



Packington Post

www.packington.info

May 2016

issue no 78

£1.50 (Village residents free)

Queen's 90th Birthday Afternoon Street Party & Evening Bash



PACKINGTON CELEBRATES QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

11th June

A fun day for all the family

Saturday the 11th June

Afternoon street party.

High street, Packington.

Activities include:

A Treasure hunt.

Children's games from 1926 to 2016.

Fancy dress. High tea.

Presentation of souvenirs

Followed by the evening **'Birthday Bash'**

Including Hog Roast

from 7pm at the recreation ground.

Please let the organisers know you are coming

Contact Chris Miles 01530 414378

or Terry Hammond 01530 415764



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO MAKE SANDWICHES

Meet at 9.30 Saturday in the

kitchen at the Memorial Hall

All "makings" provided

Just come along and bring

an apron.



Run For Fun

See Page 3



School News

See Page 10



Farm Sunday

See Page 12

Have You NEWS for the POST?

Want to get involved?

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Packington Post

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July Edition: Copy by Friday 8th out Friday 15th

Report on the AGM

Fifteen people were present to hear the Chairman Chris Miles present his annual report. "Another extremely successful year", he announced, with use of the Hall at record levels. He continued "more regular user groups than ever (over 20 different groups compared with 7 before the 2009 refurbishment) use the hall on a regular basis".

Individual bookings for the last 12 months at (116) the second highest level ever. (Average annual individual bookings since the refurbishment have been over 108 compared with 33 in 2004). During the year a new folding Boardroom style table had been installed in the meeting room. In the kitchen a "Bain Marie" and plate warmer had been purchased and it had been used to great effect at the recent "Big Breakfast" event. In the Main Hall new carpets were fitted, and the wooden floor was professionally resurfaced. Routine maintenance had continued including, external and internal redecoration, renovation of the foyer area, and a replacement nonslip floor covering in the disabled toilet.

In 2016, the Chairman announced: new stage lighting will be installed in the Main Hall. Wi-Fi will be available on the premises, and suitable large screen equipment will be available, in the meeting room, for laptop computer connection to enhance the meeting

rooms use for business meetings and conferences. He concluded his remarks by thanking all those who had been involved in the Memorial Hall's activities during the last 12 months especially the Trustees and Officers of the committee who had borne the brunt of the work involved in running "this wonderful community facility". He singled out in particular the work done by the Treasurer, Judith Wilson, and the Booking Secretary, Joan Lawther, without whom the Hall could not function. Judith Wilson, the Treasurer then presented the annual accounts and reported that the Hall's finances were in a strong position, with a sound contingency fund to meet any unplanned emergency expenditure. Finally a new management committee was appointed for 2016/7.

USE IT OR LOSE IT

Adrian Mongredien, Hall Secretary writes: the Memorial Hall is, by any definition, a hugely successful local enterprise. The only surprising fact not covered in the report is that: currently most of the hirers of the Memorial Hall come from outside Packington village. It is good that our neighbours in the wider community see the benefits of our village hall, with its ever increasing facilities, and want to use it. I think it would be sad, however, if we, the residents of Packington, overlooked this wonderful amenity on our doorstep, and the possibility of using our village hall for

our own social and family events.

Recent arrivals to Packington may not know of the former residents of our village who first met, in the aftermath of the Second World War, and struggled for years to raise the money for a "Memorial" Hall. They did it to remember, their family, and friends, from Packington who they had lost in both World Wars. They registered their Hall as a Charity and intended it to be ... "for the educational, social, and recreational benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Packington".....and set this out in their Trust Deed. It is true that they did add after "Packington", "and its immediate vicinity", which is sufficiently non-definitive to be interpreted by the present management committee as including Ashby, Measham, and Coalvile. Primarily the Hall was intended for the village residents.

Perhaps the next time we decide to have a family event from children's parties, adult (special age) parties, christenings, wedding breakfasts, anniversary parties, etc. we might first consider our Memorial Hall as the venue. Alternatively, if any village resident wants to organise a village event like the "Big Breakfast" or any other community event please consider the Memorial Hall. If you want further information on what is now available at the Hall premises contact the Booking Sec for further information
Joan Lawther 07585 327291

parkrun has been in the news recently, with the Bristol parish council insisting on bringing in a charge for people running on a Saturday morning, so it should be apposite for our May Packington Post to record the 5th birthday of our local "**Conkers parkrun**", on Saturday 16th April. It was a fancy-dress do, but anyone was welcome to turn up and watch and be part of probably 300 to 400 folk running 5km and the social scene in the cafe afterwards. The year's awards were presented - Runners' runner, Veterans' veteran, Male and Female points winners, not forgetting the volunteers. The South Derbyshire Road Runners (SDRR) organised a 5-mile (8km) "Run in the Forest" around the same Conkers area which is of course in the National Forest, hence the name. Well over 300 took part on a gorgeous sunny day - and local resident Robert Dilworth somehow was first in his age group and received a prize! His 8km took under 40 minutes:



Robert having Fun on his way to the finish line.
He also completed his 150th parkrun!

The **Bosworth Half Marathon** took place near Market Bosworth on Sunday 8th May 2016, the hottest day of the year so far, and the scorching sun and 25-degrees temperature forced a number of participants to pull out of the race.

Packington resident Robert Dilworth took the Veterans prize for his age group with a time just 25 seconds inside two hours, finishing over a hundred places ahead of the next runner in his group, who had won the event last year.

Manchester Marathon Men

On 10 April 2016 15,000 runners set out to compete in the Greater Manchester Marathon. These included two brothers from a Packington family, Richard and Edward Martin, and both achieved personal best times. Richard having a fantastic run in 2 hours 59.37 mins and Edward finished in the excellent time of 3 hours 15.54 minutes.

Both have run many marathons for charities but this one was for fun!!!



Edward and Richard with their medals

The National Forest Walking Festival 14-26 May 2016

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the National Forest, there is a walking festival of guided and themed walks, beautiful places to explore and walks for all ages and abilities to enjoy. There are four 'Achille Wood and Farm Walks', which are in the Packington village. For more information please visit: www.nationalforestwalkingfestival.org.uk or call Swadlincote Tourist Information Centre on 01283 222848.



Defibrillator

Following the appeal in the March Post for a volunteer to take responsibility for the village defibrillator...
Success!!!

Tracy Harley-Watson, who is a Paramedic, has agreed to take this on. It entails making sure the equipment is in working order and all the supplies are present and up-to-date. In the future Tracy will organise refresher training

Tracy.Harley-Watson@emas.nhs.uk
 Work 07966 567498

**Sunday Services at Holy Rood
May 22nd**

11am Holy Communion

May 29th

10 am Holy Communion
at St Peter, Sweptstone

No service at Packington

June 5th

11 am Morning Prayer

6 pm Evening Prayer

June 12th

11 am Special celebration service
for the 90th birthday of Her
Majesty the Queen

June 19th Father's Day

11am All-age service

June 26th

11am Holy Communion

July 3rd

11 am Morning Prayer

6 pm Evening Prayer

July 10th

11am Holy Communion

July 17th

11am All age service

July 24th

11am Holy Communion

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

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

The collections will have just
finished for this year a big
thankyou to all the collectors.
If your envelope for the
recent house to house
collection has not been
collected and you would like
your gift to be included in the
Packington contribution, it
can be left at 13, Babelake
Street, Packington



**Ready, Steady, Stick
The Flames of Fire!**



**Thursday June 2nd
2-4 pm
Holy Rood Church,**

Crafts; Games; Story; Drama;
Junk Modelling and
Refreshments.

Open to all children of Primary
School age and under.

Under school age require an
adult to stay.

£1.00 per child

Further details from Rev Sue
Bradley 01530 271327
suebradley@onetel.com

OPEN GARDENS

Last year saw the twenty-
sixth Open Gardens in the
village.

Traditionally, the event takes
place on the summer Bank
Holiday Monday

which this year falls on
August 29th. However, 'Open
Gardens' could not continue
without people making their
gardens available for the
afternoon and new gardens
are always needed.

If this could be you, someone
you know or you would like
further details,

please contact Geoff
Gasson 01530 412012

gasson123@btinternet.com



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www.craneandwalton.com

FIRST WEDNESDAY COFFEE MORNING

Join us for a relaxing tea or coffee and chat

1st June & 6th July

Meeting Room, Memorial Hall

10.00 to 12.00

Ladies Group

The April meeting was a celebration of the Queen's 90th Birthday complete with a special cake, a toast and afternoon tea.

The celebration was shared with a member of the group, Ruth Morris, who was born just 10 mins before the Queen!



The cake, made by Lindsay Hughes, was greatly admired by all with its detailed decoration of bunting and a miniature table cloth laid with sandwiches, cakes, pot of tea, milk jug and bowl of sugar lumps!

The tea was preceded by an amusing talk from local speaker, Chris Knight who recounted the true story of his Aunt who had hoarded an amazing range of items over her lifetime from 300 pairs of stockings to 4,500 carefully ironed paper bags!

Doreen Gasson 412012



Rainbows enjoyed celebrating the Queen's 90th Birthday with a Queen's Birthday Tea Party. We decorated crowns to wear and enjoyed pretending to be Queens. We had delicious cakes and drank squash poured from proper tea pots.

Judith Dennis
Rainbow Leader
01283 211518



**History Walk No: 2
Mill Street**

Interested in the story of your village? A reminder that on Tuesday 7th June the History Group will lead a walk down Mill Street from The Ashby Road corner to just past the Mill. With kind permission of Mr & Mrs Marvin we may well be able to go in the Mill to see some of the restored workings. We will gather around the bench on the grass opposite the roundhouse at 7.00pm and estimate that the walk will take about an hour and a half. Should it pour with rain we will postpone the walk to the following week the 14th. As last year there is no charge and all are welcome. Peter Cooper 412723

Surprise Party

A very surprised Chris Miles arrived in the Memorial Hall to applause which caused him to recoil; he needed persuading to come in. Family and friends were on hand to celebrate his award of the British Empire Medal. Daughter Rachael, along with friends Sharron, Fran and Mel had arranged secretly this surprise party. Following a sumptuous spread, and a few short speeches, Chris thanked everyone for their support. His friends had a collection which raised £130, Chris would like a new watch so a voucher for Ashby Jewellers has been presented.



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Lunch Club

When Rachael was planning the calendar and menus for 2016 she realised that we were actually due to meet on the Queen's Birthday. She felt it would be appropriate to provide a different meal and the members were happy to go along with the plans. Mel, Rachael and new recruit Hattie Plant met with Janet and Pauline to plan the sandwiches and cakes to be provided. Hattie volunteered to provide a Union Jack pavlova decorated with berries as a centre piece. On the day Lunch Club members arrived to a beautifully set out Meeting Room with Union Jack bunting and serviettes. Crustless sandwiches were followed by tiny individual cakes, and scones with jam and cream were an absolute delight and diets were abandoned. Hattie's pavlova proved to be every bit as good as it looked!



We also celebrated Ruth Morris's 90th Birthday and Rachael had made an

individual cake for everyone to take home.

I want to thank these three girls for the way they have transformed the Lunch Club. When we started, members came for the company and put up with the food. Now they come knowing the food will be good, and the people friendly and welcoming. Anyone wishing to join should contact: Rachael Miles 413795 or Pauline Miles 414378.

Film Club

Packington Memorial Hall
Next Film
SPECTRE
Friday 10th June
Doors open for
Refreshments at 7:00 pm
Film commences at 7:30 pm



Certificate (PG - 13)

Ticket Prices: Adult £4.00
Children (under 12) £2.00
Tickets Available at the door

Please Note

The Film Club will not be showing during July and August. Watch out for details of the September film and book Friday 10th in your diary.

Air Ambulance lands in Packington Garden

Many people in the village noticed the Leicestershire & Rutland Air ambulance flying low over Packington on Monday pm 4th April. This followed a freak accident when Sam Culwick's mum, Ellen, managed to crash her car in Hall Lane and ended upside down. She suffered a badly injured arm and the Emergency services were called out. This included the Air Ambulance which landed in the garden of The Manor House in Mill Street. Eventually Ellen was taken to Nottingham and the following day had emergency surgery to remove broken glass and fix her broken arm. She was home a few days later and is recovering well. We all see the Air Ambulance at times and it is good to know that it is available to all in an emergency. Sam wishes to thank all the neighbours who came out to help.



MILL STREET
Temporary Road Closure

**ROAD
AHEAD
CLOSED**

(From Bridge Street to Hall Lane)
Tues 31st May for up to 3 days to
allow carriageway patching.

Cricket Club

Another season starts.

We at Packington CC are really "up for it" this season and hoping to make an impression in the higher league.

We have taken delivery of our new pitch roller thanks to a grant from the Leicestershire Legacy Fund who gave us half the cost. The remainder was raised on various fun nights, particularly the annual quiz,. Thanks to the Packington residents who attend the quizzes that have raised more than £5,000 over the last 10 years.

We are still keen to sign any seasoned or budding players to the club.

Roger Muggleton
01530 270354



Roger Muggleton President and Keith Baron (on the right) Chairman, admire the new roller.

Police Report

I would like to remind all local residents about the importance of reporting incidents and suspicious behaviour, and when and how to report.



999 should be should only be used in an emergency.

An emergency is when there is danger to life, someone is at risk of getting injured imminently, bring threatened, or a crime or is being committed and is in progress. 101 is the police non-emergency number. This should be used if you witness suspicious activity.

This leads me nicely onto my next point.

In recent weeks, a blue Ford Transit van registration HN03 WOU has been seen on a number of occasions, cruising the village, looking up driveways and paying attention to garages. At this stage, we don't know what the intention of the visit to Packington is.

The occupants of this vehicle could be looking to carry out burglaries, commit vehicle crime, distraction burglaries, steal from building sites, or steal the lead off the church roof.

If this vehicle, or in fact any other vehicle is seen acting suspiciously, we the police need to be informed **at the time it is seen**. This way, if we have resources available and close by, the vehicle will be stopped, the occupants checked, and the vehicle searched. This is an early opportunity for us to secure and preserve evidence, and prevent crime from being committed.

If the vehicle is not traced, we can still circulate the vehicle for force wide observations, and to our colleagues in neighbouring forces.

You are our eyes and ears!
PC 1667 Mark Arjoo
Dedicated Neighbourhood Officer

Beat NN46 - Ashby,
Packington, Ravenstone,
Normanton-le-Heath.

e-mail:

mark.arjoo@leicestershire.pn.n.police.uk

Telephone: 101, voice mail identification 1667.



Look out for the Rural watch card. It can be folded in to a credit card size and gives very good advice on how villages can work together with "Rural Watch" to fight against rural crime. It's fair to say that Packington people are already diligent in spotting and reporting suspicious issues, however this card provides a bit more detail on how we should deal with these situations.

Cards available from Stephen Flook on 07768 852363

During recent meetings the Council have approved grants to the following organisations, The Packington Film Club; the First Wednesday in the Month Coffee Morning at the Memorial Hall; The Footpath Improvement Project on Measham Road; The Memorial Hall's Wi- Fi Installation Project; and the Queen's Birthday Celebrations to be held in Packington on Saturday 11th June. The ability to award these grants has improved as the Solar Farm Community Fund is now running into its second year. If you have a community project in mind which requires funding, please fill in the application form which can be found on the Council's Website and return it to the Clerk to the Parish Council.

In April the Parish Council held frank talks with the Chief Executive of NWLDC, Christine Fisher and her deputy regarding the poor quality of service that the Parish Council feels it has experienced with regard to planning concerns and accuracy of information. We have had assurances that matters will improve. Local development has ceased for the time being as the quota of new houses to be built in the area of the River Mease and the Gilawiskaw has reached the current limit. This means the Hall Farm site, which the Parish is in favour of development, will not be going ahead. A new

arrangement for mitigating the harm to the Special Area of Conservation which had applied to the river is expected to be drawn up. Previously mitigation meant developers had to pay into a fund to buy this problem off. The Council have tried to locate this money and it is said that it is collected by NWLDC and sent to Lichfield. We think it goes to Seven Trent but have no idea whether this money is actually being spent on mitigating the problem. In May the Council entered its second year of its four year term and re-elected Councillor Miles as Chairman and Councillor Dring as Vice Chairman. If anyone has issues regarding Packington's well being please contact a Councillor or the Clerk.

Chairman

Chris Miles, 14 Babelake Street, LE65 1WD
Tel: 01530 414378

Vice Chairman

Ian Dring, 19 Babelake Street, LE65 1WD
Tel: 01530 413520
Bob Martin, 20 Ashby Road, LE65 1TD
Tel: 01530 413030
Alan Pearson, 4 Hall Lane, LE65 1WE
Tel: 01530 412895
Stephen Flook, 2 Mill Street, LE65 1WL
Tel 01530 415185
Andrew Sumnall,
The Rowans, Hill Farm,
Spring Lane., LE65 1WU
Tel 01530 411984

Note; Normanton Road is expected to be closed for five days from 18th July. The diversion is for all traffic to use High St!!!!

The Council has asked LCC Highways for a meeting to ask for a better solution. Sign up to the ALERTS system to get the very latest information
alerts@packington.info

ANDREW BRIDGEN MP

Upcoming Surgeries
Please note: You must book an appointment

Call: 01530 41 77 36

Email:

andrew.bridgen.mp@parliament.uk

Ashby

Friday 15th July 2016

1.00-3.00pm

Legion House, South Street,
LE65 1BQ

Ibstock

Thursday 4th August 2016

2.00-4.00pm

Ibstock Business Centre, 57
High Street. LE67 6LH

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Annual Easter Sunday Egg Roll

Residents of Packington, young and old, congregated at the end of a stunning rainbow for the annual Egg Roll down Mill Street. There was an eggstremely good turnout and lots of inspiring egg designs for a total of 7 races to see who could roll the furthest down Mill Street intact.

Eggceptional winners were:

- Race 1 (Pre-Schoolers) – Joe Tebbett
- Race 2 (Key Stage 2 Children) – Meren Nash
- Race 3 (Key Stage 3 Girls & Ladies) – Kitty Brown
- Race 4 (Key Stage 3 Boys & Gents) – Tom Wilson
- Race 5 (All Children) – Gemma Lawther
- Race 6 (All Adults) – Zak Holden
- Final race for any eggs that were left was for the most "eggstraordinary" egg that was intact at the end of the race – it was a close contest, but Jack Plummer was the overall winner



The event was free to enter, arranged by volunteers, and the winning prizes were kindly donated by representatives from Packington Youth Club. A collection was held at the end of the eggstravaganza, which raised total donations of £9.72, gratefully received by the Youth Club.



The Mystery of the Night Time Visitors to The Grange

Overnight on Monday 4th April mysterious hoof prints appeared in The Grange. No one saw or heard anything and no animals or other creatures were found. On the Tuesday morning at least three front gardens had been trampled and a flower container toppled over on a driveway.

Where will they strike next?



Measham & District Community Library

Great news!

Our official launch is

Saturday 9th July

when the library will reopen after a short closure.

The library will be open for business as usual between 10am-1pm but there will also be lots to see and do!

We hope you can join us.

www.meashamlibrary.org

Thanks Judith



Many thanks Judith Wilson for your help with the Post over the years. We have been lucky to have a wide mix of people ages and interest which has helped the magazine and the village. The team have contributed a lot of their personal time and your input has been most welcome.

This does leave a vacancy for another lady, or ladies, to join the team. As well as keeping an eye out for potential stories the PCG meets for an editorial meeting every two months, just prior to the publication date. Anyone wishing to know more can contact editor@packington.info

May Fayre

On 29th April we had our annual May Fayre and a super time was had by all thanks to the Packington School Association who organised a great event. Due to unpredictable weather, a lot of the stalls were set up indoors but there was still a fantastic range available including teddy tombola, a cake & sweet stall, a nail bar, cupcake decorating and a bouncy castle! Cream teas and a barbecue were also available. Once again pupils in the Eagles enjoyed the opportunity to help by becoming stallholders. As in previous years, all classes performed a special dance. Key Stage 1/Foundation Stage treated us to a traditional country dance and the Year 3/4 children made an excellent Spider's Web, Barber's Pole and Plait at the May Pole. Our Year 5/6's worked hard to choreograph a modern dance to a dubstep version of Tchaikovsky's 'Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy'.



Our May Queen, Emilia Sansom and her attendants Maya Dunn, Angel Tomlinson and Seren Marston all looked beautiful in their outfits and were happy to pose for photographs despite the cold weather!

There was a great community feel to the day with parents and pupils past, present and future coming along to share the fun! Overall the fayre was a great success and raised over £900

to all the parents, staff, pupils and villagers who supported the event.

On 1st May, the celebrations continued with the village May Day event at The Bull & Lion. Emilia was crowned May Queen, accompanied by new attendants Nancy Flook, Harriet Quimby and Freya Edwards. Emilia and her attendants did a super job and fulfilled their responsibilities to parade around the village and dance with the Morris Men with enthusiasm and decorum.



Key Stage 2 Science Fayre

We kicked off the Summer Term with our annual Science Fayre which everyone agreed was the best Science Fayre ever at Packington! All of the pupils in Years 3 to 6 worked hard to prepare their projects with the theme of 'How things work – related to a specific Scientist.' Parents were invited in to view all of the displays with many visitors commenting on the scientific knowledge and understanding of the pupils, as well as their confident explanations.



Karyn Brocklehurst was judged to be the overall winner with her clear explanation of a tsunami. Five groups will now go on the represent Packington at the Ashby Science Fayre in June and we wish them the best of luck.

Chicks come to the Owls Class!

At the end of April our Year 3 & 4 children were given the opportunity to follow the incubation process of a batch of live eggs. Over the weekend the eggs have hatched and we now have 6 baby chicks! All of the children have been able to see the chicks and they are very popular amongst both pupils and staff!



Many thanks to Mr & Mrs Gammon who supplied the eggs and incubator and have been providing expert advice throughout the process. This has been a marvellous chance for the children to observe the hatching process and see how a chick develops in the first few days of life.

Upcoming events

School Sports Day is planned for Friday 27th May on the recreation ground. (weather permitting!)



In April 2016 PMG visited the Sir John Moore Foundation and School at nearby Appleby Magna, and had our eyes opened wide by a superb audio-visual presentation, with a comprehensive tour led by Manager Deana Wildgoose, pictured, from the cellars all the way up to the rooftop cupola. We followed this with a sit-down lunch at the nearby Appleby Inn, where a nice menu and bar are available.

In May, PMG visited the bluebells in Spring Wood, by the Staunton Harold lake, where after a gentle stroll on



The Boardwalk through the delightful woods - alas in continuous soft refreshing rain -



we used the lakeside bird hide, both to keep dry, and to

observe the teeming lake wildlife, including a formation of geese which flashed past in front of our eyes! See their picture. Afterwards PMG lunch was at the Greyhound Inn, Woodville where the amazingly generous, very tasty and most reasonable daily fresh carvery was much appreciated.

Dates for your diary: On Thursday afternoon 9th June 2016 leaving at 1:45pm, PMG sports afternoon is held at Ashby Bowls Club, a return match against a local team of similar skill (!) to ourselves, followed by refreshment of afternoon tea in the Clubhouse. **RSVP! We need to plan bowls & cars**, so please let Mike Taylor know by Sunday 5th June whether you will or won't attend, to miketaylor216@googlemail.com or telephone on 414862.

On Thursday 14th July our PMG Annual Social Stroll is to be organised by PMG founder member Geoff Gasson, who has led us on previous annual walks to some sublime countryside, often with fascinating history, and with very nice social venues to follow. Lastly: **PMG needs YOU - to be our new Secretary and committee member.** Help organise 2-3 monthly meetings each year, and help to advertise our meetings. Please contact our chairman, David on 560228 as soon as possible, for a guided handover..

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

Robert Dilworth
PMG Secretary
(retires 30th June 2016)
tel 411673
rd.i@me.com



Youth Club

This April we have been learnt about relaxation and mindfulness. Sharon Miller came to visit youth club and we made mindful jars full of glitter

We have also made our own grow your own challenge thanks to the horticultural society who donated us some seeds and soil. we planted up some herbs and are now seeing who is our best grower when we have our herb tasting night after half term!

We had also had our talent competition with some excellent judges watching all our acts!

Two more weeks until this term ends then Youth club re opens again on 6th June. We are open to anyone in year 5 and above, running Monday's 6-7pm £1, at the village hall.

Contact for more details.
Carla@harris-marsh.com or
sarah.marvin@btinternet.com



Spring has Sprung!

The UK is 76% self-sufficient in home grown food and a 2016 survey found that 56% of shoppers say they try to buy British food whenever they can, and 77% agree that it is important to support British farmers*.

Whilst most of us relax after a hard day at the office, farmers are never off duty, a 7 days a week, 24 hours a day way of life that brings with it great reward.

A visit to Hill Farm in Packington gave the Post a greater insight into one of the busiest times in the farming calendar – lambing season. Depending on where you live, lambs are born at different times of the year. Traditionally, lambing starts in early spring, but some farmers' start in December and others in April. Ewes and rams mate in a process called tupping and lambs are born around 145 days later. Around 16 million lambs are born in the UK every year, and most Ewe's produce either single or twin lambs. Normal labour may take one to several hours and it is a myth that sheep cannot lamb without human assistance. Hill Farm welcomed the birth of 32 gorgeous lambs over a 4-week period from late February.

At the time of our visit, these lambs were just 6 weeks old and amongst them were three orphan lambs, also known as a 'cade'. An orphan lamb needs hand rearing with a bottle, which takes a lot of time and hard

See the sheep and lambs on Farm Sunday 5th June Hill Farm



work, but is very rewarding – during our visit, we were greeted by a Ewe that had been hand-reared the previous year. Once this happens, the creature never forgets and an amazing bond is formed that is delightful to witness and manifests in a shared trust between two very different species.

Open Farm Sunday on 5 June 2016 is farming's national open day. Hill Farm will be supporting this event, which is a not-for-profit day, and a fantastic opportunity for the public and farms to connect and discover the world of farming. Charges for parking and refreshments will apply to cover public liability costs.

We would like to thank Hill Farm for welcoming the Post, and in particular Andrew Sumnall for introducing us to the lambs to help write this article.

*Source: Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (March 2016), 'British Food and Farming At A Glance'.



www.farmsunday.org

Sunday 5th June

Hill Farm Packington

10.30am to 5pm

Tel Andrew on 411984

Meet the Animals.

Childrens Crafts & Cream Teas

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