



January 2020

issue no 100

£1.50 (Village residents free)

Celebrating the 100th Issue of the Packington Post



Front l-r: Christine Hammond, Mike Coke, Becky Taylor Back l-r: Philip Caren, Adrian Mongredien, Steve Plummer, Robert Dilworth, Wes Ewing, Pippa David

The current Communications Group team drink a toast to the Packington Post 100th Issue.

This publication, like so many activities in the village, relies on volunteers to succeed. PCG is lucky to have a dedicated team. Just two of our group, Stephen Plummer and Wesley Ewing, have been involved since the early days when issue one was produced. The Packington Post relies on funding from the Parish Council and the PCG are really grateful for this support. Volunteers are an important part of village life from Party in the Park to Duck Race and many, many other events. This is good for the well-being of individuals and the village as a whole. It's one of the special things that makes Packington a great place to live.

There are always opportunities for you to volunteer, so don't hold back. You will enjoy the experience.

*Enter Our Anniversary Competition
See Page 15*

Next Edition: Copy by Friday 13th
Out Friday 20th March 2020

Post Contacts

Editor

Mike Coke - 560430
editor@packington.info

Treasurer

Chris Hammond - 415764

Editorial Team

Philip Caren - 07753925950
Adrian Mongredien - 564613
Pippa David - 07535 607171
Arthur David - 07970 246888
Wes Ewing - 411337

Website

Robert Dilworth - 411673
robert@packington.info

Alerts

Stephen Plummer - 412963
alerts@packington.info

Welcome Pack

Becky Taylor - 411027





Congratulations and very many thanks go to all those who have contributed in any way to ensure that our village magazine has reached every household in the village 100 times. The number (and names) of those who have given help over the years, by writing, editing, financing, advertising, collating, printing, packing and distributing is legion, for they are many, certainly too many to publish a full list here. And then of course there are our readers, the essential factor in the success of any publication, whose feedback, and contributions, have been, and always will be, welcome.

How did it all begin? When did it all start? Lifelong residents of Packington may know the answers to these questions, but, it is a fact, that almost 70% of the current inhabitants of our village will have arrived since the first edition of the Packington Post was published. These “newcomers” (hopefully all regular readers!) may be wondering when, and how, it all started? So.... “Let’s start at the very beginning, a very good place to start” as Julie Andrews once sang....

On 3rd May 2000, to be precise, the ball started rolling! The Parish Council called a public meeting at the old Memorial Hall on High Street to consult villagers on future village plans. The consensus view at that meeting was “that residents of Packington should be canvassed on a wide range of local issues which would help local councillors plan how to maintain and improve village life.” A committee, called The Appraisal Steering Group, was set up. This wasn’t one of those committees we’ve all come across, defined by an American comedian as: “a group of people who individually can do nothing but as a group decide that nothing can be done”. This was an all action group!

A questionnaire was sent to all 312 households in the village (there are nearly 390 now and we should reach 400 by next year). An 80% response rate was achieved

after volunteers personally collected the completed forms from each household. Nearly 150,000 items of information were collated by the 12 strong Steering Group set up to produce a report, which was published in 2002. Section 3, Part 3 on “information and communication” revealed a large majority (273 in favour, 117 against) wanting an independently produced village newsletter. 88% of these wanted it produced “quarterly or more often”.

The report recommended that a working party be set up, including representatives of the “Parish News”, to consult with the Parish Council on the way forward, but, even before the Village Appraisal was published, the Parish Council had agreed in principle, to give the go ahead to a new village magazine. The Council also agreed to fund the whole bill for the first 8 issues of the new magazine and edition 1 of the Packington Post duly arrived in every Packington letter box in the summer of 2003.

Since then the village Post Office has gone the Memorial Hall has been extended and completely refurbished, the Methodist Chapel has gone, the village pillar box disappeared, but later returned on the other side of the road, an old stone bridge over the Gilwiskaw Brook was dismantled to be replaced by a new single span wooden bridge, the Recreation Ground has been transformed, the future of the Bull and Lion has hung in the balance several times and Hall Farm will soon be “legally” occupied again. The rest is history. The future will be reported to you in upcoming editions of your Packington Post!

Two questions for all our readers twenty years on.

1. Do we need another Village Appraisal?
2. Would the item causing most concern in Packington still be “traffic speeding through our village”? as it was in the first Village Appraisal all those years ago!

Adrian Mongredien

The state of wildlife in our gardens is a great indicator of the health of local wildlife. There certainly are indications that wildlife is thriving locally (I regularly see Yellow Hammers and Goldfinches on the run towards Springs past Babelake Street), but it would be interesting to delve a little deeper (and have some fun with all the family) and start by looking at what bird life there is in and around Packington. Do we have kingfishers on the Gilwiskaw? How many Fieldfares have you seen this year? Spotted Lapwings in the fields? Well, here's a start: the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) Big Garden Birdwatch 2020. Birdwatch is the largest wildlife survey and one of the greatest pieces of citizen science that's been done. It's simple:

Watch birds for one hour

Choose an hour between 25 and 27 January to watch birds in your garden, the local wood, by the brook...you choose!

Count the most birds that land at once only count those landing, not flying over.

Offering food helps...!

Report what you see

Every count is important – so submit your results to rspb.org.uk/birdwatch from 25 January until 16 February.

Why is this important? For over 40 years, the RSPB have asked people to help count birds in the garden. It is an indicator of bird numbers across the UK and a general indicator of environmental and wildlife health. For four decades, the Big Garden Birdwatch has highlighted the winners and losers in the garden bird world and it was one of the first surveys to alert the RSPB to the decline in the number of song thrushes in gardens. With the increasing concern about the state of the environment and for wildlife in general this sort of research is desperately needed. Plus, it gives you a chance to spend an hour outside, with a cuppa (and a biscuit!), or inside, watching

your birdfeeder and enjoying the beauty of our village and its gardens. So, when you see an odd person in wellies sitting half in the brook on 25 January – that's me hoping to catch sight of a kingfisher.

For further info, please look at the RSPB website www.rspb.org.uk.

Pippa David

Big Breakfast 2020

Saturday March 7th

09.00 to 13.00

The Charity this year will be Dementia UK



I will be in touch very soon to round up the usual volunteers, there is always room for more helpers. Just a one-hour shift is all we ask.



We will be contacting the very important "cooking team" in the near future. Put the date in your diary and come along to this fantastic village event and support this very important charity.

Mike Coke 01530 560430

Services at Holy Rood, Packington

January 19th

11am All age service

January 26th

11 am Holy Communion

February 2nd – Candlemas

11 am Morning Prayer

6 pm Evening Prayer

February 9th

No service at Packington:

10.30am united service at Measham

February 16th

11am All age service

February 23rd

11 am Holy Communion

February 26th – Ash Wednesday

7.30pm Holy Communion at **Sweepstone** church to mark beginning of Lent

March 1st

11 am Morning Prayer

6pm Evening Prayer

March 8th

11 am Holy Communion

March 15th

11am All age service

March 22nd

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

Looking ahead.....

Candlemas: February 2nd



Candlemas marks the end of the Christmas season in the church calendar; it's a pivotal point when we look back to Jesus coming at Christmas and turn forward to Easter. We continue the theme of Jesus the light of the world, and our call to share the light. Another traditional part of Candlemas services, was to bless the candles to be used in the coming year. Have you got a special candle you could bring along to the service?

Ready Steady Stick comes to Packington Church:

Thursday 20th February 2-4pm .

This is open to all children (and their grown ups) and is a mix of crafts, games and story telling



March: Lent learning times

As we do traditionally, there will be opportunities in Lent for more learning. This year we will be focussing on the Eucharist/Holy Communion. There will be 4 sessions – for full details see our website www.packingtonandnormantonchurches.org.uk

Packington Village NHW Alerts

Join the WhatsApp Village Watch Group
To be added text Graham 07764 471917

Looking back....

Christmas services were great with candles and beautifully decorated church with much hearty singing of carols. Thanks to all who came and all who decorated and made mince pies.

Mary and Joseph made their way safely round the village going from house to house for lodgings. This gives the idea of one of their B&Bs

**Salvation Army carols at Bull and Lion**

A splendid time at the newly reopened pub with the Salvation Army leading the carol singing. Thanks to the pub for hosting us and providing the mulled wine and to all who'd baked mince pies. £472.33 was given for the work of the Salvation Army so thank you to all for that generosity.

Christingle service: was well attended as always and great atmosphere. £ 202.00 raised for work of the Children's Society so again thanks to all

Toy service

The Marlene Reid Centre are very grateful for all the toys donated for children in need at Christmas. They were able to provide 146 children with a sack of toys to open on Christmas morning.

The Packington Corner

We're on the way home. My eyes are closed. Mum chats idly whilst she drives, about the pub's new management. "Honestly Han, I've got a good feeling about this lot". I'm not listening. The past semester at Uni has been knacker, so I'm processing things a lot slower than usual. The car slows down to a crawl, and Mum stops talking about getting Chris Elvis (of Bull and Lion fame) to perform at my 21st party. Silent concentration. I don't need to open my eyes to know that she's leaning forward, straining to see a potential oncoming flash of steel and wheels on our left, Ashby Road stretched out behind us.

This is a familiar manoeuvre. The Packington Corner is a high-stakes, high-reward gamble. It's a game of roulette, where the winner gets a tidy right-hand turn onto the safe High Street, and the loser gets a seemingly invisible Ford Focus smashing into the passenger seat, potentially killing their homebound University student daughter. It's a momentary pause, a split second spent in automotive purgatory waiting with bated breath to see if you're granted access into the Paradise of Packington. Paradise. Many a weary traveller have been too afeared, deeming the obstacle not worth the risk, even just to nip into Daybreak Services for a quiche.

The car crawls on, veering left ever so slightly to get a better view. This is futile. A lack of sight on Packington Corner is inevitable. It's going to have to be a shot in the dark. The car swings with confidence to the right and... she's made it. We've crossed Packington's answer to the River Styx, and now we voyage on. Homeward. I relax in my seat, safe in the knowledge that I'll live to see another Christmas.

See ya, Packington Corner. Until we meet again...

Hannah Taylor (aged 20 and 11 ½ months)
part time Packington resident

Provide us feedback on village events
editor@packington.info

Doug Pratt – Remembering Packington

Doug and Nora moved to Packington with his father and family from London in 1956. He was a member of the Leicestershire Special Constabulary for 32 years, and during his time, 16 village residents also became member of the Special Constabulary, looking after the Packington Community. Doug has seen many, many changes since he first came to the village - many of Doug's family have been, or still are, in the police force, so the calling runs in the blood!

One of Doug's early experiences was of being on duty for events at the village hall. The hall was opened in 1958, funded by contributions and support from the village. In addition to funds people from the village contributed items including chairs and other furniture. The venue was a huge success from early on, becoming a focal point for people, including from outside Packington, for dances and social evenings especially on Friday and Saturday nights.

As a Special Constable, Doug was often on duty looking making sure that things stayed in control. As he says, 'things could get a little lively once people had a bit of jungle juice inside of them, but a few words more often than not calmed things down. People had a different level of respect for authority and the constabulary back then'.

The difference between crime now and then is whilst the odd punch might have been thrown, there was nothing like the sort of violent crime, particularly today's rise in knife crime. 'Yes, of course there were still burglaries, but it was nothing like the level that we see now.



"But", says Doug, "the village of Packington is still great and the community spirit is wonderful". One of his funniest memories is walking around the Church and into Mill Street on patrol when he thought he felt a hairy hand land on his shoulder.... It turned out to be a kitten that had jumped off a wall on to him, but it gave him a bit of a shock and made him jump nonetheless! The experience was not helped by the fact that Mill Street is said to be haunted....

Doug is still very active, walking regularly and tending the garden, he was a member of the Packington History Group but his hidden talent is painting and the walls of his and his wife Nora's home are adorned with many lovely pictures of the village and surrounding landscapes.



HELP WANTED

The **Storer Family**, lived on the corner of Normanton Road and Heather Lane until 1960. When Joseph Storer, the last member of the family died, the Council compulsory purchased Joseph's thatched cottage and council houses were built on the land.

One of the family has tried, in vain, to locate a photograph of the cottage before demolition. Packington History Group do not have a photograph and she wonders whether anyone local may have a picture. if you can help please contact:

editor@packington.info



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

The Guides have had a very enjoyable Autumn term. We worked on both Unit-meeting Activities and Skills-builders. We are delighted to announce that two Guides obtained their first Theme Awards. The term culminated with a Christmas party, in which the drinks (delicious smoothies) were made by a Guide doing her Mixology badge. Other Guides made a very inventive selection of dips.

This term we are going on an Apple-Store field trip to learn coding and spending Thinking Day (Saturday 22nd February 2020) at a large-scale Guiding event called Celebrate at the NEC.

The Unit meets 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

History Group

The Group ended 2019 with a debate about the early history of Packington, led by Adrian Mongredien who has been working on the local impact of the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. Clearly the so-called “Dark Ages” were not quite as dark as some have suggested. Although we know nothing for certain about our village before AD1000, we do have earlier knowledge about other local settlements, for example:

- **Repton** was the burial site for early Kings of Mercia
- **Seckington** was the site of the murder of a king
- **Breedon on the Hill** was an early monastic site, with one of its monks going on to become Archbishop of Canterbury

Thanks go to Adrian for taking the initiative on this and to everyone who has contributed to the discussion – we hope to make information more widely available in the near future.

Annual General Meeting will be on Tuesday 28th January at 7.30 p.m. in the Memorial Hall Meeting Room. After the formal business has been completed, we aim to have a wider discussion planning our activities for 2020. Anyone who has an interest in the history of Packington (and the wider world) will be very welcome to join us.

Contact: Robin Boucher 01530 411638
randbboucher@googlemail.com

Table Tennis

Junior coaching will be a major focus for the club in 2020. The future of Table Tennis in Packington is from the juniors we can develop. Our coach Nigel Webster, remains committed to recruiting juniors from Packington School and in the Packington area. The timings remain [18:00 - 19:00](#) every Wednesday starting on January 22nd dedicated to junior coaching sessions for aged 7 upwards. This presents all Packington children with a fantastic opportunity to be coached by a nationally recognised coach. The cost is £1.50 per session.

The Packington Table Tennis club night also continues on Wednesdays [from 19:15 - 21:15](#) with a pay as you play system - £2.50 per adult and £1.50 for juniors.

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

Horticultural Show

Plans are well in hand for the 78th annual show on the **5th September 2020**.

Packington Horticultural Show (PHS) is planned, organised and presented by a small group of volunteers and the money raised goes to various village organisations and other local charities.



Most important are the exhibitors and the public who attend. Let's get sowing and growing ready for September. There are of course home produce categories and classes for children and young people.

If you would like to sponsor a part of the show please contact any of the following people who will be very pleased to hear from you.

Mike Powell
07789 035510
 mtpowell28@gmail.com
Laura Bryant
07932 836675
 laurajbryant@aol.com



Ladies Group

Food and drink was the common theme for the last two Ladies Group meetings. In December, 30 ladies enjoyed the annual Christmas supper in the Memorial Hall when a good time was had by all. The January meeting comprised a coffee morning served with a range of biscuits and cookies plus a 'bring & buy' stall of duplicated or unsuitable Christmas presents. This raised over £60 which will go towards the charity donations for 2020.



Above Christmas Supper

The next meeting of the group will be on **Wednesday 12th February at 7.30pm** in the Memorial Hall meeting room. Guest Speaker is 'local bobby' Mark Arjoo who will talk about Policing in Leicestershire.

New members are always welcome
Doreen Gasson 412012
gasson123@btinternet.com

**Looking
for the
right
advice?**



**Choose Crane and Walton for
everything legal...**

We provide quality services in a friendly yet professional way on a range of legal matters, including:

- Property Law and Conveyancing
- Family Law
- Inheritance Tax Planning
- Litigation
- Wills and Probate
- Lasting Powers of Attorney
- Court of Protection Applications
- Business Law
- Trusts



CRANE AND WALTON LLP

SOLICITORS

Ashby Office
 30 South Street Ashby de la Zouch
 Leicestershire LE65 1BT
 Tel: 01530 414111
 Fax: 01530 417022

Coalville Office
 21-25 London Road Coalville
 Leicestershire LE67 3JB
 Tel: 01530 834466
 Fax: 01530 810886

Leicester Office
 113-117 London Road
 Leicester LE2 0RG
 Tel: 0116 2551901
 Fax: 0116 2555864

Melbourne Office
 William's Yard
 Derby Road, Melbourne
 Derbyshire DE73 8JR
 Tel: 01332 863810



www.craneandwalton.com

Crime in the village over the past two months has been relatively low although burglaries were reported at several locations. Parked vans were also targeted, and tools were stolen. The Parish Council urge all residents to be on their guard and report any suspicious activity to the police.

The Council discussed the recent flooding in a number of places and as County Councillor Nick Rushton was at the meeting, he was able to give us an up to date response of the County Councils involvement. He said that the lead authority for flooding issues were the County Council, but it was the riparian owner of the land who was responsible for smaller watercourses including ditches. In regard to Babelake St, which was difficult to drive through for over four weeks, the County Council had performed a one-off culvert clean and that the land owner had now been traced. With regard to the road water at Normandy Wood, which has only just cleared naturally after approximately six weeks, and will be back as soon as heavy rain appears again, the County are aware of the situation and hope to resolve the issue soon. How soon Councillor Rushton couldn't say.

Following the Flood on Mill St, the worst in over fifty years, the Packington action Group FLOAT has had several meetings to date. They have convened a meeting with all authorities connected to water issues including the Environment Agency, Severn Trent, LCC, Nwldc, Highways England (A 42) and other agencies, to try to find improvements/mitigation to the flooding issues in Packington.

The Parish Council are looking into possibly celebrating the anniversary of VE Day. The Chairman has mentioned this to a number of groups and contacts who all think it a good idea. To this end a meeting has been arranged **on January 27th at 7-15pm in the meeting room at the Memorial Hall.** If you can't make that evening and would

like to help please contact Chris Miles 01530 414378 .

The Packington CCTV scheme is now running into it's final year of free funding and Councillors were informed that Wes Ewing, (Chair of Packington Neighbourhood Watch) was working on the running/future costs. Further work is necessary on this aspect and decisions will have to be made later in the year.

Council approved the budget for the coming year and as a result there will be no increase in Household precept for the next financial year. However, we were informed that a 2.95% increase will be levied by LCC. The Council has been informed of the County Council's wish to join all Local Authorities into one Authority. (Unitary Authority) The Parish Council has discussed these proposals and finds them unacceptable. Big is not always beautiful and the feeling was that the smaller settlements like Packington would not be heard and access to services and assistance would be difficult. If you have a view on this subject, then find the necessary information on LCC website and let the County Councillors know what you think. As far as we know consultation on Unitary Authority has not gone to every household or whether LCC intend to do so. We do know that nearly all Local Authorities and Parish Councils oppose, the scheme. Finally, the issue of planning permission for five houses to be built off the Drum and Monkey Lane, which is a footpath, was discussed. The Council has objected on the grounds of ecology deprivation, surface and foul water issues, over intensification of the site, highways and safety concerns and more.

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

**www.packingtonpc.org.uk
Chris Miles (Chairman)**

Next Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 4th February. A full agenda will be available on the Parish Notice Boards and Parish Council Website www.packingtonpc.org.uk by the 28th January

Speeding in the Village

The main thrust of this report concerns speeding traffic in Packington. In recent editions of the Post there have been a number of conversations on this topic, some of which implied criticism of the Parish Council. Others urged the Council to do more. I am, therefore, answering those points on behalf of the Parish Council.

Firstly, speeding traffic is the domain of the police, whilst traffic calming measures are under the control of the County Council. The Parish Council has always regarded highway issues as a priority and in the past spent nearly £30,000 in a joint scheme with the County, providing gateways road markings and VAS (Vehicle Activated Signs). At that time, about ten years ago, this was all we were allowed to do. As these measures did not solve the problem of speeding motorists, this topic has been high on the agenda of the Parish Meetings nearly every month. We have pursued local District and County Councillors. We have had conversations with the County Council Highways and quizzed the police when they attend regularly at our Parish Council meetings. What has been the outcome? Firstly, I remember the Chairman of Leicestershire County Council, at an open forum at County Hall, replying to my question of "why can't the village of Packington have traffic calming measures.?" saying. "Have you had any deaths on the roads in your village?!"

Secondly, the Parish Council has organised two Volunteer Speed-watch Surveys in the last six years, the second took place in the summer of this year. This as you may know is an educating exercise and no penalties can be given to speeding motorists but they do receive an official warning letter.

Thirdly we have asked the Leicestershire Highways Dept if we can put up our own speed cameras. We did get a comprehensive reply which you can read in full on the Parish Council's Web site. In it, it gave details of the covert speed-watch programme that they undertook recently.

(Remember the double black rubber tubing across the roads?) These gave readings which said the worst entrance or exit to the village had a mean speed of just 34mph. The other seven entrances and exits were all lower mean speeds! This communique also stated that Packington had had only one reported personal injury in a traffic accident in the last five years and this was not speed related. These findings mean that we do not meet the criteria for any further calming measures and safety cameras are "only located where there is a recent history of reported injury accidents."

Whilst the Parish Council will always be vigilant on this matter and ask the police to spend more time with cameras and showing more presence on speed enforcement, there is very little more that we can do. We do however urge residents to take note of speeding motorist number plates and report the time and location of these incidents directly to the police.

Whilst we are not recommending the following, the Council has observed that traffic has slowed at the following locations:- parked cars on the highway which act as a chicane and which is working well on Ashby road during the day, and sometimes on Normanton Rd.

Chris Miles Chairman



VE DAY
75TH ANNIVERSARY
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION
8-10 MAY 2020

Help Packington celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day. A planning meeting has been arranged:

January 27th at 7.15pm in the meeting room at the Memorial Hall.

If you can't make that evening and would like to help please contact

**Chris Miles
01530 414378**

It has been another fantastic year for the Memorial Hall. More local groups and parties are using the facility than ever before, and this has resulted in a healthy financial outlook which has enabled the Committee to sanction improvements and repairs throughout the year.

The Memorial Hall has been very lucky over many years to secure the voluntary support of individuals who have given their time in order to manage this well-used community facility. We would encourage anyone who is able to help or is interested in the welfare of this facility, to come to the AGM in March. Without this voluntary support the Memorial Hall would cease to function.

We are in need of a Secretary. So, if you are able to help in this regard please come along and volunteer. The role is not particularly time-consuming but nevertheless, a vital cog in the Hall's Management Team.

The Memorial Hall's AGM will take place on Tuesday March 17th at 7-15pm This is when a new Management Committee will be formed.

The Hall has offered to rent their own tablecloths to users for a number of years. However, we have not found anyone willing to wash them after a function. We therefore we have an opportunity for a person to wash these tablecloths. and be paid £4.00 per tablecloth. Might suit college or senior school student? Contact Chairman.



We hope you liked the improved Christmas lights this year at the front of the Hall.

The 'Switch-on' on Dec 1st was not without a hitch. One side of the lights failed and whilst replacing it with another £40 run of lights on the following Monday, we discovered that the original run of lights had been stretched and broken in two! Deliberate or what?

The improvements were sponsored by the Parish Council and the Memorial Hall Committee. The installation of the lights was done by Michael Watkins (Ramsell and Watkins Electricians)

Please put the date of the AGM in your diary 17th March 7-15pm Meeting Room and come along even if its just to see what is happening at the Memorial Hall.

If you wish to hire the Hall or the Meeting Room please go to our Web site or phone Sally our Booking Secretary on 07585327291

Chris Miles (Chairman) 01530 414378
christopher.miles@sky.com

parkrun

Following the full-page article in the last issue of the Packington Post, there were record turnouts at both the Christmas Day event, 759 and on New Year's Day 977!!

DAVID GRANGER ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN LTD

David Granger Architectural Design Ltd. offer a friendly and professional service in new build, conversion or adaptation by a team committed to high quality innovative architecture.



01530 560939
@DGDesignLtd

admin@davidgrangerdesign.com
www.davidgrangerdesign.com

INNOVATIVE DESIGN SOLUTIONS COUNTRYWIDE



The Bull and Lion roars again!!!

Already within the first few weeks, Darren, Janice, Emily and Luke are turning the Bull and Lion into the successful and welcoming village pub that Packington has been missing. Darren and Janice have run top class establishments for years including in a 2-rosette restaurant in a boutique hotel and Darren has 30 years' experience as a chef. Daughter Emily's partner Luke is also a trained chef and as a family they saw the opportunity to work together and bring something new to the Bull and Lion in Packington.



Janice, Darren, Luke and Emily

Since opening and creating new menus, the restaurant has been extremely busy, and the Sunday carvery has been fully booked every weekend. It is a carvery that has a lovely 'market feel' beautifully displayed in a casual style, as Darren says, 'it's a carvery with a difference'. What also makes this family team unique is that they will be cooking all meals in house, sourcing all food locally as far as possible, with ingredients from Daybreak Services, local butchers and farms, so, not only keeping business local but cutting down on carbon footprint too (and hopefully traffic through the village!). The pub welcomes walkers, dog owners (dog treats behind the bar!), and the team are looking to introduce themed food nights, including the ever-popular pie night. They are also looking to have live entertainment in the pub. The food menu will be wide

ranging, including sandwiches and lighter bites during the day, and a full menu in the evening which will change regularly

Darren, Janice, Emily and Luke look forward to welcoming people to the 'new' Bull and Lion and want to make the pub the hub for the community – a place to have a good meal in a friendly environment. It is still early days, so menus and opening hours are still changing, but it has got off to a flying start. The village needs a successful Pub and wish Darren, Janice, Emily and Luke huge success for the future!

Message of Thanks from Peter at Daybreak Services

Many thanks to everyone who supported this local shop at Christmas and Happy New Year to all our customers



Homelessness To Hope

Thanks for donations of clothes for the BRIDGE project. This is an ongoing collection of warm clothing and sleeping bags etc. Ring David and Liz to arrange collection 01530 415106

As always, we had a very busy run up to Christmas, with lots of fun and exciting things going on:

Gold Standard Church School Success!

We started December with what is known as a SIAMS or Church School Inspection. Over the last 18 months, evaluation criteria have become much tougher with only 2% of schools across the country likely to be awarded the top grade of excellent. Good is the new 'Gold Standard' with many schools struggling to achieve this. Therefore, we were overjoyed to be told that we are a Strong Good overall, with real pockets of excellence and that our collective worship is excellent!

Christmas Fayre

The Packington School Association's 'Taste of Christmas' was once again a great success, thanks to the hard work and support of everyone. The pupils enjoyed their dress down day and as always they were keen to run stalls and help with the fund-raising efforts. Thank you to everyone involved.

Panto & Nativity Performances

Our Key Stage 2 pupils were busy with three performances of this year's Panto, 'Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits'. All pupils impressed us with their confidence, superb singing and comic timing. We have received some marvellous comments and the children should all be very proud.



Our Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils delighted us all with this year's Nativity,

simply called 'The Nativity!' We were impressed with their expressive speaking and reading and their confident singing. It was great to see our young pupils flourish. Well done to all the children – we are really proud of you!

Christmas Parties

Pupils had a yummy & rather scientific time at a chocolate workshop as part of their Christmas Party activities this year. On behalf of the pupils I would like to thank the Packington School Association for organising the workshops, which were enjoyed by all. Father Christmas also managed to find space in his busy schedule to drop in and answer questions and hand out gifts.

Christingle

Rev Lesley Birtwistle, Mrs Eaton and Mrs Avery helped the children make Christingles for the Church Service on 1st December.



Pupils from the school took an active role in the service with a large group singing 'Following a Great Big Star'. They were also involved with giving the reading and leading the prayers. It was lovely to see so many families attending the service.

Upcoming events

During the month of February we will once again be collecting for the Ashby Food Bank. Any donations can be brought into the school office from Monday 3rd February. A list of items they need most can be found by visiting

www.ashbyfoodbank.org.uk/shopping

Packington Post 100th Edition COMPETITION

Prizes kindly donated by:

Sunday Carvery for four at the Bull and Lion, Afternoon Tea for two at Barkers Café, and a bottle donated by Midland Caliper Centre



Identify where these places/objects are in Packington

100th

✂-----

Packington Post Competition Jan 2020

1.....

2.....

3.....

4.....

5.....

6.....

Name

Age (if under 18).....

Telephone No



Entry form may be copied or simply complete your answers on a blank piece of paper with your contact details as shown beside. *Limited to one entry per person.*

TEST YOUR FAMILIES KNOWLEDGE!

Entry's to be returned by Friday 31st January either at Daybreak Services, Barkers Cafe or the Bull and Lion Pub. Prize winners will be drawn from correct entries received and published in the March Packington Post.

THE PITMEN PAINTERS

By Lee Hall

Venture
theatre

FEBRUARY 20TH TO
FEBRUARY 22ND
FEBRUARY 26TH TO
FEBRUARY 29TH
2020



The Pitmen Painters is based on the triumphant story in 1934 of a group of Ashington miners and a dental mechanic who hired a professor from Newcastle University to teach an Art Appreciation evening class and discover a new way to express themselves and unexpectedly became art-world sensations. Within a few years the most avant-garde artists became their friends and their work was taken for prestigious collections; but every day they worked, as before, down the mine. An arresting and witty salute to the power of individual expression and the collective spirit.

Venture Theatre, North Street, Ashby de la Zouch

Tickets available from: Tourist Information Centre, North Street, (01530) 411767 and
on line at: www.ashbyventuretheatre.org.uk/

Performances start at 7.30pm. Fully Licensed Bar. All seats £9.00

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.