



# Packington Post

[www.packington.info](http://www.packington.info)

March 2017

issue no 83

£1.50 (Village residents free)

## Another Successful Village Community Event



At this year's Big Breakfast 257 meals were prepared and served by the "team". There were 59 volunteers including, half a dozen first timers, who worked in shifts to keep everyone fed and watered. Once again there was a great community atmosphere with some coming in family groups and others on their own. Thanks to "Big Breakfast Team" £1235 was raised including £234 from the raffle. £700 has gone to Holy Rood Church towards repairing the roof, £500 to kick start "Party in the Park" and the balance to the First Wednesday coffee morning. Particular mention should be made of Wes and the



kitchen team for producing excellent, freshly cooked breakfasts.

# JOIN THE POST

VOLUNTEERS  
ALL WELCOME  
[editor@packington.info](mailto:editor@packington.info)

## AGM The Parish Council Annual Meeting

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April

Meeting Room

Memorial Hall

starting at 7.15pm

Come along and hear what your Council has been doing over the last twelve months.

## Packington Parish Councillor Wanted

Current Vacancy

MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE TO  
YOUR VILLAGE

See Page 10

 Packington Post  
[www.packington.info](http://www.packington.info)

May Edition: Copy by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> out Friday 19<sup>th</sup>

## Local Boy off to Nepal



Packington resident and Ashby school student Alex Bridgen is traveling to Nepal as a volunteer to help rebuild schools and homes and to support communities through water development projects. A massive earthquake in April 2015 caused terrible destruction in wide areas of Nepal.

Entire villages in rural areas of the Himalayan foothills were flattened. Over 8,900 people were killed, and 22,000 were left injured. Some 600,000 homes were destroyed, 161 schools and 78 water projects were damaged.

Since 1816 the Nepali Gurkhas have been Britain's strongest ally in Asia. Today the Gurkhas remain an important part of the British Army and they are renowned for their bravery and loyalty to our country.

Alex has been very busy fundraising for his trip. He has planted 140 trees at Staunton Harold estate, collected unwanted charity items from friends to sell at Measham car boot, carried out odd jobs, and he is also organising other events throughout the year as well as the upcoming charity breakfast. He is also hoping

to hold an 80's themed evening at the village Hall To offer your support & help raise the money needed please join us for our

### FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST

£6.00 PER PERSON

@Bull & Lion

**BOOK EARLY TO AVOID  
DISAPPOINTMENT  
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT  
'THE BULL & LION' AND  
'DAYBREAK SERVICES'**

**Spring Bank Holiday  
Monday 29th May  
8.30am-9.15am &  
10am-10.45am**

## History of WI in Packington

In 1927 a meeting was held in Packington to discuss the formation of a Womens's Institute in the Village. Mrs Kate Smerdon was elected to the post of President and subsequently a committee was formed.

The first official meeting was held on Thursday 6th October 1927 in the church room. 35 members were present - paid the sum of 2 shillings (subscription). They all enjoyed a lovely cup of tea and that was the beginning of WI in Packington. Over the ensuing months the foundations were laid for a thriving WI. New friendships were made - small groups formed and as a result new skills were taught in house. There was also the opportunity to compete in the numerous competitions held throughout the years. From time to time members organized social events and outings - mostly locally.

The members were also involved in village issues e.g. sanitation of water and repairs to the school - only two of many. In 1933 they became

involved in growing potatoes - harvesting them and sending them off by train to the LRI - 168 lbs and increasing to 11cwt 90lbs in 1933. They also started to keep hens and once again the eggs were sent off to Leicester.

They also supported the Ashby Cottage Hospital and Blind Association.

During the war years the members met in the afternoons every second week thus helping to save electricity.

The original Memorial Hall was opened in 1957 and the W I was mainly responsible for organising the fundraising events, for that building.

Over the years the WI gradually increased in numbers and at its height in the 1990's had over 90 members. This meant that they could participate in other outside events namely the Annual Ashby Show locally and within Leicestershire and Rutland Region. We also supported our Training College namely Denman College. As you can see over the years Packington W I. has had many wide and interesting times with many HAPPY MEMORIES. Many thanks to the people of Packington for all their support over the years.

Margaret Stalker President.



**Presentation to Margaret Stalker at the WI final meeting**

## Measham Medical Unit Village Information MARCH 2017

### Do you know just how busy your Medical Unit is?

In January a total of **6,578** patients had appointments at the Medical Unit.

Of these, **1,086** were seen in our morning surgeries, and **758** had blood tests.

Unfortunately, **197** patients failed to attend their appointments; this meant that this time could have been allocated to other patients.

### Please help us to give you the best service we can offer by:

- Keeping any appointments you make
- Cancelling an appointment if you know you can't keep it
- Treating all our staff with respect – receptionists, nurses, doctors, etc
- Letting us know how we can improve the service we offer.

### Spring into Spring!

If exercise were a pill, it would be one of the most cost-effective drugs ever invented. Even a little bit of exercise will make you feel better about yourself, boost your confidence and cut your risk of developing a serious illness.

It's free, easy to take, has an immediate effect and you don't need a GP to get some.

## Does your lifestyle need a lift?

The world around us is becoming inundated with conflicting and misleading information on health and wellbeing. It is easy to become overwhelmed. We start to question our lifestyle; "Am I doing enough exercise?" "Am I doing *too much* exercise?" All this can lead to negative effects on your lifestyle such as lack of sleep, little or no motivation and poor food choices.

5 simple steps you can take to lift your lifestyle

- **Set goals.** Be specific. How are you going to achieve goals if you don't know what they are?
- **Drink at least 2L water per day.** Water makes up approximately 60% of the human body, with every system depending on water to function properly
- **Eat iron.** Not eating enough iron can cause fatigue and can even lead to depression. Make sure you eat foods such as spinach, soy beans, liver, mussels, Spirulina.
- **Take stairs not the lift.** Keep track of your weekly steps. It all adds up and helps to develop the habit of walking
- **Exercise with a friend or group.** Encourage each other and you are far more likely to achieve your goals.

- **Lift weights.** No matter what age you are resistance training is highly beneficial for maintaining healthy joints, muscles and mind

### Article provided by Champneys



THE ORIGINAL  
**CHAMPNEYS**  
HEALTH SPA

## Do you need holiday vaccinations?

If you require any vaccinations relating to foreign travel you need to complete a travel questionnaire as soon as possible. You can collect a form from the practice or you can complete it on line at our website

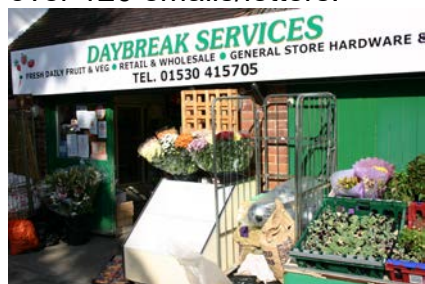
[www.castlemedicalgroup.co.uk](http://www.castlemedicalgroup.co.uk)

Once we have your completed form, our nurses will assess which vaccinations you require. The practice will then contact you to book an appointment in one of our travel clinics. It is important to make your appointment at least 6 weeks before you travel, as you may need a second appointment, approx. two weeks before you travel.



## Daybreak Services Highly Commended

The results for the Rural Oscars regional finals have been announced, and your local village shop has been judged as 'Highly Commended'. Thank you to everyone who took the time to send in their comments - we understand there were over 120 emails/letters.



Well done to Napton Village stores and café for winning this category.

After over 8 years working at Daybreak Services, Friday was Petra's last day with us. (Although she has promised to do the 'odd' afternoon occasionally). She has been a valued and valuable member of the team and will be missed!!! Pete, Rachel, Joe and all the staff wish her well for the future.

**Rachel**

## Ashby Ivanhoe Gardening Club

Meet at Packington Memorial Hall

- ♣ 7.00 to 9.00pm
- ♣ 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday
- ♣ Interesting programme of speakers
- ♣ Summer visits to local gardens
- ♣ Visitors welcome
- ♣ Members £15 per year

### 4<sup>th</sup> April

An illustrated talk by Simon Gulliver on "The Oasis of Delight. Birmingham Botanical Gardens"

### 2<sup>nd</sup> May

An informal evening including competition for "The most unusual container of bulbs"

### 16<sup>th</sup> May

Day Trip – details to be announced

### 6<sup>th</sup> June

Garden visit – details to be announced

### 22<sup>nd</sup> June THURSDAY!

Day Trip to Byrkley Garden Centre followed by an afternoon visit to a private garden in Uttoxeter.

### 4<sup>th</sup> July

Strawberry Tea – Details to be announced.

### 18<sup>th</sup> July

Afternoon visit to Woodend Cottage Repton.

Join this friendly and informal group of enthusiastic amateurs and **share a love of gardening**

**No expertise needed**

**To find out more contact**

**Jenny Davies Secretary**  
**01530 415709**

**Julie Rowe Chairman**  
**01530 838662**

## New National Forest scheme in Packington

Our woodland scheme is now going ahead which will include new fencing and hedgerow planting along the National Forest Way footpath.

This footpath starts from opposite the Bull & Lion and crosses the fields over the hill towards Redburrow Lane. Please be aware that there will be traffic & machinery in the fields over the next few weeks. This shouldn't disrupt people's use of the footpath, but if people are aware they can keep their dogs safe on leads and away from the works.

There will be a tractor on the fields to mow off the planting areas but then other vehicles will be present at intervals over the next couple of weeks (weather dependent).

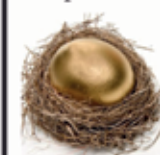
**Ross Phillips, Heather**

**Lane**



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**Tesco Bags of Help Scheme ~ PLEASE HELP!**

We were delighted to hear that we have been accepted onto the Tesco Bags of Help Scheme which could give us up to £5000 towards outdoor equipment for our children. The actual amount we receive depends on the number of votes we receive in stores so we need your help with this. Whenever you shop in Tesco, please ask for a blue token and deposit it in the **New Climbing Frame – Packington** slot in the voting stand in store.



All purchases are eligible and you do not need to have purchased a bag to receive a token. Voting for our project takes place between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

**Food Bank**



Once again we had a very successful month collecting for the Ashby Food Bank throughout February. Three children from the Eagles accompanied Mr Emery on a

visit to the Food Bank to deliver the items and they were extremely grateful. Thank you to everyone who donated, your support is greatly appreciated.

**Beaumanor**

In February our Year 3 and 4 children went on a one night residential visit to Beaumanor Hall. During their stay they took part in lots of fun and challenging activities such as survival skills, archery and hide and seek in the dark cellars! All of the children had an amazing time learning new things together and would love to go again.



**World Book Day**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March was World Book Day and we celebrated in school by dressing up as our favourite characters from a book. All staff and children took part and there were some fantastic outfits to be seen.



**Tree Planting**

Our Year 1 & 2 children were given the opportunity to help with tree planting for the National Forest on land in Packington which will eventually become Meadowbrook Wood. A great time was had by all and we would like to thank Mrs Phillips for making this visit possible.



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### ONE OF PACKINGTON'S OLDEST RESIDENTS GONE!

Many locals would probably agree with me that the avenue of established trees along the Gilwiskaw Brook in Mill Street is one of the most beautiful natural features of our village. Walk along there on a summer's evening and you will be serenaded by a variety of birds from almost every tree.

However none of these trees block the light to my house so I can accept that residents, whose natural light may be restricted by these large trees, may not share my view as they peer into their garden "through a glass darkly"\*.

A few days ago from my front garden I watched and photographed a Poplar, one of the largest of this avenue of trees, being unceremoniously cut down.



I mentioned to Mike Coke, that I had photographed this sad event and he emailed the Leicestershire County Council "Tree Officer" for more information. Stewart Marshall, LCC's Forestry & Arboricultural Officer responded:

"In order to maintain a healthy tree stock, which can be appreciated by all, LCC has a dedicated tree management strategy. The strategy involves a cyclical inspection of all LCC managed trees...the poplar tree was starting to cause structural damage to the bridge and highway surface of Hall Lane. A selection of other trees on Mill Street were also removed. These were either in an advanced stage of decline or had structural weaknesses. At this time a prescriptive planting scheme for Mill Street is not in place..... It is the intention of LCC to carry out a further appraisal of trees on Mill St and elsewhere in the village. Part of the appraisal will look at the potential for replacement tree planting. The aforementioned tree management strategy identifies the need to replace trees which have been felled, where possible, and where it is considered practical or expedient."

Let your Parish Councillor know if you have views on the future of Packington's trees, or write to Packington Post, or do both.

\*I realised after I typed this, that only those (a diminishing number every year) who know their "King James Bible" may now be familiar with this quote from the First Book of Corinthians, Chapter 13 verse 12. KJV.

Like the tree the phrase has been taken from us!

**Adrian Mongredien**

### Packington Film Club

#### BRIDGET JONES'S BABY

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April

7.00 for 7.30

Memorial Hall

Adults £4.00

Certificate 15



**The Original Flashback Band** back at The Bull and Lion, Packington on Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup>

Solid early 60's hits from the four original guys!



Do you want to get on the Packington Soapbox and get something off your chest?

Send us your views and get on the Packington Soapbox in the next issue

**Services at Holy Rood**  
**March 26<sup>th</sup>: Mothering**  
**Sunday Family Service**



11am Come along to this special service when we say 'thank you' to our mums but also our dads. An informal service suitable for all ages. The service last just under the hour and we give posies for mums.

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

11am Morning Prayer  
 6 pm Evening Prayer

**April 9<sup>th</sup>: Palm Sunday**

11 am Holy Communion

**April 13<sup>th</sup>: Maundy**  
**Thursday**

7.30 pm Holy Communion at Normanton-le- Heath

**April 14<sup>th</sup>: Good Friday**

7.30 pm The Way of the Cross (a more meditative service when we walk with Jesus the way of the cross)

**April 16<sup>th</sup>: Easter Day**

11 am All age service of Holy Communion – come as a family

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

11 am Holy Communion

**April 30<sup>th</sup>**

No service at Holy Rood  
**10.30 am united service at Appleby Church**  
**May 7<sup>th</sup>**

11am Morning Prayer  
 6 pm Evening Prayer

**May 14<sup>th</sup>**

11 am Holy Communion

**May 21<sup>st</sup>**

11 a.m. All age service

**May 25<sup>th</sup>: Ascension Day**

7.30 p.m. Holy Communion

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

Sunday Club for the children meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at 11am in the back of church

**Thank you**

"A big thank you from all of us at Holy Rood to the Big Breakfast Team – those who worked hard to produce all the food and drink, and those who came and ate! The £700 is a great help to us towards the cost of re-roofing, following the lead theft last summer. And the breakfast event was great fun as well"



**Ready, Steady, Stick**

**Easter Special!**



**Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup> 2-4 pm**  
**St Laurence Church Hall,**

**Measham**

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

Open to all children of Primary School age & under. Under school age require an adult to stay.

**£1.00 per child**

**More info: Rev Sue Bradley**

**01530 271327**

**bradleysusan74@gmail.com**

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### Youth Club

As well as Dan and Felix, we now welcome Emma Woodward and Ben Beanland who are volunteering as junior leaders for Packington youth club in order to pass their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. They have been helping out since January 30th and some activities they have got involved in are fun and games which included table tennis and pool and a charades competition which all the children loved. They also got up to lots of baking and for Shrove Tuesday they read out lots of facts and made homemade pancakes. The children got to choose their toppings which went down a treat!!

For Welsh night the children decorated cakes and made them look like sheep. They also got the chance to try different traditional Welsh food. They also got to make a piece of Aboriginal art which they are going to present to the village hall. They had to look at what the symbols that the Aborigines

used and created a painting representing lots of people in a meeting space with water present to represent the brook in Packington. They still have lots to look forward to this term including mothers' day crafts, wide games and an Easter egg hunt in the park!

### Friendship Group

This recently formed group for ladies meets in the Memorial Hall meeting room on the 1st Thursday in the month, from 2-4 pm, cost £1 including tea coffee biscuits and a raffle.

Following a lively Beetle Drive in February and Creative Colouring in March, our meeting on 6th April will be an afternoon of Poetry. Bring and read your favourite Poem.

On the 4th May Doreen Gasson will demonstrate making Jewellery following her visit to Denmen College. Please just come along, meetings very informal or contact

**Liz Deakin 01530 412119**

## First Wednesday Coffee Morning



5<sup>th</sup> April & 3<sup>rd</sup> May

10.00 to 12.00

Meeting Room

Memorial Hall

Please drop in and Join us

### Survey

Packington Communications Group (PCG) decided to put out a questionnaire at the Big Breakfast. 66 Adults from Packington responded to the questionnaire, the results were varied and will be published later.

This survey of about 11% of the adult population of Packington supplies a useful quick snapshot of the current views of the residents. It is large enough to give a guide to views on planning issues, the popularity (yet again) of the Packington Post and the Email Alerts, increasing use of the website but nowhere near enough to supersede the need for the Packington Post, and most obviously the popularity of the "Big Breakfast" event.

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## History Group



A well-attended meeting of our group was held in February. As it was the A.G.M it was interesting to remind ourselves of what we had done during the year. This included working on a display for the Queen's 90th Birthday and helping with enquiries relating to family history. Another meeting was spent looking at a 17th century inventory from a house somewhere in the village.

At the A.G.M. we spent time considering our group response to the revised HS2 route and decided to draw attention to the importance of the historic environment of Packington which would be damaged by having the train in such close proximity. Our village has a large Conservation Area which includes our Church, school, shop, village hall and pub, as well as many homes.

In the last couple of years we have been led on historical walks by Peter Cooper around parts of the Conservation Area.

This year Peter is planning a guided walk along Babelake Street where there are many historic buildings and features to be discovered. The walk will be on Tuesday 6th June at 7pm so please note the date and we hope that you can join us. Further details will be given nearer the time.

### **Horticultural Society Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017 1330 – 1630 hrs in the Memorial Hall**

The Committee would like to invite you to a complimentary Coffee / Tea afternoon, the aim of which is to promote the forthcoming 75<sup>th</sup> Horticultural Show on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

As you will be aware, the 75<sup>th</sup> is a milestone in the history of the PHS whose humble beginnings in 1942 when home grown produce was

provided by gardeners and allotment owners, at the same time the ladies contributed knitted scarves, gloves, balaclavas, jumpers and socks to send to our brave service men and women. Originally the gatherings were held at the Bull & Lion and after the war continued to support and indeed promote the values of what became the Packington Horticultural Society that we enjoy to this day.

After 1957 this annual event became so popular that the Bull & Lion struggled to cope with the huge crowds that would gather, therefore, the newly built Memorial Hall became the venue for the event, with ample floor space to support the show each year with great success.

As you will also be aware, many local and worthwhile charities have benefitted from the success of the show over many years and donations have been made to the chosen parties. However, it has been decided that for the 75<sup>th</sup> landmark show, the chosen charity is "Help for Heroes". We hope that we receive the full and never ending support this year yet again from all stalwarts of the show and indeed newcomers to this great party. We are in the process of trying to arrange a couple of guest speakers on all matters "Horticultural" for the Coffee afternoon, we would really appreciate your support, advice and experience over a Coffee with a view to making the 75<sup>th</sup> show one to remember.

My apologies for the late announcement, but the donations from last year's show were made to the following worthy charities:

- Air Ambulance - £300.00
- Packington Youth Club - £300.00
- Ibstock Church - £100.00
- Packington Lunch Club - £150.00
- Packington Coffee Club - £50.00

**So please come along for Coffee / Tea and let's have a great pre – show catch-up and social.**

### Solar Farm Update

In the first year the Packington Solar Farm Community Fund has distributed £7848 to six Recipients:

**Film Club** £900 to cover licenses and hall hire.

**Memorial Hall** £1000 contribution to installation of Wi-Fi.

**Parish Council** £2098 Normandy Wood footpath.

**Primary School** £2500 contribution to new climbing frame.

**Table Tennis Club** £800 additional table

**Communication Group** £150 contribution towards the Welcome Pack

Contributions comes in annually from the company operating the solar farm on Babelake Street.

The Agreement states that the fund shall only be used by the Parish Council for charitable, educational, environmental, amenity or other appropriate use within the Parish. The fund cannot be used for political, religious, entertainment or hospitality purposes.

### Could your group benefit in future years?

An application form is available on line or from [clerk@packingtonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@packingtonpc.org.uk)



Party In  
The Park  
Saturday  
1<sup>st</sup> July

### Casual Vacancy

It is with regret that Steve Flook has decided to stand down from the office of Parish Councillor.

This resignation of one of our 6 Parish Councillors gives an opportunity to elect a new councillor to serve on our Parish Council.

Could this be YOU?

The 6-member council controls a tax-precept budget of £25,000, plus grants from a solar farm fund, and two village charities. Planning applications for the village are first scrutinised by the parish councillors. The council employs a clerk, meets once a month on the first Tuesday, and holds an Annual meeting – next on Tuesday 4th April 2017 at 7:15pm.

The resignation leaves a vacancy, which YOU might fill. For there to be an election it requires 10 electors to request an election **BEFORE Monday 27th March 2017**;

If there are no nominations then the parish council can co-opt an elector to serve with them, and that could be YOU as well, if you make your wish known.

At the recent Big Breakfast gathering, many villagers had no idea who were their councillors. Meanwhile, several said they would like to have someone who is NOT elderly and NOT male to sit on our Parish Council, and perhaps bring a fresh viewpoint to this important body. How do YOU feel? Note that none of our present councillors was elected –

they filled the vacancies in May 2015 without challenge. YOU may receive the same privilege.

For more information or access to the relevant documentation you can contact our helpful Parish Clerk: **Karen Edwards** [clerk@packingtonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@packingtonpc.org.uk) **07936359949** or visit [www.packingtonpc.org.uk](http://www.packingtonpc.org.uk)

### Police Report

PCSO Hariman gave details of the following incidents in the period from 7<sup>th</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017:

11.2.17 on High Street, burglary of dwelling  
13.2.17 on High Street, theft of a bike

10-17.2.17 on Homecroft Drive, burglary of dwelling

17.2.17 on Mill Street, burglary of dwelling

20.2.17 on building site on Normanton Road, theft of plant from the site  
20.2.17 theft from a motor vehicle

7.3.17 on Mill Street, report of a suspicious person

The Police understand there will be concern in the village at three burglaries in a short time. They are promoting the use of North West Leicestershire Rural Watch. Speed checks are planned for Ashby Road.

A Crime Prevention event has been arranged for **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 5-7pm** at the Bull and Lion.

**PS** There was yet another burglary in Normanton Road on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March

## Beware Builders About

Beep, Beep, Beep goes the digger, Beep, Beep, Beep all day

Watch out here's a lorry, make sure you're out the way.....tra la

The Spring Lane/Normanton Road area continues to have its rather sizeable share of green field planning applications. Outline applications, pending reserved matters/full applications, appeals against rejections, objections against appeals, (appeals against appeals? well, maybe not but one loses track).



The writer has always found it a dichotomy that we have regulatory bodies in regard to planning matters that exercise legally backed discretion and control over the built environment and then hand the whole thing over to the private development industry to whom profit is the sole driver; village demographics not entering the equation it seems. However the present 30 dwelling development under construction along Normanton Road does seem to offer at least a small nod in places towards mixed sizes and styles amongst the usual sea of crammed in "executive", homes. But nobody starts or ends their life as an executive do they?

It seems there is no point in stating that there is a dire housing shortage for first time buyers or young families of modest means with a garden for children to play in or grow some vegetables and plants. So often we hear people say "there's nowhere nice to downsize to or why can't my Granny get a place without stairs?"

Phil Harley

## Party in the Park



Party in the Park has had a real boost following the fantastic financial support from the Big Breakfast; which was held on the 5 March.

For those readers who missed the last edition of the Packington Post, Party In the Park is a fun evening for the village, with games for children, fancy dress, music and lots more. The aim is to generate good old fashioned community spirit.

The event is taking place on **1<sup>st</sup> July, 6pm at the recreational ground.**

If you would like to know more, contact:

**Terry Hammond on 415764  
or Rachael Mckindley  
07941078087**

## PMG

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February fifteen members of the group enjoyed a splendid lunch at the Queen's Head in Belton. The event was completed with an excellent thought provoking talk by Rob Dilworth. The talk covered the problems caused by the ever increasing numbers of people affected by obesity and loneliness in our society today.



Our next event took place in the Memorial Hall on March 9<sup>th</sup> where we were treated to a superb talk on Spa Towns by Ken Hillier and in particular the Spa at Ashby de la Zouch. We were told that the Spa which was developed in the eighteen twenties attracted huge numbers of visitors and as a result brought wealth and prosperity to the town. In order to accommodate the visitors many fine properties were built such the Ivanhoe Terrace, Rawdon Terrace, the Royal Hotel and Prior Park House. These, together with the Bath Grounds give Ashby its character to this day. Our next event is a Tour of Royal Crown Derby on Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup> to commence at 1.30pm. Looking further ahead we have a visit to Tamworth Castle scheduled for Thursday May 11<sup>th</sup>

## Packington rejects HS2 Route change

The Packington HS2 Response team has submitted, on behalf of the village, its response to HS2 Ltd formally rejecting the 'revised route'. The team is pleased to say that it fully addressed the terms of reference established at the public meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> January. The team focused on five key areas.

- Conservation areas/listed Education and health
- Noise
- Compensation
- Business and Jobs

The thirty-page report, produced by the team, describes in great detail just how serious HS2 would impact on the community. The report recommends that HS2 Ltd develop their alternative 'third' route, approximately 2 km east of Packington, which will have a 90% reduction in the number of homes impacted.

The team also produced a detailed response to the HS2 Ltd 'Property Consultation'. The team rejected the current compensation scheme calling it "wholly inadequate". The report goes on to outline measures that would improve the level of compensation. Now that the formal consultation process is over, the team is now preparing to campaign for an alternative route.

If you would like to read the team's response to HS2 Ltd, it can be accessed on the village website:



## Mobilising the village against HS2

On the 25 February, the Packington HS2 Response Team organised a special day to raise awareness of the impact HS2 would have on the village and to help and encourage villagers to complete the formal HS2 Ltd response document. The event included speakers blasting out the sound of a high-speed train and eight metre flags showing how high the viaduct carrying HS2 would be.

Over 250 people turned up for the event including two TV crews and journalists. It was also covered in various local newspapers. Flags outside the Memorial Hall indication how high the viaduct will be.

## Have You NEWS for the POST?

Want to get involved?

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## Packington Welcomes Ashby 20