



Volunteers are the Heartbeat of the Village

We might all be surprised just how many people in the village volunteer in one form or another.

There are those who stand for public office, such as our Parish Councillors. They also are Trustees of the Recreation Ground and two other charities,

Others volunteer to help run facilities that are of benefit to village residents, such as the Memorial Hall Committee. Then there are the Neighbourhood Watch street co-ordinators and of course the Packington Communications Group. The Litter Pick and the Big Breakfast are events that lots of people turn out for.

We should not forget the many people who support the church, the school and the many clubs and groups which meet in the village. (Covid 19 permitting)

Another group of tireless volunteers are those who support the young people such as Brownies, Guides and Youth Club.

In this issue of the Post you will find requests for specific volunteer posts that need to be filled. Please come forward, you are needed to take up these posts and ease the burden on a few very hard-working people.

Great to read in the Parish Council report that volunteers have been found to take on the Neighbourhood Watch duties.

Mike Coke Editor

Recreation Ground re-opens

Under Covid 19 Government Guidelines the Recreation Ground and Play-area was opened in August. There are rules and regulations posted on the entrances and it is left to the public to observe and act on these regulations. Surfaces have to be kept clean; social distancing observed. All the apparatus was safety checked by specialists before re-opening.

This could all change as the guidelines are changing day by day.



The Trustees have had two requests to use the Recreation Ground for football matches. One request, from a senior club, was turned down as it was felt that a senior pitch could not be accommodated on the site. There were also concerns of on and off-site safety and changing facilities. However, Trustees were able to give permission to a junior club, Ashby United, to use the ground for occasional home matches and training. An agreement between Club and the Trustees is now being drawn up.

Under the current guideline it is most unlikely that Packington's Bonfire Night celebrations will go ahead.

Recreation Ground Charity

The Council continues to meet via Zoom and was joined by eight members of the public in August and three in September. At the September meeting, questions were received concerning;

- a) speeding traffic, b) poor signage,
- c) overgrown hedges, d) neighbourhood plans
- e) the proposed Government white paper reforming the planning system.

All of the above were agenda items and the Council resolved to;

- a) Hold a public meeting to discuss a possible traffic plan for the village. This meeting may have to be held virtually if the present restrictions on gatherings continue.
- b) To write again to the Leics. Highways Dept. to paint and renovate road signs within the village.
- c) Having received a number of complaints from residents, the Clerk was instructed to write a letter to addresses with overgrown hedges which restricted visibility and public access.
- d) This had been looked into earlier in the year and the Clerk and the Chairman had attended a seminar at NWLDC. It was decided following a report back to the Council that a Neighbourhood Plan was too involved, expensive, and favoured the developers rather than residents.
- e) As the white paper on Planning had only just been announced this would be a separate item on the agenda at the next meeting.

At the September meeting the Planning White Paper was discussed and despite all councillors receiving copies prior to the meeting, it was felt that the white paper was extremely difficult to understand and required further time. It was to get to grips with. It was resolved to ask NWLDC for their take on this document and to ask them how their Local Plan, which had taken years to develop, stood in the sight of this new Government paper.

The Chairman raised the question that Packington should probably have more than two benches in the village. He had been approached by residents saying that it would be nice just to sit and relax during a walk around the village. Councillors generally agreed and we should look into possible sites. If you have a favourite place in the village and think a bench would be suitably sited there, please get in touch with the Chairman christopher.miles@sky.com or the Clerk. clerk@packingtonpc.org.uk

Flooding issues within the village were discussed and, despite reports to the Highways Authority, many are not resolved. There are blocked drains on Ashby Road and continued flooding at every rainfall on Babelake Street and Measham Rd. The Council is reporting these but getting little or no response.

The planning application, off Drum and Monkey Lane, has again featured heavily at the August and September meetings. The application has again changed - from two houses, to five houses, and now to three houses. The Council's concerns remain the same. Development in this area is inappropriate with over-development, highways safety, flooding, accessibility and loss of habitat and green space amenity. It was agreed to send another letter of objection. July and August were quiet months for crime. However, a number of traffic accidents did occur outside the village boundaries including a serious injury to a motor cyclist who crashed on Normanton Rd.

The Council has asked residents Antony Cash and Karl Saunt to look after the CCTV and Neighbourhood Watch Group. Following appeals for someone to take on this role, they both volunteered their services and we thank them for giving their time.

For more details of Parish Councils decisions and notices please go to our website. www.packingtonpc.org.uk
Chris Miles (Chairman)

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Memorial Hall

The Management Committee is pleased to announce that the Main Hall is now being used for a limited number of activities. The Trustees have made the Hall Covid compliant and have put all the necessary precautions in place. Table tennis and Keep fit groups have returned and more are expected later this month. We are not yet accepting any one-off bookings for parties or functions where it is difficult to ensure safety.

With the latest Government guidelines this could all change

Chris Miles Chairman

A volunteer required to take on the role of Booking Secretary for the Memorial Hall. For more information on this role please contact Robin Dixon: 01530 412465

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Sorry but this year I will not be able to run a village coffee morning in support of this charity.

It is a shame after the success of the first event which raised £600. Hope that some people in the village might have their own small gathering of family or friends to make up for the loss of a village event, and support this worth-while charity.

Mike Coke

Apology

The Packington Post Team regrets that the post placed on our Facebook Page earlier this month concerning property boundaries was inappropriate. It was removed immediately on being brought to the editor's attention. The editorial team wishes to express their regret for any embarrassment or hurt felt by any individuals affected by this Facebook post.

Mike Coke Editor on behalf of the PCG.

Lights of Love services: for those who wish to remember a loved one who has died.

This is a simple service during which we can remember those whom we've lost and to whom we still want to say 'We love you'. It feels a very important service to have in this year in particular.

There's a chance to light a candle and say a prayer for your loved one. Normally we would sing some hymns but that is not allowed right now. Facemasks must be worn and all the other social distancing measure observed.

Feel free to come along if this would be helpful to you but we do need to know numbers this year (for social distancing reasons) so if you want to come, please ring Vivien Elphick on 01530 270354. Services are as follows:

Saturday 31st October at 2pm at Measham Church

Saturday 7th November at 2pm at Donisthorpe Church

Forest Church: Sunday 4th October at 3pm in Measham churchyard DE12 7HZ

This is going really well right now. It's for all the family and any age - a mixture of making things, getting dirty, hunting for things and pondering about God's creation. This particular Sunday is the day when we remember St Francis of Assisi so what better day for a church meeting outside. Wrap up warm and bring your own refreshments.

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100 mm	£ 40	£ 200	£40



Packington Post

all about Packington village in Leicestershire, England

Re-opening our church buildings

In the last Post, we wrote about re-opening our church buildings on a gradual basis. Now we have re-opened for Sunday worship (though not on a weekly basis at this point in time). Here's how it has gone:

"August 30th, the 2nd Sunday there has been a service at Packington church since mid-March. Yes, there have been changes made: enter by the south door, wear a mask--some in church if you forget to bring one.

Sanitize hands; sit a safe distance apart, no service books, but as always, a warm welcome from all on duty.

We had music during the service but no singing. What hadn't changed was our cosy, comfortable, full-of-atmosphere Church still there waiting for us. The sun was shining through the chancel windows onto the Altar, emphasising the candles and the lovely flowers.

It was as if it was saying, 'I've missed you. I'm putting out my best welcome to you and encouraging you to keep on worshipping here whatever.'

It was just perfect to be back again in church with old and new friends. There have been many changes over the years, but the Church still stands firm and ready to welcome us.

We have been away but it was so good to be back. See you soon." *Carolle Melville*

Since then we have had our first wedding in 2020, as earlier ones had been postponed until next year.

Services are all at 10am

September 20th: Packington (HC)

October 4th: Packington (Harvest HC)

October 18th: Packington (HC)

At the time of going to print, we do not know what will be possible for Remembrance Sunday.

Harvest Festival: 10am on October 4th

We haven't worked out yet how we will celebrate harvest this year with no singing and all in facemasks. What we do know is that we will be collecting for the Marlene Reid Centre in Coalville. They will distribute our gifts to families in need across North West Leicestershire. Come armed with tins and packet food. There will be a box to receive them in church; then we can leave them untouched for at least 72 hours until the Marlene Reid people come to collect them. Sadly no eats this year – not allowed

Have you got a story for the next Packington Post? contact editor@packington.info

Joanne Dyer.

It's 3 years ago that Joanne arrived in Packington to take up the post of curate within the Woodfield Team. Now, as happens with all training posts, it's time for her to move on. It's happened a bit more suddenly than we had expected but we knew it would happen.



The bishop has seconded her to other parishes until such time as she finds an incumbency post of her own. Joanne writes:

"It's time to say goodbye, well sort of. Having completed my curacy training with Vivien and the team here, it's time to move on. The Bishop has asked me to support the churches and congregations of Whitwick, Thringstone and Swannington, who have been without a Vicar since Easter 2019. It's not that far from here and for the time being we will remain living in Packington. So, you're not getting rid of us that easily, but I won't be about to share life's joys and sorrows as I have been. I always knew that my time here was temporary, but now the time has come, it will be hard to move on. This is a fabulous village and a great community, one we as a family have enjoyed being part of, albeit for a short time in the life of many here. At some point in the future, when God calls us to our next community, we will also move on from the village. The timing of that is in God's hands. Until then you will probably still see me about, walking the dog, in the shop or the pub! Take care and God Bless. Rev. Joanne."

Dear Editor,

I read with interest the two items in your July issue relating to roads and traffic speed within the village. Traffic speeding through Packington has been a problem for many years and is getting worse. The cosmetic attempts by the Parish Council to slow traffic (mock gates, road paint and flashing signs) have had no effect.

Last year, over a two-week period, a team of volunteers took part in a community speed watch project, recording the speed of vehicles at various points in the village. Disappointingly, volunteers were informed at the initial briefing that the evidence gathered from the project would not result in traffic calming measures being supported. So you might think that the project was a complete waste of effort. Well not entirely. It soon became evident that the problem of drivers ignoring the speed limit was widespread, both entering and leaving the village on all routes, but also within the village along Ashby Road, Normanton Road and Bridge Street / Measham Road. The only time when vehicles slowed (apart from seeing a person in a high-viz jacket with a speed gun) was when a driver met the physical impediment of a parked car, van or lorry.

This “parked vehicle” effect could be replicated at the village entrances and along the straighter stretches of Ashby Road, Normanton Road and Bridge Street, by narrowing the carriageway, and installing proper signage, to cause vehicles to give way to on-coming traffic. This could result in wider footpaths (eg Measham Road) whilst maintaining sufficient road width for emergency vehicles.

Addressing some of the other suggestions mooted in your July issue, I see no point in introducing 20 mph limits, it is just another number for drivers to ignore; we cannot create pedestrian pavements in Mill Street (or indeed Hall Lane) without destroying the character of the Conservation Area, we just need drivers, including residents, to drive with common sense and respect for others on these narrow roads.

Packington is increasingly used by drivers as a “rat run” to avoid Ashby. Should construction begin on HS2, the problem will be immeasurably worse. We need positive and determined action now from the Parish Council to address the growing traffic problems. The standard reason given by the Parish Council for taking no action

on traffic calming is that (luckily) we have no recorded fatal accident in the village. Have all of our neighbouring communities suffered fatalities, as they all seem to have traffic calming?

You raise a point on the front page of the Post that only limited suggestions are being put forward to use the Solar Farm Benefit Fund. What greater benefit could there be to the whole community than to use this fund to provide real and effective traffic calming, with the potential to protect all residents.

Yours Sincerely, **Richard Jones**

Dear Editor

All the roads entering the village are all national, with the exception of Measham Road, which is 50mph. The section of Ashby Road/Lower Packington Road over the bridge is such a short section of national, I do question why it has been set so as either sides are 30mph. Therefore, cars are going to approach the village at speed.

Having driven through similar villages that are used as a thoroughfare, the speed limit as the village is approached from each route is reduced to 40mph, to slow the vehicles as they approach the 30 speed limit actually in the village. On this basis, the section over the bridge would be 40mph, which is appropriate.

The speed limit detectors that flash 30 at the vehicle that is speeding could perhaps be adapted to show the speed, with emojis to reflect the speed i.e. happy face in green if 25 or lower and sad face in red, if over 30 for example. I have seen this in other villages. They give a good feeling if you are driving correctly and hopefully a guilty one if not!

Even some residents of the village drive in excess of the speed limit and they live here! We need to encourage a community-wide adherence to the limit through our village.

I would endorse a 20mph limit in the village or certainly a number of roads that have high pedestrian traffic, even if there is a pavement/footpath.

Hope this helps and I'm pleased this is being addressed.

Regards **Fiona Jackson**, Century Drive.

Thank you to all those who have responded, either verbally, or in writing, to the articles in the last issue of the Packington Post regarding traffic (pedestrian, cycling, and motoring) in our village. Everyone who has spoken to me, or written to the Packington Post, considers that some action to slow traffic passing through the village is required, but there is currently no consensus on what the first steps should be.

The responsibility for the current situation does not lie with Parish Councils, which have very limited powers regarding traffic management, but with the County Councils. The current flashing signs, and mock gates are not unique to Packington but were supplied to County Councils all over the country to offer as a palliative to villages who felt they had a problem with speeding.

I chose the word palliative deliberately as my dictionary defines it as meaning: "alleviating a problem (i.e. speeding) without dealing with the underlying cause". It comes from the Latin "palliare" to cloak.

These flashing thirty signs are now so ubiquitous that they no longer have much, if any, effect. For many motorists they have been a feature of the ever increasing clutter of what is now called "street furniture" since they first passed their driving test.

Packington Parish Council at its recent meeting on 4th August 2020 passed the following resolution: RESOLVED: it was agreed that when COVID-19 regulations allow, a Parish Meeting will be called to discuss implementing a village plan to include traffic, transport, footpaths, etc.

This is excellent news. It gives all of those concerned about the issues raised in July's Packington Post a chance to collect some evidence to support their concerns before an open meeting takes place.

My initial reaction to the concerns raised in response to our two articles would be to suggest that the proposed village plan should include a census, of exactly how much traffic (and the nature of that traffic e.g. HGVs, commercial vehicles, private cars, etc), flows straight through our village, via Measham Road, Normanton Road, Coleorton Lane, or Ashby Road at various times of the day.

I think this would be a good starting point for establishing priorities for action.

On the question of pavements I hope priority will be given to improving and widening pavements to enable pedestrians, (especially children), not only to access the school safely, but also the recreation ground, and the church (with prams, pushchairs and buggies) at one end of the village and the shop, café, and Memorial Hall at the other end.

For roads where there are no pavements, such as Hall Lane and Mill Street, 20mph limits are a good option. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents has a factsheet online which includes detailed analysis of the effects of existing 20mph zones and equivalent kph zones across Europe. This factsheet (on page 13) states their considered view, after looking at all the evidence as follows:-

"RoSPA strongly supports the use of 20mph zones. They are very effective at protecting our most vulnerable road users including children, pedestrians and cyclists. RoSPA encourages their greater use especially in residential areas. They encourage more physical activity such as walking and cycling."

Given, that young children with their parents, who are often pushing smaller children in buggies, or prams, walk, to and from our village school, along Hall Lane, and Mill Street, where (to repeat) there are no pavements, every week day (and walking to school should be encouraged) I can think of no better reason for making this area part of a 20mph zone which could include High Street and the cul-de-sacs which run off it.

Adrian Mongredien.

CONTEXT

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Article from the Archives of the History Group

Eighty years ago in Packington....

.... villagers were saddened to hear of the death on 21st August 1940 of Mrs. Janet Oakey, member of a well-respected farming family. Mrs. Oakey was fatally injured when she was hit by an armoured vehicle in Market St., Ashby. Aged 70, she was the widow of Thomas Oakey of Hill Farm, who had died earlier the same year. (At the time Hill Farm was situated in the High St. just above the "Bull and Lion" – it was not until the 1960s that the Sumnall family moved to the present site along Spring Lane).

At a coroner's inquest the vehicle driver, Mr. Frederick Sutton of Nottingham, employed as a driver by the War Department, explained that he was driving down Market St. at a steady 12 mph, when he suddenly saw a lady's black hat and immediately felt a bump. He stated that his vision was substantially impaired by the build of the vehicle, which had slits rather than windows, making it very difficult to see cyclists or pedestrians on the offside.

Local shopkeepers told the inquest they had observed Mrs. Oakey hurrying across the street with her head down holding her hat as the day was windy. It seemed that this prevented her from seeing the vehicle and she ran into its side. Mrs. Oakey's son, Frederick, stated that his mother's general health and eyesight were good. The coroner attached no blame to the driver and returned a verdict of accidental death, noting that the vehicle was "very necessary but still very dangerous."

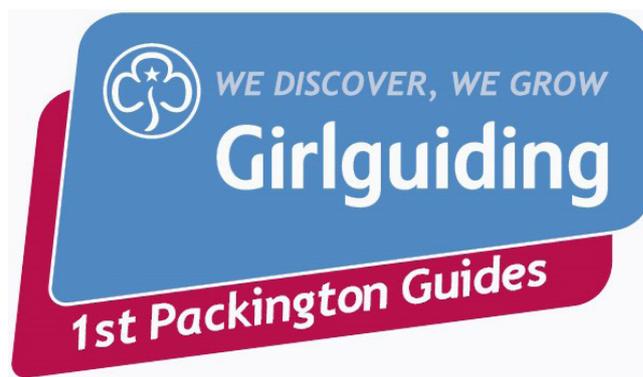
A large congregation attended Mrs. Oakey's funeral service in Holy Rood Church and at the graveside, reflecting the great respect which villagers had for her.

Information from the archive of Packington Village History Group: contact Robin Boucher: 01530 411638 randbboucher@googlemail.com

Guides

Packington Guides have continued to Guide at home over the Summer Term.

We have been working on the Adventure at home and Celebrate at home badges. We also attended the "Celebrate at home" festival which was a day-long series of activities run on the



Girlguiding you tube channel. There was something for everyone, with fitness, science, craft, cooking and even a campfire to close with! Finally, we attended, along with many other Leaders and Guides, a Zoom promise renewal ceremony.

We also have the opportunity to work on our skills builders and UMAs at home as well as celebrating VE Day by doing numerous activities towards the VE Day badge.

Girls aged 10-14 are very welcome to join Guides this term regardless of whether we are meeting in person or online.

The Unit would usually meet 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

FILM CLUB

Already in September, approaching autumn, it's been a very different year for most of us. Following discussions, the committee have regrettably decided that we will be unable to restart the film club at the present time. Due to the current government guidelines regarding social distancing and the limit on numbers at indoor gatherings it is not possible for us to show a film without making a loss. We also have the welfare and safety of the village to consider.

Let's hope that we can look forward to a New Year full of hope and positivity. As well as the restarting of the Film Club and some great films of course!

Roll on 2021! Stay safe, Keep well,

Packington Film Club Committee

Table Tennis

The Packington Table Tennis club night restarted, post Covid, on Wednesday 2nd September from 19:15 - 21:15 ... same time every Wednesday. Following the Memorial Hall (PMH) Risk Assessment and Table Tennis England recommendations, the following guidelines for the Packington Table Tennis Club have been implemented.

Safety of all attendees is the key priority

No one with any Corona Virus symptoms, or who even feels unwell on the night, should consider attending the PMH

One-way system on entering the PMH via Front Door and exit via rear Fire Door

Everyone attending the PMH will need a face covering on entering and exiting the hall (can be removed during play)

Everyone entering the PMH will have their temperature taken as they enter

Pay on entry via a contactless credit/debit card ... £2.50 adults and £1.50 juniors.

Numbers will be limited to 12 on a first come first serve basis ... however if you miss out one week you are guaranteed a place for the following week.

Indicate on this 'WhatsApp' forum if you want to play

3 tables in use with 'bubbles' of 4 players per table

'Hygiene officer' has been appointed.

As a great example of a diverse and inclusive club all genders and age levels are being represented. Beginners are made very welcome

The TT club held its AGM earlier in the year at the Bull & Lion. Officers were re-elected and the agenda completed with excellent food support from landlord Darren. It was also noted that a huge thank-you should be sent to the Packington Horticultural Society for their kind donation of £250. This, together with a grant from the Solar farm allowance which was approved by the Parish Council, has been used to purchase 3 new (league standard) tables. Again a massive thank-you to all involved!

Whilst the junior coaching had been quite a success in 2019, it has been decided by the committee to suspend this until 2021 due to the Covid situation.

For any further information call **Graham Saunt** 07764471917

Spatial and facility usage recommendations:

- Keep a distance of 2 metres from your training partner at all times
- Control number of participants using the facilities at any one time, by restricting session times and using a booking system
- Separate tables with partitions, barriers or nets
- Table areas should be a minimum of 4.5 metres by 9 metres
- After play, wipe down your side of the table
- Changing rooms and showers are not to be used
- Appoint a 'hygiene' officer to ensure guidelines are being followed
- Play in bubbles of six people*
- Wait 10 mins before others use the table

- Do not use the facilities if you are having **any symptoms** or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19
- Ensure tables are spaced at least 5 metres apart
- Clean tables before and after use with an anti-viral solution
- Wash your hands before and after playing
- Bring your own equipment and do not share with others
- Wash or wipe balls with disinfectant regularly
- Only play singles
.. unless you're playing doubles with a member of your household or bubble
- Do not change ends of the table between games
- No handshaking or high fives

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Youth Club Leader request

After a combined 6 years of helping with Youth Club, the current leaders, Sallie-Ann and Alisa, are unable to continue, due to changes in circumstances. We are looking for volunteers who feel that they are able to take on the role as leaders for the Club. The commitment is about an hour and a half each Monday, during term time. Please contact Sallie-Ann for further details. sallie.stret@gmail.com

Ladies Group

Packington and Normanton Church Ladies are still not able to meet normally as a group. However, the majority of speakers arranged for the 2020 programme have agreed to visit at a later date. This includes the annual Open Charity Evening which should have taken place in November.

Our first such evening was in fact held in 1998 and since then well over £5,000 has been donated to a range of charities.



Some of the memorable speakers included Lesley Smith as Elizabeth I in 2007, James Lewis the T.V. antiques expert in 2008, Wildlife artist Pollyanna Pickering 2009 and 2014, Moira Male Voice Choir, 2010, Charles Hanson another T.V. antiques man, in 2011, Christine Robinson Housekeeper at Chatsworth 2012, Radio Leicester 'Down to Earth' team 2013 and the 'Knight in Shining Armour' Paul Thompson 2018. Happy memories, **Doreen Gasson**



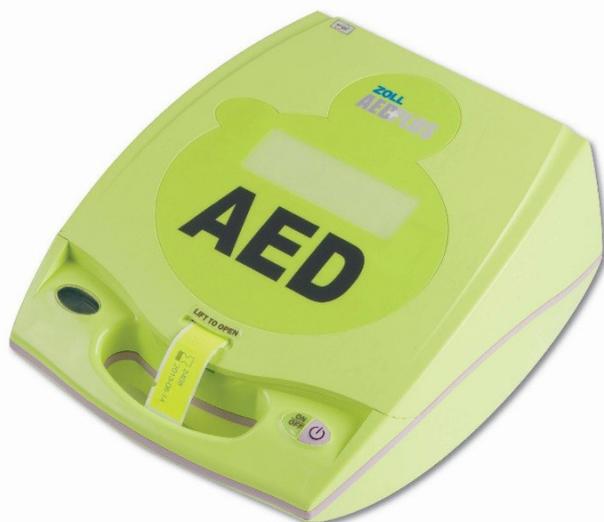
Village Defibrillator

Do you know where this is located?

Do you know how to access the machine?

Do you know how to use the defibrillator?

This was purchased back in 2014 following a bumper profit at the Big Breakfast. Several training sessions were held and since then there have been two refresher courses.



The defibrillator is located outside the Memorial Hall.

There is free access. No code just open the side catches and take out the machine. Yes, the alarm will go off but will cease when the door is closed.

To find out how to use a defibrillator go to the AED Plus Videos on the zoll.com website the videos are at <https://www.zoll.com/contact/elearning/videos/aed-plus/>

Here you will find several videos that explain the steps to take when you suspect someone has a heart attack.

Under the current regulations additional training is not possible. This makes it more important that ever that we all keep up to date with the procedures, as one never knows when you might be called upon to react to a real life or death situation.

**Why not advertise in the next Packington Post?
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Neighbourhood Watch

Newly appointed as joint coordinators for the Packington Watch cctv and Neighbourhood Watch are Karl Saunt and Anthony Cash.

Contact details for Karl and Anthony will be available shortly and will be put out as an Alert.

Neighbourhood Watch

nhw@packington.info
Chair: Vacant

Area Reps

Mill Street (24 Houses)

Philip Caren - 2 Mill Street
07753 925950 philip.caren1966@yahoo.co.uk

Spring Lane

Jackie MacDonald - Spring Lane
01530 564011

The Grange (29 Houses)

Michael Coke - 23 The Grange
01530 560430 mike.coke@talktalk.net

Ashby Road (21 Houses)

Robert Martin - 20 Ashby Road
01530 413030 robertmartin20@btinternet.com

Top of Normanton Road (22 Houses)

Mark Griffin - 10 Normanton Road
01530 413229

Bottom of Normanton Road

Lisa Mayles - 43 Normanton Road
01530 412367

Century Drive

John Quaine - 2 Century Drive
01530 563103 quaine@btinternet.com

Heather Lane (8 Houses)

Peter Last - Heather Lane
01530 415129 peter_last@btopenworld.com

Babelake Street

Sharron Miller - 27 Babelake Street
07902466611

Measham Road/Bridge Street

Petra Goacher - Bridge Street/Measham Rd
07545 189960 petrajayne17@gmail.com

Homecroft Drive

Nev Bray - 26 Homecroft Drive
01530 414562 nevbray@hotmail.com

Nethercroft Drive

Stuart & Jenny Clark - 10 Nethercroft Drive
01530 417559 stuart@ozpom.co.uk

High Street (42 Houses)

Angus Bennion - High street
01530 563613 angusb1967@gmail.com

Vacancies - Contact Philip Caren

Hall Lane (20 Houses)

Hall Farm Close

'Packington is alive – with the sound of music!

Joy and Nick Gravestock moved to Packington in 2004. Joy originally studied as a violinist and played with the Wales Conservatoire. She has built on and used these musical skills to qualify as a Psychoanalytical Music Therapist, which involves using music as a mode of communication to work with both adults and children with difficulties, from dementia sufferers to children with special needs and profound difficulties. The aim of the therapy is to provide an environment for free interpretation and improvisation as a means of communication which, through this freedom, enables Joy to make an assessment of a person's needs that can be fed back to a multi-disciplinary team to provide structured support. Joy's specialism is working in the field of adoption where many children have difficult and traumatic backgrounds.



Inspired by the song, 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' Joy and Nick staged the first music in the village session after the first 'clap for carers', and the event grew from something informal to a regular fixture, only being cancelled when the weather made it impossible to play outside. Electric keyboards and violins don't take kindly to heavy rain! But the sessions have proved incredibly popular with many in the village participating, including children picking up instruments and drums to join in.

Even the magnificent Olly the cat would do the rounds to meet people taking part!

With summer drawing to a close, Joy and Nick have decided to stop the music in the street as the weather deteriorates and it begins to get darker earlier on in the evening, but there is hope that there might be some sort of special event in the run up to Christmas.

What this has highlighted is the tremendous community spirit that exists in Packington. As Joy said 'this is a community where you will never be alone and if you were ill then there would always be people there to look out for you'. Joy's other great passion is gardening which shows in her beautiful garden which, under normal circumstances would have been part of the Open Gardens day – with entertainment provided by Joy's 'Goldfinch Quartet'. If all of this was not enough, Joy is currently working on a PhD on music therapy and adoption, she is a member of the Derby Concert Orchestra, has just got a job working for Bristol University to deliver supervision and training on line and has a book coming out in May of next year.

Let's just hope that the music on the High Street will return in the summer months of next year. It has certainly raised spirits and made people smile.

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With Covid19 dominating the headlines over recent months, we should not be mistaken into thinking lack of press on HS2 has removed the threat. If anything, the Government has doubled down on its commitment to HS2. Over the last month construction activity has pressed ahead on Phase 1 (London to Birmingham) with a substantial concrete structure over the M42 craned into place.

Leicester County Council has formed a working group, which the Packington HS2 Residents Team is participating in. It includes representatives from the District and County Councils as well as a number of Parish and Community Groups from our area. The objective of the Working Group is to form a coordinated approach to the HS2 Hybrid Bill, likely to be heard before Parliament in 2021, which covers the part of the route that affects our area

The Hybrid bill will be subject to scrutiny and petition via select committees who will hear from those who are "specifically affected".

The working party met in early August and September and will be working as a larger group to pull together the views of Parish councils and residents groups on traffic management during construction, community impact, mitigation and restoration of land post-construction at a local parish level - a series of more than 30 meetings over the next few months.

The Packington Residents Team has been committed to raising these issues from the outset, both with the District and County Council as well as HS2 Ltd. and we will continue to do so.

Sharon Bond
HS2 Packington Group

Thankyou Philip

Philip Caren has decided to step down as a member of the Packington Communications Group, due to changes in his personal situation. We will miss you and thanks for your contribution over several years.

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