

History Group

Fans of Hilary Mantel's novels about Thomas Cromwell may be interested to know that there is a link with Packington. In 1539, during radical changes in the religious and political life of the country (Henry VIII's break with Rome and the ending of nearly a thousand years of monastic life in England), Thomas Leeson was appointed Vicar of Packington. He died later the same year and his will, dated 30th July 1539, shows that he was a man of means with connections in high places. After arranging to leave forty shillings to the parish church of Packington and twelve pence to every householder in the village, the will concludes (with spellings updated):

"And I will and desire my most especial good lord Lord Thomas Cromwell Lord Privy Seal to see this my last will and testament fulfilled and performed, to whom I give and bequeath for his pains one hundred pounds. And to Master Richard Cromwell [Thomas's nephew] for his good counsel to my executors twenty pounds."

Cromwell fell from power and was executed less than a year after Leeson's death.

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VE 75 Celebrations



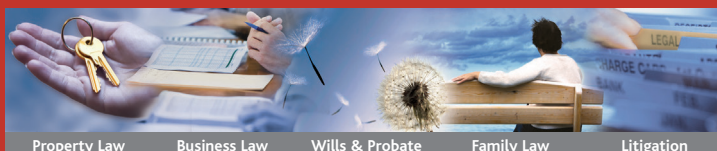
Bonfires

Please be considerate to near neighbours and avoid bonfires and simmering incinerators

Particularly on these very warm, calm days when windows will be open and people will be enjoying their gardens.

Thank you for highlighting this. There are neighbours close to us who regularly burn stuff causing clouds of choking smoke. For those of us who suffer from Asthma this causes many problems and great distress. This always seems to happen during dark hours, which suggests the perpetrators are keen to avoid detection.

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Tribute to a Very Special Packington Friend

Wesley Ewing 1996-2020

A Selection of memories, reflections and anecdotes from members of the Packington Communications Group (PCG) and others.



Stephen Plummer, former editor, original (& current) member of the PCG team

"I first met Wesley when he and Alison attended a Packington School Governors' meeting in 2001 shortly after they came to live in the village and their son Jacob had started at the school. I was a governor at the time and cannot remember what the issue that filled the Hall was about. However, I do remember this imposing, quietly spoken but insistent Irishman sitting on the front row. It very quickly became clear that amongst the inevitable clamour at these types of meetings there was a voice of common sense and pragmatism.

From that day our friendship was forged and very quickly there was a close involvement in 2002 as the Packington Post was born, 101 issues and 18 years ago. His design skills and the facilities of Context, his publishing company based at home on Mill Street, have kept the publication relevant all this time. Sitting with the Editor of the day, each edition often took hours of precious voluntary time to complete. It had to be right!

With much input from other members of the team, this arguably resulted in one of the most professionally produced magazines in the country from a small village.

You touched the lives of so many in a selfless, generous and giving way and will be sorely missed by us all not least for your gentle Irish humour.

Thank you for being our friend".

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Packington Post
www.packington.info

Adrian Mongredien, a current member of the PCG team, reflects on his time as secretary on the Memorial Hall committee at the beginning of the bid for Lottery funding.

"In 2008 Chris Miles and I took a box file of loose documents to Wesley's house on Mill Street. These documents contained our application for a quarter of a million pounds lottery grant for the rebuilding of the Village Hall. It was my first visit to Wesley at "CONTEXT". Within an hour and a half Wes had transformed our jumble of paperwork into an impressively bound document, with numbered pages, and an index.

He refused any payment for his work with a smile and instead thanked us for our work for Packington. Having been sent copies of the Packington Post as part of the submission, the National Lottery said later that it was probably the best presented village magazine they had ever seen.

The rest is history. The bid was successful and we now have a magnificent new Memorial Hall".

On many occasions Wes was generous with his time for the benefit of others and the local community. One of his last emails to Adrian was an offer of help to deliver the Packington Post. It was timed at 11.18pm. and was a clear indication of his commitment to the village and support for those voluntary people working for the village.

Mike Coke, current editor of the Packington Post, recalls that apart from considerable and essential input in designing and printing the Packington Post, his help in other areas was invaluable.

"A warm and generous man, who will be sorely missed by me and everyone in the village. In recent years the Packington Big Breakfast has been a real success. Wes came to the rescue when I organised the first Big Breakfast, putting together a team of cooks. I will miss most his greeting, in that lovely Irish accent "Michael, how are you?"

This event has become a village fixture thanks to the input he has had over the years. Not just the cooking team, but as well he organised the food requirements from his contacts through Food Gusto, his other successful "baby". Wes will be sadly missed by all the volunteers, especially me."

Philip and Marie Caren, members of the PCG editorial team.

"We had only known Wes over the last 4 years but Marie & I really liked him, such a bright guy but a mischievously funny sense of humour. In our short time in the village he was always inclusive but was never afraid of taking hold of a project and owning it to a solution, such as CCTV, Neighbourhood watch, and Covid -9 response, plus lots more from before. His death has greatly saddened us both as we worked closely on CCTV & Packington Post. He was a hard working, conscientious person, who did so much for Packington. He never shied away from hard work. I spoke recently about Neighbourhood Watch and he asked if Marie & I needed shopping as, with Marie's pregnancy, we are obviously practicing rigorous social distancing. He was involved in so many community initiatives and we should not underestimate the contribution he made in these difficult times, to the great community spirit and support network we have in Packington".

Becky Taylor, member of the PCG team responsible for the Welcome Pack

"It's not often that you meet someone as inspirational as Wes, with his energy, his ideas, his honesty, his wit and his dedication to his community.

Packington has lost a very special person.

It's been a real pleasure".

Peter & Rachel Wozywoda, former members of the PCG team

"We just wanted to drop you a line to say how devastated we were to hear the sad news about Wes. He has been such a key part of the Packington scene since we've been here that it is hard to think about things without him.

We remember fondly during our days on the Packington Post team, the hard work and support Wes provided. While he was always instrumental in just getting things done, he was also always there to support and encourage the team.

We are thinking of you as you come to terms with this huge loss to the team and remind you that we will always be here to help and support you if you need it."

Green Dog Walkers' Scheme

Imagine, you're on your daily walk- maybe you're out with the dog, maybe you're just in need of some fresh air. You're basking in the glorious Spring sunshine when, oh no, your foot has appeared to have found itself in a rather warm and mushy patch of grass. But its not grass is it, it's the mess left behind by that selfish dog-owner, either simply unprepared or too lazy to clean up after their pet- both of which are no excuse.



The Green Dog Walkers Scheme is a non-confrontational way to change attitudes about dog fouling. Launched by councils all across the country, the scheme encourages dog owners to volunteer and 'Take the Pledge' to:

- always clean up after their dog
- carry extra dog waste bags
- be happy to be approached and lend a dog waste bag to those without
- be a friendly reminder to other dog walkers to clean up after their dogs

Should we implement this scheme here in Packington? The aim is to encourage dog walkers to adopt a responsible attitude to cleaning up their dog's mess and in doing so, alleviate the difficulties and issues dog fouling presents.

Do you really want your daily walk, more precious now than ever before, to be disrupted by such a horrific, not to mention easily avoidable, experience? Take the pledge today and join The Green Dog Walker's scheme- we're all in it together.

Molly Brammall

Lockdown

Molly Brammall writes:

It goes without saying we are amidst one of the strangest times I'm sure the majority of generations have ever seen. With uncertainty, loss and despair reigning, it has never been more important to focus on the good in people and, importantly, the good in the *world*.

Social distancing implications and ultimately, lockdown, have meant a significant change in how much we can meet with and socialise with both friends and family. However, this hasn't stopped us from doing everything in our power to maintain that all important communication. Whether it is kept alive through video chat (let's just say I'm sure Mr Zoom has made a few pennies during the pandemic) or whether it's sitting at the end of your loved ones drive; catching up 2 metres apart, it's a way of making this time that little bit easier. Me, I took it upon myself to reach out to an elderly lady, living alone, in case she needed anything- be it just a chat. These acts, despite small, can go a long way in lifting the spirits of those who need it.

As well as the small acts, over the course of lockdown, actions on a much larger scale have been recognised too. The weekly clap every Thursday symbolising our great appreciation for all key workers, the vast amount of donations raised in the name of Captain Tom Moore, and in the case of my own street, a Saturday night gin evening in which a catch up on the kerb has become the highlight of the week.

So despite all the gloom, despite the negativity- be sure to focus on the good. And remember, if boredom ever strikes, you can *always* resort to TikTok.

Molly Brammall

New Suspicious Phishing Email Reporting Facility

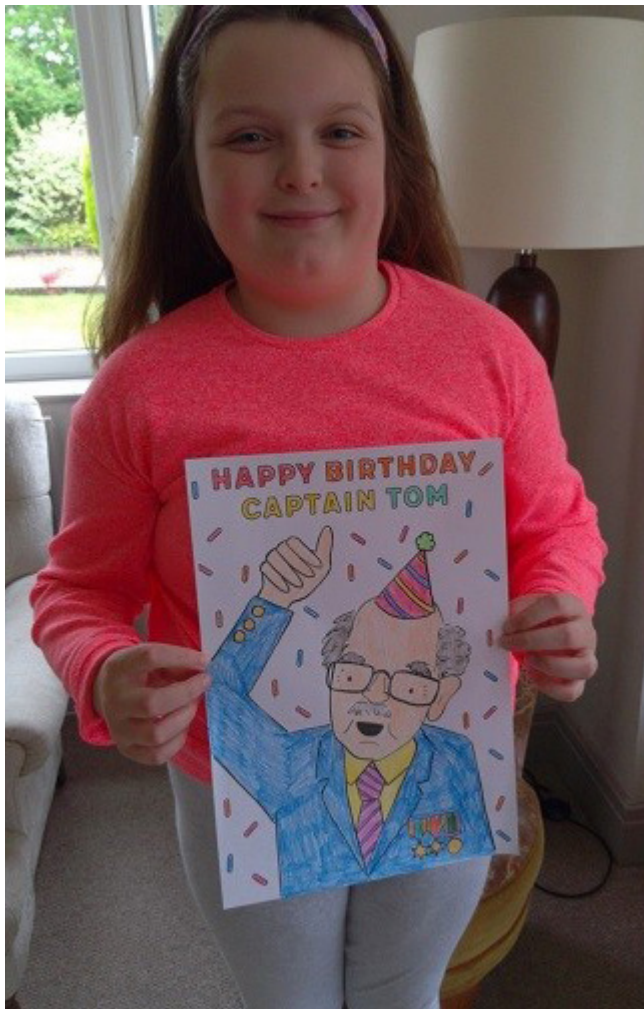
The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) have launched a new reporting service for suspicious emails.

Anyone can now forward suspicious emails to: report@phishing.gov.uk

School is a very different place to be recently, and certainly a lot quieter! We are, however, still working and keeping busy to ensure that all of our lovely families have work and activities available to them whilst they are staying safe at home. A few children of key workers are still attending school and we are remaining open to support these families when they need us. Thank you to everyone who has been sending in pictures of their home learning activities; we really do enjoy seeing what you have been up to, including science experiments, PE sessions and miniature garden making.

Easter Competition

Mrs. Price ran an Easter competition asking children to send in pictures or photographs to represent Spring & Easter. We received lots of wonderful entries and it was difficult for Mrs. Price to choose 6 winners overall. 3 children from the infants and 3 from the juniors each won a £5 Amazon voucher. Well done! Winning entries included pictures of sunsets and sheep and one child had made a creative egg box planter!



Thank you NHS and Captain Tom's Birthday!

We know that lots of our families have been getting involved in the Clap for NHS on a Thursday evening and all staff have been joining in too! Mrs. Price even borrowed some percussion instruments from school to bang outside her house last week!

We have our own rainbow window display and have received pictures of other displays and posters that our children have created. Grace also coloured in a lovely birthday message for Captain Tom and played 'Happy Birthday' to him on her piano.

Window Challenge

Mrs Price asked children to create 'Windows of Hope' and explain why they had chosen the pictures they had drawn. Again, we had some beautiful pictures sent in including 'Flowers of Hope and Strength' and one including a picture of a child on holiday with an ice cream next year! I think we are all hoping for this one soon! Others spoke of family, friendship, nature, love and peace. Thank you to everyone who has been sending in their ideas.



VE Day

Our bunting was up and ready for VE Day on Friday 8th May, as well as a lovely poster created in school with some of our key worker children. On the day we had invited our families to raise their tea cups and glasses with us at 3 p.m. and to send us pictures of their VE Day 'lock down' celebrations and we have put a gallery of them on our school website <https://www.packington.leics.sch.uk/>

A very small selection of abridged tributes from Social Media

Rachael Irving McKindley, Resident
The children and I have so many great memories of Wes and our JPEG days. We were truly privileged to have shared happy times with him and Alison. He always used to produce a box of cherry tomatoes, bought from Pete's, at every picnic! I don't know why that sticks in my mind! He will be truly missed. Love and sympathy to Alison and all of the family.

Sarah Marvin, Resident
"Wes you will be greatly missed. I don't think I have ever met someone who could get so many people motivated and moving to bring about action. From sharing your passion for local business, food and charities to helping us all in tackling our flooding issues. And as a friend you and Alison have been the best hosts welcoming us so warmly to the village all those years ago, and when we all can we will be there for them".

Margaret Jones, Ashby Arts Festival Committee
"Such a lovely man, and very supportive of Ashby Arts Festival, helping us with advertising and printing and running shared events on the Bath Grounds. We will miss him and his enthusiasm. The whole festival committee send our condolences."

Phillip & Julia Harley, Former residents
"Wes was invariably present or involved with NW Leics community events I either worked on or enjoyed visiting before we moved to Lincolnshire last year. He was a tireless campaigner and organiser for so much in the Packington community and always had time to stop and say hello around the village. He always remembered your name. So sad for his family, friends and colleagues".



Jacqui Bell, Ashby Scout Group
"Wes was always very supportive of our Scout Group fundraising at various Food Gusto events over the years. A great guy, always friendly, so sorry to read this sad news. Sympathy to his family".

Peter Swift and all at Daybreak Services
"Sincere condolences from Pete, Rachel and Joe Swift and all at Daybreak Services. Wesley was always eager to offer guidance and support when we were involved in community events; he was particularly helpful in recent weeks in organising the Covid-19 response for the village, ensuring we could operate in an organised and efficient way".

Wesley's passing was a personal tragedy for those who knew him well. It is a reminder to us all that all our lives lie in the moment. All can be irrevocably changed from one day to the next. Our thoughts are with all of Wesley's family at this time.

At some point, if the family wishes it, a suitable commemoration in a quiet place in the village, a plaque noting the huge contribution made by Wes to build and strengthen our local community, might be appropriate. If nothing else, it would give current and future generations of Ewings the chance to note the love and affection Packington had towards their father, and possibly a grandfather they will never have personally known.

Compiled by Stephen Plummer, an original founder member with Wesley (and others) of the Packington Communications Group in 2002. With grateful thanks to all the contributors mentioned above.



Alison, Jacob, Samuel and Ella -
'We greatly appreciate and would like to thank everyone for showing their respect, love and support for us on our loss of Wesley/Dad.

Your words, thoughts, prayers and kind deeds along with the overwhelming turn out on the 1st of May, have been, and still are, a comfort to us. Thank you.'

A Tribute to Wesley Ewing on behalf of Packington Residents



Wes was always able to find time to contribute to and get involved in local groups. As his family grew, he was involved with JPEG, Packington Junior Entertainment Group. His enthusiasm, along with Alison's, saw many events organised by the Mums and Dads and he was right in there helping organise and establishing a real community spirit within the children and adults.

In the early 2000s Wes, along with others, was worried about how the Gilwiskaw Brook threatened to flood even more properties in Mill St. He was instrumental in setting up a group of residents called Float, who looked into solving this danger. After much dogged determination, mainly by him, the authorities were persuaded to take away the solid brick Little Lane bridge which was stopping the flow and diverting water into Mill Street. This partly solved the problem until the rains of 2019 and 2020 when Float was resurrected. Again, Wes was right in there, organising meetings and trying to get action from all the responsible authorities who have the ability to protect Packington Residents from flooding.

He was the initiator in setting up a cooking / diners' club following the refurbishment of the Memorial Hall. He had sessions at the Hall for youngsters to learn to cook and for the adult groups too. For them it was a chance to bring their favourite wine to go along with the meal!

In recent years the Packington Big Breakfast has been a real success. According to organiser Mike Coke, when the Charity Big

Breakfast was first proposed, Wes got him out of trouble by putting together a team of chefs. This event has become a village fixture thanks to the input he has had over the years. Not just the cooking team, but he organised the food requirements as well. Wes will be sadly missed by all the volunteers, especially Mike.

Wes had always been interested in security and contributed a huge amount as a member of Neighbourhood Watch over the last four or five years. He acted as Chairman of this group and it is really down to him that Packington has an excellent security system involving cameras, police involvement and a full complement of active Neighbourhood Watch street co-ordinators.

Wes was one of the two remaining original members of the Packington Communications Group, set up in 2002. Using the resources of Context, his printing and publishing company, he designed and printed over 100 editions of the Packington Post. Sitting with the Editor of the day, each edition often took hours of precious voluntary time to complete. It had to be right! With much input from other members of the team, this arguably resulted in one of the most professionally produced magazines in the country from a small village.

Recently, as we know, the Covid-Lockdown has meant that the elderly and vulnerable had to be looked after. Wes was the one who quickly saw the need for this and, along with the Parish Council, Neighbourhood Watch and Packington Post, he got things organised. A chain of command was soon established from the volunteers within these groups and the problem we hope was resolved. Thank you, Wes.

Finally, Wes was a friend to many. You were always greeted with a smile and you knew he would help if he could. He was generous, he was kind and, for a person who often said that he hated meetings, could always be found putting the case for Packington residents at the many he attended.

Wes, we salute you, we will miss you and thank you for all you have done for Packington.

Compiled by Chris Miles, Steve Plummer and Mike Coke on behalf of all Packington residents.

'Daybreak' during Coronavirus Lockdown!

Up at 3.30am, as usual, Peter Swift of Daybreak Services is down to the shop to take wholesale orders off the answer phone. This is usually a long list from pubs, cafes, residential homes and restaurants that phone their orders through at the end of their working day. But with the majority of these businesses not open during these very strange times, it's not long before he is on his way to either Leicester or Birmingham Fruit and Veg wholesale market. For the past few weeks, to try and keep the shop well stocked, Joe has also been getting up before dawn and taking an additional van to market, to fill with fresh produce.

In the meantime, Kevin arrives at 4.30 a.m. to pull out the trolleys, set up the shop, put barriers outside and start to make up the orders for delivery to village residents who are very sensibly 'self-isolating' and those businesses which are still operating.

Once it became clear the numbers of orders for local delivery were increasing and more staff were needed, Pete had to expand the workforce temporarily. Sue, who usually only works Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Tom, who usually works Saturdays and a couple of days after school, Macy, who left to go to University and Felix, who usually just helps unload the van on Tuesdays; suddenly found themselves working 8 hours a day, 6 days a week, in very strange circumstances. They were having to ask people not to enter the shop until they were invited to do so, trying hard to hurry people along politely. Also not engaging in too much conversation so as to not keep the line of customers outside waiting too long, whilst maintaining the etiquette of 'social distancing'!

Macy, Tom, Sue and Felix arrive between 7a.m. and 8am. Pete and Joe arrive back from their early morning buying about 7.30 a.m., having already made deliveries in Newtown Linford and Ibstock, and the produce is unloaded.

Joe or Kevin go out with the wholesale deliveries. Sue and Tom are busy on the tills. Felix delivers papers and orders that can be taken on foot and is the one we all call for if we want anything finding or fetching. Macy has proved herself to be a brilliant telephone receptionist, taking down orders and making them up with Kevin and Pete. Kevin finishes about mid-day; he's very conscientious and will stay till he's sure he's done all he can!!

On Saturdays Emily has been back to help out in the morning and Charlotte is in later.

As the day goes on there are orders to be delivered or loaded into peoples' cars, "Felix, Tom, can you just lift this for us please?"!! Compost and flowers are delivered, the next days' orders are written out, customers are served, the door is 'manned', shelves are filled and lists are compiled for Pete to order tomorrows' bread, milk, meat etc. All the time the phone is ringing with people giving their next orders!

As 4 o'clock approaches, fresh produce has to be put into the coolers, floors swept, cardboard squashed into the bin, trolleys wheeled in, answerphone turned on and finally doors locked!

That might be the end of the day at the shop, but when Pete gets home he spends another couple of hours, (in between eating and 'resting his eyelids'!), on the necessary bookwork, checking and totalling up orders, listing goods needed from the wholesalers to keep the shelves stocked and phoning the fruit and veg market to order next days' collection. Finally 'calling it a day' at about 10pm!!!

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Baby James

On April 16th 2020, at the height of a Pandemic, James Stephen Anthony Scott Beaumont Caren became the newest resident of Packington. Weighing in at an impressive 9lbs 2oz he was born at Queens Hospital Burton. Both mother & baby are doing well and settling into a routine.



Marie and Philip are both overjoyed with their new arrival.

Hill Farm

The shop is open for meat, home-made meat pies and eggs from Wednesday until Saturday 10.00 – 3.00 and Sunday 10.00 – 1.00. We are also happy to offer free delivery!

01530 411984

The Black Horse Returns

In the early hours of Monday 13th April our shire horse, Lockley Anna, gave birth to a black colt weighing in at around 80kgs. Both mum and son are doing well. He already has baby teeth and is on hard food as well as poor mum feeding him virtually every hour both night and day. He currently stands at around 10 hands.



He is named Packyngton Prince of Pascha (which is Latin for Easter and the Feast of the Resurrection of the Lord) in recognition of his birth over the Easter period.

His birth follows a long tradition of shire horses in the Sumnall family working the farm. We are delighted to be returning a black shire to the village 250 years after the "Packington Blind Horse" which was at stud in the village from 1755 to 1770 and is generally recognised as the foundation stallion for the Shire breed. He was black and appears in the first Shire Stud book because of the large number of horses claimed to be descended from him, with direct descendants being recorded from 1755 – 1832.

Hill Farm is again hoping to be able to take part in the annual Open Farm Sunday event which had been rescheduled for 20th September 2020 (covid-19 willing). This will be our 10th year of opening the farm doors to the public and we are hoping to make it a special event showcasing both our new foal alongside a display of heritage agricultural implements and displays.

Updates on Pascha's progress will be on our Facebook page – Hill Farm Packington.

Daybreak Services

The beating heart of our village meets Corona Virus head on!

On 9th March, Peter Swift's Facebook page - 'Daybreak Services - Packington, Leicestershire' - stated they had temporarily run out of hand sanitiser but, unlike major supermarkets, they had toilet rolls and pasta on their shelves. It was 22nd March when they announced that in order to continue supplying the village safely and to protect themselves, their staff and customers alike, they had adopted the government guidelines on social distancing. A one-in, one-out, queuing outside and remaining two metres apart policy was introduced and we were reminded to: bring a list, limit browsing and only buy essentials – a new way of shopping was upon us!

In addition, a very much needed and appreciated order and delivery system for the elderly, vulnerable and anyone isolating within Packington (and surrounding area) was quickly and successfully implemented – be it your daily newspaper or your entire weekly shop boxed up and placed on your doorstep, Daybreak Services had you covered.

Peter, Rachel, Joe and their team reacted quickly to daily news about this deadly virus and, as increased demand took its toll, the Daybreak crew continued to source the stock, fill their shelves, keep their cool and offer a smile, as they always do.

A very grateful Packington resident writes:

Thank you, Daybreak; for your increased hours, your tireless patience, your endless community support and dedication. We recognise your hard work and incredible service and I, for one, hope we will all promote the 'Keep It Local' message when we return to our 'normal' lives.

Having spoken to a few regulars and read the Daybreak Services Facebook reviews, I would like to share a few quotes which sum up the fabulous team that make Daybreak Services possible:

'Thanks for being there in these crazy times'

'You are amazing!'

'Undoubtedly 5 stars'

'The heart & foundation of the local community'

'A gem in the jewel of Packington'

'They keep the store stocked with great bargains'

'Service is second to none'

'Vital service for us all'

'Nicest shop ever, lovely staff'

'You are a credit to the village, thank you'

'I don't know what we would have done without you'



Mrs Cow of Mill Street

Mrs. Cow is part of the Marvin Family living at the Watermill on Mill St. She was brought from Blackpool by Ed who had always wanted a life size fibreglass cow (well why not?!). Inspired by many city art installations, where sculptures are painted by groups or artists, our Mrs. Cow will be regularly repainted to amuse passers-by!



She is also raising money for Rainbows Hospice for Children and Young People. By asking for a small donation if you choose, she is happy to have her photo or a selfie taken with anyone! Mrs. Cow has so far raised £125 on her JustGiving Page which is where we transfer her cash donations (Just Giving, search for Mrs Cows Selfie Donations). She would love to become a Facebook sensation and see selfies from her 'fans' posted on her Facebook page (Mrs. Cows Snazzy Page).

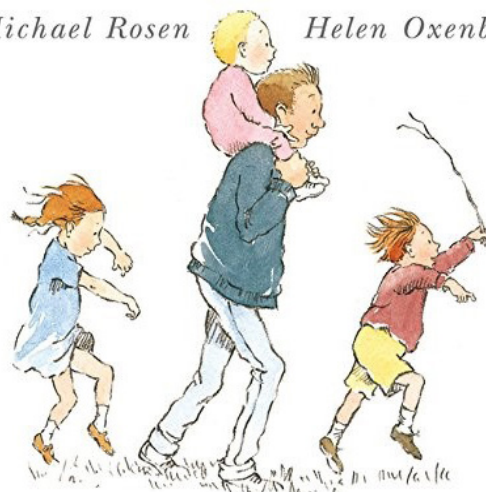


Come and meet her any time.

Where are the Bears?

Neighbourhoods are doing an awesome thing for children and families going on walks. Kate Storer asked everyone in Packington to take part and place a bear in their window, so families can go on a Bear Hunt. The facebook post was seen by 144 people and 50 commented that they would participate.

We're Going on a Bear Hunt
 Michael Rosen Helen Oxenbury



How many Bears have YOU seen around our village?

Community Orchard



Picture taken by Adrian Mongredien on his daily exercise walk with Kate this week. He says, "The apple trees were covered in more blossom this year than I have ever seen".

Write Your Life Story

What to do if self-isolating at home.

Adrian Mongredien writes:

A few years ago I was booked to listen to a talk on Victorian history at Hay Literary Festival. The speaker was ill and unable to attend. Instead another historian gave us a talk on how to write the story of our lives. She told us that nothing is more valuable to historians than first hand experiences. The only way these can be discovered and cross checked is if a number of people can be persuaded to write about their own individual experiences.

In the next few years, the number of people who can remember living through the Second World War will rapidly diminish. Almost no-one is left who lived through the First World War. Every one of us has a unique story to tell. Events that we may see as mundane and ordinary may be fascinating to our great grandchildren. If you are over 70 you probably grew up in a house with no central heating and a coal fire which you were taught how to light and keep going. You may remember what life was like before television. You may have had no shower, but one bath a week if there was enough hot water.

How can we write our own life story? A good way to start is to find your birth certificate. In my case I was able to find, from mine, the building that I was born in on google maps – a nursing home in Weston Favell Northamptonshire in 1942- and discover that it is still there although it is now an old people's home.

Can you remember the house, or area, in which you were born? Where you first went to school? How near were you to your local shops? How many people lived there in the city, town, or village where you lived as a child? Where was the nearest Park? What sort of games did you play with other children living on your street? Did you have a birthday party when you were a child? What sort of presents did you receive at Christmas? What was your favourite radio programme? How many times did you go to the cinema every month? Answers to all these questions will be of interest to future generations who will almost certainly be living very different lifestyles.

I started writing the story of my early life a couple of years ago. Along the way I have found myself searching the internet for photos of New Brighton Pier (now demolished) and my secondary school (also demolished) to discovering on the net, the value of the house

where I lived in a bedsit for ten months, during my few years in London in the "swinging sixties". I was amazed to discover that it sold a couple of years ago for over £27,000,000. That is twenty seven million!!

You have no idea what will turn up until you sit down at your lap top and begin to remember your beginnings.

Adrian Mongredien

Q is for Quarantine

Quiet roads, peaceful skies
 Queuing hours, for supplies
 Quickened rides, on the bike
 Quality time, what's not to like?
 Quarrelling kids
 Quaking Lids
 Quizzing friends
 Queer trends.
 Queen speaks, nation listens
 Querying scientific missions
 Queazy truth, did we prepare?
 But no one can Question
 Our Quintessential NHS care

Anonymous, Lockdown in Packington 2020

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A personal view from Rev Vivien Elphick:

'We live in strange times.' How often I have heard that in these past weeks. At the beginning of March, it felt much like business as normal and we welcomed our new Team Vicar, Revd Rick Tett, to the Woodfield Team of 8 churches. Suddenly, lockdown. Church buildings closed, and the likes of me not able to visit. No services in church, no weddings, no christenings and funerals with only limited attendance allowed. We had to learn how to be the living active Church still, but Church at Home. For closure of the building does not mean closure of the real church. We have the gift of prayer to offer: we are praying for our communities, those whose lives are so disrupted, and our world. We are holding all in prayerful love. For me, that is about the most important activity. Personally, I have had to learn to be more technologically savvy, something I had dedicatedly avoided up to now. Our website (address below) and our Facebook page - The Woodfield Team - are up and running with details of audio services and lots to read. You can even take a guided tour of Measham Church from the comfort of your home. We're having meetings courtesy of Zoom (which I'd never heard of) and have held two evening services on Zoom with more to follow. Plus, there are the all-important pastoral conversations, on the phone when we cannot physically visit. Yet for me, it is a time to slow down a bit, to deepen my relationship with God, to learn a greater trust. That when lockdown ends, my vision may be clearer and less cluttered as we all seek a way forward that respects our world and fellow human beings, perhaps more than we have in all our normal busyness
www.packingtonandnormantonchurches.org.uk



The demand for food from Food Banks has increased dramatically as people have been thrown out of work and there are benefit delays. Can you help by donating food, or money? At present they particularly need long life milk and juice, tinned veg, tinned potatoes or instant mash. Everything is gratefully received, but there are no facilities for fresh produce. Snacks and treats are also welcome with so many children being at home. **Ashby**, donations can be made at Tesco's. <https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/ashby/>

Fish Rehomed

Following a frantic request to find a new home "Our pond is draining due to a leak in the membrane and the fish will run out of water, probably in the next few days." the Packington Alerts worked its magic and the good people of this village responded.



A big thank you is sent for all the offers of a new home for our fish. They have gone off today to a lovely new home.
 Thanks
 David Forder



Thanks, from Dementia UK

"I want to thank you once again for raising an incredible £1750 for Dementia UK through your Charity Breakfast. The money you've raised will give more families facing dementia, the care of a specialist dementia nurse to help them cope, even in the toughest of times. This emotional support and practical advice can be a lifeline for families in crisis so we just can't thank you enough."

Carla Harris – creating beauty in glass

You may have seen many beautiful examples of fused glass in galleries and at craft fairs, but what is fused glass? It is a process that involves joining pieces of glass at a high temperature in a kiln, where the glass then melts and merges to become solid when cooled. It is used as a technique for creating all sorts of decorative and practical pieces, including platters, jewellery and wall ornaments.

Carla Harris began her career as a qualified youth worker for Nottingham City Council and Queens Medical Centre, but took voluntary redundancy in 2009 to re-qualify as an adult education teacher. Initially she started teaching a variety of crafts, but was offered the opportunity to develop new skills and chose stained glass. At the same time Chris, her husband, bought her a course in fused glass and she bought her first little microwave kiln. Carla says that she spent 6 months making every mistake possible, like any craftsman! But the light bulb moment came when she went on a full 4-day glass fusing course and she has never looked back.

Carla and Chris moved to Packington from Nottingham and she now creates and sells work, as well as running classes that include turning the (empty!) bottle of your favourite tippie into cheese platters, making free standing pictures and pendants amongst other items.

Of course, due to the lockdown, classes are currently not running but, not to be defeated, Carla has come up with a few great ideas to help inspire and keep people, especially children, occupied and learn something new during this time.



One of these has been to create 'fused glass bug kits' for children to create their own artwork. The kit includes glass which has been pre-prepared (so no sharp edges for little fingers!),



and all the kit to make a glass 'bug'. Carla has set up a system for collection and delivery which means that all social distancing measures are adhered to. Also 100% alcohol is used in glass work, so the pieces are cleaned and safe for collection. It is understood that 'rainbow kits' are also in the pipeline if not already available!

The kits range from £10 - £22 each and you can order them directly from Carla either by phone on 07799 020174, or contact by email at Carla@harris-marsh.com.



Packington comes together in song!

Following a rich tradition of local music making, the residents of Packington High Street are encouraging people in the village to come together on a Thursday evening after the 'Clap for Carers' for 'Packington Sings'; a unique gathering in these strange and distanced times. This started with a wonderful coming together of local residents in response to the musical rendition of Somewhere Over the Rainbow involving Packington residents Aimee, a singer and music teacher, along with established musicians of the High Street Joy, Nick and Lesley.

Aimee has had plans to create a local community choir for some time, but that 'time' has always been elusive! The enforced lockdown has seen many challenges and difficulties, but also a reinforced sense of community and friendship.

Following this, a 'song of the week' has been introduced. Recent songs have been Lean on Me, and You'll Never Walk Alone, when many locals have taken to the High street to listen and sing along.

Week 3 is planned to be the classic Stand by Me. Residents who wish to sing along can find out details by searching the Facebook page, Packington Community Choir.

Aimee hopes that this may be the start of a local community singing group once lockdown finishes. Anyone interested in joining can contact her via the 'Packington Community Choir' Facebook page or on **07967 316645**



When we are Out of the Woods!

Packington is blessed in being set in a lovely natural landscape and Carla Harris, our local glass artist, has come up with an idea to keep minds occupied and hands busy....

Out of the Woods is an idea inviting involvement from everyone in the village to create their own interpretation on the theme of trees and coming 'out of the woods' after lockdown. Absolutely anything goes – write a poem, compose a song, create anything in any media – painting, glass, felting, crochet, metal, photography – there are no limits! Just use your imagination and be inspired.

The idea then is to get together after the lockdown and when it is safe to have some sort of exhibition to display work and a bit of a celebration for coming out of the woods – venue to be confirmed!

This involves anyone of any age and it's not about creating something 'perfect' but creating something in a medium that you enjoy, with thoughts and ideas that you want to share. Carla has set up a 'What's App' Group for anyone who would like to join in so if you send her a message, she can add you to the group. Mobile number for Carla is: **07799 020174**.



Nature and Wildlife!

Many have been noticing one of the positive benefits of the lockdown on their permitted walks, which is the increase in wildlife activity, and it seems a greater abundance of blossom and wildflowers.

The reduced traffic means that you can hear far more birdsong than usual and there is a noticeable increase in the numbers of birds in gardens. Nesting season is in full swing, and the birds seem to be bolder and more numerous than usual. A few people in Packington have said that they have heard that elusive visitor, the cuckoo, for the first time in years, so on your daily walk, keep your eyes (and ears) open for 'burglar bill' perched on telephone wires giving its distinctive call.

Probably less romantic, but nonetheless important, is the appearance of the 'Packington Buzzards' (buzzards have rights too!!), which appear to have taken up residence at the top of Coleorton Lane, although the crows give them a hard time, mobbing the buzzards en-masse to protect their own crows' nests and young.

Hares are regular visitors to the fields around Packington, but this year they seem especially bold. Earlier in May a group of four was spotted, basking in the sunshine and taking no notice of the occasional cyclist going past.

Perhaps it is Mother Nature's way of saying 'stay positive'. The amount of blossom on the trees and the wildflowers just seem to be more abundant than in previous years. So, there are reasons to be cheerful and appreciate the benefits of reduced traffic and take time to relax and immerse yourself in the glory of nature.

Sunset over Packington

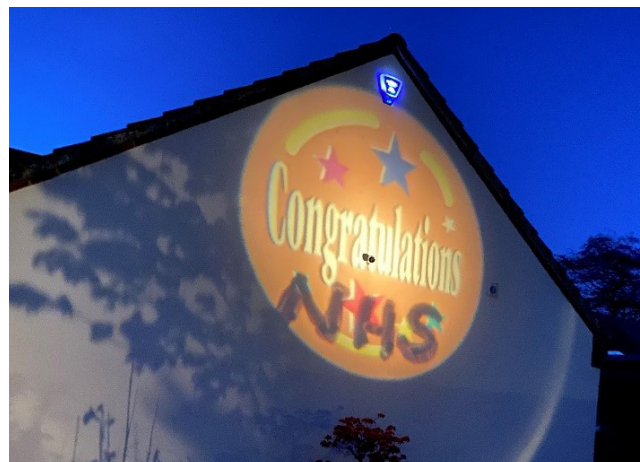


Parish Council

The Parish Council did not meet in April and is planning its first virtual Council meeting via Zoom this week. We look forward to the report in the July Packington Post.

Illuminated Thanks

Anyone taking their daily exercise in the evening may have spotted these expressions of thanks projected onto the bungalow at the top of Mill Street. Each evening a different sentiment has been shown. Sometimes the image is not as clear but we all agree with them. Thank you, Steve Flook.



**Packington would like to thank
all at daybreak services for
keeping us safe and well fed !**