 14th October was. The weather was mild and sunny and the opening of the new play-area went with a bang! The working party wish to thank everyone who turned up to this historic event.

It was estimated that there was well over three hundred people attending and there was a tremendous rush of children when Packington School students Joe Smith and friends assisted by MP, David Taylor, cut the ribbon. The anticipation of the opening was electric and, as the tape was cut, and rockets were fired, the Canon's and bells from Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture almost drowned out the whoops of delight from the youngsters.

The plan now is to complete the play-area by adding an adventure trail, dog grids and a seating area. This will obviously need funds and the SMARTIE TUBES given away on the day should make a very good start.

Could we therefore remind anyone who has not returned their tube of 20p's to hand them in to Packington Junior School Office or Playgroup leader at the Memorial Hall or Chris Miles at 14 Babelake St., Packington, 414378.

We will give you an update on the progress of this fund-raiser in the next issue. We hope all tubes could be in by the end of December.

Finally I would like to say a public thank you to the working party members who helped create the first ever public play-area in Packington.

Well done everyone. Contact Chris Miles [Chairman] Tel 414378

Get Well Soon Richard

The members of the Packington Post team wish Richard Gregory a speedy recovery from his recent operation. We look forward to seeing you back with us soon.



Packington Post

New Play Facilities opened by local MP

I was delighted to help with the official opening of Packington's new playground in October. This is a really excellent facility which I'm sure will be appreciated by both children and parents for many years to come. Congratulations to the Recreation Ground Committee and everyone involved in the fund raising. It's been a long haul but thanks to your hard work and commitment, you got there in the end – well done!

Don't forget that whether you voted for me or not, I'm here to represent you and the best interests of our local area to the best of my ability. Both here in the constituency and at Westminster, I do my very best to take account of as many local issues as I can so please do let me know your views and concerns.

My Constituency Office is open from 10am to 3pm on weekdays. Please write to 17 Hotel Street, Coalville, Leics LE67 3EQ, Tel 01530 814372 (24 hr ans ph) E-mail taylorld@parliament.uk With best wishes to all for a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Your Labour and Co-operative
Member of Parliament



Packington Post

“TOP” News from Packington School

It's been a very successful term at Packington and certainly a very active one. First we were delighted to be awarded the Basic Skills Quality Mark and receive a certificate and plaque to display in the school and a logo to put on our letterhead.

The mark is granted to schools that show they have strategies in place to improve the basic skills of pupils. The school has also been presented with a plaque from Derby University for the excellent work we do in mentoring and supporting student teachers. Finally, we were also very proud to hear that we have been placed in the top 50 of all state small schools in the country, according to the Sunday Times who compiled the list based on the percentage of level 4's attained over the last 3 years.

Creative Days



The pupils have also been involved in a range of successful visits and enrichment activities. We have introduced a half term activity called “Creative Time” where the children have the opportunity to work in small mixed age groups with staff on a host of interesting creative activities. Our first Creative Time took the theme of Festivals and a delightful morning took place with children having a go at making divas for Diwali, rangoli patterns, harvest breads, rag rugging, salt dough ornaments, gingerbread biscuits, a festive banner, pompom spiders, aboriginal art and a harvest dance.

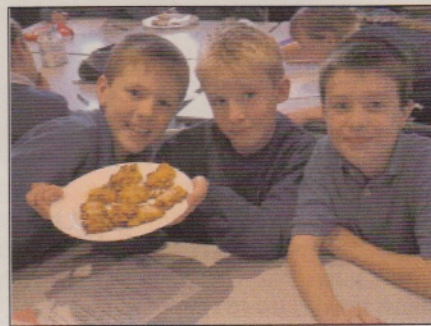
The atmosphere in school was superb and there were lots of positive comments from pupils and staff. We are now looking forward to our next Creative Time on the theme of Christmas.

Avoncroft Visit



Our Foundation and Key Stage 1 pupils have also visited Avoncroft as part of a project on Houses and Homes and then went on to host their own Ideal Homes Exhibition, which was well attended by parents

Design Technology



The Life Education Bus has again visited the school and all children took part in a Science workshop. We were also lucky in our bid to get a free Science Workshop for all our KS1 pupils organised by the Set Point Team. Our year 3/ 4 children enjoyed a visit to the Roman Fort at Lunt and the Year 5/ 6 children have had a delicious time working on a Design Technology project designing and making their own biscuits. We also had a visit from Melvyn Rawlinson and the KS2 pupils really enjoyed his mask making workshops and we now have a marvellous display of Roman helmets and Greek masks.

Circus Skills



So, all in all, learning has been very exciting at the school and it doesn't finish there as we have just held a Circus Skills Workshop for all the children culminating in all the children performing their new skills in front of the school. It was lovely to see all the confidence of our young people and so many smiles.

Bible Society

On a different note, the children were also smiling following a visit by representatives of the Children's Bible Society who presented every child in school with their own bible. The bibles are to be used in school but will be kept by the children when they leave. It has been uplifting to see the children engrossed in their bibles and we hope to find sponsorship to continue with the scheme for our new intake.

Sport

Our successes also continue in sport. Currently our Year 4/5 remain unbeaten in football, our Year 5/6 pupils have won a game, drawn a game and lost a game and our Tag Rugby players came equal third in a recent Ashby Family of Schools Competition. We now look forward to Christmas and will again be performing a Pantomime and Nativity. Sadly, we also say goodbye to Mrs Swindells who will retire from the school after 16 years of dedicated teaching at the school. She is a much loved and respected teacher and will be missed by everyone but we really wish her well in her retirement.

Village Photographs

Let us know when you are having events and we will try to get a long to take some photographs.

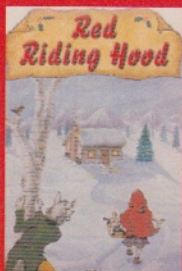
Contact Carol Price, Head Teacher 412425



Craft Day
 (See above)
 What a brilliant day for the children. It really was great to look out across the crowded Memorial Hall and see so many children engaged in a meaningful activity! Prices were kept to an affordable level but as JPEG had baked the cakes, sourced supplies direct from the manufacturers, provided refreshments and raffled a deluxe hamper nearly £700 was raised to support other events. A big thanks to the organising team Alison Ewing, Jackie Rushton, Mandy Lines & Rachel Mckindley as well as the other 20 JPEG parent helpers. Finally a special thank you to Sharon Gregory and Claire Smith for running the cards & jewellery.

Halloween (See above) The first JPEG Halloween party was a great success. Children enjoyed a scary ghost walk, traditional Halloween games, and slurped hot soup to keep warm. A huge thanks to Helena and Vince O'Regan for organising & hosting the party, not a decision to be taken lightly, as over 80 children attended! Also thanks to Janice Pearson for taking charge of the games.

Packington Pantomime
 Thursday 21st December
 Refreshments from 6.15pm



Sold Out

To be added to the reserve list
Contact Anna 412997
 A BIG THANKS to
Packington Horticultural Society
 for the £300 support for this event.

Packington New Years Eve
 Sunday 31st December
 Refreshments from 6.15pm
 Tickets on sale NOW
 Everyone Welcome



Chinese Theme
 Fancy dress (optional)
 Food, fun and games for ALL

Adults £10 Children Free
 Tickets from Anna 412997

Derbyshire Dales Weekend

In October nearly 100 parents and children spent an enjoyable weekend at a 4 star Youth Hostel (Hartington Hall). The accommodation and food were fantastic and visits included the Blue John Mines & Carsington Water. Thanks to Alison Ewing for organising it (the best yet) & look out for details of next years trip - Book Early.

JPEG or Junior Packington Entertainments Group simply aims to get families in and around Packington together by organising family events. Please join in.
Contact Rachael McKindley
 (JPEG Secretary) 560764

Ladies Group



The photographs show some of the flowers arranged on the evening, and a selection of sweets, chocolates, biscuits and desserts available for sampling!!

About 40 ladies attended a very good demonstration of flower arrangements for Christmas by Sue Paton who is a very talented lady and also an entertaining speaker.

Margaret, Jeanella and especially Doreen provided a mouth watering sample of cooking for Christmas and we were all able to have tastes and pick up recipes.

A representative from Rainbows Children's Hospice was there to collect a cheque for £135 which we had raised over the year and on the evening.

Contact Doreen Gasson 412012

Bonfire Night



Packington's Bonfire Night Party was held on Saturday 4th November at 7pm and was organised by the Recreation Ground Working Party. The aim of the event is to have a safe evening of entertainment and not to lose out financially due to the high costs of fireworks and insurance. This year saw a calm, clear evening and an estimated 500 people attending.

The Bonfire, once again ably lit by Bob and Tom Plant, was soon burning well and the new policy of only having wood which easily burnt really paid off. It was the best flaming bonfire Packington has ever had.

Particular thanks should be given to Stuart of Nethercroft Drive who had arranged a new fence for his property so that we could burn the old one and to Kevin from the Grange who arranged for some wooden pallets from his company Bott Ltd.

With an excellent display of fireworks from a tight budget, hot dogs, hot soup hot punch, glow sticks and free sparklers, an entertaining evening was had by all.

Once again the Recreation Working Party Members worked hard throughout the day and a big thank-you goes to them and other villagers who were called on to do extra marshalling duties.

Well done everybody!

Oh I nearly forgot.

The Recreation Ground Charity made a profit on the night of over £600 and as many of you signed Gift Aid forms a further £250 is expected to be added to this total. Thank you everyone. This will also be put towards the 2nd phase of the play-area project.

If anyone would like to become a member of the working party **Contact Chris Miles 414378, or Carole Mattley 412484**



Leicestershire
Constabulary

Packington Police News
Keep Crime out of
Your Christmas

Christmas is fast approaching, with shops geared up for Christmas sales. The shops are ready and no doubt the thieves and robbers in our community are also ready for what they hope will be a seasonal bonanza. Please follow the following brief tips to ensure that they do not spoil your festive season.

1. When you are out shopping **always keep your purse or wallet in a safe place** and, lady readers, if possible please wear your handbag around your neck with the clasp against your front and keep your hand on the top. There will undoubtedly be pickpockets at work in the Christmas shopping crowds.

Don't make it easy for them by having a wallet in a back pocket or a purse on top of a shopping basket.

2. When you have bought presents **do not stack them in front of the tree** for days or weeks ahead of Christmas. They will simply attract a passing thief to consider it worthwhile to break into your house. Keep presents stored safely away from view until Christmas comes.

3. When your car is parked, **do not leave any possessions or purchases on view** on the back seat. All items that have to be left in the car should be locked away out of sight in the boot. If you have a Christmas drink out, then **please don't drive**, for your own safety and for the safety of others.

To contact a member of your beat team call 0116 22222.
PC John Pearson 1949
PCSO Aaron Bell 6629
Community Initiatives
Co-ordinator- Geoffrey Parkinson

PIGS



The clocks have changed and we now succumb to that time of year otherwise known as winter.

This is the time when a golfer's thoughts turn to winter greens and tee boxes. There is a small upside, theoretically, that no matter how well you play; your handicap is unaffected until the next season.

A small band of 12 PIGS golfers ventured out to the depths of Shropshire to enjoy a couple of day's golf at the Hill Valley course, close to Whitchurch. The weather was not particularly kind, although it didn't rain, so I cannot even offer that as my excuse for an appalling score on the first day. Honour was significantly restored the next day, but as is the norm in such matters, I have no idea what I did differently!

As you can see from the photo, the course is in superb grounds with the accommodation overlooking the signature 18th hole which is surrounded by water and sand. Honours for the weekend were taken by Steve Sherar with a combined score of 60 points over the 2 rounds. On Monday a team event was held and the team comprising Keith Percival, Richard Chamberlain, Bob Cornell and Martin Ackland won.

Our next event is the Members' Evening at the Royal Hotel where we will be making donations to LOROS and Ashby Lions. We have had more success in competitions at Breedon and Dave Goacher was the overall winner of the Monthly Medal for August.

We hope that the future continues to be equally successful.

Contact Ian Peterson 07971 614041

Packington Cricket Club



Winter Report

Well, it's the close season now and time for the weary

cricketers to rest their aching limbs and try to find a way to fill their Saturday afternoons!

There has been plenty going on though since September. On 14th October some 27 teams took part in the 6th Annual Cricket Club Quiz night (Sorry Jackie R, we just couldn't squeeze you in!). It was a closely fought contest all the way through with in the end just 15 points separating the top 10 teams. The "Taffia" emerged victorious, with "4 Play" in 2nd and "The Baker's 4" in 3rd.

Many thanks to all those who took part and made it such an enjoyable evening and helped raise well over £500 for the Club funds. Look out for adverts for next years Quiz & book early to guarantee your place!!

On 7th November at the Memorial Hall the Cricket Club AGM took place and the following were elected Officers of the Club

Chair: Stuart Clark
 Vice-Chair: Dave Grice
 Secretary: Giles Bee
 Treasurer (Interim): Roger Muggleton
 Captain: Gary Downing
 Vice Captain: Andy Whittingham
 On 17th Nov the Club's annual dinner & presentation night took place at The Royal Hotel Ashby, The following awards were made:

Batting: Graeme Edwards
 Bowling: Giles Bee & Andy Whittingham (Joint)

Fielding: Jonathan Jones
 Player of year: Andy Whittingham
 Most Improved: Dave Pope
 Thanks were given to our Scorer, Dot Heath, and our umpires, Roger Muggleton and Roy Sansom, and our tea preparation team of Liz Pope! For info for any budding Freddie's or Montys out there, our winter nets begin at Ashby Grammar School Sports Hall on Monday 8th January 2007. It would be great to see some new players at the club so come along and see how you get on!

Contact Giles Bee on 224657 or 0775 3359616



Packington Cricket Club

*'Join the game
Join a club'*

Packington Cricket Club was founded pre 1861 and currently has 3 active teams. A senior first XI who play in the Burton & District Division 1 League and 2 junior teams, U11 and U10's who play in the Leicestershire Youth cricket league.

We are looking for new members from junior players to established First Team cricketers who would like to play some competitive yet friendly cricket.

The club is undergoing plans to grow and develop with the future in mind. For more information call Stuart.

Net practice starts in January at Ashby Grammar School.

Why not come along ?

Or more information:

Visit - packingtoncc.co.uk

Or Ring

Stuart Clark 07980 310208.



