



Packington Post

www.packington.info



November 2014

issue no 69

£1.50 (Village residents free)



The Results Are In !!! Continued Village Support For the Packington Post

The Packington Post team are always looking at ways of improving the services provided and in the September issue we published a "reader's survey" to get feedback from across the village. The survey was pretty extensive covering all of our printed, online and social media platforms. The results were pretty over-whelming with 95% of those that responded saying that they valued the Post and that the village should continue to produce a printed newsletter.

88% of respondents thought that the content was either "good" or "excellent" with photographic content also positively received. Very few sections received a "dislike" comment; although clearly some are more popular than others. 45% of replies actually stated that there was "nothing" they disliked. The

most popular sections of the Post as voted by you were the "what's on" articles, Group news and historical articles.

The village website also received positive feedback with 88% claiming they made use of it for reasons ranging from seeing what the latest events in the village are to checking the availability of the village hall. Email alerts were also commended with 70% of respondents already on the circulation list.

In an age when we seem to live in an increasingly "online" world, it was noted that the village was well represented here via the website, Twitter and Facebook accounts.

However, the printed word is not dead! We received a comments from residents who are not online or who do not own a computer. For these residents, the Packington Post in printed version continues to provide a valuable source of information of what's happening and gives them a link into the community.

Away from the numbers, we also received a number of comments

on improvements and additions to content. There were requests that we should cover planning applications and Parish Council activities more fully. Respondents also wanted to hear more about the successes of local people or people with interesting backgrounds or hobbies. Babies, weddings and anniversary news was also mentioned. People are also interested in village improvement ideas, local business or sporting successes, village history and gardening information. There were suggestions around a "viewpoint" section, letters to the editor and greater focus on "big issues" such as HS2. The Post team have committed to reviewing all comments and implementing ideas in the New Year.

The Packington Post remains a volunteer activity run by village residents for the benefit of the village so we thank everyone again for their ongoing support. The full results have been shared with Parish Council and are available to anyone on request.



Packington Post
www.packington.info

Next Edition January 29th Copy Date January 9th



Over the last few months, a considerable amount of Councillors' time has been spent continuing their objection to the two big housing developments in the village. As many of you will already be aware, NWLDC planning committee passed the applications on 10th June but the parish council has been in continued and regular correspondence with NWL in an attempt to have these decisions reversed. The parish council were notified that it would be likely that the planning applications would be returned to the planning committee however, it seems this is no longer the case. The Chairman of the parish council voiced the opinion that all Councillors' efforts to reverse the planning decision have come to no effect and he feels that the parish council has been completely ignored.

The proposed HS2 development has recently been in the news once again and it is said that a new route for the East Midlands is being considered by HS2 Limited. The parish council will be receiving an update at the beginning of December from HS2 Limited which will hopefully include further information on the route.

Grass cutting in the village has been a particular concern to Councillors this year. LCC should have provided the village with seven cuts, but only four took place, despite numerous calls to LCC. In fact one particular area was only cut once! In an attempt to cut cost and to pass more responsibility for extra cuts on to the parish, LCC have advised that they are willing to only carry out five cuts in 2015. If any residents have a particular concern about this matter or wish to make their views known, please contact Cllr Nick Rushton at LCC who oversees this area of business.

Parish Councillors have recently agreed a contract with NWLDC who will carry out winter salting on some minor roads in the village which are known to be problematic in the cold winter months. NWLDC already carry out additional salting in the area and will now include Packington on their route. Councillors would like to remind residents that they are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings. The next meeting will be held in the meeting room at the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 16th December at 7pm. If you would like to bring any matters to the attention of councillors or contact them, please either email or telephone the Parish Clerk, Victoria Roe. Tel: 01332 863702. Email: clerk@packingtonpc.org.uk.

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Important dates for your diary Plus much, much more!



Packington Nook Lane No More Houses!

The appeal is dismissed! - 29 October 2014

The Planning Inspector has now published his report and dismissed the appeal by Hallam Land for 70 houses at Lower Packington Road. He has agreed with our arguments that the land is countryside, distant from the town centre and that the need to deliver housing numbers does not justify this site being developed.

Our thanks to Nigel Garnham,
Chair of the PNRA,
for this good news:

Success at Beetle Drive

The Packington Beetle Drive was an afternoon of speedy dice-throwing and much giggling. Many of the 50 people attending did not know what they were letting themselves in for and had no idea what a Beetle Drive was, but they soon got the hang of it! A simple game which consists of throwing dice to gain body parts for a beetle. A fun afternoon which raised £209 for Prostate Cancer UK.



Packington and Normanton Church Ladies Group

The Ladies Group recently celebrated their 50th year with an invitation lunch in the Memorial Hall, attractively decorated with a golden theme. This included gold balloons and gold wrapped sweets in china cups and saucers.

Fifty four past and present members, some travelling from as far as Peterborough, Birmingham and Devon, enjoyed a delicious two course meal served by Fine cuisine of Ashby. Ann Wathes made a special cake and Lindsay Hughes a selection of celebration cake-pops for ladies to take home. The wine was generously provided by Patrick Sumnall in memory of Jeanella.



The occasion also included a display of photographs and memorabilia of past events in the form of a time line over the previous five decades.



The group first began meeting some 50 years ago as 'Young Wives'. It subsequently became 'Wives' before evolving to the present 'Ladies Group'. A founder member Joan Robertshaw gave a fascinating account of her memories over 50 years and the ways in which the village and village life had changed dramatically during this period of time. There were also contributions from Pauline Miles, Pauline Sansom, Eileen Taylor and Doreen Gasson.

Altogether a most enjoyable event with good company and much 'catching up' with old friends. How will the village be in another 50 years' time!

NEXT MEETING: Christmas Supper at the Memorial Hall, 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th December. Please let me know if you would like to join us.

Doreen Gasson Tel No: 412012

Packington Lunch Club

In the autumn of 2010 the Memorial Hall management committee started to look into the possibility of organising a village lunch club similar to those already operating in several Leicestershire villages.

The idea is to give older people, looking for opportunities to socialise in a friendly environment, the chance to enjoy a nutritious meal, and catch up with old friends, and meet new ones.

With a newly equipped kitchen, given a top rating by the Local Authority, the village hall premises were ideally suited to this type of function.

Pauline Miles agreed to organise the overall running of the Lunch Club, including ordering the meals, ensuring there were enough volunteers to serve the food and keeping in touch with club members to ascertain how many would be arriving each month.

On 21 October 2010 the first 13 lunches were served. In the ensuing 4 years the Lunch Club has become a regular fixture in the Memorial Hall meeting room. By the time you read this over 700 meals will have been served and enjoyed by the members.

One of our founder members, Mary Evans, has written the following appreciation.....

"It is almost four years since the lunches for the elderly people of Packington started in the village hall. It is a lovely friendly get together for husbands, wives, and people living on their own.

On behalf of all who attend I would like to say a big "thank you" to the ladies and gents who voluntarily give their help to make it so welcoming. The tables are set beautifully and the meals are good.

Each month I am collected from Prior Park by Mike or Adrian. I enjoy talking to people who I used to see at W.I., the Church, the Post Office and Pete's shop. So many thanks to Pauline and Chris, and all the other volunteers for seeing we get a lovely hot meal on our get together each month. We do appreciate your kindness." Mary Evans, Ashby de la Zouch.

If you are interested in joining the Lunch Club contact **Pauline Miles on 414378**. It meets at noon, on the third Thursday of the month.



Letter to Editor

Dear Irresponsible Dog Owners of Packington.

Yes, you know who you are because the majority of Packington dog owners are responsible and clean up after their dogs. This is not only an act of courtesy to their neighbours and people who share their streets and services, but also because not picking up after your dog is AGAINST THE LAW!

Over 100 children pour in and out of the Packington school gates every day. Every single week there is dog mess left on the grass edges of the church walk path. Inevitably the dog mess is trodden in. Later to be discovered in the car, on the carpet or in the worst reported cases on their hands or clothing! Dog mess can spread harmful germs to children if ingested or cause damage to their eyes.



Church walk is not the only affected area. Grass verges all over the village are targeted. Little Lane is often referred to as "Dog Poo Alley". Offenders must assume that they can go unnoticed and that residents won't realise that a small minority are acting in this way. However, without being too graphic, we can all tell from its regular locations, colour and size that it is deposited by the same few dogs. Dogs are creatures of habit.

None of our residents should have to put up with this irresponsible behaviour! It's disgusting and anti-social. Anyone who is not prepared to deal with their dog's poop, should not own a dog. There are products on the market to help with caring for your dog, such as long handled poop scoops and fragrant disposal bags, so there is no excuse. What would be your reaction to finding dog poo trodden through your home? Would you be disgusted if you witnessed your neighbour dropping litter in your street? Dog fouling is no different.

One regularly targeted area is now monitored by CCTV, from a nearby home. If you are spotted walking away from your dog's mess, you will be reported – with evidence!

It is important to note that I regularly see Packington's responsible dog owners carrying their little bags of doggy doo on their walks and I am so grateful to them for caring for our village and its inhabitants. They tell me that they feel embarrassed on your behalf and are concerned that you are giving them a bad name. That's not fair either.

Please pick up after your dog! It's your responsibility!

Anyone who spots a crime of this nature, please call North West Leicestershire Council on: 454545

Have YOUR SAY On Local Issues - Tell Us!



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Packington History Group



The above picture is of a Carnival School Float in 1986 so many of the locals may recognise the children, we hope!!

We would like to know as many names as possible.

Replies as usual to Peter Cooper 412723 or Wally Instrall 416786

Bull & Lion Opening Hours



Christmas Eve
 12.00 midday - 11pm
 Food as normal

Christmas day
 11.00am – 1.00pm
 No food

Boxing Day
 12.00 midday – 12.00 midnight
 Food as normal

New Year's Eve
 12.00 midday - late

New Year's Day
 12-11 Food -Bookings only

January
 1st – 4th Normal opening hours

5th- 22nd No food open from 4pm

23rd 12 midday – 12 midnight
 Food 12.00 midday - 8.30pm

Dynamic Due Entertain Packingtons Mens Group

Members of Packington Men's Group (PMG) were treated to a surprise double act when Carol Price (Head teacher at Packington) was joined by Julie Cooper (Head teacher at Newbold) to tell about their educational trip to Rwanda. They were accompanied by James, a cuddly bear, the Packington school mascot.



A group of teachers from Leicestershire set off to forge links with schools in Rwanda. After a gruelling journey of some 51 hours they finally reached their destination and found facilities very basic. Nevertheless the welcome they received everywhere they went was sincere and heart-warming.



Teaching methods are very different with classes of 60 children. Half the pupils arrive for the morning session and change in the afternoon when it is the older children's turn.

Time was found for some sightseeing and other adventures including Mrs Price dressing up for a two hour motor bike taxi ride!

After their return, a party of teachers from Rwanda came to Leicestershire and visited schools including Packington and Newbold.

Remember the 11th December, PMG Party Evening. This will take place at The Bull & Lion, starting at 6pm. It will include social time, a team quiz with prizes, a two-course meal and our own keyboard music to sing to. We will have our own dedicated room and all the facilities of the village pub are at our disposal, thanks to an enthusiastic landlords of the Bull & Lion, Phill Tookey and Emma Talbot. This promises to be a very nice evening. There will be a choice of menu to be advised later.

Our treasurer, Wally Instrall, needs to receive your payment of the £10 cost in advance, as early as possible - **contact Wally on 416786**, or email to wj.instrall@virgin.net



Film Club at Packingtons Memorial Club

The Memorial Hall is now equipped with a large screen and projector capable for showing quality pictures and films. Linked to the sound system this produces a very good all round effect. A group of regular hall users came to a demonstration last month and were suitably impressed. Some groups have already used the equipment with a laptop to project power point presentations. This can be done without a licence as there are no infringement of copyright.

However, to show a film whether to a paying or non-paying audience using a DVD or Bluray requires a licence at a cost of about £100.

The Memorial Hall committee would like someone to come forward who is prepared to organise and run a film club. Films could be shown monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly, depending on demand.

For the 5th anniversary celebrations on the 6th December the Committee plan to show a family film as part of the evening event. This will provide an opportunity to canvas opinion about the frequency and type of films people would come out to see. Another question would be how much people are prepared to pay.

Information about starting a film club is available at: www.bffs.org.uk

Interested contact any member of the Memorial Hall Committee.

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We have had a super start to the academic year with lots of exciting changes, including the introduction of "Our Year of Courage" and a new House System. It certainly has been busy and the pupils have been working hard to help us make Packington School a great place to be. As part of this the School Council have reviewed and re-written our school motto, which now reads: "Together we can achieve more.... with Jesus as our guiding light." As you will read below the children have really been putting in their best efforts to achieve more.

"Our Year of Courage"

This year we have decided to encourage our pupils to become courageous learners through the introduction of "Our Year of Courage". Over the year the children will have the opportunity to try new ideas and to take risks in order to push themselves and learn without limits. Our work will link subjects and themes throughout the year including PSHE, Art, Science, Philosophy and R.E. Each term will have a specific theme as follows:

Autumn - What is courage?

Spring - Making a Difference

Summer - A Leap of Faith

Throughout the year we will also organise several themed weeks and workshops. So far the pupils have considered what courage means, have explored how courage can be depicted in art and have thought about the courage of those who lost their lives in the First World War and the courage that it takes for forgiveness and reconciliation.

"I learnt that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it." – Nelson Mandela

Super SATs Results

We are pleased to announce that once again **all** our pupils met or bettered national expectations in English, Reading, Writing and Maths (Level 4 or above) in the 2014 SATS.

The children reported that their residential visit to Bude was "the best ever". In fact one pupil went as far as to say it was the best experience of their life, quite an endorsement! We really enjoyed our daily reports back to school and it was marvellous to hear about the fantastic activities they were involved in ranging from body boarding, to caving and kayaking, and it was superb to hear about their growth in confidence and marvellous Packington team spirit.



Sainsbury's Silver Sports Award

We were delighted to hear that we have been awarded with a silver kite mark for the quality and quantity of our sports work at the school. Pupils certainly have a wide range of opportunities; this term alone we have had pupils participate in football events, dodge ball and multi sports. On top of this we have had a number of sporting successes.

Both the Eagles and the Owls have had a successful time at the recent Ashby Rugby Tournaments. Our Year 3/4 team did exceedingly well getting through to the final but lost to Willesley after a very close match.

We also had several teams playing in the Year 5/6 event with one team getting as far as the playoffs for 3rd place. The team still have to play their match against Newbold Primary School so let's wish them luck.



In November we hosted the second cross country event of the season for schools who belong to the Unity Learning Partnership. It was a great day with over 400 pupils running. The day was a great success thanks to the combined efforts of school staff, parents and villagers and our visitors commented on the smooth running of the event, the interesting course and the refreshments. The best news was the number of runners we had from Packington so well done to all who took part. We would like to thank you all for your patience and good will, helping to make the Packington event a friendly and welcoming success. We would especially like to thank Chris Miles for his hard work in setting up the spectator area and Mr Plant and Mr and Mrs Page for letting us use their land.

Our Exhibition of Courage Artwork

We welcomed our parents and family members to our art exhibition on the theme of courage. Every child in school had worked to produce a piece of art work to represent what courage means. Each class explored the theme using a different stimulus. The Robins used the story of "Ish", the Blackbirds used the story of "The Mousehole Cat", the Owls looked at the courage of foot and mouth artists, and courageous sayings and art work, and the Eagles explored the courage of soldiers in the First World War through words taken from "Hear my Cry". The results were both delightful and thought provoking.



The exhibition was really well attended and pupils had the opportunity to talk about their art work with their parents.

Below are some of the many wonderful comments written in the visitor's book:

"I think they have all achieved a great sense of what inspired them. They have used great media – well done all!"

"Thank you to the helpful guides. Some thought provoking work. Well done!"

"Your artwork is very impressive. It shows careful consideration of so many topics. It shows a great deal of creativity. Well done everyone you should be proud."

"What a lovely display of artwork."

"Thank you for inviting us to see the children's art work it made a lovely interesting display."

Remembering the Fallen

This year we commemorated the 100 years since the start of the Great War with a week of Remembrance. Throughout the week the pupils are learning about the impact of war and the bravery of those who lost their lives, they also considered the courage to forgive and live together in peace and harmony. Every child made a poppy to remember the fallen and these have been displayed in the entrance hall and I have to say the combination of 100 poppies is a striking symbol and talking point for everyone in school.



Packington Neighbourhood watch Christmas Message

As Christmas comes nearer people up and down the country are starting to think about doing their Christmas shopping and stocking up on supplies. However, criminals are no different in that respect and at this time of year there can be rich pickings to be found by taking advantage of the unwary. Make sure you are aware of some common-sense precautions against getting burgled during the festive season.



Keep presents both wrapped and unwrapped out of view – make sure they're not visible from any windows.

Don't put gift packaging out for recycling or leave it sticking out of your bin – thieves will notice boxes for branded products like laptops, TVs or even accessories that could indicate there's an expensive piece of kit somewhere in the house.

Leave a light on and draw the curtains when you go out at night.

Mark your valuables with a UV pen or property marking service. You can register your property with <http://www.immobilise.com/> which is endorsed by a number of police forces and which also sells property marking products.

If you're going away, ask a trusted neighbour to pop in every now and then and turn the lights on and off, draw the curtains, collect the mail and generally make the house look occupied. And it goes without saying, make sure everything is properly locked up before you leave and the burglar alarm – if you have one – is set. Cancel your newspapers, magazines and milk deliveries.

Don't forget to look out for your neighbours' properties too! You can report anything suspicious to the police on 999 (emergencies), 101



(non-emergencies) or anonymously to Crime stoppers on 0800 555 111.

Remember that thieves will also have their eye on cars – don't leave valuables in the car if you can avoid it, or lock them in the boot if you can't take them with you. Don't leave anything on show in the car, not even a coat or an empty carrier bag. Park somewhere well-lit and secure if you can, and of course take care of your keys at all times.

With the dark evenings drawing in as early as 4 o'clock, remember to be careful when out and about. Keep your wallet, phone, keys and other valuables secure in your pocket or bag – try to use a chain if possible. Be careful when taking money out of cash machines – put it away before you leave the machine – and don't take out too much cash at one time. Be aware of what's going on around you and avoid getting things like phones or music players out on quiet streets.

Please pass this advice on to your friends and neighbours.

If anyone is interested in joining the Neighbourhood watch group we still require street contacts for Babelake Street, Homecroft Drive and Nethercroft Drive.

Above all, have a safe and very happy Christmas and New Year!

**Stephen Flook. Packington NWC
415185**





Dear All,

December is always a busy month generally, and particularly in the life of the church. Christmas is one of the three great celebrations of the Christmas year as we rejoice that God was born as human in the stable in Bethlehem. This year it will be even busier as we start with a special weekend on 6th/7th December.

The weekend is called 'Party to Christmas?' and has lots of fun things to do across the 8 churches of the Woodfield Team. 'Party to Christmas?' is a week-end of events and visits by the Bishop of Leicester - Bishop Tim and his colleagues David Newman (Archdeacon), Mike Harrison (Mission and Ministry Team) and Jonathan Kerry (Diocesan Secretary). The events reflect the celebration and journey as we travel towards Christmas – a Party theme! So a very special weekend indeed. Do come along to some of the events that will be running at Packington and elsewhere.

**6th December 8.30am – 10.00am
Breakfast - Packington Memorial Hall**

Enjoy a good English breakfast with Canon Mike Harrison as the guest speaker. We do need to know numbers so please contact Carole Melville to book 412558.

2.00pm - 4.30pm Ready Steady Stick! Christmas Journey! at Measham Church Hall (High Street, Measham DE12 7HZ)
Especially for the children

7.00pm Come & see St Mark's Gospel brought alive! Measham Church (High Street, Measham, DE12 7HZ) David Newman performs St Mark's Gospel in mime and word – the sequel to Christmas! Mulled wine and mince pies in the interval.

All welcome. Parking at the church and in the public car park off Bosworth Road. This is a very moving performance.

7th December: 11 a.m. in Holy Rood is a special Advent carol service with Jonathan Kerry as the guest preacher. The carols of Advent are beautiful and haunting. At 4pm Bishop Tim will be at the Christingle service along with Packington School. All are welcome, not just those who attend Packington School.

And then we move deeper into the Christmas celebration, into the mystery of Jesus who is God-with-us. Don't miss out this Christmas in discovering new meaning to the celebration.

Yours, Vivien

Services: November 2014 – January 2015

November 30th - Advent Sunday

9.30 am united service at Measham Church (no service at Packington)

December 7th

11.00 am Advent Carol Service with guest preacher Jonathan Kerry & 4.00 pm Christingle service for all ages with the Bishop of Leicester

December 14th

11.00am Toy service and nativity - Come along to our 'instant nativity' and all age toy service. We'll have a mixture of singing, listening, and prayer. Importantly we'll be acting out the story of the nativity and everyone who wants to can take part – young or old. Could you bring the obligatory tea-towel? Have you got a toy sheep? Anything that would be nativity appropriate? Did you always want to be a shepherd or wise man and never got your chance?

In addition, we will be receiving toys (preferably new) to go to the Marlene Reid Centre in Coalville for distribution to children who might not otherwise get Christmas presents. Can you help?

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December 21st

11.00am No service & 6.00 pm Carols by Candlelight

December 24th: Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib service & 11.30pm Midnight Communion

December 25th Christmas Day

9.30am Family Communion service at Normanton-le-Heath

December 28th

11.00am 4th Sunday service

January 4th

11.00am Morning Prayer & 6.00pm Evening Prayer

January 11th

11.00am All age service

January 18th

11.00am Holy Communion

January 25th

11.00am 4th Sunday service

There is also a service of Holy Communion on the first Wednesday of the month at 10 am December 18th at 7.30 p.m. will be at the Bull and Lion.

Charity Coffee Morning

Our coffee morning on Saturday 15th November in aid of Rainbows Children's Hospice and Phoenix Children's Foundation raised to date £412.75p.



Thank you to all who supported us.
Anne & Faye

The Great Packington Bake-Off will be on Saturday 21st March 2015

Ready, Steady, Bake....Save the date!



Same exciting format as before with a technical challenge and signature bakes.

More details to follow contact
Judith@packington.info

Charity Breakfast Time Again

Saturday 28th February 2015 will see the fourth breakfast event at the Memorial Hall. Starting at 9.00am and running through to 1.00 pm, save the date on your new calendar or diary, on your iPad or Blackberry.....whatever you need to do to book the date.



At the time of going to press the charities who will benefit have not been agreed so more news later.

This is a real community event with many volunteers making sure everything comes together and many individuals and families joining up for a real social and satisfying breakfast. If you would like to volunteer for a one hour slot to cook, make toast, serve tea and coffee or clearing and washing plates, please do not hold back but contact:
mike.coke@talktalk.net

Ready, Steady, Stick's Christmas Journey!



**Saturday 6th December
2 - 4.30pm
Measham Church Hall**

Join us for a fun afternoon of crafts, games, drama, story, music and Christmas nibbles!

Open to all children of Primary School age and under (children under 5 need an accompanying adult)

Cost: £1 per child
For further details and advanced booking ring
Linda Cox 01530 411642

Back by popular request, we would like to invite you to join us for our

Christmas Celebration Lunch

Sunday 7th December
1:00p.m for 1:15pm
Packington Memorial Hall

Home Cooked 3 Course Luncheon Menu - £6:50 pp
Roast Beef or Roast Turkey with all the trimmings served and a selection of potatoes & vegetables
Vegetarian option available (please let us know upon booking)
A choice of dessert served with custard or cream
Coffee or Tea & Mince Pies
Christmas gift for everyone
Raffle and Entertainment

We look forward to seeing you there!

If you would like to book a place then please contact :
Chris Miles 414378 Racheal Miles 413795 Sharron Miller 413946

Available only for those over 50!

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Record Number Attend Packington Bonfire Night

Another a great event. A record year!! Highest attendance 350 to 400 people; Biggest ever surplus financially!!! Tallest flame!!! Was it the biggest bonfire?? The greatest number of favourable comments on face-book and twitter.

With perfect weather conditions, the bonfire constructed by long time expert Bob Plant roared away at 7.00pm. Within seconds the flames were a splendid sight. At their peak the flames were estimated at a record 35 meters high and were warming the crowd. A well organised team in the refreshment tent started serving early arrivals at 6.30pm and I am told that despite facing the fireworks again this year, they hardly had a moment to appreciate the display. The queue for food was amazing and people were still being served after the display. Needless to say the food tent sold out.

The first half of the fireworks display began at about 7.20pm and saw a continuous barrage of noise and colour accompanied by some exciting and suitable music which hopefully enhanced the excitement and wonder. At about 7.35pm there was a lull in proceedings whilst the firework team were setting up for the finale. This gap was filled by the ever popular sparkler session for children with a parent. Over 135 sparklers were lit and the youngsters enjoyed a safe and supervised environment for this hands on activity.

The firework programme then continued with the best set of fireworks ever seen in Packington. The finale, again with music accompaniment was a spectacular sight and had most people spellbound. Whilst fireworks last a relatively short time I think everyone enjoyed the moment and the very expensive 'cakes' were a sign that you "only get what you pay for" In all over £500 worth of explosions were seen.

The organisers, 'The Packington Recreation Ground Charity' would like to thank the many volunteers who enabled this event to run safely and successfully, particularly to Bob, Alan, Gill and David for fire and fireworks; cooks Dean and Daniel; to Pauline and Rachael for

organising the food, soup and drinks and Janet, Zoe, Becky and Alison for serving; Carla for preparing a fruit punch and to Chris for stewarding; Marion and Janet who have supervised the entrance for a number of years now performing an excellent job in asking people for their donations and gift aid contributions and finally Matt, who volunteered to help pack away and pick up the rubbish at the end of the evening.

I would also like to thank Alan, Dan and Paula for their fantastic energy and commitment in the on field preparation for the event and to Alan, Bob, and Daniel again for helping me the following day to dismantle the tents, the fencing, the tables, the rubbish etc.

As most will know, the Recreation Ground Charity recently renewed a rope walk-way in the play area at a cost of £2200. The profits made from this and last year's bonfire party have been able to pay for this.

Once again the Bonfire Night was financially sustainable and with an increased attendance and some generous donations and fantastic food and drink sales I am pleased to say that a fantastic surplus of £1375 was made on the night.

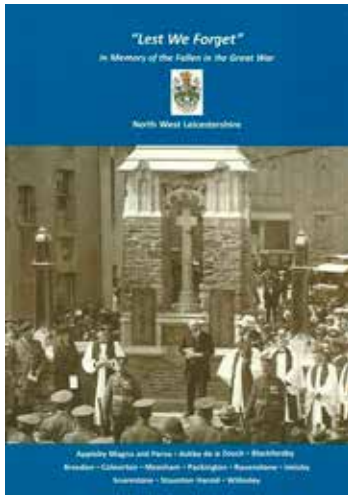
We hope to repeat the success on the 5th November next year.

Reported by Chris Miles

Oh! One rather sour note. Who was the dog owner who let their dog c—p in the middle of the food tent between the hours of 9.15pm 5th Nov to 9.30am 6th Nov.????

Your dog should be on a lead in the Recreation Ground and you should have picked this mess up!!! Whilst packing away the tent next morning we had to avoid your dog mess. Needless to say I was not vigilant enough!!!

"Lest We Forget" is available priced at £12



From Daybreak Stores, High street, Packington **Tel:-** 415705 or Wally Instrall (Museum co-coordinator for Packington) at 17, The Grange, Packington. **Tel:-** 416786 or email:- wj.instrall@virgin.net

All profit will be donated to the Red Cross.

Officially launched in August by Lady Gretton, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire, the WW1 book for North West Leicestershire entitled "Lest We Forget" contains some 360 pages in full colour.

The Packington entry starts on page 305 and covers those listed on the memorial in Holy Rood church.

If anybody can add further details to the information in the book the History Group would be interested to hear from anyone who can shed further light.

STAR LIGHT CAROL'S Brass band carol's with the Salvation Army

Wrap up warm and join the festive fun, all the classic carol's with a live brass band outside the Bull and Lion.

FREE entry

Mince Pies and Gluhwein

Bring family and friends for a night to remember

Donations welcome

Bull and Lion

48 High Street, Packington,
LE65 1WH 01530 415257

Thursday 18th Dec 7.30pm

Invitation to Community Bus Partnership Meeting for Bus Route No.7 - 6-8pm, 9th December 2014, Twycross Village Hall

Leicestershire County Council is embarking on an exciting venture giving residents, community representatives, businesses and bus users the chance to get involved in managing your local bus service.

If you have any ideas to help improve the usage of the No:7 bus service

(http://www.leics.gov.uk/k1224_service_7_timetable.pdf) then please come along to Twycross Village Hall, Burton Road, Twycross, Atherstone, Warwickshire, CV9 2DF on Tuesday 9th December 2014 at 6pm.

A Community Bus Partnership brings together the local community, local authority and the bus provider to try and increase the use of the bus on a particular bus route and access to help get you to work, school or leisure activities. You can get involved in many ways, such as by helping to improve the route, stops and timetable and by promoting the service locally. If you have a local business, you may have ideas about how the bus could better serve your employees and/or customers or have ideas for joint marketing opportunities.

We would like to involve a range of users and community representatives, including those from local businesses and voluntary groups. We would therefore encourage you to spread the message about this meeting to as many people as possible who live by, work by or use this bus route.

On the evening we will share more information about what a Community Bus Partnership is, how you can get involved, and what support we will provide.

If you are able to attend or would like further information please call us on 0116 305 7034 or email leicestershireforums@leics.gov.uk

Packington Blind Horse – Chapter 2

We left Chapter 1 in the last issue of the Post with questions being asked about the true origins of the Shire horse



A NOBLE BEGINNING

The history of the Shire horse is hard to pin down. The year 1068 seems to be a good starting point when tracing its background. The terms 'War Horse' or 'Great Horse' come to mind when speaking of the Shire. It was then mentioned as being used as a pack animal. It is believed, by many, to be the breed that carried knights into battle. Most Shire people accept that today's horse is indeed descended from the heavy cob type of about 15.2 hands used in the armies of King Henry II.

It stands to reason that for horses to carry a fully armoured knight weighing in excess of four hundred pounds into battle, an animal with great strength and yet a calm temperament would be required. These two characteristics are not lost on today's Shire.

Whether for use as a 'Cart Horse', as they were also known during this period in history, or as a 'War Horse', 'a hundred stallions of large stature' were imported to England from the lowlands of Flanders, Holland, and the banks of the Elbe, from 1199 to 1216. It is from this blending, over seven hundred years ago, of these animals with the English breed, that some strains, at least, of our heavy draught horses must be said to date their origin.

It was during the reign of Henry VIII that acts to prohibit the breeding of horses under 15 hands were passed, and that the name 'shire' as applied to the horse was first used in these statutes. The name came from the Saxon word 'schyran' which means to shear, or divide, hence the name shire, which is synonymous with County. It is the Counties, or 'Shires', of the Midlands in England, namely Derbyshire, Leicestershire, and Staffordshire, that the horse hails from.

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES

Saturday 6th December – Supper & Film Night, Memorial Hall, 7.00pm

Sunday 7th December – Christmas Celebration Lunch, Memorial Hall, over 50's only, 1.00pm

Friday 12th December – Ashby Rotary Clubs Santa's Sleigh comes to Packington

Wednesday 17th December – Coffee and chat, Holy Rood Church, 9.30am – 11.30am

Thursday 18th December – Starlight Carols with The Salvation Army, Bull & Lion, 7.30pm

Saturday 20th December – Macmillan Christmas Coffee Morning, Memorial Hall

Sunday 21st December – Carols by Candlelight, Holy Rood Church, 6.00pm

Send us your important diary dates for 2015
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Find out the latest Packington information at:

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Join the Packington Post Team from the comfort of your own home. Send us your contribution by email on local events, food, and more.



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 rwozywoda@yahoo.co.uk or telephone the editor (details above).