



Packington Post

news from around the village

MERRY
CHRISTMAS
to all our
readers

December 2006

issue no 21

£1.50

Next Edition February 3rd Copy date 19th January



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.

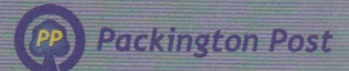
We will give you an update on the progress of this fund-raiser in the next issue. We hope all tubes could be in by the end of December.

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.



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

“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.

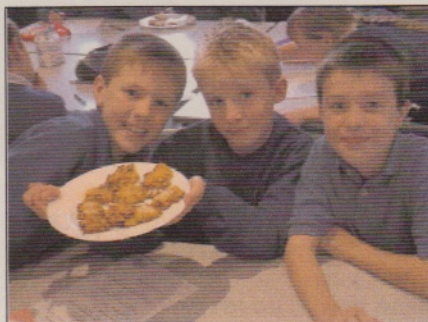
The atmosphere in school was superb and there were lots of positive comments from pupils and staff. We are now looking forward to our next Creative Time on the theme of Christmas.

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

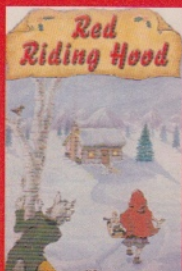


Craft Day
(See above)
What a brilliant day for the children. It really was great to look out across the crowded Memorial Hall and see so many children engaged in a meaningful activity!

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.





A Christmas Message.

'Christmas comes but once a year, and when it comes it brings good cheer.'

So the rhyme goes.

We have been seeing the shops gear up for Christmas for quite a while and we ourselves have started to look for some bits and pieces. I like to 'people watch' while we're shopping and the majority of folk look really miserable going round the shops as if there is no 'good cheer' and I wonder why this is?

A friend of mine from years ago summed up consumerism in one short phrase, 'A thing of beauty is a joy for a fortnight.' A bit cynical I suppose, but do you remember the excitement of Christmas morning when you opened your presents to find some wonderful toy for you to enjoy? How long did that excitement last? When did that joy fade?

Christmas is here and gone so soon and I wonder if you can remember what you received last Christmas or the year before or even five years ago? That favourite car gets a scratch or you lose a piece of the jigsaw or the doll gets a mark on her dress and somehow the magic is lost.

I wonder if people when they are shopping are aware that the gifts that they are buying will lose their sparkle and it matters not how wonderfully those gifts are wrapped the joy fades, and sometimes as quick as a fortnight! All this is because most of the world see Christmas as a time for giving and getting, of buying the best you can afford for people who have more than enough anyway. I'm beginning to sound like Scrooge of Dickensian fame. Don't get me wrong I enjoy Christmas gifts as much as the next person and I wouldn't want to

do away with the giving and receiving presents, but if that is all Christmas is about then no wonder people are miserable because it just doesn't last!

Surely Christmas is about Christ and God's gift to the world of Jesus. He came 2000 years ago and is still active today, now that's a gift that has lasted and I want more of that. Jesus came that we might have LIFE and have it in all abundance. We don't seem to find that abundant life in the temples to consumerism like Meadowhall and such places, but we do find it in Jesus and in His Church. Wendy and I wish you all a very happy Christmas and we hope that the gifts that you get will fill you with joy, but we pray that the gift of the Christ-child may take hold of your life and fill you with everlasting joy this Christmas.

**Happy Christmas
from David 274988**

**Why not join us at the
Methodist Chapel for our
carol service on Dec 17th at
10:30am led by myself and
also the annual covenant
service on Jan 14th at
10:30am.**

Holy Rood Church Services

Sunday 10th December
10.45am Toy Service with a play by Sunday School.
6.30pm Holy Communion led by Rev. Vivien Elphick

Sunday 17th December
6.30pm Carol Service

Sunday 24th December
11.30pm Midnight Communion to be led by Rev. Vivien Elphick.

Monday 25th December
9.30am Family Holy Communion at NORMANTON

Sunday 31st December
10.45am Holy Communion

New Vicar



Rev. Vivien Elphick was inducted as Priest in Charge of Measham, Packington

and Normanton at a licensing service held at Measham on the 23rd November. She is living at the vicarage in Measham and can be contacted on 270354 or E-mail vivien@rectorybam.wanadoo.co.uk She will be officiating at the Holy Communion service at Holy Rood on the 10th December at 6.30pm and also the Christmas Eve Service at 11.30pm on Sunday 24th December.

HOLY ROOD CHURCH
PACKINGTON
FAMILY TOY SERVICE

CHRISTMAS WRAPPED UP!
10.45AM SUN 10TH DEC
All Ages Welcome
NATIVITY featuring
"The 3 Very Wise Men"
Any children wishing to dress up as angels or shepherds can join in
MULLED WINE & MINCE PIE
Request for toys [preferably new] for distribution

Morning Praise
Holy Rood Church Packington

Sun 28th January
10.45 am

Lynn Parker
Satellite Coordinator
United Christian Broadcasters
Changing Lives for Good
Listen online at www.ucb.co.uk

Parish Council News

The village pump on Measham Road has recently been refurbished and it is now in full working order. Work is still required on the surrounding masonry which the council hopes to undertake next year.

At present the Council are looking at setting their budget for next year, which will set the Parish Council tax for the next financial year. As soon as the budget is finalised, it will be published on the Council's web page (www.packingtonpc.org.uk) and in the next edition of the Packington Post.

The traffic group working party is still in negotiation regarding a traffic calming scheme which would be acceptable to LCC Highways and next week have a meeting with the County Councillor, Nick Rushton. We are hopeful that all parishioners will soon be able to see revised plans and be able to give their views and comments prior to any work being undertaken.

Two new initiatives have been launched by the County Council:-
1. A web site for young people "www.thejitty.com." This site is run by young people, for young people and is recommended by LCC as a responsible site that may be of interest.
2. The other site is www.lsora.org which is an online research atlas with statistical data from a number of sources.

The County Council have made changes to the timing of the mobile library service in the village. It now only stops on High Street, but for an extended period. The Parish Council have asked questions about what service is to be provided for elderly and infirm residents who are now unable to use this service. Their response is still awaited.

Another facility that has just been launched on Nottingham East Midlands web site is "Web Track". This facility shows detailed routes for the flights in and around the airport up to 15000 ft. To find this site go to "www.nottinghamema.com" and

click on the "Web Track" link in the left hand corner.

Some time ago village organisations kindly donated to a fund to provide a memorial to Sue Wiggett's memory and the decision has now been taken to provide a seat in the new play area. This will be in place shortly and will have a suitably inscribed plaque. Rev. David Haywood will dedicate the seat in the New Year and we hope that members of Sue's family, together with parishioners, will be able to attend.

The Council meet every month on the second Tuesday at 8.00 pm and everyone is very welcome to attend.

If anyone would like information on Council issues please contact **Rosie McConachie at 28 The Woodcroft, Diseworth, Derby DE74 2QT – tel: 01332 810059 or email at clerk@packingtonpc.org.uk**

Advance Notice Packington Parish Council Elections 2007

Local elections will take place on 3rd May 2007
If you are interested in standing for the Parish Council, nomination forms will be available early in the New Year and can be obtained either from NWLDC, County Hall, Coalville tel. 454545 and ask for Electoral Registrar or from the Parish Clerk, Rosie McConachie 01332 810059

Will you be able to vote in next May's elections?

It is essential that your name is on the electoral register to enable you to vote. If you have not sent back the forms over the last couple of months or if you have moved into the area recently don't delay – register now. The necessary form can be downloaded from www.nwleics.gov.uk/electoral_registration or can be collected from reception at the Council Offices in Coalville

Memorial Hall News

At the most recent meeting of the Memorial Hall Management Committee it was reported that the Lottery Application for funding was almost ready and final work was being made to its Business Plan in readiness for its submission.

The Hall's redevelopment project will also need a proportion of self funding and so the Hall, which has already been very active in this regard, is setting out a programme of events for what is its Golden Jubilee year.

Dates for 2007:-

February 17th - Valentines Dance
June 16th - Carnival
July/August - Duck Race
October - Autumn Dance
December 19th - Christmas Variety Concert

Plus:-2008 Calendar entitled, 'Memorial Hall Calendar Girls'

Sponsored Parachute Jump by Sharon Gregory

Sponsored 24 hour lockup of Alan Hemsley in Packington's own jail on the corner of Ashby Road and High Street. If there are any other events, which you could arrange and organise on behalf of the Memorial Hall's anniversary, please contact a member of the committee or Chris Miles, Chairman on 414378.

Possible examples are:-

Family beetle drive; Treasure Hunt, Sponsored Footpath Walk, A Bridge evening, Bingo Night, Sports Day, etc.

Kate Mongredien has now taken control of the Booking diary for the Hall and can be contacted on 564613

Packington Christmas Variety Concert

Tuesday 19th Dec 7.15pm
Memorial Hall

This is our third year of producing a Christmas Variety Concert and the show is now firmly fixed in the events calendar which supports the Memorial Hall's redevelopment project. A good night of entertainment is assured and with mulled wine and mince pies on offer there can be no other place to be. Tickets from: Chris Miles 414378, Kate Mongredien 564613, Carol Hallam 416989 or village shops.

WI October.

A letter was read from Joy Wheeler, thanking the branch for the flowers sent to her when she was ill. Ann Roberts also expressed her thanks for the good wishes received when she, too, was unwell.

After tea and biscuits members heard an entertaining talk on Chinese Customs and Traditions from Mrs Eileen Coombs. Her description of the festivities enjoyed during the 15 days which go to make up Chinese New Year made one realise that our Christmas is tame by comparison!

The competition, for a fan, was won by Margaret Aspinall, with Carolle Melville and Sue Exton coming second and third. The raffle was won by Sheila Pawson.

Contact Betty Carter 414376

WI November

Packington WI members elected Margaret Stalker as their President for the third year running when they met for the annual general meeting on 2nd November. The committee was also re-elected, with the exception of Ann Roberts and Ruth Morris, who resigned. Two new members, Ann Keast and Carol Belsey, take their place. Anne Cartledge remains as vice-president, Sandra Hawley as secretary, and Beryl Latham as treasurer. Others on the committee are Carolle Melville, Liz Deakin, Margaret Lawrence, Lilian Goodrum, and Sue Talbot.

The President said the year had been an enjoyable and successful one, covering a wide spectrum of activities. The fashion show had raised, so far, £480, and would probably reach a £500 total when a final presentation took place later this month. The money is to be divided between Ashby Hospital and Rainbows Children's Hospice. She paid tribute to the committee, "without whom things would not have run so smoothly".

The secretary said the branch should congratulate itself on the

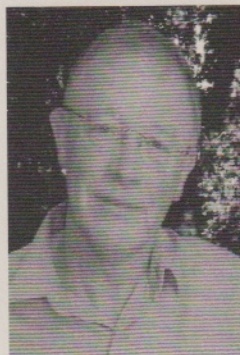
programme of activities and speakers that had been organised over the past 12 months, and thanked Margaret, on behalf of members, for all her hard work during this time.

A very satisfactory financial statement was presented by the treasurer, who said that membership was slightly down at 61, and reminded everyone that next year's subscription would be £26, to include the new magazine. Betty Voss reported on the on-going wild flower survey, which she described as "enormously important".

The raffle was won by Jeanella Sumnall, and a light hearted quiz concluded the evening.

The 7th December meeting is the occasion of the Christmas party, when entertainment will be provided by the Ashbeian Musical Theatre Group. Members were reminded to bring with them a plate, knife and glass, and a small wrapped present for a child under five, which will go to Home Start.

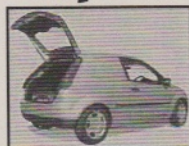
Contact Betty Carter 414376



My name is
Nigel Smith.

I am your NWL District Councillor. If you have any questions or problems and need my help please do not hesitate to contact me on 01530 835668

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Sunday Lunch

7th January

4th February

£13.00

Choice of starter, main
and sweet

Rod Stewart and Tina Turner Tribute Evening

Friday 23rd February

£25 includes 4 course meal

7.30pm

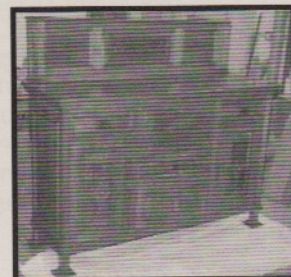
Advance notice for 2007 Ladies Group

Open Meeting next year is
November 14th
when we have

Lesley Smith
Curator of
Tutbury Castle
coming to introduce us to
'Queen Elizabeth 1'.

This promises to be a very
good evening, more
details later.

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Co-ordinators
Kate Last
of Cluney Lodge, Heather Lane.
From Heather lane to Measham Rd
Mrs CA McGuinness
of 47 High Street
From No 25 to Bull and Lion.
Bob Martin
of Ashby Road
From Round House to Beech Farm



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Suitable for all occasions, Traditional Sunday Lunch,
large party table for up to 30.
•WEDDINGS•ANNIVERSARIES•
•CHRISTENINGS•BIRTHDAY•
•PARTIES•
Outside catering for weddings (full wedding service available: marquee, disco, catering etc) or house parties.



My name is
Nicholas Rushton.

I am your Leicestershire County Councillor. If you have any questions or problems and need my help please do not hesitate to contact me.

My contact details are:
Hood House, 19 Lower Church Street,
Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire
LE65 1AB Tel: 412059
or Email: nr@dksr.com



The Bull & Lion, Packington- Tel 413882
THE INN PLACE TO BE

House Manager Joseph McLean will be welcoming you and Chef, Gina Smith, will be cooking good, traditional home-cooked food for you. Now that the Christmas Fayre Menu is active late bookings are still being taken for tables in the Dining Room. Carrying on with tradition, the Packington Morris Dancers will be here throughout on Boxing Day with a special menu to commemorate the day. New Years Eve will be for the locals, a Movie Stars Themed Party and a free buffet to celebrate. The Tuesday Night Quiz is still continuing and the recent addition to Wednesday's is the Special Night where you can get a decent main course meal for £4.75 and if that goes as well, it will be spreading to a Monday evening too.

Fully refurbished restaurant is now open.
Food is currently served on:

Wednesday's to Saturday's from 12pm - 2pm and from 6pm - 9pm and the Sunday Lunch menu is available from 12pm - 3pm. So if you care to make a reservation then contact the Bull & Lion Inn on 413822.

Packington Horticultural Society



Following the extremely successful Horticultural show in September a presentation evening was held on 17th October at the Bull & Lion. Cheques for £300 were presented to:

1. Memorial Hall Restoration Fund
2. Recreation Ground Fund
3. JPEG
4. Packington Post
5. Rainbows children's hospice

Growing Plants Over The Winter



If you have a windowsill and still want to grow plants over winter, then take a big cardboard box and cut it into a frame – like an awning with its full depth at the back and dropping back to a 4" deep tray at the front. Cover the inside back and side surfaces with kitchen tinfoil.

Set into the box your pots or seed trays of lettuce, spring onions, cherry tomatoes and annual herbs, keep moist and do not over water. Place the box on your windowsill. A south or west-facing view - is the best, but your box will maximise light from any direction. At worse, just prop a white painted board or white card behind any plants you grow on your windowsill – any time in the year. It does make a big difference.

National Vegetable Society Recipe.

Drunken Chestnuts.

Ingredients:
3lb Sweet Chestnuts
Dry Red Wine [half pint]
2oz Granulated Sugar

Preheat the oven to 180C [gas mark 5] Make a slit in the rounded side if each chestnut and arrange them in a baking tray and bake for 30 minutes. Remove from oven and allow them to cool for 5 minutes. Remove the shells and inner skin while they are still warm. Combine the wine and sugar in a saucepan over a low heat – stirring until the sugar has dissolved. Add the chestnuts and cook until the wine is reduced to a thick syrup [probably 30 minutes]. Place the mixture in a shallow dish and serve with a sweet desert wine!
Contact Paul Parry 412918

**ADVANCE NOTICE
PACKINGTON
MEMORIAL HALL
Sat 27th January**

Ashby/Pithiviers Twinning
Association present

A BURNS' NIGHT SUPPER

Celebrate the Bard
with a typical
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Secretary of the Twinning
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(Liver & Heart on request)

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Let us have your 2007 events programme for your
group, organisation or even business to promote in the
Diary Dates.

2006 CWUHA Humanitarian Aid Convoy



Mother and Baby Centre in Chernigiv, Ukraine

Our convoy started on 8th September leaving Packington with my co-driver Stuart and heading for Newcastle where we met up with the rest of the convoy on a Post Office lorry park ready to take the overnight ferry to "Ijmuiden" in Holland.

The crossing was good and we landed at 10am. After sorting ourselves out we headed for Amsterdam then on through Germany to Cottbus on the Polish border. Then, on through Poland towards "Chelm" on the Ukrainian border which was achieved in three days of hard driving and with everyone keeping together.

We were met at the Ukraine border by an interpreter who was also a staff member of "Every Child". With her help, paperwork and the lorries were checked and sealed. The next morning we set off for Kiev which was a six-hour drive. We parked our lorries in a secure compound and were taken to where we were staying for the next few days.

Next morning we went back to collect our vehicles and get clearance from local customs so that three of the lorries could continue to "Cernihiv" which is north of Kiev. After a seven-hour drive we were taken to a local hotel, basic but clean.

The following day we returned again to our lorries and waited for paper clearance and lorry checks by yet another set of Customs which took nearly all day.

Next morning we set off for our destination - the "Mother and Baby Unit" in "Cernihiv". Twelve months ago this was a run-down building but with Aid taken in April 2006 there was a great improvement in the conditions. The

people in charge and the mothers were delighted to see us arrive and were overwhelmed by the Aid we had brought.

Some of the children gathered round to see what we were doing, one or two stood back not knowing what was going on, but a few sweets and toys handed out here and there, and the children seemed happy.

We were also taken to an HIV centre situated in two rooms in a run-down building situated next to a bus park. Everyone from the area congregate at this point and so it is an ideal position to offer help as some of our specialist aid was specifically for this unit.

All too soon we were on our way home, everyone felt good at what we had yet again achieved. This had been a trouble free journey and we all arrived home tired but happy.

Of course this would not be possible without your help and we cannot find words to express what your support means, not just to us, but mainly for the children who benefit from your generosity.

yours sincerely,
Robert and Virginia Miller,
Babelake Street


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Diary Dates

Monday 11th December
7.30pm WI Group Carol Service at Holy Rood Church

Tuesday 12th December
2pm Police Rural Beat Surgery at Memorial Hall
7.45pm Parish Council Planning meeting followed by
8pm Parish Council Full Meeting at Memorial Hall

Wednesday 13th December
7.45pm Ladies Group Christmas Supper in Memorial Hall

Thursday 14th December
7.30pm Mens Group Christmas Supper at 5, Homecroft Drive
Tuesday 19th December
7.15pm Variety Concert at the Memorial Hall

Thursday 21st December
6.30pm JPEG presents the Packington Pantomime "Red riding Hood" at the Memorial Hall

Sunday 31st December
6.30pm JPEG New Years Eve Family Party at Memorial Hall

Monday 8th January
Packington Cricket Club nets start at Ashby Grammar.
Contact Stuart 07980 310208.

Tuesday 9th January
2pm Police Rural Beat Surgery at Memorial Hall

Tuesday 6th February
2pm Police Rural Beat Surgery at Memorial Hall

Saturday 17th February
7.30pm Valentines Dance at Memorial Hall

Thursday 3rd May
Local District and Parish Council Elections

**FOR SERVICE DATES AT
HOLY ROOD & METHODIST
CHURCHES PLEASE
SEE PAGE 6**

Dear Editor,

The weekend with JPEG in Derbyshire was organised by Alison Ewing and was done excellently with everyone knowing what was happening all through the stay at Hartington Hall.

We were there from Friday 6th to Sunday 8th October, the weather was favourable and the company was excellent. This was our first time on a JPEG trip and although we were tired at the end of it, it was well worth it.

We visited 'Blue John caves' and 'Carsington Water'. The children all joined in together and looked out for each other too. The accommodation was comfortable and the choice of grub was excellent. Hartington Hall is well worth a visit for a stay over on your own.

We thoroughly enjoyed the few days away from the normal hustle and bustle that life throws at you and would certainly recommend it to any other family in Packington. A big thank you to Alison,

Stuart and Spencer Clark

Packington School Boys Hit The Big Stage

George Kenning and George Bennion are to be congratulated on taking part in the Chairman's Christmas Show at DeMontford Hall, Leicester.

The show was part of the 'Arts in Education' winter programme and involved junior brass bands, school choirs, dancers and steel bands from the region.

A truly magical evening performed in front of a 2000 plus audience

Well Done

To Packington Horticultural Society

Dear Paul,

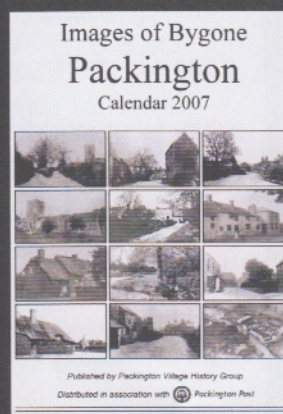
On behalf of the Communications Group which is responsible for producing the Packington Post, I would like to thank the Society once again for their generous donation of £300.

The team works hard behind the scenes to ensure that the village is well informed about matters that affect everyone and to report on the incredible amount of voluntary activity that goes on to every bodies benefit. However this does come at a cost and we also have to work hard to raise the finance to keep the initiative going.

Your generous donation will help the Post continue its work ensuring that every household in Packington receives a copy free of charge to keep them up to date with what is happening in the village. *Indeed it was directly responsible in enabling us to print four extra pages in the October edition as there was so much news to report.*

Thank you once again from all the members of the Editorial team and we look forward to working with you again through the year to promote the society and the next show which goes from strength to strength.

Yours sincerely
Steve Plummer
Editor



Available from
Daybreak Services, Post
Office or Steve 412963,
Kay 564174, Betty 414376

Cost only £5.00
Profits Support the Post

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 Edition
Feb 3rd
Copy Date
Jan 19th