

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES

19th Jan – Packington School Cross Country Event
 23rd Jan – Packington Book Group, Memorial Hall, 7:30pm
 25th Jan – Book Swap Coffee Morning, Bull & Lion Pub
 26th Jan – New Year 1 Mile Family Run / Walk – Packington Wood, 10:30 am

7th Feb – WI Meeting, Memorial Hall, 7:30pm
 8th / 9th Feb – Cricket Club's Darts Marathon, Bull & Lion Pub, 8pm
 14th Feb – PMG Talk, 'Advanced Driving', Memorial Hall, 7:15pm
 20th Feb – CoffeeandChat@Church, Holy Rood, 9:30am
 22nd Feb – Book Swap Coffee Morning, Bull & Lion Pub
 23rd Feb – Charity Breakfast, Memorial Hall, 9am – 1pm
 27th Feb – Packington Book Group, Memorial Hall, 7:30pm

1st Mar – 'Oh La La!' Concert, Memorial Hall
 14th Mar – PMG St David's Day Party
 16th Mar – The Packington Bake Off, Memorial Hall
 20th Mar – CoffeeandChat@Church, Holy Rood, 9:30am

Send important diary dates in for the March 2013 edition to
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COME AND TRY
 OUR NEW MENU
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2013 promises a brilliant schedule of events at Packington Memorial Hall

The New Year brings a timetable of events that is bound to brighten up any residual winter blues.

To follow on from the success of November's 'Drive the Cold Winter Away', the Memorial Hall are once again housing a wonderful, winter evening of music.



'Oh La La!', a French themed evening of jazz and popular European tunes, is sure to bring Parisian chic to Packington on **1st March 2013**. For more information, turn to page 3.

Returning to the Memorial Hall after two packed-out dates in 2012 are the Packington Bake

Off and the Big Charity Breakfast.

The **Big Charity Breakfast** is back again on **Saturday 23rd February** between 9am and 1pm, and organisers are hoping to match the massive success seen last year. This year's Breakfast will be raising money in aid of Cancer Research UK. Volunteers are needed in order to make the day a hit with diners. Contact Mike Coke on 560 430 for more information.



Furthermore, **The Bake Off** last March saw over 130 baking entries raise more than £500 for charity, and Judith Wilson is hoping to recreate the success for the second year running. The Bake Off this year will be held on **Saturday 16th March** at the Memorial Hall. For more information or to find out how you can enter, visit www.packington.info/bakeoff.php or contact Judith on 412 658.

In this edition of the Post:

Page 2 – PMG reveal their 2013 calendar of events

Page 3 – The Memorial Hall looks forward to a French-themed evening in March

Page 5 – The History Group pick our brains with another photograph

Page 6 – Reverend Vivien celebrates the New Year

Page 8 – The Women's Institute update us on their first meeting of 2013

Page 10 – Burn off the Christmas calories with one of our local walks

Page 11 – The Bull and Lion Pub share their new menu

Plus much, much more!

The Big Charity Breakfast
Saturday 23rd February
9am - 1pm



Packington Post

www.packington.info

Next Edition Mar 16th



PMG 2013 starts with a **PMG FAQ**.

Below are the most Frequently Asked Questions about our gatherings:

What is PMG?

It's a Group of Men to do with Packington, known as the "Packington Men's Group"

In what way are you 'to do with Packington'?

We all know the village. Most of us live here, others in nearby Ashby or Normanton. We may have met at school, pub, church or shop here.

What do you do?

Each month we have stress-free, sociable, leisurely, men's meetings.

Why do you do it?

We enjoy making & being friends.

When do you do it?

On the second Thursday of each month.

What form are meetings?

We have six favourites each year - a lunch, a breakfast, a guided walk, a gentle games meeting, and a couple of Party evenings. We also go on visits, and have talks and presentations by guest speakers.

Where do you meet?

When not at an external venue, we meet at the village Memorial Hall, usually in its Meeting Room.

Are there any age limits?

We all seem to be over 40. Or perhaps 50... Or was it 60? Most of us are retired, and our treasurer is over 80. There are no limits, and we all benefit from having village friends outside our own generation.

What does it cost to belong?

We subscribe £1 a month, payable annually in advance. This helps pay for speakers' expenses and for venue and transport costs. Outside meal and visit costs may be extra.

How do I join?

Contact our PMG secretary, who can tell you more, or just come to a meeting. We hope you will feel welcome, make some friends, and want to come again.



Our December 2012 **PMG Musical Party Evening** gave 18 members a fine insight into the sheer fun of the Accordion, a highly versatile instrument which was demonstrated really nicely by a star accordionist, Heather Hawthorn, of "Heather Mixture" fame. As well as listening to the story of the music, we took the chance to join in with many well-known tunes; the mixture of our untutored bass and tenor voices with Heather's Accordion accompaniment was described as "quite special"!

Our first **PMG 2013 Evening** in January was to be a talk by Guest Speaker, Ashby Auctioneer and Valuer Chris Yeomans, entitled

"Odds & Ends".

Advance Notice of our **PMG** talk: "Advanced Driving" on Thursday 14th February at 7:15pm in the Memorial Hall Meeting Room, by Guest Speaker Neil Snow of ROADaR - remind your Valentine that you'll be out!

More on **PMG** - see village website www.packington.info or contact Robert Dilworth (PMG Secretary) Telephone: 411873 rd.i@virgin.net



PMG 2013 Meeting Planner	
10 Jan	- "Odds and Ends" Guest Speaker: Chris Yeomans
14 Feb	- Advanced Driving Talk
14 Mar	- St David's Party
11 Apr	- Champney's Springs Evening Visit
9 May	- Annual PMG Lunch
13 Jun	- Pub Outdoor Games evening
11 Jul	- Pub Evening with stroll
8 Aug	- Annual Breakfast morning
12 Sep	- Eglantine Vineyard visit
10 Oct	- Olympic Volunteer Talk
14 Nov	- Village History Talk
12 Dec	- Party Evening

Martin Page

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Hello Everyone,

I would like to thank you all for your support, and wish you all Happy New Year, we have received lots of compliments about The Bull & Lion being a traditional country pub which offers good home cooked food and good beer in a warm and friendly environment. We are planning some events during the New Year which I hope everyone will enjoy.

I would like to start a DARTS TEAM (Mens, Ladies or Mixed) and already have some interest. If you would like to take part, please contact me on 01530 413 882.

PIE NIGHT is back on Thursdays from 6pm to 8.30pm.

Also, people are raving about our SUNDAY LUNCHESES, which are served from 12noon to 3.00pm every Sunday with yummy puddings.

Our BOOK SWAP COFFEE MORNING will be every last Friday of the month starting 25th January 2013.

PENSIONERS' LUNCHESES will be available every Tuesday from January 15th, noon to 2.00pm - only £4.95 for two courses.

Bookings are now being taken for VALENTINE'S DAY. The special menu will be on our website shortly.

In the meantime, why not pop in and sample some of the delicious dinners from our menu. The kitchen is now fully up-and-running after a refurbishment before Christmas, and we are now offering an amazing selection of hearty pub food to warm you up on these cold winter days.

Dishes taken from our Standard Menu:

Starters:

Soup of the Day and Warm Roll

Half A pint of Prawns topped with prawn sauce, served with fresh salad & brown bread

Breaded Mushrooms with a Garlic Mayo Dip

Deep fried Breaded Camembert with Cranberry sauce

Garlic Bread Baton topped with Cheese

Main Courses:

Smoked Haddock, Mozzarella and Spring Onion Fishcakes

Tender Breaded Scampi served with Tartare Sauce

Fresh Fish of the Day

Fillet of Salmon, Plain or topped with Cajun spic

8oz Sirloin served with Onion Rings, Mushrooms and Half Tomato

8oz Rump served with Onion Rings, Mushrooms and Half Tomato.

8oz Gammon, Egg and Pineapple or Stilton

Barnsley Chop with Minted Gravy

Pork Chop with Cider Gravy

Pie of the Day

Lasagne

Hunters Chicken: Chicken Breast with Bacon, Cheese and Barbecue Sauce

Vegetarian Options always available

Snacks:

6oz Speciality Burgers

Baguettes

Jacket Potatoes

Packington Cricket Club News



Here at Packington Cricket Club we are planning for the 2013 season, with a range of fund raising events and other activities.

The first of the fund raising events will take place on Friday 8th February, with our sponsored darts marathon which will begin at 8pm at the Bull and Lion Pub in Packington. Our players will stay up and play throughout the night, so the event will be ending on the following morning at 8am at Bull & Lion Pub.

The darts marathon will be followed by a breakfast in the pub.

If you would like to join us on the night, or just "pop in" during the event to show your support, you will be made more than welcome. Sponsors will be much appreciated after the hard work the players will be putting in!

2013 also sees the start of our new season, which will begin on Saturday 20th April, with a game at home.

In preparation for the start of the season, our winter nets training will be starting on Monday 4th February 2013 between 8pm and 9.30pm at Ashby De La Zouch Grammar School, at the sports hall on the Leicester Road site. As we advertised in the last edition of the Post, we would really like to welcome new players to the club of any age and ability.

For more information either on fundraising events or on joining our team, please the Club's President, Roger Muggleton - 415 221

Kick start 2013 by exploring local walks

Most people in the county live within 500 metres of a footpath or bridleway and, as well as all the wonderful walks in and around Packington, there are also some great country parks to explore.

A recent report by the NHS's National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence states regular physical activity is crucial to a healthy lifestyle. It can cut the risk of heart disease, stroke and diabetes by 50 per cent, and also helps good mental health. To burn off some of the Christmas calories with a brisk walk, why not try some of our great, local walks:

Staunton Harold – Walking Through Time

Staunton Harold Estate, located in a green valley with two lakes includes the house, church, state cottages and stables. William the Conqueror gave the land to Henry de Ferraris, who then leased it to Harold, a Saxon from Nottinghamshire. Harold moved here and adopted the name Staunton, meaning stony settlement. In 1423, the estate was passed by marriage to the Shirley's, a distinguished Derbyshire family.

The present house is of about 1770, but includes parts of two earlier houses. The church appears to be 15th century but was actually built in 1653 during the Commonwealth. Over the door can be read: *"In the year 1653 when all things sacred were throughout the nation either demolished or profaned, Sir Robert Shirley, Baronet founded this church; whose singular praise it is to have done the best things in the worst times and hoped them in the most calamitous. The righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance."*

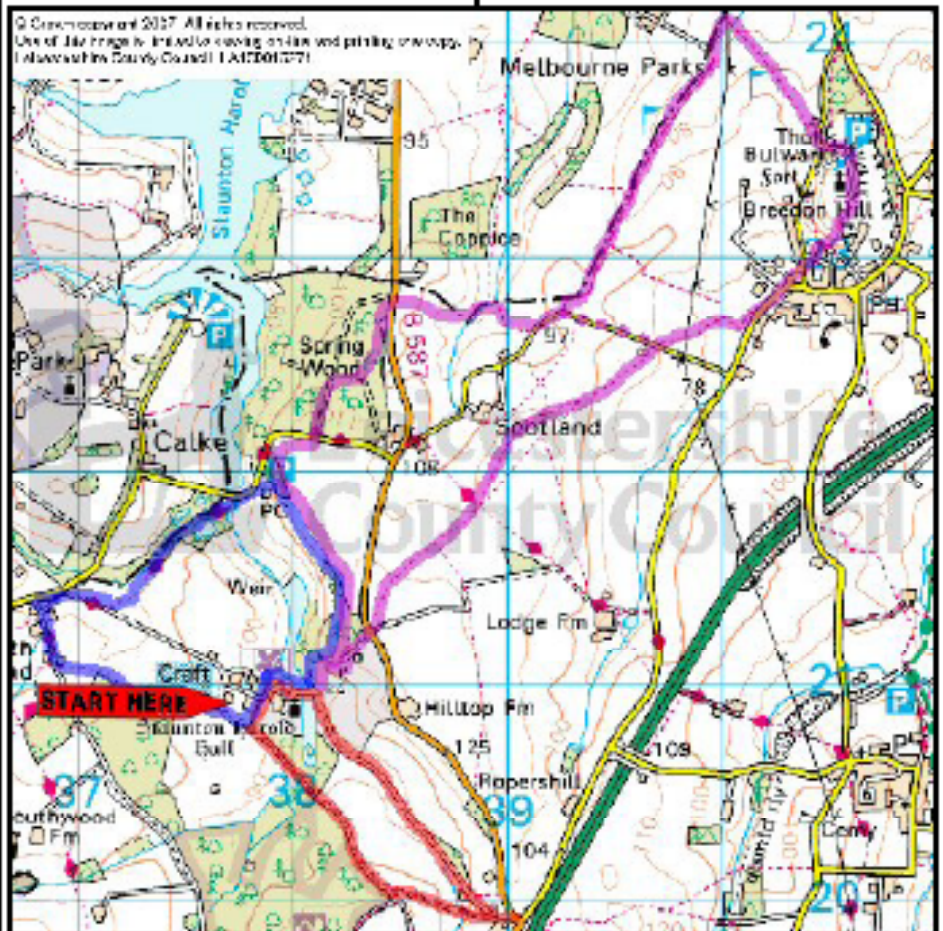
Leicestershire County Council have planned 3 circular walks around Staunton Harold and the

surrounding countryside, beginning and ending at the main car park.

The first, marked in red on the below map, follows the coach road through the Golden Gate and down the Old Coal Road, totalling around 2 miles (3km) and taking around an hour to complete at a leisurely stroll. The second, marked in blue on the map, also follows a circular trail, and takes walkers past

Melbourne Lodge and into Dimmingsdale Nature Reserve then returning through Heath End Lodge, covering 3 miles.

More information of Leicestershire County Council walks can be found on their website (www.leics.gov.uk/index/environment/countryside/walks.htm) where you can also find out where to get printed maps of local treks.



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Packington Memorial Hall News

Our next Centre Stage Event at the Memorial Hall: 'Oh La La!' in Concert on Friday 1st March 2013.



The show is billed as Jazz and Pop with a French twist! It sounded intriguing, so I phoned up the Lead singer Fifi La Mer and asked her what she might be singing at Packington on March 1st.

She replied that the show would certainly include "la Vie en rose". I asked whether it could also feature "Les Feuilles Mortes" (one of my favourites) and she replied that "Autumn Leaves" (as we know it in English) is one of their regular songs and the quartet "Oh La La!" would try and include it on the night. She went on to stress that their concerts always contained many songs that all audiences would know such as "As time goes by", "Blue Moon, or "Beyond the sea", as well as jazz standards like "Summertime", and "I love Paris". "There will be something for everyone," she said in an accent that reminded me of Francoise Hardy, or was it Juliette Binoche?

She told me that, at some of their previous shows, the local organisers had turned the event into a French themed evening with the audience arriving in French clothing or fancy dress, and sampling French cheeses and pate de foie gras in the interval. I put

this suggestion to a couple of the organisers of this event and we agreed that this was an excellent idea. So if you fancy getting out your French beret, striped jumper (and a string of onions), or dressing up as the winner of the Tour de France, or even a French cancan dancer, then you will have a chance of winning a bottle of French wine. Fancy dress is of course optional. I shall restrict myself to a French tie decorated with "leur-de-lis" to give everyone else a chance. There will also be a French theme to the interval refreshments.



It promises to be a great evening's entertainment, but remember not to come dressed as Gerard Depardieu or you may be disqualified from the best French outfit competition.
 Tickets: Adults £8, Children £4, Family tickets £20. Available now.
 Contact 564 613 or 414 378

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News from the School



We were delighted at the end of term to hear that the school was placed second in the league tables for Primary Schools in Leicestershire for our 2012 SATs results and that we are in the top forty best primary schools in the country. This is marvellous news and is a true reflection of all the hard work undertaken by our pupils, staff, governors, parents and the community to help make Packington C of E Primary such a fantastic school. So I for one am a very proud Head Teacher.

In this edition of the Post we thought we would tell you about our Christmas activities and we have included some of the thoughts of our Key Stage 1 pupils about a recent visit to the pantomime to see Dick Whittington. I hope you enjoy reading our news and looking at our photographs.

Christmas



December is a very busy time at the school and our Christmas activities began with the school participating in the Christingle Service at Holy Road Church. We are always very pleased to welcome parents and members of the local community into school and Christingle always provides us

with the opportunity to take the time to have a chat with neighbours and friends. Our Key Stage 2 performance of "Puss in Boots" quickly followed on with the pupils performing 3 shows over two days. The reviews were excellent and audiences were impressed with the singing and acting and the pupils ability to remember a vast number of rhyming lines. Best of all is the growth in confidence we see. It's always amazing to see some of our more reserved pupils turn in Oscar winning performances.

Within days it was the turn of the Key Stage 1 pupils to perform a nativity play entitled "Hey Ewe" to families and visitors from the village Playgroup. The play was a roaring success, as the children retold the nativity story from the perspective of one inquisitive sheep.



Before Christmas, the children also had the chance to visit the pantomime and we welcomed our old friends from Working Space Theatre who always manage to retell a classic tale in around 45 minutes with just two actors and the help of a couple of pupil volunteers.

A flurry of other activities followed with Christmas Creative Time and children having the opportunity to make a range of crafts, a Christmas Party arranged by the PSA, a visit from Father Christmas, a fantastic Christmas Fayre also organised by the PSA and we ended the term back in the church with a carol service.

Adjacent are extracts from our Year Two class, writing about the Pantomime story of Dick Whittington.

'A long time ago in London there was a problem. There were rats everywhere! The rats were stealing everything. There was nothing in the shops! King Rat was taking over London until Dick Whittington and his cat Tossy came.' *By Harrison Eaton (Age 6)*

'A long time ago there was a man called Alderman Fitzwarren and his daughter Alice. King Rat sent his rats to steal everything. In London there was a boy called Dick Whittington and his cat Tomney. He had come to London for a job.' *By Iona Dring (Age 7)*

'One day Dick Whittington went to London and he saw a cat called Tomney. Suddenly the rats came and started to steal things and take them back to the King Rat. At night King Rat went into the Fitzwarren's shop and blew the safe up. They hid some things in Dick Whittington's sock. When the family woke up they sent him away.' *By Jake Boulton (Age 6)*

Packington Cross Country

The Small Schools Cross Country event at Packington has been booked to take place on Saturday 19th January. Predominantly the races take place on the recreation ground but Mr Plant and Mr and Mrs Page do grant us permission to use some of their land for the older pupils. We are currently monitoring the conditions as, at the moment, the recreation ground is looking too wet to run the event. We will make a decision in the week prior to the date and we are currently discussing the possibility that we may postpone the event. Should all be well and we are able to go ahead I would like to thank you for your patience as we know all the extra visitors to the village make it a busy Saturday morning and we really appreciate your support in making the day a great success.

Grants for new public paths to help rural areas & businesses



Grants for the creation of new bridleways or footpaths – to attract visitors and improve local facilities – are on offer to communities, organisations and rural businesses. Natural England's £2 million 'Paths for Communities' scheme is now being highlighted by the Leicestershire Local Access Forum.

Farm shop-cafes or rural visitor venues could create walks as added-attractions; riding centres might gain more bridleways by getting footpaths upgraded; and villages could pursue new routes to make the local path network better connected and more attractive.

Forum Chairman Roy Denney said: "In numerous other counties multi-purpose routes for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders are attractions in their own right; the Tessington Trail being one classic example. They boost the local economy with visitors using local shops, pubs, B&Bs, cycle hire and equestrian businesses.

"Natural England wants 'Paths for Communities' projects across the whole country. The Access Forum is keen to see partnerships come forward with suggested projects so that Leicestershire benefits from this opportunity."

The competitive scheme involves rural landowners and businesses working together on bids with community groups and local councils. Projects must also raise 25% 'match funding', which could include volunteer labour but not money from public sources.

The new public rights of way must be agreed with the relevant landowners, but the grant money can cover one-off payments to facilitate this. Projects must be completed by April 2014, favouring straight-forward bids with clear

benefits and supportive landowners.

The scheme is for rural locations which means places with less than 10,000 population. Natural England has local grant officers to help partnerships with applications. Full details are on the web at: www.naturalengland.org.uk/lp4c

Best Ever Christmas Raffle for LOROS

LOROS

Hospice Care for Leicestershire & Rutland

Following a year when, due to the poor summer weather, some events had to be cancelled, staff at LOROS (The Leicestershire Hospice) on Groby Road, Leicester are celebrating the success of their best ever Christmas raffle.

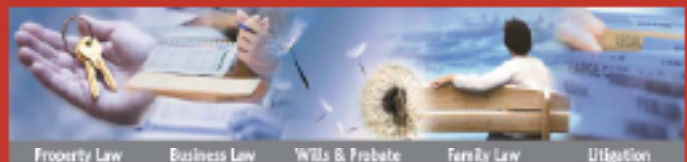
Supporters were invited to buy tickets with a chance of winning one of 8 prizes including a £500 holiday voucher sponsored by Millington Travel and a first prize choice of £10,000 cash or a brand new Mini First, supported by Sytner Leicester.

The success of the raffle was helped along by Rothley C of E Primary School. Teacher Sarah Stonehouse died at LOROS and her colleagues and pupils not only launched a fundraising campaign in her memory, raising £3,000 for LOROS, but sold tickets for the raffle before watching as the draw took place during school assembly.

LOROS Lottery Manager Liz Singleton said "What a fantastic result! Our Christmas raffle has generated a profit of over £80,000 this year. With people feeling the pinch more than ever, and our running costs continuing to increase, this record breaking total is both encouraging to us and vital in ensuring we are able to continue to deliver excellent care to our patients and their families when they need it most. We're overwhelmed at the continued support and generosity of our local communities – long may it continue".

The 2013 LOROS Spring Raffle will be mailed to supporters during March with tickets also available from all LOROS shops or the lottery office on 0116 2318430. The draw will take place in May following which more lucky winners will be announced.

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December 2012

Packington W.I celebrated Christmas on December 8th at the Memorial Hall. After a shortened business report members enjoyed a light supper organised by the new committee after which Joanne Carter told us about the Victorian Christmas. She dressed in costume and had brought a number of Victorian toys, games and cards to show us. The competition was a prettily wrapped parcel for a child aged up to 5 years. The first prize went to Mrs Vera Haines. The parcels were later taken to Marlene Reid centre for distribution.

The next meeting will be held on January 3rd 2013 at the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm, the speaker will be Greg Clark talking about his experiences 'Volunteering at the Olympic games'

January 2013 W.I.

The New Year began for Packington W.I. with a look back to summer 2012. Greg Clark a local dentist and also the son-in-law of one of the members came to tell us of his experiences volunteering as a Games Maker at the Olympics. Greg started on this journey in 2010 taking part in a charity bike ride involving 600 cyclists going from John O'Groets to Landsend where he registered an interest in volunteering at the Olympics.

Forms duly filled in and returned he was asked to attend an interview at Warwick University. He was offered a place as a dentist in the

East End but he decided he would rather be a Meeter and Greeter. Training started in January 2012 in snow and involved training in being 'Politically Correct' and how to detect suspicious people and packages. Volunteers were given vouchers for food on the days they were working and travel expenses but had to provide their own accommodation; they also had to wear the uniform from when they left home.

Greg wore his uniform whilst giving the talk and showing the slides, it was a very entertaining talk and showed us a little of the backstage work that kept the Olympics running so well.

Greg is donating his fee to the Great British Paralympics team towards the 2014 Olympic games in Brazil.

We would love to see some new faces at our meetings which are held the first Thursday of the month at Packington Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. For more information, contact:
Jeanette Peckery - 468 242

Christmas Lunch Success - Sunday 9th December

What a great time we all had! We were greeted with smiling faces, a warm room, seven tables decorated with a lovely central floral display and crackers and napkins all in Christmas colours and motifs. We immediately knew that the young mums, who had prepared this occasion, had gone to a lot of trouble to make this a memorable festive lunch.

The bar was open and drinks were available as we sorted out a table with friends most of which had attended the Diamond Jubilee Sunday lunch back in June. Then background Christmas music began to play with Chris on piano, Joy on violin and Nick playing a number of folk instruments. It all created a lovely atmosphere.

At about 1 o'clock grace was said and the team of Mums and Dads who had bought, prepared and cooked the full Christmas dinner began to serve. There was a choice of beef or turkey with a vegetarian nut roast option. Everything was cooked to perfection and all served piping hot with the skill and speed of a top restaurant. Some people had bought raffle prizes to the lunch and whilst the sweet of either Christmas pudding or apple pie was being served young Zac Holden (aged 8) and Henry Miller (aged 7) were very efficient in selling tickets. The raffle raised nearly eighty pounds!

During coffee and mince pies Chris, Joy and Nick began to play and invited us to sing carols and Christmas songs for thirty minutes or so. We all sang with gusto. Then the raffle was drawn and then concluded the singing with an entertaining rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

Finally, we were all presented with an individual Christmas cake, all made by Sharon Miller. What a fantastic Christmas lunch. Those who had made it possible seemed to enjoy it and those of us who ate it really enjoyed eating it! All for a fiver! What terrific value.

Thanks were said to those who had worked hard to make this a great occasion and although they seemed a little embarrassed the thanks and appreciation was shown in a long and lengthy round of applause by us mature residents.

Rachael, Sharon, Melanie, Fran, Dean and James the organisers, would like to thank everyone who attended. They also appreciated the kind words of lunch-goers who wrote to them afterwards. They also would like to say that with a small operating profit from the meal, the raffle and a bar profit donation, £150 was given to the Memorial Hall in recognition of their support for this event.

Chris Miles - 414 378

History Group Photo

The Packington Village History Group is asking for the villagers' help again in confirming names and dates for their records. The photograph, shown on the right, is of a group of children at a Harvest Festival Celebration at the Church. The History Group believe that they know many of the names, but would like them verified by other villagers if possible. They are also interested in finding out the year that the Harvest Festival took place. If you think you can help, please contact Peter or Laura Cooper on 412 723 or Wally Instrall on 416 786.



Mark Page Reports

Water, water, everywhere

As December 21st approached (the last day of the Mayan Calendar) many residents of Packington may indeed have believed that the Apocalypse was upon us as once again the Gilestone Brook flooded its banks, leaving Mill Street inaccessible to those not willing to have half of their car wheel covered in water. Although not always very deep where the water covers the road, there is definitely an increase in the amount of times in a year the river has flooded or been very close to flooding.

The removal of the historic twin-span masonry bridge in April 2010 at the end of Little Lane has certainly reduced the height of water on the roads due to the lessened obstruction of the flow-away of water – but there is obviously an increase to the amount of water flowing through the brook. Recently, I measured the height of the brook normally and it was about 20cm. However, on the day when it flooded, the height of water rose by around 100cm.
Mark Page – 411 877



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Dear All,

With 2012 being such a busy year, there's been a lot of talk about what the legacy will be – of the Olympics, Paralympics and Jubilee. I've felt that perhaps I should add my own reflection on the events of 2012, including perhaps our own Jesus 2012 in the local churches and even the vote on women bishops?

But in fact I've been sidetracked by a meeting on a recent New Year walk. I was stopped by a lady who said '4 words to change your life!' I rather felt that that was the sort of thing that I, as a priest, might be expected to say and wondered what was coming. The four words? 'Outside hot water tap' 'Those words will change your life' she said.

In the context of daily muddy dog walks with Bran, I could see what she meant. The constant washing of muddy towels and the impact on floor and carpet has been considerable over the weeks. The legacy of mud is clear to see, and I could understand the change that an outside hot tap would make. However, I doubt I'll ever get round to it so my life won't be changed.

I then got to thinking – what 4 words would I offer that would bring a change? Four words isn't many words. In the end I hit on 'Jesus Christ loves you'.

That might sound a bit trite but coming to know how beloved we are in the sight of God is the most

life changing knowledge that I can imagine. It doesn't mean that all our wants are met, nor that we are exempt from all the hazards of living life on this planet as it is. It does mean that we are held in love, that we are in his care, that we are never alone and in that knowledge lies great peace and comfort. We are not on our own and someone bigger than us cares.

At the same time it's a challenge. If we allow his love, then we are called to become more loving. That takes us out of our comfort zone as we put others before ourselves in serving God. I find the call to follow Jesus Christ is the most demanding and challenging call that there can be, but the most utterly fulfilling. The legacy of lives transformed by the love of Christ could be enormous in its impact.

So, as we stand between the celebration of Christmas when Jesus was born as one of us, and Easter when we see his love played out on the cross and in resurrection, do ponder those four words 'Jesus Christ loves you'. Don't leave it to inaction as I will with the hot water tap. And may you know anew the deep blessing of that truth and what it means for each one of us to live it.

Yours,
Vivien

Services: January 2013 – March 2013

- January 13th
11am all age service
- January 20th
11am Holy Communion
- January 27th
11am 4th Sunday service
- February 3rd
11 am Morning Prayer
6pm Evening Prayer
- February 10th
11 am All age service
- February 13th – Ash Wednesday
7.30pm Holy Communion

February 17th
11am Holy Communion

February 24th
11am 4th Sunday service

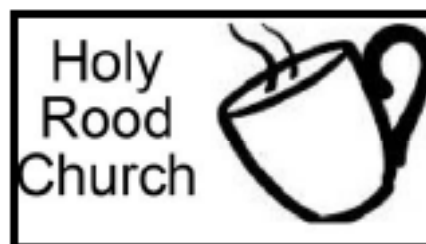
March 3rd
11 am Morning Prayer
6pm Evening Prayer

March 10th – Mothering Sunday
8 am Holy Communion
11am All age Mothering Sunday service

On the 1st Wednesday of each month there is a service of Holy Communion at 10am.

Our all age services on the 2nd Sunday of the month have a special theme and we aim to engage those of all ages in a simple service lasting about 45 minutes. Give it a go.

Coffee and Chat at Holy Rood Church



Everyone is welcome to drop in at the Holy Rood Church for freshly brewed coffee, cookies and, most importantly, a chat! Coffee and Chat takes place on every 3rd Wednesday of the month, between 9:30am and 11:30am:

Wednesday 20th February
Wednesday 20th March

We look forward to seeing you very soon!
Anne Wathes – 414 621

Church's Charity Success
The Holy Rood Church Team would also like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported their Christmas Bazaar and Coffee Morning in December. A brilliant £643.15 was raised in aid of Help For Heroes.

Packington Community Orchard



Things have certainly moved on at pace since the September edition of the Post. To catch the Autumn planting season the group has to date achieved a number of targets and it would probably be best if I listed them.

- Secured sufficient funding from donations by Packington project members to implement the planting of thirty fruit trees.
- Sourced a supplier of wholesale fruit trees.
- Prepared a shopping list of apple, pear, damson, plum, and nut trees.
- Sorted pollination groups and final heights of trees.
- Met with Officers of the national Forest re the location of trees at Packington Wood.
- Placed an order for trees.
- Fixed a planting date of the 24th Nov.
- Successfully planted a variety of fruit trees on that cold but dry Saturday morning with an excellent volunteer force of project members.

We now turn our attention to future targets. There is still plenty to do and the next phase will focus around the following:

- The recruitment of more members to the project to enable a further thirty trees to be planted. We require another thirty or so individuals or families to join.
- Secure funding from new membership.
- Sourcing rare Leicestershire varieties of fruit trees. This may necessitate budding or grafting operations during the year. (Do you have any named fruit trees which you think is a rare or local variety? If so contact the number below.
- Maintenance of the trees. Most of the grassland maintenance is being done by the National Forest who own the land.
- To improve walking access to the site.
- To look forward to a small number of fruits to be picked in our first year.

We would like to involve as many Packington villagers as possible so please feel free to join us by completing the form below. Please take your completed form to "Daybreak Services", High Street, Packington.

For more information, contact
Chris Niles – 414 378

Packington Book Group



Packington Book Group meet once a month in the village's Memorial Hall at 7:30pm, and discuss the titles that their members choose at the beginning of the year.

The Packington Book Group's next meeting will take place on Wednesday 23rd January, with the Book Group looking at Evelyn Waugh's classic, *Brideshead Revisited*.

Their second meeting of 2013, on Wednesday 27th February will focus on 'The Far Pavillions' by M. M. Kaye.

To find out more information on the Book Group, please contact:

Kate Mongredien – 564 613

➤ Cheques payable to 'Packington Parish Council.

Sponsors Name/s: _____

Address _____

Post code _____ E-mail _____

Amount of sponsorship in words _____

I would like my/our name/s as a 'community orchard sponsor' to be held in Parish records.