

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES

Thursday 13th February – PMG visiting Tollgate Brewery, leaving the village 1.40pm

Thursday 20th February – Ready, Steady, Stick, Holy Rood, 2.00pm

Wednesday 19th February – Coffee & Chat, Holy Rood, 9.30am

Wednesday 26th February - Book group, Memorial Hall, 7.30pm

Saturday 1st March – Charity Big Breakfast, Memorial Hall, 9.00am

Saturday 8th March – Keiradance, Memorial Hall, 7.15pm tickets cost £8.00 per adult

Wednesday 19th March – Coffee & Chat, Holy Rood, 9.30am

Send important diary dates in for the March 2014 edition to editor@packington.info

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Village Welcome Pack

High Street resident Rachael Wozywoda has created a brilliant welcome pack for new residents. If you are aware of any new neighbours joining our Packington community, then please contact Rachael at rachaeldyer@yahoo.co.uk or telephone the editor (details above).

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Packington Post

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January 2014

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£1.50 (Village residents free)

Annual Charity Breakfast 199 + YOU!



Join the crowd at this year's Charity Breakfast on Saturday 1st March 2014. Either a full "Packington"



breakfast or a filled cob will be on offer from 9.00 am until 1.00 pm.

Were you the missing person last year? We managed to serve 199 meals and would hope to top 200 this time round. Organise your family and friends to come along.

Whatever else you do please put the date in your diary, on your Blackberry or even write it on your calendar.

Volunteers can still come forward to help with the breakfast on the day.

Contact Mike Coke
mike.coke@talktalk.net or phone 560430

the provision of a DEFIBRILLATOR to be located outside the Memorial hall for use by anyone in the village in an emergency. Once fitted in place, training will be provided in how to use it although the verbal instructions provided when you open up the machine are very simple to follow.

Your village needs you.....



Did you know that there have already been 2 large planning applications submitted?

Planning Application ref 13/00959/OUTM at Spring Lane and Normanton Road for 49 houses

Planning Application ref 13/01002/OUTM for 35 houses opposite Spring Lane on Normanton Road

These will mean 84 houses possibly being built off Normanton Road near the junction with Spring Lane and Heather Lane

another application for 180 houses on another site nearby.

We cannot sit back and allow our village to be ruined.

By Lisa Mayles

In this edition of the Packington Post:

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Plus much, much more!

Send us your information on future village events
editor@packington.info
Call Barry 414551

Neighbourhood Watch
Co-ordinators Needed
See Page 9



Packington Post

www.packington.info

Next Edition March 26nd Copy Date March 14th

The Great Bake-Off update.

The Great Bake-Off event is having a year off in 2014 but will be back in March 2015. keeeeeeep baking!!!

Judith@packington.info

PACKINGTON AGAINST HS2

You should have had a reminder through your door to respond to the biggest proposed event to hit Packington this century. We all endure the noise from the M42 but at least we benefit. We also put up with aircraft noise from the East Midlands Airport from which most have benefited. The HS2 however is a step to far with noise disruption and tax payers paying the price for increasing costs. Will it ever produce a profit? This is your only chance to have your say about this project. The Packington Against HS2 have looked into this scheme thoroughly and have come to the conclusion that there are few, sorry, no advantages and a long list of negatives not only for Packington but the whole country.

Consultation period ends 31st Jan 2014 - Have you registered your objections?

If you object to the construction of HS2, either in principle, or because the proposed route brings it close to Packington, you need to object now.

By email: HS2PhaseTwoRoute@lpsos.com

Online: www.hs2.org.uk/phase-two/route-consultation


By post
Freeport RTEL-YAZX-HAZ, Phase Two Route Consultation, PO Box 1152, Harrow, HA1 9LH

Please contact Chris 414378 if you have lost your standard letter of objection to HS2.

If you wish to simply object please state. "I object to the Phase Two Route for the HS2"

Add your full name address and date and post to the FREEPOST address above. **Please act now!**

David Granger




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The Carol Service at Packington Primary School

December is that special time of year when we have our traditional carol service. Our theme this year was a Christmas Quiz, where you had to feel inside a mysterious feely bag to describe an object from the nativity story.

We sang our favourite carols and the soloists, Jack Roe, Lottie Coke, Laura Davies and Megan Cooper sang the first verse of Once in Royal David's City.

Start of School

The first week of school has been brilliant, with the practice tests now underway. It's also the time when Packington host our cross country event, where any of our pupils can take part. The standards have been high this year, so we're hoping for some good results.
By Harry, Jack and Liam.

Ready, Steady, Stick

The Cruise hits Rough Water!



Thursday 20th February

Holy Rood Church, Packington 2pm – 4pm

Come and join the cruise as we seek safety from the storm

Crafts, (including junk modelling), songs, games, stories

Open to all children up to the age of 11 (those not of school age will need a parent to stay with them)

Cost: £1.00 per child

Further details available from Revd. Linda Cox 411642



What IS PMG?

We're a Group of Men to do with Packington local area, 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 in the area, either in the village or in nearby Ashby or Normanton.

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 second Thursdays each month. Here's this year's programme:

9 Jan 14	Peter's Packington History eve
13 Feb	Tollgate Brewery visit pm
13 Mar	St George's Party Evening eve
10 Apr	Fabrics Factory visit pm
8 May	Annual Lunch
12 Jun	Evening Social Stroll eve
10 Jul	Gentle Sports event
14 Aug	Annual Breakfast am
11 Sep	Visit pm
9 Oct	Evening Talk eve
13 Nov	Evening Presentation eve
11 Dec 14	Seasonal Party Evening

PMG Meetings 2014

Second Thursday in 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 eveninas. We also do 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, or at the village pub.

Are there any age limits?

We all seem to be over 50. Or was it 60? We would welcome anyone younger! Our treasurer is over 90. There are no limits, and we all benefit from having and making friends outside our own generation.

What does it cost to join?

We subscribe £1 a month, payable annually as £12 in advance. This helps pay for speakers' expenses, and for venue and transport costs. Meals & away visits 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.

"Peter's Packington" was the title of our PMG January 2014

talk by Peter Cooper, who as well as being a founder PMG member also chairs the Packington Village History Group, PVHG.

Many of us long-term residents of the village were amazed to hear about the Roman road that passed to the South of our village, crossing Babelake Street and Redburrow Lane at otherwise inexplicable zig-zag bends in those lanes. The road ran from Rycknild Street south-west of Burton to Leicester, passing locally through Moira, Willesley and Normanton le Heath and is now recognised as part of the 'Via Devana' running from Colchester to



Chester.

Thursday 13th February 2014, leaving the village at 1:40 pm, sees PMG make an afternoon visit to the nearby Tollgate Brewery, in the Heart of the National Forest.

This niche local industry makes special ale brews to local acclaim, and we at PMG are privileged to see how they are made, why they are special, and to partake of the product. This should be a pleasant opportunity for us to socialise with lubrication.

For more on PMG, see the village website "Packington dot info", or contact

Robert Dilworth
PMG

Secretary 411673
rd.i@virgin.net



New Parish Councillor for Packington

At the August meeting of the Parish Council it was minuted that Barry Bryan, Mill Street was co-opted as a Parish Councilor to serve until the next elections.

The vacancy was caused by the resignation of Claire Beynon earlier in the year who had moved out of the village.



I am a retired teacher and IT manager, and with my wife, Margaret, and youngest son, William, have lived in Mill Street for the last 7 years. I am quite keen on DIY and have spent a considerable amount of time on repairing/improving our cottage. Margaret and I are keen walkers and in particular, we like walking in mountainous country and can also be seen regularly walking around the village countryside. Since we retired we have visited 22 countries and hiked in some of the most beautiful scenery in the world. I am quite keen on photography and use it as a means of supplementing my trip diaries when travelling and when looking back on a trip in later years. Contact details:- Telephone:415332 Email: thesilvertops@hotmail.com

The Bull & Lion is open for business as usual under new ownership

New Landlord at our Bull and Lion : Alan Hutchcraft

Telephone 01530 587361 or mobile 07976 953002

Following the departure of temporary landlord Justin Hadley, the reins have been taken up by new landlord, Alan Hutchcraft, who has over 20 years experience in the licensed trade. Together with Billy the Chef and the rest of the staff, they are intent on returning the local pub as the vibrant location it had become under the recent stewardship of Mandy Mulholland & family.



Alan hopes that you will support their efforts, and would be delighted to hear your views, comments and suggestions on what you would like to see available at the Bull & Lion – apart from of course a well-kept cellar, good food, and a great atmosphere. He is keen to emphasise that The Bull and Lion returns to be a centre of village life, a natural meeting place for groups, and clubs.



L-R Wally Instrall, Roger Muglestone, Billy the Chef, Alan Hutchcraft

PILATES



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Contact Kelly on 07899921475
bodysoul@outlook.com

New Classes at The Village Hall

Wado Ryu Karate



Wednesday 5.30pm – 6:30pm

£4 per person

All ages welcome from 5 years to adults

I have 15 years experience in various Martial Arts, namely Karate, Kickboxing and Boxing. I have trained and taught in all of these disciplines continuously for 15 years and have lots of experience of teaching the full age range from 5 – 65 years in classes and privately.

The Wado Ryu Karate class at Packington Village hall is suitable for all ages and abilities. The classes will combine the best of the traditional of Japanese Karate with modern self defence theory and practice

Wado Ryu karate will give you:

exercise for body and mind, fitness, power, co-ordination, confidence, awareness, self defence, discipline, and sport

Karate as a sport or more importantly a self defence is without equal.

Paul Brown, 07866 451554

browzer2104@hotmail.co.uk

Fitsteps

FitSteps® came to life in 2013 as the result of a collaboration between two of the UK's most famous ballroom & latin dancers and Britain's most successful swimmer!

During the long, arduous dance training sessions that are an integral part of Britain's most successful entertainment show, 'Strictly Come Dancing', Natalie Lowe, Mark Foster and Ian Waite had a great idea.

They decided to mix the graceful steps of Ballroom and the up tempo steps of the Latin dances together to create a really fun, energetic and effective way to stay fit and keep trim that would appeal to everyone, even if they couldn't dance. A dance fitness programme that is 'so much fun you don't even realise you're getting fit!'

And FitSteps® is unique. It is the first time that classic Latin and Ballroom dances have been brought together with proven fitness techniques and principles to create not only a programme that can have extraordinarily wide appeal, but one that also has the potential to make a real and lasting impact on the health of the nation

Coffee Morning and Crafts

Anne and Faye

A huge thank you to all who helped and supported the coffee morning in Church on the 16th November. a total of £558.41p was raised for Hospice Hope.



Packington Flood Action Team FLOAT

If you would like to join the team and push forward issues call Wesley 411899.

wesley@packington.net

We plan to meet in February and need to know who wants to keep involved.

FitSteps
Fitness that's 'Strictly' fun

FitSteps with Sian Flinn

• Jive
 • Waltz
 • Cha Cha
 • Tango
 • Samba
 • Quickstep
 • Rumba
 • Paso Doble
 • Salsa

Happy New Year

Come & Join Fitsteps

Fantastic new **Dance Fitness Workout** choreographed by 'Strictly Come Dancing' stars **Natalie Lowe & Ian Waite**, championed by **Mark Foster**, one of our Great British Athletes

Dance yourself Fit!

NO partner required

TUESDAYS - Blackfordby Village Hall, DE11 8BB - 6.30 - 7.15pm
THURSDAYS - Packington Village Hall, LE65 1WJ - 7.15 - 8pm

Packington Memorial Hall Presents "Keiradance"

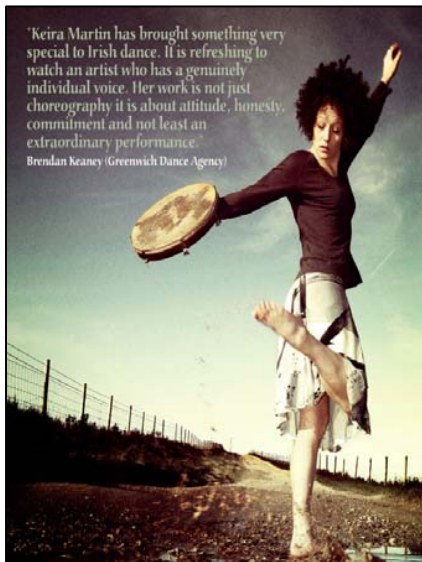
Keiradance is coming to Packington on Saturday 8th March. The show starts at 8.00pm and doors will be open from 7.15pm. Tickets are reasonably priced at £8.00 for adults and £4.00 for under 16's with a family ticket costing £20.00

Keiradance is a fusion of Contemporary and Irish dance styles performed by captivating and highly physical dancers with live traditional music and song.

Much like a 'Ceili', a performance by Keiradance is atmospheric, lively, rhythmical and will have your foot tapping and your heart leaping from the first beat of the drum. This performance is presented in association with the Centre Stage organisation with which the Memorial Hall has promoted a whole variety of successful productions over the last four years including "Lark Rise to Candleford"; Jazz group "Fascinating Rythmn"; and International artist, guitarist Chris Newman and harpist Maire Chathasagh.

The organising committee hope to provide an Irish flavour to refreshments at the interval and are looking forward to a successful evening.

Tickets and more information from Chris 414378 christopher.miles@sky.com or Kate Mongredien 564613 kate.mongredien@tesco.com



"Keira Martin has brought something very special to Irish dance. It is refreshing to watch an artist who has a genuinely individual voice. Her work is not just choreography it is about attitude, honesty, commitment and not least an extraordinary performance."
Brennan Keane (Greenwich Dance Agency)



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News from the School

It has been an exciting and very positive start to the new term at Packington School with excellent news following an OFSTED inspection, a Health Check by the Teaching School Alliance and publication of the national league tables. Further to this we were delighted to receive a letter from the Rt. Hon. David Laws MP congratulating us on our excellent results and being one of the top performing schools in the country in 2013.

A month of inspection and evaluation delivers good news

In fact November was a busy month at the school as two different evaluations of the school took place. First, OFSTED visited and the inspection judged Packington to be an overall good school with the report identifying that:

The school provides a caring, safe environment for its pupils, in which they are nurtured as individuals. Pupils achieve well. Pupils are well-behaved. They are confident and articulate and develop good social skills.

The head teacher knows what needs to be done to improve the school further. She has built up a cohesive

staff team who work together effectively to make improvements.

Leaders and managers, including governors, evaluate the school's work closely. They have ensured good teaching and achievement have been maintained.

Then a further evaluation was carried out by an independent OFSTED consultant on behalf of the Forest Way Teaching School Alliance the school belongs to. The final report of this evaluation reports that for the overall effectiveness of the school:

"Packington CE Primary School is at least good and possibly outstanding."

Results put Packington in top 1% of primary schools in the country for the third year running

We were delighted to read the latest league tables published by the DFE. Our results have put us as the third best school in Leicestershire and in 76th place out of 16,189 schools in England and Wales for this year (that's actually in the top 0.5% of all schools). How fantastic is that?

We are especially pleased as this is the third year running that we have been in the top 1% of schools. A very nice way to end a busy Autumn term.

Alternatively persons who do not attend can sign up themselves and register items on

www.immobilise.com

Any further questions in regards to the event please contact PCSO 6866 Kieran Bennett or PCSO 6568 Dale Winson either by calling 101 or visiting the Leicestershire force website and sending them an email <http://www.leics.police.uk/>

Many thanks,

Dale, PCSO 6568

The Silver Line

A free 24-hour dedicated helpline for older people across the UK has been launched by Esther Rantzen.

'The Silver Line' aims to combat loneliness in the over-65s by providing friendship, information and advice through calls to trained volunteers.

Chairwoman Ms Rantzen said she hoped the phone line number, 0800 4 70 80 90, would be remembered by all older people when they needed friendship or advice.

The phone line is funded by a £5m grant from the Big Lottery Fund.

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator



I am pleased to advise that I will be taking on the role of NWC for the Packington area. I am aware from discussions that

each street has a representative coordinator, but unfortunately I don't know who these are. I would be grateful to hear from anyone who is or knows who the current street representatives are.

When we identify the representatives and are able confirm their willingness to continue, we can get together and agree how we move forward, and if necessary elect new or replacement



representatives.
Thanks
Stephen

My contact details are:
Stephen Flook
2 Mill Street, Packington
E mail. Sflook@yahoo.co.uk
Tel. 0415185
Mob. 07768852363"

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators Needed

Below is a list of existing NWCs, and a list of areas where new Representatives are required.

Mill Street down to the Mill.

Stephen Flook 2, Mill Street 415185 sflook@yahoo.co.uk

Mill Street beyond the Mill

Wesley Ewing 53, Mill Street 411899 wesley@packington.net

The Grange

Michael Coke, 23, The Grange 560430 mike.coke@talktalk.net

Ashby Road

Robert Martin, 20, Ashby Road 413030 robertmartin20@btinternet.com

Top of Normanton Rd

Nigel Smith, 8, Normanton Rd 416055 nrms@live.co.uk

High St

Katherine Pilbro 49 High St 413695 katherinopilbro@aol.com

Bottom of Normanton Rd

Lisa Mayles Normanton Road 412367 lisamayles@btinternet.com

Heather Lane

Peter Last Heather Lane 412367 Peter_last@bopenworld.com

Hall Lane

David Oakley Hall Lane 563409 oakpac@gmail.com

WE NEED NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATORS FOR:

Spring Lane, Bridge Street, Measham Rd./Vicarage Lane,
Babelake St, Nethercroft Drive, Homecroft Drive

Neighbourhood Watch Volunteers required

A strong Neighbourhood watch scheme leads to a safer and friendlier village environment.

The major aim of the Neighbourhood Watch and Home Watch movement is to bring neighbours together to create strong, friendly, active communities where crime and anti-social behaviour are less likely to happen.

The vision is that of a caring society that is focused on trust and respect in which people are safe from crime and enjoy a good quality of life.

Neighbourhood Watch is about making sure that no one has to feel afraid, vulnerable or isolated in the place where they live. It's about people looking out for each other, crossing barriers of age, race and class to create real communities that benefit everyone.

Over recent times due to a variety of circumstances the Packington NW scheme has not been as proactive as we would like.

Having said that, there are a number of stalwarts who have tried to support the scheme, but it does need a larger focused group for it to be successful.

On Wednesday this week we held the first meeting of the new NW Relaunch.

It was identified that a number of people who have given good support in the past now have commitments that do not allow them to continue.

Below is a list of existing NWCs, and a list of areas where new Representatives are required.

The success of this scheme is dependent on the effort and enthusiasm we as villagers put in to it.

I do not propose that being an NWC will be a time consuming or unenjoyable experience. I do expect that it will lead to a safer and friendlier community.

Please give it your support!
Stephen Flook



Packington WI's Christmas meeting went with a swing, with members enjoying an excellent buffet supper. As usual this was arranged and served by the committee, to the appreciation of those present. After everyone had eaten and drunk (wine and fruit juice) to their fill, the keenly anticipated entertainment by "Flossie" began. This well-known local artiste sang a variety of songs from the '50s and '60s, each one accompanied by a quick change of clothing. The evening concluded with carol singing, led by Flossie, to whom a vote of thanks was expressed by Helen Trevenor.

The competition for the most attractively wrapped parcel containing a gift for a child up to the age of five was won by Margaret Aspinal. The presents, contributed by members, were later donated to the Marlene Reid annual toy appeal.

The January meeting was chaired by Margaret Aspinal in the absence through illness of president Margaret Stalker. The speaker was Mrs Wroe, whose subject was Costumes from the Concordia Theatre. She brought several with her, which she and some friends, plus member Carole Melville, modelled. The vote of thanks was proposed by Margaret Monk, and the competition, for an evening bag, was won by Ann Keast.

The meeting on February 6 will be addressed by Christine Baker, her subject being 100 years of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Police News

Hello and Happy New Year to all residents of Packington.

Firstly, thank you to Barry Alldread who has kindly let me write a piece in the Packington Post.

I will probably look to write a quarterly report.

"PC Mark Arjoo has served Leicestershire Police for 22 years. As Beacon Officer with NW Leics policing unit for the past nine years, he is responsible for policing of Ashby centre and surrounding villages including Packington".

He writes The North West Leicestershire Local Policing Unit (LPU), is made up of an LPU Commander (Inspector Helena Bhakta), five Response Teams, and five Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

The Response Teams provide 24 hour cover to the whole LPU area and respond to Grade 1 (15 minute response), and Grade 2 (60 minute response) jobs.

The Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) are divided into five beats, each consisting of a Sergeant, Beacon Officer, Police Constables, Special Constables, and PCSO's.

The SNT's investigate crime and Anti-Social Behaviour, and look at ways of solving problems on their particular area, which can be dealt with in slow time. We also deal with a multitude of community issues.

My message to you is simple - we the police and you the local community need to work together to help reduce crime and to keep the local area safe.

If you witness any activity that you think is suspicious, please ring 999 at the time. If it is something you think is a non-emergency but requires police attendance, telephone 101.

Neighbourhood Watch Schemes play an extremely important part in reducing crime, and in Packington, you have a number of schemes. Please take time to find out and get to know your NHW Co-ordinators.

If you need any advice or need to speak to me regarding any local policing issues, please send me an e-mail at:
mark.arjoo@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk

PC 1667 MARK ARJOO

Property registration event

PCSO Dale Winson and Kieran Bennett will be holding a property registration event, using Immobilise, a free online property database.

Benefits of registration

Immobilise helps Police identify the owners of lost & stolen property thousands of times each day.

Loss & theft updates you make are immediately available to the Police nationally.

Combat the sale of stolen gadgets & valuables; alert the second-hand trade & publicly checkable stolen goods database CheckMend if an item goes missing.

Simplify insurance claims and Police reports with certificates of ownership.

Free registration

Almost any possession with a serial number can be registered for free, including:

- Mobile phones
- iPods, other MP3 players and games consoles
- Laptops, computers and PDAs
- Satellite navigation and in-car equipment
- Bicycles

When is it?

Saturday 8th February 2014

Where is it?

10:00am Measham Parish Council Office, High Street, Measham, DE12 7HR (will be there for approximately 1hour and 30 minutes depending on attendance)

2.00pm Tescos, Ashby De La Zouch, LE65 1TE (will be there for approximately 1hour and 30 minutes depending on attendance)

The Snow queen comes to Packington



The school was delighted to welcome The Working Space Theatre Group to Packington for their annual visit to school. This year they performed The Snow Queen with the help of Freya Edwards, Maddy Cooper and Henry Miller from the Owls. As usual we were all very impressed with the performance which brought the magic of theatre right into our school hall!

Ashby Food Bank

The vast majority of schools that belong to the Ashby Learning Community (ALC) have agreed to support the Ashby Food Bank initiative with each school adopting a month to collect food to donate to the Food Bank. We hope that this will provide a continual support over the year. The school have been allocated with February as our month to collect food. We have decided that we would like to link this project to our work on "Our Year of Determination" and our school Christian Values .

We have asked Rev' Tim Philips from the Ashby Food Bank to introduce the work to the pupils with a whole school assembly and a question and answer session with our KS2 pupils so that pupils have the opportunity to develop an understanding of what the Food Bank is for and why it is needed. The pupils will then be challenged to promote our collection to parents and within the local community. The children will have to research the Food Bank and find out what items are most required in February and will have to advertise this through posters, persuasive letter writing and adverts filmed on our iPads. During the project the pupils will also look at key issues such as inequality, fairness and healthy eating and

pupils will be encouraged to debate some of the themes. We will also ask the children to consider how our support of the Food Bank initiative helps them to share the school's Christian values of thankfulness, peace, trust, justice, friendship, patience, endurance and compassion.

If you would like to contribute then please do pop into school with your donations, we will have collection boxes in the entrance hall during February and we are always pleased to say hello to you. I know the pupils will be really pleased if the whole community could get behind their challenge

Panto and nativity success



The month of December was once again "Show" season at Packington with the Key Stage 2 children performing "Robin Hood" and the FS/KS1 starring in "The Nativity". I have to say the children worked very hard to learn their lines and all the songs and it was a real delight to see them grow in confidence as they took to the stage. They obviously all enjoyed their chance to shine and as a result both productions were fabulous. We have received some marvellous comments from parents and grandparents. The children should all be very proud. Well done!

School Fayre a great success

The School Christmas Fayre was a roaring success as a result of the hard work of the PSA, parents and pupils in Year 5 and 6 who helped as 'Games Makers and Stall Holders'. It was well attended by families and guests and the atmosphere was marvellous with pupils and adults enjoying a wide range of activities including chocolate marshmallows, tombola and craft making. There

were some fantastic raffle prizes and our thanks go to all who contributed and supported the event. In total an amazing £762.50 was raised.

Horticultural Society donation towards log cabin

We were over the moon to receive a very kind donation of £500 from the Packington Horticultural Society towards our "Log Cabin" Project. The school were delighted to welcome Paul, Bob and Kay who came to present a cheque at an achievement assembly at the end of the Autumn term. The 'cabin' will provide a much needed additional teaching space for the school providing a dedicated unit for intervention work, special needs teaching, phonic groups, music lessons as well as a meeting space and will mean that pupils and staff will have a dedicated space to work in rather than using a corridor. The donation from the Horticultural Society has provided an excellent start to our campaign to raise funds towards this exciting project.

School presents cheque to Phoenix Charity

Pupils enjoyed the opportunity to hear about the work of the Phoenix Children's Charity and to meet Doug and one of the ponies, Fern, when they visited the school. Luke, Lottie, Megan, Maddy, Iona and Poppy C presented Doug with a cheque for £100 raised from our Harvest Festival.

Food Gusto Events 2014

Ashby Food & Drink Festival
Saturday 24th May
Sunday 25th May

Appleby Food & Drink Festival
Saturday 23rd August

Ashby Christmas Food & Drink Fair
Saturday 29th November

Now including Crafts
Want to exhibit?
Call Wes 411899

The Packington Village History Group

The Packington Village History Group would like to thank the villager who provided the names of the children in the School Play shown in the last PP issue No63 (except the pupil in a mask). The full list of names is as follows, left to right :- (including two at front)

Elizabeth Iken--Judith Moore--
Stephen Gee--Unknown, in mask--
Stephanie Sawyer--Michael Dunkley--
Helen Moore (?)--Kevin Ford--Nigel Fielding--Andrew Smith--Bruce McKay--Michael Andrews--David White (?)

Year thought to be 1965. If anyone can confirm the date, the two question marked and, of course, the one in the mask it would be greatly appreciated.

Comments to Peter Cooper 412723 or Wally Instrall 416786

Packington Village Youth Club programme Spring 2014

Date Event

- 13/1 Bin Liner Fashion and Jenga
- 20/1 X Factor show planning
- 27/1 X Factor Show
- 3/2 ICE SKATING PROPOSED DATE
- 10/2 Treasure Hunt
- 17/2 Half Term
- 24/2 Snooker contest
- 3/3 Closed - planning
- 10/3 Karaoke
- 17/3 Circus Skills
- 24/3 Sock Monkeys
- 31/3 Foot Painting
- 7/4 Car Wash, Cake Sale and tombola
- 14/4 Easter Hols
- 21/4 Easter Hols
- 28/4 Bingo



Christmas lunch on Sunday 1st December

Reported by Chris Miles

What a great time we all had. We were greeted with smiling faces, a warm room, eight tables decorated with a lovely central floral display, 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 event another memorable festive occasion.

The bar was open and drinks were available and we were taken to our reserved table. 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 1.00pm 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 while the sweet of either Christmas pudding or lemon tart was being served young Zac Holden 7 and Henry Miller 8 were very efficient in selling tickets. After coffee and mince pies had been served the raffle was drawn and it was announced that over £100 was raised and will go towards the Memorial Halls Defibrillator fund.

Finally, we were all presented with chocolate truffles, all made by Sharron 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 six quid! What terrific value.

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

Rachael, Sharron, Melanie, Fran, Dean and James the organisers,

would like to thank everyone who attended and would ask that everyone looks out for details of the Summer Tea Event for 2014. They also appreciated the kind words of lunch-goers who wrote to them afterwards. They also would like to say that with an operating profit from the meal of nearly £100 a total of £196 was given to the Memorial Hall in recognition of their support for this event. £100 of this money will be ring fenced to kick start the Defibrillator fund.

Residents will be also interested to know that, following this event, an anonymous donation of £200 was received by the Memorial Hall Chairman toward this fund.

Packington Cricket Club



In a successful end to the 2013 season, the club escaped relegation with a fine win on the last match. Luke Codford scored a wonderful 142 not out, and opening bowler Phil Buxton took 7 wickets for 20 runs. The club held its annual presentation awards at the Bull & Lion pub, culminating in a great "Race Night" organised by Dave Kelly

The new season gets underway in April with indoor nets starting on the first Monday in February at Ashby De La Zouch Grammar School, Leicester Road at 8pm - 9.30pm.

The club have three new players signed up for the new season but more are needed if we are to achieve our ambition to get promotion this year. We have a superb family atmosphere at the club, as can be seen from the photos of the presentation night and all new members are welcome.

Anyone interested in joining the club can contact the President, Roger Muggleton on 07833 445422 or 415221.



Dear All,

“Labour will tell teachers to improve or face the sack”. That was the headline taking up most of the front page of my newspaper. I was saddened to read them. What must it have felt like to be a teacher reading that? It lumps all teachers together. The teachers I know are hard-working and dedicated; it must be demoralising to see headlines and proposals like that.

There were all the complaints from politicians as well as the media about the length of time it took to reconnect power supplies after the flooding in the south-east. Yet there was footage of men working to do their best in difficult conditions.

We seem to have become very hard and demanding as a society.

Those of you who read my meanderings may recall that I can get hooked on words. I like words. My word of the moment is ‘mercy’: it has a lovely gentle sound to it. It speaks of compassion and clemency. It speaks of forgiveness towards someone who it is within one’s power to harm or punish. It’s about having a disposition to be kind and forgiving.

The 23rd psalm speaks of this ‘surely goodness and loving mercy follow me all the days of my life’. There the psalmist is speaking of the Lord who is our shepherd. The Lord Jesus is our prime example of what it means to be merciful. Humanity is well deserving of punishment – the wars, the harming of the environment and much more – but the Lord is merciful. The Archbishop of Canterbury said at the time of the baptism of Prince George, that he wanted to say to all who’ve been

baptised, not just a future king, “For you Jesus Christ came into the world. For you he lived and showed God’s love. For you he suffered the darkness of Calvary and cried at last ‘It is finished’. For you he triumphed over death and rose to new life. For you he reigns at God’s right hand. All this he did for you, though you do not know it yet.” God would show us mercy.

Do we need to re-learn mercy in our dealings with each other as a society? I know I respond much more positively when I am in receipt of mercy rather than blame. If I’m blamed, then I can come out of my corner fighting (which gets no-one anywhere). Show me mercy and there can be a conversation.

Do we need to move away from finding someone to blame for everything to be mercifully accepting of each other? Do we need to be able to show mercy to ourselves?

I wonder how different the atmosphere would be if we could all learn the disposition of mercy?

The more I realise the forgiveness I receive from our Lord, the more I long to be merciful in my response to others and to myself. It’s quite a learning curve! Could we all have a go at learning the gift and art of mercy during 2014?

Happy New Year and God’s blessing and mercy to you,

Vivien

Carols at the Memorial Hall

Thanks to all who supported this event back in December, and particular thanks to Chris Miles for playing the organ to give us a good lead. The weather was against us for carol singing outside the hall, but a goodly number gathered together for carols and other Christmassy songs. There was much needed mulled wine, coffee and mince pies to revive us afterwards

Services: January- March 2014 January 26th 11 am 4th Sunday

February 2nd
11am Morning Prayer
6pm Evening Prayer

February 9th
11 am All age service

February 16th
11 am Holy Communion

February 23rd
11 am 4th Sunday service with Church Army

March 2nd
11am Morning Prayer
6pm Evening Prayer

March 5th (Ash Wednesday)
7.30pm Holy Communion at Donisthorpe Church

March 9th
8am Holy Communion
11am All age service

March 16th
11am Holy Communion
March 23rd
9.30 am United service of Holy Communion at Normanton-le-Heath

March 30th
(Mothering Sunday)
8am Holy Communion
11am Special Family Service for Mothering Sunday

There is also a service of Holy Communion on the first Wednesday of the month at 10 am



Packington Book Group

The Book Group meets at 7.30 in the Meeting Room at the Memorial Hall on the 4th Wednesday of every month. Our second meeting of 2014, on 26th February, we will be discussing a book that was written by someone whose centenary falls this year - Laurie Lee - as we will be reading Cider with Rosie. Back to more modern times on March 26th, when we will be looking at Anne Tyler’s book The Ladder of Years.

If you would like to join us or find out more about the Book Group please **Contact Kate Mongredien on 564613**