

Dear All,

I'm writing this just after I've got back from a glorious walk through the countryside. What a miracle our world is! The blue of the bluebells and forget-me-nots; the white of the May blossom and cow parsley; the fresh green of the leaves and grass; and the sight of four tiny ducklings rushing after mum and dad.

'The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of his hands' says Psalm 19. How today's walk spoke to me of that glory of God. It spoke to me of the wonder of being alive – the aliveness of nature and the aliveness in me. We take it all so much for granted but what a miracle it is.

I've been reading recently that the first 'bible' that was given to humankind is nature itself. The created order is the first way in which God spoke to us, and it is still one of the ways that he speaks to us. I so often think what a wonderful God to create all this beauty and all this intricacy of working together. One question another book (written by Brian McLaren asked) was: 'if one element of creation were your only Bible, what would it tell you about God?' I chose to think about what sleep said to me of God (probably because I've been feeling I need more sleep) and it's been a fascinating exercise.

It reminded me that God really cares for me when I'm asleep and can't fend for myself or control anything. I thought how fascinating that we were designed to need sleep to restore us, rather than being 24/7 creatures. How would you answer the question? What element of creation could you ponder on?

Perhaps think of a time when you've experienced the wonder of aliveness and beauty – what did it say to you of God? And let's give thanks for the wonder of nature, our world and life itself?

Vivien

Coffee & Chat
Holy Rood Church
9.30 – 11.30am
Wednesday 17th June
Wednesday 15th July

Services May-July 2015

Please note that there is a change in the service pattern!

May 24th (Pentecost)
11 am Special Pentecost service

May 31st (Trinity Sunday)
11 am United service of Holy Communion at Donisthorpe Church

June 7th
11 am Morning Prayer
6pm Evening Prayer

June 14th
11am Holy Communion

June 21st
11 am All age service

June 28th
11 am Holy Communion

July 5th
11 am Morning Prayer (followed by a something special after Sunday Club prize giving)
6pm Evening Prayer

July 12th
11am Holy Communion

July 19th
11 am All age service

July 26th
11am Holy Communion

Would the gentleman who gave Peter Cooper a family bible please contact him on 412723. He has information on the Gilbert family.



Wedding Flowers
At The Church
from Sunday 20th June
Come and have a look!

PACKINGTON COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

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Packington Post

www.packington.info



May 2015

issue no 72

£1.50 (Village residents free)

Is this the end of the "Packington Post"?

On 2nd June 2015 at 7.15pm the Parish Council will meet in the Memorial Hall. Among the items on their agenda will be consideration of the annual grant to fund the PCG and the Packington Post.

At their last meeting in May one of the Councillors proposed that the annual grant made by the Parish Council to the Packington Post should be cut from the £2,100 requested per annum to £150. Should this proposal be agreed by the Council the Packington Post's funds will run out, and the Packington Post will cease after 2 more issues (i.e. by September).

Is this what you want? How has this situation come about?

Let's go back to the very beginning! What prompted the first issue of the "Post"?

- In 2002 the Packington Village Appraisal was published after a prodigious amount of work by a committee of 12 volunteers from the village called "The Appraisal Steering Group".
- They had been formed following a public meeting called by the Parish Council in 2000. At this meeting it was agreed that the residents of Packington should be canvassed on a wide range of local issues which would help local councillors plan to maintain and improve village life.
- Questionnaires were circulated to all 312 households in the village. The Steering Group achieved an amazing 80% response rate with 140,000 tick box responses, and over 7,000 written comments. These were collated by the committee and published in a report.
- In the "Information & Communication" part of the Appraisal (Section 3. 16) the question asked is "Would you like an independently produced village newsletter/magazine covering all aspects of village news/information?"
- There were 390 responses to this question. "Yes" 273 "No" 117 (or in percentage terms- 70% in favour 30% against).
- A hard copy of the appraisal report is available on loan by emailing editor@packington.info or telephoning 412963

Following the publication of this report the Parish Council acted swiftly and the PCG was formed and the first issue of "Packington Post" came out in summer 2003. From the beginning it was agreed that abiding, fully inclusive and cost efficient principles were that each issue should go to each household in the village free at point of receipt but paid for out of the Parish Precept. Non-residents could pay for a copy if they wished to keep in touch with village community activities.

The Precept is your money paid to the Parish Council via the Council Tax and amounts to an average £60 per household, a total of £19,000 per year to the Parish Council to disperse as they see fit.

Welcome To Our New Parish Council



Chairman
Chris Miles
14 Babelake Street
Packington
Tel: 414378



Vice Chairman
Ian Dring
19 Babelake
Street, Packington
Tel: 413520



Councillors
Stephen Flook
2 Mill Street
Packington
Tel: 415185



Bob Martin
20 Ashby Road
Packington
Tel: 413030



Alan Pearson
4 Hall Lane,
Packington
Tel: 412895



Andrew Sumnall
The Rowans
Hill Farm,
Spring Lane Tel:
411904
Clerk



Mrs Victoria Roe
4 Bembow Ave
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Email: clerk@packingtonpc.org.uk

Source www.packington.leicestershireparishcouncils.org



Packington Post
www.packington.info

...continued on page 2

Next Edition July 10th Copy Date June 26th

For 13 years and 72 issues supported by grants of £2,000-2,300 per year from the Parish Council plus a small advertising revenue, this has continued. Over the 12 years this figure has changed little despite the ever widening scope of activities undertaken.

In addition the PCG has:

- Set up and manages the village web site www.packington.info now receiving several hundred views per week
- Set up and run the village Facebook page www.facebook.com/PackingtonPost to appeal to younger residents again receiving several hundred views per week
- Since 2009 has sent out 325 email alerts to over half the village signed up on matters large and small affecting the village
- Produced a comprehensive "Welcome Pack" to give to new residents

The PCG is run, like the Parish Council by unpaid volunteers who, as well as actively collecting village news items, formulate each issue of the "Post", and distribute it to each household.

Currently Packington Communications Group consists of:-

- The Editor of the "Post", plus an editorial team of ten (men & women residents),
- A team of 6 distributors to deliver the Post to every house in the village

The PCG treasurer, Peter Wozywoda, asked over a year ago in March 2014 what information the Council required to consider the grant from 2015.

The PCG has complied with the various requests including:-

- Submitting a grant request for £2,100 equivalent to £6.50 per household from the precept
- Conducting a survey which gave a 95% favourable response to the continuance of the Post
- 5 months later we are still awaiting a decision with a suggestion from one councillor that the grant be reduced to £150. The funding is now due to be discussed by the Parish Council on June 2nd

The question posed at the beginning of this article was "Is this the end of the PCG and the Packington Post? The answer is - it's up to you.

In issue 47 in February 2011 the then secretary of the Memorial Hall wrote:-

"Packington Post has kept everyone in the village, and some beyond, informed of local community activities since the summer of 2003 and its existence and reports showing a vibrant and active village were a vital part in the success of the Memorial Hall's lottery bid for £250,000."

He was told by lottery officials that the Post copies that they received, made the Packington Memorial Hall lottery application stand out amongst 2,100 applications and played a significant part in the bid being successful.

If you have views on the future of the Packington Post please make them known to ourselves (contact details back page) or to one of the Parish Councillors also listed on front page, either verbally or in writing.

Martin Page
PACKINGTON'S LOCAL
Tree Surgeon
 Have you considered your trees may need some maintenance from time to time. Are your trees maybe too tall? blocking light, unsafe or untidy? Or maybe you need to remove that stubborn stump. Do your hedges, Conifers or shrubs need trimming. With 30 years of experience working with trees in your area, I would be pleased to offer you free advise and a free quotation.
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The Packington Club has had the best start to the season ever, winning all three

games with some superb individual performances.

Notably from Chas Robey, Giles Bee, Luke Cosford, Ben Cox, Gary Downing & David Grice.

We hope that the form continues into the rest of the season.

Anyone out there wishing to play cricket with the club can get information by ringing

Roger Muggleton on 07833445422 or visit the Bull & Lion where you will find more information.

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Packington Cricket Club Grand Prize Draw
 1st prize One weeks accommodation up to 8 people plus 20% discount off Brittany Ferries
 HOLIDAY RENTAL COTTAGE (2 bedroom/sleeps 4) La Clartiere, St. Manvieu-Bocage,
 HOLIDAY RENTAL COTTAGE (4 bedroom/sleeps 8) La Pelviniere, Champ-du-Boult,
 Both cottages are based close to each other in the Calvados Region, Near Vire, Basse-Normandy, France
 Cottage Contacts:-
 Stephen & Eileen Plummer Tel:- 01530 412963 Email:- lms@historicmodelships.co.uk

2nd prize £500 CASH



3rd prize 42" Flat screen TV



4th prize Food Hamper



5th Prize Case of 6 Champagne



PLUS MANY MORE PRIZES

To be drawn at the Annual Presentation night on Saturday 7th November at the Ivanhoe Social Club, Ashby Pictures are illustrative only (except cottages are actual) Terms and conditions apply. Tickets are available from President Roger Muggleton 01530 415221 or any member of the Cricket Club

Packington History Walk
Tuesday 9th June

Do you know:-

- Where the wooden bungalow was?
- Where Packington Wakes were held?
- Where "ES" is inscribed?

If you would to know more about the history of your village why not join History Group's guided walk up the High Street.

This will take place on **Tuesday 9th June**. We gather at **7pm** on the grass verge at the end of Heather Lane diagonally opposite the Bull and Lion. It is expected that the walk will take between an hour and an hour and half. All are welcome and there is no charge. Just turn up.

Should it pour with rain, we will transfer the walk to the following Tuesday (i.e. 16th June). Same arrangements.

Contact Peter Cooper on 412723

Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club



OPEN DAY
 Sat 4th July 2-4pm
 South Street

All ages welcome
 Membership offers



+ In April, 16 PMG members met for our PMG St George's day themed party evening at the Bull & Lion, decked out in red-and-white flags and balloons for the evening. English fayre, such as Roast Beef and Fish & Chips, was on the menu, but first we took part in an exciting St-George-themed Quiz, led by Quiz-master Robin Dixon, pictured.



With the tasty meal and desserts tidied, over tea and coffee we had a screened presentation by Robert which quickly brought our knowledge of St George up to scratch, although none of us really know why this 3rd-century Turkish- born Roman army colonel, beheaded in Palestine, should be a revered patron saint of England in 2015! Singing along to a fine rendering of some Last- Night-of-the-Proms favourites closed our party evening

Earlier in May 2015, 15 PMG members had a guided tour of the Shuttlewood Clarke Foundation's Ulverscroft Grange Model Railway, one of the largest layouts for miles around (picture at top). Two volunteer operators of the layout, Colin Baker (Front row, blue shirt) and Bob Lee (on his left), are shown with PMG members in front of the viewing gallery of the 38-foot

by 16-foot fully-radio-controlled model layout. Ulverscroft is also a valuable care facility, and we enjoyed their nice Tea Room with its spectacular views of Bradgate Park - until it rained!



Advance Notice of our PMG Summer 2015 Programme: Thursday 11th June, PMG goes to Melbourn, for a gentle stroll and afternoon tea at this busy nearby market town with its beautiful lakeside walks and Cathedral-like church. Contact Mike Taylor on 414862

Thursday 9th July PMG games evening at a local pub with a Boules facility.

Thursday 13th August sees PMG meeting at the Bull & Lion for our 8:30am Annual Breakfast



For more on PMG, see the village website "Packington dot info", or contact **Robert Dilworth PMG Secretary tel 411673**



Defibrillator Update
Another 13 people from the village have now been instructed in basic first aid and how to use the defibrillator.

Packington Community Orchard



it was agreed that a Community Orchard could be planted in Packington Wood. In the summer of 2012 an article by the Chairman of the Parish Council announcing the foundation of the orchard appeared in the Packington Post. It asked for donations to purchase fruit trees trees. This was gratifyingly successful, and in November 2012 a group of volunteers planted some three dozen trees, including apples, pears, plums, damsons and cherries. The following year a further 20 or so apple trees were planted. Last winter the National Forest erected a wooden plaque to designate the orchard. This winter it is hoped to plant some heritage fruit trees which are known to have originated from this part of Leicestershire such as "Queen Caroline" from Measham, "Packington Apple" recently located in Tonge, and "Dumelow Seedling" from Shackerstone.



If you are interested in supporting this very worthwhile long term project in any way please contact Adrian Mongredien Tel xxxxxx

Our first half term has been especially busy as it is that time of year when our Year 6 pupils get their heads down and concentrate on their SATs. I'm very proud to say that all the children showed great determination and perseverance during the tests and their work ethic has to be commended. As you'll read parents have also been busy, both volunteering in school to improve resources and organising a super May Fayre for the school community to come together. Our sporting stars have also been successful with pupils attending a wide variety of events, including cross country, cricket, hockey and the Unity swimming gala. Please do enjoy reading about some of the things we have been doing:

May Fayre



This year our May Fayre was an extra special event because it was the 40th anniversary of a May Queen being crowned in Packington. The girls in Year 6 decided to share the role so Holly Marvin was crowned the May Queen at the school fayre and Ania Tebbett took over the role at the village celebrations at the Bull and Lion. We were delighted that the girls were able to demonstrate our Christian value of sharing, showing how well they can work together – what super role models! Emily Marvin and Grace Cresswell also acted as attendants.

As has become tradition in recent years the pupils performed a variety of dances to visitors, including a country dance, the Hakka and of course our famous Maypole dancing- always a firm favourite!

The fayre was a great success thanks to the hard work of parents and pupils and a fantastic £900 was raised.

Parent Power Improves our Playground



At the start of the summer term a team of 20 plus parents spent a weekend at the school tidying the pond area, renovating picnic benches, putting up six new activity panels (including a shop and some outdoor musical instruments) and making a super interactive art garden. It is a fantastic resource and a great surprise to the pupils when they arrived in school on the Monday morning. Playtimes have become even more special thanks to the generosity of parents through providing their time and supporting fund raising events. Everyday there are children playing shop, making music, dancing together on the playground markings and making fantastic pieces of art and above all using their imagination and working and learning together in a fun way. I wish you could see their happy faces. It was well worth the PSA's hard work and weeks of planning, getting quotes and wheeling and dealing to stretch the budget to get the equipment and completing the work.

Cross Country Success for Team Packington

It has been a very successful year Our congratulations go to the following runners:

Individual Events Samuel Sharpe 3rd (Yr1 Boys), Will Cross 3rd (Yr3 Boys), Harrison Eaton, 1st (Yr4 Boys), Harrison Dring 3rd (Yr6 Boys) Iona Dring 2nd (Yr4 Girls), Georgie Lewis 3rd (Yr4 Girls), Ania Tebbett 2nd (Yr6 Girls)

Team Events Reception Boys 1st (Joe Tebbett, Bailey Baker, Tom Dallow, Elliot Nash), Year 4 Boys 1st (Harrison Eaton, Ben Linney, Joseph Stretton, Jake Boulton), Year 6 Girls 1st (Ania Tebbett, Emily Marvin, Holly Marvin)

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To The Packington Communication Group PCG

In response to the e-mail alert concerning the future of the PCG and Packington Post (NB editorial note also the front page article), I would absolutely support the continuation of communication by the PCG.

With technological, political and economic progression, local communities have no doubt suffered. However, there is huge value in a local community - raised moral standards, constant care, sense of belonging, economic benefits. 'No man is an island'. Fundamental to a local community is communication. In a research paper by Adedokun, MO et al. (The Impact of Communication on Community Development. J Communication, 1(2): 101-105 (2010)), the authors concluded that 'communication is important in community development [the process of helping a community to strengthen itself and develop towards its full potential] and that it must be fostered for people to participate actively in the process of community development.

Communication activities can help people to share information and exchange ideas positively and productively. It enables the empowerment of communities, through motivated people actively engaged in making a difference to the places they live within. Residents need to know how they can get involved, and Councils need to know how to help them achieve this.

With village communities changing, there may be less opportunity to find out information by 'word of mouth'. It is essential for community spirit, to maintain cohesive communities and ensure everyone has a sense of belonging. It has an essential role in ensuring residents know where to access local services and what

opportunities they can source locally reducing the need to travel further afield. Efficient communication is needed to respond to emergencies. It is also a pre-requisite for managing change and for effective responses to important issues such as consultations, as well as enabling the promotion of events and charity fund raising.

Within busy societies, it is hugely important that communication channels operate effectively within local communities. I think the Packington Post contributes to this. As the PCG, my only other comment would be (and it may already have been done) to conduct a review and with this analysis, formulate an action plan for the most effective and efficient communications plan. For the vast majority of Packington residents, this may very well be through the Packington Post.

**Marie Beaumont,
Normanton Road**

Save our Packington Countryside!



The 2 large housing applications, Spring Lane & Normanton Rd, are due to go back to The Planning Committee at NWLDC on June 9th at 4.30pm

It is very important that lots of residents go to this meeting to convey village opposition to the proposed 72 houses in countryside on the edge of our village. The Chairman of our Parish Council will be speaking against as will one or more local residents. A solicitor who has been acting on behalf of a group of Packington residents will also be speaking against the applications.

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If want to object you can still write letters to NWLDC using the following references: 13/00959/OUTM (Spring Lane) and 13/01002/OUTM (Normanton Road) Relevant 'Planning' objections are things such as:

- the sites are outside of the village boundary in open countryside and the developments will harm the rural setting of the village
- the two schemes will increase the size of the village by approx 23% and would be too many houses in one place
- The District no longer needs this amount of new houses in small villages



David Granger Architectural Design Ltd are 30!



2015 is a significant year for David Granger Architectural Design Ltd. as we are celebrating not only David's 40th year in the industry but the 30th anniversary of the company! David started the business in 1985, initially working from home but as he took on staff and the company grew, we moved to offices in Coalville, Derby and Donisthorpe. We are now based at The Old Dairy, a converted barn in Packington, where we have a staff of 14. We are a dynamic, forward-thinking practice, committed to innovative architecture.

There have been big changes in staff, working practises and technology since the company was established and we are welcoming in our 30th year of business with more exciting changes! Long standing Directors Stuart Falder and Lesley Moore and Senior Designers Mark Smalley and Michael Perry have all purchased shares in the business. Michael and Mark have also been appointed as Company Directors. Mark started at David Granger Design in 2006 and has a degree in Residential Development. As Development Director, he will be responsible for development projects from feasibility stage through to planning approval, for larger and smaller housing schemes, as well as commercial projects. Mark lives locally with his wife Lisa and daughter Amelia.

He is excited about the future of the business and the opportunities which his new role will bring.

Michael has been with the company for 12 years and holds full membership of CIAT. In his new role as Design Director, he will oversee the design of one off projects, enabling homeowners to realise the potential of their homes and commercial clients to maximise the value of their assets. Michael lives with his wife Emma, daughter Caitlin and a Pointer Spaniel cross called Davey. He is looking forward to his new role in helping to move the company forward as architecture progresses. David is delighted that Michael and Mark are bringing their skills and expertise to the management of the business and is excited about new opportunities for expansion and diversification. He is proud that the company is able to offer clients a friendly and professional service in all sectors and throughout the country, including small and large residential projects as well as commercial enterprises such as healthcare, office accommodation and retail. The appointment of new Directors and introduction of shareholders is a real endorsement of what David Granger Design has achieved and David is confident that it will secure the long term future of the business.

Ruby Wedding Celebrations
Kate and Peter Last of Heather Lane are pictured at the Lyric Rooms cutting a cake in celebration of their Ruby Wedding anniversary.



Some 70 guests, a mixture of village friends and family, joined in the celebration dinner followed by laughter and intrigue from Billy Flywheel.



Kate and Peter have lived in the village for 30 of their 40 years....23 years at no 3 and now 7 years at no. 4! They said:-
"We think we must be unique in Packington as the only people who moved house and moved next door".



Peter said:-
" We are very fortunate to live in Packington..... it's a great village.... with a strong community feel to it and we feel very much a part of the village".
Over £1000 was generously donated to Hospice Hope by their guests in lieu of gifts. Hospice Hope is a local charity dear to their hearts that they have been closely involved with over the last decade. As can be seen from the photographs the guests thoroughly enjoyed an evening to remember.