



Packington Post

www.packington.info

September 2019

issue no 98

£1.50 (Village residents free)

A Fabulous Fortnight In Packington

The Bank Holiday week end started with the Packington Open Gardens. Organiser Geoff Gasson said, "This was a great day". Around 500 visitors enjoyed the gardens and refreshments. (Story Page 5)

This event was quickly followed by the Annual Duck Race on the Gilwiskaw. Another record crowd and lots of fun. (Story Page 2)

A short respite to charge batteries and the Annual Horticultural Show was open to receive exhibits ready for judging. (Story Page 3)



KEEPING YOU SAFE

Crime awareness and deterrent talk

7.00 pm Thursday 7 November 2019

Packington Primary School



Santander will be providing information on what to look out for, how to protect yourself and your money as well as discussing your rights are if you are a victim of banking fraud.

North West Leicestershire police will give advice on how to protect your property.



A specialist speaker will give details of how Cyber Crime and cold calling is affecting us all and how we can protect ourselves.

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The Packington Post receives grant funding from Packington Parish Council. The content of the Packington Post is determined by the editor of the Packington Post in conjunction with the editorial team. The views expressed, from time to time, in the Packington Post do not necessarily reflect the views of the Parish Council.



Packington Post
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Next Edition: Copy by Friday 8th - Out Friday 15th Nov

Well! I'm really lost for words, as I think I said it all last year! What another Great evening!!! The Annual Duck Race on August Bank Holiday was again a fantastic, successful event. The weather was hot, hot, hot, all day and only slightly cooler during the races. Perfect!

The spectators and pundits arrived as if by magic at 5.30pm and tickets were being snapped up. Despite few ticket sales prior to the event, all ducks were sold in time for their race, a fantastic effort by those selling and recording entrants.

The customised duck race was even more popular this year, with a record entry of 66 paddlers. Official Duck "Nudger", David Dring, started the first race at just gone 6.00pm and, with him having a lesson in persuading the lazy ducks to keep going, was teenager Henry Miller. Henry then donned the official Duck "Nudger" hat to take control of the rest of the evening's races. Well done Henry nice to see the younger age group taking responsibility!



Despite the lack of rainwater in August the Gilawiskaw flowed at a reasonable speed and races took on average about 10 to 12mins to complete. For the second year running, Zac Holden aged 12, proved very adept at catching the ducks after each race and assisted the Duck Race Steward in confirming the first three winning ducks, especially when many of the races were decided by a photo finish.

During the evening, the Bar-B-Q was doing a brisk trade and in fact sold out of burgers and hot dogs after only the second race! The Memorial Hall Committee, who organised the event, would like to thank all the volunteers who make this event run smoothly..

The final race was the hotly contested **Customised Race**. This, the highlight of the racing calendar, saw a World Record entry of 66 customised ducks. After a photo shoot of all entrants and owners, an enthusiastic dash to the start by contestants ranging in age from babes in arms to 70 plus took place.



Chief Duck Steward Chris Miles briefed participants at the start of the race. On the word Go!! ducks of all descriptions were hurled into the water. Children and bigger 'children' dashed to the other side of Hall bridge to see if their duck emerged in first place.. After a highly contested race, with the lead duck changing constantly, one duck emerged triumphant. 'Multi Coloured Flower Duck' belonging to duck race fanatic Joy Gravestock took the coveted yellow jersey. Joy came second last year and so it looks as though persistence pays off. Well done Joy and to all of you who played the game. Fantastic! Oh! By the way did you see Big Feathery Black Duck with a duckling riding on its back. What a great sight and it won the prize for the best decorated duck. What a work of art! Again, thanks must go to everyone for making it a great night and to Curate Joanne and her husband Barry for loaning us the vicarage forecourt for the evening. Thanks to the ticket sellers who sold prior to the event and to Sharron, Steve, Sally, and Robin, for manning the ticket office on the night.

Another great family evening and I am happy to report that the event raised over £400, which will be used to improve and maintain our lovely Packington Memorial Hall. Well done Packington!

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What another great day we had. After a slow start, the entries began to roll in and the array of baking, flowers, vegetables and fruit was amazing, not to mention the fabulous handiwork from our younger entrants!



The doors were closed from 1pm – 5pm for the judging to take place then re-opened at 5pm for public viewing and entrants eager to see how they'd fared. As bespoke burgers were enjoyed, chairman Bob Parry began the award presentation, handing our trophies and medals to all the worthy winners.



The children from the school had worked hard to decorate our two gardens and the winning names of Bella and Toby were chosen from all the entries. The winning children were each awarded a £10 toy

auction. With lots aplenty, and bidders to match, the auction was a great success with everyone bidding generously. The evening was closed with the raffle which alone raised a staggering £687, owing to some fantastic prizes kindly donated by local businesses. Special thanks go to all our sponsors and supporters this year. Full details of all sponsors and trophy/medal winners will be added to our website very shortly, along with pictures from the day.

<https://horticulturalshow.wixsite.com/packington>

A big thank you to everyone who once again supported the show. Full details of what we raised, and where it will be donated, will be published in the next issue of the Packington Post.

Would you like to see the show

continue? Unfortunately, members of the current committee have decided that it is now time to take a break and hand over the reins. In order for the event to go ahead next year, volunteers are needed to form a new committee. If anyone is interested or has any questions about what may be involved, please get in touch.

packingtonhorticulturalshow@yahoo.com

Coffee & Chat

Join us in Church on the third Wednesday of every month.



Come along to enjoy coffee, tea, cakes and cookies.

Take the opportunity to make new friends

Packington Church
9.30am – 11.30am

Services at Holy Rood, Packington

September 22nd

11 am Holy Communion

September 29th

10.30am United Woodfield Team service at Packington

October 6th

11am Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Lunch – all welcome

No 6pm service

October 13th

11 am Holy Communion

October 20th

11am All-age service

October 27th

11 am Holy Communion

November 3rd

11am Morning Prayer

6pm Evening Prayer

November 10th

10.50am Service of Remembrance

November 17th

11am All age service

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 2nd Sunday of the month at 11am in the back of church in term time

Filming of Thomas Pestell story

We gathered at Packington church for the filming of 'our' bit of the Thomas Pestell story. And we went back in time.

Just had to get a photo of the present Vicar of Packington with her predecessors, Thomas Pestell and his father!



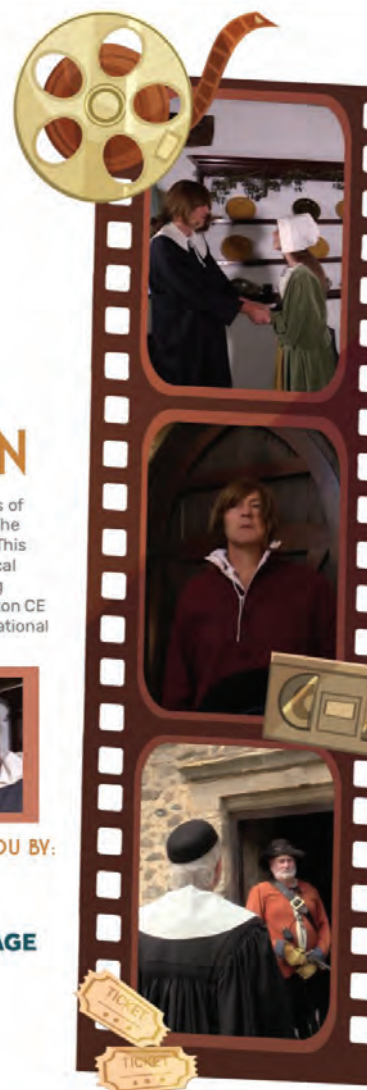
Come and see the film on **October 25th** at the Memorial Hall. Doors open 7.00 film starts 7.30 Tickets from Daybreak Services.

THOMAS PESTELL, A 17TH CENTURY VICAR OF PACKINGTON

This is a true story of the misadventures of a local clergyman and his family, set in the exciting context of English Civil Wars. This is a major project, involving a host of local organisations and local people including Packington Holy Rood Church, Packington CE Primary School and supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.



QUICK FLICKS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



Harvest Thanksgiving: October 6th at 11am

A chance to give thanks for all the good things we receive in life – and to sing some good harvest hymns. We do welcome tinned and packet food, which then goes to the Marlene Reid Centre in Coalville to help local families in need.

There will be a harvest lunch straight afterwards and you will be welcome to come to that as well. No set charge but donations invited.

Lights of Love service: October 26th at 2pm at St Laurence Measham

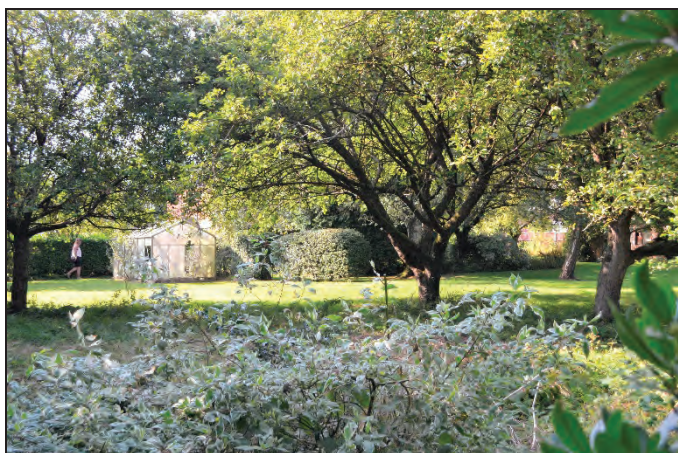
This is a simple service of hymns, prayers and readings, during which we can remember those whom we've lost and to whom we still want to say 'We love you'. There's a chance to light a candle and say a prayer for your loved one. Feel free to come along if this would be helpful to you. This service has been valuable to many over the years

Over 500 people visited the 30th Packington Open Gardens on August Bank Holiday Monday. The 13 gardens ranged from a few square metres to several acres and included a Zen inspired Japanese garden, a working farm and mature tree garden, as well as more traditional layouts.



Visitors enjoyed a range of refreshments and cream teas, with the glorious weather leading to record sales of ice cream.

Other items of interest included a display featuring village history by the Packington Village History Group, musical entertainment by the Goldfinch Quartet, a display of paintings by local artists and a bee keeping stand complete with live bees.



In all, the event raised a total of £3,800 towards the maintenance of the grade II* listed local village church building and in particular the provision of a disabled access toilet and servery.

Thanks go to Sponsors David Granger Architectural Design Ltd. and everyone who supported the event.

Celebration of the completion work at Holy Rood Church

September 1st saw a great celebration. The church looks so good and we had to celebrate that and the hard work of all those who'd brought it to be. So we invited Bishop Guli, the Bishop of Loughborough, along. Had a lovely service to give thanks to God, and to be challenged as to how to make the best use of our new facilities, with good eats to follow. What could be better?



Here's Bishop Guli and Vivien with our builder Martyn Taylor.

Ready Steady Stick in half term.

The theme is Creation, returning to thoughts of how we care for our world. Linking in with harvest festival time.

Crafts, Bible story, fun and friends.

£1 per child. Under 5s, need to bring a grown up with them

Thursday 17th October 2-4pm
Holy Rood Church, Packington

Christmas Charity Fair

Saturday 9th November

10.00 to 12.00

Admission £1.00 includes tea/coffee

Children Free

Hand-crafted Gifts

The Parish Council and parishioners have been concerned with speeding motorists on our village streets for years. The Council set up a Speed Watch fortnight and we want to thank publicly those volunteers who made this happen. The separate article will show that it is a problem and even more so when volunteers in high viz jackets, pointing a speed gun, are not present anymore. The Council has asked for a 20mph restriction on High St. but this has been turned down. All of the other speed controls we have asked for on other roads have also been turned down by LCC Highways. As a small council it would be impossible to go it alone financially on any proposed calming scheme. The costs would involve design, surveys, materials, labour, maintenance and liability. Even a small scheme would be in the hundreds of thousand pounds. Crime in the village over the past two months has been low. August saw no reported crime and in July suspicious vehicles were reported but no action taken. The Council is looking at restoring the village pump on Measham Road. Whilst drinking the water is not recommended, it is a village asset which may come into its own with increasing climate change. We have also undertaken a visual survey on the Round House and are in the process of obtaining the services of the County Buildings Preservation Officer to give us guidance on possible repairs. Council was pleased to hear of the review and 5 year delay on the HS2 project. We can only hope that this is the "beginning of the end" for this ill thought out scheme. In this regard the Council is writing to our MP, Andrew Bridgen, to congratulate him on his opposition to HS2 and to ask him to question vigorously the reasoning behind having an Ex HS2 Chairman leading an impartial review. Mill St. has had a makeover. At least the nettles and undergrowth have been trimmed and you can actually see the Gilwiskaw which has shown signs of fish and aquatic life. A kingfisher has also been seen. The Council hope to maintain the

current visual aspect of this delightful part of Packington.

For more details of Parish Council decisions and notices please go to our website.

www.packingtonpc.org.uk

Chris Miles (Chairman)

Speedwatch

For a 2 week period from 6th July, residents from Packington and the surrounding area volunteered on 'Speedwatch'!

After training they took to the streets armed with a speed gun, high-viz jackets and a clip board, to record the speeds of motorists through our village at four locations. On Monday 8th and from then on, each team saw a succession of speeding motorists – on one particular session the team recorded 30 motorists in just 90 minutes! Each person recorded as having exceeded the required speed limit will receive a letter from Leicestershire Police – letting them know that they were recorded as speeding – but be warned, it's 3 strikes and you're out....or at least you'd wish you were, as anyone caught speeding 3 times or more over the space of the 2 weeks can look forward to visit from their local constabulary.

However, at the outset, the team was keen to see this activity turn into something more productive/practical than a warning letter and, having seen the data, they are more certain than ever that action now needs to be taken.

**57% 36 - 39 mph 41% 40 and 49 mph
1% 50 and 59mph 1% over 60mph**

Having recorded 144 speeding vehicles in total, some exceeding 50 and even **60 mph** through our village, the team is now crying out for traffic calming measures and is seeking the support of the village residents and Parish Council to help us achieve this! We know that the Parish Council has thrown its support behind the initiative, so we are sure that it will continue to push for the right outcome for the village.

As a final reminder we would ask that everyone remembers that the speed limit through this village, and most others, is 30mph, stick to this as a maximum and set a good example.

As a volunteer with the Community Speed Watch team I was interested to read Adrian Mongredien's timely article about road safety in the village. He rightly says that speeding through the village is not a new problem. The illuminated signs and mock gates at the village entrances have limited effect on the behaviour of drivers, and significant numbers of motorists were recorded well above the speed limit during the two-week campaign.

However, since the Community Speed Watch Zone signs have been displayed, I have observed some motorists slowing down to or below the 30 limit on approaching the signs. All the volunteers have noticed the impact that a hi-vis jacket has, with driving speeds reducing appreciably if we have been spotted in the distance. The third factor in reducing speed has been randomly parked cars and vans, either at the roadside or partly on the pavement, causing a bottle neck effect.

I agree with Adrian's conclusion that only physical impediments in the roadway will achieve

long-term reductions in speed within the village. Most of the neighbouring villages have some form of physical barriers to speed, be it humps or narrowed sections of road with one direction having priority over the other. We need this in Packington!

I do feel strongly that our elected representatives should take this issue seriously. They need to eliminate spending on more frivolous items and prioritise resources, be it the Parish precept or the Solar Panel Fund, towards addressing the traffic problem. They should also strongly lobby the County Council for additional financial support.

All of the volunteers that I have spoken to joined the scheme in order to hasten changes that would effectively reduce speed through Packington. Should HS2 be built in the future the village roads will become an even more popular rat run. Let's do something now before we are faced with a tragic accident.

Richard Jones

Having been a Packington resident for more than 30 years, I would like to respond to recent suggestions for traffic calming. Speeding traffic, particularly large HGV's are certainly a problem in Packington and I fear for my grandchildren, who also live in the village, but I agree with said Parish Counsellor that speed bumps create other problems, i.e., they must have a detrimental effect on sufferers with back problems. I recently had a major operation and

found travelling over speed bumps excruciating. Noise levels increase when a large empty trailer travels over the bump. A colleague living in Ravenstone insisted a speed bump be moved from outside her home because of the noise. Not to mention damage to vehicles constantly driving over bumps. As a regular driver, I find villages with the Chicane method of traffic calming effective, but maybe the council will argue that this method is too expensive. The solar panels which give drivers actual speeds they are travelling and saying 'thank you' when they are driving within the limit, are more helpful, although I have not seen these in Leicestershire.

Whatever method, something must be done about Packington being used as a rat run, before someone is seriously hurt or worse.

Janet Dixon

After reading the Packington Email would it be better to maybe have a speed camera? The fines would benefit the Local Authority and would deter speeders. Speed bumps whilst effective, do not lessen speed of vans and lorries, who can drive over them with ease. Just a thought.

Michelle Rock

Although traffic speed is an issue in Packington, as it is on many roads, I would question speed bumps or physical barriers to create a narrowing of roads.

Anyone travelling into Coalville will see the unsightly impact the road narrowing/ barrier design has. It also creates 'road rage' situations when those who should give way at the narrowest sections fail to do so. This method of slowing traffic also significantly increases air pollution for those living nearby.

As drivers approach Packington along Measham Road there is 50 mile sign a couple of meters from the 30 mile sign. This suggests drivers are fine to approach right to the edge of the village at 50 miles & are expected to immediately slow to 30. If the signage could be altered to take the speed to 40 as it approaches the village this provides drivers with an advance warning to start slowing down. This has been effectively introduced on the approach roads to villages such as Donisthorp and Moira.

I completely support a move to slow traffic down through the village but hope we can find solutions that aren't at the detriment of the appearance of the village or result increased traffic pollution for residents.

Sharon Bond

We've had an excellent start to the school year and we are really pleased with the way all of the pupils have settled in to their new classes.

Life Education Bus

Once again the Life Education Bus will visit us to help support our Science work. The bus will be here on 17th & 18th September and all the children will take part in an age appropriate workshop, looking at issues relating to health and the body. As always there will also be an opportunity for parents to participate in a presentation to find out what it's all about.

Packington Cross Country

The Unity Schools Cross Country event at Packington has been given a provisional date to take place on Saturday 2nd November. We would like to use this opportunity to give villagers prior notification of our plans. The event involves up to 20 schools and we have a total of 8 races for different ages. Should all be well and we are able to go ahead, I would like to thank you for your patience as we know all the extra visitors to the village make it a busy Saturday morning. We really appreciate your support in making the day a great success and putting Packington on the map.

Introducing our Year of Respect & Dignity

This year we want to focus on being respectful to others. Our pupils have thought of some great ideas, such as using a Golden Rule to show respect to others. They also want to organise activities to look after our world and help stop climate change. Our first event is a whole school 'Plant & Prayer' community morning with pupils, staff & families working together to improve the school environment.

Grandparents' Team

We were overwhelmed by the response we received to a request for Grandparents to help in school by listening to children read. We now have a lovely group of volunteer grandparents who are all DBS checked and ready to go! We are also in the process of setting up a knitting club run by other grandparent volunteers. It is so nice to be able to involve the whole family in school activities and opportunities.

Facebook

We are currently in the process of setting up a Packington School facebook page. It is early days at the moment but the page will be used to promote our school and celebrate successes, to the wider community. The page is open to view so do pop on and take a look under Packington Church of England Primary School.

Upcoming events:

We have an open afternoon arranged for parents/carers of prospective pupils for our September 2020 intake. This will take place on Wednesday 25th September at 1:45pm. Please call school if you would like to book a place on **01530 412425**

Solar Farm Community Fund

Here is a list of the grants which have been made over the last 2 years (June 2017 to June 2019) from the 2 Solar Farm Community Funds.

2017

Primary school for climbing frame - £2,500
Packington Communications Group - Welcome Packs - £300

2018

Packington Village History Group - £275
Parish Council -- noticeboard - £1,145
Memorial hall - rear extension - £13,690

2019

Holy Rood Church - £5,000

Residents will have seen the Government announcement in August that Boris Johnson has requested a Review of HS2 to be submitted by the Autumn. Although the reporting of this in the press has tended to take the view this could result in HS2 being scrapped, the construction press has taken the opposite view. With the appointment of Doug Oakervee to chair the Review, a former Chairman of HS2 who is also an 'old pal' of Boris Johnson who goes way back working with him including when Boris was mayor of London and instrumental in keeping the Crossrail project alive. The view from inside the industry is that HS2 will go ahead.

In addition to the Government review above, HS2 Ltd has also been carrying out its own review. The summary findings of which are; the project will take longer to deliver & cost more than they originally led Parliament to believe or, to be more precise, 5 years longer to deliver and £30b more, at the last count, further increasing the burden on the taxpayer and the timescale of uncertainty with construction delays for those living close to the route. Residents who wish again to voice their concern about HS2, and question the independence of the review chaired by Doug Oakervee, may want to email our MP, Andrew.bridgen.mp@parliament.uk The Review provides an opportunity for MP's to call for HS2 to be scrapped.

The Residents Team continues while the outcome of the Review isn't certain. Natural England has agreed to a meeting with the Team in Packington, to discuss the impact on the local landscape, particularly the issue of the viaduct, as set out in last month's update. We see their agreement to come to the village, and see the landscape and impact on the village for themselves, as positive.

We have responded to the latest HS2 consultation on 6th September. We set out again in the response our proposals to minimise the visual and noise disruption on residents and the local landscape. Should anyone like a copy of this latest submission please contact **Terry Hammond 07882 325416**

JOIN THE POST TEAM
No Experience Needed
editor@packington.info

Thanks Daybreak

Pictured is Hospice Hope Trustee, Kate Last with Pete Swift owner of Daybreak Services. Kate is presenting a certificate to Pete to recognise the long-term support that he has shown by having a collection tin on the counter.



Pete said, "The tin always seems to fill up pretty quickly and I am pleased that it provides a useful support to Hospice Hope" Over £100.00 was collected in 2018 and the first tin emptied in 2019 contained £28.52.

2019
Thursday 26th September until
Saturday 29th September
And Wednesday 2nd until
Saturday 5th October

Venture Theatre
North Street
Ashby de la Zouch
Tickets available from:
Tourist information centre, North St.
(01530) 411767
and on line at
www.ashbyventuretheatre.org.uk/

Fully Licensed Bar. Performances start 7.30pm. SEATS £9

Christmas Concert in Packington?

Wouldn't it be great to have our own Packington Variety Concert? We could do this as I know we have an abundance of talent within the village and the surrounding area. The entertainment could be provided by all ages and be attended by all ages. It has been done before but not recently. It could be easy. Just practice your thing, be it magic, juggling, dancing, playing an instrument, singing, telling a story or be a comedian. In fact, anything that is entertaining. We can arrange a rehearsal if you need one. We can arrange an accompaniment if required. We can do anything, you name it we will give it a go.

So, come on Packington and District let us know if you are up for it. I know we can do it.

We have the lovely Memorial Hall which can seat up to 175 people and could do it on two days if necessary. We will avoid school days and school production nights. Let us have our Community Concert so that everyone in the village can come along. We could make a small charge to come and watch and perhaps raise money for people who are in need.

WE NEED YOU TO PERFORM. DON'T HOLD BACK. GIVE IT A GO!!!

CONTACT US NOW AND BEFORE NOVEMBER SO THAT WE CAN GET ORGANISED

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**Terry Hammond 415764.
terryhammond@me.com**

Provide us feedback on village events
editor@packington.info

Lunch Club

Packington Lunch Club continues to meet at twelve o'clock on the third Wednesday of each month. We average about twenty people and there is a warm and friendly atmosphere. Members are able to pre-order their meal from the menu provided each time. There is a varied menu cooked to perfection by our team of cooks, Rachael, Mel and Hattie, **who gained a five star rating in July.** Last month there was a choice of roast meat or vegetarian option with all the trimmings. Each Christmas there is a full Christmas meal often with carol singing included.

Our volunteer chefs are helped in the kitchen by Chris, Ruth and Sarah, and Pauline, Pam and Valerie set up and help to serve. Our thanks go to all these people who make Lunch Club function as well as it does. Special thanks go to Kath, who has helped regularly in the kitchen and has decided to relax a bit more and just enjoy the meal and company.

If anyone would like to join our friendly Lunch Club for a lovely meal, please get in touch with Pauline or Rachael. A typical menu which we will be having on September 18th is Salmon or Pork followed by Arctic Roll or Spotted Dick, and meals must be booked in advance.

For any information contact **Pauline 414378 or Rachael 413795**

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Coffee Morning

Supporting MacMillan Cancer Care

Saturday 28th September
09.30 to 12.30
Memorial Hall



Come along and support this great charity event.

- Can you bake a sponge cake or some cup cakes?
- Can you spare an hour to serve teas and coffee or wash-up?

The more the merrier. Bring your family and friends and help to make this a bumper village event. Offers of help please contact:

Mike Coke 560430

mike.coke59@gmail.com



Grab a Tree for Free 2019

In the National Forest and beyond

The overwhelmingly popular Free Tree Scheme is back again for its 11th year and you can help to continue the success of the scheme by supporting it this year. The scheme has already seen thousands of trees planted across the district and North West Leicestershire District Council is once again teaming up with The National Forest Company to make our district even greener. There are four trees to choose from: **Dogwood; Field Maple; Holly; Hazel** and again this year we have the Hedge Fund, species are Hawthorn and Hazel mix, with a Field Maple every 10 metres. Residents are able to order up to 30 metres. You can order online at:

www.nwleics.gov.uk/freetreescheme2019

from **30 September**, with the scheme closing on 25 October 2019.

Trees will be available for collection on Sunday 17 November 2019 from various collection points over the district.



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Film Club

Showing 7:30 pm Friday 11th October:



Showing 7:30pm Friday 8th November:



Parish Councillor Writes a £23K 'Mont Blanc' Cheque for Children in Need

In September Clare Beynon and 4 of her colleagues from Enterprise Rent A Car, Nottingham have raised over £23,000 for Children in Need by completing a 55km trek around Mont Blanc through France, Switzerland and Italy.



The challenge forms part of the company's bid to raise at least £250K for Children in Need in 2019 as part of the company's 25th birthday celebration in UK.

The trail, known as the Tour du Mont Blanc, is one of the most popular long-distance hiking trails in Europe. Including difficult terrain and several tricky ascents and descents, the trail is designed only for experienced walkers able to adapt to highly variable weather conditions. Clare has been training for the trek over the summer and was happy to complete it in 3 days, covering 55km and 89,000 steps

"The trek was definitely a challenge. The terrain and elevation changes meant it was three days of hard and careful hiking. We are absolutely delighted to have completed the challenge given how little trekking experience we have, and of course to have raised such a great amount of money for an amazing charity. Thank you so to everyone in the village who sponsored me, your support has been overwhelming"

Packington Guides is an energetic and fun guide unit who enjoy doing a multitude of activities.

Last term we were out and about visiting Ibstock Brownies, attending the Division Campfire at Conkers and went on an overnight camp at Oaks-in-Charnwood. On our hall-based nights we worked on Guide Skills builders and Unit Meeting Activities as well as practising putting up tents and doing a village litter pick. The term finished on 4th July with an American-themed party and Guide badge presentation.

During the summer, seven intrepid Packington guides and their leaders went to Charnwood 2019 International Scout and Guide Camp. Although this was only a few miles away at Cattows Farm, the unseasonably monsoon like weather made it feel like we were truly camped in a swamp. The girls coped brilliantly with the moat dug around our pitch by Danish guides and the sea of mud, but next time we do hope to camp somewhere drier!



This term we have more skills builders to complete so that the guides can obtain their theme badges.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ken and Jenny Smedley for all the very much appreciated encouragement and

support they have given the unit.

The unit meets on Thursdays in term time, at Packington Memorial Hall from 18:30-20:00 (unless we are out and about!) There are currently spaces for girls aged 10-14. If you would like to know more please contact Allison Buswell, Unit Leader packingtonguides@gmail.com

Please help to look after our hedgehogs!!!!



This lovely mammal is in serious decline, partly due to loss of habitat but also roads, new buildings that carve up routes, fences that block their normal feeding routes and of course, cars. During my morning training runs I was really disturbed to see 3 dead hedgehogs within the last month on the roads in and close to Packington. I know they are not exactly street wise, but perhaps this is even more reason to ask people to consider the speed limits in the village. If you see what looks like a spiky tennis ball in the road then please slow down....

Now we have another danger: bonfire night. The British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) is urging people to build bonfires on the day that they are to be lit to save hedgehogs and other wildlife from appalling suffering. If a bonfire needs to be built in advance, the BHPS has some guidelines on how to make bonfires as 'hedgehog friendly' as possible.

Hedgehogs are a gardeners friend – they munch no end of slugs and snails (YESSSS!) but appreciate a bit of tinned dog food, hedgehog nibbles but never bread and milk! Further information about hedgehogs, care, encouraging them and building a better habitat can be found on the British Hedgehog Preservation Society website <https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/>.

It seems as though Packington has a good hedgehog population – hope we can keep it that way. With numbers in serious decline we need to look after this lovely spikey little mammal.

Table Tennis Club

The club continues to meet very [Wednesday evening](#) at the Packington Memorial Hall.

New Junior Training

Starting [Wednesday 2nd October](#) the new timings will be [18:00 - 21:15](#) with the first hour dedicated to **junior coaching sessions** for any child aged 7 upwards. Our coach, Nigel Webster, has been instrumental in developing Melbourne Swifts Table Tennis Club over recent years. Nigel also brings with him a wealth of experience of coaching at national level, along with modern game improvement tools. The cost will be £1.50 per session.



Coach Nigel Webster is seen with Myles Horsgood and the table tennis ball feeding machine

The club night will continue to run [from 19:15 - 21:15](#) Pay as you play, £2.50 per adult and £1.50 for juniors. Numbers on each Wednesday currently vary between 8 and 16 with all levels, genders and age levels being represented. As the club develops and evolves some members of the club have been entered into division 4 of the Loughborough League. Home nights (at the PMH) will be on a [Tuesday evening](#) with a [7pm](#) start with the first home match [on 8th October](#). Feel free to come along and support your local Packington Pirates table tennis team !!

Future home matches up to Christmas will be [22nd October](#), [12th November](#), [26th November](#) and [10th December](#). Away matches on alternate dates will be at Quorn, Sawley, Loughborough University and Draycott

For any further information call **Graham Saunt** on [07764471917](#)

Youth Club

Youth Club had a very successful Summer term, culminating with a trip to Laserquest in Loughborough, where they enjoyed playing two team games and finished with a supper.



Spaces available:

Do you want to spend an hour each week chilling out with your friends?
Are you aged between 9 and 15?
If so, come along to **PACKINGTON YOUTH CLUB!!**

This term has already started, but don't worry, just come along on Monday at 6pm. Enjoy the activities on offer including;

Wii sports, table football, pool, table tennis, darts, craft activities and the ever-favourite tuck shop.

Running EVERY Monday during term time, 6-7pm in the village hall!

For further information, contact:
Sallie-Ann 07906739938.

Sallie-Ann, Alisa, Kita, Angela and Sharon.

Ladies' Group

We met in the Meeting Room at the Memorial Hall for a most interesting and informative talk on Medical Detection Dogs. Wendy Coley spoke about how the founder of the charity realised she could train various dogs to detect different types of cancer using urine samples. Once trained, each dog could detect a specific cancer much earlier and quicker than medical professionals were able to do. At first the idea was not received well in England, although other countries saw the potential and began to follow it up. The Duchess of Cornwall saw a demonstration, saw the potential and began to do what she could to raise awareness, including a private demonstration for the Queen.

They receive no funding and need financial support to train more dogs. Some dogs are placed with people and can detect when someone is about to have a diabetic coma and can bring the necessary medication etc. Visit their web site to find out more about these amazing dogs and the life changes they can make.

Ladies group were able to make a donation of £46.50 and bought 19 packs of Christmas cards, which in itself will inform 190 people about this very worthwhile charity.

The monthly meetings for the rest of 2019

Oct 9th Between Stairs:

"*The Life of a Ladies Maid*", with Jo Golby.

Memorial Hall Meeting room 7.30pm

Nov 13th Annual Charity Evening

'*Flowers for Christmas*'

Memorial Main Hall 7.30pm

Contact me for tickets.

Dec 11th Christmas Supper

Memorial Main Hall 7.30

Annual Subscription - £15

new members are always welcome.

Contact: -

**Doreen Gasson, 13 Babelake Street
(01530) 412012**

gasson123@btinternet.com

Men's Group PMG

In July the members enjoyed a relaxing afternoon playing crown bowls at Lea Park Swadlincote. We were blessed with fine weather and we all managed to meet the challenge of bowling on a crown green. The annual PMG breakfast in August this year took place at the Beeches, Ashby and was, as ever, very successful. Our September event took place at Swarkstone Sailing Club where we enjoyed a boat ride around the lake.



We were also shown the inspiring work done at the club to help disabled people sail and enjoy the beautiful surroundings. Our next event on Tuesday October 8th will be an afternoon walk around the village, led by Geoff Gasson, and will finish at Barkers café.

Not to be missed is the meeting on **Wednesday November 13th** in the Memorial Hall meeting room. We have Martin Vaughan giving a talk entitled 'Wildlife around Ashby', to commence at 7.45pm.

Finally we will close off the year with our Christmas meal on Tuesday December 10th.

new members are always welcome

Contact: David Fill 560228

Should we really be concerned about the noise of aircraft?

Being partially deaf in one ear and brought up in the noisy streets of South London, I never really thought too much about the aircraft noise emanating from East Midlands Airport (EMA), until my Grandson asked me over breakfast one morning, **“Grandad why do airplanes keep waking me up at night”**. It was then that I began to reflect that perhaps, this is an issue. So, armed with the internet and free from jobs for the afternoon, I decided to trawl the internet; what I found was a real eye-opener.

In an article in the British Medical Journal in 2018, entitled: **‘The harm to health caused by aviation noise requires urgent action’** it highlighted the very serious impact aircraft noise is having on children, especially their ability to learn and on their overall long-term mental health. The World Health Organisation also confirmed that noise above 40 decibels at night and 45 decibels during the day can be harmful to health, (a Packington resident has recorded aircraft creating over 80 decibels - twice the recommended levels).

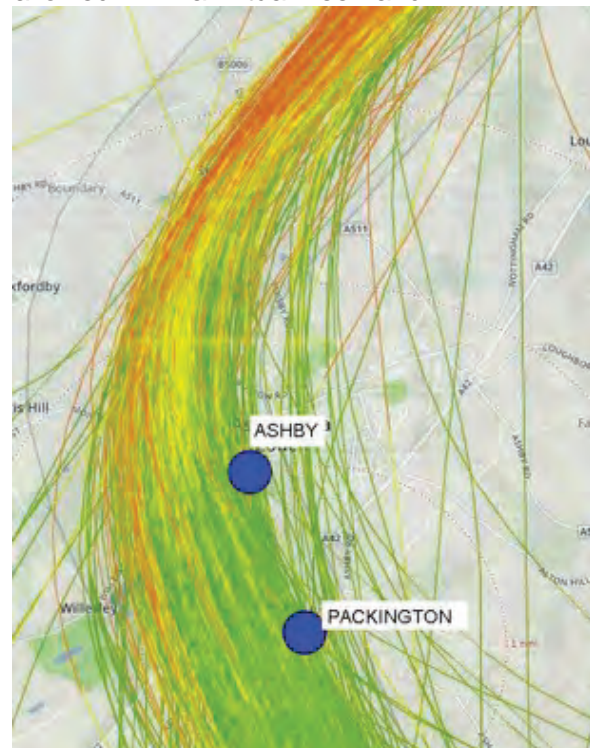
I also discovered, ‘Sleep Deprivation’ caused by night flights, is a major issue which can lead to cognitive defects with children and adults and can also trigger mental illness. Many experts from around the globe are calling for governments to take urgent action to reduce aircraft noise.

It took me just a couple of hours surfing the net to realise that noise from EMA is an issue we can't afford to ignore, particularly with the huge industrial expansion taking place around EMA - Amazon, DHL and UPS to name a few.

Communities around the globe and up and down the country are beginning to challenge airports and Governments. A small community action group in the US managed to stop a major airport expansion, in the UK, challenges have been made to airport expansions in Bristol, Stansted, Southend and many others.

So, the answer is yes, we can, and I would argue, must do something to reduce the noise from EMA for the sake of every ones health.

But what can we do? The Packington Aircraft Noise Action Group (PANAG), which I have now joined, has linked up with Ashby and Melbourne to explore ways of working with EMA to reduce aircraft noise. This includes ensuring EMA flight paths avoid built up areas such as Ashby and Packington - something EMA have a duty to do under the Civil Aviation Authority rules and something they appear not to be complying with. Stop allowing aircraft operators using noisy old aircraft, and campaign to stop the expansion of night flights, which EMA are intending to do, especially as the planning authority have allowed EMA a virtual free hand!



The illustration is a snapshot of departures from EMA taken over a week.

Yellow	0 - 1500 feet
Orange	1501 - 3000
Yellow	3001 - 3500
Lt green	3501 - 5000
Green	5001 +

So, if you or members of your family are concerned about aircraft noise, just send me a quick email, so I can collate numbers (not your email!). Better still, if you feel you have something to offer the group or could offer a small amount of voluntary work, let Terry know: **415764** terryhammond@me.com



We are interested in your recommendations for good local trades people to list in future editions. Please let us know!